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Science and Technology

Policy on Electronic Technologies and Fishery-Dependent Data Collection 30-133

Guidance and Procedures for the Marine Recreational Information Program's Support and Development of Electronic Reporting Technologies 30-133-01

Implementing For-Hire Electronic Logbooks: The MRIP Road Map

NOTICE: This publication is available at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/directives/.

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:

Signed _____ 11/28/16
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This Supplement lays out the path forward for following the Marine Recreational Program's plan with regard to development of electronic reporting logbooks for the for-hire industry (attached) adopted pursuant to and in accordance with Procedural Directive 30-133-01. It will be executed by the NMFS Offices of Science and Technology and Sustainable Fisheries, the Greater Atlantic Regional Office, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, the Southeast Regional Office, and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, in coordination with the States, Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, and Regional Fishery Management Councils in those regions.

DEVELOPING FOR-HIRE ELECTRONIC LOGBOOKS: A STATE-REGIONAL-FEDERAL COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

BACK STORY

NOAA Fisheries' Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is a state-regional-federal collaboration for the collection of recreational fishing information. MRIP is working to make improvements to the way saltwater recreational fishing data are collected, analyzed, and reported.

MRIP is currently working to improve for-hire fishing estimates by replacing random sampling of charter vessels with a complete census of all for-hire trips. Creating effective electronic reporting systems to be used instead of paper logbooks is a key element of this transition. Information on all MRIP projects related to this effort is located at: www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/pims/#view=public_projects.

NOAA experts have worked together with for-hire operators, state partners, fisheries managers, independent statisticians, and others to develop this road map. It details the requirements, process, and timeline for designing and certifying census-based electronic trip reporting systems that can be implemented by regional data collection partners pursuant to MRIP Regional Implementation Plans.

Learn more at countmyfish.noaa.gov.

History of Key For-Hire Research and Pilot Studies

2006 National Research Council recommends moving to mandatory logbook reporting in the for-hire sector.

2008 MRIP creates an interdisciplinary For-Hire Working Group. In consultation with independent experts, the Group identifies and recommends best practices that include the use of logbooks as the preferred trip reporting method, along with a number of important complementary measures such as complete vessel and site registries, validation methods, enforcement strategies, etc.

2010 Gulf of Mexico pilot study is launched to determine the feasibility of a charter boat catch census using electronic reporting combined with dockside validation.

2012 Southeast pilot study expands electronic reporting to all participants in the Southeast Region Headboat Survey, and supports creation of an online input system with mobile apps.

2014 Technical Subcommittee of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Councils recommends building upon previous work to institute a census-based for-hire electronic reporting system in conjunction with validation, enforcement, and other measures.

2015 Together with state and regional partners, as well as for-hire operators, MRIP creates a comprehensive road map for developing and certifying survey designs for validated, census-based for-hire electronic reporting.

Minimum Requirements for Creating an Effective Program

One critical outcome of the extensive collaborative process of research, literature reviews, pilot studies, and analysis has been a consensus among managers, scientists, and operators on a core set of requirements that must be met for any census-based electronic logbook program to be successful.

- Work toward achieving the goal of developing a complete census of all participants in the fishery.
- Include procedures for expanding estimates to account for any mis-reporting or non-reporting.
- Maintain a complete registry of all for-hire vessels and operators.
- Require mandatory weekly trip-level electronic reporting; build in flexibility to require more frequent reporting when necessary and for operators to declare periods of inactivity in advance.
- Allow the use of multiple authorized applications or devices for reporting, as long as they meet data quality standards.
- Implement accountability measures to ensure compliance, and develop compliance tracking procedures that balance timeliness with available staff and funding resources.
- Use standardized procedures to validate electronic logbook data.
- Reduce (or preferably eliminate) paper reporting and eliminate duplication to ease operator reporting burdens.
- Maintain paper-based reporting options for catastrophic conditions.
- Closely coordinate design and implementation with states, Regional Offices, Science Centers, and Fisheries Information Networks.

MRIP | Marine Recreational Information Program

DEVELOPING FOR-HIRE ELECTRONIC LOGBOOKS: THE MRIP ROAD MAP

TASKS AND TIMELINE

TASK 1

Complete and certify one or more for-hire **electronic trip reporting designs**, with validation and compliance assurance provisions.

TASK 2

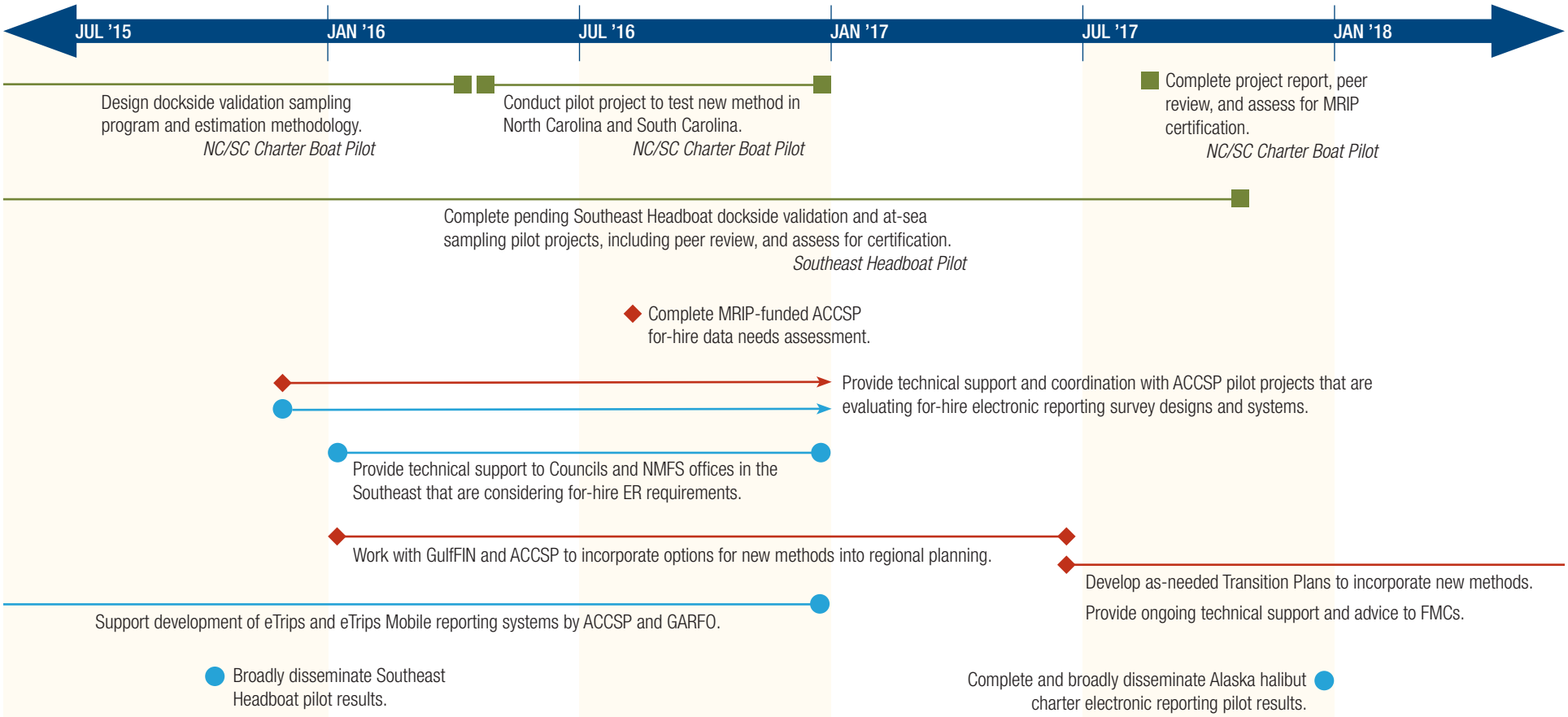
Develop a clear and direct process for making MRIP-certified designs available to **regional partners for implementation** when identified as preferred methods.

TASK 3

Support **development of electronic reporting systems** that can be used to implement the MRIP-certified survey designs.

ULTIMATE GOAL

Complete the process of developing and certifying census-based electronic trip reporting designs in for-hire fisheries to enable regional partners to implement these methods if they wish to do so, following necessary transition planning, benchmarking, and calibration.



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