

1998 Operations Plan
for the
Recreational Fisheries Information Network
in the Southeastern United States
RecFIN(SE)

by: RecFIN(SE) Committee

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Number 48

**1998 Operations Plan for the
Recreational Fisheries Information Network in the
Southeastern United States [RecFIN(SE)]**

January 1, 1998 to December 31, 1998

I. INTRODUCTION

The RecFIN(SE) is a cooperative state-federal marine recreational fisheries (MRF) data collection program. It is intended to coordinate present and future MRF data collection and data management activities through cooperative planning, innovative uses of statistical theory and design, and consolidation of appropriate data into a useful data base system. This operations plan implements the FIN Framework Plan for 1998. All tasks will be completed dependent upon availability of funds.

II. MISSION AND GOALS

The mission of the RecFIN(SE) program is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate MRF statistical data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Southeast Region¹ and to support the development and operation of a national program.

The four goals of the RecFIN(SE) are:

- @ planning, management, and evaluation of data collection and management activities;
- @ implementation of data collection activities;
- @ establishment and maintenance of a data management system; and
- @ support for establishment of a national program.

The goals and objectives of RecFIN(SE) are found in Appendix A.

¹The Southeast Region (the Region) includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas and the U.S. Virgin Islands

III. OPERATIONS

A. Data Collection and Management

Ongoing MRF surveys will be conducted by various state and federal agencies (RecFIN(SE) Committee 1993). The RecFIN(SE) Committee will review and evaluate progress towards integration of the surveys into the RecFIN(SE).

B. Committee and Work Group Activities (see Section F for membership)

The tasks below cover all 1998 objectives (see Section D).

Task 1: Annual Operations Plan, 1999 (Goal 1, Objective 3)

Objective: Develop 1999 Annual Operations Plan including identification of available resources, that implements the Framework Plan.

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee.

Approach: Through meetings and mail, the Committee will develop and complete an Annual Operations Plan for 1999.

Resources: Travel/meeting costs, report costs, and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: 1999 Annual Operations Plan.

Schedule: Annual Operations Plan will be drafted by late summer 1998 and addressed by the Committee at the fall 1998 meeting.

Task 2: Development of an Implementation Plan (Goal 1, Objective 1)

Objective: Develop an implementation plan for RecFIN

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee

Approach: Using the information developed from the Committee and various work groups, the Committee will draft a plan which will be used by the program partners to implement RecFIN(SE). Staff will compile existing information and present a draft document to the Committee in early 1998. Accomplished by meeting, telephone and mail. This plan will be developed in conjunction with the ComFIN implementation plan.

Resources: Telephone costs, report costs, travel/meeting costs, inkind support and staff time.

Product: Implementation plan

Schedule: The Committee will address this at the spring 1998 meeting.

Task 3: Development of Funding Initiatives to Establish MRF Surveys (Goal 1, Objective 3)

Objective: Support the establishment of long-term, comprehensive MRF surveys in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group
Approach: The Work Group will work in conjunction with the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) and U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife (USVIDFW) to develop marine recreational fishery surveys (MRF) in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. The PRDNER is currently working on project to implement a MRF survey in Puerto Rico. The Work Group will be working with the Department as well as USVIDFW to develop a coordinated survey. The group will first focus on the type of method(s) that should be used to collect MRF data in the Caribbean and later address the development of a document to secure funding for the activity.
Resources: Travel, copy and mailing expenses and staff time.
Product: Develop of a MRF survey outline for the Caribbean.
Schedule: This task will be discussed at the 1998 spring meeting and further explored throughout the year.

Task 4: Information Dissemination (Goal 1, Objective 4)

Objective: Distribute program information to cooperators and interested parties.
Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee and staff.
Approach: The Committee will distribute program information to cooperators and interested parties documented by a request log. Each committee member is responsible for maintaining a list of information distributed and providing that list to the RecFIN(SE) staff. In addition, the MRFSS staff has developed a home page where users are able to access the MRFSS data for their use. The user is able to specify the area, species, gear, etc. that he/she is interested in obtaining. Also, the GSMFC has developed a home page which includes information concerning the RecFIN(SE). In an effort to best utilize the Internet, a survey will be developed to determine the Internet capabilities of RecFIN(SE) participants.
Resources: Copy and mailing expenses and staff time.
Product: Development and distribution of a fact sheet concerning RecFIN(SE) and a report which compiles a record of information distributed and presentations given by the Committee and staff. This information is included in the FIN Annual Report.
Schedule: This task will be an ongoing activity.

Task 5: Social/Economic Data Elements (Goal 2, Objective 2)

Objective: Identify social and economic data elements required for each fishery component.
Team Members: Social/Economic Work Group.
Approach: The ASMFC Committee on Economic and Social Sciences has

addressed the identification of necessary social and economic data elements. The ASMFC Committee has produced a document which outlines the minimum data elements for the social and economic aspects of fisheries. It is recommended that the RecFIN(SE) Social and Economic Work Group use this information and review and modify the document, as appropriate. Accomplished by meetings, conference calls, and mail. Where possible, the Committee will work with the ACCSP to ensure comparability and compatibility between the two programs.

Resources: Meeting/travel costs, telephone costs, mail cost, inkind (time) and staff time.
Product: List of social and economic data elements
Schedule: This task will be completed in 1998.

Task 6: Biological/Environmental Data Elements (Goal 2 , Objective 2)

Objective: Compile metadata for inclusion into a metadata database for the Southeast Region.

Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group/RecFIN(SE) Committee

Approach: The group has worked on this issue in the past and has developed a criteria for creating a metadata database. The Committee discussed the issue of metadata and decided that the Work Group should focus on compilation of regulatory changes. The staff will begin compiling this information from each program participant as well as compiling other pertinent sources of information. Subsequent categories to be collected will be determined by the Committee.

Resources: Meeting/travel costs, telephone costs, mail cost, inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Development of metadata database

Schedule: The initial compilation of data will begin in 1998 and this will be an ongoing activity.

Task 7: Social/Economic Quality Assurance and Quality Control (Goal 2, Objective 3)

Objective: Identify and determine standards for sociological and economic data collection, including statistical, training, and quality assurance and quality control standards.

Team Members: Social/Economic Work Group.

Approach: Determine standards for collection and management of social and economic data. Review and expand the quality assurance and quality control document developed by the Biological/Environmental Work Group. This expanded document will encompass all quality assurance and quality control standards for the RecFIN(SE). Where possible, the Committee will work with the ACCSP to ensure

comparability and compatibility between the two programs. Accomplished by meetings, conference calls, and mail.

Resources: Meeting/travel costs, telephone costs, mail cost, inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: RecFIN(SE) Quality assurance and quality control document.

Schedule: This task will be completed by the 1998 fall meeting.

Task 8: Annual Review Process of MRFSS Data (Goal 2, Objective 3)

Objective: Implement an annual review process including guidelines for reviewing the data, through the RecFIN(SE), to evaluate MRFSS data.

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee/MRFSS staff

Approach: The Committee approved the a process for reviewing the MRFSS preliminary data which was presented at the last meeting. It was decided that MRFSS staff will set up automated e-mail messaging for notifying program participants regarding changes to the preliminary data as well as when the data becomes final.

Resources: Meeting costs/travel, mail costs, report costs, and staff time.

Product: Process for MRFSS data finalization.

Schedule: The data evaluation will be an ongoing task. The automated processes will be implemented by spring 1998.

Task 9: Increase of Precision of Estimates for Priority Species (Goal 2, Objective 3)

Objective: Evaluate methods to achieve desired target precision levels

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee/MRFSS staff

Approach: The group will examine and evaluate a variety of methods either through enhancements of the MRFSS or through special studies. Where possible, the discussions will include ACCSP personnel as well to ensure comparability and compatibility between the two programs.

Resources: Meeting/travel costs, telephone costs, mail cost, and staff time.

Product: Precision levels for priority species.

Schedule: This task will be addressed in 1998

Task 10: Identification and Evaluation of Current Programs (Goal 2, Objective 4)

Objective: Identify and evaluate the adequacy of current and future programs for meeting RecFIN(SE) standards.

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee.

Approach: Periodically evaluate surveys based on their adequacy for meeting RecFIN(SE) standards and make appropriate recommendations.

Resources: Travel/meeting costs, report costs, and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Report containing recommendations for MRF surveys as well as an evaluation and report on recommendations.

Schedule: Continue reviewing MRF surveys. In 1998, a presentation regarding MRFSS will be presented to the Committee. This task is an ongoing activity.

Task 11: Combining Duplicative Data Collection and Management Activities (Goal 2, Objective 4)

Objective: Identify and combine duplicative data collection and management efforts.

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee

Approach: The Biological/Environmental Work Group has identified redundancies in MRF data collection and management in the Southeast Region and provided recommendations to the RecFIN(SE) Committee concerning these activities. One of the areas identified included a comparison of cost between the Mississippi Creel Survey and the MRFSS. From this information, the Committee will develop strategies for reducing duplicative efforts in the Southeast Region.

Resources: Travel/meeting costs, mail cost, and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Recommendations for reducing duplicative data collection and management efforts.

Schedule: This is an ongoing task. The cost benefit analysis between the Mississippi Creel Survey and the MRFSS may be addressed later this year, depending on availability of personnel and funds.

Task 12: Determination of Catch and Effort for Non-Hook-and-Line Fisheries (Goal 2, Objective 5)

Objective: Determine catch and effort of shellfish and finfish harvested using non-hook-and-line methods.

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee

Approach: Compile a list of non-hook-and-line recreational fisheries and related sampling programs in the Southeast Region. From this list, the Committee will develop/modify sampling programs to collect this information. Where possible, the Committee will work with the ACCSP to ensure comparability and compatibility between the two programs.

Resources: Travel/meeting costs, mail cost, and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: List of non-hook-and-line recreational fisheries

Schedule: This task will be addressed at the 1998 spring/fall meeting.

Task 13: Determination of Catch and Effort from Private Access Groups (Goal 2, Objective 5)

Objective: Determine catch rates and species composition from private access groups.

Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group
Approach: Determine the distribution of private access points by state in the Southeast Region. Also, the Committee will evaluate the North Carolina study and other pertinent studies regarding private access groups. And the Committee will develop an acceptable methodology for determining catch rates and species composition from private access groups. Where possible, the Committee will work with the ACCSP to ensure comparability and compatibility between the two programs.
Resources: Travel/meeting costs, mail cost, and inkind (time) and staff time.
Product: List of private access points for recreational fisheries
Schedule: This task will be addressed at the 1998 spring/fall meeting.

Task 14: Determination of Catch Rates and Species Composition from Night Fishing (Goal 2, Objective 5)

Objective: Determine catch rates and species composition from night fishing.
Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group
Approach: The Committee will evaluate existing information and/or conduct special studies to determine the distribution and magnitude of night fishing by state and develop an acceptable methodology for determining catch rates and species composition for night fishing. Where possible, the Committee will work with the ACCSP to ensure comparability and compatibility between the two programs.
Resources: Travel/meeting costs, mail cost, and inkind (time) and staff time.
Product: List of night fishing activities for recreational fisheries
Schedule: This task will be addressed at the 1998 spring/fall meeting.

Task 15: Collection of Tournaments Data (Goal 2, Objective 5)

Objective: Collect appropriate information from fishing tournaments, and integrate with other MRF data.
Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee
Approach: Compile a list which identifies all ongoing tournaments in the Southeast Region. Once the list is completed, the Committee will identify and recommend data requirements and consistent methodologies for tournament sampling. Where possible, the Committee will work with the ACCSP to ensure comparability and compatibility between the two programs.
Resources: Travel/meeting costs, mail cost, and inkind (time) and staff time.
Product: List of tournaments for recreational fisheries
Schedule: This task will be addressed at the 1998 spring/fall meeting.

Task 16: Implementation of Methods to Monitor the For-Hire Fisheries (Goal 2, Objective 5)

Objective: Identify evaluate, and test methodologies to survey charter and head boat fisheries.

Team Members: Gulf of Mexico Geographic Subcommittee

Approach: The purpose of this task is to make comparisons between various methods for estimating charter boat effort, catch per trip, and total catch. The three methods that will be compared are the current MRFSS method, a captain's telephone survey, and a log panel survey. All methods will be conducted simultaneously and the results will be compared to determine the best methods for estimating effort in the charter boat fishery. The evaluation of the data from these methods will be conducted based on various criteria. In addition, the ACCSP is planning a similar study in South Carolina to compare the MRFSS, captain phone, and mandatory logbook methodologies.

Resources: Travel/meeting costs, mail cost, and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Participation in the Charter boat Pilot Survey to determine the best methodology for surveying charter boats.

Schedule: This is multi-year task. The testing of the methodologies began in September 1997 and will be completed in August 1998. The evaluation of the methods will be begin in late 1998.

Task 17: Evaluation of Licensing System as Sampling Framework (Goal 2, Objective 5)

Objective: Evaluate the licensing systems for use as sampling framework in the Southeast Region.

Team Members: Administrative Subcommittee

Approach: The subcommittee has developed a criteria that ensures that state marine recreational fishery licenses can be used as a regional sampling frame. In addition, a justification paper has been developed by the group that outline the rationale and need for a marine recreational license. The Committee needs to examine each state and recommend that they either establish or modify a MRF license system that include the identified criteria. In subsequent years, the group will conduct a survey comparing the license frame versus the MRFSS methodology on a regional basis.

Resources: Mail costs, report costs, and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Recommendations

Schedule: This is a multi-year task. Development of recommendations will be addressed at the 1998 spring meeting. The development of a survey comparing the various methods will be addressed at a later date.

Task 18: Coordination and Integration of Data Collection Efforts (Goal 2, Objective 5)

Objective: Encourage coordination, integration, and augmentation, as appropriate, of data collection efforts to meet the RecFIN(SE) requirements.

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee.

Approach: Communicate results of evaluation and recommendations regarding MRF surveys to the appropriate personnel.

Resources: Travel/meeting costs, report costs, and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Communication and presentation of recommendations to ongoing programs.

Schedule: This is an ongoing activity.

Task 19: Integration into the Stock Assessment Process (Goal 2, Objective 5)

Objective: Develop a plan which outlines the needs for stock assessment for the upcoming year.

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee

Approach: The Committee has develop a data collection planning process which identifies the priority species (and associated data needed to be collected) for the state, interstate and federal entities. The plan will provide guidance to the states, NMFS, and FWS for the development of funding mechanisms that are implemented to provide funding support for collecting the data. During the fall meeting, the Committee will conduct an evaluation of the adherence to prior year's plan and final review of prior year's data.

Resources: Mail cost, telephone costs, and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Data collection plan

Schedule: The plan is currently being developed and will be discussed by the Committee at the fall 1998 meeting.

Task 20: Evaluation of Innovative Data Collection Technologies (Goal 2, Objective 6)

Objective: To evaluate and recommend innovative data collection technologies.

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee.

Approach: RecFIN(SE) members report to the Committee any new technologies which will aid in the collection of MRF data. Also, have appropriate personnel report to the Committee concerning such advancements.

Resources: Travel/meeting costs, report costs, and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Progress reports concerning pen-based and other data collection technologies.

Schedule: This is an ongoing activity.

Task 21: Design, Implementation and Maintenance of Data Management System (Goal 3, Objective 3)

Objective: To design, implement, and maintain an MRF data management system to accommodate fishery management/research and other needs (e.g., trade and tourism).

Team Members: MRFSS staff and other State and Federal Data Base Managers.

Approach: The MRFSS staff completed design of Oracle Data Bases for catch and trip estimates, and summarized intercept data bases for bag limits and size distributions. The MRFSS staff designed and implemented a user-friendly data query system for these data bases that is accessible through Internet and the World Wide Web. The Oracle data bases and SAS intercept and telephone interview data bases were placed on the NMFS IT-95 computer system which allows distributed processing and availability to the NMFS Southeast Regional Office, Science Center and laboratories. Although original plans were to incorporate non-MRFSS data bases identified as high priority for inclusion in the MRF data management system, in most cases it will be more efficient and appropriate to link to other home pages. State and Federal Data Base managers of MRF data bases other than the MRFSS should develop similar home page accessible data base queries. The MRFSS Home Page will include a link to these other data bases as they are developed and the other home pages should add links to the MRFSS Home Page.

Resources: The design, data query system development, html query pages, and query codes developed by the MRFSS staff are available to other data base managers to use as a basis for their own systems.

Product: MRFSS Home Page with user-friendly data query system. Home pages and data query systems for non-MRFSS data bases.

Schedule: The MRFSS system was implemented in the spring of 1996. The schedule for creation of systems for other data bases has not been decided.

Task 22: Standards/Protocols/Documentation for Data Management (Goal 3, Objective 4)

Objective: Develop standard protocols and documentation for data formats, input, editing, quality control, storage, access, transfer, dissemination, and application.

Team Members: MRFSS staff and other State and Federal Data Base Managers.

Approach: Access to the MRF system by state personnel and other researchers

is now available through the Internet or through requests to the MRFSS staff. Dial-up protocols are now necessary only on an individual state basis for states without Internet access and are the responsibility of the state. Menu-driven access to MRF Oracle/SAS data bases through the MRFSS Home Page now provides quality control through standardized queries and summarization procedures. The MRFSS Home Page provides quality control through standardization, with proper use of MRFSS data (weighting for unequal sample size, etc.). The MRFSS staff will continue development of MRFSS documentation and standardization of formats and codes of historical intercept, telephone and estimate data bases and incorporate them on-line in the MRFSS Home Page. State and Federal data base managers should develop documentation of non-MRFSS data bases as they are put onto Home Page systems or incorporated into the MRFSS system. Develop MRF Metadata Data Base to help users properly interpret their results. Error-checking software is available on the NMFS data management system.

- Resources: MRFSS staff time and RecFIN(SE) Committees, and staff time as needed.
- Product: Standard protocols and documentation on-line on the MRFSS Home Page and other non-MRFSS home pages.
- Schedule: Documentation and standardization of MRFSS intercept and telephone historical data bases was begun in 1993. The final intercept format was adopted by MRFSS staff by March 1995 and is available for distribution as well as similar documentation for the telephone data base. Basic documentation of the catch and trip estimate data bases exists and will be added to the MRFSS Home Page. Standardization of variables was achieved by the MRFSS staff during the clean-up effort during 1994 and 1995 prior to re-estimation.

Task 23: Evaluation of Information Management Technologies (Goal 3, Objective 6)

- Objective: To evaluate and recommend innovative, cost-effective information management technologies.
- Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee
- Approach: Committee members will report any new technologies which will aid in the management of MRF data. Also, industry personnel will report to the Committee concerning such advancements.
- Resources: Travel/meeting costs, conference call costs, report costs, and inkind (time) and staff time.
- Product: Progress reports.
- Schedule: This is an ongoing activity.

Task 24: Long-term National Program Planning (Goal 4, Objective 1)

Objective: Provide for long-term national program planning.
Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee.
Approach: The RecFIN(SE) Committee members, GSMFC staff and ASMFC staff will attend Pacific RecFIN and ASMFC Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics meetings and coordinate activities as appropriate. Accomplished by mail and meetings.
Resources: Travel/meeting costs, report costs, and inkind (time) and staff time.
Product: Record of coordination activities.
Schedule: The planning aspect of this task is an ongoing activity.

Task 25: Coordination, Consistency and Comparability with Other Cooperative MRF Programs (Goal 4, Objective 2 and Objective 3)

Objective: Coordinate RecFIN(SE) with other regional cooperative MRF programs and encourage consistency and comparability among regional programs over time.
Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee/Ad Hoc work group
Approach: The RecFIN(SE) Committee members, GSMFC staff and ASMFC staff will coordinate activities with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and Pacific RecFIN on the West Coast. The MRFSS staff is revising data files and will get input from the RecFIN(SE) Committee. An ad hoc work group was created to examine the differences/similarities between the FIN and ACCSP. Distribute appropriate program results and recommendations to other RecFIN programs. The topic of a joint meeting among FIN, ACCSP and Pacific RecFIN has been discussed and staff will examine the possibility of conducting these types of meetings. Accomplished by mail and meetings.
Resources: Travel/meeting costs, report costs, and inkind (time) and staff time.
Product: Ensure adequate information exchange, consistency and comparability between all regional RecFIN programs and compilation of a record of information exchange.
Schedule: This task is an ongoing activity. The ad hoc work group is scheduled to meet in mid-1998.

C. Administrative Activities

Coordination and administrative support of RecFIN(SE) will be accomplished through The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. Major tasks involved in the coordination and administration of the various levels of RecFIN(SE) include but are not limited to the following:

- @ Work closely with the RecFIN(SE) Committee in all aspects of program coordination, administration, and operation;
- @ Implement plans and program directives approved by the RecFIN(SE) Committee;
- @ Provide coordination and logistical support, including communications and organization of meetings for the RecFIN(SE) Committee, subcommittees, and work groups;
- @ Develop and/or administer cooperative agreements, grants, and contracts;
- @ Serve as liaison between the RecFIN(SE) Committee, other program participants, and other interested organizations;
- @ Assist the RecFIN(SE) Committee in preparation or review of annual spending plans;
- @ Prepare annual operations plans under the direction of the RecFIN(SE) Committee;
- @ Prepare and/or supervise and coordinate preparation of selected documents, including written records of all meetings;
- @ Distribute approved RecFIN(SE) information and data in accordance with accepted policies and procedures as set forth by the RecFIN(SE) Committee;
- @ Assist in the identification of regional and geographic needs that can be satisfied through RecFIN(SE) activities;
- @ Seek funding for RecFIN(SE) activities as the need develops; and
- @ Conduct or participate in other activities as identified.

D. Time Table for RecFIN(SE)

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Planning, Management, and Evaluation					
RecFIN(SE) Committee					
Maintenance of RecFIN(SE) Committee	X	X	X	X	X
Framework Plan					
Review of Framework Plan					X
Operations Plans					
Support establishment of MRF surveys in PR & VI		X	X	X	X
Identify funding needs for MRF programs	X	X	X	X	X
Identify funding sources	X	X	X	X	X
Information dissemination					
Establish educational work group		X			
Establish MRF user advisory panel		X			
Use Internet communications	X	X	X	X	X
Program Review					
Conducting of Program review					X
Data Collection					
Data components					
Review of components of fisheries					X
Needed data elements					
Develop process for metadata		X	X	X	X
Collection of metadata			X	X	X
Identify social/economic data elements		X			
Use existing social/economic panels for RecFIN(SE)			X		
Identify other social scientists to participate in RecFIN(SE)			X		
Standard data collection protocols					
Adoption of QA/QC standards		X			
Review of QA/QC standards					X
Calculate precision estimate for Headboat Survey				X	
Determine precision levels for priority species		X			
Evaluate methods for achieving desired precision levels			X		
Quality control/assurance					
Recommendations regarding duplicative collection and management		X			
Evaluate compatibility of Texas Survey data			X		
Coordination of data collection					
Compile marine recreational licensing report		X			
Develop license sampling frame criteria		X			
Establish/modify licenses to meet criteria			X		
Conduct comparison survey of license frame and MRFSS				X	
Implement the appropriate methodology				X	
Evaluate methods for surveying the for-hire fishery		X	X		
Test methods for surveying the for-hire fishery			X	X	X
Determine methods for collecting catch data for private access points			X		
Determine methods for collecting catch data for night fishing			X		
Develop process for collecting needed data on priority species			X		
Develop method for collecting data on fishing tournaments			X		
Develop methods for collecting data on non hook-and-line fisheries			X		
Evaluate the potential for stratifying at finer geographic levels				X	
Evaluate potential improvements to intercept site selection process			X		
Select preferred method for site selection process				X	
Evaluate methods to improve enforceability of reporting requirements				X	
Conduct comparison study between preferred and MRFSS methods					X
Determine the extent of non-consumptive activities					X
Innovative collection technology					
Evaluate innovative data collection technologies	X	X	X	X	X

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Data Management					
Data management system					
Review location and responsibility of DMS					X
Hardware/software capabilities					
Review hardware/software capabilities					X
Data maintenance					
Provide finalized data in electronic form	X	X	X	X	
Standard data management protocols					
Develop review process for finalization of MRFSS data		X			
Integration of data bases					
Identify databases for integration in MRF DMS	X	X	X	X	X
Innovative data management technology					
Evaluate innovative data management technologies	X	X	X	X	X
Data confidentiality					
Protect confidentiality	X	X	X	X	X
Development of National Program					
Long-term planning					
Coordination with ACCSP and Pacific RecFIN	X	X	X	X	X
Coordination with other programs					
Coordination with ACCSP and Pacific RecFIN	X	X	X	X	X
Consistency and comparability					
Coordination with ACCSP and Pacific RecFIN	X	X	X	X	X

E. References

RecFIN(SE) Committee. 1993. Marine recreational fisheries data collection project summaries. REC93-2. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 78 pp.

F. Committee, Subcommittee, and Work Group Membership

RecFIN(SE) Committee

Steven Atran
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management
Council

Graciela Garcia-Moliner
Caribbean Fishery Management Council

Lee Green
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Steve Holiman
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office

Lisa Kline
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Wilson Laney
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Skip Lazauski
Alabama Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources

Ronald Lukens
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Theo Brainerd
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Representative
Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife

Nick Nicholson
Georgia Coastal Resources Division

Joseph O'Hop
Florida Department of Environmental
Protection

Maury Osborn
National Marine Fisheries Service

Craig Lilyestrom
Puerto Rico Department of Natural and
Environmental Resources

Thomas Schmidt
Everglades National Park

Bob Dixon
National Marine Fisheries Service
Beaufort Laboratory

Joseph Shepard
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

Doug Mumford
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

Thomas Van Devender
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Joe Moran
South Carolina Department of Natural
Resources

Administrative Subcommittee

Lisa Kline
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Nick Nicholson
Georgia Coastal Resources Division

Bob Dixon
National Marine Fisheries Service
Beaufort Laboratory

Maury Osborn
National Marine Fisheries Service
Silver Spring

Wilson Laney
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
South Atlantic Fisheries Coordination
Office

Joseph Shepard
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

Ronald Lukens
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Biological/Environmental Work Group

Bob Dixon
National Marine Fisheries Service
Beaufort Laboratory

Thomas Schmidt
South Florida Research Center
Everglades National Park

Jeff Brust
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Tom Van Devender
Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources

Representative
Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife

Joe Moran
South Carolina Department of Natural
Resources

Doug Mumford
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

Steve Meyers
National Marine Fisheries Service
Silver Spring

Social/Economic Work Group

Tony Lamberte
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management
Council

Theo Brainerd
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Lisa Kline
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Representative
Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife

Steve Holiman
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office

Ron Lukens
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

APPENDIX A

RecFIN(SE) Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: To plan, manage, and evaluate a coordinated state-federal MRF data collection program for the Southeast Region.

Objective 1: To maintain a RecFIN(SE) Committee consisting of MOU signatories or their designees to develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate the program.

Objective 2: To develop and periodically review a Framework Plan that outlines policies and protocols of the program.

Objective 3: To develop annual operations plans, including identification of available resources, that implement the Framework Plan.

Objective 4: To distribute program information to cooperators and interested parties.

Objective 5: To conduct a program review at least every five years of operation to evaluate the program's success in meeting needs in the Southeast Region.

Goal 2: To implement and maintain a coordinated state-federal MRF data collection program for the Southeast Region.

Objective 1: To periodically review the components of the fishery (modes, areas, etc.) and the required data priorities for each component.

Objective 2: To periodically review data elements (environmental, biological, sociological, economic) required for each fishery component.

Objective 3: To determine, maintain, and periodically review standards for data collection, including statistical, training, and quality assurance and quality control standards.

Objective 4: To periodically review and evaluate the adequacy of current programs for meeting the RecFIN(SE) requirements.

Objective 5: To coordinate, integrate, and augment, as appropriate, data collection efforts to meet the RecFIN(SE) requirements.

Objective 6: To evaluate and recommend innovative data collection technologies.

Goal 3: To establish and maintain an integrated, centralized MRF data management system for the Southeast Region.

Objective 1: To periodically review and make recommendations regarding the location and administrative responsibility for a centralized the RecFIN(SE) data management system.

Objective 2: To periodically evaluate the hardware, software, and communication capabilities of program partners and make recommendations for support and upgrades.

Objective 3: To implement, maintain, and periodically review an MRF data management system to accommodate fishery management/research and other needs (e.g., trade and tourism).

Objective 4: To develop, maintain, and periodically review standard protocols and documentation for data formats, input, editing, quality control, storage, access, transfer, dissemination, and application.

Objective 5: To identify and prioritize data bases for integration into a MRF data management system.

Objective 6: To evaluate and recommend innovative, cost-effective information management technologies.

Objective 7: Protect the confidentiality of personal and business information, as required by state and/or federal law.

Goal 4: To support the development and operation of a national program to collect, manage, and disseminate MRF information for use by states, territories, councils, interstate commissions, and federal marine fishery management agencies.

Objective 1: To provide for long-term national program planning.

Objective 2: To coordinate the RecFIN(SE) with other regional and national MRF programs.

Objective 3: To encourage consistency and comparability among regional and national programs over time.