

Inventory of NMFS Fishery-Independent Surveys and Observations

Phase 2: Five-year Survey Metadata (FY04-08)

National Data Call User Guide



**National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Science and Technology
July 16, 2009**

Please read this User Guide before responding to the Data Call Template

Purpose of the 2009 NMFS Survey Inventory Data Call:

- Provide NMFS fishery-independent survey information as an integral component to the Fishery-Independent Survey System (FINSS)*;
- Provide online access and GIS visualization to the NMFS fishery-independent survey information for the internal and external users;
- Respond to data calls and planning/budgeting scenarios with trusted fishery-independent data and metadata;
- Develop policies and procedures for fishery-independent data/metadata collecting, reporting, maintaining and updating in a national information repository (FINSS).

* FINSS (Fishery-Independent Survey System) is a centralized Oracle database for fishery-independent survey data. It's sponsored by NMFS Office of Science and Technology (ST), developed by the ST Science Information Division, and supported/contributed by the six NMFS Science Centers. It will incorporate three inter-related databases, Survey Inventory (historical survey data), At-sea Fleet Requirement (planned survey data), and Incidental Protected Species Take. The survey names in the three components will be cross-referenced to ensure the consistent reporting on NMFS fishery-independent survey characteristics and capacities. Potentially, FINSS will be linked to the Species Information System (SIS) to help analyze survey needs for stock assessments.

Scope of the 2009 NMFS Survey Inventory Data Call: This data call will collect certain information on all vessel-based surveys that NMFS Science Centers conducted from FY 2004 through FY 2008. Platform types include the NOAA and UNOLS (University National Oceanographic Laboratory System) fleets, and chartered, small boat program, and state-owned vessels.

Communication: The FY2009 data call spreadsheet and user guide will be sent to the Directors and Deputy Directors of the six NMFS Science Centers, who will then distribute the call to the Survey Inventory Working Group (SIWG) Representative(s) in their centers. The SIWG representatives will coordinate with the Program's Principal Investigators (PIs) in their respective centers to fill out the spreadsheet.

If you have any questions relating to this data call, please contact the following individuals:

Jihong Dai (301) 713-2364 x 144 (ST SIWG Lead)

Guy Fleischer (206) 526-4103 (AFSC Rep.)

Jennifer Ferdinand (206) 526-4076 (AFSC Rep.)

Stewart Toshach (206) 860-3495 (NWFSC Rep.)

Jessica Lipsky (858) 546-7059 (SWFSC Rep.)

Joan Palmer (508) 495-2247 (NEFSC Rep.)

Nori Shoji (808) 944-7133 (PIFSC Rep.)

Lee Weinberger (305) 361-4287 (SEFSC Rep.)

Mark McDuff (228) 762-4591 x 178 (SEFSC Rep.)

Due date: Data call information needs to be returned to the SIWG Lead by September 30th, 2009. Meetings will be held during this period to address questions that the users have while populating the data call spreadsheet.

Data Call Spreadsheet Instructions:

Formatting:

Since the spreadsheet was generated based on the database design, please do not change ANY formats on the spreadsheet. Do not delete, insert or move columns or column headers that are already on the data call spreadsheet (Tab A through Tab D). Do not delete or adjust any items in Tab E through Tab I, because it contains a reference list for a number of drop-down lists in the spreadsheet. However, rows can be added for new surveys in Tab B through Tab D if they are missed in the drop down list.

Multiple-value Entry:

For some columns (e.g. survey purpose, gear, parameter), please press F9 key to select more than one value.

Others:

The users will not be able to add values to the drop down lists, but they can enter a value to the field manually as needed.

Data Call General Information:

The following is a brief description of what information is required under each column header in the 2009 NMFS Survey Inventory Data Call Spreadsheet:

Tab A – Contact

Please verify the contact information that has been pre-populated in this tab.

Tab B – Information at Survey Level

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Survey: | A descriptor of a time series of similar cruises (same region, vessel type, target species, principal gears deployed, etc.). Survey conducted in different season shall be listed as separate survey. |
| Science Center: | Please select the Center's name from the drop down list. Each Center will only need to fill out the information for their own surveys. The Center name has to be entered first in order to pull down the survey list. |
| Lab/Division: | Please enter the laboratory/division or facility name which conducted the survey. If the survey was conducted by the Center itself, enter the center's name in this field. |

- Survey Year:** Please select the **calendar** year when the survey was conducted from the drop down list. If the survey crossed years, enter the year when the survey was started.
- Survey Name:** Please select the survey name from the drop down list. The survey name can be entered manually if it is missed or misspelled in the drop down list.
- Survey Purpose:** Please select survey purposes that best describes what the survey actually did and what it was for (e.g., stock assessment, EFH assessment, develop and test new technology, seafloor mapping). Please classify the purposes by priority (i.e. primary purpose and secondary purpose) and enter in the corresponding column. Multiple values can be entered by pressing F9 key.
- Survey Frequency:** Please select how often the survey was conducted from the drop down list.
- Funding Source:** Please select the source of funding from the drop down list. Multiple values can be entered by pressing F9 key.
- Targeted Species:** Please select the name of the species that were targeted (not actually caught) from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list, Marine Mammal Protected Act (MMPA) list, or Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI) list. If the targeted species are not listed in any of these lists, please enter the species common name and scientific name manually in the column labeled “Others”.
- Expected Species Category:** This is only for survey that did NOT have targeted species/stock, e.g. Ecosystem Monitoring Survey. Please enter the species category that was not targeted but EXPECTED to be observed during the survey

Tab C – Information at Cruise Level

- Cruise:** An actual trip composed of one or more legs on a **Single** vessel. It's an event of a survey. A cruise will have a start and end data, more detail on gears deployed and parameters observed, etc.
- Cruise Number:** Please enter the cruise ID/code conducted to support each particular survey. This is the unique identifying cruise number assigned by the Science Center.
- Cruise Start Date:** Please enter the date the ship left the port for a particular survey. The input will be automatically validated in the format of mm/dd/yyyy.

Cruise End Date: Please enter the date the ship returned to the port after a particular survey. The input will be automatically validated in the format of mm/dd/yyyy.

DAS: Please enter the number of **science days** including **transit days** and **days lost to the weather and mechanical breakdown** after the ship left the home port. Estimate in full days. **Do not include staging and de-staging days** (days when the ship is alongside a pier and a significant portion of the ship’s compliment is needed to load or unload scientific equipment, set up or tear down scientific working stations, calibrate or store scientific equipment or any other activity that involves staging or de-staging for a project.)

Platform Type: Please select the type of the platform from the drop down list.

Platform Name: Please enter the name of the vessel if it’s available.

Regional Ecosystem: Please select the regional ecosystem(s) from the drop down list, in which the cruise conducted observations. Multiple values can be entered by pressing F9 key.

Gear: Please select the sampling method/device used during a cruise from the drop down list. Multiple values can be entered by pressing F9 key.

Parameter: This is the variable observed during a cruise for a particular survey. Please choose main category (i.e. oceanographic, Biological, Habitat, and Protected Species) first and then go to the sub-categories to find the specific parameters. For example, the oceanographic is the main category, which is further divided into physical, biological, and chemical sub-categories. Multiple values can be entered for each sub-category by pressing F9 key.

Tab D – Information at Station Level

Location Type: Please select the type (point station or trackline) that best describes the locations at which observations were made for the given survey and cruise.

Station ID: Please enter the Station ID/code assigned by the Science Center to identify the stations.

Begin Lat/Lon: This is the Lat/Lon where a particular survey sampling activity started. If “Point Station” is selected as the location type, only enter the “Begin Lat/Lon” and leave the “End Lat/Lon” blank. **The input**

should be decimal degree format and will be automatically validated by the system (e.g. -75.32559). Remember that west longitudes (west of Greenwich, England) are negative; east longitudes are positive. North latitudes (north of the equator) are positive. South longitudes are negative.

End Lat/Lon:

This field should only be filled if the “Track-line” has been selected as the location type. The input should be decimal degree format and will be automatically validated by the system.