

Science, Service, Stewardship



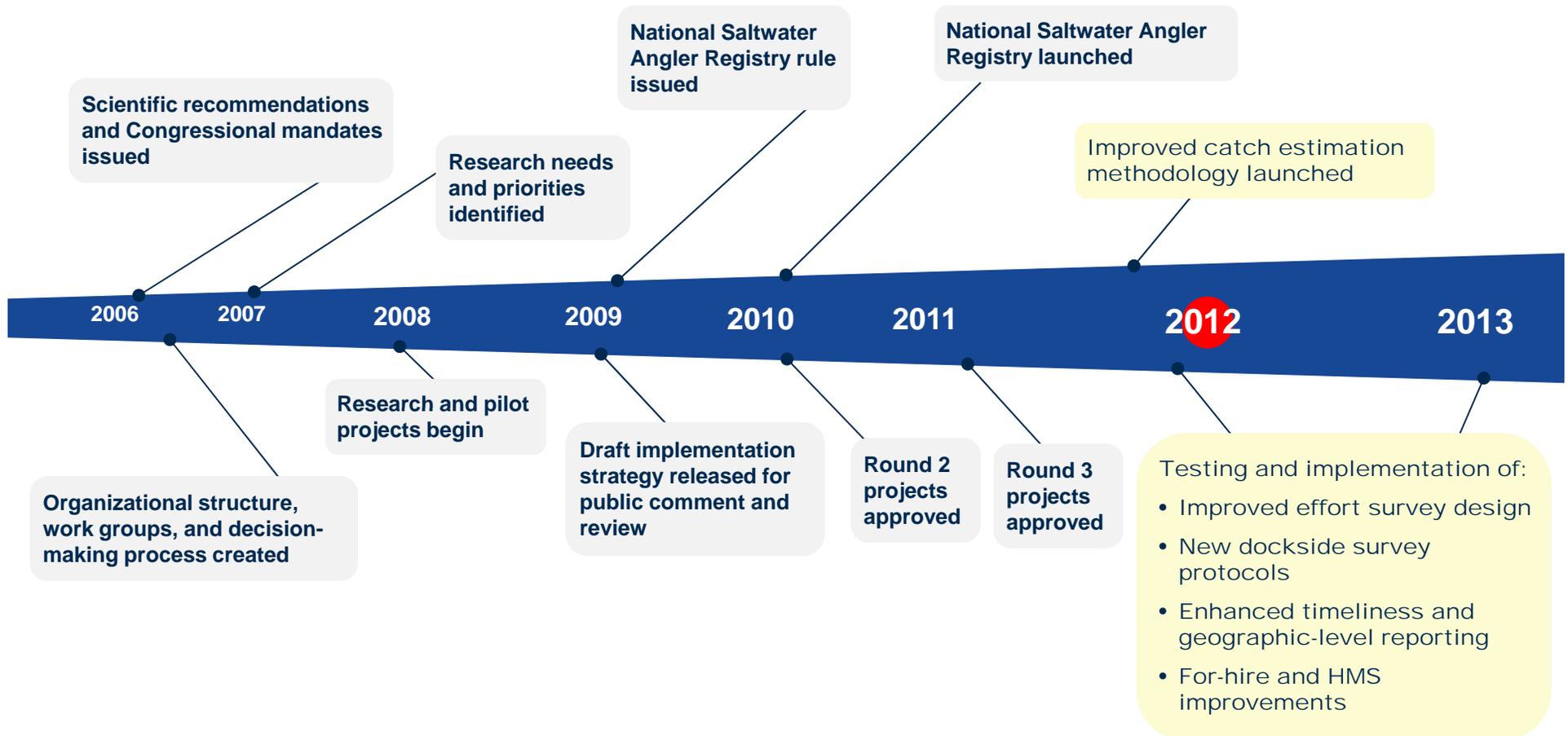
MRIP Improved Recreational Catch Estimates

Highly Migratory Species AP
Spring 2012

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MRIP Timeline





Creates Solid Foundation

The new MRIP estimation methodology is one of a series of improvements over the current MRFFS.

The estimation method is a beginning, not an end.

The improved methodology fixes a fundamental design issue and sets the stage to invest resources in future improvements – such as enhanced angler intercept surveys, improved precision, and more frequent reporting – to meet customer and stakeholder needs.



NRC Findings

- **Mismatch** between how we gather information and how those data are used to generate catch estimates.
- Results in a series of **untested assumptions** that introduces potential for bias which can skew the catch estimates higher or lower.
- New method **corrects these assumptions** about how different factors might affect catch rates.
- The result is **more accurate** estimates of catch.



Results

The improved MRIP method allows us to re-calculate catch estimates going back to 2004 for the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

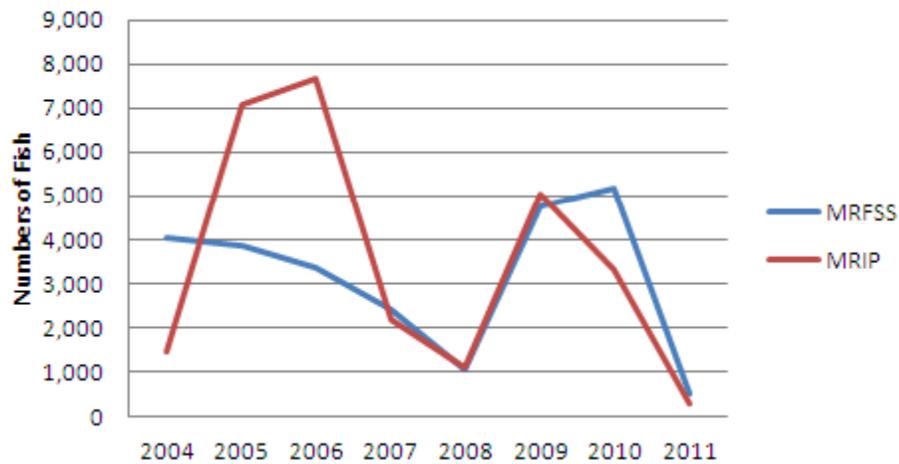
Two key results:

1. Removing bias creates **no across the board trends** in direction or size of changes. Some estimates go up, some go down, and some stay about the same.
2. While the **precision appears lower** than what we previously reported, the new MRIP estimates are more accurate and our understanding of the actual uncertainty is significantly improved.

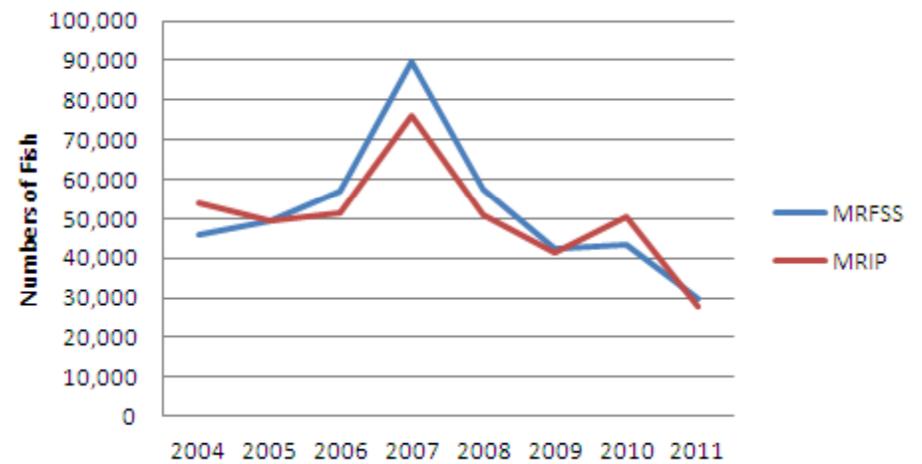


Species Results

Shortfin Mako



Atlantic Sharpnose Shark





Species Results

Blacktip Shark



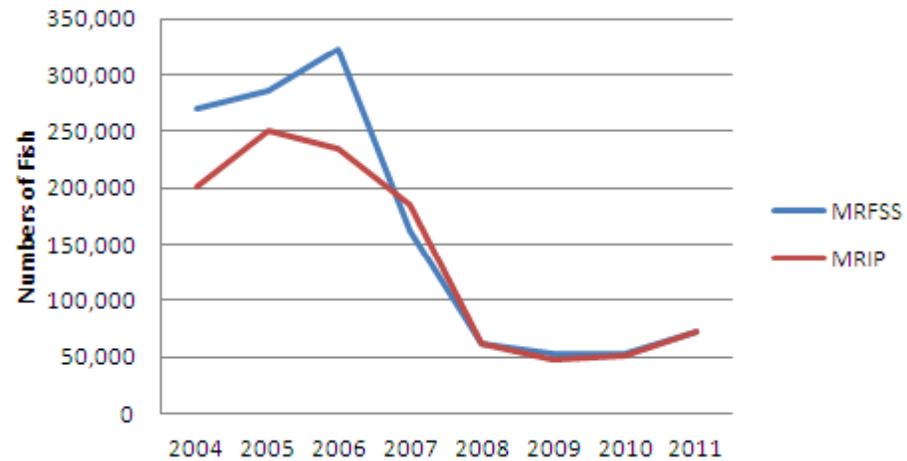
Bonnethead Shark





Species Results

Yellowfin Tuna





Key Observations

1. MRIP estimates are more accurate, even if some are similar to the original MRFSS numbers.
2. Management of the majority of stocks *will not be affected* by the transition to MRIP estimates.
3. Transition from MRFSS to MRIP estimates has implications on managers, scientists, stock assessors and fishermen.
4. Calibration workshop will provide method for integrating MRIP data into usual processes in 2012 and beyond.

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MRIP Questions

Query the data and find other helpful resources online at:

www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov.

Contact us with questions at:

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(301) 427-8118