



NOAA
FISHERIES

Southeast Regional Electronic Technologies Implementation Plan

Dr. Jessica Stephen, Dr. David Gloeckner, Dr. Alan Lowther,
Farron Wallace, and Lawrence Beerkircher

Electronic Technology Plan History

- 2013 – Initiation of ET Plan framework
- 2015 – Initial ET Plans finalized in January 2015
 - Bi-annual updates required through 2017
- 2019
 - Consultations initiated; new plan goal of 2020
 - “Electronic Technologies and Fishery-Dependent Data Collection” Policy (NMFS-04-115)
 - Intention to make plans comparable between regions
 - Status reviews annually by NMFS leadership
- 2020 pandemic pushed back new plans to March 2021
- Current status – draft document

New Electronic Technologies Plan Policy

- Establishes regional vision for electronic reporting (ER) and electronic monitoring (EM)
 - Forecast for the next 5 years (through 2024)
 - Vision for developing, integrating, and implementing ET programs
- Plan includes
 - Regional Priorities
 - Council actions
 - Research and development
- Purpose
 - Prioritize internal and external funding
 - Highlight integration efforts through coordination and standardization
 - Identify challenges, costs, and funding transition plans
- Status review

Vision for 2020-2024 - General

- Align electronic technologies with regional strategic priorities
- Identify and quantify costs – infrastructure, cloud, staffing, software – for continued ER expansion
- Develop process to review ER progress – lessons learned, areas of cost savings
- One stop reporting with the Greater Atlantic Region and states
- Data Governance (DG) plan and committee
 - Training: Data governance, data workflows
 - Formation of DG committee
 - Creation of DG plan

Vision for 2020-2024 – Electronic Reporting

- Continuation of for-hire reporting initiatives
 - Streamline and improve process
 - Data connectivity to partners
- Commercial electronic reporting
 - Includes moving Wreckfish logbooks to the Coastal logbooks
- Gulf Shrimp cELB replacement system
- Modernizations
 - Permits System
 - Catch Shares system
 - Completion of Loan Program module
 - Modernization of Wreckfish ITQ
 - Continued efforts on the Gulf IFQ modernization project

Vision for 2020-2024 – Electronic Monitoring

- Coordination with Mote Marine Lab's Center for Fisheries Electronic Monitoring (CFEMM) center.
 - Electronic Monitoring through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
 - Underwater cameras for bycatch – Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP)
 - Cooperative research project (CRP) using EM for bycatch
- Rapid Sampling in Caribbean
 - Fish passed under cameras mounted on small platform
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI) help identify species and size

Current Ongoing Initiatives

- For-hire electronic reporting
 - Both Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic
- Modernization of the Catch Share Programs
 - Includes potential Wreckfish Modernization
- Modernization of Permits system
- Commercial electronic logbook reporting
 - Both Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic
- Gulf Shrimp cELBs
- Rapid sampling EM project in the Caribbean