

Terms of Reference for MRIP Research and Evaluation Team

November 5, 2018

Goals

The MRIP Research and Evaluation Team (RET) will provide advice to the MRIP Project Management Team, Survey Operations Team, Transition Team, Communications and Education Team and Regional Implementation Teams on topics relevant to survey methodology and sampling statistics.

Specific duties may include:

- Prioritize research needs identified in the MRIP Strategic Plan, Regional Implementation Plans, annual MRIP Implementation Plan Updates, and NMFS Office of Science and Technology Annual Guidance Memoranda.
- Develop mechanisms, such as ad hoc working groups, peer review panels and requests for proposals, to test and evaluate new survey methods and potential improvements to existing survey methods.
- Consider and make recommendations on issues referred by the MRIP Project Management Team and other MRIP teams.
- Evaluate survey designs, referred by the Program Management Team, for adherence to MRIP standards and industry best practices.
- Review MRIP project reports and provide recommendations to the Project Management Team regarding the acceptability of project methods, results and conclusions.
- Evaluate and advise on MRIP catch and effort estimates identified for extended review through the MRIP estimate review process.

Member Expertise, Roles, & Responsibilities

Permanent members include ST1 statisticians and other ST staff whose primary job duties involve the development and/or application of survey methods or sampling statistics. The RET will be supported by a team of statistical consultants. Beyond the permanent members, individuals representing other MRIP teams or partner organizations may be added to support specific research needs on an ad hoc basis.

Team members will identify and raise for discussion any relevant topic or issue that may have significant impact to MRIP or MRIP teams. Responsibilities of team members include:

- Attending scheduled team meetings.
- Actively participating in team discussions and deliberations.
- Identifying and researching relevant discussion topics.
- Identifying research needs and opportunities.
- Managing research projects as needed.
- Maintaining knowledge of industry best practices and innovations.
- Communicating with MRIP teams and partners.

Communications and Reporting

The team will convene TBD to discuss emerging issues and evaluate the progress of ongoing projects. In addition, the team will convene no less than annually to review program documents, including the MRIP Strategic Plan, annual MRIP Implementation Plan and the Regional Implementation Plans, and identify research priorities for the following year. The team will convene on an ad hoc basis to discuss emerging issues identified by the PMT or other MRIP teams.