

MRIP Operations Team Meeting Notes
Charleston, SC
11/09/10

Participants:

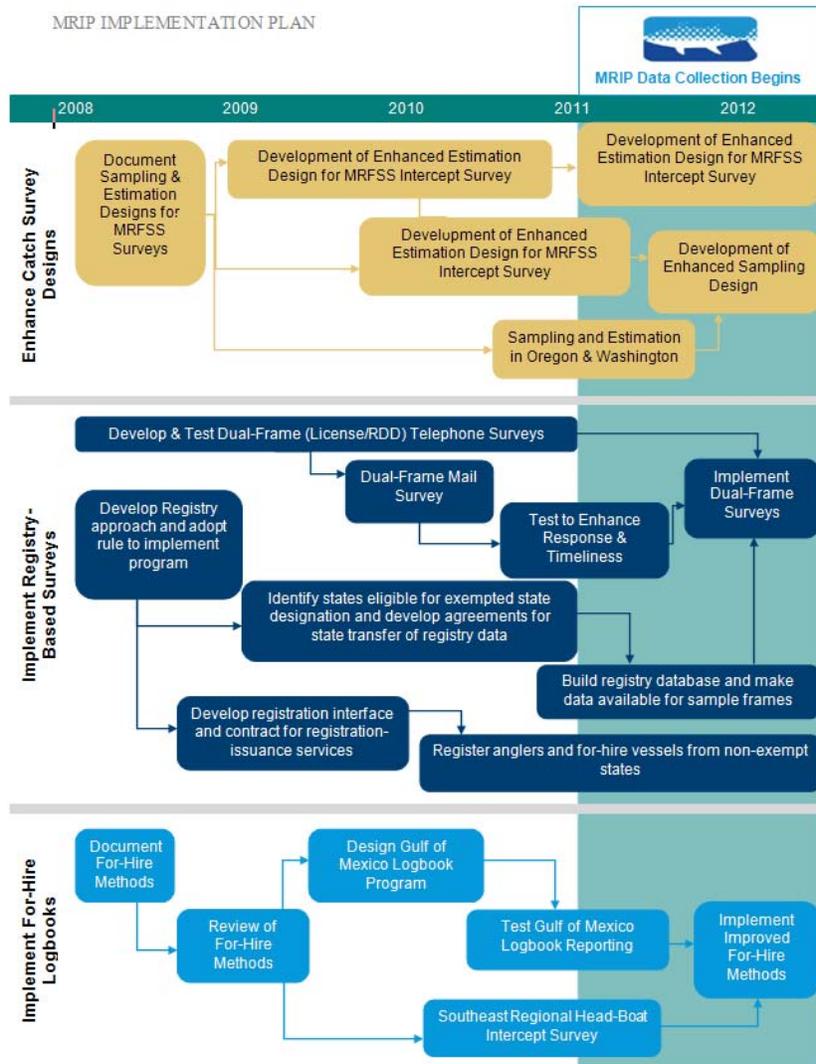
OT Members: Preston Pate, Gary Shepherd, Richard Cody, Russell Porter, Scott Ward, Gordon Colvin, Jason Didden, Sarah Heil, Cindy Thomson, Graciela Garcia-Moliner, Lauren Dolinger Few, Dave Donaldson, Dick Brame, Chris Bradshaw, Rob Andrews, Matt Brenner, Bob Clark (Phone), Ron Salz (Phone), Josh Demello (Phone)

Welcome (Pate)

- Introduction of Gordon Colvin's role as the MRIP program manager
- Introductions of attendees

General MRIP Update (Colvin)

- We have been trying to communicate to NOAA leadership how much work is going on in MRIP, how the projects are doing, and how it all fits together.
- MRIP leadership is holding monthly meetings. Every 3 months, leadership holds "retreats" where Ned Cyr (Director of NMFS Office of Science and Technology) attends. In addition Ned and Gordon meet with the NMFS Assistant Administrator every 3 months to discuss MRIP.
- Some concern w/ NMFS leadership about the pace of implementation. NMFS is facing several lawsuits claiming that MRIP should have been implemented.
- MRIP Upcoming Actions (Slide)
- MRIP Implementation Timeline (see below)



- Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC): Has created a 22 person Recreational Fisheries Working Group (RFWG). The OT can use RFWG members in an ad-hoc advisory role.

Registry team Update (Colvin)

- Fee next year, but we don't know what the fee will be yet. Fee will likely be announced prior to the end of the year.
- States that don't qualify for exempt status are HI & NJ. The VI & PR are working on developing a registry again.
- We have about \$2.5 million in grants to provide support to states to enhance coverage & license database.

Blue Ribbon Panel Report (Colvin)

- Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) of fisheries experts were commissioned by NGO's and conservation groups to make recommendations about improving the accuracy and timeliness of recreational fishing statistics.
- The BRP report has been provided to OT members.

- NMFS may request feedback from OT on recommendations included in the report.

Project Updates (PPT slides were provided prior to the meeting)

1. Cooperative Design & Testing of a Logbook Report Program in Gulf of Mexico Update (Donaldson)

- Refer to Gulf Logbook OT 2010.pptx.
- Data entry of the log books is a little behind.
- FL is about 35-40% non compliant.
- Reporting compliance in TX is much better – near 100%.
- The project team will be working with consultants to develop procedures to address non-response.
- Validation data will be made available in early 2011.
- Demo of reporting tool is online. Dave will give login information to Rob, who will distribute to the rest of the team.
- Dave will look into who “owns” the online program (developer or GulfFIN).

2. Development of Alternative Estimation Procedures for MRFSS Intercept Survey & Development & Testing of Alternative Sampling Design for MRFSS Intercept Survey Updates (Andrews)

- Refer to Estimation Design OT 2010.pptx.
- Q: How are fishing trips categorized (day vs. night)? Is it by when trips depart, when they were most likely fishing, or when they arrive back at the dock? A: They are categorized by when they are intercepted, but the timeframes are set up so that the interceptors get people when they fished (day vs. night).
- We will need to wait until the new estimation method is finished and data from the intercept survey pilot study are analyzed before we'll know how many more samples we'll need in order to keep maintain current levels of precision.

3. Developing License-Frame Survey (Andrews)

- Refer to Developing license frame surveys OT 2010.pptx.

4. Timeliness (Colvin)

- Refer to Timeliness project update to OT Nov 2010 FINAL.pptx.
- Q: How are you covering cost increases? A: This is something that we are focused on & will try to project numbers to estimate what costs might be. Also, costs to reduce lag time (QA/QC process), costs also associated with shortening wave times.
- Need to management people at the table of the meeting.
- Costs could be more firmed up by doing regional studies. Not just costs to MRIP or state agencies but also management costs.
- At the meeting there needs to be a discussion of data quality tradeoffs with timeliness.
- At the meeting there needs to be talk about new methods and tradeoffs of each method.

5. Video Assessment of Record Discards Update (Bradshaw)

- Refer to Video Assessment of Recreational Discards_compress.pptx.
- Lots of possible uses for this technology. For example, possible use to validate (or invalidate) discard information.
- Provided the technology proves to be feasible, the challenge will be how to utilize in a representative fashion.

Communication & Education Team Update (Ward)

- Scott Ward provided an update on MRIP Communications and Education.
- Scott referenced two MRIP videos that can be accessed at:
 - <http://www.fifthstateci.com/clients/NOAA/atlvideo/>
 - <http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov>

Information Management Update (Dolinger Few)

- Refer to IMP_OT Update V4.pptx.

OT Terms of Reference (Pate)

- Entering into phase of program that will require action by the OT
- Ongoing role & responsibilities – tried to take a stab at putting on paper what the OT's role is in final reports
- Q: Does OT certification imply endorsement. A: OT certification will only reflect the statistical merit and feasibility of data collection designs/practices. Decisions to implement certified methods will be made by NMFS in consultation with regional partners.
- A request was made to specify that "peer review" would be conducted externally.
- Pres will make minor changes to the TOR and send back to the group and the ESC.

Funding Priorities (Pate)

- Give OT opportunity to work with regional partnerships to develop proposals that could be specific to their regions
- We are not suggesting that there are no additional projects with National significance. Such projects will still be considered.
- Projects should maintain a focus on improving the accuracy of fisheries statistics.
- We do not want to use OT funds to fill data collection gaps or support budget shortfalls. The decision to allocate MRIP funds for this purpose is beyond the scope of the OT.
- In the next few weeks, team members should submit project ideas, so that the OT has an idea of the number of projects that we're looking at. Official deadline for project proposals will probably be the end of January.
- We will make regions and councils not represented on the OT aware of these funding possibilities.
- Future spending could switch from funding pilot projects to implementation. This is beyond the scope of the OT.
- A reminder for all those considering proposing projects, any new data collection requires approval from OMB, so be mindful of that in your project timelines.
- Need to think about funding mechanisms for projects. How will the money be moved from NOAA to projects?