



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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NOAA Fisheries Announces a Cost Sharing Program for the Electronic Logbook (ELB) Program in the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery *Small Entity Compliance Guide*

Since 2007, Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) shrimp fishermen have been required to participate in the ELB program if selected. With the cost sharing program, selected Gulf shrimp vessel permit holders must pay for the costs of installing and maintaining the ELB units and the cost of data transmission through a wireless provider. NOAA Fisheries has purchased the ELB units, and will pay for software development, data storage, effort estimation analysis, and archival activities. The cost estimate for vessel owners is \$20 per month for data transmission, a reduction from \$60 in preliminary estimates. One-time installation should cost approximately \$200.

Currently, NOAA Fisheries funds the deployment of ELB units on approximately 500 Gulf shrimp vessels through an outside contractor. The current contract expires at the end of 2013 and the program will lapse without additional funding. Also, units using more modern and efficient technology are now available that do not require NOAA Fisheries to retain a contractor. To continue the program, regardless of the equipment used, industry needs to share in the cost of the program.

NOAA Fisheries will inform vessel owners by letter that they have been selected to participate in this program. Selected vessel owners will have a total of 90 days to comply with the regulations to install and activate their new ELB units (30 days to activate a wireless account and 60 days to install the new ELB unit after it has been shipped by NOAA Fisheries and received by the vessel owner). To activate their account, selected vessel owners must contact Verizon Wireless by e-mail at VZWGulfCoastELB@VerizonWireless.com or by phone at 888-211-3258.

For more information please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the NOAA Fisheries Web site. Electronic copies of the framework action that establishes the cost sharing program may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Web site http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/shrimp/2013/elb_framework/index.html.

This bulletin serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.