**ACCSP BIOLOGICAL REVIEW PANEL ANNUAL MEETING 2024**

**Date: February 6th, 2024**

**Time: 9am – 12pm**

**Meeting Info:**

**https://v.ringcentral.com/join/479164287**

**Meeting ID: 479164287**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**Michael Lanning**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
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Committee Members That Did Not Attend: Michael Lewis (NOAA), Conor O’Donnell (NH FGD), Chris Uraneck (ME DNR)

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

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Bradshaw welcomed the group and went over attendance.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chair Bradshaw moved to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved by consent. J. Rock moved to approve the meeting minutes. D. Player seconded that motion. **The agenda was approved by consent.**

**Approval of 2023 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes were approved by consent. J. Morgan moved to approve the meeting minutes. A. Willey seconded that motion. **The meeting minutes were approved by consent.**

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Current BIO TIP DATA**

S. Thomas went over the current Bio tip data load process. It is used by Southeast Fishery Science Center and in the Southern States. Currently, all of the states send the bio tip data to ACCSP and to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center separately, and this can create a lot of redundancy in the data sets. It can also create difficulty in data management to align changes in the data. ACCSP wants to streamline the data process. Instead of having each of the states send out the data separately 2 separate times. ACCSP would like the new data to be sent to ACCSP, and then ACCSP can send it to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center. This project is currently being worked on by ACCSP working on with North Carolina and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, getting that new data in and then also getting the historical data into our databases in preparation for this move. The intent is to streamline the data pathways and to provide greater data access for support for the Cedar process and other biological sampling queries.

**ACCSP Data Warehouse Biological Module Operations**

SEFSC TIP Data Transfer

L. Beerkircher gave a presentation on the SEFSC trip interviewer program, and the TIP data transfer.

Chair C. Bradshaw asked if there are any questions. J. Curtis asked about the data transfer between CEDAR and other stock assessment processes, and the challenges associated with that. L. Beerkircher noted at the SEFSC they recently released a CEDAR morphological template for age data, length data and size data. The scientists are developing a codes and models to run off that. The challenge tis to make sure data from ACCSP fits into codes. Chair C. Bradshaw asked if the data transferring in has the length data transfer with it merged in the data base. L. Beerkircher noted there is no immediate plans to transfer the biological data base and AGR data back into TIP tables.

Gulf and Caribbean TIP Data

S. Thomas asked the group should the ACCSP warehouse house the Gulf, Caribbean and TIP data?

L. Beerkircher noted certainly the prioritization of things like transformation of variables ports is a big tasks. We want to make sure we would map everything on the Atlantic Coast and get Atlantic Coast data in first. So that is definitely agreed and we will make that happen. They would have to assess the workload for transformation tables, and how much that lift is in terms of SEFSC and ACCSP. B. Linton noted this transition makes sense. J. DeFilippi Simpson noted streamlining will be useful from CEADAR perspective. J. Curtis followed up and noted there is a lot of recruitment from Gulf and Caribbean up into the South Atlantic. This affects the stock assessment data inputs. Anyway, to get this data in there and the transfer to make it more accessible can be beneficial. **The Gulf and Caribbean TIP data flow was approved by consent.**

S. Thomas asked the group if yes, does group agree on (Atlantic, Gulf, Caribbean) priority order?

L. Beerkircher noted this priority order makes sense. Caribbean data may be more of a workload so having it last makes sense. **The group agreed on the (Atlantic, Gulf, Caribbean) priority order by consent.**

NC DMF Biological Database Transfer

S. McInerny gave a presentation on the NC DMF Biological Database transfer. Funded in 2022. The project is making good progress and that is to build a fishery dependent biological database transmission portal to send data from our database to the ACCSP.

S. Thomas asked the group if there were any questions. G. White asked to clarify the users of the portal. S. McInerny noted users of the portal refer to North Carolina staff. Accessed by a URL internally in the network. G. White asked what programs 460, and 461 are? S. McInerny noted 438, and 439 is the fish house sampling. J. Rock noted 460 is miscellaneous sampling where they did not sample the entire catch just the species. J. Rock replied 461 is the gill net sampling program within the fish house.

Planned BIO TIP Data Load Process

S. Thomas asked South Carolina, Georgia and Florida with the new data flow. What is your capability to join with this new data pathway? S. Thomas noted ACCSP is now able to house data from previously funded projects. L. Beerkircher clarified Florida and South Carolina enter data into trip interview program. So, data is already there. Georgia data will be in TIP as well. G. White asked if they would be interested in future ACSCP project proposal. Chair C. Bradshaw noted Florida puts all of our intercepted commercial biological data into TIP. The only data that does not make it in that tie back to ACCSP is the secondary weights in any of the conversion factor programs. This is just because the structure of TIP. Florida has that data in a separate database, but those data are still transmitted to the to the Data Warehouse and are stored there like Florida did in the original conversion vector project. L. Beerkircher noted the money for South Carolina to collect biological data is meant for federal data. D. Player followed up with L. Beerkircher and noted currently everything that we enter into the TIP is just a federal species right now and that is what the funding is directed for.

Lobster and Herring Data Feeds

S. Thomas noted ACCSP is now ready to ingest previously funded projects, for Herring, Jonah crab and Lobster transitions. S. Thomas discussed the new biological data formats. For our new biological data sampling formats as well as maturity codes for finfish, crabs and lobsters. S. Thomas asked if there were any questions related to the data standards. C. Bradshaw asked if data is being pulled by masking for common names for example for Spiny Lobster. G. White noted there are IDS codes for Yankee Lobster and American Lobster. The American Lobster has been in the Data Warehouse since 2000-2001. This collected annually along with Jonah Crab and not just during a stock assessment. J. DeFilippi Simpson noted ACCSP has received data not in the current format. Asked partners what are the challenges to submitting data in the new format? Does this effect data for proposal submissions?

K. Dobbs-Kazan noted for New York the data has been sent the appropriate way in the past. However, they have had transitions in staff and staff time. A. Binstock noted as a new member from the Maine Department of Natural Resources this excel document is helpful for data formatting and data type. J. DeFilippi Simpson asked if it would be helpful to include this document on the website. The group agreed. **J. DeFilippi Simpson and S. Thomas will work together to include the Lobster and Herring Data Feed formatting document on the website.**

Ongoing Projects for Biological data warehousing

G. White noted S. Thomas and M. Rinaldi had already reached out to a few states. ACCSP is reach to store expanded biological inventories on the Data Warehouse. ACCSP plans to work with New Jersey, Maryland, and Rhode Island with previously funded projects to biological data to complete submission. S. Thomas noted ACCSP has received some data already. To also be on the look out for more email request for data.

N. Lengyel Costa noted Rhode Island has had so many projects. N. Lengyel Costa knows Rhode Island has a few projects for collecting biological data. Rhode Island would be happy to share any of the data collected with ACCSP. Rhode Island would not need too

much additional staff time. Suggested an advanced notice on format so they can get it out of the internal databases and ACCSP in a timely manner.

*Break*

**Biological Maturity and Sex Code Standardization**

S. Thomas went over the biological sample type code for maturity. We have 3 nested categories, the first the largest category called category allows ACCSP to group sample types by what type of data was collected. We have an object category which can carry things like otoliths or we have morphometric or character characteristic categories, which is a characteristic observation. The next level down further organizes the sample types into more specific groupings. The morphometric or characteristic category is split down into lengths and sex and maturity. The object category can be split down into age. Then lastly, the most specific level is the sample type, which is what is selected on site by samplers. Each 1 of these sample types have a code attached. Lengths can be split into total lengths. Sex and maturity can be split by gonads. Age can be split into otoliths age. These codes are ACCSP standards, so while not every state records every single sample type ACCSP has a code for every sample-to-sample type collected by each state. S. Thomas noted these codes were actually created via a small group during the 2018 Biological Review Committee meeting. Some of these codes have another level of detail. Which is a type of sub code that allows more information to be taken down, so in this case, we are going to be talking about these subcodes for maturity sample type. There are multiple groups of these sub codes. 74- Maturity code includes American Lobster, Jonah Crabs, Finfish, and Spiny Lobster. Finfish subcodes is an action item for the Committee.

Main Discussion Questions

* Do the finfish codes need to be updated to allow more detail for specific species?

E. Simpson noted if more detail was added and more codes, the concern is that there will not be that resolution in the field in a lot of cases with the 5 we generally use now. E. Simpson thinks that it already covers what is observable in a field environment for the most part. If adding in separate stages and it might be different for specific species. There are just not going to have the field staff being able to make those distinctions easily. A. Willey noted the codes were ran by the Striped Bass program biologists, and they were good with those codes.

**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. G. White asked if the states were aware of any additional projects to add into the inventories. ACCSP would like to have the inventories up to date before next RFP cycle in May.

**Hot Topics & Other Business**

Chair Bradshaw stated the biological priority matrix will be reviewed at the 2025 annual meeting. A. Christmas-Svajdlenka asked New York a question related to the Lobster biological data sent in December. A. Christmas-Svajdlenka asked who was this data sent to as ACCSP is currently looking for it. **K. Dobbs Kazan noted she will follow up and email the data team with the data information for New York.**

N. Lengyel Costa noted adding new species to the matrix is a timely task. N. Lengyel Costa suggested to revisit that process and talk about it. How to get new species on the matrix sooner? Last year, N. Lengyel Costa had brought Manta Shrimp or another species to be added. N. Lengyel Costa brought it up to the committee as a new species, but at that point, when it gets brought up, it is at the in person or virtual meeting where we are reviewing the matrix and so it does not get added then. N. Lengyel Costa noted if we can or cannot decide to add it, it does not go back out to the committee to be filled out and updated. Until 2 years later, when we are revisiting the matrix again to get it included in the RFP.

G. White suggested it is possible for ACCSP to host a webinar later this year. To discuss adding species into the matrix. J. DeFilippi Simpson noted in the past what we have done is when a new species was added. Whoever proposes it has to fill in all of the information they have to foil in all of the scores with the exception of the state priorities and or the Council and Commission priorities, and then each that is discussed at the meeting because that material is obviously distributed prior to the meeting and then so everyone comes prepared to discuss

That. Then the only thing that the that each partner needs to do is provide their own priority and that gets added in before it gets sent out. So that is how we have handled it in the past. There is not been a waiting period. N. Lengyel Costa noted preference towards this method. J. DeFilippi Simpson noted if the group feels the need to add Mantis Shrimp this time, because it was not added last time there is no issue from the RFP perspective to make that change. A. Willey, J. Rock and D. Player agreed with N. Lengyel Costa and J. DeFilippi Simpson.

**The group agreed by consent to add Mantis Shrimp to the biological matrix.**

**Adjourn**

Chair Bradshaw moved to adjourn the meeting. J. Morgan approved that motion. D. Player seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned by consent.

**Action Items**

1. **J. DeFilippi Simpson and S. Thomas will work together to include the Lobster and Herring Data Feed formatting document on the website.**
2. **K. Dobbs Kazan noted she will follow up and email the data team with the data information for New York.**
3. **The group agreed by consent to add Mantis Shrimp to the biological matrix.**