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Fishing Effort Survey Study Updates and Re-envisioning the Recreational Data Partnership

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Dr. Katherine Papacostas

Recreational Statistics - Program Management Branch

Director

Fisheries Statistics Division

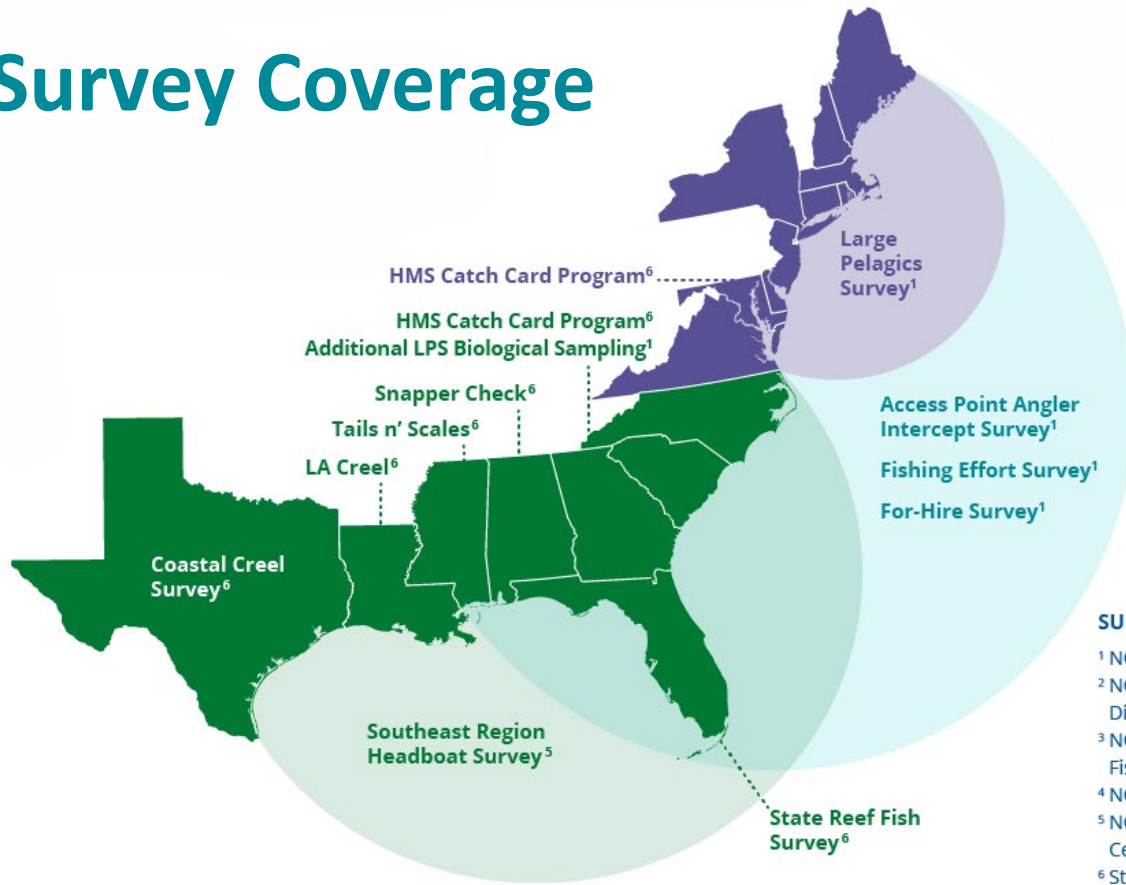
NOAA Fisheries Office of Science & Technology

Agenda

- General Survey Coverage
- Fishing Effort Survey (FES) follow-up study progress update and timeline
- Re-envisioning process update and timeline
- HMS Regional Implementation Team Structure and Purpose
- Feedback regarding the re-envisioning process



Survey Coverage



PERMIT-BASED PROGRAMS

- Atlantic HMS Landings and Tournament Reports²
- Greater Atlantic For-Hire Electronic Vessel Trip Reports³
- Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program⁴

SURVEY ADMINISTRATOR

- ¹ NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology
- ² NOAA Fisheries Atlantic HMS Management Division
- ³ NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
- ⁴ NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office
- ⁵ NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center
- ⁶ State/Territorial Agency



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Fishing Effort Survey

- Conducted from Maine through Mississippi and in Hawaii
- Collects number of days fished in state of residence from shore and private boats (including rentals) for specified time periods for each resident of a responding household
- Used to estimate effort estimates for shore and private boat fishing
- Asks respondents to report fishing activity over a 2-month period and a 12-month period
- In a recent pilot study, we changed the question order and first asked about fishing trips in the previous 12 months
 - This resulted in fewer reporting errors and illogical responses, and effort estimates that were lower for shore and private boat modes than estimates produced from the current design
 - Results varied by state and fishing mode



FES Follow-up Study

- Revised design being tested in 2024 changes the order of two fishing effort questions and also increases the administration of the survey from every two months to monthly
- Revised design 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**
 - Still need to compile data and produce estimates for higher fishing activity months
 - Preliminary data through July (and 5 months for majority of Atlantic Coast)
- 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 Fishing Effort Survey 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)



Potential Upcoming FES HMS implications

- FES data are used for areas and time LPS does not cover (LPS is only conducted in northeast from June-October)
 - Therefore, **some coastal shark species and yellowfin tuna catch estimates are most likely to be influenced by the calibrated time series**
- Coastal sharks are assessed via the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process



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
 - Internal interviews largely completed as of July
 - **Key Takeaways so far include need to:**
 - Build trust and credibility across the board
 - Acknowledge and seek regional data collection flexibility where desired
 - 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



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 improvements	Winter 2024/2025
Form new working groups as necessary, revisit current 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:

- Continuing research, evaluation, and implementation of improved survey methods
 - [LPS survey redesign](#)
- Strengthening state partner review of preliminary catch and effort estimates (leveraging regional knowledge) in collaboration with ACCSP
- Supporting development of a regionally consistent for-hire logbook framework
- Commissioning independent review of NOAA Fisheries national survey and data standards
- Re-evaluating current MRIP team structures and composition through regional feedback
- Revising policy and procedures for updating surveys/transitioning to new surveys based on partner feedback

Public Engagement Timeline (Gulf and Atlantic)

Engagement	Timeline
Atlantic State Directors' Meeting	Aug. 5, 2024
MAFMC public listening session, Philadelphia	Aug. 13, 2024
HMS AP meeting listening session	Sept. 5, 2024
MAFAC presentation and discussion, Kodiak, AK	Sept. 11, 2024
MAFMC SSC meeting presentation and discussion, Baltimore	Sept. 11, 2024
SAFMC public listening session (3 hours), Charleston	Sept. 19, 2024
In-person Atlantic wave meeting (ACCSP) listening session, Richmond, VA	Oct. 16, 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



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



Atlantic HMS Regional Implementation Plan

- **MRIP Regional Implementation Teams identify regional data collection needs and priorities**
 - Regional plans updated at least every 5 years, but can be sooner if new priorities emerge/additional resources become available
 - External HMS partners on this team include Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Maryland DNR, and North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
- **Priorities identified by Atlantic HMS Team (new/updated priorities in development)**
 - Finalize redesign of Large Pelagics Survey
 - Consider expanding months sampled by Large Pelagics Survey
 - Include Atlantic HMS for-hire vessels in federal for-hire electronic logbook reporting programs
 - Reduce reporting burden on HMS anglers and improve compliance
 - Develop improved methods of integrating Atlantic HMS catch and effort data from multiple sources (e.g., the Large Pelagics Survey, Access Point Angler Intercept Survey, Fishing Effort Survey, etc.)
 - Improve and expand data collection on recreational shark fisheries, including depredation
 - Improve HMS recreational data collection in the U.S. Caribbean

Questions for Feedback

- What does a successful, credible program/partnership look like?
 - *One that you would contribute to, advocate for, and trust?*
- What issues/priorities are most important regarding HMS data collection and use?
- Where is the MRIP HMS partnership not working well?
 - *In data collection and/or assessment and 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?



BACKUP SLIDES



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2018 Pilot Study Report: Monthly wave pilot study

FES Questionnaire (Q's 15 and 16)	Treatment 1 Questionnaire (Q's 15 and 16)	Treatment 2 Questionnaire (Q's 15 and 16)
<p>Please think only about recreational saltwater fishing in <Merged State>.</p> <p>15 How many days did you go recreational saltwater fishing from the shore in <Merged State>? The shore includes docks, bridges, causeways, beaches, banks, or any other shore-based place or area.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No shore recreational saltwater fishing in the last 12 months → <i>Go to question 16</i></p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Number of days in July and August of 2015</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Total number of days in last 12 months</p> <p>16 How many days did you go recreational saltwater fishing from a private or rental boat that returned to shore in <Merged State>? Do not include charter boats or commercial boats that have a captain or crew who helped locate and catch fish.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No private boat recreational saltwater fishing in last 12 months → <i>Go to Household Member 2</i></p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Number of days in July and August of 2015</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Total number of days in last 12 months</p> <p>If you have more household members, continue to household member 2.</p>	<p>Please think only about recreational saltwater fishing in <Merged State>.</p> <p>15 How many days did you go recreational saltwater fishing from the SHORE in <Merged State>? <i>The shore includes docks, bridges, causeways, beaches, banks, or any other shore-based place or area. Do not include freshwater fishing.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not recreational saltwater fish from shore in the last 12 months → <i>Go to question 16</i></p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Number of days shore fishing in Jun. of 2015</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Number of days in Jul. of 2015</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Total number of days in last 12 months, including Jun. and Jul.</p> <p>16 How many days did you go recreational saltwater fishing from a private or rental BOAT that returned to shore in <Merged State>? <i>Do not include charter boats or commercial boats where a paid captain or crew helped locate and catch fish.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not recreational saltwater fish from private boat in last 12 months.</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Number of days boat fishing in Jun. of 2015</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Number of days boat fishing in Jul. of 2015</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Total number of days boat fishing in last 12 months, including Jun. and Jul.</p> <p>If you have more household members, continue to household member 2.</p>	<p>Please think only about recreational saltwater fishing in <Merged State>.</p> <p>15 How many days did you go recreational saltwater fishing from the SHORE in <Merged State>? <i>The shore includes docks, bridges, causeways, beaches, banks, or any other shore-based place or area. Do not include freshwater fishing.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not recreational saltwater fish from shore in the last 12 months → <i>Go to question 16</i></p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Number of days in Jul. of 2015</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Total number of days in last 12 months, including Jul.</p> <p>16 How many days did you go recreational saltwater fishing from a private or rental BOAT that returned to shore in <Merged State>? <i>Do not include charter boats or commercial boats where a paid captain or crew helped locate and catch fish.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not recreational saltwater fish from private boat in last 12 months.</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Number of days boat fishing in Jul. of 2015</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Total number of days in last 12 months, including Jul.</p> <p>If you have more household members, continue to household member 2.</p>



2023 Pilot Study Report: Switching 2 & 12-month Fishing Activity Questions

Experimental Questionnaire 1:
Shore:Private boat/
12 month:2 month

Experimental Questionnaire 2:
Private boat:Shore/
2 month:12 month

Experimental Questionnaire 3:
Private boat:Shore/
12 month:2 month

FES Question Order:
Shore:Private boat/
2 months:12 months

15 How many days did you go recreational saltwater fishing from the **SHORE** in (Insert State)?

The shore includes docks, bridges, causeways, beaches, banks, or any other shore-based place or area. Do not include freshwater fishing.

Did not recreational saltwater fish from shore in last 12 months → *Go to question 16*

Number of days saltwater shore fishing in **January and February of 2022**

Number of days saltwater shore fishing in **last 12 months**, including January and February

16 How many days did you go recreational saltwater fishing from a private or rental **BOAT** that returned to shore in (Insert State)?

Do not include freshwater trips or trips where a paid captain or crew helped locate and catch fish.

Did not recreational saltwater fish from private boat in last 12 months

Number of days saltwater boat fishing in **January and February of 2022**

Number of days saltwater boat fishing in **last 12 months**, including January and February

If you have more people in your household, continue to Household Member 2. If you have answered for all people in your household, please return your survey.

2024 Follow-up Study

Questionnaire Design: question order + monthly-waves

Please think only about recreational saltwater fishing in <Merged State>.

15 How many days did you go recreational saltwater fishing from the SHORE in <Merged State>?

The shore includes docks, bridges, causeways, beaches, banks, or any other shore-based place or area. Do not include freshwater fishing.

Did not recreational saltwater fish from shore in last 12 months → **Go to question 16**

Number of days saltwater shore fishing in last 12 months, including Jan. and Feb.

Number of days saltwater shore fishing in Jan. of 2023

Number of days saltwater shore fishing in Feb. of 2023

16 How many days did you go recreational saltwater fishing from a private or rental **BOAT** that returned to shore in <Merged State>?

Do not include freshwater trips or trips where a paid captain or crew helped locate and catch fish.

Did not recreational saltwater fish from private boat in last 12 months

Number of days saltwater boat fishing in last 12 months, including Jan. and Feb.

Number of days saltwater boat fishing in Jan of 2023

Number of days saltwater boat fishing in Feb. of 2023

If you have more people in your household, continue to Household Member 2.