

**Proposal for funding made to the
Coordinating Council and the Operations Committee
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
1050 N. Highland St., Ste. 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201**

**FY21: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from
the State of Rhode Island**

Submitted By:
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Applicant Name: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management,
Division of Marine Fisheries

Project Title: **FY21: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries
Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode
Island**

Project Type: Maintenance

Requested Award Amount: \$27,521

Requested Award Period: FY 2021 (August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022)

Primary Program Priority: Commercial and Recreational Catch and Effort Module

Date Submitted:

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Seasonal Interns

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Proposal for the State of Rhode Island

Objectives:

- Provide new and existing Rhode Island (RI) seafood dealers with technical support to maintain and improve dealer electronic reporting to the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) pursuant to RI Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations.
- Provide technical and analytical support to the RI Marine Fisheries Quota Monitoring Program as well as maintain dealer compliance monitoring protocols for both quota and non-quota managed species by utilizing commercial landings data from SAFIS.
- Collect and enhance trip-level catch and effort data through the RI Marine Fisheries Commercial Harvester Catch and Effort Logbook Program and the RI Electronic Recreational Logbook (eLOGBOOK) Program and continue to transition commercial fishermen to electronic trip reporting.
- Maintain and improve the existing data feed of RI supplemental fisheries data to the ACCSP data warehouse.

Need:

Beginning in 2006, the Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries (RIDMF) implemented the marine fisheries commercial data collection program. This program collects trip level landings data from all 125 dealers licensed in RI through direct dealer entry into the eDR (electronic dealer report) SAFIS application. Catch and effort data are currently collected from 100% of the fishermen in the state for the finfish, squid, whelk, and crustacean sectors. RI meets the ACCSP standard by maintaining a one-ticket system for the shellfish fishery sector and a two-ticket system for the crustacean, squid, finfish, and whelk fishery sectors. In addition, crustacean dockside sales are collected through a supplementary paper logbook which captures daily data of all sales. Data are transferred to the ACCSP data warehouse in the proper format annually.

Maintenance and coordination of the SAFIS data entry is critical for successful fisheries management in RI. This data has been essential for the determination of commercial catch and effort statistics, establishing an efficient quota monitoring process, and tracking active versus latent license holders. Quota monitoring is one of the most important uses of SAFIS data, as staff analyze trip level commercial landings data for quota managed species in RI daily. These analyses are used to make decisions regarding seasonal closures and possession limit changes.

Recreational data is collected. RI ACCSP staff is also responsible for outreach and support of the voluntary eLOGBOOK program; this SAFIS application is used to enter and house recreational catch and effort data. Additionally, in 2019, RIDMF established mandatory party and charter trip level electronic reporting. This increases the amount of recreational data collected and will provide a better understanding of the party and charter industry through accurate trip counts, census effort data, discard information, and catch rate data.

In addition to recreational and commercial data, in 2020 RI now requires trip level aquaculture reporting into SAFIS. Previously, a single data point was supplied to ACCSP for

inclusion in the spring data upload for each species. Now, dealers must report each aquaculture purchase to SAFIS eDR, improving our understanding of the aquaculture industry in RI. This data will show seasonal trends, provide a better understanding of the economic impact of the industry, and allow for better tracking of human health concerns such as vibrio monitoring.

Furthermore, RI ACCSP staff continues to provide data feeds for lobster at-sea and port sampling data via the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Lobster Database as well as supplemental horseshoe crab and dockside data for the Fisheries of the United States via ACCSP. Previously, aquaculture data was provided in this supplemental data transfer, but as of the 2020 season this data is being collected through SAFIS eDR and therefore is already available within the ACCSP dataset. Data feeds for finfish sampling to the ACCSP warehouse will continue to be developed and RI ACCSP staff will need to maintain this data feed once it is active.

With these programs established and planned enhancements scheduled for 2021, the goal of this project is to maintain these data feeds to the ACCSP while continuing to improve data quality as well as maintaining outreach to dealers and fishermen. The plan detailed below is similar to the scope of work proposed for the past several years.

Results and Benefits:

Collecting high quality, comprehensive fisheries data is essential to successful fisheries assessment and management. This project allows the current level of oversight and coordination of the ACCSP to continue in RI by providing funding for the staff necessary to maintain the project. **RI relies on comprehensive SAFIS eDR and eTRIPS/RI Commercial Harvester Logbook data for fisheries management programs including quota monitoring, resource assessment and allocation, and license tracking. The state also relies on eLOGBOOK data and the newly required census party and charter data; it enhances and adds to the existing MRIP dataset with regarding landings and discards** and increases our understanding of the length frequency distribution of recreational harvest. This comprehensive and timely data allows RIDMF to establish higher latitude in management programs which is encouraged by the fishing industry. **Additionally, once in the ACCSP data warehouse, the catch and effort and biological sampling data provided by RI can be utilized by other partners and stock assessment scientists for regional scientific assessment of important fish populations.** Although the work outlined in this proposal is specific to RI, **the presence of RI ACCSP staff provides benefits to regional partners; including increased coordination between state and federal program partners, increased technical assistance, as well as sharing of data collection methodology and troubleshooting techniques.**

Data Delivery Plan:

All landings data and catch and effort data collected by RI is entered in SAFIS. Landings data of both wild harvest and aquacultured species is entered directly into SAFIS eDR by the dealer twice a week and immediately available to ACCSP. Catch and effort (logbook) data (both commercial and party/charter) is submitted to SAFIS eTRIPS throughout the year, typically data entry is completed by March of the following year. **Once entered, all data is immediately available to ACCSP and other program partners who utilize SAFIS and the SAFIS tables**

within the warehouse. This data is also incorporated into the warehouse tables during the yearly uploads and available for warehouse users annually.

Additionally, RIDMF collects data on crustacean dockside sales, horseshoe crabs, lobster (sea, port, and ventless surveys), and finfish port sampling. **Currently, the dockside sale, horseshoe crab, and lobster data is converted into the proper flat file format and submitted to ACCSP during the spring upload.** The data feed for the finfish port sampling is still being developed, once active, RI data will be submitted.

Approach:

All licensed seafood dealers in RI (approximately 125 dealers) are electronically entering trip level data into SAFIS at least twice weekly (RIMF, 2018). Dealers are provided support and initial SAFIS training regarding the SAFIS eDR system. **Technical support is provided to dealers who call or walk-in daily for questions regarding licensing, possession limits and seasons, reporting, and other topics. Site visits are conducted if further support and training are necessary.**

To ensure data quality and proper SAFIS reporting, RIDMF strictly monitors dealer compliance. Phone calls are made to dealers who fall behind in reporting, and in cases where dealers are found to be non-compliant, administrative action is taken. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Division of Law Enforcement becomes involved when a dealer has repeatedly violated compliance regulations. To summarize a dealer's compliance performance, dealer "report cards" assigning qualitative grades are mailed quarterly to all dealers. It contains information regarding the number of reports made during a period, the number of reports that were submitted late, and the number of times RIDMF staff needed to contact the dealer regarding late reporting and reporting mistakes.

Landings entered by dealers are routinely checked for accuracy, both via SAFIS audit protocols daily, and through additional weekly audits. Any issues discovered during these audits are addressed with dealers and corrected via National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) JIRA or through eDR directly. **Licensing and commercial vessel data generated from RIDEM are kept up to date in SAFIS tables through weekly updates via the SAFIS Management System (SMS).** These audits and updates are of great importance and are necessary to maintain high standards of data quality.

Quota monitoring relies solely on accurate and up to date SAFIS data. Data are downloaded from SAFIS daily and analyzed using a software program developed in the statistical package R (R core team 2016). Once data are in the software program, they are sorted and filtered to detail daily landings of fluke, scup, black sea bass, striped bass, tautog, menhaden, bluefish, and smooth dogfish. **This data is then used to make fisheries management decisions, possession limit changes, and early seasonal closure decisions. Non-confidential, graphical updates of cumulative RI landings are then posted weekly to the RIDMF webpage as public information.**

Data requests and validations from fishermen, academics, stock assessment scientists, the RIDEM Licensing Division, and other stakeholders are also completed. **These requests support**

fisheries science and management decisions and are necessary to maintain the level of support required by RIDEM and other regional fisheries managers. The data obtained becomes available to support state and regional stock assessments, economic analyses, and research. All requests include only non-confidential data unless confidential access is granted through ACCSP channels. RI ACCSP staff are needed both to complete these data requests and handle confidential data access requests originating from ACCSP.

In addition to monitoring SAFIS landings data, metadata and socio-economic data are also collected by RI ACCSP staff. Examples of metadata include but are not limited information regarding weather (i.e. wind data), possession limits, and closed fishing seasons. Socio-economic data collected comes primarily from dockside sales of crustaceans from the state dockside sales logbook. Economic data entered by the dealers are used in monthly summaries for RI's two largest ports, Point Judith and Newport. The data are used to justify funding for port improvements and maintaining shoreside operations that enhance fisheries. Data are also used to highlight seafood availability and provide the basis for public outreach promoting local seafood consumption and improving the state's economy through support of the fishing industry.

Catch and effort data for all fisheries are essential to provide efficient and effective management. **Harvesters in all commercial fisheries are required by RI law to submit catch and effort data to RIDMF. Currently, all finfish, crustacean, squid, and whelk commercial fishermen are required to submit catch and effort information.** Shellfish fishermen are not required to submit catch and effort logbooks because the data is captured via a one-ticket system.

There are approximately 1700 commercially licensed fishermen in RI. Fishermen with a reporting requirement fall into two main categories: fishermen with a federal VTR requirement, and fishermen without a federal VTR requirement. Fishermen with a VTR requirement report to NMFS. Fishermen without a VTR requirement report to RIDMF and can elect to report either via the paper logbook, or electronically utilizing SAFIS eTRIPS. Due to the multiple reporting options, at the time of license renewal/purchase the **fishermen must declare a reporting method: federal VTR, state paper logbook, or eTRIPS. Fishermen who selected paper logbook are also required to purchase the paper logbook endorsement to help contribute to the printing, mailing, data entry, and administrative costs of the paper logbook program.**

Federal fishermen are exempt from the state logbook program to ensure there is not duplicate effort information being collected, however they are still required per regulation to submit reports. At the beginning of the year, all fishermen who declared VTR as their reporting method are mailed a "VTR Declaration Form," that asks for their federal permit and commercial fishing license number. **This information is then used to track compliance for the fishermen using the online NMFS database.** This system for VTR compliance eases the burden on both the fishermen and RIDMF. Fishermen are now reporting their catch and effort information to a single source (NMFS), decreasing confusion and mailing costs. This also decreases staff time used to track VTR compliance.

Fishermen without a VTR requirement must submit catch and effort information directly to RIDMF either via a paper logbook or through eTRIPS/eTRIPS Mobile. **All fishermen who report via the logbook need to submit quarterly catch and effort paper logbooks. They are**

provided postage-paid envelopes by RIDMF to ensure timely return of completed logbooks. Data quality is checked for each logbook submitted and any missing or inaccurate information is corrected through contacting the fishermen. Any logbook not completed in full is returned to the fishermen for correction.

Since 2012, RI fishermen have had the ability to enter their catch reports directly into eTRIPS. Currently there are approximately 775 eTRIPS accounts in RI issued to fishermen who declared eTRIPS as their reporting method; **this is equivalent to 53% of all fishermen with a reporting requirement, a large increase as 26% of fishermen were utilizing eTRIPS in 2014** (Figure 2: Reporting Method Breakdown). To help continue the trend to electronic reporting, RIDMF staff offers support to fishermen who want to learn and use the program. **Training materials are available on the RIDMF website, and staff routinely answer phone calls, emails, and walk-in questions about eTRIPS.** **While electronic reporting is not mandatory per any regulatory agency,** RIDMF will continue outreach for eTRIPS to continue to increase the number of fishermen using electronic reporting. **If electronic reporting becomes mandatory, RI will ensure to meet the requirements and transition fishermen to electronic reporting.**

RIDMF also does outreach and support for eTRIPS-Mobile and will continue this in the future. The application allows for both real time data entry as well as post-trip entry. Reports submitted through this application fulfill both state reports and NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) VTRs. RI has also adopted eTRIPS-Mobile as a mandatory reporting method for a pilot aggregate landing program, further increasing its use. In 2018 there were 39 users; however due to the ease of use, GARFO acceptance, and use in RI pilot programs use has been increasing. **Utilizing the mobile application and offering training on the program will allow fishermen to enter data in real time, resulting in more accurate and time sensitive entries.**

All reports directly entered by the fishermen electronically are audited; in the event an error is found, the fisherman is contacted and sent a report with any corrections that need to be made. In addition to audit reports, **emails are sent to all RI eTRIPS users detailing the common errors seen during the audit process and importance of accurate reporting.**

RI commercial licensees may not renew their licenses unless they have correctly completed their catch and effort logbooks or eTRIPS reports for the entire year. Additionally, **harvester license number, dealer, and sale date from the catch and effort data are used to match records with dealer reports for quality control and assurance of the landings data.**

Fishermen who hold a RI crustacean dockside sales endorsement must fill out a dockside sales logbook which details the quantity, market, grade, and price of all crustaceans sold at the dock. The dockside sales logbook is mailed to the 264 dockside endorsement holders and must be completed before the licensee can renew their license for the following year. **The dockside sales data captures some of RI's economic data, and this data is transmitted to the ACCSP as supplementary data.** RI staff is needed to oversee data entry, perform quality checks, and transfer the sale data to ACCSP in the proper format annually.

Reporting of all party and charter trips became mandatory in 2019. Per RIMF Regulations, all trips must be reported electronically through either eTRIPS or eTRIPS Mobile within 48 hours of landing. Staff are needed to train fishermen, audit data, check compliance, and provide support to the industry. **This data will also provide a clearer picture of the party/charter fleet in RI and allow more flexibility within the regulations for the fleet.**

RI will continue to utilize and promote the voluntary eLOGBOOK program. This data can be used for recreational effort estimates as well as for important management decisions. The eLOGBOOK data also contains lengths of both fish harvested and released. This data was useful for all partners in the **bluefish stock assessment, as discard data was used in the 2015 benchmark assessment.**

RIDMF has port and at-sea sampling programs for selected commercial fisheries within the state. **The port sampling program focuses on collecting biological samples required by ASMFC fishery management plans.** These species include striped bass, weakfish, tautog, bluefish, menhaden, lobster, and Jonah crab. **RIDMF's at-sea lobster sampling program focuses on ASMFC management needs** as well as state specific data needs. **RIDMF provides the data feed of lobster port and at-sea sampling data to ACCSP via the ASMFC Lobster Assessment Database.** Neither the lobster sampling programs nor the finfish sampling programs receive funding from ACCSP.

RIDMF staff also sit on ACCSP committees including: Operations Committee, Biological Review Panel, Bycatch Prioritization Committee, Commercial Technical Committee, Information Systems Committee, Standard Codes Committee, and Recreational Technical Committee. RIDMF staff are heavily involved in all aspects of ACCSP and contribute in full to all partners' interest.

From 2002 through 2016, RI utilized primarily contract employees through ASMFC to manage the ACCSP data collection program funded through ACCSP. In February 2016, RIDMF hired a state full-time employee to fill the ACCSP Coordinator duties. Project staff will continue to provide support with processing and data entry of harvester logbooks, aiding with compliance monitoring and data auditing, quota monitoring and compliance issues relevant to SAFIS, SAFIS technical support and outreach, ACCSP committees, eTRIPS and eLOGBOOK outreach, grant management, and long-term program development.

This proposal represents a recurring project funded by ACCSP for the past sixteen years. With a total budget of \$94,582, 71% of the total cost is an in-kind contribution from RIDMF. Table 1 provides a brief project history of ACCSP Implementation in RI. Cost details for fiscal year 2021 are outlined in the requested budget while last year's requested funding is presented in Appendix A.

In a RIDMF white paper, Gibson and Lazar (2006) documented the deficiencies of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries program and argued that significant infusion of funding and staff is needed. The RIDMF Marine Fisheries section has undergone a peer reviewed evaluation and need assessment, which concluded that RIDMF Marine Fisheries requires more staff to effectively maintain its services (Boreman et al., 2006). However, like many other states on the

Atlantic Coast, the state of RI is experiencing fiscal shortfalls. **RIDMF is starting to actively assume some of the costs of ACCSP programs by devoting more staff time to the project and continues to seek alternate funding sources for the project.** In 2010 the state of RI implemented the RI Recreational Saltwater License. **Funds from license receipts are dedicated to the salary of a recreational biologist as well as improving data quality. The recreational biologist sits on the ACCSP recreational technical committee and manages eLOGBOOK and party and charter reporting, thus these funds now help support the ACCSP program. Encouraging commercial fishermen to transition from paper logbooks to the eTRIPS reporting method through incentives, training programs and regulations has already decreased and ultimately will eliminate some of the costs surrounding the distribution and data entry required for paper logbooks.** This will reduce the RIDMF's dependence upon ACCSP funds for maintaining timely and accurate data feeds and will be completed as funding and staff time allows. **Furthermore, the transition the ACCSP coordinator from a fisheries specialist ASMFC employee to an RIDEM FTE (Principal Biologist) shows RIDMF's dedication to covering the costs of the ACCSP program in the future, but asks for funding assistance during this transitional time.**

RIDMF also recognizes the recent changes made to maintenance proposals regarding funding opportunities. While a concrete plan is not in place to take over funding, **different options are being proposed including: the continued move to electronic reporting, licensing restructure, and other means to fund the program. Nothing is confirmed at this point, so the final years of available funding is important to RI and its ACCSP program.**

Geographic Location:

The project will be administered out of the Rhode Island Division Marine Fisheries office in Jamestown, RI. The scope of the project covers all of RI and adjacent state and federal waters fished by RI license holders.

Program Accomplishment Measurement Metrics:

The success of the project will be measured by the following metrics:

Goal	Metric	Accomplished
Data Delivery to ACCSP	Supplemental data complete, correct, and available for spring upload	Data delivered to ACCSP in March annually
Landings and Effort Data Delivery to ACCSP	Trips Entered in 2019 by application	eDR: 23,922 state only trips eTRIPS: 23,403
Support to RI Licensed Seafood Dealers	Dealer trainings, site visits, and other outreach in 2019.	3 new dealers 2 site visits Phone call and email correspondence was made
Quota Monitoring	Number of possession limit changes and early closures during 2019 determined through accurate SAFIS data	30 changes in possession or early season closures

Table 1. Project History.

Year	Title	Cost	Results
2000	Implementation of the ACCSP Program in Rhode Island	230,938	Planning and development of ACCSP commercial module implementation

2001	Implementation of ACCSP Continuation	20,000	Implementation of trip level reporting for all RI lobster harvesters, Commercial fishing license reconstruction
2002	Implementation of Phase 2 of ACCSP in the State of Rhode Island	133,084	ACCSP coordinator hired, planning and development of electronic dealer reporting system (RIFIS)
2003	Implementation of Phase 3 of ACCSP in the State of Rhode Island	131,760	Phased Implementation of RIFIS with focus on high volume dealers
2004	Continued Implementation of the ACCSP Program in the State of Rhode Island	159,716	Transition of RIFIS to SAFIS, implementation of federally permitted dealers
2005	Continued Implementation of the ACCSP Program in the State of Rhode Island	95,365	Quota monitoring system developed using SAFIS data, regulation created requiring all RI dealers to report landings via SAFIS
2006	Continuation of SAFIS and Finfish Logbooks in Rhode Island	150,365	Implementation of SAFIS completed, Development of harvester logbook for finfish and crustacean fishery sectors
2007	Coordination and Development of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	145,697	Implementation of harvester logbook for finfish and crustacean fishery sectors
2008	Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	128,647	Implementation of Dockside Sales Logbook, work begun on feeding data to ACCSP, maintenance of Data collection programs
2009	Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	142,075	Data feeds of Logbook data and lobster biological sampling developed.
2010	Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	100,983	eREC developed and eTrips pilot program started, data feeds continued, Fluke sector monitoring database developed, dealer report card system developed
2011	Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	85,584	Automatic data feed for catch and effort data established via eTRIPS, eREC maintained and developed, data feeds continued
2012	Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	99,379	Maintenance of automatic data feed for catch and effort data via eTRIPS on a real time basis, maintenance of eLOGBOOK, data feeds continued
2013	FY13: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	91,416	RSA tracking improved, maintenance of automatic data feed for catch and effort data via eTRIPS upload, maintenance of eLOGBOOK, data feeds continued
2014	FY14: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	85,408	RSA tracking improved, maintenance of automatic data feed for catch and effort data via eTRIPS upload, maintenance of eLOGBOOK, data feeds continued
2015	FY15: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	79,719	Maintenance of automatic data feed for catch and effort data via eTRIPS on a real time basis, maintenance of eLOGBOOK, data feeds continued. Improvements to party and charter industry tracking. eTRIPS user outreach and training
2016	FY16: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	79,736	Maintenance of automatic data feeds for catch and effort data via eTRIPS, maintenance of eLOGBOOK data feeds continued. Outreach of eTRIPS Mobile application. Continue eTRIPS user training and outreach.
2017	FY17: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	78,420	Maintenance of automatic data feeds for landings catch and effort data via SAFIS, eLOGBOOK data feeds, and supplemental data feeds. Outreach of eTRIPS-Mobile. Continue SAFIS user training and outreach.
2018	FY18: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	76,920	Maintenance of automatic data feeds for landings catch and effort data via SAFIS, eLOGBOOK data feeds, and supplemental data feeds. Outreach of eTRIPS-Mobile. Continue SAFIS user training and outreach.
2019	FY19: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	76,920	Maintenance of automatic data feeds for landings catch and effort data via SAFIS, eLOGBOOK data feeds, and supplemental data feeds. Outreach of eTRIPS-Mobile. Continue SAFIS user training and outreach.
2020	FY20: Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island	55,043	Maintenance of automatic data feeds for landings catch and effort data via SAFIS, eLOGBOOK data feeds, and supplemental data feeds. Outreach of eTRIPS-Mobile. Continue SAFIS user training and outreach.

Table 2. Milestone Schedule

Activity	Month														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Bold Comments indicate sections that help with the ranking process

SAFIS Support to RI Dealers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Quota Monitoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
eTRIPS support to industry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
eTRIPS logbook Data Entry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Data Feeds to ACCSP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Semi and Annual Report Writing							X					X	X	X	X

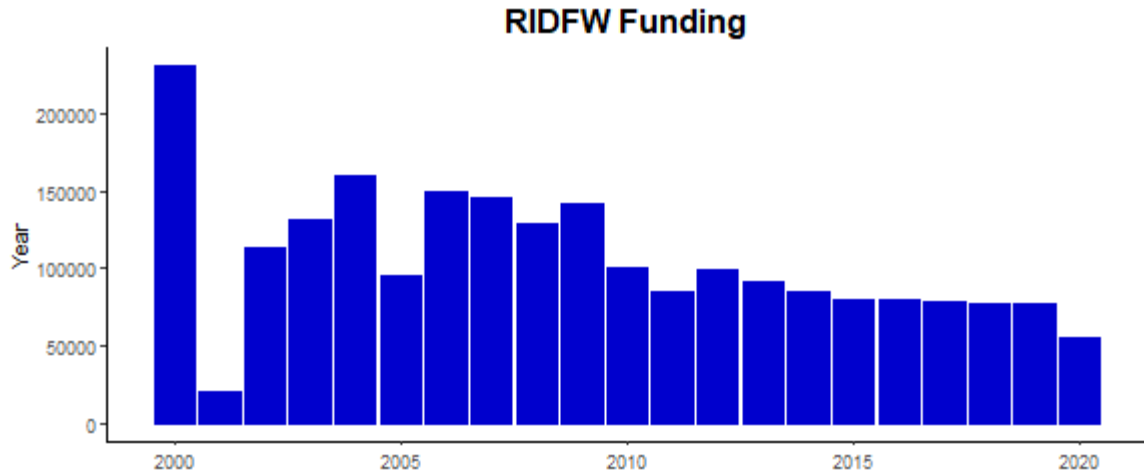


Figure 1. RIDMF past funding from ACCSP.

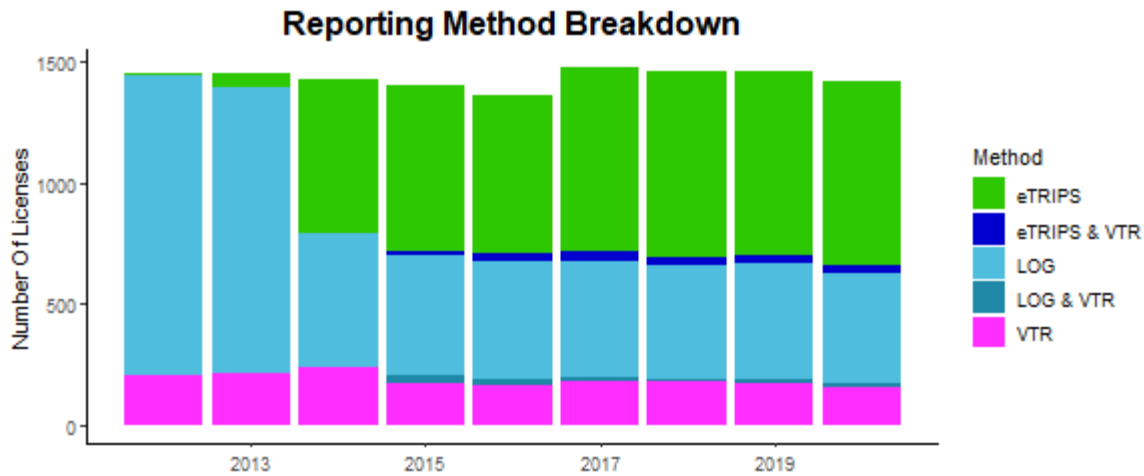


Figure 2: Reporting Method Breakdown

References:

Boreman, J., Diodati, P., O’Shea, and E. Smith. 2006. Assessment of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management’s Marine Fisheries Section. RIDEM Internal Document, October 2006.

Gibson M. and N. Lazar. 2006. Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Fisheries Section 2006: Current Activities, Funding, and an Appraisal of Future Needs. RIDEM Internal Document, August 2006.

Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Regulations (RIMFR), Part 7- Dealer Regulations, 2018

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Requested Budget FY 2021 (August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022)

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total
Supervising Biologist (FTE 3%)	\$0	\$3,655	\$3,655
Principal Biologist (FTE 10%)	\$0	\$10,781	\$10,781
Principal Biologist (FTE 27%)	\$14,525	\$18,177	\$56,568
Seasonal Interns - 2 (RIDEM 40% each)	\$8,553	\$3,868	\$12,422
Indirect Charges (RIDEM FTE 19.25%)	\$4,443	\$7,022	\$24,365
Total Personnel	\$27,521	\$43,503	\$71,025

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total
Logbook Printing @ \$5.91 per logbook	\$0	\$3,546	\$3,546
Logbook Mailing @ \$4.75 per logbook	\$0	\$2,850	\$2,850
Dockside Printing @ \$4.96 per logbook	\$0	\$1,488	\$1,488
Dockside Mailing @ \$5.91 per logbook	\$0	\$1,773	\$1,773
Business reply envelope printing	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
Business reply account	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
Website development and updating	\$0	\$2,400	\$2,400
Outreach mailing	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Office supplies	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
Telephone & Fax Usage	\$0	\$500	\$500
Vehicle Usage and Travel	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total Supply	\$0	\$23,557	\$23,557

TOTAL:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total
Total Direct Charges	\$27,521	\$67,060	\$94,582
Percentage	29%	71%	

COST DETAILS:

Description of Budget categories and expenses for this project.

a. Salary

Bold Comments indicate sections that help with the ranking process

Each person spends a fraction of their time working on this grant in a team effort. The annual salaries for personnel and the percentage of their time spent on this project are as follows:

From ACCSP:

- i. **Principal Biologist/ ACCSP Coordinator:** 12% ACCSP funded position to act as support to the ACCSP Coordinator; 12% of salary and fringe benefits for one year = \$14,525.
- ii. **Seasonal Interns:** Support for 2 Seasonal Interns to assist with data entry 40% of annual salary = \$8,553.

From RIDEM as match:

- i. **Supervising Biologist:**
Approximately 3% of annual salary and fringe benefits equals \$3,655.
- ii. **Principal Biologist:**
Approximately 10% of annual salary and fringe benefits equals \$10,781.
- iii. **Principal Biologist**
- iv. Approximately 15% of annual salary and fringe benefits equals \$18,177.**Seasonal Interns:**
Support for 2 Seasonal Interns to assist with data entry.
Approximately 17% of annual salary \$3,868.

b. Fringe benefits

Annual fringe benefits rates for all employees include the following:

Retirement 24%
Deferred Compensation 0.4%
FICA 6.2%
Medicare 1.45%
Health care \$21,937/year
Dental \$ 1,132/year
Vision Mercer - \$165/year
Assessed Fringe 4,25%
Retiree Health 6.75%

c. Travel

\$3,000 used for mileage, tolls for site visits and meetings, and to subsidize vehicle usage by ACCSP staff as well as any incurred travel expenses for dealer visits; RIDEM will assume the costs. These costs are based on historical used under the current award.

d. Equipment

No equipment will be purchased on this grant.

e. Supplies

From ACCSP:

- i. None.

From RIDEM:

- ii. **Logbook Printing:** 600 logbooks @ \$5.91/logbook – \$3,546.
- iii. **Logbook Mailing:** 600 logbooks @ \$4.75/book = \$2,850
- iv. **Dockside Printing:** 300 logbooks @ \$4.96/logbook - \$1,488
- v. **Dockside Mailing:** 300 logbooks @ \$5.91/logbook - \$1,773

- vi. **Business Reply Envelope Printing:** 20,000 Envelopes @ \$0.125/envelope = \$2,500.
- vii. **Business Reply Account:** \$100/month Mar-Nov; \$200/month Dec-Feb = \$1,500.
- viii. **Website Development and Updating:** Costs for maintaining current website and creating a website section dedicated to online reporting, including the creation training materials. Estimated at \$2,400.
- ix. **Telephone and Fax usage** - \$500
- x. **Office Supplies** \$1,000
- xi. **Miscellaneous and outreach mailing:**
 - 1. **Compliance mailing:** $1,600 * \$0.50 = \800
 - 2. **License renewal mailing to notify license holders of renewal regulations and changes:** $3,000 * \$0.50 = \$1,500$
 - 3. **Dealer Report Cards:** $140 * 4 * \$0.50 = \280
 - 4. **Returned Logs:** ~2% per month of 1,600 = $32 * 12 = 384 * \$0.50 = \192
 - 5. **Miscellaneous/Outreach mailings:** ~\$228

f. Contractual

There will be no contractual under this grant.

g. Construction

There will be no construction as part of this grant.

h. Other

There is nothing in this category

i. Total Direct Charges

This is the sum of all direct charges to the grant, listed above.

j. Indirect charges.

Indirect charges are only calculated using RIDEM personnel charges. The negotiated Indirect Rate for fiscal year 2020 is 19.25%.

Summary of Proposal for Ranking

Proposal Type: Maintenance

Primary Program Priority: Catch and Effort (100%)

- 100% of dealers report trip level landings data for all species.
- 100% of commercial fishermen report trip level catch and effort data, which is entered into SAFIS (except federal permit holders that report on VTRs to NMFS) or via a 1-ticket system for shellfish entered at trip level by the dealer in the eDR.
- 100% of all party and charter captains report trip level data, which is entered into SAFIS.
- Metadata and socioeconomic that is detailed on page 6 are also collected to enhance and describe data sets that are important to RI's commercial fisheries.

Project Quality Factors:

Partners

- **Multi-Partner/Regional impact including broad applications** –To collect and manage catch and effort, landings, and recreational data in RI. However data on many regionally managed species, such as American lobster, striped bass, black sea bass, bluefish, tautog, and others is collected. As these species are regionally managed, the data collected are used in coastwide and regional stock assessments, therefore other partners benefit from having access to this data.

Funding

- **Contains funding transition plan** – This proposal contains a transition to funding plan on page 8-9. Changes in maintenance proposal funding has been addressed by RIDMF and the ACCSP Coordinator role has been transitioned to a Principal Biologist FTE. While RIDMF continues to ask for funds during this transitional period, it is understood there is a definite end date to the funds available to RI for this project.
- **In-kind contribution-** 71% of this project is funded by the RIDMF.

Data

- **Improvement in data quality/quantity/timeliness** – RI provides timely catch and effort data and landings data to the ACCSP. This is done by fully utilizing ACCSP data entry products (eTRIPS, eDR, eLOGBOOK, and eTRIPS Mobile) as well as having standards backed up by Marine Fisheries regulations that require reporting that meets ACCSP standards. RI has successfully begun to push fishermen to using eTRIPS for direct data entry resulting in timelier data entry and is embracing eTRIPS Mobile for data entry. Additionally, all supplemental data (port and sea sampling, aquaculture, dockside sales, and horseshoe crab data) is provided to ACCSP annually in the proper format.
- **Potential secondary module as a by-product** – Social and economic data that is described on pages 6 is collected regularly and used in fisheries models to characterize and understand RI fisheries. This data has also been made available to regional partners upon request and has been used in groundfish disaster relief funding to determine how the money is to be distributed.
- **Impact on stock assessment-** Data collected in this program is regularly used for many “in-house” stock assessments done on local species such as whelk, quahog, and soft shell clam. This data also includes information on regionally or jointly managed species and is used for their science and management programs as well. Partners, like surrounding states, the ASMFC, and the NOAA Fisheries can and do use this information for various stock assessments.

Appendix A: Prior year budget**Budget FY 2020 (August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021)****PERSONNEL COSTS:**

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total
Supervising Biologist (FTE 10%)	\$0	\$12,312	\$12,312
Principal Biologist (FTE 50.9%)	\$0	\$50,159	\$50,159
Principal Biologist (FTE 34%)	\$38,391	0	\$38,391
Assistant Admin Officer (Contractual 50%)	\$0	\$21,139	\$21,139
Seasonal Interns - 2 (RIDEM 40% each)	\$8,554	\$10,692	\$19,246
Indirect Charges (RIDEM FTE 17.25%)	\$8,098	\$16,267	\$24,365
Total Personnel	\$55,043	\$110,569	\$165,612

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total
Logbook Printing @ \$5.91 per logbook	\$0	\$3,546	\$3,546
Logbook Mailing @ \$4.75 per logbook	\$0	\$2,850	\$2,850
Dockside Printing @ \$4.96 per logbook	\$0	\$1,488	\$1,488
Dockside Mailing @ \$5.91 per logbook	\$0	\$1,773	\$1,773
Business reply envelope printing	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
Business reply account	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
Website development and updating	\$0	\$2,400	\$2,400
Outreach mailing	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Office supplies	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
Telephone & Fax Usage	\$0	\$500	\$500
Vehicle Usage and Travel	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total Supply	\$0	\$23,557	\$23,557

TOTAL:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct State Share	Total
Total Direct Charges	\$55,043	\$134,126	\$189,169
Percentage	29%	71%	

Appendix B: Curriculum Vitae for Principal Investigator

Nichole L. Ausfresser Ares

Nichole.Ares@gmail.com

(978) 833- 4017

Education

Roger Williams University

Bristol, RI

Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology

Dec. 2010

Minor in Mathematics

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

October 2015

Introduction to Stock Assessment

Intermediate Stock Assessment Training

December 2017

Work Experience

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

February 2016-Present

Principal Biologist

- Coordinate and improve the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) in Rhode Island.
- Monitor commercial fishing quotas, lead quota management meetings and determination of seasonal closures and possession limit changes.
- Reporting compliance for ~1500 RI commercially licensed fishermen. Including tracking compliance, training and support to fishermen on report submissions and utilization of the electronic reporting system. Supervise and train staff on data entry of collected catch and effort data. Audit data quality of submitted reports.
- Data accuracy and quality of dealer reported landings data for the ~140 RI commercial licensed seafood dealers. Correction of inaccuracies in data, training new seafood dealers, and retraining dealers with data entry issues.
- Serve on ACCSP committees, including Commercial Technical Committee, Information Systems Committee and Standard Codes Committee.
- Assist in field work as necessary including but not limited to otter trawl, ventless lobster pot, beach seine, fyke net, and ventless fish pot surveys.
- Write and submit project plans, compliance reports, and grant proposals.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

May 2014- February 2016

Fisheries Specialist 1- ACCSP Coordinator

- Coordinate and improve the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) in Rhode Island under the supervision of Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife Marine Fisheries Section.
- Monitor commercial fishing quotas, lead quota management meetings and determination of seasonal closures and possession limit changes.
- Track reporting compliance for ~1500 RI commercially licensed fishermen. Train fishermen and seasonal staff on report submissions. Audit data quality of submitted reports.
- Audit and correct data of dealer reported landings data for the ~140 RI commercial licensed seafood dealers. Train new seafood dealers and retraining dealers with data entry issues.
- Write and submit project plans, compliance reports, and grant proposals.
- Member of various ACCSP committees, including Commercial Technical Committee and Information Systems Committee.

- Assist in field work as needed, including beach seine, lobster ventless pot, and otter trawl surveys.

East West Technical Services LLC

Feb. 2012- May 2014

At-Sea Monitor and Scallop Observer

- Organize fishing trips with federal commercial fishermen of the North Eastern United States.
- Collect catch and discard data on groundfish (trawl, gillnet, and longline) and scallop dredge fishing vessels. Identify all species brought on board and take biological measurements and samples including; length, weight, scales, vertebrae, and otoliths.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

June. 2011-Dec. 2011

Division of Fish and Wildlife- Marine Fisheries Student Researcher

April 2013-Oct. 2013

- Data and logbook entry using Microsoft Access, Microsoft Excel, SAFIS, and Telnet.
- Contact fishermen when questions arise with logbook submissions.
- Assist in field work sampling in beach seine, otter trawl, clam suction, clam dredge, lobster pots, fish pots, and finfish port sampling.
- Fish aging structure removal (operculum, scales, and otoliths) and preparation.

Research Experience

Roger Williams University

June 2009- June 2011

- Project goals are to examine mercury bioaccumulation in fish tissues, examine selenium concentrations in tissues, and examine selenium mercury relationships.
- Includes sampling methods of rod & reel and otter trawl surveys, the extraction of muscle, liver, brain tissues, and otoliths. Preparing tissues samples for atomic absorption spectroscopy and inductively coupled plasma mass spectroscopy. Use of Microsoft Excel and SAS to analyze the data, PowerPoint to present data at conferences. Organize the laboratory and help keep scientific equipment running correctly.
- Mentor: Dr. David L. Taylor, Assistant Professor

Technology, Skills, and Certifications

- Proficient in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access, and Picture Manager, SAFIS info systems, Telnet, HTML, Adobe DreamWeaver, Oracle Databases (SAFIS Interface and Business Objects), and R.
- Familiar with SQL.
- Large dataset management
- Certified PADI Open Water Scuba Diver
- RIDEM Certificate of Boating Safety Education
- U.S Coastguard Auxiliary Boating Safety Course
- Fisheries sampling techniques including fish and invertebrate identification, trawl, beach seine, lobster and fish pots, gillnets, and dissections.