FIS in the Southeast

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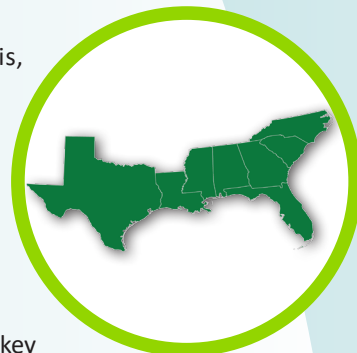
A Program Management Team, composed of members from each region, guides the work of FIS. Southeast representatives are:

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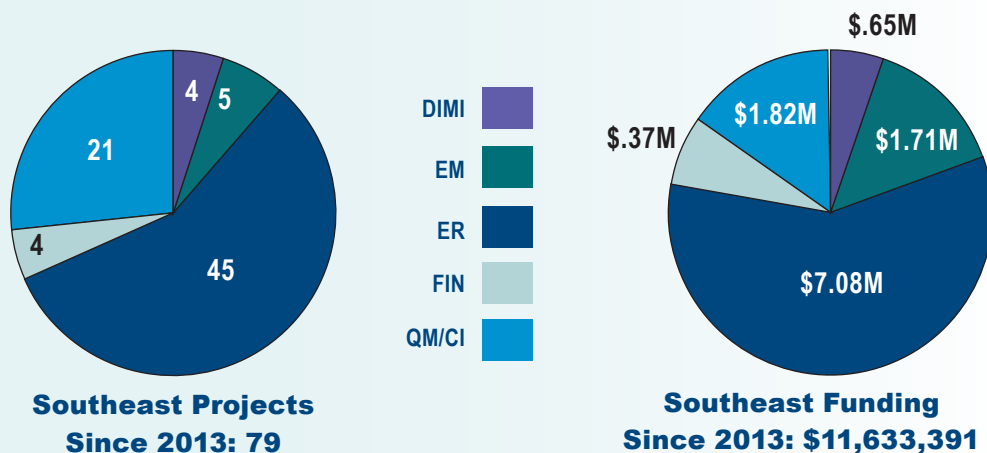fisheries.noaa.gov/national/commercial-fishing/fisheries-information-system-program

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 Southeast, this funding has supported projects conducted by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, the Southeast Regional Office, the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Fisheries Information Network.

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 Southeast region:

DIMI
EM
ER
FIN
QM/CI

Southeast Projects Since 2013: 79

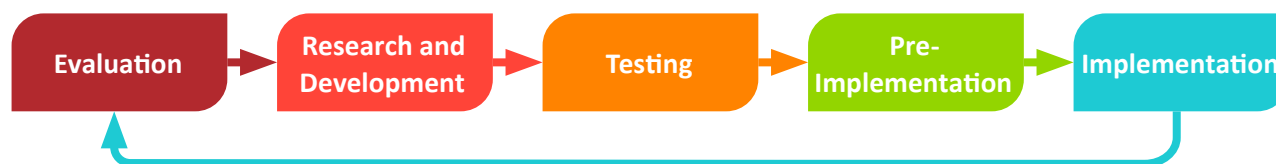**Southeast Funding Since 2013: $11,633,391**

Making an Impact

FIS support is making a significant impact in the region. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is collaborating with its state partners in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas to evaluate the feasibility of creating a standardized conversion factor to determine the whole live weight of four of the most common Gulf of Mexico shrimp species. Shrimp are often reported by landed weight (i.e., tail weight), with a conversion applied to reach the live, whole weight (i.e., including the head) that is used to manage quotas and compare landings among states. But the conversion factors had not been updated or validated since the early 1990s.

Project teams in each state obtained shrimp samples to measure and analyze length, whole weight, and tail weight. Even small variations in conversion factors can have significant implications. For instance, a difference of just 0.062 in the conversion factor for Brown Shrimp tail- to head-on weight translates into a difference of more than 62,000 pounds per million pounds landed. The new conversion factors will result in more reliable data for use in stock assessments, state and regional quota monitoring, evaluation of the effectiveness of fishery management plans, and data analysis across different fishery management agencies. Additionally, the collaborative nature of the project helped open lines of communication—and opportunities for future cooperative research—among the state partners.

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 Southeast, by project life cycle stage:

2022

- ■ SEFSC-SERO Collaboration to Create Fishermen Portal to Address Known Differences in Data Reporting Systems *(Southeast Fisheries Science Center)*
- ■ Application of Machine Learning and Electronic Monitoring in Gulf of Mexico Commercial Fisheries: Phase III *(SEFSC)*
- ■ Automation of Southeast Region Headboat Survey Estimated Landings, Effort and Discards *(SEFSC)*
- ■ Catalogue Morphometric Conversions for Standardization and Automation of Datasets Used in U.S. Stock Assessments and Fisheries Management *(SEFSC)*
- ■ Finalizing Data Processing Framework and Interface to Enhance Data Provision for Southeast Stock Assessments and Fisheries Management *(SEFSC)*
- ■ Implementation of Electronic Quota Monitoring Reporting in North Carolina *(North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries)*

2021

- ■ GulfFIN Strategic Planning Session *(Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission)*
- ■ Application of Machine Learning and Electronic Monitoring in Gulf of Mexico Commercial Fisheries: Phase II *(SEFSC)*
- ■ SE Observer Management Portal *(SEFSC)*
- ■ Advancing the Use of Technology for Port Sampling in the U.S. Caribbean Using Image Analysis for Length Composition *(SEFSC)*
- ■ Further Development and Enhancement of SEFSC Observer Programs' Tablet Applications for Electronic Data Collection *(SEFSC)*

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