**ACCSP BYCATCH PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING 2024**

**Date: Wednesday February 7th, 2024**

**Time: 9am-12pm**

**Calendar Link:**

<https://www.accsp.org/mc-events/bycatch-prioritization-committee-meeting/?mc_id=27>

**Meeting Info:**

Please join using this link:

<https://v.ringcentral.com/join/479164287>

Meeting ID: 479164287

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**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Partner** | **Phone** | **Email** |
| Lee Benaka | NOAA |  | lee.benaka@noaa.gov |
| Addie Binstock  | ME DMR |  | addie.l.binstock@maine.gov  |
| Chris Bradshaw  | FL FWCC | 727-896-8626 | [chris.bradshaw@myfwc.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cheather_k.ACCSP%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5C7B22OZ71%5Cchris.bradshaw%40myfwc.com) |
| Judd Curtis  | SAFMC |  | judd.curtis@safmc.net  |
| Christopher Davis (Chair) | VMRC |  | christopher.davis@mrc.virginia.gov |
| Steve Doctor  | MD DNR |  | steve.doctor@maryland.gov |
| Garry Glanden  | DE DFW |  | garry.glanden@delaware.gov  |
| Tyler Harris  | NJ DEP |  | tyler.harris@dep.nj.gov  |
| Jesse Hornstein  | NYS DEC |  | jjesse.hornstein@dec.ny.gov  |
| Michael Lanning  | NOAA |  | j.michael.lanning@noaa.gov  |
| Nicole Lengyel Costa | RI DEM | 401-423-1940 | nicole.lengyel@dem.ri.gov |
| Eddie Leonard  | GADNR |   | eddie.leonard@dnr.ga.gov  |
| Jerry Morgan (Advisor)  | CT – REC  | 203-245-8665 | b8ntackle@aol.com |
| Jainita Patel  | ASMFC  |  | jpatel@asmfc.org  |
| David Player | SC DNR | 843-214-0831 | [playerd@dnr.sc.gov](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CElizabeth_W.ACCSP%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CILUJK0JZ%5Cplayerd%40dnr.sc.gov) |
| Bradley Schondelmeier | MA FWE | 978-282-0308 | brad.schondelmeier@state.ma.us |
| Greg Wojcik  | CT DEEP | 860-434-6043 | gregory.wojcik@ct.gov |

Committee Members Not in Attendance: Lisa Bonacci (NY DEC), Mike Errigo (SAFMC), Jared Flowers (GA DNR), Russell Hudson (FL – R/C,) Jennifer Lee (NOAA), Lauren Staples (NH FGD – Vice Chair), Chad Power (NJ DEP), Jason Rock (NCDENR), Chris Uraneck (ME DMR)

Staff Members in Attendance: A. Christmas-Svajdlenka (Data Coordinator) , J. Defilippi Simpson (Deputy Director), J. Myers (Senior Data Coordinator), J. Ni (Data Analyst), M. Powell (ACCSP Program Assistant), S. Thomas (Data Coordinator), G. White (Director)

**Welcome/Introduction**

Chair C. Davis welcomed and introduced the Committee.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chair C. Davis moved to approve the agenda. **The agenda were approved by consent.** J. Curtis moved to approve the meeting minutes. C. Bradshaw seconded that motion.

**Approval of 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Chair C. Davis moved to approve the agenda. **The meeting minutes were approved by consent.** C. Bradshaw moved to approve the meeting minutes. J. Curtis seconded that motion.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Amount of Regulatory Discards Changes to Matrix**

J. Defilippi Simpson noted due to the bycatch matrix being quantitative, and driven by the (SBRM) with the bycatch reduction matrix in the Northeast, that was the only group that actually had quantitative data at that level that had data to put into the matrix. The Committee then rebuilt the matrix to reflect all partners’ needs. The new direction is qualitative.

**Electronic Monitoring (EM) Data Standards**

A. Christmas-Svajdlenka noted there are various method and technology if electronic monitoring. There are several procedures that transform raw video data into usable data. ACCSP formed a small group including staff and knowledgeable electronic monitoring volunteers within different partners and extend on agencies that included NOAA Fisheries, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management , Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Mote Marine Lab Center for Fisheries Electronic Monitoring, and the Nature Conservancy.

This group determined that there were several aspects of Electronic Monitoring that fell outside the scope of what ACCSP would use as its standards. This included the actual recording devices, the recordings themselves, the hardware used in transferring and digitizing the software and the images or any impacts on any AI or funding. The things that did fall within the scope of ACCSP standardization has been limited to the post analysis data for the Atlantic states and their federal programs. Electronic Monitoring data for commercial harvesters now has been collected through but not limited to, the following programs. In New England, there is species targeted ground fish electronic monitor standard that is used that uses troll and gill net. In New England and most of the Middle Atlantic we have Herring and Mackerel that focuses on the midwater trolls. In the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico there is Swordfish, Tuna, specifically Yellowtail and Big Eye and Mahi-Mahi using long lines. In the Gulf of Mexico, there are Reef fish on vertical lines and bottom long line. All of these were looking at either the compliance monitoring or catch monitoring.

The group determined the minimum data standards for electronic monitoring. This was approved by the Operations Committee it was recommended that the standards should be reviewed every few years, possibly annually. A. Christmas-Svajdlenka asked the group to form a subcommittee to who would participate and how often standards are reviewed. Subcommittee would contain members from Bycatch and Commercial Technical Committees.

C. Davis asked how many members are you looking to have that are included in the subcommittee? J. Defilippi Simpson replied about 3 to 5 participates. C. Davis volunteered.

M. Lanning asked for the scope of work of the subcommittee. J. Defilippi Simpson noted once the final video data has been collected, it has to be determined what are the standards for that. The goal of the group in focusing on final data standards is to provide standardization among the coast for the final data in the end. The other goal is to provide standardization.

C. Bradshaw noted to reach out to data providers, such as Mote Lab.

**Biological / Bycatch Inventories Updates**

S. Thomas provided an update on the data warehouses , the biological and bycatch inventories. There are 69 programs and 54 species in our data warehouse for the biological inventory and 17 programs and 22 species represented in the batch inventory. ACCSP is very interested in increasing these numbers and adding species and programs. S. Thomas noted if anyone here representing states or agencies is interested in sending more biological data, they are encouraged to reach out to ACCSP.

**Hot Topic/Other Business**

Bycatch Data Collection Standards Format Update

J. Defilippi Simpson provided an update. Last year, ACCSP spent considerable amount of time working on updating the Atlantic Coast Standards and the goal was to present those on the ACCSP website. J. Defilippi Simpson noted ACCSP had some issues with some plugins. Thus, a delay in that project. However, ACCSP now has gotten the plugins working again. ACCSP will be updating the Atlantic Coast standards as they appear on the website soon.

**Adjourn**

 The meeting was adjourned by consent.