

Recreational Fisheries Data for Assessment and Management of Council-Managed Species

Presentation to the
SAFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee
Charleston, SC

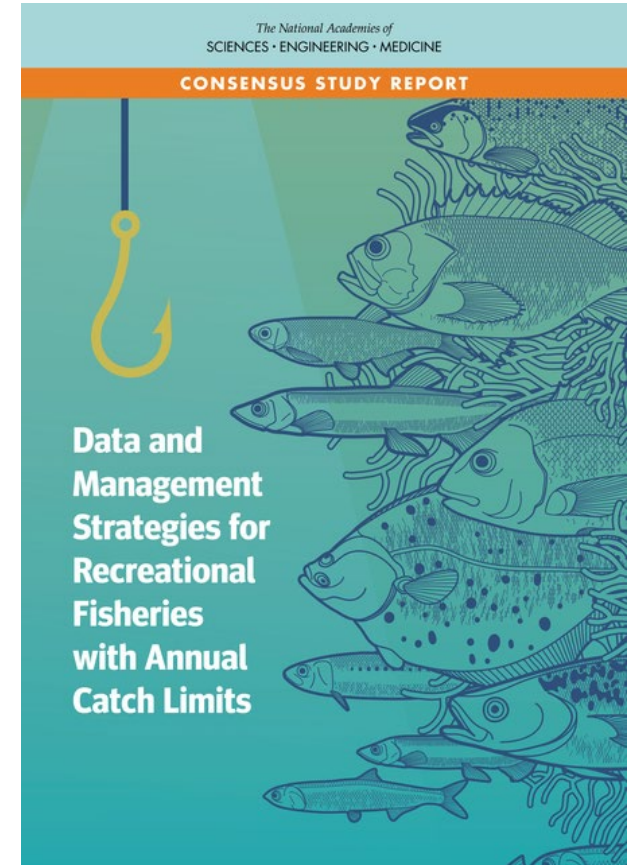
April 2024



2021 National Academies Study

- Focused on how well MRIP meets the management needs of fisheries with ACL's

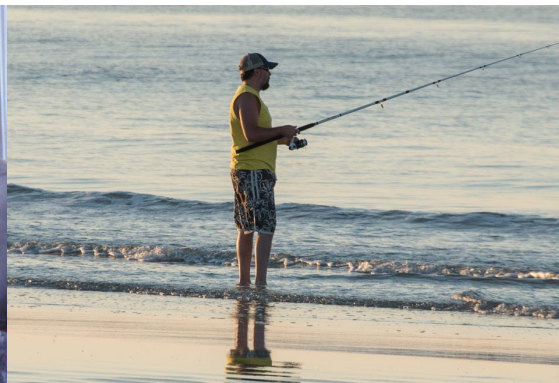
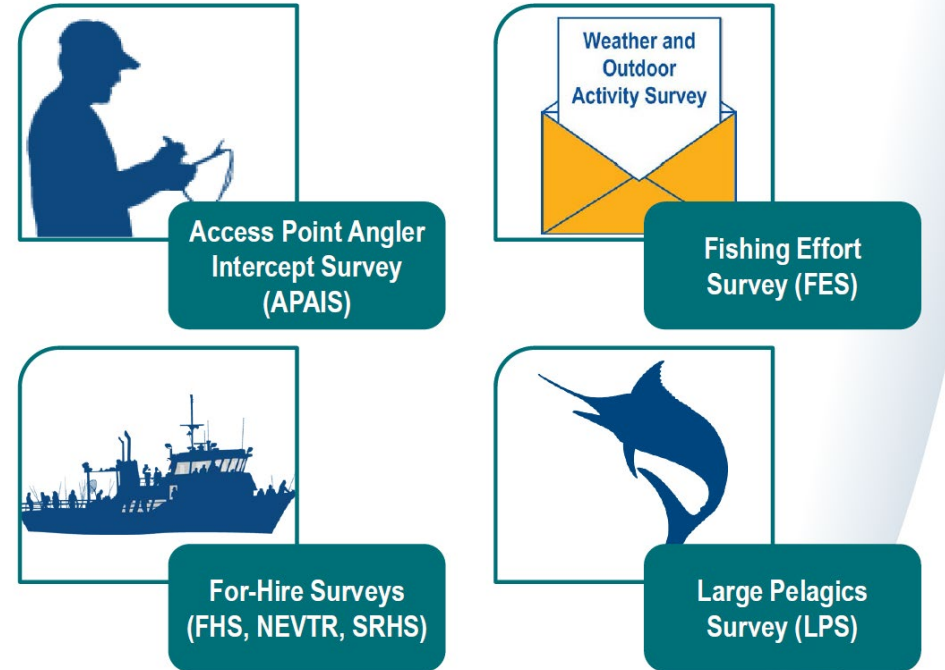
<p>Luiz R. Barbieri Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission St. Petersburg, FL	<p>Yong Chen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stony Brook University Stony Brook, NY	<p>Chris Dumas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of North Carolina Wilmington Wilmington, NC	<p>Michelle Duval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mellivora Consulting West Chester, PA
<p>Steven G. Heeringa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI	<p>Kai Lorenzen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Florida Gainesville, FL	<p>Sean Powers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of South Alabama Mobile, AL	<p>Steven Scyphers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northeastern University Nahant, MA
	<p>Tien-Shui "Theresa" Tsou</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Olympia, WA	<p>Zhengyuan Zhu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Iowa State University Ames, IA	



The report is available for download at www.nap.edu

Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)

- Mainly a “general survey program” to monitor recreational landings for different fishing modes, fleets and fisheries
- Designed to provide recreational catch estimates at the annual and regional scales
- Not suitable for in-season management

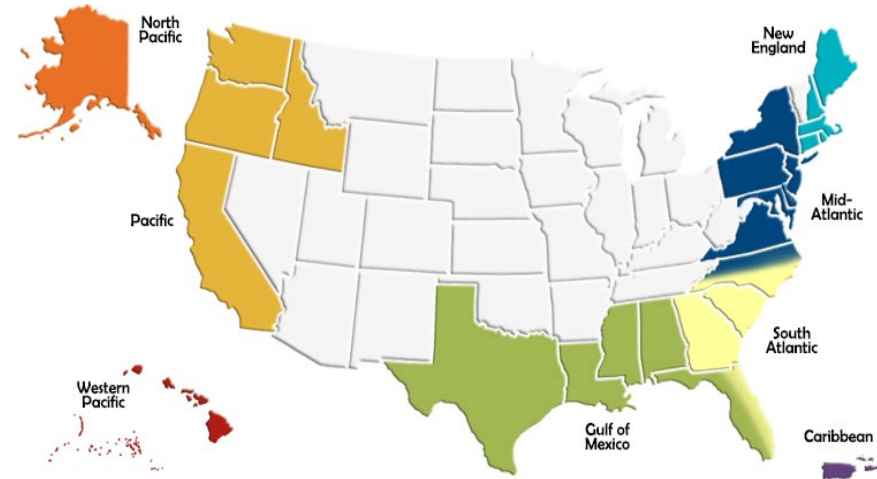
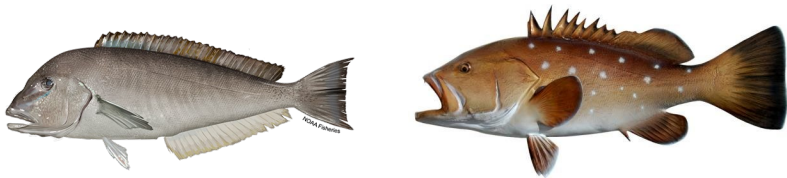


Council Needs Are More Complex

- Council-specific management needs have stretched MRIP's capabilities to provide accurate, precise data on a timely manner:
 - Short recreational seasons

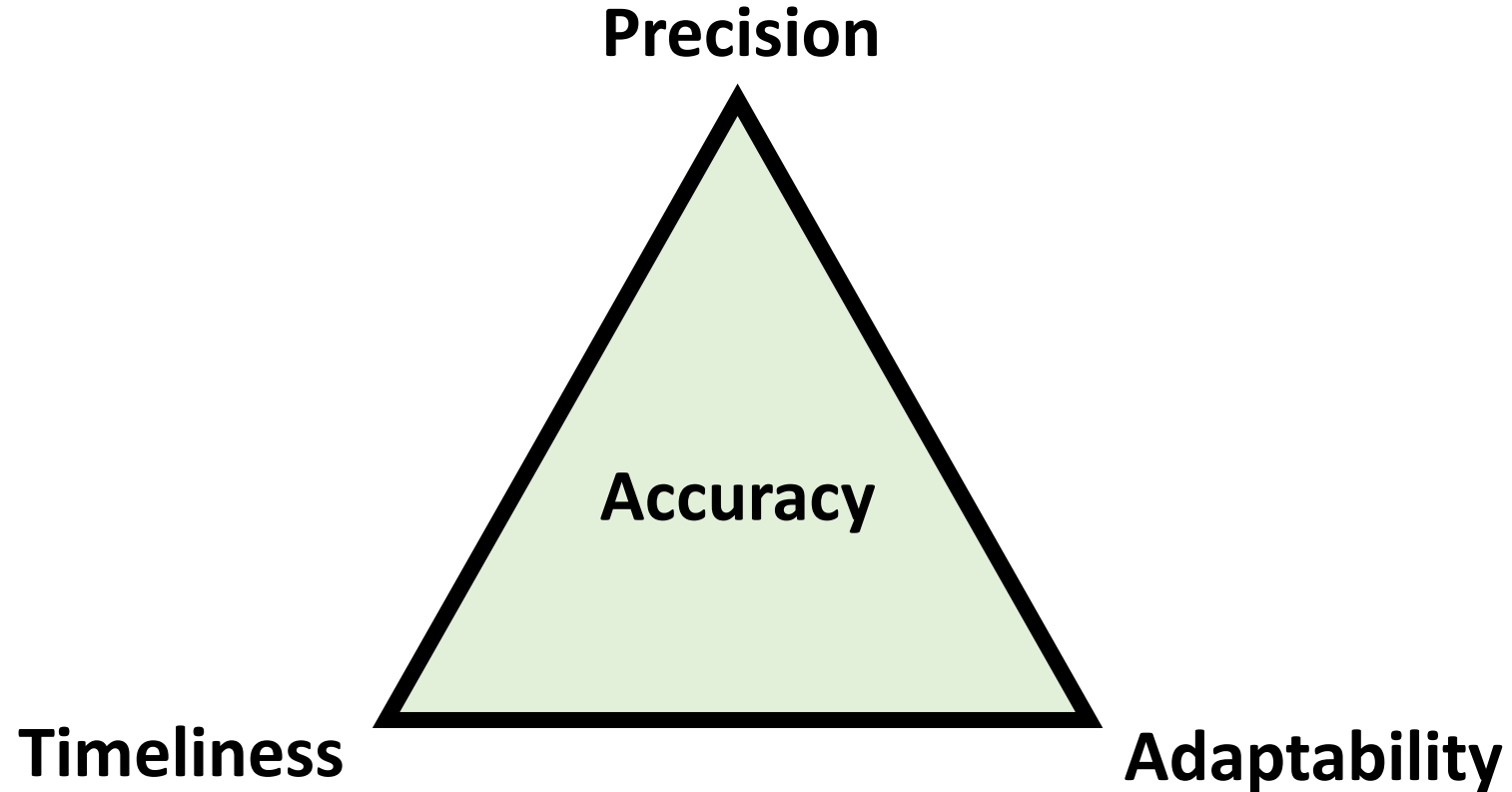


- Low catch/rare event species



- MSA established Regional Fishery Management Councils
- NMFS Regional Science Centers and Regional Offices fit into this framework
- National-level recreational fisheries data collection enterprise having to evolve as well

Major Considerations for Rec Data Programs





Marine Recreational Information Program Office of Science and Technology Updates

Winter 2023/2024

National Updates

NOAA Fisheries Announces Recreational Fishing Data Collection Priorities for 2024

In January, NOAA Fisheries published our [2024 priorities for saltwater recreational fishing data collection](#). These priorities support unique regional needs as well as stock assessments and sustainable fisheries management nationwide. This plan includes regional data collection priorities developed by teams composed of regional fisheries information networks, regional fishery management councils, interstate marine fisheries commissions, state partners, and NOAA Fisheries.



2024 Priorities at a Glance¹



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Saltwater Recreational Fishing Data Collection Programs

NOAA Fisheries' Marine Recreational Information Program works with state and regional partners to develop, implement, and continually improve a national network of recreational fishing surveys used to estimate total recreational catch. These estimates help scientists and managers assess the health of our fish stocks and set rules to keep them sustainable.

Learn more at countmyfish.noaa.gov

**Saltwater Sport Fish
Charter/Guide Logbook
Program⁶**

AK Sport Fishing Survey⁶

Port Sampling Projects⁶



**HI Marine Recreational
Fishing Survey¹**

Fishing Effort Survey¹



**Guam, CNMI, and American
Samoa Creel Surveys⁶**



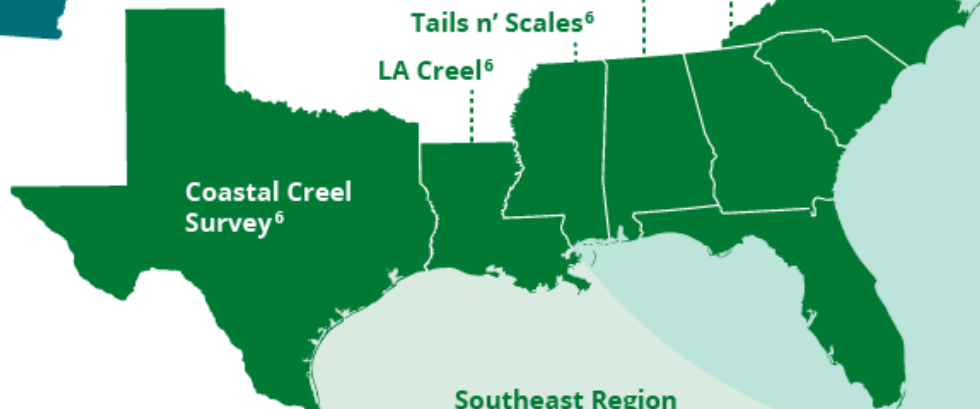
**Surveys Pending in Puerto Rico
and USVI**



**Puget Sound Sampling Program⁶
Ocean Sampling Program⁶**

**Ocean Recreational Boat Survey⁶
Shore and Estuary Boat Survey⁶**

CA Recreational Fisheries Survey⁶



**Coastal Creel
Survey⁶**

LA Creel⁶

**Snapper Check⁶
Tails n' Scales⁶**

**HMS Catch Card Program⁶
Additional LPS Biological Sampling¹**

HMS Catch Card Program⁶

**Large
Pelagics
Survey¹**

**Access Point Angler
Intercept Survey¹**

Fishing Effort Survey¹

For-Hire Survey¹

**Southeast Region
Headboat Survey⁵**

**State Reef Fish
Survey⁶**

PERMIT-BASED PROGRAMS

**Atlantic HMS Landings and
Tournament Reports²**

**Greater Atlantic For-Hire
Electronic Vessel Trip Reports³**

**Southeast For-Hire Integrated
Electronic Reporting Program⁴**

SURVEY ADMINISTRATOR

¹ NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology

² NOAA Fisheries Atlantic HMS Management
Division

³ NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional
Fisheries Office

⁴ NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office

⁵ NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science
Center

⁶ State/Territorial Agency

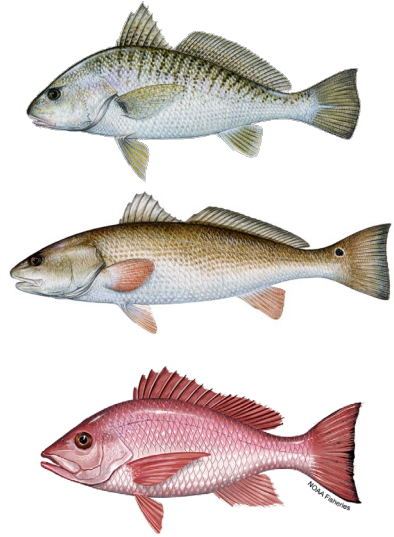
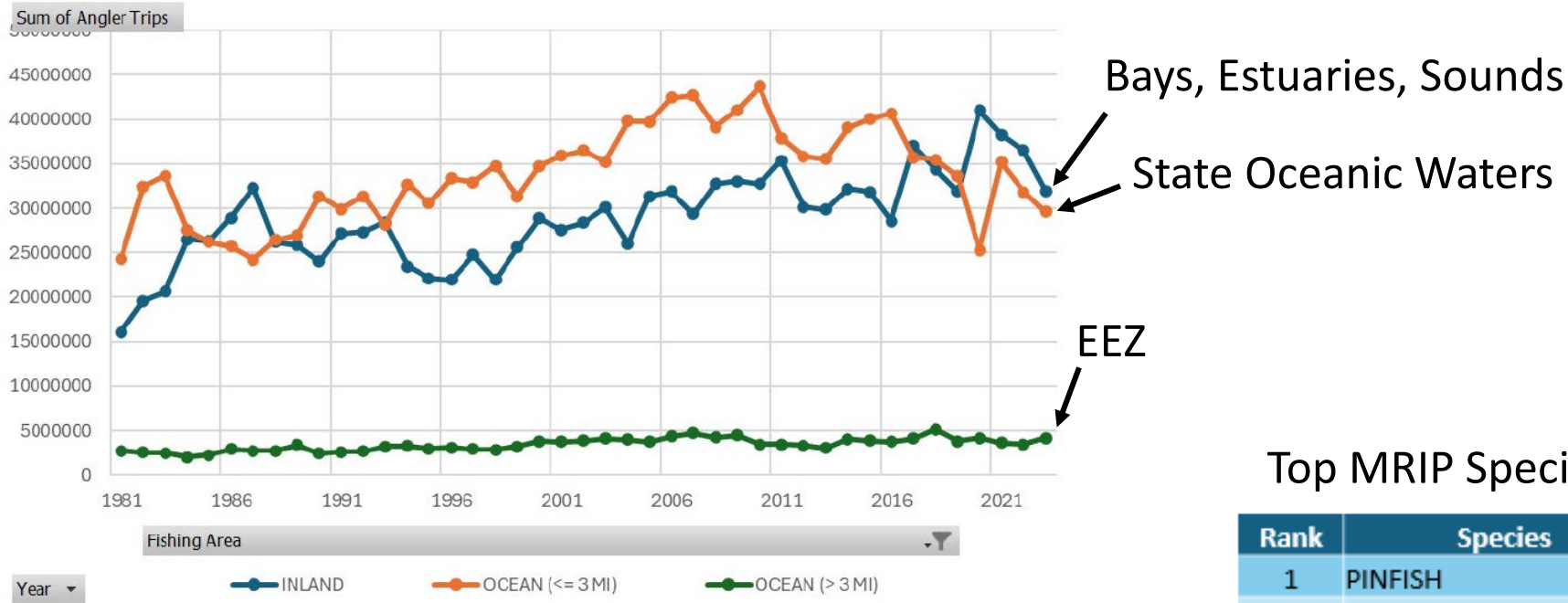
SAFMC Snapper Grouper Amendment 46

- Considers establishing a private recreational permit and education requirement for the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery
- Goal is to better identify the universe of anglers and improve estimates of catch and effort for the private rec sector
- SG Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical Advisory Panel:
 - NMFS-MRIP
 - ACCSP
 - SAFMC SSC
 - State reps (NC, SC, GA, and FL)



<https://safmc.net/workgroups/recreational-reporting-workgroup/>

South Atlantic MRIP Trips By Area Fished



- A specialized survey focused on Council-managed species in Federal waters can provide more accurate, precise, and timely rec fisheries data

Top MRIP Species in the South Atlantic Region

Rank	Species	Catch (#of fish)	Management Authority
1	PINFISH	13,196,840	State
2	ATLANTIC CROAKER	13,131,118	State
3	SPOTTED SEATROUT	8,821,367	State
4	RED DRUM	7,794,874	State
5	KINGFISH GENUS	6,564,266	State
6	SOUTHERN KINGFISH	6,365,021	State
7	BLUEFISH	5,319,924	State
8	SPOT	5,252,940	State
9	BLACK DRUM	4,317,672	State
10	NORTHERN PUFFER	4,123,979	---
11	FLORIDA POMPANO	4,118,061	State
12	BLACK SEA BASS	3,274,825	SAFMC
13	SPANISH MACKEREL	2,975,557	SAFMC

Trade-Off Comparison of Various Approaches

Approach	Precision Gain	Cost (\$)	Time to Implement	Species Specificity	Limitations
Increase sample sizes	Associated with cost	Variable	Short	Low-Moderate	Source(s) of additional funds
Optimize existing sample allocation	Variable	None	Moderate	Variable-Moderate	Precision trade-offs among species
Modify existing survey designs	Variable	None	Moderate	Variable-Moderate	Precision trade-offs among species
Design specialized program	High	Moderate-High	Long	High	Increased cost and reporting burden
Custom Estimation	Variable	None	Short-Long	High	Estimation domain changes, model use, method selection/justification

Florida's State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS)

- Specialized survey developed in cooperation with NOAA Fisheries to supplement MRIP
- MRIP certification obtained in 2018 after completion of formal peer-review by a panel of NMFS' statistical consultants
- Conforms to MRIP's Data Standards
- SRFS-MRIP calibration peer-reviewed and approved for use in assessment and management of Florida-centric species:
 - Gulf Gag (SEDAR 72)
 - Gulf Red Grouper (SEDAR 88)
 - *Southeastern US Mutton Snapper (SEDAR 79)*
 - *Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper (SEDAR 96)*

