

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

Recipient: North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Marine Fisheries

Grant Award #: NA25NMF474G0021

Grant Title: North Carolina socioeconomic database construction for the management of current and future data

Principal Investigator: Jason Walsh

Grant Award Period: 07/01/2025 – 09/30/2026

Reporting Period: 01/01/2026 – 6/30/2026

Project Costs: Total: \$145,020

Expenditure for the Period:

Category	Approved Budget	Current Expenditure	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
Personnel	\$141,981	\$65,529.56	\$113,038.56	\$28,942.44
Travel	\$1,539	\$0	\$0	\$1,539
Equipment	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,500
Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$145,020	\$65,529.56	\$113,038.56	\$31,981.44

Description of Work:

This grant funds one contractor that is responsible to build a consolidated socioeconomic database to be used by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) Fisheries Economics Program to organize existing data for easier analysis and standardize future data entry and storage, as well as facilitate transmissions of fishery-dependent socioeconomic data to the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Data Warehouse. The Fisheries Economics Program administers surveys to stakeholders to monitor species-specific and broad fishery performance to achieve the goals of the Division. The data collected through these surveys are considered sensitive and confidential information about fishermen and dealers in North Carolina but are currently stored on a NCDMF network drive that is open to every employee within the License and Statistics Section. These data are collected and stored in Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Access formats in organized folders with corresponding metadata in Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Word documents according to standard operating procedures written by the Fisheries Economics Program. Given the diversity and structure of datasets there

has not been a centralized location for data to be stored. This leads to data being disorganized, difficult to work with and challenging to identify trends which is pertinent to the goal of identifying fishery economic performance and participation over time. Consolidation of these data into a database will also allow for increased protection and organization to ensure data are handled appropriately.

Project Status/ Work Accomplished:

NCDIT staff and the contractor continue to expand on the functionality of the pilot commercial survey within the web-based user interface created in the FY23 project. Functionality to date include the ability to enter a new survey, enter new survey questions and subquestions, and edit surveys and questions/subquestions. A display type can be assigned to each question and subquestion that determines how the question will be displayed on the screen. The questions can be viewed in a Template format that shows the economist what the final survey would look like online. All previous survey responses from the pilot survey have been migrated into the database and can be viewed and edited within the interface. New responses can also be added to the pilot survey. In this year of the grant, the main focus has been on the ability to build a new survey by selecting questions from the question bank and ordering them within the interface. That functionality is currently in QA and next steps are to start trying to add a recreational survey into the database using the existing interface to see if all functionality needed has been identified and completed that's needed to complete this action. Over the last six months, a recreational survey that will be used as a pilot for this survey type was identified and user stories are being created to build this recreational functionality. New variables for the recreational survey have been identified and will need to be added to the database first before new questions can be added. Some new question display types were discovered in the recreational survey that weren't in the commercial survey that need to be developed to fully allow the economist to test the interface with the new recreational survey. The economist will also be working on preparing the recreational data for the contractor to import to the database once testing is completed. The intent of this recreational survey is to identify any flaws in the workflow and interface usability and will be tested by our QA team and then by the economist in user acceptance testing (UAT). All existing functionality mentioned above will not be pushed to UAT until the updates in display type needed for the recreational survey have been added to facilitate an easier testing flow and to simulate real world scenarios of adding a new survey to the interface.

NCDIT at NCDMF has been using the Agile SCRUM methodology for software development over the last 10 years. Development of the database and interface referenced in this update has been conducted using Agile development and 3-week development sprints. User stories to define "bite-sized" pieces of functionality from the requirements document continue to be created to guide the development process and describe how the new system should function. The DMF economist has met with NCDIT several times to review functionality developed so far.

Deviations:

None.