

**Data Collection Committee
June 7, 2017
Greg Stunz – Chair**

Presentations on Procedures to Estimate Recreational Landings

Representatives from the five Gulf States gave presentations on their state specific efforts to improve their recreational data collection programs (**Tab F, No. 4a-4e**). The respective programs aim to improve the precision and accuracy of reef fish catch and effort estimates that may not be adequately characterized by existing programs. Many of the states are working closely with MRIP to ensure the programs produce accurate estimates and can be calibrated with other programs that collect recreational fisheries data.

Discussion of MRIP Strategic Plan

The Council has been requested to review and comment on the MRIP Strategic Plan (**Tab F, No. 5b**). Staff has prepared a draft letter (**Tab F, No. 5a**) identifying specific concerns and highlighting areas of improvement in the Strategic Plan. Ms. Levy provided clarification that the 2006 reauthorization of the Magnuson – Stevens Act does not require in-season monitoring for species that have exceeded their annual catch limit (ACL) in the most recent fishing year, rather that requirement is part of the accountability measures developed by the Council. Staff will clarify the letter and submit to MRIP on behalf of the Council.

Other Business

The Committee requested an update on the implementation status for the recently completed For-Hire Electronic Reporting Amendment at the August 2017 Council meeting.

Madam Chair, this concludes my report.