

5.A.1(1)

153rd SSC

HMRFS Improvement Timeline

- The Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) of NOAA Fisheries was established in 1979 and was then replaced by the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) in October 2008 following recommendations outlined by the NRC in 2006. HMRFS was initiated in 2001, implemented on O‘ahu and Big Island in 2003, then implemented statewide (Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Maui, Moloka‘i and Big Island) in 2005.
- Beginning January 2007, HMRFS charter boat assignments were discontinued as mutually agreed upon by MRIP and HDAR. Overlap with the Commercial Marine License database was the main reason for terminating the charter mode assignments.
- Beginning February 2011, complete Assignment Summary Form data was recorded by HMRFS field staff and key entered into the Access database. Prior to this date, Assignment Summary data was incomplete (ie. did not have all the summary target data at bottom of form) and not key-entered into the database.
- Beginning January 2012, despite HDAR concerns, HMRFS field collection of non-fish (invertebrate) data was discontinued as ordered by NOAA-MRIP. Because MRIP focuses only on expansion estimates of finfish data, processing the monthly data was apparently complicated by mixed finfish/non-fish trips and thus created technical issues for MRIP staff.
- Beginning July 1, 2016, the FTE of all field staff were reduced from full-time to 0.75 as a result of a minimum salary increase mandated by the Affordable Care Act as well as a class action lawsuit against the DLNR regarding the cost of the non-resident Commercial Marine License. The Department lost the lawsuit resulting in a reduction of the cost of the non-resident CML which limited the state match component for the Sport Fish Restoration fund which supports more than half of the staff.
- From January through December 2017, the Fishing Effort Survey (FES, mail survey) was conducted simultaneously with the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS, phone survey) to calibrate historical estimates. Due to a steady decrease in response rate mostly due to landline phones being replaced by cell phones, the switch from the CHTS to the FES was inevitable. Beginning January 2018, the CHTS was officially replaced by the FES. Estimates prior to 2018 (ie. derived using CHTS data) were calibrated to reflect differences with FES information. The need for a registry of non-commercial fishers is still needed to further boost response rates of the FES which is used to calculate expansion estimates of non-commercial catch and effort.
- From March 20, 2020 through June 30, 2020, intercept sampling was temporarily stopped due to restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Sampling resumed on July 1, 2020.
- Beginning January 1, 2023, the sampling design changed where surveyors were no longer allowed to change sampling sites, dates and times to maximize intercept rates. Instead, sampling was restricted to a randomly assigned site, date and time frame (8am-2pm, 2pm-8pm and 11am-5pm) to minimize sampling bias. Tablets also replaced paper forms for recording interview data mainly to streamline data processing and expedite data delivery.
- Beginning October 2, 2023, the majority of field staff were increased back to full-time status (except the Maui staff (0.40 FTE) and one Oahu staff (0.50 FTE)).