Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N | Arlington, VA 22201

703.842.0780 | 703.842.0779 (fax) | [www.accsp.org](http://www.accsp.org)

**Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Commercial Technical Committee**

**Annual Webinar**

**April 5th, 2023 | 9 am – 5pm**

**Calendar Link:**

<https://safis.accsp.org:8443/accsp_prod/f?p=2114:17:0::NO:17:P17_CAL_ID_1:3636>

**Webinar Information:**

<https://meet.goto.com/466998333>

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Partner** | **Phone** | **Email** |
| Renee St. Amand | CT DEEP | (860) 447-4325 | [renee.st.amand@ct.gov](mailto:renee.st.amand@ct.gov) |
| Nichole Ares | RI DMF | (401) 423-1926 | [nichole.ares@dem.ri.gov](mailto:nichole.ares@dem.ri.gov) |
| Donna Bellais | GSMFC | (228) 875-5912 | [dbellais@gsmfc.org](mailto:dbellais@gsmfc.org) |
| Alan Bianchi | NC DMF | (252) 808- 8092 | [ALAN.BIANCHI@NCDENR.GOV](mailto:ALAN.BIANCHI@NCDENR.GOV) |
| Chris Bradshaw (Chair) | FL FWCC | (727)896-8626 x4717 | [CHRIS.BRADSHAW@MYFWC.COM](mailto:CHRIS.BRADSHAW@MYFWC.COM) |
| Julie Califf | GA DNR | (912) 264-7218 | [julie.califf@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:julie.califf@dnr.ga.gov) |
| Barry Clifford | GARFO/NEFSC | (978)281-9148 | [BARRY.CLIFFORD@NOAA.GOV](mailto:BARRY.CLIFFORD@NOAA.GOV) |
| Julie Dingle | SC DNR | (843) 953-5136 | [dinglej@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:dinglej@dnr.sc.gov) |
| Dawn Franco | GA DNR |  | [dawn.franco@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:dawn.franco@dnr.ga.gov) |
| Garry Glanden | DE DFW |  | [garry.glanden@delaware.gov](mailto:garry.glanden@delaware.gov) |
| Matthew Heyl | NJ DFW | (609) 748-4334 | [matthew.heyl@dep.nj.gov](mailto:matthew.heyl@dep.nj.gov) |
| Eric Hiltz | SC DNR | (843) 953-9012 | [hiltze@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:hiltze@dnr.sc.gov) |
| Stephanie Iverson-Cason | VMRC | (757) 247-2061 | [stephanie.iverson@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:stephanie.iverson@mrc.virginia.gov) |
| Connie Lewis | MD DNR | (410) 260-8296 | [connie.lewis@maryland.gov](mailto:connie.lewis@maryland.gov) |
| Alan Lowther | NOAA |  | [alan.lowther@noaa.gov](mailto:alan.lowther@noaa.gov) |
| Holly McBride | NEFSC | (508) 495-2301 | [holly.mcbride@noaa.gov](mailto:holly.mcbride@noaa.gov) |
| Conor O’Donnell | NH FGD | (603) 868-1095 | [conor.odonnell@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:conor.odonnell@wildlife.nh.gov) |
| Rob Watts | ME DMR | (207) 633-9412 | [rob.watts@maine.gov](mailto:rob.watts@maine.gov) |
| Anna Webb  (Vice Chair) | MA DMF | (978) 282-0308 | [anna.webb@state.ma.us](mailto:anna.webb@state.ma.us) |

**Committee Members Not in Attendance:** M. Albino-Hegeman (NYS DEC), K. Anstead (ASMFC),G. Fanelli (NYS DEC), D. Gloeckner (SEFSC), M. Lewis (NOAA), S. Newlin (DE DFW), J. Stephen (SERO), J. Wilson (NOAA HMS)

**Others in Attendance:** Heather Baertlein (NOAA), Megan Barrow (NYS DEC), Nick Buchan (MA DMF), Michael Lanning (NOAA)

**Staff Members in Attendance:** A. Christmas-Svajdlenka (Data Coordinator)**,** J. Defilippi Simpson (Deputy Director), A. Lee (Data Coordinator), E. Martino (Software & IT Team Lead), D. Mestawat (Programmer), J. Myers (Senior Data Coordinator), J. Ni (Data Analyst), J. Oudiden (Programmer), M. Powell (Program Assistant), H. Power (Senior Data Coordinator), M. Rinaldi (Data Team Lead), G. White (Director)

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Bradshaw welcomed the group.

**Review and Approve Agenda**

Chair Bradshaw moved to approved the agenda. The agenda was approved by consent.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Review and Approve Past Meeting Minutes**

Chair Bradshaw moved to approve the previous meeting minutes. It was noted to remember that Amanda Tong should be removed from attendance list.

**M. Powell will remove Amanda Tong from previous meeting minutes attendance list.**

The previous meeting minutes were approved with the approved changes.

**Total commercial discard removals or inclusion in ACCSP data layers**

A. Christmas-Svajdlenka discussed commercial discard removals. In September of 2022, HMS presented discard issues to ACCSP. At the time, harvester trip reports with specific dispositions were sent to consolidated landings. For dealer reports where landings were purchased from a harvester were also sent to consolidated landings. HMS noticed some discards were being reported incorrectly as they were not included in the consolidated landings. The current approach includes both harvester and dealer reported discards.

ACCSP presented the idea of a comprehensive commercial data set that represented all commercial removals. The hypothetical data could include both all reported landings and dead harvester discards. Responses from the partners were as follows:

* (A. Webb) the data set may not be a useful resource due to it incompleteness, as Massachusetts does not require harvesters to report dead discards
* (R. Watts) Maine only collects discards for certain fisheries, and does not validate discard reporting
* (N. Ares) Rhode Island does not collect discard data, and that incomplete data are not useful for an assessment
* (E. Hiltz) South Carolina rarely collects discards
* (H. McBride) GARFO validates and uses discard data
* (H. Baertenlein) discard data are collected through vessel data from the SEFSC
* (R. St. Amand) Connecticut allows their harvesters to report discards, but the field is not required

M. Rinaldi noted that discard data are not currently available in nightly materialized views, and are not provided by ACCSP via custom data requests or any other public query. This was brought to ACCSP’s attention from data requests and state representatives queries on commercial removals.

A. Christmas-Svajdlenka suggested that the discard data as consolidated removals would be valuable for federal partners, with the distinction of incomplete datasets. Chair Bradshaw agreed. H. Baertlein noted harvester discard data should be available but separated. M. Rinaldi clarified that this would be an additional dataset; separated MV landings. ACCSP currently receives discard data from federal harvesters using SAFIS eTrips. A. Webb suggested that the discussion should be brought to the accountability group to determine how best to handle the dissemination of metadata. M. Rinaldi confirmed that any current requests for discard data are sent to NMFS.

Chair Bradshaw proposed a final request to include discard data as consolidated removals as a separate table listing incomplete metadata, and not EM validated discard data. A. Christmas-Svajdlenka proposed tabling the creation of this datasets due to the limited and sporadic data and until states possibly move to a more detailed discard reporting system. The group agree to table this discussion.

**A. Christmas-Svajdlenka will send an email regarding further discussion for the total commercial discard removals and inclusion in ACCSP data layers.**

**SAFIS Trip Queries in the Data Warehouse**

M. Rinaldi provided a demo of new SAFIS harvester data query pages in the Data Warehouse. These new pages allow confidential users to query partner-managed additional elements and create custom, downloadable reports. In response to questions from A. Webb, M. Rinaldi stated that data source could be filtered in the interactive report, and that attributes are shared across partners, and thus not able to be filtered by individual partners.

**Break**

**Conversion Factors: Project update and temporal component**

A. Christmas-Svajdlenka went over the conversion factor project and provided updates. In 2020, partners submitted an RFP to review improving conversion factor and sampling methodology for 5 species, including American Eel, Atlantic Menhaden, Snowy Grouper, Blue Crab and Sharp nose shark. Rhode Island has ongoing sampling efforts till June 2023. New Jersey has ongoing sampling until August 2023. Virginia sampling for Menhaden is completed. North Carolina is completed. Florida has ongoing sampling until June 2023. There has been advancement in temporal data providing area codes, subarea codes, and more information on gear, market, and species.

Chair Bradshaw noted Florida along with the Gulf of Mexico use temporal components for Brown, White and Pink Shrimp. There was old data for shrimp conversions which led to a change in Shrimp conversion factors. The states discussed and decided to set a start date for the new conversion factor considering a temporal time and body of water. Temporal components specify grade, species, unit and market. Florida worked with J. Ni of ACCSP on codes to establish the table.

A. Christmas-Svajdlenka asked the group for a unanimous Committee decision on the conversion factors. The group discussed. H. McBride noted that there have always been federal conversion factors. If conversion factors were managed by partners, federal conversion factors would be represented by state. The group is in favor of reviewing the conversion factor approach. Chair Bradshaw noted future tasks include reviewing spatial and temporal data and seeing if it is supported.

**A. Christmas-Svajdlenka stated ACCSP will review data and will reach out to the Committee members for a small subcommittee for conversion factors.**

A. Bianchi agreed to serve as a contributing member.

**State-Permitted Fishing Tournaments and Dealer Reports**

A. Lowther went over State-Permitted Fishing Tournaments and Dealer Reports. A South Atlantic council meeting addressed recreational tournament landings handled by commercial dealers that go into the data collection stream. A. Bianchi noted North Carolina needs specific licenses to relate to the tournament with the landings on a trip ticket. In South Carolina this issue does not occur. A. Lowther stated that the goal was to discover a consistent way to identify tournament landings for ACCSP data.

M. Rinaldi noted that a SAFIS dealer report would include a tournament catch source which would need approval from the Standard Codes committee. A. Bianchi noted it is not the dealer in South Carolina that gets special licenses it’s the tournament themselves. The dealer records the fishers license number. J. Califf agreed with the proposed solution. A. Lowther suggested outreach for dealers and asked if recreational tournaments in Northeast region end up on a trip ticket. C. Lewis noted in Maryland it should not be happening as recreationally caught fish are not allowed to be sold. J. Califf noted King Mackerel has a similar issue.

**The committee agreed to the use of an additional catch source code to indicate tournament landings. A. Lowther will work with J. Myers at ACCSP to bring the recommendation to the ACCSP Standard Codes committee.**

**Confidential Access Standards**

A. Christmas-Svajdlenka discussed the prioritization of splitting nondisclosure agreements and database accounts. The issue has been brought up by multiple partners in previous committee meetings. When a partner grants confidential access to user, it creates signed nondisclosure agreements and a database account, giving the user access to that partner’s full trip level data. This occurs regardless if the user wanted full access to the partner’s database or species-specific data. The proposed dataflow consists of separating the NDA process from the data access. This is a possible 2024 action item considering ACCSP workload and processing time.

J. DeFilippi Simpson clarified and noted that the separation is that the user would not get a database account with the proposed data flow. They will sign the confidentiality form, and still get a custom data request which differs from the current path where the user signs the confidentiality form and gets a database account that allows them to see the data. M. Rinaldi followed up to say that the state would approve the request with database access. The change would have additional questions or features that allow only certain specific data to appear.

**A. Christmas-Svajdlenka noted ACCSP will review the data flow and workload and return to the Committee with results.**

S. Iverson-Cason noted in Virginia, there are a lot of open accounts due to fishers not submitting non-disclosure agreements and asked how to highlight this for users. C. Bradshaw noted Florida has the same issue. M. Rinaldi noted the link is included in the automated email.

**Lunch**

**Clarification on the Disposition Code 013: Packing, only**

H. Baertlein reviewed the possibility of duplication and missing reports when using the packing only disposition code. HMS compares packing only disposition code landings to landings entered as food to indicate which records that should or should not be included in summary reports.

A. Webb asked if there is a way to correct this issue using source data. H. Baertlein confirmed that the goal is to have the dealer submit the landing information but currently, a temporary proxy is created until the dealer is contacted to submit the missing report. H. Baertlein clarified that not all states were required to submit packout information and the reports are tracked after submission based on how the dealer submitted their report. J. Dingle noted that South Carolina has local packouts. M. Rinaldi noted that ACCSP excludes the matching packout records during the review process. Records from HMS that do not have matches during the review process can be flagged. H. McBride asked how this would affect missing reports. H. Baertlein noted that they follow up with dealers to get correct information. B. Clifford asked if there is any way to automate the process if a purchasing dealer submits a report to remove the packout. H. Baertlein noted they are in discussion with the SEFSC on this issue. H. McBride suggested that state contacts should work with HMS with contacting dealers for missing food reports. A. Christmas-Svajdlenka noted that ACCSP can work with HMS and the affiliated partners in a situation with only packout reports.

**By consensus, the group agreed help HMS determine the missing food reports from the initial packing only dealer.**

A. Christmas-Svajdlenka discussed the utility of the alternate packing only disposition by partners, and potential need for a new disposition code. Maine noted pack in as a product that was landed, but not sold using pack in material. This is used for Maine seaweed. A. Christmas-Svajdlenka asked the group if there were any other partners that collect this kind of data. If so, is there a need to create a new disposition code to capture that kind of information. M. Rinaldi confirmed that only Maine used the packing only disposition to represent any seaweed landed. R. Watts agreed that Maine should bring this to standard codes to discuss the creation of a better deposition code.

Chair Bradshaw followed up with R. Watts and asked why Maine uses seaweed for packout. R. Watts noted if seaweed is present it is used for packout data similar to worm bait as packing material.

**ACCSP and J. Myers will follow up with R. Watts and Maine to discuss the addition of a new disposition code for packing materials with the standard codes committee.**

**SAFIS Redesign: Registration Tracking update**

J. DeFilippi Simpson reviewed the registration tracking module which is the component of the database that houses all the entities: the people, cooperation, the vessels and permits. The module with relationship between the different entities currently exists but needs some improvement of this module. Right now, ACCSP shows the cooperate name and individual name all on one record when this cooperation may include several different vessels or permits. The goal is to expand this record. A small group met in 2018 to discuss this goal. Currently, ACCSP is working on this project and has a goal to implement by first quarter of 2024. A. Webb asked for an estimated partner workload. J. DeFilippi Simpson noted right now they are reviewing documentation including scenario diagrams and spreadsheets.

**Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Chair Bradshaw stepped down as chair moving A. Webb from vice-chair to the active Chair. J. Dingle of South Carolina volunteered to become vice-chair of the Commercial Technical Committee.

**New Business**

Chair Bradshaw discussed aquaculture issues in Florida report through trip tickets. A. Webb questioned if partners experienced fisheries dealers working together but reporting separately. E. Hiltz noted a similar issue in South Carolina with Horseshoe Crab but that data is not uploaded to ACCSP. R. Watts reported a similar issue in Maine where he mentioned to ACCSP what records should be flagged. M. Rinaldi noted the registration tracking redesign may help with this issue.

**Other Business**

NOAA Catch and Monitoring (CAMS) system presentation

M. Lanning discussed the Catch and Monitoring system. A. Webb asked about the relationship between the data warehouse and CAMS. M. Lanning noted that any changes will not affect the relationship between partners, the Data Warehouse and CAMS.

Any questions can be directed towards: [j.michael.lanning@noaa.gov](mailto:j.michael.lanning@noaa.gov).

Accountability update

J. DeFilippi Simpson went over the accountability update. J. DeFilippi Simpson noted workshop objectives and the VMS module (ACCSP functions and features). The VMS module will be presented during the Information Systems webinar (April 6th, 2023).

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by consent.

**Action Items**

1. **M. Powell will remove Amanda Tong from previous meeting minutes attendance list.**
2. **A. Christmas-Svajdlenka will send an email regarding further discussion for the total commercial discard removals and inclusion in ACCSP data layers.**
3. **A. Christmas-Svajdlenka will reach out to the Committee members for a small subcommittee for conversion factors.**
4. **By consensus, the group agreed help HMS determine the missing food reports from the initial packing only dealer.**
5. **The committee agreed to the use of an additional catch source code to indicate tournament landings. A. Lowther will work with J. Myers at ACCSP to bring the recommendation to the ACCSP Standard Codes committee.**
6. **A. Christmas-Svajdlenka noted ACCSP will review the data flow and workload and return to the Committee with results.**
7. **ACCSP and J. Myers will follow up with R. Watts and Maine to discuss the addition of a new disposition code for packing materials with the standard codes committee.**