ACCSP Funding Prioritization of the Recreational Technical Committee

March 2015

The Recreational Technical Committee was tasked with providing priorities for recreational data collection to be included in the annual ACCSP request for proposals process. Agencies were asked to prioritize recreational data collection needs within twelve items identified in the ACCSP recreational data standards across the shore, private, and for-hire modes. Also, an "OTHER" category was available to identify needs which may be of importance to a partner. Each agency ranked categories sequentially from '1' to '13' with a value of '1' representing a partner's high prioritization level. The cumulative values of rank were calculated separately for the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic regions. The number of angler-trips taken in 2014 (MRIP effort data) are included in the regional column headers as additional information on the size of the recreational fisheries in that region (e.g. the Gulf of Mexico had 18,587,742 angler-trips in 2014). Partners that span more than one region (ASMFC, GSMFC, GARFO, SERO, USFWS-NE and USFWS-SE) are ranked as coastal agencies. The GSMFC was included as MRIP methodologies are consistent in Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. NMFS-MRIP and NMFS-HMS chose not submit priorities for ACCSP funding. The final overall prioritization rank was calculated as a simple average of the three regions plus coastal agency ranks. The ACCSP Advisors support the top four recommended priorities. The table of all rankings is presented below.

ACTION: The Recreational Technical Committee recommends the following recreational priorities for inclusion in the 2016 ACCSP Request for Proposals. 1) Improve precision of estimates (by increasing sample size); 2) Improve discard/release data; 3) Change from 2 month waves to monthly estimates; and 4) For-Hire logbook implementation and validation.

For reference, full 2015 rankings are listed below:

	2015 Priority Level (1 is top priority, 13 is Lowest priority)				
Recreational Data Topic	**North Atlantic** (ME-NH-MA-RI-CT - NEFMC) **6,504,683 trips**	**Mid-Atlantic** (NY-NJ-DE-MD-VA-MAFMC) **14,035,613 trips**	**South Atlantic** (NC-SC-GA-FL-SAFMC) **17,358,930 trips**	**Coastal Agencies** (ASMFC, GSMFC, GARFO, SERO, USFWS-NE, USFWS SA)	**OVERALL PRIORITY (Regional average rank)**
Improve PSE for estimates	**1**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**1**
Improve discard/release data	**5**	**2**	**1**	**6**	**2**
Change from 2 month waves to monthly estimates	**3**	**6**	**3**	**5**	**3**
For-Hire logbook implementation and validation	**2**	**3**	**6**	**7**	**4**
Integration / coordination of for-hire data reporting	**4**	**5**	**7**	**4**	**5**
Biological sampling for Recreational Fisheries (separate from MRIP)	**8**	**3**	**2**	**8**	**6**
Improve geographical resolution for major geographic boundaries	**5**	**8**	**7**	**2**	**7**
Collection more detailed fishing areas on intercepts	**7**	**12**	**5**	**3**	**8**
Effort Sampling Jan-Feb MD-FL	**11**	**7**	**9**	**9**	**9**
Improve Data Availability from 45 to 38 days	**9**	**10**	**9**	**11**	**10**
Catch Sampling Jan-Feb MD-FL	**12**	**9**	**11**	**11**	**11**
Adjust upstream extent of the survey	**10**	**11**	**13**	**10**	**12**
OTHER	**12** (Increase For-Hire coverage in wave 2&6)	**13**	**12** (invertebrate sampling, social-economic data collection, and turtle/dolphin take survey as add-on to MRIP effort survey)	**13**	**13**