



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast>

General Joe Spraggins  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources  
1141 Bayview Avenue  
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Dear General Joe Spraggins,

At the June 2022 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, the Council passed a motion *“to have the [Scientific and Statistical Committee] review state private recreational red snapper calibration ratios using more recent state survey data and provide a recommendation to the Council on change(s) to ratios, if necessary, prior to the January 2023 Council meeting.”* NOAA Fisheries has coordinated with the Council to ensure this topic is included on the agenda for the January 2023 Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting (SSC) in Tampa, FL.

In preparation for that SSC meeting, we are requesting each state prepare a short report proposing updates to your state survey calibration ratios. To assist you with updating your calibrations, we are providing the attached Excel data file which includes Marine Recreational Information Program private recreational red snapper landings (inclusive of state charter landings) by wave and state from 2015-2021, in both numbers and pounds of fish.

Calibrations previously approved by the SSC and Council are currently undergoing rulemaking. Methods and rationale for developing those calibrations can be found on the Council’s website under the SSC’s archived [August 2020 meeting materials](#). Two general methods were used to previously calculate simple calibration ratios:

1. Ratio of state survey landings to MRIP Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) landings; or
2. Ratio of MRIP Fishing Effort Survey (FES) landings to CHTS landings divided by the ratio of MRIP FES landings to state survey landings.

The years chosen for calculating calibration ratios varied by state and ranged from 2015-2017 to 2018-2019. In updating your state calibration ratios with additional years of data, methods should be consistent with or similar to those above. This will avoid triggering an additional independent peer-review if the proposed methods have not already undergone peer-review.

Additionally, we recommend presenting multiple calibration scenarios in your report and explaining how they were derived. This will allow the SSC to determine how calibrations are affected by different methods or time series. If there are potential reasons for not using certain years or waves of data, those reasons should be clearly documented and justified in your report.



To facilitate comparison of calibration methods across all three states, we also request that you provide calibrations for the following scenarios:

1. Multi-year average ratio of state survey landings to MRIP-CHTS landings (2018-2021);  
and
2. Multi-year average ratio of state survey landings to MRIP-CHTS landings using the longest time series available for your respective state survey.

We request that you complete and submit a draft report to Richard Cody and Ryan Rindone by November 30, 2022. This will allow for review and changes or additions to your report in advance of the January 2023 SSC meeting briefing book deadline, which is December 27, 2022. It will also help Council staff develop the Scope of Work for the SSC meeting to be sure we have a productive and efficient meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard Cody or Clay Porch.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Strelcheck  
Regional Administrator

cc: Rick Burris  
Carrie Simmons  
Ryan Rindone  
Clay Porch  
Richard Cody  
John McGovern  
Peter Hood