

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)
Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Transition Team**

**Terms of Reference
April 14, 2014**

1. Develop and recommend a standardized process for transitioning from historical estimates to estimates derived from improved sampling and estimation designs. The recommended process will describe and provide consistent approaches and methods for Councils, Interstate Commissions, and NOAA Fisheries Regions to apply to recreational catch estimates derived from new or improved approaches for:
 - a) Setting annual catch limits;
 - b) Monitoring catch against catch limits;
 - c) Assessing the need for and selection of accountability measures; and
 - d) Conducting analyses leading to the adoption of recreational fishing regulations.The process description should include flow diagrams and timelines for illustrative purposes.
2. Develop and recommend methods to be used to compare legacy estimates to estimates produced by using new or modified MRIP designs in a statistically robust manner.
3. Determine when calibration or other means of linking legacy data sets with MRIP-derived data sets is feasible and necessary, and identify the requirements and methods for making such linkages.
4. To minimize disruptions to stock assessments, catch monitoring, and management regulations, establish guidelines, in consultation with Regional Implementation Teams, to facilitate decisions on when and how implementation of changes to MRIP survey methods are introduced.
5. Report to the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) on the status of the transition and any impediments to progress, along with suggestions for overcoming the impediments, at least on an annual basis.
6. All recommendations will be submitted to the MRIP ESC for approval and conveyance to the NOAA Fisheries Science Board and Regulatory Board.

In carrying out its work under these Terms of Reference, the Transition Team will consult with the MRIP Regional Implementation Teams and with the affected NOAA Fisheries Regional Offices and Fisheries Science Centers, the NOAA Fisheries Office of Sustainable Fisheries and Office of Science and Technology, and the States, Interstate Commissions, and Regional Fishery Management Councils. The Transition Team may establish one or more Work Groups to develop proposed processes and analytical methods.