

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Cost Sharing Proposal for the Electronic Logbook (ELB) Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery

#### What would the proposed changes do?

- The proposal would require shrimp vessel permit holders to pay the costs of installing the ELB units and the cost of data transmission through a wireless provider.
- NOAA Fisheries would pay for software development, data storage, effort estimation analysis, and archival activities.

#### What is the ELB program?

- The program is a way of collecting information on the amount and location of shrimp fishing effort. It has been in place since 2007.
- Current regulations require Gulf shrimp permit holders to participate in the ELB program, if selected by NOAA Fisheries. Vessels are randomly selected to participate from the pool of active fishing vessels.
- Vessels selected to participate must carry data recording devices which are simple time-stamped global positioning system (GPS) units that record a vessel's location at 10-minute time intervals.
- From these time-stamped locations, vessel speed between points can be estimated, then evaluated to determine if the vessel was stopped, towing, or moving between towing points.
- With this information, effort can be calculated for a given fishing trip.

#### Why do shrimp permit holders need to help fund the program?

- Currently, NOAA Fisheries funds the deployment of ELB units on approximately 500 shrimp vessels through an outside contractor. The current contract will expire on December 31, 2013. Funding is not available to renew the contract.
- Units using more modern and efficient technology are now available that would not require NOAA Fisheries to retain a contractor. To continue the program, regardless of the equipment used, industry would need to share in the cost of the program.
- If outside funding becomes available, such as oil spill restoration money administered by a third-party, the current program could be continued for multiple years to allow a smoother transition to the new units, and cost sharing may not be needed.

#### How will I know if I am selected?

- In mid-August, a letter will be sent to all permit holders explaining the ELB program and the selection process.
- After the final implementation, selected permit holders will receive a second letter announcing their selection and outlining instructions for activating the ELB unit.

#### How much will it cost each vessel owner?

- The preliminary estimate is \$60/month for data transmission; however, vessel owners could qualify for group discounts.
- One-time installation is estimated to cost approximately \$200.

### **What would be expected of vessel owners selected to participate in the program for 2014?**

- NOAA Fisheries will ship the ELB unit to the vessel owner after it has been activated, and vessel owners will be responsible for installation of the units. This should be similar to installing other electronics (GPS, radio, etc.) on the vessel.
- The data will be transmitted to NOAA Fisheries without any action needed by the vessel operator. Data will be collected and stored until the vessel is within cellular range for transmission.

### **How are the data from the ELB program used?**

- Data collected through the program are critical in performing annual assessments of the status of shrimp stocks.
- The effort data are used to estimate juvenile red snapper mortality by the shrimp fishery, which is essential to the red snapper rebuilding plan.
- Accurate estimates of shrimp fishing effort from the program are used to estimate and monitor incidental sea turtle takes.

### **How can cellular providers participate in the ELB program?**

- Wireless providers that meet the minimum requirements and are compatible with program software would be included on a list provided to selected vessel owners.
- Providers must submit their information by writing to [galv.elb.program@noaa.gov](mailto:galv.elb.program@noaa.gov).
- The minimum requirements are:
  - Provider would provision single machine-to-machine accounts (packet data account) on the Verizon network for the ELB program.
  - Provider would make available either a Web site or phone number, which vessel permit holders may use to enroll.
  - Vessel permit holders would provide the device ESN to service providers during enrollment.
  - The machine-to-machine service must be compatible with Verizon's CDMA-based cellular network technology. CDMA2000 1xRTT; Dual-band 800/1900 Mhz CDMA.
  - The machine-to-machine service must support 3G data (EV-DO) on Verizon's network. EV-DO Rev. A.
  - The machine-to-machine account would be provisioned on a yearly basis, preferably having a single yearly payment (pre-paid).
  - The machine-to-machine account must allocate a 150MB data pool per year. The wireless service provider must not limit monthly data usage. Usage per-month would be dynamic. The total data usage would never exceed 150MB per year. If data use per year exceeds 150MB the wireless service provider must disable the account and notify the vessel permit holder.
  - The wireless service provider must support Verizon's over-the-air service provisioning (OTASP).
  - The wireless service provider must provide a short-term demonstration account to the NOAA Fisheries. NOAA Fisheries would ensure the modem is compatible and validate the provider after which the account can be disabled. The short-term demonstration account would be of no cost to NOAA Fisheries.

### **Where can I find more information on management of the Gulf shrimp fishery?**

- For more information, please visit [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/gulf\\_fisheries/shrimp/2013/elb\\_framework/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/shrimp/2013/elb_framework/index.html)