



ACCSP Coordinating Council

ASMFC Spring Meeting
Crystal City, VA

3:45 – 5:15 pm | May 4, 2026

Chair: Kathy Knowlton
Vice-Chair: Renee Zobel
Staff: Geoff White

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

Welcome and Introductions

Council Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings October 27, 2025

Public Comment





Review and Approve FY2027 RFP

Attachment 4

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Funding Decision Document Language

- A cover letter addressing requested responses and review questions must be submitted with the proposal.
- Proposals that request funding to purchase 3rd party data or develop/purchase 3rd party software that is similar (e.g., performing existing functions) to software offered by ACCSP will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may or may not be recommended for funding.
- *Outdated language was removed*



Timeline

- An additional week of time has been allocated for more thorough review of initial proposals.





Biological Sampling Priority Matrix – No Changes

Created March 2025

For FY2026 and FY2027

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The Biological Review Panel Recommends:

- Species in the upper 25% of the priority matrix should be considered for funding
- Sampling projects that cover multiple species within the upper 25% are highly recommended



Bio-sampling Priority Matrix

		Biological Sampling Adequacy	
		Adequate (0 - 2)	Inadequate (3 - 5)
Averaged Priority Columns	High (≥ 3.0)		Black Sea Bass - Spanish Mackerel - Red Snapper
	Low (< 3.0)	Horseshoe Crab - Atlantic Menhaden - Shortfin Mako Shark	Gag Grouper - Snowy Grouper - American Shad - Red Grouper - River Herring - Tilefish - Scamp - Red Pogy - American Lobster - Ocean Pout - Cobia - American Eel - Winter Flounder - Blueline Tilefish - Atlantic Halibut - N. Short-fin Squid - Gray Triggerfish - Scup - Bluefish

Grouping of species in upper 25% of total matrix score, based on sampling adequacy and average priority (average of ASMFC, Council, NMFS, and State priorities)

- Horseshoe crab, Atlantic menhaden, and shortfin mako shark are being sampled adequately and have a low priority, so additional sampling is not needed
- Projects that target multiple upper quartile species should be given a higher priority
- Ocean Pout has low average priority, high significant changes in management and landings, and a high resilience score





Bycatch Sampling Priority Matrix – No Changes

Created in February 2025

For FY2026 and FY2027

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Top Quartile of Bycatch Matrix Suggestions

Combined Fleets	Sig. Change in mgmt w/in past 36 mo	Amt of reg discards	Amt of non reg discards	Prot Spp Interactions	Score
Mid-Atlantic Gillnet	3	4	2	5	14
Snapper Grouper H&L Fleet	5	4	1	3	13
South Atlantic Shrimp Trawl	1	4	2	5	12
New England Otter Trawl	3	4	2	3	12
Mid-Atlantic Pound Net	1	4	2	5	12
American Lobster Pots	1	4	1	5	11
Pelagic H&L Fleet (North)	3	4	1	3	11
New England Gillnet	3	2	1	5	11
New England Extra-Large-Mesh Gillnet	0	4	2	5	11
Mid-Atlantic Small-Mesh Otter Trawl, Bottom	1	4	1	5	11
Mid-Atlantic Large-Mesh Otter Trawl, Bottom	3	2	1	5	11
Mid-Atlantic Fish Pots and Traps	3	4	1	3	11
South Atlantic Large Mesh Gillnet	0	4	2	5	11
Southeastern, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico HMS Pelagic Longline	1	4	1	5	11
Mid-Atlantic Dredge, Other	1	4	1	5	11
New England Crab Pots	3	2	1	5	11
South Atlantic Blue Crab	5	2	1	3	11



Recreational Sampling Priorities (2023)

1. Improved precision (PSE) and presentation of MRIP estimates
2. Comprehensive for-hire data collection and monitoring
3. Improved recreational fishery discard and release data
4. Improved timeliness of MRIP recreational catch and harvest estimates
5. Biological sampling for recreational fisheries separate from MRIP
6. Improved in-season monitoring



Socioeconomic Priority Data Elements

The Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (CESS) developed a list of priority socioeconomic data elements for coastwide collection. The list is not exhaustive; it represents key elements that can serve as a baseline of fundamental socioeconomic information to support management decisions. The list of priority data elements includes:

1. Trip-level information (to be collected through voluntary or mandatory reporting, for all or a subset of participants)
2. Data elements for an owner/operator survey (to be collected through an annual or semiannual survey)



Motion



MRIP Update

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Potential APAIS Changes – Area & Depredation

- ACCSP serves as coordinating body for MRIP implementation on Atlantic coast (Maine – Georgia)
- MRIP survey changes require Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) approval
- Recreational Technical Committee recommended changes to MRIP APAIS via email to Coordinating Council on March 13, 2026 to address management needs:
 - Identify area fished via detailed maps
 - Document depredation events



Potential APAIS Changes – Area & Depredation

- PRA approval to ensure public benefit (limited time to answer survey questions) on 3-year timeline
- PRA review concurrent with feasibility of new questions in 2026
- PRA approval provides **option** for use in 2027-forward
- Final decisions expected as action items during ASMFC November Meeting week





NOAA
FISHERIES

Recreational Angler Partnership Improvement Directive (RAPID), MRIP Estimate Publication Dates, and 2027 Recreational Summit

ASMFC Spring 2026 Meeting

May 4, 2026

Tim Sartwell and Katherine Papacostas

Recreational Angler Partnership Improvement Directive (RAPID): 2026-2027

Launch: Announced by Dr. Neil Jacobs (NOAA Administrator) on Feb 11, 2026 - represents a **top NOAA priority to transform marine recreational fishing data.**

Strategic Evolution: **RAPID is the transition process, not the MRIP replacement.** It reinvigorates the agency's partnership re-envisioning efforts with increased resources and full NOAA Policy Team support. **A steering committee has been established to help guide the RAPID transition.**

Collaborative Governance: Shifts from a centralized federal system to a shared-governance model focusing on **active co-design with state, regional, and federal partners.**



Recreational Angler Partnership Improvement Directive (RAPID)

Regional Workshops (Slated for 2nd half of 2026):

- Brings partners together to define clear roles and responsibilities for addressing local data collection challenges and priorities
- Uses the **Partnership Re-envisioning Framework Report** as a key building block for all sessions
- Will be facilitated by a neutral third party to ensure all voices are heard



2026 MRIP Estimate Publication Schedule

Note: schedule contingent upon maintaining existing resource capacity and no additional unexpected disruptions

Estimates	Anticipated Release
Final 2025 estimates (not calibrated to reflect the improved 2026 Fishing Effort Survey design)	Targeting May 2026
Final calibrated 2025 estimates and availability of the revised historical time series from 1981 - 2025 (calibrated to reflect the improved Fishing Effort Survey design)	Targeting August 2026
Preliminary 2026 estimates	Targeting late summer 2026 (as soon as possible following production and publishing of the calibrated time series)

2027 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit

- Tentatively March 23-24, 2027 in Alexandria, VA
- NOAA Fisheries partners with ASMFC to plan and host the summit
 - ASMFC request for proposals for a meeting planner / facilitator closed May 1, 2026
- Regional roundtables will inform the summit topic areas
 - Alaska, West Coast, Greater Atlantic complete
 - Southeast, Pacific Islands, and HMS upcoming
 - RecFish is planning two additional national-level listening sessions, dates TBD
- Steering committee to be formed summer 2026
 - Will solicit members early summer 2026 (after we identify and contract the facilitator)
 - Composed of ~10 people who represent recreational fisheries from across the nation

Contact Russ Dunn, russ.dunn@noaa.gov, for more information

Questions?





Program Update

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

Recreational Fisheries Project Status

- APAIS discards project data collection
- For-Hire Methodology data review
- MRIP Estimate Reviews

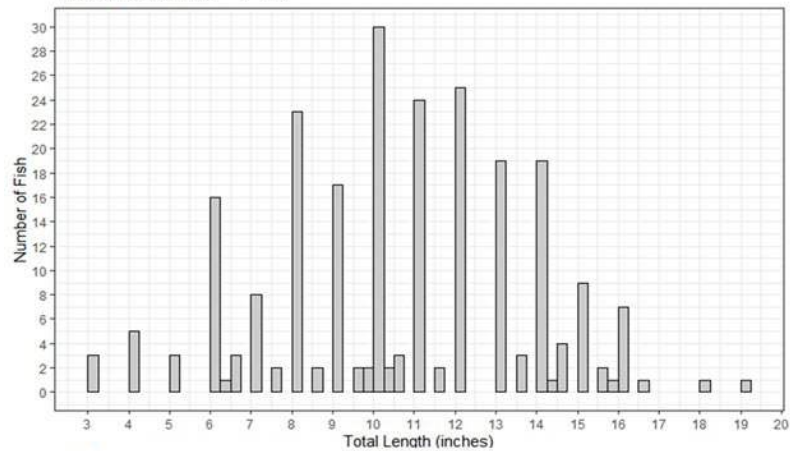


MRIP APAIS Catch Card Pilot (2025-2026)

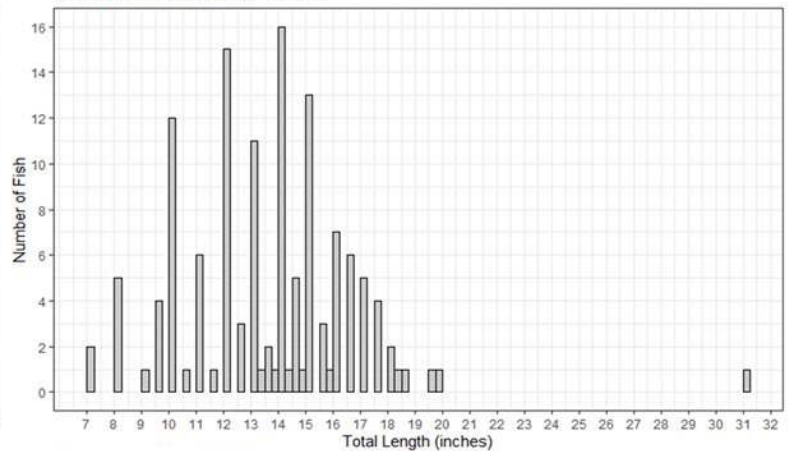
- Main goals:
 - (1) Compare count of unavailable catch asked **after** trip to catch cards handed out **before** a fishing trip
 - (2) Collect of lengths of released catch
- #3 (“Improved recreational fishery discard and release data”) of Atlantic Rec. Implementation Plan
- 2025 Final Report: ACCSP Partner Projects and Fisheries Focus
- 2026 Season ongoing, minor modifications to help understand angler responses



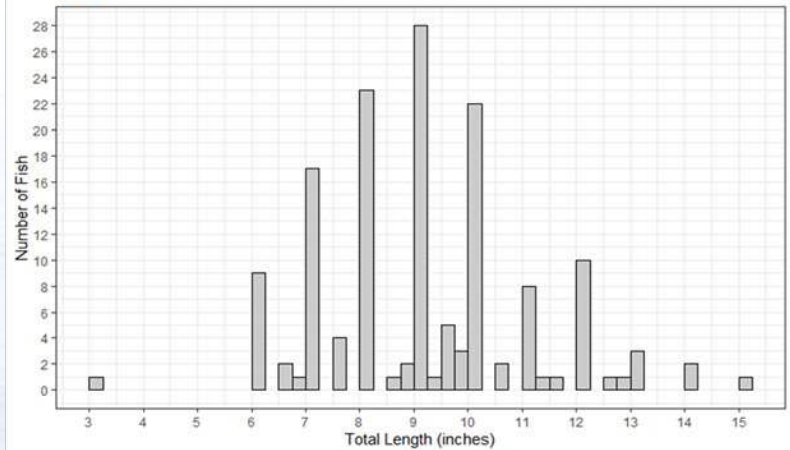
BLACK SEA BASS n=241



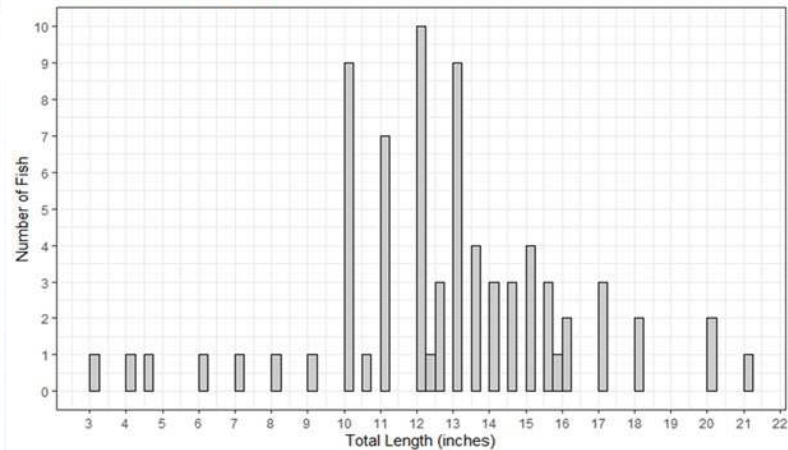
SUMMER FLOUNDER n=134



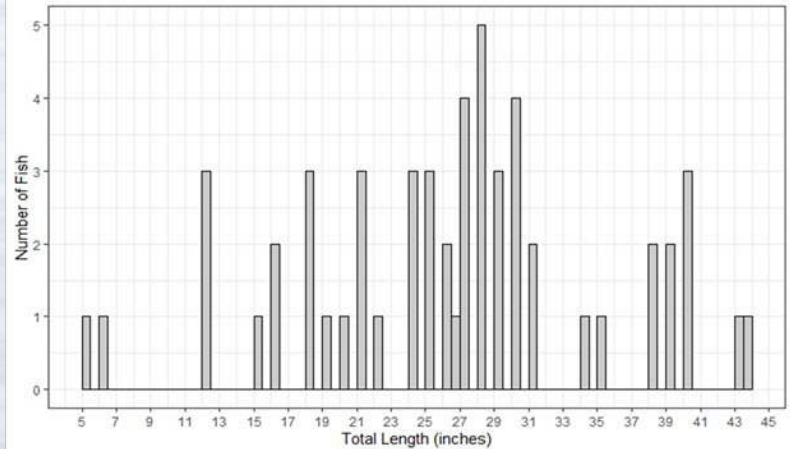
SCUP n=149



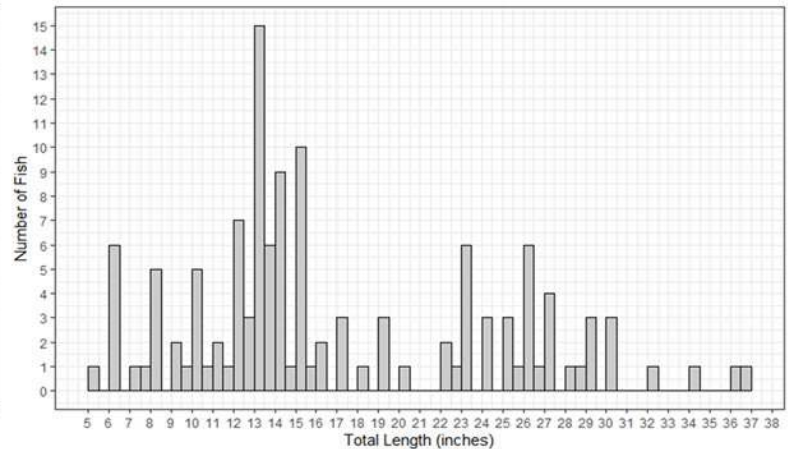
SPOTTED SEATROUT n=75



STRIPED BASS n=55



RED DRUM n=127



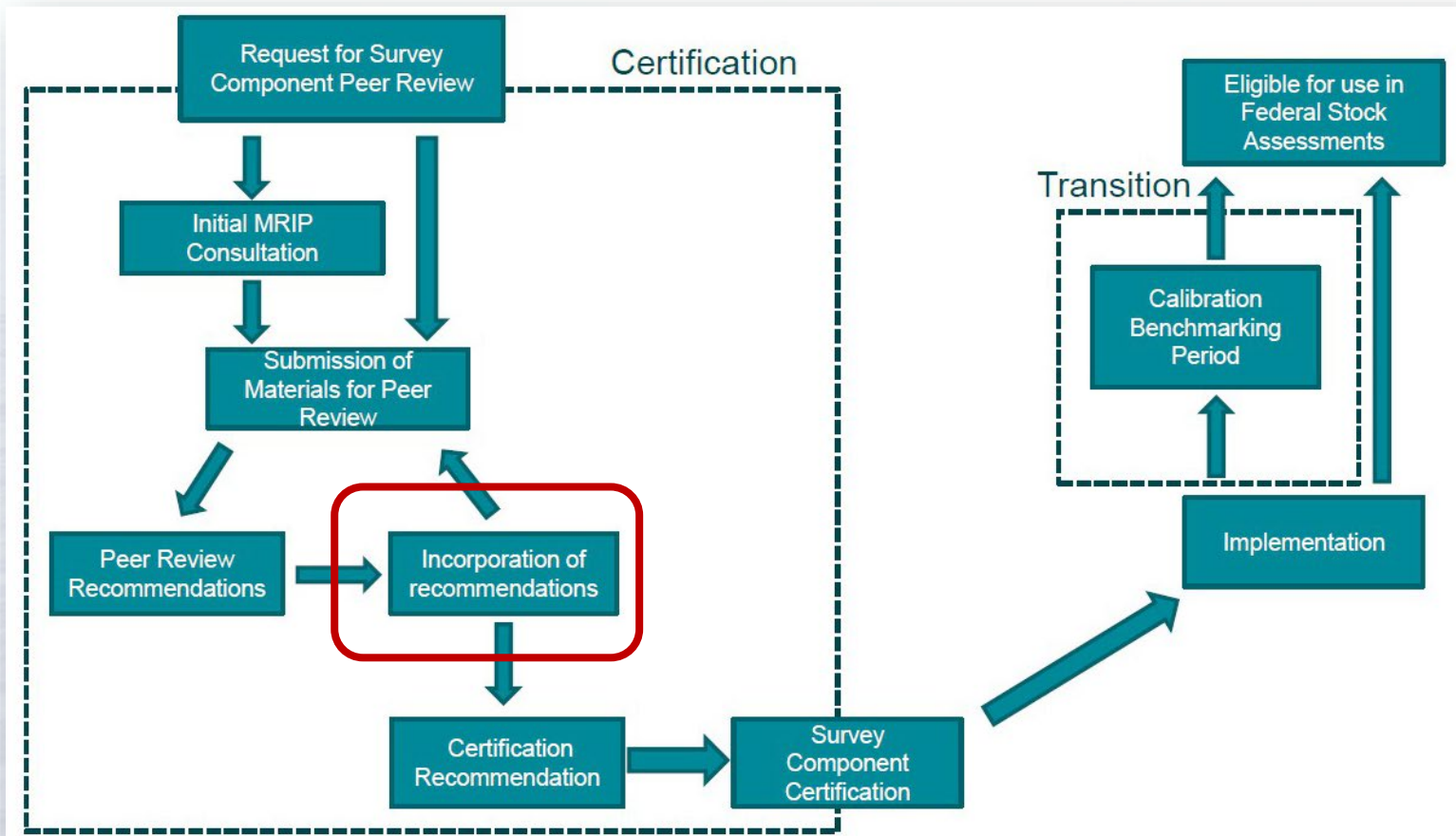
Methodology: FH Logbook Catch/Effort Est.

- Goal: Utilize for-hire logbooks in MRIP where possible, continue effort/intercept survey (e.g., FHS/APAIS)
- High interest within MRIP re-envisioning priorities and during listening sessions and roundtables with constituents
- Ongoing contract: Analyze 2019-2024 data in response to 2024 peer review, report expected June 2026



Methodology: FH Logbook Catch/Effort Est.

- Next Steps: interpret outcomes, discuss with RTC, present to MRIP/consultants – working towards certification



MRIP Estimate Reviews by State Partners

State	Revisions
ME	2
NH	
MA	
RI	1
CT	
NY	4
NJ	2
DE	
MD	6
VA	1
NC	1
SC	
GA	16
Total	33

- RTC approved process: NOAA-suggested parameters and future tracking (MERIT) with standard R script
- Rolling process, instigated **every** Wave estimation release
 - RTC members coordinate within state, between committees and departments
- NOAA outcomes include:
 - No change, correction of data, adjustment to PSE for small sample size, sample weight adjustment



Spring Data Load

- On time public data release on 4/13/2026!
- Highlights:
 - VA implemented new process to merge state fishermen reports with federal dealer reports
 - VA Quahog aquaculture data conversion factors will update in fall load



Conversion Factors: Background

- Conversion factor (to whole weight) history
 - Limited supporting data
 - Few updates
- Project scope
 - Priority species
 - American Eel
 - Atlantic Menhaden
 - Atlantic Sharpnose Shark
 - Blue Crab
 - Snowy Grouper
 - Participating states
 - Maine
 - Rhode Island
 - New Jersey
 - Virginia
 - North Carolina
 - Florida



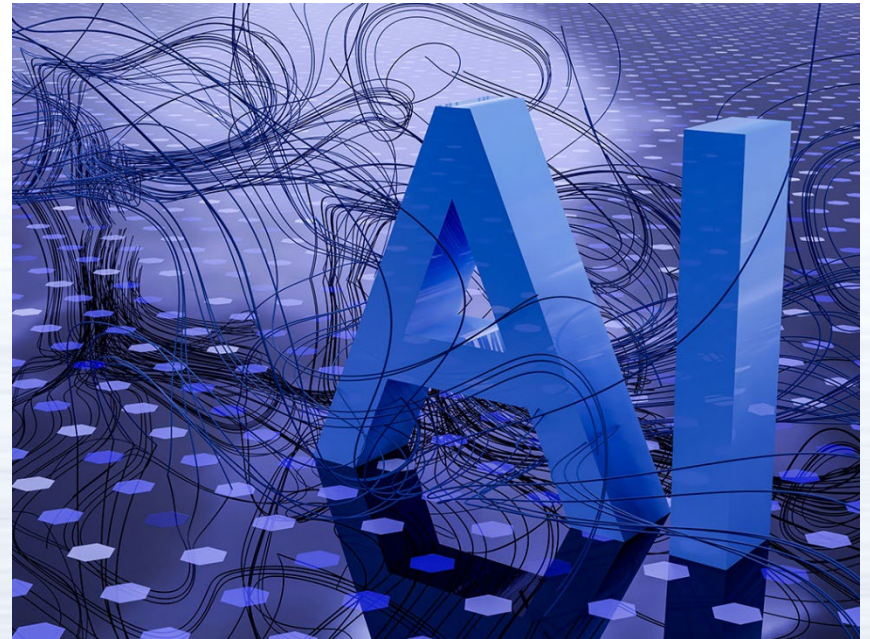
Conversion Factors: Current Status

- ACCSP staff have incorporated the year into the conversion factor structure
- Committee members are confirming all of the new conversions
- Committee is considering investigating additional species conversion factors to calculate whole weight



Addition to ACCSP NDA Form

- Statement on use of AI on ACCSP Confidential access form
- Operations Committee directed staff to draft language





Software Project Status

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eDR redesign

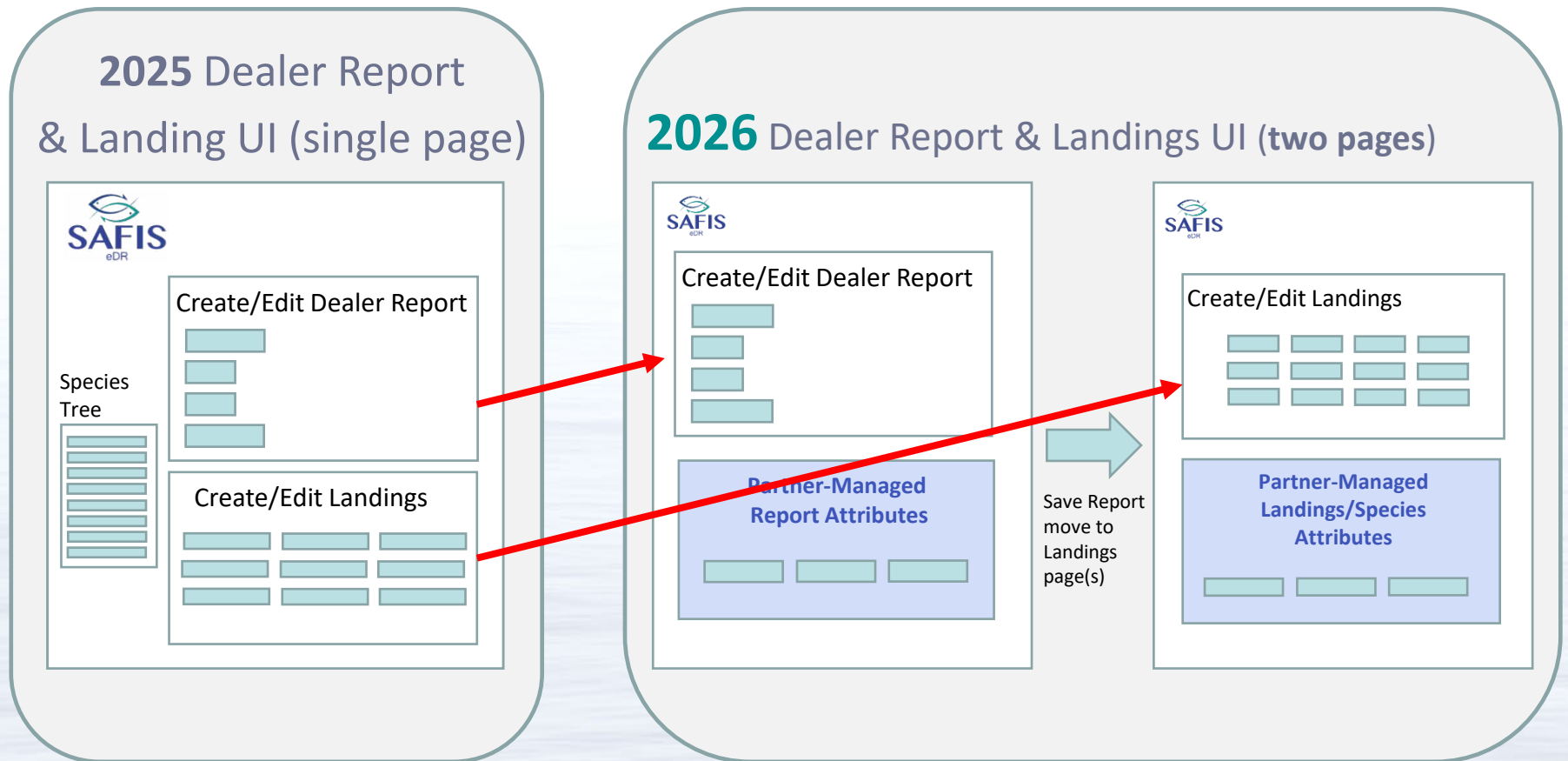


<https://www.planetary.org/space-images>

- Launched January 2026
 - Online & Progressive Web App
 - File Validation and Transfer
 - API (system to system)
 - Partner Switchboard
 - Web Queries
- Increased support requests in first quarter of the year
- Overall success!



eDR User Interface Changes



Software Projects Overview

- eTRIPS update release in late March (Lat/long moved to partner attributes)
- Validations
- Oracle Cloud Infrastructure – first steps
- New SAFIS to Federal API data flows (SE coastal logbook, HMS)
- SciFish: Angler Catch using SciFish API
- VMS
 - New RI compliance framework added to VMS
 - Enhancement project



2026 SAFIS Projects (action plan)

- ✓ Facilitate the transition of dealers into the redesigned electronic dealer reporting (eDR), with specific focus on file validation transfer (FVT)
- Extend One Stop Reporting (OSR) initiative in eTRIPS (e.g., addition of state requirements, expanded functionality across federal permits)
- Solicit dealer and harvester feedback on eTRIPS mobile and online applications look and feel to scope enhancements to the user experience
- Expand partner implementation of the eTRIPS 1-ticket functionality to allow single submission from harvesters acting as their own dealers in 2-ticket systems



OSR State Implementation



- Look-up lists (no changes)
 - Federal list OR
 - State list from chosen permit
- Additional questions
 - Questions from chosen permit AND
 - **Appropriate state questions from non-chosen permits**
- Timing and testing:
 - Rollout in January 2027



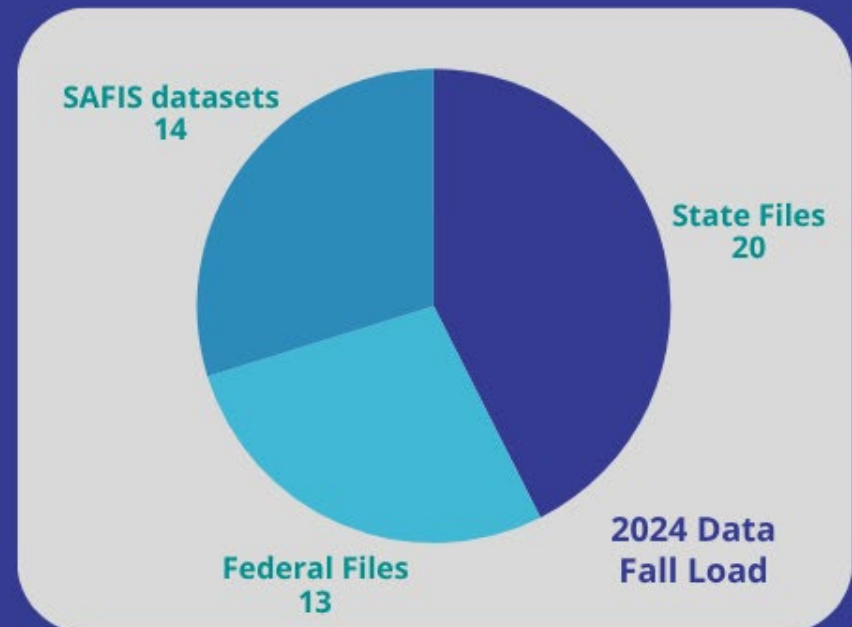
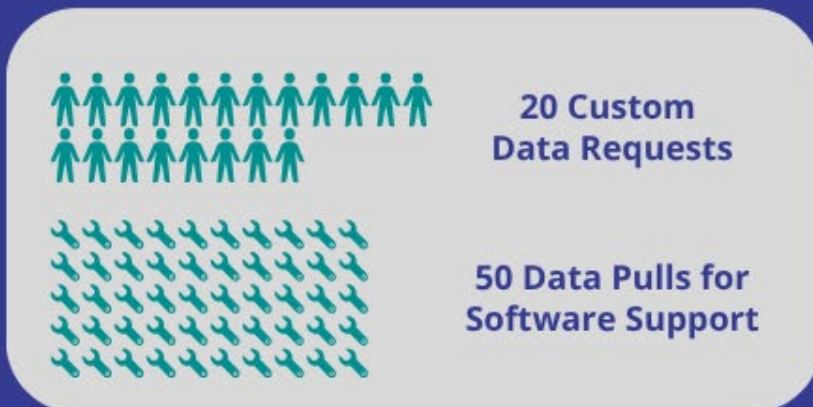
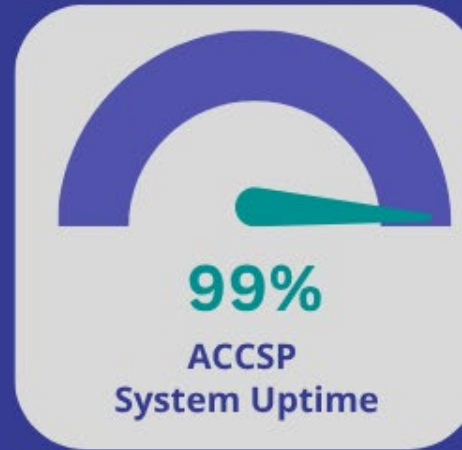
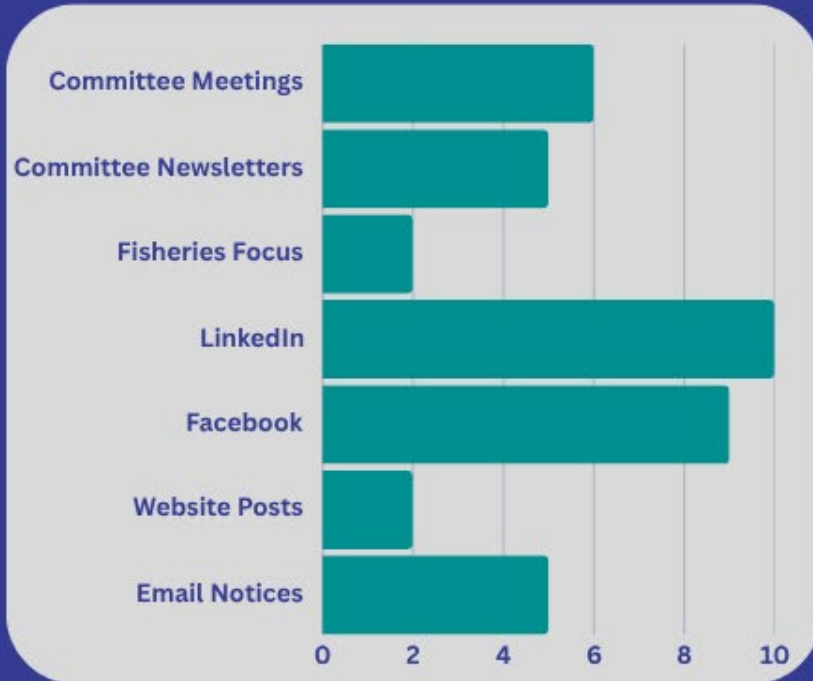
Regional Data Coordination

- GARFO dealer module development
- Federal Vessel Permit Registry
- SE Permit Support
- East Coast Logbook Project



ACCSP by the Numbers

Reporting Period: September 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026





Other Business

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Adjourn

