



# NEWSCAST

The Newsletter of the Marine Recreational Information Program

**NOAA  
FISHERIES**



## December 14, 2016 IN THIS ISSUE

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The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is the state-regional-federal partnership responsible for developing, improving, and implementing surveys that measure how many trips saltwater anglers take, and how many fish they catch. This vital information - combined with other data, such as commercial catch and biological research - enables scientists and managers to assess and maintain sustainable U.S. fish stocks.

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#### For More Information:

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## Electronic Reporting, For Hire Road Map, Implementation Plan Update

Today, MRIP is releasing three important documents that outline key program commitments, priorities, and activation timelines.

### Electronic Reporting Procedural Directive

A new [Electronic Reporting \(ER\) Procedural Directive](#) affirms NOAA Fisheries' commitment to work in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders to support the integration of scientifically sound electronic reporting tools into recreational fisheries. The directive also details the strategic focus areas for MRIP ER projects. In priority order, MRIP will:

- Support the work needed to develop appropriate applications of ER technologies for logbook reporting in the for-hire industry (or other census-based approaches), including the development of new reporting technologies and methods to validate reported information;
- Explore applications of electronic technologies that can be used by fisheries samplers to record and transmit data from the field; and
- Collaborate with partners to examine the utility of supplemental angler reporting applications. This includes working with partners to develop and set standards for third parties to use in development of their own applications.

With proper design and validation that addresses potential bias, data entry, and other related issues, electronic technologies have the promise to enhance the efficiency, timeliness, and quality of our recreational fishing data collection efforts.

### For-Hire Electronic Reporting Road Map

For the past several years, MRIP has been collaborating with for-hire operators, state partners, fisheries managers, independent statisticians, and others to evaluate potential advantages of implementing a census-based survey approach that is coupled with a dockside sampling survey for validation purposes. Creating effective ER systems that replace paper logbooks is a key element of this transition. Today, MRIP is publishing a detailed [Road Map](#)

for completing development of certified designs for census-based electronic reporting in the for-hire fleet. The Road Map details the requirements,

processes, and timeline for designing and certifying census-based electronic reporting systems that could be selected by regional partners for regional implementation. The Road Map summarizes key elements that must be incorporated into any successful census-based electronic logbook program. These include, but are not limited to:

- Maintaining a complete registry of all for-hire vessels and operators;
- Requiring mandatory trip-level electronic reporting;
- Building in flexibility to require more frequent reporting when necessary and for operators to declare periods of inactivity in advance;
- Allowing the use of multiple authorized applications or devices for reporting, as long as they meet data quality standards;
- Implementing accountability measures to ensure compliance, and developing compliance tracking procedures that balance timeliness with available staff and funding resources; and
- Closely coordinating design and implementation with states, Regional Offices, Science Centers, and Fisheries Information Networks.

The Road Map also includes a list of ongoing studies and timelines for completion.

### **2016-17 Implementation Plan Update**

Since MRIP's inception, the annual Implementation Plan Update has provided information about the overall MRIP strategic approach, milestones from the previous year, and short- and long-term priorities. The [2016-17 Plan](#)

focuses on the evolving MRIP strategy for improved data collection, the important role of our regional partners in conducting that work, and strategic priorities.

Highlights of the 2016-17 Implementation Plan include:

- Development of an MRIP Strategic Plan
- Receipt of the review of MRIP by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, and NOAA Fisheries' response to the review recommendations;
- Completion of Regional Implementation Plans by MRIP's regional partners that identify data collection needs, preferred survey methods, and priorities for improvement for each region; and
- Continuation of the transition to use of the Fishing Effort Survey to estimate fishing effort in the shore and private boat modes for the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

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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 Dave Bard at [david.bard@noaa.gov](mailto:david.bard@noaa.gov).

To learn more about improvements MRIP is making, visit our website at [countryfish.noaa.gov](http://countryfish.noaa.gov).

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