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# MRIP Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Regional Implementation Plan

**Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel Meeting**

**September 7, 2016**

# Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)

- MRIP is NOAA Fisheries program for collecting and reporting marine recreational fishing catch and effort data and statistics.
- MRIP consists of multiple surveys of marine anglers and for-hire captains. Examples include:
  - Access-Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS)
  - Fishing Effort Survey (FES)
  - For-Hire Survey (FHS)
  - Large Pelagics Survey (LPS)

# MRIP Strategy for Improved Data Collection

- Since the 2006 National Research Council review, MRIP has been working to develop and certify a series of scientifically sound surveys to meet recreational fisheries management data needs.
- Three-Tiered Process:
  - ***Evaluation*** → ***Innovation*** → ***Implementation***
- Key component of the ***MRIP Implementation Strategy*** is the development of ***Regional Implementation Plans***

# MRIP Regional Implementation Plans

- Each region has been given a lead role in determining which survey methods are most suitable for their management needs.
- Each regional plan will contain the following:
  - Priorities for coverage, resolution, precision, and timeliness of survey estimates (i.e., data collection needs);
  - Analysis of existing data collection programs and gaps;
  - Strategies for implementing improved methods;
  - Outlines for processes to integrate data from different sources; and
  - Budget estimates for conducting proposed data collections.
- Final documents will be submitted to the MRIP Operations Team and Executive Steering Committee

# Atlantic HMS MRIP Working Group

## Team Chair: Guillermo Diaz (SEFSC)

Atlantic HMS Division	Other NMFS Staff	State & Regional Partners
Margo Schulze-Haugen	Dave Van Vorhees (ST1 Chief)	Gregg Bray (GSMFC)
Randy Blankinship	Gordon Colvin (ST1)	Geoffrey White (ACCSP)
Brad McHale	John Foster (ST1)	Doug Mumford (NC DENR)
Karyl Brewster-Geisz	Vivian Matter (SEFSC)	Richard Cody (FWC)
Clifford Hutt (Coordinator)	Janelle Mueller (ST1)	Gregory Skomal (MDMF)
Joseph Desfosse	Ana Valentin (ST1, LPS Lead)	

ST1 – NMFS Office of Science and Technology Fisheries Statistics Division

# Timeline for Drafting the Plan

Implementation Plan	Target Dates
Section 1. Description of HMS recreational fishing data needs	Sept 2016
Section 2. Assessment of current data collections	Sept 2016
Section 3. Recommendations for improved methods	Oct 2016
Section 4. Process for combining data from multiple sources	Nov 2016
Section 5. Estimated costs, overall and for each survey	Nov 2016
Review of final combined document	Dec 2016
Submittal to MRIP Operations Team and ESC	Winter 2017

# Current HMS Catch & Effort Data Collections

- Large Pelagic Intercept Survey (LPIS)
- Large Pelagic Telephone Survey (LPTS)
- Large Pelagic Biological Survey (LPBS)
- Access-Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS)
- Fishing Effort Survey (FES)
- For-Hire Survey (FHS)
- Vessel Trip Reports (VTR)
- Southeast Regional Headboat Survey (SRHS)
- MD and NC Catch Cards
- Recreational Billfish Survey - Mandatory reporting of HMS tournament landings
- Mandatory reporting of non-tournament landings of billfish, swordfish, and bluefin tuna
- Texas and Louisiana Saltwater Angler Surveys

# Example Analysis of an HMS Recreational Data Collection

## *Large Pelagic Intercept Survey*

### Description

- Dockside interviews with those targeting large pelagic species

### Geographic /Time Frame

- Maine to Virginia, June through October

### Sample Frame

- List of access sites to which boats return from HMS trips

### Organization Responsible

- NOAA Fisheries Office of Science & Technology

### Pros

- Targets known HMS angler access sites = Better data

### Cons

- Region is limited, expanding geography means expanding timeframe

# Tentative Atlantic HMS Priorities

- Complete LPS re-estimation for Maine through Virginia to identify improvements in estimation methods that will need to be considered in the LPS redesign.
- Conduct a re-design of the LPS that incorporates non-response weights, improves data collection on trips originating from private access sites, and optimizes sample sizes to improve standard errors on rare event species.
- Develop and implement an improved sampling design for the on-site surveys used to estimate catch rates.

# Tentative Atlantic HMS Priorities, cont.

- Expand Atlantic HMS recreational fishery data collections through the rest of the Atlantic HMS region (NC-TX) either through an expanded LPS or addition of an offshore stratum to MRIP.
- Include Atlantic HMS charter/headboats in for-hire electronic logbook data collections.
- Improve data on recreational shark fisheries. LPIS is designed to focus on access points used most heavily by offshore anglers, but many coastal sharks are also caught in inshore waters.

# Tentative Atlantic HMS Priorities, cont.

- Improve Atlantic HMS recreational data collections in the Caribbean region.
- Expand selection of tournaments for landings reporting to include all Atlantic HMS tournaments instead of only billfish tournaments.
- Evaluate expanding catch card data collections to additional states (currently required in Maryland and North Carolina) as an alternative to mandatory call in reporting for bluefin tuna, billfish, and swordfish landings, and a way of improving shark landings data.

# Progress & Next Steps

- What progress has been made so far?
  - Initial list of data priorities
  - Initial analysis of existing data collections
- What is next for this team?
  - Incorporate AP feedback on priorities
  - Finalize data needs and existing collections sections
  - Draft sections on improved data collection methods and statistical methods
  - Draft budgets

# Questions for the Advisory Panel

- Suggestions for additional data collection priorities or feedback on initial list?
- Feedback on expanding LPS vs incorporating offshore strata to existing MRIP surveys in the southeast?
- Comments on electronic logbooks for HMS charter/headboat sector?
- Expanding tournament and catch card reporting?

# Comments or Questions?

Please share them with us!

Randy Blankinship and Clifford Hutt

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division

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