

## MRIP Work Group Chairs Conference Call 10/10/2008

The call convened at 10:00AM. The following work group chairs were present: Kathy Knowlton (DMSWG), Ron Salz (HMSWG), Beverly Sauls (FWWG), and Linda Barker (DAWG). Pres Pate and Rob Andrews were present representing the Operations Team (OT).

### 1. Project Updates:

- HMSWG: Recently had a work group conference call to review project progress. 1) FL Pilots: Data collections are ongoing and will continue through April 2009 (12-month data collection). Hope to have a partial characterization of private boat HMS fishery by mid November. The final project report will be completed by July 2009. 2) Puerto Rico HMS: Project staff are preparing a press release about the project. Have completed pre-testing and finalized the survey questionnaire. The phone survey to characterize the HMS fishery is scheduled to start within the next two weeks. A final report will be submitted to the OT by February 2009. 3) SE HMS Characterization: Telephone survey data collection has been completed. Approximately 5100 interviews conducted with holders of HMS permits. Survey achieved a 75% response rate and a 96% cooperation rate. Data are to be delivered by October 26 and a final report will be delivered to the OT by January 15, 2009. 4) HMS Tournaments: Attempted census of 81 HMS tournaments in the northeast region (ME-VA). Information collected from tournaments will be compared to information collected through LPS. Will have design document completed by the end of October and a final report submitted to OT by February 1, 2009
- DMSWG: 1) Will deliver a report describing content and functionality of MRIP Data Management System (MDMS) to OT by mid October. 2) Will provide an updated milestone schedule for project 2 (requirements document) by mid October. 3) Pacific RecFIN website redesign: Request for quotes has been completed and is currently being reviewed by the working group. The RFQ will be sent out for bid in November.
- FWWG: 1) For-Hire Data Collection in Puerto Rico: Contractor developing electronic reporting tool has met with project staff. Project staff preparing for outreach with captains to introduce the data collection tool. Planned rollout of data collection tool in November. 2) For-Hire Review: Reviewers recently met in DC and are scheduled to submit a preliminary report to the work group in December. Work group hopes to reconvene in December to review and finalize report (R. Andrews has confirmed that funds are available for this meeting). Final report will be submitted to the OT in December.
- DAWG: 1) Sampling and Estimation: Milestones are on track. Project team has conference call on 10/14. 2) License Frames: Project team has been conducting regular conference calls with consultants. Future efforts will be focused on states with the most complete frames. 3) Survey Coverage: A pilot panel study designed to compare catch rates between private access and public

access sites will be implemented in CA within the next month. CA DFG staff are preparing a design document. The project team is planning to conduct sensitivity analysis on selected species to quantify the potential impacts of under-coverage on catch estimates. 4) Discard Project: A new team leader has been assigned. Eric Newburger, who is on temporary loan to ST from Census will be leading the project through the end of the year. Dr. John Hoenig, from VIMS, is being added to the project team.

2. Future MRIP Projects: R. Andrews has developed a list of potential projects for 2009 funding. The list is based upon outstanding NRC recommendations, continuation/expansion of existing projects and implementation of pilot projects, and feedback from regional listening sessions. The list will be submitted to the OT for their comment, and eventual approval and prioritization. WG chairs think that the list looks reasonable.

3. Work Group Roles: Don't want to either overburden or exclude work group members. ST1 will provide support as necessary to ensure that projects are completed. Where necessary, ST1 will assume the lead role on projects.