



NOAA
FISHERIES

SEFSC Fisheries
Statistics Division

Commercial Electronic Logbook System Transition Plan

SEFSC

Gulf Council
January 2026
New Orleans, LA

Regulatory Status - Joint Commercial Electronic Logbook Amendment

- This proposed regulatory action would change existing reporting requirements for several federal commercial permits
 - Currently in the rulemaking stage
- The public comment period on the amendments ran from November 20, 2025 through January 20, 2026
- Feedback has been supportive of the switch to electronic reporting

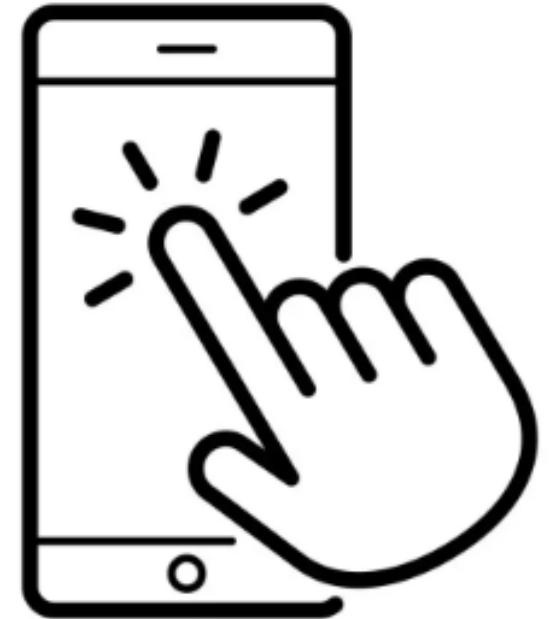


Database Development

- IRA funded East Coast Logbook Database (ECLB) project to centralize and standardize data collection along the Atlantic Coast
- Data collected from multiple offices will be housed in new integrated database system to reduce duplication of data management, which aligns with federal modernization efforts
- ECLB database will serve as a single source of federal logbook data for fishery partners along the east coast

Application Development

- Vessels with permits in multiple sectors can report in one place for credit in all relevant sectors if they use:
 - ACCSP's eTrips mobile or eTrips Online
- Other available options include the RADfish coastal logbook application for SE coastal permit holders developed as part of the East-coast Logbook Project



Infrastructure Status

- Currently developing internal infrastructure to properly ingest data from several applications and merge with legacy data
- Implementation of a Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and accurate data from the SERO Permits System are still major hurdles that can hold up availability of usable applications or impact ease of use
- Transitioning out of paper collection until final implementation date by offering the opportunity to test reporting applications



Testing

- Voluntary testing will follow successful internal infrastructure testing
- Aiming for voluntary testing in Late 2026
- Testing priority will be given to those who have expressed interest in past



Communication Plan

- Permit holders will be contacted through physical letters and emails announcing the launch of electronic logbooks
- Outreach materials including user manuals, infographics, guided demonstration videos, and recorded webinars will be made available upon launch
- Outreach meetings with logbook staff will be held to acquaint fishers with available applications and answer questions - combination of online and in-person, pending funding availability for in-person
- Logbook staff will be available during business hours to answer general questions
- Software help desks will provide support for user questions, application errors and login issues



Impacts from Staff Loss and Shutdown

- Staff losses hit NOAA and the SEFSC particularly hard in 2025, with an estimated 30% reduction centerwide
- Government shutdown slowed progress on the East-coast Logbook Database and left partners and contractors without federal guidance for an extended length of time, which impacted project timelines
- Requiring IRA funds for the East-coast Logbook Database to be spent by the end of FY26 drastically reduced planned timelines from 3 years to approx. 1 year and forced re-scoping of project to meet minimum needs



Expected Timeline

- Voluntary testing may begin in late 2026 with final implementation aiming for early 2027
- Highly dependent on successful internal infrastructure testing and PIMS 2.0 implementation





Questions?

