

MEETING NOTES
NATIONAL SALTWATER ANGLER REGISTRY TEAM MEETING
September 10, 2009

The Registry Team met by conference call on September 10th. Participating in the call were: Gordon Colvin, Eric Schwaab, Ron Regan, Brad Spear, Dick Brame, Kathy Knowlton for Spud Woodward, Corey Niles for Phil Anderson and Scott Sauri. Subsequent to the meeting, Mr. Colvin reviewed the meeting issues and outcomes with Team members George Lapointe, Spud Woodward and Mark Robson in individual telephone calls.

Development of Registry Database and Registration Process - Update/Status Report: Angler Registry Database Work Group (ARDWG) Chair Scott Sauri outlined the status of making the systems for issuance of federal registrations, and for establishing the registry database, operational by the end of the year. The MRIP NSAR Delivery Milestones report presented to the Team is attached to these minutes and is incorporated herein.

State Exemption Proposals – Registry Team Lead Gordon Colvin briefed the Team on the status of the state exemption process. All the states that are believed to be eligible for registry exemptions are in the process of preparing exemption proposals in consultation with NMFS staff, or have submitted them. NMFS staff will provide a status report at the National State Directors meeting in San Antonio on September 30, and will ask the states to have their proposals in by mid-October.

Review/discuss Registration and Outreach Materials and Needs – Communication and Education Team Lead Forbes Darby reported on current registry outreach activities. Drafts of the registry card design, the script for the telephone operators to use to assist callers and FAQ's for the registry website were provided to the Team, and members were asked to comment.

Review Candidate List of Projects to be Eligible for State Assistance Grants – Mr. Colvin briefed the Team on proposed funding for state license/registry programs. The President's FY 2010 budget proposal included \$2.5 million for assistance to states for improvements to their license/registration data bases. This funding is in the House and Senate marks of the Commerce budget, and is likely to be in the final budget when adopted. The Team discussed two issues relative to utilization of the funds, if appropriated:

Administration/distribution of grants to states: Mr. Colvin suggested that the funds could be allocated to the FIN grants to PSMFC and GSMFC, and to ASMFC through a new proposed MOA. The commissions could then pass the funding through to the states for projects approved by NMFS. The Registry Team members generally supported this approach.

Project eligibility: Mr. Colvin distributed a list of proposed eligible project categories (pasted below). The Team members were supportive of the identified categories and did not suggest additional categories during the meeting. The draft list will also be presented at the state directors meeting and at the ARDWG meeting on October 6th. Generally, the Team did not recommend prioritizing the categories, but rather suggested letting each state decide its highest priority, and encourage the states to address the issues identified in their MOA's. The Team also suggested that multi-state proposals could also be entertained.

PURPOSE OF FUNDING: To support the development of state registration and/or licensing programs that will meet the requirements for development and maintenance of a complete and regularly updated National registry of marine recreational fishing participants.

CANDIDATE LIST OF ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES:

- Develop and implement programs that will increase the proportion of records that have correct addresses, telephone numbers and dates of birth (e.g. develop new license regulations, license-issuance interfaces that have DOB and telephone number as a required field for completion of the application; outreach and “training” for license agents to improve quality of the data they collect);
- Develop/upgrade electronic licensing systems and extend coverage to additional agents;
- Implement data cleanup operations such as address validation and reverse directory lookup of missing telephone numbers;
- Develop and implement new registries or lifetime licenses for exempted seniors;
- Develop measures to identify saltwater anglers in combination license data bases;
- Develop and implement systems to update data for lifetime license holders;
- Develop and utilize improved database designs for state license/registration data.