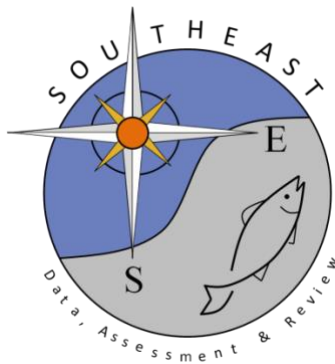


Trip Interview Program Metadata

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Trip Interview Program

I. Description

The Trip Interview Program (TIP) was developed in the early 1980s as a major component of the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program with the primary goal of collecting detailed trip-level commercial fishery information. The TIP mandate is to obtain representative samples from federally managed species for which biological information is needed for stock assessments in the Southeastern US, Gulf of Mexico, and the US Caribbean. Biological sampling includes morphometric, age, reproductive, and genetic data.

In addition to collecting biological data, the TIP serves as a quality assurance on catch and effort data. It validates the species composition of landings as well as the type and quantity of gear through firsthand trained observations. Additional information obtained through firsthand, personal interviews with the fishermen and dealers also serve quality assurance.

II. Methodology

Data Collection

Data is collected by shore-based samplers located in coastal areas of the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and US Caribbean Islands. These trained field biologists visit docks and fish houses to interview fishermen and obtain morphometric data and biological samples from the catch. These samples, primarily consisting of aging structures such as otoliths and spines, are sent to Southeast Fisheries Science Center Labs in Panama City, FL; Beaufort, NC; or an equivalent state laboratory for biologists to process and analyze biological information.

Interviewing fishermen directly allows samplers to obtain firsthand detailed information on the fishing effort and location of the trip in addition to the biological information obtained from the catch. In most cases, these interviews occur at the initial offload of the catch to the fish house but can take place at other times. These interviews are coded with INTERVIEW_TYPE 'Fisherman Sample' and are considered more reliable, in terms of gear and area, than other interview types due to the firsthand nature of the information. Other interview types are considered secondhand information.

Distinguishing first and secondhand information is important in determining when to use certain aspects of the data. In particular, if the area or gear information is recorded under both EFFORT and LANDING, then EFFORT is considered more reliable where INTERVIEW_TYPE is Fisherman Sample as this is firsthand information. If the INTERVIEW_TYPE is not Fisherman Sample, and the gear and area are recorded in both the EFFORT and LANDING, then the LANDING is considered more reliable as the information is recorded from the trip ticket or dealer report.

III. Temporal coverage

Sampling commercial vessels for statistical and biological information began in the late 1970s under the Creel Surveys and Biological Sampling Program (CSBSP). In 1983 the CSBSP was updated, expanded, and renamed the Trip Interview Program (TIP).

Initial data was collected by the US Caribbean under the CSBSP program from 1979 to 1982. North Carolina and Louisiana began contributing data to the newly expanded TIP beginning in

1983. Contributions from all other Southeast state and federal agencies began in 1984. Much of the US Caribbean Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix) data from 1979 to 1997 consisted of landing composition information and not individual observations.

IV. Spatial coverage

TIP covers all coastal areas in the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and the major US Caribbean Islands: St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix, and Puerto Rico. At present time, Federal Port Samplers cover coastal areas in North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. South Carolina and Georgia were covered by Federal Samplers until 1993 and 1994 respectively. State and Partner Agency trained Port Samplers provide TIP information from South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and the US Caribbean including St. Thomas, St. Croix, and Puerto Rico. At present time, Georgia has not had a sampler, federal or state, since 2016.

V. Source

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

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VI. Data Tables

There are five primary tables in TIP: *Interview*, *Effort*, *Landing*, *Sample*, and *Observation*. These five tables relate to the five data entry sections within the TIP program and are delineated as sections in the TIP User's Guide. A sixth table, *Observation_Sample*, pulls information from the *Observation* table related to biological samples and their processing destinations. The seventh table is the *Materialized_View (MV)* table, which brings together and decodes over 300 columns from the five primary tables.

Relational translations are needed for the primary tables, and the tables that provide these translations are included as tabs within each file for the tables they support. Translation tables provide an ID, NAME, and DESCRIPTION for each VARIABLE in the primary table. For instance, the INTERVIEW_TYPE_ID in the *Interview* table holds numeric codes, 0, 1, 2, 3, etc, which are linked to the ID field in the *Interview_Type* table which can be found as a spreadsheet within the *TIPS meta_data INTERVIEW.xlsx* file.

- A. **Interview** - [*TIPS meta_data INTERVIEW.xlsx*](#) - This table holds the trip level information for the interview. This includes information such as trip dates, vessel ID, and purchasing dealer information. The ID field in this table is the INTERVIEW_ID in all other tables and links all tables together into a single interview.
- B. **Effort** - [*TIPS meta_data EFFORT.xlsx*](#) - This table holds the fishing effort during the sampled trip as given either firsthand from the Fisherman or secondhand from the Dealer. This is not a required section in a TIP interview and may be left null if the fisherman is not interviewed or the dealer does not provide the effort information.

- C. **Landing** - [TIPS meta data LANDING.xlsx](#) - This table holds species composition information, including gear and area, as obtained from the trip ticket or dealer report. The INTERVIEW_ID field in this table links the landing information back to the ID field in the *Interview* table.
- D. **Sample** - [TIPS meta data SAMPLE.xlsx](#) - This table holds information regarding the summation of the individual observation data. Typically there is one record for each species with observations. The LANDING_ID in this table links the sample record back to the ID field in the *Landing* table and the INTERVIEW_ID links the sample back to the ID in the *Interview* table.
- E. **Observation** - [TIPS meta data OBSERVATION.xlsx](#) - These data are the observations of length, weight, and biological sample information for each individual sampled. The SAMPLE_ID field links each observation back to the ID field in the *Sample* table and the INTERVIEW_ID links observations back to the ID in the *Interview* table.
- F. **Observation_Sample** - [TIPS meta data OBSERVATION_SAMPLE.xlsx](#) - This table is based on the *Observation* table and stores only information regarding samples for processing life history data, such as otoliths, spines, and gonads. The OBSERVATION_ID in this table links back to the ID field in the *Observation* table. This table is typically provided to the aging labs who maintain the Biological Sample Database (BSD).
- G. **Materialized View (MV)** - [TIPS meta data MV\(Materialized View\).xlsx](#) - The MV table decodes and combines the 5 primary TIP tables: *Interview*, *Effort*, *Landing*, *Sample*, and *Observation*. The VARIABLE as it is listed in the MV table is defined relative to the ORIGINAL_TABLE and ORIGINAL_VARIABLE.

Within the MV table, TRANSLATION_TABLEs were merged, where more information than just the code was included. For example, in the *Interview* table, only the ORIGINAL_VARIABLE, AGENCY_ID, was included. Within the MV Table, the “TRANSLATION TABLE VARIABLE”, NAME and SHORT_NAME, were merged using the *Agency* “TRANSLATION TABLE”, creating the variables AGENCY_NAME and AGENCY_SHORT_NAME, respectively.

For more information on what the variable is, refer to the TRANSLATION_TABLE, which is located in a spreadsheet within the ORIGINAL_TABLE workbook.

VII. Field Descriptions

Descriptions of the tables that store the TIP data are described in this section, as well as descriptions of the metadata tables. Identifying variables (ID) are provided on each table and are relative to their respective table. For example, the ‘ID’ variable on the *Interview* table is ‘INTERVIEW_ID’ on all other tables, and the ‘ID’ on the *Landing* table is the ‘LANDING_ID’ on all other tables, see Figure 1.

Metadata for each table includes DESCRIPTIONS and DATA_TYPE (numeric or character types) for each VARIABLE. Variables are further described by whether or not they are HISTORIC. If variables are historic they are described by FIRST_YEAR_USED, if available, and LAST_YEAR_USED. Finally, CATEGORY includes information relative to each table on the date, area, time, species, gear, and effort. Spreadsheets within the metadata workbooks for all but the MV table have expanded variable descriptions and codes used to define the associated

fields. The MV table expanded variable descriptions and codes can be found by referring to the ORIGINAL TABLE where these data were collected.

Category List:

PRIMARY KEY
ID
DATE
SPECIES
WEIGHT

LENGTH
COUNT
PRICE
GEAR
EFFORT

AREA
TIME
COMMENTS
NULL indicated

Figures:

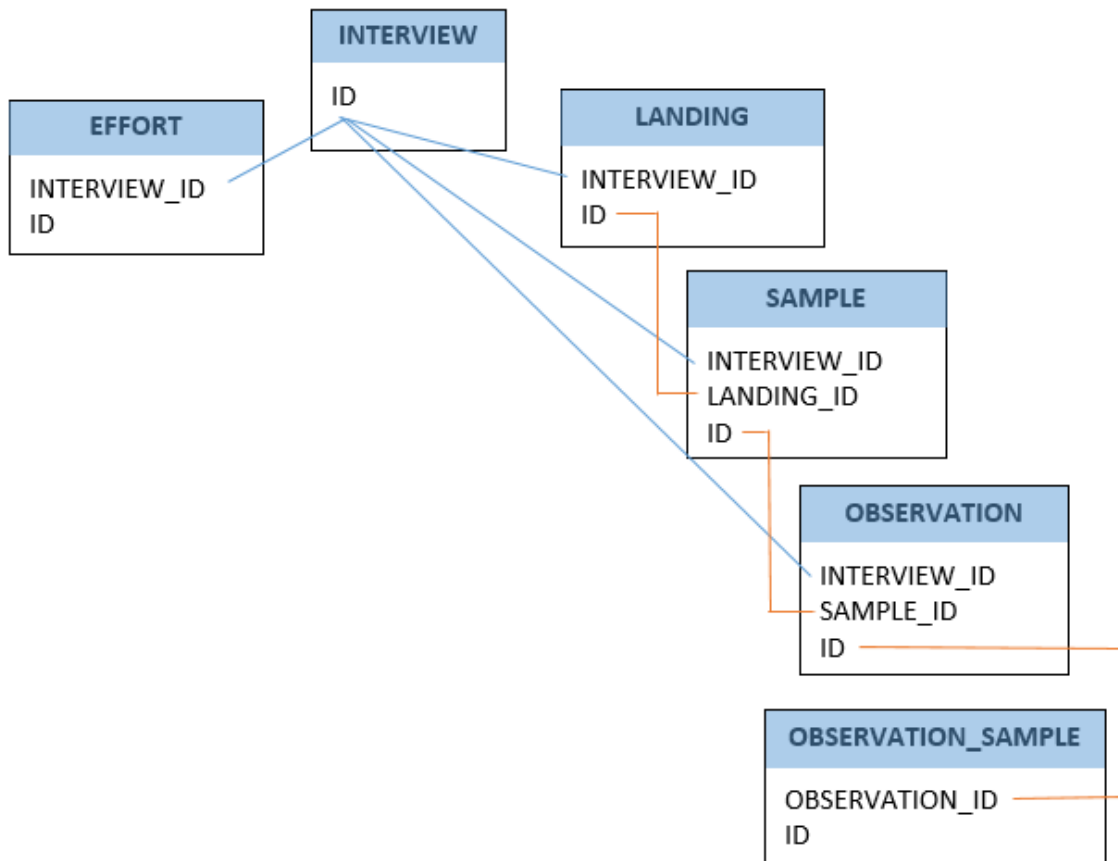


Figure 1: Mini ERD describing the link between the 5 primary TIP tables as well as the *Observation_Sample* table. Only primary keys shared with these tables are shown.