

MRIP Work Group Chairs Conference Call
3/24/2009

The call convened at 10:00AM. The following work group chairs were present: Kathy Knowlton (DMSWG), Ron Salz (HMSWG), and Beverly Sauls (FHWG). Linda Barker called in, but had to excuse herself due to a fire drill. Pres Pate and Rob Andrews were present representing the Operations Team (OT).

P. Pate provided a brief overview of OT activities. Project plans for 2009 have been submitted to OT members. The team will meet the first week of April to select projects for funding. P. Pate, R. Andrews and B. Sauls participated in for-hire data collection methods workshop that was held in conjunction with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's (GSMFC) spring meeting. Meeting participants included representatives from NMFS, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, state natural resource agencies, GSMFC, and the for-hire fishing industry. The workshop provided a forum for participants to discuss different options for collecting fishing catch and effort data from the for-hire sector in the Gulf of Mexico.

1. Project Updates:

- HMSWG: 1) Florida For-Hire Pilot Survey: Project is ongoing through wave 2, 2009. The team has asked for a 1-wave extension (through wave 3, 2009) to collect data through one complete tourist season. Provided the extension is granted, a final report will be prepared and submitted to the OT in September, 2009. 2) Florida Private Angler Survey: Targeting a July 9 completion date. 3) HMS Tournaments: Project team is extending consultant support through the end of May, at which time a final report describing data collection efforts and results will be submitted to the OT. 4) Southeast Characterization: Data collection has been completed, and the project team has started writing the final report – targeting mid-May completion and submission to OT. 4) Puerto Rico Pilot: Management actions and recent regulations have limited the cooperation of HMS captains. Targeting May completion of project.
- FHWG: 1) Independent Review: Document, including best practices for for-hire data collection and specific recommendations for enhancing current data collection programs, has been submitted to OT for review. 2) Puerto Rico Pilot: B. Sauls is having difficulty getting updates about project status. Data collection was implemented in February, but charter operators are apparently evading data collection; out of 10 cooperating vessels, only a single report has been submitted.
- DMSWG: 1) Inventory: Complete as of November, 2008 (DMSWG submitted a report to OT describing content and functionality of MDMS). 2) Requirements Document (AKA Data Elements and Standards): Has become a proposed project for 2009. Project will involve the development of the data management system for MRIP. The project team conducted a planning workshop in Silver Spring, MD. 3) Pacific RecFIN Website Redesign: Pacific RecFIN staff found no

suitable vendors to redesign the website. The project has been divided into two pieces: 1) Content management, for which a new RFP will be issued, and 2) Development of new query tools, which will be completed by RecFIN staff in consultation with NMFS HQ staff and DMSWG members.

- DAWG (provided by R. Andrews): 1) License Survey Project: Efforts to date have focused on developing a dual-frame methodology that utilizes angler license databases and randomly generated numbers (RDD) as sample frames. R. Andrews is preparing a report describing these efforts and is targeting a May-June completion and submission to OT. 2) Survey Coverage: The project team has developed a rough sample design to compare catch characteristics between accessible and non-accessible angler trips. Soliciting consultant support to develop survey instrument and finalize design. Targeting implementation of pilot study in late 2009. 3) Sampling and Estimation: The team has developed a draft technical report. R. Andrews is encouraging project team to draft a non-technical executive summary that can be submitted to the OT. 4) Discards: Eric Newburger, who was on loan to NMFS from the Census Bureau and was leading the project, has returned to his day job. Dave Van Voorhees is working on finding a new project lead.