



ACCSP Coordinating Council

ASMFC Spring Meeting
Hybrid

10:00 am – 12:00 pm | May 2, 2022

Chair: John Carmichael
Vice-Chair: Jason McNamee
Staff: Geoff White

Our vision is to be the principal source of fisheries-dependent information on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners.

Agenda

- Council Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Minutes from October 2021
- Public Comment
- Review Funding Decision Document and FY2023 Request For Proposals - **ACTION**
- Committee Document Updates
- Program Updates





ACCSP FY2023 Request For Proposals Review and Action

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Summary of Changes for FY23 RFP

- COVID step-down exception language removed
- Language added to clarify that only a single secondary module will be considered for the ranking
- Appendix A of FDD updated to include all year 5 (1) and 6 (0) projects
- Update of all relevant dates



ACCSP FY 23 RFP: Action

- Draft motion: Move to approve the FY23 Funding Decision Document and RFP as presented to the ACCSP Coordinating Council.





Accountability Report

Our vision is to be the principal source of fisheries-dependent information on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners.

Data Accountability Work Group

- Kristen Anstead, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Nichole Ares, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- Heather Baertlein, NOAA Fisheries
- Eric Hiltz, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- Matthew Maiello, NOAA Fisheries
- Julie DeFilippi Simpson, Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
- David Ulmer, NOAA Fisheries
- Rob Watts, Maine Department of Marine Resources
- Anna Webb, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
- Jackie Wilson, NOAA Fisheries



Charge from Coordinating Council

Problem: *Data validation and accountability issues can compromise data quality and reduce their utility for stock assessments, compliance reports, and other management activities.*

- 1. Data validation – How are Partners validating data? Are there potential impacts for data use?*
- 2. Data accountability - Does ACCSP receive data in a timely way? Are there gaps that could be closed by better coordination?*

Solution: *Direct Commercial Technical committee to...*

- 1. Evaluate current validation practices used by the Program Partners.*
- 2. Evaluate current procedures for providing/updating data for various uses (stock assessments/compliance reports/FMPs)*
- 3. Review Atlantic Coast Data Standards and updated as needed to reflect current best practices for both data validation and provisioning.*



Objectives

- Define accountability.
- Inventory current practices and procedures.
- Define the gaps between provided data and data needed for science and management.
- Evaluate the practices and procedures.
- Document and develop best practices.



Accountability Definition

“data integrity where fisheries data included some quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) procedure and was complete, accurate, accessible, trusted, and timely. Additionally, accountability meant that uncertainty in and limitations of data are acknowledged and defined and metadata is documented and available”

The definition for the purpose of this project applies to agencies that collect, audit, and/or process data as well as to stakeholders, the public, and data users.



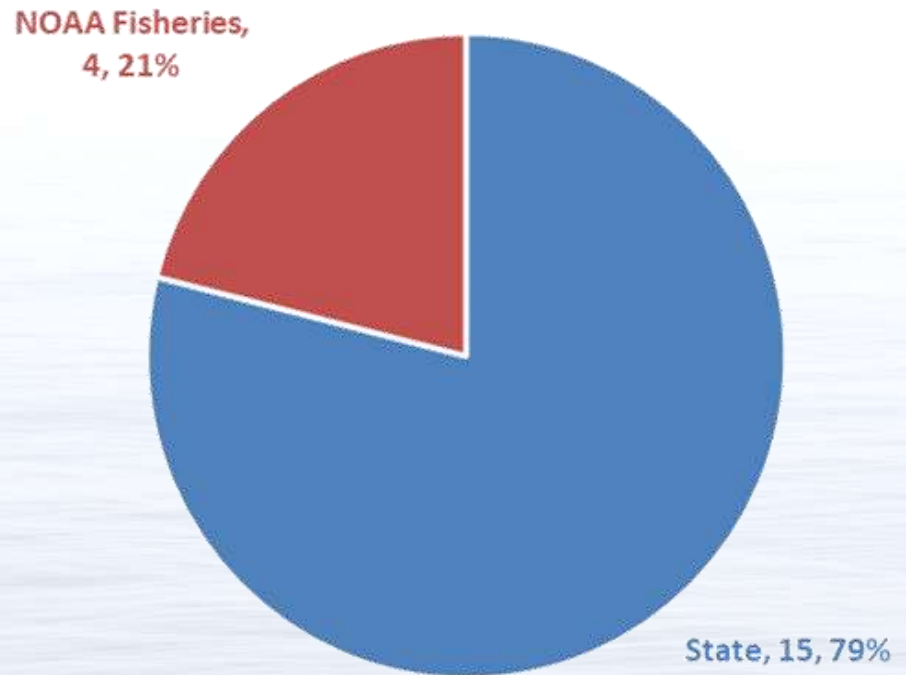
Approach

- Data Accountability Workgroup formed in 2020
- 3 surveys conducted
 - Data accountability (original)
 - Data managers
 - Data consumers
- Developed recommendations



Data Accountability Survey

- Partner data contacts and Commercial Technical members
- Asked respondents if their agency used each of 12 identified accountability measures and, if yes, to describe how the measure was implemented and what percentage of data are covered.
- Purpose: establish basic information on accountability



Data Accountability Survey Conclusions

- Top 3 methods of accountability in use on the Atlantic coast
 1. Audits: Audits of some form are used by all the respondents and, to the knowledge of the group, all state and federal partners on the Atlantic coast.
 2. Comparison of fishermen reports and dealer reports
 3. Negative reports
- The use of dealer/fishermen comparison and negative reports was somewhat inversely correlated where the latter was employed specifically where the timeliness and comprehensiveness of the former was lacking.



Data Manager Survey

- September 2020
- 52 data managers

Participation by Sector and Jurisdiction				
Jurisdiction	Sector			Total
	Commercial	For-Hire	Recreational	
State	11	11	12	18
Federal	5	3	1	6
ASMFC	0	0	1	1
Total	16	14	14	25

- Purpose: determine what issues are observed by data managers



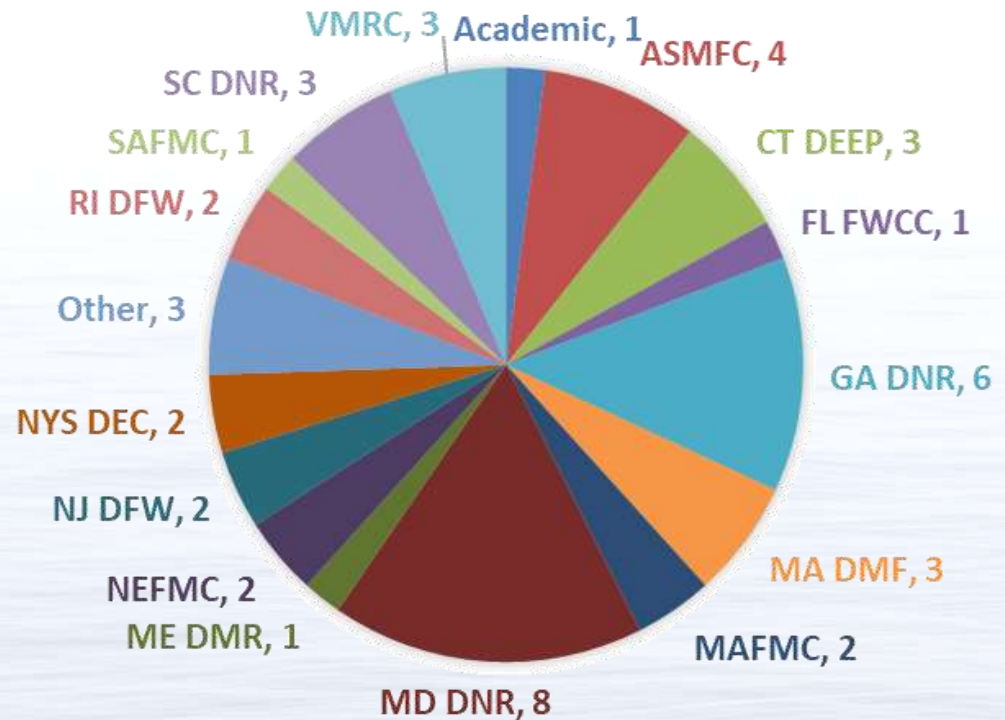
Data Manager Survey Conclusions

- Data managers are aware of a variety of issues affecting data quality that vary by jurisdiction and sector.
- Impacts to data quality and the inadequate communication of such impacts are substantial, particularly when working with regional or coastal datasets that span multiple jurisdictions.
- The AWG proposed a number of recommendations to improve communication of data limitations and provide opportunities for jurisdictions and sectors to expand and streamline processes.



Data Consumer Survey

- May 2021
- 300 data consumers
- 47 respondents
- Purpose: determine what data issues were observed by data consumers



Data Consumer Survey Conclusions

- The AWG found that the responses to the data user survey helped identify several issues, most of which were likely communication and not data issues.
- The AWG proposed a number of recommendations to increase communication.



Workgroup Recommendations

- Begin a multijurisdictional effort to document metadata and caveats to be easily interpreted similarly by all data consumers.
- Create a regular and ongoing Best Practices Workshop to discuss and share automation and technical advances that improve data quality.
- Consider a Best Practices Workshop as part of Fisheries Information System (FIS) projects for fiscal year 2023 for data providers to compare data collection programs, audits, and trips/dealer reports.
- Work with ACCSP to develop automated auditing and data validation tools, particularly for their data entry tools, but also for any data validations conducted by partners.



Workgroup Recommendations

- Identify and share funding resources for development and implementation of technological advances.
- Develop a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to increase communication and outreach to data users.
- ACCSP and data providers should review data element/field definitions to make sure they are as comprehensive as possible, including indicating the reliability of each field, and consider including data definitions as part of the data download.
- Expand and simplify the language on the ACCSP website to better describe the federal laws regarding data confidentiality and data sources and possible affects that may have on a data query.
- Continue the communication between ACCSP and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) staff and among state and federal partners about data timing for stock assessments, management documents, and compliance reports.





Accountability Report

Discussion

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Recreational Implementation Plan & For Hire Logbook Methodology

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Atlantic Recreational Implementation Plan: 2023-2027

- Updated Priorities
 1. Improved precision (PSE) and presentation of MRIP estimates
 2. Comprehensive for-hire data collection and monitoring
 3. Improved recreational fishery discard and release data
 4. Improved timeliness of recreational catch and harvest estimates
 5. **Increased utility of citizen science**
 6. Biological sampling for recreational fisheries separate from MRIP
 7. **Improved in-season monitoring**
- Final Document Action - October 2022

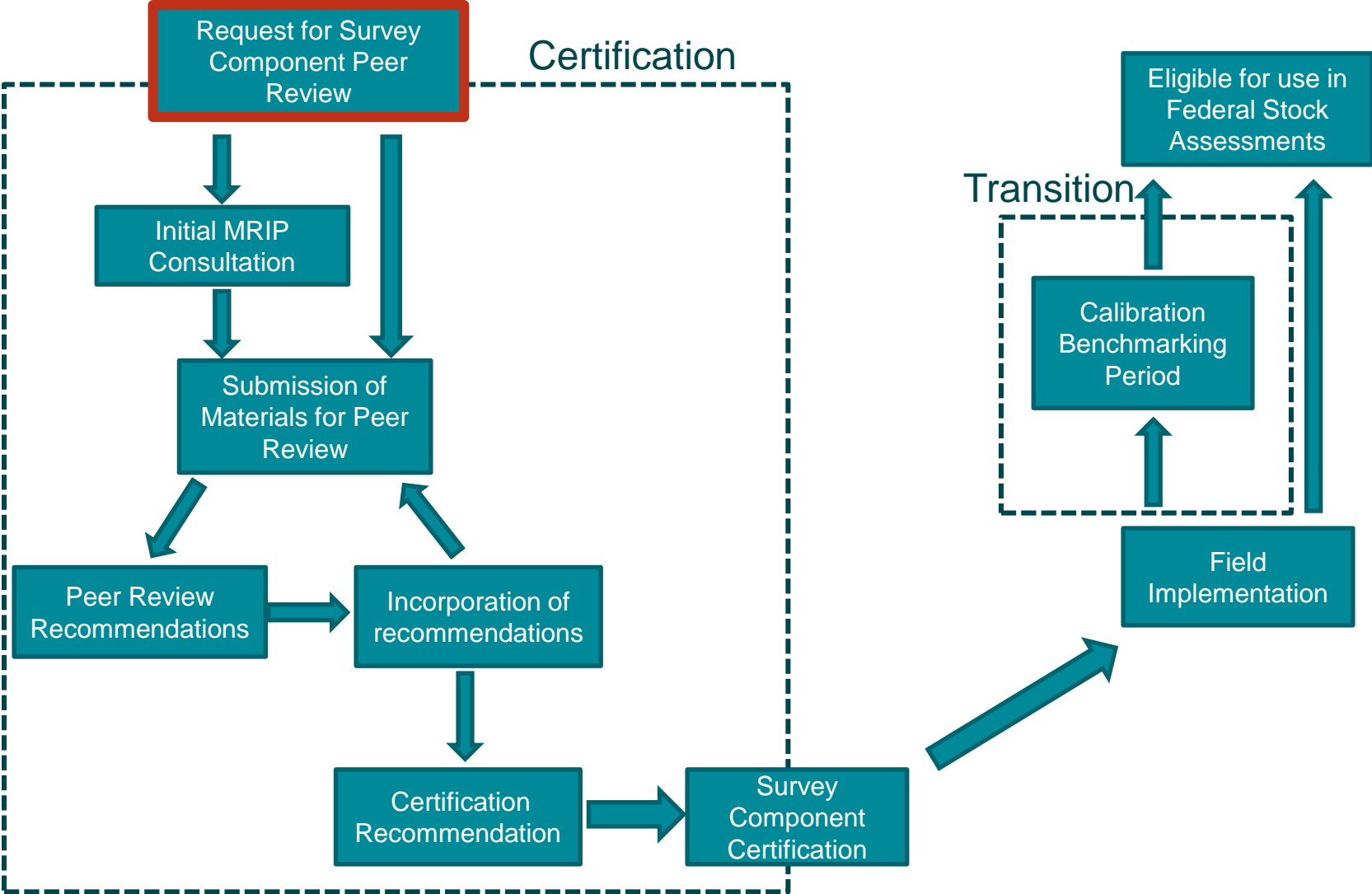


Comprehensive For-hire Data Collection Program

- Integrated for-hire data collection program:
 - Logbook w/ dockside validation for effort and catch and/or
 - Effort survey w/ dockside survey for catch
- **Focus: proposed methodology for logbook estimates**
 - Hail outs and no-fishing reports
 - Electronic Logbook Reporting
 - Dockside catch validation (APAIS)
 - Estimation math based on SC pilot (2016)
- Document assumes current survey method continues for non-logbook boats
- Requesting comments
- Next step: submit to MRIP for review & response



MRIP Certification Process



Program Update

- Atlantic coast data standards
- ACCSP Data Warehouse
- MRIP State Conduct Data Collection
- One Stop Reporting
- Software Development
- Funding & Staffing
- Information Systems & Security



Atlantic Coast Data Standards:

- Action Plan: Improve accessibility of Atlantic coast data standards and be more responsive to Partner needs
- Updating through committees
- Text updates for static sections
- Transition to dynamic sections that reference current database codes, definitions, and documents
- Expected completion late 2022



Data Warehouse: Spring Data Load

Commercial Data:

- Official Deadline: **April 15, 2022**
- Data Officially Released: **April 4, 2022**
- Excellent cooperation from state and federal partners: **Thank you!**
- Source of landings queries for NOAA HQ, GARFO FDDI warehouse, and SEFSC

Recreational Data:

- MRIP estimates for 2020, 2021, Wave 1 2022: **Posted April 22, 2022**



Recreational: MRIP & State Partnerships

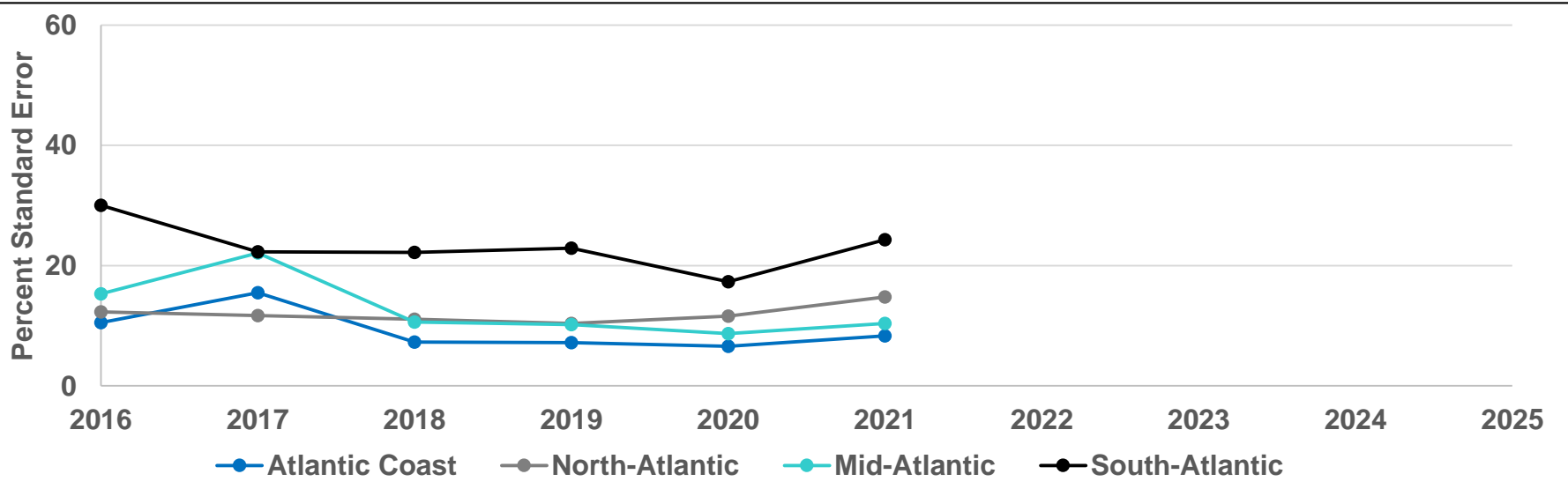
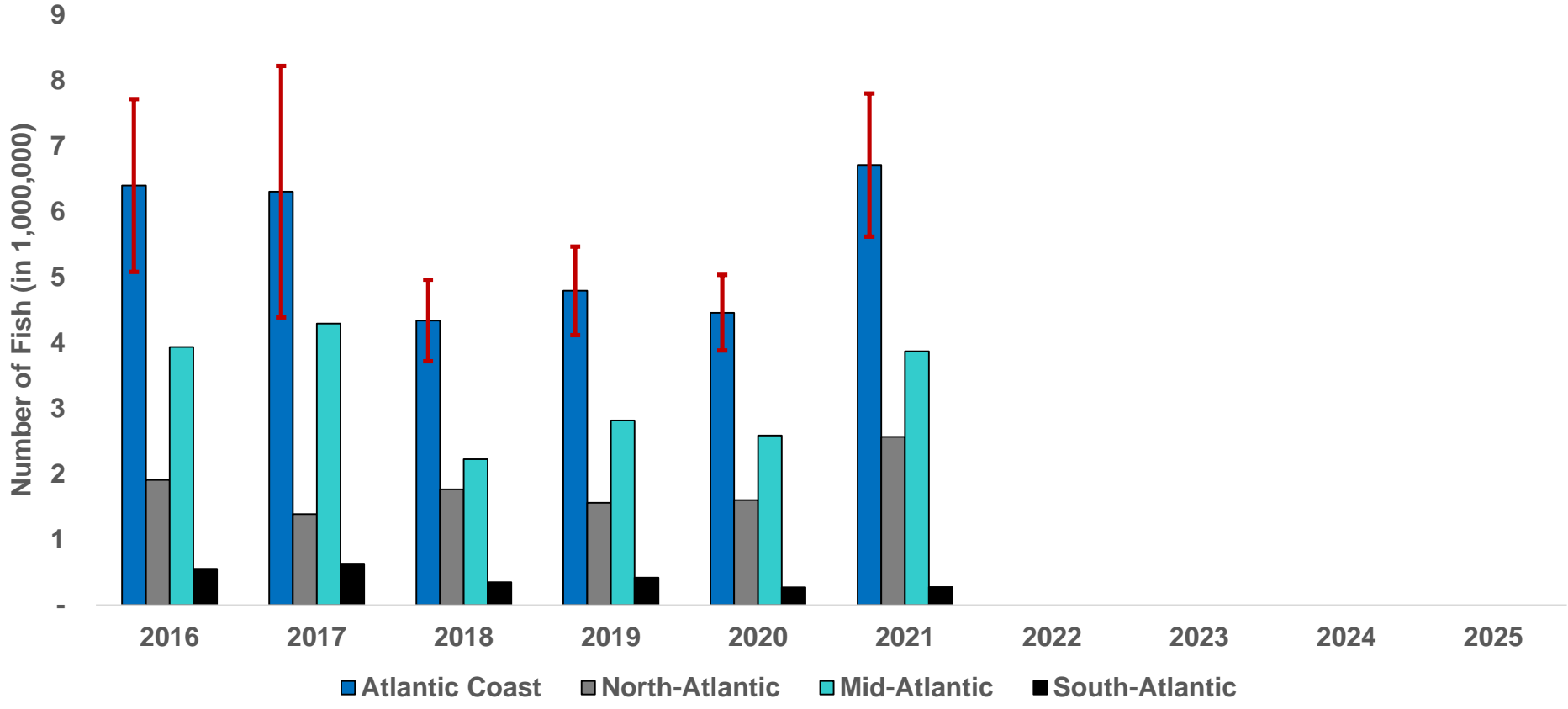
- MRIP funds increased APAIS sampling to improve PSE
 - \$900k, ~2,300 assignments/year
 - ASMFC hiring support for six states (NH, RI, CT, NY, DE, MD)
- FHTS State Conduct
 - Vessel Directory
 - Calling Efficiencies
- Socio-Econ Survey (SEAS) 2022
 - Integrated into APAIS tablet
 - >70% completion rate

<u>Pre-MFA Base</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>MFA Add-on</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
239	ME	56	23%
210	NH	56	27%
781	MA	143	18%
364	RI	110	30%
438	CT	106	24%
962	NY	173	18%
1038	NJ	457	44%
374	DE	106	28%
725	MD	291	40%
680	VA	257	38%
1171	NC	239	20%
438	SC	184	42%
309	GA	135	44%
7,174	TOTAL	2,288	32%

Effects of Modern Fish Act (2021-2025)

- Annual Data Collection Report
- Impacts to species of interest – (initial PSE 40-70)
 - Common: summer flounder & black sea bass
 - Pulse/Rare event: cobia & red snapper
 - State/Inshore: tautog
 - Federal/Offshore: dolphin
- Regional graphs
 - 2016-2025 (include 5 yrs prior to increased sampling)
 - Regional data (NE / MA / SA)
 - Include confidence intervals





One Stop Reporting

Objective

Enable fishermen to submit a single eVTR to satisfy the reporting requirements of all associated permitting authorities

Recent Actions

- Nov 2021: GARFO commercial & For-hire electronic reporting implemented
- SAFIS eTRIPS first OSR reporting option available

WHY USE SAFIS eTRIPS FOR FEDERAL REPORTING?

- Industry tested interface
- Available for Windows 10, Android, iOS, and online
- 24/7 Help Desk support

ACCSP

COMMERCIAL PERMITS

- GARFO
- SEFSC *
- HMS *

ONE APPLICATION ONE REPORT

FOR-HIRE PERMITS

- GARFO (eVTR)
- SERO (SEPHIER)
- HMS

*AVAILABLE BY NOV 10



Software Projects for Consideration

- Upcoming Projects Evaluated
 - eDR redesign
 - Registration Tracking
 - Species Tree

- Ongoing work
 - SAFIS eTRIPS maintenance
 - e-1Ticket (SC & GA)
 - SAFIS Management System: Message of the Day
 - Universal Trip ID (UTID)
 - Mapping functionality
 - LobSTAH (Trap Tag Tracking)
 - SciFish (project builder)
 - RAS/VPD (database access security)



Software Project Categories

- Functionality
- Timing (includes background/ground work, development, testing, development, production)
- Resources (development time, staff time, contractor)
- Constraints
- Contributors
- Dependencies



Software Project Priorities Moving Forward

Development year: task (public release date)

- 2022: Species (no eDR) and Lobster Tracking (Jan 1 2023)
- 2023: Registration Tracking (no eDR) (Jan 2024)
- 2024: eDR (Jan 2025)



Funding & Staffing

- Total ACCSP funding (including FIN-crease) **\$3.53M**
- Ten FY2022 Projects Announced in March



FY22 Partner Funding Approved

Partner	Title	Cost
ME DMR	FY21: Managing 100% Lobster Harvester Reporting in Maine	\$ 335,662
ME DMR	FY22: Managing Mandatory Dealer Reporting in Maine	\$ 61,304
ME DMR	Portside Commercial Catch Sampling and Comparative Bycatch Sampling for Atlantic Herring, Atlantic Mackerel and Atlantic Menhaden fisheries	\$ 26,254
RI DEM	Advancing Fishery Dependent Data Collection for Black Sea Bass (<i>Cetorpristis striata</i>) in the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Region Utilizing Modern Technology and a Vessel Research Fleet Approach	\$ 132,005
SAFMC/NCDMF	FY21: SAFIS Expansion of Customizable Fisheries Citizen Science Data Collection Application	\$ 116,182
RIDEM/GADNR USCG	Continued development of a mobile application to assist Maritime Law Enforcement Personnel with fisheries enforcement tasks	Not Funded
PRFC	Electronic Trip-Level Reporting for the Potomac River Fisheries Commission Commercial Fisheries Sector	\$ 215,612
RI DEM	FY22: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	\$ 27,521
MADMF/RIDMF	Integration of vessel monitoring systems and electronic reporting in SAFIS and SAFIS applications through API development and field testing of multiple hardware options: Phase 2	\$ 86,244
NCDMF	Implementation of Electronic Quota Monitoring Reporting in North Carolina	Withdrawn
NCDMF	North Carolina fishery-dependent biological data transmissions to the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Data Warehouse	\$ 79,887
NJDFW	FY22: DNA and Bycatch Characterization of New Jersey's American Shad Fishery in Delaware Bay	\$ 88,886



Funding & Staffing

- Total ACCSP funding (including FIN-crease) **\$3.53M**
- Ten FY2022 Projects Announced in March
- FY2022 Administrative and Operations
 - Approved at \$2,224,272
 - ~100K unallocated for Leadership Team future direction
- Staff positions filled
 - Three data coordinators started in November
 - Two software programmers staff started in March
 - <https://www.accsp.org/staff/>



Information Systems & Security

- Balancing functionality, security, and resources
- Infrastructure:
 - All databases on current stable release (Oracle 19c)
 - Network modernization completed
 - Supporting hybrid work & meetings
- FISMA – Continuous Monitoring Phase
 - Quarterly self-assessments (Sep, Dec, Mar)
 - Annual external audit (May)
 - Strong security posture





Other Business

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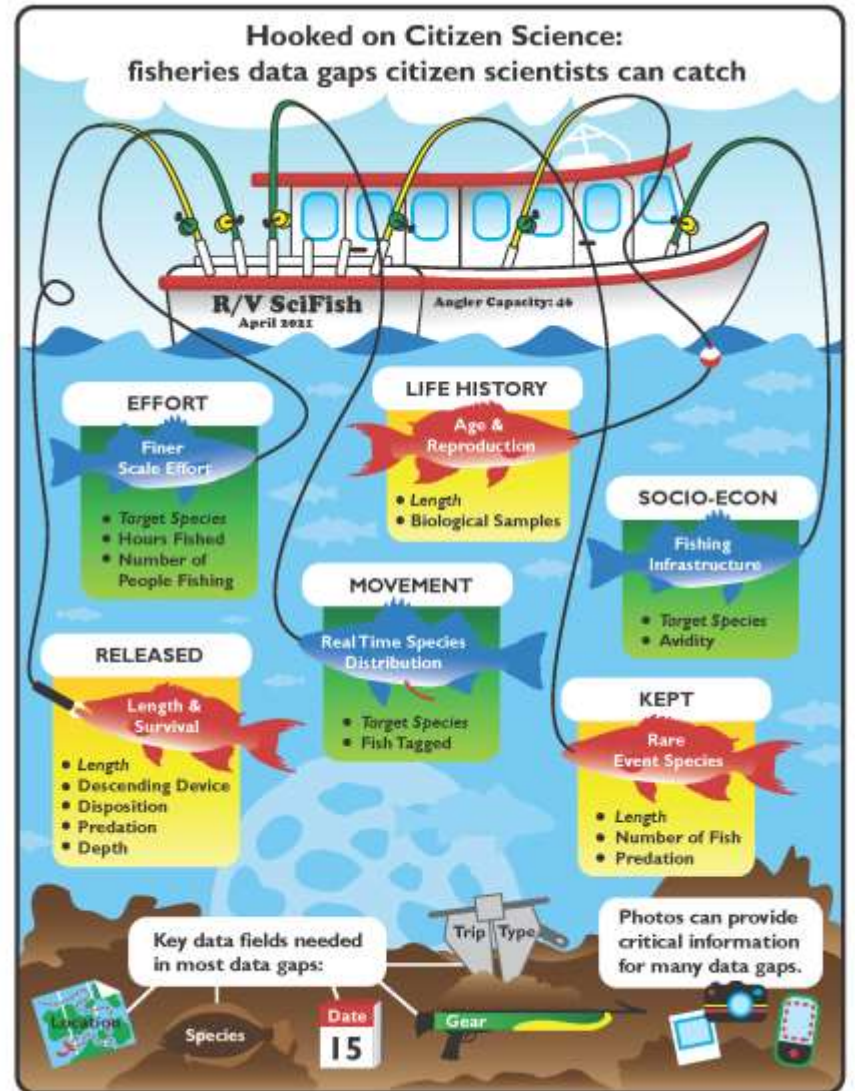
SciFish Update

- SciFish will be a new tool for partners to use for citizen science projects
- SciFish = citizen science mobile application
 - Captures information about Atlantic coast fish
 - Project builder for partners to easily create a customizable data collection project in the application
 - Avoids standalone application development costs
- ACCSP RFP support (FY20- FY22)



SciFish Update

- SciFish will be administered through ACCSP
- Scoping meetings in Spring 2021
 - ~200 questionnaire participants
 - Over 45 meeting attendees
 - Representation from 23 organizations and 15 states
- **Request**
 - Guidance on policy development from ACCSP leadership team
 - Virtual meeting week of June 20th – stay tuned!



Adjourn

