

Marine Recreational Information Program



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## **Executive Summary**

NOAA Fisheries' Marine Recreational Information Program is the state-regional-federal partnership that develops, improves, and implements a national network of recreational fishing surveys to estimate total recreational catch. Our recreational fishing catch and effort data is combined with information from commercial, biological, and observer data to inform stock assessments and fisheries management decisions that aim to achieve sustainable fisheries for future generations.

The intent of this implementation plan is to outline programmatic priorities for fiscal year 2024 to improve the performance of federal and state recreational fishing surveys, the accuracy of the catch and effort estimates they produce, and meet the regional needs of our data collection partners. This document also provides a brief recap of the partnership's accomplishments in fiscal year 2023.

The large-scale surveys administered through NOAA Fisheries provide one of the only sources of regionally consistent data to enable the annual and long-term tracking of regional patterns in fishing activity, or trends, covering many species. In fiscal year 2024, we aim to continue the evaluation and improvement of our surveys through additional research efforts and field testing. This includes conducting a follow-up study on our Fishing Effort Survey to inform potential design modifications to improve respondent reporting accuracy; completing analysis of a Large Pelagics Survey redesign; completing analysis and a report on a study evaluating the impacts to fishing activity reporting when asked about possessing a fishing license; seeking opportunities to modernize data programs; and facilitating a peer review and certification process for a for-hire survey framework developed by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program to streamline for-hire reporting and reduce reporting burden. In addition, we will continue to seek input from councils and other partners on our recreational fishing survey and data standards and work with data customers to facilitate access to needed data and to develop estimation methods applicable to highly imprecise catch estimates. We will also craft guidance for MRIP partners, including how to mitigate the potential disruption to fisheries management caused by continuous survey improvements and resulting updates to historical catch and effort estimates.

In fiscal year 2024, we also strive to strengthen relationships with our partners and assess ways to augment the critical support we provide to states and regional partners to meet their unique regional recreational fishing data needs. This includes access to technical resources, expert statistical support, and funding. Of note, we plan to collaborate with Atlantic and Gulf commissions to conduct trial survey implementation and estimate review workshop(s) with the goal of strengthening the estimate review process and improving coordination; assess new funding requirements to address partner and stakeholder needs; complete an updated MRIP Strategic Plan that prioritizes meeting data-use and customer needs for regional partners; re-evaluate MRIP interagency team structures; and develop processes to support multi-regional data-improvement needs. In addition, we will continue our efforts to

provide technical and funding support to partners to certify state surveys and meet regionally identified data collection needs for more timely and precise catch and effort estimates.

## Fiscal Year 2024 Priorities

## By MRIP Program Team

**Program Management Team/Core Business Team:** oversee the implementation of the program, develop MRIP policies and procedures, prepare budget documents and annual spend plans, and develop the annual Implementation Plan

- Work closely with key partners on developing a shared vision for a renewed state-federal data collection system for recreational fisheries.
- Continue to implement as well as identify improvements to the <u>Survey and Data Standards</u>, including:
  - o Commission an independent peer review of the MRIP Survey and Data Standards.
  - Continue to work with data customers to facilitate access to data and estimates necessary to complete essential science and management analyses.
  - Collaboratively develop processes to address customer needs for rare event/low-precision estimates.
  - Progress toward partner conformance in meeting the applicable standards such as ensuring comprehensive survey documentation and metadata for partner surveys.
- Collaborate with Atlantic and Gulf commissions to conduct trial survey implementation and estimate review workshop(s) with the goal of strengthening the estimate review process and improving coordination and information-sharing among state partners and NOAA Fisheries.
- Continue certification of surveys, as outlined in the regional implementation team priorities section below.
- Complete an updated MRIP Strategic Plan that prioritizes meeting data-use and customer needs
  for regional partners, as well as maintaining continuous evaluation and improvement of the
  program. The plan will also consider strategies to align with cross-cutting NOAA Fisheries'
  initiatives and priorities, including:
  - The <u>National Recreational Fisheries Policy</u>.
  - Climate-ready fisheries through continuing to contribute consistent long-term data on geographic catch distribution.
  - Support for under-served communities, including meeting the non-commercial data needs of the Pacific Islands and Caribbean regions.
  - Data modernization.
- Re-evaluate the MRIP team structure and membership to most effectively deliver the new strategies and priorities that emerge from the Strategic Planning process.

- Work with regional partners to optimize the allocation of program funds and develop metrics to help evaluate their use and impacts on catch and effort estimates.
- Assess new funding requirements to address partner and stakeholder needs. Develop detailed
  cost estimates for addressing expressed needs to establish opportunities and set priorities for
  data products that can support in-season management for some species in some regions,
  greater precision, and more timely production of catch and effort estimates.

# **Research and Evaluation Team:** oversees the evaluation of new and improved data collection and estimation methods

- Field test the Fishing Effort Survey revised question order and 1-month wave design alongside current FES. Continue related work on FES calibration model updates and cognitive interviewing to help inform the potential transition to an improved design.
- Complete analysis of Large Pelagics Survey redesign and calibration needs for historic time series of estimates.
- Continue progress on MRIP certification of ACCSP's for-hire logbook methodology with the goal of streamlining reporting and reducing reporting burden.
- Complete testing and production of replicate weights datasets for use with the public-use
  datasets to produce variance estimates calibrated to the official MRIP catch and effort estimates.
  This addresses a current limitation with the MRIP public-use datasets in which estimates of
  variance or Percent Standard Error (PSEs) for the catch and effort estimates can differ to varying
  degrees between those produced using the public-use datasets and the official values in the
  MRIP queries and estimate datasets.
- Complete analysis and report for a license sensitivity study to evaluate the impacts to fishing activity reporting when asked about possessing a fishing license.
- Update the Gulf red snapper nonsampling error sensitivity study and report, which will include additional years of red snapper catch estimates from the various monitoring programs, as well as information from the license sensitivity study once it is available. This report was produced in support of the Gulf Transition Plan.
- Continue work with the NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Fisheries Science Center on alternative estimation approaches for data gaps caused by imprecise and outlier estimates. Expand work group membership to other regions and partners as we develop a decision framework that can be evaluated and adapted regionally.
- Complete evaluation of feasibility of SAS Viya installation and configuration to support the MRIP SQUID system and enhance capabilities of web queries.

# **Survey Operations Team:** oversees the administration of the program's recreational fishing surveys and the management of the information these surveys produce

 Develop and implement an action plan to address respondent feedback from the Data Quality Assessment, as well as to meet data modernization needs.

# **Transition Team:** oversees the transition to new and improved data collection and estimation methods

- Reconvene the Atlantic and Gulf Transition regional work groups, and include Hawaii, to initiate
  discussion for a potential revised Fishing Effort Survey Transition Plan and pending
  implementation of For-Hire Survey changes as a result of its certification.
- Maintain Gulf of Mexico Sub-Group and its subsidiary work groups (Research, Data Management, and Communications) to execute the Transition Plan to incorporate Gulf State Survey data into the federal stock assessment process.
- Convene additional regional work groups as necessary to plan transitions for implementation of new or modified state surveys.
- In coordination with the Regional Implementation Council, revise the Terms of Reference for MRIP Regional Implementation Teams to fully engage them in developing and executing regional transition plans that adhere to applicable items within the MRIP Survey and Data Standards. Reassess team membership based on these revisions.
- Develop transition planning guidance for MRIP partners for use when multiple survey modifications and improvements are pending.
- Develop guidance for MRIP partners on how to mitigate the potential disruption to fisheries management caused by continuous survey improvements and resulting updates to historical catch and effort estimates.
- Develop guidance for regional partners to apply in implementing Transition Plans to report survey quality assurance metrics and monitor survey performance.

# **Communications and Education Team:** builds understanding and awareness of MRIP among its partners, customers, and constituents

- As part of our commitment to transparency and to allow for additional dialogue, conduct additional education and outreach opportunities regarding our Fishing Effort Survey pilot study results and 2024 follow-up study milestones, including hosting regional webinars with key partners and interested stakeholders.
- In collaboration with NOAA Fisheries' Pacific Islands Regional Office, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, and the Hawaii Department of Aquatic Resources, develop and execute a communications strategy to increase understanding and support for the continued implementation of the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey among non-commercial fishers in Hawaii.
- Continue to work with our partners to promote our collaboration in meeting their regional recreational fishing data collection needs. This includes:
  - Highlighting our efforts to review and certify state-led surveys.
  - Providing assistance and funding support for data collection priorities identified though regionally led regional implementation plans.
  - Encouraging the consistent use of best practices in survey methodology.
- Once published, provide support to disseminate findings of the Gulf State Surveys Transition
  Team's Research Plan, which outlines research priorities for improving the accuracy and
  comparability of all surveys operating in the Gulf of Mexico.

- Share findings and next steps from the Customer Needs and Satisfaction Assessment with survey respondents and partners.
- Conduct a Partner Needs and Satisfaction Assessment to evaluate results against 2020 benchmarks and respond to new findings to inform and enhance the program's communications and outreach efforts.
- In collaboration with NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, support the
  proactive engagement of congressional staff through all-interested and/or targeted briefings
  about recreational saltwater fishing data collection, national and regional programmatic
  priorities, implementation plans, and other related actions or issues.

**Regional Implementation Council:** consisting of the Team Leads of the seven Regional Implementation Teams, provides input on national and cross-regional program needs and priorities

- In collaboration with the Program Management Team, develop and implement processes to aid Regional Implementation Team members in receiving more substantive broad and program-specific feedback from the Office of Science and Technology, including the status of MRIP efforts to address Regional Implementation Team priorities. This includes more frequent regional meetings, especially in non-FIN regions.
- Develop processes, including creation of work groups, to enhance solutions-oriented information sharing and support data needs across regions. Examples of needs include:
  - Producing more accurate and informative estimates of released fish.
  - o For-hire data-collection methods, especially related to electronic trip reporting.
  - Coupling biological sampling with catch sampling.
- In coordination with the Transition Team, revise the Terms of Reference for MRIP Regional Implementation Teams to fully engage them in developing and executing regional transition plans.
- Work collaboratively to complete scheduled plan updates for the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species, Caribbean, and Pacific Islands regional implementation teams.
- Actively monitor progress toward achieving regional implementation plan priorities, and recommend actions to improve execution.

**Regional Implementation Teams:** *identify regional data collection needs and potential improvements based on the unique management needs and priorities for each region* 

### **Atlantic (Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program)**

- Through ACCSP's RecTech Committee, develop an Atlantic pilot study on alternate methods to collect discard data within the APAIS framework. Continue state partner meetings to define probabilistic selection/sampling methodology; select participating states; and determine data analysis approaches.
- In collaboration with MRIP staff and consultants, evaluate recommendations and adjust methods for a comprehensive for-hire survey framework.

• In collaboration with state partners, evaluate APAIS sample allocation to maximize interviewee intercepts and precision assessment for managed species on the Atlantic.

## **Atlantic Highly Migratory Species**

- In collaboration with the Research and Evaluation Team, complete the redesign of the Large Pelagics Survey:
  - Perform the comparative analyses of pilot survey data collected from 2020-2023.
  - Finalize the design and design documentation.
  - Prepare the certification package of the new LPS design, and submit it for MRIP's review and certification.
- Prepare for a transition to implement the LPS redesign and use of the data in stock assessment and fisheries management.
  - Investigate the need to calibrate the historical time series of LPS catch and effort estimates to reflect the new design. If calibration is needed, initiate the development of a calibration model.
- Investigate the possibility of new LPS design options for Maine due to unique considerations. Simultaneously investigate requirements for the full implementation of the new LPS design in Virginia through New Hampshire.
- Investigate and consider the addition of questions to recreational fishing intercept surveys and for-hire logbooks to collect data on depredation events (by sharks, other fish, or marine mammals) and their frequency.
- Complete an updated regional implementation plan to outline data collection priorities over the next several years for HMS.
- Determine the path forward for an HMS e-Reporting rule. Rulemaking will consider extending electronic logbook reporting to all HMS Charter/Headboat permitted vessels, and expanding HMS angler catch reporting to additional species, such as pelagic sharks.

### Caribbean

- Convene a group of subject matter experts to serve on a technical team to review, evaluate, and recommend possible survey designs for full-scale deployment in the region.
- Establish funding governance structures to facilitate the collection of necessary data in which there are gaps to inform fisheries management. This was identified among other priorities during a Caribbean data-collection strategic planning workshop hosted by the NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Fisheries Science Center in 2023.

### **Gulf (Gulf Fisheries Information Network)**

- Complete an update to the Gulf regional implementation plan that will outline data-collection priorities in Gulf of Mexico States over the next several years.
- In collaboration with the Transition Team Gulf Subgroup:
  - Complete a Research Plan as part of the Transition Plan to incorporate Gulf State survey data into the federal stock assessment process. The research plan includes research needs, priorities, and a strategy for execution.
  - Develop a GulfFIN comprehensive Gulf recreational fishing Data Management Program.

## Pacific (Pacific Coast Recreational Fisheries Information Network)

- Increase coverage and precision of surveys.
  - Make improvements in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's
     Ocean Sampling Program to increase precision of recreational fishing catch and effort estimates.
  - Increase current sampling coverage at all four major coastal ports during lower effort months and periodically allocate sampling effort in "minor" coastal ports to assess changes in fishing effort.
- Improve angler survey efforts.
  - Support Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's call to increase funding for the state's telephone angler survey. The goal is to improve data accuracy by increasing the number of contacts reached to achieve a greater number of successful interviews.
  - Work with WDFW to investigate potential options, such as an online survey, to supplement or replace the telephone survey to increase accuracy and cost-effectiveness.
  - Work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to evaluate next steps in using text message invites to increase response rates for its telephone/online angler survey.
  - Implement and support enhanced electronic data collection applications in all three member states.
  - Improve and/or initiate video monitoring systems to record daily boat effort in ports sampled by Washington and Oregon to improve the precision of effort estimates.
- Support Washington's calibration of historic catch.
  - Create an inventory of available data.
  - Assess and standardize electronic formatting of pre-1990 WDFW data.
  - o Compare historic NOAA Fisheries' and WDFW datasets.
  - Identify the best data sources and eliminate duplication to develop the most complete dataset.
  - Conduct re-estimation of historical total catch if adequate data and design documentation exists.
- Continue to make modifications to RecFIN's database and reporting system and state survey data collection and estimation methods to meet applicable requirements of MRIP's Recreational Fishing Survey and Data Standards.
- Address peer reviewers' recommendations to achieve MRIP survey and estimation methods certification for non-certified surveys in member states.
- Develop a program to collect biological information to better determine the ages of recreational groundfish. Growth rates can slow greatly after maturity, making it difficult to accurately assign individuals to year classes. Age data informs the estimation of key parameters in stock assessments including growth, recruitment, and natural mortality.

### Alaska

- Initiate Statewide Harvest Survey modernization.
  - Work on a potential web-based survey that includes a spatially enabled GIS base layer to allow users to select their fishing locations from a map.

- Identify and pursue options for funding high-priority work to develop data storage policies and storage structures.
- Support the electronic logbook reporting requirement, including outreach, for saltwater guides in Southcentral Alaska, which will become mandatory during the 2025 season.

#### **Pacific Islands**

- Continue phased implementation of certified survey methods in Hawaii. Monitor and address needs for effective implementation of APAIS and complete Phase 1 of the Hawaii implementation strategy.
- Initiate development of an updated regional implementation plan that will outline data-collection priorities over the next several years in the region.
- Continue to complete documentation of territorial surveys and begin preparation of a package to certify the surveys.
- Implement the pilot project to generate an estimate of total catch of the main Hawaiian islands gray jobfish (*Aprion virescens*) using the vessel and bottomfish registry as a sampling frame.

## Fiscal Year 2023 Accomplishments

## **Fiscal Year 2023 Key Accomplishments**

In fiscal year 2023, in cooperation with our state partners and contractors, we continued administration of our four large-scale recreational fishing surveys, including the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS), Fishing Effort Survey (FES), For-Hire Survey (FHS), and Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) (Link to annual survey reports). The data they provide allows us to track critical changes and patterns in fishing activity and stock status for many species over time, and also to assess the effectiveness of fisheries management decisions.

### **Commitment to Continued Program Improvement**

The MRIP team is committed to providing quality recreational fishing catch and effort estimates through the continuous evaluation and improvement of the program.

### **Customer Assessments**

- Delivered two assessments to MRIP data users: a Data Quality Assessment and a Customer Needs and Satisfaction Assessment. The results of both surveys will be used to prioritize continued areas of programmatic improvement.
  - Intent of the DQA is to assist us in measuring various data-quality dimensions, prioritized by both importance and success. These dimensions include confidentiality, computer and physical security, scientific integrity, relevance, accessibility, punctuality, coherence, timeliness, granularity, accuracy and reliability, and credibility. All dimensions, except confidentiality, received a mean importance score above 4 out of 5. Among these

- dimensions, accuracy/reliability and credibility stood out as the highest in importance, but they were also identified as areas where improvement is most needed.
- Customer Needs and Satisfaction Assessment was distributed to primary data users who
  use our estimates to inform stock assessments and fisheries management decisions. The
  intent is to help measure satisfaction with MRIP data products and customer service,
  identify potential improvements to these products, and develop tools to support
  effective and efficient use of the products. Findings will be benchmarked against our
  2020 assessment.

## **Survey Research and Improvements**

- Certified the For-Hire Survey, which means the methodology was found, through an objective peer review, to be a statistically valid approach to meet survey objectives and provide key for-hire effort estimates.
- Published the <u>second biennial report</u> to Congress that describes progress toward 28 recommendations outlined in a 2017 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine review.
- Completed research as part of a multi-state license sensitivity study, which will help determine if there is a correlation between a respondent being asked questions about license status and how it may impact recreational fishing activity reporting.
- Published a peer-reviewed <u>report</u> compiling research on our Fishing Effort Survey.
  - Preliminary findings indicate that changing the order of questions in the survey may lead to more accurate fishing activity recall and reporting by respondents. The resulting effort estimates from the pilot study were lower than estimates produced by the current design. While we believe lower effort estimates are likely more accurate based on the pilot study's design having fewer illogical respondent responses than the current design, a planned follow-up study is necessary to confirm results.
  - The follow-up study will be conducted over a longer duration with a larger sample size.
     This will help us gain a clearer understanding of the degree of differences in effort estimates between the current design and a revised design that:
    - Switches the question order to aid in improved fishing activity recall and accuracy of responses.
    - Increases the frequency of sampling to monthly to aid in improved recall and provide more timely estimates.
  - Hosted a series of calls with key partners to discuss the pilot study results and next steps.
  - Provided additional outreach that included stakeholder notifications, presentations at impacted marine fisheries commissions and fisheries management council meetings, updated website information, and an article in our e-newsletter.
- Completed the Large Pelagics Pilot Study and began preparations for certification and implementation of a new Large Pelagics Survey design. The new design has been thoroughly evaluated with statistical simulations and field tests. It Includes updates to the in-person

- sampling design and estimation methods to maximize the representativeness of interviewee samples.
- Completed the transition from Hawaii APAIS field samplers collecting interviewee data via paper to entering data electronically. This effort was done in collaboration with state and regional partners and will improve efficiency and accuracy of data collection.
- Published a <u>report to Congress</u> with our response to the National Academies' of Sciences,
   Engineering, and Medicine's 2021 recommendations on recreational fishing data collection, data use, and alternative management strategies.
  - Intent of the report is to evaluate how NOAA Fisheries' recreational data collection program is meeting the needs of in-season management of fisheries with annual catch limits.
  - NOAA Fisheries and partners are taking action on a number of recommendations
    outlined in the study. This includes working closely with partners to calibrate and
    reconcile differences among survey programs, such as those in the Gulf of Mexico and
    Hawaii. It also includes continuing, alongside our regional offices and science centers, to
    support the development and use of catch forecasting models in priority regions (e.g.,
    Atlantic, Gulf, and West Coast).

## **Survey and Data Standards**

- Continued progress on the phased implementation of our <u>recreational fishing Survey and Data Standards</u>, which reflect statistical best practices and provide a single set of guidelines for data collection and estimation. The standards promote data quality, consistency, and comparability across various data collection programs.
  - Added flagging in our query tool as part of our precision standard to advise against the
    use of highly imprecise estimates with a percent standard error above 50, and
    cautioning use of estimates with PSEs between 30 and 50.
  - Posted a new data request policy for handling custom requests that go beyond the capabilities of the query tool and the public-use datasets.

## **Support to States and Partners**

We provide critical support to states and regional partners to meet unique regional recreational fishing data needs, including access to technical resources, expert statistical support, and funding.

- Published our <u>first biennial report</u>, as required by the Modern Fish Act, to provide a progress update from our 2021 MRIP <u>Plan for State Partnerships</u>. This report was developed in close consultation with state partners and Fisheries Information Networks (FINs). It identifies multiple collaborative opportunities for improving recreational fisheries data quality, including:
  - Providing recommendations to partners on how to make state recreational fishing registries as complete as possible, such as compliance and license-exception considerations.

- Working with partners to peer review and certify state-conducted surveys and promote consistency in and quality of data collection and reporting.
- Evaluating and establishing statistical goals for regional estimates, as well as evaluating the use of specialized surveys to supplement existing surveys for more timely regional catch estimates.
- Formalizing agreements to either establish cooperative data programs among all partners in non-FIN regions or add states and territories to existing FINs.
- Implemented new fishing-year options for catch, effort, and length-frequency queries in addition to the traditional calendar-year option. These fishing year options were added to support data users who manage fisheries that don't align with the calendar year, reducing the need for them to produce custom estimates.

## **Regional Recreational Fishing Data Collection Implementation Plans**

Regionally led implementation plans are used to create a national inventory of partner needs and associated costs. From this inventory, we make informed decisions for ongoing research priorities and budget allocation, based on available funding.

- Worked with our partners at the <u>Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) to complete their updated MRIP regional implementation</u> plan that outlines Atlantic Coast recreational fishing data collection priorities over the next several years.
- Worked with our partners at the <u>Pacific Coast Recreational Fisheries Information Network</u> (RecFIN) to complete their updated regional implementation plan for the West Coast.
- Worked with our <u>Alaska</u> state partners to complete their first regional implementation plan for the state.

### **State Survey Certifications**

Certified several state-sponsored recreational fishing surveys on the West Coast, including three currently operational surveys — California's two private/rental boat intercept surveys and Washington's Ocean Sampling Program (OSP) — as well as California's new Angler License Directory Online Survey (ALDOS), which is replacing a telephone survey.
 Since California's two private/rental boat intercept surveys and Washington's OSP pre-date MRIP and our certification process, these surveys have already been incorporated into the federal assessment and management processes and have been receiving NOAA Fisheries funding. Now that they are certified, they will remain as a priority for continued funding.

### **Technical Support**

- Completed an initial technical review, and facilitated a broader consultant review of ACCSP's for-hire logbook data collection design framework. The intent of this product is to reduce for-hire reporting burden as much as possible through a streamlined process.
- Completed initial technical reviews toward proposed certification for components of the California Recreational Fisheries Survey, including man-made structures and beach bank components.
- Supported implementation of tablet-based dockside interviews for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Snapper Check program by <u>providing funding</u> for

development and testing. The switch from paper streamlines the data collection process and results in the availability of more timely data. Samplers will also be able to increase the number of interviews conducted per assignment.

## **Increasing Understanding of the Program**

In addition to working closely with our partners to jointly announce many of the program's milestones, we completed the following items.

- Hosted two MRIP 101 webinars for more than 130 program partners; presented at three regional
  Marine Resource Education Program workshops and at the Introductory Fisheries Science for
  Stakeholders course; and supported state partners in North Carolina and New Jersey in pertinent
  outreach events and local meetings.
- Delivered tailored presentations at numerous partner meetings, including fishery management councils, scientific and statistical committees, advisory panels, and interstate marine fisheries commissions. We covered an array of topics, including the recreational fishing effort survey pilot study and our recreational fishing Survey and Data Standards.
- Released and promoted the video, "Your Fishing Counts: An Angler's Guide to the Marine
   Recreational Program," which shows how collecting information from recreational anglers about
   the number of fish they catch, keep, and release is an important part of our collective work to
   keep fisheries sustainable and anglers fishing.
- Developed and/or updated a suite of outreach materials, including:
  - An MRIP overview infographic.
  - A fact sheet that explains how NOAA Fisheries supports the development and implementation of Gulf state data collection programs designed to produce more timely and precise recreational catch estimates for red snapper and other species.
  - Customized recreational fishing data collection rack cards focused primarily on information about the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey, as requested by state agency partners, including the Massachusetts Division of Marine Resources, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources.
  - A <u>new web page</u> that serves as a central repository for information related to the ongoing Gulf state data transition process.



U.S. Secretary of Commerce

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere Dr. Richard W. Spinrad

Assistant Administrator, NOAA Fisheries

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