Marine Recreational Information Program

Fishing Effort Survey Transition Update

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ECS in Support of NOAA Fisheries
Office of Science and Technology
GSMFC Meetings, March 2018
Estimating Total Recreational Catch

Estimated number of angler trips \( \times \) Estimated number of fish caught per angler trip = Estimated total number of fish caught
Assessing the Health of Fish Stocks
Fishing Effort Survey

• Replaces Coastal Household Telephone Survey.
• Uses USPS records and state-based license and registration information.
• Provides more accurate estimates.
More Accurate Estimates

We’re reaching more anglers.

Surveys get into the right hands.

Improved questionnaire.

More complete answers.

Three times the response rate.
Implementing the FES

- Three-year Transition Plan.
- Developed by NOAA, states, councils, commissions.
  - Side-by-side benchmarking.
  - FES calibration model.
  - APAIS adjustments.
  - Re-estimation.
  - Stock assessments.
  - Management decisions.
Extensive Testing and Peer Review

“The [FES] methodologies, including the address-based sampling survey design, are major improvements.”
Side-by-Side Benchmarking

• FES estimates are several times higher than CHTS.
  • Vary by mode, state, and wave.
  • Does not necessarily mean overfishing has been or is occurring.

- Private Boat: 3.3 x higher on average
- Shore: 6.1 x higher on average
FES Calibration Model

- Developed with independent consultants.
- Peer-reviewed.
- Not indicating a recent increase in effort.
  - Calibrated estimates will be higher back through 1981.
APAIS Adjustment Model

- Developed with independent consultants.
- Peer review workshop March 20-22, 2018.
- Accounts for survey design improvements implemented 2013.
Re-Estimation

- Will be completed July 1, 2018.
FES and Recreational Fishing

Stock-by-Stock Assessment

Stock Status

Annual Catch Limits

Allocation Decisions
2018 Annual Catch Limits

2018 ACLs set using CHTS estimates

FES ↔ CHTS
Calibration model converts both directions

Year-end estimates in same “currency”
What’s Next

2018

- Revised total catch estimates available July 1 for use in planned stock assessments.

2019

- Preliminary management changes may be made for re-assessed stocks.
- Calibrated statistics incorporated into additional stock assessments.

2020

- Based on new stock assessments, management changes could occur for a number of species.
Communications and Outreach

Collaborative approach

- Ensure partners, data users, and other stakeholders are **fully informed** and **engaged in** the transition to the FES.

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Certification Update

MS: Tails n’ Scales undergoing final review. MS has responded to reviewer comments and recommendations.
AL: Snapper Check in process of responding to review.
FL: Review workshop conducted in February. Awaiting reviewer recommendations.
SC: Logbook Validation Survey beginning process.
CA: CRFS beginning certification process.
OR/WA: May also submit.
Others in the queue: FHTS, HI, AK
Questions?