

Improving Quality of Recreational Discard Data

Purpose – Develop a workplan and proposed budget to fund projects that will improve recreational released catch data, specifically data associated with discard rates in private recreational sector. This includes investigating new methods for collecting discard data from the private boat sector and considerations for expanding for-hire coverage of at-sea observer programs.

Terms of Reference (draft)

1. Review 2017 workshop findings and discuss recommendations
2. Discuss surveys and methods being tested or implemented in the Southeast Region.
 - a. Discuss at-sea sampling program and expansion efforts into Louisiana and Texas for for-hire sector
 - b. Highlight current surveys collecting data from private boats and identify strengths, weaknesses, and potential biases
 - c. Discuss red snapper exempted fishing permit in South Atlantic
3. Identify parallel disciplines and non-traditional survey methods that may be used to measure the magnitude of recreational releases, including their applicability for use in U.S. recreational fisheries
4. Identify geographic areas in the Southeast region where new released catch research could be focused, giving special consideration to locations where:
 - High discard rates are observed and measurable
 - Gaps in released catch data currently exist
 - Areas where multiple overlapping surveys indicate the potential presence of bias but the source is poorly understood
5. Provide recommendations for priority research studies that can be completed with a high probability of success in FY25 or FY26.
 - a. For areas where the Marine Resource Information Program overlaps with other recreational surveys, identify methods to verify the potential presence of bias and quantify the magnitude in each survey, and methods to identify and understand the source(s) of potential bias in each survey
 - b. For areas where there is no overlapping survey, identify methods to verify the potential presence of bias and quantify the magnitude, and identify methods to account for it in the future and correct for it back in time
6. Begin development of a Request for Proposals that includes project objectives, priorities, and criteria for reviewing, ranking, and selecting proposals for future funding. The call should focus on proposals that will provide estimates of recreational discards from private recreational vessels that can be used to validate and/or replace existing approaches, and which can be implemented in 2025/26

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Draft Agenda

July 30-August 1, 2024, New Orleans, LA

Tuesday July 30

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 8:15 a.m. – 8:20 a.m. Ground Rules for Meeting Participants (Brian Karp)
- 8:20 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. IRA Red Snapper Funding Opportunity (Stephen Poland)

Inventory of Existing Discard Surveys

- 8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. Overview of Recreational Discard Surveys (Gregg Bray)
- 8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. State Presentations – FFWC, ALDCNR, MDMR, LDWF, TPWD
Description of fishery, how(if) released catch data are collected, regional challenges
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. BREAK
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. State Presentations continued – FFWC, ALDCNR, MDMR, LDWF, TPWD
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. State At-Sea Sampling Program (Sean Wilms)
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. LUNCH

Potential New Approaches for Surveying Recreational Discards

- 1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Remote Electronic Monitoring for Head Boats and Charter Boats in the Gulf of Mexico (Will Heyman)
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Overview of Video Electronic Monitoring in a Volunteer Commercial GoM Reef Fish Fleet and Upcoming Use of Portable EM Systems in the SA for Discard Assessment (Carole Neidig)
- 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Northeast EM Project (Nichole Rossi, Clarie Fitz-Gerald,)
- 3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. BREAK
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Using App Based Fishing Events to Measure Discard Rates and Fish Lengths in Support of Stock Assessment (Sean Simmons)
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. An Approach to Estimating the Magnitude of Recreational Discards in the Atlantic Red Snapper Fishery (Will Patterson)

Wednesday July 31

Potential New Approaches for Surveying Recreational Fishing Effort con't

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Citizen Science – Reports from the Field (Julia Byrd/Julie Simpson)
- 8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Louisiana Discard Pilot Study (Randy Pausina)
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Non-Probability Sampling in Fishing Effort and Catch Surveys (Richard Cody)
- 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. BREAK
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Fisheries Assisted Sampling Technology (FAST) Platforms - Creative Approaches and Emerging Tools for Data collection and at-sea monitoring (Todd Gedamke)
- 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Angler Reporting and Study Fleet Pilot Studies on the Atlantic Coast of Florida (Beverly Sauls)
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Pilot Test of Recreational Released Catch Cards into the Sampling Design of MRIP APAIS (Alex DiJohnson/Angela Giuliano)
- 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Discussion on Study Fleets/Reverse Study Fleets (Clay Porch)
- 3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. BREAK
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. MITRE Presentation (Rich Stevenson)
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Discussion of Feasibility of Potential New Survey Approaches

Thursday August 1

- 8:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Discussion and Planning of New Research Studies
- What approach(es) where, why, how.
 - How long would study run, what time period, what geographical region, what is feasible, proposed costs of new approaches (pilot study versus long-term implementation)
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. LUNCH
- 1:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Discussion and Planning of New Research Studies con't
- 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Public Comment (3 minutes per presenter)
- 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Summary of Workshop Findings and Next Steps