

MRIP Work Group Chairs Conference Call
12/5//2008

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

1. Project Updates:

- FHWG: 1) Independent Review: The work group has received a draft report from the reviewers, and conducted a workshop on 12/4/2008 to review the recommendations from the report. The recommendations in the report were not very specific, so the work group asked the reviewers to provide prioritized recommendations for preferred methods/improvements by mid January. These recommendations will form the basis of future MRIP projects. 2) Puerto Rico Pilot: The contractor who is developing the electronic logbook has made some modifications without much oversight. B. Sauls has been getting more involved in providing oversight. The project team is hoping to initiate data collection in January.
- HMSWG: 1) Southeast Characterization: Data collection has been completed. R. Salz is working with the data, along with staff from GSMFC. The telephone survey resulted in more than 5,000 complete interviews. 2) Florida Pilots: Projects are ongoing into 2009. The team has collected data for waves 3-5 and is working on producing estimates. R. Salz hopes to prepare a mid0year report with results to date. Such a report will guide and/or provide recommendations for future HMS projects in the region. 3) HMS Tournaments: All tournaments in the NE region have been completed, and the team is still collecting data for some tournaments. The project team is meeting during the week of 12/8 to discuss data analysis and report write-up. 4) Puerto Rico Pilot: A telephone survey that was implemented in November should be complete at this point. R. Salz has not seen results yet.

The HMSWG has proposed adding a new member, Corey Niles (WA) to the group. P. Pate informally approved the request and will send an email to confirm approval. The Pacific states are interested in submitting proposals. R. Salz has received two proposals that were developed by the Pacific Council's HMS team. The projects have overlap with other projects and work groups, so R. Salz is thinking about how to integrate the proposed projects with existing projects.

- DMSWG: 1) Inventory: The work group has submitted a report describing the functionality and content of MDMS to the OT. The project team is utilizing the functionality of MDMS to produce reports that document missing information for data collection programs. 2) Requirements Document: Project has been in a holding pattern due to the complexity and timeline dictated by completion of project 1. K. Knowlton has submitted updated project milestones and timelines to

R. Andrews and P. Pate. The project team has requested to hold a workshop in Silver Spring in January (R. Andrews will follow-up with Dave Van Voorhees on the availability of funding for this workshop). 3) Pacific RecFIN Website Redesign: The project is moving along nicely. Several vendors have expressed interest in the redesigning the website.

- DAWG: 1) Sampling and Estimation: The project team has been conducting regular conference calls. The team has produced catch estimates using an alternative estimation methodology and is in the process of analyzing the results and preparing a report. 2) Discards: The team is conducting bi-weekly conference calls and is developing plans for several pilot studies to test for differences between observed and reported discards. Pilot studies may include expansion of observer programs, the use of video cameras, or diary studies. 3) License Survey Project: The project team continues to assess the effectiveness of the dual-frame method that has been implemented in NC and the Gulf of Mexico. Current efforts are focusing on comparing overlapping portions of the two sample frames to determine if the surveys are measuring the same thing for the same population. The team is also developing a pilot dual-frame mail survey and is considering developing one or more pilot projects on the west coast. 4) Survey Coverage: CA DFG has implemented a panel study to test for differences in catch rates between private-access and public-access fishing. The team will use the design document for this study as a starting point for developing similar pilot studies on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

2. 2009 MRIP Projects: The work group chairs have had an opportunity to review potential projects that are being considered by the OT for development in 2009. Several of the projects are continuations, expansions of implementation of existing projects. At this point, the OT would like the work groups to develop project plans for all of the projects that have been proposed. P. Pate will send an email to the chairs “officially” requesting the development of the projects (sent by P. Pate on 12/10/2008). Some of the projects do not fit neatly within the charge of a single work group; ST1 will coordinate development of these projects. Complete project plans are due by Feb 28, 2009. However, we will gladly accept any plans that can be completed prior to this date.

In the future, the OT is going to try to better coordinate MRIP project development with the Federal budget cycle.