NOAA FISHERIES

Fisheries Information System Program

The FIS Mission

FIS works collaboratively through partnerships to improve access to comprehensive, high-quality, timely fisheries information by investing in three broad areas:

- *Data gaps and data quality;*
- *Efficient technology and data integration; and*
- *Effective coordination and communication in the design, collection, and uses of data.*

Who FIS Serves:

- *Fishery managers.*
- *Fishery scientists.*
- *Other data users.*
- *Commercial fishers and recreational anglers.*
- *General public.*

FIS Program Contacts

Michael Liddel
Program Director
michael.liddel@noaa.gov

Lisa Peterson
lisa.peterson@noaa.gov

fisheries.noaa.gov/national/commercial-fishing/fisheries-information-system-program

The Fisheries Information System Program

State-Regional-Federal Partnership

The Fisheries Information System program is a state-regional-federal partnership that supports sound, science-based fisheries management. We do so by fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration and funding innovative projects to improve the quality of fisheries-dependent data.

Shared Governance Structure

FIS participants represent state partners, Fisheries Information Networks, and NOAA Fisheries headquarters, science centers, and regional offices. The program was created by Congress under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to build stronger relationships among NOAA Fisheries, councils, commissions, FINs, and states. A shared governance structure ensures FIS is meeting inherently regional fisheries-dependent data needs while promoting collaboration and information-sharing across geographic boundaries and professional disciplines.

Competitive RFP

Each year, FIS conducts a competitive RFP process that has funded more than 260 projects across all regions since 2013. The RFP is also supported by the National Observer Program's Electronic Technologies program and the National Catch Share Program.

Professional Specialty Groups

An integral part of FIS is our Professional Specialty Groups—cross-disciplinary teams that focus on addressing specific fishery-dependent data challenges. The PSGs foster communications across regions to develop innovative solutions, reduce duplication of effort, and enhance efficiency. Currently, these groups are addressing issues in the areas of electronic technologies; highly migratory species; software coding, design, and development; and quality management and continuous improvement.

Finding Solutions to Key Challenges

- **Challenge**: Limited resources must be targeted efficiently and effectively.
- **Solution**: FIS sponsors a competitive national RFP process that provides funding to regions for projects that spur innovation, encourage collaboration across regions and disciplines, and reduce duplication of effort.

- **Challenge:** There is a need for an integrated, deliberative approach to consistently and efficiently sharing new technologies, best practices, and lessons learned across regions, FINs, states, and disciplines.
- **Solution:** FIS convenes a diverse array of professionals to share ideas and perspectives on specific fisheries-dependent data issues including electronic technologies, highly migratory species, quality management and continuous improvement, and software design and development. To ensure coordinated decision-making, FIS operates under a shared governance structure with representatives from headquarters, science centers, regional offices, and FINs.

- **Challenge**: Data collection methods vary significantly from state to state and region to region. Ensuring data exist in consistent formats, and at comparable levels of quality and precision, will facilitate their integration and use in science and management.
- **Solution**: One of the key strengths of FIS is its capacity to foster coordination and collaboration. As more data gathering and storage applications are implemented through increasingly networked online environments, shared solutions and shared architecture fostered by FIS will serve to advance the portability, efficiency, and consistency of data systems.