

Validation approaches in for-hire data collection



Presentation Overview

- **Minimum requirements**
 - Letter to South Atlantic Council
- **Draft validation action**
 - Pros and cons
- **Marine Recreational Information Plan (MRIP) Transition Procedure**
- **Next steps**



Program minimum requirements

- **Letter from NMFS to South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Background item)**
 - **Stipulated minimum requirements for program**
- 1. Logbook (before offload)**
 - **Stipulated in Actions 1 and 2 of Gulf Amendment**
- 2. Dockside intercept**
 - **Implemented in previous plan used in the Gulf**
- 3. Declaration/pre landing notification combination**
 - **Declaration requirement in Action 3 of Gulf Amendment**
- 4. Approved landing locations**
 - **Implemented in previous plan in the Gulf**
- 5. Did not fish (DNF) reports**
 - **Would be needed if automated validation (e.g. VMS, VMS with geofencing) is not used**

Validation approaches

- **Does the Council want a *technical* solution for trip validation (VMS or VMS with geofencing)?**
- **If yes...**
 - **Would require permanently affixed hardware solution and continuous passive 24/7 tracking**

PROS:

- No did not fish reports
- Passive tracking automated and less for vessel operators to report/declare
- Many vessels already have VMS
- Could provide spatial-specific effort information
- Provide higher level certainty relative to potential other approaches

CONS:

- Continuous transmission of locational position subject of lawsuit
- Geofence (or other method) would require extra testing and rule making (~ 1 year)
- Potential technology that may be more feasible for stakeholder may not yet be available
- Could result in delay of standing up the program for use

Validation approaches

- **Does the Council want a *NON-technical* solution for trip validation?**
- **If yes...**
 - **Could be covered by what has been developed so far with inclusion of did not fish reports and modification of declaration/pre landing combination**

PROS:

- Doesn't require any monitoring technology
- Could allow faster implementation
- Draft document already incorporates much of the needed fields for this validation approach
- Potential to coordinate with state and federal port agents
- Biological data collection

CONS:

- Increased uncertainty of effort estimates relative to VMS-type approaches
- Requires captains to complete surveys at the dock; some docks are not accessible to samplers and this would affect uncertainty estimates
- Funding in the past as been variable for supporting dockside sampling

MRIP Transition Planning

- Benefit to working early with MRIP Transition team is that the team involves state partners familiar with this type of work
- State partners may request additional fields to be able to integrate the federal for-hire data with state surveys. These discussions are critical to have prior to seeking Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) clearance.
 - Example: LA expressed interest in capturing the LA captain license number. This may allow for a more efficient dockside intercept program that combines LA needs and the needs of the federal for-hire data collection program
 - Example: Discussion about necessity of survey questions to balance fishermen survey fatigue with critical fields needed
- Being involved in the MRIP Transition team will allow for discussion of survey option designs options, fish-number to weight calculations, calibration, and future incorporation of the data for management



Next steps

- Bring back a revised draft of the document which will include a validation action
- IPT recommends an action to require a regular review (e.g. every xx years) which would allow for the possibility of automated trip effort validation as well as changes to program data fields
- Have more in-depth discussion of MRIP Transition plan, PRA requirements, and outreach plan
- BUT FIRST!! the Council need to provide guidance on this question:
- **Does the Council want a technical (GPS tracking) or non-technical (dockside intercepts with hail in/out declarations and other stipulations) solution for trip validation?**

Questions?

