



**NOAA
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Recreational Fisheries Electronic Reporting

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Electronic Reporting (ER) in Recreational Fisheries

- NOAA Fisheries supports continuing development of ER for non-for-hire recreational anglers.
- As a data collection tool, ER presents opportunities as well as presenting some challenges.
- We are interested in implementing ER where it can appropriately supplement existing data collection or fill gaps.
- At the last (April 2019) MAFAC meeting we committed to working with MAFAC to continue to make progress on this issue.
- We propose a focused Task Force as an approach to help us move forward.



Proposed MAFAC ER Task Force

Purpose

Provide expert advice to MAFAC and NOAA Fisheries on generation, delivery, and use of ER to help us fulfill our mission.

Objectives

- Assist NOAA Fisheries in fulfilling its role in providing useable high quality, accurate data on recreational fisheries.
- Provide input and guidance that contributes to the development of an Agency roadmap to guide implementation of electronic data collection in non-for-hire recreational fisheries, where appropriate.

Proposed MAFAC ER Task Force

Proposed Tasks

- **Identify and prioritize data gaps** that could be addressed through the use of mandatory or voluntary angler ER.
- **Identify practical goals and challenges to overcome** for voluntary and mandatory ER for recreational private boat and shore anglers.
- **Provide recommendations** on how these goals could be achieved by NOAA Fisheries.
 - Consider catch and effort data, non-catch and effort data, and citizen science applications when formulating its guidance.



Proposed MAFAC ER Task Force

The work of the proposed Task Force should build upon:

- Existing expertise, including collaboration with MAFAC's Recreational Fisheries Subcommittee, NOAA Fisheries, Councils/Commissions, States, academia and NGOs.
- The recent work of MAFAC's Recreational Fisheries Subcommittee on overcoming challenges related to recruiting and retention of anglers in ER programs.
- Existing and ongoing reports on opt-in and ER survey methodologies such as the recently released MRIP Research and Evaluation Team (RET) report on ER.



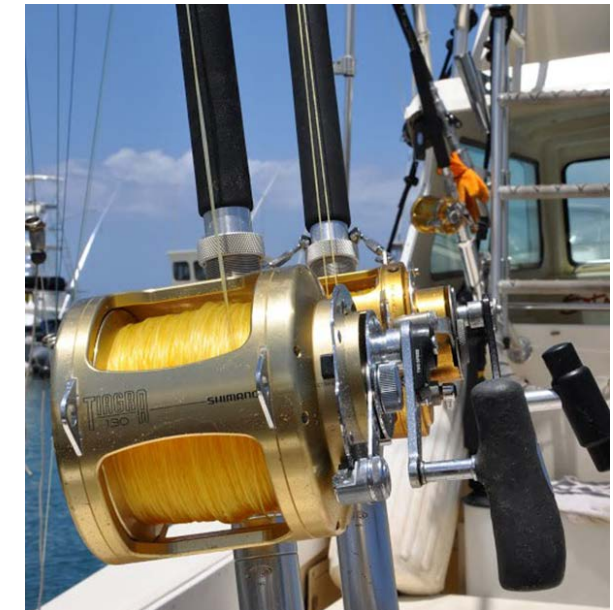
MRIP's RET Report

- MRIP's (Research and Evaluation Team) RET evaluated results of iAngler and iSnapper that tested voluntary (non-mandatory) data collection via smartphone apps.
- The RET reviewed survey designs (probability & non-probability), data collection uses, identified strengths and limitations of designs, and provided recommendations for future research.
- Conclusions of RET report:
 - ER should be considered in any probability-based data collection design.
 - Non-probability designs, including opt-in ER apps are better suited for qualitative uses and observational studies (e.g., presence-absence) rather than quantitative applications such as catch estimation.



National Academies of Science Review

- Requirement of **Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act** of 2018.
- **Objective:** evaluate how the design of MRIP surveys can be improved to better meet the needs of in-season management of annual catch.
- **ER related component of NAS study**
 - An evaluation of survey methods that include the use of angler and for-hire vessel electronic reporting as a means to provide more timely data.



ER in Recreational Fisheries – concluding remarks

- Angler-based electronic reporting has significant potential as well as complex challenges.
- NOAA Fisheries is recommending establishment of a Task Force on angler ER to assist MAFAC in providing guidance on the development of an ER implementation roadmap.
- There is a growing body of research that the proposed Task Force can draw upon to assess the challenges and opportunities presented by ER.



Photo Credit: Gary Moore, FWC





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Thank you

Questions/Comments



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