



Overview of MRIP State Conduct

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ACCSP

May 14, 2014

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

MRIP Surveys – Atlantic & Gulf

**Total
Effort**

×

**Observed
Catch**

**Expanded
Estimates**

Private/Shore

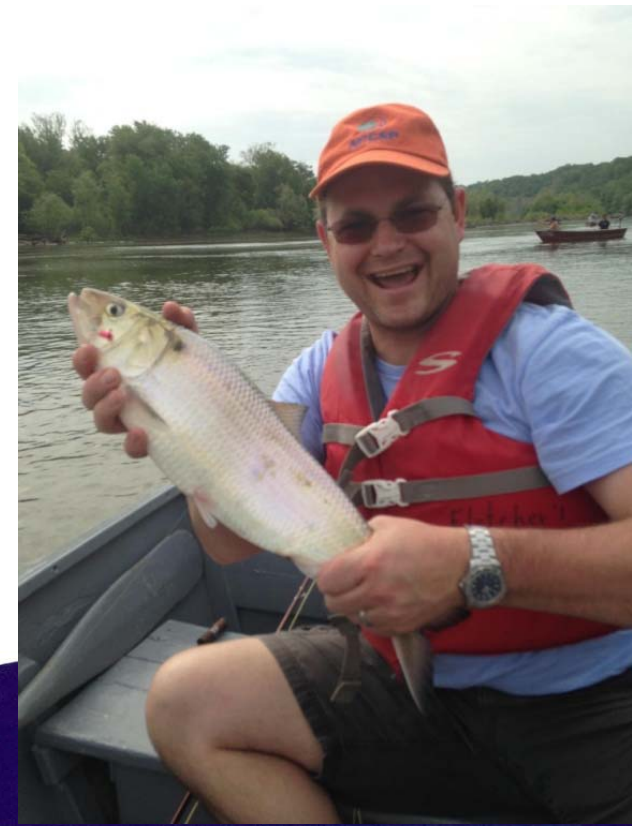
For-Hire Effort

**Dockside
Interviews
(APAIS)**

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

Outline

- History of Atlantic state conduct proposal
- Regional approaches
- Scope of proposal
- Roles & responsibilities
- Benefits
- Timeline



History of Atlantic State Conduct

- 1981: NOAA administers contracts for field survey
 - Various levels of states act as sub-contractors
- 1998: Gulf states begin conduct of field survey
- 2004: Atlantic proposal for state conduct tabled
- 2012: ACCSP surveys Atlantic states
- 2013: Transition plan outline drafted
- 2014: Evaluate & prepare for state conduct

2014 Regional approaches

- Atlantic Coordinator: **Contractor**
 - Performs data processing, QA/QC
 - Direct data collection for 7 states
 - 6 states conduct sampling as sub-contract
- Gulf Coordinator: **GSMFC**
 - State staff conduct field survey
- Pacific Coordinator: **PSMFC**
 - State staff conduct field survey

Proposed Scope Critical Paths

- One central coordinator
 - Consistent processes and data quality
 - Clear communication lines
- All states transition concurrently (2016)
 - some with staffing support
- Data quality maintained or improved
- Cooperative ownership of data



Proposed Scope Dockside Interviews

- Central Coordinator: **ASMFC/ACCSP**
 - Primary contact for NOAA fisheries & states
 - Coastwide implementation / administration
 - Central data entry and quality control
- Dockside data collection: **States**
 - Access Point Angler Intercept Survey
 - For-Hire Effort survey
 - (optional by state)

Roles & Responsibilities

- NOAA Fisheries, MRIP
 - Lead survey design
 - Maintain registries (angler, vessel, sites)
 - Produce estimates & present to public
 - Funding support for base sampling
- ASMFC / ACCSP (Atlantic Coordinator)
 - Operational contact to NOAA
 - Central data processing and delivery to NOAA
 - Execute state contracts

Roles & Responsibilities - States

- Contract with ASMFC for data collection
- Provide space and supervision for staff, manage assignments, obtain equipment
 - Some staffing support via ASMFC
- Conduct assignments following protocols
- Provide data to ASMFC/ACCSP
- Participate in data QA/QC

Roles & Responsibilities - Staffing

Preferred Option: States hire and supervise staff internally, funded via ASMFC contract

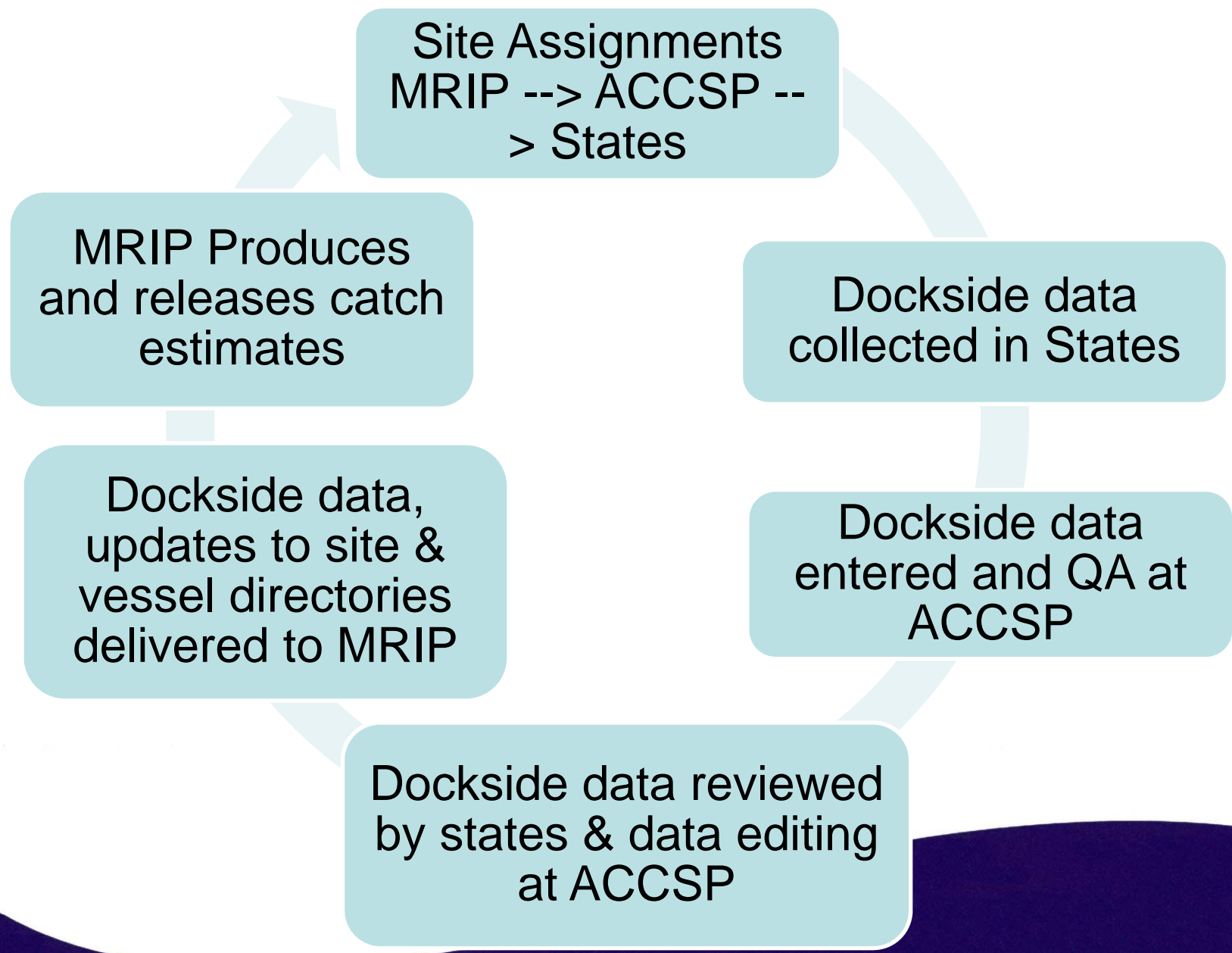
Secondary Option: (ASMFC staffing support):

– ASMFC / ACCSP assistance with:

- Standard position descriptions
- Announcement, hiring, benefits & pay

– States lead:

- Selection of candidates
- Supervision of individuals



Benefits

- Improve flexibility for states, ASMFC, ACCSP & MRIP
- Enhanced partnership & ownership
- Stewardship of local resource
- Expanded outreach opportunities
- Increased understanding of data

State Benefits

- Funding to states more flexible
- Personnel retention & performance
- More observed fish, lengths & weights
- Survey can be more responsive to management needs without contract renegotiations

MRIP Benefits

- Removes contract renewal duties, freeing up more time for analyses of survey data.
- Cooperative agreement may streamline process.

Proposed Timeline

May-Nov 2014

- Draft NOAA-ASMFC cooperative agreement and statements of work (ASMFC & states)
- Clarify agency roles & supervisory models
- Revise & finalize state plans and budgets

March 2015: Submit to NOAA for approval

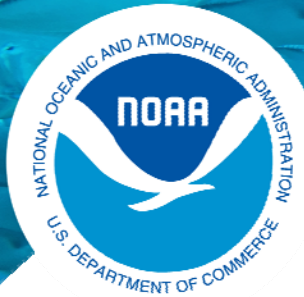
Jul 2015: Begin transition support

Jan 2016: Begin state conduct



Questions?

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

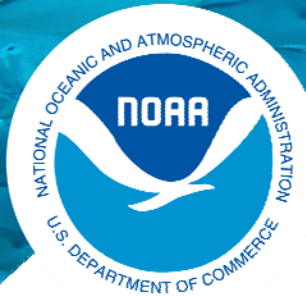
Atlantic Shoreside Surveys What do they cost?

Dave Van Voorhees

ASMFC Meeting

Alexandria, VA

14 May 2014



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

MRIP Shoreside Surveys Atlantic Coast

Total Cost (2014-2015) = \$9.5M (~ \$4.75M /year)

Coverage: NC Waves 1-6

GA-SC & VA-MA Waves 2-6

NH-ME Waves 3-5

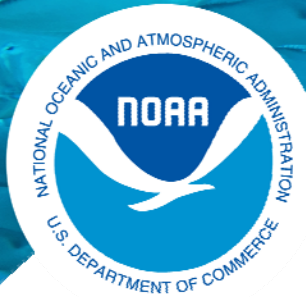
Access Point Angler Intercept Surveys (APAIS):

Shore, Private/Rental Boat, and Charter Boat

Head Boat at Sea Survey

For-Hire Survey field validation

For-Hire Survey (Telephone Survey) not included



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

APAIS Assignments

Sample Size = ~7,000 interviewing assignments

Each assignment is for:

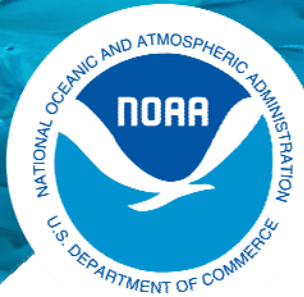
1 site cluster = 1 or 2 sites

6 hours onsite

Fixed start and end times:

Daytime intervals: 8am-2pm, 11am-5pm, 2pm-8pm

Nighttime intervals: 8pm-2am, 2am-8am



NOAA
FISHERIES

Headboat At-Sea Assignments

Sample Size = ~430 NMFS + 182 ACCSP assignments

Each assignment is for:

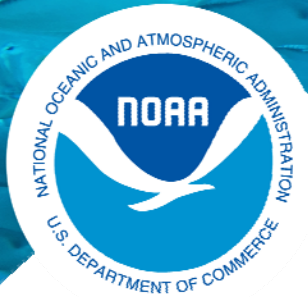
1 headboat

1 trip with paying passengers

Full-day or half-day trip

Sampler boards the boat and collects data at sea

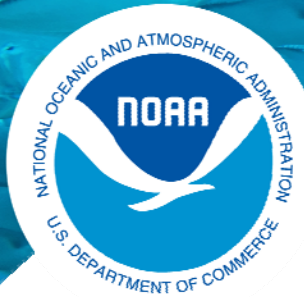
- observes subset of anglers for discard IDs and lengths



NOAA
FISHERIES

APAIS & Headboat At-Sea Assignments

- Allocations of interviewing assignments available by:
 - State
 - Fishing mode (SH, PR, CH)
 - Month
 - Day Type (WE, WD)
 - State subregion (where applicable)
- Quality Control Visits
 - 2 per sampler per year
- Phone Validation of Interviews
 - 10% of each sampler's interviews



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

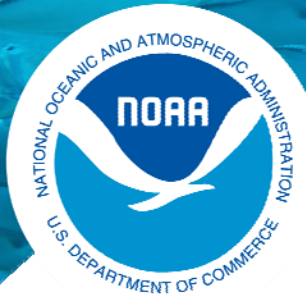
Data Collection and Processing Costs

Labor: On-site hours – data collection, editing
Travel hours – travel to and from sites
Office hours – reviewing and editing forms

Supplies/Equipment:

Office: forms, printing, mailing, misc.

Field: clipboards, electronic data capture devices
scales, measuring boards, measuring tapes
field guides



NOAA
FISHERIES

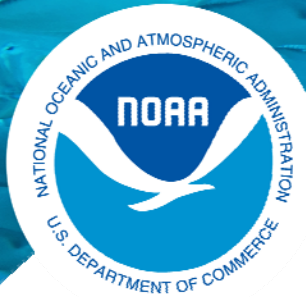
Other Costs

Travel for Field work – State vehicles?

Travel/Participation in Data Review Meetings

Currently 2 per year

Overhead rate?



NOAA
FISHERIES

Other Costs for ACCSP/ASMFC

Project manager (FTE)

Data processing:

- Hardware (scan or key entry)

- Software (data entry/OCR/audit/QC/SAS)

Other personnel:

- Field coordination, administration, and outreach

The Gulf States Conduct of MRIP Survey

Dave Donaldson

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission



MRIP State Implementation Workshop

ASMFC Spring Meeting

May 14, 2014

Alexandria, Virginia

A BRIEF HISTORY

- States and Commission became involved in recreational data collection activities in 1997
 - Started with For-Hire mode only
 - Expanded to all modes in 1998
- Three entities involved:
 - Gulf States (LA, MS, AL and FL (east & west coasts))
 - GSMFC
 - NMFS

A BRIEF HISTORY

- Conduct two surveys
 - Field Intercept Survey
 - Collect catch information from fishermen
 - For private/rental, for-hire and shore modes
 - For-Hire Telephone Survey
 - Collect effort information from charter boat captain
 - For-hire mode only
 - More accurate method for collection effort



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- States
 - Conduct interviews with anglers based on established guidelines
 - Conduct about 50,000 interviews/year (old method)
 - Samplers retrained every 6 months
 - Send edited forms to GSMFC on weekly basis
 - Periodically survey fishing access sites to document fishing pressure
 - Perform site registry reviews and updates during operations of field interviews

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



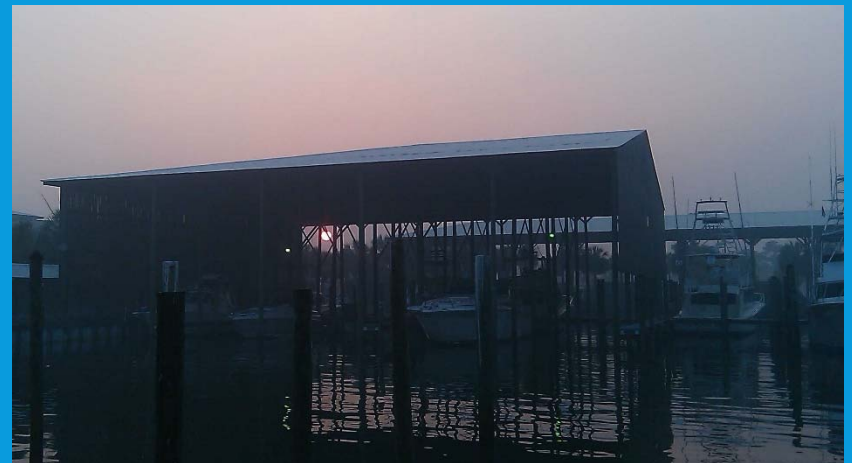
- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
 - 5 total staff working on project
 - Track assignments
 - Notify states if assignments not conducted/incorrect
 - Review forms
 - Provide sampling errors to state supervisors
 - Supervisors provide feedback to samplers
 - Get data into electronic format via scanning

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
 - Conduct QA/QC on data
 - Work with states to correct errors
 - Produce monthly fish dumps
 - Fish dumps reviewed by states
 - Wave meetings
 - Deliver data to NMFS for estimation process
 - Provide on monthly basis

FUNDING OVERVIEW

- Annual budget of \$3.1 million
 - Funding to states and Commission
- Majority of funding provided by MRIP
 - Some in-kind costs by states
- Add-ons (economics, protected species, etc.) usually conducted at no additional cost
 - Covered by administration task of grant



IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND SURVEY DESIGN

- Partners have ability to recommend survey modifications (via GulfFIN)
- GSMFC serves as communication intermediary between states and NMFS
 - Allows NMFS to better understand issues
- Relieve some burden of survey coordination and data management
 - Allow NMFS to focus on other survey areas

LESSONS LEARNED

- Need to ensure all partners committed to conducting of survey
- Hire adequate staff (in states and Commission) to handle work load
 - Allows to stay on top of multitude of tasks
- Start-up – steep learning curve
- Need for periodic training – critical to success

BENEFITS/CONCERNS

- Increased sampling
- More stable work force
- Provide personnel for other activities
- Other unquantifiable benefits
 - It is a better way to conduct survey
- Concerns – need stable funding source
 - Costs increase and w/o increased funding – potentially detrimental to activity



QUESTIONS?

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Gulf Experiences

Luiz Barbieri

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

MRIP State Implementation Workshop

ASMFC Spring Meeting

May 14, 2014

Alexandria, Virginia

Presentation Outline

- A brief history of Florida's conduct of MRIP
- Roles and responsibilities of the state
- Funding overview and budget considerations
- Improving communication between the States and MRIP—changes in survey/sampling design
- Lessons learned and advice for other Atlantic states and ASMFC

A brief history

- Florida has been conducting components of MRFSS/MRIP since 1998
 - Access Point Angler Intercept Survey
 - Maintain state site register
 - Training and supervision of field staff
 - Fish ID certification
 - QA/QC
 - For-Hire Telephone Survey
 - Maintain state charter vessel register
 - Conduct telephone interviews with vessel operators
 - Conduct field validations for reported vessel activity

Roles and responsibilities

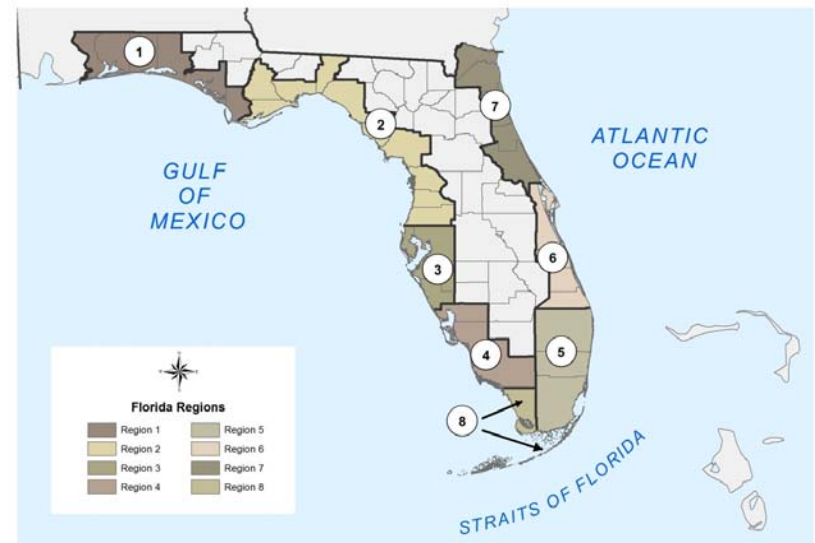
- State updates site and vessel registers monthly
- Monthly sample draws provided by NMFS
- State schedules regional staff to conduct work
 - Reports weekly to GSMFC on status of work
- GSMFC
 - Receive and process raw data from state
 - Provide electronic data back to state for review
 - Process corrections, deliver final data to NMFS

Funding overview and budget considerations

- What % of survey costs covered by MRIP
(contractor vs expected under Coop Agmt)
 - 100%
- Add-ons (processing costs?)
 - NMFS performs economic add-on surveys
 - No additional processing costs via GSMFC for assignments above base level

Improving communication and survey/sampling design

- Increased sample sizes for charter mode
- Respond to emerging data needs
 - Increased FHS calls during Deepwater Horizon
- State currently working with NMFS to customize spatial/temporal allocation of sample
 - Stratified sampling
 - Regionally diverse fisheries
 - Reallocate sample
 - Red snapper season



Lessons learned, advice for other Atlantic states and ASMFC

- Establish a system of checks, balances, QA/QC
 - Weekly reporting on progress of assignments
 - Field staff work independently, good training and routine QA/QC is a must!
 - Multiple levels of data review
 - State coordinators field sampler's data sheets before delivering to GSMFC, address issues with individual staff
 - GSMFC reviews data as it is processed electronically, reports issues to state supervisors
 - State supervisor review data, follow-up with field staff, provide corrections
 - Final review with NMFS at wave meetings

Lessons learned, advice for other Atlantic states and ASMFC

- Increased public presence through conduct of MRIP has allowed state to build trust and develop good working relationships with public
 - Opportunities to outreach and educate, not just enforce fishing regulations.
 - Has led to other cooperative research opportunities
 - At-sea observer programs, volunteer angler programs, biological sampling programs have all benefitted from working relations established during state conduct of MRIP

Benefits / Concerns

➤ Benefits to State

- Cost effectiveness
- Better understanding of data and fisheries
- Ability to negotiate data needs specific to our state

➤ Areas of concern

- Nothing major. Good to develop rapport with MRIP staff

➤ Mutual benefits

- State develops working relationships with fishing industry and public, opportunities to outreach and educate
- Foster cooperation in voluntary surveys that benefits state and NMFS

State Conduct of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Intercept Survey

Georgia



North Carolina



New Hampshire



**MRIP State Implementation Workshop
ASMFC Spring Meeting
May 14, 2014
Alexandria, Virginia**

State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

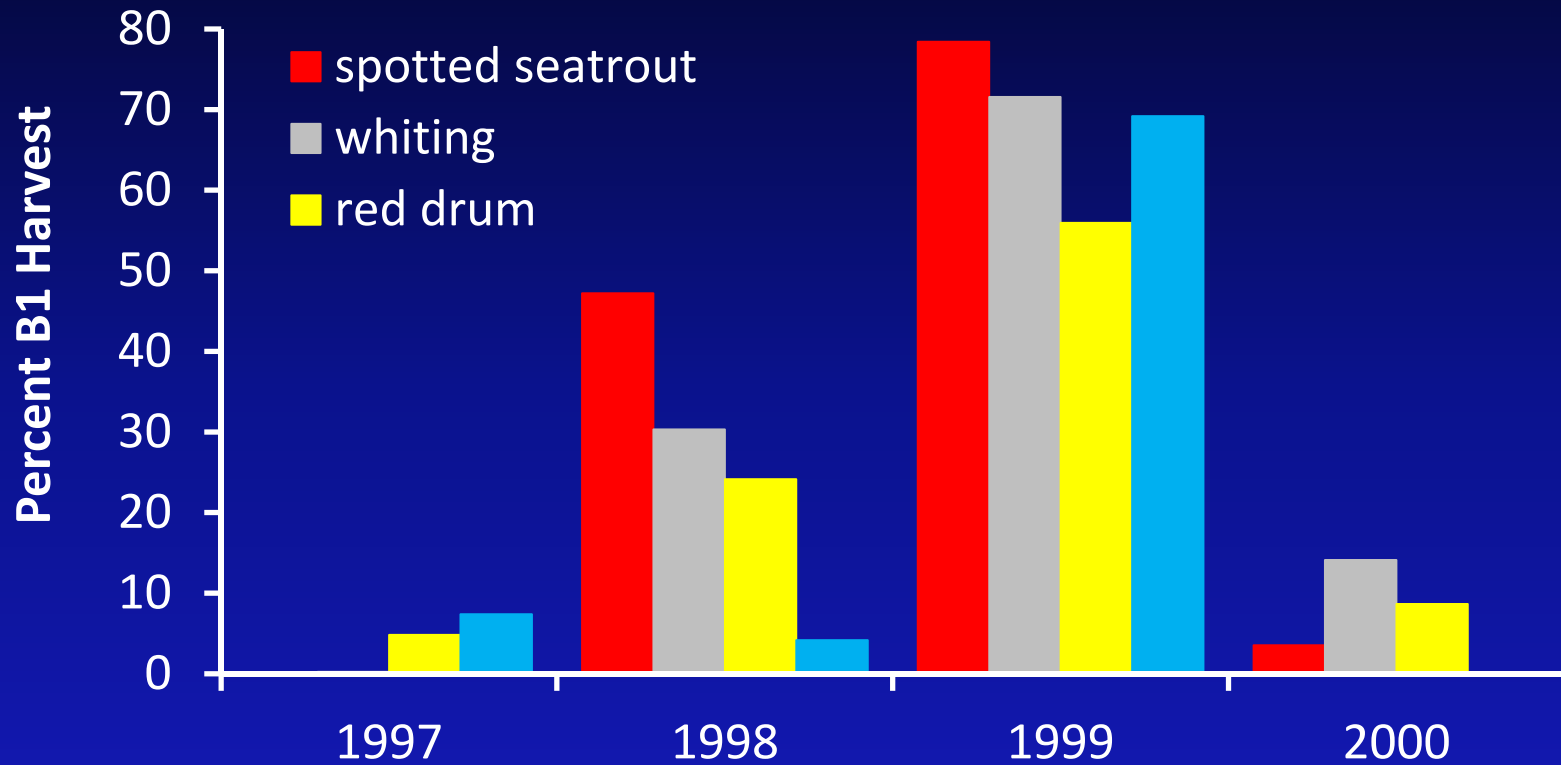
Brief History and Objectives: Georgia

- GADNR conducted 1985-1990
 - ✓ Increase sampling
 - ✓ 1990's limited budget & personnel
- GADNR dockside survey 1998-1999
- GADNR again conducted 2000-present
 - ✓ Development ACCSP
 - ✓ Improved funding environment
 - ✓ Limitations GADNR survey
 - ✓ Increase biological data & interviewer performance



Impact of State Conduct

Type B1 Reported Harvest in Georgia



GADNR Begins Participation



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

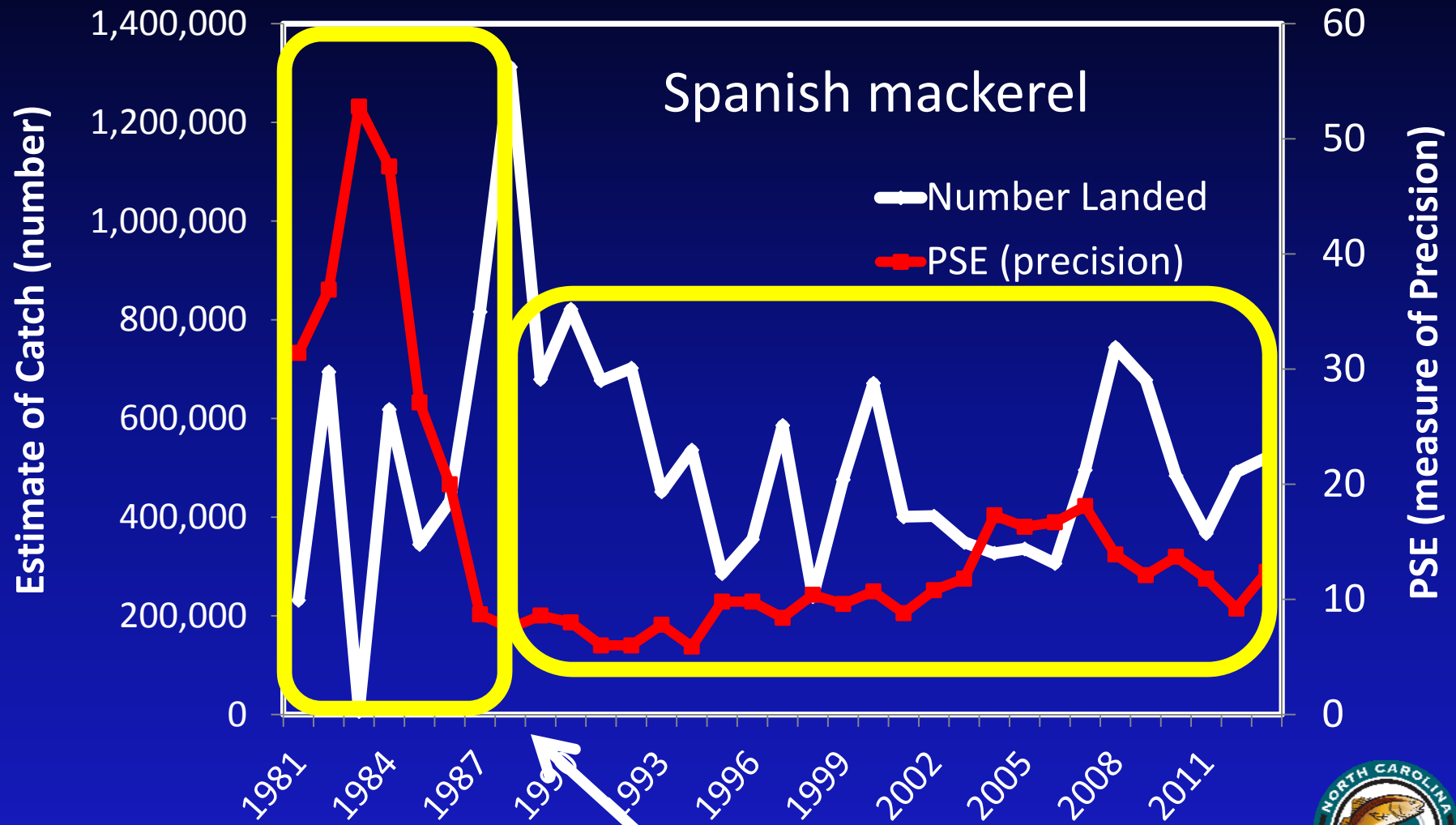
Brief History and Objectives: North Carolina

Began in 1987 (Ronald Reagan was president)

- ✓ Recognize Need for Regional Database
- ✓ Avoid Duplication
 - multiple surveys collecting same data
- ✓ Increase Sample to Improve Precision
- ✓ Eventual ACCSP Endorsement
- ✓ Leverage of NMFS Funding



Impact of State Conduct and Add-on



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Brief History and Objectives: New Hampshire

- NHFGD conducted state survey 1979-1996
 - ✓ Side-by-side comparison in 1995
 - ✓ Decided to collaborate with NMFS-MRFSS
- NHFGD subcontracted 1997-present
 - ✓ Eliminate duplicative survey effort
 - ✓ Provide more comparable estimates (state, regional, coast-wide)
 - ✓ Supplement survey with SFR funding, ACCSP proposals, and Department funds



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Brief History and Objectives: New Hampshire

ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee

- ✓ Multi-year funding increases to effort survey sample size
- ✓ Cooperative effort between states and NMFS
- ✓ Reduced effort PSE = reduced catch/harvest PSE



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Funding Overview and Budget: Georgia



- Staffing (**FOR MRIP BASE SAMPLE**)
 - ✓ 3 FTE's & 5 PTE's ~280 annual assignments
 - ✓ Survey only part of job responsibilities for all staff
 - ✓ At present no state add-ons (in past, 2X Charter)
- Total cost ~\$100K annually
 - ✓ Subcontract pass through (Intercept & FHS) = 70%
 - ✓ Federal SFR = 25%
 - ✓ GADNR state funds = 5% (no state license)



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Funding Overview and Budget: North Carolina

- Staffing (**CURRENT**)
 - ✓ 19 Temporary and Fulltime Technicians
 - ✓ 2 Biologists
 - ✓ 1 Statistician
 - ✓ 2 data clerks
- Budget
 - ✓ 1M
- % Covered by MRIP Pass-through
 - ✓ 10%
- Overage Costs Significant
 - ✓ 150K for data entry in 2012



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Funding Overview and Budget: North Carolina

- Staffing (**FOR MRIP BASE SAMPLE**)
 - ✓ 8 Temporary and Fulltime Technicians
 - ✓ 1 Biologist
 - ✓ 1 Data Clerk
- Budget
 - ✓ \$364,000
- Percent Covered by MRIP Pass-through
 - ✓ 60% - 70%
 - ✓ Overage Costs Significant (data entry)
 - Hopefully provided by ACCSP/ASMFC
 - Contractors reduce state pass-through to “hedge” against overall contract costs

State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Funding Overview and Budget: New Hampshire

- Staffing (**FOR MRIP BASE SAMPLE**)
 - ✓ 2 Temporary Technicians
 - ✓ 1 Fulltime Supervising Biologist/Data Clerk
 - ✓ 7 Trained Fulltime Biologists to supplement
- NH conducts add-ons:
 - ✓ SH & PR = 3x the NMFS base sample
 - ✓ HB & CH = ACCSP RTC proposal add-ons
 - ✓ Increased precision level of estimates
- Total cost ~\$85K-\$115K annually (dependent on add-ons)
 - ✓ Subcontract pass through = 55%
 - ✓ Federal SFR = 34%
 - ✓ NHFGD funds = 11%



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Roles and Responsibilities

Staffing and Training

- ✓ Hire individuals with fishery related education
- ✓ Career oriented, high performance level
- ✓ Ability to identify fish species, use ID keys
- ✓ New samplers shadow existing staff ~ 2weeks
- ✓ Problems are dealt with immediately



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Roles and Responsibilities

Dockside Survey Coordination

- ✓ Staff identified with State agency (logos, vehicles)
- ✓ Familiarity with state and federal regulations
- ✓ Understand stock assessments and roles of Councils/Commissions
- ✓ Information distribution (size limits, rule books, awards, brochures)
- ✓ Interact daily with constituents
- ✓ Answer questions (agency ambassadors)



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Roles and Responsibilities

Increase survey efficiency

- ✓ Match samplers with assignments
- ✓ Site register maintenance (CRITICAL)
- ✓ Consistency and knowledge of historic productivity (fishing pressure)
- ✓ Share knowledge of other agency dependent & independent sampling



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Roles and Responsibilities

For-hire Survey Activity Validation

- ✓ Knowledge of new, active and inactive vessels
- ✓ Access to State license data
- ✓ Professional & familiar relationship for-hire company owners/Captains



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Roles and Responsibilities

Data Editing

- ✓ Timely submittal of surveys
- ✓ Every intercept form reviewed
- ✓ Errors/questions are returned for immediate correction
- ✓ Data released ONLY after supervisory QA/QC



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Roles and Responsibilities

Data Review Meeting

- ✓ Supervisory participation
- ✓ Regulatory awareness and impact on catches
- ✓ Knowledge of population dynamics
- ✓ Verification of rare species
- ✓ Accountability and ownership



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Final Thoughts

Benefits and Returns

- ✓ Improved add-on sampling (flexibility)
- ✓ Reduced administrative road-blocks
- ✓ Understanding data limitations
- ✓ Recognize additional data needs
- ✓ Expanded outreach, constituency expectations
- ✓ Improved conduits to agency management
- ✓ Thorough knowledge of data
- ✓ Ownership, Teambuilding, Synergy



State Conduct of the MRIP Intercept Survey

Current 6 Atlantic Coast subcontracted states strongly endorse & support:

- ✓ Increased state involvement in or conduct of the NOAA MRIP dockside intercept survey
- ✓ Administration of the survey by ASMFC/ACCSP





Marine Recreational Information Program State Implementation Workshop

Panel Q&A with Commissioners

May 14, 2014



Milestones – State Implementation of Dockside Survey

1999: Gulf States begin conducting dockside survey

2004: Atlantic proposal for state conduct tabled

2012: ACCSP Surveys Atlantic States re MRIP implementation

Oct 2013 – Feb 2014:

- ACCSP Coordinating Council supports concept, requests transition plan
- ASMFC, ACCSP, and MRIP, develop draft plan
- ACCSP Operations Committee modifies transition plan and sends to ASMFC, ACCSP Coordinating Council, MRIP for review

Jan – May 2014:

- Development of state implementation plans and preliminary budgets



Build Up to State Implementation of Dockside Survey

Jun-Sep 2014: Preliminary state budgets and implementation plans due
Initiate draft Cooperative Agreement between NMFS-ASMFC with statement of work

Oct-Nov 2014: Update ASMFC and State budgets and implementation plans
Present ASMFC, ACCSP, MRIP draft Cooperative Agreement with statement of work

Annual Meeting: Decision on Moving Forward

Jan-Feb 2015: Final state budgets due, Grant Package to NMFS (processing 3 months)

May - June 2015: Grants completed, funds available to ASMFC and states
ASMFC and states begin hiring staff, creation of State/Survey contracts

Jul-Oct 2015: Acquisition of staff and equipment at ASMFC and states
Training of state supervisors and field staff

Oct-Dec 2015: Data collection and processing training for state and central data staff
State field staff participate in Wave 6 survey as training
ACCSP staff perform data entry/processing test runs



Steps After Target Implementation Date

January - February 2016:

State Conduct of Dockside Survey begins

North Carolina begins data collection, ACCSP begins data scanning, entry, data processing, QA/QC

Sample Draws for Wave 2 2016 distributed for Maine to Georgia

March 2016:

Massachusetts to Virginia begin fielding survey,
ACCSP continues data processing and delivery to NMFS

May 2016:

Maine and New Hampshire begin fielding survey.

Ongoing: State conduct of MRIP Dockside Survey with ASMFC/ACCSP data delivery to NMFS according to schedule identified in statement of work



Sample Discussion Questions

- What are the expected benefits to the states conducting the APAIS field survey?
- What changes to data quality (sample size, PSE) should be expected in the short term?
- What ability will the states have to modify the MRIP protocols?
- What is the proposed funding path and what funding is needed to support state conduct?
- What are the consequences if federal funding decreases, or costs rise, in the future?
- What state support can be requested during a ramp-up period?
- What options exist for states with hiring limitations?