NOAA FISHERIES

Fisheries Information System Program

What is FIS?

The Fisheries Information System program is a state-regional-federal partnership that supports sound, science-based fisheries management. We do so by fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration and funding innovative projects to improve the quality of fisheries-dependent data.

A Program Management Team, composed of members from each region, guides the work of FIS. Greater Atlantic representatives are:

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fisheries.noaa.gov/national/commercial-fishing/fisheries-information-system-program

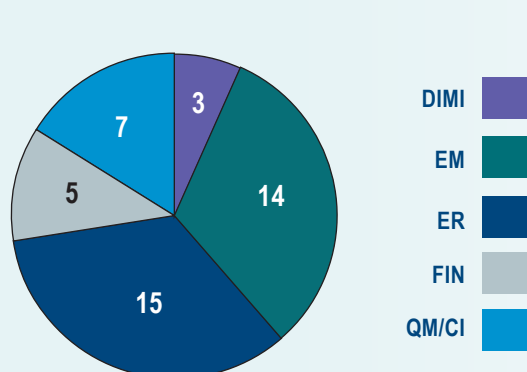# FIS in the Greater Atlantic

A Regionally Driven Collaboration

While fisheries-dependent data collection, reporting, analysis, and management are inherently regional functions, there are numerous benefits to collaborating nationally and among regions. The Fisheries Information System program (FIS) brings together representatives from regional offices, science centers, fishery information networks, commissions, and state agencies to spark innovation, promote information-sharing, reduce redundancy, and help coordinate priority-setting.
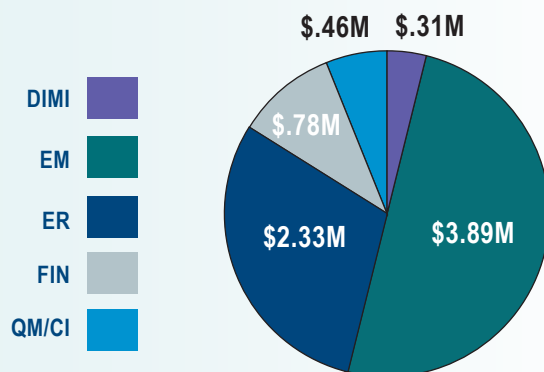
Along with convening cross-disciplinary communities of practice, a key FIS initiative is an annual competitive request for proposal process, funded in collaboration with the National Observer Program's Electronic Technologies program and the National Catch Share Program, to support fishery-dependent data projects. In the Greater Atlantic, funding has supported projects by the Atlantic HMS Management Division, the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, and the state of Maryland.

Since 2013, FIS has funded more than 260 projects in the areas of data improvements, modernization, and integration (DIMI); electronic monitoring pre-implementation and implementation (EM); electronic reporting pre-implementation and implementation (ER); fishery information network development (FIN); and quality management and continuous improvement (QM/CI). Here is the breakdown for projects in the Greater Atlantic:

Legend: DIMI, EM, ER, FIN, QM/CI

**Greater Atlantic Projects
Since 2013: 44**

**Greater Atlantic Funding
Since 2013: $7,773,170**

Making an Impact

FIS support is making a significant impact in the region. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center has, through a series of projects, evaluated the utility of and ultimately implemented electronic monitoring technologies to support the New England Fishery Management Council decision to increase monitoring in the Atlantic herring fishery. Drawing on findings from an FIS-supported study that found that EM could be used to verify catch and discard for midwater trawl vessels, the council approved an option to implement EM alongside portside sampling.
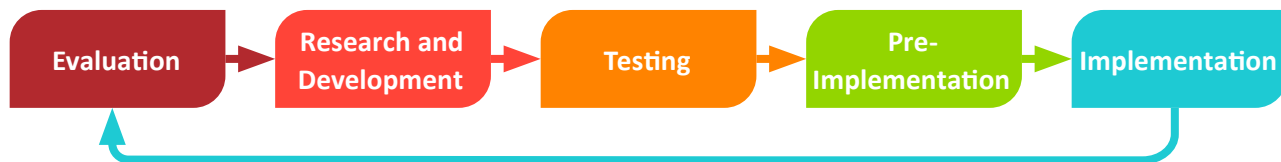
Subsequent FIS-funded projects allowed the program to move toward implementation through several means. These included outreach to industry and other stakeholders; the improvement of portside

infrastructure; the purchase of portside sampling gear and safety equipment; and supporting the transition from a state-sponsored portside sampling program to a federal one. The projects have also provided valuable insights on how to effectively administer EM and portside sampling programs, with training materials, web applications for data collection, and sampling protocols developed collaboratively by NEFSC, the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, vessel participants, and state staff in Maine and Massachusetts. Importantly, the products developed through this partnership can serve as models for other regions and fisheries to adopt.

Supporting the Project Life Cycle

Through RFP funding, supplemented by engagement from communities of practice called Professional Specialty Groups, FIS provides targeted support that yields effective, innovative solutions to high-priority challenges across the project life cycle.

Evaluation → Research and Development → Testing → Pre-Implementation → Implementation

Recent RFP-funded projects in the Greater Atlantic, by project life cycle stage:

2022

- Federal Information Security Management Act Compliance *(Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program)*
- Development of an Electronic Geolocation Reporting System for Ropeless and Beyond *(Northeast Fisheries Science Center)*
- Radio Frequency Identification Systems for Gear Configuration and Effort Tracking in Electronically Monitored Fixed Gear Fisheries *(NEFSC)*
- Implementation of Automated Data Auditing/Validation for Electronic Logbooks *(ACCSP)*
- Implementing Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting in the Federal American Lobster Fishery *(Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office)*
- Modernized Operator, Dealer, and Vessel Permits *(GARFO)*
- Project Management of the Implementation of a New Electronic Vessel Trip Report Data Model for GARFO and NEFSC *(GARFO)*
- Scientific and Research Exclusion Permitting Tool *(GARFO)*

2021

- Atlantic Coast Project Scoping for Implementation of Automated Data Auditing/Validation for Electronic Logbooks *(ACCSP)*
- Continued Development and Enhancement to the ACCSP Online Data Query Tool and the ACCSP Assignment Tracking Application *(ACCSP)*
- Fostering Open Science Standards and Collaborative Connections for Analysis and Application of Fishery-Dependent Data *(NEFSC)*
- Phase Two: Electronic Document Data Interface *(GARFO)*
- Support for Year Three of the Dockside Monitoring Program Component of the Maximized Retention Electronic Monitoring Program in the Groundfish Fishery *(GARFO)*
- Administering Electronic Monitoring and Portside Sampling in the Atlantic Herring Fishery *(NEFSC)*
- Commercial Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting in the Greater Atlantic: A Proposal to Support Fishery Management Council Actions to Implement Mandatory Vessel Electronic Reporting Through Outreach, Access and Training *(GARFO)*

For a complete list of FIS-supported projects since 2013, please visit fisheries.noaa.gov/data-tools/fis-supported-projects.