

**Proposal for funding made to the
Coordinating Council and the Operations Committee
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
1050 N. Highland St., Ste. 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201**

**FY18: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from
the State of Rhode Island**

Submitted By:
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Applicant Name: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management,
Division of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Fisheries

Project Title: **FY18: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries
Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode
Island**

Project Type: Maintenance

Requested Award Amount: \$76,920

Requested Award Period: FY 2018 (August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019)

Primary Program Priority: Commercial and Recreational Catch and Effort Module

Date Submitted:

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Seasonal Interns

**Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Proposal
for the State of Rhode Island 2018**

Objectives:

- Continue to provide new and existing Rhode Island (RI) seafood dealers with technical support to maintain and improve dealer electronic reporting to the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) pursuant to RI Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations.
- Provide technical and analytical support to the RI Marine Fisheries Quota Monitoring Program as well as maintain dealer compliance monitoring protocols for both quota and non-quota managed species by utilizing commercial landings data from SAFIS.
- Continue to collect and enhance trip-level catch and effort data through the RI Marine Fisheries Commercial Harvester Catch and Effort Logbook Program and the RI Electronic Recreational Logbook (eLOGBOOK) Program, and continue to transition commercial fishermen's primary reporting method to electronic trip reports (eTRIPS) including the use of the eTRIPS-Mobile Application.
- Maintain and improve the existing data feed of RI supplemental fisheries data to the ACCSP data warehouse.

Need:

Beginning in 2006, the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Fisheries Section (RIDFW) implemented the marine fisheries commercial data collection program. This program collects trip level landings data from all dealers licensed in RI through direct dealer entry into the eDR (electronic dealer report) SAFIS application. Catch and effort data are currently collected from 100% of the fishermen in the state for the finfish, squid, whelk, and crustacean sectors. RI meets the ACCSP standard by maintaining a one-ticket system for the shellfish fishery sector and a two-ticket system for the crustacean, squid, finfish, and whelk fishery sectors. In addition, crustacean dockside sales are collected through a supplementary paper logbook which captures daily data of all sales. Data are transferred to the ACCSP data warehouse in the proper format annually.

Maintenance and coordination of the SAFIS data entry is critical for successful fisheries management in RI. This data has been essential for the determination of commercial catch and effort statistics, establishing an efficient quota monitoring process, as well as tracking active verses latent license holders. Quota monitoring is one of the most important uses of SAFIS data, as RI ACCSP staff analyze trip level commercial landings data for quota managed species in RI on a daily basis. These analyses are used to make decisions regarding seasonal closures and possession limit changes.

RI ACCSP staff is also responsible for outreach and support of the voluntary eLOGBOOK program in RI. This SAFIS application is used to enter and house recreational catch and effort data and is used by RI fisheries managers to determine possession limits and minimum sizes of important recreational species.

Furthermore, RI ACCSP staff continues to provide data feeds for lobster at-sea and port sampling data via the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Lobster Database

and supplemental horseshoe crab, aquaculture, and dockside data for the Fisheries of the United States via ACCSP. Data feeds for finfish sampling to the ACCSP warehouse will continue to be developed and RI ACCSP staff will need to maintain this data feed once it is active.

With these programs established and planned enhancements scheduled for 2018, the goal of this project is to maintain these data feeds to the ACCSP while continuing to improve data quality as well as maintaining outreach to dealers and fishermen. The plan detailed below is similar to the scope of work proposed for the past several years.

Results and Benefits:

Collecting high quality, comprehensive fisheries data is essential to successful fisheries assessment and management. This project allows the current level of oversight and coordination of the ACCSP to continue in RI by providing funding for the staff necessary to maintain the project. **The state relies on comprehensive SAFIS eDR and eTRIPS/RI Commercial Harvester Logbook data for fisheries management programs including quota monitoring, resource assessment, license tracking, and resource allocation. The state also relies on eLOGBOOK data as it enhances and adds to the existing MRIP dataset with regard to landings and discards,** and most notably it increases our understanding of the length frequency distribution of recreational harvest. This comprehensive and timely data allows RIDFW to establish higher latitude in management programs which is encouraged by the fishing industry. **Additionally, once in the ACCSP data warehouse, the catch and effort and biological sampling data provided by RI can be utilized by other partners and stock assessment scientists for regional scientific assessment of important fish populations.** Although the work outlined in this proposal is specific to RI, **the presence of RI ACCSP staff provides many benefits to regional partners. These benefits include increased coordination between state and federal program partners, increased technical assistance, as well as the sharing of data collection methodology and troubleshooting techniques.**

Data Delivery Plan:

All landings data and catch and effort data collected by RI is entered in SAFIS. Landings data is entered directly into SAFIS eDR by the dealer twice a week and immediately available to ACCSP. Catch and effort (logbook) data is entered into SAFIS eTRIPS throughout the year. For the past several years the previous year's catch and effort data has been entered into SAFIS by late March/early April of the following year. **Once entered, all of this data is immediately available to ACCSP and other program partners who utilize SAFIS and the SAFIS tables within the warehouse. This data is also incorporated into the warehouse tables during the yearly uploads.**

Additionally, RIDFW collects data on crustacean dockside sales, horseshoe crabs, lobster (sea, port, and ventless surveys), aquaculture, and finfish port sampling. **Currently, the dockside sale, horseshoe crab, lobster, and aquaculture data is converted into the proper flat file format and submitted to ACCSP during the spring upload.** The data feed for the finfish port sampling is still being developed. Once it is active, RI's data will be submitted.

Approach:

Currently all licensed seafood dealers in RI are electronically entering trip level data into SAFIS at least twice weekly (Monday and Thursday) (RIMF, 2016). Dealers that hold federal and/or state dealer permits are provided support and initial SAFIS training regarding the SAFIS eDR system. **Technical support is provided to dealers who call or walk-in on a daily basis for questions regarding licensing, possession limits and seasons, reporting, and other topics. Site visits are conducted if further support and training are necessary.**

In order to ensure data quality and proper SAFIS reporting, the RIDFW strictly monitors dealer compliance. Phone calls are made to dealers who fall behind in reporting, and in cases where dealers are found to be non-compliant, administrative action is taken. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Division of Law Enforcement becomes involved when a dealer has repeatedly violated compliance regulations. This model has been very successful in bringing problematic dealers into compliance and needs to continue in order to collect the highest quality data in a timely manner consistent with Marine Fisheries Regulations. To summarize a dealer's compliance performance, dealer "report cards" assigning qualitative grades are mailed quarterly to all dealers. It contains information regarding the number of reports made during a period, the number of reports that were submitted late, and the number of times RIDFW staff needed to contact the dealer regarding late reporting and reporting mistakes.

Landings entered by dealers are routinely checked for accuracy, both via SAFIS audit protocols daily, and through additional weekly manual audits. Any issues discovered during these audits are addressed with dealers and corrected via National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) JIRA or through eDR directly. **Licensing and commercial vessel data generated from RIDEM must be kept up to date in SAFIS tables, and these updates occur via the SAFIS Management System (SMS) during scheduled weekly updates.** These audits and updates are of great importance and are necessary to maintain high standards of data quality.

Quota monitoring relies solely on accurate and up to date SAFIS data. Data are downloaded from SAFIS on a daily basis and analyzed using a software program developed in the statistical package R (R core team 2016). Once state landings data are in the software program, the data are sorted and filtered to detail daily landings of fluke, scup, black sea bass, striped bass, tautog, menhaden, bluefish, and smooth dogfish. **This data is then used to make fisheries management decisions, possession limit changes, and early seasonal closure decisions. Non-confidential, graphical updates of cumulative RI landings are then posted weekly to the RIDFW webpage as public information.**

Data requests from fishermen, academics, the RIDEM Licensing Division, and other stakeholders are also completed. **These requests support fisheries science and management decisions and are necessary to maintain the level of support required by the RIDEM and other regional fisheries managers. The data obtained becomes available to support state and regional stock assessments, economic analyses, and research.** All requests include only non-confidential data unless confidential access is granted through ACCSP channels. RI ACCSP staff are needed both to complete these data requests and handle confidential data access requests originating from ACCSP.

In addition to monitoring SAFIS landings data, metadata and socio-economic data are also collected by RI ACCSP staff. Examples of **metadata** include but are not limited **information regarding weather events** (i.e. wind data), **possession limits, and closed fishing seasons.** **Socio-economic data collected comes primarily from dockside sales of crustaceans from the state dockside sales logbook.** Economic data entered by the dealers are used in monthly summaries for RI's two largest ports, Point Judith and Newport. The data are used to justify funding for port improvements and maintaining shoreside operations that enhance commercial fisheries. Data are also used to highlight seafood availability and provide the basis for public outreach promoting local seafood consumption and improving the state's economy through support of the fishing industry.

Catch and effort data for all fisheries are essential for the RIDFW to provide efficient and effective management. **Harvesters in all commercial fisheries are required by RI law to submit catch and effort data to the RIDFW. Currently, all finfish, crustacean, squid, and whelk commercial fishermen are required to submit catch and effort information to the RIDFW.** Shellfish fishermen are not required to submit catch and effort logbooks because the data is captured via a one-ticket system.

There are approximately 1600 commercially licensed fishermen in RI. RI fishermen with a reporting requirement fall into two main categories: fishermen with a federal VTR requirement, and fishermen without a federal VTR requirement. Additionally, fishermen without a VTR requirement can elect to report either via the state paper logbook, or electronically utilizing the SAFIS eTRIPS application. Due to the multiple reporting options, at the time of license renewal/purchase the **fishermen must declare a reporting method: federal VTR, state paper logbook, or eTRIPS. Fishermen who selected paper logbook are also required to purchase the paper logbook endorsement to help contribute to the printing, mailing, data entry, and administrative costs of the paper logbook program.**

Federal fishermen are exempt from the state logbook program to ensure there is not duplicate effort information being collected, however they are still required per RIDFW regulation to submit reports. Previously, state copies of the VTR were required to be submitted to RIDFW. With the development of online databases, this is no longer required. At the beginning of the year, all fishermen who declared VTR as their reporting method are mailed a "VTR Declaration Form." This form asks the fishermen to supply RIDFW with their vessel information and commercial fishing license number. **This information is then used to track compliance for the fishermen using the online NMFS database.** This system for VTR compliance eases the burden on both the fishermen and RIDFW staff. Fishermen are now only reporting their catch and effort information to a single source (NMFS), decreasing confusion and mailing costs. This also decreases staff time used to track VTR compliance, as individual paper VTRs are not being collected.

Fishermen without a VTR requirement must submit catch and effort information directly to RIDFW. **All fishermen who declare the logbook as their reporting method needs to submit quarterly catch and effort paper logbooks using the postage-paid envelopes provided by RIDFW** to ensure timely return of completed logbooks.

Since 2012, RI fishermen have had the opportunity to enter their catch reports directly into eTRIPS. Currently there are approximately 775 active eTRIPS accounts in RI issued to fishermen who declared eTRIPS as their reporting method; **this is equivalent to 51% of all fishermen with a reporting requirement, a large increase as only 26% of fishermen were utilizing eTRIPS in 2014.** To help continue the trend to electronic reporting, RIDFW staff offers support to fishermen who want to learn and use the program. **Training sessions are held regularly for eTRIPS to ensure fishermen are entering data correctly, training materials are also available on the RIDFW website; outside of training sessions staff answer phone calls, emails, and walk-in questions about eTRIPS.** RIDFW intends to continue outreach for eTRIPS and eTRIPS Mobile to continue to increase the number of fishermen using electronic reporting. Details regarding the change in reporting method, and drastic increase in fishermen reporting electronically can be seen in Figure 2: Reporting Method Breakdown.

In addition to eTRIPS, **RIDFW also began outreach and training for eTRIPS - Mobile Application in 2016 and plans to continue this in the future.** The application allows for both real time data entry as well as post-trip entry. Reports submitted through this application fulfill both state reports and NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) VTRs. **Utilizing the mobile application and offering training on the program will allow fishermen to enter data in real time, resulting in more accurate and time sensitive entries.**

Data quality is checked for each logbook submitted and any missing or inaccurate information is corrected through contacting the fishermen. Any logbook not completed in full is returned to the fishermen for correction. **All reports directly entered by the fishermen through eTRIPS are audited; in the event an error is found, the fisherman is contacted and sent a report with any corrections that need to be made.** In addition to audit reports, a quarterly email is sent to all RI eTRIPS users detailing the common errors seen during the auditing process, and stresses the importance of accurate reporting. RI commercial licensees may not renew their licenses unless they have correctly completed their catch and effort logbooks or eTRIPS reports for the entire year. Additionally, **harvester license number, dealer, and sale date from the catch and effort data are used to match records with dealer reports for quality control and assurance of the landings data.**

In addition to the harvester catch and effort logbook, **fishermen who hold a RIDEM crustacean dockside sales endorsement must fill out a dockside sales logbook which details the quantity, market, grade, disposition, and price of all crustaceans sold at the dock and submit it to RIDFW quarterly.** This dockside sales logbook is mailed to the 274 dockside endorsement holders and must be completed before the licensee can renew their license for the following year. **The dockside sales data captures some of RI's economic data, such as detailed price information on all dockside transactions. This data is transmitted to the ACCSP as supplementary data for the Fisheries of the US data feed.** RI ACCSP staff is needed to oversee data entry, perform quality control checks, and transfer the dockside sale data to ACCSP in the proper format.

In 2018, RI will continue to utilize and promote the voluntary eLOGBOOK program. This data can be used for recreational effort estimates as well as for important management

decisions in RI. **RIDEM Marine Fisheries regulation 7.9.1-2 made the use of eLOGBOOK mandatory by all Rhode Island party and charter vessels participating in the tautog fishery. Due to the development of the eTRIPS Mobile Application, RI Party and Charter vessels are also allowed to enter their information using the application.** Compliance will continue to be monitored for party and charter fishermen in the tautog fishery in 2018. The eLOGBOOK data also contains lengths of both fish harvested and released. This data was useful for all partners in the most recent **bluefish stock assessment, as discard data from eLOGBOOK was used in the 2015 benchmark assessment.** RI ACCSP staff will continue the outreach on eLOGBOOK to ensure the same quality of data will be available for use in future stock assessments.

RIDFW has port and at-sea sampling programs for selected commercial fisheries within the state. **The port sampling program focuses on collecting biological samples required by ASMFC fishery management plans.** These species include striped bass, weakfish, tautog, bluefish, menhaden, and lobster. **RIDFW's at-sea lobster sampling program focuses on ASMFC management needs** as well as state specific data needs. **RIDFW provides the data feed of lobster port and at-sea sampling data to ACCSP via the ASMFC Lobster Assessment Database.** Neither the lobster sampling programs nor the finfish sampling programs receive funding from ACCSP.

RIDFW staff also sit on ACCSP committees including: Operations Committee, Biological Review Panel, Bycatch Prioritization Committee, Commercial Technical Committee, Information Systems Committee, Standard Codes Committee, and Recreational Technical Committee. RIDFW staff are heavily involved in all aspects of ACCSP and contribute in full to all partners' interest.

From 2002 through 2014, RI had a full-time state coordinator to manage and implement the ACCSP data collection program funded through ACCSP. The state coordinator's duties were to develop, monitor, and update ongoing and long-term programs relative to implementing the standards of the ACCSP in RI. In 2014 and 2015 a state FTE administrative officer was the ACCSP coordinator role at a 33% funding level through ACCSP. A Fisheries Specialist was hired in 2014 to assist the administrative officer, and eventually transition into the ACCSP Coordinator role. In February 2016 the Fisheries Specialist was hired by RIDFW as a full time employee, and continues the ACCSP Coordinator duties in the FTE position. Project staff will continue to provide support with processing and data entry of harvester logbooks, aiding with compliance monitoring and data auditing, quota monitoring and compliance issues relevant to SAFIS, SAFIS technical support and outreach, ACCSP committees, eTRIPS and eLOGBOOK outreach, grant management, and long term program development.

This proposal represents a recurring project funded by ACCSP for the past sixteen years. Figure 1 provides a graphical representation of the total budget of \$204,985, with 62% of the total cost being an in kind contribution from RIDFW. Table 1 provides a brief project history of ACCSP Implementation in RI. ACCSP has funded the majority of RIDFW's data collection to date. Cost details for fiscal year 2018 are outlined in the requested budget while last year's requested funding is presented in Appendix A.

In a RIDFW white paper, Gibson and Lazar (2006) documented the deficiencies of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries program and argued that significant infusion of funding and staff is needed. The RIDFW Marine Fisheries section has undergone a peer reviewed evaluation and need assessment, which concluded that RIDFW Marine Fisheries requires more staff to effectively maintain its services (Boreman et al., 2006). However, like many other states on the Atlantic Coast, the state of RI is experiencing fiscal shortfalls. **RIDFW is starting to actively assume some of the costs of ACCSP programs by devoting more staff time to the project and continues to seek alternate funding sources for the project.** In 2010 the state of RI implemented the Rhode Island Recreational Saltwater License. **Funds from license receipts are dedicated to the salary of a recreational biologist as well as improving data quality. The recreational biologist sits on the ACCSP recreational technical committee and does outreach for eLOGBOOK, thus these funds now help support the ACCSP program. Encouraging commercial fishermen to transition from paper logbooks to the eTRIPS reporting method through incentives, training programs and regulations has already decreased and ultimately will eliminate some of the costs surrounding the distribution and data entry required for paper logbooks.** This will reduce the RIDFW's dependence upon ACCSP funds for maintaining timely and accurate data feeds and will be completed as funding and staff time allows. **Furthermore, the transition the ACCSP coordinator from a fisheries specialist ASMFC employee to an RIDEM FTE (Principal Biologist) shows RIDFW's dedication to covering the costs of the ACCSP program in the future, but asks for funding assistance during this transitional time.**

RIDFW also recognizes the recent changes made to maintenance proposals regarding funding opportunities. While RI does not have a concrete plan in place to take over the funding, **different options are being investigated including: the continued move to electronic reporting, licensing solutions, and other means to fund the program. However, nothing is confirmed at this point, so the final years of available funding is important to RI and its ACCSP program.**

Geographic Location:

The project will be administered out of the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife office in Jamestown, RI. The scope of the project covers all of RI and adjacent state and federal waters fished by RI license holders.

Program Accomplishment Measurement Metrics:

The success of the project will be measured by the following metrics:

- Quality controlled data feeds to ACCSP to be delivered on time and in proper format.
- Catch and Effort and Dockside Sales Logbook program maintained through the eTRIPS program. **Landings data maintained through the eDR program.**
- **Provide support to RI dealers to improve landings data collection and data quality.**
- Dealer landings from SAFIS effectively used to monitor quota species, track fishing license activity, and support management programs.
- Improved quality in data submitted to the ACCSP.

Goal	Metric	Accomplished
Data Delivery to ACCSP	Supplemental data complete and available for spring upload	Data delivered to ACCSP in March annually
Landings and Effort Data Delivery to ACCSP	Trips Entered in 2016 by application	eDR: 27,410 (62,967 including federal trips) eTRIPS: 30,584
Support to RI Licensed Seafood Dealers	Dealer trainings and site visits in 2016.	4 new dealers 2 additional site visits
Quota Monitoring	Number of possession limit changes and early closures during 2016 determined through SAFIS data	21 changes in possession or early season closures

Table 1. Project History.

Year	Title	Cost	Results
2000	Implementation of the ACCSP Program in Rhode Island	230,938	Planning and development of ACCSP commercial module implementation
2001	Implementation of ACCSP Continuation	20,000	Implementation of trip level reporting for all RI lobster harvesters, Commercial fishing license reconstruction
2002	Implementation of Phase 2 of ACCSP in the State of Rhode Island	133,084	ACCSP coordinator hired, planning and development of electronic dealer reporting system (RIFIS)
2003	Implementation of Phase 3 of ACCSP in the State of Rhode Island	131,760	Phased Implementation of RIFIS with focus on high volume dealers
2004	Continued Implementation of the ACCSP Program in the State of Rhode Island	159,716	Transition of RIFIS to SAFIS, implementation of federally permitted dealers
2005	Continued Implementation of the ACCSP Program in the State of Rhode Island	95,365	Quota monitoring system developed using SAFIS data, regulation created requiring all RI dealers to report landings via SAFIS
2006	Continuation of SAFIS and Finfish Logbooks in Rhode Island	150,365	Implementation of SAFIS completed, Development of harvester logbook for finfish and crustacean fishery sectors
2007	Coordination and Development of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	145,697	Implementation of harvester logbook for finfish and crustacean fishery sectors
2008	Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	128,647	Implementation of Dockside Sales Logbook, work begun on feeding data to ACCSP, maintenance of Data collection programs
2009	Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	142,075	Data feeds of Logbook data and lobster biological sampling developed.
2010	Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	100,983	eREC developed and eTrips pilot program started , data feeds continued, Fluke sector monitoring database developed, dealer report card system developed
2011	Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	85,584	Automatic data feed for catch and effort data established via eTRIPS, eREC maintained and developed, data feeds continued
2012	Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	99,379	Maintenance of automatic data feed for catch and effort data via eTRIPS on a real time basis, maintenance of eLOGBOOK, data feeds continued
2013	FY13: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	91,416	RSA tracking improved, maintenance of automatic data feed for catch and effort data via eTRIPS upload, maintenance of eLOGBOOK, data feeds continued
2014	FY14: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	85,408	RSA tracking improved, maintenance of automatic data feed for catch and effort data via eTRIPS upload, maintenance of eLOGBOOK, data feeds continued
2015	FY15: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	79,719	Maintenance of automatic data feed for catch and effort data via eTRIPS on a real time basis, maintenance of eLOGBOOK, data feeds continued. Improvements to party and charter industry tracking. eTRIPS user outreach and training
2016	FY16: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	79,736	Maintenance of automatic data feeds for catch and effort data via eTRIPS, maintenance of eLOGBOOK data feeds continued. Outreach of eTRIPS Mobile application. Continue eTRIPS user training and outreach.
2017	FY17: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	78,420	Maintenance of automatic data feeds for landings catch and effort data via SAFIS, eLOGBOOK data feeds, and supplemental data feeds. Outreach of eTRIPS-Mobile. Continue SAFIS user training and outreach.

Table 2. Milestone Schedule

Activity	Month														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
SAFIS Support to RI Dealers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Quota Monitoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
eTRIPS support to industry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
eTRIPS logbook Data Entry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Data Feeds to ACCSP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Semi and Annual Report Writing							X					X	X	X	X

Bold Comments indicate sections that help with the ranking process
Highlighted text indicates changes from the first submission

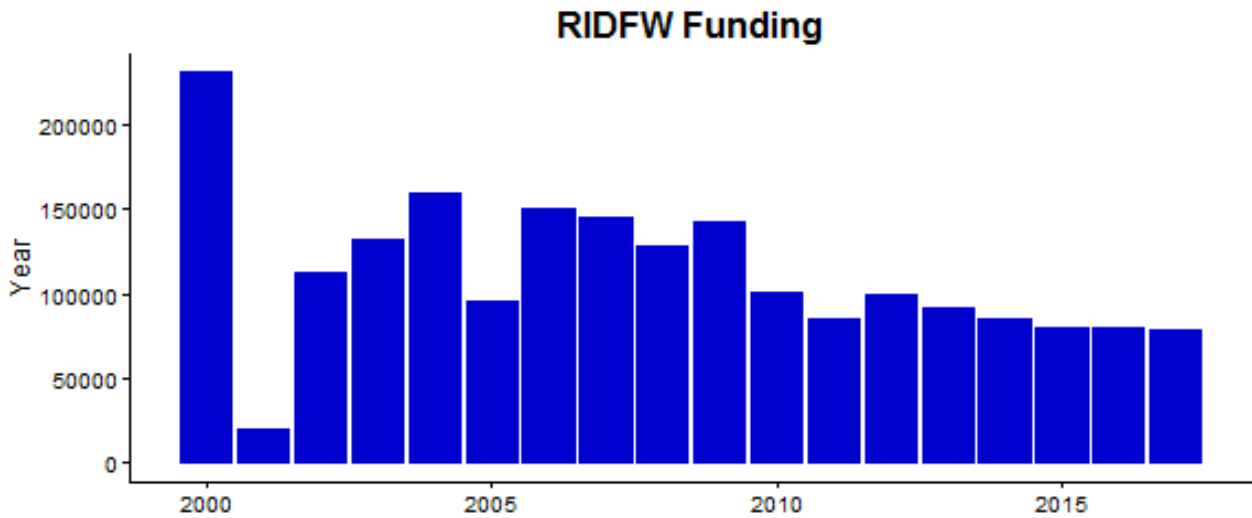


Figure 1. RIDFW past funding from ACCSP.

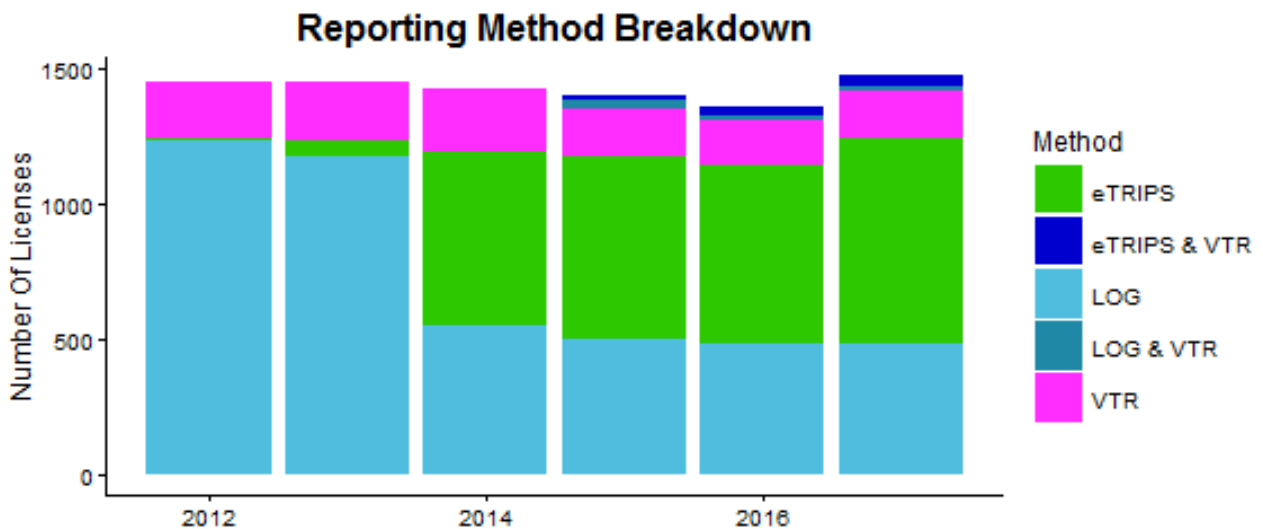


Figure 2: Reporting Method Breakdown

References:

Boreman, J., Diodati, P., O’Shea, and E. Smith. 2006. Assessment of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management’s Marine Fisheries Section. RIDEM Internal Document, October 2006.

Gibson M. and N. Lazar. 2006. Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Fisheries Section 2006: Current Activities, Funding, and an Appraisal of Future Needs. RIDEM Internal Document, August 2006.

Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Regulations (RIMFR), Part 7- Dealer Regulations, 2016

R Core Team (2016). R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. URL <https://www.R-project.org/>.

Requested Budget FY 2018 (August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019)

PERSONNEL COSTS:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total
Supervising Biologist (FTE 10%)	\$0	\$12,312	\$12,312
Principal Biologist (FTE 60.5%)	\$0	\$50,159	\$50,159
Principal Biologist (FTE 49.5%)	\$39,315	0	\$39,315
Assistant Admin Officer (Contractual 40%/50%)	\$16,912	\$21,139	\$38,051
Seasonal Interns - 2 (RIDEM 50%)	\$10,692	\$10,692	\$21,384
Indirect Charges (RIDEM FTE 16%)	\$8,501	\$11,706	\$20,207
Total Personnel	\$75,420	\$106,008	\$181,428

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total
Logbook Printing @ \$5.91 per logbook	\$0	\$3,546	\$3,546
Logbook Mailing @ \$4.75 per logbook	\$0	\$2,850	\$2,850
Dockside Printing @ \$4.96 per logbook	\$0	\$1,488	\$1,488
Dockside Mailing @ \$5.91 per logbook	\$0	\$1,773	\$1,773
Business reply envelope printing	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
Business reply account	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
Website development and updating	\$0	\$2,400	\$2,400
Outreach mailing	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Office supplies	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
Telephone & Fax Usage	\$0	\$500	\$500
Vehicle Usage and Travel	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000
Total Supply	\$1,500	\$22,057	\$23,557

TOTAL:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total
Total Direct Charges	\$76,920	\$128,065	\$204,985
Percentage	38%	62%	

COST DETAILS:

Description of Budget categories and expenses for this project.

a. Salary

Each person spends a fraction of their time working on this grant in a team effort. The annual salaries for personnel and the percentage of their time spent on this project are as follows:

From ACCSP:

- i. **Principal Biologist/ ACCSP Coordinator:** 49.5% ACCSP funded position to act as support to the ACCSP Coordinator; 49.5% of salary for one year (\$58,011) = \$28,715.
- ii. **Seasonal Interns:** Support for 2 Seasonal Interns to assist with data entry 50% of annual salary (\$10,692) X 2 = \$10,692.

From RIDEM as match:

- i. **Supervising Biologist:**
Approximately 10% of annual salary (\$75,150) equals \$7,515.
- ii. **Principal Biologist:**
Approximately 40.334% of annual salary (\$58,011) equals \$23,398.
- iii. **Principal Biologist:**
Approximately 20.167% of annual salary (\$58,011) \$11,699.
- iv. **Seasonal Interns:**
Support for 2 Seasonal Interns to assist with data entry.
Approximately 50% of annual salary (\$10,692) X 2 = \$10,692.

b. Fringe benefits

Annual fringe benefits rates for all employees include the following:

Retirement 24%

Deferred Compensation 0.4%

FICA 6.2%

Medicare 1.45%

Health care \$21,937/year

Dental \$ 1,132/year

Vision Mercer - \$165/year

Assessed Fringe 4.25%

Retiree Health 6.75%

- Total annual fringe benefits for the Supervising Biologist are \$47,965. Fringe benefits for 10% of his time equals \$4,797.
- Total annual fringe benefits for Principal Biologist are \$24,897. Fringe benefits are divided 49.5% Federal / 40.334% match. Which equals \$12,324 Federal and \$10,041 match.
- Total annual fringe benefits for Principal Biologist are \$24,897. Fringe benefits for her time at 20.167% equals \$5,021.

c. Travel

\$1,500 used for mileage, tolls for site visits and meetings, and to subsidize vehicle usage by ACCSP staff as well as any incurred travel expenses for dealer visits; RIDEM will

assume half of the costs. These costs are based on historical used under the current award.

d. Equipment

No equipment will be purchased on this grant.

e. Supplies

From ACCSP:

- i. **Logbook Printing:** RIDEM will assume all costs of the printing.

From RIDEM:

- ii. **Logbook Printing:** 600 logbooks @ \$5.91/logbook – \$3,546.
iii. **Logbook Mailing:** 600 logbooks @ \$4.75/book = \$2,850
iv. **Dockside Printing:** 300 logbooks @ \$4.96/logbook - \$1,488
v. **Dockside Mailing:** 300 logbooks @ \$5.91/logbook - \$1,773
vi. **Business Reply Envelope Printing:** 20,000 Envelopes @ \$0.125/envelope = \$2,500.
vii. **Business Reply Account:** \$100/month Mar-Nov; \$200/month Dec-Feb = \$1,500.
viii. **Website Development and Updating:** Costs associated with maintaining current website and creating a website section dedicated to online reporting, including the creation of Online Training Videos and PowerPoint Tutorials. Estimated at \$2,400.
ix. **Telephone and Fax usage** - \$500
x. **Office Supplies** \$1,000
xi. **Miscellaneous and outreach mailing:**
1. **Compliance mailing:** 1,600*\$0.50 = \$800
2. **License renewal mailing to notify license holders of renewal regulations and changes:** 3,000*\$0.50 = \$1,500
3. **Dealer Report Cards:** 140*4*\$0.50 = \$280
4. **Returned Logs:** ~2% per month of 1,600 = 32*12 = 384*\$0.50 = \$192
5. **Miscellaneous/Outreach mailings:** ~\$228

f. Contractual

Contractual will include the time spent for a contractual employee: Assistant Administrative Officer. Contractual annual salary and administrative charges total \$42,279. The employee will be spending 40% of their time on this grant, and 50% will be supported by RIDEM and used as match. 40% equals \$16,912 and 50% is \$21,139.

g. Construction

There will be no construction as part of this grant.

h. Other

There is nothing in this category

i. Total Direct Charges

This is the sum of all direct charges to the grant, listed above.

j. Indirect charges.

Indirect charges are only calculated using RIDEM personnel charges. The negotiated Indirect Rate for fiscal year 2018 is 17%.

Summary of Proposal for Ranking

Proposal Type: Maintenance

Primary Program Priority: Catch and Effort (100%)

- 100% of dealers report trip level landings data for all species.
- 100% of commercial fishermen report trip level catch and effort data, which is entered into SAFIS (except federal permit holders that report on VTRs to NMFS) or via a 1-ticket system for shellfish entered at trip level by the dealer in the eDR.
- Metadata and socioeconomic that is detailed on page 6 are also collected to enhance and describe data sets that are important to RI's commercial fisheries.

Project Quality Factors:

Partners

- **Multi-Partner/Regional impact including broad applications** –To collect and manage catch and effort, landings, and recreational data in RI. However data on many regionally managed species, such as American lobster, striped bass, black sea bass, bluefish, tautog, and others is collected. As these species are regionally managed, the data collected are used in coastwide and regional stock assessments, therefore other partners benefit from having access to this data.

Funding

- **Contains funding transition plan** – This proposal contains a transition to funding plan on page 8-9. Changes in maintenance proposal funding has been addressed by RIDFW and the ACCSP Coordinator role has been transitioned to a Principal Biologist FTE. While RIDFW continues to ask for funds during this transitional period, it is understood there is a definite end date to the funds available to RI for this project.
- **In-kind contribution-** 62% of this project is funded by the RIDFW.

Data

- **Improvement in data quality/quantity/timeliness** – RI provides timely catch and effort data and landings data to the ACCSP. This is done by fully utilizing all ACCSP data entry products (eTRIPS, eDR, eLOGBOOK, and eTRIPS Mobile) as well as having standards backed up by Marine Fisheries regulations that require reporting that meets ACCSP standards. RI has successfully begun to push fishermen to using eTRIPS for direct data entry resulting in timelier data entry and is embracing eTRIPS Mobile for entry of data utilizing mobile devices. Additionally, all supplemental data (port and sea sampling, aquaculture, dockside sales, and horseshoe crab data) is provided to ACCSP annually in the proper format.
- **Potential secondary module as a by-product** – Social and economic data that is described on pages 6 is collected regularly and used in fisheries models to characterize and understand RI fisheries. This data has also been made available to regional partners upon request and has been used in groundfish disaster relief funding to determine how the money is to be distributed.
- **Impact on stock assessment-** Data collected in this program is regularly used for many “in-house” stock assessments done on local species such as whelk, quahog, and soft shell clam. This data also includes information on regionally or jointly managed species, and is used for their science and management programs as well. Partners, like surrounding states, the ASMFC, and the NOAA Fisheries can and do use this information for various stock assessments.

Appendix A: FY 2017 (May 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018)

PERSONNEL:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total
Supervising Biologist (FTE 10%)	\$0	\$12,312	\$12,312
Principal Biologist (FTE 60.5%)	\$0	\$50,159	\$50,159
Principal Biologist (FTE 49.5%)	\$41,039	0	\$41,039
Assistant Admin Officer (Contractual 40%/50%)	\$16,912	\$21,139	\$38,051
Seasonal Interns - 2 (RIDEM 50%)	\$10,692	\$10,692	\$21,384
Indirect Charges (RIDEM FTE 16%)	\$8,277	\$11,706	\$19,983
Total Personnel	\$76,920	\$106,008	\$182,928

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total
Logbook Printing @ \$5.91 per logbook	\$0	\$3,546	\$3,546
Logbook Mailing @ \$4.75 per logbook	\$0	\$2,850	\$2,850
Dockside Printing @ \$4.96 per logbook	\$0	\$1,488	\$1,488
Dockside Mailing @ \$5.91 per logbook	\$0	\$1,773	\$1,773
Business reply envelope printing	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
Business reply account	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
Website development and updating	\$0	\$2,400	\$2,400
Outreach mailing	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Office supplies	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
Telephone & Fax Usage	\$0	\$500	\$500
Vehicle Usage and Travel	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000
Total Supply	\$1,500	\$22,057	\$23,557

TOTAL:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total
Total Direct Charges	\$78,420	\$128,065	\$206,485
Percentage	38%	62%	
Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total

Bold Comments indicate sections that help with the ranking process
Highlighted text indicates changes from the first submission

Appendix B: Curriculum Vitae for Principal Investigator

Nichole L. Ares

Nichole.Ares@gmail.com

(978) 833- 4017

93A Mountview Rd, Narragansett RI 02882

Education

Roger Williams University
Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology
Minor in Mathematics

Bristol, RI
Dec. 2010
GPA: 3.212/4.0

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Introduction to Stock Assessment

October 2015

Work Experience

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Principal Biologist

February 2016-Present

- Coordinate and improve the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) in Rhode Island.
- Monitor commercial fishing quotas, lead quota management meetings and determination of seasonal closures and possession limit changes.
- Reporting compliance for ~1500 RI commercially licensed fishermen. Including tracking compliance, training and support to fishermen on report submissions and utilization of the electronic reporting system. Supervise and train staff on data entry of collected catch and effort data. Audit data quality of submitted reports.
- Data accuracy and quality of dealer reported landings data for the ~140 RI commercial licensed seafood dealers. Correction of inaccuracies in data, training new seafood dealers, and retraining dealers with data entry issues.
- Serve on ACCSP committees, including Commercial Technical Committee, Information Systems Committee and Standard Codes Committee.
- Manage and operate the Narragansett Bay Juvenile Finfish Seine Survey.
- Assist in other field work as necessary including but not limited to otter trawl, ventless lobster pot, and ventless fish pot surveys.
- Write and submit project plans, compliance reports, and grant proposals.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Fisheries Specialist 1- ACCSP Coordinator

May 2014- February 2016

- Coordinate and improve the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) in Rhode Island under the supervision of Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife Marine Fisheries Section.
- Monitor commercial fishing quotas, lead quota management meetings and determination of seasonal closures and possession limit changes.
- Track reporting compliance for ~1500 RI commercially licensed fishermen. Train fishermen and seasonal staff on report submissions. Audit data quality of submitted reports.
- Audit and correct data of dealer reported landings data for the ~140 RI commercial licensed seafood dealers. Train new seafood dealers and retraining dealers with data entry issues.

- Write and submit project plans, compliance reports, and grant proposals.
- Member of various ACCSP committees, including Commercial Technical Committee and Information Systems Committee.
- Assist in field work as needed, including beach seine, lobster ventless pot, and otter trawl surveys.

East West Technical Services LLC

Feb. 2012- May 2014

At-Sea Monitor and Scallop Observer

- Organize fishing trips with federal commercial fishermen of the North Eastern United States.
- Collect catch and discard data on groundfish (trawl, gillnet, and longline) and scallop dredge fishing vessels. Identify all species brought on board and take biological measurements and samples including; length, weight, scales, vertebrae, and otoliths.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

June. 2011-Dec. 2011

Division of Fish and Wildlife- Marine Fisheries Student Researcher

April 2013-Oct. 2013

- Data and logbook entry using Microsoft Access, Microsoft Excel, SAFIS, and Telnet.
- Contact fishermen when questions arise with logbook submissions.
- Assist in field work sampling in beach seine, otter trawl, clam suction, clam dredge, lobster pots, fish pots, and finfish port sampling.
- Fish aging structure removal (operculum, scales, and otoliths) and preparation.

Research Experience

Roger Williams University

June 2009- June 2011

- Project goals are to examine mercury bioaccumulation in fish tissues, examine selenium concentrations in tissues, and examine selenium mercury relationships.
- Includes sampling methods of rod & reel and otter trawl surveys, the extraction of muscle, liver, brain tissues, and otoliths. Preparing tissues samples for atomic absorption spectroscopy and inductively coupled plasma mass spectroscopy. Use of Microsoft Excel and SAS to analyze the data, PowerPoint to present data at conferences. Organize the laboratory and help keep scientific equipment running correctly.
- Mentor: Dr. David L. Taylor, Assistant Professor

Technology, Skills, and Certifications

- Proficient in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access, and Picture Manager, SAFIS info systems, Telnet, HTML, Oracle Databases (SAFIS Interface and Business Objects), and R Studio
- Familiar with SQL.
- Large dataset management
- Certified PADI Open Water Scuba Diver
- RIDEM Certificate of Boating Safety Education
- U.S Coastguard Auxiliary Boating Safety Course
- Fisheries sampling techniques including fish and invertebrate identification, trawl, beach seine, lobster and fish pots, gillnets, and dissections.