

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

Agenda Item IV: Discussion on For-hire Data Collection

Timeline Status: Information, discussion, and feedback

Council input and next steps: Council staff will provide a presentation outlining the development of an action to consider a methodology for trip validation in the new for-hire data collection program. Trip validation is considered by the National Marine Fisheries Service as an essential element to improving data collection and reducing uncertainty of for-hire catch estimates. The Committee is tasked with considering two potential options:

- 1) First, a technical approach using a Vessel Monitoring System for continuous tracking or submitting position past a geofence. This method would allow for automated positioning for the purposes of trip validation, which could reduce uncertainty, but also require further investigation and testing to address stakeholder concerns of privacy when not using the vessel for chartered activity.
- 2) A second approach would be non-technical and involve a combination of hail out/hail in declarations, approved landings sites, and “did not fish” reports when applicable. Many of the components for this approach have already been drafted into the amendment and could result in a timelier implementation period for the new program relative to a technical approach. The approach relies heavily on dockside intercepts and thought will have to be given on what would need to be done should funding be limited for this effort and how the for-hire dockside design would integrate with the current intercept approach used by the Marine Recreational Information Program.

Each potential approach (technical and non-technical) has several associated pros and cons to be considered by the Committee and these will be provided during the presentation. The Committee should review the meeting materials, ask questions of staff, deliberate the two approaches, and provide guidance to staff on which direction is most desirable for inclusion and consideration in the for-hire reporting amendment. For the November 2024 Council meeting, staff will present a revised version of the draft amendment.
