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# MRIP Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Regional Implementation Plan & MRIP/LPS Priorities

## Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel Meeting

September 7, 2017

# Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)

- MRIP has been working to develop and certify a series of scientifically sound surveys to meet recreational fisheries management data needs.
- Key component of the *MRIP Implementation Strategy* is the development of *Regional Implementation Plans*
  - *HMS fisheries are considered in their own plan*
  - *Regional plans will include priorities, existing data gaps, budget estimates*

# Atlantic HMS MRIP Priorities

- **Conduct a re-design and re-estimation of the LPS**
  - Incorporates probability based sampling;
  - Improves data collection on trips originating from private access sites, early morning, and night;
  - Optimize sample sizes to improve precision of estimates on rare event species;
  - Address biases from over-sampling tournaments.
- **Expand Atlantic HMS recreational fishery data collections through the rest of the Atlantic HMS region (NC-TX) through:**
  - Expanding the LPS to the S. Atlantic and Gulf OR
  - Adding an offshore stratum to existing MRIP intercept survey (APAIS)

# Atlantic HMS MRIP Priorities, cont.

- Include Atlantic HMS charter/headboats in for-hire electronic logbook data collections underway through the Councils
  - HMS charter/headboat permit holders with Council for-hire permits would currently be required to participate
- Integrate catch and effort estimates for species encountered by multiple surveys
  - Will require calibration and be influenced by how HMS data collections are expanded in the southeast/Gulf

# Atlantic HMS MRIP Priorities, cont.

- Expand selection of tournaments for landings reporting to include all Atlantic HMS tournaments instead of only billfish tournaments.
- Evaluate expanding catch card data collections to additional states (currently required in MD & NC) as an alternative to mandatory call in reporting for bluefin tuna, billfish, & swordfish landings, and a way of improving shark landings data.
- Improve data on recreational shark fisheries
  - Shark data hampered by rare-event nature of many species, mis-identification of species, and night trips
  - Shark endorsement may provide a targeted frame depending on how many permit holders acquire it

# Atlantic HMS MRIP Priorities, cont.

- Modify HMS Charter/Headboat permit to improve sampling of recreational trips (discussed earlier)
- Revise the Large Pelagics Biological Survey (LPBS) to allow greater collection of biological samples from all HMS species
  - Currently prioritizes bluefin tuna samples
- Improve Atlantic HMS recreational data collections in the Caribbean region
  - HMS Division staff are participating on Caribbean MRIP Implementation Team

# Next Steps for Plan and LPS Re-design

- HMS regional plan has been submitted to the MRIP Operations Team and Executive Steering Committee for review
- LPS re-design, re-estimation, and expansion will require pilot studies comparing new and old methods simultaneously for calibration purposes
- Design and full implementation of new and expanded LPS will take multiple years to complete but lessons learned from MRIP re-design should speed up the process

# Comments or Questions?

Please share them with us!

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