



# NEWSCAST

The Newsletter of the Marine Recreational Information Program

NOAA  
FISHERIES



June 25, 2013

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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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### For More Information:

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## 2013 Approved MRIP Projects Announced

The Operations Team and Information Management Team have announced their approved projects for the 2013 proposal cycle. Below the 11 Operations Team and three Information Management Team projects that were funded along with brief descriptions of each project.

### Operations Team Projects:

- **Design effort surveys for shoreline fishing in the Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey (HMRFS)** focuses on developing a new data collection design for shore-based recreational fishing in Hawaii. The objectives of the project are to: 1) design an appropriate onsite effort survey for shore fishing; and 2) investigate a hybrid methodology that combines on-site and off-site data collection methods.
- **Discarded fish identification in the private boat mode** proposes to use disposable cameras handed out at launch ramps in California, Oregon and Washington to improve the accuracy of recreational fishing discard data.
- **Internet-based angler logs as a source of fishery dependent data** will identify appropriate uses of volunteer angler data and provide guidelines for the establishment and upkeep of panel-based electronic logbooks that are consistent with MRIP goals and augment MRIP data and estimates. The evaluation will focus on the iAngler smartphone application and web-based Angler Action program.
- **Oregon Recreational Boat Survey port of Nehalem sampling project** establishes a video boat count system at the port of Nehalem, a historically unsampled port, in order to assess fishing activity at the port and determine if a combination of video monitoring of fishing activity and shoreside interviews can be used to estimate catch and effort.
- **Oregon Recreational Boat Survey significant port additional sampling project** is an extension of a 2012 project and expands the sampling season in a number of Oregon ports to more accurately estimate catch and effort in these areas. The primary goal of the study is to increase the accuracy of Oregon ocean boat fishing catch and effort estimates.
- **Assessment of external data indicators as predictors of fishing effort** will evaluate a number of external factors, to be identified in cooperation with stakeholders, in order to determine if they can be used in an estimation model to predict daily fishing effort

in Washington, Oregon, and California.

- The **Pilot study of the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) and spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) recreational fishery in Puerto Rico** will work to answer several questions about the queen conch and spiny lobster fisheries in Puerto Rico including questions about how, when, and where recreational anglers are harvesting them. The study will also estimate total catch and effort for these fisheries.
- **Proportional Standard Error (PSE) and Management Uncertainty in Recreational Data Collection on the Atlantic Coast - Year 2** bring together science and management experts in a series of meetings to develop recommendations for PSE standards. The goal of this project, led by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, is to evaluate the effects of uncertainty in recreational harvest efforts on the assessment process and establish PSE standards that reflect the management needs of state and federal stakeholders.
- **Pilot surveys at unsampled ports and shoreline to calibrate adjustment factors in the expansion of catch, effort and catch per unit effort (CPUE) from the existing creel survey in Guam** are being undertaken to improve the estimation of total catch and effort from the existing creel survey by attempting to quantify catch and effort at areas and times not currently being surveyed. This will help produce more accurate estimates of total catch, effort, and CPUE.
- **Washington MRIP Consultant's Review Sampling Ocean Fisheries in "Shoulder" Months** expands the sampling of all major Washington State coastal access sites to cover the October through April time period, which is not currently being sampled. The project responds to recommendations from an MRIP review of Washington State's Ocean Sampling Program to assess and address under-coverage
- **Electronic Data Accessibility: Phase Two of Electronic Data Project** is designed to process and summarize fishing data to produce preliminary, daily reports that can be used by fishery managers to improve the sampling in fishing surveys. This project will also produce daily estimates of fishing effort and catch rate. The lead partner on this project is the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

For more information on all the Operations Team projects and to monitor their progress, please visit <https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/mdms/public/public.jsp>.

Information Management Team Projects:

- The **MDMS Upgrade** will expand the existing MDMS system to focus on three specific areas: 1) collecting additional information management details and integration with the NMFS Information Portal (InPort) metadata repository to fulfill increasing information management requirements, 2) enhancing project workflow and reporting functionality, and 3) building a scalable framework to allow for broader use of MDMS for project and metadata management by other MRIP teams.

- **Development of a comprehensive for-hire vessel directory** will combine the independent directories of for-hire vessels and vessel operators maintained by contractors, state partners, and the National Saltwater Angler Registry in order to have a single, easy-to-use directory and improve the ability to track changes to vessel information over time.
- **Updates to the Ocean Recreational Boat Survey database** are being undertaken to allow the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to increase the data being collected, stored, and reported as well as their ability to share their database with other data systems.

For more information on all the Information Management Team projects, please visit <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/recreational-fisheries/in-depth/making-improvements-mrip-initiative/organization/information-management-team-documents>.

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### In the Next Newscast:

Q&A: What role will emerging technologies, like smartphones and tablets, play in fisheries data collection?

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### 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](mailto:Leah.Sharpe@noaa.gov).

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