Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program (SEFHIER)

Topics to Cover

- Requirements of the South Atlantic Reporting Program

- Multiple Permits

- Frequently Asked Questions

History of South Atlantic For Hire Electronic Reporting Program

- South Atlantic Council began working on the Amendment in 2016.
- Amendment was approved in 2018.
- Proposed Rule published 2018.
- **Final rule for the South Atlantic Program published February 24, 2020.**
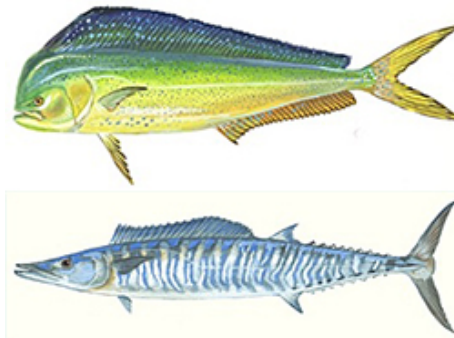- Effective date September 1, 2020.

Who is Affected?
Federal For-Hire Permit Holders

SOUTH ATLANTIC CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR SNAPPER-GROUPER (SC)	ATLANTIC CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR DOLPHIN/WAHOO (CDW)	ATLANTIC CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS (CHS)

Changes to Requirements for Federally Permitted Headboats

- Vessels selected for the Southeast Region Headboat Survey (SRHS) will continue to report through SRHS.

- This rule changes the day that headboats are required to submit an electronic record from Sunday to Tuesday.

- This reduces the time when reports are due from 7 to as little as 2 days.

South Atlantic Electronic Reporting Program Requirements
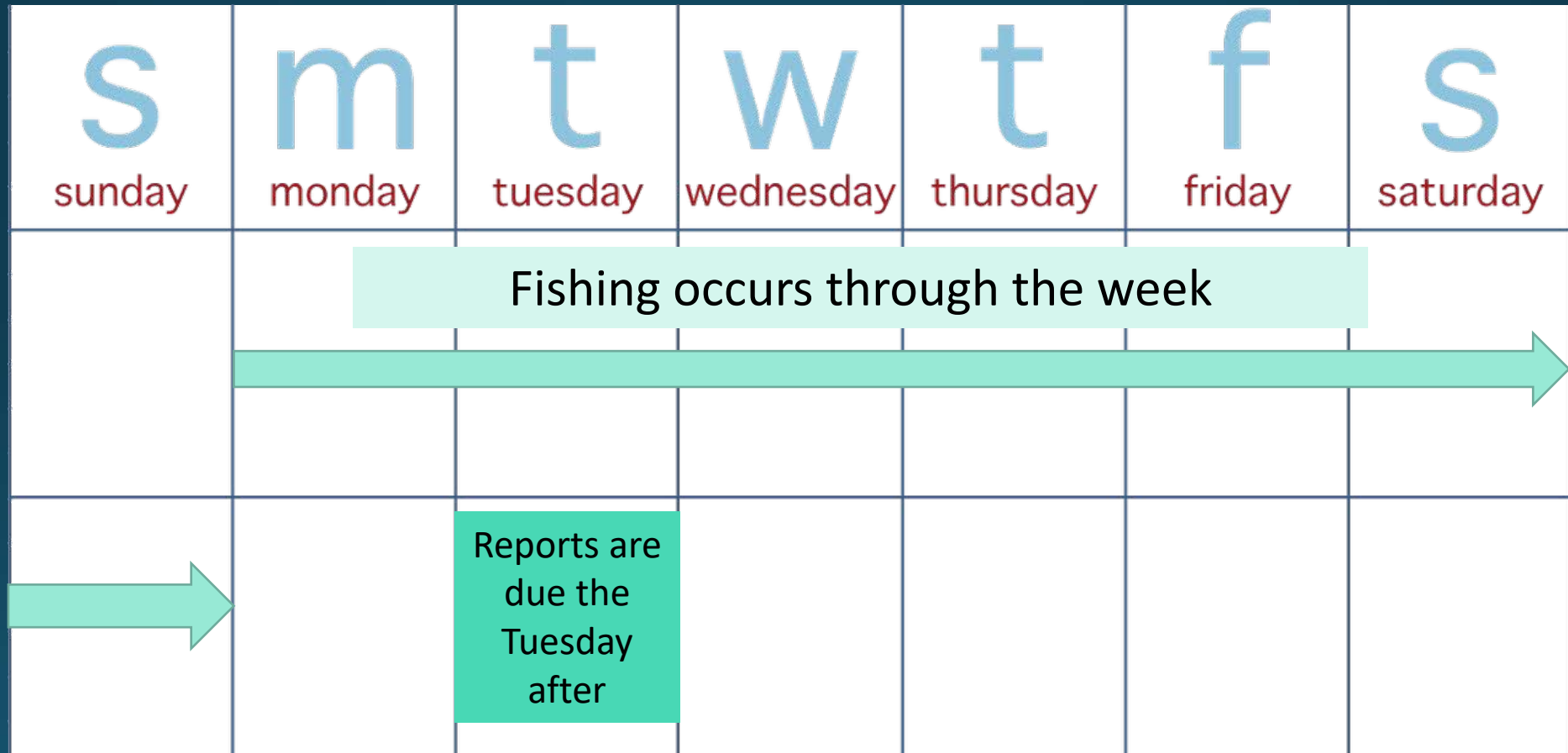
Charterboat permit holders must:

- Report required trip level data on a weekly basis.

- Use approved software.

- ALL trips and ALL species are required to be reported, not just those trips targeting federally permitted species or occurring in federal waters.

- Reporting is based on ownership of the permit, not the area or species for that trip.

How often will I need to report?
Weekly Reporting of All Trips

Reports are due every Tuesday following a fishing week (Monday-Sunday)

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday

Fishing occurs through the week

Reports are due the Tuesday after

What if I don't fish every week?

- "Did not fish" or "No Fishing" a report must be submitted weekly.

- Can also be used if you have scheduled maintenance, holidays, or an accident.

- Can be reported in advance 30 days prior.

Required Data Elements:
Trip Information

- Captain ID

- Vessel ID

- Start and end time of trip

- Start and end date of trip

- Location of fishing

- Start and end location (port)

These data elements identify the trip.

Required Data Elements:
How Fish Are Caught

- Gear used

- Minimum and maximum depths fished

- Primary fishing depth

- Target species

These data elements help estimate possible mortality if discarded.

Required Data Elements:
Effort and Catch

- Number of crew

- Number of anglers

- Hours within the trip fished

- All species caught
  - Number of species kept
  - Number of each species released

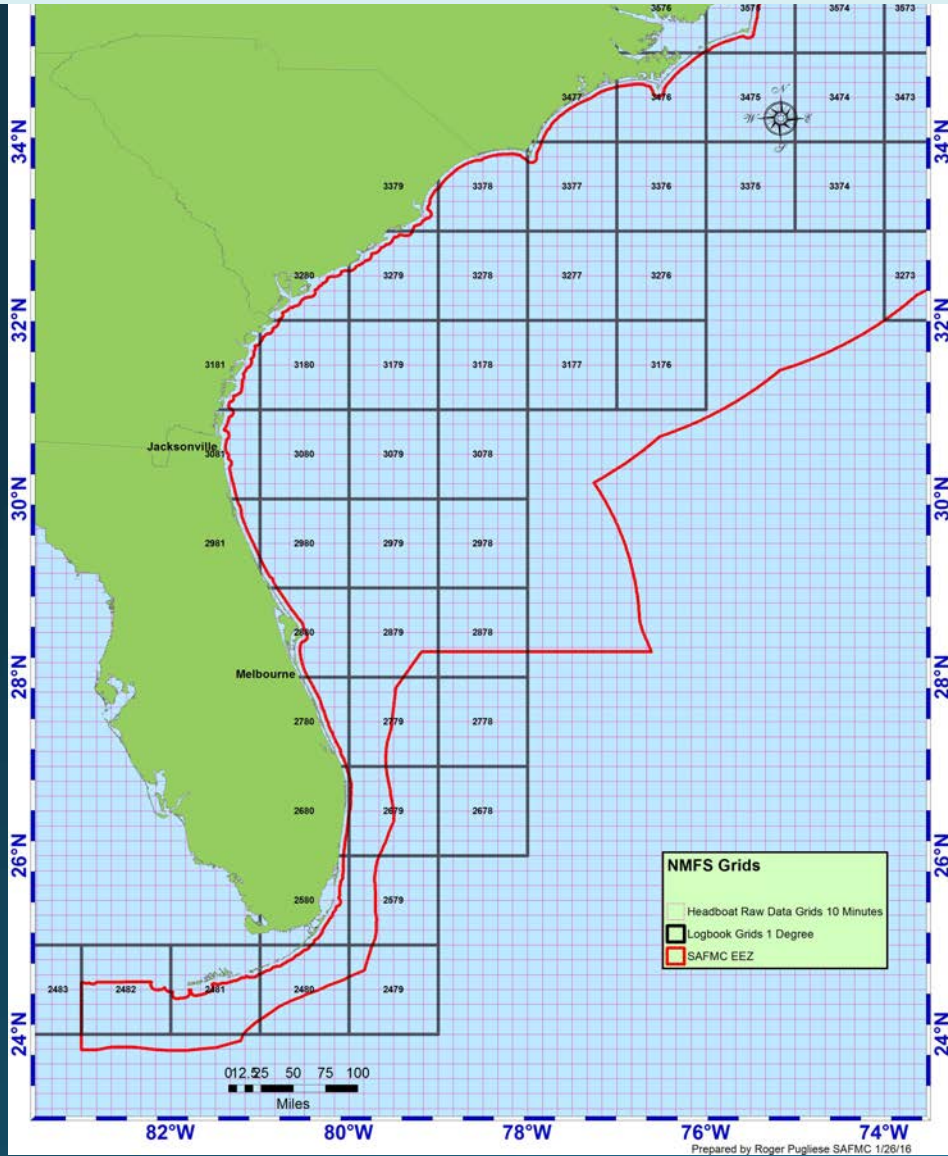These data elements help estimate total effort and landings.

Required Data Elements:
Economic Data

- Fuel used

- Trip fee (number of paying passengers/charter fee)

- Cost of fuel (per gallon)

These data elements help estimate economic value of the fishery.

Required Data Elements:
Fishing Location

Latitude and Longitude

-OR-

Click on grid to indicate location
(1 degree squares).

All of this information is required regardless of fishing location or target species.

Multiple Reporting Programs

- **Greater Atlantic Regional Office has eVTR program, established in 2013.**
- **Highly Migratory Species reporting for select species.**

  Southeast Regional Headboat Survey
    - **Established in 2013.**
- **South Carolina Charter Boat reporting program, established in 1993 with electronic option available 2016.**
    - As of today, 185 SC license holders with federal permits.
    - 68% of these license holders choose to report electronically.
- **Gulf of Mexico Electronic Reporting Program.**
    - Final Rule under review.
    - Expected implementation by September 1, 2020.

Multiple Permits

21 Dual Permitted GARFO & SA Vessels

275 Dual Permitted MA & SA Vessels

1,328 GOM Permitted Vessels (~128,000 trips/year)

373 Dual Permitted GOM & SA Vessels

2,138 SA Permitted Vessels (~282,000 trips/year)

Multiple Permits

Permit holders with permit requirements for more than one program are required to report to the more restrictive electronic reporting program regardless of where fishing occurs.
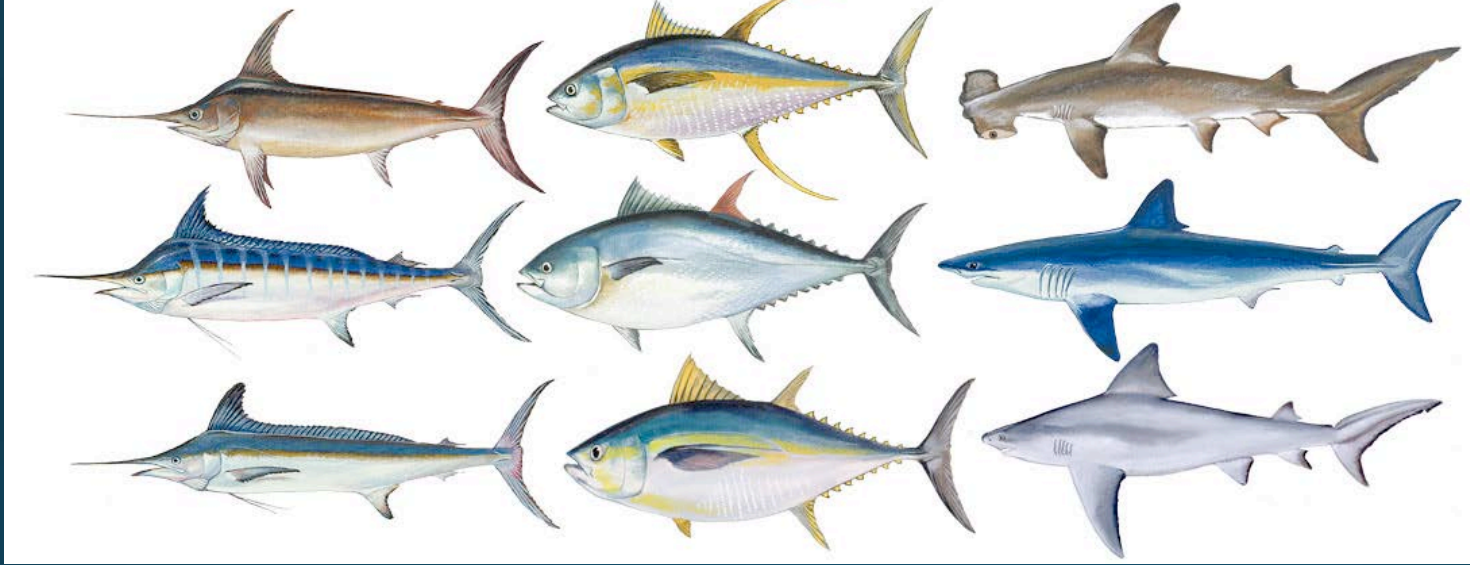
- **Restrictive could be related to additional data elements or timing.**

- **The reporting platforms that we are testing may include requirements from more than one program.**

- **In certain instances, multiple electronic reports may be required.**

Multiple Permits:
GARFO

- Requires vessel trip reports (VTRs) on for-hire trips to be submitted electronically 48 hours after each fishing trip.

- Reports must be filled out before arriving at dock.

- Permit holders that hold both a GARFO permit and a SA permit can report through some approved software (under the timing specified by GARFO) and will not have to submit a separate report for the SA.

Multiple Permits:
Highly Migratory Species

Some reporting programs will be able to combine both HMS and Atlantic questions into a single form.

However, if a program does not include HMS data elements, you will **still** need to report to HMS and the South Atlantic reporting program.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why do we need to report on economic questions like cost of charter, fuel and fuel used? I don't feel comfortable sharing this information with NOAA.**
  - These data fields were specifically requested by the South Atlantic Council.
  - Collection of this type of data will give us a better understanding of the economic impacts associated with fishery management actions and fishery disasters.

1-833-707-1632

ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What if I refuse to report or report inaccurate data?**
  - Reporting is a condition of the permit. If you chose not to report (or report inaccurate data), you will be operating in violation of your permit.
  - When submitting your report, you attest that the data is "true, complete and correct to the best of your knowledge"
  - Refusing to report may result in the inability to renew your permit.
  - Reporting inaccurate data may result in management measures that do not accurately reflect what is going on in the fishery.

Better data means better understanding of species, more accurate models, and more informed management decisions

Frequently Asked Questions

- **I have a charter/headboat permit but mostly run sight-seeing tours. Do I have to report?**

  - Yes, however if you didn't go fishing in a particular week, you can submit a "no fishing report".
  - These can be submitted up to 30 days in advance.

1-833-707-1632

ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Where do I get the applications? Is there someone that can help me download it?**
  - Apps are available on iTunes and Google Play.
  - In the summer of 2020, NMFS staff will be holding a series of outreach sessions aimed to helping fishermen understand how to download and use the apps.
  - There is a toll-free number to call with questions. All vendors also offer help desk support.
  - Our goal is to help fishermen understand the requirements and get comfortable with reporting.

1-833-707-1632
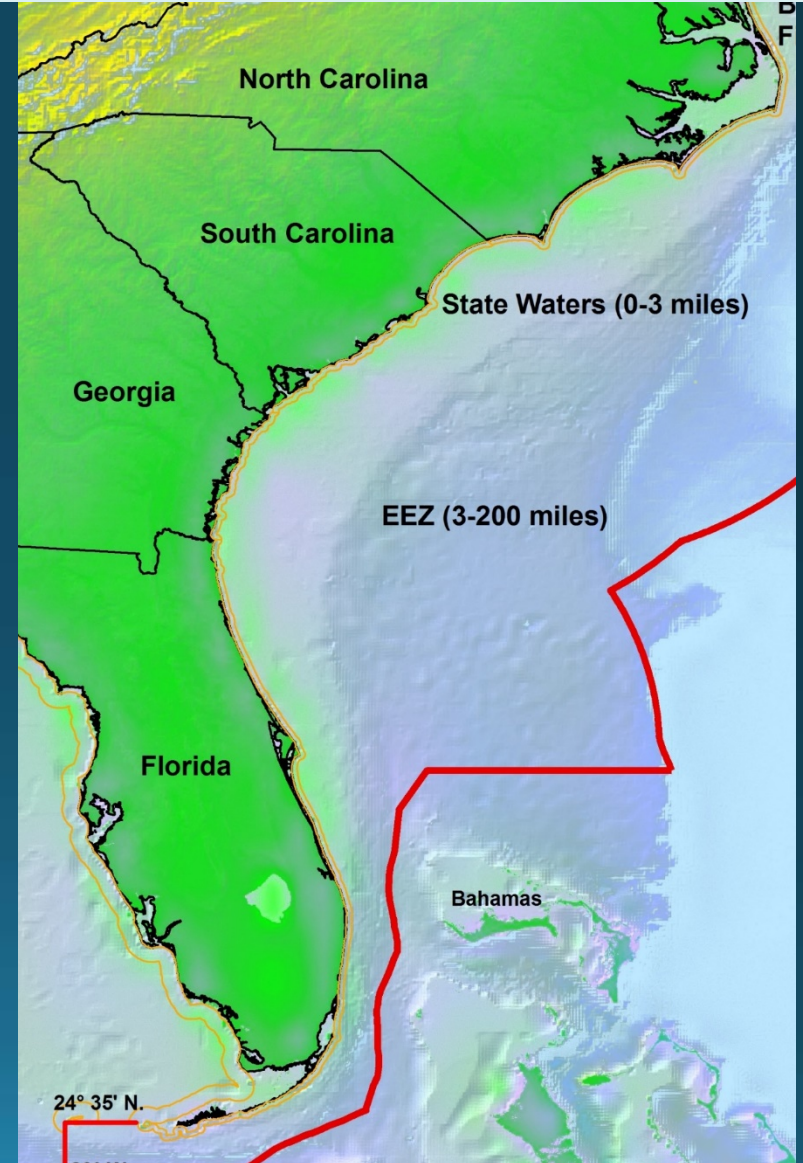
ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What software is approved for use?**
  - SERO developed technical specifications for vendors.

  - Vendors interested in developing software for the program can submit for approval.

  - Currently submitted for testing and approval:

What Comes Next?

- **For Hire Reporting Toolkit:**
  - Mailed to permit holders in summer 2020.

- In-person Trainings:
  - TBD

- Webinars:
  - Ongoing beginning this summer.

- Account Creation:
  - June 2020

- Requirements Effective:
  - September 1, 2020

Contact Information

NOAA Fisheries

www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/et

1-833-707-1632

email: ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov

Questions?