

MRIP Work Group Chairs Conference Call
9/11/2007

The call convened at 2:00 PM. The following work group chairs were present: Kathy Knowlton, Linda Barker, Ron Salz, Beverly Sauls. Pres Pate and Rob Andrews were present representing the Operations Team (OT) and Forbes Darby was present representing the Communications and Education Team (CET).

P. Pate provided an update of MRIP activities. The OT is meeting in late November to review final project plans. The Registry Team (RT) is drafting rules that will guide the registration process, including rules for exempting states from the Federal Registry. The CET is working on its development plan and hopes to have a draft submitted to the Executive Steering Committee during the week of 9/17.

Each of the work group chairs provided a brief summary of work group activities and progress.

For-Hire Work Group: Work group members are concerned about outreach. Outreach is needed early and often as constituents are losing faith in the process. F. Darby has talked with concerned members of the FHWG and has offered to give presentations to constituents. Sample frame issues will provide an opportunity for collaboration between the FHWG and the RT. B. Sauls will contact G. Colvin (RT) to discuss collaboration.

HMS Work Group: Dropping complete LPS implementation in the Gulf of Mexico. May conduct an add-on to the Gulf For-Hire Survey to characterize HMS fishing. Will work with the FHWG on this project.

Analysis Work Group: Assigned 3-4 group members to each project team. L. Barker questioned role of consultants; should they be utilized to review work or hired to do the work. R. Andrews suggested that consultants could be added to project teams to work along side work group members.

Data Management and Standards Work Group: Planning is proceeding fine. The work group had several questions:

1. Can funds for contractor services be released prior to November OT meeting? FIS contractor has made progress documenting commercial data collection programs and could move to recreational programs with funding (import??). R. Andrews will follow-up.
2. What is the status of ST database manager hire? R. Andrews will follow-up.
3. What role can industry representatives play in conducting work group tasks? R. Andrews checked with T. Gleason, and he didn't think it would be a problem for industry reps to play an active role.

Design Work Group: Has not met yet.

