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Office of Science  
and Technology

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Marine  
Recreational  
Information  
Program

# MRIP Data User Seminar: Statistical Methods and Procedures

November 30, 2021

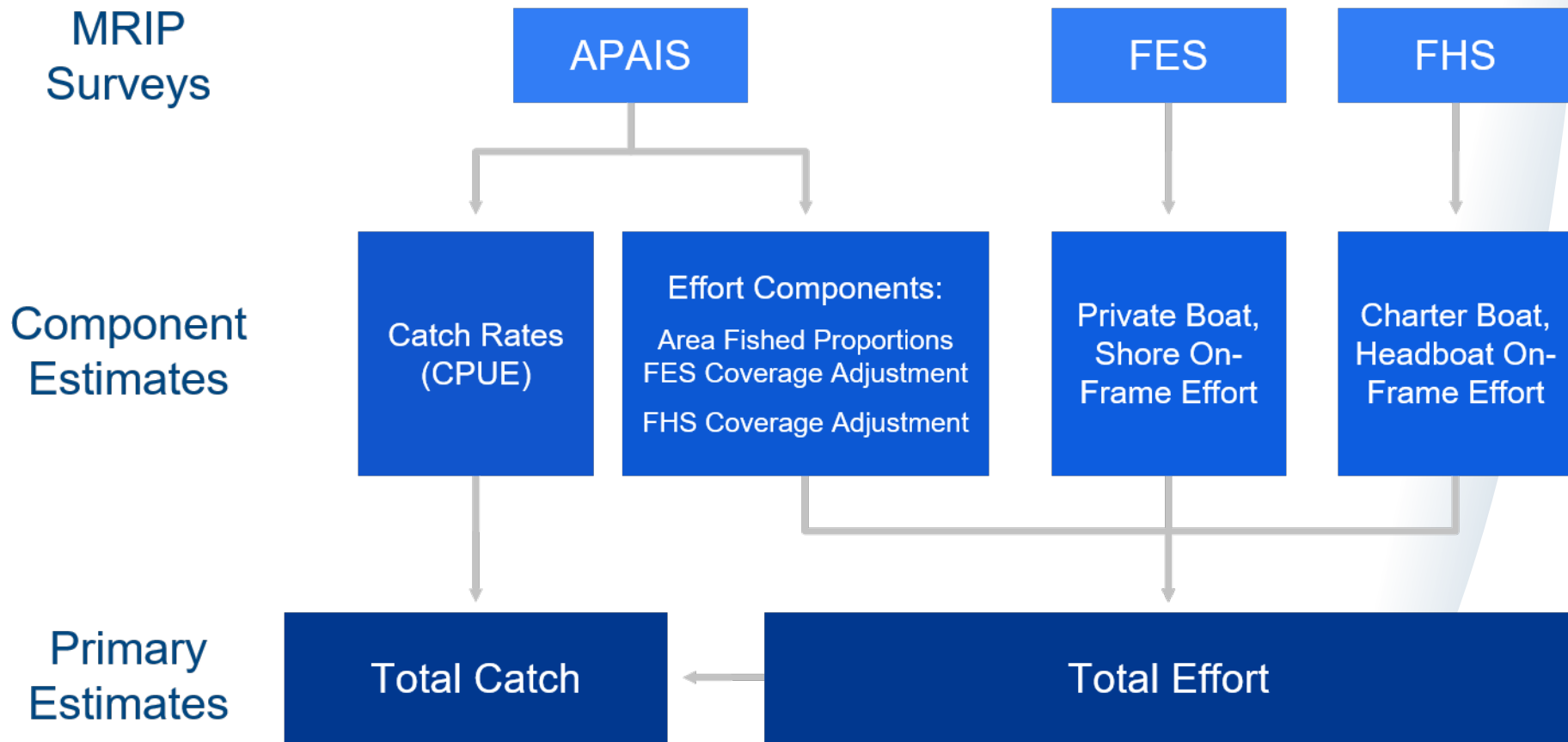
John Foster

# Overview

## Survey Design and Statistical Methods

- Surveys and Estimates Schematic
- Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS)
- Fishing Effort Survey (FES)
- For-Hire Survey (FHS)
- Catch and Effort Estimation





# Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS)



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# APAIS Overview



- In-person **interviews of anglers** intercepted at **public fishing access sites**
- Anglers interviewed at the end of their fishing trips
- Samplers record detailed trip characteristic and catch information including individual fish length and weight measurements

# APAIS

- Resource Links
- Design
- Sample Weighting
- Weighted Estimation Components



Image: NOAA Fisheries

# APAIS Resource Links

- [Survey Design and Statistical Methods](#)

## APAIS Section 2

- [Site Register](#)
- [APAIS At-a-Glance](#)
- [Outreach Information](#)

**Public Fishing Access Site Register**

Recreational anglers looking for a place to fish can browse more than 3,800 public saltwater access sites from Maine to Louisiana by visiting the **Marine Recreational Information Program Site Register**. This free online database also lists amenities for each location, such as boat ramps, tackle shops, fuel docks, cleaning stations, and nearby restaurants and hotels. State agencies are our main source of this information: State-based field interviewers survey anglers at these sites, and help keep the register up to date.

750+ Sites  
1000+ Sites  
350+ Sites  
1500+ Sites

**Sample Site Register Entry**

**Bogue Inlet Fishing Pier**  
Emerald Isle, NC  
Weekend Day (Fri.-Sun.) | June  
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Fishing Mode**  
Shore

**Site Pressure**  
50-79 anglers

**Characteristics**  
Fishing activity not affected by tide.  
Fee charged for public use.

**Amenities**  
Bait and tackle shops, cleaning stations, lighting at night, restaurant and lodging onsite and in vicinity.



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# APAIS Design

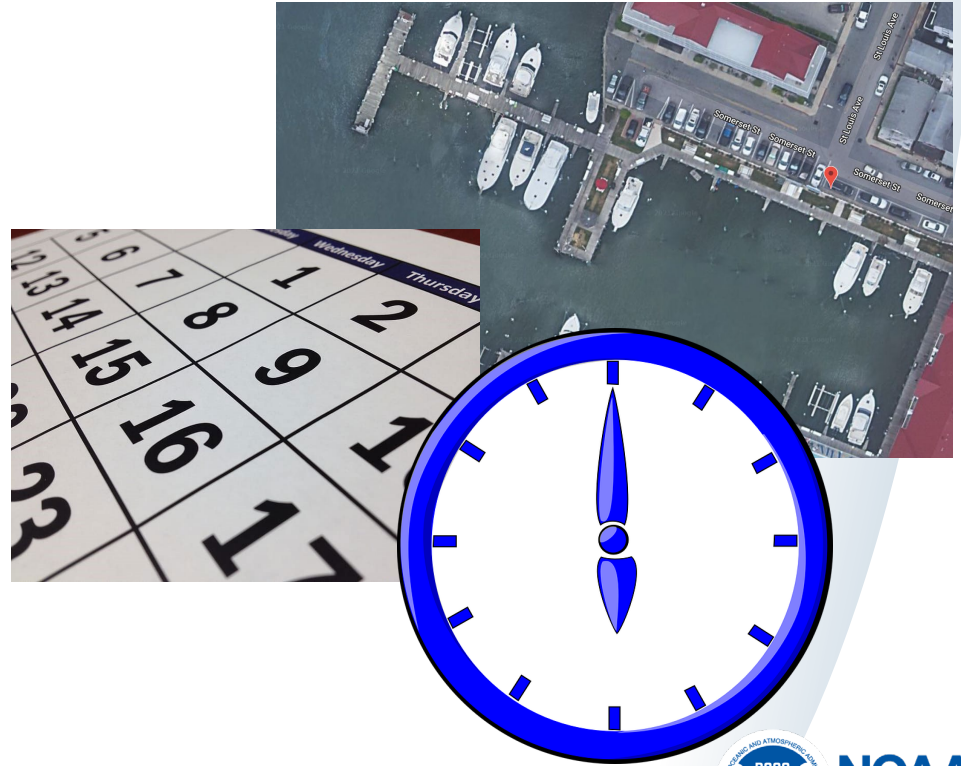
- Complex Probability-Based Design
- Sample Frame
- Stratification
- Multi-stage Clustering
- Sample Selection using Probability Proportional to Size





# APAIS Design: Sample Frame

- List Fishing Access Sites
- Calendar
- 6-hour Time Intervals
- Primary Stage Unit
  - 1 or 2 Sites (Site-Cluster)
  - Date
  - Time Interval



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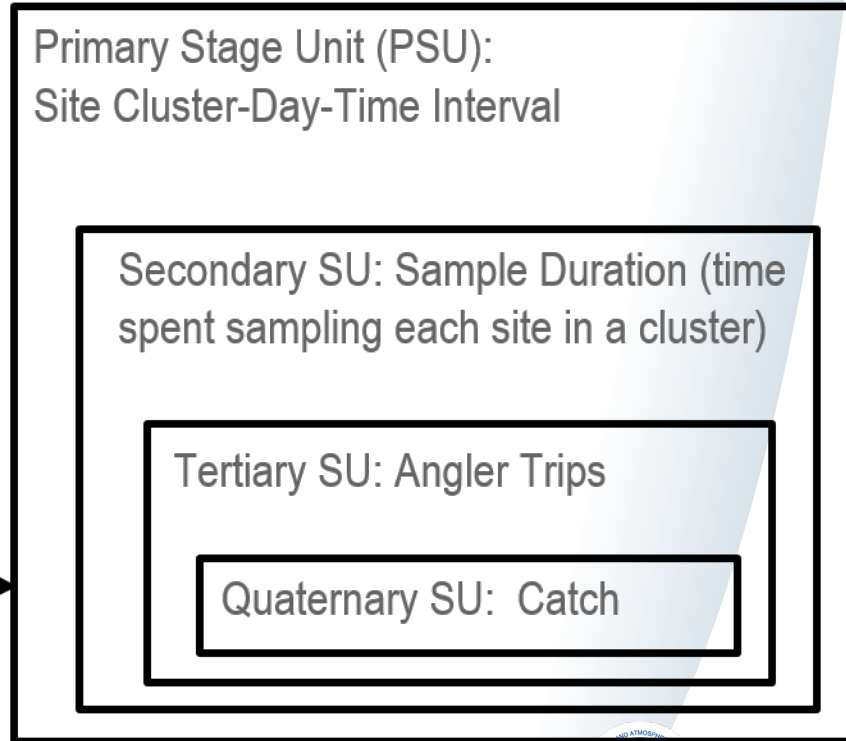
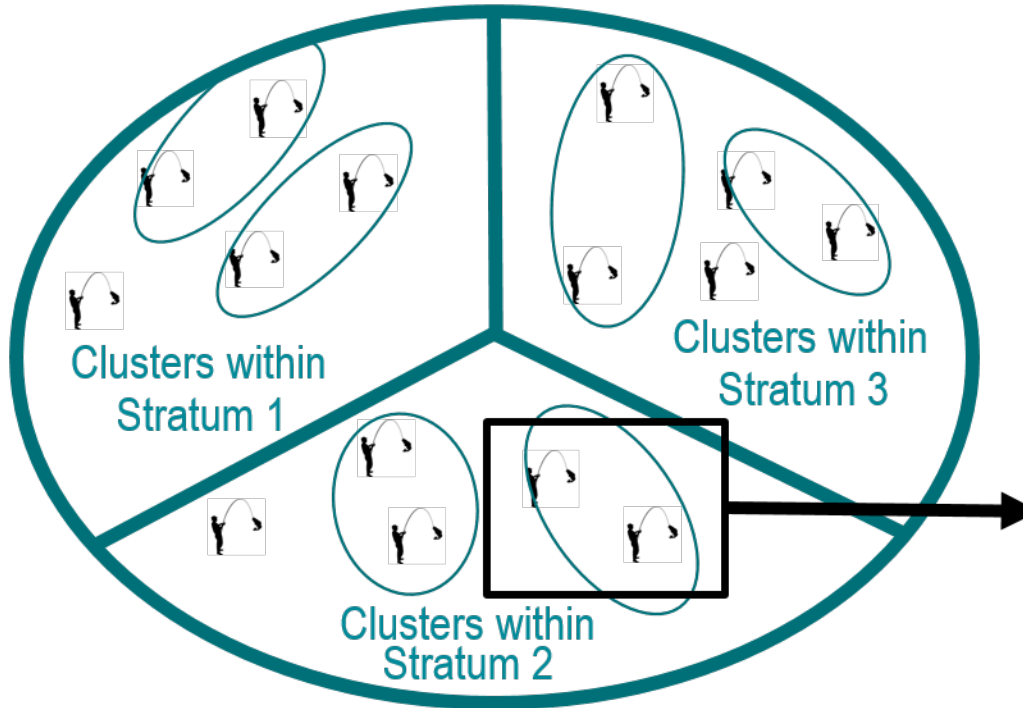
# APAIS Design: Stratification

- Space
  - State, Sub-state regions
- Time
  - Month
  - Kind-of-Day (weekday, weekend)
  - Interval (day, night)
- Fishing Access Site Group
  - Grouping sites by predominant mode or other trip characteristics
  - Shore, Private Boat, Charter Boat, Offshore



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# APAIS Design: Multi-stage Clustering



# APAIS Design: Sample Selection

- Primary Stage Units (PSU):  
Site cluster-day-time interval
- PSUs selected using a probability proportional to size (PPS) approach
- Chance of being selected is related to the expected amount of fishing activity or **fishing pressure**

Expected Number of Angler Trips	Size Measure
1-4 Angler Trips	0.5
5-8	2.5
9-12	9
13-19	13
20-29	20
30-49	30
50-79	50
80+	80



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# APAIS Design: Sample Selection

- Estimates of expected fishing pressure continually updated by regional and state agency partners that conduct APAIS field sampling
- For every site, pressures provided separately for each combination of month, kind-of-day, 6-hour time interval, mode of fishing
- All fishing pressures and other site characteristics available in [Public Fishing Access Site Register](#)



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# APAIS Sample Weighting

- Design aspects that impact the probability or chance of including an angler-trip in the APAIS sample must be accounted for in the sample weights and sample weights must be used in estimation
- Sample weight is the inverse (reciprocal) of the probability that a trip is included in the sample (e.g., a trip has a 10% chance of being interviewed, sample weight is  $1 / 10\% = 1 / 0.10 = 10$ )
- APAIS has multiple stages of sampling, each stage has a separate inclusion probability and corresponding sample weight
- Final APAIS sample weight for each interviewed trip is the product of the individual weights associated with each separate stage



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# APAIS Sample Weighting

1. Primary Stage Unit (PSU):  
Site Cluster-Day-Time Interval

2. Secondary SU: Sample Duration  
(time spent sampling at each site in a cluster)

3. Tertiary SU: Angler Trips  
(trips sampled from all trips observed)

$$w_1 = 1 / \pi_{psu}$$

$$w_2 = \frac{6 \text{ hours (total time of sample interval)}}{\text{sample duration (time spent sampling)}}$$

$$w_3 = \frac{\text{all trips observed (sampled + only counted)}}{\text{trips sampled}}$$

$$w_F = w_1 * w_2 * w_3$$



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# APAIS Weighted Estimation Components

- Catch rate, CPUE, mean catch per trip
- Area fished proportions (Ocean >3mi - EEZ, Ocean <=3mi - STS, Inland)
- FES coverage adjustment - instate resident trip proportion
- FHS coverage adjustment - on-frame vessel trip proportion

$$\hat{y} = \frac{\sum w_{Fi} y_i}{\sum w_{Fi}} \quad \hat{P}_a = \frac{\sum w_{Fi} I_{ai}}{\sum w_{Fi}} \quad \hat{P}_s = \frac{\sum w_{Fi} I_{si}}{\sum w_{Fi}} \quad \hat{P}_f = \frac{\sum w_{Fi} I_{fi}}{\sum w_{Fi}}$$



# APAIS Weighted Estimation Components

- Estimation Domains
  - Catch Rates by Species and Catch Type (e.g., landed catch, released catch)
    - Sub-region, State, Year, 2-month Wave, Fishing Mode, Area Fished
  - Area fished proportions
    - Sub-region, State, Year, 2-month Wave, Fishing Mode (**Private boat, Shore**)
  - FES coverage adjustment
    - Sub-region, State, Year, 2-month Wave, Fishing Mode (**Private boat, Shore**)
  - FHS coverage adjustment - on-frame vessel trip proportion
    - Sub-region, State, Year, 2-month Wave, Fishing Mode (**Charter boat, Headboat**)



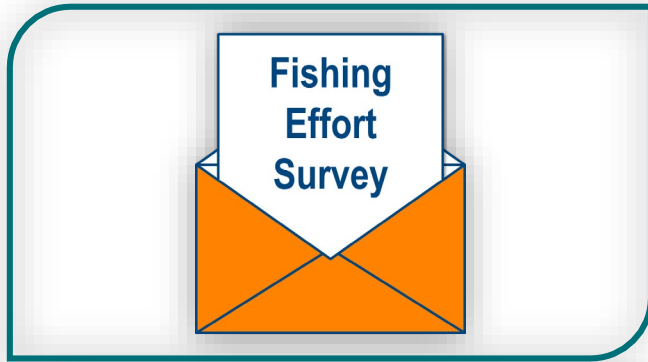
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# Fishing Effort Survey (FES)



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# FES Overview



- **Self-administered household mail survey** that includes household and individual person-level questions
- Sample frame: a comprehensive directory of **residential addresses from the USPS**
- Used to estimate in-state **private boat and shore mode effort estimates** for resident anglers

# FES

- Resource Links
- Design
- Sample Weighting
- Estimation



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# FES Resource Links

- [Survey Design and Statistical Methods](#)

## FES Section 2

- [Annual Reports](#)
- [FES At-a-Glance](#)
- [Outreach Information](#)

HOUSEHOLD MEMBER 1 (YOU)	HOUSEHOLD MEMBER 2	HOUSEHOLD MEMBER 3
<p>10 What is your gender?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Male</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Female</p> <p>11 How old are you?</p> <p><i>If less than 1 year, mark 0 years</i></p> <p>Age in years</p> <p>12 Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, of Hispanic origin</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, not of Hispanic origin</p> <p>13 What is your race? Mark one or more boxes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> White</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Black, African-American</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander</p> <p>Please think only about recreational saltwater fishing in North Carolina.</p> <p>14 How many days did you go recreational saltwater fishing from the SHORE in North Carolina?</p> <p>The shore includes docks, bridges, causeways, beaches, banks, or any other shore-based place or area. Do not include freshwater fishing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not recreational saltwater fish from shore in last 12 months → Go to question 16</p> <p>Number of days saltwater shore fishing in November and December of 2020</p> <p>Number of days saltwater shore fishing in last 12 months, including November and December</p> <p>15 How many days did you go recreational saltwater fishing from a private or rental BOAT that returned to shore in North Carolina?</p> <p>Do not include freshwater trips or trips where a paid captain or crew helped locate and catch fish.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not recreational saltwater fish from private boat in last 12 months</p> <p>Number of days saltwater boat fishing in November and December of 2020</p> <p>Number of days saltwater boat fishing in last 12 months, including November and December</p>	<p>11 What is this person's gender?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Male</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Female</p> <p>12 How old is this person?</p> <p><i>If less than 1 year, mark 0 years</i></p> <p>Age in years</p> <p>13 Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, of Hispanic origin</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, not of Hispanic origin</p> <p>14 What is this person's race? 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# FES Design

- Probability-Based Design
- Sample Frame
- Stratification & Sample Selection
- Data Collection



# FES Design: Sample Frame

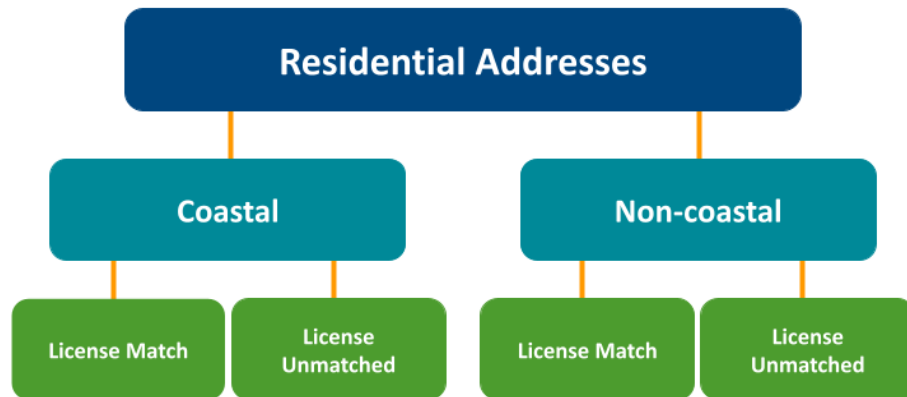
- United States Postal Service Delivery Sequence File
- >95% of Residential Households
- State Saltwater Fishing License Databases
- Primary Stage Unit:
  - Residential Household



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# FES Design: Stratification and Sample Selection

- Space
  - State
  - Sub-state regions  
(Coastal, Non-Coastal)
- State Saltwater Fishing License  
Match Status
- Time
  - Year
  - 6 2-Month Waves
- Samples selected using equal selection probabilities within strata





# FES Design: Data Collection

- Generally follows [Dillman Approach for Mail Surveys](#)
- Mailings administered near the end of each 2-month wave



# FES Sample Weighting

- Household Sample Base Weight
- Non-response adjustment
- Ratio adjustments
  - Demographic Control Totals from U.S. Census Bureau
  - Raking Ratio, Post-stratification

$$w_B = 1 / \pi_{psu} = N_h / n_h$$

$$w_{BR} = w_B / \text{response rate}_R$$

$$w_{BRP} = w_{BR} * \frac{C}{\wedge C}$$



# FES Effort Estimation

- Estimate effort as weighted sum of trips reported by sampled households
- Estimation Domains
  - State
  - Year, 2-month Wave (Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr,...)
  - Fishing Mode
    - Private Boat
    - Shore
- State resident in-state fishing effort

$$\hat{T} = \sum w_{BRP} t_i$$



# For-Hire Survey (FHS)



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# FHS Overview



Image: Chesapeake Bay Program



Image: Cayobo/Flickr

- **List-frame telephone survey** of captains and operators of for-hire vessels
- Vessels selected for **weekly reporting** of for-hire trips
- Used to estimate **charter boat and headboat effort estimates** by state, year, 2-month wave, and area fished

# FHS Resource Links

- [Survey Design and Statistical Methods](#)

FHS Section 2

- [FHS At-a-Glance](#)
- [Outreach Information](#)



# Catch and Effort Estimation



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# Catch and Effort Estimation

- Resource Links
- Catch and Effort Estimation Example
- Variance Estimation and Percent Standard Error (PSE)





# Estimation Resource Links

- [Survey Design and Statistical Methods](#)

## Total Catch and Effort Estimation Section 6

$$\hat{Y}_d = \hat{y}_d \times \hat{T}_{T\dots}$$

- [Estimation Methods Overview](#)

$$V(\hat{Y}_d) = \hat{y}_d^2 V(\hat{T}_{T\dots}) + (\hat{T}_{T\dots})^2 V(\hat{y}_d) - V(\hat{T}_{T\dots})V(\hat{y}_d)$$

- [Survey Statistics Overview](#)

$$\hat{Y}_D = \sum_{w=1} \hat{Y}_{dl}$$

- [Applied Survey Data Analysis \(Textbook\)](#)

$$V(\hat{Y}_D) = \sum_{w=1} V(\hat{Y}_{dl})$$

- [SAS® PROC Surveymeans](#)



# Catch and Effort Estimation Example

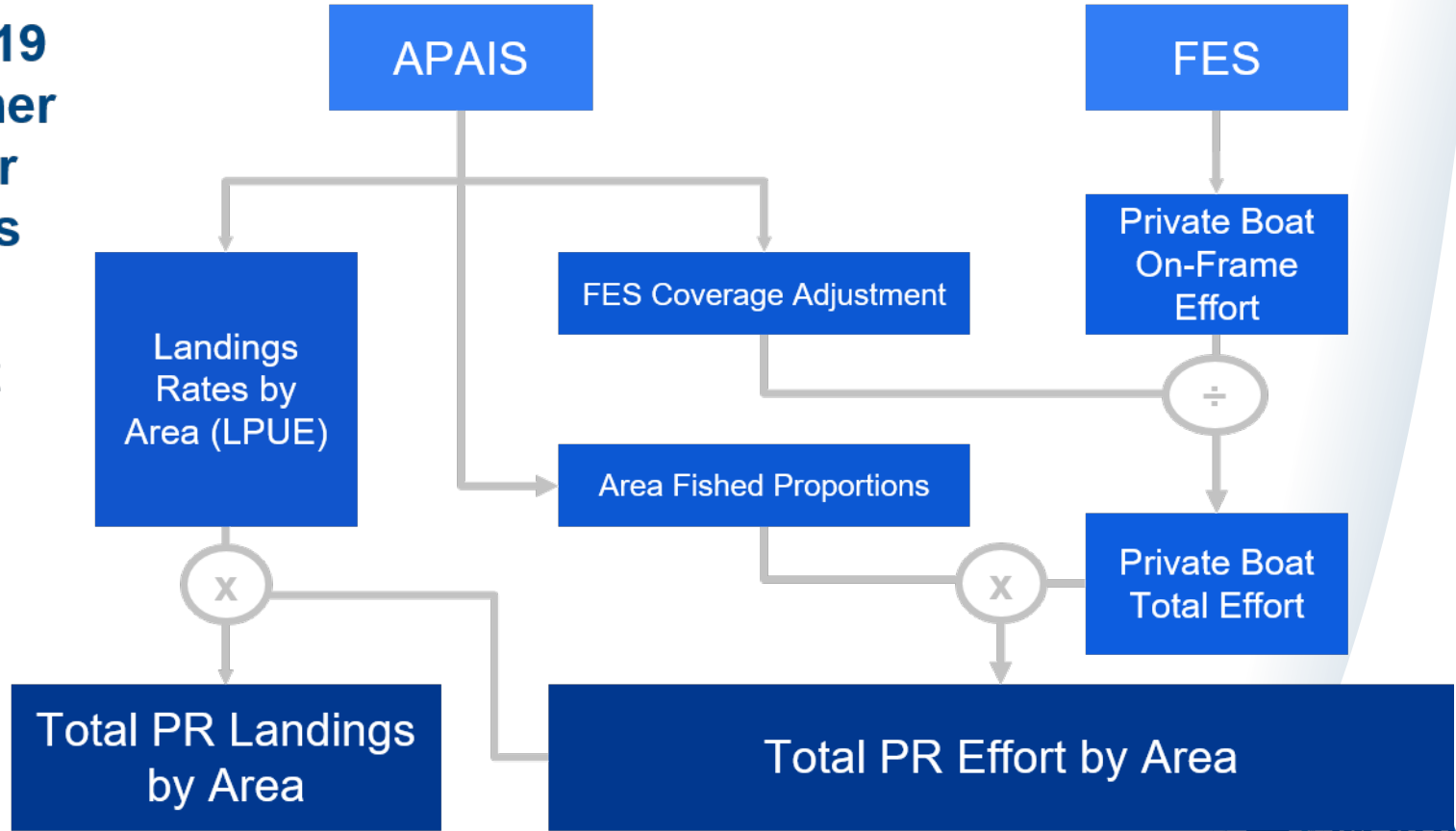
- New Jersey Wave 4 (Jul/Aug) 2019
- Private Boat (PR)
- PR Summer Flounder Landings (No.)
- n=857 APAIS PR Intercepts

Area Fished	PR Effort (No. Angler Trips)	PR Summer Flounder Landings (No. Fish)
All	1,590,161	609,019
Ocean – STS	287,957	129,534
Ocean – EEZ	562,778	273,132
Inland	739,426	206,354

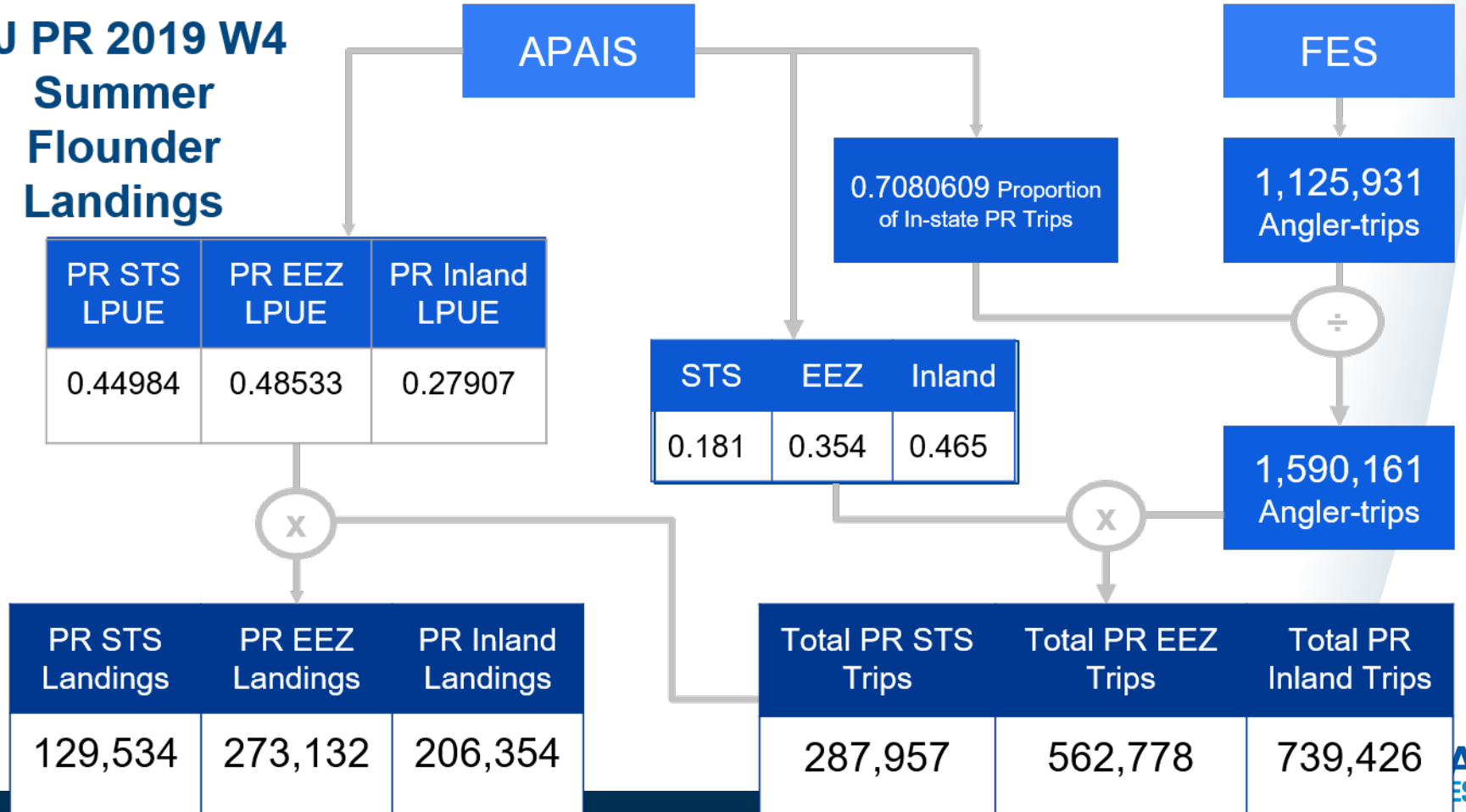
# NJ PR 2019 W4 Summer Flounder Landings

Component  
Estimates

Primary  
Estimates



# NJ PR 2019 W4 Summer Flounder Landings



# APAIS Components

- New Jersey Wave 4 (Jul/Aug), 2019, Private Boat Mode
- n=857 APAIS PR Intercepts

Component	Value	Raw Count	Raw Proportion	Weighted Count	Weighted Proportion
<b>FES Coverage Adjustment</b>	NJ Resident Angler	660	0.770128	54,338	<b>0.708061</b>
	Out-of-State Angler	197	0.229872	22,404	0.291939
<b>Area Fished Proportions</b>	Ocean STS (<=3mi)	189	0.220537	13,897	<b>0.181087</b>
	Ocean EEZ (>3mi)	320	0.373396	27,160	<b>0.353912</b>
	Inland	348	0.406068	35,685	<b>0.465001</b>



# APAIS Components

- New Jersey Wave 4 (Jul/Aug), 2019, Private Boat Mode
- n=857 APAIS PR Intercepts

Component	Area	Raw Landings Count	Raw Trip Count	Raw LPUE	Weighted Landings Count	Weighted Trip Count	Weighted LPUE
LPUE by Area	O-STS (<=3mi)	86	189	0.455	6251.4242	13,897	<b>0.44984</b>
	O-EEZ (>3mi)	123	320	0.384	13182	27,160	<b>0.4853</b>
	Inland	77	348	0.221	9958.8215	35,685	<b>0.27907</b>



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# Variance Estimation

- Sampling error - measure of uncertainty about a point estimate related to variability in the population characteristic being estimated, sample size and other design factors
- Variances for MRIP estimation components estimated using Linearization (Taylor Series approximation) - a standard approach for complex survey designs
- Variances for MRIP catch and effort estimates generally estimated using [Goodman's Formula](#) for the Variance of Products



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# Percent Standard Error (PSE)

- Coefficient of Variation on the percent scale

- $$\text{PSE} = 100 * \frac{\text{Square Root of Variance (aka Standard Error)}}{\text{Point Estimate}}$$

- Relative measure of uncertainty, useful for comparing precision of estimates with very different magnitudes

- 30%, 50%

- [MRIP Survey and Data Standards \(Standard 7\)](#)



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