

2004 Operations Plan
for the
Fisheries Information Network
in the Southeastern United States
FIN

by: FIN Committee

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Number 114

**2004 Operations Plan for the
Fisheries Information Network in the
Southeastern United States (FIN)**

January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004

I. INTRODUCTION

The Fisheries Information Network (FIN) establishes a state-federal cooperative program to collect, manage, and disseminate statistical data and information on the commercial and recreational fisheries of the Southeast Region. There are two separate programs under the FIN: the Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN) and the Southeast Recreational Fisheries Information Network [RecFIN(SE)].

The FIN is a cooperative state-federal marine commercial and recreational fisheries data collection program. It is intended to coordinate present and future marine commercial and recreational fisheries 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 2003. All tasks will be completed dependent upon availability of funds.

II. MISSION AND GOALS

The mission of the FIN is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine commercial and recreational fisheries statistical data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Southeast Region and to support the development and operation of a national program.

The goals of the FIN are:

- C To plan, manage, and evaluate data collection and management activities;
- C To implement data collection activities;
- C To establish and maintain a data management system; and
- C To support the establishment of a national program.

The goals and objectives of FIN are found in Appendix A.

III. OPERATIONS

A. Operational Activities

The tasks below cover all 2004 objectives (see Section D). A >C= denotes a commercial activity; a >R= denotes a recreational activity; and a >F= denotes a commercial/recreational activity.

Task A1: Development, Implementation and Operation of Trip Ticket Programs (Goal 2, Objective 2) (C)

Objective: Develop and implement a trip ticket program for the Southeast Region.

Team Members: Gulf states and Data Collection Work Group

Approach: The states of Texas and Mississippi will continue the implementation of trip ticket programs in their states. This task will provide for development of components for a commercial trip ticket system to census the commercial fisheries landings in Texas and Mississippi using the data elements and standards developed by the FIN. Mississippi is currently collecting trip-level data for oyster, bait shrimp and finfish landings. They are attempting to pass legislation that would allow for the expansion of collection of trip-level data for all commercial species. Texas is currently evaluating the feasibility of implementing trip tickets in their state. For Louisiana and Alabama, funding will be provided for the majority of operation of their trip ticket programs. In addition, GSMFC will contract with Southwest Computer Bureau (SCBI) to implement and maintain electronic trip ticket reporting for Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida and potentially Texas. Ultimately, all states will have operating trip tickets program and all commercial landings will be captured via these systems. Accomplished by meeting, telephone, mail and in conjunction with the ACCSP, where applicable.

Resources: Operational and implementation costs, telephone costs, report costs, travel/meeting costs, and staff time.

Product: Gulf-wide trip ticket program

Schedule: Implementation of trip tickets began in 1999 and will continue during 2004 for Mississippi and Texas. Operations of trip ticket will continue in 2004 for Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida.

Task A2: Collection of Recreational Fisheries Data (Goal 2, Objective 5) (R)

Objective: Collection of recreational fisheries data in the Gulf of Mexico.

Team Members: Gulf states, GSMFC, NMFS

Approach: The states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida will continue to conduct the MRFSS survey for shore, for-hire, and private modes. This task will provide for coordination of the survey, a field-intercept survey of shore, for-hire and private boat anglers to estimate angler catch using the existing MRFSS methodology, and entry of the data. It will be combined with the NMFS effort estimate telephone survey. The NMFS will produce expanded estimates of catch and effort by wave using the existing MRFSS methodology. In addition, the states will conduct supplemental sampling of the intercept portion for the MRFSS for charter boats in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Where possible, the Committee will work with the ACCSP to ensure comparability and compatibility between the two programs.

Resources: Operational costs, travel/meeting costs, mail costs, and staff time.
Product: Collection of recreational fisheries data for the Gulf of Mexico.
Schedule: This is an on-going task.

Task A3: Implementation of Methods to Monitor the For-Hire Fisheries (Goal 2, Objective 5) (R)

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

Team Members: For-Hire Work Group, Gulf states, GSMFC, and NMFS

Approach: For charter boats, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida have implemented the Charter Boat Telephone Survey that collects effort data from charter boat captains. Regarding head boats, the FIN For-Hire Work Group has met and developed data collection methods for this fishery. Implementation of these methods will require additional funding. There will be a period of time where duplicative data collection methods are being conducted for comparison purposes. Once enough data have been collection, Gulf States, GSMFC and NMFS will determine the best method for collecting data in the head boat fishery.

Resources: Travel/meeting costs, mail costs, and staff time.
Product: For-hire survey methodology
Schedule: The alternative methodology is developed and additional funds are needed to implement in 2004.

Task A4: Continue the Collection of Menhaden Data (Goal 2, Objective 5) (C)

Objective: Continue the support of menhaden sampling in the Gulf of Mexico.
Team Members: Gulf states, GSMFC, and NMFS
Approach: The purpose of this task is to sample gulf menhaden catches from

menhaden purse-seine vessels that operate at the ports of Empire, Morgan City, Abbeville, and Cameron, Louisiana. Samples will be processed for size and age composition for use in coast-wide stock assessments. In turn, gulf menhaden stock assessments are incorporated into the Fisheries Management Plan for the species, and are also utilized by the Gulf coast states, the GSMFC, the menhaden industry, and the NMFS.

Resources: Operational costs, travel/meeting costs, mail costs, and staff time.
Product: Collection of necessary menhaden data
Schedule: This task is an on-going activity.

Task A5: Continue the Collection of Head Boat Data (Goal 2, Objective 5) (R)

Objective: Continue the support of head boat sampling in the Gulf of Mexico.
Team Members: Gulf states, GSMFC, and NMFS
Approach: The purpose of this task is to sample catches, collect catch reports from head boat personnel, and gather effort data on head boats which operate primarily in the Exclusive Economic Zone from ports along the coasts of Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. This task will be conducted in accordance with existing NMFS head boat methodology.
Resources: Operational costs, travel/meeting costs, mail costs, and staff time.
Product: Collection of necessary head boat data
Schedule: This task is an on-going activity.

Task A6: Collection of Biological (otoliths and lengths) Data (Goal 2, Objective 5) (F)

Objective: Implement the collection of recreational and commercial sampling of biological data in the Gulf of Mexico.
Team Members: Gulf states, GSMFC, and NMFS
Approach: The purpose of this task is to conduct biological sampling interviews of recreational and commercial fishermen using the modified MRFSS and Trip Interview Program protocols. Samplers will collect length frequencies, identifications of species, trip and gear characteristics, weights of catches, hard parts (otoliths) and make comparisons of interview data to trip ticket data for quality assurance purposes. The GSMFC will provide coordination and tracking of targets and provide feedback to the states. The Data Collection Plan Work Group and FIN will determine the priority species for 2003.
Resources: Operational costs, travel/meeting costs, mail costs, and staff time.
Product: Collection of necessary biological data
Schedule: This task is an ongoing activity.

Task A7: Collection of Detailed Effort Data (Goal 2, Objective 5) (F)

Objective: Implement the collection of detailed effort data from the commercial fisheries operating in the Gulf of Mexico.

Team Members: Louisiana, GSMFC, and NMFS

Approach: The purpose of this task is to collect detailed effort (multiple area fished and gears) data from the commercial fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. NMFS began this activity in 2002 and focused on the shrimp fishery in Louisiana using the Trip Interview Program (TIP) methodology. This year, NMFS will continue collecting data from the shrimp fishery in Louisiana. In addition, Louisiana personnel will collect detailed effort from the blue crab fishery. The samples will be representatively distributed using the trip ticket data. Information on multiple areas fished, gears, days at sea, crew size, etc. will be collected by both NMFS and Louisiana personnel.

Resources: Operational costs, travel/meeting costs, mail costs, and staff time.

Product: Collection of necessary detailed effort data

Schedule: A presentation of the results will be given at the 2004 FIN meeting.

Task A8: Design, Implementation and Maintenance of Data Management System (Goal 3, Objective 3) (F)

Objective: To design, implement, and maintain a marine commercial and recreational fisheries data management system to accommodate fishery management/research and other needs (e.g., trade and tourism).

Team Members: FIN and ACCSP program partners, FIN Data Base Manager, and ComFIN Survey Coordinator

Approach: The FIN will continue to develop the Data Management System (DMS). Development of the registration tracking system will be address by the FIN Data Base Manager. This module will be used by both FIN and ACCSP. In addition, the FIN IT manager will continue to receive routine delivery of Louisiana, Mississippi (oyster, bait shrimp and finfish data only), Alabama, and Florida trip ticket data into the FIN DMS. The Data Base Manager will also maintain the historical data in the system and provide support of outside users of the system. In addition to the commercial data, regular loads of recreational data into the DMS will be accomplished. FIN will continue to work in conjunction with the ACCSP to ensure compatibility and comparability between the programs.

Resources: Travel/meeting costs, mail costs, and staff time.

Product: FIN data management system

Schedule: Further development registration tracking system and routine delivery of data will continue in 2004.

Task A9: Standards/Protocols/Documentation for Data Management (Goal 3, Objective 4) (F)

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

Team Members: FIN/ACCSP program partners/FIN Data Management Work Group

Approach: The FIN and ACCSP are currently developing data management systems for their respective coasts. As part of the development, standard protocols and documentation for data formats, input, editing, quality control, storage, access, transfer, dissemination, and application are being developed. The FIN Data Management Work Group and ACCSP Computer Technical Committee will continue to develop of this information and there will be coordination between the programs to insure comparability and compatibility.

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

Product: Standard protocols and documentation for the FIN data management system.

Schedule: The appropriate FIN and ACCSP groups will meet (if necessary) in 2004 to address any issues.

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

The tasks below cover all 2004 objectives (see Section D). A >C= denotes a commercial activity; an >R=denotes a recreational activity; and an >F= denotes a commercial/recreational activity.

Task B1: Annual Operations Plan, 2005 (Goal 1, Objective 3) (F)

Objective: Develop 2005 Annual Operations Plan including identification of available resources that implements the Framework Plan.

Team Members: FIN Committee

Approach: Through meetings and mail, the Committee will develop and complete an Annual Operations Plan for 2005.

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

Product: 2005 Annual Operations Plan.

Schedule: Annual Operations Plan will be drafted by spring 2004 and addressed by the Committee at the 2004 meeting.

Task B2: Development of Funding Initiatives to Establish Marine Recreational Fisheries (MRF) Surveys (Goal 1, Objective 3) (R)

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

Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group/NMFS/GSMFC

Approach: The Work Group has been working on this issue for several years. In 2000, the MRFSS was re-established in the U.S. Caribbean, although there were severe problems with attracting and retaining reliable intercept interviewers in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Sampling in Puerto Rico was conducted in 2001- 2002, however, sampling was dropped in the U.S. Virgin Islands during 2001. Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, NMFS and GSMFC personnel are exploring ways to ensure long-term collection of recreational data in the Caribbean.

Resources: Travel, copy and mailing expenses and staff time.

Product: Develop a long-term MRF surveys for the Caribbean.

Schedule: The Work Group and FIN will continue monitoring this task in 2004.

Task B3: Information Dissemination (Goal 1, Objective 4) (F)

Objective: Distribute program information to cooperators and interested parties.

Team Members: FIN Committee and staff

Approach: The Committee will distribute program information to cooperators and interested parties. Each committee member is responsible for maintaining a list of information distributed and providing that list to the 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 that includes information concerning the FIN.

Resources: Copy and mailing expenses and staff time.

Product: Development and distribution of a fact sheet concerning FIN 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 B4: Implementation of Outreach Program (Goal 1, Objective 4) (F)

Objective: Implementation an outreach program for FIN

Team Members: FIN Outreach Work Group/FIN Committee

Approach: The Work Group has developed a strategy for outreach. The group developed a draft strategy document that has been reviewed and approved by the FIN Committee. As outlined in the document, it is incumbent on the program partners to conduct outreach within their jurisdiction. The FIN staff will attend a variety of meetings to

promote the program as well. FIN Committee will continue to work with the ACCSP in developing outreach activities.

Resources: Telephone costs, report costs, travel/meeting costs, and staff time.
Product: FIN outreach program
Schedule: The FIN Committee approved the strategy in June 2002. An update of outreach activities will be compiled each year and presented to FIN Committee at their annual meeting.

Task B5: Development of the Bycatch Module (Goal 2, Objective 2) (C)

Objective: Develop the bycatch module of the FIN.
Team Members: ComFIN Data Collection Work Group
Approach: In 2002, information regarding absence/presence and magnitude of discards activities was compiled for the Southeast Region. Using this information and that developed by the ACCSP, the Work Group designed a data collection module for the compilation of discards and protected species interactions for all commercial fisheries in the Southeast Region. The program outlined the data elements that need to be collected for compilation of discards and protected species interactions. The FIN Committee approved the module and additional funding is needed to implement the data collection activities. Accomplished by meeting, telephone and mail and in conjunction with the ACCSP, where applicable.

Resources: Telephone costs, report costs, travel/meeting costs, and staff time.
Product: Bycatch data collection program
Schedule: The Work Group addressed this issue in 1998 and will continue working on it during 2004.

Task B6: Implementation of the Social/Economic Module (Goal 2, Objective 2) (F)

Objective: Develop the social/economic module for the ComFIN.
Team Members: Social/Economic Work Group
Approach: Working in conjunction with the ACCSP, the Work Group has designed a data collection module for the compilation of social/economic information for all commercial fisheries in the Southeast Region. The program outlines the data elements required for each fishery component that need to be collected for compilation of social/economic data. Since the module has been developed, additional funds as well as needs have to be identified before data collection activities can begin. The FIN approved a new approach to social/economic data collection where FIN focuses on providing feedback to existing data collection activities (logbook add-ons, offshore shrimp fisheries interviews, etc.) in terms of meeting the FIN

social/economic standards. Accomplished by meeting, telephone and mail and in conjunction with the ACCSP, where applicable.

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

Product: Social/Economic data collection module and data collection surveys for collection of the data.

Schedule: The Work Group began addressing this issue during 1998 and will continue working on it during 2004, as needed.

Task B7: Development of Metadata Database (Goal 2 , Objective 2) (F)

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

Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group/FIN Data Base Manager

Approach: The Biological/Environmental Work Group has worked on this issue in the past and has developed criteria for creating a metadata database. The Committee discussed the issue of metadata and decided that the Work Group should continue looking at compilation of fishing regulations. The FIN Committee approved the recommended data structure for the metadata database. Once the fishing regulations information in is the system, subsequent categories to be collected will be determined by the Committee.

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

Product: Development of metadata module

Schedule: The initial development of the data base structure began in 2000. Due to the status of the Data Base Manager, this activity has been put on hold. The compilation of these data will be an ongoing activity.

Task B8: Implementation of Registration Tracking System (Goal 2, Objective 2) (C)

Objective: Development of a registration tracking system for FIN.

Team Members: Registration Tracking Work Group

Approach: In conjunction with the ACCSP, the Work Group will continue the development of the registration tracking system for both programs. This system will provide a unique identifier for fishermen, dealers, and vessel involved in commercial fisheries that is trackable through geographic location and time. The basic data elements have been approved. The next step is for program partners to modify their existing licensing systems to collect all the needed elements. Accomplished by meetings, conference calls, and mail.

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

Product: Registration tracking system for FIN and ACCSP

Schedule: The Work Group addressed this issue in 2000 and will continue to meet as needed for the development of this system. The states need to

implement the strategy for modifying their licensing systems to collect the needed data.

Task B9: Commercial Quality Assurance and Quality Control (Goal 2, Objective 3) (C)

Objective: Identify and determine standards for commercial catch/effort data collection, including statistical, training, and quality assurance and quality control standards.

Team Members: Data Collection Work Group/FIN Committee

Approach: Determine standards for collection and management of commercial catch/effort data. The FIN has developed draft documents that describe the various techniques and methods for collection of marine commercial data. The group utilized existing procedures for the Trip Interview Program and other related information. As modules are implemented, procedure documents will be developed to assist in the collection of the particular data. 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 costs, and staff time.

Product: FIN quality assurance and quality control documents for the various modules

Schedule: The documents will be developed as new and existing modules are addressed. A draft of these documents will be presented to the FIN Committee at the 2004 meeting. Review of this information is an ongoing activity.

Task B10: Port Samplers Workshops (Goal 2, Objective 3) (C)

Objective: Convene workshops of state and federal port samplers to discuss commercial data collection activities

Team Members: State and federal commercial port samplers and staff

Approach: In an effort to provide a forum for discussing various issues concerning commercial data collection activities, the FIN Committee decided to convene workshops of state and federal port agents. There will be several workshops: Texas/Louisiana/Mississippi/Alabama/Florida; and the Caribbean. These workshops will be attended by the state and federal port agents from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands, the FIN chairman, appropriate NMFS staff and other interested personnel. Some of the suggested topics for these meetings include species identification workshop, overview of ComFIN program, trip ticket information, sampling and sub-sampling techniques and other pertinent

topics.
Resources: Telephone costs, report costs, travel/meeting costs, and staff time.
Product: Provide a forum for field personnel to discuss problems and issues related to commercial data collection activities. List of recommendations regarding commercial data collection activities.
Schedule: The meeting will be scheduled for mid- and late-2004.

Task B11: Otolith Processors Training Workshop (Goal 2, Objective 3) (C)

Objective: Convene an annual workshop of state and federal otolith processors to discuss issues related to analyzing hard parts (otoliths, spines, etc.)
Team Members: State and federal processors and staff
Approach: In an effort to provide a forum to ensure quality control and quality assurance for otolith processing, the FIN Committee decided to convene workshops of state and federal processors. Processing personnel from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, GSMFC, NMFS staff and other interested personnel will attend the workshop.
Resources: Telephone costs, report costs, travel/meeting costs, and staff time.
Product: Provide a forum for processing personnel to discuss problems and issues related to analysis of age structures.
Schedule: The meeting will be scheduled for mid- and late-2004.

Task B12: Identification and Evaluation of Current Programs (Goal 2, Objective 4) (F)

Objective: Identify and evaluate the adequacy of current and future programs for meeting FIN standards.
Team Members: FIN Committee
Approach: Periodically evaluate surveys based on their adequacy for meeting FIN standards and make appropriate recommendations.
Resources: Travel/meeting costs, report costs, and staff time
Product: Recommendations for commercial and recreational surveys.
Schedule: This task is an ongoing activity.

Task B13: Combining Duplicative Data Collection and Management Activities (Goal 2, Objective 4) (F)

Objective: Identify and combine duplicative data collection and management efforts.
Team Members: FIN 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 FIN

Committee concerning these activities. From this information, the Committee will develop strategies for reducing duplicative efforts in the Southeast Region.

Resources: Travel/meeting costs, mail costs, and staff time.
Product: Recommendations for reducing duplicative data collection and management efforts
Schedule: This is an ongoing task.

Task B14: Determination of Methods for Collecting Recreational Data from Private Access Sites Goal 2, Objective 5) (R)

Objective: Determine most appropriate methods for collecting recreational data from private access sites.

Team Members: FIN/Biological/Environmental Work Group

Approach: The Biological/Environmental Work Group met to determine the best method of collected data from private access sites. The group recommended that the first step is to determine the magnitude of the activity. Where possible, the Committee will work with the ACCSP to ensure comparability and compatibility between the two programs.

Resources: Operational costs, travel/meeting costs, mail costs, and staff time.

Product: Determination of the best method of the collected the needed data.

Schedule: The Work Group met 2003 and will meet in 2004 to continue addressing this task.

Task B15: Determination of Catch Rates and Species Composition from Night Fishing Goal 2, Objective 5) (R)

Objective: Determine catch rates and species composition from night fishing.

Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group and FIN Committee

Approach: In 2001-2002, a night fishing pilot study was conducted in Mississippi. The personnel met in 2003 and evaluated the results of this study, which were presented to the FIN Committee. Based on the evaluation, the FIN Committee decided that the Biological/Environmental Work Group needs to further explore the need and feasibility of conducting night fishing in other region of the Gulf of Mexico. Where possible, the Committee will work with the ACCSP to ensure comparability and compatibility between the two programs.

Resources: Operational costs, travel/meeting costs, mail costs, and staff time.

Product: Detailed plan for the compilation of night fishing activities in the Southeast Region.

Schedule: Implementation of night sampling activities is contingent on additional funding.

Task B16: Collection of Tournaments Data (Goal 2, Objective 5) (R)

Objective: Collect appropriate information from fishing tournaments, and integrate with other marine recreational fisheries data.

Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group

Approach: A list that identifies all ongoing tournaments in the Southeast Region has been compiled and reviewed by the Committee. The Work Group met and discussed this issue and presented their recommendations to the FIN Committee. Where possible, the Committee will work with the ACCSP to ensure comparability and compatibility between the two programs.

Resources: Travel/meeting costs, mail costs, and staff time.

Product: Recommendations regarding sampling methods for tournaments

Schedule: The Committee addressed this issue in 1998 and the Work Group will meet in 2004 to continue examining this issue.

Task B17: Determination of Methods for Collecting Recreational Data from Non Hook-and-Line Fisheries (Goal 2, Objective 5) (R)

Objective: Determine most appropriate methods for collecting recreational data from non hook-and-line fisheries.

Team Members: FIN/Biological/Environmental Work Group

Approach: The Biological/Environmental Work Group will need to meet in order to determine the best method of collected data from non hook-and-line fisheries. The FIN has compiled information regarding the magnitude of non-hook-and-line fisheries in the Southeast Region. The group needs to review (and possible update) this information and convene a meeting to develop protocols for sampling these fisheries. Where possible, the Committee will work with the ACCSP to ensure comparability and compatibility between the two programs.

Resources: Operational costs, travel/meeting costs, mail costs, and staff time.

Product: Determination of the best method of the collected the needed data.

Schedule: The Work Group will meet 2004 to address this task.

Task B18: Integration into the Stock Assessment Process (Goal 2, Objective 5) (F)

Objective: Develop a plan that outlines the needs for stock assessment for the upcoming year as well as tracking the collection of these data.

Team Members: FIN Committee/Data Collection Plan Work Group

Approach: The Committee has developed a data collection plan that identifies the priority species (and associated data needed to be collected) for the state, interstate and federal entities as well as establishes sampling

target levels for biological data. The plan provides guidance to the states. As trip ticket systems are implemented Gulf-wide, the data from these systems will allow for better allocation of samples. Accomplished by meetings, telephone and mail.

Resources: Meeting costs, mail costs, telephone costs, and staff time
Product: Data collection plan
Schedule: The group began meeting in 2002 and will continue to do so into the future to review activities and develop this annual plan.

Task B19: Establish/modify recreational licenses (Goal 2, Objective 5) (F)

Objective: Establish/modify recreational licenses to meet criteria for use as sampling frame

Team Members: FIN Committee

Approach: The FIN has developed criteria that allow state marine recreational fishing licenses to be used as a regional sampling frame. Based on these criteria, each state needs to either adopt a recreational fishing license or modify existing licenses to meet the criteria. The Committee will periodically review the status of each states=licenses. Once a region has adopted a standardized license, implementation of license sampling frame can be accomplished.

Resources: Telephone costs, report costs, travel/meeting costs, and staff time
Product: Recreational fishing licenses suitable for use as sampling directory
Schedule: The FIN Committee will periodically address this issue to determine the status of each states=licenses.

Task B20: Coordination and Integration of Data Collection Efforts (Goal 2, Objective 5) (F)

Objective: Encourage coordination, integration, and augmentation, as appropriate, of data collection efforts to meet the FIN requirements.

Team Members: FIN Committee

Approach: Communicate results of evaluation and recommendations regarding marine commercial and recreational fisheries surveys to the appropriate personnel.

Resources: Travel/meeting costs, report costs, and staff time
Product: Communication and presentation of recommendations to ongoing programs.

Schedule: This is an ongoing activity.

Task B21: Evaluation of Innovative Data Collection Technologies (Goal 2, Obj 6) (F)

Objective: To evaluate and recommend innovative data collection technologies

Team Members: FIN Committee and other appropriate personnel
 Approach: Communicate results of evaluation and recommendations regarding marine commercial and recreational fisheries surveys to the appropriate personnel.
 Resources: Travel/meeting costs, report costs, and staff time
 Product: Communication and presentation of recommendations to ongoing programs.
 Schedule: The GSMFC and Mississippi will be evaluating the latest version of data loggers for collection of recreational data. The results of this test will be presented to the FIN Committee at the 2004 meeting. This is an ongoing activity.

Task B22: Evaluation of Information Management Technologies (Goal 3, Objective 6) (F)

Objective: To evaluate and recommend innovative, cost-effective information management technologies.
 Team Members: FIN Committee and industry personnel
 Approach: Committee members will report any new technologies, which will aid in the management of marine commercial and recreational fisheries data.
 Resources: Travel/meeting costs, conference call costs, report costs, and staff time.
 Product: Progress reports.
 Schedule: This is an ongoing activity.

Task B23: Long-term National Program Planning (Goal 4, Objective 1) (F)

Objective: Provide for long-term national program planning
 Team Members: FIN Committee
 Approach: The FIN Committee members, GSMFC staff and ASMFC staff will attend Pacific RecFIN, PacFIN, ACCSP Operations Committee, and other pertinent meetings and coordinate activities as appropriate. Accomplished by mail and meetings.
 Resources: Travel/meeting costs, report costs, and staff time.
 Product: Record of coordination activities.
 Schedule: This task is an ongoing activity.

Task B24: Coordination, Consistency and Comparability with Other Cooperative Marine Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Programs (Goal 4, Objective 2 and Objective 3) (F)

Objective: Coordinate FIN with other regional cooperative marine commercial

and recreational fisheries programs and encourages consistency and comparability among regional programs over time.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Team Members: | FIN Committee |
| Approach: | The FIN Committee members, GSMFC staff and ASMFC staff will coordinate activities with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Pacific RecFIN, and PacFIN on the West Coast. The topic of a joint meeting among FIN, ACCSP and Pacific 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 staff time. |
| Product: | Ensure adequate information exchange, consistency and comparability between all regional fisheries programs and compilation of a record of information exchange. |
| Schedule: | This task is an ongoing activity. |

C. Administrative Activities

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

- C Work closely with the FIN Committee in all aspects of program coordination, administration, and operation;
- C Implement plans and program directives approved by the FIN Committee;
- C Provide coordination and logistical support, including communications and organization of meetings for the FIN Committee, subcommittees, and work groups;
- C Develop and/or administer cooperative agreements, grants, and contracts;
- C Serve as liaison between the FIN Committee, other program participants, and other interested organizations;
- C Assist the FIN Committees in preparation or review of annual spending plans;
- C Prepare annual operations plans under the direction of the FIN Committee;
- C Prepare and/or supervise and coordinate preparation of selected documents, including written records of all meetings;
- C Distribute approved FIN information and data in accordance with accepted policies and procedures as set forth by the FIN Committee;

- C Assist in the identification of regional and geographic needs that can be satisfied through FIN activities;
- C Conduct or participate in other activities as identified.

D. Time Table

| | <u>2001</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Planning, Management, and Evaluation | | | | | |
| FIN Committee | | | | | |
| Maintenance of FIN Committee | X | X | X | X | X |
| Framework Plan | | | | | |
| Review of Framework Plan | | | | | X |
| Operations Plans | | | | | |
| Development of annual operations plans | X | X | X | X | X |
| Support establishment of MRF surveys in PR & VI | X | X | X | X | X |
| Identify funding needs for MRF programs | X | X | X | X | X |
| Information dissemination | | | | | |
| Implement outreach strategy | X | X | | | |
| Develop outreach materials and list of users | X | X | | | |
| Use Internet communications | X | X | X | X | X |
| Program Review | | | | | |
| Conduct program review | | | | | X |
| Data Collection | | | | | |
| Data components | | | | | |
| Review of components of fisheries | | | | | X |
| Needed data elements | | | | | |
| Collection of metadata | X | X | X | X | X |
| Develop rec and comm catch/effort modules | X | X | X | | |
| Develop permitting module | X | X | | | |
| Develop social/economic data module | X | X | | | |
| Develop biological sampling module | X | | | | |
| Develop fishery module | X | X | | | |
| Develop discard and protected species interactions module | X | X | X | | |
| Standard data collection protocols | | | | | |
| Develop data collection procedures manual | X | X | X | | |
| Determine precision levels for priority species | X | | | | |
| Evaluate methods for achieving desired precision levels | X | | | | |
| Quality control/assurance | | | | | |
| Develop commercial and recreational QA/QC standards | X | X | X | | |
| Review of commercial and recreational QA/QC standards | | | | | X |
| Recommendations regarding duplicative collection and management | X | | | | |
| Coordination of data collection | | | | | |
| Development of data collection plan | X | X | X | X | X |
| Evaluate current fishery independent data activities | X | | | | |
| Make recommendations to appropriate fishery -independent programs | | X | | | |
| Establish/modify recreational licenses to meet criteria | X | X | X | | |
| Conduct comparison survey of license frame and MRFSS | | | | X | |
| Implement the appropriate license frame methodology | | | | | X |
| Determine methods for collecting recreational data for private access points | | | X | X | |
| Determine methods for collecting recreational catch data for night fishing | X | X | X | | |
| Develop method for collecting recreational data on fishing tournaments | X | X | X | | |
| Develop methods for collecting recreational data on non hook-&-line fisheries | | | | X | X |
| Evaluate potential improvements to intercept site selection process | X | | | | |
| Determine the extent of non-consumptive activities | | | | | X |

| Data Collection (continued) | <u>2001</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Innovative collection technology | | | | | |
| Evaluate innovative data collection technologies | X | X | X | X | X |
| Data Management | | | | | |
| Data management system | | | | | |
| Review location and responsibility of DMS | | | | | X |
| Hardware/software capabilities | | | | | |
| Review hardware/software capabilities | | | | | X |
| Provide finalized recreational data in electronic form | | X | X | X | X |
| Data maintenance | X | X | X | X | X |
| Standard data management protocols | | | | | |
| Develop review process for finalization of MRFSS data | | X | | | |
| Integration of databases | | | | | |
| Identify recreational databases for integration in 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 |

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APPENDIX A

FIN Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: To plan, manage and evaluate a coordinated State/Federal marine commercial and recreational fishery data collection program for the Region.

- Objective 1 To establish and maintain FIN 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 protocol of the program
- Objective 3 To develop annual operation plans, including identification of available resources that implement the Framework Plan.
- Objective 4 To distribute program information to the 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 Region.

Goal 2: To implement and maintain a coordinated State/Federal marine commercial and recreational fishery data collection program for the Region.

- Objective 1 To characterize and periodically review the commercial and recreational fisheries and identify the required data priorities for each.
- Objective 2 To identify and periodically review environmental, biological, social and economic data elements required for each fishery.
- Objective 3 To identify, determine, and periodically review standards for data collection, including statistical, training and quality assurance.
- Objective 4 To identify and evaluate the adequacy of current programs for meeting FIN requirements.
- Objective 5 To coordinate, integrate and augment, as appropriate, data collection efforts to meet FIN requirements.
- Objective 6 To evaluate and recommend innovative data collection methodologies and technologies.

Goal 3: To establish and maintain an integrated, marine commercial and recreational fishery data management system for the Region.

- Objective 1 To periodically review and make recommendations regarding the location and administrative responsibility for the FIN 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 a marine commercial and recreational fishery data management system to accommodate fishery management/research and other needs.
- Objective 4 To develop, maintain, and periodically review standard protocols and documentation for data formats, inputs, editing, storage, access, transfer dissemination, and application.
- Objective 5 To identify and prioritize historical databases for integration into the marine commercial and recreational fisheries database.
- Objective 6 To evaluate and recommend innovative, cost-effective information management technologies.
- Objective 7 To 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 marine commercial fisheries 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 FIN with other regional and national marine commercial and recreational fisheries programs.
- Objective 3 To encourage consistency and comparability among regional and national marine commercial and recreational fisheries programs over time.