

# Terms of Reference for MRIP Regional Implementation Teams

November 5, 2018

## Goals

The MRIP Regional Implementation Teams function to:

- Develop MRIP Regional Implementation Plans that include:
  - Descriptions of regional needs for recreational fishing statistics, including needs for coverage, resolution, precision and timeliness of survey estimates.
  - A baseline assessment of current data collection programs, including the extent to which current programs satisfy needs and identification of data collection gaps.
  - Recommendations and justification for a sequential, prioritized approach for implementing improved methods that address national and regional needs that are currently unmet.
  - A proposed process for combining statistics derived from multiple sources.
  - Estimated costs, overall and for individual survey components.
- Update the MRIP Regional Implementation Plans as necessary to reflect changing regional needs and priorities, but no less frequently than every 5 years, following updates to the MRIP Strategic Plan.
- Engage in regular two-way communication with the MRIP Executive Steering Committee and Program Management Team regarding implementation needs, priorities, and strategies to build program capacity, resolve problems and to address unmet needs.
- Assist in coordinating regional review and support-building for developing and implementing MRIP policies and procedures, data collection and data management standards, and new survey design transition and implementation.

## Member Expertise, Roles & Responsibilities

MRIP has established the Regional Implementation Teams to develop MRIP Regional Implementation Plans that identify regional needs for catch and effort data, and identify, prioritize, and provide cost estimates for desired additions and improvements to regional data collection programs. In some regions, the teams are also responsible for administering various MRIP surveys, as well as managing and delivering data to NOAA Fisheries for catch and effort estimation. The established Regional Fishery Information Networks (FINs) serve as the MRIP Regional Implementation Teams for the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf of Mexico regions (via the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, the Gulf Fisheries Information Network and the Pacific Fisheries Information Network, respectively). Ad hoc Regional Implementation Teams have been established to develop MRIP Regional Implementation Plans for the Caribbean, the Pacific Islands, Alaska, and for Atlantic highly migratory species. In all cases, the teams will include representatives from, at a minimum: the NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology; the applicable NOAA Fisheries Regional Office and Fisheries Science Center; the applicable Interstate Marine Fisheries Commission and members or, in the absence of an Interstate Commission, representatives of state and territorial governments; the applicable Regional Fishery Management Council.

To support the Regional Implementation Teams, and to facilitate their communications with the MRIP Executive Steering Committee and Program Management Team, a MRIP Regional Implementation Council is established. The Council is comprised of representatives of each Regional Implementation Team, usually the FIN Program Manager or the Chair of the Ad Hoc Team. The Regional Implementation Council will:

- Confer as necessary and work toward establishing coordinated and consistent recommendations on policies, practices, priorities, standards, etc., for cross-cutting MRIP subjects.
- Review MRIP annual national priorities for implementation funding and Spend Plans, and provide recommendations that will assist in securing buy-in from all of the Regional Implementation Teams.
- Generally serve as the conduit to facilitate for two-way communications between MRIP and the Regional Implementation Teams.

## Communication and Reporting

The Regional Implementation Teams will meet as necessary to fulfill this charge. Generally, the FIN-based Teams will meet in conjunction with established FIN meeting schedules. Ad hoc teams will meet at the call of their Chairs. The Regional Teams will report to the MRIP Program Management Team through the FIN Manager or the ad hoc Team Chair.

## Information and Data Sharing

MRIP Regional Implementation Plans are available for public access at:  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/recreational-fishing-data/marine-recreational-information-program-what-we-do>

All documents relating to MRIP Regional Implementation Teams, and the Regional Implementation Council, including correspondence, meeting summaries, etc, are posted to:  
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