

Science, Service, Stewardship



MRIP: STATUS REVIEW

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Model Needs Workshop
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The Marine Recreational Information Program

Created in 2007 to address:

- Recommendations of National Research Council's 2006 *Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods*
- New requirements of the 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Act.



Meeting Two Critical Needs

1. Provide the detailed, timely, scientifically sound estimates that fisheries managers, stock assessors and marine scientists need to ensure the sustainability of ocean resources.
2. Address head-on stakeholder concerns about the reliability and credibility of recreational fishing catch and effort estimates.



Strategic Approach

MRIP PRIORITY	PHASE
<p>Evaluate possible biases in current survey methods and assess design changes that could eliminate those biases.</p>	<p>EVALUATION</p>
<p>Conduct pilot studies to test new sampling and estimation methods and confirm their effectiveness.</p>	<p>INNOVATION</p>
<p>Implement new methods as they are validated by pilot study and external peer review.</p>	<p>ACTIVATION</p>



Strategic Approach

Looking Ahead

- As funding allows:
 - **expand coverage** and **increase sampling** levels to improve spatial resolution of catch statistics, and
 - **increase frequency** of periodic surveys and **speed delivery** of in-season catch statistics.
- Build funding over time to meet further requirements for successful management with ACLs and AMs.



Addressing NRC Recommendations

- Develop comprehensive, universal sampling frame with national coverage;
- Dual-frame procedures should be used whenever possible to reduce sample bias;
- The estimation procedure for information gathered onsite does not use nominal or actual selection probabilities of the sampling design, and therefore, has the potential to produce biased estimates;
- Onsite methods fail to intercept anglers who have private access to fishing waters;



Addressing NRC Recommendations

- Charter, party and other for-hire recreational fishing operations should be required to maintain logbooks of fish landed and kept as well as fish caught and released;
- The survey fails to provide a valid and reliable method of accounting adequately for fish caught and not brought back to the dock;
- Panel surveys, which contact anglers repeatedly through time, should be considered;
- Development and maintenance of a central data warehouse for recreational fisheries and development of appropriate dissemination tools (Role of Federal Agency).



Recent/Upcoming Highlights

- Certification and implementation of new estimation method
- Assessing tradeoffs among cost, timeliness and resolution
- Peer review of new intercept survey design
- Completing pilot test of electronic logbooks for for-hire sector
- Expanding utility of MDMS
- Reviewing Pacific RecFIN survey methods
- Expanding tests of registry-based survey methods
- Implementation of 2011 projects



A little more about the Registry...

National Saltwater Angler Registry

- Federal registration started January 1, 2010
- All states except HI, PR, USVI now exempt
- Exempted states now providing license or registry data

Use of Registry Database for Surveys



Moving Beyond Random Digit Dialing

Account for possible under-estimates of effort by testing:

- Phone surveys *(angler license directory only)*
- Phone surveys *(random digit dialing + license directory)*
- Mail surveys *(postal service addresses + license directory)*

Tradeoffs include coverage, efficiency, timeliness, cost



Sequentially Testing Alternatives

Proposed feasibility test in 2011/2012 looking at:

- Total response rates
- Mode effects (phone vs. mail)
- Cost
- Will measure coverage of license frames



For Hire Survey Changes

MRIP Reviews:

- Documentation of For-hire Methods
- Consultant Review and Recommended Best Practices and Specific Survey Improvements

Regional Survey Partners to determine:

- Census (trip report), or
- Sample



For Hire Survey Changes

For Sample-based Surveys, the new MRIP estimation and intercept survey methods and practices will apply

For Census-based Surveys, Best Practices would call for:

- Mandatory electronic trip reports
- Validation

Key project: Gulf of Mexico Pilot Study to be completed in August, 2011



Implementation Timing

Revised estimates for 2003 to 2010 and preliminary 2011 Waves 1 and 2:

- Observer Team in early July
- Public Rollout in first week of August

First Phase of implementation of new shoreside intercept design for Atlantic coast beginning Wave 2, 2010

Expanded pilot of “mixed mode” dual frame effort survey in South Atlantic region beginning Wave 6, 2011