

APPENDIX H
ACCSP Commercial Fisherman Catch/Effort Reporting System

Section 5. ACCSP Catch and Effort Data Collection Programs

Section 5.a. ACCSP Commercial Catch/Effort Data Collection Program

ACCSP Commercial Reporting Requirements

The ACCSP commercial data collection program will be a mandatory, trip-based system with all fishermen and dealers required to report standardized data elements (Table 1).

Any marine fishery products landed in any state must be reported by a dealer or a marine resource harvester acting as a dealer in that state. Any marine resource harvester or aquaculturist who sells, consigns, transfers, or barter marine fishery products to anyone other than a dealer would themselves be acting as a dealer and would therefore be responsible for reporting as a dealer.

The long-term goal of the ACCSP commercial data collection program is a two-ticket reporting system (separate reports from both the fisherman and the dealer). In the interim, and depending upon dealer-fishermen interaction, ACCSP partners may require submission of only one report from either the dealer or the fisherman (one ticket system). A comparison evaluation is being developed by the ACCSP Commercial Fisheries Statistics Technical Committee to compare the two systems. Following the evaluation, the long-term goal may be readdressed.

All minimum standard data elements listed in Table 1 must be collected by all ACCSP partners conducting commercial data collection programs; however, only ex-vessel value or ex-vessel price is required, not both. Disposition codes should be used to categorize release, discard and protected species interactions data. Quantity of gear should be recorded for each specific gear type. Data should be collected or converted into standard ACCSP codes and formats before submission to the ACCSP data management system.

Ex-vessel price should be a minimum standard data element collected on every trip. If this is not feasible immediately, partners should propose alternative methodologies for collection of price data to the ASMFC Committee on Economics and Social Sciences for evaluation and recommendations, prior to implementation of the reporting system in their jurisdiction.

All catch and effort data should be collected at the trip-level with resolution for each gear and area combination. For example, landings and effort data should be recorded separately each time the fisherman changes gear (Appendix B) or fishing area within a trip. Should a partner require greater resolution for fishing area data, commercial reporting forms may be customized to allow fishermen to report position either as LORAN or as latitude and longitude.

Reporting of protected species interactions and managed species release/discard data is the highest priority under the ACCSP release/discard, and protected species monitoring program. Reporting of protected species release/discard data (including threatened species and all

protected finfish species) is mandatory. Reporting of non-protected species releases and discards is voluntary. However, any ACCSP partner may require mandatory reporting of release/discard data for all or specified fisheries based on assessment and management requirements. Partners should develop outreach and industry training programs to improve the accuracy and quantity of reporting. The ACCSP should evaluate the quality of the data from voluntary, mandatory, and at-sea observers collection programs on a routine basis.

Commercial harvesters are required to report all commercial trips regardless of catch. Effort with no catch is considered a trip; therefore, all data elements other than catch must be reported.

Dealers are required to submit monthly negative (no activity) reports in the states where they are licensed. A single negative report may be submitted in advance to cover multiple negative reporting periods. Harvesters with no reported commercial landings during the previous license period are required to certify that fact at the time of license renewal.

Commercial fishermen and dealer reports should be submitted monthly by the 10th of each month after the reporting month, unless more stringent reporting requirements exist (e.g. quota monitoring). Marine mammal interactions must be reported within 48 hours after return from a trip under Federal statutes.

The following schedule is adopted for data submission and processing:

- 1) Data submitted by fishermen and dealers by the 10th of the month following the reporting month. For example, February 1999 data would be submitted by March 10, 1999.
- 2) Data screened, pre-audited, and key entered.
Before submission to the ACCSP data management system, data must be converted to ACCSP standard formats.
- 3) Unedited, preliminary data available 45 days after receipt of submission. For example, preliminary February 1999 data would be available on 24 April 1999.
- 4) Audits/edit checks of key entered data.
Audited data will be available to ACCSP 90 days after original submission, recognizing that it may be subject to change. For example, February 1999 audited data would be available on 8 June 1999.

The ACCSP Commercial Fisheries Statistics Technical Committee will continue to refine the process to produce timely and clean data. Long-term goals include implementation of technologies that will allow for real time data reporting.

In accordance with the prioritized list of validation methods, each ACCSP partner should

develop a process to ensure the accuracy of submitted information. Reports should be issued at least annually to all reporting entities for direct fishermen review and verification of submitted information. Any discrepancies in landings statements must be reported within 60 days from generation of the statement.

As a condition of permitting, vessels should be required to carry at-sea observers. Likewise, dealers should be required to provide port samplers with space and access to landed catch for the collection of biological samples.

Commercial reporting form templates (Appendix B) have been adopted for use by ACCSP partners as reporting form models. These templates include the ACCSP minimum data elements and should be accepted by all ACCSP partners when used by transient fishermen. To further ease the industry reporting burden, partners are encouraged to precode as much information on their own version of the forms as practical.

Some fisheries (e.g. American lobster, blue crab) are characterized by a large number of short duration trips that target a single species and employ a single gear. For such fisheries, special "multi-trip" report form templates have been developed that allow fishermen and dealers to report trip-level data from multiple trips on a single reporting form.

Any partner may add additional data elements to these forms as their needs dictate. The Operations Committee will seek recommendations for such additional data elements from all ACCSP partners and will coordinate their addition to the set of minimum data elements on a regional basis.

The unique identifier for trip data will be the trip date plus the vessel identifier plus the trip number when a vessel is involved, and the trip date plus the individual identifier plus the trip number when a vessel is not involved. The unique identifier must be attached to any individual portion of the landing when transported to separate dealers (split catch), but does not need to be attached to each individual fish box for that dealer.

All catch and effort surveys for commercial fisheries will follow the ACCSP quality control and assurance documentation.

The ACCSP urges all partner agencies to investigate and utilize innovative technologies for commercial data collection in order to reduce burdens on all parties.

**Reference Tables for the Commercial Catch
and Effort Data Collection Program**

Table 1. Required information to be provided on a trip basis by all Atlantic coast dealers and fishermen under the ACCSP commercial data collection program. Formats for each element can be found in Table A.1. (P = Preprinted, D = information provided by commercial dealer, F = information provided by commercial fisherman, B = information provided by both commercial dealers and fishermen).

Data Element	Description / Criteria	Where Collected
Form Type/Version Number	Version identification number for the ACCSP reporting form. (For data management purposes only - preprinted on reporting form)	P
Reporting Form Series Number	Individual number for each reporting form, to be assigned by the collecting agency (i.e., trip ticket number). This data element may be blank in the dual reporting system. (For data management purposes only - preprinted or assigned)	P
Trip Start Date	Date the trip started (this is unique to each trip along with trip number and can be used to tie multiple unloadings into a trip record). A trip is shore to shore by gear/area combination, or in the case of transfers at sea, an off-loading at sea is a trip. This information should include trips with effort but no catch.	B
Vessel Identifier	Unique vessel identifier (Coast Guard or state registration number). These identifiers must be trackable through time and space.	B
Individual Identifier	An identifier unique to an individual (i.e. license number), which is trackable through time and space.	B
Trip Number	Sequential number representing the number of a trip taken in a single day by either a vessel or individual. The trip number will default to "one" when only a single trip is conducted.	B
Species	The genus and species for each species of marine resources landed, sold, released, discarded, etc. Each species is to be identified separately. Use of market or generalized categories is to be avoided within species code fields or variables. (See Table A.8.)	B
Quantity	The amount, in whole pounds, numbers, or some other appropriate unit of measurement of each marine species that is landed, sold, released, discarded, etc. Quantity of protected species should be measured in numbers. This data element is linked to the units of measurement and disposition code for exact characterization of the quantity. For some species, especially protected species, these data are needed on a set basis.	B

Table 1 (cont'd).

Data Element	Description / Criteria	Where Collected
Units of Measurement	Landed units (i.e. each, pounds, bushels, etc). (See Table A.3.)	F
Disposition	Fate of the catch (i.e. releases, discards, bait, industrial use, personal consumption, marine mammal interactions, etc.). Disposition of releases and discards should be recorded (i.e. regulatory versus other releases and discards, dead or alive). (See Table A.5.)	B
Ex-Vessel Value or Price	The dollar value or price for each species that is landed or sold. ACCSP program partners must collect one or the other either through the dealer reporting system or through a separate survey.	D
County or Port Landed	The location within a state where the product was landed (actually unloaded at the docks). (See Table A.9.)	B
State Landed	The state where the product was landed or unloaded.(See Table A.9.)	B
Dealer Identification	An identifier for the dealer at the point of each transaction. In the case of multiple dealers, the landings would be recorded separately for each dealer. (See Table A.3.)	B
Unloading Date	The date of the landing at the dealer (may be more than one unloading date per trip).	B
Market Size	Any market categories that affect price, usually size related. (See Table A.6.)	D
Grade (Landing Condition)	Any grade categories that affect price. (See Table A.7.)	D
Gear(s)	The type(s) of gear used to catch the landed species. (See Table A.4.)	F
Quantity of Gear	The amount of gear employed (See Table 2 for descriptions).	F
Days/Hours at Sea	The time from the start of the trip to the return to the dock.	F
Number of Crew (including Captain)	Number of crew including the captain on each trip.	F
Fishing Time	The total amount of time (usually in hours) that the gear is in the water. (See Table 2 for each gear description)	F

Table 1 (cont'd).

Data Element	Description / Criteria	Where Collected
Area Fished	A general location where the fishing occurred. The distance from shore where fishing occurred [inland (less than 0 miles), inshore (0-3 miles on Atlantic coast, 0-9 miles on Florida and Texas Gulf coast), EEZ (3-200 miles on Atlantic coast, 9-200 miles on Florida and Texas Gulf coast), international (>200 miles)] is embedded in this code. (See Table A.3. and area figures when revised)	F
Number of Sets	Total number of sets or tows of gear during a trip. (See Table 2 for descriptions)	F

Table 2. Standard measurements of quantity of gear, fishing time, and number of sets for specific gear types.

Type of Gear	Quantity	Fishing Time	Number of Sets
Traps and Pots	Number traps pulled	<u>Total</u> soak time	<u>Number of strings hauled</u>
Trawls	Number towed	Total tow time	Number of tows
Gill Nets Entanglement	Float line length for string	<u>Total</u> soak time	Number of strings (net) hauls
Longlines	Number gangions/hooks	<u>Total</u> soak time	Number of hauls <u>or</u> <u>number of strings hauled</u>
Dredges	Number pulled	Total tow time	Number of tows
Nets	Number of pieces of apparatus	<u>Search time?</u>	<u>Number of hauls/throws</u>
Rod and Reel	Number of lines (Number of hooks is secondary)	<u>Total</u> soak time	<u>n/a</u>
Purse Seines	Length of floatline	<u>Total</u> search time	Number of sets
Hand Gear	Number of lines (Number of hooks is secondary)	<u>Total</u> soak time	<u>n/a</u>
Harpoons	Number	<u>Total</u> search time	Number of <u>harpoons throws</u>

Table 2 is an initial list of gears; additional gears will be added as their quantifiers are decided.

Table 3. Prioritized list of validation methods to be used by ACCSP program partners to verify the accuracy of commercial catch and effort information submitted through the ACCSP commercial data collection program.

Validation Method	Definition / Criteria	Comments
Fishery-Dependent and -Independent Surveys	<p>Any fishery-dependent survey detailed in the ACCSP Program Design, or any fishery-independent survey. A four-prong approach using the following methods is preferred:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Port Sampling Programs 2. At-Sea Observer Programs 3. Law Enforcement Presence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ overflights ▶ boarding and summons reports ▶ vessel tracking system ▶ audits and inspections ▶ violations hotlines ▶ customs data ▶ consistency of penalties between states 4. Distribution of periodic data summaries to fishermen for self-verification 	<p>Presence at the docks or on vessels is the best method of verification and should be given highest priority.</p> <p>Provides direct liaison between the fishermen and fisheries managers.</p> <p>For trip, release/discard verification.</p> <p>Through direct presence of law enforcement personnel at the docks or through the listed methods.</p> <p>Periodic distribution of standard data summaries to fishermen and dealers provided through the ACCSP data management system.</p>
Mandatory Random Fish-House/Fishermen Audits and Inspections	<p>Audits and inspections of records either on-site or at an agency of records kept by fishermen and dealers of productions, purchases, and sales of fishery products in comparison to those data actually submitted to and received by the reporting agency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Record content, submission frequency, and retention period specified by federal and/or state statutes or other regulations. ▶ Statistically valid random selection of a portion of the fishermen and/or dealers involved in fisheries or a particular stratum of a fishery to assess compliance rates with reporting rules and accuracy of reporting data. ▶ Scope of audits may require additional information to that reported in order to verify accuracy of reported data. Auditors must be granted official access to these additional sources of information as needed to perform such audits. 	<p>Should be used only on an as-needed basis.</p>

Table 3 (Cont.)

Validation Method	Definition / Criteria	Comments
Other Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Random additional logbooks ▶ Independent reports from fishermen and dealers of certain data elements ▶ Fishermen permit qualification ▶ Quota monitoring activities ▶ Any combination of the above 	Should be used only on an as-needed basis.