



NEWSCAST

The Newsletter of the Marine Recreational Information Program

**NOAA
FISHERIES**



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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 Implementation Plan Update includes 2011 highlights, 2012 priorities

Each fall, NOAA Fisheries updates the MRIP Implementation Plan, a document which outlines our progress to date, as well as the blueprint for putting MRIP into action. Highlights from the latest MRIP Implementation Plan update - released today - include the acceptance and implementation of the new catch re-estimation methodology, updates on how we're using the National Saltwater Angler Registry to improve our effort surveys, and projects underway to enhance the timeliness and improve the collection of catch data. The report includes other team-by-team highlights, including priorities for the coming year. At the top of the list is the smooth rollout of the revised catch estimates, and laying the groundwork for the implementation of new angler intercept surveys. Read the full Implementation Plan update in the Latest News section on www.countmyfish.noaa.gov.

Executive Steering Committee discusses upcoming re-estimation, outreach efforts

Two major agenda items for the November meeting of MRIP's Executive Steering Committee included review and approval of the 2011-2012 Implementation Plan Update as well as a discussion of the re-estimation rollout (currently scheduled for a public release in mid-February 2012). The ESC is currently gathering feedback and questions from constituents on the process to date, and sharing that information with the Communications and Education Team to incorporate into rollout outreach activities. Read the meeting notes [here](#).

Operations Team shares project updates, begins 2012 priority-setting

Updates on several high-profile projects topped the discussion at the November Operations Team meeting. The final report for the North Carolina Pilot Project that tested new intercept survey methods is currently under review and will be released in early 2012. Other studies that explore improved effort survey techniques by looking at success rates of different modes and sampling frames are also concluding initial phases and gearing up for new testing. In addition, the Gulf of Mexico for-hire logbook reporting project will be releasing its recommendations and lessons learned in the near future. Major developments and final reports will be shared via Newscast and on our website as they are available. Read the meeting notes [here](#).

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.