MRIP For-Hire Electronic Reporting Pilot Study in the Gulf of Mexico

Reviews

- NRC and MRIP reviews recommended essential elements for for-hire logbook reporting programs:
  - Mandatory, weekly reporting
  - Electronic
  - Strict verification and enforcement components
  - Quick ID and follow-up of non-response
  - Data made available in timely manner
  - Methods to adjust self-reported data as necessary

Since the Reviews

MRIP For-Hire Workgroup Projects:

- Improve existing logbook programs
  - Hawaii, South Atlantic
- Test validation methods
  - Gulf of Mexico
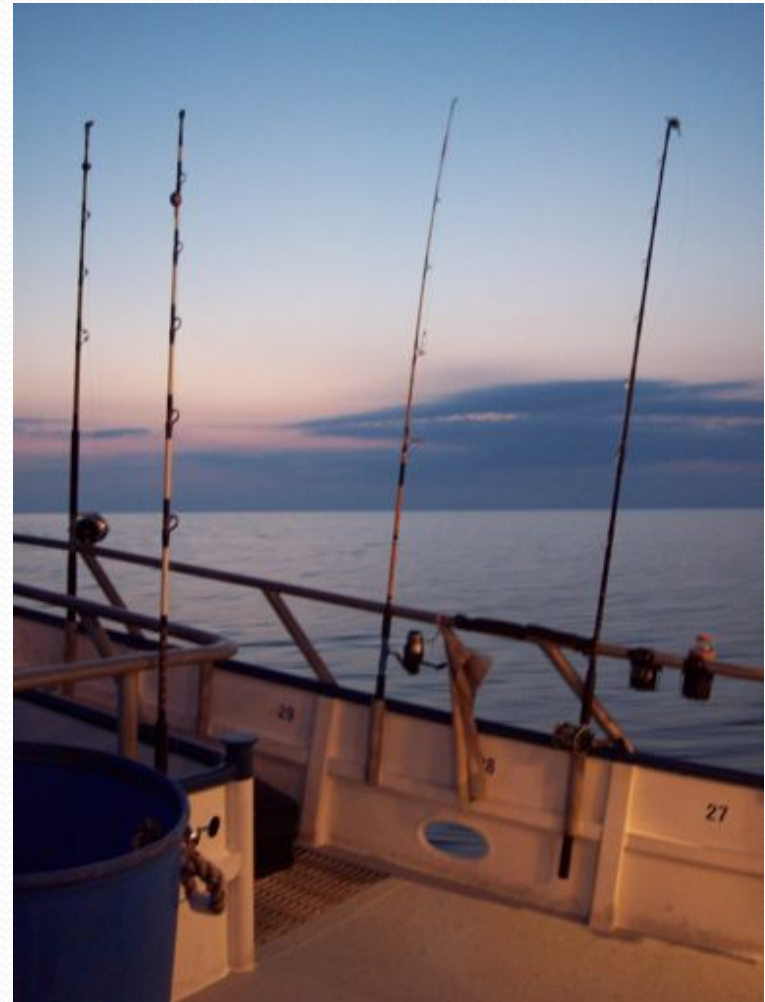
2009 MRIP Workshop*

- State (TX, LA, MS, AL, FL)
- Federal (SEFSC, SERO, S&T)
- Regional (GMFMC, GSMFC)
- Industry (Federal, State, Guides)
- Enforcement (NMFS)
- NGO's (EDF, OC)
- Technology (Bluefin, Olfish, Sea Grant)
- Economic (LSU, NMFS)
- Statistical Consultants (LSU, RTI)

*Summary report provided with reference documents for this Forum

Workshop

- Major recommendations:
  - Estimates should be available on monthly or lesser time interval
  - Reporting frequency weekly
  - Self-reported data should be validated and "validatable"
  - Validation data must be available in timely manner for use in monthly estimates
  - Mandatory and facilitate enforcement
  - Pilot should be Gulf-wide in scope

- Keep It Simple!
  - Logbook reporting system should be kept to a minimum amount of data elements.

Workshop

- Validation of self-reported logbook data serves several important purposes:
  - Measures non-compliance (non-reporting, incomplete reporting, false reporting) and facilitates enforcement so that non-compliance can be minimized,
  - Allows for comparisons between self-reported and observed catch and effort to measure under/over reporting so that it may be accounted for,
  - May also serve the added benefit of collecting additional data that are not recorded on the logbook trip report (such as biological characteristics of the catch).

Workshop

- Identified two types of data elements:
  1. Data that are easily recorded by vessel operators on a logbook trip report, are "validatable", or necessary at the census-level.
     - Effort, harvest, discards
     - Area fished
  2. Detailed data more appropriately collected by some other means, not necessary or practical at the census-level
     - Biological composition of harvest
     - Detailed information on discards
     - Angler-level and site-level data
     - Economic data

Workshop

- Validation methods for catch, recommended combination of:
  - Dockside
    - Validate self-reported harvest and effort data
    - Collect biological data from harvest
    - Validate recall for discards
  - At-Sea
    - Validate self-reported discard data
    - Biological data on discards
    - Detailed angler-level and site-level discard data

Workshop

Validation methods for Effort:

- Preferred hail-out method, VMS requirement not recommended
- NMFS can require weekly reporting for permit renewal, currently a moratorium on new permits

From CFR Title 50 §622.5:

Fishing Week = Monday through Sunday
Reporting Deadline = following Sunday

- States, most require legislative approval

2010 MRIP Pilot

- Federally Permitted Charter Vessels (Reef/Pelagic)
  - excludes headboats already reporting monthly
- Two geographic areas:
  - Corpus Christi, Texas (60 vessels)
  - Panhandle of Florida (357 vessels)
- Mandatory weekly reporting
  - 3 public meetings
  - Certified notification
  - Grace period for start-up
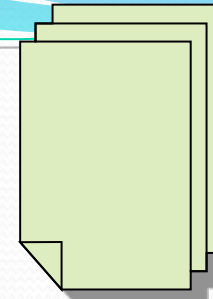- Dockside and at-sea validation components
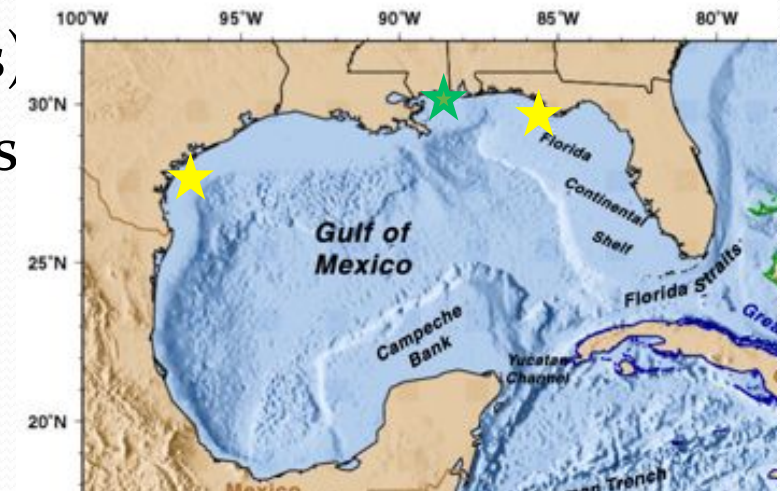
Logbook Reporting System

- Secure web reporting tool, registration required
  - ftp file upload option, similar to commercial trip reporting
  - Paper logsheets available, case-by-case
- Inactivity reported weekly or at start of month
- Weekly tracking of missing reports and late notification
- NMFS receives monthly non-compliance list
  - weekly updates as vessels clear

Progress through April, 2011

- In Florida, 354 Selected Vessels:
  - 242 reporting electronically
  - 66 reporting with paper logsheets
  - 46 non-cooperative, on permit hold list
  - 30 late reports (>1 month), on permit hold list

- In Texas, 62 Selected Vessels:
  - 100% reporting electronically
  - 100% cooperative
  - 0 late reports (>1 month), on permit hold list

Missing Reports by Week (9/10 - 4/11) As of May 1, 2011
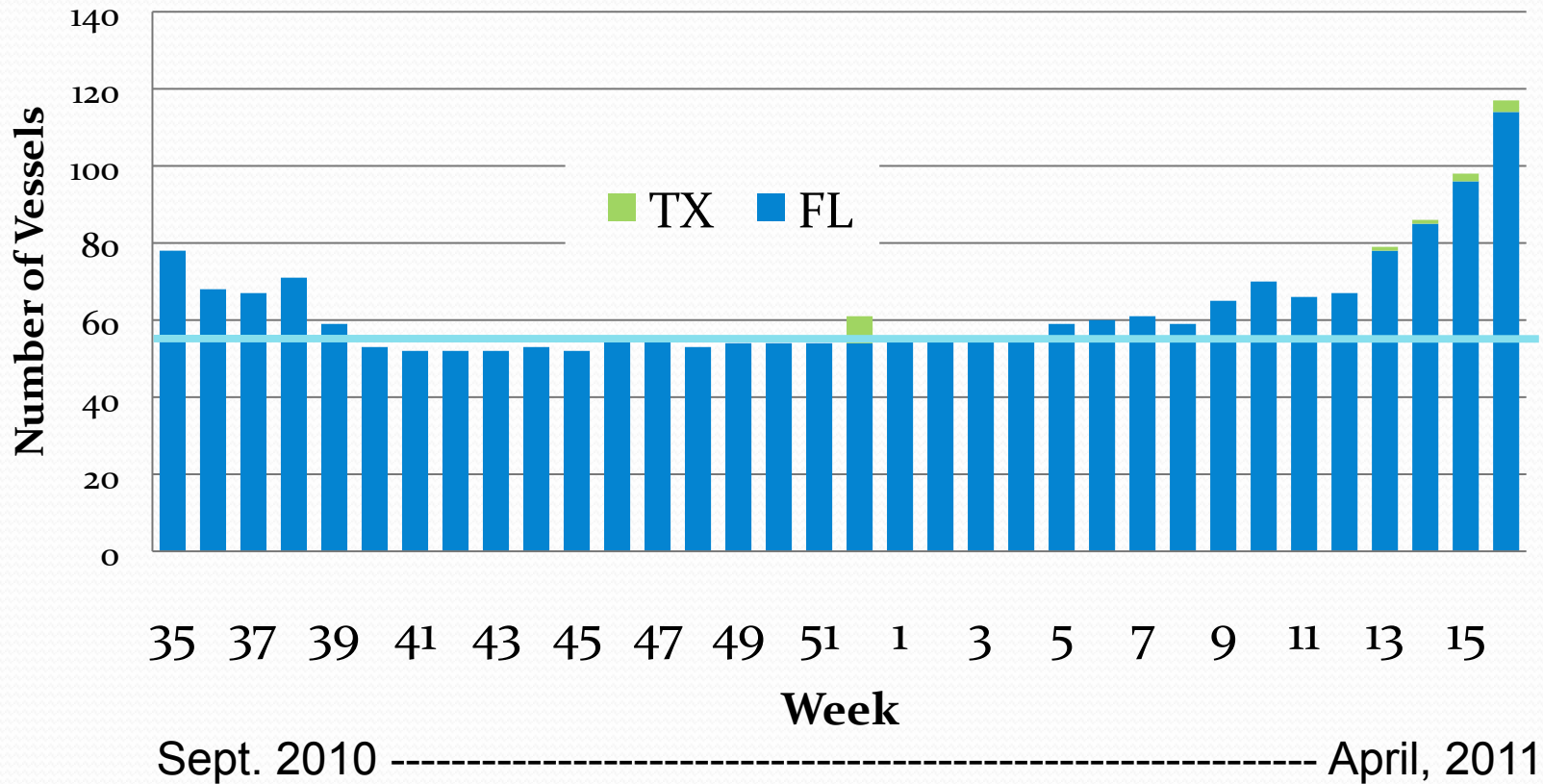
Reporting Timeliness

- Florida

Month	Inactive >1week	Inactive >1month	Active >1 week	Active >1month	Vessels Cleared
Sept.	670	298	191	40	
Oct.	358	190	311	68	
Nov.	368	138	117	30	
Dec.	365	110	8	4	7
Jan.	231	64	2	0	11
Feb.	183	28	7	0	5
Mar.	170	2	118	2	

Reporting Timeliness

- Texas

Month	Inactive >1week	Inactive >1month	Active >1 week	Active >1month
Sept.	166	34	36	0
Oct.	42	15	7	0
Nov.	64	18	7	0
Dec.	64	23	3	0
Jan.	57	18	0	0
Feb.	37	10	0	0
Mar.	38	0	5	0

Validation Methods

1. Effort Validation
   - List of vessel sites
     - 6 validation regions in FL
       - randomly select 2 regions per week and validate every vessel at every site in selected region.
     - 1 validation region in TX

Validation Methods (cont.)

2. Dockside Validation of Catch

- Random site selection
- Sample <u>all</u> vessels returning to selected site
- Interview vessel operators
  - Harvest, discards, trip details
  - Compare with logbooks
- Biological data
- Sample size: 200 FL, 100 TX

Validation Methods (cont.)

3. At-Sea Validation of Catch

- Voluntary participation, random vessel selection
  - 89 vessels participating in FL, ~30 in Texas
- Observe harvest and discards
- Additional discard data:
  - Size, species
  - Fishing location
  - Handling, disposition
- Sample size:
  - 80 trips in FL, 50 TX

Dockside Validations

	FLORIDA		TEXAS	
	Assignments	Vessels	Assignments	Vessels
Sep	24	55	10	6
Oct	26	108	15	9
Nov	25	36	12	2
Dec	16	1	8	2
Jan	20	1	8	0
Feb	20	7	9	1
Mar	18	16	10	3
Apr	20	70	8	2

At-Sea Validations

- Sampled Trips

	FL	TX
Sep	4	10
Oct	15	4
Nov	13	0
Dec	0	0
Jan	1	0
Feb	4	0
Mar	6	2
Apr	7	1

Evaluation

- Work with Statistician to:
  - Start with raw logbook data
  - Adjust effort/catch for missing/late reports
  - Compare self-reported data with validation data.
    - Evaluate validation coverage
    - Assess magnitude of under/over reporting
    - If statistically valid, develop methods to adjust raw harvest and/or discard numbers
- Survey participants
- Evaluate feasibility and make recommendations

Helping Hands

"On-the-dock" support from vessel owners and operators

MRIP For-Hire Workgroup, Gulf of Mexico Project Team
Dave Donaldson and Gregg Bray, GSMFC
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Andy Strelcheck, NMFS SERO
Ken Brennan, NMFS SEFSC

Gulf Logbook
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BluefinData.com

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