

Meeting Summary
MRIP Executive Steering Committee Conference Call
February 1, 2013; 3:00 pm EST

In attendance: (ESC Members and Participants) John Boreman, Gordon Colvin, Ned Cyr, Doug Mecum, Bonnie Ponwith, Randy Fisher, Bob Beal, Miguel Rolon, Dave Donaldson for Larry Simpson, Paul Dalzell and Josh DeMello for Kitty Simonds; (Others) Pres Pate, Lauren Dolinger Few, Dave Van Voorhees, Rob Andrews.

The agenda for the meeting consisted entirely of reviewing the draft Prospectus for an ESC workshop on Regional Implementation Decision-Making to be held in mid-2013, and to address workshop assignments and scheduling.

ESC Chair John Boreman reviewed the draft Prospectus that he had distributed to the ESC prior to the meeting. He reviewed the purpose of the workshop as discussed at the ESC's previous meeting, and indicated that the challenge will be to set the focus at the correct level of resolution. The workshop needs to produce useful guidance to the agency and regional partners for implementing survey improvements, while avoiding getting too far into details.

Following discussion and responses to question posed by ESC members, the ESC arrived at a consensus to adopt the Prospectus document essentially as drafted. Specifically:

- The Workshop Topics were accepted as presented in the draft;
- The Timeline was modified to add a March 15 due-date for outlines of the Working Papers (followed by consultation between the ESC and Lead Authors approximately two months prior to the Workshop), and to set the Workshop date for July.
- The four proposed Working Papers were accepted as drafted, noting that the scope of the papers will be important. The structure for Papers 3 & 4 will need to include identification of options and an analysis of pros and cons of the options.

It was agreed that the workshop will be held in the period between July 15 and 31. The group felt that two full days of work would be required to complete a successful agenda. Given travel budget limitations, it is likely that the Workshop will be held in the DC area. However, Gordon Colvin will research an out-of-town option, possibly Denver or Boulder, CO.

Working Paper Assignments: John Boreman asked for suggestions/volunteers to lead writing teams. Preliminary assignments were agreed to as:

- Dave Van Voorhees stated that F/ST 1 will provide support for each Working Paper. He will advise John Boreman of specific staff assignments by the end of next week.
- ST 1 will take the lead on Papers 1 & 2. Lead authors and writing teams will be identified as noted above.
- John Boreman will convene a team to prepare Paper # 3. He will seek support from each of the three Commissions, Kitty Simonds, and Miguel Rolon.
- Pres Pate will convene a team for Paper # 4. Rob Andrews, Gordon Colvin, Forbes Darby, and others to be identified will contribute to this Paper.

The revised Prospectus, reflecting the results of the meeting, is pasted below.

MRIP Implementation Workshop Prospectus

The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is now transitioning from research and development to implementation. Guidance offered by the MRIP Executive Steering Committee (ESC) during this phase will support key agency decisions affecting the transition, particularly those related to oversight (governance), partnerships, and funding sources. To this end, the ESC will sponsor a two-day workshop in mid-2013 to determine how MRIP should be implemented nationwide. The ESC will review the pros and cons of alternatives and develop a set of recommendations for the director of NOAA Fisheries. The workshop will also lay the groundwork for future workshops that will address gaps in survey coverage and how best to fill them, and priorities for implementation by region, species, fishing mode (shore, boat, pier, etc.), and fishing location (rivers, bays, coast, and offshore).

Background Information for the Workshop

In order for the workshop to run as efficiently as possible, background information for the workshop participants will be prepared and disseminated prior to the date of the workshop. This information will include: (1) the current status of recreational fishing surveys in the US, including coverage and funding support; and (2) the current roles of federal and state agencies, fishery management councils, states/territories, and interstate fisheries commissions in the conduct and support of surveys.

Workshop Topics

1. Implementation Oversight

- Governance: national implementation team; regional implementation teams; use of existing regional governance structures (FINs, ACCSP, Councils, NRCC, etc.).
- Protocols:
 - Meeting operational requirements (enforcement, permit requirements and administration, validation, data management, outreach) for implementation of methods that go beyond sample surveys (e.g., for-hire logbooks, catch cards, or other mandatory angler reporting).
 - Choosing among alternative accepted (“certified”) methods.
 - Choosing among options for investing in improved survey coverage, precision of estimates and timelines of availability of catch estimates.

2. Partnerships

Questions to be addressed: Who should be responsible for what? What is the relationship of non-MRIP surveys in relation to MRIP? How can MRIP be fully integrated with other surveys (including the FWS's National Fishing and Hunting Survey and the surveys conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife and Alaska Fish and Game) into a seamless system of data collection and processing, archiving, and accessing?

3. Funding Streams

Questions to be addressed: At what level of resolution does MRIP stop supporting implementation programs, then how to prioritize if MRIP cannot get it all covered at that level? Who supports what?

White Paper Topics

1. Current status of recreational fishing surveys in the US, including coverage and funding support. Include documentation of goals/standards, and current status, for coverage, precision, timeliness (ST1 lead author)
2. Current roles of federal and state/territorial agencies, fishery management councils, and interstate fisheries commissions in the conduct and support of surveys, and in establishing standards and best practices for survey and estimation methods and coverage requirements (ST1 lead author).
3. Implementation governance structure: the pros and cons of a national implementation team, regional implementation teams, or use of existing regional governance structures (FINs, ACCSP, Councils, Commissions, NRCC, etc.) (John Boreman lead author).
4. Suggested protocol(s) for meeting operational requirements of MRIP, including standards for: data collection and processing, archiving, and retrieval; compliance/enforcement; and outreach and education (Pres Pate lead author).

Timeline

Approx. Date	Milestone
02/15/13	ESC approves workshop prospectus and white paper topics and writing assignments
03/15/13	White paper outlines due to the ESC for review and approval
05/15/13	ESC conference call with lead authors of white papers
06/15/13	White papers due to ESC
07/15/13	Implementation Workshop held
09/15/13	Report from Workshop, including recommendations, delivered to NMFS

