

## Northeast Regional Office MRIP Fact Sheet



### NOAA FISHERIES

**NOAA Fisheries** is an agency within the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social and environmental needs. The NOAA Fisheries Service provides world class science and stewardship.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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[www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov](http://www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov)

### Marine Recreational Information Program

The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is the new way NOAA Fisheries is collecting, analyzing and reporting recreational fishing data. The program brings scientists, managers, fishermen, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders together to evaluate the way we've done things in the past and constantly work toward more reliable and trusted data.

A 2006 independent review of NOAA Fisheries data collection methods serves as the blueprint for improvements under MRIP and priorities for moving forward. These are evaluated on an ongoing basis and presented annually in MRIP Implementation Plan updates. Plan updates are available at [www.countmyfish.noaa.gov](http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov). Milestones to date have included:

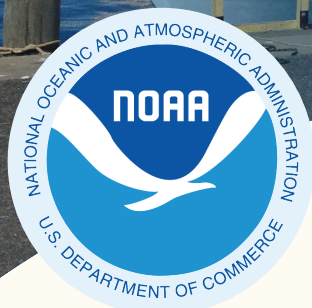
- Creation of the National Saltwater Angler Registry, currently being tested for use as a component in replacing the Coastal Household Telephone Survey.
- The re-estimation of catch estimates to correct for potential sources of bias in the way we have historically collected data from anglers.
- Completion of a comprehensive, online, interactive register of all recreational fishing sites from Maine to Louisiana. This is the first implementation step in our complete overhaul of angler catch surveys.
- An improved angler catch survey that removes potential sources of bias from our survey design by sampling during all parts of the day and reducing sampler latitude regarding which sites to sample and in what order.

### Implementation in the Northeast Region

MRIP is a series of regionally-based data collection programs, all adhering to a set of rigorous national standards. We are working alongside the Northeast Regional Office to implement improvements to the way data is collected and reported. Key MRIP projects and activities in the Northeast include:

- New weighted estimation methods have been completed and adopted for estimation of catch rates from intercept data.
- Key decisions for shore and private boat mode intercept survey design have been made and are reflected in recently updated ACCSP targets (see page 2).
- In the for-hire mode, studies are underway to determine the merits of making improvements to current sampling and estimation methods, or switching to a census-based design.
- ACCSP targets have been updated to set goals for coverage and timeliness. MRIP is supporting a workshop in 2013 to develop goals for precision of catch estimates.
- MRIP is developing modeling tools to evaluate tradeoffs among cost, precision, and timeliness in the delivery of preliminary estimates.
- Decisions on improvements to effort survey methodology – including how best to incorporate Registry data into sample frames – for shore and boat modes are expected in 2013.
- Once the effort survey design is selected, modeling is complete, and precision targets have been adopted, workshops will be held to evaluate results, make choices and secure partner resource commitments.

## Updated ACCSP Targets



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The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program is a partnership between 23 coastal resource agencies along the Atlantic coast, including NOAA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, three fisheries management councils and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. ACCSP designs, implements and conducts marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and integrates data into a single management system to meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists and fishermen.

To ensure that the data we collect meets the optimal needs of managers, scientists and stock assessors, ACCSP is in the process of an exhaustive review of its data collection and reporting targets with respect to issues such as precision, coverage and timeliness. As part of this process, ACCSP has adopted the following targets, which MRIP is working to implement. These targets will be revisited and redefined throughout implementation as ACCSP evaluates tradeoffs in resource allocation.

Subject	Old Target	New Target	Comments & MRIP Coordination
Identification of "MRFSS," "FHS," "LPS" and other specific surveys as part of targets	Included	Methods are specified, not names of current surveys.	New standard is more appropriate.
Coverage: seasonality	6 waves, FL only; 5 waves GA-MA; 4 waves NH-ME	6 waves FL-MD; 5 waves DE-ME; evaluate need for add'l wave 1 DE-MA every 5th year.	Cost implications and tradeoff evaluation needed.
Coverage: geographic	Tidal waters covering major coastal bays, but not tidal rivers	Upstream to state freshwater/saltwater boundary.	May need to expand site registries to cover. Cost implications and tradeoff evaluation needed.
Sampling frequency; data availability	2 month waves; preliminary estimates 45 days following end of wave	1 month waves; preliminary estimates 30-38 days following end of wave.	Cost implications and tradeoff evaluation needed. MRIP is developing a simulation model via an FY 12 funded project to enable quantitative evaluation of tradeoffs among timeliness, precision and cost.
Geographic stratification & domain estimation	Surveys stratified by state	Retain state strata. Add pre-stratification for states which contain major natural boundaries (MA; MD; VA; NC; FL).	MRIP has funded pilot projects to design pre-stratification for FL and MD. In addition, the new MRIP estimation methodology enables sub-state domain estimation at the partner level.
Precision of estimates	High-priority: PSE of 10% by species/state/year for catch; PSE of 15% for harvest.  For shorter harvest periods, PSE of 20%.  Catch or total harvest estimates should be used for management only when PSE is 20% or less.	Deferred pending MRIP-supported workshop in 2012/13.	MRIP's new intercept survey design and estimation methods have corrected significant historic over-estimation of precision. Expanding sample sizes will improve precision using the new methods. Cost implications and tradeoff evaluation needed. MRIP is developing a simulation model via an FY 12 funded project to enable quantitative evaluation of tradeoffs among timeliness, precision and cost. It is appropriate to defer adoption of a target and consideration of funding significant sample size increases until the workshop results are available.
Effort data collection	Target is MRFSS CHTS	Provides for use of registries in single or multi-frame telephone or mail mode survey approach.	Target is compatible with designs MRIP is piloting in 2012 and 2013.
For-hire survey design	Target is MRFSS' Intercept Survey and FHS	Provides flexibility for use of census approaches when specified conditions have been met.	Should be revisited when MRIP pilot projects (for the Gulf Charter and SEHBS) have been completed and disseminated next year.