

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 Recreational Technical Committee

Virtual

Materials on ACCSP [Calendar](https://asmfc.sharefile.com/share/view/sa01da36f8be042498310c685a05fe04d/focd2a48-d1f7-44a5-9c0e-16c30cc3b9ea)

December 5, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Webinar: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/703662947> | Phone: (650) 419-1505; Code: 703662947

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Partner** | **Phone** | **Email** |
| Matt Ayer  | MA DMF |  | matt.ayer@mass.gov  |
| James Ballard | USFWS |  | james\_ballard@fws.gov |
| Rob Chershire | NMFS |  | rob.cheshire@noaa.gov  |
| Judd Curtis  | SAFMC |  | judd.curtis@safmc.net  |
| Micah Dean  | MA DMF |  | micah.dean@mass.gov  |
| Jason Didden  | MAFMC | (302) 526-5254 | jdidden@mafmc.org  |
| Katie Drew | ASMFC | (703) 842-0725 | kdrew@asmfc.org |
| Brad Floyd | SC DNR | (843) 953-9847 | floydb@dnr.sc.gov |
| John Foster  | NOAA |  | john.foster@noaa.gov |
| Dawn Franco | GA DNR | (912) 266-4156 | dawn.franco@dnr.ga.gov |
| Angela Giuliano | MD DNR | (410) 260-8284 | angela.giuliano@maryland.gov |
| Garry Glanden  | DE DFW |  | garry.glanden@delaware.gov  |
| Aimee Griffin | FL FWCC | (727) 892-4126 | aimee.griffin@myfwc.com  |
| Cliff Hutt | NOAA HMS | (301) 427-8542 | cliff.hutt@noaa.gov |
| Carolyn Iwicki | NOAA |  | carolyn.iwicki@noaa.gov |
| Amber Johnson  | NJ DEP |  | amber.johnson@dep.nj.gov |
| Francine Karp | RI-REC |  | fkarp@harborlightsoftware.com  |
| John Lake | RI DMF | (401) 423-1942 | john.lake@dem.ri.gov  |
| Michael Larkin  | SERO |  | michael.larkin@noaa.gov  |
| Michelle Masi  | SERO |  | michelle.masi@noaa.gov  |
| Dave Martins | MA DMF | (508) 990-2860 | dave.martins@state.ma.us  |
| David McCarron  | NEFMC |  | dmccarron@nefmc.org  |
| Joshua McGilly  | VMRC |  | joshua.mcgilly@mrc.virginia.gov  |
| Jeffrey Moore | NC DEQ |  | jeffrey.n.moore@deq.nc.gov |
| Ethan Simpson  | VMRC |  |  |
| Rachel Sysak | NYS DEC |  | rachel.sysak@dec.ny.gov |
| Kristen Thiebault | MA DMF |  | kristen.thiebault@mass.gov  |
| Sara Turner  | NOAA |  | sara.turner@noaa.gov |
| Chris Uraneck  | ME DMR |  | chris.b.uraneck@maine.gov |
| Greg Wojcik | CT DEP FISHERIES |  | gregory.wojcik@ct.gov |
| Emerald Wright | NH FGD, MARINE DIVISION |  | emerald.f.wright@wildlife.nh.gov |
| Renee Zobel | NH FGD, MARINE DIVISION |  | renee.zobel@wildlife.nh.gov |

Staff Members in Attendance: A. DiJohnson (Recreational Team Lead), M. Powell (Program Assistant), T. Scheffel (Data Coordinator), G. White (ACCSP Director)

**Welcome and Roll Call**

T. Scheffel did attendance.

**Review and Approve Agenda**

Chair A. Giuliano went over the agenda. The agenda was approved by consent.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Review and Approve March 20-21, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Chair A. Giuliano went over the previous meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved by consent.

**Requests to MRIP: Area Fished & Depredation**

C. Hutt suggested adding disposition codes on questions 29 and 31 to identify catch due to discard depredation or release. Plans to discuss with implementation council, receive feedback from NMFS and then submit a full proposal to the Recreational Technical Committee.

T. Scheffel noted that discussion of this proposal can continue next year at the next meeting.

M. Dean presented a discussion on Collecting Area-Fished in MRIP interviews.

*Questions*

R. Sysak asked which subarea the presentation was referring to, the larger NMFS statistical areas or sub areas. M. Dean noted permitted vessels that consisted of reporting sub areas.

D. Franco discussed the Atlantic coast fishing areas and the 10-minute squares. D. Franco asked how the graphic has a small range when the actual 10 minutes square is larger. M. Dean noted that this data set captures the average across the fishery. D. Franco asked for clarity on the utility of the 10- minute squares. Suggested asking the fishers their average fishing depth.

J. Moore asked if this idea of average depth reported on a latitude/ longitude still works even if different regions use different scales. M. Dean noted some regions have greater data needs than others.

J. McGilly followed up and agreed with D. Franco. Noted commercial and recreational fisheries are different. Noted the graphic on Cape May, NJ and stated one could easily fish in 4 of those 10 minute square. Once recreational anglers hear about wind farms this could cause complications. M. Dean replied and noted the information can only be known by attempting to collect it. R. Sysak noted concern on consistency of datasets. Suggested coastal input for the transition. Encouraged more improvements in spatial data and utilizing the sub codes NMFS already use. Noted sub areas are only in Massachusetts state waters. Discard mortality and wind farm impacts would be unusable spatial resolution. C. Hutt provided general support for the presentation. Noted an extreme lack in location data in recreational data. M. Larkin followed up with C. Hutt and agreed. Note the public may be confused by maps. J. Lake voiced support for the proposal. C. Uraneck also voiced support for the proposal and noted Maine collects GPS and Latitude and Longitude data. C. Uraneck stated that for wind farms and spatial resolution Maine found the data was not good enough. K. Drew stated support for a pilot study based on this project. M. Dean asked for clarification on the pilot program asked if this would be a set of scopes or one a subset of intercepts. K. Drew noted this project could be addressed similarly to the process of the pilot discards program project. The states who are interested can volunteer and additional intercepts could be added for testing in the field.

T. Scheffel noted in the chat that some members asked about clarification on the public learning survey. T. Scheffel replied that the purpose is to learn the map tool. J. Moore noted the data needs support North Carolina would find spatial data valuable for stocks and regional patterns. J. Moore suggested adding the phone number question. M. Dean asked thoughts of having angler identify confidence score. J. Moore noted that any question added would be of concern.

J. Foster confirmed that spatial data is collected around the main fishing locations. Anglers can provide their own coordinates if needed. J. Foster showed support for pilot study and noted it is critical to tailor this to the tablets. A. Giuliano noted support in standardizing across different smaller fisheries. D. Franco noted Georgia has been pushing for depth data and suggested 30-minute squares. D. Franco noted depth and distances from shore are the most important factors. Wind farm data should be collected separately. G. White noted this project is not for 2025. This is a part of a bigger picture, structuring the grid size. G. White noted once consensus is reached by the Recreational Committee, it goes to Operations Committee and the Advisory Panel. After which is under consideration by the Coordinating Council this can move the timeline to mid-2025. R. Sysak asked when the Committee is deciding and if there is a requirement to have the same questions to concur with new questions to calibrate MRIP. R. Sysak asked about the MRIP process, and if it included a pilot program. G. White noted that questions cannot be removed from estimates if important. However, analyzing new additional new questions is possible. J. Foster noted there is a benefit to doing this as a test, the time series must be maintained. J. Moore and J. McGilly noted support for moving forward with the Recreational Technical Committee to support adding questions to the APAIS in pilot form.

**Update on Discards Proposal**

Chair. A. Giuliano provided an update on the discards proposals. Noted the subcommittee met with NOAA OST to discuss overdrawn assignments. The timeline for the catch cards to be implemented would be May 2025. The next subcommittee meeting is the following week to discuss procedures and interview APAIS interviewers, as well as discussing ACCSP database updates for DIA, and ATA, and potential ACCSP website outreach.

**ACCSP Committees: Intrastate Communication**

ACCSP staff will provided background on ongoing action from ACCSP Coordinating Council request for increasing communication between committee levels within each state.

G. White provided background on intrastate communication with the goal to extend awareness of and gather agency input for Committee efforts within partner agencies.

The group agreed meeting summaries would be beneficial.

**RTC Chair and Vice-chair**

Chair. A. Giuliano stepped down as chair. D. Franco will move to chair. Chair. A. Giuliano nominated R. Sysak to be vice chair. J. Moore seconded that motion.

**Other Business**

T. Scheffel went over vessel directory updates for Wave 1. The due date for vessel directory updates for Wave 1 FHTS is due December 12, 2024. The MFA allocation is due January 17, 2025. Next draw is February 1st. Maryland- Georgia are already sampling Wave 1. T. Scheffel noted if in the process of updating the vessel directory to make sure all updates are complete before the due date before COB December 13th. T. Scheffel discussed Recreational Technical in person meeting. This is where a review workshop for the MRIP estimate review process can take place. Requested for potential agenda items for discussion to be sent via email if necessary.

D. Martins noted an estimate review workshop could be beneficial.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by consent.