

Data Coordination Committee

Problem: A lack of coordination among relevant bodies at the outset of regional initiatives to modernize fisheries data collection has revealed a variety of issues. These include duplication of effort, delays in data availability, competing priorities and a general lack of communication on technical issues and requirements of other agencies. For example, there was not universal understanding of the MAFMC and SAFMC for-hire reporting requirements and definition of “most stringent”.

Solution: Establish a Fisheries Data Coordination Committee as a coast wide platform for the various fisheries data groups to discuss (at the outset) activities that may affect one another and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Membership:

- Science Centers
- Regional Offices
- Fishery Management Councils
- NOAA HQ
- State Agencies
- Regional Commissions
- Other FINs

Format:

- Frequency of meetings: routinely, quarterly or as needed
- Meeting venue: always webinar/teleconference
- Meeting lead: ACCSP
- Meetings coordinator: ACCSP
- Partner obligation: participation in the discussion. There will be no work products per se.

Direction to Commercial Technical Committee

Problem: Data validation and accountability issues can compromise data quality and reduce their utility for stock assessments, compliance reports, and other management activities.

1. Data validation – How are Partners validating data? Are there potential impacts for data use?
2. Data accountability- Does ACCSP receive data in a timely way? Are there gaps that could be closed by better coordination?

Solution: direct Commercial Technical committee to...

1. Evaluate current validation practices used by the Program Partners.
2. Evaluate current procedures for providing/updating data for various uses (stock assessments/compliance reports/FMPs)
3. Review Atlantic Coast Data Standards and updated as needed to reflect current best practices for both data validation and provisioning.

Membership: Commercial Technical Committee members to begin with. May eventually need to incorporate a recreational component as well...