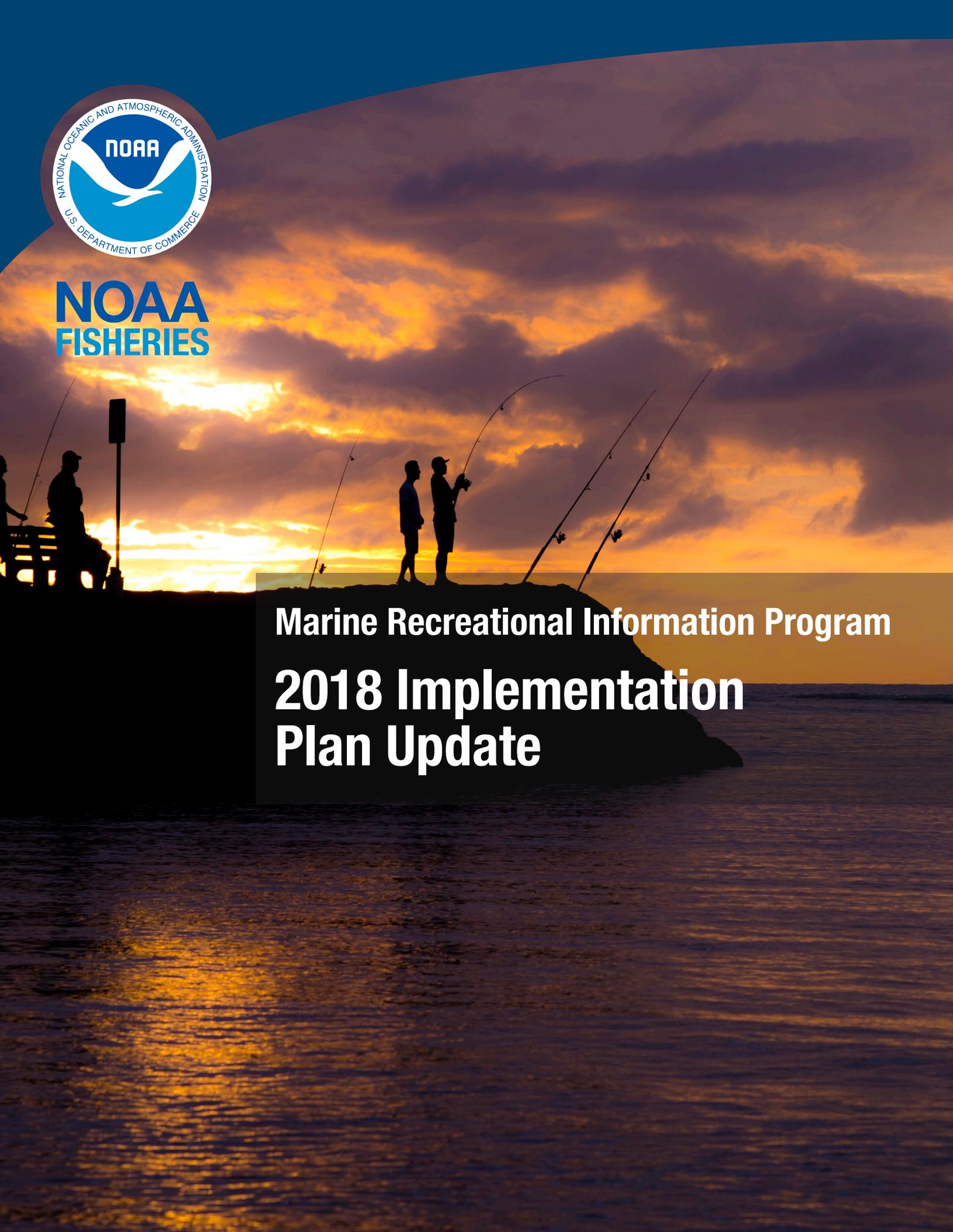




**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several fishermen are visible on a pier or dock. They are holding fishing rods, and the water in the foreground is dark with some ripples.

**Marine Recreational Information Program  
2018 Implementation  
Plan Update**





**NOAA FISHERIES**



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# The MRIP Strategic Approach

## Overview

The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is the state-regional-federal partnership responsible for developing, improving, and implementing surveys that measure how many trips salt-water anglers take, and how many fish they catch. This vital information—combined with other data, such as commercial catch and biological research—enables scientists and managers to assess and maintain the health of U.S. fish stocks.

Since its inception, the MRIP partnership has followed a three-tiered strategy for making improvements to our surveys that gather data from anglers and our processes 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 between one approach and another.

Priority-setting and implementation of this strategy has been guided by MRIP teams comprised of

NOAA Fisheries staff, state and regional partners, and stakeholders from the recreational fishing community. This work has been 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. Our annual Implementation Plan Updates have provided detailed information on progress toward our goals and focus areas for the coming year.

## New Comprehensive Strategic Plan

In 2017, based on a recommendation from the Government Accountability Office and informed by findings from an independent National Academies of Sciences review, MRIP partners developed a comprehensive strategic plan to guide the program through 2022. The plan, which went through an extensive public review process, articulates six specific goals, details strategies and tactics for achieving them, and clearly defines measures of success.

As we implement the Strategic Plan, evaluate our progress, respond to changing needs and emerging technologies, and adjust our approach as necessary, the annual Implementation Plan Update will serve as an essential internal planning document. Equally important, it is intended to be used as a tool for maintaining transparency and accountability among the MRIP partners and our stakeholders as we work toward our shared goal of ensuring the sustainability of recreational fishing.

## Fiscal Year 2017 Accomplishments

### National Academies Review

Because MRIP has made substantial progress in addressing the recommendations from the initial 2006 National Academies review, NOAA Fisheries requested a follow-up independent assessment of the current status and direction of MRIP. NOAA also asked the National Academies to identify any further improvements to ensure that MRIP continues to provide our partners and stakeholders with the best available data.

The National Academies issued their findings in January 2017. The report recognized the agency for making “impressive progress” over the past 10 years, including “major improvements” to MRIP survey designs. It also highlighted 28 specific recommendations for continued improvements to MRIP’s surveys, communications, documentation of survey and estimation methods, and transition plan execution. The [full report](#) can be found on the National Academies website, while MRIP’s official response to the finding is also available online.

### Strategic Plan

MRIP released its five-year Strategic Plan in September 2017, laying out a clear strategy for continuing to improve survey methods while providing a sound basis for implementing new and expanded surveys through a system of regional partnerships. The plan emphasizes enhancing collaboration with partners, meeting customer needs, ensuring sound science and quality products, and improving communications with partners and stakeholders. It also identifies specific strategies, tactics, outcomes, metrics, and timelines for achieving these goals.

MRIP sought public feedback on the draft plan as part of the program’s ongoing commitment to improving our surveys through collaboration among federal, regional, and state agencies, and the saltwater recreational fishing community. Incorporating comments from scientists, managers, fishermen, and others was a critical step in ensuring that the Strategic Plan guides MRIP in a direction that will ensure the sustainability of recreational fishing today, and for generations to come. The final Strategic Plan and supporting documents, including a summary of public comments and MRIP’s responses, can be viewed [online](#).

### Regional Implementation Plans

As MRIP priorities increasingly focus on certifying our improved methods for implementation in the field, each region is preparing its own unique set of strategies. These plans represent a significant evolution in the course of MRIP, clearly establishing that each region will take the lead role in determining which survey methods are most suitable for their science, stock assessment, and management needs. The various Fisheries Information Networks (FINs), or their equivalents, serve as Regional Implementation Teams, and include participants from the NOAA Fisheries Regional Offices and Fisheries Science Centers, NOAA Fisheries Headquarters Offices, the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, the States, and Regional Fishery Management Councils.

Every plan will be submitted for a comprehensive review and approval process by MRIP’s Executive Steering Committee. MRIP will use these plans to develop a national inventory of partner needs and associated costs, and annually specify priority-setting criteria for supporting those needs. The Regional Implementation Plans are “living documents,” which will be adjusted as necessary based on changing science and management needs, and budget availability, and will be updated every five years.

The regional implementation plans:

- Identify appropriate methods for regional surveys from the suite of MRIP-certified designs.
- Set regional priorities for improved timeliness, precision, and coverage.
- Identify any special regional needs.
- Identify expected resource needs.
- Outline implementation costs and timelines.

As of September 2017, Regional Implementation Plans had been completed by the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. Atlantic coast, Atlantic HMS and Western Pacific plans are expected to be completed in the first few months of fiscal year (FY) 2018.

## FES Transition Progress

In 2014, MRIP began the process of moving away from the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) to measure recreational fishing effort (the number of fishing trips taken) by shore and private boat anglers on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts in favor of the improved Fishing Effort Survey (FES). The goal was to address biases in the CHTS, which uses random-digit-dialing of coastal households with landlines to gather effort information. These biases include undercoverage (anglers may not have landlines, or may live inland), and non-response (as with many telephone surveys, people are less and less likely to even pick up the phone), among others.

After conducting a series of pilot studies, the mail-based FES was designed as a replacement for the CHTS. Research has found that mail-based surveys have higher response rates, and may result in more accurate findings than telephone surveys. With angler license and U.S. Postal Service databases contributing to the survey sample frame (allowing us to reach anglers not required to register, such as seniors and children), the FES has the potential to reach all saltwater anglers.

To ensure a smooth transition, a Transition Team was formed, consisting of experts from state natural resource agencies, regional fishery management Councils, interstate marine fisheries Commissions, and NOAA Fisheries. The team recommended and implemented a three-year benchmarking plan, in which the two surveys were conducted side-by-side in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Working with expert consultants, we are developing a calibration model to convert historical CHTS estimates for accurate comparability with the new FES estimates. We conducted a peer review of the model in June 2017, and the final report will be completed at the end of the year. The FES will be conducted on its own in 2018, though revisions to the calibration model may be needed to further ensure accurate comparisons to past estimates before final determinations are made on how to apply them to stock assessments and, ultimately, management decision-making. For further information, visit the MRIP website at [www.countmyfish.noaa.gov](http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov).

## APAIS Calibration

In addition to the work with the FES, a final calibration method for changes made to the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) is expected to be implemented in 2018. APAIS is used on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to measure angler catch per trip, via in-person interviews with anglers at public-access fishing sites at the conclusion of their fishing trips. It was overhauled in 2013 to remove biases identified in its design, with ongoing adjustments for continued enhancement of the survey.

## Strategic Communications Plan and Needs Assessment

During FY 2017, MRIP's Communications and Education Team (CET) focused on a redevelopment of the Strategic Communications Plan. Many of the revisions were informed by feedback gathered during a communications needs assessment conducted in late 2016. In the course of the assessment, 47 interviews were conducted, with interviewees representing Commissions, Councils, FINs, NOAA Regional Offices, NOAA Science Centers, state-level officials, and stakeholders, including NGOs and private recreational anglers.

The needs assessment highlighted the importance of continued emphasis in several areas of communications, including:

- Improving the balance between providing complex information and ensuring understanding.
- Increasing the visibility of MRIP as a full suite of surveys and estimates (rather than just the final numbers).
- Emphasizing the idea of continuous improvement.
- Recognizing the importance of state-level buy-in.
- Providing clear explanations of regional differences.

The Strategic Communications Plan also integrated recommendations from the National Academies' review of MRIP. Additionally, this comprehensive communications plan is structured to align with the goals, strategies, tactics, metrics, and

outcomes outlined in the five-year MRIP Strategic Plan. Overall, the updated plan reaffirms MRIP's focus on engaging in a two-way dialogue with our partners, saltwater recreational anglers, and other stakeholders.

### **MRIP Website**

As part of a broader website revamp across NOAA Fisheries scheduled to launch in early FY 2018, the MRIP team undertook an overhaul of its comprehensive website. The update focused on enhancing usability and navigability, particularly for members of the general public, while maintaining accessibility to the wealth of data compiled by MRIP and its partners.

### **Electronic Reporting Progress**

In support of NOAA Fisheries' commitment to integrating scientifically sound electronic reporting (ER) tools into recreational fisheries—with the intent to enhance the efficiency, timeliness, and quality of overall data collection efforts—a new ER [Procedural Directive](#) was issued in November 2016. The directive provides specific guidance and procedures for implementation of MRIP ER projects, along with strategic focus areas for the projects. In priority order, MRIP will:

- Support the work needed to develop appropriate applications of electronic technologies for logbook reporting in the for-hire industry (or other census-based approaches), including the development of new reporting technologies and methods to validate reported information.
- Explore applications of electronic technologies that can be used by fisheries samplers to record and transmit data from the field.
- Collaborate with partners to examine the utility of supplemental angler reporting applications. This includes working with partners to develop

and set standards for third parties to use in development of their own applications.

In addition to the new ER policy directive, MRIP also published a detailed [Road Map](#) for completing development of certified designs for census-based electronic reporting in the for-hire fleet. The Road Map summarizes the collaboration among MRIP, for-hire operators, state partners, fisheries managers, independent statisticians, and others on efforts to develop effective ER systems to replace paper logbooks.

The Road Map lays out a timeline for designing and certifying census-based electronic reporting systems that could then be selected by regional partners for implementation. It also summarizes key elements that must be incorporated into any successful census-based electronic logbook program, including, but not limited to:

- Maintaining a complete registry of all for-hire vessels and operators;
- Requiring mandatory trip-level electronic reporting.
- Building in flexibility to require more frequent reporting when necessary and for operators to declare periods of inactivity in advance.
- Allowing the use of multiple authorized applications or devices for reporting, as long as they meet data quality standards.
- Implementing accountability measures to ensure compliance, and developing compliance tracking procedures that balance timeliness with available staff and funding resources.
- Closely coordinating design and implementation with states, Regional Offices, Science Centers, and Fisheries Information Networks.

## Fiscal Year 2018 Priorities

As laid out in the MRIP Strategic Plan, there are six overarching goals guiding the priorities for work in FY 2018 and beyond. To achieve those goals, we will focus on several key tactics in FY 2018, as detailed below. A complete description of all strategies and tactics can be reviewed in the [Strategic Plan](#).

### ● 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.*

#### **FY 2018 Key Tactics:**

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

Regional plans are on track for completion in early FY 2018, and will identify unmet needs. The program will also be reaching out directly to MRIP customers, as identified in FY 2017, to ascertain and compile their needs for catch and effort data.

- Assess customer satisfaction at intervals of two to three years.

In addition to asking customers to identify their key needs for catch and effort data, we will be asking them for indicators of satisfaction with MRIP products.

### ● Goal 2—Provide Quality Products

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

#### **FY 2018 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.

Data collection is the first of four areas in which we will develop specific baseline requirements for MRIP surveys.

- Document the major elements of MRIP program management, policy and procedures (e.g., Organizational Governance, Planning and Implementation, Certification/Transition, Budget Processes).

This project is currently underway, with an initial focus on documentation of the certification process.

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

This project will be a complete re-write of the MRIP survey and estimation protocols, including the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS), Fishing Effort Survey (FES), For-Hire Survey (FHS), and Large Pelagics Survey (LPS). The project is expected to be completed in FY 2018.

### ● 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.*

#### **FY 2018 Key Tactics:**

- Pursue inclusion of MRIP in curricula for Marine Resources Education Program (MREP) and new Council member trainings.

Representatives from MRIP will continue participation in MREP sessions in the Greater Atlantic and the Southeast regions, and will also explore direct stakeholder seminars based on MREP, in partnership with eNGOs. Additionally, MRIP representatives will contribute to new Council member trainings beginning in the first quarter of FY 2018.

- Adopt and execute communications plans for high-profile MRIP implementation actions (e.g., FES Transition).

The MRIP Communications and Education Team has developed a communications plan specific to the FES transition, and will focus on finalizing and executing that plan in FY 2018.

- **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.*

**FY 2018 Key Tactics:**

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

These evaluations will be guided by the [Procedural Directive](#) and the response to the National Academies report.

- Seek independent reviews of current and proposed survey designs, estimation methods, and data collection technologies that are on the MRIP Certification Track.

These efforts are ongoing, and include both partner requests for certification, and MRIP-developed methods expected to be completed soon, such as the design of for-hire electronic logbooks, as detailed in the electronic reporting Road Map. Of note, the peer review of the APAIS calibration method is scheduled for early 2018.

- **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.*

**FY 2018 Key Tactics:**

- Annually specify national priority-setting criteria for providing support for needs identified in the Regional Implementation Plans.

As included in the document outlining MRIP’s implementation funding process, “each year, the NMFS Office of Science and Technology will review regional implementation plans and establish agency funding priorities across regional programs.”

- **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).*

**FY 2018 Key Tactics:**

- Develop and share criteria for priority-setting and decision-making on funding allocation to research and survey implementation.

Aligning closely with tactics in support of Goal 5 (Operate Collaboratively), communicating these criteria clearly will allow for the most effective utilization of resources, particularly in support of research and survey development at the regional level.

- Use Regional Implementation Plans to develop a national inventory of partner needs and associated costs. (See Regional Implementation Plan tactic, 5.2.1).

Among other components, Regional Implementation Plans include the region’s priorities for researching, developing, and certifying new survey methods to address partner needs, providing the basis for a national inventory of those needs.

## 2018 Tactics At-a-Glance

The following charts summarize tactics that MRIP will utilize in FY 2018 to support our six key goals, and include details on the timing of specific tactics, the specific entities responsible for completion, and any relevant additional information. The numbers listed next to each tactic correspond with the goal and strategy the tactic supports as outlined in the [MRIP Strategic Plan](#), which may be viewed in its entirety online.

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

- CET: Communications and Education Team
- ESC: Executive Steering Committee
- LT: Leadership Team
- OT: Operations Team
- RITs: Regional Implementation Teams
- 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:</b> Build into annual priorities & spend plan development process.	LT; 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.	See above.	◆	◆					
➤ 2.1.3: Establish baseline quality (precision and absence of bias) standards for survey statistics provided to the public.	LT	◆	◆—————▶					
➤ 2.1.2: Collect data (i.e., conduct surveys) consistent with baseline requirements.	ST1; 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:</b> Required by Policy Directive. Ongoing for FES & APAIS; add others as certified.	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:</b> e.g., Red Snapper workshop in FY 17; needs to be kicked off with an assessment of current issues, costs/benefits of addressing them.	ST1; RITs	◆	◆—————▶					
➤ 2.1.4: Seek periodic independent reviews of program (i.e., OST five-year Science Plan reviews). <b>NOTE:</b> High priority. Required under Science Plan process.	LT; 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 for FY 18 with focus on National Academies-related priorities.</i>	OT; 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	◆	→	→	→	→	→	→

Tactics	Responsible Entities	Timeline						
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Goal 5—Operate Collaboratively</b>								
➤ 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; LT		◆	→	→	→	→	→
➤ 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; LT		◆					◆
➤ 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>	OT; ST1; LT		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
➤ 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		◆	→	→	→	→	◆
➤ 5.1.1: Conduct periodic reviews to ensure that partners are adequately represented and actively participating on the various MRIP Teams.	CET; 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.	OT; ST1; LT; 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; LT		◆					
➤ 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. Secretary of Commerce**  
Wilbur Ross

Performing the duties of  
**Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere**  
Benjamin Friedman

**Assistant Administrator for Fisheries**  
Chris Oliver

**September 2017**

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