

Update on the Recreational Data Timeliness Workshop

In response to constituent concerns regarding the timeliness of recreational fishing data – especially with respect to its impact on Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures, on March 15 and 16 scientists, managers, anglers and others met in St. Petersburg for a workshop aimed at building on efforts already underway to tackle this critical issue.

The Recreational Data Timeliness Workshop is part of NOAA Fisheries' larger effort to improve the collection and reporting of recreational fishing data known as the Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP. The workshop looked at the scientific and management strategies for improving the timeliness of catch data and meeting our Congressional mandates for setting Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures. This workshop is a cooperative effort between NOAA Fisheries, the Councils, Commissions, States, and the recreational community and the result of an ongoing dialogue that began at the April 2010 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit.

Participants include representatives from the Fisheries Management Councils, NOAA Fisheries Regions and Science Centers, States and Interstate Fisheries Commissions and members of the constituent organizations that initially raised the concerns.

Check out the video blog from the workshop on the MRIP website at www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov. A complete [list of the participants](#), along with a post-workshop summary and copies of presentations also will be posted to the website in the near future.

Presentations and discussions have included:

- Overview of Annual Catch Limits and National Standard One Guidelines
 - ❖ Mark Nelson, NOAA Fisheries, Sustainable Fisheries Division HQ

- Recreational Data Timeliness Case Studies
 - ❖ *Pacific Coast Species* – Corey Niles, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and Lynn Mattes, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - ❖ *South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Species* – Andy Strelcheck and Nick Farmer, NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries
 - ❖ *Black Sea Bass (Northeast)* – Mike Ruccio, NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries
 - ❖ *Summer Flounder* – Toni Kerns, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

- Fish Collaborative Blue Ribbon Panel Summary on Recreational Data Timeliness
 - ❖ Dick Brame, Coastal Conservation Association

- Consistency between Management Structures and Data Availability/Quality
 - ❖ Topic Presentation: Jessica Coakley, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
 - ❖ Panelists: John Froeschke, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Chris Kellogg, New England Fishery Management Council; Russel Porter, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission; David Cupka, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

- Options for Improving Recreational Data Timeliness: Forecasting Recreational Catch Estimates
 - ❖ Panelist Presentations: Andy Strelcheck and Nick Farmer, NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries; Lynn Mattes, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; John Foster, NOAA Fisheries, Fisheries Statistics Division

- Options for Improving Recreational Data Timeliness: Increase Frequency of Estimation
 - ❖ Dave Van Voorhees, NOAA Fisheries, Fisheries Statistics Division

- Options for Improving Recreational Data Timeliness: Reducing Lag Time
 - ❖ Jun Rossetti, ICF Macro International / Ron Salz, NOAA Fisheries (25 minutes, 5 minute Q&A)

Following the presentations, participants broke into regional strategy sessions to discuss options and tradeoffs for improving timeliness of data collection.

To learn more and get updates, contact Forbes.Darby@NOAA.gov