

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council

August 31, 2023 9:00-11:30am

2.5 hours, Webinar

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2342290053991369053> Webinar ID: 874-569-499

Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. McNamee*)
2. Council Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Minutes from May 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Review and Discuss SciFish policies for ACCSP's citizen science mobile app (*90 min, J. Simpson, J. Byrd, K. Knowlton*)
5. Discuss recreational data priorities and activities (30 min, *G. White*)
6. Discuss 2024 activities planning (30 min, *G. White*)
7. Other Business
8. Adjourn

**DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ATLANTIC COASTAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**The Westin Crystal City
Arlington, Virginia
Hybrid Meeting**

May 2, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Call to Order1

Approval of Agenda1

Approval of Proceedings1

Public Comment1

Consider Funding Decision Document and FY2024 Request for Proposals1

Update on Program and Committee Activities2

Other Business.....11

Reconstitute Leadership Team Membership11

Adjournment12

INDEX OF MOTIONS

1. **Approval of Agenda** by consent (Page 1).
2. **Approval of Proceedings of November 7, 2022** by consent (Page 1).
3. **Move to approve the FY24 Funding Decision Document and RFP as presented to the ACCSP Coordinating Council** (Page 2). Motion by Mell Bell; second by Renee Zobel. Motion passes (17 in favor) (Page 2).
4. **Motion to adjourn** by consent (Page 12).

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Council Members

Bob Beal, ASMFC	Mel Bell, SC
Megan Ware, ME, proxy for P. Keliher	Chris McDonough, SC
Renee Zobel, NH, proxy for C. Patterson	Kathy Knowlton, GA
Dan McKiernan, MA	Carolyn Belcher, GA, proxy got D. Haymans
Jason McNamee, RI, Chair	Erika Burgess, FL, proxy for J. McCawley
Greg Wojcik, CT, proxy for J. Davis	Martin Gary, PRFC
Jim Gilmore, NY, proxy for B. Seggos	Rese Cloyd, DC Fisheries
Jeff Brust, NJ, proxy for J. Cimino	Rick Bellavance, NEFMC
Kris Kuhn, PA	Brandon Muffley, MAFMC
Loren Lustig, PA	John Carmichael, SAFMC
John Clark, DE	Max Appelman, NOAA
Carrie Kennedy, MD	Richard Cody, NOAA
Lynn Fegley, MD	Dave Gloeckner, NOAA
Pat Geer, VA	Gordon Colvin, NOAA
Lewis Gillingham, VA, proxy for J. Green	Rick Jacobson, USFWS
Brandi Salmon, NC, proxy for K. Rawls	

Staff

Toni Kerns	Daniel Mestawat	Caitlin Starks
Tina Berger	Joe Myers	Mike Rinaldi
Tracey Bauer	Marisa Powell	Kristen Anstead
Adam Lee	Jamal Oudiden	Jeff Kipp
Alex DiJohnson	Trevor Scheffel	Jennifer Ni
Katie Drew	Madeline Musante	Emilie Franke
Chris Jacobs	Julie Defilippi Simpson	Gabe Thompson
Ed Martino	Anna-Mai Christmas-Svajdlenka	Geoff White

Guests

Erianna Hammond, NOAA	Marc Berger	Ben Dyar, SC DNR
Lisa Crawford, NOAA	Alan Bianchi, NC DENR	Mark Eustis
Ann Williamson, NOAA	Michael Bias	Julie Evans
Carrie Soltanoff, NOAA	Jeffrey Brust, NJ DEP	Thomas Farrell
Karyl Breustes-Geisz, NOAA	Jack Buchanan, VIMS	Glen Fernandes
Pat Augustine	Steven Cannizzo	Tony Friedrich, SGA
Jason Avila	Craig Cantelmo	Tom Fuda
Matt Ayer, MA DMF	Michael Celestino, NJ DEP	Angela Giuliano, MD DNR
Tyler Bailey	Blane Chocklett	Melanie Griffin, MA DMF
Richard Balouskus, RI DEM	Heather Corbett, NJ DEP	Hannah Hart, MAFMC
Peter Bartlett	Sarah Cvach, MD DNR	Emerson Hasbrouck, Cornell
Meredith Bartron, US FWS	Jessica Daher, NJ DEP	Matthew Heyl, NJ DEP
Quint Bartush	Robert DeCosta	Harry Hornick, MD DNR
Alan Battista	Evan Dintaman	Carrie Kennedy, MD DNR
Gerry Beers	Russell Dize	Gregg Kenney, NY DEC

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

Draft Proceedings of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Management Board – May 2023

Sarah Lazo, NOAA
Nicole Lengyel Costa, RI DEM
Shanna Madsen, VMRC
John Maniscalco, NYS DEC
Tara McClintock, Cornell
Steve Meyers
Gerry O'Neill
Alexis Park, MD DNR
Michael Pirri
Jason Ponte
Katherine Papacostas, NOAA
Christopher Parkins, RI DEM
Daniel Parma

Bryanq Plumlee
Jill Ramsey, VMRC
Michael Roy
Lenny Rudow
Zachary Schuller, NYS DEC
Chris Scott, NYS DEC
McLean Seward, NC DENR
David Sikorski
Andrew Sinchuk, NYS DEC
Somers Smott, VMRC
Renee St. Amand, CT DEEP
Lauren Staples, NH FG
David Stormer, DE DNREC

Jesica Waller, ME DMF
Jason Walsh, NC DENR
Rob Watts, ME DMF
Craig Weedon, MD DNR
Peter Whelan
Angel Willey, MD DNR
Chris Wright, NOAA
Erik Zlokovitz, MD DNR
Barry Clifford, NOAA
Allison Murphy, NOAA
Edward Tully
Paul Risi, Kingsborough
Community College

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Jefferson Ballroom of the Westin Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia, via hybrid meeting, in-person and webinar; Tuesday, May 2, 2023 and was called to order at 2:32 p.m. by Chair Jason McNamee.

Any edits, additions, deletions to those proceedings from anyone on the Council? Not seeing any around the table, anyone online? No one online. Are there any objections to approving those proceedings as submitted? If you do object, please raise your hand. Not seeing any around the table, no hands online, we will consider those proceedings approved by consent.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR JASON McNAMEE: I think we'll get started here, folks, a little after 2:30. Welcome everybody to the ACCSP Coordinating Council meeting. It is our job to catch us back up after the marathon Striped Bass meeting. I'll do my best to do that.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHAIR McNAMEE: Good, thank you all very much for that. Next up we have a spot for some Public Comment for things that are not already on the agenda. Is there anyone wishing to speak from the public on anything not on the agenda today? I'm looking up in the room here in the back, not seeing any hands raised. Anyone on line with a raised hand? No one online. Okay, we will move on from that as well.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CHAIR JASON McNAMEE: Let's get right to it, and the first order of business the agenda. Are there any changes to the agenda that anyone wishes to see? Okay, actually, do we have anyone participating online from the Council?

CONSIDER FUNDING DECISION DOCUMENT AND FY2024 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CHAIR McNAMEE: Okay, so next up on the agenda is our action item here, it is to Consider Funding Decision Document and FY2024 Request for Proposals. As Geoff mentioned, Julie is not able to be with us in person, so Geoff is going to run through a quick presentation for us, so Geoff, whenever you're ready.

MR. GEOFF WHITE: We do, we have four. I've taken the liberty of running roll call for those of you in person, so thank you for doing that, and online we have John Carmichael, Richard Cody, Dave Gloeckner, and Greg Wojcik. We also have Julie Defilippi Simpson, our Deputy Director, who is out with an illness but is participating remotely.

MR. WHITE: Great. We have the presentation up. Again, welcome to everybody and thank you for participating in the time, and considering the time, we will kind of take the RFP Action Item as it comes, and then I'll probably summarize the program updates a little bit more quickly as we go, to leave time for questions if there are any at the end. We've already made it through a bit of our agenda, so we'll run down right to the Request for Proposals.

CHAIR McNAMEE: Thanks, Jeff. If it's okay with you, I'll kind of look down this way to see if there are any hands up online. I'm assuming there are none for the agenda, okay great. Are there any objections to approving the agenda as submitted, please raise your hand? Okay, seeing none; we will consider the agenda approved by consent, thank you all for that.

APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS

CHAIR McNAMEE: Next up, I think, are the Proceedings from the November, 2022 meeting.

The proposal was included in the materials, and this becomes a more consistent version of the annual request for proposals. A couple of the highlights are listed on screen. Really, under Appendix A

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

there is only one project that is reaching Year 6, its final year, which is kind of a step down to reduction. Total funding allowed for \$43,000 if they choose to extend that proposal in this year.

Also, the Biological and Bycatch Committees met in February, and they were able to update those matrices. While the RFP doesn't change, there is a considerable amount of work that went into updating those matrices for the guidelines of that goes with it and is the appendices. Also at the Coordinating Council's November meeting, the recreational Atlantic Implementation Plan was approved, and so that stands in for the updated recreational priorities, all the relevant dates, and of course the most important one to those that are looking forward to submitting proposals.

Assuming approval, initial proposals will be due June 16, 2023. Those are the highlighted actions, otherwise it's a pretty standard year. We suggest looking for a motion to approve it for discussion, and a motion, and then I'll go over kind of where we stand for this year's funding before we get into the program today

CHAIR McNAMEE: First, any questions from anyone that you need clarified before we move forward with a potential motion? Not seeing any hands around the table; anyone online with a hand raised? Okay, no hands online. As Geoff mentioned, I think what we'll be looking for here is a motion to move this. Is anybody willing to make that motion?

Okay, we've provided you with a motion, so all you have to do is raise your hand. It looks like Mel in the back there is willing to make that motion, is there a second? Renee with a second. Mel, anything you want to add before we call the vote here? That would be perfect, Mel. Hang on one second, Mel. There is an issue with the microphone, if we both hit it at the same time it won't run, so it didn't sound like it was working.

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

MR. MEL BELL: Move to approve the FY2024 Funding Decision Document and RFP as presented to the ACCSP Coordinating Council.

CHAIR McNAMEE: Thank you, Mel, so motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Ms. Zobel. **Any discussion on the motion? No hands around the table. I'm guessing no hands online, it's just a guess. No hands online. Great, so I think we are ready to call the vote. Does anybody need, most of you are sitting by yourself, so I don't even know who you would talk to. All right, let's go ahead and call the vote. All those in favor of the motion, please raise your hand. Okay, we've got 17 to approve. Any opposition, please raise your hand. No hands raised, any abstentions? Any null votes? Okay, motion passes.** Very good, thank you everyone for that. Okay, next is the funding question. Okay, Geoff, whenever you're ready.

UPDATE ON PROGRAM AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

MR. WHITE: Thanks to the Operations Committee and Julie Simpson, for kind of preparing the RFP parts in preparation for this meeting. I want to make sure that all are recognized. This slide really talks about the FY24 funding prospectus. What proposals might we expect under maintenance, where do we expect the ACCSP Admin Grant to be?

What is the kind of incoming funds? That information is kind of summarized on screen, but last year there were some unallocated funds of about \$250,000 that was held within the ACCSP Grant, and so when we're looking forward to new projects, and let me just pause for a moment. Maintenance includes Maine coming back in for Lobster Reporting, and kind of a few other projects cycling out, and the Rhode Island staying in at the \$43,000 cap through Year 6.

ACCSP Admin Grant projected at level fundings from last year, and for incoming funds level funding is about 3.535 million. With that, the unallocated funds, we're really projecting almost a million dollars available to new projects in this year's

funding cycle. With this, I want to just take a moment and encourage partners within the RFP Focus Modules to consider resources for projects that extend or improve processes.

We'll update it a little bit later, but ACCSP staff have already been working with some of the committees, both through Operations Committee, Bio, Bycatch, Rec Tech to move forward or begin with some ideas on some proposals that may come in. But we also recognize, and Operations Committee had a long discussion that many partner staff are facing bandwidth issues for truly new activities.

Brand new idea, a pilot study, new reporting programs can feel a little bit daunting even if the money arrives. I do want to just recognize that there is likely to be funds available, and encourage folks to think about smaller projects that might be partner system data modernization, a process improvement, a workload efficiency, even promoting an existing program or greater migration to electronic reporting

Ease of transferring data to the ACCSP system, aligning of processes so that there is kind of maybe a little less churn of what's going on. Of course, the big one, if there is a pilot test were to implement the new data collection design, those are always welcome. But I do encourage you to think about those smaller projects as well that might improve your efficiency as you do your work throughout the year. Did you want to pause for a question there?

CHAIR McNAMEE: Maybe take a quick moment. Any questions on that before we move into the Program Activities Update. Not seeing any around the table; none online. It looks like we're good, Geoff, you can continue on.

MR. WHITE: This is just kind of a quick agenda list of what we're going to cover under the program update. Jumping right in to where

we're at on current funding. Again, last year's total ACCSP funding was 3.53 million. The kind of phrase FIN-crease, so the Fisheries Information Network had a bump up across the nation, and so there was a portion of that that came through to ACCSP. For last year there were 9 projects that were approved back in November, and then once the funding came through and was able to be passed on to those projects, those 9 projects are listed on the screen with the partner, their title and the cost identified.

I do want to note that funds that also flow through the ACCSP to keep us successful and maintain a lot of the work. The entire MRIP State Conduct Grant supports three staff at the ACCSP, as well as partner staff out in all of the states, Maine through Georgia. The FIS had 4 funded open proposals through ACCSP to our workshops and through MCI, and two are related to data validation, presentation, and implementation on some of the software pieces.

We also have some non-ACCSP Admin Grant Funds that support FISMA, the Federal Information Security Management Act efforts and the SAFIS Help Desk. A bunch of activity does occur that comes in and is supported from outside of the ACCSP Grant. On staffing I'm happy to announce, at the moment all of our staff positions are filled.

There is a link in there to look at the website, and take a peek at who all of us are. Our most recent addition was Kranthi Palla, he has over 14 years' experience in kind of Web and database developer with the EPA. He has been helping out and learning the ropes within ACCSP, helping out on some of our internal items, as well as SAFIS development, and really gaining his feet and ground to be able to move forward and support the software projects I'll be talking about soon.

A couple of major workshops. Of course, Coordinating Council has been talking about the Accountability Workgroup for several years now. They had 9 recommendations when they met a while back. Those area really focused on creating opportunities to share knowledge, enhance communication, increase the visibility of metadata,

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

and really standardize the automation of data validation.

That last point leads to a workshop that Julie Simpson and Heather Power are running next week down in Charleston. This is an FIS funded activity, to really scope across the ACCSP partners what are the data auditing and data validation needs of the partners. Determine what data validations are common, what can be done at entry, what maybe needs to be done as a follow up audit after the records have been submitted.

The main intent of this workshop is to develop a requirements document, to then hand off to a programmer. We have both the funds already in hand from FIS to do that software work, as well as a contractor and staff identified to follow through on that. That is really where this is going after the workshop is to begin working on SAFIS eTRIPS for additional validations.

Again, there is a bunch of flexible fields, how to do both the field and data range type validations within the software and the APIs, so how to automate that and give the fishermen or the Ap users immediate feedback of what fields are right or what fields might need adjustment in their logbook reports, while they are right there and remember it in that moment.

Following the actual Validation Workshop, Julie is planning the Accountability Workshop for ACCSP Partners. This was an ACCSP funded activity, and it was part of one of the proposals that came through the Coordinating Council last year. This one is really about comparing data collection programs, the audits, the combination of the trip and the dealer reports, and a really implementation of technological advances. The intent there is to identify gaps in metadata and scope approaches for closing those gaps, and really move forward on documenting those processes, and combining data from various sources.

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

One item is the ACCSP Data Warehouse for commercial data, and also working with GARFO on the CAMS or Catch Accounting Monitoring System and those types of activities. That will be at a workshop coming up in the fall. Moving from program to some software project status. The top two are items that have just been completed and released, so we're excited about that.

One item is customizing the partner species list as presented in SAFIS. Now, this one might be a little bit harder to explain, but by splitting out which species list are presented to users by trip type and by partner, this means if it's a commercial trip, if it's a recreational trip, if it's a for-hire trip. What are the valid species combinations in dealer reporting.

The end run is, by customizing those lists, you shorten the list that are available to each user. They make better choices about what those options are, and it improves kind of what questions we're presenting to the folks on the water as they are entering their trip information, and it included changes to the catch reporting systems and the backend processing in both eTRIPS online and eTRIPS Mobile. What sounds like ooh, what are your changing species, really had a pretty deep impact in different places.

The Lobster Vessel Trip Viewer has another slide on that, but really that is identifying for the Lobster Board meeting yesterday the lobster vessel tracker and trip viewer, and being able to put that into production, which it's now released as of last Friday. Some of the upcoming things on this slide, before I jump back to lobster vessel tracker.

We're spending a lot of this year developing the participant and permit registration tracking. That is a necessary component to identify the fishermen, the vessels, businesses, the partnerships, and it's really the ability to connect an individual to an entity. An entity would be the individual business or a partnership.

That entity to a permit, that entity to a vessel, and of course that permit to a vessel. All these

combinations and the mixing and matching of them, really identify what records can be shared to what individual at what time. Identifying the participants in the fisheries is kind of an important step, and this will change the underlying structure of how eTRIPS and electronic dealer reporting function.

It will be more transparent to the end users, but very helpful for us in data management and long-term data storage. Then moving forward for next years development. The SAFIS Electronic Dealer Reporting is set for redesign. We'll be doing staff work in 2024, hopefully to release that in January, 2025.

That again is the alignment of file upload, the online Ap, the mobile Ap, and so getting all of those pieces working, and we released it to the public at the same time, so that our data reporting standards are aligned, no matter how the data come in, is an important step, and will take some coordination. Do you want to pause for a question here or keep going?

MR. DANIEL McKIERNAN: I guess I'm guilty of some brutal body language. My question has to do with the lobster tracker and the EVTR requirement that NMFS is in the process of requiring. I know that the lobster tracker information is eventually supposed to line up with the federal electronic VTR report.

I'm wondering, Geoff, if you've had any opportunity to sort of weigh in to the powers that be to accelerate that rule, because I know we're already collecting the data, and in the absence of having that linkage it's a problematic gap. I don't know if you could speak to that.

MR. WHITE: I haven't been able to change any of those timelines. That's still slated, as far as I've heard, for December. But it's a good question to lead us to our next slide, so thanks for that. With the combinations, the piece that ACCSP was asked to participate in was the trap viewer application. This is a confidential

application available only to state administrators, ACCSP staff, and it connects the idea of where the location things are happening and what the electronic vessel trip reports are doing.

One of the benefits of this system, which has now been put into production, is the pings that occur on the vessels go to those tracker vendors, they push that information to an ACCSP database, and then the electronic trip reports, whether they are submitted through GARFOs Fish Online, or whether they are submitted through the SAFIS e-TRIPS application.

We, the ACCSP and GARFO share those EVTRs with each other, I want to say it's more than daily, it's hourly, or as they happen, really. We have the EVTRs when they happen. We have the pings when they happen. The picture that is on screen identifies a survey trip; this is not a confidential trip that I'm showing you at the moment. But it identifies where was the vessel saying the start and end points were of that trip.

I chose the pings, and that black line in the graph is identifying where there maybe was a transit point where the State Administrators can look at it. The technology is in place to have the devices placed on vessels, have those location pings submitted to the database, to have the logbooks linked with those pings, and to show that to the State Administrators.

AT this point it's really at an implementation phase of putting those devices on the vessels, and having the electronic VTRs come in, and kind of watching how this goes. I think Toni said yesterday there were about 200 vessels that have them installed already. I'm in danger of getting it wrong, but I think it's about 3,000 total it is going to. Does that lead you in the right direction?

MR. McKIERNAN: It does, and I would just ask that if you have an opportunity, as the ACCSP heavyweight, if NMFS is asking, we can't get that fast enough, because our staff are going to have to find a way to link that tracker information to the actual trip attributable to lobster, because it's going

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

on vessels that have federal lobster permits authorized to fish traps. But they may be scalloping or they may be fishing for longlines or something else, and we just want to make the data as clean as possible going forward for whales and for wind and all those other reasons that this information is going to be so valuable.

MR. WHITE: I'm getting a note from the field, thank you, Barry Clifford. The current EVTR implementation plan is August 1st, and that might get delayed, depending on what happens in other areas of the approval process. We're excited about the application, we are very aware that it's confidential data, really only available to the state folks, to the administrative level individuals.

Just for your awareness, we have a variety of other ongoing software projects that is keeping our software development team quite busy. They are listed on screen, and of course if you're interested about those, we can talk about those outside of the meeting. I'm going to keep moving here. I wanted to give you an update on the recreational fisheries project status.

It's couched in the list of the implementation plan priorities that were approved in November. Those six priorities exist. I am going to at least take a moment and appreciate that when MRIP adopted the hybrid approach to this regional implementation plan, they maintained that MRIP is the lead on survey design estimation and providing funding.

The regional and state partners identify priorities, conduct the field surveys, so for us that includes Maine through Georgia, the APAIS dockside sampling, the for-hire telephone survey, and then there are a few states that do large pelagic sampling and catch card in their regions. The implementation teams then coordinate regional needs or recommendations, and this focus on partnership has been great this year.

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

MRIP partnered up with us, and we did a joint release and common messaging of the Atlantic Implementation Plan and really was appreciative of that partnership. I would encourage all of you around the table, and your staff, as members of the Atlantic Regional Team, to work within this structure to kind of address your data needs. If there is something that is pinging on your agency that is within those six priorities, maybe the RFP is an opportunity to address one of those.

If there is something in those priorities or outside of those priorities that is important to your agency, again, please bring it up through the process and see what we can do to get that addressed long term. The first priority update is really improving precision. The status there is that when the Modern Fish Act was approved, about \$900,000 a year came through the ACCSP to support over 2,200 more six-hour assignments of the APAIS every single year.

We've been doing that since 2020, and really looking forward to seeing how that goes in tracking some indicator species. We have six species that we report back to MRIP on every year, and see if the additional sampling has improved PSEs overall. Another approach that was also just released by MRIP is the Surveys and Statistical Standards.

They moved recently to show cumulative estimates for the current year and fully annual estimates for prior years, and the implementation of masking PSEs above 50 will be coming later on this year. Those are items that really do move forward the visibility of higher quality data for use to support decision makings, and when the data don't match those guidelines, there is potential and support to roll those things up. Question.

MR. JOHN CLARK: Yes, thanks, Geoff. Just curious about that \$900,000. That's just for the Atlantic Coast, and that is a constant, so over time, based on how costs are going up, we're probably going to be able to do less intercepts per year with that same amount of money.

MR. WHITE: It's identified as sampling assignments, so a six-hour sampling assignment. That might go down a little bit as the costs increase. But as pointed out on screen, those numbers of assignments were allocated up and down the coast cooperatively between MRIP, ACCSP staff and the state staff of, how many assignments the state could take on.

There were more attributed to states with longer seasons, or greater species diversity, and then the states really allocated them within the waves and modes that were most important. Staff are getting pretty efficient to be able to get out there and get the most intercepts as possible. One of the goals that APAIS is trying to track and improve is minimizing the eligible anglers that are not interviewed.

Saying it a more positive way, maximizing the eligible anglers that go through a site that can be interviewed. If you get that percentage real high, that means your staff know what they are doing. They are getting in touch with a few people, and they are getting as much data as possible.

MR. CLARK: Just a quick follow up, just one. Have you seen improvements already in the PSEs? Do you have enough data at this point to see any changes?

MR. WHITE: It's a little early to tell, and of course the funds came in late 2020, and then we had '21 and '22 to evaluate that. The first year the number of intercepts went up by about 20 percent, and then last year with the incorporation of the SETA Survey, the number of intercepts went down again, and so PSEs haven't vastly shifted yet.

But the intent within the staff working on the project and MRIP, is to watch this for about a five-year period, and see if there is a shift. We're tracking the 2016 to 2020, as compared

to kind of 2020 through 2024. I had another question from Renee.

MS. RENEE ST AMAND: My question is kind of along those lines. You know we have all this extra funding to improve precision with additional assignments. I know I can speak from our state sampling. We really struggled to hire staff this year, and we are really struggling to try and fit a square peg in a round hole at times. I'm just curious, I don't want to slow this conversation down, but partners around the table, is that a common theme this year? Okay, that makes me feel better in a really bad way, so thank you.

MS. WHITE: It's a fair point and it has been a concern for two plus years. One of the things that we did this year was, when we reworked the state-by-state budgets for the MRIP sampling, there were where possible, within state structures and other things. There were raises for staff, an hourly staff, to try and obtain and hold those good interviewers. There has been a difficulty in obtaining staff for a while now. That is one of the measures, at least what we can do from the middle supporting the salary increases and the hiring processes that they are able to do. Another thing is, we're doing some work on training videos, to be able to use it and distribute some of those staff training tools, to make folks a little bit more efficient.

MS. ST AMAND: Yes, and a big thank you to the Commission staff for helping give the states a little bit more flexibility when we often have very little within our own system, so thanks for the help with staffing that way.

MR. WHITE: We're all glad to help out. One more hand, Brandi.

MS. BRANDI SALMON: We have been trying to get a little bit of clarification on the cumulative stuff, and I think we've been having a hard time finding that. For the cumulative estimates, is that only what gets posted on like the MRIP Query Tool for the public to be able to access, or is that also going

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

to affect us as states trying to pull the data by, like wave at a time?

MR. WHITE: Thank you, good question. MRIP has had some webinars on this, and they changed their public query page within the last two weeks. I think Richard Cody has his hand up, so I'm not going to go too far into that, and call on him. But as a partner in the MRIP data collection, the ACCSP public pages soon will probably match the MRIP public queries in some of the cumulative estimates. The detailed data are still able to be downloaded through MRIP, and we're kind of evaluating options for other data presentations as well, through ACCSP. With that I'm going to pause and call on Richard Cody.

MR. RICHARD CODY: Thanks, Geoff. The main focus of the new presentation of the data is to draw attention, really, to estimates that don't meet a certain standard for publication. Right now, we're in the process of updating the information on our website, so that it reflects more from the concerns related to imprecise data, those data that have percentage standard errors of greater than 50 percent, so that 95 percent confidence intervals would be close to 0, or contain 0.

We think that we're at a point now where we have to have some metrics in place to look at improvements to the survey, but also have a way of gauging how the survey is performing, against the background of a lot of different factors. You mentioned one there about staff retention, increasing costs, and lower sample sizes, those kinds of things.

Although it kind of puts a target on the survey, in terms of drawing attention to it, I think it's a good thing in the long term. As far as what would be available to the state partners on the website. As Geoff mentioned, it's going to be cumulative estimates, so realistically what that means is that we just add as the year goes by.

Wave level estimates would not be available throughout the year.

For looking at trends and those kinds of things within a year, you would have to use some of the tools that we are making available to partners, to get a custom level of estimates or domain level estimates. That is basically it. It does create a little bit of extra work for folks, but I think in the long run it draws attention to the limitations of the data, which I think hasn't always been a focus of data users in the past. Hopefully that helps.

MR. WHITE: With that I think I'm going to keep moving forward a little bit. On Rec fisheries, I've already covered most of the information on MRIP state conduct. I will note that the tablets for the APAIS that ACCSP developed and shared with the Gulf of Mexico have now been shared through Office of Science and Technology, and are in use out in Hawaii, so kind of a good sharing point on technology development, and efficiency in standardization of that data collection.

Moving down to the Priority 2, comprehensive for-hire data collection. This slide provides a fair amount of information. Right now, we're really just working with MRIP on presenting a draft design, and getting some technical review and feedback from MRIP on that design. That process towards certification is iterative, and does take a while. While there is a fair amount of information on the slide, I think the main point for today is, we are working on it.

It's not final. We're trying to do our homework, and ask me questions outside of the meeting, or we'll bring back a bit more final information as time passes. The next item on improving discard data is in a very similar vein. I've already mentioned that the Rec Tech Committee is working on a proposal.

The purpose is to really address the concerns that we heard that in the dockside survey, sometimes anglers are surprised that they're into the trip, and they don't have any species, or it wasn't worth counting the number of fish that they were

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

releasing, and there are some rounding biases that occur. It's really developing a pilot project to try and use catch cards and a probabilistic design to get more information on released catch, and potentially even lengths. Their goal is to submit that proposal this coming June, again, work in progress. Yes, Mr. Clark.

MR. CLARK: (Not heard on recording)

MR. WHITE: Yes, the intent is, as they develop the design, would be to hand out a card at the beginning of an APAIS assignment, and have anglers fill that out, and you could return it at the end of that day. A big part of the idea is survey selection of the anglers, so that then the information could be expanded after the fact.

But we're working with MRIP on that design. We're working with the state members of Recreational Technical Committee, to kind of define the best scope of that and what states it would be piloted in. Capturing lengths is definitely one of the intents that they're after, being able to get length of released fish from private trips would be a benefit.

Okay, I'm going to move on to the Data Team. We have highlighted through the Committee Newsletter before that the spring data load came out, so that was officially released on April 17. I do want to pause for a moment and say thank you to all of your staff who made that possible, by providing the participant information and the files that then got coordinated in, and merged and able to be presented.

We have PRFC participant data, and this year, it wasn't just 2022 information, but Maine and New York also updated their 2021 landings. I just wanted to remind folks that this spring data load, while a product of ACCSP, is shared directly with NOAA Headquarters, GARFO, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, as the base layer as a consistent source of their public landings queries, and so to us this is a really big

deal, because it supports things that when people come to ACCSP or they go to one of the other partner websites for what are the Atlantic Coast landings. We're excited about that.

Items relevant to a Commission meeting week, the Data Team are supporting this list of species for either a stock assessment or an FMP Review, or a Technical Committee Working Group, and so this has been discussed as a pretty high workload, to get the species worked on, validate and work with the states, and get the stock assessment process moving forward.

There have been some, of course discussed lags, with still reaching out of the COVID timelines of being able to get assessments done. A lot of work going on within the Data Team there. Moving on to the next slide, two data warehouse projects that are going to be released next week. Within the confidential users there are two projects that have taken about a year to complete, with some outside funding.

One is presentation of SAFIS eTRIPS attributes. An attribute is a custom partner-specific data field. Examples of that might be a tag number, or the length of a fish, or the weight of a fish that is only collected for a particular species or group of species, or partner. Those have been collected in SAFIS, but not as easily queried through the Data Warehouse, and those are going to be applied and visible to all of our partners next week.

The other is a technology called Real Application Security. It's really changes within our data systems, how we present the right rows to the right user at the right time. It should be transparent to users, although next week they will have to change their passwords. But it's really about defining policies, and not making copies of things internally, and making it easier for us to maintain it, and also enforce that row level security on a consistent basis.

Almost done. I'm going to breeze over the information system security. The main point here is

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

we continue. We're just finishing our FISMA, Federal Information Security Management Act continuous monitoring. We do quarterly self-assessments, and we're just finishing an external audit, and we've got a really strong security posture when it comes to our systems and our data, and the ability for folks to be confident in what they are submitting for us, and how we are stewards of the data collected under the authority of all of your agencies.

Another program update, the Committee Newsletters were presented and published out with the meeting materials. We've had high success with the monthly distribution. The Committee activities feedback on content, one went out just yesterday and we hit a pretty high metric of 49 percent of the ones that were set out got opened, and we sent it to 120 people. People are actually opening and paying attention, and we're pretty excited about that. That's the end of the program update section, and I want to pause.

CHAIR McNAMEE: Yes, thank you, Geoff. We were kind of doing questions as we went along there, but just a quick look if anybody wants to go back to anything, any questions that you didn't get answered yet, please raise your hand. Yes, Richard, go ahead. Richard Cody, to be specific.

MR. CODY: Thanks, I had two questions for Geoff, and one goes back to an area, part of the presentation where you talked about the Validation Workshop. I was wondering if there was any consideration for that workshop in the scope of validation, because I think sometimes validation is sort of an unfortunate term, when it comes to some types of survey methodology.

For instance, with the Capture/Recapture methods that are used for logbook reporting in particular, the validation part is really the recapture of information, so it's used for validating reporting information, but it's also used to account for off frame effort. For

instance, where you would have vessels participating in the fishery that are not accounted for in a sample frame or in the list of vessels currently on the frame.

I'm just wondering if there is anything in that workshop that pertains to that function. The reason I bring it up is that at sometimes, you know we think about automating as much of the validation component as we can. You know as a way to reduce response burden and other things, but in some cases, we may lose sight of any additional function that may be lost because of that.

CHAIR McNAMEE: Geoff, you have a response, go ahead.

MR. WHITE: Thank you, Richard, for bringing that up. I think the best response here is the need to be clear on our definition of validations. This was a mandatory reporting data field and data value validation of what is being submitted, and that is this workshop was not intended to address validations in the survey standpoint of two different data streams confirming the responses in the other one. I think your points about validations of survey designs and different data streams are well taken, and that is probably an area open for a bit more work.

MR. CODY: The second question goes to the security information that you just provided, particularly the RAS Application Security. Has there been any discussions with the other FINS? You know Rec FIN I was thinking of on the West Coast, they've had some, I would say some deliberations of late related to MOAs between states and Rec FIN, and then also maybe the Gulf as well. But it seems ACCSP is sort of in the lead on, you know the security end of things. Some communication would probably be really helpful.

MR. WHITE: Thank you, there was just a Fisheries Information System Program Management Team meeting. Last week Julie Simpson was there, and this was discussed at this point. Whether it's

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

FISMA, which is more of a process, or whether it is this actual technology, the Real Application Security that we've chosen to implement.

We've certainly shared these approaches and tools with the other FIN members. There is a significant workload and cost to implement there to follow the FISMA recommendations. We had some help getting started with that, working through GARFO, and we've had ongoing support, either through FIS, or through some other sources to get that FISMA support ongoing.

That is a staff time thing, it's a capability thing of the technology, and when it comes to the Real Application Security, our contractor has been in the lead with Oracle. Many times, well, we're I-T Geeky excited about this approach, so it's new, it's developing, and it's actually a very exciting piece to go forward with. The MOU agreements and things with the other FINS certainly have an aspect about discussion that the FIS team is working on, and I need to catch up with Julie about more about what those discussions were, because that meeting just happened.

MR. CODY: Thanks, Geoff.

OTHER BUSINESS

CHAIR McNAMEE: All set, Richard? I'll take the silence as yes. Anyone else on the activities? Lots of activities going on there. Anyone online? Okay, go ahead, Geoff.

RECONSTITUTE LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERSHIP

MR. WHITE: I'm going to go the next slide forward and hand this back to you, Mr. Chair. We've got an opportunity for reconstituting or just confirming membership on the Leadership Team, and as we get to this, I did want to note that, and welcome, Carrie Kennedy to the Coordinating Council, I should have done that at

the beginning of the meeting, I apologize. But Lynn Fegley has appointed Carrie to be the Maryland member, and so at this point I turn it back over.

CHAIR McNAMEE: Up on the screen there you have the list for the Leadership Team. We had the open spot that Geoff just mentioned. There is one nomination, Carrie Kennedy, who is sitting with us today. We've got one nomination, what we wanted to do was just look around the table.

See if there are any other nominations for that position for the Mid-Atlantic State position. If you do have a nominee, please raise your hand. Not seeing any hands around the table, no hands online either. With that, I think we have the single nomination of Carrie for that position, and do we need to do a motion and a vote on that, Geoff?

MR. WHITE: I'm not sure, Bob?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT E. BEAL: Mr. Chairman, since I'm a member of this Committee, not serving in my other role, I'll just comment. I think if there is no objection, Carrie could be appointed to the Leadership Team.

CHAIR McNAMEE: Great, let's do that then. Carrie Kennedy has been nominated to the Mid-Atlantic State position. Are there any objections to that appointment? Please, raise your hand if you object. Not seeing any hands around the table; guessing that there are no hands online, and getting confirmation that there are no hands online, so congratulations, Carrie. You are officially appointed to the Mid-Atlantic State position on the Leadership Team. It's great, jump on in, the water is fine. Geoff, it looks like you maybe have something else.

MR. WHITE: I just wanted to take a quick moment and recognize Lynn Fegley's contribution to the Coordinating Council. She's been a member of the Council for as long as I can remember, but she served as Chair from 2018 to 2020, so that included a bonus year (we'll call it that). She has really helped ACCSP and been integral. To move forward on many leadership issues, including the ongoing

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

data accountability work. Lynn, thank you for your contributions, thank you for your mentoring, thank you for your friendship. We're glad to have you passing the torch, and your contribution, so again, thank you.

CHAIR McNAMEE: A round of applause for Lynn. (Applause) Now, I'm going to look to Kathy, who would like to offer a comment. Go ahead, Kathy.

MS. KATHY KNOWLTON: Hello, I just wanted to take a moment to, seeing Geoff's presentation about the balance of funding for moving into the new proposal year and the new RFPs, and then seeing all the work that is being done behind the scenes, that we don't usually see on a weekly, if not monthly basis and remind ourselves.

I just randomly went back and looked at some of my folders to see, you know what portion of that money was going to maintenance. I just kind of wanted to mention it, because I think we need to take a moment to really appreciate how far this program has come in the last 9 or 10 years. Back in 2015, we promoted almost 1.5 million dollars just in maintenance proposals.

The idea came up, and people made sacrifices, programs made sacrifices to cut back their budgets, and do this transition plan to rolling them off for years 5 through 7. Now we're looking at only potentially 600,000K being requested for the maintenance budget. The Admin Budget has grown, and that's because we're doing a lot of work.

I just want to take a moment and really comment on that, and it's a really big deal. For especially the programs that took those reductions to their budget, and didn't know how they were going to do it, and still be able to make these steps forward, it's awesome. That is just the best word I can have for it, so

thank you to the program, you guys are doing a really good job.

ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR McNAMEE: No, well put, thank you, Kathy. All right, with that it takes us to the end of our agenda, and so I will look for a motion to adjourn, made by John Clark. Is there a second, Jeff Brust. Any objections to that motion? Seeing none; we are adjourned, and we caught you right back up, Bob.

(Whereupon the meeting convened at 2:45 p.m. on Monday May 2, 2023.)

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

Coordinating Council

August 31, 2023

SciFish Executive Summary

Citizen science is an evolving and potentially powerful tool to better understand marine fish populations. With that in mind, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF), and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) partnered to develop a citizen science platform, SciFish, to support the capture and sharing of information about fish stocks along the Atlantic coast. SciFish is a mobile application and menu-driven project builder designed to collect citizen science data. It will allow ACCSP partners to easily create a customizable app without the need to develop stand-alone applications for each new data need or project. This will help reduce the cost and time required to create an application from the ground up as well as increase consistency in data fields and structures across projects. Use of the ACCSP data management system provides a reliable and accessible data pathway to support fisheries stock assessment and management. An Organizing Committee has drafted policies and procedures to support the development of new projects within SciFish. These include information on platform administration and oversight, who can develop projects, the project development process, as well as privacy and confidentiality.

The Coordinating Council is asked to review and provide initial feedback on the SciFish policies and procedures document. For those interested, follow the link for a 7-minute video demonstrating the project builder: [ACCSP SciFish Builder.mp4](#). All feedback is welcomed, but specific feedback is requested on the creation and membership of the SciFish Advisory Panel and the SciFish application process.

The SciFish policies will be reviewed by the ACCSP Operations and Advisors Committees at their September 2023 meeting and brought to the Coordinating Council at their October 2023 meeting to be considered for action.

SciFish Policies & Procedures



DRAFT: 8/22/2023

Table of Contents

SciFish Policies & Procedures

Vision & Mission	2
Platform Administration & Oversight	2
SciFish Advisory Panel (SAP).....	2
Development of Projects in SciFish	2
SciFish Project Approach.....	2
Who can develop projects?.....	3
SciFish Application & Review Process.....	3
Process for Adding New Data Fields to SciFish	6
Building a Project in the SciFish Platform	6
Hardware Requirements.....	7
Data Access	7
Privacy & Confidentiality.....	7
Transparency.....	7
Security	7
SciFish Branding Standard Practices	8
Appendix A: SciFish Pre-Application and Full Application Templates	9
Appendix B: Example of Successful SciFish Pre-Application and Full Application.....	19
Appendix C: Examples of SciFish Application Budget Overview & Risk Description	20
Appendix D: SciFish Pre and Full Application Review Templates.....	21
Appendix E: Building Projects in SciFish.....	24
Appendix F: Citizen Science Project Development Resources	26

SciFish Policies & Procedures

Vision & Mission

Vision Statement: To create a citizen science mobile application that encourages and supports the capture and sharing of data on Atlantic coast fisheries.

Mission Statement:

- Standardize collection of citizen science data from Atlantic coast fisheries
- Provide a single platform for multiple data collection projects
- Provide a flexible project builder to create new data collection projects with minimal resources
- Provide access to data that supports fisheries stock assessment and management

Platform Administration & Oversight

SciFish is owned and administered through the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). Primary oversight is provided by the SciFish Advisory Panel (SAP).

SciFish Advisory Panel (SAP)

- SAP is comprised of individuals with citizen science expertise.
- Membership includes one representative from each of the following categories:
 - each region (Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast),
 - a federal agency,
 - a state agency,
 - a Council or Commission,
 - each of the following ACCSP Committees (Coordinating Council, Operations, and Advisors), and
 - an ACCSP staff member.
- An individual may represent more than one category (e.g., state and region).
- The ACCSP staff representative is a full member of the panel as opposed to a staff liaison.
- SAP roles and responsibilities include: drafting and recommending updates to SciFish policies and procedures, oversight and implementation of the SciFish application process, and coordination and review of annual SciFish project updates.

Development of Projects in SciFish

SciFish Project Approach

Projects developed in SciFish will:

- 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

Who can develop projects?

Projects developed in the SciFish platform must have an ACCSP partner as a principal investigator (PI) or be sponsored by an ACCSP partner.

Partner sponsors must provide a letter of support to indicate why they feel the project is valuable, identify how the data collected will be used for management or assessment, and outline a plan to monitor project progress. Sponsorship provides an opportunity for partners to endorse/support a SciFish project that will further fisheries management.

SciFish Application & Review Process

Principal investigators must submit applications to develop a citizen science project within the SciFish platform. Principal investigators are responsible for acquiring funding to support their individual projects. Project approval does not include monetary support from ACCSP.

Approved SciFish projects will initially be limited to the data fields included in the current version of the project builder. These data fields were identified via a series of scoping meetings held in spring 2021 with stakeholders along the Atlantic coast. In the future, new data fields may be requested for inclusion in the project builder.

The SciFish application process has multiple steps including both pre- and full application submissions and reviews. The general timeline for these steps is summarized in Table 1. SciFish pre- and full application templates are provided in Appendix A to assist principal investigators in application development. See Appendix B for an example of successful pre- and full applications.

Table 1. Timeline for SciFish Application Process.

Month	SciFish Application Stage
January	
February 1	Full Application
March	
April 1	Pre-Application
May	
June 1	Pre-Application
July	
August 1	Full Application
September	
October 1	Pre-Application
November	
December 1	Pre-Application

STEP 1: Pre-Application Submission

- Partners are initially required to submit a short pre-application for their proposed citizen science project. Pre-applications include the following components:
 - *Applicant Name*: Identify the name of the project PI and applicant organization.
 - *ACCSP Sponsor*: If you are not an ACCSP partner, identify which ACCSP partner is sponsoring your project. You will need to upload a letter of support from your ACCSP sponsor.
 - *Project Collaborators*: Identify project collaborators and their respective roles.
 - *Project Title*: A brief statement to identify the project.
 - *Project Goals*: Briefly describe what the project is trying to accomplish and why it is important (e.g., the ‘what’ and the ‘why’).
 - *Need*: List the top three research question(s) and/or data gaps your project addresses.
 - *Methods*: Succinctly describe how the project will be carried out and explain why it is a good fit with a citizen science approach. See [Pocock et al. 2014](#) and other resources in Appendix F for information on how and when to use citizen science.
 - *Fields*: Identify which data fields will be collected (Table 2).

Table 2. Data fields included in the current SciFish Project Builder.

Biological sample collected (Y/N)	Gear (amount and type)	Line Cut (Y/N)	Release disposition
Comment	Hook location	Location (area fished, state, and GPS)	Species
Date	Hook type	Number of fish (kept or released)	Time (of fish caught or released)
Depth	Hours fished	Number of people fishing	Trip type
Descending device usage (Y/N)	Information collected in other survey (Y/N)	Photo	Venting (Y/N)
Fish tag number	Length	Predation (Y/N)	
Fish tag color	Length type	Primary target species	

- *Anticipated Outcome*: What are the anticipated outcomes of the project and how would the collected data be used for management or assessment?
- *Timeline*: What is the timeline for project completion?
- *Budget*: What is the estimated budget for the project? What major pieces of your project will require funding? Does it already have funding? If not, where are you planning to seek funding (e.g., what specific grant(s), agency funding, etc.)? See Appendix C for an example Budget Overview.
- Pre-applications are accepted quarterly in April, June, October, and December and will be submitted to ACCSP’s Deputy Director.

STEP 2: Pre-Application Review

- The SAP will review pre-applications quarterly in April, June, October, and December using the pre-application review form (see Appendix D). Applicants will receive feedback within approximately 4 weeks.
- Pre-applications that meet the review criteria will be invited to submit full applications.
- Pre-applications that do not meet the criteria will receive feedback provided by the SAP to help refine projects should the applicant wish to resubmit during a later review period.

STEP 3: [Full Application Submission](#)

- Full applications will include the components below. Several questions from the pre-application are repeated since more detailed responses are required in the full application.
 - *Applicant Name*: Identify the name of the project PI and applicant organization.
 - *ACCSP Sponsor*: If you are not an ACCSP partner, identify which ACCSP partner is sponsoring your project. You will need to upload a letter of support from your ACCSP sponsor.
 - *Project Collaborators*: Identify project collaborators and their respective affiliations.
 - *Project Team Members/Roles*: List the individuals that will be involved in the development and implementation of the project throughout its duration. Roles should be identified for each team member (e.g., data users, data managers, outreach, volunteer engagement). If a team role does not yet have an individual identified by name, please indicate 'name TBD'.
 - *Project Title*: A brief statement to identify the project.
 - *Project Goals*: Briefly describe what the project is trying to accomplish and why it is important (e.g., the 'what' and the 'why').
 - *Need*: What research questions and data gaps does the project address? Identify what the data gaps are and how this project addresses them. Describe how addressing these gaps specifically helps assessment and/or management.
 - *Data Use*: Have you discussed the project with the researchers and/or managers who will be using the data and verified the project design (data fields and methodology) is sufficient for the intended use(s)? Please specify the expected data use and users.
 - *Approach*: Explain why this project is a good fit with a citizen science approach. How will citizen scientists benefit from their participation in the project?
 - *Project Methods*: Provide a succinct description of how the project will be carried out.
 - *Fields*: List data fields that will be collected (Table 2).
 - *Data Management Plan*: Data from SciFish citizen science projects will be housed in ACCSP's Data Warehouse. Individual projects will be responsible for QA/QC of their data. Outline the data QA/QC plan for your project, including who will be responsible for QA/QC of your data. If you already have existing documentation, you can simply upload a file.
 - *Volunteer Training Plan*: Describe what type of training volunteers will need, and what methods will be used to provide the training. If you already have existing documentation, you can simply upload a file.
 - *Communication Plan*: Outline the communication plan for the project including identifying target audiences, key messages, volunteer recruitment and retention plans,

as well as sharing project results (approaches and products). If you already have existing documentation, you can simply upload a file.

- *Project Evaluation*: Identify metrics and/or criteria that will be used to evaluate the success of the project and describe how progress toward project goals will be measured and/or determined.
- *Project Risk*: What major risks are associated with the project and what can be done to mitigate those risks? Describe risks of project failure (e.g., staffing gap, lack of volunteer recruitment or retention) and/or risks to organization goals/mission if project does not occur. See Appendix C for an example of risk description.
- *Budget*: What is the estimated budget for the project? Describe the primary components the budget will support. Does it already have funding? If yes, specify the funding source. If not, where are you planning to seek funding (e.g., what specific grant(s), agency funding, etc.)? See Appendix C for an example Budget Overview.
- Full applications are accepted twice a year in February and August and will be submitted to ACCSP's Deputy Director.

STEP 4: Full Application Review

- The SAP will review applications twice a year in February and August using the criteria and scoring in the full application review form (see Appendix D) and notify applicants of their status within approximately 6 weeks.
- Scores for each criterion will be averaged across SAP members for each project. Projects that receive an average score < 3 in any of the criteria will not be approved for that application period.
- If a project falls short of the requirements for approval, the SAP will provide feedback on the application and encourage resubmission of the application for the next full application deadline.

Process for Adding New Data Fields to SciFish

- Data fields currently supported in the SciFish Project Builder are in Table 2. These data fields were identified via a series of scoping meetings held in spring 2021 with stakeholders along the Atlantic coast. In the future, additional data fields can be added to the project builder.
- Eventually partners will be able to submit new data field requests to the SAP via an online form. The SAP will review the requests following a similar approach to ACCSP's standard codes review process. The ACCSP staff person for the Standard Codes Committee will be included in the review and discussion to ensure ACCSP standards are used whenever possible.

Building a Project in the SciFish Platform

- Project building can only begin after a project has been approved by the SAP. Prior to that time, interested parties are welcome to review online materials, request a demo from an SAP member, and/or discuss their project with one or more SAP members.
- A training video will be provided and brief instructions are included in Appendix E.

Hardware Requirements

- The SciFish platform is available in iOS, Android, and UWP operating systems. Current system requirements are below.
 - Android 8.0 or higher (SciFish application only)
 - iOS- iPads and Phones 11.0 or higher (SciFish application only)
 - UWP (Windows) Windows 10 or higher (SciFish project builder and application)
 - No Kindles. Although they may run Android, they do not update from the Google Store.
- The SciFish project builder is only available in UWP (Windows) so all projects must be built in Windows. The SciFish mobile application is available on Android, iOS, and UWP (Windows).
- As new projects are brought into the SciFish platform, the application will need to be updated within the Apple and Google Play stores.

Data Access

- Data collected through projects on the SciFish platform will be stored in ACCSP's data warehouse. Project managers are responsible for QA/QC for data within their projects. Interested parties should contact project managers for access to project data.
- Metadata tables with general SciFish project information (project title, description, contacts, etc.) are stored and available in the ACCSP Data Warehouse.

Privacy & Confidentiality

- The minimum SciFish Privacy Policy is available at the link below. All projects must adhere to this policy at a minimum. Individual projects can have more stringent privacy policies. Privacy policies should be clearly communicated and easily accessible to all project participants.

SciFish Privacy Policy has been drafted and is currently being reviewed internally by ACCSP.

Transparency

- The development of projects within SciFish, the project application process, and annual SciFish project summaries are coordinated through ACCSP.
- ACCSP will have a SciFish page on their website. This page will include the SciFish privacy policy and general project information (project title, general descriptions, project contacts, project webpages if available).
- Data collected through the platform are stored and accessible within ACCSP's Data Warehouse. See 'Data Access' section for more details.

Security

- ACCSP acts as the stewards of the data owned by the program partners. Therefore, the confidentiality laws, rules, and regulations of the Partner that originally collected the data apply and shall prevail.
- ACCSP, as a regional Fisheries Information Network (FIN), performs regular internal and external security audits in alignment with our Federal Information Security Management Act compliance. ACCSP is actively engaged with the NOAA Fisheries Office of the Chief Information Officer.

SciFish Branding Standard Practices

Colors

ACCSP Dark Blue:

- (HEX) 363C9C
- (RGB) 54, 60, 146
- (CMYK) 65%, 62%, 0%, 39%
- (Canva) #23438b

ACCSP Teal:

- (HEX) 009090
- (RGB) 0, 144, 144
- (CMYK) 65%, 62%, 0%, 39%
- (Canva) #149693

Font

- Exo - note: this font may need to be downloaded from Google Fonts

Language

While branding for projects with the platform, materials should feature the wording below referencing SciFish.



Graphics

- App Icon: <https://securisync.intermedia.net/us2/s/beLRMUuhUr0FOP3waWIC9S003d5f69>
- Splash Page (Square):
<https://securisync.intermedia.net/us2/s/V7vMDXII5Vt1Z2jafEwIVs003d5f69>
- Splash Page (Round):
<https://securisync.intermedia.net/us2/s/xQtCJO99oekY2nF46MI71d003d5f69>

Example Branding



Appendix A: SciFish Pre-Application and Full Application Templates

SciFish Pre-Application Template

*** 1. Contact Information**

Name	<input type="text"/>
Agency/Organization	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Address 2	<input type="text"/>
City/Town	<input type="text"/>
State/Province	-- select state -- <input type="button" value="v"/>
ZIP/Postal Code	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

*** 2. Are you an ACCSP partner? If no, please specify which ACCSP partner is your sponsor.**

No

Yes (please specify)

3. Please upload your letter of support from an ACCSP partner, if necessary.

File type must be .pdf or .doc/.docx.

No file chosen

*** 4. Identify project collaborators and their respective roles. Please use N/A if there are no collaborators.**

Collaborator 1/Organization

Collaborator 2/Organization

Collaborator 3/Organization

Collaborator 4/Organization

*** 5. Project Title**

* 6. Briefly describe the goals of the project and why it is important (e.g., the ‘what’ and the ‘why’).

Tip: You can increase the size of the box by clicking and dragging the bottom right corner.

* 7. List the top three research question(s) and/or data gap(s) your project address.

Question/Data Gap 1	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>
Question/Data Gap 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>
Question/Data Gap 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>

* 8. Succinctly describe how the project will be carried out and explain why it is a good fit with a citizen science approach.

* 9. Identify which data fields will be collected.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological sample collected | <input type="checkbox"/> Hook type | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comment | <input type="checkbox"/> Hours fished | <input type="checkbox"/> Predation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Date Depth | <input type="checkbox"/> Information collected in other survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Release disposition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Descending device usage | <input type="checkbox"/> Length | <input type="checkbox"/> Species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish tag number & tag color | <input type="checkbox"/> Length type | <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Target |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gear (amount and type) | <input type="checkbox"/> Line cut (Y/N) | <input type="checkbox"/> Time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hook location | <input type="checkbox"/> Location (area fished, state, and GPS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Trip type |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Number of fish (kept or released) | <input type="checkbox"/> Venting |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Number of people fishing | |

* 10. What is the anticipated outcome of the project and how would the collected data be used for management or assessment?

* 11. What is the timeline for project completion? If your project is ongoing, you can write "ongoing."

* 12. What is the estimated budget for the project?

* 13. What major pieces of your project will require funding?

* 14. Does the project already have funding?

Yes

No

* 15. If not, where are you planning to seek funding (e.g., what specific grant(s), agency funding, etc.)?

SciFish Full Application Template

* 1. Contact Information

Name	<input type="text"/>
Agency/Organization	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Address 2	<input type="text"/>
City/Town State/Province	<input type="text"/>
ZIP/Postal Code	-- select state -- <input type="button" value="v"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

* 2. Are you an ACCSP partner? If no, please specify which ACCSP partner is your sponsor.

Yes

No (please specify)

3. Please provide letter of support from your ACCSP sponsor (required if you are not an ACCSP partner).

File must be in .pdf or .doc/.docx format.

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

* 4. Identify project collaborators and their respective organizations. Please use N/A if there are no collaborators.

Collaborator 1/Organization

Collaborator 2/Organization

Collaborator 3/Organization

Collaborator 4/Organization

* 5. Identify project team members and their respective roles (e.g. data users, data managers, outreach, volunteer engagement). Please use N/A if there are no other team members.

Member 1/Role

Member 2/Role

Member 3/Role

Member 4/Role

* 6. Project Title

* 7. Briefly describe the goals of the project and why it is important (e.g., the 'what' and the 'why').

1000 character limit

* 8. What research question(s) and data gap(s) does the project address? Identify what the data gaps are, how this project addresses them, and how addressing them specifically helps in an assessment and/or management. For each question or gap, please limit your response to 3-5 sentences.

1000 character limit

* 9. Have you discussed the project with the researchers and/or managers who will be using the data and verified the project design (data fields and methodology) is sufficient for the intended use(s)? Please specify the expected data use and users.

500 character limit

* 10. Explain why this project is a good fit with a citizen science approach. How will citizen scientists benefit from their participation in the project?

1000 character limit

* 11. Succinctly describe the project methodology.

1000 character limit

* 12. Identify which data fields will be collected.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological sample collected | <input type="checkbox"/> Hours fished | <input type="checkbox"/> Predation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comment | <input type="checkbox"/> Information collected in other survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Release disposition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Date | <input type="checkbox"/> Length | <input type="checkbox"/> Species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depth | <input type="checkbox"/> Length type | <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Target |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Descending device usage | <input type="checkbox"/> Line cut (Y/N) | <input type="checkbox"/> Time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish tagged | <input type="checkbox"/> Location (area fished, state, and GPS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Trip type |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gear (amount and type) | <input type="checkbox"/> Number of fish (kept or released) | <input type="checkbox"/> Venting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hook location | <input type="checkbox"/> Number of people fishing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hook type | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo | |

* 13. Data from SciFish citizen science projects will be housed in ACCSP's Data Warehouse. However individual projects will be responsible for QA/QC of their data. Outline the data QA/QC plan for your project. If you already have existing documentation and wish to upload a file, please indicate "See File Upload" and load file in question 13.

1000 character limit

14. Upload Data Management Plan

Upload your data management plan (PDF or Word).

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

* 15. Outline the volunteer training plan for the project describing what type of training volunteers will need, and what methods will be used to deliver the training. If you have existing documentation and wish to upload a file, please indicate "See File Upload" and load file in question 15.

1000 character limit

16. Volunteer Training Plan

Upload your volunteer training plan (PDF or Word).

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

* 17. Outline the communication plan for the project including identifying target audiences, key messages, volunteer recruitment and retention plans, and sharing project results (approaches and products). If you have existing documentation and wish to upload a file, please indicate "See File Upload" and load file in question

1000 character limit

18. Communication Plan

Upload your communication plan (PDF or Word).

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

*** 19. Identify metrics and/or criteria that will be used to evaluate the success of the project and describe how progress toward project goals will be measured and/or determined.**

1000 character limit

*** 20. What major risks are associated with the project and what can potentially be done to mitigate those risks? Describe risks of project failure (e.g., staffing gap, retention of volunteers) and/or risks to organization goals/mission if project doesn't occur.**

1000 character limit

*** 21. What is the estimated budget for the project?**

* 22. Describe the primary components the budget will support.

* 23. Does the project already have stable funding? If yes, please specify funding source(s).

No

Yes (please specify)

24. If not, where are you planning to seek funding (e.g., what specific grant(s), agency funding, etc.)?

Appendix B: Example of Successful SciFish Pre-Application and Full Application

NCDMF Tagging Program's SciFish Pre and Full Applications will be incorporated once available.

Appendix C: Examples of SciFish Application Budget Overview & Risk Description

Example SciFish Application Budget Overview

The language below is an example of the level of detail applicants need to include in their budget overview for the SciFish Application process.

'Partner Agency X' has submitted a proposal for \$\$\$ to 'Funding Source Y' to fund the 'Citizen Science Project Z'. The proposal was submitted in March 2023, and we anticipate knowing if it was successfully funded by June 2023. If funded, the proposal will support a project coordinator who will lead volunteer training and engagement efforts as well as data QA/QC; supplies to develop materials to recruit and retain participants; and travel to promote the project within the fishing community. Additional 'Partner Agency X' staff will be available to assist with outreach and QA/QC tasks.

Example SciFish Application Risk Description

As part of the full SciFish application, applicants are asked to describe the major risks associated with their project and what can potentially be done to mitigate those risks. Risk can include things that may impact the project's success or failure (e.g., staffing gap, lack of volunteers, issues with volunteer retention, funding not available) and/or risks to an organization goals/mission if the project doesn't occur (e.g., impact on data available to make regulatory changes, loss of stakeholder trust and engagement).

The language below is an example of how risk statements could be written within the SciFish project application.

"If **<event X>** happens then there is a risk **<consequence>** that the project could be impacted in **<Y way>**" from here. This risk can be mitigated by **<action Z>**.

More details and examples on writing risk statements are available at the link below.

[How To Write A Good Risk Statement - The Project Management Guide](#)

Appendix D: SciFish Pre and Full Application Review Templates

SciFish Application Process - Pre-Application Ranking

Applicant Name:

Applicant Agency/Organization:

ACCSP Sponsor (if applicant not partner):

Project Title:

Review Criteria	Yes	No	Comments
Pre-Application included all required sections			
Project Collaborators			
Project Goals			
Top 3 Research Questions or Data Gaps			
Methods & Data Fields			
Anticipated Outcome			
Timeline			
Estimated Budget			
Project clearly addresses how collected data will be used in assessment and/or management			
Project is a good fit for citizen science			
	Yes	No	Comments
Does this pre-application meet the review criteria?			
Do you recommend this applicant be invited to submit a full application?			

SciFish Application Process - Full Application Ranking

Applicant Name:

Applicant Agency/Organization:

ACCSP Sponsor (if applicant not partner):

Project Title:

Review Criteria	Criteria Scoring	Score	Comments
Addresses a data gap for assessment and/or management	1 - Not recommended 2 - Poor 3 - Fair 4 - Good 5 - Excellent		
Anticipated use of the data and/or project outcomes will be of value to the industry and partners	1 - Not recommended 2 - Poor 3 - Fair 4 - Good 5 - Excellent		
Technical merit/methodology including whether the project is appropriate for a citizen science approach	1 - Not recommended 2 - Poor 3 - Fair 4 - Good 5 - Excellent		
Identified all the roles necessary for the project (e.g. data users, data managers, outreach, volunteer engagement)	1 - Not recommended 2 - Poor 3 - Fair 4 - Good 5 - Excellent		
Plan and capacity for data QA/QC and analysis	1 - Not recommended 2 - Poor 3 - Fair 4 - Good 5 - Excellent		
Participant / volunteer qualifications and/or ability to train volunteers	1 - Not recommended 2 - Poor 3 - Fair 4 - Good 5 - Excellent		
Volunteer engagement including recruitment, retention, and outreach	1 - Not recommended 2 - Poor 3 - Fair 4 - Good 5 - Excellent		
Project evaluation metrics	1 - Not recommended 2 - Poor 3 - Fair 4 - Good 5 - Excellent		
Addressed pre-application feedback	1 - No 3 - Somewhat 5 - Yes		

Appendix E: Building Projects in SciFish

Building SciFish Projects in EVAL

- PIs will be given access to the EVAL versions of the SciFish Project Builder, SciFish application, and ACCSP Data Warehouse
- Building a project
 - Please review the Project Builder training video prior to building your project
 - Use Project Builder to complete each of the following major sections of your project
 - Project Title
 - Home: Choose command buttons to appear at the top and bottom of the Home Page
 - Records: Define data fields for each record and command buttons to display to the user
 - About: Configure custom text displayed in the About Page describing your project
 - Navigation menu: Configure social media links that appear in the navigation menu
- Testing a project
 - Publish your project
 - Click the Publish button
 - Choose your channel (developer, alpha, beta, SciFish general availability)
 - Record the six-digit number shown
 - SciFish Application
 - Download and open the EVAL application
 - Select Preview from the main menu
 - When prompted, enter the number you recorded to download the project
 - Run through and test your project
 - Viewing data
 - Access the ACCSP Login Test Data Warehouse
 - Navigate to the SciFish item on the left-hand side of the page
 - Data from your project will be visible

Review of SciFish EVAL project

- Once your project is ready in EVAL, one or more members of the SAP will review it to ensure that the project aligns with its application.

Building SciFish Projects in Production

- Once projects have been given SAP approval to move to production, PIs will be given access to the production versions of the SciFish Project Builder, SciFish application, and ACCSP Data Warehouse
- Building a project
 - The steps for building a project are done as outlined above for EVAL
 - Please ensure that the options you choose here align with those that were chosen in your final, approved EVAL build

- Testing SciFish Projects in Production
 - The steps for testing a project are done as outline above for EVAL
 - Once testing is complete, you will coordinate with ACCSP staff member on the SAP to publish your project to production
- Annual project summaries at a high-level will be requested annually by the SAP
- If you need assistance, please refer to the following contacts for help with project development
 - Help desk – for technical issues
 - SAP – for policy issues

Appendix F: Citizen Science Project Development Resources

Below are some of the resources available to assist in the development, implementation, and evaluation of citizen science projects.

SAFMC Citizen Science Program

- [Program Webpage](#)
- [Program & Project Support Resources](#)— includes example outreach, communication, and volunteer training approaches; templates for a communication plan, data standards and data requirements documents; list of funding opportunities
- [FY20 SciFish ACCSP Final Grant Report](#) – see pages 8-23 for SciFish Scoping Summary

[Federal Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Toolkit](#)

- Produced in collaboration with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Federal Community of Practice on Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science (CCS) and is intended to help Federal agencies and others design, carry out, and manage citizen science and crowdsourcing projects.

Shirk and Bonney. 2015. [Informing a Framework for Citizen Science within the US Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

- Describes framework for developing citizen science projects/programs.

Pocock, M.J.O., Chapman, D.S., Sheppard, L.J. & Roy, H.E. (2014). [Choosing and Using Citizen Science: a guide to when and how to use citizen science to monitor biodiversity and the environment](#). Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

- Publication that provides guidance to support people using citizen science approach to collect data. It has many helpful resources including a table summarizing how to figure out if citizen science is the right approach for your project.

[US Forest Service Citizen Science Toolkit](#)

- Provides many resources for developing citizen science projects.

Phillips et al. 2014. [User's guide for evaluating learning outcomes in citizen science](#).

- Guide for developing evaluation plan for citizen science projects and programs.

[Citizen Science Association*](#)

- Community of practice built on collaboration with a mission to advance citizen science through communication, coordination, and education.
- [Citizen Science Data Ethics Toolkit](#)
- [Citizen Science Data and Metadata Resources](#)
- [Citizen Science Ethics Resources](#)
- [Citizen Science Law and Policy Resources](#)
- [Citizen Science Research and Evaluation Resources](#)

**Over the course of the 2023-2024 academic year, the Citizen Science Association will change its name to affirm the broader identity of an Association Advancing Participatory Sciences.*

[SciStarter](#)

- Online database of citizen science projects. Has resources available for project promotion and recruitment.

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

Coordinating Council

August 31, 2023

Recreational Fisheries Summary

Fishing Effort Survey

Please note the ASMFC and NOAA have planned for a focused session at the Annual meeting in October on the Fishing Effort Survey (FES). That session will allow adequate time for a presentation followed by discussion with Commission Members and the public.

For-hire Methodology for Logbook Estimates of Catch and Effort with Dockside Validation

The ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee submitted a design document (attached) to initiate the MRIP certification process. An initial review was held on June 14-15, 2023. During the review, ACCSP staff presented the data collection design with a core group of participants, including the staff in South Carolina who participated in the initial pilot, and the Chairs and vice-chairs of the ACCSP Recreational technical Committee, Operations Committee and Coordinating Council. The Meeting summary and Consultant recommendations report are still under development and will be distributed when completed.

Note: This initial statistician review was unique for MRIP as a design evaluation prior to field implementation, and the first time ACCSP has submitted a design for MRIP review in the design certification process. We recognized that this planned design does not exist in this specific format anywhere on the East coast. The goal is to center in on the design aspects of what would be critical elements and consider data usage prior to requesting any ACCSP partners to modify existing logbook programs. We recognize there may be several iterative steps in the development of the design. The design document includes core features and some optional aspects such as trip declarations (Hail-outs).

Presentation of Recreational Estimates

This fall, the ACCSP will begin making changes to the ACCSP Data Warehouse presentation of MRIP estimates in conjunction with the MRIP Survey and Data Standards. This work will occur in three (3) phases.

Phase 1: As Partners with MRIP and the states in the conduct of the APAIS and FHTS survey components, the ACCSP will follow the MRIP Survey and Data Standards to present past years annual estimates, and current year cumulative estimates. The ACCSP has already begun work to adjust the presentation and extend functionality to allow for the fishing year options (e.g. starting at a different wave than wave 1 (Jan-Feb) calendar year estimates). ACCSP will also mirror the public presentation visibility of estimates with poor precision as soon as practicable after NOAA fisheries adjusts presentation on their website.

Phase 2: ACCSP is also developing named user access for Partner Agency staff to view historically available wave level data in a standardized format for managed species. However, there are ongoing discussions on the parameters for user access.

Phase 3: Recreate the directed trips and catch frequency queries on the ACCSP website, and explore additional standard query requests through the ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee and the ASMFC Assessment Science Committee.

Priorities for Recreational Data Needs

MRIP operates as a state-regional-federal partnership. NOAA Fisheries maintains a central role in developing [data collection and estimation methods](#), implementing [survey and data standards](#), publishing [recreational data products](#), and providing partners with financial and technical support. ACCSP serves as the Atlantic Regional Team for the MRIP to identify and prioritize regional recreational data needs via the Atlantic Recreational Implementation Plan (2023-2027) approved by the Coordinating Council in November, 2022 and jointly released in March 2023. The ACCSP and state partners also coordinate APAIS and FHTS survey operations, on-site data collection, and participate in process and data quality assurance and quality control.

The current Atlantic Coast Prioritized Activities are:

- Improved precision and presentation of MRIP estimates
- Comprehensive for-hire data collection and monitoring
- Improved recreational fishery discard and release data
- Improved timeliness of MRIP recreational catch and harvest estimates
- Expanded biological sampling of recreational fisheries
- Improved in-season monitoring

Recently, some issues have been raised to MRIP that are not included in the above priorities. Members are encouraged to use the ACCSP Coordinating Council and Recreational Technical Committee to identify areas of multiple partner interest where regional issues will be elevated to MRIP for consideration of future resources.

Methodology for Logbook Estimates of Catch and Effort with Dockside Validation

Preparation for MRIP Certification

February, 2023

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program:

Recreational Technical Committee

Table of Contents

Methodology for Logbook Estimates of Catch and Effort with Dockside Validation	1
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Planning.....	1
1.2 Paperwork Reduction Act Compliance	1
2. For-Hire Logbooks.....	1
2.1 Core Sampling Design	1
2.1.1 Vessel Directory	1
2.1.2 Logbook Frame Definition.....	1
2.1.3 Logbook Design & Data Submission/Processing.....	2
2.2 Data Collection.....	2
2.2.1 Quality Assurance	2
2.2.2 Quality Control and Data Editing	3
2.3 Optional Sampling Design	3
2.3.1 Hail-outs.....	3
3. Dockside Survey.....	3
3.1 Summary of MRIP General Survey.....	3
3.1.1 <i>Data Collected</i>	4
3.1.2 <i>Supplemental Components</i>	4
4. Methodology for Catch and Effort Estimation.....	4
4.1 Trip Matching.....	4
4.1.1 Distinct Interview Use	5
4.1.2 Example Matching Rate	5
4.2 Effort and Catch Estimation	7
Appendix A: APAIS Questionnaire.....	10
Appendix B: SC For-Hire Logbook Validation Metrics.....	13

List of Tables

Table 1. Fields used to compare dockside interviews and logbook trips, amended from Dukes et al. (2017).

Table 2. Total raw counts of APAIS for-hire trips reported (before) minus vessels matched to VTR trips for total sample size of APAIS used for expansion of FHS data (after) for each state in months of sampling for the APAIS by year.

Table 3. Total raw counts of VTR and APAIS trips reported for each state in months of sampling for the APAIS by year.

Table 4. Percentage of APAIS for-hire trips for each state which exactly matched VTR trips in months of sampling for the APAIS by year.

Table 5. Percentage of VTR trips for each state which exactly matched APAIS for-hire trips in months of sampling for the APAIS by year.

Table 6. Months of APAIS coverage on the Atlantic Coast.

List of Figures

Figure 1. Example from Dukes et al. (2017) using estimated angler trips by wave (blue dots) from the APAIS with 95% confidence intervals (blue verticals) compared to logbook reports (magenta triangles).

Figure 2. Equation for the $Ty, diff2$ estimator from Breidt et al. (2018). Appendix C further details the estimator math, including variable descriptors.

Figure 3. Estimated red drum catch by wave with approximate 95% confidence intervals, compared to logbook (magenta triangles). Estimators included are MRIP only (blue) and difference estimators $Ty, diff1$ and $Ty, diff2$ (green).

References

Breidt, F.J., Huang, C.M. and Opsomer, J.D. 2017. South Carolina Charter Boat Validation Estimation Progress Report. Slides presented to South Carolina Charter Validation Workgroup.

Breidt, F.J., J.D. Opsomer, and C.M. Huang. 2018. Model-Assisted Survey Estimation with Imperfectly Matched Auxiliary Data. Predictive Econometrics and Big Data (p.21-35). Studies in Computation Intelligence. New York, NY: Springer.

Dukes, A., Floyd, B., Hiltz, E., and G. White. 2017. Use of APAIS Intercepts to Validate Logbooks and Calculate Combined Estimates of Catch, SC For-Hire Logbook Validation Project, Final Report, Charleston.

Fitzpatrick, E. H. Williams, K. W. Shertzer, K. I. Siegfried, J. K. Craig, R. T. Cheshire, G. T. Kellison, K. E. Fitzpatrick and K. Brennan. 2017. The NMFS Southeast Region Headboat Survey: History, Methodology, and Data Integrity. Marine Fisheries Review 79(1). <https://spo.nmfs.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf-content/mfr7911.pdf>.

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning

Catch and effort of recreational fisheries are necessary to fulfill the requirements of Section 303 (a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852 et. seq.). Additionally, data and analyses are must be included in Fishery Management Plans according to the Conservation and Management Act. To address these requirements, NOAA Fisheries, fishery management councils, interstate fisheries management commissions, and state agencies collect and use recreational catch and effort information to inform management decisions and policies. These catch and effort statistics and trends are monitored to evaluate impacts of management and policy decisions and to attempt to determine how these may affect fisheries in the future.

1.2 Paperwork Reduction Act Compliance

The methodology herein suggested is dependent on the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) approval of individual federal reporting systems, including the MRIP general survey and federal for-hire permit reporting regulations. State logbook programs are not affected by the PRA. MRIP APAIS has existing PRA, as do current federal logbooks so ACCSP does not expect an increased burden relative to logbook submission. Rather, we expect a decreased burden by minimizing the number of for-hire data collection interactions for each vessel representative.

2. For-Hire Logbooks

2.1 Core Sampling Design

2.1.1 Vessel Directory

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) maintains the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Site Register (<https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/msd/html/siteRegister.jsp>) website which houses public access sites along the U.S. Atlantic Coast and, for designated state partners, a Vessel Directory (VsD) of an extensive list of for-hire vessels. Vessels are routinely added, edited, and retired by federal and state representatives. Automated updates exist for HMS and GARFO permits, which match fishing permits with existing vessels and/or the addition of new vessels to match new permits.

All vessels listed in the VsD have a status which is used to determine if a vessel is currently eligible/active, retired, or in draft (not yet approved as eligible in the for-hire survey). Each vessel must also have a unique number (State Registration Number or U.S. Coast Guard Documentation Number) and for-hire designation as either charter or headboat. To be approved within the VsD, vessels must also have at least one active public access site (or site placeholder if trailered), for-hire fishing activity in at least one month within a current year, and a primary contact person with phone number. In addition to required fields, the VsD houses broader information about the vessel, the access site(s), contact(s) information, registration(s), and federal for-hire and HMS permits.

2.1.2 Logbook Frame Definition

The logbook frame will be populated with vessels which have permits associated with a certified program design. The permit's effective dates will be used to determine if a vessel will have its logbook data used for the entirety of a sample wave.

Within a given wave, a distinct vessel can only occur within a single frame, either the logbook or survey frame. For-hire vessels within the survey frame would consist of vessels without a certified mandatory logbook and would report their activity through existing MRIP surveys of fishing effort (For-Hire Survey (FHS)) and catch (Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS)). In order to keep pace with changing vessel statuses and the desire to use as much logbook data as possible, vessels may change between frames by wave, depending on the current status of their fishing permit(s). Vessels which have had changes to permit status from inactive to valid/active, a permit covered under a certified logbook design program, prior to its inclusion within the survey frame could then be removed from the survey frame. For instance, if a vessel's federal permit, which met certified program design, expired within a state that did not

have a certified program design for state logbooks, it would be moved from the logbook to survey frame for that wave. Changes cannot be applied on any finer scale than wave level to maintain the FHS design selection procedures and are unlikely to occur more frequently than once per calendar year due to annual nature of permit renewal process.

This frame definition was chosen because it allows for the most detailed capturing of logbook data while minimizing the requirement to be in both the logbook and survey frames at the same time. Additionally, the concept already exists (in at least some form) within the online MRIP vessel directory, a part of the site register. Since some portion of the for-hire fishery will change permit statuses during any given year, the design should be flexible enough to accommodate permit changes and then sample the vessels appropriately (i.e., either via logbook or survey).

2.1.3 Logbook Design & Data Submission/Processing

Logbooks must be started during the trip, and completed on the logbook data collection device prior to offloading the trip at the dock. Logbook electronic applications must record the trip start/stop times, report completion time, and submission timestamps. Transmission / submission of reports from the reporting device to the database of record, via an internet connection, shall be submitted at least weekly and up to 48-hours after the end of the week (e.g., due Tuesday after a Monday-Sunday week). Did Not Fish (DNF) reports are mandatory for permitted for-hire vessels with daily-level detail, submitted at least weekly during active fishing months. Inactive vessels would be able to identify periods of inactivity seasonally. DNF reports provide an active statement of fishing effort (or the lack thereof) rather than relying on the assumption that the absence of a positive report indicates fishing did not occur. Additionally, DNFs would support evaluating reporting compliance with or without a validating intercept.

The requirements for starting the trip and completing the report on the electronic device prior to offload support observational independence between the logbook and a potential dockside intercept. Additionally, DNF reports may be used to confirm non-fishing days from potential mismatches in logbooks or positive trip reports. The submission timeline for transfer to the reporting database system allows for variable user access to internet service.

2.2 Data Collection

Each vessel permitted with a certified logbook design and every for-hire trip will be recorded in order to achieve the goal of capturing a mandatory census survey (as close to complete for-hire information from the logbook frame as possible). Data collection must be electronic (with paper forms as backup) and all logbook data will be collected via a dynamic user interface such that all required data elements for the permitted program(s) are presented to the respondent.

2.2.1 Quality Assurance

To assure observational independence between logbooks and dockside surveys, logbook software must include a trip start designation be captured before leaving the dock and a trip stop designation required before offload. Designations are electronic timestamps which are not editable by data collectors, and can be accomplished within the logbook application. To begin a trip, a 'start trip' option shall be selected. To end and submit a trip, data collectors will be required to use a 'trip stop' option which can only be selected once all relevant data elements are finalized. Once submitted, trip and catch data elements cannot be edited. Trip information would remain on their device (i.e., tablet, phone) to allow data submitters to review data post-submission and requests for changes could be made to relevant partners for editing.

2.2.1.1 Validation

Validation of logbooks (e.g., date, start/end location, vessel information) will be accomplished through independent observations of trip activity via a dockside component. Please see 'Dockside Survey' section below for more information.

2.2.1.2 Reporting Compliance

Logbooks must have accountability measures in place and have compliance tracking procedures developed for missing reports and non-compliance rates; these metrics should be measured at least monthly to ensure a program-wide compliance rate of at least 75% is being met. If a vessel is uncompliant for three consecutive two-month waves,

reapplication for permits in the following calendar year would be restricted or the vessel would be removed from the survey frame. This 75% compliance rate was selected due to evidence from Fitzpatrick et al. (2017) which indicated 50% compliance for the Southeast Region Headboat Survey (SRHS) from 1980-2008 and then 95% compliance after electronic reporting implemented. The scale of charter fishery is magnitudes greater than the scale of the SRHS and has lower opportunity for individual follow-up. Additionally, reporting compliance averages 80% for GARFO permitted for-hire fisheries. 75% reporting compliance was selected as a balance between data quality and staffing resources to support data collection. These measures also extend beyond weekly reporting to the submission requirements of did not fish reports. Additionally, consequences for missing, incomplete, or late reports must be established and followed. The use of robust outreach plans and communication from the permitting agency is highly recommended to maintain as high of a compliance rate as is possible.

2.2.2 Quality Control and Data Editing

Logbook data will be checked for quality via standardized, automated post-processing error/outlier programs and/or analyses. Data will be reviewable and action to correct issues must be possible. Data edits and non-responses will be communicated with data providers as is necessary. Data must identify actions taken during the data editing process and include both edited and unedited values (i.e., original and corrected values).

2.3 Optional Sampling Design

2.3.1 Hail-outs

Hail-outs, also referred to as vessel declarations, are an optional logbook design characteristic that adds a data stream to evaluate if a vessel representative submitted a logbook for their trip(s). Hail-outs can be used for reporting compliance, in combination with DNF reports by the permitting agency. Hail-outs can also be used in combination with a 'started' logbook during a trip when agency enforcement staff intercept a vessel at sea to confirm reporting compliance or potential matches to dockside intercept validations. However, it is currently not known whether hail-outs are required or optional to achieve logbook validation and statistical rigor to meet MRIP survey and data standards. Until there's clarity on this matter and how data would be used in the effort and catch estimation, the recommendation is to not require hail-outs and to instead retain as an option data element to help lower burden on for-hire industry and reduce complexity of reporting requirements to extent practicable. If implemented, data checks between hail-outs and logbooks would be automated.

3. Dockside Survey

Validation of logbook data submitted for trips will be accomplished through independent dockside observations of trip effort and catch information, using a survey approach, specifically the existing MRIP APAIS. Dockside observations will be used in the estimation process to adjust, where necessary, for differences in trips missing logbook reports, and for matched trips differences in the details of the effort and catch components.

3.1 Summary of MRIP General Survey

The APAIS is a dockside survey of anglers fishing from shore, private/rental boats, and for-hire charter boats conducted on the Atlantic Coast from Maine through Georgia. Data collected includes trip effort and catch information and demographic and social information. Maine through Virginia also perform at-sea sampling to obtain catch and discard data from for-hire headboats and party boats. The APAIS is used to produce bi-monthly catch estimates.

The for-hire recreational fishery sectors have angler effort estimates produced from the FHS, a list-directed weekly telephone survey of for-hire vessel operators. This survey operates from Maine through Mississippi. The FHS is paired with data collected through charter and headboat APAIS intercepts to estimate total for-hire catch. This estimate along with the combination of APAIS and the Fishing Effort Survey (FES), used for private boat and shore recreational estimates, is known as the MRIP general survey.

A complete description of MRIP survey design can be found in the survey design and statistical methods for estimation of recreational fisheries catch and effort¹. The APAIS is consistent with OMB guidelines and has received clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (5 CFR 1320.5(b)).

3.1.1 Data Collected

The APAIS collects relevant data elements about trips (e.g., date, time, location, vessel specifics, etc.), effort (e.g., number of anglers, hours fished, gear), and harvested/discarded catch (Appendix A). On the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, interviews are conducted on tablets via a custom application. This application captures for-hire vessel information (registration number and vessel name), and date/time/GPS location snapshots during interviews, both of which help match the interviews to electronic logbook data. These criteria are used in trip matching methods described below.

3.1.2 Supplemental Components

Additional surveys, such as the State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS²) in Florida, have been successfully integrated into the MRIP general survey to supplement sampling coverage. Another approach could also include the use of onboard observers on larger headboats which would allow for further validation of harvested and released alive/dead fish.

4. Methodology for Catch and Effort Estimation

Vessels in the logbook frame will have both catch and effort data collected and submitted. A portion of logbook data will then be validated to compare logbook data to intercepted trips and catch via difference-based estimation methodology, adapted from methodology from Dukes et al. (2017). This methodology uses the logbook as base data for both effort and catch, and dockside interviews as a correction factor.

4.1 Trip Matching

The calculation of effort and catch estimates is reliant on the ability to match self-reported logbook trips and dockside interviews, independent from vessel representatives. Therefore, data elements from both data streams will be used for matching distinct trips via a set of mandatory matching elements for a distinct vessel, via vessel registration or coast guard number. These matches are validated by requiring at least the trip date and location (state, county, and site).

While Dukes et al. (2017) used an algorithm to match data elements between logbook and dockside survey data streams, improvements to surveys (e.g., the APAIS) and existing logbook programs (e.g., NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Vessel Trip Report (VTR)) allows for better matching. The most important improvements to both logbooks and the dockside surveys is the transition from paper to electronic data collection and timely submission. This allows for cleaner collection of vessel information (i.e., exact name/number for a given sampling wave) rather than manually filled-in data and minimizes recall errors on reports.

The matching of information shared between a logbook and dockside survey helps to identify the likelihood of a trip matching within the difference-based estimation methodology (Breidt et al. 2017). Dukes et al. (2017) developed a set of seven weighted metrics (Appendix B); however, updates to data collection streams means more trips with exact matching and, while the matching is still likely not perfect, Table 1 outlines an updated recommendation of relevant matching metrics (note: the weighting has not been updated). These changes included the removal of distance and target species and the adjustment of trip end time to a comparison of hours (\pm 30 minutes). Additionally, the date was removed since the matching of electronic data allows for an exact match. If trips do not match on date, they are removed from the analysis. Additionally, it is worth noting that distinct trips for that day will be identified to account for multiple trips per day for a given vessel.

¹ <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2022-06/MRIP-Survey-Design-and-Statistical-Methods-2022-06-17.pdf>

² https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/09_gulf-reef-fish-survey-decision-memo-with-attachments.pdf

Field	Dockside Survey Definition	Logbook Definition	Match Metric Weight
Start Site	Interview site	Site reported as the start site	0.30
Anglers	Number of individuals in the party	Number of anglers reported participating	0.30
Hours Fished	Mean total hours fished of interviewees	Total hours fished as reported	0.10
Trip End Time	Mean interview time	Estimated trip end time	0.01

Table 1. Fields used to compare dockside interviews and logbook trips, amended from Dukes et al. (2017).

4.1.1 Distinct Interview Use

Each distinct APAIS interview can only be used once: either for logbook validation or for survey expansion (when used with FES/FHS). Table 2 illustrates that the use of APAIS as validation for GARFO logbooks would lower the sample size of APAIS used for expansion of FHS data by ~30% overall for the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions for APAIS sampling months in each of the Atlantic states, Maine through Virginia (See Table 6 for months of APAIS sampling by state).

State	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
ME	52	39	27	25	50	42	61	60
NH	123	64	71	38	119	44	118	15
MA	341	269	248	191	239	187	248	214
RI	240	106	231	91	260	97	339	162
CT	103	61	38	30	98	70	127	86
NY	282	153	221	130	235	102	243	95
NJ	225	122	53	43	171	89	279	151
DE	83	48	70	55	102	83	58	23
MD	279	256	149	146	281	269	155	145
VA	145	87	34	29	114	92	59	43
Total	1,873	1,205	1,142	778	1,669	1,075	1,687	994

Table 2. Total raw counts of APAIS for-hire trips reported (before) minus vessels matched to VTR trips for total sample size of APAIS used for expansion of FHS data (after) for each state in months of sampling for the APAIS by year.

4.1.2 Example Matching Rate

Using 2019-2022 federal VTR and APAIS data, ACCSP staff matched the total number of trips by year/month/day and state to compare the matching rate to that of the SC report. This analysis, done via database queries linking vessel identifiers and dates, recognizes the reality that not all VTR trips would be intercepted by APAIS, and that not all APAIS intercepted for-hire angler-trips were required to submit a VTR. Summary results below:

State	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	VTR	APAIS	VTR	APAIS	VTR	APAIS	VTR	APAIS
ME	878	52	525	27	565	52	392	61
NH	1,154	123	1008	71	1396	129	1407	118
MA	2,521	341	2,322	248	2,343	248	2,431	248
RI	1,738	240	2,050	231	1,841	317	1,951	361
CT	1117	103	797	38	692	129	851	129
NY	6,714	282	5,771	221	6,060	304	5,567	253
NJ	6,752	225	6,050	53	6,273	244	6,811	314
DE	944	83	627	70	764	118	973	65
MD	717	279	548	149	707	344	790	178
VA	930	145	932	34	848	133	887	63
Total	23,465	1,873	20,630	1,142	21,489	2,018	22,060	1,790

Table 3. Total raw counts of VTR reported and APAIS trips intercepted for each state in months of sampling for the APAIS by year.

State	2019	2020	2021	2022
ME	1.5%	0.4%	1.4%	0.3%
NH	5.1%	3.3%	5.4%	7.3%
MA	2.9%	2.5%	2.2%	1.4%
RI	7.7%	6.8%	8.9%	9.1%
CT	3.8%	1.0%	4.0%	4.8%
NY	1.9%	1.6%	2.2%	2.7%
NJ	1.5%	0.2%	1.3%	1.9%
DE	3.7%	2.4%	2.5%	3.6%
MD	3.2%	0.5%	1.7%	1.3%
VA	6.2%	0.5%	2.6%	1.8%
Average	3.8%	1.9%	3.2%	3.4%

Table 4. Percentage of APAIS for-hire trips for each state which exactly matched VTR trips in months of sampling for the APAIS by year.

State	2019	2020	2021	2022
ME	25.0%	7.4%	15.4%	1.6%
NH	48.0%	46.5%	58.1%	87.3%
MA	21.1%	23.0%	21.0%	13.7%
RI	55.8%	60.6%	51.4%	49.0%
CT	40.8%	21.1%	21.7%	31.8%
NY	45.7%	41.2%	43.8%	58.5%
NJ	45.8%	18.9%	33.6%	40.8%
DE	42.2%	21.4%	16.1%	53.8%
MD	8.2%	2.0%	3.5%	5.6%
VA	40.0%	14.7%	16.5%	25.4%
Average	37.3%	25.7%	28.1%	36.8%

Table 5. Percentage of VTR trips for each state which exactly matched APAIS for-hire trips in months of sampling for the APAIS by year.

Table 4 shows that the coastal average matching rate for a typical year (i.e., one not severely impacted by COVID-19) was over 3%. Note while 2020 was included in the analysis, the impacts of COVID-19 on fishing activity are difficult to evaluate here. While many factors may contribute to these differences in matching rates between GARFO logbooks to APAIS and SC logbooks to APAIS, this analysis shows a higher average matching between electronic logbooks and electronic dockside interviews. Not only is the coastal average higher, but each state exceeds the minimum benchmark of 1% matching rate proposed by Dukes et al. (2017). Thus, each state’s list of federal vessels could have adequate validation of logbook data. For the same timeframe, Table 5 shows that the matching rate of VTRs to APAIS trips was ~28% but this is not representative of an accurate percentage as some of the vessels from APAIS trips do not have GARFO permits (and thus do not report via federal VTR). Figure 1 helps to illustrate how closely the matching of APAIS and logbook data can be, even at lower matching percentages.

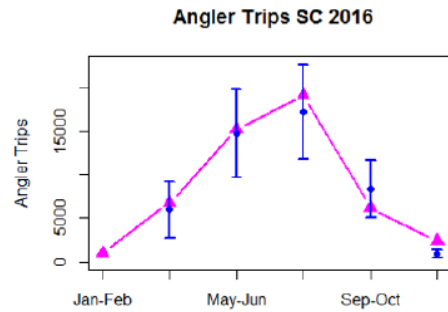


Figure 1. Example from Dukes et al. (2017) using estimated angler trips by wave (blue dots) from the APAIS with 95% confidence intervals (blue verticals) compared to logbook reports (magenta triangles).

Since the analysis above did not take months outside of APAIS sampling into consideration (Table 6), it is worth noting the need for ongoing analysis of logbooks submitted outside the APAIS sampling period. If logbook reported fishing activity is high enough, then conducting APAIS in for-hire mode year-round to use as validation for VTRs reported by state is worth further consideration in areas with active for-hire fisheries in all months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
ME					X	X	X	X	X	X		
NH					X	X	X	X	X	X		
MA				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
RI				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CT			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NY			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NJ			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DE			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MD			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
VA			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SC			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
GA			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Table 6. Months of APAIS coverage on the Atlantic Coast.

4.2 Effort and Catch Estimation

Using matched trips, estimates can be developed that account for underreporting (trips that occurred but were not reported), misreporting (trip specifics which are not correctly reported), or both. Based on the findings of Dukes et

al. (2017), a difference-based estimation (Breidt et al. 2017) is preferred to that of the capture-recapture methodology since it is less sensitive to small sample sizes and because it preserves additivity across domains (i.e., combined logbook estimates for all waves sum to annual total). These combined estimates can be applied to both logbook and survey analyses such as the angler/boat trips, overall catch, and harvested/discarded catch by species.

Building on Breidt et al. (2018), included as Appendix C, wherein four estimators (two multiplicative (ratio) and two difference-based) were described, we propose the use of the one of the $T_{y,diff2}$ difference-based estimator (also used in Duke et al. 2017) as the estimation method, displayed in Figure 2. The difference-based estimators both performed better than the ratio-based estimators but we choose $T_{y,diff2}$ specifically because it typically had tighter confidence intervals than the alternate difference-based estimator ($T_{y,diff1}$). Further exploration of results amongst other states/years would help provide more real-world context but we recommend the use of mathematical equations used in an imperfect matching setting.

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{T}_{y,diff2} &= \tilde{T}_{y,diff1} + \sum_{k \in S} \sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{A}} \frac{m_{k\ell} \{\mu(\mathbf{a}_\ell) - y_k\}}{\pi_k} \\ &= \sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{A}} \mu(\mathbf{a}_\ell) + \sum_{k \in S} \frac{y_k (1 - \sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{A}} m_{k\ell})}{\pi_k}\end{aligned}$$

Figure 2. Equation for the $T_{y,diff2}$ estimator from Breidt et al. (2018). Details of the estimator math, including variable descriptor are further described in Breidt et al. (2018).

Difference-based estimators are based on survey-weighted intercept data, logbook data, and match metrics from a matching algorithm. Estimator calculations include standard error. In the difference-based estimation of catch specifically, the method is calculated as: logbook effort/catch, plus estimated unmatched effort/catch (on trips intercepted by dockside survey but with no logbook trip reported), plus the difference between logbook reported and survey observed effort/catch.

This analysis is reliant on the match metrics. These metrics will be categorized as (1) high quality, (2) low-quality, and (3) non-match. This will determine the weighting of the effort and catch estimates from a trip – non-matches will be weighted as 0, low-quality matches will be weighted as 0.5, and high-quality matches will be weighted as 1. If a combination of high-quality, low-quality, and non-match values is observed for a given trip match, the weight values between 1.0 and 0 will be attributed based on that match value. Using an amended delineation from Dukes et al. (2017), we propose any weighted match metric value ≥ 0.5 to be considered a match and any value < 0.5 to be not matched. Trips which are matched represent a sample of for-hire trips which are potentially reported but with uncertain matching. Therefore, non-matches represent a sample of trips that were likely not reported or misreported.

The same estimation process for effort will be used for catch: a combination of intercept records, logbook catch records, and match metrics from a matching algorithm will be used to develop difference-based estimators. Kept and released fish records will be treated separately since released species are self-reported whereas kept records can be validated by the dockside interviewer. The combined estimators of the difference-based estimation track logbook catch values closely if there is no MRIP-intercepted catch, and otherwise adjust catch upward to reflect unmatched (and presumably unreported) trips. The combined estimators tend to have standard errors no larger than the standard errors of MRIP-only estimators. When matching is good, MRIP and logbook catch values are consistent with one another, and the standard errors for the combined catch estimators can be much smaller than those of MRIP-only (Figure 3). The reliability of catch matches is lower than trip matches because logbooks record catch for the whole party while APAIS records have catch for each individual angler.

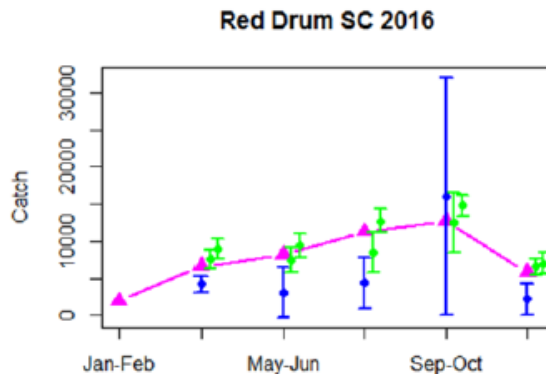


Figure 3. Estimated red drum catch by wave with approximate 95% confidence intervals, compared to logbook (magenta triangles). Estimators included are MRIP only (blue) and difference estimators $T_{y,diff1}$ and $T_{y,diff2}$ (green).

1. FORM

**FOR EMERGENCY
USE ONLY**

2. ASSIGNMENT NO.

1

3. INTERVIEWER ID

□ □ □ □ □ □

4. DATE: MMDD

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

5. INTERCEPT NO.

□ □ □ □

6. INTERVIEW TIME

(use 2400 clock)

□ □ □ □ □ □

Time this interview
was completed

7. STATE CODE

□ □

8. COUNTY CODE

□ □ □ □

9. SITE CODE

□ □ □ □ □ □

10. INTERVIEW STATUS (Key Item = *)

- 1 Questionnaire Complete
- 2 Refused Non-Key Item
- 5 Refused Key Item

READ PRIVACY ACT: This study is being conducted in accordance with the privacy act of 1974. You are not required to answer any question that you consider to be an invasion of your privacy.

*11. Would you say you were fishing from ...

- SHORE**
- 0 Pier
 - 1 Dock
 - 2 Jetty, Breakwater
 - 3 Bridge, Causeway
 - 4 Other Man-made Structure (Specify) _____
 - 5 Beach or Bank (Additional hours required in Q16)

- BOAT**
- 6 Headboat
 - 7 Charterboat
 - 8 Private Boat
 - 9 Rental Boat

*12. Was most of your (specify mode) fishing effort today in the ... (Select only one)

- 1 Ocean/Gulf
- 2 Sound (Other than listed)
- 3 River (Other than listed)
- 4 Bay (Other than listed)
- 5 Other (Specify) _____
- V Cape Cod Bay
- A Narragansett Estuary
- B Buzzard's Bay Estuary
- C Long Island Estuary
- D Hudson/Raritan Estuary
- E Delaware Estuary
- F Chesapeake Estuary
- G Albemarle/Pamlico Estuary

*13. Was that ...

- 1 Three Miles or Less From Shore
- 2 More Than Three Miles
- 8 Waterbody Does Not Apply

13a. Were you fishing an artificial reef today?

- Yes No
- If yes, enter Reef Code If "Don't Know" = 998
- If "Refused" = 999

Name: _____

14. What type of gear was primarily used? (Select one only)

- 01 Hook and Line
- 02 Dip Net, A-frame
- 03 Cast Net
- 04 Gill Net
- 05 Seine
- 06 Trawl
- 07 Trap
- 08 Spear
- 09 Hand
- 10 Other (Specify) _____
- 98 Unknown
- 99 Refused

15a. To the nearest half-hour, how many hours have you spent (specify mode) fishing today? That is, how many hours have you actually spent with your gear in the water?

□ □ □ □ No. of Hours If "Don't Know" = 99.8 If "Refused" = 99.9

15b. (If on boat) To the nearest half-hour, how many hours have you spent on the boat, away from the dock, today?

□ □ □ □ No. of Hours If "Don't Know" = 99.8 If "Refused" = 99.9

Not Applicable - SH mode

16. [Ask, only if "Beach" or "Bank"] How many additional hours do you expect to fish from shore today? That is, how many more hours will you actually have your gear in the water?

□ □ □ □ No. of Hours If "Don't Know" = 99.8 If "Refused" = 99.9

Not fishing from Beach or Bank

17. What species were you primarily fishing for today?

No Particular Species/Anything

1st Target

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

2nd Target

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

18. Not counting today, within the past 12 months, that is since (insert month) of last year, how many days have you gone saltwater sport finfishing in this state or from a boat launched in this state?

□ □ □ □ No. of days 998 Don't Know 999 Refused

19. Not counting today, within the past 2 months, how many days?

□ □ □ No. of days 98 Don't Know 99 Refused

*20. What is your state and county of residence? If county unknown, ask: What city or town do you live in?

□ □ State Code; Name: _____ If foreign country code = 97

□ □ County Code; Name: _____ If foreign country code = 997

21. What is the ZIP code of your residence?

□ □ □ □ □ □ 99997 Foreign Country 99998 Don't Know 99999 Refused

23a. Gender (observed, do not ask)

- Male
- Female

23b. How old were you on your last birthday?

□ □ Age Refused

Appendix B: SC For-Hire Logbook Validation Metrics

Fields used to compare APAIS interviews grouped by party and SC DNR charter logbook trip reports. Weights of the comparisons are based on importance and reliability.

Field	MRIP Definition	Logbook Definition	Match Metric Weight
Date	Date of interview	Date of reported trip	1.00
Start Site	Interview site	Site reported as the start site	0.30
Anglers	Number of individuals in the party	Number of anglers reported participating	0.30
Target Species	Species of fish being targeted	Species of fish being targeted	0.20
Hours Fished	Mean total hours fished of interviewees	Total hours fished as reported	0.10
Distance	Categorized distance from shore fished	Categorized distance from shore fished	0.10
Trip End Time	Mean interview time	Estimated trip end time	0.01

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

Coordinating Council

August 31, 2023

Activity Planning Summary

2024 Action Plan DRAFT

An early draft of the Commission's 2024 Action Plan, Goal 3 for ACCSP is attached for review and request for Coordinating Council feedback. The Action plan includes major focus areas that will be completed in the following year, and summarize items that occur on a continuing basis. The document has historically been developed by staff in consultation with the Coordinating Council chair and vice-chair. Feedback is requested by September 13, and the final document will be considered for action at the ASMFC Business Meeting in October.

FY2024 Proposal Summary

The FY2024 proposal submission process has been successful in soliciting new proposals. A total of sixteen proposals were submitted in addition to the Administrative Budget (see attached file). There were six (6) maintenance proposals, and ten (10) new proposals for total requested amount of over \$4.3M. The total requested funds are approximately \$700k over the available funding. Note one project from PRFC was rescinded.

The Operations Committee and ACCSP Advisors will rank the proposals during a joint meeting September 19-20 and the ranked projects and recommendations will be brought to the Coordinating Council in October for consideration.

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Draft 2024 Action Plan



For Review by the Administrative Oversight Committee

XX, X, 2023

Goal 1 – Rebuild, maintain and fairly allocate Atlantic coastal fisheries

Goal 2 – Provide the scientific foundation for stock assessments to support informed management actions

Goal 3 - Produce dependable and timely marine fishery statistics for Atlantic coast fisheries

Effective management depends on quality fishery-dependent data ~~and fishery-independent data~~ to inform stock assessments and fisheries management decisions. ~~While Goal 2 of this Action Plan focuses on providing sound, actionable science and fishery-independent data to support fisheries management,~~ Goal 3 focuses on providing timely, accurate catch, ~~and~~ effort, ~~and biological~~ data on Atlantic coast recreational, for-hire, and commercial fisheries ~~to support fisheries science and management.~~

~~Goal 3~~ The Commission will accomplish this through the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), a cooperative state-federal program that designs, implements, and conducts marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and integrates those data into data management systems to meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishers~~men~~. ACCSP partners include the 15 Atlantic coast state fishery agencies, the three Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, NOAA Fisheries, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

On a continuing basis, ACCSP does the following:

- Reviews and maintains coastwide standards for data collection and processing in cooperation with all Program Partners
- Provides funding to its Program Partners supporting data collection management and innovation through a competitive process and monitors funded projects
- Maintains commercial dealer reporting and commercial and for-hire ~~fishermen-catch-trip~~ reporting through the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) electronic applications
- Coordinates state conduct of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) and the For-Hire Survey (FHS), including the Large Pelagics Telephone Survey (LPTS) add-on
- Consolidates and integrates partner data and provides user-friendly, on-line, public and confidential access to those data via the Data Warehouse
- Provides communication, outreach, and engagement resources to ACCSP Partners and system users in accordance with the ASMFC Communications Plan
- Maintains security protocols for ASMFC network and information systems to comply with Federal Information Security Management Act

PARTNERSHIPS

- Coordinate with Gulf and Pacific Commissions on data collection and data management initiatives
- ~~Coordinate Provide~~ Atlantic regional ~~coordination- including prioritization of coastwide data needs and ongoing development activities for MRIP~~
- Participate in the Fisheries Information Systems (FIS) program and promote Atlantic data modernization projects
- Coordinate data initiatives with Councils (NEFMC, MAFMC, SAFMC, Gulf Council), NOAA regional offices (GARFO, SERO), and Science Centers (NEFSC, SEFSC)

FISHERIES-DEPENDENT DATA COLLECTION

SAFIS

- ~~Modernize dealer reporting application and data processing for implementation in January 2025~~
- ~~Improve species reporting by implementing enhanced species-market-grade list selections in data reporting specific to Partner, reporting type (dealer/harvester), and trip type (commercial, charter, headboat, private recreational)~~
- ~~Implement automated data validations on flexible trip report questions (attributes)~~
- Continue to provide data collection pathway for Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) implementation
- Extend One Stop Reporting initiative (e.g., expanded functionality across federal permits, convene workshop on state requirements)
- ~~Support implementation of spatial data management (e.g., American lobster trip locations and VMS)~~
- ~~Apply updated participant and permit database design to provide better resolution of individual and corporation fishing records~~
- ~~Expand use of trip management system to incorporate universal trip ID into Partner systems~~
- ~~Publicly deploy the SciFish mobile application and Project Builder under the SAFIS umbrella~~

Commented [GW1]: Suggest remove to align with Partner directions (GARFO).

Formatted: Font: (Default) +Body (Calibri)

Recreational Surveys

- ~~Continue to develop and seek certification of For-hire methodology for logbook estimates of catch and effort with dockside validation~~
- ~~Scope a pilot project to expand collection of discard data from recreational anglers~~
- ~~Share ACCSP developed software infrastructure with other MRIP regions (Gulf, West-Pacific) to efficiently use MRIP resources to standardize and cooperatively maintain APAIS and FHTS~~
- ~~Provide mentorship for Hawaii implementation of APAIS tablet data collection~~

DATA STANDARDS, DISTRIBUTION AND USE

Standards

- ~~Convene workshops to identify best practices on data validation, reconciliation, and documentation designed to improve data integrity~~
- ~~Refine for hire program methodology with MRIP to more fully incorporate for hire logbooks into catch statistics~~

Commented [GW2]: Moved to Rec Surveys section

- Establish policies and procedures for ACCSP Citizen Science data and data collection systems including SciFish projects

Data Distribution

- Expand data warehouse content, with emphasis on presentation of recreational estimates
- Establish new biological data feeds and create Data Warehouse queries for biological data linked to collection program details and metadata

Data Use

- Provide validated commercial landings data for Commission stock assessments (American Lobster, Atlantic croaker, Atlantic sea herring, red drum, spot ~~black sea bass, bluefish, Jonah crab, river herring, scup, and summer flounder~~) and SEDAR
- Respond to custom data requests, as necessary

Commented [GW3]: Data preparation for 2024-2025 species assessments


Goal 4 – Promote compliance with fishery management plans to ensure sustainable use of Atlantic coast fisheries

Goal 5 – Protect and enhance fish habitat and ecosystem health through partnerships and education

Goal 6 – Strengthen stakeholder and public support for the Commission

Goal 7 – Advance Commission and member states’ priorities through a proactive legislative policy agenda

Goal 8 – Ensure the fiscal stability and efficient administration of the Commission

	Partner	Title	Primary Module	Others	Cost	Max Funding Year 5/6	
MAINTENANCE	1	ME DMR	FY24: Managing 100% Lobster Harvester Reporting in Maine	Catch/Effort (100%)	\$ 335,591		
	2	RI DEM	Advancing Fishery Dependent Data Collection for Black Sea Bass (Cetropistis striata) in the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Region Utilizing Modern Technology and a Vessel Research Fleet Approach	Biological (50%)	Catch/Effort (25%), Bycatch (25%)	\$ 43,635 \$ 43,635	
	3	PRFC	Electronic Trip-Level Reporting for the Potomac River Fisheries Commission Commercial Fisheries Sector	Catch/Effort (100%)	\$ 207,512		
	4	NCDMF	FY24: North Carolina biological database enhancements for the transmission of data to the ACCSP	Biological (100%)	\$ 146,981		
	5	RI DEM	Pilot Observer Program for Rhode Island State Waters Gillnet Fishery	Bycatch (80%)	Catch/Effort (20%)	\$ 121,438	
	6	SAFMC	FY24: Expansion of the FISHstory Citizen Science Project	Catch/Effort (50%)	Biological (50%)	\$ 121,418	
				Total Maintenance	\$ 976,575		
New	1	ME DMR	Port Sampling for the Maine Atlantic Halibut Fishery		\$ 89,642		
	2	SC DNR	Development and Integration of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Data Elements into VESL	Catch/Effort (80%)	Bycatch (20%)	\$ 112,900	
	3	MA DMF	Massachusetts Oracle Forms Redesign and Modernization: Phase 2	Catch/Effort (100%)		\$ 100,000	
	4	RI DEM	The Economic Impact of Rhode Island's Fishing Industry	Socioeconomic (100%)		\$ 159,790	
	5	RI DEM	Maintaining the Whelk Research Fleet to Improve Fishery-Dependent Data Collection for Channeled Whelk (Busycotypus canaliculatus) and Knobbed Whelk (Busycon carica)			\$ 92,996	
	6	SEFSC	Development of Statistical Frames for Dockside Biosampling of the Recreational Headboat and Commercial Fishing Fleets in the South Atlantic	Biological (100%)		\$ 134,827	
	7	ME DMR	Characterizing Atlantic Cod Discards in the Maine Lobster Fishery for use in Stock Assessment			\$ 69,019	
	8	PRFC	Invasive Blue Catfish Tracker for Potomac River Fisheries Commission Commercial Fisheries	Catch/Effort (100%)		\$ 107,253	
	9	PRFC	Geographic Information System Tracking Enhancement for Potomac River Fisheries Commission Commercial Fisheries	Catch/Effort (100%)		\$ 76,541	
	10	MAFMC	Improving Catch and Effort Data Collection from Recreational Tilefish Anglers	Catch/Effort (100%)		\$ 92,456	
				Total New	\$ 1,035,424		
Admin	ACCSP	ACCSP Administrative Budget (with both options)	Admin		\$ 2,360,327		
				Grand Total Proposed	\$ 4,372,326		