MRIP Work Group Chairs Conference Call
8/27/2008

The call convened at 10:00AM. The following work group chairs were present: Kathy Knowlton (DMSWG), Ron Salz (HMSWG), Beverly Sauls (FHWG), and Linda Barker (DAWG). Pres Pate and Rob Andrews were present representing the Operations Team (OT).

1. Project Updates:

-   DMSWG: 1) Pacific RecFIN Web Upgrade: Wade Van Buskirk (PSMFC) is assuming the role of project lead and is updating the project plan. The project will be applicable to MRIP as a whole and will focus on making data more accessible. The project will be starting soon. 2) Project 1 (documentation): Still moving forward. Still not getting information about some programs. The project team will be looking for gaps in MDMS, and they are looking to generate standard reports. 3) Project 2 (requirements document): Development of MDMS has delayed project (4-6 months). Day-to-day tasks will likely require contractor support.
-   HMSWG: 1) FL Pilots: Data collections are ongoing. Getting HMS interviews and also collecting information about non-HMS trips. Will allow for comparison between angler-reported (MRFSS) and captain-reported data (Pilot survey). 2) Puerto Rico HMS: Experienced funding delays. Still unclear as to whether total funding has been made available. Hoping to implement telephone survey in October. 3) SE HMS Characterization: Pre-testing has been completed and a survey instrument has been developed. Telephone survey to begin September 2. 4) HMS Tournaments: Attempting to census HMS tournaments in LPS area (ME-VA). A graduate student from UMass-Amherst has started calling tournament organizers and visiting tournaments. Census information will be compared to information collected through LPS. Data analysis will begin in fall.
-   DAWG: 1) Sampling and Estimation: Have received a report from the consultants. Reassessing the definition of the sampling unit. Assessing the impacts of interviewing at alternate sites and modes. Examining alternate variance estimators. Exploring ways to weight intercept data based upon temporal distribution of fishing trips reported through telephone surveys. 2) License Frames: Have received a document from consultant describing characteristics of list sample frames. Follow-up conference call scheduled for September 4. 3) Survey Coverage: Pilot panel study comparing private access and public access fishing to be implemented in CA this fall. Existing effort survey data have been used to identify regions where private access fishing is the most common. Project team discussing a plan for conducting sensitivity analysis to assess possible impacts of private access/night fishing on effort estimates (range of possible bias).
-   FHWG: 1) Review of For-Hire Methods: The project team has compiled an extensive document describing regional for-hire data collection programs

(available on collaboration tool). Project team met with review panel in Portland, OR (August 13-14). Team provided an overview of the NRC Review, as well as summaries of current data collection programs. The panel is starting its review by looking at the pacific coast data collection programs. The reviewers will be submitting a report to the project team in November. 2) For-Hire Data Collection in Puerto Rico: Have developed an electronic data collection form. Hasn't been implemented or demonstrated to captains yet. Hope to finalize system and implement soon.

2. P. Pate led a discussion about the future role(s) of MRIP Work Groups. Specifically, there is concern that MRIP is placing too great of a burden on work group members and that current levels of commitment from work group members are not sustainable. K. Knowlton suggested that we get feedback directly from Work Group members. It was also suggested that another face-to-face meeting would help get buy-in from Work Group members.

3. Future project ideas: R. Andrews requested feedback from the Work Groups about future project ideas. R. Andrews will send an updated spreadsheet of project ideas to WG Chairs. Feedback is due back to R. Andrews by September 12.