

**Data Collection Committee  
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab F**

**Agenda Item IV:** Loss of Southeast Region Headboat Survey (SRHS) Dockside Sampling

**Timeline Status:** Information and discussion

**Council input and next steps:** During the 2025 January Council meeting, staff from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) provided an update that monetary support for the dockside intercept component of the SRHS had been discontinued for all Gulf states with exception of Florida. The SRHS is one of the longest running fishery-dependent data collection programs (beginning in the 1980s) and these data are incorporated in several stock assessments. The Council sent a letter to SEFSC requesting clarification on what the loss of dockside validation would mean for the program’s use in fisheries management and if the supporting funds were expected to be reinstated. SEFSC staff have responded to this request in a formal letter and unfortunately indicated that the monetary lapse in this data collection program will be permanent until new funds are appropriated by Congress.

The Council’s Ad Hoc Charter For-hire Data Collection Advisory Panel (AP) was updated on these issues during their February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. No extensive discussion was had by the group since the SEFSC letter had not been made available at the time; however, Capt. Jim Green (AP Chair) will be available to field any questions from the Committee. The Committee should review the SEFSC response letter and ask questions of staff regarding the future of for-hire data collection programs in the Gulf.

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**Agenda Item V:** Discussion on For-hire Data Collection Amendment

**Timeline Status:** Discussion and feedback

**Council input and next steps:** The Council is working on an amendment to develop another version of the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) program. One of the actions being considered is collection of economic information (trip fee, price of fuel per gallon, and gallons of fuel used) either after every trip or using an appropriate sampling methodology. Southeast Regional Office (SERO) staff will provide a presentation comparing the administrative costs of each alternative (either census-level or sampling) data collection design.

Additionally, the AP recommended a proposal for collecting information on the trip market value rather than the trip fee. This was suggested as a way for program participants to provide economic information while not obligating their survey response to a particular situation (such as an audit) where a specific receipt would have to be produced that matches exactly. The AP also provided recommendations for selected preferred alternatives for each of the four actions and the AP chair will be available to field any questions from the Committee. Both the AP meeting summary and the latest version of the amendment document are available to the Committee for

reference. The Committee should review the agenda materials, ask questions of staff and the AP chair, and select preferred alternatives, if desired.