

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC Meeting – Silver Spring, Maryland
November 6-8, 2018

1. Title of Discussion: Electronic Recreational Fisheries Reporting

2. Presenter: Rich Cody, ECS Federal LLC
MRIP Program Management Team Member, Office of Science and
Technology

3. Objective/Purpose (Informational & Discussion)

Provide an overview of the MRIP certified electronic reporting (e-reporting) programs and other e-reporting programs being implemented by Fishery Management Councils and states.

4. Background/Synopsis

The purpose of e-reporting is to provide timely, scientifically sound information that fishery managers and scientists can use to ensure the sustainability of ocean resources and to better manage recreational fisheries. Many e-reporting systems are designed to address regional and national stakeholder needs and concerns about recreational fishing catch and effort estimates.

Proposed electronic reporting systems are expected to allow better monitoring of recreational annual catch limits to more efficiently manage recreational fishing seasons. Some programs are expected to help improve population assessments by providing a more accurate record of vessel landings and data associated with the fishing locations, such as from the for-hire, charter, or head boats.

The presentation will provide information on the characteristics of two Gulf State programs that use e-reporting to supplement MRIP data; Mississippi's Tails n' Scales and Alabama's Snapper Check. Both use similar methods but are implemented differently. There are challenges with both programs related to compliance, survey design constraints, and use of the data collected for management and stock assessments. In addition to information on these state run programs, a summary of findings from recent MRIP funded studies that evaluated volunteer app data will also be presented.

5. Discussion to be taken by MAFAC members

The presentation is designed to address some of the questions of the two tasks that comprise the Recreational Fisheries Subcommittee work plan. Subcommittee members will be using the information to help direct their tasks and work.