ACCSP Coordinating Council

ASMFC Annual Meeting
Newport, RI
8:30 – 10:30 am | November 10, 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.

Council Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from May 2026

Public Comment

Consider FY2027 ACCSP Project and Administrative Proposals

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Comparison Rankings of Maintenance Projects

Operations	Advisors
FY27: Managing 100% Lobster Harvester Reporting in Maine	FY27: Managing 100% Lobster Harvester Reporting in Maine
FY27: North Carolina socioeconomic database construction for the management of existing and future data"	FY27: North Carolina socioeconomic database construction for the management of existing and future data"
FY27: Enhancing Recruitment & Retention for the SAFMC Release Citizen Science Project	Black Sea Bass (*Centropristis striata*) Age and Growth Data Collection to Addess Stock Assessment Needs
Black Sea Bass (*Centropristis striata*) Age and Growth Data Collection to Addess Stock Assessment Needs	FY27: Enhancing Recruitment & Retention for the SAFMC Release Citizen Science Project

Comparison Rankings of New Projects

Operations	Advisors
FY27: Improving Harvester Reporting Edit Capabilities for End Users and Partner Agencies	FY27: Improving Harvester Reporting Edit Capabilities for End Users and Partner Agencies
Expanding the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation's Black Sea Bass Research Fleet into the Gulf of Maine	Expanding the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation's Black Sea Bass Research Fleet into the Gulf of Maine
FY27: Fishery Dependent Sampling of Federal and State Permitted Vessels in New York	Comprehensive Outreach and Pilot Observer Program for New York, New Jersey and Delaware State Waters Gillnet Fisheries
Developing Maryland's Recreational Fishery Data Collection Program	FY27: Fishery Dependent Sampling of Federal and State Permitted Vessels in New York
Comprehensive Outreach and Pilot Observer Program for New York, New Jersey and Delaware State Waters Gillnet Fisheries	Developing Maryland's Recreational Fishery Data Collection Program
FY27: Electronic Reporting Initiatives for New York Fisheries	FY27: Electronic Reporting Initiatives for New York Fisheries

ACCSP FY2027 Funding Summary

	3.35M	3.50M
Admin Grant	$2,489,992	$2, 489,992
GARFO Fee	$44,423	$44,423
Maint @ 75%	$611,689	$724,189
Maint Actual	$464,423	$464,423
Maint Diff	$147,266	$259,766
New @ 25%	$203,896	$241,396
New Actual	$721,627	$721,627
New Diff	($370,465)	($220,465)

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$3.35M Level Funding Recommendation

- Maintenance proposals: Fund all maintenance proposals
- New proposals: Fully fund the four (4) new proposals listed
  - FY27: Improving Harvester Reporting Edit Capabilities for End Users and Partner Agencies
  - Expanding the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation's Black Sea Bass Research Fleet into the Gulf of Maine
  - Develop Maryland's Recreational Fishery Data Collection Program
  - FY27: Fishery Dependent Sampling of Federal and State Permitted Vessels in New York

FY2027 Proposal Funding Discussion & Action

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APAIS 2027 Changes

Recreational Technical Committee Recommendations, supported by Operations Committee and Advisors

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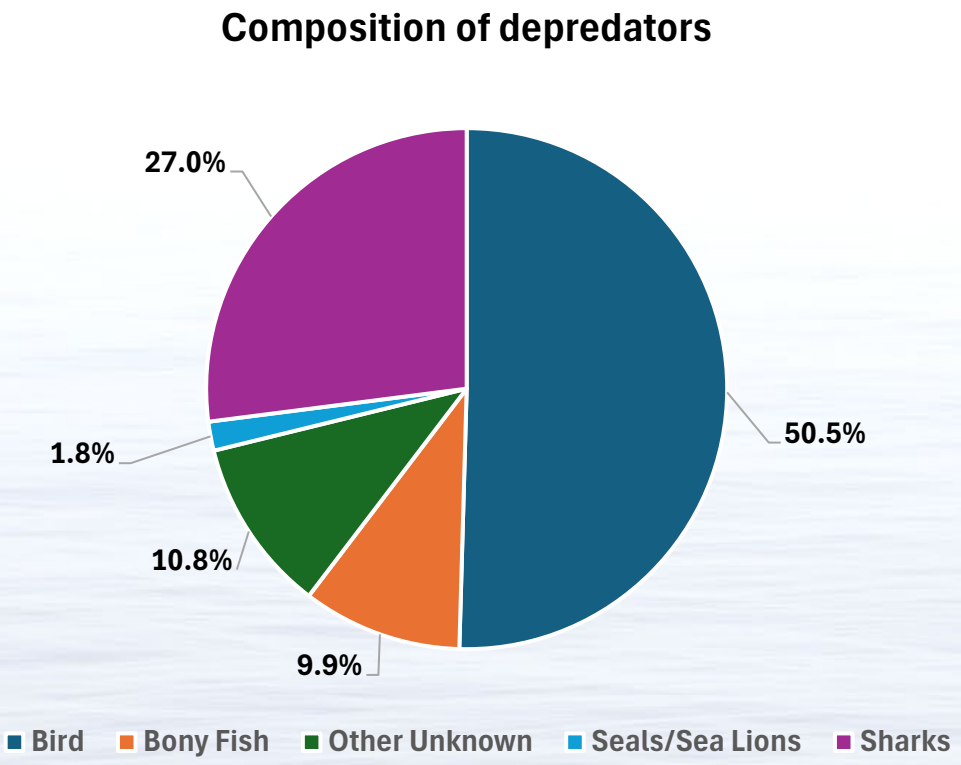
Add Depredation details in MRIP APAIS

- WHY: Monitor the frequency and extent (spatial and temporal) of depredation events to provide more detailed mortality information for stock assessments
- 2026 added disposition codes for depredation of available and unavailable catch
  - E.g., Thrown back dead/depredation damage
  - E.g., Thrown back alive/observed scavenged
- 2027 request to add question on type of predator
  - sharks, bony fish, dolphins, seals, birds, other

Update: 2026 Depredation Dispositions in MRIP APAIS

- January to August 2026 summary of depredation events

State	Total Intercepts	Intercepts that experienced depredation (all catch types)
ME	1350	1
NH	1438	32
MA	5040	11
RI	3031	6
CT	2188	4
NY	4196	7
NJ	5222	7
DE	2341	2
MD	3651	3
VA	2602	2
NC	7611	21
SC	4711	9
GA	3712	6
Total	**47093**	**111**



- Most frequent species: Acadian Redfish (45%), Black Sea Bass (7%), Striped Bass (5%), Yellowfin Tuna (4%), Pollock (3%)

Add Depredation details in MRIP APAIS

- Data on type of predator to be delivered to NOAA, and available in downloadable data. This does not impact catch estimation calculation.

- Unanimous support from Recreational Technical Committee.
  - **The RTC recommends adding a software-based item in 2027 to present depredator categories of:**
    - **sharks, fish, dolphins, seals, birds, other**

Add Area Fished grid in MRIP APAIS

- Request higher resolution spatial data on rec. fishing catch for stock assessments and fishery management
- APAIS provides comprehensive, un-biased coverage
- Proposal
  - Before ‘area fished’ and ‘distance’ questions, present map to angler to select 10-minute ‘grid area’
  - If not answered, standard APAIS questions presented
  - ‘Grid area’ to be delivered to NOAA, and available in downloadable data. This does not impact catch estimation calculation.

Add Area Fished grid in MRIP APAIS

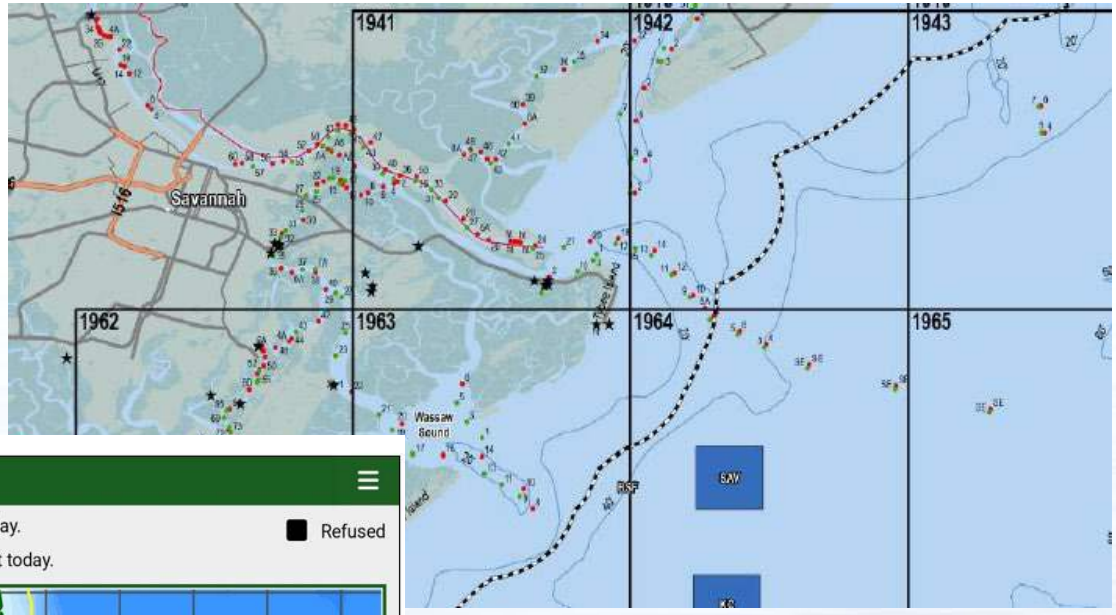
- Feasibility testing:
  - 5 States May-October 2026 (419 intercepts)
  - **Identify 10 min grid** or pick-a-point

State	Testing Days	# of Sites	Total Int.	CH	PR	SH	Full Int.	Partial Int.	Point	Grid	Refusals to Area Fished
MA	14	14	107	20	87	0	107	0	107	0	0
CT	10	5	102	4	93	5	60	42	67	35	1
MD	2	2	30	0	30	0	30	0	30	0	0
NC	7	8	21	0	21	0	21	0	20	1	0
GA	22	14	159	0	159	0	159	0	82	77	0
Total	55	43	419	24	390	5	377	42	306	113	1

  - Minimal effect on personal safety and equipment
  - Majority of anglers were comfortable responding

Add Area Fished grid in MRIP APAIS

- Example maps:
  - Handouts →
  - Tablet (below)





Add Area Fished grid in MRIP APAIS

- Compromise Recommendation:
  - **The RTC recommends a comparative sub-sample approach on all APAIS boat (private and For-Hire) assignments to ask the modified area fished question to every 3rd boat party, beginning in Wave 2 2027.**
  - Provides the opportunity to collect greater spatial resolution on area fished to support stock assessment splits (e.g., cod stock areas, activity N/S of Cape Hatteras, etc.) while simultaneously addressing concerns about full implementation.

APAIS Changes - Process

- Utilized role of ACCSP to consolidate state perspectives and develop a coastwide request to adjust MRIP APAIS.
- Considers full scope from field question, coding, data delivery, and data availability
- Balanced processes and timing across state, commission, and NOAA partnership
- Committee used decision making tools to develop consensus recommendation

APAIS Changes CY2027
Discussion & Action

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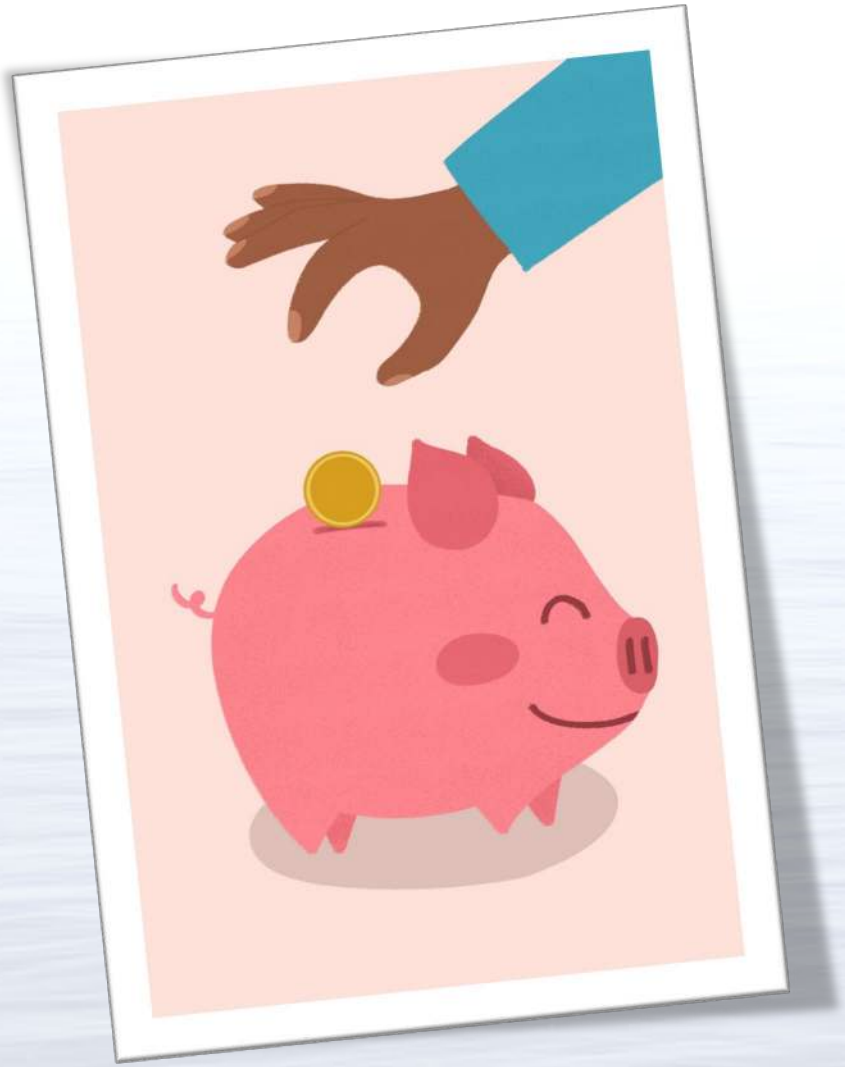
Program Updates

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Funding Status

- Administrative Award
  - Start date August 1, 2026
  - 5-month gap between awards (March-July, 2026)
  - FY2025 $620K shortfall used to cover 5-month gap
  - FY2026 about $200K below budget
  - Staff exploring other cost savings
- FIS Modernization Grant (2024)
  - Arrived September 17, 2026
  - SAFIS MFA
  - Oracle Cloud Instance for ACCSP scalability and redundancy (uptime and performance improvements)

Potential Cost Savings/Alternatives



- Continue to hold off on filling 2 open positions
  - Data Team
  - Software Team
- Adjust help desk and SAFIS development costs
- Potential funding for reporting software improvements

2027 Action Plan (Goal 3)



- Ongoing Tasks
- New Tasks
- ASMFC Business Meeting - Action

New Tasks

SAFIS

- Extend One Stop Reporting (OSR) initiative in eTRIPS (e.g., implementation of state requirements, expanded functionality in line with the NOAA East Coast Logbook)
- Implement expansion of the eTRIPS 1-ticket functionality to allow single submission from harvesters acting as their own dealers in 2-ticket systems
- Implement multi-factor authentication in SAFIS applications to meet NOAA requirements– **FUNDING CONTIGENT**
- Implement eTRIPS and eDR attribute validations across all submit methods (online, mobile/API, and file upload)
- Scope and seek resources for the enhancement of the end user experience for eTRIPS mobile and online applications based on feedback from industry and partner agencies

New Tasks

Recreational Surveys

- Continue to seek MRIP certification of for-hire methodology for logbook estimates of catch and effort with dockside validation
- Support and co-organize a national recreational summit that provides an open exchange of information among all sectors of the marine recreational fishing community, scientists, and managers
- Participate in and support national RAPID remodeling of recreational fisheries data collection

Data Distribution and Use

- Provide commercial landings data for Commission stock assessments (American eel, Atlantic sturgeon, back drum, Spanish mackerel, weakfish) and SEDAR (red grouper, snowy grouper, vermillion snapper)
- Incorporate additional partner data feeds to the Data Warehouse
- Implement consolidation, warehousing, and display of released catch data across data types in ACCSP (e.g., mandatory reports, citizen science, observer data) – **FUNDING CONTIGENT**

New Tasks

Outreach and Infrastructure

- Prioritize and implement improvements to IT hosting scalability to address increased data demands within the scope of available funding
- Increase outreach via industry publications on the value of SAFIS applications with specific emphasis on OSR features
- Continue to improve social media and website engagement through strategic content expansion, specifically focusing on access to current data standards
- Develop a strategy for long-term maintenance and development for mobile applications (e.g., internal maintenance, development platforms)
- Document contingency plans for shifting funding availability

ACCSP
Good Data, Good Decisions



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Recreational Fisheries Status

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MRIP APAIS Catch Card Pilot (2025-2026)

- #3 priority of Atlantic Recreational Implementation Plan ("Improved recreational fishery discard and release data")
- Two main objectives:

  (1) Comparison to APAIS unavailable catch asked AFTER to catch cards handed out BEFORE a fishing trip

  (2) Increase numbers of lengths of released catch
- Intercept data included in 2025 final MRIP estimates

2025 & 2026 Data

State	Year	Number of Completed Catch Card Assignments	Number of Completed Interviews on Catch Card Assignments	Number of Catch Cards Handed Out	Number of Catch Cards Entered	Number of Lengths Submitted	Number of Catch Cards Handed Out Per Assignment	Catch Card Return Rate (%)	Number of Lengths Per Catch Card	Number of Catch Cards Refused	Catch Card Refusal Rate (%)
Massachusetts	2026	39	118	56	0	0	1.44	0.00	-	77	57.89
Rhode Island	2026	33	193	122	29	104	3.70	23.77	3.59	30	19.74
Connecticut	2026	42	305	138	23	116	3.29	16.67	5.04	44	24.18
New York	2026	19	39	50	5	4	2.63	10.00	0.80	21	29.58
Delaware	2026	43	128	174	20	69	4.05	11.49	3.45	63	26.58
Maryland	2026	43	318	201	34	60	4.67	16.92	1.76	24	10.67
North Carolina	2026	16	137	188	20	31	11.75	10.64	1.55	31	14.16
Georgia	2026	36	162	321	42	108	8.92	13.08	2.57	59	15.53
Total	**2026**	**271**	**1,400**	**1,250**	**173**	**492**	**4.61**	**13.84**	**2.84**	**349**	**21.83**

Total	**2025**	**466**	**2,822**	**2,143**	**467**	**1,326**	**4.60**	**21.79**	**2.84**

Next Steps

- 2026 data collection through October 2026
  - Pilot project will not continue in 2027
- NOAA OST analyses of discard information collected via catch cards compared to MRIP unavailable catch data
- Discuss options for future implementation with RTC

For-Hire Logbook Methodology: Catch/Effort estimation

- Identified within MRIP re-envisioning priorities and during listening sessions and roundtables with constituents
- Utilized 2021-2024 data, concluded June 2026
- Ongoing: interpret outcomes, discuss with RTC, present to MRIP/consultants – working towards certification

Rec - Regional Coordination

- Socio-Economic Add-on Survey (SEAS)
  - Shift from APAIS interview to QR code handoff for 2027
- National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit (March 23-24, 2027)
- Recreational Angler Partnership Improvement Directive (RAPID)
  - Atlantic APAIS sampling increases for 2026-2027
    - Waves 5-6, 2026 (RI-SC), all states 2027
  - Regional workshops early 2027
    - Mid-Atlantic Jan 5-7, Philadelphia PA
    - South-Atlantic Jan 11-13, Charleston SC
    - New England Jan 20-22, Boston MA

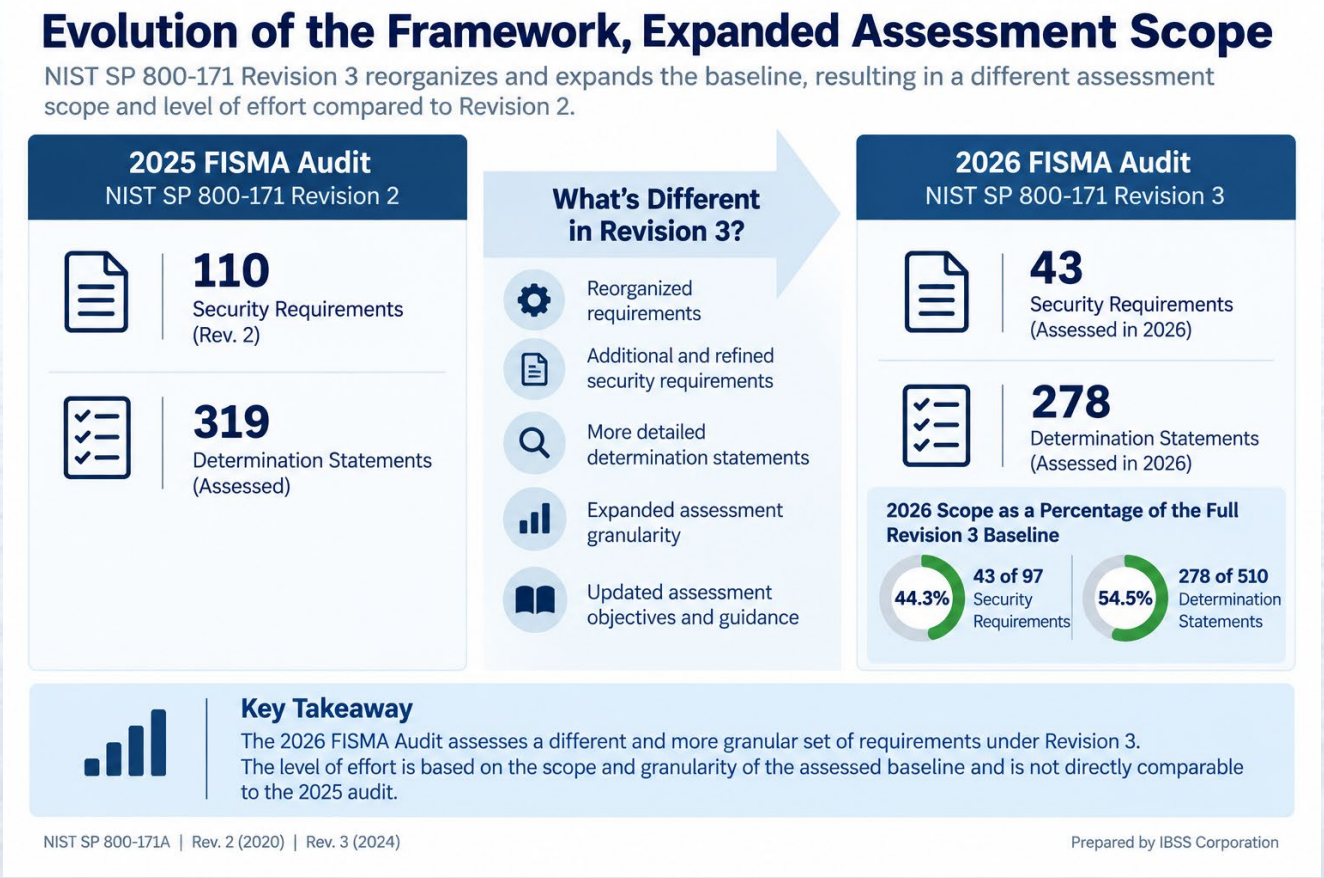
SciFish Update

- New Application – ME DMR
- Potential future development



FISMA

- Significant progress in remediation
- Transition from NIST SP 800-171 Rev 2 (319 statements) to Rev 3 (510 statements)



Solicitation of New Advisors

- Advisors needed
- Another advisor just had to step down
- Draft solicitation



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Electronic Reporting: Application Approvals and Errors

- New Vendor Application Approval Process
  - Approval processes exist for some agencies for trip/vessel reporting, but no parallel processes for dealer reporting
  - Significant interest for dealer reporting via API since the redesign
  - ACCSP staff can work with vendors, but partner agencies approve applications
- ACCSP Error Message Transmission
  - SAFIS applications transmit API errors to end users
  - SAFIS API vendors (FishOnline, VESL, ECL) are not transmitting errors to end users
  - Partners must ensure all data is submitted/accepted in SAFIS

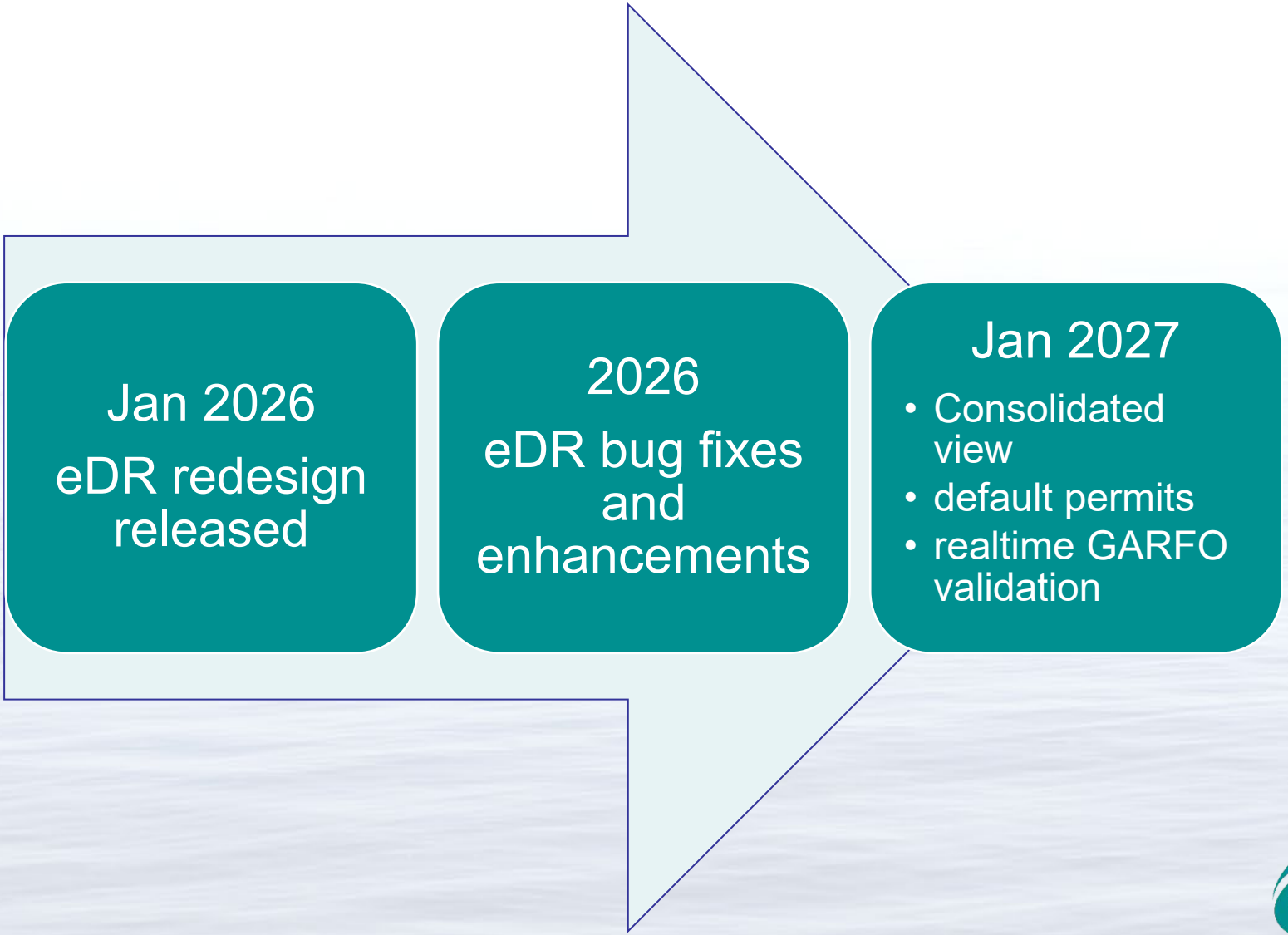
Software Projects

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e1-Ticket functionality in eTRIPS

- Created for ACCSP partners with 1-ticket reporting system (GA)
- Decommissioned legacy e1-ticket software application
- Potential future implementation
  - Use in state fisheries (e.g., American lobster, shellfish) where captains act as their own dealers
  - No current interest for federal reporting

SAFIS eDR redesign/GARFO Dealer Modernization



Highlights of SAFIS eDR Redesign

- **Updated Online Interface:** refreshed, modern online reporting tool that improves navigation and ease of use.
- **Streamlined Data Flow:** consistent validations across all modes of entry, ensuring that data is checked uniformly whether entered manually, uploaded in bulk, or submitted by API.
- **API Access:** The SAFIS API is now available to any approved software vendor or individual dealer, provided they obtain official submission agency pre-approval.
- **Dynamic Partner Attributes:** dynamic and customized addition of reporting questions. Partner agencies can now tailor fields to gather specific information based on their localized regulations or the unique species purchased.

SAFIS eDR Post-Launch Enhancements

- **Improved FVT Validation Check Visibility:** Significant upgrades were made to the file upload interface. Users now receive clearer, more actionable visibility into specific values that need revision or adjustment, facilitating troubleshooting and resubmission.
- **Advanced Administrative Control:** System administrators now have increased functionality to directly edit and unlock records, simplifying faster data corrections and smoother workflow management.

SAFIS Partner Data Entry Validations

- eTRIPS/online
  - Initial development functionality complete
  - Need to move functionality into production (2026)
  - Will scope additional functionality with partners as needed
- eDR
  - Development started
  - Timeline of future development TBD



East Coast Logbook

Fall 2026 — Beta testing

Winter / Spring 2027 — Outreach / Training

Summer 2027 — Rule implementation

- Centralized federal logbook data for the Atlantic and Gulf
- ECL Features
  - Database
  - Logbook application (SE Coastal)
  - APIs
  - Data management/sharing

eTRIPS Development for East Coast Logbook

- eTRIPS reporting capability
  - GARFO eVTR
  - HMS logbook
  - Southeast Coastal Logbook
  - SEFHIER
  - Sector specific dual region reporting available (OSR)
- API (send data to ECL)
- Data Flow (All non-ECL apps flow through SAFIS)
- Standards (ECL using ACCSP Standards)

Multifactor Authentication (MFA)

- Executive Order interpretation
- Technology / Requirements not well defined for SAFIS



Data Support and Coordination

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Fall Data Load Release Updates: Merges

- Merge Updates (dealer and fishermen reports)
  - Annual conversion factors added to all partner merges
  - VA merge process overhaul
  - DE merge data corrections
  - NY species specific data corrections

- NJ merge created and now part of data load process

Data Load Release Updates: Species

- MD Eastern Oyster – 2025
- Coastwide Atlantic Menhaden – 2020, 2025
- NJ Spot – 2023-2025
- SC Black Sea Bass – 2025
- MA Acadian Redfish – 2020-2025
- ME Groundfish – 2025-Q1 2026

Biological Data Project Updates

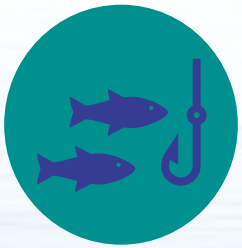
- SEFSC Bio TIP
  - ACCSP → SEFSC database link completed and active
  - North Carolina 2022-2024 data transmitted to the SEFSC
- NC Bio
  - NOAA TIP Programs processed from 2004-2024
  - 1986-2003 data are being translated to ACCSP codes
- Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF)
  - Black Sea Bass fleet – 2016-2026
  - Jonah Crab fleet – 2014-2026
  - American Lobster fleet – 2012-2026
  - Whelk fleet – 2021-2026 (no longer active as of 2026)

Biological Data Module Statistics

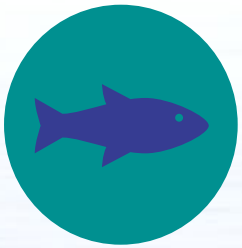
New data are submitted biannually in January and July



14 Total Agencies



77 fisheries-dependent sampling programs



148 species

Puerto Rico Data Submission to SAFIS

- Codes added in SAFIS for reporting
- Vendor built ShellCatch app and collected data
- No data submission to SAFIS to date



US Virgin Islands (USVI) Data to SAFIS

- Codes approved and added to SAFIS for reporting
  - 63 New Ports, 11 updated
  - 765 Sub and Local Areas
  - 9 New Gears



- USVI contracted with app builder Brandt
  - Building application
  - Working with ACCSP to use API for codes and submissions

Conversion Factors: Species & Partners

- Project – Submitted 2020
  - 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: Updated Factors

Species	Conversion	Previous Factor	Updated Factor
American Eel	Count to lbs.	0.43	0.291
Atlantic Menhaden	Count to lbs.	0.25	0.600
Blue Crab	Count to lbs.	0.5	0.367
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark*	Gutted lbs. to Whole lbs.	1.39	1.138
Snowy Grouper*	Gutted lbs. to Whole lbs.	1.18	1.063

* Only used by NC and FL

Limited Confidential Access Update

- Deployed in July 2025
- July 2025 to July 2026: requests granted
  - 437 Full confidential access (online queries)
  - 215 Limited confidential access (static data set)
- Benefits
  - Fewer users able to query partner data
  - Partners are recommending limited access to requesters

ACCSP by the Numbers

Reporting Period: March 1 - August 31, 2026





99%

ACCSP System Uptime



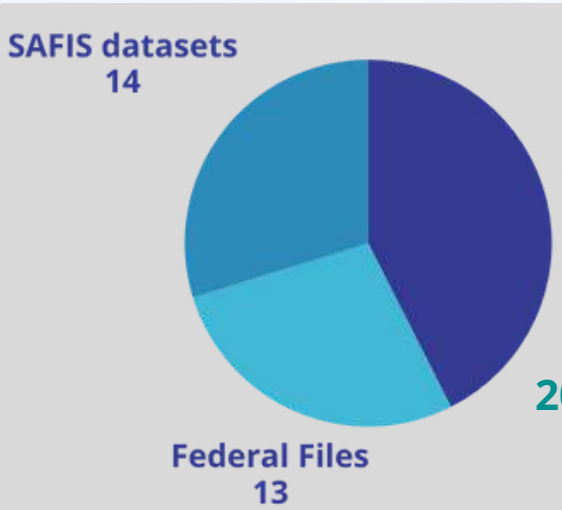
898

Help Desk Cases



25 Custom Data Requests

80 Data Pulls for Software Support



2025 Data Spring Load