

## Statement of Task for MRIP Consultants

- Primary scope of task: to complete and present at the Transition Team Gulf Subgroup's Workshop in early 2022 a roadmap that:
  - Identifies research, pilot studies, and analyses--related to sources of non-sampling error and bases for differences in estimates among the Gulf Surveys--needed to (1) enable an informed review and evaluation of the surveys (see below) that produce estimates of catch rates, effort, and catch of red snapper in Gulf of Mexico private boat mode fisheries, and (2) identify corresponding design changes to improve accuracy and minimize differences in estimates among the survey programs .
  - Identifies additional information, studies, or methods needed to enable integration of estimates from the various surveys into a single Gulf-wide catch estimate.
  - Identifies any additional analyses or research necessary to finalize decisions on preferred calibration methods.
  - The intent is that the roadmap will outline a program that, when executed, will enable a well-informed and final independent review that addresses the following questions posed in the Joint Explanatory Statement for Division, B--Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021:
    - “an independent assessment of the accuracy and precision of both the Federal and State recreational catch data programs in the Gulf of Mexico;
    - recommended improvements to be made to the Federal and State recreational catch data programs in the Gulf of Mexico to improve accuracy and precision;
    - an independent assessment, based on the results of the two prior items, to how best to calibrate the Federal and State recreational catch data programs in the Gulf of Mexico to a common currency.”
  
- Scope of survey estimates to be addressed: Surveys that produce estimates of private boat mode red snapper catch, including the following;
  - NOAA MRIP Fishing Effort Survey (FES) and Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS);
  - Florida State Reef Fish Survey (formerly Gulf Reef Fish Survey);
  - Alabama Snapper Check Survey;
  - Mississippi Tails 'n Scales Survey;
  - Louisiana LA Creel Survey;
  - Texas Parks and Wildlife Coastal Creel Survey.

- Team may review available documentation of survey design and estimation methodology for the foregoing surveys and available independent review reports for the surveys, including NOAA MRIP Certification files. The managers of the foregoing list of surveys will provide a list of relevant completed, ongoing, and planned studies and analyses and a list of additional studies the managers have identified as desirable or necessary.