

Science, Service, Stewardship



MRIP Improved Recreational Catch Estimation

Council Coordination Committee

January 25, 2012

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Agenda

- **The Science Side**
 - Re-estimating catch video
 - MRIP response to NRC findings
 - What's driving the changes
- **The Management Side**
 - How changes affect management and stock assessments.
 - What we're doing to transition to the use of MRIP estimates
- **Conclusion**
 - Next steps



The Marine Recreational Information Program

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.

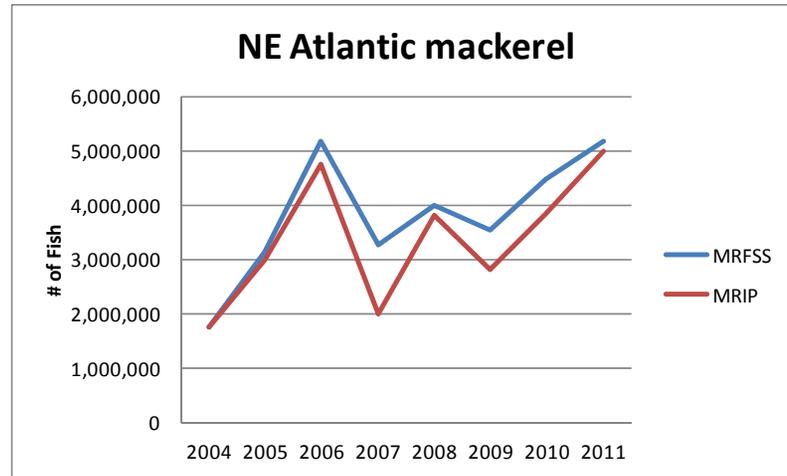
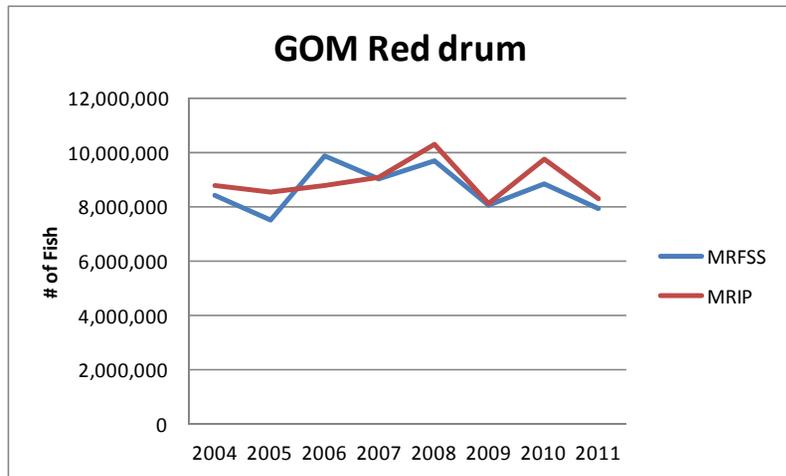
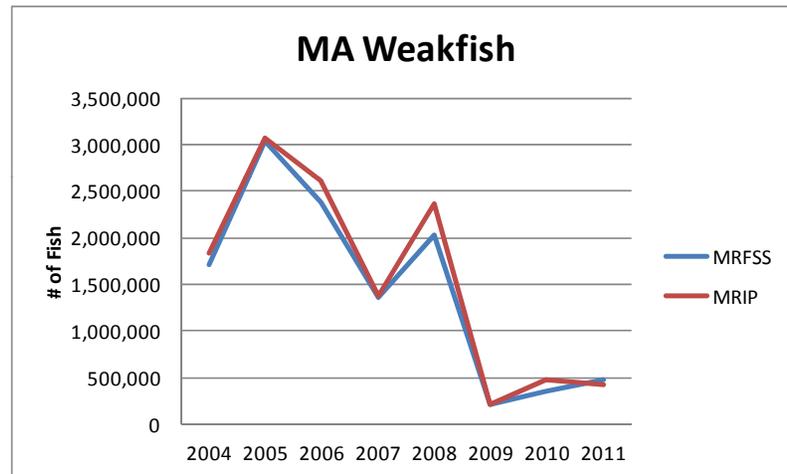
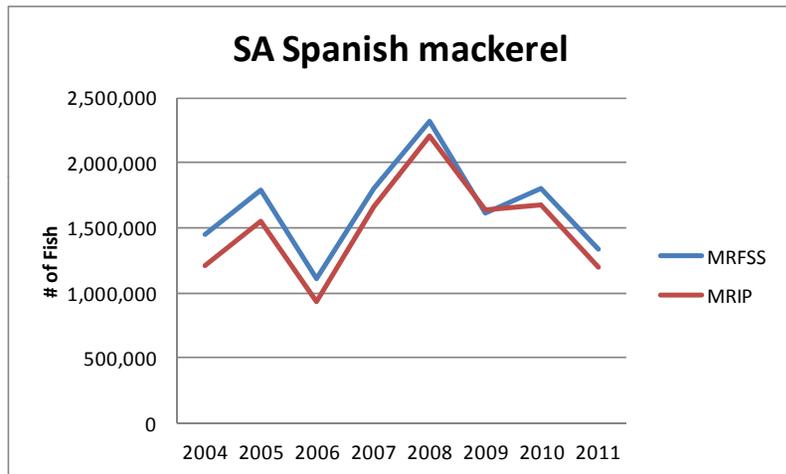


MRIP Response to the NRC Findings

- Addresses a mismatch between how we gather information and how those data are used to generate catch estimates.
- By creating a new peer-reviewed method for estimating catch developed in partnership with leading experts in the field.
- Method corrects these assumptions about how different factors might affect catch rates.
- The result is more accurate estimates of catch.



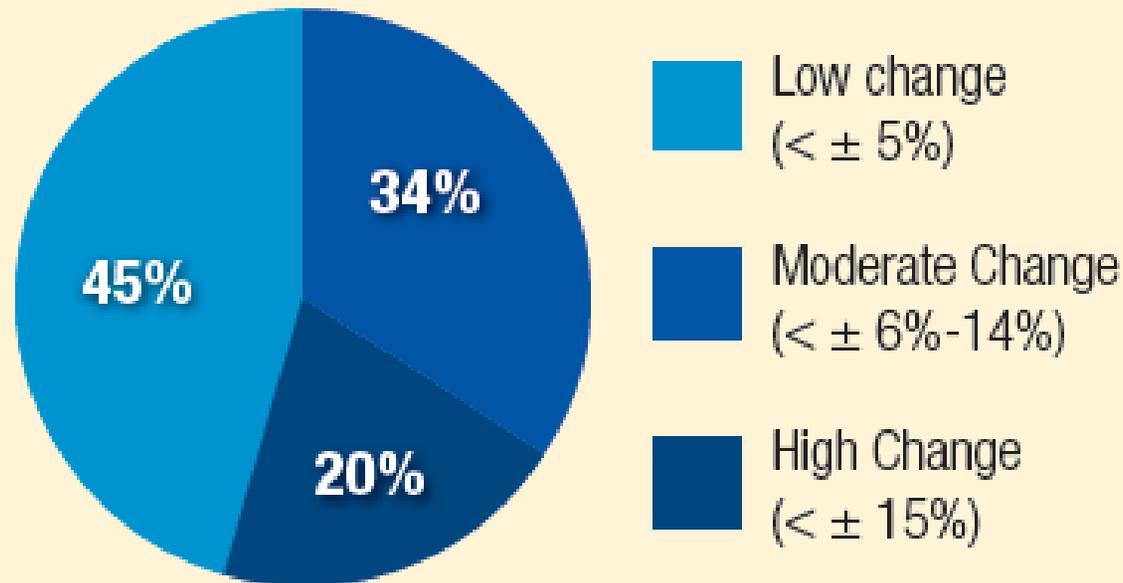
Representative Results





Most Estimates Don't Change Significantly

Coastwide Percent Differences



Note: Differences vary on a species-by-species basis and by state.



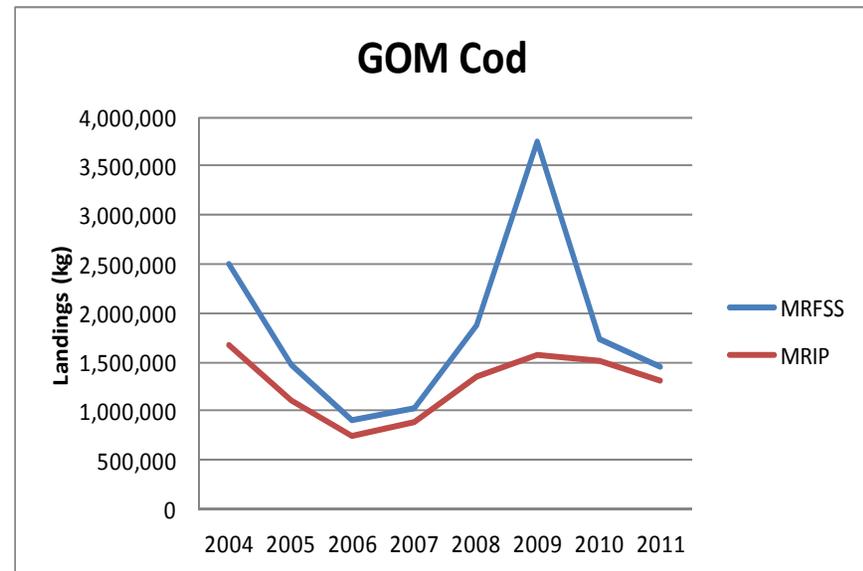
Key Recreational Species

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%



Gulf of Maine Atlantic cod

- Benchmark stock assessment was completed in December 2011.
- Preliminary analyses indicate that a reduction in recreational landings would not result in changing the status determinations.





Key Observations

1. Each estimate is impacted by the removal of multiple potential sources of bias.
2. MRIP estimates are more accurate, even if some are similar to the original MRFSS numbers.
3. The majority of stocks managed using Annual Catch Limits *will not be affected* by the transition to MRIP estimates.



Key Steps in the Transition Strategy

1. Coordinate with the Councils' Scientific and Statistical Committees to review all available information.
2. Begin discussions with Councils and Commissions on reviewing the stock assessment schedule (which is usually set 2 years in advance), to understand if any changes are needed for those stocks most affected by the transition to MRIP.
3. Host a Calibration Workshop to develop a process for incorporating MRIP-based estimates into stock assessments.
4. Based on those findings, Councils and their Scientific and Statistical Committees can begin reviewing their management measures and if necessary making changes through regulatory amendments, which take 6-9 months, or plan amendments, which take 18-24 months.



MRIP Next Steps

In 2012, the MRIP team will be evaluating results from a number of pilot projects including:

- A new electronic logbook reporting system for charter boats and headboats,
- An enhanced angler dockside survey to complement the improved catch estimation methodology,
- An improved survey utilizing the National Saltwater Angler Registry which gathers angler trip data,
- Ways to support more frequent reporting and posting of estimates.

Beginning in 2013, MRIP expects to implement many of these data quality improvements.

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MRIP Questions

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