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Office of Science
and Technology

Marine
Recreational
Information
Program

Marine Recreational Information Program Update

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting

April 5, 2023

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Fisheries Statistics Division

Outline

- **2023 Priorities**
- **Update on National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Reviews**
 - Progress toward 2017 MRIP recommendations
 - Agency's response to 2021 recommendations on recreational data and in-season management



Image: Chesapeake Bay Program



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2023 Priorities



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Support for Regional Priorities

Regional Implementation Planning

- Regional data needs that help guide decision-making for research and budgeting
- Updated at least every 5 years
- Atlantic Coast and Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Gulf of Mexico; Caribbean; Pacific Coast; Alaska (first one completed in March 2023); Pacific Islands

Atlantic

- Atlantic Coast (Completed March 2023)
- Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (In development)

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

Atlantic Recreational Implementation Plan
2023 – 2027



MRIP Certifications - East Coast

Statistically valid; eligible to receive NOAA Fisheries funding

- **Recently Completed**
 - **MRIP For-Hire Survey** (telephone survey to estimate for-hire trips along Atlantic, Gulf coasts)
 - Certified method will rely on statistical best practices and quality checks to identify reporting errors rather than supplemental dockside sampling
 - No changes to current implementation until transition plan developed/initiated with State partners
- **In progress**
 - **ACCSP for-hire logbook survey** (documentation received)
 - **Large Pelagics Telephone Survey for effort** (has been peer reviewed)
- **Planned**
 - **Large Pelagics Intercept Survey for catch** (documentation being prepared)



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Continued Implementation of Survey and Data Standards

- Shift from producing 2-month wave estimates to cumulative estimates in mid-April
- Precision standard of masking highly imprecise point estimates with percent standard errors >50 (Implementation TBD)
 - Exploring development of data use decision framework for highly imprecise estimates in stock assessments (2023)



Data Standards: Shift to Cumulative Estimates (mid-April)

Estimates prior to 2023

	2-month “wave” estimates	Preliminary Data Available (Approx. Date)
Wave 1	January-February	April 15
Wave 2	March - April	June 15
Wave 3	May - June	August 15
Wave 4	July - August	October 15
Wave 5	September -October	December 15
Wave 6	November -December	February 15 pm

New Estimates

	Cumulative Estimates	Preliminary Data Available (Approx. Date)
Wave 1	January-February	April 15
Wave 2	January-April	June 15
Wave 3	January-June	August 15
Wave 4	January-August	October 15
Wave 5	January-October	December 15
Wave 6	January-December	February 15



New Fishing Year Options

Cumulative estimates for:

- March fishing year (March 1-Feb 28)
- May fishing year (May 1 - Apr 30)
- July fishing year (July 1 - June 30)
- September fishing year (Sept 1 - Aug 31)
- November fishing year (Nov 1-Oct 31)



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Research Priorities

- **Large Pelagics Survey Redesign (2023)**
- **Sensitivity study** to evaluate the impact of asking license status on estimates (2023)
- Exploring development of **data use decision framework for highly imprecise estimates** in stock assessments (2023)
- **Gulf State Survey Transition Plan Research (2023-2026)**
 - Studies involving APAIS and FES will be relevant to NE, Mid- and SE Atlantic



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Progress on NASEM 2017 Recommendations for MRIP



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2017 National Academies Review

- Evaluated NOAA Fisheries efforts to date improving quality, accuracy of marine recreational fisheries data
- Identified potential areas for technical and communications improvements

Modern Fish Act of 2018

- Mandates biennial updates on progress from this report. First report transmitted to Congress in 2021.



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Highlights from Biennial Progress Report

- **Promoting data consistency and quality** across partners and data users through survey and data standards.
- **Advancing state and regional data collection priorities** and implementation of specialized surveys by providing states with \$3M.
- **Measuring customer and partner support and satisfaction.**
- **Ensuring transparent communications** through inter-organizational Communications Working Groups.
- **Conducted/commissioned ~20 research initiatives since 2017**
 - assessing possible sources of bias in surveys, evaluating electronic reporting options, developing calibrations, and evaluating alternative statistical methods.



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Proposed Actions responding to 2021 NASEM In-Season Management Recommendations



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2021 National Academies' Study Overview

Modern Fish Act of 2018

- Called on NOAA Fisheries to commission a National Academies study that evaluated:
 - how well the Marine Recreational Information Program **meets the needs of in-season management** of fisheries with annual catch limits (ACLs).
 - how **survey methods or management strategies might be modified to better meet those needs.**

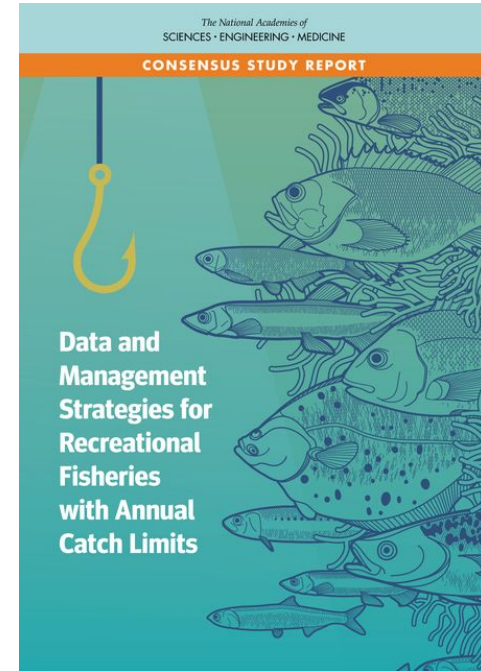


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Highlights from 2021 NASEM Review

- NOAA Fisheries has **improved** the recreational catch data used in stock assessments.
- The program produces “**critically important**” catch data **unlikely to be replicated** for monitoring and assessing council-managed stocks.
- **In-season management is not required for most fisheries** nationwide due to broad regional diversity in management needs.
- **MRIP was not designed for in-season management**, and would require substantial additional resources.
- The MRIP **Regional Implementation Teams** are playing an important role in identifying and addressing unique regional processes and needs.

Most **recommendations were jointly directed** at NOAA Fisheries, Councils, Commissions, and/or States.



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Obtaining Input from the Agency and Partners

- Distributed a questionnaire to NOAA Fisheries staff and MRIP Regional Implementation Council members, who facilitated Regional Implementation Team input evaluating each recommendation and set of associated conclusions to:
 - **Inventory relevant ongoing efforts** across the agency and partner organizations
 - **Gauge needs and capabilities** to pursue the recommendations and conclusions in order to propose preliminary courses of action for each.

NOAA Fisheries	Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Headquarters● Regional Offices● Science Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 19 partner organizations with representation from all regions, including 2 mid-Atlantic states and MAFMC



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Overview of the Agency and Partner Evaluations

- **All recommendations in this report have been considered**, fully or in part, by NOAA Fisheries and/or partner entities in the regions with the most in-season management needs, **with opportunities to cooperatively build on existing efforts.**
- NMFS and Regional Implementation Teams generally supported pursuit of many of the recommendations, **noting that different regional management needs necessitate potentially different approaches in response.**



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Summary of Recommendations and Proposed Responses

NASEM Recommendations

1. **Inter-calibration** and determining causes of differences among surveys
2. Continuous **raw data** access
3. Anticipating inter-calibration needs and **communications**
4. Catch forecasting with **ancillary variables**
5. **Tradeoffs** between bias and precision in **catch forecasting**
6. Improving **precision and accuracy of catch forecasts**
7. **Alternative statistical methods** for catch estimation and forecasting
8. **Harvest tags and license endorsements**
9. MRIP **supplemental survey** implementation
10. **Carry-over** provisions
11. **National Standard 1** review
12. **Optimum yield** discussions with stakeholders

NOAA Fisheries Responses

- **Leverage MRIP Regional Implementation process** to establish and support regional priorities for recreational data.
- Work with partners to **calibrate and reconcile differences among survey programs.**
- **Support Councils** in exploring **alternative management strategies.**
- Conduct research and pilot studies to **explore recommended statistical estimation and forecasting methods** on a regional basis.

Color coding: Yellow - directed at NOAA Fisheries +Councils; Blue - at MRIP+states/commissions. Green - at full coalition of partners



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Questions



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