

November 5, 2018. Revised March 26, 2024

## Goals

The MRIP Regional Implementation Teams function to:

- Engage in regular two-way communication with the MRIP Executive Steering Committee and Program Management Team regarding implementation needs, priorities, and strategies to build program capacity, resolve problems and to address unmet needs.
- Develop MRIP Regional Implementation Plans that include:
  - Descriptions of regional needs for recreational fishing statistics, including needs for coverage, resolution, precision and timeliness of survey estimates.
  - A baseline assessment of current data collection programs, including the extent to which current programs satisfy needs and identification of data collection gaps.
  - Recommendations and justification for a sequential, prioritized approach for implementing improved methods that address national and regional needs that are currently unmet.
  - An assessment of risks and benefits of not achieving vs. achieving prioritized improvements.
  - A proposed process for combining statistics derived from multiple sources.
  - Estimated costs, overall and for individual survey components.
- Update the MRIP Regional Implementation Plans as necessary to reflect changing regional needs and priorities, but no less frequently than every 5 years, following updates to the MRIP Strategic Plan.
- Provide annual updates to regional priorities as needed, and provide planned work to be incorporated in the MRIP Annual Implementation Plan.
- Assist in coordinating regional review and support-building for developing and implementing MRIP policies and procedures, data collection and data management standards, and new or updated survey designs.
- Assist the MRIP Transition Team in developing and executing Transition Plans as required for changes in survey methods employed in the region. As possible, incorporate research, pilot projects, survey design and operational changes, and

implementation of transitional actions needed to execute regional Transition Plans into MRIP Regional Implementation Plans, and/or reconcile differences between regional Transition Plan and MRIP Regional Implementation Plan priorities. Regional Implementation Team member agencies may serve as members of Transition Team Regional Subgroups for this purpose.

## Member Expertise, Roles & Responsibilities

MRIP established the Regional Implementation Teams to develop MRIP Regional Implementation Plans that identify regional needs for catch and effort data, and identify, prioritize, and provide cost estimates for desired additions and improvements to regional data collection programs. In some regions, the teams are also responsible for administering various MRIP surveys, as well as managing and delivering data to NOAA Fisheries for catch and effort estimation, and/or maintaining regional data warehouses and disseminating recreational catch data derived from regional surveys. Regional Implementation Team member agencies also participate in Regional Transition Team Subgroups, when such groups are established to prepare and oversee execution of Transition Plans for regional changes in survey methods, as provided in NMFS Policy Directive 04-114. The established Regional Fishery Information Networks (FINs) serve as the MRIP Regional Implementation Teams for the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific regions (via the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, the Gulf Fisheries Information Network and the Pacific Recreational Fisheries Information Network, respectively). The FINs coordinate with their member agencies to develop regional priorities. Ad hoc Regional Implementation Teams have been established to develop MRIP Regional Implementation Plans for the Caribbean, the Pacific Islands, Alaska, and for Atlantic highly migratory species. In all cases, the teams will include representatives from, at a minimum: the applicable Interstate Marine Fisheries Commission and members or, in the absence of an Interstate Commission, representatives of state and territorial governments; the applicable Regional Fishery Management Council(s); the NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology; the applicable NOAA Fisheries Regional Office and Fisheries Science Center.