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 \textit{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)

• 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

• Currently reviewing for approval logbook and hail-out vendors
  • ACCSP: eTrips (iOS, Android, Windows 7)
  • Bluefin Data: VESL (iOS, Android, website)
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 differences 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