

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE

Omni Hotel

Corpus Christi, Texas

August 22, 2022

VOTING MEMBERS

Susan Boggs.....Alabama
 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana
 Bob Gill.....Florida
 Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana
 Andy Strelcheck.....NMFS
 Greg Stunz.....Texas
 C.J. Sweetman (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
 Troy Williamson.....Texas

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Billy Broussard.....Louisiana
 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
 Phil Dyskow.....Florida
 Tom Frazer.....Florida
 Dakus Geeslin (designee for Robin Riechers).....Texas
 Michael McDermott.....Mississippi
 Bob Shipp.....Alabama
 Joe Spraggins.....Mississippi

STAFF

John Froeschke.....Deputy Director
 Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
 Lisa Hollensead.....Fishery Biologist
 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
 Mary Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
 Natasha Mendez-Ferrer.....Fishery Biologist
 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer
 Ryan Rindone.....Lead Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison
 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
 Charlotte Schiaffo.....Administrative & Human Resources Assistant
 Camilla Shireman.....Administrative & Communications Assistant
 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director
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Julie Brown.....NOAA
 Tim Griner.....SAFMC
 Peter Hood.....NMFS

1 Michelle Masi.....NOAA
2 Clay Porch.....SEFSC
3 John Walter.....SEFSC
4 Geoff White.....ACCSP
5 Kate Zamboni.....NOAA GC

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1 The Data Collection Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
2 Management Council convened at The Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi,
3 Texas on Monday morning, August 22, 2022, and was called to
4 order by Chairman Susan Boggs.

5
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
9

10 **CHAIRMAN SUSAN BOGGS:** I would like to call the Data Collection
11 Committee to order. The members of the committee are myself,
12 Susan Boggs, as Chair, Dr. Greg Stunz is Vice Chair, Chris
13 Schieble, Kevin Anson, Dave Donaldson, J.D. Dugas, Bob Gill, Dr.
14 Sweetman, Andy Strelcheck, and Troy Williamson. The first item
15 on the agenda is the Adoption of the Agenda.

16
17 **MR. BOB GILL:** Madam Chair, are you looking for a motion?

18
19 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Gill.

20
21 **MR. GILL:** I move that we adopt the agenda.

22
23 **DR. GREG STUNZ:** I will second that.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you. The next item on the agenda is the
26 Approval of the June 2022 Minutes. I did have some corrections,
27 but I will look to anyone else first. Seeing none other, I had
28 emailed them to Bernie, and I had a couple of corrections, and I
29 apologize that I lost my email. On page 29, line 42, I believe
30 "formwork" should be "framework", and, on page 32, line 18, I
31 think they were missing a word, and I think it should have been
32 "when they are doing something", and the word "are" needs to be
33 added. Then, on line 18, on page 32, "Boggs" I believe should
34 be "Bosarge". Any other additions? May I have a motion?

35
36 **DR. STUNZ:** So moved.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dave, were you seconding?

39
40 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Yes, ma'am.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you. Okay. Any objections to the
43 motion? Seeing none, the motion passes. The next item is our
44 Action Guide and Next Steps, and I will turn it over to Dr.
45 Hollensead.

46
47 **DR. LISA HOLLENSEAD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The first thing
48 before the committee will be discussions of the Southeast For-

1 Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program, or SEFHIER, and
2 so, since the rollout of this program, several participants have
3 described that the hail-out provisions are overly burdensome,
4 and so an abbreviated framework action has been developed to
5 address this issue, and council staff will clarify the purpose
6 of the document and present a preliminary draft of the framework
7 action to address the issue.

8
9 The committee should review the associated materials, ask
10 questions of staff, and provide guidance on perhaps selecting an
11 appropriate exemption timeframe for those considered in the
12 draft. Madam Chair.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you, and so we're going to go item-by-
15 item. There's only two agenda items, but, since we'll be
16 breaking for lunch, we're going to go ahead and address this
17 item, and then, Mr. Chair, after lunch, we'll address our second
18 item, and is that okay?

19
20 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** Yes, ma'am, Ms. Boggs.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay, and so I believe that Ms. Somerset will
23 be making the presentation.

24
25 **MS. CARLY SOMERSET:** Yes, ma'am.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Please proceed.

28
29 **ABBREVIATED FRAMEWORK ACTION TO MODIFY FOR-HIRE TRIP DECLARATION**
30 **REQUIREMENTS**

31
32 **MS. SOMERSET:** I will let Bernie bring up that presentation, and
33 then I will move through that, first. Thank you, Bernie. All
34 right, and so this is just a brief presentation, kind of to
35 recap what occurred at the last meeting and the impetus behind
36 drafting this framework option, framework draft, relating to
37 trip declarations.

38
39 First, just the current regulations, and trip declarations are
40 required every time a vessel departs from a dock, berth,
41 seawall, or ramp. The trip declaration will indicate whether
42 the vessel is departing on a commercial, charter, headboat,
43 private, recreational, or non-fishing type of trip, and so this
44 is out of the federal CFR, but then I've added, as an example,
45 that a non-fishing type of trip would be trips for ice,
46 transportation to or from marinas and private docks, sunset
47 cruises, and these trip declarations are used to validate
48 information collected by the SEFHIER program, and declarations

1 for all trips allows NMFS to delineate between fishing and non-
2 fishing activity and the associated effort with each, and
3 there's also the ability to collect socioeconomic data for the
4 for-hire industry as a whole, and so just some background on why
5 trip declarations are used in this program.

6
7 I will put up some required data elements, and I won't go
8 through all of these. You can see them, and, basically, the
9 trip activity is defined, when you're doing this declaration, to
10 whether it's commercial, a charter trip, headboat, or private
11 recreational, and then also the trip type, and so that's whether
12 that intent is to go fishing or is a non-fishing trip, and I
13 will just note that some of these data elements are only
14 required if the declaration is noted as a for-hire trip, and so
15 not all of these on the left-hand column are asked every time
16 you're doing a trip declaration.

17
18 Stakeholders have expressed concern regarding the burden that's
19 placed upon them by some of these reporting requirements,
20 especially when multiple trip declarations are necessary. As a
21 whole, they understand why the for-hire electronic reporting was
22 implemented, but some of the reporting components seem to be
23 unduly burdensome, namely the number of times that you have to
24 do a trip declaration, and so multiple hail-outs for these non-
25 fishing trips, especially if it's a short movement from dock-to-
26 dock.

27
28 At the last meeting, a request was made to discuss whether there
29 is a potential option for possibly having something relative to
30 declarations for the for-hire fishery, as it applies only when
31 going on a fishing trip, and so I think this was discussed at
32 the last meeting, but just to go through that again, whether
33 that would potentially require, you know, any regulatory text
34 change or maybe a definition of a fishing trip, and so, if Ms.
35 Levy is online, General Counsel, I would look to her to see if
36 she has any additional comments on that.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Ms. Levy, did you have any comments to make?

39
40 **MS. MARA LEVY:** Not really. I mean, I guess that there are
41 still questions about it, and so, yes, you would need to change
42 the regulations, if you want to limit the declarations to just
43 fishing trips, but I think we had a discussion about why the
44 program requires more than that and that the document that
45 you're going to look at next addresses this idea of not having
46 to declare every trip, as long as it's not fishing and the trip
47 is a certain amount of time, and so, I mean, I don't know if you
48 need any other information, but, if anyone has questions, I can

1 certainly try to answer them.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** I don't see any hands up, and so, Ms. Somerset,
4 if you would like to go ahead with your presentation.

5
6 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and so I do have one more
7 infographic that pertains to the document, and so this probably
8 is a good time now to move forward with the document as we have
9 it, but I just wanted to present this first, and I think it
10 gives some good context related to how it's drafted, and it
11 hopefully helps everyone understand better some of the text in
12 the document.

13
14 This is an infographic that shows essentially an example
15 scenario of a no hail-out, as it pertains to what we've drafted
16 with these different options of allowing a certain amount of
17 time to not have to make a hail-out for non-fishing activity,
18 and so, if we're going from left to right here, your boat leaves
19 the dock, and, as it transitions to the -- Say you're going for
20 fuel, and so you have to move over to the fuel dock, and there
21 would be no hail-out required if the transit time is less than a
22 specified amount of time from dock-to-dock, and so, I think, at
23 the last council meeting, we had a discussion of it pertains to
24 round trip or dock-to-dock, and so this is just clarifying that
25 it is a dock-to-dock transition time and not that the exemption
26 time would pertain to round trip, and so that timer starts when
27 you leave your slip, and then it ends again when you get to the
28 fuel dock.

29
30 There is no limit on the fueling time, if you have to sit there,
31 if you're able to get fuel immediately or if you have to sit
32 there for a certain amount of time, if you're in line waiting,
33 and that exemption time does not pertain there, and it's just
34 when you're transiting from one dock to another dock, and so,
35 once you leave the fuel dock, that exception time, whatever that
36 is, would start over, and so then you would have that amount of
37 time to leave the fuel dock and go back to your slip, and so
38 that's what we're trying to convey in this infographic, and so I
39 just wanted to bring that up first, to clarify, and, if there's
40 no questions on this, I can move into the document.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Ms. Somerset, was there not one more slide?

43
44 **MS. SOMERSET:** This one is specific to the document. I do have
45 two other infographics there, but they are more examples
46 pertaining to certain scenarios on the SEFHIER program, and
47 we've received some feedback, and so council staff was going to
48 integrate some of the feedback, since putting those up, and so I

1 did have "draft" on those, and I think it would be helpful to
2 move to the document, just from this one right now, and we can
3 come back to those, if we need to.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. Thank you, because I was going to
6 comment on the next slide, but that's fine, if you want to move
7 into the document. Dr. Hollensead.

8
9 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Yes, Madam Chair. The intent is -- What we
10 wanted to do with this infographic was just to give everybody
11 context of, you know, in selecting a time, what might that be,
12 and we had heard some public testimony stating that sometimes
13 I'm waiting for an hour to get fuel, and so I don't want that
14 necessarily counted against me, and so that was to sort of
15 clarify what would be done in this document, and it sort of just
16 counts as the steaming time.

17
18 Now, when we were crafting these infographics, we started
19 thinking about some of the other scenarios, you know, of when do
20 I hail-out and when do I not, and so we have done some -- While
21 we were in this, and have the mindset for doing this, we had
22 some preliminary infographics, which we did, in this case what
23 to do if you're getting bait, specifically.

24
25 Now, that did not pertain exactly to this document, and so what
26 we were thinking of doing is just going right into the document,
27 discussing that, but absolutely coming back and looking through
28 those, taking any input that the committee may have on that, as
29 well as any perhaps ideas of doing perhaps another series of
30 these things, if there's questions that have come up that might
31 be better visually explained, that we could start to create some
32 of those.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** So I'm going to play devil's advocate, I guess,
35 on this, and Carly kind of alluded to this, and, I mean, we've
36 seen it at our fuel dock, and so you leave your slip, and you
37 come to our fuel dock, and you're having to hold off to get to
38 my dock, and so, when you say dock-to-dock, does that mean you
39 are tied to the dock, because, if you're standing out waiting,
40 and you're not tied to the dock, this still doesn't solve that
41 problem, because I believe one of the captains is in the
42 audience that said that sometimes he's got to wait an hour, or
43 two hours, and so that doesn't alleviate his problem, and so I
44 just was trying to get to -- I mean, just food for thought.

45
46 **MS. SOMERSET:** That's a great point, Madam Chair, and the intent
47 of this infographic was to, overall, get at that. I think, at
48 the last meeting, and probably prior to that, when we first

1 started this discussion, was maybe some confusion on -- Well, so
2 we have -- You will see in the document that, right now, we have
3 three options of sixty, ninety, or 120 minutes, and you would
4 have to encompass all of your non-fishing activity, whenever you
5 left your dock, in a round trip.

6
7 As soon as leave mine, I have to get everything done before I
8 come back, and, essentially, it's when you leave yours to when
9 you get to the next slip, and I know you were saying you
10 physically have to tie up, or that's something we can, you know,
11 talk about, or I'll look to Dr. Masi or Dr. Stephen for that,
12 but we can -- That's a good question, and we can move through
13 the document, if you're amenable to that.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** No, that's absolutely fine, and let's go ahead
16 and go to the document, I mean, I'm just -- Like I said, the
17 decisions this council makes, unfortunately, always seems to
18 have unintended consequences, and you don't want to have a
19 captain penalized because, well, we thought this would work,
20 realizing that, well, no, it doesn't, after the fact, and that's
21 the only reason I bring that point up, and so, yes, if you would
22 like to go ahead and start through the document.

23
24 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you, ma'am. Bernie, could you bring up the
25 document? Thank you. We'll move to the background. Madam
26 Chair, I believe Ms. Levy has her hand up.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** I'm sorry. Ms. Levy.

29
30 **MS. LEVY:** Thanks. I mean, I did put it down, because we can
31 come back to it, but I guess I just wanted to understand what
32 you were saying, in terms of are you saying that some people
33 might be waiting kind offshore, and like are they -- Are you
34 just saying they're not tied up to the dock? I guess I'm just
35 trying to get a handle on kind of what -- Specifically what you
36 were talking about when you were talking about having to wait in
37 line and such.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Well, you wouldn't be offshore. You would be
40 within the perimeter of the fuel dock, I suppose, but, at our
41 fuel dock, if I have four or five boats tied up to the dock, and
42 you can't get to my dock, and you're just having to hold off,
43 and so that's why I'm just trying to understand, when you say
44 dock-to-dock, to make sure we have a definitive understanding of
45 what that is, so that law enforcement doesn't come out and say,
46 well, this guy has been holding out there for an hour-and-a-
47 half, and, I mean, he's not doing anything but just holding up
48 and trying to wait to get in line for the fuel dock, and that's

1 probably a very rare circumstance, but I understand there's a
2 couple of boats that might be in that very situation, and so I'm
3 just trying to determine -- When you say dock-to-dock, does that
4 mean they have to be physically tied to the dock, or can they
5 just be holding off, waiting their turn?

6
7 **MS. LEVY:** Okay. Thanks.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay, Ms. Somerset.

10
11 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Bernie, could we go to
12 the background? Thank you. Just to remind everyone, this was
13 discussed at the last meeting, and I believe that General
14 Counsel provided the explanation that this would be an
15 abbreviated framework, should we move forward with it the way it
16 was discussed at the last meeting and drafted currently, and it
17 is an abbreviated framework with options.

18
19 Right now, we have the first chapter, with the options, and so I
20 won't go through the background, but, if anyone has any
21 questions, I am happy to answer them. If there's any questions
22 right now, I can take them, but, if not, I was going to move to
23 the purpose and need, and we can look at that.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Phil.

26
27 **MR. PHIL DYSKOW:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a general
28 question, and it's probably right to bring up now, and I'm not a
29 member of this committee, but, eventually, we all have to vote
30 on this, and why is it even necessary to have this non-fishing
31 trip information? It just seems like an obscene overreach to be
32 harassing all these fishermen for information that doesn't help
33 us manage the fishery. It just -- I can imagine, if I was one
34 of these fishermen, that I would just be just incensed over the
35 fact that you're asking for all this information -- We are
36 asking for all this information that has nothing to do with
37 their fishing activity. Can somebody answer that, in a short
38 sentence or two?

39
40 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Are Dr. Stephen or Dr. Masi, either one, on the
41 line? Would one of you all like to answer that for Mr. Dyskow?

42
43 **MS. SOMERSET:** Bernie, is Dr. Masi or Dr. Stephen on the line?

44
45 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. Well, Andy, do you want to answer that?

46
47 **MR. ANDY STRELCHECK:** Yes. I mean, I can certainly start, and
48 then, if Dr. Masi or Dr. Stephen want to comment, and so, you

1 know, I think, with the purpose and need, it states the issue
2 well, right, and so it's a balance here between trying to
3 alleviate an administrative burden, or a burden on the industry,
4 that might not be all that beneficial for us or them, with the
5 maintenance of the data integrity of the data reporting system,
6 right, and so the industry came to us and said we want a logbook
7 program, and we want to, obviously, have more rigorous
8 accountability, and so we put that in place.

10 At this point now, we have, obviously, some restrictions that
11 might be overly burdensome, and so where do we find the balance
12 there, and, in terms of reporting -- Not reporting non-fishing
13 trips, where do we end with that, because a non-fishing trip
14 could be a boat going well offshore for days at a time, or the
15 length of normal fishing trips, and it becomes considerably more
16 difficult then to determine whether that boat is actually
17 fishing or not fishing, in order to validate whether or not they
18 should be reporting data. The intent here is, obviously, to
19 look at where we could alleviate some burden, while maintaining
20 that data integrity.

22 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Gill and then Mr. Dugas.

24 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and so I have a question
25 regarding terminology. In the document, we have things called
26 options, and, you know, that's not the normal terminology we
27 have for frameworks, et cetera, and is that because it's
28 abbreviated, and do we treat them the same as we treat actions
29 and alternatives, and, in the prologue, the request was for the
30 committee to weigh-in on preferences, and do we do that with
31 preferred options? What's happening here?

33 **MS. SOMERSET:** Yes, sir, and that's a good question, and so it
34 is related to the type of document, because it's an abbreviated
35 framework, and I believe Ms. Zamboni spoke to this at the last
36 meeting, that you would have -- You have options, rather than an
37 action and alternative, and so it has to do with how the
38 document is structured, but it is similar, in that you would
39 discuss, and you could pick a preferred to move forward, if
40 that's your will.

42 **MR. GILL:** Thank you. It's obviously testimony to my short
43 memory. Thank you, Carly.

45 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Ms. Zamboni, would you like to add to that?

47 **MS. KATE ZAMBONI:** Carly summarized it well, but the main
48 difference in terminology is that, in a framework action, it's

1 often an integrated document, with like an environmental
2 assessment, and the term "alternatives" is something that comes
3 from the NEPA law that requires an analysis of alternatives.
4 The abbreviated framework doesn't require a NEPA document, and
5 so, to avoid confusion with implicating NEPA, we use the term
6 "option", but it has -- It's similar, for your point of view, in
7 terms of selecting the option that you would prefer to go
8 forward with.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Dugas.

11
12 **MR. J.D. DUGAS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I agree with Mr.
13 Dyskow's comments and questions. We have some of the same
14 similar issues in Louisiana that you have at your marina, and I
15 don't think any of these options are good for the fleet in
16 Louisiana.

17
18 I am concerned, or I'm wondering why we are concerned, about the
19 non-fishing trips, and I think it's irrelevant, and we shouldn't
20 even be discussing this. If you're going on a fishing trip, you
21 hail-out. When you come in, you hail-in, and why are we
22 concerned about the dock and the time at the dock? There is no
23 reason for that. I would like to take this document and put it
24 in the garbage.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** So, Andy, will you help me a little bit? I do
27 know that, when this SEFHIER program started, I was at the first
28 meeting, and I argued about why is zero a number, and I still
29 don't completely understand it, but I do understand -- Enough to
30 understand some validity that the people are not fishing. When
31 I see DCNR sitting at our dock for eight hours in the pouring-
32 down rain and every boat is in the dock, but it's important to
33 know that no one went fishing that day.

34
35 I understand your frustration, but I also understand NMFS' side,
36 is the validation, and so how do we alleviate the burden on the
37 charter fishermen to give NMFS what they need, and I don't know
38 if, some way, we can use the VMS unit to help alleviate some of
39 this, and I do have some ideas that I would like to throw out
40 there, once we finish up this discussion, but I agree that it is
41 burdensome, but I also see the side of NMFS that they need this
42 data to understand what these fishermen are doing, and so, where
43 we find that middle ground, I don't know. Mr. Strelcheck.

44
45 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I get back to my comments about where is the
46 balance there, and what we don't want to do is create large
47 loopholes in the program, where it's going to undermine the
48 integrity of the data. We also don't want to overly burden the

1 industry, for them to report data that may be not necessary to
2 report, right, and so there's a balance.

3
4 You know, one of my concerns with the conversation is I feel
5 like we have talked about this with several actions in the last
6 year, and we're trying to solve an issue for every single person
7 that participates in our fishery, and we have so many unique and
8 diverse participants, and their situations are so unique and
9 different that we're not going to solve this for everyone, and
10 so can we solve it for most people, in terms of alleviating the
11 burden, and, if so, what does that look like, and what change
12 can we make that's going to benefit the industry as a whole,
13 knowing that there might be still some people impacted, and
14 they're going to have to report a little bit more often, because
15 their situation is a little more unique and different than
16 others.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** J.D., I will get to you in just a moment, and,
19 to Andy's point, and I'm going to kind of throw a kink into this
20 situation, because we're using the terminology "exemption".
21 Well, we just used, or did the document, about the failure
22 exemption, equipment failure exemption, where you have to get a
23 form, or a validation, from law enforcement that you're exempt,
24 and so are we adding additional burden, so that you have to now
25 apply for this exemption, because how are you going to know?
26 Are you just going to say, well, if you're not going to be there
27 for an hour, we're exempting you, but that's the other part that
28 I need to understand, is is this going to add some burden to the
29 fishermen to get the exemption? J.D.

30
31 **MR. DUGAS:** So I guess a question would be I feel there's a
32 group of charter guys that want to do this, and there's a larger
33 group that does not want to do this, and so what about voluntary
34 reporting? If the guys want to let NMFS know they're going to
35 put fuel in their boat, or get bait or ice, and they want to
36 voluntarily tell you all, go for it. There's nothing wrong with
37 that, and you can use the data, for whatever reason, but,
38 instead of mandating it, maybe make it voluntary.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. Ms. Somerset, let's go ahead and proceed
41 through the document. I think there's going to be a lot of
42 questions and not a lot of answers.

43
44 **MS. SOMERSET:** Yes, ma'am. Thanks, Madam Chair. I can continue
45 through this, and then, if there's discussion on whether you
46 want to move forward with it, or have any other, you know, ideas
47 for options, then we can do it after discussing what we have
48 right now. I believe Ms. Levy's hand is up.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Yes, Ms. Levy. Sorry.

3
4 **MS. LEVY:** Sorry, and I feel like I'm stopping you when you when
5 you're actually getting to the document, and NMFS can speak to
6 this as well, but you were asking about, you know, a burden to
7 the permit holders, or operators, for the purpose of this
8 exemption, and I don't think that that's what would happen,
9 because this would just say, if you are going on a non-fishing
10 trip that is less than sixty minutes, ninety minutes, whatever,
11 you don't need to do the declaration, right, and so, to me, it
12 would be more of a burden on NMFS to try and, you know, figure
13 out -- Or look at the data and make sure that the declarations
14 that they're not getting were done in a proper way, but I don't
15 think the intent was to come up with another form that people
16 submit in lieu of the declaration, and that just seems like more
17 work for everybody.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Ms. Levy. Mr. Anson.

20
21 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** Well, I appreciate Ms. Levy's comments, but I
22 would say that it would be more work, but it could be less work
23 than what would be required based on the current situation, and
24 the current situation is that they would have to submit a
25 declaration every time a boat left the dock, and so I don't want
26 to necessarily muddy-up the waters here, and I know, as Andy
27 mentioned, we've been talking about this for a while, but, you
28 know, I can certainly understand, and appreciate, the agency's
29 desire to know that a vessel is away from the dock, and then
30 certainly their job is to try to document the fishing trips, and
31 then ultimately the catch, through the validation of the
32 dockside surveys, to validate against what's been reported.

33
34 You know, in one respect, I can certainly see the need for
35 having a declaration of some kind. Now, what could happen is
36 that there is an exemption form, or a trip activity status, that
37 just designates that it's non-fishing, and then there is a time
38 period, of which the boat can do a non-fishing activity within a
39 certain time period, and then NMFS would have notification, on
40 record, that says this vessel is going to be away from the dock,
41 but its status is it's not fishing, and then there is a time
42 period on there, to kind of get at Andy's point, was just making
43 sure that folks just don't operate a fishing trip within the
44 designated time period that they are not fishing.

45
46 Right now, we're talking about something that they can just go
47 do whatever, and the boat is away from the dock, but perhaps it
48 might be more burdensome than not having to report, but it would

1 certainly kind of tie the loose end, if you will, of the agency
2 knowing that the boat is not fishing and to have just a
3 declaration that states, within this time period, I'm going to
4 be engaged in, you know, activities with the boat, and it's
5 going to be away from the dock, and it's not going to be
6 associated with fishing.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Kevin, currently, that is an option, when you
9 hail-out. You can do fishing trip with fishing effort, no
10 fishing intended, or no -- I mean, there's three options that
11 you can choose, and that is there now. The issue at-hand for
12 these fishermen is every time they leave the dock to do
13 something that's not fishing related, but, before I get into my
14 ideas and thoughts, I am going to let Ms. Somerset continue,
15 unless there's any more comments or questions at this time.
16 Okay, Ms. Carly.

17
18 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you. Bernie, could you go to the
19 background and need, please? To Ms. Levy's point, I think, you
20 know, if there is a better word, besides "exemption", I'm happy
21 to modify this document to reflect that.

22
23 For the purpose and need, I will just read this for the record,
24 and then if there's any questions or modifications that the
25 council wishes to make. The purpose of this action is to reduce
26 the number of non-fishing trip declarations required to be
27 submitted by Gulf reef fish and/or coastal-migratory-pelagic-
28 permitted for-hire vessels while conducting on-the-water
29 activities in a manner that maintains the data integrity of the
30 for-hire electronic reporting program in the Gulf.

31
32 The need for this action is to reduce the burden associated with
33 submitting non-fishing trip declarations without negatively
34 impacting data needed to manage these fisheries. I can pause
35 here, if there's any questions or comments.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Seeing none, please proceed.

38
39 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you. Bernie, if you could scroll down to
40 the options. That's it, and if you could just scroll down a
41 little. Great. Thank you. Within this section is, as Ms.
42 Zamboni explained, and to Mr. Gill's question, we have three
43 options, and they are -- They were discussed at the last council
44 meeting, and that was to proceed with this abbreviated framework
45 action, and so, Bernie, if you could scroll down a little more,
46 and, essentially, we have laid out -- Option 1 is the exemption
47 from the trip declaration requirement, and it would apply to
48 non-fishing trips that are completed in sixty minutes or less.

1
2 Option 2 is the exemption from the trip declaration requirement
3 would apply to non-fishing trips that are completed in ninety
4 minutes or less, and Option 3 is the exemption from the trip
5 declaration requirement would apply to non-fishing trips that
6 are completed in 120 minutes or less, and so we currently have
7 these three options, and, again, I just wanted to reiterate that
8 this applies dock-to-dock, and this is not round trip, and so
9 the sixty minutes would be leaving, you know, for example, a
10 dock, and you can leave from other -- A berth or a seawall, but
11 you would leave, and the time would start, and then it would end
12 when you reach your destination, and then it would start again
13 when you leave that slip, or wherever you are, and move back,
14 and so it would either be a sixty-minute window, a ninety-minute
15 or less window, or 120 minutes or less. I will pause there for
16 any question or comments.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. I don't see any hands up, and so I've
19 thought a lot about this, and a couple of thoughts that I have,
20 and, of course, it would be the agency that would have to give
21 some ideas, because the one hour -- The sixty, ninety, and 120
22 minutes, as Andy pointed out, that's going to help some, and
23 it's not going to help all, and you can't help everybody, but I
24 do -- First, I have a question, and it would be for either Mara
25 or Ms. Zamboni, and I will recognize you in just a moment, Mr.
26 Williamson.

27
28 The definition, Subsection 622.26, Record Keeping and Reporting,
29 would we have to redefine what a trip is, because, based on the
30 statute, a trip begins any time a vessel departs from a dock,
31 berth, beach, seawall, or ramp and terminates with return to a
32 dock, berth, beach, seawall, or ramp, regardless of the duration
33 or purpose, including non-fishing activities, and so what
34 happens with that definition if we do something different with
35 this document?

36
37 **MS. LEVY:** I can take it, and Kate can jump in if she wants, and
38 so that's the definition that we used for this program. I think
39 maybe it would be helpful, you know, when we were talking about
40 this internally, before -- You know, when we presented these
41 options to the council, we were kind of thinking about, well,
42 how would we need to change the regulations to accomplish this,
43 and it can be a fairly easy fix, right, and so, right now, the
44 regulations say --

45
46 They define the trip, like you indicated, and then they say,
47 prior to departure for each trip, you have to do this
48 declaration, right, and you could potentially say, prior to the

1 departure for each fishing trip, and each non-fishing trip in
2 excess of sixty minutes, ninety minutes, whatever, you do this
3 declaration, and so that means, if you're not going on a fishing
4 trip, and you're going on a non-fishing trip that's less than
5 the time we've said, then you don't do the declaration.

6
7
8 I don't think it's a complicated regulatory fix to do this type
9 of thing, and, again, that doesn't envision anybody filling out
10 a form or anything like that, and so I don't know if that's
11 helpful to consider it in that way, when you're thinking about
12 these various options, and I do see that Kate has her hand up.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Ms. Zamboni.

15
16 **MS. ZAMBONI:** Thank you. I agree with Mara, and the only thing
17 I would add is another potential regulatory way to implement
18 this is you have another provision that says the requirement in
19 Section 622.374 and 622.26 don't apply to non-fishing trips that
20 are completed within the time period selected, and, again,
21 that's just a self-effecting exemption that says that
22 requirement doesn't apply.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Williamson.

25
26 **MR. TROY WILLIAMSON:** Well, to carry out with Phil's comment, if
27 you don't hail-out, and you come back in with a load of fish,
28 what's the penalty there? It seems like everybody would --
29 Common sense would tell them that they needed to hail-out,
30 rather than go on a non-fishing trip and come back with fish.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** So the purpose of hailing-out is to notify law
33 enforcement that you're essentially moving, and, if you don't
34 hail-out, you may or may not get caught, if you've actually been
35 on a fishing trip, because law enforcement wouldn't know that
36 you were away from the dock. Andy.

37
38 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I don't know where to start. Kind of the 90/10
39 rule here, right, and there's going to be 90 percent of people
40 that are going to be doing the right thing, right, and there's
41 going to be a small fraction that maybe don't want to do the
42 right thing, and, you know, we are trying to build a program, a
43 better data system, and, in doing so, obviously, through
44 implementation, we've added some burden to the industry that
45 we're now looking at, and so I get back to the fact that there
46 has to be a balance here between believing in that burden and
47 making sure we maintain that data integrity, and so, if we just
48 say, you know, you don't have to report if you're not going on a

1 fishing trip, well, that's a pretty substantial loophole,
2 because now a lot of people might say they're not going on a
3 fishing trip, and then it adds the enforcement burden, as well
4 as the administrative burden, on the agency to track down and
5 determine whether or not those in fact were non-fishing trips or
6 fishing trips.

7
8 To me, I think we have to strike that balance in figuring out
9 kind of what's reasonable for them to report, what's maybe not
10 necessary for them to report, in order to achieve that goal of
11 improving the data collection system and ultimately having a
12 system that we're going to be using to manage this fishery with.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Gill.

15
16 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I think, as Andy has
17 mentioned, the coverage of these potential options will not
18 manifest themselves amongst everybody. You know, perfection is
19 the enemy of good, and trying to find that sweet point -- I
20 don't know that we have the real data for that, and what we do
21 know is that some of the industry requested that we consider
22 this, because of current regs, and I don't know that we know the
23 extent of those that are for it and those that oppose it.

24
25 **You know, J.D. asserted that the opposition was greater than the**
26 **support, and that might be true, and I don't know that, and**
27 **we've had a lot of discussion on this, and I'm not sure there's**
28 **an answer that works for everybody, but, in order to focus the**
29 **discussion a little bit, I move that we set Option 1 as the**
30 **preferred option.**

31
32 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. We have a motion. I will give Bernie a
33 chance to get it up on board, and then we'll read it into the
34 record. Is there a second for the motion?

35
36 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I will second.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Gill, would you like to read your motion
39 into the record, please?

40
41 **MR. GILL:** Yes, Madam Chair. **The motion is to make Option 1 the**
42 **preferred.**

43
44 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Option 1 is the exemption from the trip
45 declaration requirement would apply to non-fishing trips that
46 are completed in sixty minutes or less. Mr. Williamson.

47
48 **MR. WILLIAMSON:** I would like to make a substitute motion.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Yes, sir.

3
4 **MR. WILLIAMSON:** That we make Option 3 the preferred.

5
6 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Is there a second? Mr. Dugas. Option 3 is the
7 exemption from the trip declaration requirement would apply to
8 non-fishing trips that are completed in 120 minutes or less.
9 Any discussion? **Those in favor, please raise your hand; those**
10 **opposed, please raise your hand. The motion passes five to**
11 **three.** Ms. Somerset, do you have anything else? Ms. Somerset,
12 one moment. Mr. Dugas.

13
14 **MR. DUGAS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I am not prepared to make
15 another motion, but I would, maybe by Full Council, like to see
16 another option in here that is open-ended, that's not
17 constrained to a certain amount of minutes, but I'm not prepared
18 now, but if someone would like to maybe speak outside, during
19 the recess, to craft a motion, and I would like to add an
20 option. Thank you.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Dugas, we look forward to hearing from you
23 on Thursday. Ms. Somerset.

24
25 **MS. SOMERSET:** Yes, ma'am, and so I was listening to J.D.'s
26 comment, but there is still, I guess, other potential avenues to
27 explore, if that's the council's will, or to move forward with
28 this document as-is, with the preferred option, but just know
29 that it could potentially -- That would impact the time that it
30 would take to move this document forward, and so I just wanted
31 to make that note, but, currently, I don't have anything else in
32 the document, and I think we do have about -- I know we have
33 some time after lunch as well for Data Collection, but we could
34 go back to those other infographics, if you would like.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Before we do that, and I know we don't have a
37 SEFHIER update on our agenda, but, Dr. Masi or Dr. Stephen, do
38 we know -- Or maybe, Andy, you could address this, or if there's
39 law enforcement in the audience, but are we seeing a problem
40 with this? Is there metrics to see if people are reporting or
41 not reporting or if they're just disregarding that, hey, I'm
42 going to the fuel dock to get fuel, and, I mean, is there
43 anything that can justify that we're taking the time to do this
44 and put, I guess, this burden on these fishermen? Mr.
45 Strelcheck.

46
47 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I mean, I can't speak to the actual numbers.
48 Jessica or Dr. Masi can speak to that. If you recall, this came

1 up during an advisory panel meeting, as an idea, and,
2 originally, it was a geofence for, essentially, once you cross
3 that boundary, you're having to report. We went back and looked
4 at the regulations and thought this might be a more simplistic
5 approach, which may not be the case here.

6
7 While I have the microphone, I think there's a couple of things
8 here. I think it's really important that we get feedback from
9 constituents and the industry on this. We have heard a number
10 of complaints about situations where people are having to do
11 multiple hail-outs, moving to fuel docks, and they're frustrated
12 that they have that burden, and so this is definitely a real
13 issue.

14
15 How widespread it is, it's hard to know, but I think, also, it's
16 really important, with the motion that we just passed, to hear
17 from law enforcement as well, and their perspective on this, and
18 so, maybe at Full Council, when we brief on this report, we can
19 have law enforcement talk to us as well about their thoughts and
20 concerns. Thanks.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay, Ms. Somerset. Do you want to go back to
23 your infographics?

24
25 **MS. SOMERSET:** Yes, ma'am. I can do that. Bernie, could you
26 pull up the presentation again, please? These are just two
27 other preliminary drafts of some other scenarios that we thought
28 of, as it pertains to the hail-outs, and so, again, if you're
29 moving from the left, counterclockwise, and I think I got that
30 right, and so this Scenario Number 2 would be a single hail-out
31 that you would, you know, load passengers, and that would be --
32 You would have to hail-out.

33
34 Say, for example, you were going to get bait, and so you have
35 your passengers onboard, and then you would get your bait, and
36 then you would go fishing, and then you would return to the
37 dock, and that fishing that you're doing for bait, because that
38 is a fishing activity, you would have to include that on your
39 report, but, essentially, getting back to the hail-out, this
40 would be a single hail-out, because you are loading passengers
41 before you are going on a fishing trip.

42
43 Then I will do the third one, and then, if there's any
44 questions, I can stop there, and so the third scenario would be,
45 as opposed to single hail-out, it would be a double hail-out.
46 Again, this is a preliminary draft, and, if we have feedback
47 from the council or agency members, we're happy to include that
48 and modify these, and so, essentially, here, you have a -- If

1 you were say a captain that's going to get bait before putting
2 passengers onboard, then you would have your first hail-out for
3 that -- We're calling it a bait trip, with no passengers, and so
4 you would get your bait and then return to the dock.

5
6 Your passengers are waiting, and so you load the passengers on
7 your boat, and then, at that point, you would make a second
8 hail-out for a fishing trip, and then, when you return to the
9 dock, you would be reporting everything that was caught on that
10 trip, not including the bait fish, because that was on the
11 previous trip, and so, essentially, a look at three different
12 scenarios of the number of hail-outs required, is what we were
13 trying to get at, and so I will stop there for any questions.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Any questions for Ms. Somerset? Mr. Anson.

16
17 **MR. ANSON:** Then, for the purposes of fishing, as it pertains to
18 the regulation dealing with reporting, it's only fishing that is
19 conducted, or completed, by people who pay to have access to the
20 trip, and it's not fishing activities that occur with the crew?

21
22 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Well, so that was going to be my question on
23 Slide 3, or Scenario 3, and, I mean, if you're fishing, to me,
24 it doesn't matter what you're fishing for. If you're bait
25 fishing, you should be reporting your fishing, because they can
26 say they were bait fishing, but maybe they were trolling for
27 king and Spanish. I mean, I think, if you have a hook in the
28 water, you should be reporting it.

29
30 **MS. SOMERSET:** Right, and so that's a good question, and so
31 fishing activity versus non-fishing, and so, you know, we were
32 trying to get at how many hail-outs would be required, if it is
33 fishing activity, and that does include -- For bait, then that
34 does require a hail-out, and so I will speak on this generally,
35 and, if Dr. Stephen or Dr. Masi have anything to add, or Ms.
36 Levy, but, essentially, if you are going fishing, then you have
37 to hail-out.

38
39 Pertaining to bait, if you are going to a dock where the bait
40 has already been caught, and you're buying it from say a bait
41 shop, that is not considered fishing activity. If you were
42 going out with a sabiki, or to check traps or something, that is
43 fishing activity.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay, and I think I didn't understand that,
46 with that slide, and so now I understand. Okay. Ms. Levy and
47 then Mr. Dugas.

1 **MS. LEVY:** The hail-out thing, correct, in terms of what you're
2 considering, right, and so, if it's fishing for bait or
3 whatever, you would have to hail-out regardless, but I guess my
4 point is just that the regulations don't require the submission
5 of the logbook, right, with all of the fish caught during that
6 trip, unless it's a for-hire trip, and so that's why you're
7 seeing, on this scenario, that the logbook doesn't include the
8 bait trip, because the bait trip was not a for-hire trip. You
9 didn't have any passengers on it, and so there's no requirement
10 to report that under this for-hire logbook reporting
11 requirement.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Dugas.

14
15 **MR. DUGAS:** Thank you. I think that's a good example of why
16 this system is not going to work. You know, maybe we consider
17 the nine-mile-line boundary. Once you cross that line, you're
18 fishing, and, if you're inside of it, you're not fishing,
19 whether it's bait or not. I mean, I can't speak for every state
20 around the table, but I don't have a concern if a charterboat is
21 catching cobia in the river in Venice. I mean, that's not a
22 concern to me, and so maybe we draw a line somewhere.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** I am sitting here trying to figure out -- I am
25 looking at the VESL app right now, and so, if I'm going bait
26 fishing -- I guess, Mara, I don't understand, because, I mean,
27 we have to select some kind of activity. Fishing trip with
28 effort, no fishing intended, trip no effort, and so, if you're
29 fishing for bait, you would still have to declare fishing trip
30 with effort, and am I not correct, whether or not you have
31 paying customers onboard, and, I mean, my understanding is, if
32 you've got a line and a hook, line in the water, excuse me, and,
33 if you're fun fishing with your family -- If that charter vessel
34 is fishing, you have to -- You have to report.

35
36 **MS. LEVY:** Well, the regulations say that you have to submit the
37 electronic fishing report of all the fish harvested and
38 discarded when you're operating as a charter vessel or headboat,
39 and so actual logbook reporting requirement is for for-hire
40 trips. You might be fishing, like with your family, right, but
41 that's not a for-hire trip, and so you declare out like a
42 private fishing trip or whatever, but you're not reporting it as
43 a for-hire trip, in terms of the logbook.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. Dr. Sweetman.

46
47 **DR. C.J. SWEETMAN:** Just a quick clarification question for me,
48 and it's related to Scenario Number 2, the single hail-out, for

1 must report all fish caught, including bait fish, and I'm just
2 wondering what level of specificity it's looking at, in terms of
3 -- Are we looking down to the individual number of bait fish
4 that are going to be reported here? I'm just trying to figure
5 out how that plays in with the other scenarios. Thank you.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Ms. Somerset.

8
9 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe it is to an
10 individual level, as far as, you know, the program would like to
11 know essentially everything that you caught, and so that is my
12 understanding. If Dr. Stephen -- If I'm incorrect, then I will
13 look to Dr. Stephen or Dr. Masi to correct me, but I believe it
14 is individual fish, the count.

15
16 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Anson.

17
18 **MR. ANSON:** Just for my two-cents here, having worked with the
19 federal survey for some time, that's essentially what's being
20 done right now with the APAIS dockside survey, is that they will
21 try to get estimates down to the angler, including baitfish, to
22 the extent that the fishermen can recall that they caught
23 baitfish, and it's not a too exciting part of your day, but it
24 is a necessary function if you want to catch big fish, but they
25 certainly try to get down to that level and try to get estimates
26 of those fish for the recreational survey.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Stunz.

29
30 **DR. GREG STUNZ:** Thanks, Susan. I have a question, or a comment
31 and kind of a question. The comment is kind of for Andy, and,
32 as a scientist, I'm thinking about this, and depending on --
33 It's obviously confusing, and, depending on if you hail-out,
34 whether you're bait fishing or not, or getting fuel, and I'm
35 wondering about what happens on the backend, when you have a
36 scientist looking at this, and this has big implications,
37 obviously, for effort calculations in that fishery, and is your
38 office really going to be able to tease out that kind of
39 information from this, when you're sitting in front of a bunch
40 of data, and the trip has occurred, and it's like, well, I'm not
41 sure if that's bait, and I'm not sure if they were really
42 fishing, and that sort of thing, and I don't know, and it's just
43 kind of a little bit of a word of caution, and I see a lot of
44 issues with really interpreting what these trips mean, at the
45 end of the day, when we're really trying to get what we're
46 after, in terms of catch and effort data.

47
48 That's the comment, Andy, but, also, I didn't follow your

1 comment earlier about the geofence, and it seems, to me, that --
2 You know, at least the way I kind of envisioned this, early on,
3 was that, if you cleared some threshold, like J.D. is talking
4 about, of nine miles, three miles, the jetties, whatever we
5 decide, there would be some trigger. At that point, if you
6 haven't hailed-out, and that vessel is out there, then you know
7 that there is some problem, but is that -- Maybe I'm missing it,
8 or is that not planned to occur?

9
10 **MR. STRELCHECK:** May respond?

11
12 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Yes. Go ahead, Mr. Strelcheck.

13
14 **MR. STRELCHECK:** To the two points, one, yes, we don't want lots
15 of excess data that we're not going to use, right, and so we
16 want to essentially be able to monitor, from start to finish, a
17 fishing trip and ensure that there's a hail-out and a hail-in
18 and a logbook that are associated with that fishing trip, right,
19 to close the loop.

20
21 Right now, obviously, we're getting a lot of hail-outs for boats
22 that are just moving that aren't fishing, right, and so those
23 are fairly obvious when you look at VMS data, in terms of what's
24 happening, because it's inshore, nearshore, but we do,
25 obviously, have the system of VMS that allows us to then look at
26 a trip, and a boat went offshore, and it should have a
27 corresponding logbook, because it said it was going to be
28 fishing, and they did or didn't hail-out or hail-in, but they
29 need to be reporting, right, and so we're working, obviously, to
30 make sure that that loop can be maintained and then closed, in
31 terms of making sure the system is reporting all logbooks.

32
33 In terms of the geofence, I don't recall all of the discussion
34 around it, and I think there was some complications, in terms of
35 where you would define the boundary in certain areas of the
36 Gulf, and keep in mind that's also a huge technological cost to
37 the agency, right, and so we would have to figure out exactly
38 how much that would cost, and we moved away from it, thinking
39 that this could be a much more simplistic solution, just
40 redefining what is a trip, and that would solve some of the
41 concerns and problems, and that's the path we've gone down, and
42 we haven't gone back and revisited the geofencing.

43
44 **DR. STUNZ:** All right. Thanks, Andy.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. We're getting into our lunchbreak. Mr.
47 Anson.

1 **MR. ANSON:** It is related to Dr. Stunz's question, Andy, and so,
2 I guess, considering cost and staff time, resources to kind of
3 look at this data as it's coming in -- I mean, you have -- You
4 know, the dockside survey is a tool for validation, and I think
5 that was mentioned at the beginning of this presentation, and so
6 trying to then look ahead, if we were to implement a situation
7 where there is an exemption just for any trip, as long as it's
8 conducted within a sixty-minute, or 120-minute, as it stands
9 right now, timeframe, and, I mean, trying to then reconcile
10 those trips -- You would, obviously, look for that vessel, or
11 compare if it had any dockside validations, potentially, and if
12 there were some conflict there, and there will be some
13 reconciliation, I guess, is my question, relative to any
14 inconsistencies that you would find in trips being shown, or
15 showing up, in the actual dockside landings portion of the
16 SEFHIER program, relative to, you know, no report being -- I
17 guess to try to get at that 10 percent, and is the 10 percent
18 really 10 percent of those that don't want to, you know, report,
19 or do all those things, but there is some cost for the agency to
20 try to determine that and such, and I'm just trying to think of,
21 you know, that cost, under the current motion, versus what I
22 mentioned earlier about maybe just a single declaration that
23 says we're taking the boat out, and there's going to be no
24 fishing, and then whatever that time period is.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Anson, to your point, I mean, that is
27 available now. You just hail-out, no fishing intended, and
28 there is no more -- There is no additional requirement, and, I
29 mean, that is already available.

30
31 **MR. ANSON:** I guess I was going to the point of, right now, it's
32 every dock-to-dock trip that you make has to have a declaration,
33 and so, for the examples, the situations, that we're trying to
34 account for now, where they're just going to get, you know, ice,
35 or going to get gas at another dock, or bait at another dock,
36 and that's three declarations, versus, if you can get that done
37 in 120 minutes, you only have to do one, and it's one trip
38 declaration that says I'm just not going fishing, and you just
39 try to get it done within 120 minutes, and that's all.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Ms. Somerset.

42
43 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you, and sorry to delay, but I believe Dr.
44 Masi has her hand up, and she may have wanted to address the
45 comment earlier about the bait.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you for drawing that to my attention.
48 Dr. Masi.

1
2 **DR. MICHELLE MASI:** Good afternoon. I just wanted to clear up
3 one quick point that Carly made, and so, if you're out on a
4 charter trip, and you have passengers onboard, and you're
5 fishing, so you would need to submit a logbook if you caught
6 bait species while you were out, and then you do need to report
7 that. However, we realize that bait species -- That you would
8 catch a ton at once, and so it's hard to count, and we don't
9 require that you give an exact number for each species, but an
10 estimate. Thank you.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Any other questions or comments for this
13 document? Seeing none, Mr. Chair.

14
15 **MR. DIAZ:** Thank you, Ms. Boggs. We're going to go ahead and
16 break for lunch, and we're going to take our full hour-and-a-
17 half, and we will resume at 1:45. Thanks.

18
19 (Whereupon, the meeting recessed for lunch on August 22, 2022.)

20
21 - - -

22
23 August 22, 2022

24
25 MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

26
27 - - -

28
29 The Data Collection Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
30 Management Council reconvened at The Omni Hotel in Corpus
31 Christi, Texas on Monday afternoon, August 22, 2022, and was
32 called to order by Chairman Susan Boggs.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** The next item on our agenda is Agenda Item
35 Number V, and, Dr. Hollensead, if you would like to take us
36 through our Action Guide and Next Steps.

37
38 **DRAFT OPTIONS ON JOINT AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE ELECTRONIC REPORTING**
39 **FOR COMMERCIAL LOGBOOKS**

40
41 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Yes, ma'am. Continuing some discussions from
42 the last meeting, today, the committee is going to look at a
43 draft options joint amendment, and this amendment would require
44 electronic reporting for the commercial coastal logbook program,
45 and so that would encompass the Gulf reef fish and coastal
46 migratory pelagic fisheries.

47
48 Since the CMP fishery is cooperatively managed with the South
49 Atlantic, a joint amendment is required, and so I will provide

1 an overview of the plan, to engage with various advisory panels,
2 and we've got a draft of Chapter 1, and we've also got some -- A
3 spreadsheet looking at some of the data elements, and as well as
4 a presentation, and so, if there's no other questions with that,
5 I will get started on the presentation.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Please proceed.

8
9 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Okay. Bernie, if you wouldn't mind pulling up
10 that presentation for me, please. A little bit of background.
11 The commercial coastal logbook program collects commercial data
12 from the commercial vessels in the Gulf of Mexico, and also
13 throughout the Atlantic, and so it goes all the way up through
14 Maine, and so it's a pretty big program.

15
16 Commercial fishermen holding a Gulf reef fish or coastal
17 migratory pelagic permit are required to fill out this coastal
18 paper logbook within seven days of completing their fishing
19 trip, and then they physically mail that logbook into the
20 Southeast Fisheries Science Center as well as a subset, 20
21 percent, of those program participants are selected by the
22 Science Center, and they also fill out an economic or discard
23 survey, and they have to do that for a year. Otherwise, it's
24 voluntary, but, if you are selected, it must be mandatory, and
25 this is mailed out to the participants separately, and, again,
26 it is mandatory if selected.

27
28 The Southeast Fisheries Science Center is transitioning into an
29 electronic reporting format, rather than continuing the current
30 paper logbook submissions through the mail, and, actually, the
31 Gulf Council passed a motion to begin work on this in February
32 of 2013, and so that was a while ago.

33
34 The Science Center has proposed moving towards that electronic
35 platform. At the moment, it's looking to be within -- They have
36 recommended in cooperation with the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative
37 Statistics Program, or ACCSP, and doing that through eTRIPS, and
38 so that's currently the platform that has been proposed.

39
40 We gave a couple of presentations to our Reef Fish AP and CMP
41 APs on this subject, and we had representatives from the Science
42 Center sort of field questions and go through those
43 presentations, and, from those APs, there was some support for
44 moving towards an electronic platform. However, if there is any
45 transition towards any more high-precision-level reporting, such
46 as set level, it was suggested by the AP that they instead hold
47 some workshops before any of those sorts of things are
48 integrated, but, for now, taking the coastal logbook from paper

1 to electronic is supported by those APs.

2
3 As I mentioned a little earlier, this needs to be a joint
4 document with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and
5 so the South Atlantic covers the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo,
6 and then, cooperatively, the CMP, FMPs. The Coastal Migratory
7 Pelagic FMP is jointly managed, and so that's why we have to
8 have a joint document. At its June 2022 meeting, the South
9 Atlantic Fishery Management Council made a motion to work
10 cooperatively with the Gulf to implement this electronic
11 submission.

12
13 However, the South Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo FMP does not have a
14 consideration for using an abbreviated document, and I know we
15 had talked about that at the last meeting, since this is largely
16 an administrative change, that it could be an abbreviated
17 document, but, because the Dolphin Wahoo FMP does not have any
18 considerations for abbreviated documentation within its
19 framework procedures, this must be an amendment.

20
21 It doesn't necessarily put too much of a hitch in our get-along,
22 but it's just that we're going to have to have a couple more
23 sections for considering in that document, and the NEPA
24 requirements would still probably be a CE, or a categorical
25 exclusion, and I just wanted to let you all know that this will
26 be an amendment, because then it would satisfy the needs for all
27 of the considered FMPs.

28
29 Like I said, we began sort of drafting the document, but one
30 thing that the IPT has gone through, and sort of got an initial
31 draft of, is the purpose and need, and so the purpose is to
32 modify reporting for commercial fishing vessels issued South
33 Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico permits and currently reporting
34 through the Southeast Coastal Logbook Program, and they're all
35 listed there. Then to require that the reports be submitted
36 electronically.

37
38 The need is to improve the timelines and efficiency of the
39 commercial logbook data collection and management program, which
40 will improve monitoring and compliance of the federally-
41 permitted commercial vessels participating in the Southeast
42 Coastal Logbook Program. Are there any questions on the purpose
43 and need for this action, before I move forward?

44
45 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Does anyone have any questions? All right, Dr.
46 Hollensead. Please go ahead.

47
48 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Okay, and so, again, this document would look

1 to move from the paper form to the electronic, and on the left
2 is an image of the current paper logbook form, and on the right
3 is how that might be translated electronically, through some
4 sort of sort of software platform.

5
6 As I have mentioned, the Science Center has proposed using
7 ACCSP's database, as well as their eTRIPS software program. In
8 order for the current paper logbook to be compatible with that
9 database, there are a few data fields that are to be added.

10
11 The voluntary portions of the commercial electronic program, the
12 economic and discard surveys, also have a little tweaking. The
13 economic survey is going to have some additional data fields, to
14 be compatible with ACCSP, and discards, if you're selected for
15 that survey, will be reported when completing the commercial
16 logbook, and so you'll report those as discards. Those two
17 surveys would still remain voluntary, unless the participant has
18 been selected.

19
20 Going into a little bit of why -- What's up with these new data
21 fields, and so, if I understand it, and I believe actually Geoff
22 White is on the call, and he's from ACCSP, and he can help me
23 here, but my understanding is that ACCSP has a standardized
24 database. As I mentioned, the Coastal Logbook Program goes all
25 the way up through the Gulf and the Atlantic seaboard, and so
26 it's a lot of participants, and so, in terms of standardizing
27 your datasets, you would want to have standardized data fields.

28
29 They can sort of manipulate what's already existing in the paper
30 logbooks, but adding a couple of the fields would allow that
31 electronic submission to talk with its existing database, is
32 basically -- Now, some of those added data fields are just
33 various waivers of questions that are already being asked, and I
34 do have a spreadsheet, in the background material, and we can
35 walk through that, what those actually are, to give you an
36 example of what they are.

37
38 As well as a list of questions that the IPT has for NMFS staff,
39 when we were sort of working through this, and that's also
40 available in the background. Certainly, if you all have any
41 other questions -- We've also got Dr. Julie Brown and Ray
42 Murdock. They are online as well, to answer any questions that
43 you might have about the program that weren't included in that
44 list, or anything else that the committee may think of, but,
45 Geoff, I'm going to put you a little bit on the spot. If you're
46 available to speak, to answer sort of this initial question of
47 why are these data fields a little different for the ACCSP
48 database as they are from the paper coastal logbook.

1
2 **MR. GEOFF WHITE:** Thanks for raising this in the presentation,
3 and I appreciate the opportunity to speak here. Essentially,
4 because there are multiple reporting platforms, and eTRIPS was
5 developed, over the last ten years, to meet federal fishery
6 needs in commercial reporting, as well as for-hire reporting, as
7 well as state requirements, it's been built as a committee
8 process, and with common fields and data elements, with some
9 ability to extend into additional data fields, but changing the
10 way that we built the system, without working through the
11 committee process, is kind of like taking away something that
12 we've built for folks, and they've been using for years, and so
13 we do need to kind of take it as a group partner approach and
14 not have the software tailored to any particular agency or FMP
15 regulation approach.

16
17 It was built to be comprehensive and cover all the ACCSP
18 standards, as well as the flexibility for various partner needs,
19 and there is a fair amount of customization that can be done,
20 almost on the fly, but it can be done very quickly, without any
21 programming, and so I think that's the starting point.

22
23 A lot of our committee process, when we want to add a field, or
24 make sure that we're collecting the same data, goes the Standard
25 Codes Committee, even things as detailed as adding a particular
26 code for an existing field, making sure that those types of
27 items are not duplicated, but it is built for a variety of
28 partners, and, therefore, it isn't kind of recast as each
29 regulation, or each fishery's particular requirements, and it's
30 probably 99 percent standardized across, and is that enough, or
31 do you have other questions?

32
33 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Does anyone have any questions for Geoff? All
34 right. Seeing none -- Excuse me. Dale.

35
36 **MR. DIAZ:** I don't know if I've got a question, but I've got a
37 comment, and so, when we started this presentation, what I was
38 kind of thinking in my mind is, you know, this might be an
39 opportunity to streamline stuff, to maybe make sure we only are
40 collecting the data we need.

41
42 Having been around data collection programs for a long time, I
43 hate to look at a data collection program and look at data that
44 you've been collecting that you haven't used, and we're going to
45 need a lot of buy-in on this. A lot of people is going to have
46 to use this, and so, I mean, we want to try to build it where we
47 can get buy-in, and so I hear us talk about adding fields, and I
48 don't know if that means we're going to collect additional data,

1 or exactly what that means, but I would urge us to just look at
2 what we need and make sure we only collect what we need, and try
3 to make the burden on the industry as light as we can, and try
4 to get as much buy-in as we can and not try to expand it into
5 something that's unwieldy, where we can't get buy-in.

6
7 I think the charter boat system is kind of an example of that,
8 and we built a Cadillac, and we sent it out there, and we're
9 having a hard time getting acceptance in the industry with it,
10 and, you know, I just -- I don't want to repeat that here.
11 Thank you.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Hollensead.

14
15 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Madam Chair, maybe this would be a good time to
16 open that spreadsheet that's got the data fields in it, so that
17 you can get an idea of what is being modified.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Hollensead, while we're opening that data
20 fields, and I'll recognize you in just a moment, Mr. Gill, and,
21 to Dale's point, and my understanding, and I read the documents
22 and the minutes from the last meeting, and re-read it, because
23 it says, basically, what's on that form is what's going to be
24 reported, and nothing else, and, talking about the buy-in,
25 talking to the commercial industry, as long as you stick to
26 that, they don't have a problem with it, because they're tired
27 of filling out the papers and sending them in, and it's time-
28 consuming, and it's just not practical, in this day and age, and
29 I think, as long as we stick to that sheet, and nothing else --
30 Now, down the road, later, if we feel like there is something
31 else that needs to come along, we'll fight that battle then, but
32 I think right now, like you said, Dale, to get the buy-in, we
33 stick with what we've got. Mr. Gill.

34
35 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and so, to Dale's point, I
36 don't know what the rollout plan for this program is, but, to
37 help address the points that Dale makes, I would hope that it
38 would include a pilot program that allows some realistic testing
39 that would identify those issues from the user groups, and I
40 think that's an important factor to minimize the disruption, but
41 help with that stakeholder buy-in.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Well, correct me if I'm wrong, Dr. Porch, but
44 was there not some kind of a pilot, at some point, for this, and
45 we're just waiting to see the report to come out of that?

46
47 **DR. CLAY PORCH:** Yes, there was, and I would emphasize that some
48 of these questions are necessary for us to use the system with

1 ACCSP. Otherwise, you're not going to be able to fill out the
2 form, but I think we could defer to Dr. Brown to give you some
3 more detail.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. Mr. Gill, and then, Dr. Hollensead,
6 we'll go through your spreadsheet.

7
8 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and I was going to mention
9 that separately, but, since you brought it up, the previous
10 pilot, which was, what, 2015, or thereabouts, and the final
11 report yet remains not available, and it seems, to me, that we
12 went through that effort, and we spent the time, and we spent
13 the resources, and we know nothing about the results. We don't
14 know what it found good and was bad, and, seven years later, I
15 suspect that a bunch of it might be out-of-date and no longer
16 germane.

17
18 This, and I will be as diplomatic as I can, unusual delay
19 basically cuts out part of the purpose of doing that pilot, and
20 so, A, I think it's a necessary ingredient for this program,
21 going forward, that we don't have that I think it's incumbent on
22 the agency to get it, to help us shape this program, with
23 whatever knowledge we can glean, given its outdated nature, to
24 make this one better.

25
26 The follow-up on that is so, if you are going forward with a
27 pilot program, which, again, I would strongly recommend, I sure
28 hope that that report will be timely and useable to help us put
29 this together and get it into implementation, because the
30 program is, inherently, I think a good one, and I support it,
31 but, you know, missing some of the ingredients, and it's very
32 difficult for me to understand a rationale that makes any sense,
33 and I conclude that maybe it isn't a priority with the agency.

34
35 You know, the report can't be that difficult, and so I wish
36 that, A, we had the report, before we vote on this program in
37 its entirety, and I'm not sure when that's going to be, but I'm
38 not sure that we're going to have the report at any time
39 certain, and then, finally, if we do that pilot program for the
40 current status, that the agency does better in getting the
41 results out, so we can use them as part of the decision-making.
42 Thank you.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Porch.

45
46 **DR. PORCH:** Thank you, and so the report is available, and it
47 was published as a technical memorandum, and I will send the
48 link onto council staff, so they can make it available to you.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Dr. Porch. Dr. Hollensead.

3
4 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** This form, and I will just sort of walk you
5 through the layout of the spreadsheet, and, if you have any real
6 specific questions, I might defer those to Julie or Geoff, but,
7 in that far-left column, you will have what the logbook data
8 field is, and so the name of that.

9
10 Column B is going to show what was currently being used, and
11 that will be in the white cells, and then the green is the
12 addition, and so you will see, for example, that first sort of
13 block of additions, or a similar flavor of what's been asked,
14 when the trip starts, the date and the time, and those sorts of
15 things, and, if you're familiar, I think, with the SEFHIER
16 program, that might look a little familiar to you.

17
18 Column C denotes that -- You know, it basically reiterates
19 what's being seen in the green, in case some folks have trouble
20 seeing that, but that is an added data field. Then the next
21 column gives a little bit of a description of what that is,
22 Column D, and so it just talks a little bit about what that is
23 and what that would entail, so you can maybe get a little idea
24 of perhaps how long it would take to fill out that data field,
25 or that sort of thing, and then the entry type is just what kind
26 of category that would be for the database, if it's numerical or
27 a character or something like that.

28
29 Then, Bernie, if you wouldn't mind scrolling down, that top part
30 that I have just highlighted as the coastal logbook, and, as
31 Bernie scrolls down, Row 41 begins the economic survey, and so,
32 again, it's following the same format as above, with the titles
33 and the columns and those things, but this would be specific to
34 the economic survey, and, again, that is one that is mandatory,
35 if selected, but then otherwise voluntary, and so, again, if
36 anybody has any questions about the specific fields, I might
37 defer those to Dr. Brown and Geoff, but that's how to interpret
38 the sheet.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Does anybody have any questions for Dr. Brown?
41 So, I don't know that this would be a question to Dr. Brown,
42 but, as kind of my point back to Dale, as long as we're
43 emulating what we currently have, which is not what we're doing
44 here, are we intending, in the Gulf, to take this to our APs and
45 to ask them -- Because, again, like with the SEFHIER program --
46 The charter fishermen, they wanted data collection, and they
47 didn't ask for all that other stuff that came with it, and I see
48 that here we're going down this path with commercial fishermen,

1 and that's where we get bogged down.

2
3 We start adding stuff that wasn't there, and I really hate to
4 see us go down this road, because I think we're going to get
5 bogged down, but Dr. Sweetman and then Mr. White.

6
7 **DR. SWEETMAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. A quick question. I am
8 curious about the possibility of potentially adding like a
9 depredation question to this field, to try and get at the
10 frequency for which this is occurring in some of these
11 fisheries, and we, obviously, hear about this all the time, at
12 the council level, and here in Florida, mostly anecdotally, and
13 so I'm just wondering if this is a possibility, to add this into
14 this commercial reporting logbook, to try and get some more
15 information that we can actually use for management. Thank you.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. White.

18
19 **MR. WHITE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. A couple of points on this.
20 Number one, I wanted to point out that the ACCSP is part of the
21 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and this software
22 has actually already been developed and is functional. We've
23 been working in partnership with the Southeast Fisheries Science
24 Center, for quite some time, to make the technology available.

25
26 One of the benefits is for multi-permitted fishermen, and so the
27 intent is, if you've got a commercial permit between the Gulf
28 and the South Atlantic, or possibly even through GARFO, there is
29 a number of vessels that have that situation, and they could use
30 one report to report to satisfy all of those federal permits,
31 whether they were commercial or for-hire trips, and so that's
32 kind of built into the system already.

33
34 Many of these fields, while the users will see there is maybe a
35 longer list, many of them are based on favorites, and so there's
36 kind of a user-defined short list of items, and so, instead of
37 selecting that vessel out of a really long list, you're
38 selecting the vessel out of the one, two, or three that you use
39 all the time, and so those are just some usability items.

40
41 In terms of the flexibility of the system to add questions such
42 as depredation, there is the ability to add optional questions
43 that are not mandatory, and that is based on the desire of the
44 partner agencies, and so partner-specific questions can be
45 added, and they can be optional, from a technology standpoint,
46 but, again, we build the software to meet the requirements of
47 the partners, and so certainly ACCSP can's just add a question
48 without the partners being part of that process, and so thank

1 you for your time.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Gill.

4
5 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and so, on the spreadsheet,
6 and I guess this question goes to Lisa, Item 49 has no
7 explanation, but what, pray tell, is a light cost?

8
9 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** I believe that is the cost for the light sticks
10 on a longline, but I would let Dr. Brown -- But I believe that's
11 what that is.

12
13 **MR. GILL:** I was thinking light bulbs, or energy to power them.

14
15 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Well, yes, and I don't necessarily want to make
16 any assumptions, and I think we all know that little detail, and
17 so, Dr. Brown, if you would like to comment on that.

18
19 **DR. JULIE BROWN:** Yes, that is indeed the cost of light sticks
20 that were used, and that's a perfect example of something that
21 is not required if you don't use light sticks, and there is a
22 lot of instances, on this spreadsheet, where we have basically
23 merged the HMS logbook, which is also managed by the Southeast
24 Fisheries Science Center, with the coastal commercial logbook,
25 and, if the question doesn't apply to you, you don't answer it.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Dr. Brown. Dr. Hollensead, can you
28 scroll back toward the top of the spreadsheet, please, ma'am? I
29 am only looking to try to get a feel of some of the additional
30 questions that are being asked, but, again, I caution -- So here
31 we go, and we've added these, and now can we add shark
32 depredation, and can we add this, and can we add that, and this
33 is where this council gets in trouble, is we start saying, well,
34 while we're doing this, let's do this, this, and this, and then
35 you start losing industry support, and so I don't know what
36 action we need to take today, but that might be a problem, and I
37 would certainly like to hear from the APs before we do anything
38 else at this council. Mr. Gill.

39
40 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and so that brings up a point
41 that I think is also important, that I hope is a no-brainer and
42 part of the thinking and the rollout, and that is there an
43 extensive outreach program to minimize the lack of
44 understanding, et cetera, and enhancing, if you will, the
45 stakeholder buy-in and not just pop it out there. We don't have
46 a good track record, recently, of new program introduction, and
47 I would hope that the thinking here is there's going to be a
48 significant outreach effort to bring all the stakeholders

1 aboard. Thank you.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Anson.

4
5 **MR. ANSON:** I don't know, and maybe Dr. Brown can answer this
6 question, but, regarding your comment, Dr. Brown, about some of
7 these fields are kind of self-selected, if you will, or,
8 depending upon the response of the fishermen, they may not need
9 to provide information, and so is that -- Are these electronic
10 logbooks kind of set up, or intuitive enough, to know that, if
11 you select a certain species, or a certain gear, that it will
12 then bring up those data fields that only pertain to that gear,
13 so the fisherman doesn't have to kind of skip through, you know,
14 blank, or empty, fields, or fields they wouldn't be filling out?
15 Then I have another question.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Brown, to that point?

18
19 **DR. BROWN:** Yes, you're absolutely right, and so some of these
20 questions are gear-specific. If you're using a gillnet, then
21 you answer the mesh size, but, if you're fishing with hook-and-
22 line, you're not even going to see the mesh size question, and,
23 as for some of these other highlighted fields, I should point
24 out that we really just have one question that is replacing
25 another question that was on the paper logbook, and so, for
26 example, end port isn't really a new question, and that's just
27 going to be replacing the county of landing, and so I would say
28 that that's not really a new field. The same thing with trip
29 end time and date, and that's really just replacing us asking
30 you how many days you were at-sea. Start port, the same thing.
31 Any other questions?

32
33 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Just quickly to that point, so I don't know if
34 we can shade that yellow, so that we know that it's not a really
35 a new field, because, I mean, it kind of puts it in context
36 that, okay, we're changing what it -- It was this, and now it's
37 this, and it's not actually a new field. Dr. Hollensead.

38
39 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Yes, ma'am. We can go through and say what's
40 being added, and we could do a different color, to modify it,
41 but, yes, we can do that.

42
43 **DR. BROWN:** Some of these questions too, to get to Geoff's point
44 earlier, are -- They're new because we're trying to accommodate
45 people who have multiple permits, and so, for instance, trip
46 type -- We need you to tell us whether you are commercial or
47 recreational fishing on that particular trip, because some
48 vessels have both types of permits, and, in order for the

1 software to show you the correct questions, subsequently, we
2 just need you to tell us whether you're commercial or
3 recreational fishing.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Dr. Brown, and, to that point, if we
6 -- Like I said, if we kind of knew what's being modified, versus
7 what's being added, because if half of -- If 95 percent of these
8 are modified, then I'm like, okay, you're adding one field, and
9 no big deal. Mr. Anson.

10
11 **MR. ANSON:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a second question,
12 just kind of taking off of what Mr. Gill had mentioned about
13 doing kind of an inventory of information that is collected and
14 whether or not it's used or not, or the veracity of the data,
15 and, on this one slide here, that is in the presentation, it
16 talks about the discards will be reported, when completing the
17 commercial logbook, on a voluntary or selected -- Unless
18 selected, and I'm just wondering, and I thought that we have
19 heard, at a previous presentation, a few meetings ago, that any
20 of that discard information was not very useful, or helpful, or
21 really representative, and I'm just wondering if that is the
22 case elsewhere, or is just specific to the Gulf, or what.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Porch.

25
26 **DR. PORCH:** One, just a reminder that it would be same sub-
27 selection, that 20 percent, that would actually have that, and
28 so it's not that everybody is going to have to report it, and
29 it's still useful at that point. Eventually, especially if we
30 had enhanced observer coverage, then probably it would be
31 somewhat redundant, and we could stop collecting that
32 information. This plan doesn't quite recommend that, but,
33 ultimately, especially if we can increase observer coverage,
34 then I would like to discontinue that.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Hollensead, is there any -- Excuse me. Mr.
37 Strelcheck.

38
39 **MR. STRELCHECK:** You forgot about me, Susan. One, I think,
40 point I would like to make, and so we're talking, to me, fairly
41 in the weeds here, in terms of the details and the specifics of
42 what is on the logbook form. Pulling us back out of that, keep
43 in mind that, yes, if we go with this, and there is more data
44 fields, that's an increased burden, but I would venture to guess
45 that this is actually going to be a significant decreased
46 burden, in the long run, in terms of timeliness to enter the
47 data, and you're not going to have to mail the logbooks in, and
48 the Science Center won't have to return them, if there's errors,

1 and so there's going to be a number of efficiencies, just on the
2 fishermen's standpoint, let alone the agency's standpoint, and
3 we'll benefit, obviously, from more timely entry of that data
4 into the system.

5
6 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you for that, Mr. Strelcheck, and I
7 understand what you're saying. It's just the conversation we
8 had before lunch, and we're bogged down in do you hail-out for
9 this, and do you not hail-out for that, and I just don't want us
10 to get there with this, and, like I said, I think, once we see
11 what's been modified, versus what's been added, that's going to
12 be painting a whole different picture here, because, I mean,
13 when you tell me that this was this, and that was that, okay,
14 we're still reporting the same information, and you just changed
15 the header for it. Any other questions or comments? Dr.
16 Hollensead.

17
18 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** I have one last slide, if we're ready for that.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Yes, ma'am.

21
22 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Okay, and so this last slide is just talking a
23 little bit about the next steps. Again, I've got a really rough
24 draft of Chapter 1 in the briefing book, and that's still being
25 developed, and I certainly appreciate the committee's reviewing
26 at least the purpose and need, as the IPT had worked through
27 that, and so I appreciate that review.

28
29 Then to also let you know that the South Atlantic Council meets
30 September 12 through 17, and they will be looking at some of the
31 similar information, and so I'm curious to see what their report
32 is, from viewing some of this as well, and then, Madam Chair, as
33 you had mentioned, we are looking to convene the Reef Fish and
34 CMP APs in the fall of this year, to get their feedback on some
35 of this information, and certainly, like you had mentioned --

36
37 I think some of the question I've heard around the committee
38 table of what are these fields exactly doing, and is it that
39 much different from what I've been doing in the past, and maybe
40 some folks are kind of sick of mailing envelopes, or whatever
41 the case might be, but they would give us some good feedback
42 that we could then report back to the committee, so you could be
43 informed as we continue discussing and developing the document,
44 and that's all I had.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** So would there be a way, and I'm not looking at
47 it, and so I'm not going to get this right, but the Reef Fish
48 and the -- Because I am thinking about snapper grouper and

1 tilefish IFQs, because, I mean, that's your commercial
2 fishermen, and I understand you've got dual-permitted, but, to
3 get to the crux of your commercial fishermen, can we -- I mean,
4 it seems like we would need to convene those four committees, or
5 -- Do you understand what I'm saying, because this is a
6 commercial issue, and, yes, I know we have some dual-permitted
7 vessels that would be on these other APs, probably, but I am
8 just wondering -- Are we missing the group that we really need
9 to be asking about this? Any feedback or thoughts?

10
11 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** I am just talking with council staff, and we
12 had perhaps talked about getting together the IFQ AP, and I
13 guess potentially Data Collection as well, and those are the
14 ones, off the top of my head, but certainly I think we're
15 working towards scheduling the Reef Fish and the CMP.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Well, I know that's a lot to ask, and, if it's
18 just this one item, you know, maybe we use our virtual setting
19 to do something like that, but I think it's important, because,
20 I mean, this is a commercial issue, and I think we really need
21 to get the feedback from the commercial fishermen. Any other
22 questions or comments? Dr. Simmons.

23
24 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I just had
25 a general question, I believe about the approved software, and
26 it looks like VESL is what has been approved for this program,
27 or eTRIPS. Sorry, and so is there a plan to approve more
28 software programs, moving forward, as this is developed?

29
30 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Brown.

31
32 **DR. BROWN:** Sorry. I was stuck on mute, and could you repeat
33 that question again?

34
35 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. Go ahead.

36
37 **DR. BROWN:** What was the question?

38
39 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Hi, Julie. The question was that eTRIPS is
40 being suggested by the Science Center as a platform to use, and
41 do you know of any other software that is in the process of
42 being, you know, proposed?

43
44 **DR. BROWN:** Yes, and the VESL, the Bluefin company, is trying to
45 develop software that would also be compatible, but they still
46 need to go through the ACCSP database, and so they still need to
47 have all of the required fields that will play nice with the
48 other partners that are involved in the ACCSP database, if that

1 makes sense.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Yes. Thank you, Dr. Brown. Are there any
4 other questions relating to this issue? Seeing none, that take
5 us to Other Business. Does anyone have any other business to
6 come before the Data Collection Committee? Seeing none, I will
7 adjourn the Data Collection Committee.

8
9 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on August 22, 2022.)

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