



# NEWSCAST

The Newsletter of the Marine Recreational Information Program

**NOAA  
FISHERIES**



**February 1, 2012**

## IN THIS ISSUE

[MRIP Team Briefing Partners](#)

[Outreach Resources Available](#)

[Webinar on Volunteer Angler Data Collection](#)

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The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is the way NOAA Fisheries is counting and reporting marine recreational catch and effort. It is a customer-driven initiative that not only produces better estimates, but does so through a process grounded in the principles of transparency, accountability and engagement.

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### For More Information:

**Leah Sharpe**  
(301) 427-8205  
[leah.sharpe@noaa.gov](mailto:leah.sharpe@noaa.gov)

## MRIP team briefing partners on new estimation method

Following up on last weeks' release of recalculated catch estimates for the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, NOAA Fisheries staff has hit the road to brief the Fishery Management Councils and Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions. The week kicked off on Monday with a briefing at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's meeting in Mobile, AL. Today, the New England Council will receive a briefing during its meeting in Portsmouth, NH.

Please check out the complete schedule below for a meeting location near you. All meetings are open to the public.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council  
Mobile, AL  
Monday, Jan 30

New England Fishery Management Council  
Portsmouth, NH  
Wednesday, Feb 1

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Alexandria, VA  
Wednesday, Feb 8

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
Virginia Beach, VA  
Wednesday, Feb 15

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
Savannah, GA  
March 5 - 9 (exact date TBD)

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Spring Meeting  
Gulfport, MS  
Thursday, March 8

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## Resources available to help understand re-estimated catch numbers

Just a reminder that outreach materials are available to help you answer questions and facilitate discussion about the new methodology and its impacts. The materials include:

- A fact sheet that explains the new methodology, analyzes its effects on four species in a series of case studies, and outlines NOAA Fisheries' strategy for transitioning to the improved numbers.
- A video in which NOAA Fisheries representatives, regional partners, stakeholders and outside experts offer a more in-depth look at the process of the re-estimation, what it will mean for the recreational fishing community, and what will come next.
- A presentation to read over and share with others that explains the new estimation work and a schedule for future improvements.
- A data query tool to allow for user-friendly comparisons of the improved MRIP estimates and previously reported MRFSS numbers. Just select "MRFSS/MRIP Comparisons" from the dropdown menu.

This suite of materials is now available on MRIP's website. Please let us know if we can help answer questions or provide additional information.

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## Mid-Atlantic Council and NOAA to host a scientific workshop to engage anglers in hands-on data collection tomorrow

Anglers have told us that one way to increase overall trust in recreational catch numbers is to take advantage of their enthusiasm through hands-on participation in data collection. As a result, several states have implemented volunteer angler data collection programs to collect recreational data. A one-day workshop on **Thursday, February 2** will explore ways that these and future programs can be most effective.

This workshop, co-sponsored by the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries, is bringing together the people who manage these state programs and other volunteer data collection programs in order to examine questions such as: "Which data needs are best filled by volunteer angler data?" and "How can programs establish and sustain angler enthusiasm and support?"

Having such information in hand will help decision-makers avoid common pitfalls, such as lack of angler support or an inability of managers to use volunteered data, which would only further erode stakeholder trust.

This meeting is open to the public and will be webcast. **Webcast registration is available here: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/409337168>.** There will be opportunities for public participation from those attending in person as well as those participating via webinar.

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## Ask MRIP

Do you have questions about MRIP or our surveys? Ask us and we'll answer your question in an upcoming newsletter. If you've got a question about MRIP that you'd like answered, please e-mail Leah Sharpe at [Leah.Sharpe@noaa.gov](mailto:Leah.Sharpe@noaa.gov).

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NOAA's Marine Recreational Information Program | [Leah.Sharpe@noaa.gov](mailto:Leah.Sharpe@noaa.gov)

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