



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

A photograph of a man and two young boys fishing on a beach. They are standing in the shallow surf, holding fishing rods. The man is in the middle ground, wearing a light blue shirt and dark shorts. The two boys are in the foreground, one wearing a white shirt and dark shorts, the other a light purple shirt and dark shorts. The background shows waves breaking on the shore and a cliffside with buildings in the distance.

**Marine Recreational Information Program  
2019 Implementation  
Plan Update**





**NOAA FISHERIES**



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# The MRIP Strategic Approach

## Overview

The number of trips taken and fish caught by recreational saltwater anglers are vital components of the information—along with other data, such as commercial catch and biological information—that allow scientists and managers to assess and maintain the health of fish stocks in U.S. waters. The surveys to measure those trips and catch are developed, improved, and implemented by the state-regional-federal partnership known as the Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP.

Since its inception, the MRIP partnership has followed a three-tiered strategy to improve our surveys and procedures for generating estimates of recreational fishing activity:

- **Evaluation** of our existing methods to fully understand what's working well, what needs improvement, and the tradeoffs inherent in making changes to our surveys.
- **Innovation** aimed at developing new approaches and using emerging technologies to improve our surveys and the systems and processes that support them.
- **Implementation** of new methods at the regional level, working with partners to ensure a smooth transition from one approach to another.

MRIP teams comprised of NOAA Fisheries staff, state and regional partners, contractors, and stake-

holders from the recreational fishing community set priorities and guide implementation of this strategy. Their work is overseen by an Executive Steering Committee whose members and participants include representatives from NOAA Fisheries headquarters, regional offices, and science centers; marine fisheries councils and commissions; and the recreational fishing community.

In 2017, MRIP partners developed a comprehensive strategic plan to serve as a guide through 2022. The six core goals and the strategies and tactics to achieve those goals are referred to throughout this annual Implementation Plan Update, which offers detailed information on progress toward our goals, along with focus areas for the coming year, as we work toward the ultimate shared goal of ensuring the sustainability of recreational fishing.

## Fiscal Year 2018 Highlighted Accomplishments

### ● Goal 1—Meet Customer Needs

*Provide recreational catch, effort, and participation statistics that meet defined, understood, and prioritized needs—including, for example, timeliness of delivery of estimates, spatial and temporal survey coverage, precision of estimates, and statistics for special needs fisheries—of identified regional and national customers.*

MRIP completed a five-year strategic plan in 2017, incorporating recommendations from the 2017 review of MRIP by the National Academies of

Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. In addition to commending MRIP for progress the program had made, the review identified more than two dozen specific recommendations for further improvements. These recommendations formed the basis for six strategic goals identified in the five-year strategic plan, along with the associated strategies and tactics needed to achieve those goals, and the metrics to measure progress.

The FY 2018 MRIP Implementation Plan was the first annual implementation plan based on the strategic plan. At year's end, 90 percent of tactics identified for work in FY 2017 had significant progress. For the FY 2018 Implementation Plan, 44 separate tactics were identified, of which 20 were ongoing with significant progress and 24 were new to FY 2018. Of the latter category, progress has been made on almost 80 percent of multi-year tactics begun in FY 2018 and 72 percent of tactics specific to FY 2018.

### ● **Goal 2—Provide Quality Products**

*Achieve consistency, quality, timeliness, accessibility, and transparency in data collection, production of estimates, and program operations.*

As part of addressing recommendations from the 2017 review of MRIP by the National Academies, MRIP is developing and maintaining up-to-date documentation to support both internal operations and continued evaluation of MRIP improvements. In FY 2018, the Office of Science and Technology completed development of a detailed technical report that describes all current survey designs and statistical methods and captures the major methodological changes that have been implemented since MRIP's inception. The team also completed the MRIP Policy and Procedural Manual, which is intended to organize and guide program management efforts. Additionally, the team drafted operations manuals for the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) and For-Hire Survey (FHS) that are currently undergoing internal review.

### ● **Goal 3—Increase Understanding**

*Strengthen two-way communications with partners and stakeholders to improve their knowledge of the properties and use limitations of catch statistics, and to build confidence in the data.*

In its review of MRIP, the National Academies recommended that the program expand its communications team and increase regular coordination and communication with the councils and commissions. In response, MRIP established regional communications working groups for the Greater Atlantic and Southeast regions, which include representatives from the respective councils, commissions, states, and Sea Grant.

In December 2017, the MRIP Communications and Education Team hosted two meetings with private recreational anglers in Plymouth, MA and Jupiter, FL. The team explored ways to strengthen our relationship with the angling community, learned about top communications concerns regarding recreational fishing data, and explored ways to best share MRIP-related information through the most effective channels. The team is continuing to incorporate feedback from those meetings into materials and outreach efforts.

These meetings also helped guide the planning for a fall 2018 MRIP Road Show, which took place in late September in the mid-Atlantic and New England. The multi-day, multi-state trip featured presentations to MRIP partners, meetings with stakeholders, and focus groups to help refine messages and materials. The Road Show is planned to continue in FY 2019 with stops in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic.

Finally, as part of the transition from the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) to the Fishing Effort Survey (FES) described under Goal 4, the MRIP Communications and Education Team supported the development of presentations to councils, commissions, scientific and statistical committees, and other stakeholders on the transition process and calibration of historical fishing effort numbers.

### ● **Goal 4—Ensure Sound Science**

*Maintain a strong science foundation for the program that includes robustness, integrity, transparency, and innovation, and that develops and incorporates new advancements in survey design and data collection and analysis.*

In FY 2018, MRIP fully implemented the FES as the official methodology for estimating recreational

shore and private boat fishing effort for the Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, and Hawaii. The FES, which utilizes a mail survey design, is a more efficient and accurate approach for monitoring recreational fishing effort than its predecessor, the CHTS. The FES and CHTS were conducted concurrently from 2015-2017. During this benchmarking period, the FES provided broader coverage of the angling population and consistently achieved much higher response rates than the CHTS. MRIP, working through its expert consultant team, developed and completed successful peer reviews of calibration models for the FES and the APAIS survey design changes. The calibration models were successfully applied to historical catch estimates and a new, calibrated time series of estimates was completed and made available to data users.

MRIP completed an Electronic Reporting Action Plan that identifies and evaluates opportunities to incorporate electronic reporting options into recreational fishing data collection. For instance, testing began on a web reporting option for the FES in the fall of 2018. The NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology also completed a report describing data collection designs that could incorporate electronic reporting. The report, which will inform future research priorities, details the benefits and challenges of electronic reporting that have been encountered by survey research organizations.

In addition, MRIP promoted development of statistically sound for-hire survey designs that would include both mandatory electronic reporting and dockside sampling surveys. MRIP actively participated in the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) initiative led by the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office and in ongoing evaluation of recent pilot studies conducted by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to improve the Southeast Region Headboat Survey.

Finally, MRIP worked with state partners to certify supplemental, state- and fishery-specific survey designs to gather data and produce estimates based on the unique characteristics of a given fishery. These surveys include Alabama's red snapper-specific Snapper Check, Mississippi's red snapper-specific Tails n' Scales, Florida's reef fish-specific Gulf Reef Fish Survey and Louisiana's all-species

general survey, LA Creel. Additionally, MRIP provided support for a September 2018 workshop that kicked off the development of a method for integrating supplemental red snapper survey data with general survey estimates.

### ● **Goal 5—Operate Collaboratively**

*Maintain effective collaborations with state, interstate, regional, and national partners for cost effective and responsive recreational data collection and catch estimation.*

Building on collaborative efforts exemplified by its 2017 Released Catch Workshop, MRIP partnered in 2018 with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to bring together participants from the three interstate marine fisheries commissions to hold a workshop on transition for the MRIP-certified Gulf supplemental and general surveys. Although the workshop focused on integration and calibration of Gulf supplemental and general survey estimates for stock assessment and fisheries management purposes, workshop discussions provided guidance to regional partners considering development of specialized surveys. A report from the workshop summarized discussions on calibration and integration options and identified next steps in development of integrated estimates and calibrations.

The reorganization of MRIP internal teams in 2018 and formal adoption of a new organizational structure for MRIP provided a framework for progress on regional needs and priorities identified in MRIP Regional Implementation Plans at the national level. The new Regional Implementation Council consisting of the leads of the regional teams responsible for drafting the Regional Implementation Plans will assist in integrating regional needs into a cohesive national assessment that is consistent with NOAA needs and priorities.

### ● **Goal 6—Meet Program Resources and Funding Needs**

*Ensure that the program's value and funding needs are well documented and communicated; resources are utilized efficiently; opportunities to expand capability through leveraging partner resources are fully explored; and actions are taken as authorized to ensure sufficient funding to support the needs of the program (federal and state support).*

MRIP worked closely with state directors in a number of jurisdictions on a range of initiatives, including:

- Collaborating with Atlantic and Gulf state commissions regarding review and approval of MRIP Regional Implementation Plans prepared by the Fisheries Information Networks (FINs).
- Working on the review and approval process for certification of the Gulf states MRIP supplemental and general surveys, including direct communications with state directors.
- Partnering with regional stakeholders to conduct a fourth red snapper survey workshop on integrating state specialized survey estimates into the legacy time series for the Gulf of Mexico.
- Developing and executing a comprehensive communications plan for the FES and APAIS Transition Plans that included provisions for state-level stakeholder engagement.

Additionally, MRIP completed the first annual assessment of national priorities based on the inputs from Regional Implementation Plans and additional input from NOAA and Congress. (See sidebar.)

## Fiscal Year 2019 Priorities

In FY 2019, MRIP's work will continue to be guided by the six overarching goals and associated strategies and tactics laid out in the MRIP Strategic Plan. The tactics MRIP will focus on in FY 2019 are detailed below, while a complete description of all strategies and tactics can be reviewed in the [Strategic Plan](#).

### ● Goal 1—Meet Customer Needs

#### *FY 2019 Key Tactics:*

- **Identify customer needs at intervals of not more than five years, in conjunction with reviews of Regional Implementation Plan updates.**

Regional plans were completed in FY 2018, and will guide the identification of unmet needs. The program will also be reaching out directly

## MRIP National Priorities

### Restore sampling to previously funded levels:

- GulfFIN: APAIS in Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi

### Complete work necessary to select and fully certify survey designs in use for meeting general survey needs in each region:

- Consultant support for review of for-hire electronic logbook and dockside validation designs and other for-hire designs as needed.
- Support as needed for SEFHIER planning work.
- Fund workshop/travel to select and certify optimal design for Hawaii and review Western Pacific surveys.
- Consultant support for completing certification reviews for Pacific RecFIN state surveys.
- Caribbean Steering Committee support and travel.

### Funding assistance for partner priorities for certified supplemental surveys for high-profile fisheries:

- Implementation funding for Gulf states surveys following certification.
- Support for September workshop to develop method for integrating supplemental red snapper survey data with general survey estimates.
- Consultant support for follow-up analyses stemming from September workshop to develop methods for integrating supplemental red snapper survey data with general survey estimates.

### National Academies/partner follow-up studies:

- Assessment of feasibility of improving timeliness to support in-season management.
- ER Action Plan.
- Rare event fisheries: staff support for joint meetings with Northeast and Southeast Fisheries Science Centers.

to MRIP customers, as identified in FY 2017, to ascertain and compile their needs for catch and effort data.

- Modify survey designs, and properties and delivery of catch statistics, to improve customer satisfaction in ways that are both feasible and cost-effective.

MRIP will continue to support calibration of MRIP estimates for implementation of new methods such as the FES and state supplemental reef fish surveys, to assist NOAA Fisheries and state stock assessors in updating catch histories required for fisheries stock assessments.

### ● Goal 2—Provide Quality Products

#### *FY 2019 Key Tactics:*

- Create clear and concise baseline requirements for data collection, statistical estimation, access, and information management, and for providing measures of precision and sources of bias in data collection.

MRIP data collection standards will be completed with technical input from the FINs and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP).

- Document the major elements of MRIP program management, policy and procedures (e.g., organizational governance, planning and implementation, certification/transition, budget processes).

This project, started in FY 2018, will be completed and appropriate content will be shared with partners.

- Develop complete documentation of survey and estimation protocols, quality assurance procedures, and data quality control procedures.

Completion of both an operations manual for the FES and an MRIP estimation methods manual for the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico is expected by the second quarter of FY 2019. Additionally, MRIP anticipates adopting a NOAA Fisheries Policy and Directive that specifies a process for survey design certification. Finally, MRIP intends to plan for training workshops to be conducted via webinar on custom domain estimation.

### ● Goal 3—Increase Understanding

#### *FY 2019 Key Tactics:*

- Identify and maintain contact with key stakeholders (e.g., Social Network Analysis).

Work on the Social Network Analysis, which will identify key stakeholders and the ways in which they receive and share information about recreational fishing, began in FY 2018 and will continue through FY 2019.

- Periodically evaluate stakeholder understanding of MRIP and adjust communications strategies as needed.

The MRIP Communications and Education Team began its Road Show in FY 2018, with focus groups and visits to stakeholders and partners in New England and the Mid-Atlantic. Completion of visits in the Mid-Atlantic are planned in FY 2019, along with similar efforts in the Gulf and South Atlantic.

### ● Goal 4—Ensure Sound Science

#### *FY 2019 Key Tactics:*

- Support research aimed at designing, testing, and implementing new and/or improved recreational fisheries surveys that address independent review recommendation and specific partner needs (e.g., private access, discards).

Efforts in this area will include an assessment of feasibility of improving timeliness to support in-season management, offering staff support for joint meetings with the Northeast and Southeast Fisheries Science Centers on rare event fisheries, with the goal of finalizing strategies in FY 2019, and following up on the recommendations from the workshop on discards that took place in FY 2018.

- Evaluate the potential application of new electronic technologies into the program.

As part of the Electronic Reporting Action Plan, MRIP will complete a study on a “push to web” reporting option for FES, will publish a

consultant review of self-reporting options that summarizes three studies, and will conduct a workshop to pursue certification of ER logbook-based for-hire survey designs.

- **Contract with the National Academies of Sciences to conduct a study of MRIP and in-season management.**

Specifically, the study will examine how the design of MRIP, for the purposes of stock assessment and the determination of stock management reference points, can be improved to better meet the needs of in-season management of annual catch limits. The study will also look at how to improve the accuracy and timeliness of data collection and analysis to enhance MRIP and facilitate in-season management.

### ● **Goal 5—Operate Collaboratively**

#### *FY 2019 Key Tactics:*

- **Develop Regional Implementation Plans that include R&D priorities for developing and certifying new methods that address partner needs.**

MRIP will work with partners to complete work necessary to select and fully certify survey designs in use for meeting general survey needs in each region. These initiatives include:

- Providing consultant support for review of for-hire electronic logbook and dockside validation designs and other for-hire designs as needed.
- Supporting SEFHIER planning work as needed.
- Funding workshop/travel to select and certify an optimal design for Hawaii and review Western Pacific surveys.
- Providing consultant support for completing certification reviews for Pacific RecFIN state surveys.
- Supporting ST1 staff and consultant work for baseline analyses, with the Large Pelagics Survey re-design as the highest priority; funding is needed for pilot field studies beginning in FY 2020.

- Providing support for the Caribbean Steering Committee and associated travel.
- Working toward certifying Pacific state surveys.

- **Develop a plan to enhance state partnerships, as required by the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act.**

MRIP's plan to strengthen collaboration with state partners will establish the following:

- Best practices for administering and implementing state programs.
- Measures to improve the accuracy of data produced by the states.
- Priorities for improving state data collection.
- An inventory of state data uses.
- An expanded grant program to support state registry and catch and effort data collection.

### ● **Goal 6—Meet Program Resources and Funding Needs**

#### *FY 2019 Key Tactics:*

- **Use Regional Implementation Plans to develop a national inventory of partner needs and associated costs. (See Regional Implementation Plan tactic, 5.2.1). This will include needs for carrying out a state grant program as provided for under the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act.**

MRIP will develop a method to assess partner needs, as expressed in Regional Implementation Plans, for expanding general survey sampling levels and coverage. These assessments should enable compilation of costs nationally, and assure objective and cost effective allocation of available resources. Current plan-based examples are:

- GulfFIN: Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi APAIS; LA Creel.
- Pacific RecFIN: Funding assistance for partner priorities for certified supplemental surveys for high-profile fisheries.
- Implementation funding for Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi.

## 2019 Tactics At-a-Glance

The following charts summarize key tactics MRIP is utilizing to support our six key goals. The charts are based on strategies, tactics, and schedules identified in the 2017 [MRIP Strategic Plan](#); the numbers listed next to each tactic correspond with the goal and strategy the tactic supports in the Strategic Plan, which may be viewed in its entirety online.

The tactics and timelines from the Strategic Plan guide the annual implementation planning process, with additional tactics added to annual implementation plans to reflect the evolution of new needs and requirements. The timelines reflected in these charts are drawn from the Strategic Plan; some of those tactical implementations remain on track, while others are behind schedule.

Acronyms used in the charts refer to teams within MRIP, unless otherwise noted:

- CET: Communications and Education Team
- ESC: Executive Steering Committee
- PMT: Program Management Team
- RET: Research and Evaluation Team
- RIC: Regional Implementation Council
- RITs: Regional Implementation Teams
- SOT: Survey Operations Team
- SF3: Office of Sustainable Fisheries (Domestic Fisheries Division)
- ST1: Office of Science and Technology (Fisheries Statistics Division)
- TT: Transition Team

| Tactics   | Responsible Entities                            | Timeline    |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|   |   | 2017        | 2018        | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | 2022        | 2023        |
| <b>Goal 1—Meet Customer Needs</b>   |   |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| ➤ 1.1.2: Identify customer needs at intervals of not more than five years, in conjunction with reviews of Regional Implementation Plan updates.   | ST1   |             | ◆           |             |             | ◆           |             | ◆           |
| ➤ 1.2.1: Assess customer satisfaction at intervals of two to three years.   | CET; ST1; contractor                            |             | ◆           |             | ◆           |             |             | ◆           |
| ➤ 1.3.1: Working collaboratively with customers, evaluate feasibility and costs of meeting different customer needs through regional implementation planning process and customer needs assessments (per tactic 1.2.1). <b>NOTE: Build into annual priorities &amp; spend plan development process.</b>               | PMT; ST1  |             | ◆—————▶     |             |             |             |             |             |
| ➤ 1.3.2: Modify survey designs, and properties and delivery of catch statistics, to improve customer satisfaction in ways that are both feasible and cost-effective.  | ST1   |             | ◆—————▶     |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>Goal 2—Provide Quality Products</b>  |   | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>2023</b> |
| ➤ 2.1.1: Create clear and concise baseline requirements for data collection, statistical estimation, access, and information management, and for providing measures of precision and sources of bias in four areas, including:  | ST1; expert consultants; MRIP teams as relevant | ◆—————▶     |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| ➤ 2.1.1.1: Data collection.   | ST1; expert consultants; SOT                    | ◆—————▶     |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| ➤ 2.1.3: Establish baseline quality (precision and absence of bias) standards for survey statistics provided to the public.   | PMT; RET  | ◆           |             | ◆           |             |             |             |             |
| ➤ 2.1.2: Collect data (i.e., conduct surveys) consistent with baseline requirements.  | ST1; SOT; partners                              | ◆—————▶     |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| ➤ 2.3.1: Develop complete documentation of survey and estimation protocols, quality assurance procedures, and data quality control procedures.  | ST1   | ◆—————▶     |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| ➤ 2.3.2: Maintain public website with comprehensive documentation of methods, sample frames, and statistics.  | ST1; CET  | ◆—————▶     |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| ➤ 2.4.1: Develop and execute transition plans that outline a process and timeline for implementing new and/or improved survey designs. <b>NOTE: Required by Policy Directive. Ongoing for FES &amp; APAIS; add others as certified.</b>   | TT; ST1; SF3                                    | ◆—————▶     |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| ➤ 2.4.2: Assess need for development and use of tools that convert statistics produced by surveys into common currency across all surveys and develop as necessary. <b>NOTE: e.g., Red Snapper workshop in FY 17; needs to be kicked off with an assessment of current issues, costs/benefits of addressing them.</b> | ST1; RITs                                       | ◆—————▶     |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| ➤ 2.1.4: Seek periodic independent reviews of program (i.e., OST five-year Science Plan reviews). <b>NOTE: High priority. Required under Science Plan process.</b>  | PMT; ESC; ST1                                   | ◆—————▶     |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| ➤ 2.2.1: Create and support regional bodies to monitor the consistency and quality of the data being generated and to assure continuous improvement of data quality (as part of regional implementation teams).   | RITs; ST1                                       | ◆—————▶     |             |             |             |             |             |             |

| Tactics   | Responsible Entities    | Timeline |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|---|-------------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|   |                         | 2017     | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| <b>Goal 3—Increase Understanding</b>  |                         |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| ➤ 3.3.1: Develop targeted outreach materials and tactics to inform stakeholders on the importance of various survey components and limitations.   | CET; ST1                | ◆        | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    |
| ➤ 3.5.1: Maintain current content on website, updating as necessary.  | CET; ST1                | ◆        | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    |
| ➤ 3.6.1: Increase use of public relations; social and digital media.  | CET; ST1                | ◆        | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    |
| ➤ 3.6.2: Provide content for inclusion in stakeholder outreach products and publications (e.g., fishing magazines, blogs).  | CET; ST1                | ◆        | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    |
| ➤ 3.7.2: Adopt and execute communications plans for high-profile MRIP implementation actions (e.g., FES Transition). <b>NOTE:</b> <i>Ongoing for FES; add others as needed.</i>   | CET; ST1                | ◆        | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    |
| ➤ 3.2.3: Establish an MRIP onboarding process(es) for key stakeholders and primary customers (may be different processes). <b>NOTE:</b> <i>To follow Social Network Analysis.</i>   | CET; ST1                |          | ◆    |      |      |      |      |      |
| ➤ 3.3.2: Periodically evaluate stakeholder understanding of MRIP and adjust communications strategies, as needed.   | CET; ST1                |          | ◆    |      |      |      |      |      |
| ➤ 3.4.4: Provide our partners with the tools and coordination necessary to enable consistent communications about recreational data collection methods, uses, and limitations.  | CET; ST1                |          | ◆    | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    |
| ➤ 3.4.2: Pursue inclusion of MRIP in curricula for Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) and new Council member trainings.   | CET; ST1; SF3           |          | ◆    | →    | →    | →    | →    | ◆    |
| ➤ 3.3.3: Host primary customer workshop to train participants to effectively access, analyze, and/or use data tools, including, for example, custom domain estimation; assess results and determine benefits of repeating.  | CET; ST1                |          | ◆    |      |      |      |      |      |
| ➤ 3.5.2: Assess web analytics to improve web content and usage. <b>NOTE:</b> <i>Initiate after new website complete and in use for a sufficient period.</i>   | CET; ST1                |          | ◆    | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    |
| <b>Goal 4—Ensure Sound Science</b>  |                         |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| ➤ 4.1.1: Support research aimed at designing, testing, and implementing new and/or improved recreational fisheries surveys that address independent review recommendations and specific partner needs (e.g., private access, discards). <b>NOTE:</b> <i>Suspended for FY 17. Resume in FY 18 with focus on National Academies-related priorities.</i> | RET; ST1                | ◆        | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    |
| ➤ 4.2.1: Provide technical support for the program through hiring staff highly qualified in survey and mathematical statistics disciplines, and maintain peer-accepted external consultants.  | ST1                     | ◆        | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    |
| ➤ 4.2.2: Increase staff expertise in survey statistics, survey operations, statistical software, new technologies, and survey management through trainings and other development opportunities.   | ST1                     | ◆        | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    |
| ➤ 4.2.3: Publish research results in peer-reviewed journals and organize and/or participate in scientific symposia.   | ST1; expert consultants | ◆        | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    |
| ➤ 4.3.1: Seek independent reviews of current and proposed survey designs, estimation methods, and data collection technologies that are on the MRIP Certification Track.  | ST1; RET                | ◆        | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    | →    |

| Tactics   | Responsible Entities | Timeline |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|---|----------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|   |                      | 2017     | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| <b>Goal 5—Operate Collaboratively</b>   |                      |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| ➤ 5.2.1: Develop Regional Implementation Plans that include R&D priorities for developing and certifying new methods that address partner needs.  | ST1; RITs; RET       | ◆        | →    |      |      |      |      | →    |
| ➤ 5.2.2: Attend and actively participate in FINs and FIN partner meetings when data needs are being discussed.  | ST1                  | ◆        | →    |      |      |      |      | →    |
| ➤ 5.2.3: In regions that do not have a FIN, create and maintain ad hoc regional implementation teams.   | ST1                  | ◆        | →    |      |      |      |      | →    |
| ➤ 5.1.4: Evaluate options to enhance recreational fisheries stakeholders' participation in MRIP advisory structure. <b>NOTE:</b> <i>Need to work with General Counsel on Federal Advisory Committee Act issues.</i>                     | ESC; PMT             |          | ◆    | →    |      |      |      | →    |
| ➤ 5.1.3: Periodically review management structure to address evolving program functions and priorities. <b>NOTE:</b> <i>Incorporate into five-year program management review schedule.</i>  | ESC; PMT             |          | ◆    |      |      |      |      | ◆    |
| ➤ 5.2.4: Annually specify national priority-setting criteria for providing support for needs identified in Regional Implementation Plans. <b>NOTE:</b> <i>Several in place and ongoing; initiate expansion after standards are set.</i> | RET; ST1; PMT; RIC   |          | ◆    | ◆    | ◆    | ◆    | ◆    | ◆    |
| ➤ 5.3.1: Evaluate and, as appropriate, support and enable delegating responsibility of survey operations to regions, based on (yet to be established) standards to maintain data consistency and comparability.                         | ST1; SOT             |          | ◆    | →    |      |      |      | ◆    |
| ➤ 5.1.1: Conduct periodic reviews to ensure that partners are adequately represented and actively participating on the various MRIP Teams.  | CET; RIC; contractor |          | ◆    |      |      | ◆    |      | ◆    |
| ➤ 5.1.2: Assess partners' sense of ownership in MRIP (i.e., do partners consider themselves partners?).   | CET; contractor      |          | ◆    |      |      | ◆    |      | ◆    |
| <b>Goal 6—Meet Program Resources and Funding Needs</b>  |                      |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| ➤ 6.2.2: Advocate for meeting funding needs during annual DOC/NOAA budget opportunities.  | ST1                  | ◆        | →    |      |      |      |      | →    |
| ➤ 6.2.5: Create a compelling narrative on MRIP and partner success stories to share with key stakeholders. <b>NOTE:</b> <i>Derive from Regional Plans, results of Needs Assessments, etc.</i>   | CET                  | ◆        | →    |      |      |      |      | →    |
| ➤ 6.1.1: Develop and share criteria for priority-setting and decision-making on funding allocation to research and survey implementation.   | RET; ST1; PMT; ESC   |          | ◆    |      |      |      |      |      |
| ➤ 6.1.2: Use Regional Implementation Plans to develop a national inventory of partner needs and associated costs (see Regional Implementation Plan tactic, 5.2.1).  | ST1; PMT             |          | ◆    |      |      |      |      |      |
| ➤ 6.2.1: Provide a cost-benefit analysis of funding level options for primary stakeholders (i.e., NOAA/NOAA Fisheries).   | ST1                  |          | ◆    |      |      |      |      |      |
| ➤ 6.2.4: Document partner contributions for funding data collection efforts.  | RITs                 |          | ◆    |      |      |      |      |      |
| ➤ 6.2.3: Utilize relationships with Interstate Fishery Management Commissions to help identify resources for recreational data collection.  | ST1; RITs            |          | ◆    | →    |      |      |      | →    |



**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., Secretary

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
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**National Marine Fisheries Service**  
Chris Oliver, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

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