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# Update on MRIP Activities

Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management  
Council Scientific and Statistical Committee

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*In Support of:*

NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology  
Marine Recreational Information Program

# Status updates

- MRIP Estimation
- Gulf Supplemental Surveys
- Fishing Effort Survey
- Modern Fish Act
- Electronic reporting
- National For-Hire Workshop
- Rare Event Species



# MRIP Estimation



- SAFMC Workshop (August 19-21)
  - Provide background information on calibration models
  - Examine calibrations (APAIS and FES)
  - Interpret trend information as it relates to calibrations
    - Deep dive into a small number of species
- GRFS Workshop (Sep 24-26)
  - Explore differences between GRFS and FES based estimates.
  - We will be following up with MS and AL on the scheduling a workshop to examine differences between the FES and capture-recapture survey designs



# SAFMC Workshop: Terms of Reference

- Review and description of differences between CHTS and FES effort estimates
  - Impact of “outliers” on catch estimates
  - Impact of SEFSC post survey processing
  - Examine factors likely to explain differences between CHTS and FES estimates
- Establish approaches for use of FES estimates
  - Comparison of current ABC values to values based on revised estimates
  - Determine if current ABC control is adequate



# Integration and Calibration of Gulf survey estimates of red snapper catch

- It is reasonable to expect different surveys to produce different estimates for the same population parameter.
- Need a way to account for those differences so we can compare state survey estimates and continue to produce a gulf wide catch estimate for stock assessments.
- Consultants continue to work on integration options but focus is on completing simple ratio based calibrations by the end of 2019.
- Will continue to work on how best to integrate surveys and assess the need for more sophisticated calibrations.



# Fishing Effort Survey

- Push-To-Web Design Pilot Study
  - Started in the Fall 2018 and expected to be completed later this year.
  - Examines Three FES response options:
    - Paper
    - Paper/Web (same questionnaire)
    - Web only (modified questionnaire)
- Non-Response Bias
  - Non-Response Follow-Up
    - NRFU conducted during the pilot phase
    - Requires periodic evaluation
    - Development phase (Westat)



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# Modern Fish Act (2018)

- MRIP related
  - (Sec 202) NAS Review – MRIP compatibility with in-season management of ACLs
    - Finalizing Statement of Work
    - Expected to have regionally specific input
  - Report(s) to Congress
    - (Sec 102) Greater incorporation of data from states, NGOs and other sources (SF lead)
    - (Sec 202) Establish state partnerships to develop best practices for implementation of state programs etc.,
    - (Sec 201) Implementation of NAS (2017) recommendations
      - Review of previously adopted framework
      - Ensure annual plans appropriately address NAS recommendations and expectations from leadership and Congress.



# Electronic Reporting

- MRIP Reports
  - Westat Report – Opt-in reporting
  - iAngler and iSnapper Reports (available on MRIP Website)
  - Research Evaluation Team: Review of findings (Under NOAA Review)
    - Expected later this summer
    - Summarizes findings in three MRIP reports
    - Sets expectations for Opt-In angler app use
- SAFMC “MyFishCount” program
  - Initial focus on improving angler participation





# National For-Hire Workshop

- Participants from Gulf, Atlantic and Pacific Coasts (as well as Hawaii).
- Looked at methods and standards for accounting for entire catch using electronic reporting
- Need for probability based sampling in conjunction with mandatory reporting
- Report expected by the end of the year



# National For-Hire Workshop (Cont.)

- Recognition that duplicate reporting unavoidable during transition/benchmarking
- Need to consider a mix of methods to cover all vessels (e.g., FHS and ER logbooks)
- For Logbook reporting, need probability based sampling of trips to correct for off-frame effort and reporting error
- Capture-recapture methods may yield more than one unbiased estimator
- Messaging challenge (still working with estimates)



# Rare Event Species

- Working group established to examine ways to improve estimates for species not commonly encountered in the APAIS.
- A Small suite of representative species being evaluated for Gulf and Atlantic. May expand list later.
- Various approaches being evaluated
  - Alternative unbiased estimators (Small Area Estimation)
  - Multi-year averaging/smoothing
  - Hybrid – (SAE/Modeling)
  - Sensitive to ACL management requirements
- Consultant support for the work
  - Dedicated support from Westat statisticians over next few months



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# Questions?



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