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Status update on Gulf Survey Calibrations and MRIP Survey Operations

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Gulf Survey Calibrations

- **Transition plan required for NOAA MRIP certification:**
 - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/96469514>
- **Transition plan may require development of calibrations to account for survey differences in comparisons of survey estimates:**
 - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/64689267>
- **Important when multiple surveys are in use, to facilitate:**
 - **Assessment of annual catch trends**
 - **ACL Monitoring**



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Gulf Survey Timelines

- **LA Creel: 2014-present**
 - FES Benchmarking (2015-2017)
 - APAIS Benchmarking (2015)
- **Snapper Check: (2014*-Present)**
 - Benchmarking (2017-2019)
- **Tails n' Scales: (2015*-Present)**
 - Benchmarking: (2018-2019)
- **Gulf Reef Fish Survey: 2015*-Present)**
 - Benchmarking: (2015-2019)



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Gulf Survey Calibrations

- **General method: Simple ratio based approach (Conversion between MRIP and State surveys)**
 - **Considerations include:**
 - Minimum needs (e.g., ACL development, Annual trends)
 - Survey compatibility (e.g., alignment of estimation domains)
 - Survey coverage (e.g., geographic, temporal, sample universe)
 - Stability of the ratios



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Gulf Survey Calibrations Status

- LA Creel calibrations have been available since 2018
 - 1 year of APAIS and 3 years of FES
- AL Snapper Check calibrations ready earlier this year
 - 2018-2019 data used at the annual level
 - Instability in wave level calibrations (mode and year dependent)
 - Annual ratios based on MRIP and Snapper Check Estimates are relatively stable
- MS Tails n' Scales calibrations (2018-2019)
 - R based package to generate a ratio of two population totals (Tim Johnson, U. Idaho)
- Gulf Reef Fish Survey (2015-2019)
 - Used iterative process to randomly select GRFS and MRIP values assigned to a truncated normal distribution



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Gulf Survey Calibrations Status

- **Next Steps**
 - **Approval/Acceptance of ratio based methodologies**
 - **Refinement of calibrations (additional years)**
 - **Examine survey differences to explain differences in estimates**
 - **Data Management**



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Status of MRIP Survey Operations

- Limited APAIS coverage in Waves 2 and 3. Some data from March but sampling activities largely suspended for April and May.
- Fishing Effort Survey (FES) and For Hire Telephone Survey (FHTS) continued and estimates of resident angler effort expected to be on schedule.
- APAIS information is required to account for Out of State fishing effort and area fished
 - Limited area fished information available from the FHTS.



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Status of Survey Operations

- Continuing to monitor survey operations for wave 3.
 - regular contact with GSMFC and states.
 - States have increased FHTS sampling and made raw data available to SERO and SEFSC.
- Options for production of wave 2 catch estimates are limited.
 - Modeling approaches would require time.
 - Imputation based on previous years' APAIS information would require less time but validity of assumptions may be a question.
 - Looking at options to inform consideration of use of proxy catch information



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Questions



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