Data Collection Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab F

Agenda Item IV: Presentation: Results of MRIP-FES Pilot Study

Timeline Status: Informational and discussion

Council input and next steps: In late August of 2026, the NOAA Office of Science and Technology (OS&T) produced results of a pilot study to reexamine estimates coming from the Fishing Effort Survey of its Marine Recreational Information Program. The study explored the effects of survey question sequence on bounding participants responses to a particular time period or wave. In addition, the survey is now administered monthly as opposed to every two months, which allows for more frequent reporting and helps with angler recall. Dr. Richard Cody (OS&T staff) will provide a presentation (**Tab F No. 4**) summarizing the results for several representative species (including red snapper and gag grouper).

A similar presentation was provided by Dr. Cody to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) during its September meeting. Mr. Trevor Moncrief (SSC Chair) will summarize the September SSC discussions of the pilot study from its previous meeting (**Tab B, Nos. 10a and b**). The Committee should ask questions of NMFS staff on the results of the pilot study and how these new estimates are expected to be integrated into upcoming stock assessments and for use in fisheries management.

Agenda Item V: Overview of Mississippi and Alabama Creel Surveys

Timeline Status: Information and discussion

Council input and next steps: The states of Alabama and Mississippi are developing new recreational data collection programs (AL Creel and MS Creel) modeled similar to what has been implemented for the state of Louisiana (LA Creel). During the September SSC meeting, presentations were provided by each state summarizing harvest and effort estimates generated by each program. Mr. Moncrief will present on the discussion of AL and MS Creel from the September SSC meeting (**Tab B, Nos. 8a and b**). This presentation is informational, and no action is required by the Committee.
