



December 15 2015

Dear Chairman Anson and Gulf Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the council on the modification of reporting requirements for charter vessel and headboats. This is a huge opportunity for these vessels to provide timely, accurate data while increasing accountability.

Our organization represents federally permitted charter captains and their customers across the Gulf of Mexico as well as across the country. We are the largest organization of federally permitted vessels in the region and have the following recommendations and concerns for the Gulf Council's consideration:

Any modifications to reporting requirements for charter vessels and headboats should be paired with and tailored to management measures for these vessels as outlined in Amendment 41 and 42. Management and development of reporting requirements are inherently linked and must be tailored to management measures for of these vessels. Ignoring this in the development will yield a duplicative and fruitless initial effort as management evolves.

The Council should direct NOAA to consider whether the electronic reporting system can be designed so that charter vessels and headboats should have the flexibility and choice to use a variety of electronic reporting devices rather than being specifically limited to a Vessel Monitoring System. There are several available ideas like a smartphone application, or location enabled logbook or transponder that would be sufficient for charter vessels and headboats.

Data should be submitted electronically in any future reporting system prior to reaching the dock to best inform land based validation and enforcement personnel.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and look forward to continuing to develop these modifications this January in Orange Beach. Additionally, please feel free to contact me with any questions or to provide any feedback to our organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Cantrell', written in a cursive style.

Shane Cantrell, Executive Director  
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