



Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting:

March 2020 Update

Background

The SEFHIER program is a new electronic reporting program that requires all southeast federally permitted charter and headboats, *regardless of where they are fishing*, to complete trip level logbook information on catch and effort.

~3000 southeast permitted vessels in the Gulf of Mexico & the Atlantic coast

Collaborative project involving the Southeast Regional Office, Science Center and the Office of Science and Technology.

Anticipated benefits:

- Census based reporting
- Increased accuracy of data
- Reduction in recall bias
- Near real time access to preliminary data



SEFHIER Program

- Requirements
 - Trip-level logbooks
 - South Atlantic: reports due weekly
 - Gulf: reports due before offload
 - Hail-out prior to leaving on any trip (Gulf)
 - Land at approved locations (Gulf)
 - Location tracking device (Gulf)
 - VMS or cellular-based units
- South Atlantic vessels with permits in other regions must comply with most restrictive.
 - For example: Vessel with both South Atlantic and Gulf permits must follow Gulf requirements *regardless of where they are fishing*



Current Status for Gulf Permitted Vessels

- Final Rule - Publication Expected April/May
- Implementation Dates
 - Phase 1: Logbook and hail-out requirement ~ September 1, 2020
 - Phase 2: Location technology ~ TBD. Late 2020
- Reviewing logbook and hail-out vendors for approval
 - ACCSP: eTrips (iOS, Android, Windows 7)
 - Bluefin Data: VESL (iOs, Android, website)
- VMS hardware/software testing part of Phase II

Funding History

- FIS grant awarded in 2018
 - Strategic planner to aid in development plan
- FIS grant awarded in 2019
 - Contractors to aid in QA/QC and location tracking
 - Two contractors (QA/QC and OLE) have been hired.
- FIS grant awarded for 2020 (SERO and SEFSC)
 - Contractors for QA/QC, VMS, customer support, compliance monitors

Funding History

- December 2019 Appropriations bill
 - Funding for Gulf reporting and enforcement

*"...the Committee provides **\$2,650,000** above the fiscal year 2019 level for **data collection and catch and effort validation** to support timely implementation of electronic logbooks for the federally permitted charter-for-hire sector in the **Gulf of Mexico**. Further, the Committee provides **\$1,525,000** above the fiscal year 2019 level within **Enforcement** for associated State and Federal enforcement activities necessary to ensure successful implementation."*



Appropriations Funding

- Staffing (new positions federal or contractor)
 - Project manager
 - Customer service
 - Data analysts
 - QA/QC technicians (1 hired under previous FIS grant)
 - Monitoring technicians (1 hired under previous FIS grant)
 - Compliance tracking technicians
- Validation Sampling
 - Funds will be transferred to Gulf Commission
 - Commission work will with states to fulfill validation needs
- Enforcement received funding to hire more agents

Implementation to Date

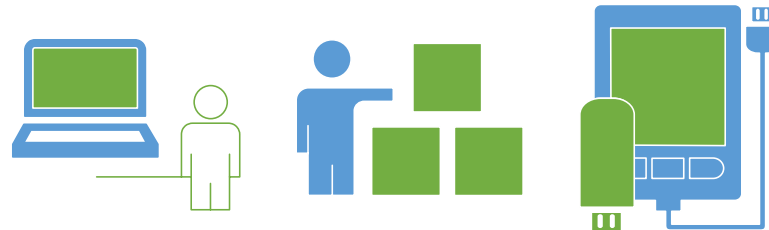
- Southeast Electronic Reporting & Technologies Website
 - Houses information about the program (e.g., Final rule, FAQ, Approved vendors)
 - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/southeast-electronic-reporting-technologies>
- Logbooks and Hail-out
 - Data fields finalized using consistent fields across regions
 - Vendor technical specifications and approval process posted to website
 - eTrips and VESL submitted by vendors for review and approval
- Data warehouse (ACCSP)
 - Data security audit complete; modifications & documentation ongoing
 - FISMA approval in process based on modifications and documentation

Implementation to Date

- Location Devices
 - HQ OLE has published proposed rule to allow cellular VMS units (archivable GPS) to be approved as EMTU-C
 - Final rule under development
 - Developed minimum standards and tech specs
 - Tech specs out to VMS vendors (will apply to both traditional and cellular-based units)
 - Anticipate some traditional VMS units approval quickly
- Enforcement
 - Developed online landing location approval form
 - FIS funds to build the headboat compliance tracking system to fit the charter sector.

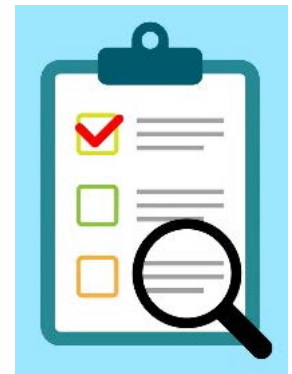
Implementation in progress

- Data in-flow issues among various data sources (e.g., VMS, vendors)
- Combined forms with GARFO and HMS
- Upcoming needs:
 - Data integration with state partners
 - Applying ACCSP's Trip Management System for unique identifiers
 - Data out-flow for enforcement, port agents, and fishermen



Implementation in progress: Survey Design

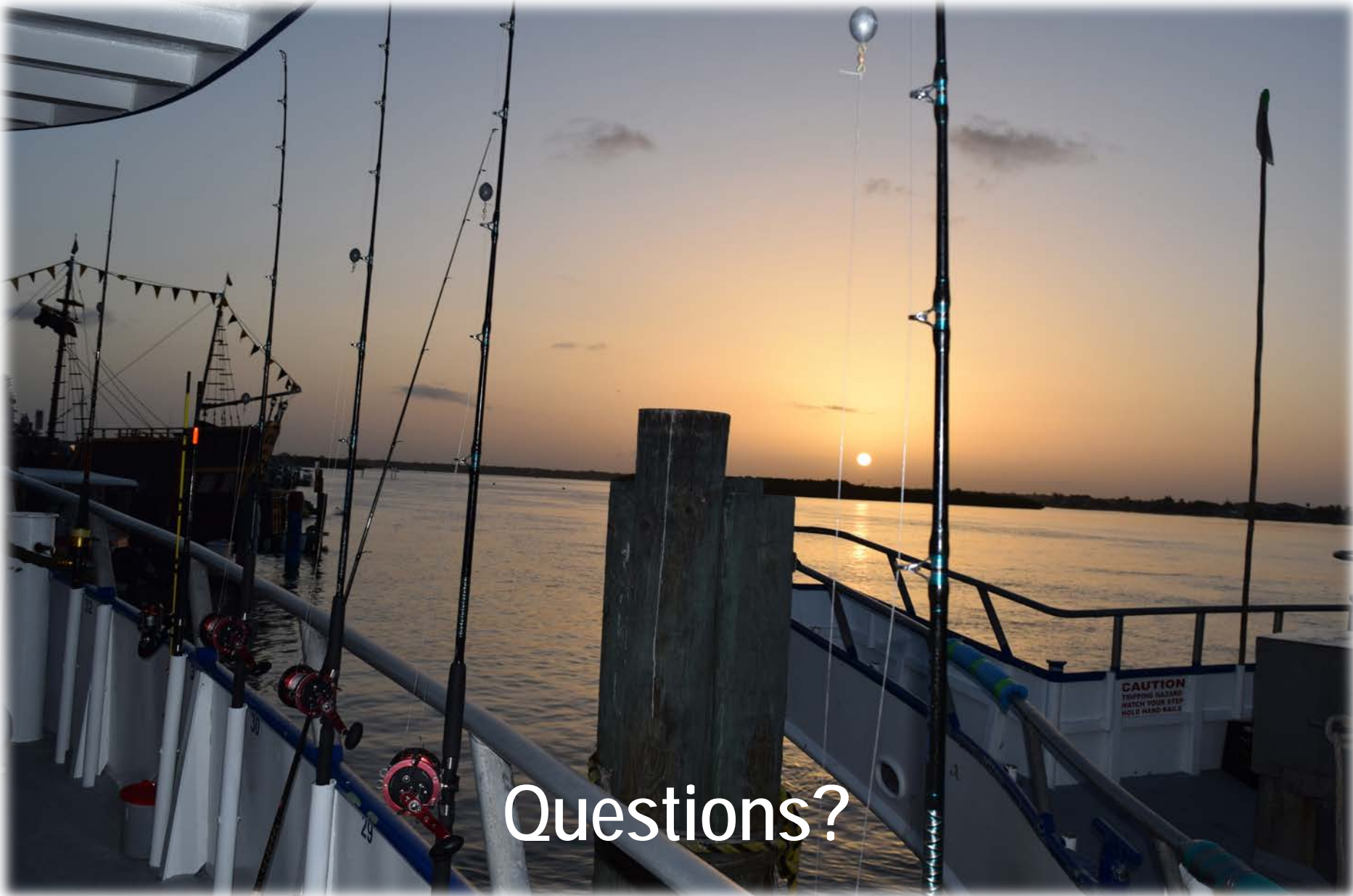
- Funding allocated to catch validation
- Working with S&T to develop sampling design
 - Validation and calibration needed before data can be used
 - Concerns to address: MRIP and state sampling, time burden on captains and samplers
 - Will be reaching out to the states during this design process to minimize impact while staying statistically valid
- Survey Design accounts for :
 - Misreported catch
 - Unreported trip catch
 - Subsampled trip catch expansions



Outreach

- Completed
 - Initial In-person outreach sessions, webinars, and training videos
 - Newsletter to permit holders
 - Website, toll-free number, dedicated email address
- In progress
 - Tool-kit of outreach materials, includes:
 - How to create user accounts
 - Which software is available
 - How to submit hail-outs and trip reports
 - Additional in-person outreach sessions in summer of 2020
 - Outreach to state partners





Questions?

History of SEFHIER Implementation

- Starting in 2016, brought together relevant stakeholders early in the process
 - 50+ people from Councils, FINs, Commissions, and NMFS
- Identified core topics and created subgroups
 - Data housing
 - Survey Design
 - Minimum Standards (data transmission needs)
 - Compliance and Enforcement
 - Outreach and Educations
 - Program Management and Budget
 - Quality Management workshop to improve the process and involve stakeholder representatives
- **Published Development Plan that summarizes the work of these groups.**



Current Status for South Atlantic Permitted Vessels

- Final Rule - Published on February 24, 2020
- Implementation Dates
- Logbook and hail-out requirement ~ September 1, 2020
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Gulf Program Validation and Compliance

- **Validation and Compliance**
 - Hail-out and report prior to offload
 - Expect to use capture/recapture statistical design
 - Used to estimate misreported or unreported trips
- **Calibration**
 - Tells if difference are due to the system or actual changes
 - Creates a conversion factor among data sets
 - Best done in side-by-side comparisons for multiple years