

ACCSP Annual Report 2016



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U.S. Marine Fisheries Management & the Atlantic Coast

Authority for marine fisheries management is divided among state, federal, and regional entities by jurisdictional boundaries.

The states manage fisheries resources within 3 nautical miles (nm) of their coastlines, while the federal government manages fisheries of the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending from the 3 nm state boundary to 200 nm boundary of the EEZ.

While convenient for organizational purposes, these boundaries do not lend themselves to the effective management of species that regularly move across them. Coordination among the coastal states, regional councils, and federal government is necessary to align fisheries management programs' goals and approaches.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Recognizing that they could accomplish more through cooperation rather than individual effort, the Atlantic coastal states established the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission or ASMFC) to manage their shared migratory fishery resources.

Today, the Atlantic coastal states use the Commission as the deliberative body by which they coordinate the management of 27 nearshore fish species.



"Fishing Boats at Kent Narrows" © Ali Schwaab

Science-based Management and the Need for Data

Over the past several decades, a paradigm shift to science-based fisheries management has created a need for fisheries data to inform stock assessments and management decisions.

Just as the authority to manage marine fisheries is divided among state and federal agencies and commissions; so, too, is the authority to collect fisheries data. Thus, numerous data collection programs have evolved independently of one another. These programs often differ in the:

- Data collection methods employed
- Data elements collected
- Spatial and temporal scales covered
- Codes used to record the data
- Structure of information systems used to manage the data

These differences prevented standardization of trip-level catch and effort reporting and universal permit and registration tracking, ultimately hindering regional analyses.

Formation of the ACCSP

Following the same logic that led them to establish the Commission, the Atlantic coastal states realized that addressing these incompatibilities cooperatively would streamline data collection, improve data quality, and make reporting simpler for fishermen and seafood dealers.

In 1995, the 23 agencies responsible for Atlantic coast fisheries management established the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics program (ACCSP) to standardize fisheries-dependent data collection.

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Overview

The ACCSP designs, implements, and conducts fisheries statistics data collection programs and integrates those data into a single management system designed to meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen.

Atlantic Coast Data Standards

ACCSP maintains the Atlantic Coast Data Standards, a compilation of policies, data collection standards, and data management standards that guide Program activities. Implementing these standards helps the Partners obtain accurate and timely fisheries-dependent data necessary for their conservation and management activities.

By creating a common set of data standards, management agencies can share and aggregate data for larger scale analyses without compromising the data, maximizing efficiency and eliminating duplicate data collection efforts in the process.

ACCSP & Committee Structure

Since its inception in 1995, ACCSP has worked with the Partners to improve and coordinate fisheries-dependent data collection, processing, and dissemination for both recreational and commercial marine fisheries.

The Program employs a committee-based structure that encourages Partners to address data challenges together. Populated with expert representatives from each agency, these committees develop and update the

Program's Data Collection Standards, set and prioritize Program goals, and determine annual funding allocations. In working together, the partners develop mutually beneficial solutions to fisheries data challenges.

The program is lead by the ACCSP's Coordinating Council, which establishes policies to guide the Program and oversees program standards and implementation.

The Coordinating Council receives recommendations from both the Operations and Advisory committees. These committees guide the development of program standards and review annual project funding priorities.

The Operations Committee, composed of managers from each of the Partner Agencies and the Advisory Committee, composed of representatives

ACCSP Technical Committees

Biological Review Panel	The Biological Review Panel maintains the biological sampling priority matrix, the biological sampling program inventory, and develops and maintains standards for the collection of biological data.
Bycatch Prioritization	The Bycatch Prioritization Committee develops strategies to collect and manage bycatch and protected species data, including at-sea and port discards and information on protected species interactions.
Commercial Technical	The Commercial Technical Committee develops catch and effort data standards for all species commercially harvested on the Atlantic coast and updates and maintains codes to improve commercial reporting systems.
Information Systems	The Information Systems Committee identifies software tools to meet broadening reporting needs and assists in the development of recommendations to continually improve ACCSP software applications.
Recreational Technical	The Recreational Technical Committee develops collection standards for monitoring catch and effort of recreational and for-hire fisheries.
Standard Codes	The new Standard Codes Committee develops and maintains codes for Atlantic fisheries data. This includes clarifying code usage, eliminating reporting of outdated codes, addressing discrepancies across codes, and introducing new codes as needed.



The ACCSP staff, clockwise from top: Karen Holmes, Alex DiJohnson, Director Mike Cahall, Coleby Wilt, Geoff White, Joe Myers, Ali Schwaab, Sarah Rains, Julie Defilippi-Simpson, Jen Ni, Elizabeth Wyatt, Heather Konell, Ed Martino, and Nico Mwai.

from all fisheries sectors and academics as well, provide both policy and technical recommendations to the Coordinating Council.

The Advisors ensure the fishing industry perspective is considered in the development and implementation of the Program. At least one member of this Committee also sits on each technical committee to provide industry feedback.

The Technical Committees form the foundation of the committee structure, developing program standards under the guidance of the policy committees. The six Technical Committees are described in the table to the left.

Relationship with ASMFC

ASMFC has provided ACCSP's administrative support since the Program's inception; however, until 2016 the Program remained independent of Commission activities.

In 2016, the ASMFC Commissioners and ACCSP Coordinating Council voted to move the Program under ASMFC to achieve efficiencies and integrate many interrelated staff activities.

Fisheries Information Networks

The Fisheries Information Networks (FINs) are regional fisheries data repositories that, as



members of the Fisheries Information System program (FIS), provide a link between national and state/regional data collection programs. The ACCSP's Data Warehouse is the Atlantic coast system for fishery-dependent landings for FIS.

Collaboration and cooperation have always been central to ACCSP's interaction with Partners. These tenets also extend to working with other regional and national programs. The regional offices and FINs share software applications and lessons learned with one another so that all may benefit.



Program Activities

ACCSP Vision: To be the principal source of fisheries-dependent information on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners in the collection and processing of common fisheries data and dissemination of the information for purposes of fisheries science and management.

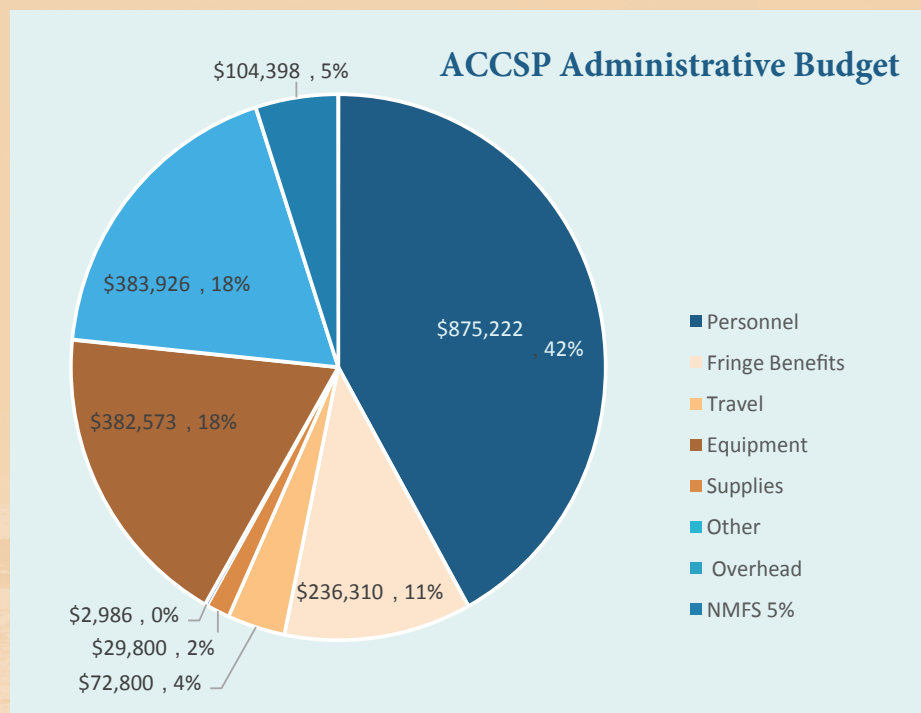
1. Standardizing Data Collection & Reporting

Developed and maintained by the Partners, the Data Collection Standards guide partner data collection activities by providing detailed information on how data should be collected and reported. In doing so, the standards help ensure consistency across fisheries datasets, making collaborative data solutions possible.

2. Improving Fisheries Data Collection & Reporting

The Partners work with ACCSP staff to design and implement applications that make fisheries-dependent data collection easier, more accurate, and more efficient. Committee members set data collection goals and work with ACCSP's IT professionals to achieve them.

ACCSP staff and contractors work with usability in mind, conducting pre-development user surveys and beta-testing new applications to ensure that applications are intuitive and flexible, and that they satisfy both management and user needs.



3. Processing and Disseminating Data

What good is all this data unless it's easy to access and understand? ACCSP integrates all fisheries-dependent data for the Atlantic coast into a single user-friendly database, the Data Warehouse.

This single data management system ensures that different stakeholders — including fishery managers, stock assessments, and commercial and recreational fishermen — are all presented with the same Atlantic coast fisheries data (albeit at different levels of specificity).

4. Supporting Partner Projects

ACCSP supports further innovation in fisheries-dependent data collection and management through its annual project funding process. Funding is awarded to Program Partners for projects that support the Program priorities defined by the Partners. Projects are evaluated based on their potential to help achieve Program goals. The goals for FY2016 are listed below in order of priority.

1. Catch, effort, and landings data
2. Biological data
3. Releases, discards and protected species data
4. Economic and sociological data



FY16 Funded Projects

Partner	Project Title
Maine DMR	Managing Mandatory Dealer Reporting in Maine
	Portside commercial catch sampling and comparative bycatch sampling for Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, and Atlantic menhaden fisheries
Massachusetts DMF	Electronic Trip-Level Reporting for the Massachusetts For-hire Sector
Rhode Island DFW	Maintenance and Coordination of Fishery-Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island
	Implementation of a Barcode Commercial Fishing License in Rhode Island
New York State DEC	Improving Trip-level Reporting and Quota Monitoring for New York Commercial and For-hire Fisheries
New Jersey DFW	Electronic Reporting and Biological Characterization of New Jersey Commercial Fisheries
South Carolina DNR	ACCSP Data Reporting from South Carolina's Commercial Fisheries
Georgia DNR	Piloting Electronic Commercial Data Collection and Developing a Data Sharing System in Georgia
NOAA Fisheries' SEFSC	Continued Processing and Aging of Biological Samples Collected from U.S. South Atlantic Commercial and Recreational Fisheries in Response to ACCSP Bio-sample targets
South Atlantic FMC	South Atlantic States Pilot Implementation Proposal: Charterboat Electronic Data Collection
ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee and Florida FWCC	Increase at-sea sampling levels for the recreational headboat fishery on the Atlantic coast (New Hampshire through Georgia)
ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee	Increase At-sea Sampling Levels for the Recreational Headboat Fishery on the Atlantic Coast (New Hampshire through Florida)

ACCSP is funded both through the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act and the NOAA Fisheries Fisheries Information System Program. In 2016, \$1.6 million of the approximate \$3.5 million ACCSP receives annually was allocated to Partner projects. Selected projects are listed in the above table. The remaining funds used to operate the Program itself account for roughly 60% of the Program's annual budget. The breakdown of the Administrative Budget is provided in the chart on the preceding page.

Improving Fisheries-dependent Data Collection &

Collecting fisheries data via paper trip and dealer reports is expensive and time-consuming. Paper-based reports suffer from legibility issues and are prone to errors. In 2003, using data standards developed by the committee process, ACCSP developed and deployed a coastwide data collection system for real-time landings data, the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS).

SAFIS & Electronic Reporting

Originally created for dealer reporting, SAFIS has evolved over the past decade into a large multi-agency fisheries-dependent data collection tool. SAFIS is currently deployed as a series of modules that collect dealer landings and vessel trip reports via online and tablet-based systems.

Today, SAFIS consists of five distinct online applications and two accompanying mobile applications designed to allow fishermen and dealers to report data electronically.

While the five applications function independently, they are all kept within the same database and share standards and codes that are ACCSP-compliant.

eTrips

eTrips allows fishermen to create and submit electronic trip reports online. eTrips can also create interactive reports that summarize the fisherman's history of catch and effort and illustrate progress. ACCSP has also released a mobile version, eTrips/Mobile, to allow fishermen to complete and submit trip reports using tablets.

eLogbook

eLogbook allows recreational anglers to submit catch and effort data voluntarily. The application can be used to save daily entries and formulate summaries of information on all species caught by the angler.

eDR

eDR allows dealers to enter and submit electronic dealer reports online. ACCSP has also developed a mobile version of the application, eDR/Mobile, that can be used on tablets with or without harvester swipecards.

e-1Ticket

e-1Ticket allows a harvester and dealer to report trip and landings data together on a single report.

SMS

SMS facilitates maintenance of Partner-specific data, such as participants, permits, and vessels.



- Provides up-to-date information on species caught
- Shows the impact of landings on fisheries and quotas across jurisdictions
- Summarizes reporting history for fishermen and dealers
- Fulfills state and federal reporting requirements through online data entry
- Reduces duplicative reporting
- Has the ability to collect highly migratory species data
- Features integrated price board to generate pricing information automatically.
- Allows users to create favorites, so reporting is quick and easy



9 year-old Thomas White with a shad.
Credit: Geoff White

Reporting

SAFIS continues to grow and evolve in response to Partner needs. These needs are identified and explored through the technical committees, and their prioritization is reflected both in committee actions and in the annual project funding recommendations.

eDR Expansion for Bluefin Tuna

In 2016, for example, SAFIS eDR was expanded to accommodate collection of electronic dealer reports for bluefin tuna.

Previously, bluefin tuna dealers reported landings via paper forms that were faxed to NOAA Fisheries and processed by specialized software. Issues with this software and the need for more accurate landings data prompted NOAA Fisheries to mandate electronic reporting of bluefin tuna landings by federal dealers.

Dealers who already use SAFIS regularly will now be able to reduce their reporting burden further by entering all highly migratory species landed per trip into eDR, including bluefin tuna.

eTrips/mobile

In response to requests from Rhode Island captains, ACCSP developed a mobile version of eTrips, eTrips/Mobile (eTrips/M), back in 2014 to enable at-sea trip reporting.

The application is now available to anyone who wishes to use it in jurisdictions that have adopted electronic trip reporting through

More Timely Data

The SAFIS applications eliminate mailing and processing times associated with paper reporting, making fisheries data available to fisheries managers immediately. These more timely data help fisheries managers monitor quotas more closely and adjust management measures quickly.

Fewer User Errors

By parameterizing the data fields in each application, the Program helps to reduce error introduced into the datasets through user entry.

Compatible Datasets

The Partners' adherence to the Atlantic Coast Data Standards makes comparison and analysis of states' fisheries datasets possible.

SAFIS. In 2016, the Greater Atlantic Fisheries Office authorized eTrips/M for eVTR submission in the Greater Atlantic Region.

eTrips/M continues to attract attention among agencies, commercial fishermen, and for-hire captains. ACCSP is currently preparing for an anticipated increase in the number of eTrips/M users.

To support fishermen in their transition to mobile electronic trip reporting, ACCSP has developed user tutorials and supporting materials. The Program is also in the process of setting up a 24-hour helpdesk for eTrips/M users.

Partner Project: eDR/Mobile

In 2016, ACCSP released a swipe-card-enabled, mobile version of eDR for tablet computers, the culmination of an ACCSP-funded, joint Partner Project conducted by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the Maine Department of Marine Resources.

eDR/Mobile (eDR/M) uses state-issued harvester swipe-

cards to identify harvesters and vessels as part of the dealer reporting process. This allows dealers to verify that a harvester is authorized to sell a given species before making a purchase. Using the information saved on the card, a dealer can quickly complete his/her landings report and submit the data directly to SAFIS.

Beginning with the start of sea urchin season in September of 2016, Maine DMR required that state and federal dealers report sea urchin landings using eDR/M. Fishery managers are able to access data submitted through eDR/M for real-time quota monitoring and compliance tracking. ME DMR plans to mandate use of the system for scallop dealers beginning with the 2017 scallop season.

In Massachusetts, state shellfish dealers are opting to use the application voluntarily. Several other ACCSP Partners have expressed interest in adopting eDR/M since its release.



Improving Recreational Fisheries-dependent Data

On the Atlantic coast in 2015, recreational fishermen took **nearly 34 million fishing trips**¹. By comparison, commercial fishermen tallied **almost 837,000 fishing trips**². The number of recreational fishermen and the variety of fishing sites makes a census approach to data collection infeasible. Instead, a subset of recreational fishermen are surveyed about their catch and effort, and these data are used to estimate total recreational catch.

State Conduct of APAIS

In 2016 all thirteen Atlantic states from Maine to Georgia conducted the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) in their respective jurisdictions.

As the catch component of MRIP data collection, APAIS is designed to collect information on angler catch to inform recreational harvest estimates. State samplers conduct angler interviews at local, public access fishing sites and then transmit the data collected to ACCSP for processing.

ACCSP's Role

ACCSP coordinates the APAIS, providing sampler training, communicating with state partners, and processing the data collected.

Improvements Made

- Adjusted assignment sample allocations to reflect recreational fishing activity more closely and to optimize project staffing.
- Updated site information and recreational fishing pressure in the MRIP Site Register.
- Implemented data capture technology for processing raw data, speeding up the entire process.
- Developed an Assignment Tracking Application (ATA) to communicate data to and from state partners in real-time.
- Coordinated APAIS outreach with state partners.



MRIP: A State-Regional-Federal Partnership

To estimate the magnitude of recreational saltwater fishing activity, fisheries management agencies use statistically-sound surveys to collect catch and fishing effort data from recreational anglers.

This data collection is conducted through a state-regional-federal partnership, the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). In addition to catch data, MRIP collects effort data through its For-Hire Survey and its Coastal Household Telephone Survey, which will soon be replaced by the mail-based Fishing Effort Survey.



How are APAIS catch data used?

Using complex models, statisticians combine the APAIS catch data collected by each state with the fishing effort data collected by NOAA Fisheries to generate total recreational catch estimates.

These estimates, when combined with other data such as commercial catch and biological research, enable scientists and managers to assess U.S. fish stocks, helping to ensure sustainable fisheries and fishing opportunities for our generation of fishermen — and for generations to come.

Photo Credit: "APAIS Interview", NOAA Fisheries

¹ Personal communication from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Statistics Division. [April 19, 2017]

² Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program. 2017. Count of total distinct commercial trips in 2015 for US Atlantic Coast; generated by Joe Myers; using ACCSP Data Warehouse, Arlington, VA. [April 19, 2017]

Collection & Reporting



2016 Updates

In addition to coordinating APAIS, ACCSP works with the Program Partners on projects that aim to make recreational fisheries data collection easier and more accurate. Many of the Program's efforts this year focused on the for-hire industry as the Mid and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils explored the possibility of mandating electronic reporting for the for-hire sector in their jurisdictions in order to monitor recreational annual catch limits more closely.

Partner Project: South Atlantic Pilot on For-Hire Electronic Reporting

Weekly charter boat reporting via electronic logbooks would improve both data timeliness and accuracy, allowing managers to more closely monitor recreational catch limits and adjust management accordingly.

In FY16, ACCSP provided funding to conduct a pilot project testing the feasibility of a tablet-based electronic logbook program for the federally permitted charter boat sector of the South Atlantic. The project consists of four components: an electronic logbook application, electronic integrated fish measuring boards, a dockside validation application, and a law enforcement application.

Participating charter boat captains will submit weekly electronic logbooks using ACCSP's SAFIS eTrips/Mobile application according to the requirements of the SAFMC. These reports will also include discard length data collected using the integrated fish measuring boards, which communicate measurements directly to the tablet using Bluetooth technology, a new component that further extends the ACCSP application. This project is also

pilot testing a tablet application for state staff to collect dockside validation data to cross reference the self-reported logbook data. A separate law enforcement application will allow law enforcement officials to check submitted reports on their phones.

Reducing Duplicate Reporting in the For-Hire Sector

In May 2016, the ACCSP hosted a For-Hire Inventory workshop in order to explore opportunities to reduce duplicate reporting and to discuss the potential capability of existing programs to adopt electronic reporting.

Participants from the state agencies, regional management councils, and NOAA Fisheries reached consensus on a number of recommendations including: timeliness of reporting, common data elements, and electronic reporting, setting the stage for future work on reducing duplicate reporting in the for-hire sector.

Collaboration with other FINs

ACCSP is currently conducting a cooperative effort with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission GulfFIN program to share its new APAIS Assignment Tracking Application. This application will be used to in the Gulf to schedule and track sampling assignments.

Processing and Disseminating Fisheries-dependent Data

ACCSP works to make Partners' fisheries-dependent data easily accessible and intuitive for different types of users by producing a **comprehensive dataset** for Atlantic coast fisheries each year.

ACCSP harmonizes all of the data received from 35 different Partner data streams into one set of codes covering variables such as species, gear, and fishing area. The consolidated dataset is made accessible through the ACCSP's Data Warehouse, an online searchable database with a user-friendly interface.

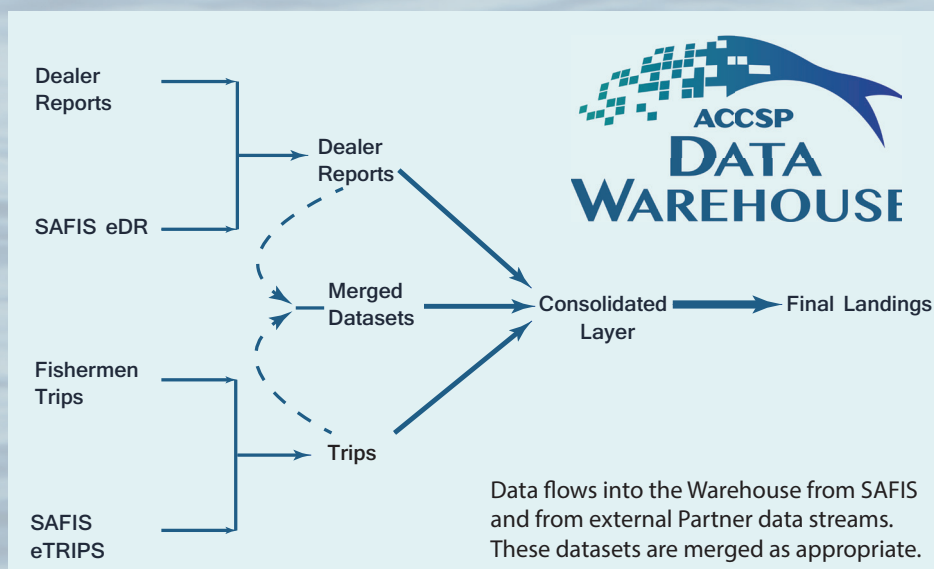
2016 Updates

New Data Warehouse

This year, the ACCSP released a new version of its Data Warehouse, which allows users to query fisheries data statistics housed within the ACCSP using an improved user interface. During development, ACCSP conducted multiple beta-testing sessions and solicited feedback from the Partners to ensure that the warehouse met all Partner needs.

The new Data Warehouse can intelligently identify and evaluate the level of access granted to a user during the login process, controlling the level of specificity at which the data is displayed based on the level of access granted to the user.

Confidential data are data that can lead to the identification of the contributor(s). Federal and state laws prohibit disclosure of confidential data. The Program uses the "Rule of 3" to evaluate the confidentiality of commercial data, requiring three fishermen, three dealers, and three vessels contribute for data for data to be considered non-confidential.



This allows a single application to address the needs of a wide suite of data users, including: public and login non-confidential data users, high-level confidential data users, SAFIS data users, and the Program Partner Data Managers.

Public Users

Public users are granted access to non-confidential summaries of the commercial landings and fisherman trips data from 1950-present, as well as recreational catch and effort data collected under NOAA MRFSS/Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP).

A public user can also sign up for a non-confidential data account

to save their custom settings for frequently-used queries.

Confidential Users

In addition to the features listed above, confidential data users have access to confidential landings and trip data of any agency for which the user holds an active data-access agreement on record. The application provides a resource for confidential users to review their current access agreements and their expiration dates, as well as a form to renew any access that may have lapsed.

Partner data managers and those users who are granted access to SAFIS data are also granted access to the live-data collected through the SAFIS electronic reporting applications. Specialized reports have been provided to allow for calculation of the current quota estimations for species and to monitor the reporting compliance for state dealers and fishermen.

Other new features include a Fast Facts! section that provides users with interesting pre-defined data summaries for topics including species landings by state and year.

The new Data Warehouse was designed to be highly adaptable and easily expandable. Plans are in place to expand the current functionality to include a module for biological sampling reports and a new management tool to streamline the review and approval process for confidential data access requests. ACCSP is also currently working to share its redesigned application with GulfFIN.

Contribution to Stock Assessments

The data are used in many SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) stock assessment and peer reviews. Over the past two years, ACCSP has contributed data to and participated in:

- SEDAR 53 (Red Grouper)
- SEDAR 44 (Red Drum)
- SEDAR Updates for Gray Triggerfish and Red Snapper
- SEDAR Procedural Workshop 7 Data Best Practices.

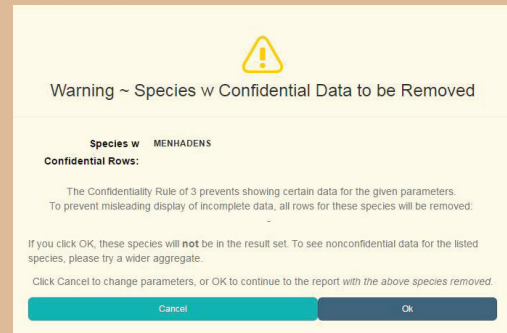


"Red Grouper" Credit: Don DeMaria

Improving Users' Understanding of the Data

In an effort to increase the user's understanding of and confidence in the data being presented in the application, a clear warning message is presented to the user if any data cannot be displayed due to confidentiality issues. The warning explains the restriction and recommends the user expand his or her original parameter settings to avoid confidentiality issues.

For further clarification, the application provides a data dictionary section with clear definitions for all data columns provided in report tables, as well as lookup tables for all ACCSP codes.



Partner Project: North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Data Transmission Enhancements

Since 1994, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries has managed a commercial trip ticket system designed to capture all finfish and shellfish landed commercially in North Carolina. Using a one-ticket monthly dealer reporting system, landings data are collected at the trip level according to state and ACCSP commercial data collection standards. The data is then transmitted to ACCSP for inclusion in the ACCSP Data Warehouse.

In FY15, ACCSP awarded funding to NC DMF for a project aiming to update and enhance NC DMF's process for submitting NC trip ticket data to the ACCSP Data Warehouse to ensure accuracy and timeliness.

A web-based .NET interface was built that allows NCDMF staff to create and schedule data transmission tasks directly to the ACCSP Data Warehouse staging (preliminary) tables. This replaces the prior method of sending text files to the ACCSP FTP site, which required manual uploading to staging tables prior to final processing.

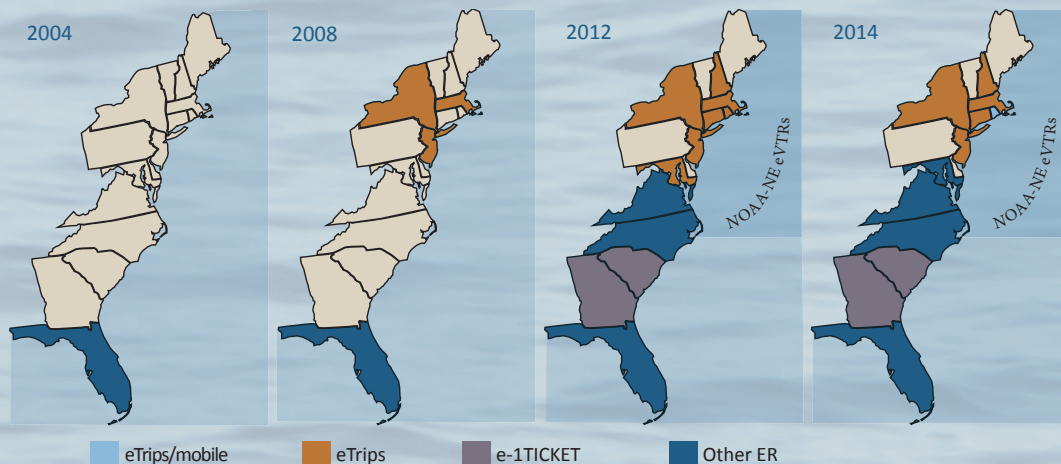
The project also developed a process to extract edited records and transmit these to ACCSP instead of sending complete years of replacement data when edits are made.

Using this new process, North Carolina sent their 2016 spring data load for participants (Fishermen, Dealers, and Vessels) to the ACCSP using the new software at the end of February.

Current State of Electronic Reporting

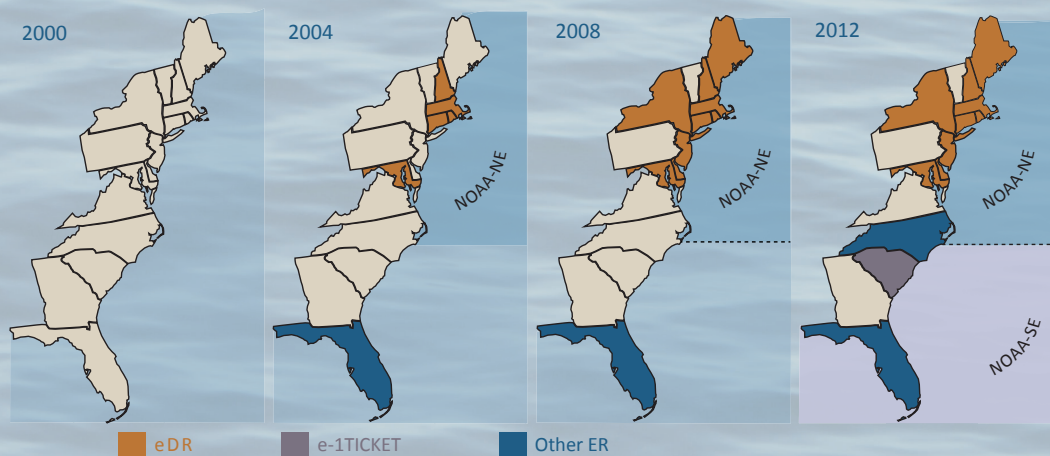
Electronic Reporting for Fishermen

Over the past 12 years, most Atlantic coastal states have adopted optional electronic reporting for commercial fishing trips. The majority of the states use ACCSP applications, meaning the data are fed directly into SAFIS. ACCSP accommodates data submitted through other softwares as well.



Electronic Reporting for Dealers

Electronic reporting for dealers is now mandatory for federal dealers, as well as state-permitted dealers in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware. Electronic dealer reporting remains optional in the states of Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia (specific quota species), North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida.



Electronic Reporting in the For-Hire Industry

In 2016, both the Mid and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (MAFMC and SAFMC) took steps to implement mandatory electronic reporting in the for-hire sector.

In August, the MAFMC approved an eVTR omnibus framework that would require for-hire vessels with federal permits for council-managed species to submit VTRs electronically within 48 hours of the end of the trip.

In December, SAFMC approved a For-Hire Reporting Amendment that would require federally permitted charter vessels to submit VTRs electronically on a weekly basis (unless otherwise specified). Both amendments are now awaiting final approval by Secretary of Commerce.

If approved, these amendments will require for-hire captains to report electronically as early as January 1, 2018. ACCSP anticipates a large increase in the number of eTrips/M users as a result of these amendments.

ACCSP will support the captains in their transition to electronic reporting. User tutorials are now available on the ACCSP website, along with FAQs and a decision tree.

ACCSP is also conducting outreach at fishing shows and will be participating in training workshops scheduled for 2017. A 24-hour helpdesk is also in development.

Looking Ahead: Integrated Reporting



Mike Cahall, ACCSP Director

Fisheries-dependent data collection refers to data that comes as a consequence of some kind of harvest of fish; either to sell, consume, or for sport. There are four major sources of this data (see bottom right table).

In order to describe fishing activity accurately, all four of these data sets must be connected so that a vessel trip report, at sea-observer report, dealer report, and any associated biological samples may be easily associated with one another. This allows them to:

- Identify discrepancies or errors in the data reports
- Calculate catch per unit of effort
- Estimate the health, size, and economic scope of the fishery

Each of the data types have had numerous systems built to support them, all initially paper standalone systems. Over time they have become more heavily automated and there are now online systems in place in many jurisdictions. Currently, the

associations between reports are made manually or with database scripts, often relying on matching algorithms that are not always accurate. Integrated reporting creates these relationships automatically as part of the reporting process, forming a network out of the existing systems.

For example, an observer report would automatically associate itself with the vessel trip report for the same fishing trip while it's being created, or the dealer report would automatically associate itself with the vessel trip report, etc.

Challenges

The challenges to creating an integrated reporting system are significant. Many different systems are maintained by many

different agencies. In order for integrated reporting to work, appropriate business rules must first be established, and then new systems must be built or old systems modified to adhere to these rules.

ACCSP's Role

The Program intends to include these business rules and thus the capability to provide integrated reporting in its rebuild of SAFIS.

The Program is working closely with its federal partners' visioning processes to ensure that the SAFIS redesign will dovetail with their efforts to achieve integrated reporting in both the Greater Atlantic and Southeast regions.

Sources of Fisheries-dependent Data

Vessel Trip Report

A VTR details the fishing activity of a specific vessel on one or many individual fishing trips. It is submitted by a vessel captain or other responsible party.

At-Sea Observers

A subset of vessels carry professional observers on board who independently capture and report details of fishing activity. Observers are especially important in capturing discard data, describing harvest that isn't retained on board.

Dealer Report

A dealer report details purchases of seafood from individual vessels. These reports include actual weights and landing condition, market and grade of the purchased catch, and prices.

Biological Sampling

It's important to understand the relative health, size, age and sex of harvested catch. Small portions of an individual fish (or whatever was caught) may be removed for further analysis; the fish may be measured and weighed, as well.

Program Partners

Federal Agencies

NOAA Fisheries



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Councils & Commissions

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission



Potomac River Fisheries Commission



New England Fishery Management Council



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council



State Agencies

Maine Department of Marine Resources



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission



New Hampshire Fish & Game Department



Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries



District of Columbia Fisheries & Wildlife Division



Rhode Island Division of Fish & Wildlife



Virginia Marine Resources Commission



Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection



North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



South Carolina Department of Natural Resources



New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife



Georgia Department of Natural Resources



Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife



Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission



1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201
(p) 703.842.0780 (f) 703.842.0779 (e) info@accsp.org