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FISHERIES

FES Study Updates and Re- envisioning the Partnership

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Agenda

- Fishing Effort Survey (FES) follow-up study progress update and timeline
- Re-envisioning process update and timeline
- Re-envisioning listening session



Fishing Effort Survey Follow-up Study

- **Revised design - switches 2 and 12-month fishing activity questions and is distributed monthly (as opposed to every 2 months)**
- **Revised design being tested is producing improved data quality in alignment with prior pilot studies**
 - We continue to see a large reduction in reporting errors and illogical responses
 - Respondents have been less likely to indicate more trips for the 2-month fishing reference period than for the 12-month reference period
- **Large amount of data to collect and analyze before fully informed comparisons can be made, including direction and magnitude of differences in effort estimates**
 - Have preliminary data through July
 - 5 months of preliminary data for majority of Atlantic Coast
 - Still producing estimates for higher fishing activity months
- **NOAA Fisheries' guidance to fisheries managers and stock assessors who use FES data currently is continued use of existing FES data until the follow-up study has been completed, the new design peer reviewed, and the historical estimates have been calibrated**

FES Timeline Remains on Track

Actions	Timeline
Conclude study data collection	End of 2024
Work with regional partners on preliminary planning for potentially transitioning to a revised FES design; Begin calibration model development, leveraging previously reviewed modeling framework from 2018 FES calibration (telephone survey to mail FES).	2024/2025
Produce final 2024 estimates	Spring 2025
Produce public study report outlining key findings and estimates and initiate peer review; Finalize calibration methodology and initiate peer review.	Summer 2025
Earliest new design could be implemented (pending favorable study results and peer review)	2026
Produce calibrated historical catch and effort estimates for use in subsequent assessments and management	Spring 2026 (normal release of final 2025 estimates)



Re-envisioning Recreational Fishing Data Partnership

- **Joint initiative underway to re-evaluate our partnership approaches and to transition to a new, collaboratively developed vision for the state-federal partnership that better meets regionally specific needs**
 - 4 virtual briefings in spring 2024 with key partners and members of recreational fishing constituency to introduce initiative and collect feedback on process and draft objectives
 - Internal interviews largely completed as of July
 - **Key Takeaways:**
 - Build trust and credibility across the board
 - Acknowledge and seek regional data collection flexibility (where necessary and desired by partners)
 - Ensure stability and consistency for aspects of the program that work
 - Develop adaptive management frameworks that better consider data uncertainty and limitations
 - Continue work to improve recreational fishing effort estimates, and consider novel technologies to track or compare recreational fishing effort estimates

Draft Initial Goal and Objectives (incorporating preliminary feedback)

Working Goal

A state-federal data collection system for marine and estuarine recreational fisheries that is regionally specific and nationally coherent and leverages partner expertise and resources to obtain the best quality data possible from available sources to inform sustainable, adaptive fisheries management

Objectives

- Clear roles, responsibilities, and lines of transparent communication among partners
- Enhanced recreational data precision, accuracy, and timeliness
- Adherence to data collection standards
- Transparent, consistent, and centralized data warehousing and access
- Survey, estimation, and review improvement frameworks that promote data integrity and accountability
- Data stream connectivity and effective integration
- Enhanced partner/angler collaboration and participation



Remaining Re-envisioning Project Timeline

Actions	Timeline
1:1 or group information-gathering sessions with key partners	Summer/Fall 2024
Compile report with major themes and findings from the information-gathering sessions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Inform 2025 workshop agendas● Identify needed working groups● Propose potential immediate and long-term improvements	Winter 2024/2025
Form new working groups as necessary; revisit team structure and provide tasks/requests to existing recreational data teams	Early 2025
Host visioning workshops to develop shared vision and action plan	Summer 2025
Draft and circulate plan for public review	Fall/Winter 2025
Announce and transition to re-envisioned partnership	Early 2026



Continued Improvement Throughout Process

Examples:

- Strengthening state partner review of preliminary catch and effort estimates through refining review procedures (leveraging regional knowledge) in collaboration with regional Atlantic and Gulf FINs
- Supporting development of a regionally consistent for-hire logbook framework in Atlantic
- Commissioning independent review of national survey and data standards
- Re-evaluating current MRIP team structures and composition
- Revising policy and procedures for updating surveys/transitioning to new surveys based on partner feedback
- Reviewing and certifying additional components of surveys in California and Oregon in 2024 and 2025
- Working with Alaska to modernize (and eventually certify) their Statewide Harvest Survey Program

Re-envisioning Public Engagement Timeline (Atlantic and Gulf)

Engagement	Timeline
Atlantic State Directors' Meeting, Arlington, VA	Aug. 5, 2024
MAFMC public listening session, Philadelphia, PA	Aug. 13, 2024
HMS AP meeting listening session, Silver Spring, MD	Sept. 5, 2024
MAFAC presentation and discussion, Kodiak, AK	Sept. 11, 2024
MAFMC SSC meeting presentation and discussion, Baltimore, MD	Sept. 11, 2024
SAFMC public listening session (3 hours), Charleston, SC	Sept. 19, 2024
In-person Atlantic wave meeting (ACCSP) listening session, Richmond, VA	mid-Oct 2024
Gulf Commission Annual Meeting, Gulf Shores, AL	Oct. 14 - 17, 2024
Gulf Council Meeting, St. Petersburg, FL	Nov. 4 - 7, 2024
NEFMC public listening session, Portsmouth, NH	Jan. 28 - 30, 2025

Re-envisioning Public Engagement Timeline (West Coast, P.I., Caribbean)

Engagement	Timeline
West Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council SSC (additional meetings throughout week), Honolulu, HI	Sept. 11, 2024
Pacific Coast Recreational Fisheries Information Network (RecFIN) Technical Committee, San Diego, CA	Oct. 8 - 9, 2024
American Sportfishing Association Policy Summit (National), San Diego, CA	Oct. 15 - 18, 2024
West Coast Roundtable, Costa Mesa, CA	Nov. 16, 2024



Listening Session

- **What does a successful, credible program/partnership look like?**
- **What issues/priorities are most important regarding data collection and use?**
- **Where is the partnership working or not working well?**
 - *Both in data collection and assessment/management*
- **What changes are you seeing in angling/fisheries behavior that could impact survey performance?**
- **What would make you feel engaged in this process and in the partnership more generally?**
 - *How can we improve our communications with you?*
- **How can we improve surveys/data with minimal disruption to assessments and management?**
- **How can the re-envisioning effort be efficiently organized to ensure participation moving forward (e.g., national steering committee, regional workgroups, leveraging existing MRIP team structures)?**

Working Goal *A state-federal data collection system for marine and estuarine recreational fisheries that is regionally specific and nationally coherent and leverages partner expertise and resources to obtain the best quality data possible from available sources to inform sustainable, adaptive fisheries management*

Provide additional feedback to:

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