



Catch Accounting Methods and Design Considerations: For-Hire Fisheries

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For-Hire Fisheries

- Commercial or Recreational?
 - Business transaction, no record of sale for the catch like commercial fisheries
 - Many states do not require individual saltwater fishing license for anglers, excluded from Saltwater Angler Registry
 - Vessels and/or vessel operators are required to have certain state and federal permits, inspections, business licenses, etc.
 - Managed with recreational bag/size/seasons, and also limited entry

Data from “hybrid” for-hire fisheries:

- **Surveys**

- Used to sample catch/effort and expand to universe of vessels
- For-Hire Telephone Survey
 - Self-reported trip data from sample of vessel operators
- Creel Surveys – intercept fishing parties for catch data
- Participation is often voluntary, sometimes mandatory
 - Responsibility of surveyor to make successful contact

- **Trip Reports (logbooks)**

- Often mandatory, sometimes voluntary
 - Responsibility of vessel operator to report to Agency representative
- Complete census (mandatory reporting for all vessels)
- Complete census for a segment (certain fisheries, certain vessels)
- Sample (select a portion of vessels and expand to all)
- Incomplete (reporting is voluntary)

North and Mid-Atlantic For-Hire Data Collection Programs

C=charter/guide; H=headboat; CH=charter/guide/headboat

STATE	For-Hire Survey	Vessel Trip Report	State Logbook	Large Pelagic Survey
ME	CH	CH	CH	C
NH	CH	CH		C
MA	CH	CH		C
RI	CH	CH		C
CT	CH	CH		C
NY	CH	CH		C
NJ	CH	CH		C
DE	CH	CH		C
MD	CH	CH	CH	C
VA	CH	CH		C

South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico For-Hire Data Collection Programs

C=charter/guide; H=headboat; CH=charter/guide/headboat

STATE	For-Hire Survey	Southeast Headboat Survey (Logbooks)	Vessel Trip Report (Logbooks)	State Logbook or Survey
NC	CH	H	CH	
SC	CH	H	CH	CH
GA	CH	H	CH	
East FL	C(H*)	H		
West FL	C	H		
AL	C	H		
MS	C	H		
LA	C	H		
TX		H		C

Alaska and Pacific Coast

Data collections have had to adapt to the complex management needs.

Salmon:

- Strict annual harvest limits with sector allocations
- Limited take of threatened and endangered salmon
- Monitoring of wild vs. hatchery portion of harvest.

Rockfish, Halibut:

- Managed with specific time and area closures.

Alaska	Mandatory logbook with enforcement in combination with regional sampling programs.
Pacific Coast	Developed a system of logbook programs and/or detailed survey methods in each state. Short turn-around time for data to monitor fisheries in-season and adjust with emergency rules.

Pacific Islands and Caribbean

- Major gaps in primary data needs.
- Data needs increasing in complexity in the future.

Pacific Islands	Hawaii reported as a commercial fishery. Guam fishery not monitored. Other territories, small for-hire fleets.
Caribbean	Puerto Rico MRFSS. U.S. Virgin Islands not monitored.

2006 NRC Review

- The for-hire sector of marine recreational fisheries is more like a commercial sector than it is like the private-angler sector
- Magnitude of for-hire fisheries warrants mandatory logbooks as source of catch and effort data





2006 NRC Review

- Recommended essential elements for data collection:
 - Mandatory reporting
 - Favored reporting requirements tied to permit renewal
 - Strict verification and enforcement components
 - Both effort and CPUE
 - Data made available in timely manner
 - Recognized that logbooks alone may not be adequate for estimating discards.



2008 MRIP Review

- For-Hire Workgroup contracted three consultants
- Reviewed current data collection programs around the country
- Recommended universal use of logbooks
- Included “Best Practice Recommendations” for logbook data collection programs



Best Practice Recommendations

- Trip level reporting of effort, catch, discards, etc.
- Report at least weekly.
- Web-based reporting (fax and phone options).
- Maintain a complete list of for-hire vessels for identifying non-respondents.
- Procedures to quickly ID missing reports.
- Conduct telephone follow-ups with all non-respondents.
- Initial estimates (effort/catch) based on raw logbook data.
- Adjust estimates based on intercept data and at-sea observation data.
- Develop statistical methods to impute data for missing records.

