Coordinating Council

Chair: Jason McNamee

Vice-Chair: Kathy Knowlton

Staff: Geoff White

April 29, 2024
1:30 – 4:00 pm

Our vision is to be the principal source of fisheries-dependent information on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners.

Council Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from October 2023

FY24 Funding Status

Agency	Project_Title	Amount
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management	Advancing Fishery Dependent Data Collection for Black Sea Bass (Cetropristis striata) in the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Region Utilizing Modern Technology and a Vessel Research Fleet Approach	$ 43,635
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council	FY24: Expansion of the FISHstory Citizen Science Project	$ 86,815
Potomac River Fisheries Commission	Electronic Trip-Level Reporting for the Potomac River Fisheries Commission Commercial Fisheries Sector	$ 207,512
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management	Pilot Observer Program for Rhode Island State Waters Gillnet Fishery	$ 126,722
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management	The Economic Impact of Rhode Island's Fishing Industry	$ 65,134
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries	FY24: North Carolina biological database enhancements for the transmission of data to the ACCSP	$ 146,981
NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center	Development of Statistical Frames for Dockside Biosampling of the Recreational Headboat and Commercial Fishing Fleets in the South Atlantic	$ 134,827
Maine Department of Marine Resources	FY24: Managing 100% Lobster Harvester Reporting in Maine	$ 335,591
Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council	Improving Catch and Effort Data Collection from Recreational Tilefish Anglers	$ 65,134
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries	Massachusetts Oracle Forms Redesign and Modernization: Phase 2	$ 100,000

Review and Approve FY25 RFP

Summary of Changes

- **General Changes**
  - Updated dates in RFP, Funding Decision Document, and Timeline for Proposal Review
- **No Changes**
  - Biological Priority Matrix, Bycatch Priority Matrix, Recreational Technical Committee Priorities, Socioeconomic Priority Data Elements, Ranking Criteria Document
- **Funding Decision Document**
  - Appendix A: Added Year 5 value ($142,344) for PRFC electronic reporting project
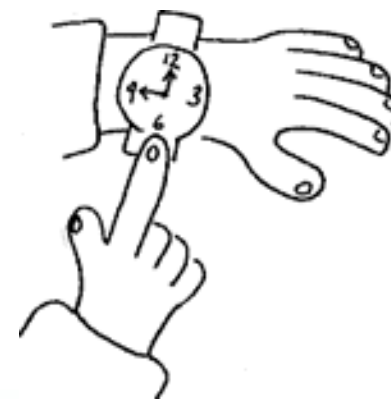
Update on Program and Committee Activities

Our vision is to be the principal source of fisheries-dependent information on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners.

Spring Data Load

- ACCSP staging and review complete
- NOAA conducting internal review
- Public data release scheduled May 7

- Highlights:
  - Established new data contact/provider for FL freshwater data (FL American Eel dataset)
  - Conversion factor changes in SAFIS are reflected in the historical eDR data in the Data Warehouse for this spring load
  - ME historical (2022) data updates

Accountability Workshop

- February 12-16, Charleston, SC

- Participants: State and federal partners

- Facilitators: Jorge Fraga, Jennifer Cudney

Accountability Workshop Scope

Determine the most appropriate and optimal data <u>accountability toolkit</u> so that ACCSP partners have standardized and efficient methods of providing data that is <u>complete, accurate, accessible, trusted, and timely</u> to the Data Warehouse to be used for science and management purposes.

Accountability Workshop Objectives

- Identify when and how to appropriately use the different tools.

- Identify the best tools to verify data collected with minimal effort and requirements.

- Understand the return on investment for the tool.

- Standard data accountability processes.

Data Accountability Tool Prioritization

Tier One
- Data entry validation (electronic and paper)
- Data audits
- Outreach (proactive and reactive)

Tier Two
- Fisher trip to dealer report comparison (2-ticket)
- Interagency comparisons
- Dockside monitoring (for-hire)

Tier Three
- Positional data (VMS)
- Onboard observers
- Electronic monitoring

Tier Four
- Pre-trip notification
- Negative reports
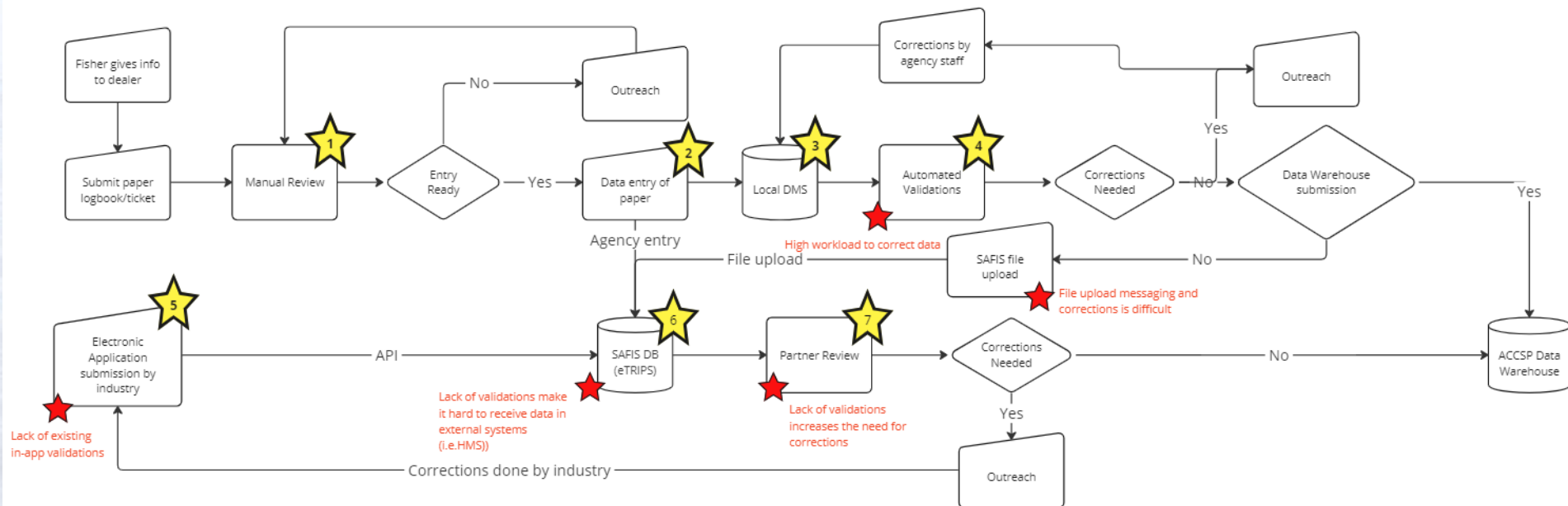- Dockside monitoring
- Law enforcement

SAFIS eTRIPS at-entry Validation Project

- Workshop in May 2023
- Excellent partner participation
- Developed requirements document

Current State Detail-level Map

SAFIS eTRIPS at-entry Validation Project

- Contractor hired: Aug 2023

- Development areas
  - SMS interface
  - Core fields
  - Attributes

- Project completion: June 2024

SciFish: Launched April 1, 2024

Project Development Approach

- Focus on data collection for marine and/or diadromous fisheries along the Atlantic coast
- Fill data gaps or data deficiencies and address identified research needs
- Use intentional design and clearly articulate how collected data will be used in management and/or stock assessments
- Encourage scientist and fishermen collaboration
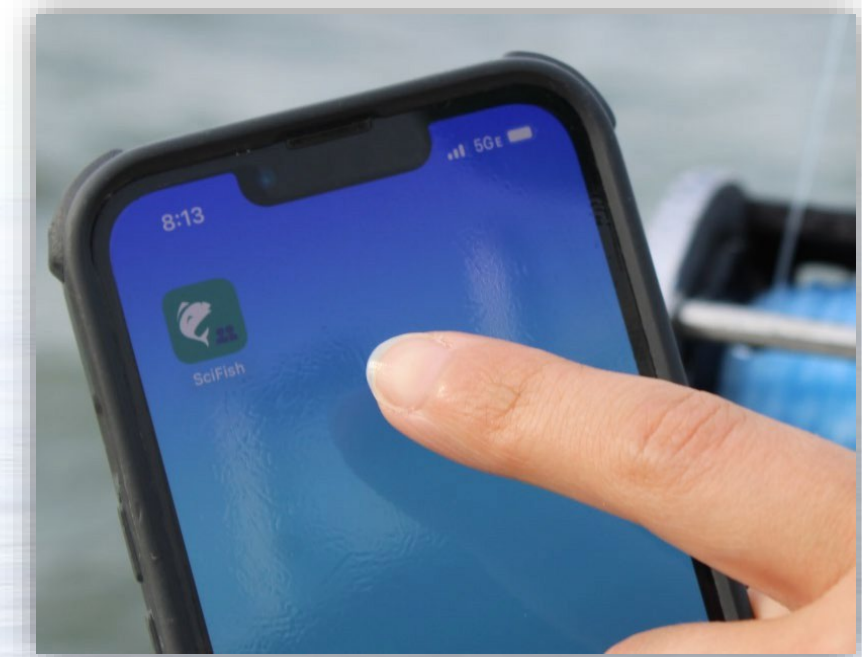
SciFish Organizing Committee

- SAFMC: Julia Byrd, Meg Withers, Chip Collier, Nick Smillie, Allie Iberle

- NCDMF: Brandi Salmon, Jeff Moore, Ami Staples, Andrew Valmassoi, Stephanie McInerny, Drew Cathey

- ACCSP: Julie Simpson, Jamal Oudiden

- GADNR: Kathy Knowlton

- RIDMF: Mike Bucko

- NOAA: Lauren Dolinger-Few

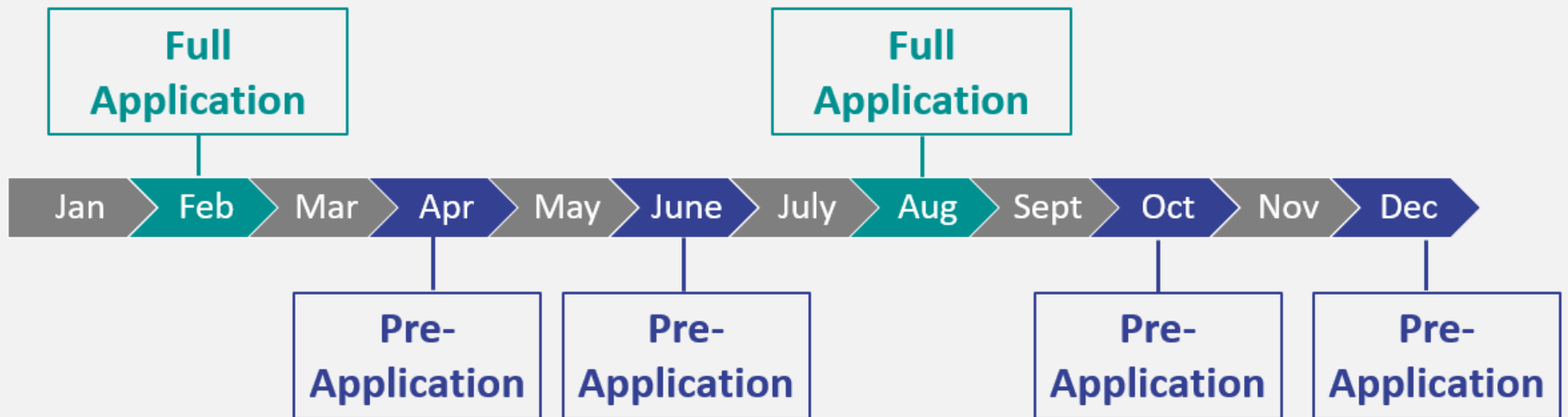- Harbor Light: Fran Karp, Bill Spain

SciFish Advisory Panel (SAP)

- Julia Byrd – SAFMC
- Julie DeFilippi Simpson – ACCSP
- Angela Giuliano – MD DNR
- Fran Karp – RI Advisor
- Kathy Knowlton – GA DNR
- Dee Lupton – NC Advisor
- George Maynard – NEFSC
- Laura Oremland – NOAA S&T
- Brandi Salmon – NC DMF
- David Sikorski – MD Advisor

SciFish Annual Application Timeline

Full Application

Full Application

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |

Pre-Application

Pre-Application

Pre-Application

Pre-Application

Cross-Team Projects

- VMS project VTA app (*Data Team & Software Team*)

- New eTRIPS map-based feature (*Data Team & Software Team*)

- Internal Commission Finance & Administrative Tools (*Software Team and F&A*)

- New Recreational & Other reports in Data Warehouse (*Recreational Team, Software Team, Data Team*)

Software Projects Completed (2023/2024)

- ✓ Performance gains in mobile trip processing:
  - improvements made to SAFIS mobile/API-based trip updates (edits)
  - resolved "rapid fire" duplicate-submission issues
- ✓ Partner footer in eTRIPS online & mobile
  - ask additional questions (start_port) based on "downstream" responses
  - lobster gear attributes
- ✓ API lookup_list additions & improvements
  - Example: trip_processed list, clients check processed status of trips

Software Projects Completed (2023/2024)
Continued

- ✓ Alignment of eTRIPS Online & Mobile user interfaces
  - • Improve consistency between eTRIPS platforms
- ✓ eTRIPS map tools
  - • auto-populate Area
- ✓ VMS project launched (Lobster)
  - • trip_locations endpoint / VTA application
- ✓ Modifications to SAFIS error processing
  - • added new soft-fail warnings, integrated with standard SAFIS errors
  - • supports warnings for attribute validation project
- ✓ eTRIPS attribute validations - Contractor
  - • adding new suite of partner-managed validations

Software Priorities, 2023-2025

March 2023
Info Sys Meeting

June 2023

Species QC/Tree ReDesign:

Aug 2023   Aug 2024

Registration Tracking

Oct 2023   May 2025

eDR ReDesign

Other
Completed **& Ongoing**
Software & IT Projects, ***2023/2025***

Species QC/Tree:
Application- and Trip-Type specific lists & validations
for species/grade/market/unit values

Registration Tracking:
Add relationships to connect entities (individs. or businesses)
Improved process to connect multiple entities to permit
Ability to connect entity to vessel
Ability to connect permit to vessel

eDR ReDesign:
Centralize processing of data (eDR Online & API, file upload)
Introduce switchboard-controlled partner attributes
API enhancements, support new HMS, GARFO data flow

Software Priorities, 2023-2025

March 2023
Info Sys Meeting

June 2023

Species QC/Tree ReDesign: *completed June, 2023*

Aug 2023   Aug 2024

Registration Tracking

Oct 2023   May 2025

eDR ReDesign

Other
***Completed* & Ongoing**
Software & IT Projects, *2023/2025*

Species QC/Tree:
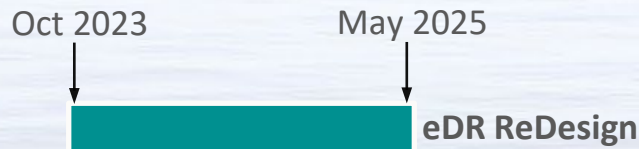COMPLETED

Registration Tracking:
Add relationships to connect entities (individs. or businesses)
Improved process to connect multiple entities to permit
Ability to connect entity to vessel
Ability to connect permit to vessel

eDR ReDesign:
Centralize processing of data (eDR Online & API, file upload)
Introduce switchboard-controlled partner attributes
API enhancements, support new HMS, GARFO data flow

Software Priorities, 2023-2025
Current & Upcoming Tasks

Aug 2023   Aug 2024

Registration Tracking

June 2024 for SMS Prototype testing,
Partners will be notified 2-3 weeks before we ask for input

Oct 2023   May 2025

eDR ReDesign

Completed changes to eDR API
Next month (May) soliciting input on requirements
from IS and Comtech committees

Registration Tracking:
Add relationships to connect entities (individs. or businesses)
Improved process to connect multiple entities to permit
Ability to connect entity to vessel
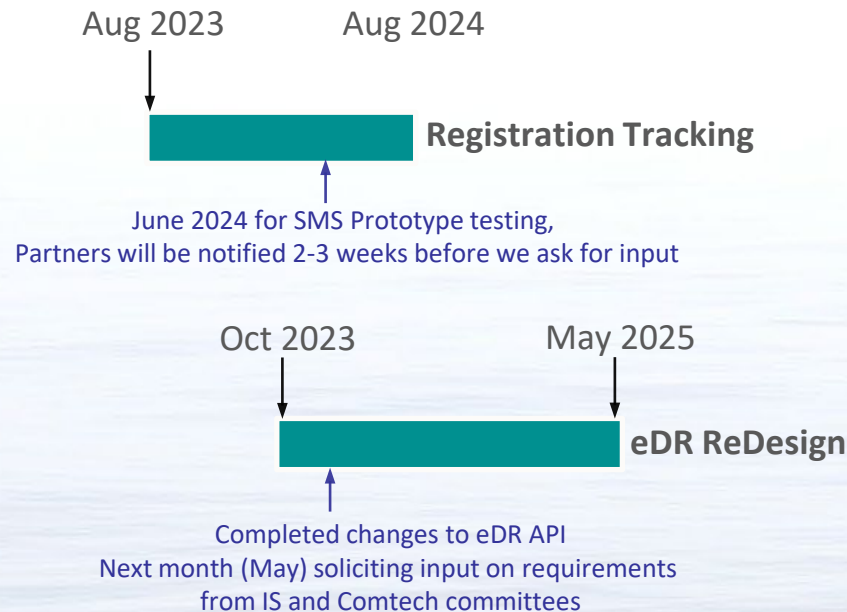Ability to connect permit to vessel

eDR ReDesign:
Centralize processing of data (eDR Online & API, file upload)
Introduce switchboard and partner attributes
COMPLETED 3/15
API enhancements, supporting new HMS, GARFO data flow

eDR ReDesign: *API Enhancements*
October 2023 – March 2024

Initial focus on time-sensitive API project - *unexpected deadline*

Goals

- modernize data flow from legacy systems to improved reporting API
- avoid GARFO dealer-reporting gap resulting from NEFSC IT changes

successful cutover in March

modified/enhanced eDR API

- support GARFO & HMS dealer data including BFT & Shark validations
- more robust error processing
- new report-update/edit feature through API

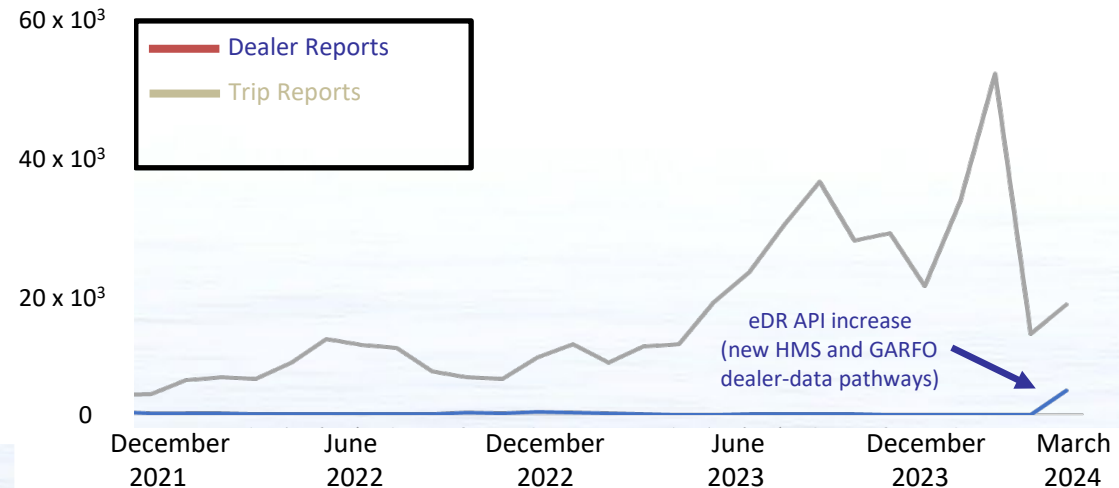*good timing – supports broader eDR ReDesign (2024/2025)*

API System Scaling

- Monthly (Dec 2021 to March 2024) counts of API calls to SAFIS trip, dealer, & location reporting endpoints.
- Increased number of Trip Reporting calls over last 2 years mainly due to VESL and GARFO transmissions to ACCSP

    But consistently <60k calls per month

- Many more trip reports compared to dealer reports via API
- Dealer reporting via API is increasing due to new GARFO/HMS data flows

Monthly Data-Submission API calls (December 2021 to March 2024)

eDR API increase
(new HMS and GARFO
dealer-data pathways)

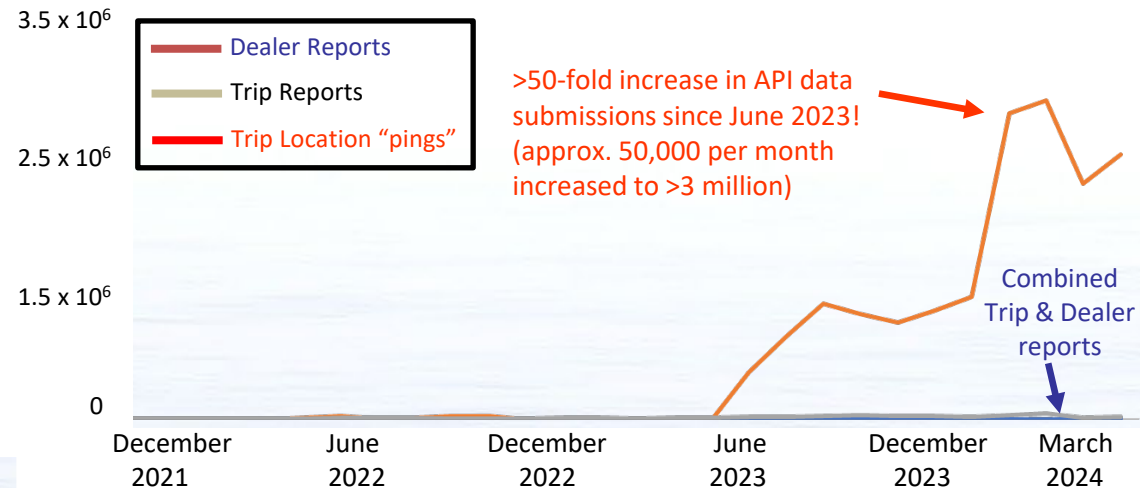Plot represents all API-based report submissions, not only processed trips

API System Scaling: *VMS Challenges*

- BIG increase in API traffic/calls in Fall 2023 and Winter 2024 (VMS devices started sending much more data to SAFIS)
- TRIP_LOCATIONS endpoint – receives up to 400 calls per minute, 300,000 calls per day on peak-activity days.
  - >3 million calls per month
  - over 50-fold increase over total Trip + Dealer reporting calls
- Monthly totals have been increasing since June 2023.

Monthly Data-Submission API calls (December 2021 to March 2024)

>50-fold increase in API data submissions since June 2023! (approx. 50,000 per month increased to >3 million)

Combined Trip & Dealer reports

PROBLEM: SAFIS connection failures caused by bottlenecks in AWS/cloud connections to database

API System Scaling: *Solutions*

Improvements to VMS (and other SAFIS API) processing efficiency

Completed

- ✓ Tune SAFIS database
- ✓ Optimize AWS/cloud hosting infrastructure configuration
- ✓ **Processing times & connection failures significantly reduced!**

Next steps (as options)

- ○ Isolate VMS hosting instance of VMS & other SAFIS/ACCSP systems
- ○ Redundant cloud instances for failover & load-balancing

   IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) Proposal - additional funds for IT upgrades

Atlantic Recreational Discards Pilot Project: Background & Need

- Discards are Priority #2 in Atlantic Implementation Plan

- APAIS asks anglers to remember information **AFTER** trip when may not have been paying attention to during trip

- Increased regulation limits + higher effort = higher proportion of released catch.

- Public questioning of MRIP estimates of released fish

- Released catch length data has gaps in coverage for private modes in Stock Assessments

Atlantic Recreational Discards Pilot Project: Project History & Goals

- Timeline To Date:
  - ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee (RTC) initially proposed idea in Dec, 2022
  - Subcommittee design meetings monthly since Jan, 2023
  - Final RTC review supported proposal on Mar 20, 2024

  *MRIP involved on RTC and proposal development

- Goals:
  - Analyze for potential of digit and recall bias in current APAIS methodology for discards
  - Collect additional lengths of released fish, especially for managed species for use in stock assessment processes

Atlantic Recreational Discards Pilot Project: Approach – Before and During Assignments

- Use MRIP APAIS stratified random design
- 'Overdrawn' (not a part of actual APAIS) assignments to hand out released Catch Cards **BEFORE** fishing trip
- Draw will continue to prioritize returning anglers for post-trip intercepts
- Assignments allow for 'buffer' time before morning intervals to distribute Catch Cards. **cards also handed out during assignment
- Catch Cards collected by APAIS interviewer **after** fishing trip if interviewer still on assignment

Catch Card Example:

- Released tallies for ALL species

- Released lengths for 14 managed species

- Unique identifier (red) to make sure tied to APAIS

- Data elements to connect to APAIS

- QR code for Instructions

Marine Angler Released Catch (MARC)

One card per angler. Fill out for fish just you release today.

12345

Trip Date:	Site:	Interviewer Number:

Released Catch: For all fish released, record species name and track number released alive or dead using tally marks.

Species	# Released Alive	# Released Dead
Spot (example)	ⅢⅢ Ⅱ	ⅢⅢ

Length of Fish Released (Inches)
(Fork length rounded down to nearest quarter inch)

Species 1	Species 2	Species 3

Species 4	Species 5	Species 6

Trip Information

I did not release any fish today
☐

Targeted Species

Depth Fished

State of Residency

Hours Fished

Fishing Mode
☐ Boat
☐ Shore

Distance from Shore
☐ Inland
☐ ≤ 3 Miles (ocean)
☐ > 3 Miles (ocean)

Trip END Time

Instructions

For detailed instructions on how to fill out this card, please scan QR code below.

List of priority species for lengths:

Black Sea Bass	Weakfish
Bluefish	Cobia
Haddock	Red Drum
Spanish Mackerel	Spotted Seatrout
Striped Bass	Gray Triggerfish
Summer Flounder	Red Porgy
Tautog	Vermilion Snapper

Atlantic Recreational Discards Pilot Project: Approach – After Assignments

- Catch cards mailed in (pre-paid postage) after fishing trip if Interviewer no longer on assignment

- State staff key enter catch cards to ACCSP Assignment Tracking Application (ATA)

- ACCSP & State staff QA catch card data

- Interviewer submits 'Overdrawn Pilot' APAIS assignment via tablet application

  - Potential for 'Overdrawn' assignments to be used in estimation process, pending MRIP consideration

Atlantic Recreational Discards Pilot Project: Approach Details

- Data collection: Waves 3-5
  - Some States considering Waves 2/6, pending MRIP approval for ability to create draws
- State Interest along Atlantic Coast – Regional participation:
  - North: Massachusetts (100), Connecticut (75), Rhode Island (?)
  - Mid: New York (65), Maryland (65)
  - South: North Carolina (50), South Carolina (50), Georgia (50)

	Base	Project Add	% Increase
MA	924	100	11%
CT	544	75	14%
NY	1083	65	6%
MD	1016	65	6%
NC	1410	50	4%
SC	563	50	9%
GA	415	50	12%

Atlantic Recreational Discards Pilot Project: Next Steps

- Final Adjustments to Proposal
  - Development of state-specific budgets
  - Fine details to approach, data elements, instructions
- Timeline Moving Forward
  - Approval for funding via ACCSP RFP in 2024
  - Implementation of field season in 2025

Other Activity:

* GSMFC hosting Workshop on Released Catch methods this summer. Open participation in person and virtual. Details will be distributed when available.

ACCSP Data Warehouse & Website Updates

- Data Warehouse – Recreational Effort and Catch
  - Meeting MRIP Standards
    - Fishing Year, Annual/Cumulative (& Wave), Confidence Intervals, PSE presentation

- Website
  - Revamped for public
  - Worked w/ NOAA CET on messaging for MRIP page

For-hire Methodology Technical Review: Status Update

- Jun, 2022: Initial ACCSP submission for MRIP certification
- Feb, 2023: Follow-up submission for MRIP certification
  - See Attachment IV
- Jun, 2023: ACCSP Chairs, MRIP & Consultant review
- Oct, 2023: Consultant review report
- Jan, 2024: ACCSP Chairs, MRIP & Consultant update
  - See Attachment V
- Mar, 2024: RecTech Meeting
- May-Oct (?), 2024: Data analyses
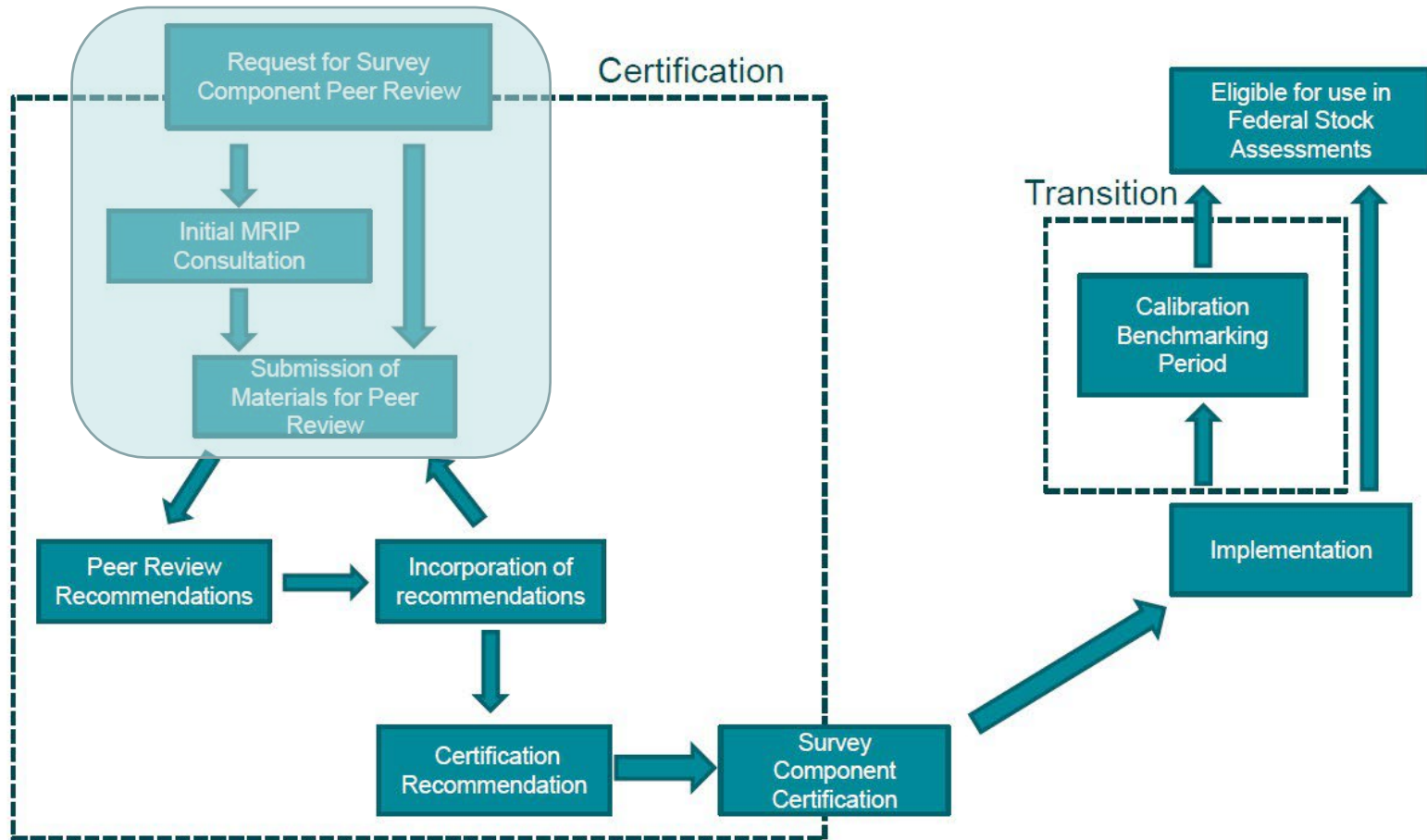- TBD, 2024: Resubmission for MRIP certification

For-hire Methodology Technical Review: Goals and Objectives

- More fully utilize For-hire logbooks in MRIP catch statistics

- Maintain compatible designs on Atlantic coast

- Allow for phased implementation on Atlantic Coast as logbook programs adopt MRIP certified design requirements

- Develop design prior to regulations & implementation

- Obtain feedback on For-hire logbook design components
  - Electronic logbook design components
  - APAIS dockside survey for validation
  - Calculation method for catch and effort statistics

Where we are – April 2024

Certification Process

Terms of Reference:

1. Survey design components must follow a formal probability sampling protocol with known inclusion probabilities at all stages and/or phases of sampling

2. Estimation methods appropriately weight the sample data to account for the sampling design and produce design-unbiased point estimates and variance estimates

3. Appropriate methods are in place to measure and/or correct for potential biases due to under-coverage, nonresponse, or response errors

Terms of Reference:

4. Sensitivity of the accuracy of the survey to assumptions made about segments of the target population that are not covered by the survey frame is fully understood, and measures to reduce or limit that sensitivity are described

5. Sensitivity of the accuracy of the survey to other potential sources of non-sampling error is fully understood, and measures to reduce or limit that sensitivity are described

6. The sensitivity of the survey design to potential errors in implementation is documented and measures to evaluate, reduce or limit that sensitivity are described

For-hire Methodology Technical Review: Consultants Response

✓ Follows probability sampling design

✓ APAIS used for estimation AND validation

✓ Estimators appropriately weight sample data

✓ Estimators allow proper estimation of variance

✓ No new accuracy concerns beyond APAIS/FHTS

✓ Limited ability to measure and evaluate bias and non-sampling error at this time

✓ Many components same or similar to other certified MRIP designs

For-hire Methodology Technical Review: Action Items Addressed

- Did Not Fish (DNF) Reports

  RTC: Include as required

- Declarations (Hail-outs)

  RTC: Do not require, include as optional

- Vessel Frames (Logbook or Effort survey)

  RTC: Identify categories of vessels moving between
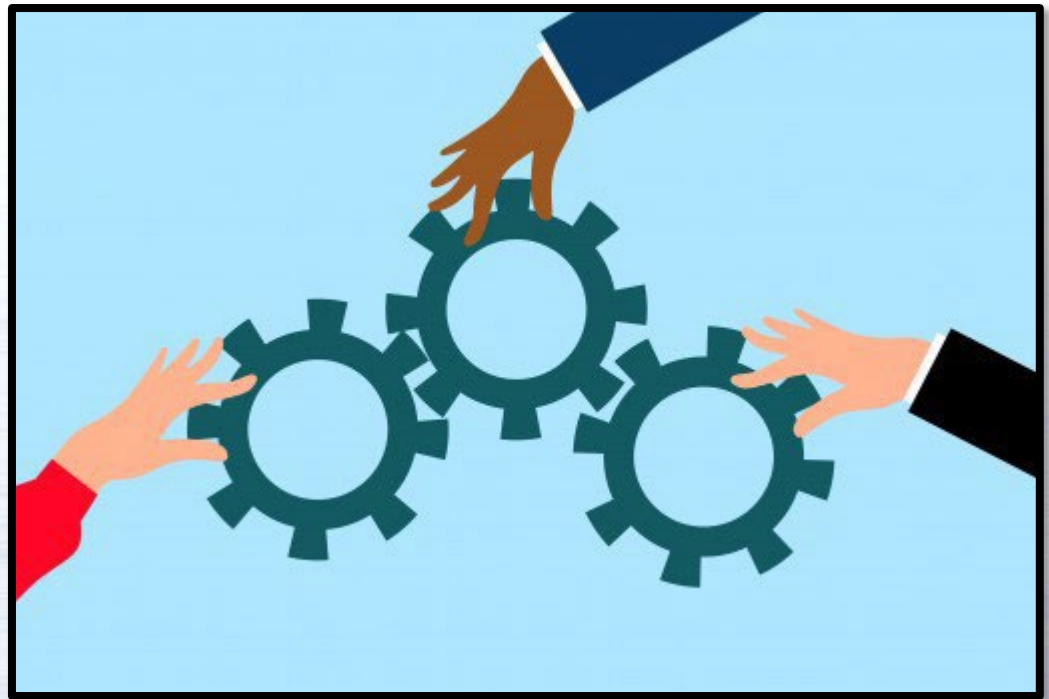
- Use of APAIS as required estimation component

  RTC: Clarify tasks for data analysis (likely via contractor)

Regional Data Coordination

- MRIP
- HMS
- GARFO
- SE Commercial

Regional Data Coordination - MRIP

- 2024 State conduct of APAIS & FHTS
  - Completed regional trainings and data collection ongoing
  - Evaluating optimal assignment allocation to reduce PSEs
- Developing 2025-2029 Cooperative Agreement SOW
  - Access Point Angler Intercept Survey ME-GA
  - For Hire Telephone Survey (ME-GA)
  - Large Pelagics Survey (Intercepts in ME, Biological samples in NC)
  - Catch Card Census Programs in MD, NC likely changing in 2025
- Discards Proposal
- For-Hire Logbook design

Regional Data Coordination - HMS

- HMS eDealer support & integration with SAFIS eDR

- For-Hire logbook fields to support eVTR submission in SAFIS eTRIPS, upcoming additions to other on-water applications.

- Private angler reporting systems moving electronic, aligning with MRIP For-hire survey and coordinated modernization of paper reporting with MD, NC Catch Card Census programs.

Regional Data Coordination - GARFO

- eDR API enhancements
  - Addition of HMS and other needed fields in API
  - Updates to overlapping trip error reporting to facilitate submission of updates
  - Creation of update capability for existing records
  - Coordination of testing across multiple agencies
- GARFO dealer database update
  - ACCSP staff participate in weekly meetings with GARFO and NEFSC staff
- Mandatory Lobster only reporting
  - Changes to ACCSP API and application programming
  - Coordination with GARFO staff on switchboard updates and mapping to send trips to ACCSP API
  - Updates to process to push records to GARFO API

Regional Data Coordination – SE Commercial

- Commercial and HMS logbook coordination
  - Staff meet with SEFSC, HMS, and GARFO staff every other week to coordinate
  - Spreadsheet to track issues
- Adaptations to allow submission of state data
  - April release recognizes when a vessel is only SE permitted and submitting a commercial trip and default to using the issuing agency of fisher permit so that they application shows the state form.

Announcements

- Alex DiJohnson named ASMFC Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2024

- New Data Team Lead starting May 16, 2024

Announcements

- Oracle Business Innovations Webcast: Fisheries use of APEX is driving data collection and dissemination on the Atlantic Coast of the USA.

BUSINESS INNOVATIONS WEBCAST

Using Oracle APEX/Low Code solutions to collect Atlantic US saltwater fisheries data
A customer story

Tuesday, March 12th at 4:00 PM GMT

Julie DeFilippi Simpson
ACCSP Deputy Director

Geoff White
ACCSP Director

Karen Cannell
TH TECHNOLOGY

Jim Czuprynski,
Zero Defect Computing, Inc

Ashish Mohindroo
Oracle

Committee Newsletter Questions

Other Business

Potential expansion of MRIP data collection in unsampled months

Historically Unsampled Months:

- Wave 1: GA, SC, VA – ME

- Wave 2 & 6: MA, NH, ME

Supporting Initiatives:

- Atlantic Implementation Plan calls for periodic effort sampling to evaluate shifts due to climate change

- MRIP state conduct provides structure

- SC requested sampling of W1, 2025

- For-Hire Logbook Methodology development

MRIP data collection in unsampled waves

For-Hire Telephone Survey (FHTS)

- Possible with existing staff and budget

- Potential for regional coverage beginning 2025

APAIS Dockside Intercepts

- Dependent upon increased staffing & funding

- Developing criteria based on level of effort

- SC 2025 focus on for-hire intercepts

Fishing Effort Survey (FES) – Private anglers

- Dependent upon funding and FES contract scope

- Potential for 2026

*Contact ACCSP after meeting with State interest

Adjourn