



Marine Recreational Information Program

Southeast Regional Office St. Petersburg, Florida

February 21, 2012

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



OUTLINE

- Background and Overview
- Findings, Responses, & Results
- Implications for Management and Stock Assessments
- MRFSS vs. MRIP Comparisons
- Transition Strategy
- Next Steps for MRIP





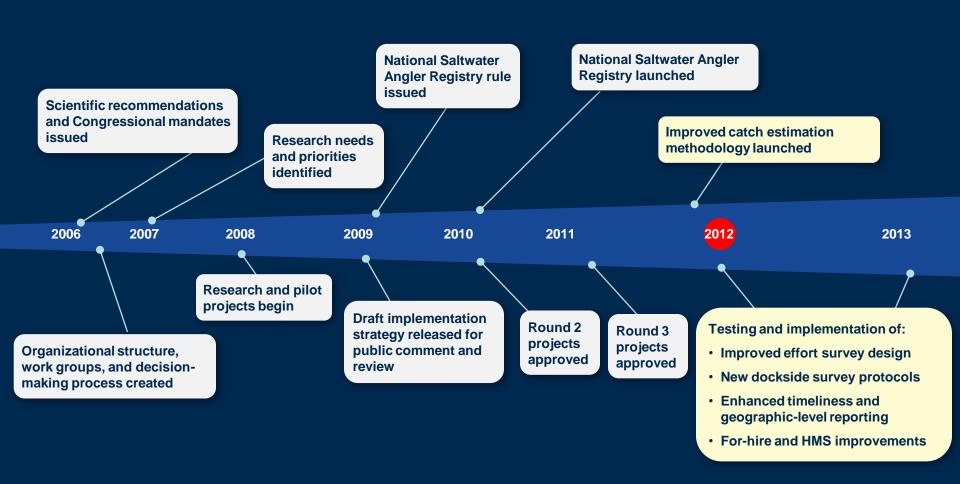
THE MARINE RECREATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM (MRIP)

Created in 2007 to address:

- Recommendations of the National Research Council's Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods.
- New requirements of the 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Stakeholder confidence in catch and effort estimates.



Implementation Milestones





NRC FINDINGS ON CATCH ESTIMATION METHOD

- Estimation process is not matched to how we gather data.
- Shore-side sampling methods emphasize maximizing angler intercepts at the expense of statistical rigor.
- These two factors inserted potential for bias into the point estimates and their precision.

NRC recommended we fix both the way we estimate catch and the way we gather data.



What's Different

What We've Done Previously

What We Do Now

Estimation ignored fact that sampling over-represented fishing at high activity sites

 How we collect data correctly matched to how we use that data to generate estimates; down-weighted data from high activity sites

Estimation ignored the angler trips missed in the site-day sampling

 Data weighted to account for both intercepted and non-intercepted trips within sampled site-days

Sampler discretion to sample alternate fishing modes

 Data collected for alternate modes not used in new estimates

Sampler discretion to move to alternate sites; probabilities unknown

 Selection probabilities of alternate sites estimated; estimates re-weighted



RESULTS OF RE-ESTIMATION

The improved MRIP method allows us to re-calculate catch estimates going back to 2004

Two key results:

- 1. <u>For most species</u> there are no specific trends in direction or size of changes. Some estimates go up, some go down, and some stay about the same.
- 2. The precision of estimates is lower than MRFSS. The new MRIP estimates more accurately reflect the actual uncertainty in estimates.



What We've Done Previously



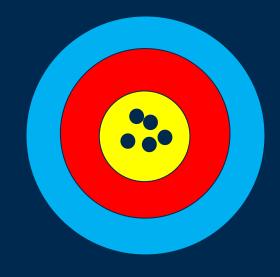
Precise, but inaccurate

What We Do Now



Accurate, but less precise

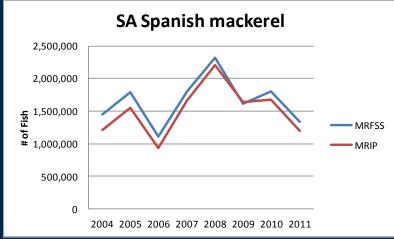
What We're Moving Toward

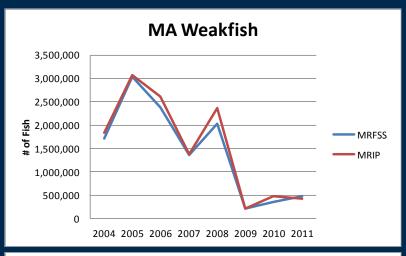


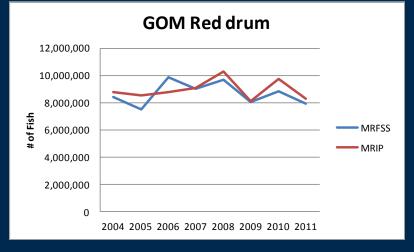
Precise and accurate

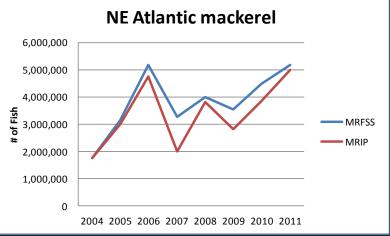


REPRESENTATIVE RESULTS





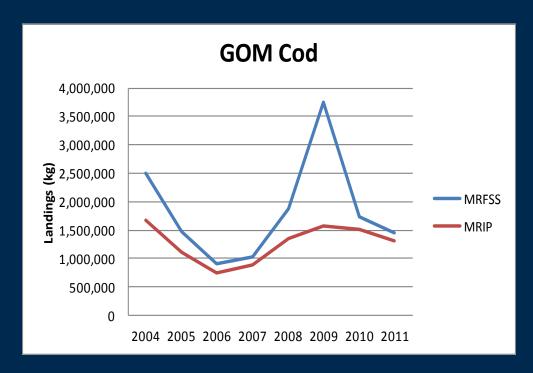






GULF OF MAINE ATLANTIC COD

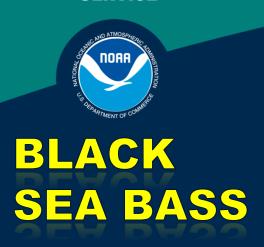
- Catches 25% lower
- Benchmark assessment completed in Dec 2011.
- Preliminary analyses indicate that a reduction in recreational landings would not change stock status.

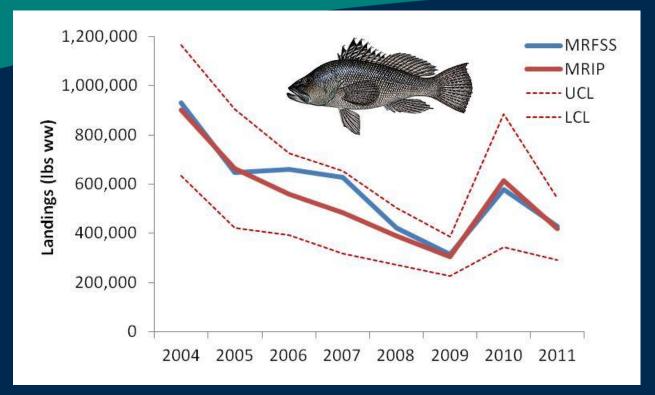


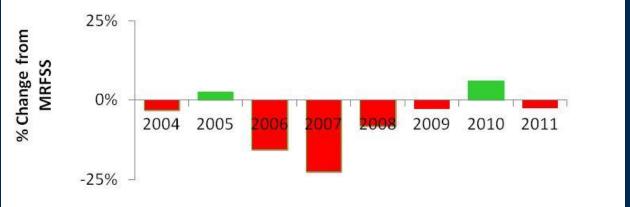
KEY RECREATIONAL SPECIES

Region	Key Regional Fishery Species	Difference between MRIP and MRFSS*	Percentage of Quota Allocated to Recreational
Atlantic HMS	Atlantic yellowfin tuna	+9%	n/a
New England	Gulf of Maine Atlantic cod**	-25%	34%
	Gulf of Maine haddock**	-20%	28%
Mid-Atlantic	Summer flounder***	-1%	40%
	Scup***	+18%	22%
	Black sea bass (northern stock)	+8%	51%
South Atlantic	Red grouper	+27%	55%
	Gag grouper	+8%	49%
	Vermillion snapper	+1%	32%
	Greater amberjack	No change	59%
	Black sea bass**	-7%	57%
	Red Snapper	-13%	72%
Gulf	Greater amberjack	+11%	73%
	Red grouper	+11%	24%
	Gray triggerfish	+9%	79%
	Gag grouper	+6%	61%
	Red snapper	+2%	49%
	King mackerel**	No change	68%

^{*} Average difference 2004-2011







• Estimates based on Jan 1-Dec 31 calendar year rather than Jun 1-May 31 fishing year

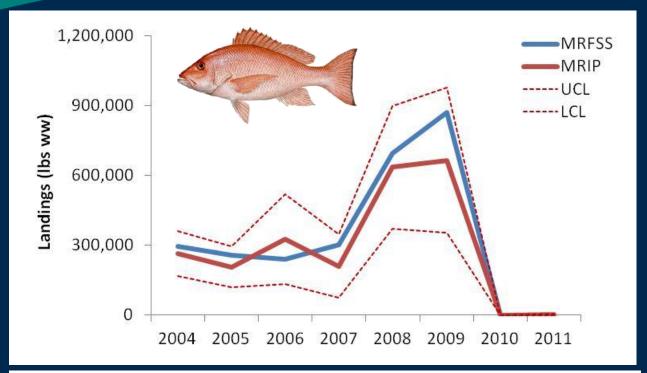


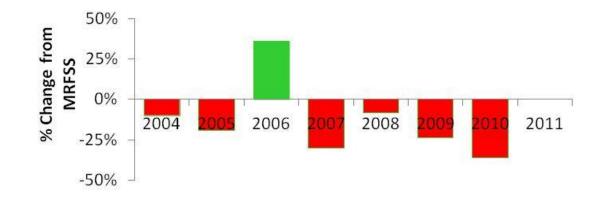


BLACK SEA BASS CASE STUDY

- MRIP landings greater than MRFSS for NC, but less for other SA states
- Large reduction in private landings from SC
 - Differences due to oversampling of angler fishing trips at high-activity fishing sites
 - "Zero-catch" trips were undercounted, biasing the MRFSS estimate of angler average catch high

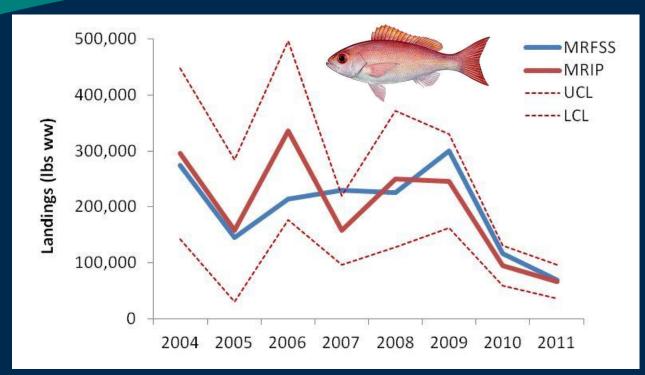


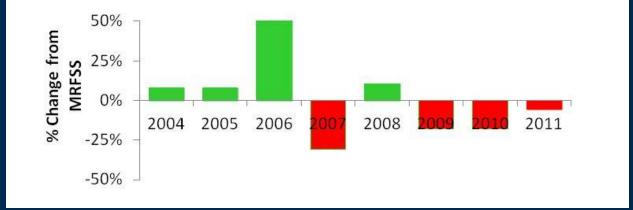






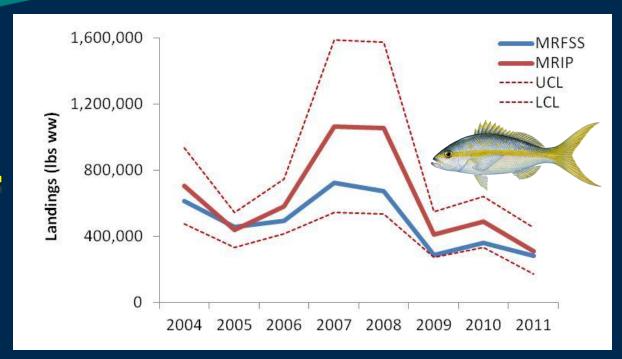
VERMILION SNAPPER

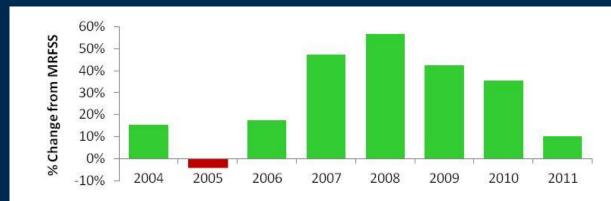






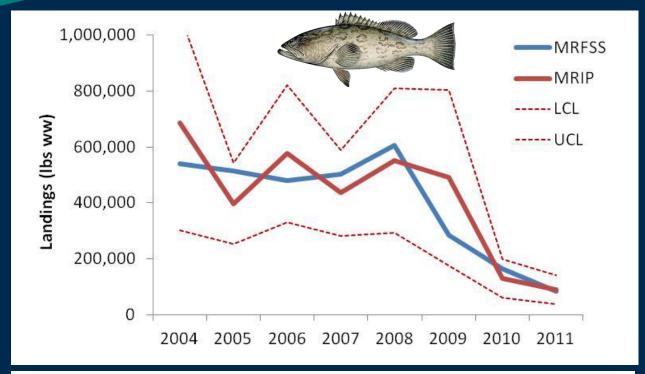
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER

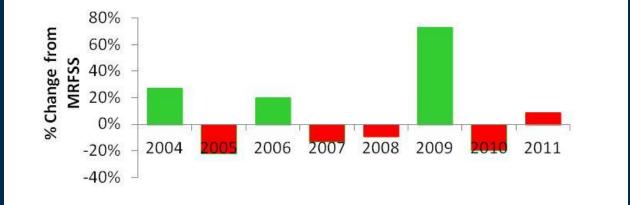






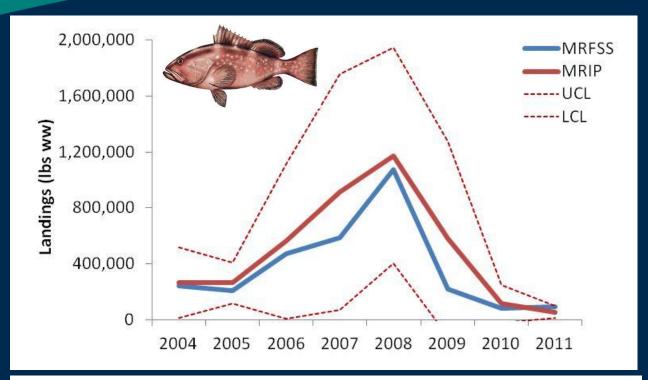
GAG

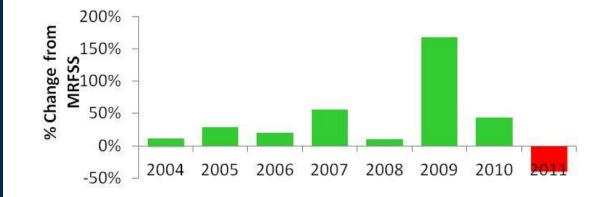






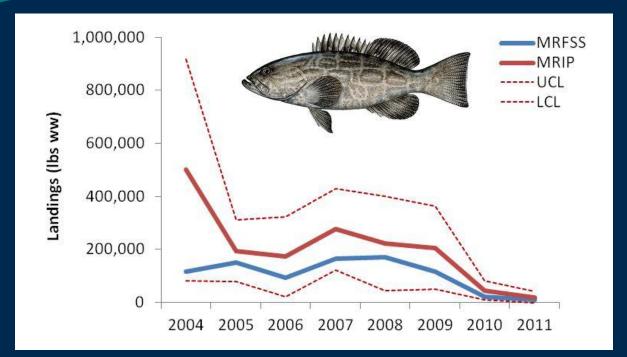
RED GROUPER

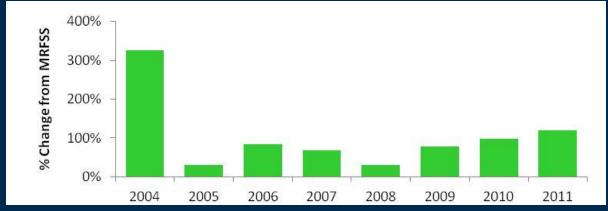






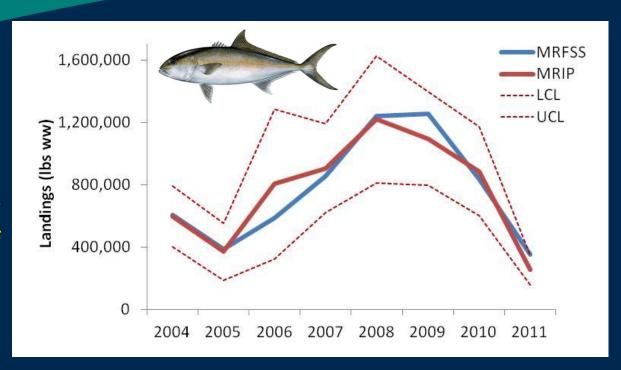
BLACK GROUPER

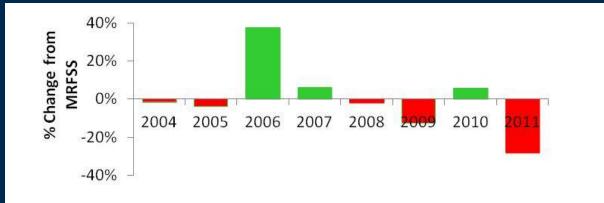






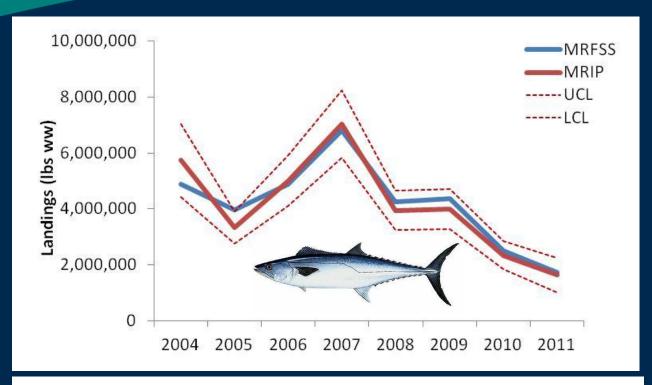
GREATER AMBERJACK

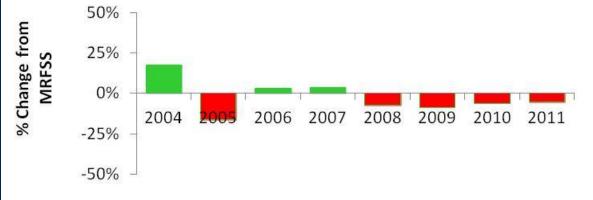






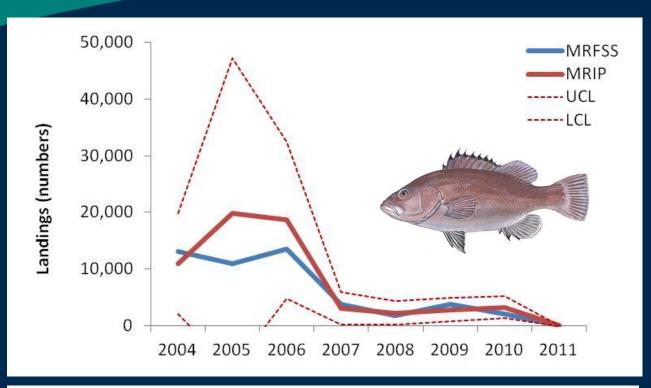
KING MACKEREL

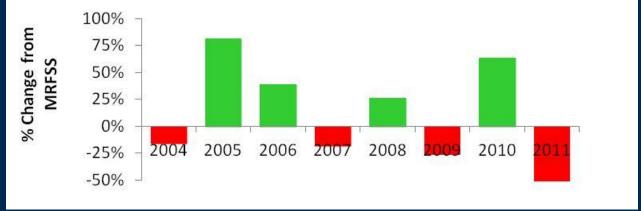






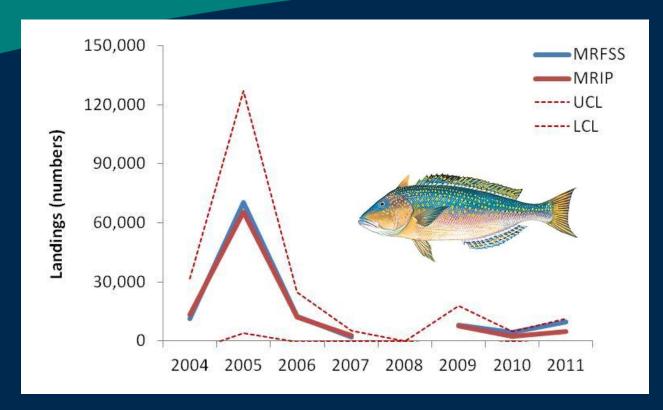
SNOWY GROUPER

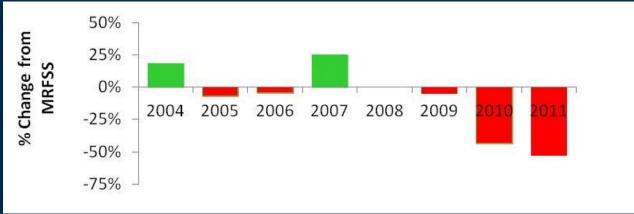






GOLDEN TILEFISH







POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Changes in catch estimates can affect:

Stock assessment results

Are we overfishing now? What's the biomass?

Management actions

 What's the appropriate catch limit? Are we under or over the catch limit? Do we need to change allocations?

Where there are significant changes in the estimates, revisions to fishing regulations may be necessary.



MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS: ACLS AND ALLOCATIONS

- 67 ACLs (33 comm., 29 rec., 5 agg.)
- 5 ACLs would not require modification:

Golden crab	Octocorals	Sargassum	Wreckfish (2)
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- ACLs based on landings data could be modified via a regulatory amendment
- 58 species/complexes have allocations; most include landings data through 2008 and may require modification.



MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS: ACLS AND QUOTAS

 Numerous ACLs may require modification after stock assessments, including:

Black sea bass	Snowy grouper	Golden tilefish	Black grouper
Gag	Red grouper	Red porgy	Greater AJ
King mackerel	Vermilion snapper	Red snapper	Mutton snapper
Yellowtail snapper			

Jurisdictional apportionment of three species may be affected by MRIP-MRFSS changes

Yellowtail snapper	Black grouper	Mutton snapper
• •	, ,	• •



TRANSITION STRATEGY

- 1. Coordinate with the SSC to review all available information.
- 2. Review the stock assessment schedule to understand if any changes are needed for those stocks most affected by the transition to MRIP.







TRANSITION STRATEGY

- 3. Host a Calibration Workshop to develop a process for adjusting catch estimates pre-2004 and incorporating MRIP-based estimates into stock assessments.
- 4. Based on those findings, begin reviewing management measures and if necessary make changes through regulatory or plan amendments



MRIP NEXT STEPS

Implement improved catch estimation methodology

Continued pilot testing of enhanced catch and effort surveys

Implement Survey Design Improvements Enhanced timeliness and geographic-level reporting



PILOT PROJECTS

Pilot Projects

- Electronic logbooks for charter and headboats.
- Enhanced angler dockside survey to complement the improved catch estimation methodology.
- An improved effort survey utilizing the National Saltwater Angler Registry.
- Ways to support more frequent reporting and posting of estimates.



MRIP IMPROVEMENTS IN 2013

Beginning in 2013, MRIP expects to implement these improvements:

- Enhanced angler dockside survey.
- Improved survey to gather angler trip data.
- Increased sampling to improve precision and timeliness.





QUESTIONS?

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MRIP Homepage: www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/

MRIP-MRFSS Comparison Query: www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/recreational/queries/



MRIP INTEGRATED TRANSITION STRATEGY

Science Has Lead

Management Has Lead

Transition Issue	Jan 12	Feb 12	Mar 12	Apr 12	May 12	Jun 12	Jul 12	Aug 12	Sep 12	Oct 12	Nov 12	Dec 12	Jan 13	Feb 13	Mar 13	Apr 13	May 13	→
Work with Councils and Commissions to re-prioritize stock assessments given the new landings data	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•									
Ongoing intercept and effort survey pilot projects	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						
Monitor landings using MRFSS and MRIP estimates; Where estimates differ, determine AMs at end of season	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						
NMFS calibration workshop and peer review process			•	•	•	•	•											
Stock assessment updates/data-poor analysis to estimate new biological reference points and ACLs								•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Possible ACL Amendments for data-poor stocks									•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Monitor landings using MRIP only; Determine AMs at end of season or adjust per calibration methodology													•	•	•	•	•	•
Implement improved intercept survey, estimation, and effort survey designs													•	•				
Possible ACL Amendments for newly assessed stocks														•	•	•	•	•



CALIBRATION WORKSHOP

- Review ongoing and completed studies comparing MRFSS to MRIP, and propose any additional work to further facilitate MRFSS/MRIP calibration.
- Propose a methodology for calibrating MRFSS data to MRIP data and demonstrate how it would work in hind-casting catch and effort for select data sets
- Recommend a plan for implementing the calibration methodology into updated and benchmark stock assessments.



BLACK SEA BASS (NUMBERS OF FISH)

Year	Species	MRFSS Unweighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	MRFSS Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	Difference: MRIP - MRFSS	% Change from MRFSS	PSE for MRIP Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)
2004	BLACK SEA BASS	892,345	917,650	25,305	3%	16.3
2005	BLACK SEA BASS	712,882	623,142	-89740	-12.60%	14.3
2006	BLACK SEA BASS	694,360	580,078	-114,283	-16.50%	15.4
2007	BLACK SEA BASS	571,283	434,680	-136,603	-23.90%	17
2008	BLACK SEA BASS	352,551	347,343	-5,208	-1.48%	15.5
2009	BLACK SEA BASS	276,043	271,090	-4,953	-1.79%	14.3
2010	BLACK SEA BASS	502,018	508,524	6506	1.30%	21.3
2011	BLACK SEA BASS	350,512	340,009	-10,503	-3.00%	15.2

^{*} Estimates based on Jan 1-Dec 31 calendar year rather than Jun 1-May 31 fishing year



RED SNAPPER (NUMBERS OF FISH)

Year	Species	MRFSS Unweighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	MRFSS Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	MRIP - MRFSS from MRFSS		PSE for MRIP Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)
2004	RED SNAPPER	39,477	33,858	-5,619	-14.20%	18
2005	RED SNAPPER	35,349	29,256	-6,093	-17.20%	21.1
2006	RED SNAPPER	25,918	28,482	2,564	9.89%	23.4
2007	RED SNAPPER	41,252	23,972	-17,280	-41.90%	26.3
2008	RED SNAPPER	110,782	99,210	-11,573	-10.40%	22
2009	RED SNAPPER	122,174	97,184	-24,990	-20.50%	24.3
2010	RED SNAPPER	97	62	-35	-35.90%	111.3
2011	RED SNAPPER	1,243	1,048	-195	-15.70%	96.6



VERMILION SNAPPER (NUMBERS OF FISH)

Year	Species	MRFSS Unweighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	MRFSS Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	Difference: MRIP - MRFSS	% Change from MRFSS	PSE for MRIP Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)
2004	VERMILION SNAPPER	232,526	237,865	5,340	2.30%	19.8
2005	VERMILION SNAPPER	150,439	154,037	3,598	2.39%	36.2
2006	VERMILION SNAPPER	176,030	254,878	78,848	44.80%	22.9
2007	VERMILION SNAPPER	214,263	151,752	-62,511	-29.20%	19.7
2008	VERMILION SNAPPER	187,924	187,293	-631	-0.34%	20
2009	VERMILION SNAPPER	229,497	188,061	-41,436	-18.10%	17.6
2010	VERMILION SNAPPER	86,638	70,952	-15,686	-18.10%	19.1
2011	VERMILION SNAPPER	66,996	58,003	-8,993	-13.40%	22.8



YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER

(NUMBERS OF FISH)

Year	Species	MRFSS Unweighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	MRFSS Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	Difference: MRIP - MRFSS	% Change from MRFSS	PSE for MRIP Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)
2004	YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	496,779	663,846	167,067	33.60%	18.6
2005	YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	453,368	403,195	-50,173	-11.10%	11.5
2006	YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	514,286	610,478	96,192	18.70%	13.7
2007	YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	665,868	917,580	251,712	37.80%	21
2008	YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	585,815	970,467	384,653	65.70%	25.7
2009	YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	268,260	394,819	126,559	47.20%	17.6
2010	YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	323,551	423,233	99,682	30.80%	14.6
2011	YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	229,827	240,365	10538	4.59%	20.2



GAG (NUMBERS OF FISH)

Year	Species	MRFSS Unweighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	MRFSS Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	Difference: MRIP - MRFSS	% Change from MRFSS	PSE for MRIP Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)
2004	GAG	44,412	49,758	5,346	12%	23.9
2005	GAG	37,657	32,843	-4814	-12.80%	18.7
2006	GAG	35,227	41,090	5,863	16.60%	19.1
2007	GAG	44,423	38,538	-5,885	-13.20%	17.7
2008	GAG	43,432	45,741	2,309	5.32%	23.2
2009	GAG	22,168	34,249	12,081	54.50%	28.5
2010	GAG	17,650	14,810	-2840	-16.10%	26.2
2011	GAG	10,330	8,782	-1,548	-15.00%	30.1



RED GROUPER (NUMBERS OF FISH)

Year	Species	MRFSS Unweighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	MRFSS Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	Difference: MRIP - MRFSS	% Change from MRFSS	PSE for MRIP Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)
2004	RED GROUPER	24,006	36,104	12,097	50%	44.6
2005	RED GROUPER	30,239	37,490	7250	24.00%	26.8
2006	RED GROUPER	40,202	56,588	16,386	40.80%	36
2007	RED GROUPER	73,642	91,848	18,206	24.70%	37.4
2008	RED GROUPER	85,035	90,329	5,294	6.23%	29.6
2009	RED GROUPER	23,724	54,790	31,066	131.00%	58
2010	RED GROUPER	7,183	9,614	2431	33.80%	54.6
2011	RED GROUPER	7,708	6,546	-1,163	-15.10%	35.4



BLACK GROUPER (NUMBERS OF FISH)

Year	Species	MRFSS Unweighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	MRFSS Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	Difference: MRIP - MRFSS	% Change from MRFSS	PSE for MRIP Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)
2004	BLACK GROUPER	15,696	35,686	19,990	127%	33.3
2005	BLACK GROUPER	12,915	13,001	86	0.67%	29.6
2006	BLACK GROUPER	7,723	12,174	4,451	57.60%	42.1
2007	BLACK GROUPER	14,798	22,540	7,742	52.30%	27.6
2008	BLACK GROUPER	14,708	16,284	1,576	10.70%	34.2
2009	BLACK GROUPER	13,934	16,822	2,888	20.70%	33.1
2010	BLACK GROUPER	3,418	3,731	313	9.16%	44.5
2011	BLACK GROUPER	2,843	1,624	-1,218	-42.90%	62



GREATER AMBERJACK (NUMBERS OF FISH)

Year	Species	MRFSS Unweighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	MRFSS Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	Difference: MRIP - MRFSS	% Change from MRFSS	PSE for MRIP Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)
2004	GREATER AMBERJACK	24,276	21,549	-2,728	-11%	16.6
2005	GREATER AMBERJACK	15,397	13,039	-2359	-15.30%	24
2006	GREATER AMBERJACK	23,491	28,629	5,138	21.90%	29.6
2007	GREATER AMBERJACK	41,269	44,757	3,488	8.45%	15.1
2008	GREATER AMBERJACK	60,743	55,830	-4,914	-8.09%	16.2
2009	GREATER AMBERJACK	50,497	45,703	-4,794	-9.49%	13.4
2010	GREATER AMBERJACK	40,719	39,942	-777	-1.91%	17.4
2011	GREATER AMBERJACK	16,719	14,938	-1,780	-10.60%	23.4



KING MACKEREL (NUMBERS OF FISH)

Year	Species	MRFSS Unweighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	MRFSS Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)	Difference: MRIP - MRFSS	% Change from MRFSS	PSE for MRIP Weighted Total (Harvest A+B1)
2004	KING MACKEREL	397,509	460,276	62,766	15.80%	9.9
2005	KING MACKEREL	427,498	391,901	-35,597	-8.33%	8.8
2006	KING MACKEREL	508,232	489,966	-18,266	-3.59%	8.2
2007	KING MACKEREL	805,441	818,467	13,026	1.62%	8.9
2008	KING MACKEREL	489,031	483,730	-5,301	-1.08%	9.5
2009	KING MACKEREL	440,568	420,087	-20,480	-4.65%	8.4
2010	KING MACKEREL	243,966	233,726	-10,240	-4.20%	10.4
2011	KING MACKEREL	137,622	137,108	-514	-0.37%	19.4