

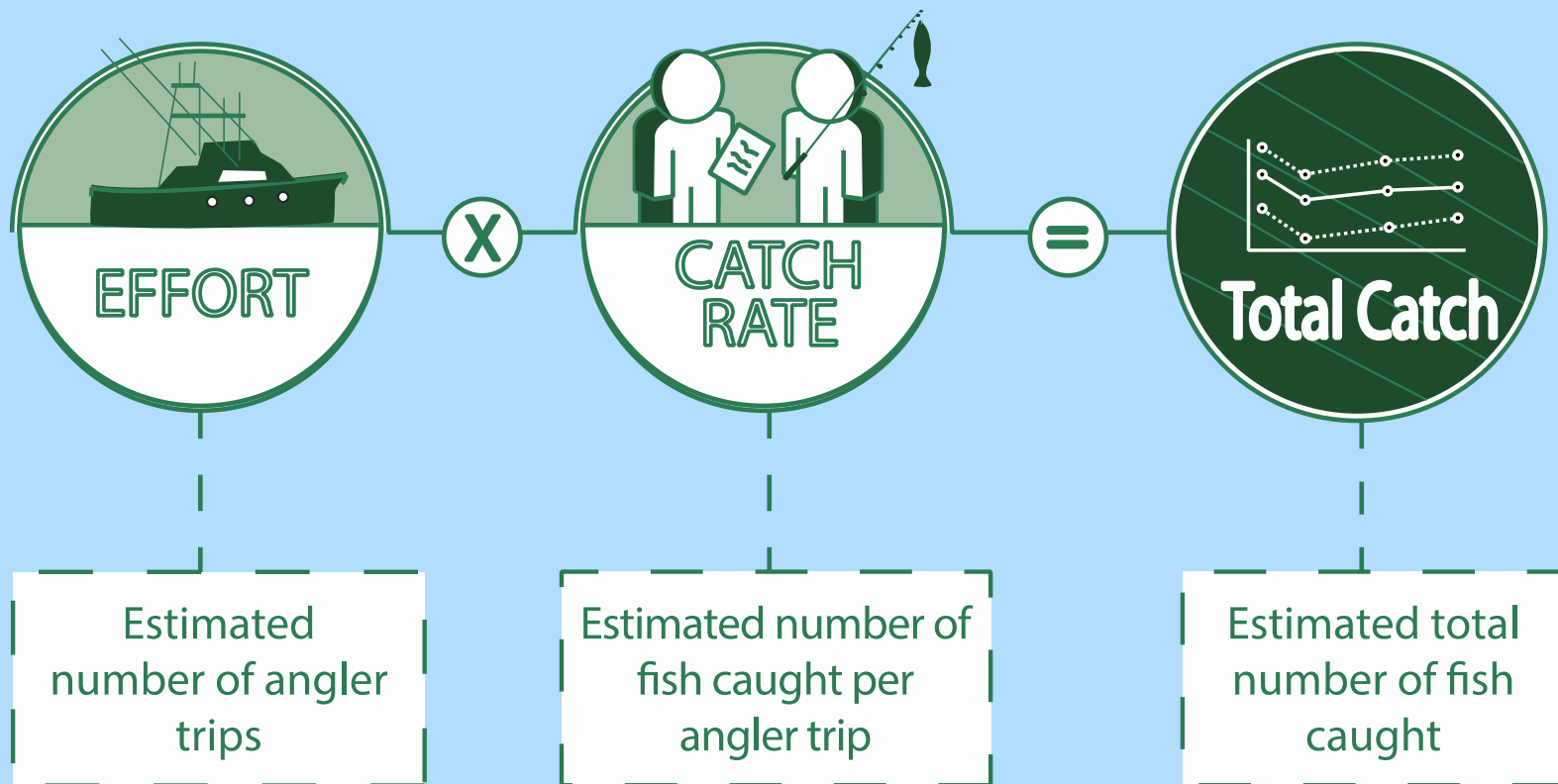


**NOAA
FISHERIES**

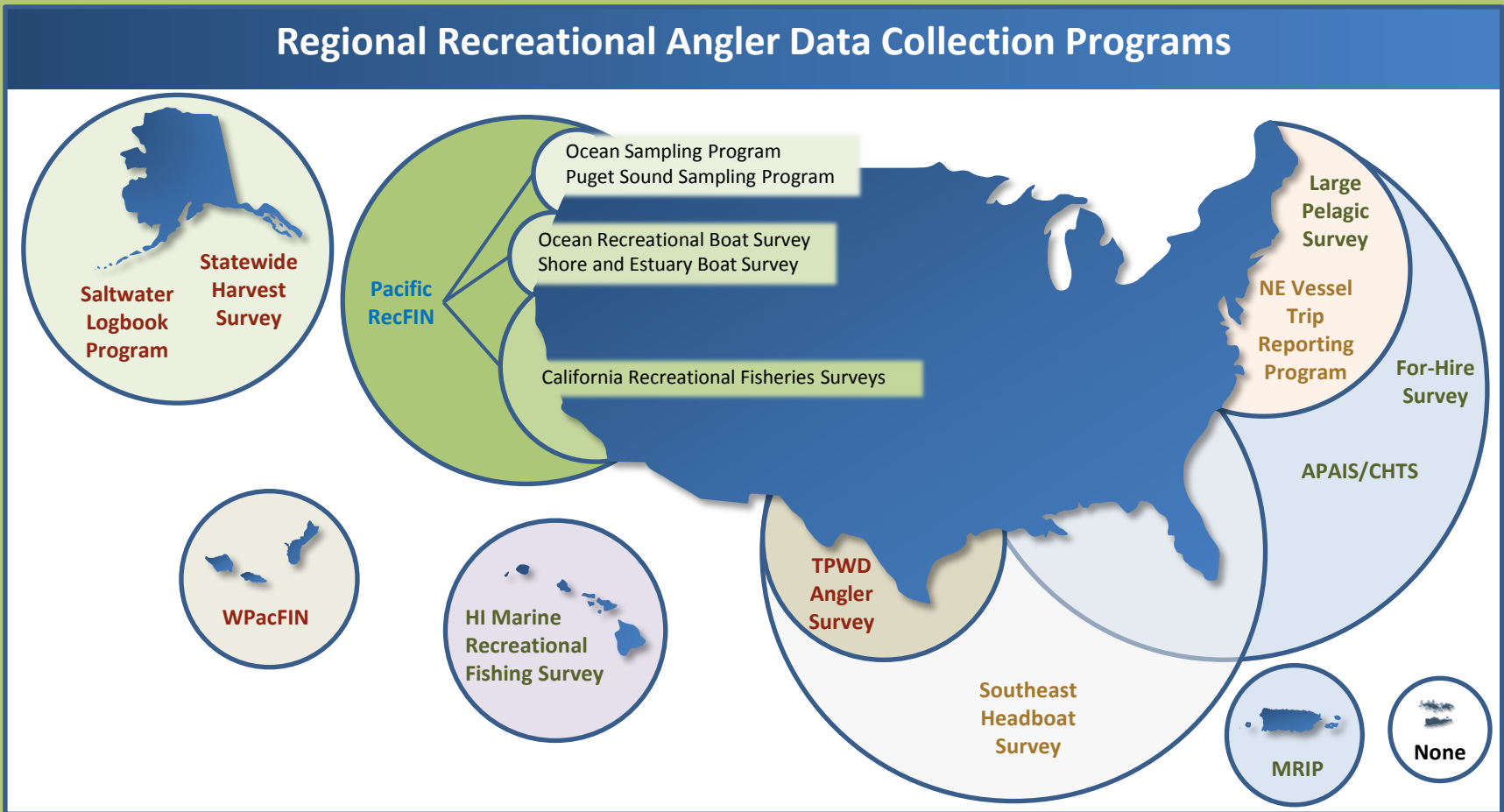
Update on the Status of the Marine Recreational Information Program

Richard Merrick | *Chief Science Advisor*
Council Coordination Committee
June 24, 2015

Estimating Recreational Fishery Catch



Estimating Recreational Fishing Activity

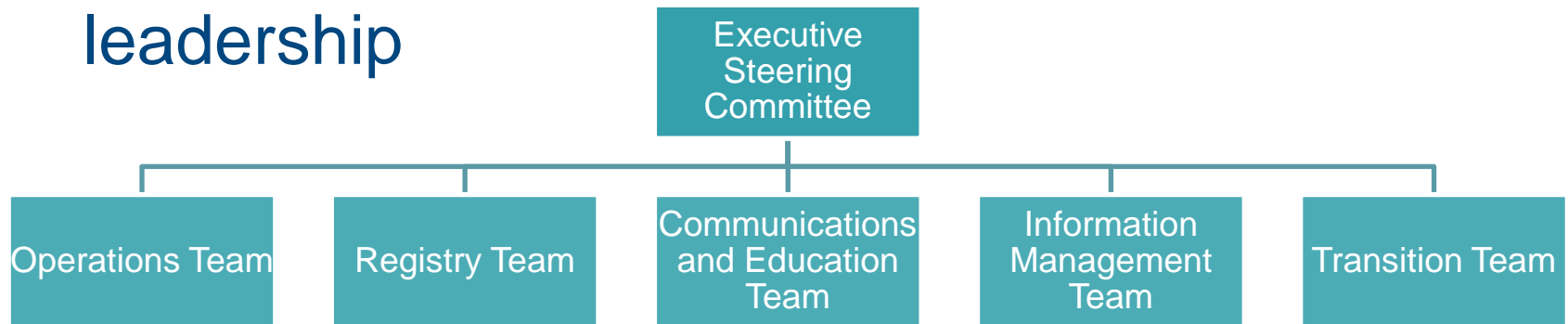


Data generated by a series of regional surveys (not census)

MRIP Approach



1. Stakeholder-inclusive governance and team leadership



2. Deliberate, well-articulated process



3. Regional Implementation

MILESTONES OF THE MRIP PROGRAM

Marine Recreational Information Program



- Milestone
- Milestone in response to NRC guidance (*completed*)
- Milestone in response to NRC guidance (*in progress*)



MRIP on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts

1

- NOAA has now addressed all the major NRC recommendations for improving catch estimates for shore and private boat fishing on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts

2

- The new MRIP Fishing Effort Survey will be the last of these recommendations to be implemented

3

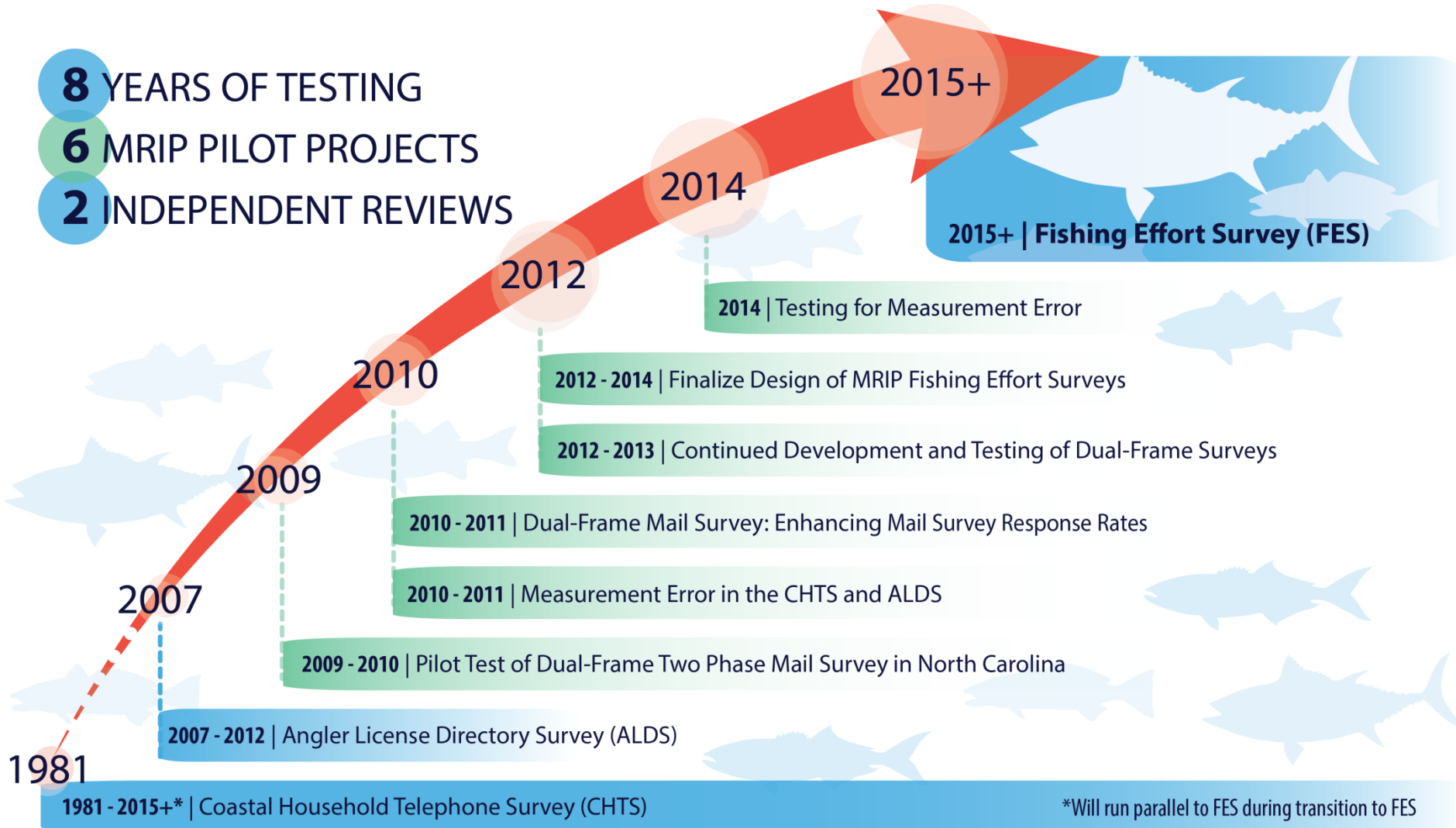
- Transitioning to this new survey will take three years & require continuing collaboration with partners and stakeholders

EVOLUTION OF THE EFFORT SURVEY

8 YEARS OF TESTING

6 MRIP PILOT PROJECTS

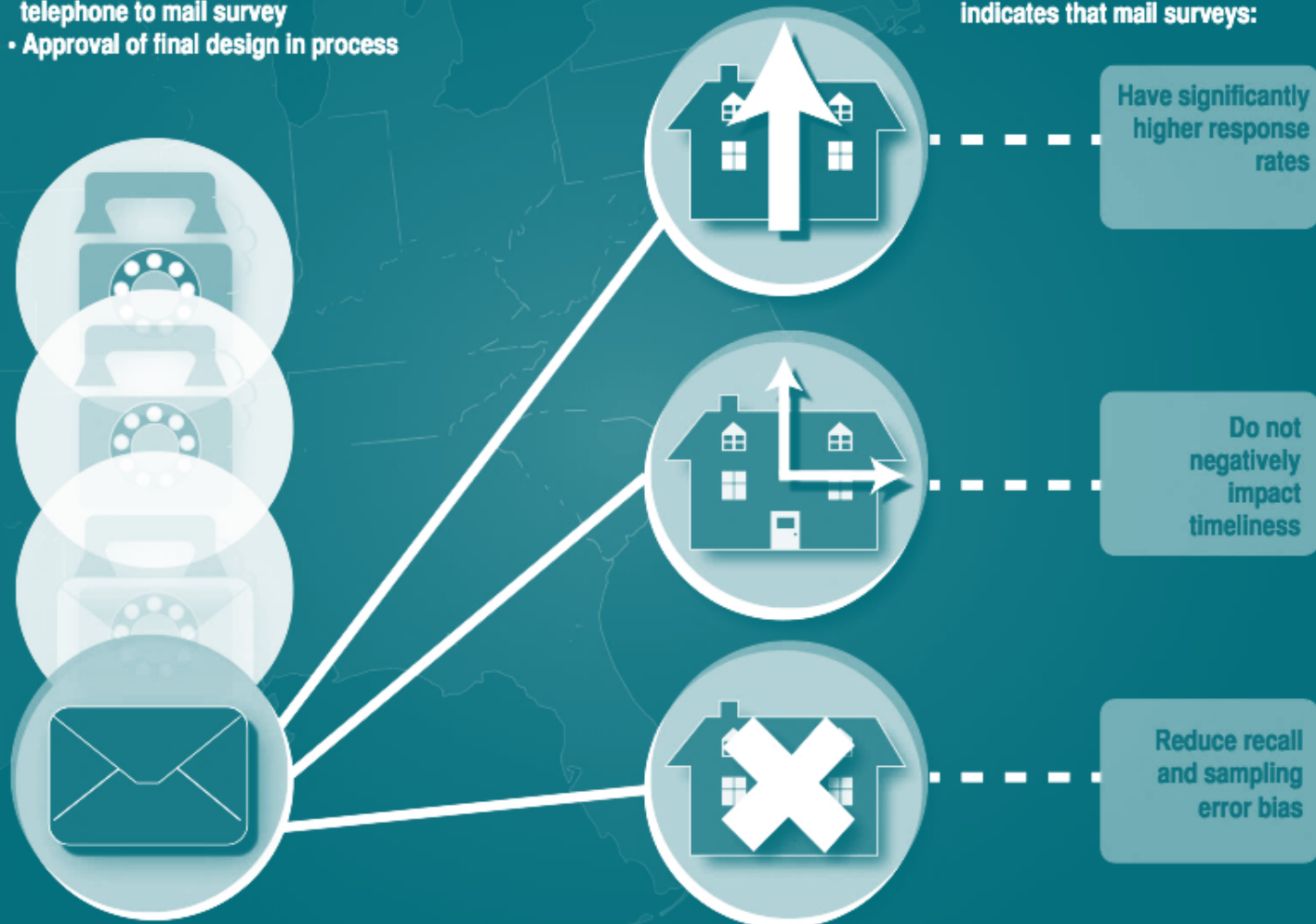
2 INDEPENDENT REVIEWS



New Mail Effort Survey

- Series of pilot studies underway since 2009
- Recommend fundamental design change from telephone to mail survey
- Approval of final design in process

Extensive pilot testing, validated through independent peer review, indicates that mail surveys:



Transition Approach

Five-step approach for incorporating new estimates into the management process:

Step 1

2015-2017

- Benchmarking

Step 2

2016-2017

- Calibration model development

Step 3

2017

- Re-estimation of historical catch

Step 4

2017-2018

- Incorporation of new estimates into stock assessments

Step 5

2018

- Incorporation of new estimates and ACLs into management actions

Key Messages: Other Improvements

1

- NOAA is working with partners to develop, test and certify specialized survey methods for red snapper and other rare event and pulse fisheries

2

- NOAA is working with partners to develop, test and certify for-hire electronic logbook reporting and validation designs

3

- Empower regional implementation teams to make key decisions on implementation of MRIP-certified methods and set investment priorities

Questions & Discussion

Next Steps

Transition to the new mail survey by 2018.

Work with Gulf FIN to pursue MRIP certification of specialized state survey designs and integration methods.

Review and assess MRIP progress via an NRC review.

Continue MRIP's broad range of research and pursue regional implementation of improved methods.