



Use of For-hire eVTR Data by the MAFMC

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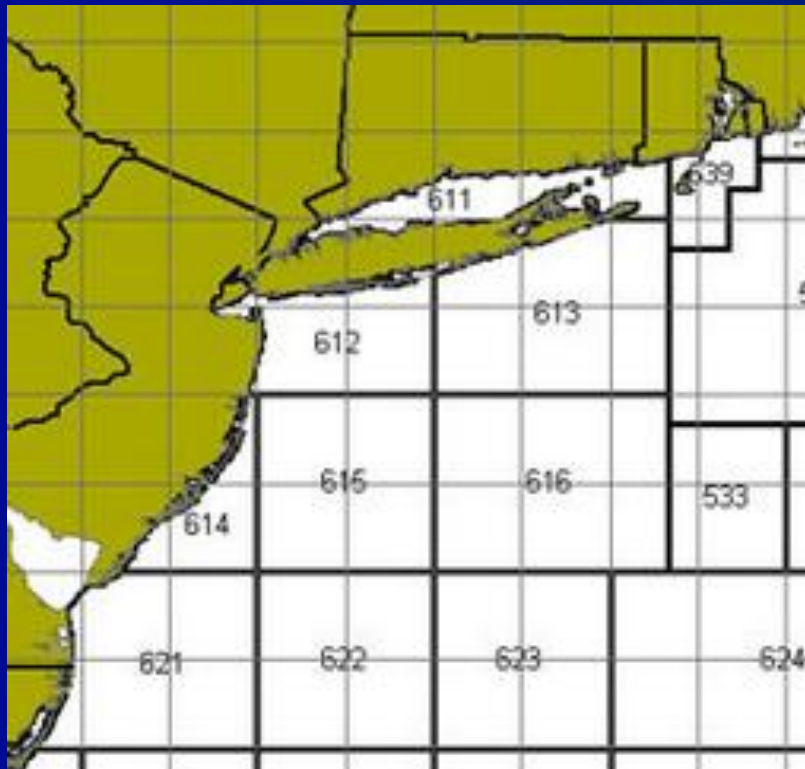
Acronyms

- VTR = Vessel Trip Report
- MRIP = Marine Recreational Information Program
- FHS = For-Hire Survey (MRIP)
- DNF = Did Not Fish (Report)
- ACCSP = Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
- APAIS = Access Point Angler Intercept Survey

VTRs...

- Vessel Trip Reports – logbooks (mid 1990s)
- Technically subtrips – new subtrip VTR started if statistical area or gear changes

(maybe!)



Onto eVTRs...

- 2016 Omnibus Framework Action
- Effective March 2018
- Charter and party vessels that hold a federal permit to fish for “Mid species” must submit VTRs by electronic means
 - within 48 hours following the completion of a fishing trip (any trip)
- Just VTRs to eVTRs...
 - Reduce duplication

Use of VTR data: MRIP

- Primary: Used by MRIP when calculating for-hire effort. From MRIP handbook:
 - As of 2021, VTR vessels remain in the FHS sample frame, but if drawn for sampling, they are not called, and VTR data for that vessel is used.
 - Estimates are calculated using the VTR data as well as FHS data from non-VTR vessels
 - Dockside validation correction

Use of VTR data: Assessments

- Through MRIP
- For data-limited fisheries, like blueline tilefish, VTR catch records have been used in assessments in the past (Delphi)
- VTR location information used in commercial catch estimation – paired with dealer data

Use of VTR data: Management

- Through MRIP
- Data-limited direct usages:
 - used to analyze/set tilefish and Atlantic mackerel bag limits
 - used to adjust the black sea bass season during Wave 1 (January/February), when MRIP not operating in the Mid-Atlantic.

Future Use of VTR data

ACCSP For-hire Methodology: Timeline

- Feb, 2023: Submission for MRIP certification
 - See Attachment
- Jun, 2023: ACCSP Chairs, MRIP & Consultant review
- Jan, 2024: ACCSP Chairs, MRIP & Consultant update
 - See Attachment
- Mar, 2024: RecTech Meeting
- Nov 2024 – June 2025: Data analyses
- 2025: Resubmission for MRIP certification
- TBD: Field implementation



Future Use of VTR data (ACCSP)

- Did not fish (DNF) reports
 - Supports compliance (Removed by NMFS in 2015)
- Trip declarations (maybe)
- Frame and APAIS adjustment issues

For Hire and DNF Concerns

- New York listed 528 state for-hire permits in 2023 with 152 of those also having federal permits
- Only 186 of the 528 state permitted vessels reported fishing trips in 2023. Those 186 reflect all state permit holders who reported trips to either GARFO or to NY
- MRIP frame: 1,983 active 2023 New York for-hire vessels

DNF Concerns

- GARFO paper on limited utility of DNFs versus very limited staff resources
 - You know DNF reporting vessels are aware of requirement, but not much else
 - Other vessels?
 - Are vessels reporting all trips?

DNF Concerns

- MAFMC has a draft 2025 Implementation Plan “Potential Addition”:
 - “Initiate working group on data reporting improvements.”
 - https://www.mafmc.org/s/Tab17_ED-Report_2024-08.pdf
 - (see #6 – link to GARFO paper there too)

Data Reporting Work Group

- Would likely need participation from at least GARFO, the Science Center, the Atlantic Fishery Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), individual states, the U.S. Coast Guard, and one or more Council Advisory Panels.
- Paused per ACCSP timeline/outcome

Another draft 2025 Item:

- *Continue development of the Recreational Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amendment (2025: scoping, alternatives)*
- options for managing for-hire recreational fisheries separately
- options related to recreational catch accounting, such as private angler reporting and enhanced vessel trip report requirements for for-hire vessels

Primary MAFMC Concerns

Balance:

- Improved data
- Reduce overall reporting burden
 - Cross regional coordination + Highly Migratory Species (HMS)
 - Maximize alignment – cost info example

Questions?