

WORKSHOP ON TRANSITION TO USE OF STATE SURVEY CATCH ESTIMATES IN GULF OF MEXICO FISHERIES

DRAFT AGENDA

(Please Note: Agenda items may be added revised up to the start time for the Workshop)

Workshop Dates: February 23-25, 2022; all times approximate

Workshop Connection Information:

- **Day One, Feb. 23:**
 - Register in advance:
<https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/j.php?RGID=r2ce444742d21a0b0bc81657a760e0c16>
 - Join online:
<https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/j.php?MTID=m54e2a1a3d95ea2e72fc21c64b365c4bb>
 - Call: 1-415-527-5035 | Access Code: 2763 626 8584
 - Event Password: noaa
- **Day Two Feb. 24:**
 - Register in advance:
<https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/j.php?RGID=rc780f428b91acde53269bca4eb543f2f>
 - Join online:
<https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/j.php?MTID=me886ad3e8fe22ad20835f3ee7299a6bd>
 - Call: +1-415-527-5035 | Access Code: 2760 640 8219
 - Event Password: noaa
- **Day Three, Feb. 25:**
 - Register in advance:
<https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/j.php?RGID=rbc85ee1e26da3b68da2fa14af5479869>
 - Join online:
<https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/j.php?MTID=m9afbfcdb54abfa592c2222a1351353d2>
 - Call: +1-415-527-5035 | Access Code: 2764 458 8236
 - Event Password: noaa

AGENDA

Feb. 23: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm EST

- I. 9:00 am - 9:15 am: Meeting logistics, introductions: **Gregg Bray, Richard Cody**

- A. Virtual connection instructions and where to get help.
 - B. Self-introduction of attendees
- II. 9:15 am - 9:45 am: Review Workshop Purpose, Desired Outcomes, Agenda: Workshop Chair, **Paul Rago**
- A. Overarching goal: Agree on the elements of a transition plan that will achieve goals 1-5. (This plan will be written and executed following the workshop).
 - B. Long-Term Goals of the Transition Plan
 1. Identify any needed design changes to improve the accuracy of all survey programs, thereby minimizing differences in estimates.
 2. Incorporate state data into the federal science and management process while maintaining the needed consistent, regional time series.
 3. Develop a single, publicly accessible, standardized database to house all the recreational fishing data streams in the Gulf of Mexico.
 4. Develop guidelines and best practices to inform future decision-making regarding BSIA when overlapping statistically valid data streams exist (note: while the transition team will be developing guidance, it does NOT have the authority to make BSIA determinations).
 5. Maintain clear and open lines of communication between the Transition Team and all affected stakeholders about progress toward the above goals.
 - C. Specific Desired Outcomes of the Workshop
 1. Toward Goal 1:
 - a) Adopt a research and analysis plan for understanding the drivers of differing catch estimates among the Gulf red snapper surveys.
 - b) Adopt Terms of Reference for a Congressionally directed, independent peer review (that will be commissioned after the research and analysis plan has been implemented).
 2. Toward Goal 2:
 - a) Decide on a calibration approach to be used to 1) inform new stock assessments happening this year (e.g. ratio-based methods), and 2) to inform stock assessments and management in the longer term (e.g., model-based methods).
 - b) Describe and evaluate a hybrid approach that puts the transition on two tracks: (1) initiate transition using available data for stock assessments in the near term; (2) complete research plan and revise data collection to inform future assessments.
 3. Toward Goal 3:
 - a) Determine technical and funding requirements to create the unified, regional database and assign specific roles and responsibilities to NMFS, states, and regional partners to initiate its development.
 - b) Identify needed updates to data flow processes for stock assessments.

4. Toward Goal 4:
 - a) Review data requirements of National Standard 2.
5. Toward Goal 5:
 - a) Agree on the goals and components of a communications plan (to be adopted following the workshop).

III. 9:45 am - 10:15 am: Break

IV. 10:15 am - 11:30 am: Transition Plan Content: **Richard Cody**

- A. Present Work Group's list of Milestones that are to be addressed in a Transition Plan;
 1. Include description of hybrid approach (see also VI C below) that puts the transition on two tracks: (1) initiate transition using available data; (2) complete research plan and revise data collection designs/calibration/integration as indicated by the results;
- B. Group discussion facilitated by Workshop chair. Intent is to achieve a general consensus of the Transition Team Subgroup members on the content of the transition plan, and timing for completion of the various milestones.

V. 11:30 am - 2:00 pm: Lunch Break

- VI. 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm: Review of Data Requirements to meet NMFS requirements for management and stock assessment:
- A. Management requirements: **Andy Strelcheck**
 - B. Science requirements, including SEDAR 74 specific needs: **Kate Siegfried**
 - C. BSIA: **Patrick Lynch**

VII. 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm: Break

(Start on item VIII in the afternoon of Day 1, then continue the discussion in the AM on Day 2)

- VIII. 3:30 m - 5:00 pm: Survey Research Roadmap: **MRIP Consultants** and Workshop Chair **Paul Rago**
- A. Independent review of surveys called for by Congress
 1. Alignment of the mandate with requirements for transition
 2. Discuss Terms of Reference Draft prepared by NMFS/OST
 - B. Summary of state and NMFS pre-briefings to consultants: **Gregg Bray**

Feb. 24: 9:00 am - 5:00pm EST

(VIII cont.) 9:00 am - 11:00 am

- C. Overview of non-sampling errors and their effects on survey estimates: **MRIP Consultants**

1. General overview of non-sampling errors and effects with examples from Gulf surveys
- D. **MRIP Consultants** will present a proposed Roadmap that identifies research, pilot studies, and analyses--related to sources of non-sampling error and bases for differences in estimates among the Gulf Surveys (see detailed [statement of task](#) for this product appended to this agenda).
- E. Group discussion of Roadmap facilitated by Workshop Chair:
1. Achieve consensus of attendees regarding scope and needs for completion of identified research.
 2. Agree on roles for partners in executing research plan.
 3. Discuss funding options (limiting the discussion to identifying totals that might be needed to fund research projects), sequencing, and timing.
- Independent review of surveys called for by Congress
4. Discuss Terms of Reference Draft prepared by NMFS/OST
- IX. 11:00 am - 11:30 am: Break
- X. 11:30 am - 12:30 pm: Calibration I
- A. Review of current status of calibration method development and use: **Richard Cody**
 - B. Overview of calibration methods, limitations and future use considerations: **MRIP Consultant(s)**, including requirements for enabling integration of calibrated state estimates into a single Gulf-wide estimate for the affected species: **Jean Opsomer; Lynne Stokes, other member(s) of the consultant team?**
 - C. Potential Hybrid Approach whereby all available rec catch series are used in assessments while research is ongoing, including different ways the data might be incorporated into the assessment models or how outputs from separate model runs might be integrated into final results (**Foster, Siegfried, Nuttall**).
- XI. 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm: Lunch Break
- XII. 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm: Calibration II
- A. Facilitated discussion of preferred options for pursuing integration of catch estimates: **Paul Rago**, facilitator
 1. Seek group's consensus on option(s) to implement.
 2. Identify requirements and partner needs for implementation. Note that Reconciliation of completing needs will need to be a primary consideration. There may be options to produce a Gulfwide estimate that considers all of the data and allows us to make progress on transitioning while attending to the research needs that will help identify improvements to be made. Potential options (maybe at the assessment level) beyond standard statistical integration methods and associated assumptions and requirements will need to be evaluated.

3. Identify calibration requirements for species with state specific or restricted distributions (e.g., gag).
 - B. Facilitated discussion of preferred options for calibration, including phased approaches (e.g., using a ratio based approach in the interim while a model based approach is being developed): **Paul Rago**, facilitator
 1. Seek group's consensus on option(s) to implement.
 2. Identify requirements and partner needs for implementation.
- XIII. 3:30 pm- 4:00 pm: Break
- XIV. 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm: Additional Requirements for Completing Transition
- A. Database Storage and Data Management via FIN
 1. Input and Data Management Requirements: **Gregg Bray**
 2. Output Requirements: SEFSC (**Matthew Nuttall**); SERO (**Mike Larkin?**); Gulf Council (**Lisa Hollensead; Ryan Rindone?**)
 3. Roles and responsibilities of Data Providers/State Survey Managers
 - B. Identify and resolve how and when to address any unmet requirements for use of estimates from State Survey Certification Decision Memos **Richard Cody**:
 1. Generally, these include the following for each survey:
 - a) integration (see VII.A.2: not completed for any of the Gulf surveys at present,
 - b) calibration with the legacy time series,
 - c) peer review: Note that, for the Gulf state surveys, this requirement occurs at two levels:
 - (1) Initial independent expert review conducted for MRIP Certification, completed for FL, AL, MS, LA surveys;
 - (2) independent review of all the current Gulf surveys required by Congress per agenda item V above.
 - d) apply to time series
 2. Also address any individual, specific next steps from Certification Memos, including SnapperCheck Conditions of Certification requirements.
 - C. Others?
- XV. 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm: Components of the Transition Plan
- A. Identify a small group to prepare the Transition Plan Outline, based on the work group's discussion, in an overtime session the evening of Day 2.
 - B. Review and discuss the proposed outline
- Feb. 25: 9:00am - 1:00pm EST
- XV. 9:00 am - 10:30 am: Components of the Transition Plan (continued)
- C. Presentation of the Transition Plan Outline by the assigned group.(IX.B)

- D. Discussion of the proposed components to seek general concurrence with that list and of a process and timing to scale it up to a full Transition Plan for submission to NMFS by the Gulf Subgroup.
- E. Revisit long-term goals and desired outcomes of workshop

XVI. 10:30 am - 11:00 am: Break

XVII. 11:00 am - 12:00 pm: Communications Plan: Discuss, agree on plan components:

Catherine Krikstan

A. Among Transition Team Members

1. Goals, purpose of plan

2. Key tactics

a) Regular (monthly?) ad hoc State Directors' Meetings

b) Bimonthly meetings of MRIP CET Regional Work Group

c) Assemble Gulf Transition Team Communications Work Group consisting of representatives from NMFS, Gulf states, Gulf council, and GulfFIN.

d) Briefings at Gulf Council and GSMFC meetings

3. Other?

B. Stakeholders: same items as above?

XVIII. 12:00 am - 1:00 pm Wrap Up

A. Final advice and recommendations from MRIP Consultant Team

B. Closing comments by Transition Team Gulf Subgroup members