

Fisheries Information System (FIS)

**Fisheries Information Network (GulfFIN)  
FIS Partner Brief**

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## Organizational Background

- FIN is a state/federal cooperative program
- Planning of program began in late 1980s
- Operational activities began in 1997
  - Funded thru GulfFIN and RecFIN line items
- Established to address various data collection and management deficiencies in Southeast Region

# Organizational Profile

Major regional data collections (and key accomplishments):

- Marine Recreational Catch and Effort Collection (conducted by state personnel)
  - Includes For-Hire Telephone Survey
    - New methodology for estimating effort from for-hire fishery
- Commercial Trip Ticket Programs
  - Fully operational in 4 out of 5 Gulf States
  - Census of all commercial landings
  - Electronic reporting option available
    - Currently have ~550 dealers using system
- Biological Sampling of Commercial and Recreational Catches
  - Targeting 13 species
  - Collection and processing of otoliths/spines

# Organizational Profile

Major regional data collections (and key accomplishments):

- At-sea Sampling of Headboats in Texas, Alabama and Florida
  - Samplers ride vessels to collect discard data as well as catch data
  - Began in Alabama (2004) and expanded to Florida (2005) and Texas (2007/2008)
- FIN Data Management System
  - Access to commercial, recreational, biological data from Gulf of Mexico
  - Standardized format – allows for loading into national system (FIS)

Primary data sources (state, federal):

- Gulf States
- NOAA Fisheries

# Major Challenges

- Limited Funding
  - FIN designed to be \$7 million program
  - Funded at about half that amount
- Legislative Issues
  - State statutes limit ability to collect needed data
    - Trip tickets in Mississippi
    - Phone numbers on fishing licenses
    - Date of birth for dealers and fishermen

# Planned Regional Initiatives

- License Frame Pilot Study
  - Using recreational fishing licenses as sample frame for effort
  - Began in March 2007
  - Issues with phone numbers (missing or incorrect)
- Highly Migratory Species Sampling
  - Proposed for 2008 in for-hire fishery
  - Large data gap in Gulf of Mexico – no dedicated sampling of HMS
- Electronic Trip Ticket Improvements
  - Utilize program for quota monitoring and IFQ reporting
  - Currently working out details
- Detailed Effort from Commercial Fisheries
  - Detailed effort not collected via trip ticket programs
  - Use survey to collect multiply area fished/gear combinations
  - Currently testing methodology in Louisiana blue crab fishery

## Other Comments

- Partners in Southeast Region work well together
  - Identified issues and developed program to address them
- FIN has come long way towards improving data quality and quantity
  - Accomplished much with limited resources
- FIN designed in conjunction with other regional programs (ACCSP, PacFIN, etc.)
  - Allow for compilation of data into national system

Questions?

