




A decorative border surrounds the slide. At the top, there are illustrations of a crab, a blue fish, a yellow fish, and a brown fish. On the left side, there is a vertical strip showing a hand holding a crab, a starfish, a green seaweed, a purple and yellow fish, and a leopard-spotted fish. At the bottom, there is a white shark illustration. In the top right corner, there is a NOAA logo, and in the bottom right corner, there is a circular seal with a shield and a crown.

Recreational Fishing Data: Registering Anglers for Improved Harvest Monitoring

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting
February 14-16, 2006



Recreational Data Programs


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- Recreational catch statistics are critical for stock assessment and management of many species.
 - Our recreational fishery surveys provide quality information in a timely manner, but enhancements are needed to meet increasing management needs.
 - We have worked with state/federal/industry partners to identify/implement improvements – **new For-Hire Survey**.
 - We asked National Research Council to review our current survey programs – **report due in April**.
 - Congress addressing recreational data provisions.
 - One common theme – our surveys could be more efficient and statistically precise if based on **complete angler or vessel directories**.
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Regional State/Federal Programs

- Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)
- Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Information Network (Gulf FIN)
- Pacific Recreational Fisheries Information Network (Pacific RecFIN)

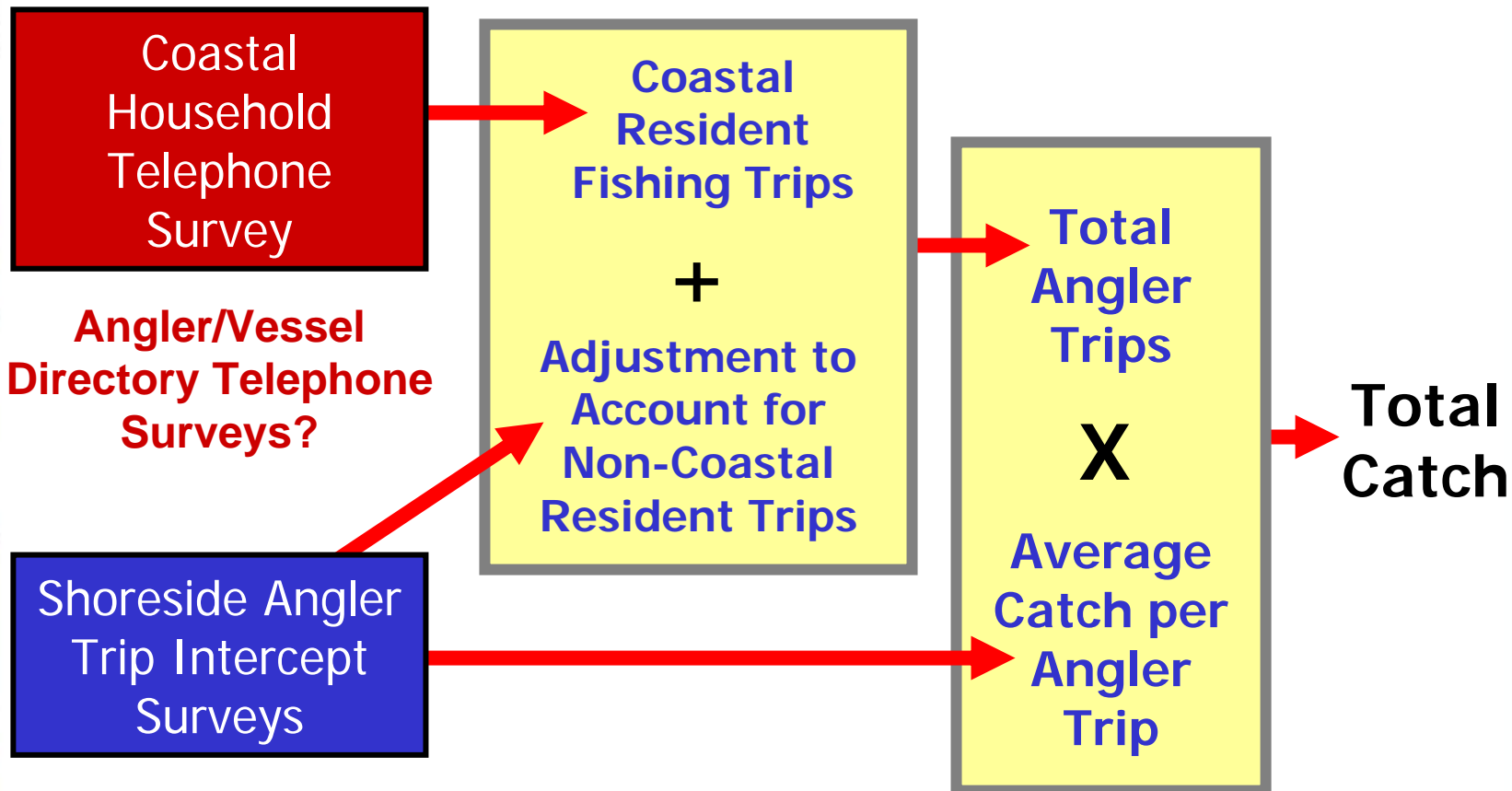




Questions Addressed by the National Research Council Review


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- How suitable are current survey methods for monitoring different types of recreational fishing?
 - Do current methods provide the statistical quality needed to support current temporal/geographic frames for management?
 - How should frames for management be limited by choice of survey method, stratification scheme, and/or sample sizes?
 - Are there alternative methods or changes to current methods that could improve the quality and utility of fishery statistics?
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MRFSS Design






Recommendations for Recreational Fishing Registries

- ACCSP
 - Gulf FIN
 - Pacific RecFIN
 - National Research Council (2000 Report)
 - Ocean Action Plan
 - U. S. Ocean Commission
 - NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan
 - Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) Reauthorization
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MSA – Federal Registry Program*

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- “(1) **FEDERAL PROGRAM**. The Secretary shall establish and implement a **regionally based registry program for recreational fishermen** in each of the 8 fishery management regions.
 - The program shall provide for:
 - the registration (including identification and contact information) of **individuals** who engage in recreational fishing in the EEZ, for anadromous species, or for Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond the EEZ, and
 - if appropriate, the registration (including the ownership, operator, and identification of the vessel) of **vessels** used in such fishing.”

* Current version of Senate MSA Reauthorization Bill (S.2012)



A decorative header featuring a blue background with a white wave pattern. On the left, a circular inset shows hands holding a fish. Along the top edge, there are illustrations of various fish species. On the right, the NOAA logo is visible.

MSA– State Program Exemptions*

- “(2) **STATE PROGRAMS.** The Secretary shall **exempt** from registration under the program recreational fishermen and charter fishing vessels licensed, permitted, or registered under the laws of a State **if the Secretary determines that information from the State program is suitable** for the Secretary’s use or is used to assist in completing marine recreational fisheries statistical surveys, or evaluating the effects of proposed conservation and management measures for marine recreational fisheries.”

* Current version of Senate MSA Reauthorization Bill (S.2012)

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MSA – Improve Data Collections*

- “(3) **DATA COLLECTION.** Within 24 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2005, the Secretary shall establish a program to **improve the quality and accuracy of information** generated by the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey, with a goal of achieving acceptable accuracy and utility **for each individual fishery.**”



* Current version of Senate MSA Reauthorization Bill (S.2012)



MSA – Data Collection Requirements*

- Unless the Secretary determines that alternate methods will achieve this goal more efficiently and effectively, the program shall, to the extent possible, include:
 - an **adequate number of dockside interviews** to accurately estimate recreational catch and effort,
 - use of **surveys that target anglers registered or licensed** at the State or Federal level to collect participation and effort data, and
 - collection and analysis of vessel **trip report data from charter (for-hire) fishing vessels**.

* Current version of Senate MSA Reauthorization Bill (S.2012)



MSA – Reporting Requirement*

- **“(4) REPORT.** Within **24 months** after establishment of the program, the Secretary shall submit a **report to Congress** that describes the progress made toward achieving the goals and objectives of the program.”



* Current version of Senate MSA Reauthorization Bill (S.2012)

Goals of Registry Program

- More complete accounting of participation
- More effective communication with participants
- More efficient sampling to collect fishing data
 - more data can be collected with available funds
- More precise effort and catch estimates





Efficiency Gains?

- Surveys based on directories of registered participants can be much more efficient than household surveys.
- How much more efficient?
 - **For-Hire Survey:**
 - Vessel directory survey **25-30** times more efficient than household survey for charter/headboat fishing effort
 - **Washington Puget Sound Sampling Program:**
 - Angler directory survey **5-6** times more efficient than household survey for private boat/shore fishing effort





Federal vs. State Registries

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- Federal Registrant Directories
 - More efficient sampling of marine recreational fishing effort than obtained with current programs:
 - for federal waters
 - for anadromous species
 - State Registrant Directories
 - More efficient sampling than with Federal registrant directories alone:
 - for marine waters
 - for all anadromous and marine species
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Minimum Data Elements*

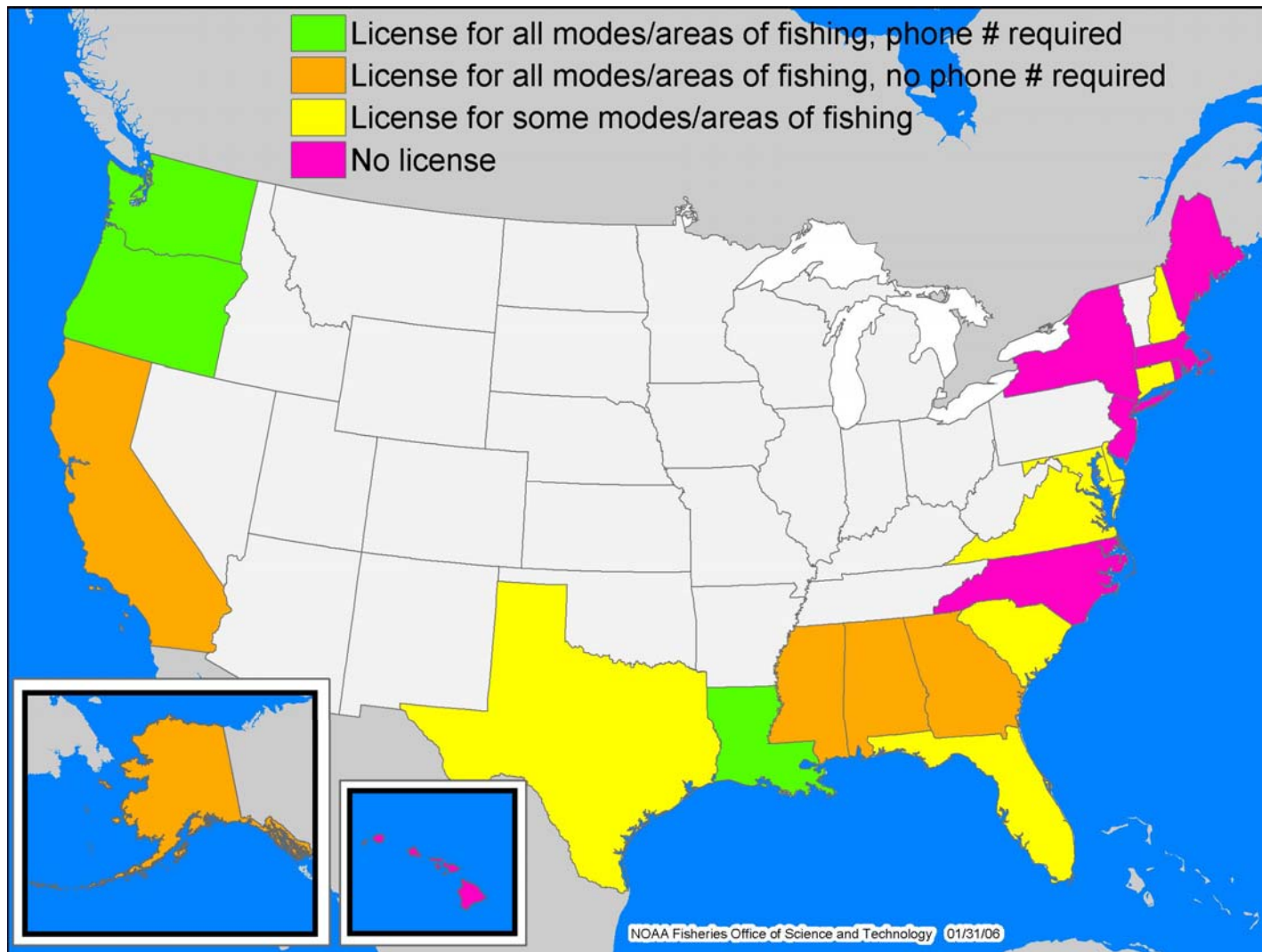



- Name – First, middle, & last
- State and county of permanent residence
- Mailing address – street, city, state, zipcode
- Phone numbers – permanent residence and others
- Registration number
- Date of registration
- Category of registration

* endorsed by ACCSP, Gulf FIN, and Pacific RecFIN



Current Status of State Registries





Improved Survey Program Phase 1?

- Implement Federal registries
 - Anglers
 - For-Hire Vessels
- Develop dual-frame telephone surveys
 - Private boat and shore fishing:
 - Directory survey of federal registrants
 - Household survey of non-registered anglers
 - Charterboat and headboat fishing
 - Directory surveys of federally registered vessels
 - Directory surveys of non-registered vessels



Improved Survey Program Phase 2?

- Develop, modify, and/or implement State registries
 - Anglers
 - For-Hire Vessels
- Develop regional registry telephone surveys
 - Private boat and shore fishing:
 - Directory survey of registered anglers
 - Charterboat and headboat fishing
 - Directory survey of registered vessels







Communications Plan

- Develop white paper based on discussions with:
 - Council Chairs and Directors - January
 - MAFAC - February
 - Interstate Commissions – February, March
 - State Directors – March



Issues for Discussion

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- How do we work together to build a successful saltwater angler registration program?
 - How can we build on existing state programs?
 - Are some states better suited? Do we phase it in?
 - What are the minimum requirements?
 - What milestones and performance measures are important?
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Issues for Discussion

- What design considerations should NMFS make?
- What do we expect the future program to look like?
- How do we maximize convenience/efficiency for anglers?
- How do we determine the best approach/strategy for implementation?
- How can the internet be utilized to facilitate reporting/collection and quality control of data?

