



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Stephen J. Poland, Vice Chair
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Private Recreational Reporting Workgroup May 26, 2021 Summary Report

1. Prior Meeting Report

The workgroup reviewed the meeting summary from the February 17, 2021 meeting.

2. MAFMC Recreational Tilefish Reporting

Karson Coutre, MAFMC staff, presented an overview of the MAFMC private reporting requirements for tilefish. The program is permit-based, and reporting is mandatory. The Workgroup asked several questions pertaining to the details of app development, data management, and collaboration with NMFS/MRIP and ACCSP. The application “efin” was developed by Harbor Lights with support from the Council. Data are routed to GARFO and then ACCSP, with a long-term goal of providing data direct to ACCSP. Only a small number of reports were filed in 2020, largely due to the new program, COVID, and requirements going into place with less than 3 months left in the season. The importance of outreach, validation, and MRIP certification were all noted.

3. HMS Private Recreational Reporting

Jackie Wilson, NMFS HMS staff, presented an overview of the Atlantic HMS Angler Reporting Program. This program started in 2000. Reporting is mandatory by permit-holders and permits are required to possess certain HMS species. There are multiple reporting options and strong collaboration with state reporting programs. Discussion and questions addressed integration of this program and the LPS for generating estimates, program evaluations and changes over its history. The program was initiated to address Bluefin Tuna reporting and expanded to include swordfish and billfish. Mandatory reporting and permitting of all anglers are intended to provide information on all sources of mortality for rare event species that are not adequately covered by surveys such as MRIP and the LPS.

4. MRIP Large Pelagics Survey

John Foster, NMFS MRIP staff, presented an overview of the Large Pelagics Survey. This permit-based, mandatory survey is used to estimate catch and effort, by charter and private anglers, of HMS and offshore pelagic species in the mid- and North Atlantic from June through October. This survey operates cooperatively with the broader HMS reporting program addressed previously. A primary objective of the program is to support indices of abundance. Discussion and questions addressed how the survey addresses catch of non-HMS species and potential interactions with non-HMS permitted anglers, how this survey relates to other MRIP efforts.

4. Committee Discussion and Requests

Discussion Points

- The Workgroup discussed the importance of establishing measure of success or improvement; this could include improved PSE, increased public participation, improved data quantity, greater consistency between management actions and participant observations and impressions, and increased trust in management.
- The Workgroup agreed that reporting and permitting should be coordinated with, complementary to, and compatible with existing programs such as MRIP.
- An ideal reporting program will provide greater flexibility, timely data, and be adaptable to future situations.

Requests for the Next Meeting

- Provide presentations to support Workgroup discussion objectives 3 and 4:
 - *Review the legal and logistical differences between state vs federal fishing permits, including implementation, financing, and enforcement in federal and state waters*
 - *Evaluate the feasibility of state permitting and data collection programs for collecting information on recreational fisheries in federal waters*
- Provide an update on the use of recreational data for Gulf Red Snapper
- Discuss census vs survey reporting approaches
- Provide the MRIP presentation to NAS on desirable criteria for reporting programs, as supporting documentation.
- Provide a presentation on Council data gaps.

The workgroup requested sending around a poll to select a date for the next meeting, to be held for a half-day in July or August 2021.