

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
RECREATIONAL FISHERIES  
INFORMATION NETWORK IN  
THE SOUTHEAST REGION  
[RecFIN(SE)]

JANUARY 1, 1995 - DECEMBER 31, 1995

## INTRODUCTION

The Southeast Recreational Fisheries Information Network [RecFIN(SE)] is a program to establish a state-federal cooperative program to collect, manage, and disseminate statistical data and information on the recreational fisheries of the Southeast Region.<sup>1</sup>

The need for a comprehensive and cooperative data collection program has never been greater because of the magnitude of the recreational fisheries and the differing roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved. Many southeastern stocks targeted by anglers are now depleted, due primarily to excessive harvest, habitat loss, and degradation. The information needs of today's management regimes require data which are statistically sound, long-term in scope, timely, and comprehensive. A cooperative partnership between state and federal agencies is the most appropriate mechanism to accomplish these goals.

Efforts by state and federal agencies to develop a cooperative program for the collection and management of recreational fishery data in the Region began in the mid to late 1980s. In 1992, the National Marine Fisheries Service formally proposed a planning activity to establish the RecFIN(SE). Planning was conducted by a multi-agency Plan Development Team through October 1992 at which time the program partners approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which established clear intent to implement the RecFIN(SE). Upon signing the MOU, a RecFIN(SE) Committee was established.

The scope of the RecFIN(SE) includes the Region's recreational fisheries for marine, estuarine, and anadromous species, including shellfish. Constituencies served by the program are state and federal agencies responsible for management of fisheries in the Region. Direct benefits will also accrue to federal fishery management councils, the interstate marine fisheries commissions, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Program. Benefits which accrue to management of fisheries will benefit not only recreational fishermen and the associated recreational fishing industry, but the resources, the states, and the nation.

The mission of the RecFIN(SE) is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine recreational fisheries statistical data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Region; and to support the development and operation of a national program. The four goals of the RecFIN(SE) are:

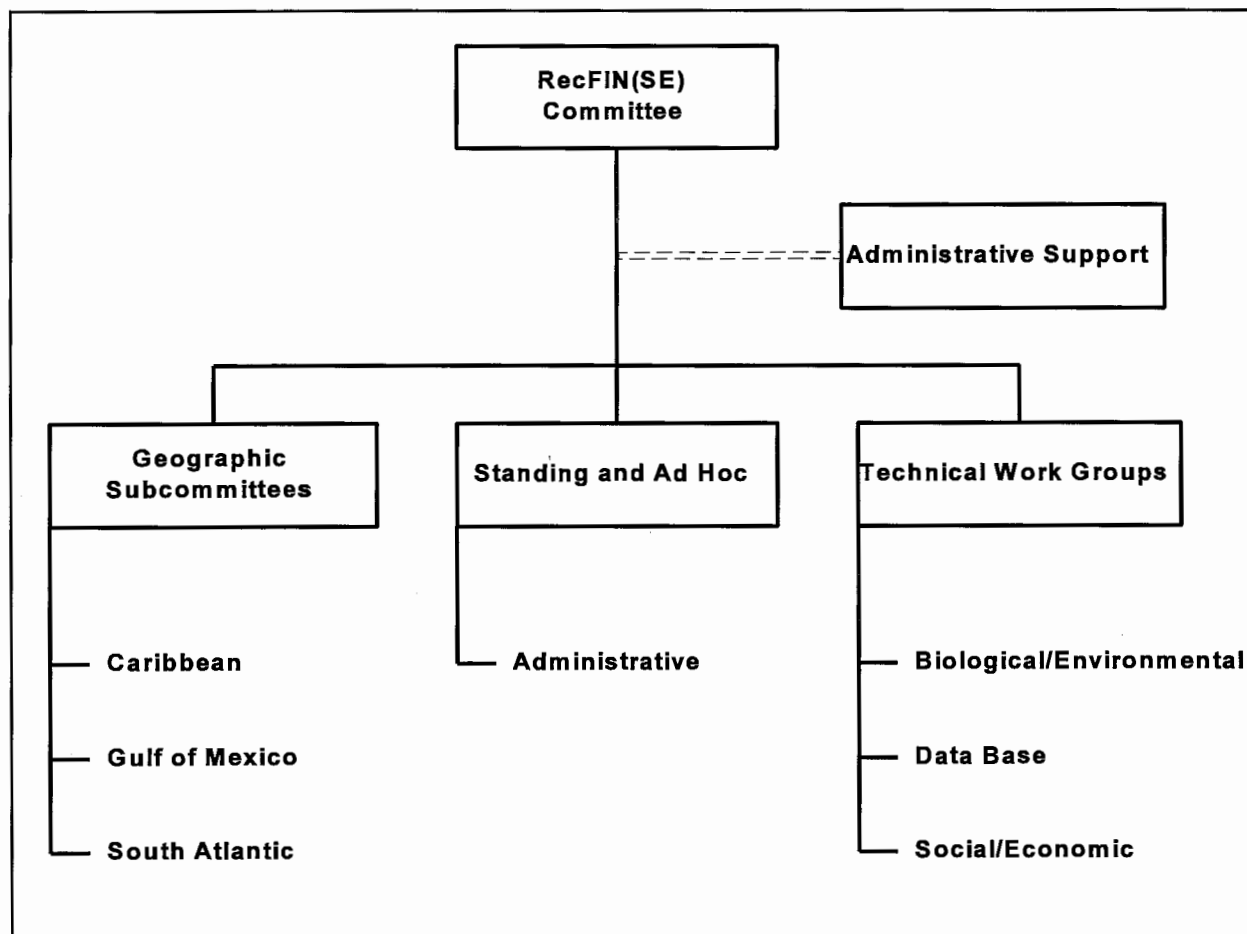
- to plan, manage, and evaluate of data collection and management activities;
- implement data collection activities;
- establish and maintain a data management system; and
- support the establishment of a national program.

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

## PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

The organizational structure of the program consists of the RecFIN(SE) Committee, three geographic subcommittees (Caribbean, Gulf, and South Atlantic), standing and ad hoc subcommittees (Administrative), technical work groups (Biological/Environmental, Data Base, and Social/Economic), and administrative support (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Organizational Structure of the RecFIN(SE).

The RecFIN(SE) Committee consists of the signatories to the MOU or their designees, and is responsible for planning, managing, and evaluating the program. Agencies represented by signatories to the MOU are the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Puerto Rico Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources,

Caribbean Fishery Management Council, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

The RecFIN(SE) Committee is divided into three standing subcommittees representing the major geographical areas of the Region: Caribbean, Gulf, and South Atlantic. These subcommittees are responsible for making recommendations to the Committee on the needs of these areas. Standing and ad hoc subcommittees are established as needed by the RecFIN(SE) Committee to address administrative issues and technical work groups are established as needed by the RecFIN(SE) Committee to carry out tasks on specific technical issues. Coordination and administrative support of the RecFIN(SE) is accomplished through administrative structures established in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic areas.

## **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

The RecFIN(SE) is a comprehensive program comprised of coordinated data collection activities, an integrated data management and retrieval system, and procedures for information dissemination. Activities during 1995 were associated almost entirely with staffing and planning. With respect to data management and collection, ongoing MRF surveys were conducted by various state and federal agencies. The RecFIN(SE) Committee reviewed and evaluated progress towards the integration of these surveys into the RecFIN(SE).

### **RecFIN(SE) Committee**

Major RecFIN(SE) meetings were held in March and September 1995. The major issues discussed during these meetings included:

- identification of tasks to be accomplished in 1995 and directed the Administrative Subcommittee and the Biological/Environmental, Social/Economic, and Data Base Work Groups to either begin or continue work on these tasks;
- development of the 1995 Operations Plan which presented the year's activities in data collection, data management, and information dissemination;
- began development of the 1996 Operations Plan;
- review of activities and accomplishments of 1995;
- completed evaluation of adequacy of current MRF programs for RecFIN and developed recommendations regarding these programs;

- reviewed findings of technical work groups, and received recommendations from these groups for activities to be carried out during 1996;
- prepared and submitted a proposal for financial assistance to support activities of the RecFIN(SE); and
- continued internal evaluation of the program and conducted and completed an external review in 1995. A document which outlined the results of the review was developed by the review team and discussed by the Committee

Committee members are listed in Table 1. Minutes for all meetings are included in Appendix A and the approved 1996 Operations Plan is included in Appendix B.

### **Subcommittee and Work Groups**

RecFIN(SE) subcommittees and work groups met this year to provide recommendations to the Committee to formulate administrative policies, address specific technical issues for accomplishing many of the RecFIN(SE) goals and objectives, and examine other issues as decided by the Committee. Subcommittee and work group members are listed in Table 2. Their activities included:

- The Biological/Environmental Work Group met in March 1995 to address such issues as finalization of criteria for a RecFIN metadata data base, review of metadata information, and discussion of the possibility of using licensing as a sampling framework. In addition, the Biological/Environmental Work Group, in conjunction with the Social/Economic Work Group, met in June and September 1995 (via conference calls) to develop a list of problems and issues that are associated with current MRF surveys and describe where there are gaps in survey coverage.
- The Social/Economic Work Group was involved with a number of parallel efforts regarding social and economic data needs such as development of the NMFS Fisheries Statistics Strategic Plan, identification of MRF economic data needs by the NMFS Northeast Region, and development of a social and cultural data and analysis plan for the Southeast Region. The Work Group plans to extract appropriate portions of these works into a RecFIN document describing social and economic data needs. Input will be solicited from fishery managers, economists, and social scientists to assist in developing priorities as well as modifying the QA/QC document prepared by the Biological/Environmental Work Group to incorporate social and economic data collection issues.

## **Coordination and Administrative Support**

Working closely with the Committee in all aspects of program coordination, administration, and operation was a major function of RecFIN(SE) coordination and administrative support. Other important coordination and administrative activities included but were not limited to providing coordination and logistical support, including communications and organization of meetings for the Committee, subcommittees, and work groups; serving as liaison between the Committee, other program participants, and other interested organizations; preparing annual operations plans under the direction of the Committee; preparing and/or supervising and coordinating preparation of selected documents, including written records of all meetings; and distributing approved RecFIN(SE) information and data in accordance with accepted policies and procedures as set forth by the Committee. Activities of the RecFIN(SE) for 1993 - 1995 are outlined in Table 3.

## **Information Dissemination**

Committee members and staff provided program information in 1995 via a variety of different methods such as distribution of program documents, and presentation to various groups interested in the RecFIN(SE):

### Documents

- Ditton, R.B., C.M. Jones, and E.L. Nakamura. 1995. *Program Review Report. Recreational Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States*. Marine Fisheries Section of the American Fisheries Society. 4 pp.
- RecFIN(SE) Committee. 1994. *1995 Operations Plan for Recreational Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States RecFIN(SE)*. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 12 pp + appendix.
- RecFIN(SE) Committee. 1995. *Annual Report of the Recreational Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States RecFIN(SE) January 1, 1994 - December 31, 1994*. REC95-1 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 10 pp + appendix.
- March 1995. RecFIN(SE) article in the ASMFC quarterly newsletter.
- May, August, and December 1995. RecFIN(SE) article in the GSMFC newsletter.

If you are interested in any of the documents, they are available upon request from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission office.

### Presentations

- November 1995. RecFIN(SE) presentation by GSMFC staff during ASMFC Charterboat and Party boat Workshop in Annapolis, Maryland.
- November 1995. RecFIN(SE) presentation by Joe Moran during ASMFC Northeast Statistics Committee meeting, Providence Rhode Island.

In addition to these formal presentations, a variety of informal discussions occurred throughout the year during ASMFC, GSMFC, NMFS, and other participating agencies meetings and workshops.

### Other Activities

- NPS personnel periodically provided information concerning the RecFIN(SE) (meeting notices, available documents, etc.) to the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program computer Bulletin Board System.
- NMFS has begun the development of an user-friendly data management system for the MRFSS.

**TABLE 1.**

**RecFIN(SE) COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 1995**

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# **Data Base Work Group**

Ken Savastano  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Stennis Space Center

Gerard Bruger  
Florida Marine Research Institute

Sylvia Cabrera  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Federal Aid

Representative  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Silver Spring

**TABLE 3.**

## **PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR RecFIN(SE) 1993 - 1995**

[RecFIN(SE) Goals and Objectives are in Appendix C]

	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>
<b>Goal 1:</b>			
Objective 1	X		
Objective 2	X		
Objective 3	X	X	X*
Objective 4	X	X	X
Objective 5		X	X
<b>Goal 2:</b>			
Objective 1	X		
Objective 2	X	X	
Objective 3	X	X	X
Objective 4	X	X	X
Objective 5		X	X
Objective 6		X	X
<b>Goal 3:</b>			
Objective 1	X		
Objective 2	X	X	
Objective 3		X	
Objective 4	X	X	X
Objective 5	X	X	
Objective 6		X	X
<b>Goal 4:</b>			
Objective 1	X	X	X
Objective 2	X	X	X
Objective 3	X	X	X

\* If program continues.



**TABLE 2.**

**RecFIN(SE) SUBCOMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP MEMBERS FOR 1995**

**Administrative Subcommittee**

Wayne Waltz  
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Jack Dunnigan  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Ronald Lukens  
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Stephen Meyers  
U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife

Maury Osborn  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Silver Spring

Albert Jones  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Fisheries Science Center

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

**Social/Economic Work Group**

Ron Schmied  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office

Mike Street  
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

Steven Atran  
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Jack Dunnigan  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Stephen Meyers  
U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife

**Biological/Environmental Work Group**

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National Marine Fisheries Service  
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Wayne Waltz  
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Steve Meyers  
U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife

Ron Salz  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Silver Spring

Tom Van Devender  
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Thomas Schmidt  
National Park Service  
South Florida Research Center

Lisa Kline  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission



## APPENDIX A.

### RECFIN(SE) COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 1-2, 1995

Jacksonville, Florida

Chairman Skip Lazauski called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The following people were present:

David Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS  
Lee Green, TPWD, Rockport, TX  
Albert Jones, NMFS, Miami, FL  
Lisa Kline, ASMFC, Washington, D.C.  
Wilson Laney, USFWS, Raleigh, NC  
Skip Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL  
Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS  
Nick Nicholson, GDNr, Brunswick, GA  
Joe O'Hop, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL  
Maury Osborn, NMFS, Washington, D.C.  
Ron Salz, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD  
Tom Schmidt, USNPS, Homestead, FL  
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Tom Van Devender, BMR, Biloxi, MS  
Wayne Waltz, SCDNR, Charleston, SC

#### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on September 28-29, 1994 in St. Petersburg, Florida were approved with minor editorial changes.

#### Election of Officers

\* R. Lukens stated that the Administrative Subcommittee has discussed this issue and recommended that a representative from the Virgin Islands be nominated for Chairman and a representative from the South Atlantic be nominated for Vice Chairman. The Committee nominated Steven Meyers for Chairman and Wayne Waltz for Vice Chairman. The nominations were closed and the nominees were elected by acclamation. Since Steven Meyers was not present, W. Waltz, Vice Chairman, presided over the meeting. **W. Waltz moved that a letter be sent to S. Lazauski thanking him for his outstanding job as the chairman of the RecFIN(SE). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**



## Discussion regarding Licensing Framework

### a. Presentation of Results from 1993 Oregon Study and 1995 Activities

R. Salz stated that a preliminary report concerning the activities has been developed but work is still continuing on the results of this pilot study. The NMFS plans to conduct this study for at least another year which will give them a better idea of the potential savings from this type of methodology. Initially, starting in July 1995, the NMFS planned to conduct the same study. It would be conducted in Oregon and preferably during the same wave (Wave 4) as the 1993 study. However, changes to the methodology are currently being discussed by the NMFS. These changes would improve the current methods and result in better data being collected. One of the changes that is being considered is to only interview the first angler in a household as opposed to interviewing all the anglers. Also, the NMFS is examining other ways of making the study more efficient. Due to these changes, funding issues and other issues, the NMFS may not be able to begin sampling in July 1995. The Committee asked several questions concerning the methodology. M. Osborn stated that although the NMFS is examining this methodology, it is not likely to use this method in the near future. R. Lukens asked if it would be useful to compile information concerning marine recreational fishing licenses in terms of exemptions, provisions, etc. L. Kline stated that data are available for the Atlantic coast. R. Lukens stated that the Gulf will compile similar information for the Gulf of Mexico. Staff will work with the ASMFC to ensure that similar data are collected and compile all the information into one document.

### b. Discussion of ASMFC Tournaments and Licensing Workshop Proceedings

L. Kline stated that these workshops were conducted during June 13-15, 1994 in Plainview, New York. The saltwater fishing tournament workshop focused on bringing together the fishery managers and tournament directors for communication purposes. The first part of the workshop looked at how tournament have changed over the years. The major changes were moving the focus on big game species to other smaller recreational species, an increase in the number of tournaments which occur, and turning towards more management and conservation (catch and release). The workshop was conducted as a round table discussion mainly to identify and prioritize some of the major issues and concerns of both groups. There were several categories identified including data collection and research needs and education and conservation. The licensing workshop was generated by an ASMFC resolution which encourages each member state to endorse the establishment and issuance of recreational fishing license. The workshop was set up to evaluate who had licenses, key provisions of the licenses, and opposition to implementation of licenses. The format of the workshop was a round table discussion involving fishery managers, fishermen and legislators. These groups discussed the pros and cons of a saltwater recreational fishing license. Some of the issues discussed included the fisherman's right to fish without paying for it, dedicated funding from the licenses being used for the betterment of the resources, and increasing communication between fishery managers and the public. R. Lukens stated that a similar workshop has been conducting in the Gulf of Mexico and since many changes have occurred since that workshop, it may be time to conduct a follow-up session.



#### Discussion of Continuation of Inkind Contribution Reporting

D. Donaldson stated that reporting of inkind contributions regarding RecFIN has been diminishing. Due to this decrease, it was believed that the Committee needed to revisit this issue. The information has been used to show the commitment and dedication of RecFIN members to the program. It has been presented to NMFS and other personnel as justification of providing dedicated funding of the RecFIN. D. Donaldson indicated that he believes that this information is important and should be continued, at least until dedicated funding is secured for the program. The Committee agreed that collection of inkind contributions was important and should be continued. The Committee discussed how frequently this information should be collected. M. Osborn asked if a yearly time frame would be easier for the group to compile the data. The Committee agreed that the yearly time frame was better and that staff would send out a form in the beginning of the year and prompt the Committee at the end of the year to send in the completed form. The Committee decided to establish a deadline of March 30, 1995 to update the 1994 inkind contributions form and send it to the staff.

#### Discussion regarding Evaluation of Adequacy of Current MRF Programs

\* A matrix for the evaluation of MRF programs was distributed to the Committee. D. Donaldson stated that he attempted to fill in the forms as best he could from the information provided during the presentations regarding the various programs. The Committee thoroughly reviewed this matrix to ensure that all the information was complete and accurate. R. Lukens stated that the purpose of this agenda item is to determine what the next step in this activity will be. **M. Osborn moved that the Committee charge the Biological/Environmental and Social/Economic Work Groups with several tasks. The first task is to review the matrix, the list and description of current MRF programs, and other information compiled by the Committee and develop a list of problems and issues that are associated with these surveys. These can be statistical problems, overlap or duplication of surveys, etc. Also, the Work Groups need to describe where there are gaps in survey coverage. Once each group has developed a list, the groups will meet jointly to develop one master report which prioritizes the issues in terms of the types of activities that can be addressed in the next few years. The issues can be divided into two groups. The first are issues that can be addressed through work group, workshop, and/or agency decision making activities which may need money after the work group/agencies address them. The other are issues which need money to be implemented. This report will be presented to the Committee at the fall meeting for approval. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. M. Osborn stated that once the Committee approved the report, the report will be distributed to the Commissions, Councils, State and Federal agencies to present RecFIN(SE)'s recommendations. J. Shepard stated that the groups need to examine these issues in terms of the overall picture and see how each part fits with each other and how fixing one part affects the others in reaching an ultimate goal.**

## Administrative Issues

### a. Subcommittee Report

\* R. Lukens reported that the Administrative Subcommittee met via a conference call and discussed the next meeting place and time, chair and vice chair nomination process and procedures, and RecFIN evaluation. R. Lukens continues to work with Churchill Grimes who is coordinating the RecFIN review under the auspices of the Marine Fish Section of the American Fishery Society (AFS). The tentative time frame for the RecFIN evaluation is early May 1995 and three people have been selected for the review team. They are Bob Ditton, Texas A&M University, Cynthia Jones, Old Dominion University and John Harville, past executive director of Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. C. Grimes will construct a letter to be sent to each of the review team members which outlines what is expected from each member. **J. Shepard moved that the Committee sends a letter to the NMFS-HQ which informs them of RecFIN review process and who will be on the review team.** The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

R. Lukens stated that during the Administrative Subcommittee conference call, it was recommended that the following representation from the RecFIN(SE) Committee be in attendance at the review: NMFS-HQ, NMFS-SEFSC, ASMFC, GSMFC, and one state representative from the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean region. C. Grimes suggested that the review team members receive an honoraria of \$400/member in recognition of all their work. The Commission(s) will enter into a subcontract with the AFS as the method for dispersing the honoraria. The Committee agreed that this would be appropriate. M. Osborn stated that NMFS would provide invitational travel for the three review team members. A. Jones stated that NMFS-SEFSC would pay for the Caribbean representative. R. Lukens stated that the GSMFC would pay for the Gulf region and Gulf Commission representatives. L. Kline stated that the ASMFC would pay for the South Atlantic region and ASMFC representatives. The Committee decided that each geographic subcommittee will determine who will represent their region. The Committee discussed the structure of the presentation to the review team and who would present the talk. The Committee decided that R. Lukens should deliver the presentation to the team.

### b. Status of RecFIN Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

At the FIN meeting, the group discussed and decided to proceed with one MOU which will encompass both the ComFIN and RecFIN. However, the group also decided to delay any action on the RecFIN side until the program evaluation is completed.

### c. Discussion of Long-term Planning

\* R. Lukens stated that the RecFIN is reaching the end of a three-year period where specific tasks and activities have been identified for completion and there has not been much discussion concerning the next step for the program. He suggested that a facilitated brain storming session may be helpful in identifying issues which need to be addressed in the future. **M. Osborn moved that the Committee set up a facilitated session to identify issues and problems that need to be addressed by the group.** The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The session was scheduled for the next RecFIN meeting in September 1995. R. Lukens stated that when the idea of RecFIN was started

in the Gulf of Mexico, part of desire was for the Gulf states to be full partners with the NMFS. The ultimate product would be a full partnership with the NMFS in a State/Federal cooperative recreational fisheries survey. The states were not interested in being subcontractors to NMFS contractor for the intercepts of the MRFSS. The states' justification is that, for the long-term, the program will become better in that there will be better State/Federal cooperation and a reduction of the potential for duplication of effort. M. Osborn stated that she is aware of the desire of the Gulf states to be more involved in the intercept portion of the MRFSS. However, it appears that not all of the states are prepared to begin intercept sampling and until all the Gulf States are ready to commit and there is additional money to do it, the NMFS is not at that stage yet. NMFS does own some of the QA/QC and other software for the MRFSS but the contractor owns the data entry software. R. Lukens stated that there are problems involved with getting the states to conduct intercept surveys, however, he wanted to let NMFS know that this is still a long-range goal of the states.

**The meeting recessed at 4:35 p.m.**

#### **March 2, 1995**

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m.

#### **Work Group Reports**

##### **a. Biological/Environmental**

\* D. Donaldson reported for Work Group Leader S. Meyers that the Work Group met via a conference call to discuss several issues. The first issue was metadata. The group discussed developing several different data bases such as environmental, sociological, regulatory, etc. There will be a Work Group meeting after this meeting. The main objective of this meeting is to review the criteria and edit the existing data base. The other issue is final approval of the QA/QC document for RecFIN. The document was edited to make it more generic and not so slanted towards the MRFSS. J. Shepard asked what is the next step for this document. M. Osborn stated that by approving this document, each participant agrees to adhere to the minimum set of standards outlined in the document when conducting MRF surveys. The Committee thoroughly reviewed the document and the final document serves as the administrative record for this portion of the meeting. **M. Osborn moved to adopt the RecFIN QA/QC document as amended and that is document should be updated periodically by the Committee.** The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

##### **b. Social/Economic**

D. Donaldson reported for Work Group Leader Ron Schmied that the Work Group has not met since the last meeting. The Work Group is continuing to monitor and compile information from the parallel activities being conducted on this topic. M. Osborn stated that there has been an economic add-on to the MRFSS in the Northeast. The NMFS has worked out many of the bugs from the original questionnaires and methods. The NMFS sent the basics of the survey to economists across the country to let them know that it is possible to add on to the MRFSS to get this type

of information. There has been some interest from economists in the Southeast Region who are in the process of procuring some money to add on to the MRFSS.

#### Development of 1994 RecFIN Annual Report

\* D. Donaldson stated that a draft copy of the Annual Report was distributed to the Committee for their comment and review. The report follows the same format used for the 1993 Annual Report. R. Lukens suggested adding a section regarding efforts by the staff and Committee members to distribute or provide presentations about RecFIN. It was noted that the minutes and 1994 Operations Plan for RecFIN(SE) were not included in the copies distributed. D. Donaldson stated that although they are not included in these copies, they will be included in the final document. After some discussion and other minor editorial changes, **A. Jones moved to approve the 1994 Annual Report of RecFIN(SE).** The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### Other Business

M. Osborn stated that NMFS received \$90,000 to develop a user-friendly upfront system for the MRFSS data. Due to the reestimation, not much work has been done. Hopefully, a meeting with contracting personnel will be held during late March. NMFS-HQ is now on the Internet and have their own home page. Also, NMFS is developing a user-friendly menu system for fisheries data.

L. Kline stated that the ASMFC has two workshops scheduled for September 1995. The first workshop (September 6) will examine the different methods of estimating participation. The other session (September 7-8) will be a continuation of the charter/headboats workshop. The objective of this session is to develop an Atlantic coast charter/headboat survey.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.**



RecFIN(SE) COMMITTEE MINUTES  
September 26, 1995  
Miami, Florida

Chairman Pro Tem Skip Lazauski called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The following people were present:

Joe Desfosse, ASMFC, Washington, DC  
Bob Dixon, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
David Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS  
Graciela Garcia-Moliner, CFMC, San Juan, PR  
Lee Green, TPWD, Rockport, TX  
Albert Jones, NMFS, Miami, FL  
Lisa Kline, ASMFC, Washington, DC  
Tony Lamberte, GMFMC, Tampa, FL  
Wilson Laney, FWS, Raleigh, NC  
Skip Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL  
Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS  
Joe Moran, SCDNR, Charleston, SC  
Nick Nicholson, GDNR, Brunswick, GA  
Joe O'Hop, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL  
Maury Osborn, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD  
Tom Schmidt, NPS, Homestead, FL  
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Mike Street, NCDMR, Morehead City, NC  
James Timber, PRDNER, Puerto de Tierra, PR  
Lee Trent, NMFS, Panama City, FL  
Tom Van Devender, MDMR, Biloxi, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the RecFIN(SE) meeting held on March 1-2, 1995 in Jacksonville, Florida were approved with minor editorial changes.

Follow-up Discussion concerning the Facilitated Session

R. Lukens stated that the purpose of this session was to develop recommendation regarding recreational data collection and use these recommendations to guide the program into the future. The facilitated session was called to review the status of the RECFIN strategic plan after its first three years of operation. The Committee was also discussed an update of the plan as necessary, and provided options and recommendations to extend the operations of the RECFIN program. The recommendations and discussions from the activity will form the basis for the operating plan for FY 1996, and provide general guidance for the next five years. On the first morning, the committee broke out into two separate groups, who each reviewed the past three years and assessed the successes or failures of the strategic plan during that period. The groups developed some preliminary recommendations that were reviewed and expanded upon

in the plenary session. During this session, the Committee reviewed the products of the two breakout groups, and generated specific recommendations and then prioritized the recommendations. M. Osborn suggested that from the document produced by the facilitators, a list be developed that outlines the general issues and prioritized recommendations that were developed by the group. R. Lukens stated that this session has been very productive and asked the group if they felt it was a worthwhile exercise. The group agreed that the session made it much easier to develop a plan for the future and this method should be used in future planning activities. **S. Lazauski moved that this method be used for every three to five years, as necessary for future planning activities based on availability of funding. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

#### Administrative Issues

##### a. Review of RecFIN(SE) Goals and Objectives and Framework Plan

R. Lukens stated that it is probably necessary to review the framework plan and goals and objectives of the program since the program is moving past the three-year pilot status. Related to this issue, R. Lukens asked if there would be some merit in publishing both RecFIN and ComFIN under one plan similar to the memorandum of understanding (MOU) that has been developed. The programs would still be separate but simply be included in one plan. The Committee believed that publishing one plan to include both RecFIN and ComFIN was a good idea and **R. Lukens moved to charge the Administrative Subcommittee with reviewing and recommending changes to the RecFIN(SE) Framework Plan and goals and objectives and develop a document that includes RecFIN and ComFIN. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

##### b. Status of Administrative Subcommittee

R. Lukens stated that currently the Administrative Subcommittee is listed as an ad hoc subcommittee and **R. Lukens moved that the status of this subcommittee be changed to a standing subcommittee. This change will be reflected in the revised framework plan for RecFIN/ComFIN. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

##### c. Inkind Support Issues

D. Donaldson stated that at the last meeting, continuation of collecting inkind support figures was discussed. It was suggested that this activity continue at least until dedicated funding for the program could be secured. Since the program now has administrative funding, the question of continuing this activity needed to be discussed by the Committee. After some discussion, the Committee believed that this activity was still useful and should continue. M. Osborn suggested that staff would distribute an inkind support form that would be completed throughout the year by participants. The completed form would be sent to staff at the end of the year and be compiled. D. Donaldson stated that for this activity to be successful, each participant has to be diligent about compiling this information and sending it to staff. **J. Moran moved that the Committee continue compiling inkind support information and the**

information from the previous year be provided by participants during each spring meeting. This issue will become a standing agenda item. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### Discussion of RecFIN(SE) Program Review

R. Lukens stated that Administrative Subcommittee was charged with organizing the program review. It was noted in the last meeting's minutes that the review team consisted of Cynthia Jones, Bob Ditton, and John Harville. Unfortunately, John Harville became ill and he had to be replaced by Gene Nakamura. The review was conducted in early May 1995 at the NMFS facility in Panama City, Florida. There was a great deal of discussion during the meeting among the committee members and review panel. The report developed by the review team has been distributed to the Committee and provides a positive review of the RecFIN(SE). There are four major recommendations included in the report. The Committee discussed the recommendations included in the report. J. Moran stated that the Committee has addressed most of this issues during this meeting. The program review report satisfied the objective and task and the charge of conducting a program review has been completed. There was some discussion concerning including financial commitments in the MOU (recommendation 1) and although the Committee understood the intent of the recommendation, there was some disagreement as it was written. **W. Laney moved that the Administrative Subcommittee review the report and identify the action items and provide recommendations concerning if additional action is necessary regarding these items to the Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

#### Work Group Reports

##### a. Biological/Environmental

D. Donaldson reported for Work Group Leader, Steve Meyers that the QA/QC document has been finalized regarding the biological and environmental elements and the group is working on incorporating social and economic aspects in the document. At the March meeting, there was a work group meeting and the major discussion point was the development of criteria for compiling the meta data. A document concerning meta data has been developed and been distributed to the Committee for their comments.

##### b. Social/Economic

D. Donaldson reported that due to Work Group Leader Ron Schmied's illness, work by the group has been slow. M. Osborn suggested that the Committee appoint a temporary work group leader so work can continue regarding the social and economic aspects of recreational fishing. The Committee decided that this issue should be addressed at the spring meeting. In the meantime, members need to consider some possible solutions to be discussed at that meeting.



## Operations Plan

### a. Status of 1995 Activities

D. Donaldson provided a list of tasks from the 1994 Operations Plan. Their status was distributed and the Committee reviewed the tasks individually. After reviewing the list, the Committee agreed that all the activities identified in the 1994 Operations Plan have been completed, or work is currently being conducted to complete them in the allotted time frame. The list of tasks and their revised status is attached.

### b. Development of the 1996 Operations Plan

The 1996 Operations Plan was essentially developed during the facilitated session preceding the Committee meeting. The recommendations that were identified as high priority were determined to be tasks that would be addressed in 1996. The Committee directed the staff to develop a draft plan and distribute it for changes and comments. Once a final document has been developed, it would be approved via mail ballot.

## Other Business

J. O'Hop stated that FDEP is funding pilot survey to conduct a creel sample of Tampa Bay. The goal of this project is to estimate catch and effort in Tampa Bay. The estimates that are calculated from this survey will be compared to the MRFSS estimates. Where possible, the methodology for the Florida survey closely mirrors the MRFSS. He asked Committee to review the methodology and contact him with any comments. Once the project is operational, J. O'Hop suggested that a presentation could be made to this Committee concerning the survey.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.**

## TASKS FROM THE 1995 OPERATIONS PLAN AND THEIR STATUS

### Task 1: Annual Operations Plan, 1996 (Goal 1, Objective 3)

Objective: Develop 1996 Annual Operations Plan including identification of available resources, that implements the Strategic Plan.

Status: The Operations Plan will be developed from the facilitated session held prior to the RecFIN business meeting at the fall 1995 meeting.

### Task 2: Information Dissemination (Goal 1, Objective 4)

Objective: Distribute program information to cooperators and interested parties.

Status: This task is an ongoing activity.

### Task 3: Program Review of the RecFIN(SE) (Goal 1, Objective 5)

Objective: Conduct a formal external program review of the RecFIN(SE) to evaluate the effectiveness of the program in achieving the goals and objectives.

Status: The review was completed in May 1995 and the report has been distributed to the Committee and action will be taken at the fall 1995 meeting.

### Task 4: 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.

Status: Work is continuing on this task and this activity will be discussed at the fall 1995 meeting.

### Task 5: Identification and Evaluation of Current Programs (Goal 2, Objective 4)

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

Status: This issue will be discussed during the facilitated session at the fall 1995 meeting. However, this task is an ongoing activity as additional MRF surveys are reviewed.

### Task 6: 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.

Status: This issue will be discussed during the facilitated session at the fall 1995 meeting. This is an ongoing activity.

### Task 7: Evaluation of Innovative Data Collection Technologies (Goal 2, Objective 6)

Objective: To evaluate and recommend innovative data collection technologies.

Status: This is an ongoing activity.

### Task 8: 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).

Status: Work on migrating MRFSS data bases to the IT-95 system began in 1994 and be completed in spring 1995. Development of the Decision Support System will begin in 1995.

Task 9: 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.

Status: Documentation and standardization of MRFSS intercept and telephone historical data bases was begun in 1993. The final intercept format will be adopted by MRFSS staff by March 1995 and be available for distribution. Similar documentation of the telephone data base has just begun and will be finished by March 1995. Basic documentation of the catch and trip estimate data bases exists and will be updated when these data bases are placed on the MRF data management system. Standardization of variables will also occur then. Development of dial-up protocols and on-line documentation will depend on work identified under Task 8.

Task 10: Evaluation of Information Management Technologies (Goal 3, Objective 6)

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

Status: This is an ongoing activity.

Task 11: Long-term National Program Planning (Goal 4, Objective 1)

Objective: Provide for long-term national program planning.

Status: This issue will be discussed during the facilitated session at the fall 1995 meeting. The planning aspect of this task is an ongoing activity.

Task 12: Coordination, Consistency and Comparability with Other RecFIN Programs (Goal 4, Objective 2 and Objective 3)

Objective: Coordinate RecFIN(SE) with other regional RecFIN programs and encourage consistency and comparability among regional programs over time.

Status: This issue will be discussed during the facilitated session at the fall 1995 meeting. This task is an ongoing activity.

## **APPENDIX B.**

### **1995 Operations Plan for the Recreational Fisheries Information Network in the Southeastern United States [RecFIN(SE)]**

January 1, 1995 to December 31, 1995

#### **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 RecFIN(SE) Strategic Plan for 1995. 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 Region<sup>2</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup>The 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 1995 objectives (see Section D).

##### Task 1: Annual Operations Plan, 1996 (Goal 1, Objective 3)

Objective:	Develop 1996 Annual Operations Plan including identification of available resources, that implements the Strategic Plan.
Team Members:	RecFIN(SE) Committee.
Approach:	Through meetings and mail, the Committee will develop and complete an Annual Operations Plan for 1996.
Resources:	Travel/meeting costs, report costs, and inkind (time) and staff time.
Product:	1996 Annual Operations Plan.
Schedule:	Annual Operations Plan will be drafted by mid/late summer 1995 and completed by the fall 1995.

##### Task 2: 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.
Resources:	Copy and mailing expenses and inkind (time) 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.
Schedule:	This task will be an ongoing activity.

##### Task 3: Program Review of the RecFIN(SE) (Goal 1, Objective 5)

Objective:	Conduct a formal external program review of the RecFIN(SE) to evaluate the effectiveness of the program in achieving the goals and objectives.
Team Members:	RecFIN(SE) Committee
Approach:	The RecFIN(SE) Committee, via the Marine Fisheries section of American Fisheries Society (AFS), will conduct a the program review. A written report will be prepared by the review team and presented to all the RecFIN(SE) signatory agencies, with a recommendation on the continuation of the RecFIN(SE).
Resources:	Conference call costs, report costs, and inkind (time) and staff time.
Product:	Program review report.
Schedule:	This task will be completed by the fall of 1995 so the appropriate actions can be taken.

Task 4: 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 conference calls, mail and possible meetings.

Resources: Travel costs, conference call costs, report costs, and inkind (time) and staff time.

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

Schedule: This task will be completed by the 1995 fall meeting.

Task 5: 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: Evaluate reports from Biological/Environmental and Social/Economic Work Groups in relation to existing programs.

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

Product: Report containing recommendations for MRF surveys.

Schedule: A report concerning the MRF surveys which were reviewed by the Committee will be produced by fall 1995. However, this task will be an ongoing activity as additional MRF surveys are reviewed.

Task 6: 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 Task 5 to agencies conducting MRF surveys.

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

Product: Communication and presentation of recommendations to ongoing programs.

Schedule: This will be an ongoing activity.

Task 7: 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 from NMFS and North Carolina concerning pen-based technologies.

Schedule: This will be an ongoing activity.

Task 8: 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, Data Base Work Group, Non-MRFSS Data Base Managers.

**Approach:** Design Oracle Data Bases for catch and trip estimates, and summarized intercept data bases for specialized needs such as bag limits and size distributions. Incorporate non-MRFSS data bases identified as high priority for inclusion in the MRF data management system. Place Oracle data bases and SAS intercept and telephone interview data bases on the NMFS IT-95 computer system which allows distributed processing to the NMFS Southeast Regional Office, Science Center and laboratories. Develop user-friendly, menu-driven access system to MRF Oracle/SAS data bases. Develop menu-driven Decision Support System allowing easy, standard queries and manipulation of the MRF data.

**Resources:** A NOAA ESDIM grant proposal was funded in 1994. Approximately \$95,000 is available to contract Oracle data base development work for a system analyst. The IT-95 contract also has requirements for migrating current high priority data bases to the IT-95 system. By March 1995, all data bases will be migrated and standardized to the new system. Integration of other data bases will begin being moved to the IT-95 system. The MRFSS data base is listed as high priority, but no decision on timing has been made yet. MRFSS staff time will be necessary, as well as from data base managers in charge of non-MRFSS data bases that are to be included in the MRF system. The Data Base Work Group and other committees within RecFIN(SE) will be consulted concerning design components throughout the development of the MRF system.

**Product:** MRF Data Base and software to access and use the data.

**Schedule:** Work on migrating MRFSS data bases to the IT-95 system began in 1994 and be completed in spring 1995. Development of the Decision Support System will begin in 1995.

Task 9: 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, Data Base Work Group, Non-MRFSS Data Base Managers.

**Approach:** Develop dial-up protocols for access to the MRF system by state personnel and other researchers. Menu-driven access to MRF Oracle/SAS data bases will provide quality control through standardized queries and summarization procedures. The Decision Support System will provide quality control through standardization, with proper use of MRFSS data (weighting for unequal sample size, etc.). 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 MRF system. Develop documentation of non-MRFSS data bases as they are incorporated into the system. Develop MRF Metadata Data Base to help users properly interpret their results. Provide error-checking software on the MRF data management system.

**Resources:** MRFSS staff time, Data Base Work Group time, other RecFIN(SE) Committees, and staff time as needed.

**Product:** Standard protocols and documentation on-line on the MRF Data Management System. Published portions needed for access to the system.



Schedule: Documentation and standardization of MRFSS intercept and telephone historical data bases was begun in 1993. The final intercept format will be adopted by MRFSS staff by March 1995 and be available for distribution. Similar documentation of the telephone data base has just begun and will be finished by March 1995. Basic documentation of the catch and trip estimate data bases exists and will be updated when these data bases are placed on the MRF data management system. Standardization of variables will also occur then. Development of dial-up protocols and on-line documentation will depend on work identified under Task 8.

Task 10: Evaluation of Information Management Technologies (Goal 3, Objective 6)

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

Team Members: Data Base Work Group.

Approach: Work group members will report to the Committee 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 will be an ongoing activity.

Task 11: 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 will be an ongoing activity.

Task 12: Coordination, Consistency and Comparability with Other RecFIN Programs (Goal 4, Objective 2 and Objective 3)

Objective: Coordinate RecFIN(SE) with other regional RecFIN 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 RecFIN 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 RecFIN programs and compilation of a record of information exchange.

Schedule: This task will be an ongoing activity.

**C. Administrative Activities**

Coordination and administrative support of RecFIN(SE) will be accomplished through administrative structures established in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic areas. 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>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>
<b>Goal 1:</b>			
Objective 1	X		
Objective 2	X		
Objective 3	X	X	X
Objective 4	X	X	X
Objective 5		X	X
<b>Goal 2:</b>			
Objective 1	X		
Objective 2	X	X	
Objective 3	X	X	X
Objective 4	X	X	X
Objective 5		X	X
Objective 6		X	X
<b>Goal 3:</b>			
Objective 1	X		
Objective 2	X	X	
Objective 3		X	X
Objective 4	X	X	X
Objective 5	X	X	
Objective 6		X	X
<b>Goal 4:</b>			
Objective 1	X	X	X
Objective 2	X	X	X
Objective 3	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

Albert Jones  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Jack Dunnigan  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Wilson Laney  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Henry "Skip" Lazauski  
Alabama Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources

Ronald Lukens  
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Bob Mahood  
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Steven Meyers  
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

Walter Padilla  
Puerto Rico Department of Natural and  
Environmental Resources

Thomas Schmidt  
Everglades National Park

Ronald Schmied  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office

Joseph Shepard  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and  
Fisheries

Michael Street  
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

Thomas Van Devender  
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Wayne Waltz  
South Carolina Department of Natural  
Resources



### **Administrative Subcommittee**

Jack Dunnigan  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Ronald Lukens  
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Albert Jones  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Maury Osborn  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Silver Spring

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

Walter Padilla  
Puerto Rico Department of Natural and  
Environmental Resources

Henry "Skip" Lazauski  
Alabama Department of Conservation and  
Natural Resources

### **Biological/Environmental Work Group**

Albert Jones  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Thomas Schmidt  
South Florida Research Center  
Everglades National Park

Lisa Kline  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Tom Van Devender  
Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources

Steven Meyers  
Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife

Wayne Waltz  
South Carolina Department of Natural  
Resources

Paul Phalen  
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

Ron Salz  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Silver Spring

### **Data Base Work Group**

Gerard Bruger  
Florida Department of Environmental  
Protection

Sylvia Cabrera  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Federal Aid

Paul Phalen  
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

Ken Savastano  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Stennis Space Center

NMFS Representative  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Silver Spring

### **Social/Economic Work Group**

Steven Atran  
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management  
Council

Jack Dunnigan  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Steven Meyers  
Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife

Ron Schmied  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office

Mike Street  
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

## **APPENDIX C.**

### **RecFIN(SE) GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- GOAL 1:** To plan, manage, and evaluate a coordinated state-federal MRF data collection program for the 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 Region.
- GOAL 2:** To implement and maintain a coordinated state-federal MRF data collection program for the 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, MRF data management system for the Region.
- Objective 1:** To periodically review and make recommendations regarding the location and administrative responsibility for 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 the MRF data management system.
- 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 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.

