



Synopsis of RSA Workshop Outcomes

Research Steering Committee Meeting

November 16, 2021

Recap of the Workshop Overview

■ Workshop 1 (Research)

- Identify how research goals will be prioritized, projects will be screened, and results will inform management/be communicated to the Council and stakeholders.

■ Workshop 2 (Funding)

- Confirm how the program will be administered (federal grant program), discuss funding mechanism, and indicate that projects should be tied to management/assessment needs.

■ Workshop 3 (Enforcement)

- Identify potential program modifications that could prevent reoccurrence of previous enforcement issues.

■ Workshop 4 (Final Recommendations)

- Develop detailed recommendations (with timelines) for the Council identifying whether and how RSA should be redeveloped with input from the SSC Economic Working Group

Summary of Workshop 1 (Research)

- SSC Economic WG: Discussed 7 research-based topics
- Research Priorities
 - Link priorities (set by the Council) and performance metrics to a specific need after communicating with industry.
 - Keep RSA and other funding sources in mind whenever the Council initiates an action.
- Evaluation of Applicants and Proposals
 - Disclose available funding in the proposal and pre-proposal process.
 - Peer review proposals and results (with the SSC).
 - Identify conflicts of interest early in the RSA process.
- Project Review and Presentation
 - Review and reestablish the data sharing policy.
 - The release of funds should be tied to report completion.
 - Develop a communication plan that expands public venues for presentations.

Summary of Workshop 2 (Funding)

- SSC Economic WG: Presented an analysis of the action and modelled results of alternatives in terms of economic efficiency
- Status of the auction system
 - What did and did not work?
 - Consider the cost/benefits of selling quota for low value species and the ability to package species together
 - Ensure all bids are paid in full at potential future auctions
- Compensation fishing
 - Identify whether vessels involved in RSA harvesting should be tied to research
 - State environmental police were burdened but not compensated
 - PIs are responsible for ensuring vessels understand RSA requirements
- Fixed Price
 - If revenue generation is the primary objective, then a fixed-price system may not be the best funding model for RSA.

Summary of Workshop 3 (Enforcement)

- SSC Economic WG: Presented an analysis of how economics influence fisheries enforcement
- Some issues of concern
 - Lack of law enforcement resources (funding)
 - Inconsistent regulations from state-to-state and inability for states to regulate
 - Substantial under reporting of RSA landings
 - Undercutting recreational monitoring; lack of support from non-RSA users.
- Potential Solutions
 - Funding incorporated into JEAs (possibly taken from RSA quota sale)
 - Pre and post trip electronic reporting and possible VMS requirements
 - Joint ASMFC/MAFMC law enforcement committee to develop enforcement guidelines
 - Limitations on number of vessels, daily quota, landing ports, sale to dealers
 - Involve quota monitoring experts in possible RSA re-development
 - Stricter penalties and enforcement

Objective of Workshop 4

Develop detailed recommendations (with timelines) for the Council identifying whether and how RSA should be redeveloped with input from the SSC Economic Working Group

Possible defining questions for Workshop 4

- Should the Council redevelop the RSA program?
- What changes should be implemented to address previously identified concerns related to the RSA program including research, funding, program administration, and enforcement?
- What timelines should be developed to improve the overall RSA process (e.g., data and research needs, incorporate RSA into specifications cycle, grant applications, fishing “season”, report deadlines, etc.)?

Possible Structure for Workshop 4

- Overall RSA Program Objectives (e.g., 11/9/21 memo)
 - Elements to include
- Research
 - Identification and prioritization
 - Proposal and review process
 - Results, performance metrics, communication
- Funding
 - Mechanism
 - Eligibility
- Law Enforcement
 - Funding
 - Access
 - Reporting and technology

Discussion