

Using field experiments to assess alternative mechanisms for distributing fish to the recreational sector

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Motivation

- We currently distribute quota to the rec sector w/ season lengths, bag limits, size limits.
- The above are one-size-fits-all policies, while anglers are very heterogeneous
- May tailored policies be preferable, and feasible today due to advances in technology (ie. monitoring, catch reporting, etc.)?

NAS report on LAPPs in mixed use fisheries

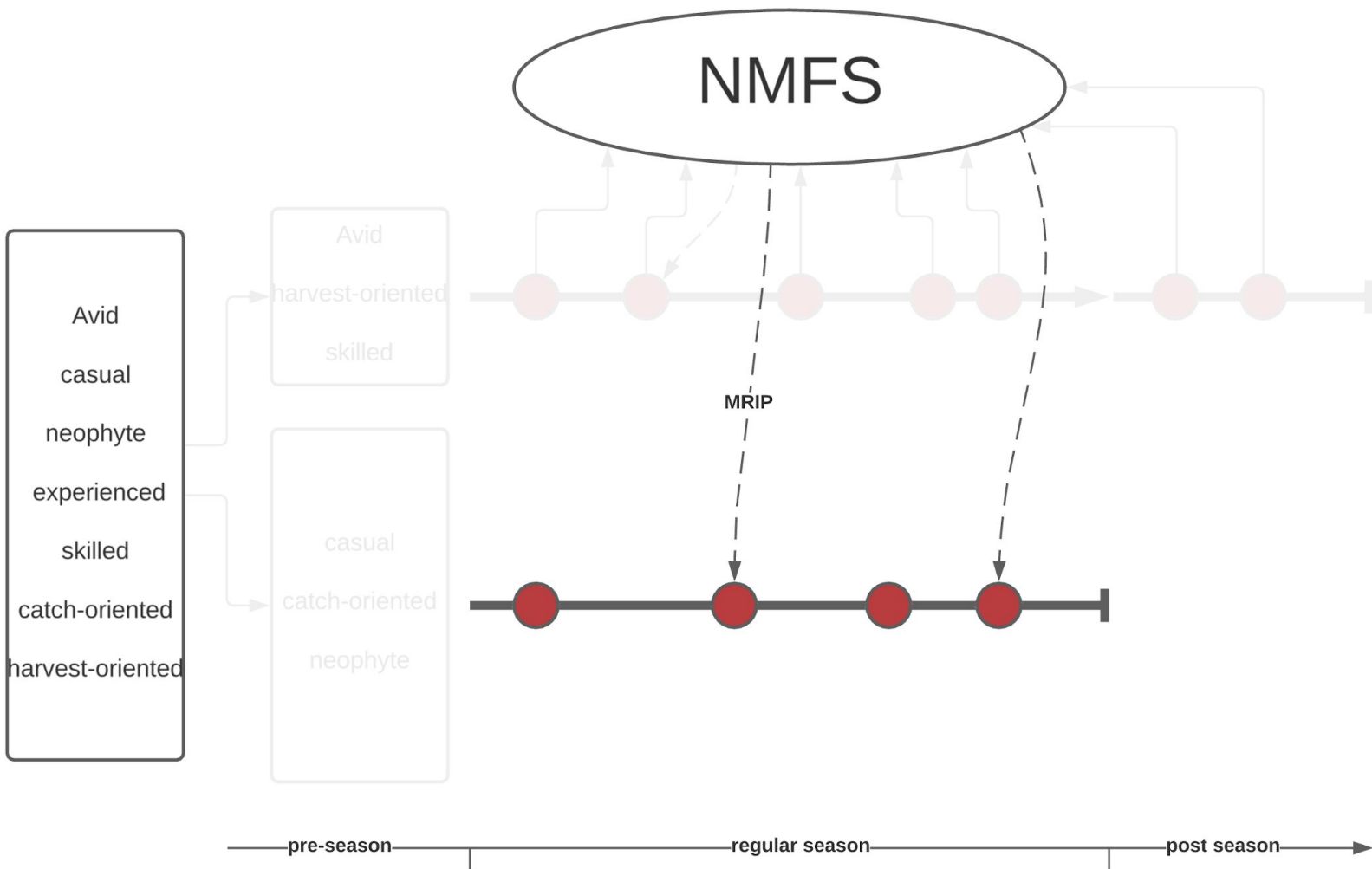
- Recommendation: “...propose and implement reforms (including ... harvest tags or day passes for private anglers) that foster accountability while enhancing fishing experiences and opportunities to heterogeneous groups of anglers.”

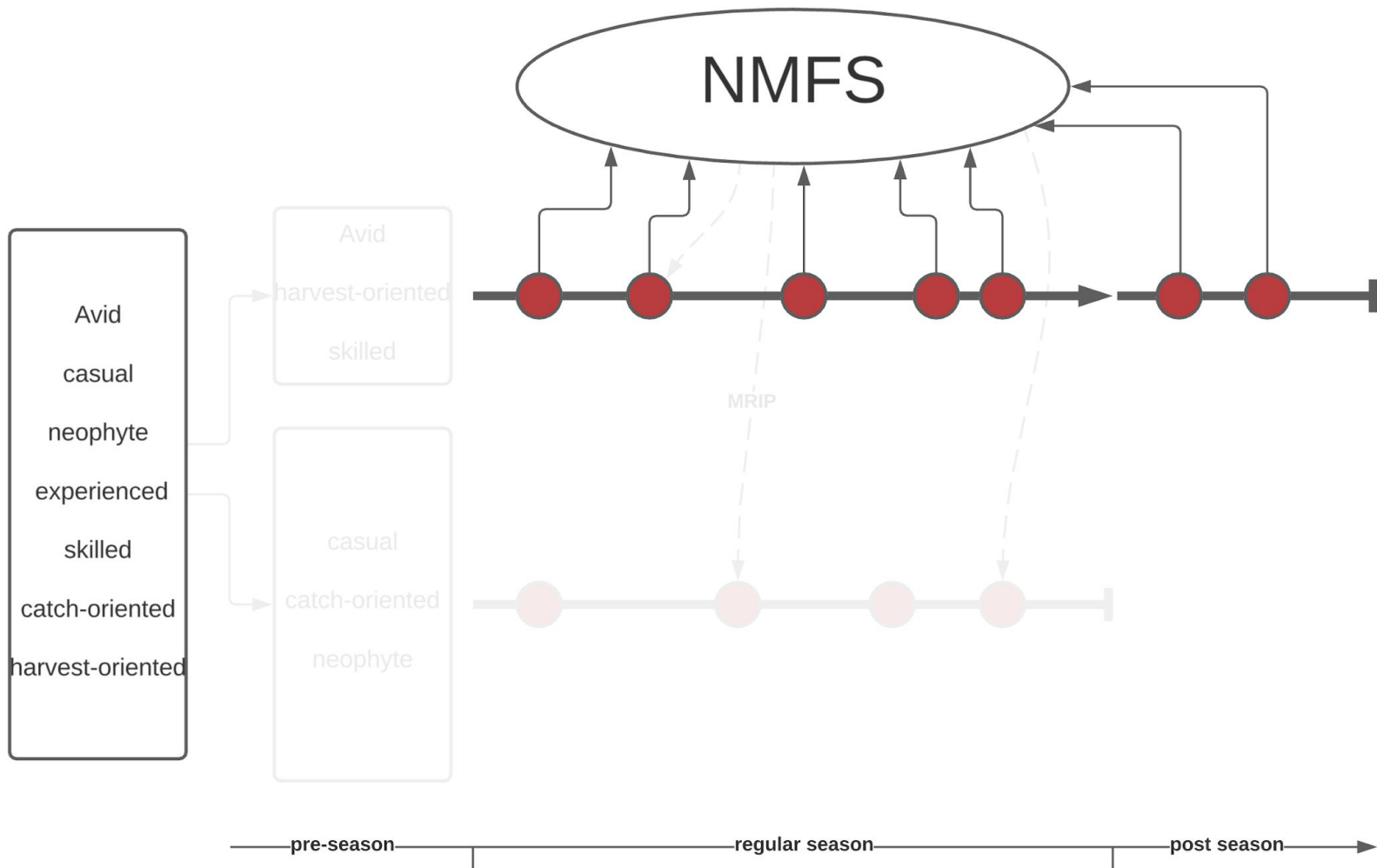
Proposed Pilot Program

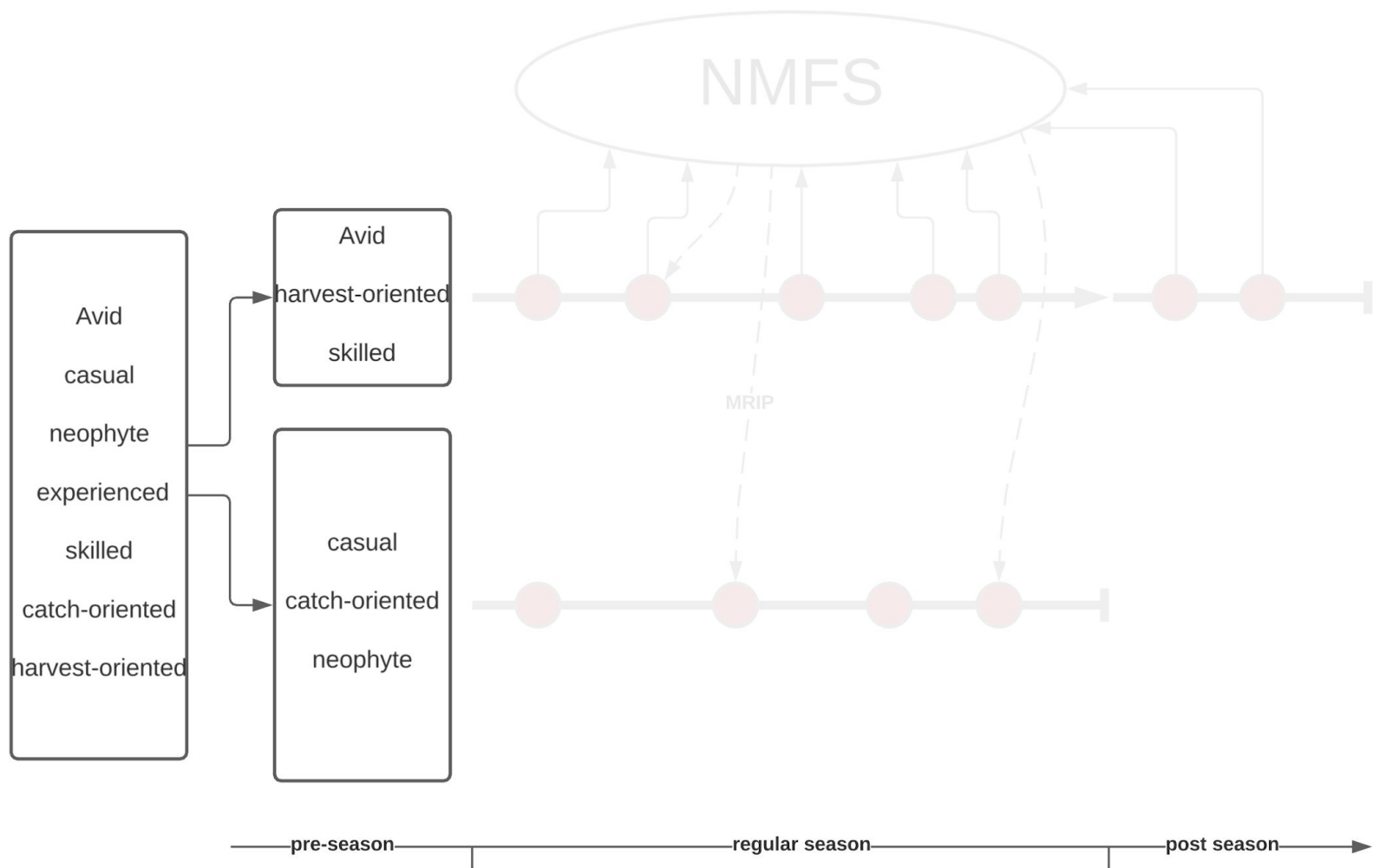
- Allow anglers to fish outside the regular season in exchange for data provision
 - Use lotteries to allocate post-season day passes, with the usual bag limit
 - Day pass usage conditional on logbook-style, app-based data collection

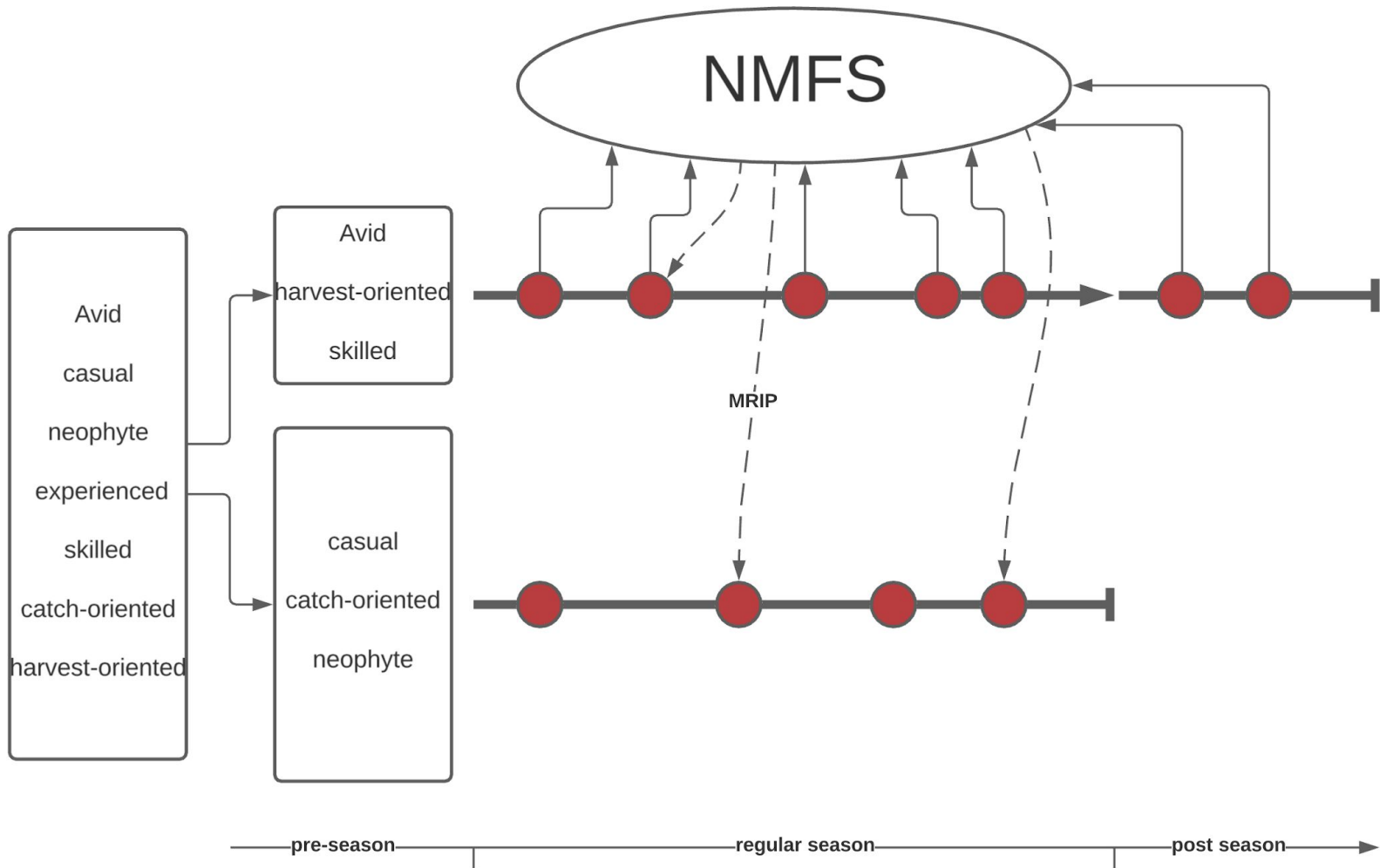
Important:

- Don't reduce opportunity (shorten season) for non-participants. Possibilities:
 - NMFS-retained quota could be used (quota bank?)
 - Some quota could be set aside when there are increases







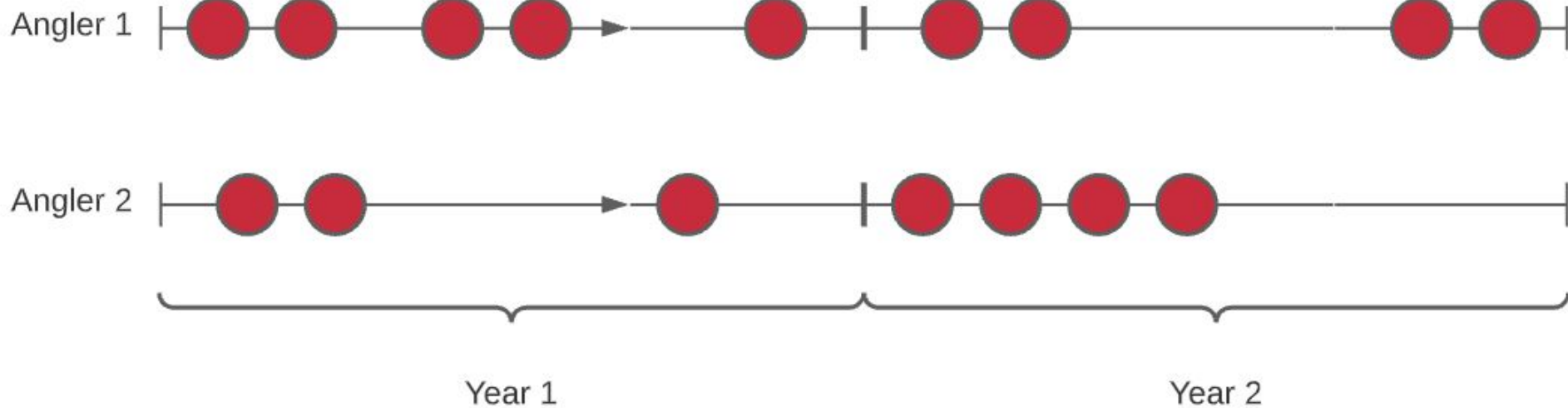


Expanding program across years: Scaling Up

- Treat pilot year data as catch histories
- Then award day passes in year 2 based on those catch histories
- Then award day passes in year 3 based on catch histories in years 1 and 2
- ...

8 trips in year 1

Assigning passes by average rule:
 $8 / 2 = 4$ trips per person



What are some benefits/costs of this approach?

	Benefits	Costs
For a particular angler	increased flexibility in when to go fishing	Reporting costs
For whole system	More precise measurement of catch/removals	Monitoring costs

How can we *measure* benefits/costs?

	Benefits	Costs
For a particular angler	% of passes used outside conventional season	Time spent using app Help requests / IT complaints
For whole system	Reporting accuracy rate	Misreporting rate

Outstanding issues

- Initial allocation
- Race for catch history
- Program drop-out

Current Status

- An EFP application is currently drafted, the preceding design being just 1 archetypal example of the options outlined in that application
- In the near future, need to gather feedback from anglers and other stakeholders