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FISHERIES

FES Study Updates and Re- envisioning the Partnership

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Dr. Evan Howell

Director

NOAA Fisheries Office of Science & Technology

Dr. Katherine Papacostas

Recreational Statistics - Program Management Branch

Director

Fisheries Statistics Division

NOAA Fisheries Office of Science & Technology

Geoff White

Director

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative
Statistics Program

Agenda

- Fishing Effort Survey follow-up study progress update and timeline
- Re-envisioning progress update and timeline
- Regional Implementation Team Structure and Purpose
- Re-envisioning listening session



Fishing Effort Survey Follow-up Study

- Revised FES design being tested throughout 2024 alongside current design
- Revised design:
 - Switches 2 and 12-month fishing activity questions
 - Distributed monthly (as opposed to every 2 months)
 - Based on results of previous pilot studies



FES Follow-up Study

- **Revised design producing improved data quality in alignment with pilot studies**
 - Large reduction in reporting errors and illogical responses
 - Respondents less likely to indicate more trips for 2-month fishing reference period than for the 12-month period
- **Large amount of data to collect and analyze before fully informed comparisons can be made, including direction and magnitude of differences in effort estimates**
 - Preliminary data through July
 - 5 months for majority of Atlantic Coast
 - Still compiling data and producing estimates for higher fishing activity months
- **NOAA Fisheries' guidance: continued use of existing FES data (where currently used) until follow-up study completed, new design peer reviewed, and historical estimates calibrated**



FES Timeline Remains on Track

Actions	Timeline
Conclude study data collection	End of 2024
Preliminary planning with regional partners to transition to a revised FES design; Calibration model development	2024/2025
Produce final 2024 estimates	Spring 2025
Produce public study report outlining key findings and estimates and initiate peer review; Finalize calibration methodology and initiate peer review.	Summer 2025
Earliest new design could be implemented (pending study results and peer review)	2026
Produce calibrated historical catch and effort estimates for use in subsequent assessments and management	Spring 2026 (normal release of final 2025 estimates)



Re-envisioning Recreational Fishing Data Partnership

- **Joint initiative to re-evaluate partnership approaches and transition to a new, collaboratively developed vision for the state-federal partnership that better meets regional needs**
 - 4 virtual briefings in spring 2024 with key partners and members of recreational fishing constituency
 - **Key Takeaways:**
 - Build trust and credibility across the board
 - Acknowledge and seek regional data collection flexibility (where necessary and desired by partners)
 - Ensure stability and consistency for aspects of the program that work
 - Develop adaptive management frameworks that better consider data uncertainty and limitations
 - Continue work to improve recreational fishing effort estimates, and consider novel technologies to track or compare effort estimates



Remaining Re-envisioning Project Timeline

Actions	Timeline
1:1 or group information-gathering sessions with key partners	Summer/Fall 2024
Compile report with major themes and findings from information-gathering sessions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Inform 2025 workshop agendas● Identify working groups● Propose potential immediate and long-term improvements	Winter 2024/2025
Form new working groups as necessary; revisit team structure and provide tasks/requests to existing recreational data teams	Early 2025
Host visioning workshops to develop shared vision and action plan	Summer 2025
Draft and circulate plan for public review	Fall/Winter 2025
Announce and transition to re-envisioned partnership	Early 2026



Continued Improvement Throughout Process

Examples:

- Strengthening state partner review of preliminary catch and effort estimates (leveraging regional knowledge) in collaboration with ACCSP
- Supporting development of regionally consistent for-hire logbook framework
- Commissioning independent review of national survey and data standards
- Re-evaluating MRIP team structures and composition through regional feedback
- Revising policy and procedures for updating surveys/transitioning to new surveys based on partner feedback
- Investigating improvements to recreational fishery discard and release data (IRA workshops)



Public Engagement Timeline (Atlantic and

Actions)

Actions	Timeline
Atlantic State Directors' meeting, Arlington, VA	Aug. 5, 2024
MAFMC public listening session, Philadelphia	Aug. 13, 2024
HMS Advisory Panel meeting listening session, Silver Spring, MD	Sept. 5, 2024
MAFAC presentation and discussion, Kodiak, AK	Sept. 11, 2024
MAFMC SSC meeting presentation and discussion, Baltimore, MD	Sept. 11, 2024
SAFMC public listening session, Charleston, SC	Sept. 19, 2024
In-person Atlantic wave meeting (ACCSP) listening session, Richmond, VA	Oct. 16, 2024
Gulf Commission Annual Meeting, Gulf Shores, AL	Oct. 14 - 17, 2024
Gulf Council Meeting, St. Petersburg, FL	Nov. 4 - 7, 2024
NEFMC public listening session, Portsmouth, NH	Jan. 28 - 30, 2025



Draft Initial Goal and Objectives (incorporating preliminary feedback)

Working Goal

A state-federal data collection system for marine and estuarine recreational fisheries that is regionally specific and nationally coherent and leverages partner expertise and resources to obtain the best quality data possible from available sources to inform sustainable, adaptive fisheries

Objectives

- Clear roles, responsibilities, and lines of transparent communication among partners
- Enhanced recreational data precision, accuracy, and timeliness
- Adherence to data collection standards
- Transparent, consistent, and centralized data warehousing and access
- Survey, estimation, and review improvement frameworks that promote data integrity and accountability
- Data stream connectivity and effective integration
- Enhanced partner/angler collaboration and participation

Existing Process to Identify Regional Priorities

- **MRIP Regional Implementation Teams identify regional data collection needs and priorities**
 - Include membership from Fishery Information Networks, NOAA Fisheries, Commissions, States, and Councils
 - ACCSP's Coordinating Council serves as the Atlantic Team lead (Maine to Florida)
 - Atlantic RIT established in 2015
 - Plans updated at least every 5 years, but can be sooner if new priorities emerge/additional resources become available
- **Priorities identified by team for 2023-2027:**
 - Improved precision of MRIP catch estimates
 - Comprehensive for-hire data collection and monitoring
 - Improved recreational fishery discard and release data
 - Improved timeliness of MRIP recreational catch and harvest estimates
 - Biological sampling for recreational fisheries (separate from MRIP)
 - Improved in-season monitoring
- **Are these priorities representative of the region? If not, how do we improve regional planning processes?**



Listening Session - all questions pertain to the federal-regional-state recreational fishing data collection program and partnership in the South Atlantic

Data Collection

1. What are the top 3 - 5 priorities/absolute needs in your region/state related to recreational data collection?
1. What changes are you seeing in angling/fisheries behavior that could impact catch and effort estimates?
1. What are you/anglers most willing to report and how?
1. What do you think are the pros and cons related to use of self-reported apps, angler permits and additional modes of data collection?

Working Goal *A state-federal data collection system for marine and estuarine recreational fisheries that is regionally specific and nationally coherent and leverages partner expertise and resources to obtain the best quality data possible from available sources to inform sustainable, adaptive fisheries management*

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Assessment and Management

1. What data gaps are making assessments and management challenging?
 - a. What data aren't we collecting that is needed?
1. How can disruption to assessments and management be minimized when revised surveys are implemented and historical estimates rescaled (calibrated) to the revised design?
1. In the absence of additional resources or reductions in survey scope, what are alternative, viable options for management?

Working Goal *A state-federal data collection system for marine and estuarine recreational fisheries that is regionally specific and nationally coherent and leverages partner expertise and resources to obtain the best quality data possible from available sources to inform sustainable, adaptive fisheries management*

Listening Session

Partnership and Communication

1. What elements of the federal-state-regional partnership in the South Atlantic are working or not working?
1. What does a successful, credible recreational data collection program look like? - *One that you would contribute to, advocate for, and trust?*
1. Where do NGOs and the recreational and commercial fishing communities best fit into the re-envisioned partnership?
1. What would make you feel engaged in this process and in the partnership more generally?
1. How can the re-envisioning effort be efficiently organized to ensure participation moving forward (e.g., national steering committee, regional workgroups, leveraging/restructuring existing MRIP teams) ?



Provide additional feedback to:

fisheries.mrip@noaa.gov



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