

Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Workgroup
Status Report

A Workgroup has been established to review the SBRMs established by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils. The Workgroup is charged with recommending changes to SBRMs that would be made through the regional fishery management council process.

The Workgroup has met several times to discuss SBRMs implemented through fishery management plans (FMP), and review methods that are currently in place to collect information on bycatch. A draft document is being developed that summarizes SBRMs that were implemented in FMPs, bycatch collecting programs currently in place, the level of bycatch associated with each fishery, studies that have been conducted to measure bycatch, current level of observer coverage, and the level of observer coverage needed.

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center is populating a spreadsheet on observer coverage for each FMP that indicates if there is observer coverage for a fishery, determines if observer coverage is needed, specifies the importance of observer coverage, identifies the current level of observer coverage, determines the desired observer coverage level, and species the level for a 30% CV for the top 10 species.

The Workgroup is currently developing recommendations for improvements to enhance bycatch reporting, and updates to SBRMs. These recommendations will be included in the draft document.