

Biannual Progress Review of Implementation of NOAA Fisheries Electronic Technologies Policy

Metrics to Report:

- The number of FMPs with defined fishery-dependent data collection monitoring goals.
- The number of FMPs reviewed to identify fisheries where the adoption of additional electronic technologies would be appropriate for achieving data needs.
- For fisheries where additional electronic technologies are identified as appropriate, the number of FMPs with electronic technologies incorporated into fishery-dependent data collection programs.

Office of Sustainable Fisheries Highly Migratory Species Management Division – October 5, 2015

The 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) includes management measures for those Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks that are managed by the Secretary of Commerce per the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP contains management measures for Atlantic bluefin, bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas; Atlantic swordfish; Atlantic blue and white marlin, sailfish, and roundscale and longbill spearfish; and oceanic sharks.

- The number of FMPs with defined fishery-dependent data collection monitoring goals:
 - One (100%); the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP contains defined fishery-dependent data collection goals, including self-reporting, on-board observer, electronic reporting, and video monitoring programs.
- The number of FMPs reviewed to identify fisheries where the adoption of additional electronic technologies would be appropriate for achieving data needs:
 - One (100%); the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP was reviewed and the pelagic longline fishery was identified for electronic monitoring and the bluefin tuna purse seine and commercial handgear fisheries were identified for electronic reporting in 2015, in addition to existing electronic monitoring in the pelagic longline and shark bottom longline fisheries and electronic reporting in the HMS recreational fishery and commercial dealer reporting. Electronic reporting, pending additional resources, was identified as appropriate for the pelagic longline fishery (electronic logbooks), HMS charter/headboat fisheries (electronic logbooks); HMS recreational fishery (catch reporting app); and online HMS tournament registration and reporting.
- For fisheries where additional electronic technologies are identified as appropriate, the number of FMPs with electronic technologies incorporated into fishery-dependent data collection programs
 - One (100%); the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP contains fishery-dependent data collection and management measures for the pelagic longline, bluefin tuna purse seine, HMS recreational, and HMS charter/headboat fisheries for which additional electronic technologies were identified as appropriate, pending additional resources. Dealers purchasing all HMS must report electronically.
- Progress at the fishery level, i.e. the appropriate unit within a FMP that better reflects the application of electronic technologies:
 - Prior to 2015:
 - The Atlantic pelagic longline and bottom longline fisheries were monitored electronically via vessel monitoring systems (VMS).
 - The HMS Angling and Charter/Headboat vessels were required to report electronically via a web-based system all non-tournament landings of bluefin tuna, swordfish, blue and white marlin, and roundscale spearfish.
 - All HMS dealers were required to report electronically all purchases of HMS (except for bluefin tuna) via the electronic dealer reporting system (eDealer).

- HMS Angling and Charter/Headboat vessels were able to report live releases of shortfin mako sharks via an app.
 - Objectives for 2015-2017:
 - Effective January 1, 2015, Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP implemented a variety of new electronic technologies, including electronic reporting of daily catches of bluefin tuna in the pelagic longline and purse seine fisheries via VMS units, electronic reporting of bluefin tuna catches in the pelagic longline and purse seine fisheries via the web-based Individual Bluefin Quota system, electronic reporting for bluefin tuna catches for the General, Harpoon, and Charter/Headboat fisheries via a web-based reporting system, and effective June 1, 2015, electronic monitoring in the pelagic longline fishery.
 - HMS Management Division staff are working cooperatively with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to develop an electronic reporting portal for bluefin tuna dealers, with a target date of implementation of early 2016.
 - The HMS Management Division is supporting an electronic logbook pilot program with the Southeast Fisheries Science Center that is testing several types of electronic logbooks with various commercial gear types including handline, bandit reel, and longline. Two HMS vessels (one buoy gear and one pelagic longline vessel) are currently participating.
 - HMS Management Division staff are participating in the plan development team for electronic logbooks for Charter/Headboat vessels with South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils.
 - The HMS Management Division has contracted development of a recreational catch reporting app to complement the existing web-based catch reporting of all non-tournament landings of bluefin tuna, swordfish, blue and white marlin, and roundscale spearfish, with target implementation in late spring 2016.
 - HMS Management Division staff are working cooperatively with the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to beta test an online HMS tournament registration portal with the next steps of developing an online HMS tournament reporting system.
 - The HMS Management Division staff are working with Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection staff on implementing electronic reporting of bluefin tuna through the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch document program. A proposed rule to require electronic submission of the current paper-based program was published in October 2015 and ICCAT is expected to establish a deadline for implementation of the new electronic reporting requirements in November 2015.
- Information on why other FMPs or fisheries are not being considered for the incorporation of electronic technologies:
 - By gear type, the following species/fisheries are not currently being considered for electronic technologies with a brief explanation:
 - Bluefin tuna –Trap category – this is limited fishery with incidental catches of bluefin tuna on an infrequent basis. As this fishery is not primarily managed by the HMS Management Division, no reporting changes are being considered for bluefin tuna caught in traps.
 - Recreational handgear – currently, recreational catches of sharks and BAYS tunas are estimated via surveys (e.g., MRIP, Large Pelagics Survey, Texas Headboat). As recreational catch apps for other HMS are developed in the near-term, requiring recreational reporting of sharks and BAYS tunas may be revisited.