



NEWSCAST

The Newsletter of the Marine Recreational Information Program

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[New Guidance on Calibrations of Catch Estimates](#)

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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New Guidance on Calibrating MRIP Catch Estimates

Stock assessment scientists looking to incorporate the recently **re-estimated MRIP catch numbers** into their analyses have new guidance from NOAA Fisheries. Final reports from the Calibration Workshop and resulting Ad Hoc Working Group are now available on the **MRIP website**.

As reported in the last issue of Newscast, NOAA Fisheries in cooperation with SEDAR hosted a Calibration Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a method to adjust catch estimates derived from the old MRFSS with the more accurate estimates produced using the improved MRIP methodology. One of the outcomes of the workshop was to create an Ad Hoc Workshop Group, which was charged with:

1. Establishing a priority list in each region for which species assessments should be updated to incorporate the new MRIP-derived catch estimates; and
2. Providing a technical approach (or approaches) to hind-casting and forecasting catch estimates.

The working group ranked the species based on the differences between MRFSS and MRIP catch estimates and the relative importance of the recreational catch time series in the overall assessment model. The report includes the criteria and overall rankings for each species by region.

For their second charge, the working group determined that a "ratio of means," which would look across all of the comparison years, instead of a "mean of ratios" for individual years, would be the most effective basis for a ratio estimator. The report includes more details about their technical approach as well as guidelines for using the ratio estimator.

The ultimate goal of both reports is to help managers and scientists most effectively use the re-estimated recreational catch estimates in stock assessments and fisheries management. For more information, please contact Dave Van Voorhees at dave.van.voorhees@noaa.gov.

MRIP Talks with Anglers and Stakeholders in Florida

In their second stop on the MRIP Road Show, the Communications and Education team conducted a week-long series of meetings in Florida earlier this month to talk with recreational anglers and other stakeholders about the progress MRIP has made and its plans for the future.

The team met with charter boat captains and private recreational anglers on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to talk about ways we can better build trust and angler confidence in our recreational fishing data, and listened to their suggestions for and perceptions about MRIP's progress. The team also talked with anglers about the potential uses and statistical limitations of the data some anglers choose to collect and submit outside of our catch and effort surveys through programs like those offered by many states that encourage anglers to self-report information about their catch.

The goals of the Road Show are to ensure that we're effectively communicating what has been accomplished under MRIP, build a dialogue among partners and stakeholders around the direction the program is headed, and ensure that expectations of all parties are aligned with the on-the-ground realities of resources, needs, and priorities.

MRIP plans to head next to New England. If you'd like to organize or attend a meeting, please contact Forbes Darby at forbes.darby@noaa.gov.

State Partners: Site Register Check-in

As we approach the deadlines for populating the new online Site Register in preparation for the rollout of the revised dockside survey protocols in 2013, we want to hear from you. If you've got questions you need answered, or have ideas to share among your colleagues and peers about effective strategies you've developed for getting the work done, drop us a line at attom.sminkey@noaa.gov.

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.