Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
Coordinating Council

May 2, 2023
1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1. Welcome/Call to Order *(G. White / J. McNamee)*

2. Council Consent
   • Approval of Agenda
   • Approval of Minutes from November 2022

3. Public Comment

4. Consider Funding Decision Document and FY2024 Request for Proposals *(J. Simpson)* **Action**

5. Update on Program and Committee Activities (*G. White, J. Simpson*)

6. Other Business

7. Adjourn

The meeting will be held at The Westin Crystal City (1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA; 703.486.1111) and via webinar; click here for details.

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE

ATLANTIC COASTAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Ocean Place Resort
Long Branch, New Jersey
Hybrid Meeting

November 7, 2022

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council
The Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

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INDEX OF MOTIONS

1. **Approval of Agenda** by Consent (Page 1).

2. **Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2022** by Consent (Page 1).

3. **Move to approve the ACCSP FY2023 projects as presented to the ACCSP Coordinating Council, with unallocated funds to be held in the ACCSP Administrative grant for future determination** (Page 10). Motion by Jim Gilmore; second by Eric Reid. Motion approved by unanimous consent (Page 11).

4. **Move to approve the Atlantic Recreational Implementation Plan (2023-2027), as presented to the ACCSP Coordinating Council.** (Page 11). Motion by Kathy Knowlton; second by Mel Bell. Motion approved by unanimous consent (Page 11).

5. **Move to elect Jason McNamee as Coordinating Council Chair** (Page 17). Motion by Dan McKiernan; second by Jim Gilmore. Motion approved by unanimous consent (Page17).

6. **Move to nominate Ms. Knowlton as Coordinating Council Vice-Chair** (Page 17). Motion by Lynn Fegley; second by Dee Lupton. Motion approved by unanimous consent (Page 17).

7. **Motion to adjourn** by Consent (Page 18).

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ATTENDANCE

Council Members

Bob Beal, ASMFC
Megan Ware, ME, proxy for P. Keliher
Renee Zobel, NH
Dan McKiernan, MA
Jason McNamee, RI
Greg Wojcik, CT, proxy for J. Davis
Jim Gilmore NY
Heather Corbett, NY, proxy for J. Cimino
John Clark, DE
Lynn Fegley, MD

Pat Geer, VA
Mel Bell, SC
Kathy Knowlton, GA
Erika Burgess, FL
Brandon Muffley, MAFMC
John Carmichael, SAFMC, Chair
Marty Gary, PRFC
Rick Jacobson, USFWS
Richard Cody, NOAA

Staff

Toni Kerns
Tina Berger
Madeline Musante
Emilie Franke

Adam Lee
Joe Myers
Jennifer Ni
Mike Rinaldi

Julie Defilippi Simpson
Anna-Mai Christmas-Svajdlenka
Geoff White

Guests

Jason Avila
Alan Bianchi, NC DENR
Jason Bochat, NYS DEC
David Borden, RI (GA)
Michael Brown, ME DMF
Pete Burns, NOAA
Julia Byrd, SAMFC
Patrick Cassidy
Nicole Caudell, MD DNR
Phil Coates
Nicole Lengyel Costa, RI DEM
Jessica Daher, NJ DEP
Maureen Davidson, NYS DEC
Wes Eakin, NYS DEC
Warren Elliott, PA (LA)
Mark Eustis
Dawn Franco, GA DNR
Erica Fuller, CKF
Angela Giuliano, MD DNR
Daniel Hadler, NYS DEC

Melissa Albino Hegeman, NYS DEC
Jaclyn Higgins, TRCP
Harry Hornick, MD DNR
Jesse Hornstein, NYS DEC
Helen Takade-Heumacher, US FWS
Thomas Kosinski
Jared Lamy, NH F&G
Brooke Lowman, VMRC
Mike Luisi, MD DNR
Dee Lupton, NC DENR
Nicole MacDonald, NOAA
Jerry Mannen, NC (GA)
Genine McClair, MD DNR
Lorraine Morris, ME DMR
Brian Neilan, NJ DEP
Thomas Newman
Jeffrey Nichols, ME DMR
Will Poston, SGA
Craig Pugh, DE
Michael Pierdinock

Jason Rock, NC DENR
Daniel Ryan, DC
Ross Self, SC DNR
McLean Seward, NC DENR
Nathan Shivers, CFARM
Ethan Simpson, VMRC
Andrey Sinchuk, NYS DEC
Somers Smott, VMRC
Rene St. Amand, CT DEEP
David Stormer, DE DFW
ElizaBeth Streifeneder, NYS DEC
Kevin Sullivan, NH F&G
Scott Curatolo-Wagemann, Cornell
Craig Weedon, MD DNR
Peter Whelan
Holly White, NC DENR
John Page Williams
Steven Witthuhn
Chris Wright, NOAA
Erik Zlokovitz, MD DNR

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The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Monmouth I Room in The Ocean Place Resort via hybrid meeting, in-person and webinar; Monday, November 7, 2022 and was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Chair John Carmichael.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR JOHN CARMICHAEL: We'll call the Coordinating Council to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

First bit of business is Approval of the Agenda. Any comments or additions on the agenda? I don't see any, so the agenda is approved.

APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS

Second bit of business would be Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes. Are there any comments on the prior meeting minutes? Seeing none; minutes are approved.

CONSIDER FY2023 ACCSP PROJECT AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING

MR. GEOFF WHITE: Thank you, John, our next agenda item is Consideration of the Project and Administrative Proposals. Julie Simpson, our Deputy Director is going to cover this.

MS. JULIE DEFILIPPI SIMPSON: I'll start with the average ranking of the maintenance proposal. There are three projects on Maintenance Proposals. We have the Rhode Island Black Sea Bass, the North Carolina Biological Database and PRFC Electronic Trip Reporting. Then in the average ranking of new proposals we have again, these are the values that this is for both of these slides this is the ranking of both the Advisors and the Operations combined.

That is weighted as one vote per person, if not the average of Operations and Advisors averages. For the new projects we had six new

projects here. I won't read them all. These are in your meeting materials. The total of all proposals does not exceed the expected value of funding. The recommendations from the Operations and Advisory Committee.

They met in September. The recommendation is to fully fund all proposals, both maintenance and new. But there were some discussions that they wanted to pass on. There was extensive discussion on the project for the collection of recreational fishing data from citizen science sources. While they do recommend fully funding this project, there were some questions about setting the precedent on the paying for a private entity for data.

Where they don't have any oversight or input into how those data are collected, how this approach might fit into the approach of citizen science as it moves forward with ACCSP and SciFish. There was a note that this is a pilot, and so they need to recommend the funding for it, because it was a pilot and was being requested for development and programming. For that particular pilot, FishBrain is waiving their data licensing fees for this year. Again, the question is, how does this fit in with SciFish? Then the final item here was the request that the PIs incorporate into their outreach effort continued understanding and participation in MRIP surveys, with the idea that explaining, this is what citizen science is, this is what it does.

To manage expectations, the purpose of this is not to replace the existing MRIP survey. Additional recommendations, were from that the Coordinating Council determined an appropriate avenue, such as the existing funding subcommittee, or perhaps a new working group, to review the potential to create guidance for the RFP on funding for application development.

What data are to be collected, how those data would be used, methods of collection, duplication of effort, and to whom those data would be transmitted. Then the last recommendation was that there was significant appreciation for the fact

that the Accountability Workgroup did put in an independent proposal.

However, they recommend that this type of proposal actually be incorporated into the Administrative Branch as an option moving forward, because while they appreciated the transparency, because of the nature of the Accountability Workgroup being a workshop, it doesn't actually make it easy to rank.

It was one of those things where they said, you should absolutely do it, but it doesn't rank well. It's easier to just say, we approve the Admin Grant with this option in it. Appreciation of the transparency, but maybe not quite so transparent in future was their recommendation there. We do have a few funding notes for this year.

We did want to note that the Admin Grant is slightly less than last year by about $18,000.00. We are funding Helpdesk and FISMA through other sources. We also wanted to mention the managing 100 percent lobster harvester reporting in Maine. As many of you may have noted, that project did not appear in your maintenance proposals.

They did send a letter, and that was part of the original materials that went to the Operations and Advisors. They have moved that implementation, the date back, because they do have some of the funds available that have already been distributed, and they wanted to have the opportunity to spend those funds.

They want to push back their maintenance timeline by a year, and so they basically put a pause on their maintenance fund request for a year. They're sort of taking a break, so that they can spend the funds that they have. But they did want to note that they would be returning next year as a maintenance proposal.

Also, we wanted to point out that the initial RFP was extended through August 18. Five new proposals were submitted in that period. There was a significant amount of proposals that didn't get submitted in the first round. The Leadership Team met and decided to extend that. I think this is good awareness. We wanted to share with you all that there are funds available, but we do feel like this is an interim period, where the stepdown that has been in place for some years is kicking in, and now is a good time for new maintenance proposals to come online. The staff has been working with the Committees on new proposals, and we encourage everyone to work with their staffs as well on proposals for next year. Then finally, the Leadership Team does recommend that any unallocated funds for this year roll forward, so that they can best support coastal needs next year.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Thank you, Julie, for that overview. I think we probably need to go back at least a slide, maybe two and have some discussion on the recommendations, for sure. Any questions for Julie on the presentation to start out? Yes, Renee.

MS. RENEE ZOBEL: Julie, could you give us a little bit more info on the citizen science proposal that was discussed? I know when I read it, I shared some of the similar concerns. I talked to my Ops member about it. Maybe a little bit, sounds like it was fairly heavily discussed and controversial. I kind of shared similar concerns, and I would love to know a little bit more about the discussion, and how everybody came to it being a pilot program, therefore we think it should be funded. A little more context I think would be really helpful.

MS. SIMPSON: The quick summary of the proposal is the idea; it was a little bit complicated. There was sort of a graphic in there. There is actually two sort of flows of data. One was coming from the application angler catch that Harbor Light created for Rhode Island, and that pathway didn't really have any concern.

The other was data that would come from FishBrain, and FishBrain is not interested in sending data to ACCSP, and so those data would be sent to

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Harbor Light, who would then appropriately, adjust them, so that they could go through the SciFish data flow that's being created right now. Their intent is to charge money for those data.

There were a lot of questions asked about should we be paying for citizen science data? What is our approach to citizen science? Is it something that we want to have monetized? It was that idea of also, where would that funding come from in coming years? They put out a number that they waived this year, and they said they would be willing to negotiate in the future.

But it is a substantial sum of money. They said, we could try it this year and see how the pilot goes, because it's not costing us anything. But we really have to think about whether or not we do this moving forward, and how that would go. That is what I can remember. Did you have anything else to add to that?

MR. WHITE: Thanks, Julie, agree with that. One of the additional questions was, for volunteer anglers that are using FishBrain, they are answering questions that haven't been vetted through what the SciFish EPI was intended for. There was a question about, are the data translations meeting the intent of the actual data storage?

Then beyond that, it's an unknown, so this goes on both sides of the pilot issue. How will we make sure that a single trip wasn't represented in more than one dataset? In one sense it's a pilot, you have to do the work to learn that. In another sense is that enough of an issue for everyone at the Coordinating Council to have a decision point or a concern.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: We have Kathy Knowlton online.

MS. KATHY KNOWLTON: I really appreciate that some time was spent with this proposal recommendation from the Operations Committee and Advisors on this particular proposal. I think this is a really critical issue that came up the appropriate way through our process. It means our process is working.

Our ranking process has done really well for many, many years, and it's pretty well equipped to deal with new ideas, innovative ideas as they arrive. This is certainly one of them. I appreciate the detail that is drawn into the various components of why there was great discussion on this, and why it deserves more conversation.

However, and you all knew I was going to put a however in there. I have great reservations about this path, and those reservations are comforted, I guess you could say, by the fact that it is a pilot project. I understand what's being said, because clearly in that path if you don't know what you don't know, until you look into it, and you try to go down the path.

Then in future years there might be levels of funding that are required that would push this to a different place in the ranking. But conversation, I agree with Operations and Advisors, has to extend beyond their level. They're clearly reaching out and saying they would like some policy level discussion, on how to handle these things moving into the future.

When we develop primarily the commercial data collection methods and paid for that through ACCSP for the various partners, we generally were not coming up against for profit companies that were wanting to do the same thing. That is one of the ways in which citizen science is very different. Getting anglers to want to choose anything that rolls out through ACCSPs program, with the development of SciFish.

It basically puts us in the position of competing in some ways for the attention to those Apps. We're going to have to be cognizant of that and aware of that. But paying for data is something that makes, I think us all, understandably a little bit nervous. Also, paying for data through a point in time. My understanding quickly, reading this proposal is it

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would only be up through FY23 when this project was done, and not forward into the future.

I've got some concerns. I really appreciate them being raised in this detailed and thorough format, and I hope that this moves forward by Coordinating Council members, maybe in a workgroup with some input from other Operations Committee members and others that may be interested, and then really sitting down and having a long conversation about how we deal with citizen science, and using our precious, very precious funds to go down that path.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, thank you, Kathy, we were waiting for your however, so we appreciate that. Next up is Bob.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT E. BEAL: Yes, just to echo what Renee and the Ops Committee and Kathy and everybody is saying. It is kind of a strange dynamic that gives me a little bit of heartburn. You know you've got general public anglers using these Apps, FishBrain, FishRules and other things, and they're reporting their catch. I think some of them are doing that with the idea or the hope that it would improve management. You know it gives some information about discards or locations or whatever it might be. Then, so this data exists. Now, in order to access that data, management, ACCSP or whoever it is, is having to pay.

They are giving $27,500.00 of that access this year in kind. But next year is it close to a $30,000.00 bill to access the data that general anglers, you know citizen science, citizen anglers are providing. It's just I'm not sure that all the folks putting data into these Apps, necessarily thought on the back end, the company that they are providing this data to is going to absolutely sell it to someone.

Yes, that gives me quite a bit of heartburn, but you know I agree with the idea. Let's try it, see

how it goes for a year. Is there value here? Maybe have a bigger conversation, as Kathy was suggesting of a subgroup for this group or Ops Committee, or something to figure out, how are we going to deal with this?

As more and more data will likely end up in multiple Apps up and down the coast, and what do we do to gain access to that data? Do we pay for it, or do we set up some different agreements? Do we let folks know which ones are free and which are not free, as far as managers getting access to that data, and let them decide where they want to report? I think it's a tough precedent for me to wrap my brain around and be happy about.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, I think a lot of people feel that way. I know I certainly share that as well, and I think it's CitSci here, but a lot of those Apps also do sell the idea of kind of angler diaries, and just basic catch information. This model could quickly expand to lots of other catch. I have Lynn and then Mel on the list.

MS. LYNN FEGLEY: I also share a bit of a concern, although I think to some degree I can relate. You know the state of Maryland, and I think it's been over ten years. You know we use a private entity to collect commercial data over SAFIS, because at that time over a decade ago, SAFIS wasn't giving us what we needed.

We needed a hail component that added significant accountability to a harvest. I think fast forwarding to now, the ACCSPs platforms have caught up. One of my questions is, I think it's worth asking the question, what are these private entities collecting that is needed that can help management? If it is helping management, is it even possible that ACCSP would catch up?

You know start incorporating those things into its own platform, so that people can be directed there. Because part of the problem is if there is something being offered over here that is not offered through, and SciFish is one of the most brilliant things I've heard about in a long time, and it has some

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flexibility. But I think we need to be cognizant of that gap, and standing ready to fill it if need be.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Mel.

MR. MEL BELL: Yes, I think Bob had a really good point. There is an expectation, I believe, on the part of the folks that are utilizing these that somehow their efforts to do this are going to go towards being applied somehow in management. We've seen that with other applications used in other fisheries and other places, where they were useful in making decisions about things, perhaps like red snapper and other fisheries earlier on.

That is just something to be cautious of with this is that as you pointed out, there may be sort of secondary benefits, if you will. If there is something that the individual anglers can benefit from directly from it that's great. But I think there really is an expectation that somehow these data will be used by managers. Again, unfortunately it's not free to collect this data.

You're dealing with a private entity; they are a company. That's why they are there, to make a living. Just as we kind of look into this area, we have to kind of be cautious about what we could get ourselves into, because like we said, this could get really expensive, if you all of a sudden decided you really wanted a particular data, and the price was what it is. Then I guess there are no price controls on this sort of thing, so it could get rather expensive.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, thank you, Mel, and I think Geoff, maybe if you want to comment some on what they offer. I know whoever, talking to different Apps, one of their thoughts is they offer convenience. You know they try to package the rules and the weather and your fishing log, and all of this stuff together. I know they certainly try to offer convenience. But Geoff, as far as Lynn's question about, are there other things, and ACCSP catching up. Maybe you could comment some on that.

MR. WHITE: Thanks, Lynn, for the question. There are a couple of questions that I'm going to tease out of this. Right now, when it comes to not just angler catch, but volunteer angler Apps in general. There has been a proliferation of them over the last ten years. There have been several different AFS workshops about what those applications are good for, or not.

MRIP is struggling as well, with how to use these voluntary reports, and what they're best used for. That is one of the great things about SciFish, because it lends in that idea that oh, these voluntary angler things are great for, and I'll use the examples I remember, not all of them. They are great for presence/absence.

They are great for discards and depths and species IDs, things that are supplemental to the catch estimates that are from a probability-based sample, i.e., MRIP. Not confusing what is a probability-based sample, what can you expand for total effort, total catch, total discards, with how do you characterize those total estimates with more information about presence/absence, geographical location, discard, species IDs et cetera.

The voluntary Apps can do a lot of those other things. Getting back around to Lynn's question, how far behind is SAFIS, is ACCSP and SciFish. SciFish is probably another year, maybe two from being open to more systems to use it. Right now, it has two Apps in it, later in the presentation. But there needs to be some more work to get there, so it's not a right now item. While I have a microphone. One of the questions is really, is it worth funding the pilot now, because there are available funds? Everybody want to bring that to the Coordinating Council to really discuss and decide upon? Then on the next slide, the top recommendation is, whether or not it's funded, should there be a group to delve into some of these questions about future funding, application development, what is the right fit for the strategy of

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ACCSP funds. Maybe if we have those conversations separately, or if you want to ask me that might be helpful, because in my mind there is really two separate things.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, Dee.

MS. DEE LUPTON: I'll take your second question. I do think there needs to be a group. citizen science I think it can be useful, but I think we certainly need to set expectations and put some parameters of what we need, instead of other people telling us what we need. We need to identify what we need.

I worry about us collecting data that is never used, and anglers have been told, oh this data will be useful for management and we've never used it, because it wasn't useful, because it was not generated from the managers as what we need, and we needed the parameters. These competing Apps, I reckon, you know maybe what type of feeds do they need to provide. I reckon some structure around it. I see that as a need.

The first question, there is part of me coming in here I had a lot of reservations of this proposal, like others. It's a pilot, and if we set expectations. But you know it's kind of like, well maybe we could fund it for one year. Once we dive into that and people like it, and we get pressure from the public to keep funding it or something like that.

That's going to be an issue, because they're going to have to step down off funding too. Then they'll start charging anglers or really sending us a bill. I don't know how that's going to look in the future. I see the dangers are in the future, more than just this one-year proposal. I haven't really wrapped my own mind how that's going to work, but the parameters do need to be set.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Is there support for, let's look at the second question. Maybe we

knocked that out, for that request there in the first bullet. Does everyone support that? I think Kathy gave a pretty good description of what went down at the Ops as we've heard, and I feel like they did their part properly and didn't have a reason to say, don't fund it.

They just recognized there is kind of a new wrinkle in the system here, and they are asking for the higher-level policy guidance, which to me seems completely appropriate for their perspective. Is there consensus to create a group of this type, and then we can work out who is on that, et cetera?

MR. WHITE: Yes.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Kathy, do you want to jump in here? Go ahead, Kathy.

MS. KNOWLTON: Yes, I absolutely support a workgroup being pulled together to have these discussions. I think it should involve some representation from the Operations Committee, because they've already had the detailed conversation. I think having folks involved that have been working on a ACCSPs SciFish would be helpful as well. I think we virtually almost have to fund this project, because it did rank in our system, and our system is working. If the Operations and Advisory Committees had lengthy discussions about this, and they recommend to us funding this.

Then it would behoove us, I think to go with that recommendation, because they obviously struggled before we knew there was even a struggle with this one. I am supporting it being funded with 18 caveats and asterisks following it. But yes, they did a really good job, and again kudos to them.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Geoff.

MR. WHITE: Dee, I'm going to extend on the thought. This first bullet that is on the screen to request this group. This bullet was brought up by the citizen science proposal. But the discussion at Ops was really beyond that as a more strategic thing within ACCSP, and that is when ACCSP has an

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API that is kind of on water application agnostic, and ACCSP has a default option that is already paid for and available to all partners.

When should ACCSP be funding alternate on-water applications? I think it's a good point for this group to handle. I think there is a history where ACCSP wasn't ready, and we funded another App to get up to speed, to help a partner that would be applicable across multiple partners and ranges that includes Maryland, that includes you know South Carolina with their charter boat systems.

That includes a couple of different perspectives and projects over time. I think that is within the realm of what ACCSP was intended to do, get something started, make it applicable, make it flow through a centralized data collection and availability system. Certainly not saying as staff, or speaking for anyone else that ACCSPs software should be the only thing available.

But I think we've been thinking internally, as the Coordinating Council has been asking us to do for several years, about what is the best strategic use of ACCSP funds in the long term, and this question of which Apps are funded, which default applications do we create, should be adopted. There is also good opportunities and examples.

I know I'm kind of going a little long here. Where partners have seen SAFIS eTRIPS and decided to use that software as a cost-efficient method to implement trip reporting in their jurisdiction. It's not the only option. It is an option that was intended for that expansion purpose. That kind of option was available for ACCSP funding.

This bullet, this workgroup, I completely support where I'm hearing the group go. Create this workgroup, include this iFish people, include Ops, include hopefully a couple of folks from Coordinating Council. But I wanted to just kind of extend that thought that it isn't just

citizen science, it's kind of all applications and RFP process.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All right, yes, thanks, Geoff. I have Richard Cody online.

MR. RICHARD CODY: Yes, John, thanks. I hope you can hear me. I'm doing dual monitor versus phone here. Can you hear me, okay?

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, Richard, we hear you.

MR. CODY: In the two bullets that are on the screen, I mean absent from those is an actual research question. It's one thing to create an RFP that looks at App development. But really, when you're talking about an App, you're talking about a logbook, basically. There needs to be some focus on what you want in that logbook, what you want in that App, in terms of the data that are being collected.

That's why I'm a little bit concerned here that this is a little bit of a solution in search of a problem. We don't have a research question that specifically identifies, and that bothers me a little bit. I think there are types of things that we can look at that Apps obviously would be more suited to than others.

But I think that we need to have some emphasis on the types of data that we are collecting and the reasons why we're collecting it. Because the whole question that was brough up by Kathy and Dee and others, about the expectation that anglers have that their data will be used. We can't go looking for a use for the data after we get the data from the angler, we have to have something, I think in mind ahead of that.

Anyway, I just wanted to put my concerns out there. Then the other point I wanted to make was related to a point that Geoff brought up earlier about MRIP, you know a probability-based sampling program struggling to incorporate App-based data. That is any probability-based survey that is struggling to use nonprobability-based information.

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Obviously, there are assumptions that you can make to make the data a little bit more accessible or more useful. I think that that is a more general problem, it's not just an MRIP problem. It relates to a lot of different surveys. Anyway, I just wanted to make those two points, and also that I would be in favor of a workgroup to look at this.

There have been some efforts on the NOAA side, and I think at some of the state level as well, to look at appropriate uses for Apps and things like that. The MAFAC Committee under NOAA produced a report, I think earlier on this year that looked at data gaps and the potential for using App based reporting to fill those data gaps. There are some sources of information that are out there also, I think that we could latch onto with a working group.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Kathy, are you back?

MS. KNOWLTON: Of course, I am, you know I never ever even go away. Richard's comments dovetail perfectly into what I was going to mention about one of the tasks that the SciFish Workgroup, within ACCSP has brought up to leadership, as you will recall. I think it was last June. Julia made a presentation on where we are with the development of SciFish in ACCSP, and that we will be working on developing some policy and guidance for partners, as to who gets to use this tool within ACCSP. What are the general recommendations, and what makes good project, what should be included? Are those just recommendations or are they requirements? This fits perfectly with what Richard just said, in terms of getting at the issues, at least as far as ACCSP is concerned, in terms of the minimums that are needed and the ability of projects to manage expectations. We always talk about with citizen science projects and also, what are the data going to be used for? Confidentiality, all those things.

This group with the SciFish is supposed to be working on developing those in the next year. I would recommend that we find a way to combine forces, and have a larger conversation that includes things that Richard just mentioned, about other conversations have already been taking place through NOAA with the MAFAC, and other groups.

Can we please try to pull everybody into one place, and maybe have a conversation, because the effort through ACCSP with SciFish is representing the entire Atlantic Coast, in terms of a new coordinated effort to wrap our heads around citizen science data in the marine fisheries world. We're not going to be the end all for everybody's needs.

We certainly can't force other groups and entities from creating your own App, especially when they are for profit. But we can at least be coordinated through the Atlantic Coast. I think it would behoove us to try to dovetail both this question generally, as it arose from this specific presentation, as well as what the SciFish Workgroup has already been tasked to do.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, so I guess I just want to try to wrap up the discussion on the first bullet. I haven't heard anybody raising any concern, so since there is support for keeping this group, creating this group with representatives from Ops, a few Coordinating Council folks, the SciFish group, and then as Kathy said, trying to loop in some of the broader NMFS perspective on these things.

You know NMFS has a citizen science program, which I'm sure SciFish people are well aware of, because Julia has been pretty engaged with them, as a result of her working on the Council's citizen science program. It would probably be good to loop them in as well. It sounds like we have support for that, and then we can talk about the second bullet, and then we can talk about the funding, perhaps.

Richard, I understand you had your hand raised again. Do you have something to that, or are we ready to move on? Support for the first bullet, and then the second bullet addressed the difficulty they had in dealing with the Accountability Workshop,

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and really recommending that this type of thing be handled through the Administrative Grant.

Is there any objection to handling such workshops through the Administrative Grant? Okay, seeing none; I think we can support that as well, Geoff. That brings us up to the funding action, and the Ops recommendation was to fund all of the proposals, and then we also had a little bit of money left over we recommended for carrying over, because we do anticipate significant future needs in the coming years. Open that up for some discussion. All right, well I'm not seeing any, you've got to draft a motion, okay. Kathy, go ahead.

MS. KNOWLTON: I can hold on if you want. I'll definitely approve the motion, but I kind of wanted to go back to the other issue with, I think it was the Accountability Workgroup.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Go ahead.

MS. KNOWLTON: Can you go back up to that slide where it shows the comment? I'm curious as to, so the Accountability Workgroup submitted an entire proposal that everyone said, appreciate it so much, but you know we don't need to go to this length for it, although we are really grateful that you all put in the time. Was there something that made that group think that it needed to be at the level of a proposal that was outside of just being completely transparent?

Then my second part of that would be, I support the recommendation that workshops and similar activities be included as optional in an administrative grant, but I would like to see some level of detail in the Administrative Grant. Perhaps not as long as what was given in this proposal, but it would be written up as a fairly detailed item that's an optional item in the Administrative Grant, so that people can really dig into it and see what it's about would be my recommendation.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: I see Julie, or was it Geoff, I forget which one of you. Geoff was, sorry. Geoff can go ahead. You guys do whoever needs to do it, don't listen to me.

MR. WHITE: We make it work, it's all good. Kathy, thank you. We were called out for being a little over transparent by Ops, in this case. What really happened was when the Coordinating Council tasked the Accountability Workgroup last May, to kind of follow through and take the next steps. That process and the extended RFP allowed for an opportunity to put in a proposal to fund the workshop and make people aware.

That is why we submitted it as a proposal, and I certainly appreciate your comments about not making it a short paragraph in the Admin Grant as an option. I think having the proposal there as an appendix that can be fully evaluated is an excellent suggestion, and really kind of where my mind would be on that already.

Having it clear, having it there, but the type of work for that we as staff did not want to kind of hide in and bury into and Admin Grant proposal that wouldn't be clear about a choice. We also didn't want to over emphasize kind of the funding choices that were happening. When it turns out we created that, put it in front of Operations Committee, there was a process problem where it didn't fit the ranking criteria, and that was a whole lot of the discussion. As Julie pointed out, it wasn't a bad idea, it just wasn't easy to be ranked.

MS. KNOWLTON: I think that having it like you said, as embedded as an appendix, also gives the Operations and Advisors the option for commenting on the extra or the optional task, and still you can relay at the bottom of the recommended funding for future years from Operations and Advisors, that they recommended this be included. That still would be part of the discussion of the Coordinating Council, and it helped a lot. I kind of wish we had an award that was named being overly transparent, because this was awesome.

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CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Thank you, Kathy, yes, I think that was some good guidance to staff there for sure. I think we can go back to the funding motion and ask that someone may perhaps read that out. Give us a second to switch screens. Does anybody wish to make this as a motion?

MR. JAMES J. GILMORE, JR.: You guys are way too shy around here, you've got to wake up. **Yes, move to approve the ACCSP FY2023 projects as presented to the ACCSP Coordinating Council, with unallocated funds to be held in the ACCSP Administrative Grant for future determination.**

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: A second by Mr. Reid, thank you. Megan.

MS. MEGAN WARE: More of a question, and Geoff or Julie, this is not to put you guys on the spot, but for the workgroup on the funding for application development. I'm curious if you have a sense of the timeframe of how that workgroup may operate, because I think I can support the motion today, knowing it's a pilot project that citizen science project.

But I think it would be really great to have a better footing or framework of how we want to move forward, should we see this next year. That workgroup though seems like it has, even just in the 30 minutes we've been here, evolved into something that is pretty large. I'm just curious what your thoughts on how quickly that group can actually accomplish the growing task.

MR. WHITE: It would probably need a couple of meetings to begin with, and then fold into the Funding Workgroup, because that would be part of the RFP. We would have to talk internally and figure out if that could happen before the RFP that normally goes out in May of 2023. That does seem like a tight timeline. Julie, do you want to add anything? Thank you, Julie.

MS. SIMPSON: We're side barring.

MR. WHITE: The point was that the SciFish small group that is working on policy would probably make some progress before then. However, it wouldn't be formalized in the RFP by May. I think there is opportunity to make progress on some of that committee. Again, I took those recommendations as kind of separate actions, so there is an actual motion for the funding of the proposals that you have in front of you today. Then if there is a desire for a separate motion, or just an understanding to move forward on creating that workgroup, we'll get started.

MS. WARE: Yes, that's helpful. Yes, I think as much as we can keep those on somewhat parallel tracks, so we're just in a better position for that conversation next year, I think would behoove us. But acknowledge that there are only so many hours in the day.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Bob.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEAL: Just a quick comment on the unallocated funds. You know some of the conversations we had earlier in this meeting were to hold those funds until, it almost sounded like next year's RFP process. But I actually kind of prefer the way the motion is worded, kind of open ended where there are parts for a while. Maybe a high priority need comes up later this year, you get the Leadership Committee together and decide we could use those funds later this year, if that were to happen. I think I like the way the motion is worded now. It seems to be a little bit more flexible than necessarily holding onto these and waiting a full year before we work on it. I just want to make that point. We may, if something really were to pop up, I don't know what that would be, we might be able to tap into those funds if we had to.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, that's a good point. We don't know what will pop up. All right, anyone else? Okay, is there any objection to the motion? Anybody online raising their hand or anything?

Okay, no objection then the motion carries. Next, Geoff.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ATLANTIC RECREATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR 2023 TO 2027

MR. WHITE: Thank you everybody for your conversation, discussion on that and action. Our next item is for Consideration of the Atlantic Recreational Implementation Plan for 2023 to 2027. This is an action item, so just as a quick reminder, and it's in the summary. You've got the Regional Recreational Implementation Plans were originally requested and developed for MRIP, and they used the five or six regional implementation plans to set national priorities.

They are supposed to be updated when regional priorities shift, or every five years. This would be the second Atlantic plan, and after that five-year timeline. As part of the MRIP Regional Implementation Council, ACCSP represents the Atlantic partners, gathers input, and puts all that together to represent the activities and major priorities.

While this document is for delivery to MRIP, the ACCSP approach is really to collate this not just for tasks for funding for MRIP, but also part of the ACCSP request for proposals and/or supplemental data to MRIP that could be used in assessments and management. It's kind of trying to double dip the effort, and make sure that we get everyone's regional priorities here.

That said, as you all discussed in May, you asked for kind of a reranking of these things and removal of Citizen Science as an actual priority, which we agreed with, so it's been moved down as a tool that could be used to address any of these priorities. Improve the in-season monitoring remained at Priority Number 6 in this numerical ranking.

I will say that because of the reranking activity, a lot of these got very close in their scores, and almost rotated in their order between Items 3

through 6. There was kind of a 3, 4, and 5 and 6. It almost swapped. They were very close, it was a good approach to go through, and I appreciate everything that the Council and Rec Tech did to get us here.

Just as a reminder, the reason that Items 1 and 2 are still on the list is because, even though MRIP has, through modern fish act, provided funds to increase the dockside APAIS sampling, that's really only been completed for almost two years now, 2021 and 2022. That needs to kind of continue on, to see if it has the affects in the data that are expected by doing all those additional sampling assignments.

While I'll touch on progress in the comprehensive for-hire data collection, again that's a work in progress and still is a priority to continue there. We had advice to keep those in place. With that, I'm not going to walk you through more of the document. I would ask for discussion and a motion.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, any discussion on this? I appreciate you guys updating that and taking the guidance and making those changes. Do you have a draft motion already drafted, perhaps?

MR. WHITE: We do, and we're working on showing it.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Cool, well I had a feeling you might. Is Kathy online?

MS. KNOWLTON: Yes, I was just going to congratulate you all. I think you all did a really good job on a highly detailed and informative document that can be picked up by a lot of people that were just delving into the challenges for collecting marine recreational fisheries data. They can read this and really get a good idea of what is going on with the various surveys and programs are, and where we still have needs on the Atlantic Coast.

You all did an excellent job of getting this information ready, and hopefully it will be of high utility to NOAA for conversations about future

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developments within MRIP. I would be happy to make the motion and read it as given, if that is okay with you all. I'm going to take that as a yes.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Oh yes, please do.

MS. KNOWLTON: Okay, I move to approve the Atlantic Recreational Implementation Plan (2023-2027), as presented to the ACCSP Coordinating Council.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Second by Mr. Bell. Any more discussion on the motion? Any objection to the motion? All clear online, okay thank you, motion stands approved.

MR. WHITE: Thank you very much, we will finish that up, and again the next step is to submit that to MRIP, now that it has been finally approved, and that dovetails well into the larger MRIP process, where they're getting updated implementation plans from all the regions, while they finish their next five-year strategic plan. That's great news, thank you. With that, Mr. Chair, I see you nodding. I can head right into the Program Updates.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: I think that will be fine, keep us moving along. There is probably an important Board to come along here soon.

PROGRAM AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

MR. WHITE: We'll run through some topics that we have been working on that are kind of exciting to us, and I think to all of you. The first one here is really an update on the confidentiality process. This is based on PRFC now sending us direct eco data. The confidentiality for, and so congratulations to PRFC and exciting for us.

The confidential use to be through Virginia, so if you had access in Virginia, you would get access to the PRFC data. The new process, we've got a new partner on the confidentiality form that will get signed off, and people would request it.

We can be much more granular in that approach and the timelines. We're kind of excited to have this take the next step. For those who have confidential access today, how will this affect you? The first thing is, those that have access today through Virginia, will have that access until it expires. All access through Virginia has a one-year timeline. Instead of expiring everybody all in the same day, and making them go into the website and request another one, and putting a burden on PRFC, we said let's let them expire on the dates that they naturally would, and when they do, if those people want access back to PRFC data, they will specifically request it, and therefore that will be handled by PRFC staff to review and approve or take action on those next steps.

Congratulations to PRFC, thanks for letting us move a step further in the granularity of this. Pilot on data dissemination activity. We finished the fall release of the calendar year 2021 landings, so there is a spring data load and then the fall, which is more complete. This has a smaller change to the landings, where either different items were collected, or latent reports were entered.

But that was completed on time. I think it was released September 19, which is right on our normal schedule. We've been hitting those spring and fall data releases pretty consistently for the past four years. The Data Team and the rest of us are pretty proud of getting that done. That relies on all of your staff getting that data cleaned up, squared away and sent to us on time. A roundabout thank-you to all of you.

They've also provided data to eight stock assessments listed there, five FMP reviews, and one of our action items this year was to develop a searchable online inventory for the biological and bycatch programs. This isn't the raw data, it is the references to what type of biological programs are out there, who are the contact points, and what kind of information is collected by them.

Along the same vein, another action item was to add information to the biological data module, and

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staff have been working really hard with both the TIP data and the South Atlantic states. This is a process improvement, where in the past the South Atlantic states, the TIP data would be collected. They would send it to ACCSP, and to TIP, and then would have to get filtered back around another way. It was kind of double effort.

What we're working on now is to have the states send that TIP information to ACCSP, we'll compile it, and then send it back down to, I think it's Miami, so Southeast Fisheries Science Center, so process improvement there. Continuing to support the SEFHIER data flows for the for-hire in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

That is both through adjustments and changes to the SAFIS eTRIPS Application, the API itself that collects the data, and at least the other primary App that collects this on the water is bluefin vessel software, which submits again, through the ACCSP API, and then it goes down to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and SERO.

Moving on, another big item on partnerships. Back to MRIP. We have hit another milestone of sharing data systems that were developed for MRIP and through ACCSP across regions, it is both fiscally efficient, and it standardizes the survey implementation, and it speeds the data delivery. On the APAIS tablets, we've talked about these for a few years. ACCSP has had them in the field since 2019. The Gulf states, three states implemented that in 2022, and NOAA is now asked for our help. We've provided them the software so they can deploy that for Hawaii in 2023. We're in the aspects of sharing that. Each region has their own database for it, and supports their own users, but it uses essentially the same tablets, essentially the same program. While there is a little bit of flexibility within the regions, it really standardizes things, and it has been great, because so many more users will give feedback

on what are the priority items to make changes to.

What makes the survey work better for staff? What makes it work better for data processing? What makes it work better for those of us in the middle, handling that data and passing that on to MRIP. It gives MRIP a little bit more time to do their work, to create the estimates and review the data before the regular release of the information. The other aspect is the for-hire telephone survey, and the state conduct.

Again, ACCSP developed the computer assisted interview, or a computer guided survey. That has been in play for several years with the states doing those telephone calls. GulfFIN implemented this for their three states, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi in September of this year, and that's saving them a lot of time, and they are excited about that. Again, joint application and development proving some benefits.

The other piece of that that has been a good collaboration has been the MRIP Socioeconomic Add-On Survey. This is part of the APAIS Dockside Interviews. It's done about every five years. Last one was on paper in 2017. This year was on the tablets. That screen there is just what the tablet looks like.

On the far-right side you can kind of toggle between anglers, and get those answers a lot faster. It does a lot of skip logic, so you don't ask questions you don't have to, depending on the response to the previous question. It's been a while since we' showed you a graph today, so we have to have a data graph.

This one shows the light bars of that Sea Survey in 2017 by state. The darker bars are 2022, the main point here is 75 percent completion rate of seas for all the Access Interviews that are occurring, and that is 10 percent higher than it was five years ago. Kudos again to the states, as well as those helping to develop an application that was a lot more streamlined in getting it done.

I promise talking about the comprehensive for-hire data collection program again. The focus items here are on the development of methodology that does not exist in a current program today. But it is the blending of an electronic logbook reporting with Did Not Fish reports using the APAIS as the dockside catch validation survey, using an estimation for boats that are under an approved logbook, based on a South Carolina pilot, and hail-outs are listed as an optional component.

For those vessels that do not have a logbook requirement, based on their permit. Those would continue to be surveyed under the FHS Effort Survey with a Dockside Catch Survey. The progress point here. Between your last meeting we first submitted the actual documentation to MRIP on June 14. They did an excellent job getting us a response back and comments on August 3rd. A lot of that had to do with delineation between core and optional. What is the specific math of the four options in the South Carolina project that we wanted to recommend? In clear language an overall reformatting. We've made those changes, and we'll probably submit that back to MRIP in the next week or two. Moving down to software development. The major priorities in those blue chevrons have been presented before, but I did want to highlight, we're looking forward into next year.

Our major item in 2022 development has been adjusting the species list by reporting platform. That is important so that the species on a dealer report can be a different list of what species, market grades, units of measure are visible on a commercial trip report or a for-hire trip report, and separating out which options are available to the software, and presented through the APR.

It's going to really tighten down those lists and end up with higher quality data in the end. You wouldn't want to choose goose fish livers landed whole on a fishing trip. Those things

don't, I just made that one up. Any kind of oddity like that, right now having a single list, every once in a while, we get some strange choices that sneak in there.

The other one is working on lobster tracking. Anyone who was in the Lobster Board meeting today or earlier, it's adding in the ability for ACCSP API to accept the ping locations for lobster vessels, as well as present some of the lobster tracks to the state administrators through the SAFIS Management System Application.

Those things are slated for 2023 rollout. During next year we're looking at updating the registration tracking that has been evaluated a few years ago, and we're now ready to address it. That has to do with how participants, fishermen, dealers, corporations, vessel owners, vessel operators, all interact with which permits and what records can be shown.

Of course, when you log into a data entry application, what questions are then asked of you. This Registration Tracking is kind of a critical component before moving forward to 2024, and doing the electronic dealer reporting redesign. Yes, that does feel like it's a long way out. But if we didn't do the species list now, if we didn't do the registration tracking first, it would require double effort of the same task.

Do it once for trip reporting, and then having to revisit it again. This is kind of the most streamlined approach that the software team and database folks have worked out to do this. On the right-hand side of the screen you'll see, these are just the new big items. Sorry, the left-hand side of the screen are the new big items, on the right side those are all the continuing things that are happening on a regular basis that takes a lot of staff time, and a lot of effort to keep up with changing partner needs.

Who is doing this work? Well, we have a whole new software team. In March we hired Jamal Quididen and Daniel Mestawat. They are fantastic. They're learning really fast, they are picking up on

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different aspects of SAFIS, things like message of the day, what's going on with some of these biological inventories.

They are really moving pretty quickly and that's great. Karen Holmes has decided to kind of recalibrate. She started her change from a full-time staff to a contractor on August 1st, we have her through the end of this year on limited hours, but thank you to Karen for her 18 years. She started literally in May, I think it was 2004, just before the first SAFIS electronic dealer reporting was ready to go online. She has brought us a long way, and we thank Karen for her efforts. To backfill her spot, we have selected an individual who starts December 1st, and we'll put that out in our Committee Newsletter once he actually comes onboard.

We're excited to be kind of fully staffed again. We're getting there. We might, depending on conversations, we might be close for a 2:45 timeline. There is a prediction for you. We have been working on spatial data tools. This is something that with new versions of application express from staff that have the lobster project, and some staff that have experience with some spatial data.

We've got several new things that are happening. The graphic there on that new feature on Trip Plotting is out on our outreach table. But we've been working both with the lobster location tracking to accept those locations, partner agency visibility that I mentioned before. There are SAFIS interactive area code map locations pickers in some of the applications and on the website now, to help identify multiple fields.

That would be not that the data elements are no longer required, but make it easier for users to select them. If you punch your finger on a point you can say oh, here is the area, here is the sub-area, here is the local area. This might be the lobster management area; this might be the ten-minute grid square.

But you might be able to get five questions answered with just a single finger push, and that makes things a lot easier on the end user, and ultimately ends up in data that aligns better and is of higher quality. The last one is really this SAFIS Mobile On-Device Trip Plotting. This is the ability to, at the user's discretion, and on their own device, create that kind of plot line for what their fishing trip was.

These things are interesting and kind of set the stage for capabilities that we may be able to expand upon in the future. Two more items under the updates, oh actually sorry, three. On one stop reporting, this has really been a crux of where SASFIS eTRIPS is going. It's enabling our fishermen with permits in multiple jurisdictions to support a single electronic vessel trip report, and have that pass from ACCSP out to the proper agencies. This was part of, and at the moment SAFIS was the first and remains the only reporting option that fits this need.

I will note that while the SAFIS application and data storage are in place, and the partners are really helping out. The implementation will also require kind of some joint Council actions, and a little more to that on the next slide. About a year ago GARFO implemented the electronic reporting for commercial and for-hire. That has gone really well, and integrated fantastically for those with HMS permits, and even for those that are dual permitted in the South Atlantic.

However, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, South Atlantic Council, Gulf Council and HMS are still collaborating with ACCSP on how to use SAFIS eTRIPS for the coastal logbooks and for the pelagic longline. Those are some choices about regulatory changes aligning which questions get asked, and what would be accepted. Right now, there are issues with the Southeast permit system, which delays implementation of that and one stop electronic reporting beyond these GARFO dual permitted vessels. Right now, there is a very limited number of vessels that are able to use this OSR function between GARFO and South Atlantic. We're

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looking to get that moving forward, but until some of these permit data base issues are squared away, we're kind of waiting for, again the joint action of the Councils, as well as some data work outside of ACCSP to get done.

Rolling right through here. Our next slide is back to SciFish. We alluded to a few of these things before. Of course, citizen science is potentially very powerful to understand marine fish populations, what things are happening. There is a ton of growing interest here, and the long-term goal of SciFish.

I'll read it off the bottom, is to develop a citizen science mobile application, and menu driven project builder interface that ACCSP partners could use to easily create a customizable application, by selecting specific data fields, without the need to develop standalone applications for each new project or data need.

This won't answer everything, but it will align some ability to create a customized application, centralized data storage, availability to the assessment and management after the fact, and knowledge of how those questions are being developed. SciFish has been a developing platform and activity, three major phases.

The first was to combine two existing Apps, the South Atlantic Council's Release and the North Carolina Catch U Later Apps into the SciFish App. That has been completed. Under Phase 2, launch SciFish with these two projects, expand the species to meet some other data needs, and develop the SciFish project builder. That is also underway and laying the groundwork for policy.

Phase 3 is to continue the data collection, develop that policy guidance, and finish the SciFish Project Builder, and then move it on from prototype into production. In the next slide we did meet, the SciFish group met with the ACCSP Leadership Team back in June. They suggested that draft policies of how to handle

things like what questions should be asked, how would a program apply to be part of this.

Does that get written and drafted by the current SciFish group? Then with membership and input from the Technical Committees, Operations and Advisors. This is the same group we talked about earlier today. Develop that Advisory Group and then once the policies are drafted, that final approval will lie with Operation Committee or Coordinating Council as appropriate, so that we don't spend too much time in the weeds at Coordinating Council.

Next slide is about outreach. You see Julie and I are wearing new ACCSP outfits, yay! We have our staff shirts on. Also, there were new handouts and stickers out there. There are different outreach items that are available. There are phone cases, and some dry bags and some hats. You all have a hat in front of you, for those of you who are here.

Enjoy that and if you're out, maybe doing the Laura Leach Fishing Tournament tomorrow night when it gets cold, you've got a hat, so there you go. But anyway, we are excited to have those things, but more consistently at a wider audience, we've been keeping up with the Committee Newsletters, those were in your packets. Julie and Marissa have been generating weekly tweets. Those have been getting really good feedback as well, and contributing to the ASMFC communications plan, both through Fisheries Focus and the Atlantic Coast Fisheries News. That is the end of the program updates, and if you want to entertain questions.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes at ACCSP, Geoff, so I appreciate you taking the time to hit on that many things. But as we know there are a lot of people back there working to keep this thing moving smoothly, and to make the many advances that you went over, so I appreciate that. Does anybody have any questions for Geoff on all of those items? Yes, Lynn.

MS. FEGLEY: I continue to love the Committee Updates and just to thank the staff for all of their

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hard work. Oh, and you may have to verify your identity on Twitter going forward, FYI.

MR. WHITE: Is that another comment about ACCSP keeping up? No problem.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIR

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Okay for online? We are good to move ahead. Okay, thank you. We have some more business. My illustrious term as Chair has gone by in a rapid two years. Jason, I think, well he's here, so he's ready to take over as Chair, perhaps and we'll hand it over to Geoff to handle this bit of administrative business.

MR. WHITE: Before we actually do a nomination for Vice-Chair, congratulations, Jason, you're the new Chair. Before we do nominations for Vice-Chair, I did want to take this moment. I'm being corrected, we need a motion for Jason to Chair.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Somebody like to make a motion, yes, Dan, thank you. Do you want to read that out?

MR. DANIEL McKIERNAN: Yes, motion to elect Dr. Jason McNamee as the Coordinating Council Chair.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: And a second. Jim. Any discussion on the motion? We got a second, Jim. All right, it looks like we're caught up on the screen. Any objections? All right, seeing none, congratulations, Jason.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR

MR. WHITE: Okay, let's stick with this. We need to nominate a new Vice-Chair. I see a hand, Lynn.

MS. FEGLEY: I would like to nominate my good friend from the state of Georgia, Kathy Knowlton as Vice-Chair. If I would move to do so, thank you.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: There are a lot of second hands down at the end. We'll go with Dee for the second, since she is retiring and leaving us. Awesome, thank you. Any discussion on the motion? Yes, please, Jim.

MR. GILMORE: Just Kathy may want to know, many years ago when I was elected Vice-Chair, and Eric Smith was the Chair. He said don't worry, you'll have two years to learn this stuff, and then he retired the next meeting. Just so you know, Kathy, there are always surprises with this Committee.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, you never know, poor Lynn had to do Chair for three years. Kathy, do you accept the nomination?

MS. KNOWLTON: I do. I would just like to say, Lynn and Dee, nicely done, nicely done to both of my esteemed colleagues indeed. It's sort of a requirement to give them my level of comments. But I still have a very large interest in ACCSP, even though I've been involved over 20 years, so thanks, you all, I appreciate your confidence.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All right, is there any objection to the motion? No, Kathy, you can't object either. Seeing none; the motion stands approved. We now have new leadership, excellent, thank you.

MR. WHITE: I would like to take a moment before we get off this item, to extend a heartfelt thank you to John for his leadership and centering guidance over the last two years as Chair, as well as informally since we first connected on the ASMFC Tautaug Management Plan in the late '90s. But yes, John, we have added you to the plaque of Coordinating Council Chairs, which we do hang outside in the Commission Office. But anyway, we've got you on the list.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Thank you, Geoff, that's quite a cast of characters for sure. (Applause) It seems like only yesterday you were a graduate student working on tog, that's for sure.

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council
The Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

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OTHER BUSINESS

MR. WHITE: I think we do have one more item under Other Business, and this, Dee, would you mind coming up to visit us. Dee, this is her last meeting. We wanted to get you a gift, and a very large card. But anyway, Dee has been with ACCSP for 27 years, if I have that correct.

MS. LUPTON: Yes.

MR. WHITE: I consider Dee one of our founding members from the original MOU Creation Crowd in 1995, roles on literally I think every committee that's ever been part of ACCSP. Thank you for your guidance and continuation of thoughtful processes and moving us forward, and kind of keeping us accountable to ourselves, and to each other, and moving things forward. A lot of the funding decision and step-down processes were things that you and Kathy and others weighed in a lot on, and anyway, thank you and good luck.

MS. LUPTON: I appreciate this. I really do. I am retiring, I have retired kind of. Retired for the past month. The ACCSP I consider just as much a part of my career as the Division of Marine Fisheries, and we've achieved a lot of items in North Carolina. We kind of come from the Gulf end, and I was trying to explain that earlier this morning where we came from. But it's been a lot of evolution. We didn't even have staff; I think we borrowed staff from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to start off. But we've come a long way, and I'm very proud to see what's been achieved on the entire Atlantic Coast. I'm very proud being part of it, and part of the people I've met throughout time and everything, so thank you very much.

MR. WHITE: Mr. Chairman, are you ready to adjourn?

ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Is there any other business? I don't have any other items, so it's 2:50. We came pretty darn close to 2:45. I think the Coordinating Council is adjourned.

(Whereupon the meeting convened at 2:50 p.m. on Monday November 7, 2022.)

ACCSP FY24 RFP Summary of Changes

1. **RFP**
   1.1. General Changes
      1.1.1. Updated dates appropriately

2. **Funding Decision Document**
   2.1. General changes
      2.1.1. All dates have been updated

   2.2. Appendix A (**PAGE 15**)
      2.2.1. Added Year 6 (final year) value ($43,635) for RI black sea bass project

3. **Biological Priority Matrix**

   3.1 Updated based on the matrix review held at the Biological Review Panel meeting held in February of 2023.

4. **Bycatch Priority Matrix**

   3.1 Updated based on the matrix review held at the Bycatch Prioritization Committee meeting held in February of 2023.

5. **Recreational Technical Committee Priorities**

   5.1 Updated to reflect the priorities outline in the MRIP Regional Implementation Plan for the Atlantic Coast (2023-2027) as developed by the Recreational Technical Committee and Coordinating Council.

6. **Socioeconomic Priority Data Elements – No Changes**

7. **Timeline for Proposal Review**
   7.1. Dates are updated
   7.2. Overall timeline remains relatively the same

8. **Ranking Criteria Document – No Changes**

TO: ACCSP Coordinating Council and All ACCSP Committees

FROM: Geoff White, ACCSP Director

SUBJECT: ACCSP Request for 2024 Proposals

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (Program or ACCSP) is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to Program Partners and Committees for FY24 funding.

ACCSP's Funding Decision Document (FDD) provides an overview of the funding decision process, guidance for preparing and submitting proposals, and information on funding recipients' post-award responsibilities. Projects in areas not specifically addressed in the FDD may still be considered for funding if they help achieve Program goals. These goals, listed by priority, are improvements in:

1a. Catch, effort, and landings data (including licensing, permit and vessel registration data);
1b. Biological data (equal to 1a.);
2. Releases, discards and protected species data; and,
3. Economic and sociological data.

Project activities that will be considered according to priority may include:

- Partner implementation of data collection programs;
- Continuation of current Program-funded partner programs;
- Funding for personnel required to implement Program related projects/proposals; and
- Data management system upgrades or establishment of partner data feeds to the Data Warehouse and/or Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System.

Proposals for biological sampling should target priority species in the top quartile (Attachment II) of the Biological Priority Matrix. Proposals for observer coverage should align with fisheries affecting the top quartile priority species (Attachment III) of the Bycatch Priority Matrix. Brief descriptions of the current levels of biological or bycatch sampling by any of the Partners would be helpful to the review process. Projects for recreational catch and effort data should target the priorities set by the Recreational Technical Committee (Attachment IV). Projects involving socioeconomic data should reference the Socioeconomic Priority Data Elements (Attachment V).

Proposals to continue Program-funded partner projects ("maintenance proposals") may not contain significant changes in scope (for example the addition of bycatch data collection to a dealer reporting project), and must include in the cover letter whether there are any changes in the current proposal from prior years' and, if so, provide a brief summary of those changes.

Additionally, in FY16 a long-term funding strategy policy was instituted to limit the duration of maintenance projects. Maintenance projects are now subject to a funding reduction following their

Our vision is to produce dependable and timely marine fishery statistics for Atlantic coast fisheries that are collected, processed, and disseminated according to common standards agreed upon by all program partners.

fourth year of maintenance funding. For maintenance projects entering year 6, a further 33 percent cut will be applied and funding will cease in year 7.

All project submissions must comply with the Program Standards found here. Please consider using this successful project proposal as a template. Overhead rates may not exceed 25% of total costs unless mandated by law or policy. Items included within overhead should not also be listed as in-kind match.

Submissions will be reviewed in accordance with the FDD (Attachment I), ranking criteria (Attachment VII), and funding allocation. Current funding allocation guidelines are 75% for maintenance projects and 25% for new projects within the Program priorities. If either allocation is not fully utilized, remaining funds will be available to approved projects in the other category. For example, if maintenance projects only use 67% of the total available funds, the remaining balance would be added to the 25% new project allocation to fund new projects as approved by the Coordinating Council.

Attachment VI provides a timeline for the FY24 funding process. The final decision on proposals to be funded for FY24 will be made in October 2023. Project awards will be subject to funding availability and, if there is a funding shortfall, awards may be adjusted in accordance with the FDD. Successful applicants will be notified when funding becomes available.

Project Investigators will be required to report progress directly to the Program's Operations and Advisory Committees in addition to meeting the standard Federal reporting requirements.

Please submit initial proposals as Microsoft Word and Excel files no later than **June 16, 2023** by email to Julie DeFilippi Simpson, ACCSP Deputy Director julie.simpson@accsp.org. If you have any questions about the funding decision process, please contact your agency's Operations Committee member (http://www.accsp.org/committees) or ACCSP staff (703-842-0780).

RELEVANT ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT I	FY2024 Funding Decision Document
ATTACHMENT II	FY2024 Biological Priority Matrix
ATTACHMENT III	FY2024 Bycatch Priority Matrix
ATTACHMENT IV	FY2024 Recreational Technical Committee Priorities
ATTACHMENT V	FY2024 Socioeconomic Priority Data Elements
ATTACHMENT VI	FY2024 Timeline for Proposal Review
ATTACHMENT VII	FY2024 Ranking Criteria Document

Our vision is to produce dependable and timely marine fishery statistics for Atlantic coast fisheries that are collected, processed, and disseminated according to common standards agreed upon by all program partners.

SOCIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC DATA

The Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (CESS) developed a list of priority socioeconomic data elements for coastwide collection. The list is not exhaustive; it represents key elements that can serve as a baseline of fundamental socioeconomic information to support management decisions. The list of priority data elements includes:

1. Trip-level information (to be collected through voluntary or mandatory reporting, for all or a subset of participants)
2. Data elements for an owner/operator survey (to be collected through an annual or semiannual survey)*

The CESS identified these priority data elements with the understanding that data would be collected in the aforementioned methods and would be linked to other ACCSP data through identifiers. Alternative collection methods or the inability to link data with identifiers may require changes to the priority data elements list in order to ensure the utility of the data.

Note: Priorities for standalone surveys will differ from the priorities identified below due to their distinct methodologies and inability to leverage other ACCSP data. The CESS should be consulted when identifying data elements for standalone socioeconomic surveys to ensure their utility and, where practical, consistency across studies.

*The ACCSP recognizes the analytic value of collecting the data elements below. We recommend that partners be aware of and take into account the reporting burden to industry, the sensitivity and at times confidentiality of socioeconomic information, and other relevant perspectives when determining which data elements to collect and set as optional or mandatory.

A. COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Table 1:
TRIP LEVEL INFORMATION

DATA ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION / CRITERIA
Trip Information	
Vessel Identifier	-Unique vessel identifier (e.g., US Coast Guard, state registration number, etc.) -These identifiers must be trackable through time and space.
Trip Identifier	- Unique identifier assigned to the trip
Labor Cost Information	
Total Crew Cost	- Total monetary amount that was given to the crew for this trip

Total Captain Cost (If other than owner)	- Total monetary amount that was given to the captain for this trip
Owner Share	- Total monetary amount the vessel (or permit) owner received for this trip
Other Trip Cost Information	
Fuel & Oil Costs	- Cost for all fuel and oil used on this trip
Bait Costs	- Cost for all bait used on this trip
Ice Costs	- Cost for all ice used on this trip
Grocery Costs	- Cost for all groceries used on this trip
Miscellaneous Costs	- Cost of any other expenses specific to this trip (not including wages, overhead, or fixed costs) E.g., offloading/non-crew labor costs, packaging costs, etc.

Table 2:
DATA ELEMENTS FOR OWNER/OPERATOR SURVEY

DATA ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION / CRITERIA
Vessel Identification*	-Unique vessel identifier (e.g., US Coast Guard, state registration number, etc.) -These identifiers must be trackable through time and space.
Fishermen Identification	-Unique ACCSP Identifier for fishermen
Labor Cost Information	
Crew Payment System	- Code to identify crew & captain payment system (e.g. share system, per day, per trip)
Percentage Share Crew	- Percentage share to crew (if applicable)
Percentage Share Captain	- Percentage share to captain (if applicable)
Percentage Share Boat/Owner	- Percentage share to boat/owner (if applicable)
Crew Wages	- Average crew wages for the year (crew payment system indicates whether by hour, trip, day, etc.) (if applicable)
Captain Wages	- Average captain wages for the year (crew payment system indicates whether by hour, trip, day, etc.) (if applicable)
Annual Costs (Most Recent Year)	
Labor costs (captain and crew not in household)	- Total costs of labor for captain and crew outside the owner/operator's household
Labor costs (to people within owner/operator household)	- Total costs of labor for captain and crew within the owner/operator's household
Annual Insurance Costs	- Hull, health, protection and indemnity, mortgage, etc.
Dockage	- Total cost for vessel dockage, home port and transient dockage
Loan Payments	- Principal and interest
New Gear/ Equipment	- Total cost of new gear or equipment acquired
Repairs & Maintenance	- Total cost of repairs & maintenance of vessel and gear that were conducted in the previous year
Permits & Licenses	- Total cost of fishing permits / licenses for the previous year

Leased Quota Cost	- Total cost of leased quota for the previous year
Other Professional Expenses	- Professional expenses not otherwise itemized
Demographic Information	
Household Size	- # of individuals in the household (including respondent)
Employment Status	- Current employment status (e.g., employed fulltime, part-time, unemployed, retired, etc.)
Education	- Highest level of education completed
Marital/Cohabitational Status	- Current marital or cohabitational status of respondent
Age	- Age of the respondent
Gender	- Gender of the respondent
Ethnicity	- Ethnic background
Total Annual Household Income	- Total annual household income
Number of Household Individuals Involved in Commercial Fishing	-Total number of household individuals involved in commercial fishing (including respondent)
Percent of Annual Household Income from Commercial Fishing	- Percent of household income that is generated through commercial fishing or support activities
County of Residence	-County of residence
Years in Community	- Years in county of residence
Fishing Activity Information	
Fishermen status	-Fishermen status (e.g. full time, part time, not actively fishing)
Years in Commercial Fishing	- Number of years participating in commercial fishery
Permits held	- fishing permits held (by permit type)
Permit use	- Were all permits used within the last year
Reason for Latency	-Reason for not using permit within the last year
Primary Species Landed by Month	- Primary species landed by month
Primary Gears Used by Month	- Primary gears used by month

*Vessel Identifier is needed to link trip-level data to survey results

Funding Decision Process
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
May 2023

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (the Program) is a state-federal cooperative initiative to improve recreational and commercial fisheries data collection and data management activities on the Atlantic coast. The program supports further innovation in fisheries-dependent data collection and management technology through its annual funding process.

Each year, ACCSP issues a Request for Proposals (RFP) to its Program Partners. The ACCSP Operations and Advisory Committees review submitted project proposals and make funding recommendations to the Deputy Director and the Coordinating Council.

This document provides an overview of the funding decision process, guidance for preparing and submitting proposals, and information on funding recipients' post-award responsibilities, including providing reports on project progress.

Overview of the Funding Decision Process
- **Funding Decision Process Timeline**
- **Detailed Steps**

Funding Decision Process Timeline

April- Operations and Advisory Committees develop annual funding priorities, criteria and allocation targets (maintenance vs. new projects)

May- Coordinating Council issues Request for Proposals (RFP)

June- Partners submit proposals

July- Operations and Advisory Committees review initial proposals, PIs are invited (not mandatory) to this meeting to answer questions and hear feedback; ACCSP staff provide initial review results to submitting Partner

August- Final proposals are submitted. Final proposals must be submitted electronically to the Deputy Director, and/or designee by close of business on the day of the specified deadline. Final proposals received after the RFP deadline will not be considered for funding.

September- Operations and Advisory Committees review and rank final proposals

<u>October-</u> Funding recommendations presented to Coordinating Council; Coordinating Council makes final funding decision

ACCSP Staff submits notification to submitting Partner of funded projects and notification of approved projects to appropriate grant funding agency (e.g. NOAA Fisheries Regional Grants Program Office, "NOAA Grants") by Partner

<u>As Needed-</u> Operation and/or Leadership Team and Coordinating Council review and make final decision with contingencies (e.g. scope of work, rescissions, no-cost extensions, returned unused funds, etc.)

Detailed Steps of Funding Decision Process

<u>1. Develop Annual Funding Priorities, Criteria and Allocation Targets (maintenance vs. new projects).</u>
Prior to issuing the Request for Proposals, the Coordinating Council will approve the annual funding criteria and allocation targets. These will be used to rank projects and allocate funding between maintenance and new projects respectively.

In FY16, a long-term funding strategy policy was instituted to limit the duration of maintenance projects. Maintenance projects are now subject to a funding reduction following their fourth year of maintenance funding.

- For maintenance projects entering year 5 of ACCSP funding in FY20, a 33 percent funding cut was applied to whichever sum was larger: the project's prior two-year-average base funding set in FY16, or the average annual sum received during the project's four years of full *maintenance* funding. In year 6, a further 33 percent cut will be applied and funding will cease in year 7. Please see Appendix A for a list of maintenance projects entering year 6 in FY20 and the maximum funds available for these projects.

- For more recent maintenance projects (i.e., those entering year 5 of maintenance funding after FY20), the base funding will be calculated as the average of funding received during the project's four years as a *maintenance* project. These projects will receive a 33 percent cut in year 5, a further 33 percent cut in year 6, and funding will cease in year 7. Please see Appendix A for a list of maintenance projects entering year 5 or 6 in FY24 and the maximum funds available for these projects.

<u>2. Issue Request for Proposals</u>
An RFP will be sent to all Program Partners and Committees no later than the week after the spring Coordinating Council meeting. The RFP will include the ranking criteria, allocation targets approved by the Coordinating Council, and general Program priorities taken from Goal 3 of the current ASMFC Five-Year Strategic Plan. The RFP and related documents will also be posted on the Program's website here.

All proposals MUST be submitted either by a Program Partner, jointly by several Program Partners, or through a Program Committee. The public has the ability to work with a Program Partner to develop and submit a proposal. Principle investigators are strongly encouraged to work with their Operations Committee member in the development of any proposal. All proposals must be submitted electronically to the Deputy Director, and/or designee, in the standard format.

3. Review initial proposals

Proposals will be reviewed by staff and the Operations and Advisory Committees. Committee members are encouraged to coordinate with their offices and/or constituents to provide input to the review process. Operations Committee members are also encouraged to work with staff in their offices who have submitted a proposal in order to represent the proposal during the review. Project PIs will be invited to attend the initial proposal review, held in July. The review and evaluation of all written proposals will take into consideration the ranking criteria, funding allocation targets and the overall Program Priorities as specified in the RFP. Proposals may be forwarded to relevant Program technical committees for further review of the technical feasibility and statistical validity. Proposals that fail to meet the ACCSP standards may be recommended for changes or rejected.

4. Provide initial review results to submitting Partner

Program staff will notify the submitting Partner of suggested changes, requested responses, or questions arising from the review. The submitting Partner will be given an opportunity to submit a final proposal incorporating suggested changes in the same format previously described in Step 2(b) by the final RFP deadline.

5. Review and rank final proposals

The review and ranking of all proposals will take into consideration the ranking criteria, funding allocation targets, and overall Program Priorities as specified in the RFP. The Deputy Director and the Advisory and Operations Committees will develop a list of prioritized recommended proposals and forward them for discussion, review, and approval by the Coordinating Council.

6. Proposal approval by the Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council will review a summary of all submitted proposals and prioritized recommended proposals from the Operations and Advisory Committees. Each representative on the Coordinating Council will have one vote during final prioritization of project proposals. Projects to be funded by the Program will be approved by the Coordinating Council by the end of November each year. The Deputy Director will submit a pre-notification to the appropriate NOAA Grants office of the prioritized proposals to expedite processing when those offices receive Partner grant submissions.

7. Confirmation of final funding amounts
The Director and Deputy Director will be notified by NOAA Fisheries of any federal grant adjustments (e.g. additions or rescissions). Additional funds will generally go to the next available ranked project. Reductions may include, but are not limited to:

- Lower than anticipated amounts from any source of funding
- Rescission of funding after initial allocations have been made
- Partial or complete withdrawal of funds from any source

If these or other situations arise, the Operations Committee will notify Partners with approved proposals to reduce their requested budgets or to withdraw a proposal entirely. If this does not reduce the overall requested amount sufficiently, the Director, Deputy Director, the Operations Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, and the Advisory Committee Chair will develop a final recommendation and forward to the ACCSP Leadership Team of the Coordinating Council. These options to address funding contingencies may include:

- Eliminating the lowest-ranked proposal(s)
- A fixed percentage cut to all proposals' budgets
- A directed reduction in a specific proposal(s)

8. Notification to submitting Partner of funded projects and submittal of project documents to appropriate grants agency (e.g. NOAA Grants) by Partner.
Notification detailing the Coordinating Council's actions relevant to a Partner's proposal will be sent to each Partner by Program staff.

- Approved projects from Non-federal Partners must be submitted as full applications (federal forms, project and budget narratives, and other attachments) to NOAA Grants via www.grants.gov. These documents must reflect changes or conditions approved by the Coordinating Council.
- Non-federal Partners must provide the Deputy Director with an electronic copy of the narrative and either an electronic or hard copy of the budget of the grant application as submitted to the grants agency (e.g. NOAA Grants).
- Federal Partners do not submit applications to NOAA Grants.

9. Operation and/or Leadership Team and Coordinating Council review and final decision with contingencies or emergencies.
Committee(s) review and decide project changes (e.g. scope of work, rescissions, no-cost extensions, returned unused funds, etc.) during the award period.

Proposal Guidance
- **General Proposal Guidelines**
- **Format**
- **Budget Template**

General Proposal Guidelines

- The Program is predicated upon the most efficient use of available funds. Many jurisdictions have data collection and data management programs which are administered by other fishery management agencies. Detail coordination efforts your agency/Committee has undertaken to demonstrate cost-efficiency and non-duplication of effort.

- All Program Partners conducting projects for implementation of the program standards in their jurisdictions are required to submit data to the Program in prescribed standards, where the module is developed and formats are available. Detail coordination efforts with Program data management staff with projects of a research and/or pilot study nature to submit project information and data for distribution to all Program Partners and archives.

- If appropriate to your project, please detail your agency's data management capability. Include the level of staff support (if any) required to accomplish the proposed work. If contractor services are required, detail the level and costs.

- Before funding will be considered beyond year one of a project, the Partner agency shall detail in writing how the Partner agency plans to assume partial or complete funding or, if not feasible, explain why.

- If appropriate to your project, detail any planned or ongoing outreach initiatives. Provide scope and level of outreach coordinated with either the Program Assistant and/or Deputy Director.

- Proposals including a collection of aging or other biological samples must clarify Partner processing capabilities (i.e., how processed and by whom).

- Provide details on how the proposal will benefit the Program as a whole, outside of benefits to the Partner or Committee.

- Proposals that request funds for law enforcement should confirm that all funds will be allocated towards reporting compliance.

- Proposals must detail any in-kind effort/resources, and if no in-kind resources are included, state why.

- Proposals must meet the same quality as would be appropriate for a grant proposal for ACFCMA or other federal grant.

- Assistance is available from Program staff, or an Operations Committee member for proposal preparation and to insure that Program standards are addressed in the body of a given proposal.

- Even though a large portion of available resources may be allocated to one or more jurisdictions, new systems (including prototypes) will be selected to serve all Partners' needs.

- Partners submitting pilot or other short-term programs are encouraged to lease large capital budget items (vehicles, etc.) and where possible, hire consultants or contractors rather than hire new permanent personnel.

- The Program will not fund proposals that do not meet Program standards. However, in the absence of approved standards, pilot studies may be funded.

- Proposals will be considered for modules that may be fully developed but have not been through the formal approval process. Pilot proposals will be considered in those cases.

- The Operations Committee may contact Partners concerning discrepancies or inconsistencies in any proposal and may recommend modifications to proposals subject to acceptance by the submitting Partner and approval by the Coordinating Council. The Operations Committee may recommend changes or conditions to proposals. The Coordinating Council may conditionally approve proposals. These contingencies will be documented and forwarded to the submitting Partner in writing by Program staff.

- Any proposal submitted after the initial RFP deadline will not be considered, in addition to any proposal submitted by a Partner which is not current with all reporting obligations.

Proposal Format

Applicant Name: Identify the name of the applicant organization(s).

Project Title: A brief statement to identify the project.

Project Type: Identify whether new or maintenance project.

> *New Project – Partner project never funded by the Program. New projects may not exceed a duration of one year.*

> *Maintenance Project – Project funded by the Program that conducts the same scope of work as a previously funded new or maintenance project. These proposals may not contain significant changes in scope (e.g., the addition of bycatch data collection to a catch/effort dealer reporting project). PIs must include in the cover letter whether there are any changes in the current proposal from prior years' and, if so, provide a brief summary of those changes. At year 5 of maintenance funding, a project's base funding will be calculated as the average of funding received during the project's four years as a* maintenance *project.*

Requested Award Amount: Provide the total requested amount of proposal. Do not include an estimate of the NOAA grant administration fee.

Requested Award Period: Provide the total time period of the proposed project. The award period typically will be limited to one-year projects.

Objective: Specify succinctly the "why", "what", and "when" of the project.

Need: Specify the need for the project and the association to the Program.

Results and Benefits: Identify and document the results or benefits to be expected from the proposed project. Clearly indicate how the proposed work meets various elements outlined in the ACCSP Proposal Ranking Criteria Document (Appendix B). Some potential benefits may include: fundamental in nature to all fisheries; region-wide in scope; answering or addressing region-wide questions or policy issues; required by MSFCMA, ACFCMA, MMPA, ESA, or other acts; transferability; and/or demonstrate a practical application to the Program.

Data Delivery Plan: Include coordinated method of the data delivery plan to the Program in addition to module data elements gathered. The data delivery plan should include the frequency of data delivery (i.e. monthly, semi-annual, annual) and any coordinate delivery to other relevant partners.

Approach: List all procedures necessary to attain each project objective. If a project includes work in more than one module, identify approximately what proportion of effort is comprised within each module (e.g., catch and effort 45%, biological 30% and bycatch 25%). Please note that only one primary module and one secondary module are considered for ranking.

Geographic Location: The location where the project will be administered and where the scope of the project will be conducted.

Milestone Schedule: An activity schedule in table format for the duration of the project, starting with Month 1 and ending with a three-month report writing period.

Project Accomplishments Measurement: A table showing the project goals and how progress towards those goals will be measured. In some situations the metrics will be numerical such as numbers of anglers contacted, fish measured, and/or otoliths collected, etc.; while in other cases the metrics will be binary such as software tested and software completed. Additional details such as intermediate metrics to achieve overall proposed goals should be included especially if the project seeks additional years of funding.

Cost Summary (Budget): Detail all costs to be incurred in this project in the format outlined in the budget guidance and template at the end of this document. A budget narrative should be included which explains and justifies the expenditures in each category. Provide cost projections for federal and total costs. Provide details on Partner/in-kind contribution (e.g., staff time, facilities, IT support, overhead, etc.). Details should be provided on start-up versus long-term operational costs.

> **In-kind** - [1]Defined as activities that could exist (or could happen) without the grant. [2]In-kind contributions are from the grantee organization. In-kind is typically in the form of the value of personnel, equipment and services, including direct and indirect costs.
>
> [1] The following are generally accepted as in-kind contributions:
>
> i. Personnel time given to the project including state and federal employees
>
> ii. Use of existing state and federal equipment (e.g. data collection and server platforms, Aging equipment, microscopes, boats, vehicles)

Overhead rates may not exceed 25% of total costs unless mandated by law or policy. Program Partners may not be able to control overhead/indirect amounts charged. However, where there is flexibility, the lowest amount of overhead should be charged. When this is accomplished indicate on the 'cost summary' sheet the difference between the overhead that could have been charged and the actual amount charged, if different. If overhead is charged to the Program, it cannot also be listed as in-kind.

Maintenance Projects: Maintenance proposals must provide project history table, description of completed data delivery to the ACCSP and other relevant partners, table of total project cost by year, a summary table of metrics and achieved goals, and the budget narrative from the most recent year's funded proposal.

Principal Investigator: List the principal investigator(s) and attach curriculum vitae (CV) for each. Limit each CV to two pages. Additional information may be requested.

Budget Guidelines & Template

All applications must have a detailed budget narrative explaining and justifying the expenditures by object class. Include in the discussion the requested dollar amounts and how they were derived. A spreadsheet or table detailing expenditures is useful to clarify the costs (see template below). The following are highlights from the NOAA Budget Guidelines document to help Partners formulate their budget narrative. The full Budget Guidelines document is available here.

Object Classes:

Personnel: include salary, wage, and hours committed to project for each person by job title. Identify each individual by name and position, if possible.

Fringe Benefits: should be identified for each individual. Describe in detail if the rate is greater than 35 % of the associated salary.

Travel: all travel costs must be listed here. Provide a detailed breakdown of travel costs for trips over $5,000 or 5 % of the award. Include destination, duration, type of transportation, estimated cost, number of travelers, lodging, mileage rate and estimated number of miles, and per diem.

Equipment: equipment is any single piece of non-expendable, tangible personal property that costs $5,000 or more per unit and has a useful life of more than one year. List each piece of equipment, the unit cost, number of units, and its purpose. Include a lease vs. purchase cost analysis. If there are no lease options available, then state that.

Supplies: purchases less than $5,000 per item are considered by the federal government as supplies. Include a detailed, itemized explanation for total supplies costs over $5,000 or 5% of the award.

Contractual: list each contract or subgrant as a separate item. Provide a detailed cost breakdown and describe products/services to be provided by the contractor.   Include a sole source justification, if applicable.

Other: list items, cost, and justification for each expense.

Total direct charges

Indirect charges: If claiming indirect costs, please submit a copy of the current approved negotiated indirect cost agreement. If expired and/or under review, a copy of the transmittal letter that accompanied the indirect cost agreement application is requested.

Totals of direct and indirect charges

Example. Budget narrative should provide further detail on these costs.

Description	Calculation	Cost
Personnel (a)		
Supervisor	Ex: 500 hrs x $20/hr	$10,000
Biologist		
Technician		
Fringe (b)		
Supervisor	Ex: 15% of salary	$1500
Biologist		
Technician		
Travel (c)		
Mileage for sampling trips	Ex: Estimate 2000 miles x $0.33/mile	$660
Travel for meeting		
Equipment (d)		
Boat	Ex: $7000, based on current market research	$7000
Supplies (e)		
Safety supplies		$1200
Sampling supplies		$1000
Laptop computers	2 laptops @$1500 each	$3000
Software		$500
Contractual (f)		
Data Entry Contract	Ex: 1000 hrs x $20/hr	$20,000
Other (h)		
Printing and binding		
Postage		
Telecommunications charges		
Internet Access charges		
Totals		
Total Direct Charges (i)		
Indirect Charges (j)		
Total (sum of Direct and Indirect) (k)		

Post-award Responsibilities
- **Changing the Scope of Work**
- **Requesting a No-cost Extension**
- **Declaring Unused/Returned Funds**
- **Reporting Requirements**
- **Report Format**
- **Programmatic Review**

Changing the Scope of Work
Partners shall submit requests for amendments to approved projects in writing to the Deputy Director. The Coordinating Council member for that Partner must sign the request.

When Partners request an amendment to an approved project, the Deputy Director will contact the Chair and Vice Chair of the Operations Committee. The Deputy Director and Operations Committee Chairs will determine if the requested change is minor or substantial. The Chairs and Deputy Director may approve minor changes.

For substantial proposed changes, a decision document including the opinions of the Chairs and the Deputy Director will be sent to the Operations Committee and the ACCSP Leadership Team of the Coordinating Council for review.

The ACCSP Leadership Team will decide to approve or reject the request for change and notify the Deputy Director, who will send a written notification to the Partner's principal investigator with a copy to the Operations Committee.

When a requested major amendment is submitted shortly before a Coordinating Council meeting, the approval of the amendment will be placed on the Council Agenda.

The Deputy Director will notify NOAA Grants of any change in scope of work for final approval for non-federal proposals, and the Partner will need to request a Change in Scope through Grants Online. Necessary communications will be maintained between the concerned Partner, the Program and NOAA Grants. Any changes must be approved through the normal NOAA Grants process.

Requesting a No-cost Extension
If additional time is needed to complete the project, Program Partners can request a no-cost extension to their award period. Partners should let the Program know of the need for additional time and then request the extension as an Award Action Request through NOAA Grants Online at least 30 days before the end date of the award.

Necessary communications will be maintained between the concerned Partner, the Program, and NOAA Grants office. Any changes must be approved through the normal NOAA Grants process.

Declaring Unused/Returned Funds

In an effort to limit the instances in which funds are not completely used during the award period, draw down reports from the NOAA Grants offices indicating remaining grant balances will be periodically reviewed during each fiscal year.

While effort should be made to complete the project as proposed, if Program Partners find that they will not be able to make use of their entire award, they should notify the Program and their NOAA Federal Program Officer as soon as possible. Depending on the timing of the action, the funds may be able to be reused within the Program, or they may have to be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

Program Partners must submit a written document to the Deputy Director outlining unused project funds potentially being returned. The Partner must also notify their Coordinating Council member (if applicable) for approval to return the unused funds. If the funding is available for re-use within the Program, the Director and Deputy Director will confer with the Operations Committee Chair and Vice-Chair and the Advisory Committee Chair, and then submit a written recommendation to the ACCSP Leadership Team of the Coordinating Council for final approval on the plan to distribute the returned money.

Necessary communications will be maintained between the concerned Partner, the Program, and NOAA Grants office. Any changes must be approved through the normal NOAA Grants process.

Reporting Requirements

Program staff will assess project performance.

The Partner project recipients must abide by the NOAA Regional Grant Programs reporting requirements and as listed below. All semi-annual and final reports are to include a table showing progress toward each of the progress goals as defined in Step 2b and additional metrics as appropriate. Also, all Partner project recipients will submit the following reports based on the project start date to the Deputy Director:

- Semi-annual reports (due 30 days after the semi-annual period) throughout the project period including time periods during no-cost extensions,
- One final report (due 90 days after project completion).
- Federal Partners must submit reports to the Deputy Director, and State Partners must submit reports to both the Deputy Director and the appropriate NOAA Grants office.

Program staff will conduct an initial assessment of the final report to ensure the report is complete in terms of reporting requirements. Program staff will serve as technical monitors to review submitted reports. NOAA staff also reviews the reports submitted via Grants Online.

A project approved on behalf of a Program Committee will be required to follow the reporting requirements specified above. The principle investigator (if not the Chair of the Committee) will submit the report(s) to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee for review and approval. The Committee Chair is responsible for submitting the required report(s) to the Program.

Joint projects will assign one principle investigator responsible for submitting the required reports. The principle investigator will be identified within the project proposal. The submitted reports should be a collaborative effort between all Partners involved in the joint project.

Project recipients will provide all reports to the Program in electronic format.

Partners who receive no-cost extensions must notify the Deputy Director within 30 days of receiving approval of the extension. Semi-annual and final reports will continue to be required through the extended grant period as previously stated.

Partners that have not met reporting requirements for past/current projects may not submit a new proposal.

A verbal presentation of project results may be requested. Partners will be required to submit copies of project specifications and procedures, software development, etc. to assist other Program Partners with the implementation of similar programs.

Report Format
Semi-Annual(s) – Progress Reports: (3-4 pages)
- Title page - Project name, project dates (semi-annual period covered and complete project period), submitting Partner, and date.
- Objective
- Activities Completed – bulleted list by objective.
- Progress or lack of progress of incomplete activities during the period of semi-annual progress – bulleted list by objective.
- Activities planned during the next reporting period.
- Metrics table
- Milestone Chart – original and revised if changes occurred during the project period.

Final Report:
- Title page – Project name, project dates, submitting Partner, and date.
- Abstract/Executive Summary (including key results)
- Introduction
- Procedures

- Results:
  - Description of data collected.
  - The quality of the data pertaining to the objective of the project (e.g. representative to the scope of the project, quantity collected, etc.).
  - Compiled data results.
  - Summary of statistics.
- Discussion:
  - Discuss the interpretation of results of the project by addressing questions such as, but not limited to:
  - What occurred?
  - What did not occur that was expected to occur?
  - Why did expected results not occur?
  - Applicability of study results to Program goals.
  - Recommendations/Summary/Metrics
- Summarized budget expenditures and deviations (if any).

Programmatic review

Project reports will inform Partners of project outcomes. This will allow the Program as a whole to take advantage of lessons learned and difficulties encountered. Staff will provide final reports to the appropriate Committee(s). The Committees then can discuss the report(s) and make recommendations to modify the Data Collection Standards as appropriate. The recommendations will be submitted through the Program committee(s) review process.

Appendix A: Maximum Funding for Maintenance Projects Entering Year 5 or 6 of Funding in FY24

Projects in Year 5 or 6 of Maintenance Funding	Calculated Base (4-year avg)	Maximum Funding Year 5	Maximum Funding Year 6 (Final Year)
Advancing Fishery Dependent Data Collection for Black Sea Bass (Cetropristis striata) in the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Region Utilizing Modern Technology and a Vessel Research Fleet Approach	$132,229	$88,153	$43,635

Appendix B: Ranking Criteria Spreadsheet for Maintenance and New Projects

Ranking Guide – Maintenance Projects:

Primary Program Priority	**Point Range**	**Description of Ranking Consideration**
Catch and Effort Biological Sampling Bycatch/Species Interactions Social and Economic	0 – 10 0 – 10 0 – 6 0 – 4	Rank based on range within module and level of sampling defined under Program design. When considering biological, bycatch or recreational funding, rank according priority matrices.
Data Delivery Plan	+ 2	Additional points if a data delivery plan to Program is supplied and defined within the proposal.

Project Quality Factors	**Point Range**	**Description of Ranking Consideration**
Multi-Partner/Regional impact including broad applications	0 – 5	Rank based on the number of Partners involved in project OR regional scope of proposal (e.g. geographic range of the stock).
> yr 2 contains funding transition plan and/or justification for continuance	0 – 4	Rank based on defined funding transition plan away from Program funding or viable justification for continued Program funding.
In-kind contribution	0 – 4	1 = 1% - 25% 2 = 26% - 50% 3 = 51% - 75% 4 = 76% - 99%
Improvement in data quality/quantity/timeliness	0 – 4	1 = Maintain minimum level of needed data collections 4 = Improvements in data collection reflecting 100% of related module as defined within the Program design. Metadata is provided and defined within proposal if applicable.
Potential secondary module as a by-product (In program priority order)	0 – 3 0 – 3 0 – 3 0 – 1	Ranked based on additional module data collection and level of collection as defined within the Program design of individual module.
Impact on stock assessment	0 – 3	Rank based on the level of data collection that leads to new or greatly improved stock assessments.

Other Factors	Point Range	Description of Ranking Consideration
Properly Prepared	-1 – 1	Meets requirements as specified in funding decision document Step 2b and Guidelines
Merit	0 – 3	Ranked based on subjective worthiness

Ranking Guide – Maintenance Projects: (to be used only if funding available exceeds total Maintenance funding requested**)**

Ranking Factors	Point Range	Description of Ranking Consideration
Achieved Goals	0 – 3	Proposal indicates project has consistently met previous set goals. Current proposal provides project goals and if applicable, intermediate metrics to achieve overall achieved goals.
Data Delivery Plan	0 – 2	Ranked based if a data delivery plan to Program is supplied and defined within the proposal.
Level of Funding	-1 – 1	-1 = Increased funding from previous year 0 = Maintained funding from previous year 1 = Decreased funding from previous year
Properly Prepared	-1 – 1	-1 = Not properly prepared 1 = Properly prepared
Merit	0 – 3	Ranked based on subjective worthiness

Ranking Guide – New Projects:

Primary Program Priority	Point Range	Description of Ranking Consideration
Catch and Effort Biological Sampling Bycatch/Species Interactions Social and Economic	0 – 10 0 – 10 0 – 6 0 – 4	Rank based on range within module and level of sampling defined under Program design. When considering biological, bycatch or recreational funding, rank according priority matrices.
Data Delivery Plan	+ 2	Additional points if a data delivery plan to Program is supplied and defined within the proposal.

Project Quality Factors	Point Range	Description of Ranking Consideration
Multi-Partner/Regional impact including broad applications	0 – 5	Rank based on the number of Partners involved in project OR regional scope of proposal (e.g. fisheries sampled).
Contains funding transition plan / Defined end-point	0 – 4	Rank based on quality of funding transition plan or defined end point.
In-kind contribution	0 – 4	1 = 1% - 25% 2 = 26% - 50% 3 = 51% - 75% 4 = 76% - 99%
Improvement in data quality/quantity/timeliness	0 – 4	1 = Maintain minimum level of needed data collections ⬇ 4 = Improvements in data collection reflecting 100% of related module as defined within the Program design. Metadata is provided and defined within proposal if applicable.
Potential secondary module as a by-product (In program priority order)	0 – 3 0 – 3 0 – 3 0 – 1	Ranked based on additional module data collection and level of collection as defined within the Program design of individual module.
Impact on stock assessment	0 – 3	Rank based on the level of data collection that leads to new or greatly improved stock assessments.

Other Factors	Point Range	Description of Ranking Consideration
Innovative	0 – 3	Rank based on new technology, methodology, financial savings, etc.
Properly Prepared	-1 – 1	Meets requirements as specified in funding decision document Step 2b and Guidelines
Merit	0 – 3	Ranked based on subjective worthiness

Biological Sampling Priority Matrix

Created in February 2023

For FY2024

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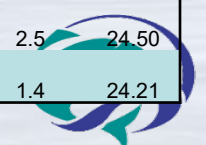
Biological Review Panel Recommends:

- Species in the upper 25% of the priority matrix should be considered for funding.

- Sampling projects which cover multiple species within the upper 25% are highly recommended.

Biological Review Panel Recommendations Based on Matrix:

Species	Overfished	Overfishing	Most Recent Stock Assessment	Current/Next Stock Assessment	Council Priority	ASMFC Priority	State Priority	NMFS Priority	Fishery Managed	Sig. change in landings w/in 24 mo	Sig. change in mgmt w/in 24 mo	Adequacy of level of sampling	Stock Resilience	Seasonality of Fishery	Average Priority	TOTAL
Black Sea Bass *Centropristis striata*	N: MA N:SA	N: MA N:SA	2021	2023	5	5	3.6	5	5	3	5	4	3	1	4.5	39.57
Red Grouper *Epinephelus morio*	Y	Y	2017	2023	5	0	1.1	5	3	3	4	3	4	3	2.8	31.07
Tilefish *Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps*	N: MA N:SA	N: MA Y:SA	2021	2024	5	0	1.9	4	5	1	3	3	4	3	2.8	29.86
Snowy Grouper *Epinephelus niveatus*	Y	N	2020	2026	5	0	0.9	5	3	1	3	3	5	3	2.8	28.93
American Shad *Alosa sapidissima/mediocris*	D	U	2020		0	3	3.8	0	5	3	1	4	5	3	2.2	27.79
Atlantic Menhaden *Brevoortia tyrannus*	N	N	2022	2025	0	5	3.1	3	5	1	3	3	3	1	2.8	27.14
Cobia *Rachycentron canadum*	N	N	2020	2025	1	5	1.6	4	3	1	1	4	3	3	3.1	26.57
River Herring *Alosa*	D	U	2017	2023	0	4	3.4	0	5	3	0	4	4	3	2.3	26.36
Spanish Mackerel *Scomberomorus maculatus*	N	N	2020	2022	5	2	1.2	4	3	1	2	3	2	3	3.0	26.21
Atlantic halibut *Hippoglossus hippoglossus*	Y	N	2022	2024	4	0	1.2	1	3	3	1	4	5	3	2.0	25.21
Blueline Tilefish *Caulolatilus microps*	U	U	2017	2024	3	0	1.1	5	3	1	3	3	2	3	2.4	25.07
Finetooth Shark *Carcharhinus isodon*	N	N	2007		0	1	1.1	3	5	5	1	3	3	3	1.6	25.07
Gray Triggerfish *Balistes capriscus*	U	U	2023	2024	5	0	1.0	4	3	1	3	3	2	3	2.6	25.00
Bluefin Tuna *Thunnus thynnus*	E/M: U; W:U	E/M: N; W:N	E/M: 2017; W: 2021	E/M: 2022; W: TBD	0	0	1.9	5	5	1	5	3	3	1	2.0	24.86
Gag Grouper *Mycteroperca microlepis*	N	N	2021	2025	5	0	0.9	5	3	1	0	3	4	3	2.8	24.86
Vermilion Snapper *Rhomboplites aurorubens*	N	N	2018	2028	5	0	0.8	4	3	3	3	2	3	1	2.4	24.79
American Lobster *Homarus americanus*	N: GOM/GB D: SNE	N: GOM/GB N: SNE	2020	2025	0	5	2.7	0	3	1	5	3	4	1	2.1	24.71
Spiny Dogfish *Squalus acanthias*	N	N	2022	2026	0	3	2.6	2	5	3	1	2	5	1	1.9	24.64
Red Snapper *Lutjanus campechanus*	Y	Y	2021	2026	5		0.6	5	3	1	1	1	5	3	2.9	24.57
American Eel *Anguilla rostrata*	D	U	2017	2022	0	5	3.5	0	5	1	0	4	5	1	2.5	24.50
Shortfin Mako Shark *Isurus oxyrhinchus*	Y	Y	2019	2024	0	1	1.2	3	5	3	5	2	3	1	1.4	24.21

Biological Sampling Priority Matrix

- Grouping of species in upper 25% of total matrix score, based on sampling adequacy and average priority (average of ASMFC, Council, NMFS and State priorities).

- Projects that target multiple upper quartile species should be given a higher priority.

		Biological Sampling Adequacy	
		Adequate (0 - 2)	**Inadequate (3 - 5)**
Averaged Priority Columns	**High (≥ 3.0)**		**Black Sea Bass - Cobia - Spanish Mackerel**
	Low (< 3.0)	**Red Snapper - Shortfin Mako Shark - Spiny Dogfish - Vermillion Snapper**	**American Eel - American Lobster - American Shad - Atlantic Halibut - Atlantic Menhaden - Bluefin Tuna - Blueline Tilefish - Finetooth Shark - Gag Grouper - Gray Triggerfish - Red Grouper - River Herring - Snowy Grouper - Tilefish**

Bycatch Sampling Priority Matrix

Created in February 2023
For FY 2024

Top Quartile of Bycatch Matrix Suggestions

Combined Fleets	Sig. Change in mgmt w/in past 36 mo	Amt of reg discards	Amt of non reg discards	Prot Spp Interactions	Score
Mid-Atlantic Gillnet	3	4	2	5	14
American lobster Pots	3	4	1	5	13
American lobster Pots	3	4	1	5	13
South Atlantic shrimp Trawl	1	4	2	5	12
South Atlantic Deep Water shrimp Trawl	3	4	2	3	12
New England Otter Trawl	3	4	2	3	12
Mid-Atlantic Pound Net	1	4	2	5	12
Pelagic H&L Fleet (North)	3	4	1	3	11
Snapper grouper H&L Fleet	3	4	1	3	11
New England Gillnet	3	2	1	5	11
New England Extra-Large-Mesh Gillnet	0	4	2	5	11
Mid-Atlantic Small-Mesh Otter Trawl, Bottom	1	4	1	5	11
Mid-Atlantic Large-Mesh Otter Trawl, Bottom	3	2	1	5	11
Mid-Atlantic Fish Pots and Traps	3	4	1	3	11
South Atlantic Large Mesh Gillnet	0	4	2	5	11
Southeastern, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico HMS Pelagic Longline	1	4	1	5	11
Mid-Atlantic Dredge, Other	1	4	1	5	11
New England Crab Pots	3	2	1	5	11
Southeastern, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico HMS Shark Bottom Longline	0	4	1	5	10

ACCSP Funding Priorities For Recreational Fisheries
April 2023

The Atlantic Recreational Implementation Plan determines that recreational data collection priorities for inclusion in ACCSP's annual request for proposals (RFP) and also guides the allocation of resources for NOAA Fisheries' NOAA Fisheries' Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). The prioritized list of data needs, which were developed by the Recreational Technical Committee ranked and approved by the ACCSP Coordinating Council and approved by MRIP, is provided below:

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 MRIP recreational catch and harvest estimates**
5. **Expanded Biological sampling for recreational fisheries**
6. **Improved in-season monitoring**

This list includes dates for fiscal year 2023, including ACCSP committee meetings, relevant dates of the funding cycle, as well as meetings or conferences ACCSP typically attends or which may be of interest to our partners. If you have any questions or comments on this calendar, please do not hesitate to contact the ACCSP staff at info@accsp.org.

Jan 24-26:	NEFMC Meeting – Portsmouth, NH
Jan 24-Feb 2:	ASMFC Meeting – Arlington, VA
Feb 1:	2023 FHTS Training– Webinar
Feb 7:	Bycatch Prioritization Committee Annual Meeting –Webinar
Feb 7-8:	APAIS North Atlantic Training- Providence, RI
Feb 7-9:	MAFMC Council Meeting- Washington, D.C
Feb 8:	Biological Review Panel Annual Meeting – Webinar
Feb 23-24:	APAIS South Atlantic Training- Raleigh, NC
Mar 1:	Start of ACCSP FY23
Mar 8:	Recreational Technical Committee Meeting- Webinar
Mar 6-10:	SAFMC Meeting – Jekyll Island, GA
Apr 4-6:	MAFMC Meeting – Durham, NC
Apr 5:	Commercial Technical Committee Annual Meeting – Webinar
Apr 6:	Information Systems Committee Annual Meeting – Webinar
Apr 13:	Operations and Advisory Committees Spring Meeting – Webinar
Apr 18-20:	NEFMC Meeting – Mystic, CT
May 2-4:	ASMFC/Coordinating Council Meeting – Arlington, VA
May 8:	ACCSP issues request for proposals
May 31:	Recreational Technical Committee – Webinar
Jun 6-8:	MAFMC Meeting – Virginia Beach, VA
Jun 12-16:	SAFMC Meeting – St. Augustine, FL
Jun 16:	Initial proposals are due
Jun 23:	Initial proposals are distributed to Operations and Advisory Committees
Jun 27-29:	NEFMC Meeting – Freeport, ME
July 5:	Any initial written comments on proposals due
Week of Jul 10:	Review of initial proposals by Operations and Advisory Committees – Webinar
July 19:	If applicable, any revised written comments due
Week of Jul 24:	Feedback submitted to principal investigators
July 31-Aug 3:	ASMFC Meeting – Arlington, VA

Aug 8-11:	MAFMC Meeting – Annapolis, MD
Aug 18:	Revised proposals due
Aug 25:	Revised proposals distributed to Operations and Advisory Committees
Week of Sep 4:	Ranking exercise for Advisors and Operations Members – Webinar
Sep 11-15:	SAFMC Meeting – Charleston, SC
Sep 19-20:	Annual Advisors/Operations Committee Joint Meeting (in-person; location TBD)
Sep 26-28:	NEFMC Meeting – Plymouth, MA
Oct 3-5:	MAFMC Meeting – New York, NY
Oct 14-20:	ASMFC Annual Meeting/Coordinating Council Meeting – Webinar
Dec 4-8:	SAFMC Meeting – Beaufort NC
Dec 5-7:	NEFMC Meeting – Newport, RI
Dec 11-14:	MAFMC Meeting – Philadelphia, PA

Ranking Guide – Maintenance Projects:

Primary Program Priority	Point Range	Description of Ranking Consideration
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Project Quality Factors	Point Range	Description of Ranking Consideration
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Potential secondary module as a by-product (In program priority order)	0 – 3 0 – 3 0 – 3 0 – 1	Ranked based on additional module data collection and level of collection as defined within the Program design of individual module.
Impact on stock assessment	0 – 3	Rank based on the level of data collection that leads to new or greatly improved stock assessments.

Other Factors	Point Range	Description of Ranking Consideration
Properly Prepared	-1–1	Meets requirements as specified in funding decision document Step 2b and Guidelines
Merit	0 – 3	Ranked based on subjective worthiness

Ranking Guide – Maintenance Projects: (*to be used only if funding available exceeds total Maintenance funding requested***)**

Ranking Factors	Point Range	Description of Ranking Consideration
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Merit	0 – 3	Ranked based on subjective worthiness

March 2023 Committee Newsletter

This monthly newsletter is intended to keep all committee members informed of the activities and accomplishments of ACCSP committees and staff. ACCSP staff welcomes feedback on all content.

PUT **THIS**
on YOUR
CALENDAR!

- **April 5:** Commerical Technical Committee Meeting
- **April 6:** Information System Committee Meeting
- **April 13:** Joint Operations and Advisory Committees Meeting
- **See** ACCSP Calendar Link **for more information**

Standard Codes Committee

- The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) has requested that the Standard Codes committee review the definition for "Fishing Time" for the pots and traps gear-category. To reduce confusion for captains, they have asked that the helper-text change from "average total soak time" to simply "average soak time".

Commercial Technical and Information Systems Committees

- On April 5, the Commerical Technical Committee will meet via webinar. Meeting documents and information can be found here.
- On April 6, the Information Systems Committee will meet via webinar. Meeting documents and information can be found here.

Recreational Technical Committee

- A Recreational Technical Committee (RTC) subcommittee was created to draft a proposal for a project to develop methods for improving discard data collection. This proposal is intended to help address the third priority of the 2023-2027 Atlantic recreational implementation plan to improve recreational fishery discard and release data. Currently, the subcommittee is working towards a pilot project to use pre-trip catch-cards, tied to a certified random sampling design (e.g., the APAIS). The next step is to involve MRIP for awareness and consideration of overall design.
The subcommittee met on January 19, February 16, and March 13 of 2023 to agree on high-level methodology direction and to begin drafting the proposal. The RTC discards subcommittee will meet again on April 19 and in May/June of 2023 to finish the discards project proposal.

The full RTC held a call on March 8 of 2023 to:

- Provide visibility of the proposed methodology for the creation of for-hire logbook estimates of both catch and effort. This methodology represents a step towards the idea of comprehensive for-hire data collection to address a critical need along the Atlantic Coast to provide for data collection that is inclusive of charter and headboats operating in both state and federal waters, while minimizing overlapping for-hire fishery reporting programs.

- Provide visibility of the Atlantic Recreational Implementation Plan (2023-2027) which will help guide MRIP allocation of resources to best address data needs of recreational fisheries. The implementation plan was approved by the MRIP Executive Steering Committee and ASMFC/ACCSP and NOAA Fisheries staff working in tandem to release standardized outreach communications about the plan.
- Summarize and discuss major updates to the MRIP in 2023:
  - Fishing Effort Survey (FES) seminar
  - For-hire Survey (FHS) certification
  - Large Pelagics Survey (LPS) redesign
- Discuss the work being done by the RTC discards subcommittee in order to find major points of agreement for the subcommittee to continue with their progress.
- The full RTC will meet again in May/June of 2023 to further discuss the subcommittee's progress on the discards proposal and potentially to discuss feedback from MRIP to the for-hire estimate methodology.

Highlight

ACCSP, NOAA FISHERIES RELEASE PLAN TO IMPROVE ATLANTIC RECREATIONAL FISHERIES DATA

Editor: Marisa Powell
Please contact us if you have any questions or feedback at info@accsp.org

You can <u>update your preferences</u> or <u>unsubscribe from this list</u>.

February 2023 Committee Newsletter

This monthly newsletter is intended to keep all committee members informed of the activities and accomplishments of ACCSP committees and staff. ACCSP staff welcomes feedback on all content.

PUT THIS on YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- **March 8:** Recreational Technical Committee Meeting
- **April 5:** Commerical Technical Committee Meeting
- **April 6:** Information System Committee Meeting
- **See** ACCSP Calendar Link **for more information**

Operations and Advisory Committees

- NOAA's Fisheries Information System program (FIS) has issued its 2024 Request for Proposals. The competitive RFP awards up to $5.5 million (subject to appropriations) of FY24 funding to support projects in Regional Offices, Science Centers, Headquarters Offices, FIN programs, and State partners through the Commissions.
- All completed pre-proposals are due by end of day on April 7, 2023, and all completed full proposals must be submitted by end of day on June 23, 2023. The funds are intended to be distributed in Spring 2024 depending on appropriations.
- You can learn more about the process and requirements in the RFP Guidance Document.

2023 Regional Recreational Trainings

- ACCSP staff run two-day trainings that review required APAIS procedures, including interview conduct, fish identification, fish measurements, and data entry and review.
- Over 100 state staff attended two regional in-person trainings on February 7-8 in Providence, RI and February 23-24 in Raleigh, NC.
- Check out the upcoming ACCSP article in the ASMFC Fisheries Focus newsletter to learn more.

Commercial Technical and Information Systems Committee

- After reviewing the attendance poll results, it became apparent that neither committee had an in-person attendance of at or above 2/3 of the membership. As such, both meetings will be held by webinar. Please contact Julie Simpson with any questions or concerns.
- On April 5, the Commerical Technical Committee will meet via webinar. Meeting documents and information can be found here.
- On April 6, the Information Systems Committee will meet via webinar. Meeting documents and information can be found here.

Biological Review Panel

- The in-person meeting of the Biological Review Panel was held on February 8th, 2023. The biological matrix was reviewed and discussed on a species-by-species basis. In total 261 suggested changes across 96 species were reviewed.
- M. Rinaldi demonstrated the Biological and Bycatch Inventory application. This is a repository for programmatic level metadata which allows for a centralized catalog of partner biological sampling programs along the Atlantic coast.
- Elections were held for the position of vice chair. A. Willey (MD DNR) was nominated and elected as vice chair by the committee while L. Beerkircher (NOAA SEFSC) moved into the role of committee chair.
- ACCSP would like to thank B. Linton (NOAA NEFSC) for their tenure as chair.

Bycatch Prioritization Committee

- The Bycatch Prioritization Committee in-person annual meeting was held on February 7th, 2023. The Bycatch Priority sampling matrix for FY24 was reviewed and discussed.
- M. Rinaldi demonstrated the Biological and Bycatch Inventory application. This is a repository for programmatic level metadata which allows for a centralized catalog of partner bycatch sampling programs along the Atlantic coast.
- Elections were held for the position of vice chair. C. Davis (VA MRC) was nominated and elected as vice chair by the committee while C. Uraneck (ME DMR) moved into the role of committee chair.
- ACCSP would like to thank C. Bradshaw (FWC) for their tenure as chair.

Highlight

Editor: Marisa Powell
Please contact us if you have any questions or feedback at info@accsp.org

January 2023 Committee Newsletter

This monthly newsletter is intended to keep all committee members informed of the activities and accomplishments of ACCSP committees and staff. ACCSP staff welcomes feedback on all content.

PUT **THIS** on YOUR CALENDAR!

- **February 7:** Bycatch Prioritization Committee Meeting
- **February 8:** Biological Review Panel Committee Meeting
- **March 8:** Recreational Technical Committee Meeting
- **See** ACCSP Calendar Link **for more information**

Biological Review Panel

- The Biological Review Panel in-person annual meeting is currently scheduled for **February 8, 2023**, during which the Biological Matrix for FY2024 and FY2025 will be discussed and finalized. Preliminary meeting materials to be distributed shortly.

Bycatch Prioritization Committee

- The Bycatch Prioritization Committee in-person annual meeting is currently scheduled for **February 7, 2023**. Preliminary meeting materials to be distributed shortly.

Spring Data Load Deadlines

- Participant Deadline: February 13
- Data Deadline: March 13
- Please reach out to Heather Power with any questions or issues.

Commercial Technical and Information Systems Committees

We are looking to hold the Commercial Technical and Information Systems annual meetings during the weeks of March 27 and April 3. This year we would like to have the meeting in person. It is imperative that we have an accurate head count of those that will be attending in person vs virtually so that we ensure a minimum of attendance and appropriately plan the room block.

Please provide your availability on the poll below by **COB Friday, February 3**. We will work on creating/distributing the TA beginning on February 6.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/accspscheduler

Highlight

Editor: Marisa Powell
Please contact us if you have any questions or feedback at info@accsp.org

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November/ December
2022 Committee Newsletter

This monthly newsletter is intended to keep all committee members informed of the activities and accomplishments of ACCSP committees and staff. ACCSP staff welcomes feedback on all content.

Upcoming Events

- **February 7:** Bycatch Prioritization Committee Meeting
- **February 8:** Biological Review Panel Committee Meeting
- **March 8:** Recreational Technical Committee Meeting
- **See** ACCSP Calendar Link **for more information**

Coordinating Council

- Met November 7, 2022 during the ASMFC Annual Meeting in Long Branch, New Jersey.
- Approved FY2023 Partner proposals and administrative grant.
- Approved the 2023-2027 Atlantic Recreational Implementation Plan, submitted to MRIP in December 2022.
- Elected Jason McNamee (RI) as incoming chair and Kathy Knowlton (GA) as vice-chair

Biological Review Panel

- The Biological Review Panel in-person annual meeting is currently scheduled for February 8, 2023, during which the Biological Matrix for FY2024 and FY2025 will be discussed and finalized. Preliminary meeting materials to be distributed shortly.
- The call for suggested changes to the Biological Matrix closed on November 21, 2022. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback in the appropriate timeline. This tool is designed to prioritize species based on a number of criteria; state and federal priorities, changes in management and landings, sampling adequacy, and characterizations of the fishery and species.

Bycatch Prioritization Committee

- The Bycatch Prioritization Committee in-person annual meeting is currently scheduled for February 7, 2023. Preliminary meeting materials to be distributed

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback in the appropriate format and timeline. We will be reviewing and finalizing the bycatch matrix as a primary agenda item during the annual meeting.

Recreational Technical Committee

The Recreational Technical Committee (RTC) held a call on November 1 during which they:

- Reviewed conduct of the Socioeconomic Add-on Survey (SEAS) to the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) in 2022. The SEAS, which occurs every five years, is a component of NOAA Fisheries' Expenditures Survey. The SEAS is being conducted electronically for the first time, via the APAIS tablet-based application, and a review of performance metrics shows that completion rates are higher than in previous years which could help improve the statistical estimates of recreational fishing expenditures on the Atlantic Coast.
- Discussed and provided final feedback to three major documents:

1. ACCSP Recreational and For-hire Data Standards
   - Define ACCSP policies for fisheries data collection and management and set direction on future improvements for recreational and for-hire fisheries on the Atlantic Coast
2. 2023-2027 Atlantic Recreational Implementation Plan
   - Guide MRIP allocation of resources to best address data needs of recreational fisheries
3. Second draft of a proposed methodology for the creation of for-hire logbook estimates of catch and effort for eventual submission to NOAA Fisheries for certification review
   - Comprehensive for-hire data collection could help address a critical need along the Atlantic Coast to provide for data collection that is inclusive of charter and headboats operating in both state and federal waters, while minimizing overlapping for-hire fishery reporting programs
   - Comments were incorporated and the document was resubmitted to NOAA Fisheries in December, 2022.

- Julia Byrd (SAFMC) updated the Recreational Technical Committee on recent progress to SciFish, a citizen science mobile application and project builder intended to better support the capturing and sharing of marine fish information on the Atlantic Coast.
- Established a Recreational Technical Discards Subcommittee to draft a proposal for the 2023 ACCSP Request for Proposal (RFP), that plans to propose methods of improving data collection efforts for recreational discard data, likely focused on the private/rental boat fishing mode, which encompasses the majority of fishing effort on the Atlantic Coast.

meet again on March 8, 2023.

Highlight

ACCSP provides data for
Happy Holidays and a
joyous New Year!

Sitting by the fireplace
25%

Playing in snow
25%

Drinking hot cocoa
25%

Being with family & friends
25%

Editor: Marisa Powell
Please contact us if you have any questions or feedback at info@accsp.org