

Improving Recreational Fishing Data COMMITTEE LIST

Directions: Listed below are five committees that will examine different aspects of recreational fishing data and analysis. After reviewing the summaries and priorities, please write-in individuals who you feel would add the most benefit to the effort. Technical expertise is not a prerequisite. We're looking for individuals who are willing to work as part of a team, offer an on-the-water perspective, and help inform other members of the public about the committee's work.

Please submit the individual's name, organization affiliation (if appropriate), and contact information. Names must be received by **Friday, June 15th**. Fax this form to (301) 713-2384 or e-mail names to Rob Andrews at rob.andrews@noaa.gov.

1. Analysis Work Group

The Analysis Work Group will address sources of potential bias as well as fine tune estimation procedures to account for sources of significant bias in the current system of recreational fishing surveys. Where assumptions/bias cannot be evaluated through examination of existing data, the Analysis Work Group may consider additional research and/or the development of pilot surveys. It is expected that the Analysis Work Group will work closely with the Design and Data Management Work Groups to provide a workable transition to the new system of recreational surveys.

Priorities:

- Evaluate whether estimation procedures appropriately match sample design.
- Develop/implement studies to determine the extent to which existing assumptions affect final estimates.
- Assess sample sizes needed to provide levels of precision and resolution required by management.
- Develop studies to address potential bias associated with non-response and measurement error in catch and effort surveys.

2. Design Work Group

The Design Work Group will be responsible for developing and testing new data collection methodologies that address the National Research Council's recommendations. The group will incorporate as appropriate those recommendations that are consistent with improvements necessary and practical on both national and regional levels. The DWG will work closely with other work groups to develop a system of surveys that is robust in terms of data collection

standards, adaptive to changing fisheries management needs, and responsive to constituent concerns.

Priorities:

- Develop methodologies for more efficient and representative collection of fishing effort.
- Develop methodologies to provide better estimates of discarded catch.
- Develop/implement procedures for collecting more detailed effort and biological information.
- Develop methodologies to independently validate self-reported data.

3. Data Management and Standards Work Group

Development and maintenance of data collection standards, protocols and logistics will be major responsibilities of the Data Management and Standards Work Group. One of the key goals of this group is to ensure comparability of results between different surveys.

Priorities:

- Establish and document data management and collection goals, minimum data elements, timeliness of data availability, data quality standards, and data access requirements.
- Compile metadata for current survey programs.
- Develop standard protocols for sampler training and monitoring and evaluating sampler performance.
- Evaluate procedures for updating access-point sampling frames and establish protocols for updating site information and fishing pressures.

4. For-Hire Work Group

The For-Hire Work Group will focus specifically on charter, guide and headboat issues, but will also be expected to interact closely with other work groups to ensure compatibility of data elements within the new system of surveys. The For-Hire Work Group will have elements of design, analysis and data management work groups.

Priorities:

- Address gaps in coverage of for-hire catch and effort sampling frames and assess potential bias.
- Examine the feasibility of using logbooks to monitor catch and effort and track vessel histories.
- Explore possibility of producing weekly catch and effort estimates in support of management needs.

- Develop independent methodology for collecting for-hire data in the Caribbean.

5. HMS Work Group

The HMS Work Group will focus on the geographic expansion of highly migratory species data collection programs, assessment of the current methodologies for potential bias, and development of new methodologies as needed.

Priorities:

- Review and evaluate current HMS data collection programs.
- Expand HMS coverage as required by management.

Additional Work Groups:

Additional work groups may be formed as we move along. For example, there is already discussion of forming an angler registry group. The implementation of an angler registry is identified in the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act as a priority issue. We view this as a specific issue that requires a separate, but related effort. We'll keep you informed as this moves ahead.

Practical Matters:

The work schedule is aggressive. The bulk of our work needs to be completed by next summer in order to meet the deadlines established in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Committees will meet in person at various locations around the nation and also by conference call. We estimate there will be approximately 4 in-person meetings per year with conference calls happening at least once a month.

Committee participants would be expected to participate in at least 75% of meetings. Travel funds will be provided.

Questions?

Please contact either Rob Andrews (rob.andrews@noaa.gov) or Forbes Darby (forbes.darby@noaa.gov). Or call us at (301) 713-9501.

For more information about the effort to improve recreational fishing data, please visit us on the web at:

<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/RecSurveyUpgrade/RecSurveyUpgrade.html>

