



# NEWSCAST

The Newsletter of the Marine Recreational Information Program

**NOAA  
FISHERIES**



**March 20, 2012**

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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:

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## MRIP Calibration Workshop to be Webcast

Anyone wishing to follow the proceedings of the MRIP Calibration Workshop in North Carolina March 27-29 will be able to do so online. The full workshop will be available via webcast at <http://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/NOAA714581928> during the following times:

- Tuesday, March 27, 1:00-5:30pm
- Wednesday, March 28, 8:30am-5:30pm
- Thursday, March 29, 8:30am-12:00pm

Representatives from the affected Fishery Management Councils, Atlantic and Gulf State Marine Fisheries Commissions, Atlantic and Gulf Coast states, and NOAA Fisheries have been invited to participate at the workshop.

The goal of the meeting is to determine the most effective and appropriate means of matching up data collected under MRFSS with the new MRIP methodology for years prior to 2004. Workshop participants will evaluate what potential effects the new estimates may have on existing stock assessments as well as determine whether correction factors can be developed to properly weight estimates prior to 2004.

This workshop is not being organized to produce new estimates for recreational fishing catch prior to 2004. Rather, along with considering the potential impacts of the 2004-2010 re-estimated numbers on catch estimates and biological reference points, participants will seek to develop a standard methodology (or methodologies) that can be applied to pre-2004 data to produce improved estimates for those years. Any methodology that is proposed by the workshop participants will be subjected to scientific peer review prior to potential use in management decision-making and stock assessments.

NOAA Fisheries is co-hosting the workshop with the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) program. For more information, visit [www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov](http://www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov) or [www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar](http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar).

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### **Development of Comprehensive Coastal Fishing Site Registry Underway**

MRIP is working with the Atlantic and Gulf coast states to create the first comprehensive online catalog of recreational fishing sites. Having a current list of frequented boat ramps, fishing piers, and public marinas is a critical element of our new shore-side intercept survey design, scheduled to replace the current design in early 2013.

The online site registry, developed by MRIP's Information Management Team, was shared with state representatives at the recent March wave meeting in New Orleans and the states have begun adding and updating information about each site in their state. Beginning in 2013, the site registry will be available online so anglers can view and comment on their frequently visited fishing sites, allowing them to help make sure the registry information is accurate and up-to-date. This enables the registry to be dynamically updated as site conditions change and will ensure we are sending our shore-side samplers to the appropriate fishing locations.

Stay tuned for more updates on these, and other MRIP developments, in the April newsletter.

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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).