

1997 Operations Plan
for the
Recreational Fisheries Information Network
in the Southeastern United States
RecFIN(SE)

by: RecFIN(SE) Committee

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Number 46

**1997 Operations Plan for the
Recreational Fisheries Information Network in the
Southeastern United States [RecFIN(SE)]**

January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997

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 1997. 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 1997 objectives (see Section D).

Task 1: Annual Operations Plan, 1998 (Goal 1, Objective 3)

Objective: Develop 1998 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 1998.

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

Product: 1998 Annual Operations Plan.

Schedule: Annual Operations Plan will be drafted by late summer 1997 and addressed by the Committee at the fall 1997.

Task 2: 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: RecFIN(SE) Committee

Approach: The Committee will discuss the concept of creating a marine recreational fishery survey in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands with the Caribbean participants. The Committee will assist the participants in establishing an MRF survey.

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

Product: Discussion of the establishment of MRF surveys in the Caribbean.

Schedule: This task will be discussed at the 1997 spring meeting and further explored throughout the year.

Task 3: Establishment of Public Input into RecFIN(SE) (Goal 1, Objective 4)

Objective: Establish an user advisory group to provide input into the RecFIN(SE)/ComFIN process.

Team Members: Administrative Subcommittee

Approach: The Subcommittee will establish a work group which will be

responsible for providing input into the RecFIN(SE)/ComFIN process to better meet the needs of the recreational and commercial user groups.

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

Product: Establishment of the User Advisory Work Group.

Schedule: This task will be addressed at the 1997 fall meeting.

Task 4: Establishment of Communication Process (Goal 1, Objective 4)

Objective: Establish an educational work group to develop outreach programs and materials.

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee

Approach: The Committee will establish a work group which will be responsible for developing a plan to communicate with the public regarding the purpose of the RecFIN(SE). The group will develop information that informs interested personnel about the program.

Resources: Copy and mailing expenses and staff time.

Product: Establishment of the Educational Work Group.

Schedule: This task will be addressed at the 1997 fall meeting.

Task 5: 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: The Internet capabilities information will be compiled by staff and presented at the fall meeting. This task will be an ongoing activity.

Task 6: 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: Currently, the ASMFC Committee on Economic and Social Sciences is addressing the identification of necessary social and economic data elements. The ASMFC Committee will produce a document which should be available in early 1997. The group recommended that the RecFIN(SE) Social and Economic Work Group wait for the outcome of the ASMFC Committee and review and modify the document, as appropriate. Accomplished by meetings, conference calls, and mail.

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 by the 1997 fall meeting.

Task 7: Biological/Environmental Data Elements (Goal 2, Objective 2)

Objective: Establish process for creating a metadata database for the Southeast Region.

Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group

Approach: The group has worked on this issue in the past and needs to continue to develop criteria for creating a metadata database. The group also needs to develop and implement a process for receiving metadata input. Once this is done, the collection of these data needs to be addressed.

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

Product: Criteria for compilation of metadata and process for compiling this information.

Schedule: The criteria and process should be completed by the end of 1997.

Task 8: RecFIN(SE) Quality Assurances /Quality Control Document (Goal 2, Objective 3)

Objective: Development of the QA/QC document for RecFIN(SE).

Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group

Approach: The group will continue developing the RecFIN QA/QC document. The document will include QA/QC guidelines for the various types of marine recreational surveys that are conducted. This document will be compared with other state/federal MRF programs QA/QC documents. Once the document has been approved, the Committee will encourage all RecFIN(SE) partners to adopt the RecFIN(SE) quality assurances and quality control standards.

Resources: Meeting/travel costs, telephone costs, mail cost, inkind (time) and staff time.
Product: Comprehensive RecFIN(SE) Quality Assurances /Quality Control Document
Schedule: Work on this task will begin in 1996 and continue into subsequent years.

Task 9: 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). 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 report.
Schedule: This task will be completed by the 1996 fall meeting.

Task 10: Annual Review Process of MRFSS Data (Goal 2, Objective 3)

Objective: Establish an annual review process including guidelines for reviewing the data, through the RecFIN(SE), to evaluate MRFSS data.
Team Members: Ad hoc Data Review Work Group
Approach: The work group presented a process for reviewing the MRFSS preliminary data to RecFIN(SE) Committee at the last meeting. The group is now focusing on developing guidelines for reviewing the data.
Resources: Meeting/travel costs, telephone costs, mail cost, inkind (time) and staff time.
Product: All participants involved in collection of the data will have an opportunity to comment on the data.
Schedule: The work group will meet prior to the fall 1997 meeting and develop guidelines for reviewing the data. These guidelines will be presented to the Committee at the 1997 fall meeting. However, this will be an ongoing activity.

Task 11: Increase of Precision of Estimates for Priority Species (Goal 2, Objective 3)

Objective: Establish of a method to increase the precision of estimates for priority species.

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee

Approach: The Committee will develop a list of prioritized species, by sub-region. This list will be developed using the established data collection process. Once the list is developed, the Committee will determine target precision levels for priority species, to include at least all species covered by all management plans.

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

Product: Precision levels for priority species.

Schedule: This task will be addressed at the 1997 fall meeting.

Task 12: Identification and Evaluation of Current Programs (Goal 2, Objective 4)

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

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee.

Approach: Periodically evaluate surveys based on their adequacy for meeting RecFIN(SE) requirements 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. This task is an ongoing activity.

Task 13: Combining Duplicative Data Collection and Management Activities (Goal 2, Objective 4)

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

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee

Approach: Identify, using existing RecFIN(SE) documents, any redundancies in MRF data collection and management in the Southeast Region. Also, the group will provide recommendations to the RecFIN(SE) Committee concerning the reduction of these activities. From these activities, the Committee will develop strategies for reducing duplicative efforts.

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.

Task 14: 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.

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 evaluation of methodologies is being conducted and testing of the methodologies should begin in mid-1997. The testing phase should be completed by 1998.

Task 15: 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: Based on the licensing report, the subcommittee will develop criteria that ensures that state marine recreational fishery licenses can be used as a regional sampling frame. In addition, a justification paper will be developed by the group that outlines the rationale and need for a marine recreational license. Once the criteria and paper have been developed and approved by the Committee, the Committee will either recommend that states establish or modify an MRF license that includes the identified criteria.

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

Product: Criteria for MRF licenses in the Region

Schedule: This is a multi-year task. Development of the criteria and justification paper will be completed in 1997.

Task 16: 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 17: 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 18: 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 19: Establishment of MRFSS Data Review Process (Goal 3, Objective 4)

Objective: Develop a process for finalization and evaluation of the MRFSS data

Team Members: MRFSS Data Review Work Group

Approach: Initially, the group will meet to develop a process to evaluate and finalize the data. Once the process has been established, the group will meet annually to evaluate the data and identify any errors or problems with the data before they become final.

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

Product: Process for MRFSS data finalization.

Schedule: The process will be completed in 1997. The data evaluation will be an ongoing task.

Task 20: 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 in 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 21: 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 22: 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 23: 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.

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. Distribute appropriate program results and recommendations to other MRF programs. 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 MRF programs, and compilation of a record of information exchange.

Schedule: This task is an ongoing activity.

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			
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 innovated 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

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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 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.