

# INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMISSION

## A BRIEF HISTORY

Recognizing the coastal fish do not adhere to political boundaries and that sound management required coordinated effort, the 15 Atlantic coast states formed, through an Interstate Compact, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in the early 1940s. Congress ratified the Compact in 1942 through Public Law 539 of the 77th Congress, which states in part, "An Act granting the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate Compact relating to the better integration of the fisheries (marine, shell and diadromous) of the Atlantic Seaboard and creating the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission." (See Compact/Rules & Regulations later in this document).

For over 70 years, the Commission has served as a deliberative body, coordinating the conservation and management of the states shared near shore fishery resources – marine, shell, and diadromous – for sustainable use. Its member states are (from north to south) Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Each state is represented by three Commissioners: the director for the state’s marine fisheries management agency, a state legislator, and an individual appointed by the governor. Commissioners participate in the deliberations of the Commission’s main policy arenas: interstate fisheries management, fisheries science, habitat conservation and law enforcement. The one-state one-vote concept allows Commissioners to address stakeholder-resource balance issues at the state level.

**VISION:**  
*Sustainable and cooperative  
management of Atlantic  
coastal fisheries*

The Commission focuses on responsible stewardship of marine fisheries resources. It serves as a forum for the states to collectively address fisheries issues under the premise that as a group, using a cooperative approach, they can achieve more than they could as individuals. The Commission does not promote a particular state or a particular stakeholder sector.

The Mission of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission as stated in its 1942 Compact:

*To promote the better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, of the Atlantic seaboard by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries, and by the prevention of physical waste of the fisheries from any cause.*

The mission grounds the Commission in history. It reminds everyone of the Commission’s sense of purpose that has been in place for over 70 years. The constantly changing physical, political, social and economic environments have led the Commission to restate the mission in more modern terms:

*To promote cooperative management of fisheries, marine, shell and diadromous, of the Atlantic coast of the United States by the protection and enhancement of such fisheries, and by the avoidance of physical waste of the fisheries from any cause.*

The Mission and nature of the Commission as a mutual interstate body incorporate several core concepts.

- States that make-up the Commission are sovereign entities, each having its own laws and responsibilities for managing fishery resources within its jurisdiction.
- States serve broad public interest and represent the common good.
- Multi-state resource management is complex and dependent upon cooperative efforts by all states involved.
- The Commission provides a critical sounding board on issues requiring cross-jurisdictional action, coordinating cooperation and collaboration among the states and federal government.

### **ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT ACT**

For many years, the Commission served as a forum for states to discuss marine fisheries management, but did not have any real ability to enforce the will of the states - until the passage of the **Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act in 1984**. In the late 1970s, the Commission observed declines in striped bass harvest and production of juvenile striped bass. In order to rebuild and conserve the stock, the Commission developed a coastwide fishery management plan (FMP) for striped bass. Up until then, compliance with interstate plans had been voluntary. Congress recognized a need for action, and gave the Commission authority, through the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act of 1984, to require states to implement mandatory provisions of the Striped Bass Plan. If the Commission determined that a state was not fully implementing the mandatory measures of the plan, the law provided a mechanism whereby the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior could declare a complete moratorium on the fishing for striped bass in that state's waters.

The FMP, backed up by the legislation, was remarkably effective – within a decade, striped bass stocks went from depleted status to being fully rebuilt. The management success gained from the Striped Bass Act ultimately led Congress to pass the **Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act of 1993 (ACFCMA)**, in an effort to extend this success to the other species. ACFCMA gave the Commission the same authority to ensure compliance with mandatory management measures in all of its fisheries management plans. ACFCMA also authorized Congress to appropriate up to \$10 million a year to carry out these new responsibilities.

### **WHAT THE COMMISSION DOES**

The Commission has five responsibilities, as stated in its original Compact. (See Compact/Rules & Regulations later in this document).

Those responsibilities are:

1. To recommend coastwide management measures to the individual member states for interjurisdictional fisheries in state waters
2. To be a fact-finding and deliberative body with the power to make recommendations to the member states' legislatures, federal agencies, and the Congress of the United States.
3. To establish the Commission's position on national legislation affecting the member states.
4. To nominate and assign duties to the Executive Director and to approve or disapprove any major activities of the Commission proposed by the Executive Director.
5. To develop and administer fishery management plans for the Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP).

In order to carry out its responsibilities, the Commission has developed a series of five-year strategic plans. The latest of these, written in 2013, identified seven goals and strategies for the Commission, as follows. (See the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan later in this document).

1. Rebuild, maintain, fairly allocate, and promote sustainable Atlantic coastal fisheries
2. Provide sound, actionable science to support informed management actions
3. Produce dependable and timely marine fishery statistics for Atlantic coast fisheries
4. Protect and enhance fish habitat and ecosystem health through partnerships and education
5. Promote compliance with fishery management plans to ensure sustainable use of Atlantic coast fisheries
6. Strengthen stakeholder and public support for the Commission
7. Advance Commission and member states' priorities through a proactive legislative policy agenda
8. Ensure the fiscal stability & efficient administration of the Commission

#### **Values**

*The 2019-2023 Strategic Plan identified eight values to guide its operations and activities:*

1. Effective stewardship of marine resources through strong partnerships
2. Decisions based on sound science
3. Long-term ecological sustainability
4. Transparency and accountability in all its actions
5. Timely response to new information through adaptive management
6. Balancing resource conservation with the economic success of coastal communities
7. Efficient use of time and fiscal resources
8. Work cooperatively with honesty, integrity, and fairness

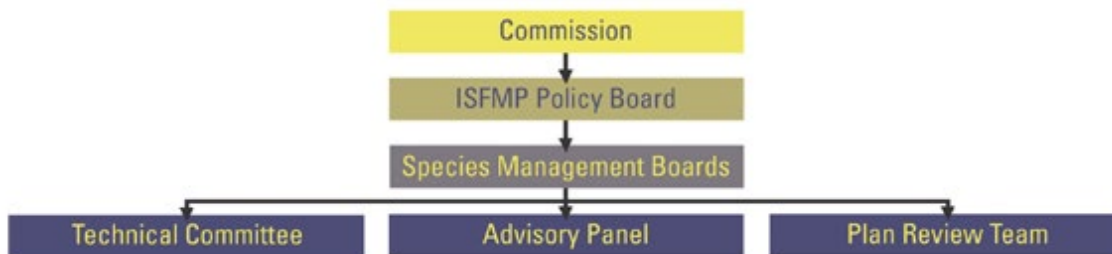
The Commission carries out the bulk of its work through four main programs, detailed below. More information on these programs can also be found later in this document.

1. Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP)
2. Science Program
3. Habitat Program
4. Law Enforcement Program

## INTERSTATE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (ISFMP)

The bulk of the Commission's decision making occurs through the ISFMP, where Commissioners determine management strategies that the states implement through fishing regulations. The ISFMP operates under the direction of the Policy Board and works through species management boards.

The ISFMP Policy Board, comprised of the Commissioners from the fifteen member states and representatives of District of Columbia (DC), the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, oversees the program and meets at least bi-annually to establish and monitor the direction of the program.



The species management boards, also comprised of Commissioners and representatives from the federal agencies, DC and the PRFC, consider and approve the development and implementation of fishery management plans, including the integration of scientific information, proposed management measures, and considerations for habitat conservation, and the management of protected species/fishery interactions. Board membership is composed of Commissioners from the states that have declared an interest in the species' management program.

## SCIENCE PROGRAM

Recognizing that accurate and timely fisheries data are critical for effective fisheries management, the Commission initiated a fisheries statistics, research, and science program in the mid-1990s. While the Program has undergone a name change from Research & Statistics to Science Program its emphasis remains the same, ensuring that the best scientific information available – biological, social and economic – is incorporated into the Commission's fishery management plans. The program provides a focal point for coordination and improvement of fisheries dependent and independent data collection and management; stock assessments and peer reviews; habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement through partnerships; multispecies assessments and models; socioeconomic information; and fishing gear technology. It also oversees varied research activities among state and federal marine resource agencies, and universities on the Atlantic coast. These activities include evaluating alternative sources of fish mortality (i.e., power plant impingement), establishing protocols for angler based tagging programs, establishing standards for fish aging, invasive and exotic species investigations, and fisheries/protected species interactions.

## **HABITAT PROGRAM**

Healthy fish habitat provides the essential foundation for successful fisheries management. The goal of the ASMFC Habitat Program is to improve fisheries habitat conservation through partnerships, policy development, and education. The Commission recognizes how important habitat is to the success of its mission and vision. Habitat loss and degradation have been identified as significant factors affecting the long-term sustainability of the nation's fisheries. The Commission acknowledges that many forms of habitat conservation are beyond the operational jurisdiction of the federal and state fisheries agencies. The challenge for fisheries managers and the Commission is maintaining vital fish habitat absent specific regulatory authority for habitat conservation, restoration or protection. This calls for creative approaches to the challenges of effectively integrating habitat protection, restoration and enhancement into fisheries management programs and plans. Considering habitat in fishery management decisions is part of moving toward ecosystem-based management.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

The Commission's Law Enforcement Program assists the states in coordinating their law enforcement efforts through data exchange and problem identification. The program's primary objective is to ensure that the law enforcement provisions of the Commission's fishery management plans are enforceable.

## **COMMISSION RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The states that make up the Commission have jurisdiction over waters from their coast to three miles. From that point out to two hundred miles, the federal government has jurisdiction. This boundary does not stop fish either, and as a result, the Commission works very closely with its federal partners to ensure coordinated management of shared fishery resources.

The lead federal agency in charge of marine fisheries is NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service. It writes regulations that govern fishing within federal waters. The Commission also works closely with the three Regional Fishery Management Councils along the East Coast: the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC). In fact, the Commission jointly or cooperatively manages several species with the Councils. These include: Atlantic herring and winter flounder (NEFMC), bluefish, summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and spiny dogfish (MAFMC), and Spanish mackerel (SAFMC). (The Commission also cooperatively manages coastal shark species with NOAA Fisheries Division of Highly Migratory Species). The Councils are decision-making bodies and develop and recommend specific management measures in the form of fishery management plans, subject to approval and implementation by NOAA Fisheries.

The Councils act in many ways very similarly to the Commission – they have species boards that develop FMPs and are advised by various technical and advisory committees. However, unlike the Commission, NOAA Fisheries and the councils are bound by the provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Act (MSRA), the law that governs the federal management of marine resources.

The Commission maintains a close relationship with the federal government. Representatives of NOAA Fisheries and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are voting members of the ISFMP Policy Board and most species boards. The Commission jointly manages several of its species with the federal government, and has established agreements for other species whereby the Commission or the federal government takes exclusive responsibility for management. Additionally, every Commission FMP includes consideration of complementary management in federal waters.

## HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF ASMFC MILESTONES

### 1941

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**New Hampshire** is the first state to ratify the Compact on September 11.

### 1942

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The Secretary of the Council of State Governments, **Wayne Heydecker**, is appointed as the Commission's Secretary-Treasurer (the position later becomes Executive Director).

**First Commission Annual Meeting** in New York City on September 18.

**Executive and Advisory Committees are created**, and panels are established to study individual fish species, allowing for a more focused and concentrated approach to management.

Individual states contribute a total of \$6,700 towards the Commission's budget for the first year.

**Edwin L. Dunn** of Massachusetts is elected to serve as the first Commission Chair. He will serve in this capacity for 7 years.

### 1943

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The Commission establishes an office on Lexington Avenue, convenient to Grand Central Station in Manhattan, New York.

### 1945

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The Commission meets without wartime restrictions for the first time.

Since the war was over, Mr. Heydecker suggests switching the Commission's work week from five to six days.

States double their contributions so that more meetings can be held and more staff hired.

Commissioners receive a special report on the dismal conditions of the Chesapeake Bay.

### 1947

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Rhode Island, New York and Connecticut Commissioners propose as an amendment to the Compact to establish **common conservation zones**, particularly the Eastern Long Island Sound. Such zones would prevent discrimination against out-of-state vessels which fish therein.

The **Pacific coast states** create their own marine fisheries compact, and seeds for a Gulf Compact are firmly planted.

## 1949

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**John B. Bindloss** of Connecticut is elected ASMFC Chair.

**North Carolina ratifies the Compact** on June 10<sup>th</sup>, completing the Commission's membership.

Congress approves the Gulf States Compact, which establishes the **Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission**.

The Commission calls upon Congress to help fund, and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to conduct, fisheries **research for hard- and soft-shell clams and shad**. The request comes about as a result of the Commission's coordinated efforts towards a uniform research program.

The Commission suggests a **Reciprocal Warden Act**, which would permit wardens to pursue violators on interstate waters or shores and bring them to trial in the state where the violation occurs. Northern states respond favorably to the suggestion.

## 1950

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**Amendment One** to the Commission's Compact receives congressional approval. P.L. 81-721 also repeals the limitation on the life of the Compact.

Due to the high rent at its Manhattan office, the Commission relocates its headquarters to the New York suburb of White Plains.

Concerned for the past several years with the fishery production and quality, particularly in the shellfish catch, the Commission requests FWS to conduct a **Pollution Study Project**.

## 1951

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The **Northwest Atlantic Treaty** passes, and the first meeting of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries is held in 1951, with ASMFC Commissioner Francis W. Sergeant, appointed as a U.S. Commissioner.

The Commission sponsors an investigation on **freezing in the round**. A trawler, THE DELAWARE, is reconverted and fitted with equipment to perfect refrigeration and freezing techniques.

## 1952

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The North Atlantic Section reports success with the **increased minimum lobster size (3-3/16")** implemented in 1951.



The Commission requests congressional funding for the restoration and improvements of the **Woods Hole Laboratory**, which had been damaged by two hurricanes and sixty-eight years of hard use.

### 1953

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A four-year undergraduate degree in fishery biology is introduced at the **University of Massachusetts at Amherst**. The Fishery College offers courses that the 1944 Committee on Fisheries Education had endorsed.

### 1954

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**Charles M. Lankford Jr.** of Virginia is elected Commission Chair.

Commissioners are encouraged by the recent passage of the **Saltonstall-Kennedy Act of 1954**, which made funds available to the FWS for fisheries research. Commissioners immediately requested funds for fishery laboratories.

**The Fisherman's Protective Act** is passed. The Act ensures protection for U.S. vessels, which have been seized by foreign countries because of unrecognized claims of extended jurisdiction.

### 1955

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The FWS outlines the research projects commissioned by the Commission, totaling over \$800,000 for funds made available through **Saltonstall-Kennedy**.

The Commission debates the merits of **saltwater sport fishing licenses**. Difficulty in administration is identified as principal concern, but most realize the validity of the concept since sport fishing is a growing force and licensing would allow for better management and attainment of catch statistics.

### 1956

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**J. Berdan Miller** of Georgia is elected Commission Chair.

**Fish & Wildlife Act of 1956** reorganizes the FWS, and creates the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (BCF) and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife (BSFW).

### 1957

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**Francis W. Sargent** of Massachusetts is elected Commission Chair.

The FWS discovers a new species of shrimp, the "**Red Royal**," off the South Atlantic coast and, with more research, hopes to develop a significant fishery. The South Atlantic Section asks the

Commission to support any further FWS research on this fishery.

The Biological Section of the Scientific Committee publishes *Important Fisheries of the Atlantic Coast*. The “Yellow Book,” as it became known, serves as a valuable reference for biologists, fisheries managers and the general public for the next three decades.

## 1959

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**G. Robert Lunz Jr.** of South Carolina is elected Commission Chair.

The U.S., Canada and Great Britain consider **extending the territorial sea** to six miles. The Commission’s Legal Committee urges that the states adopt statutes to make state jurisdiction coincide with the federal government, regardless of any changes.

The Commission completes its **shad catch statistics**, with its statistics available to the states to help manage their fishways.

Special advisor Frederick Zimmerman provides a report on the **1958 Geneva Conference on the Law of the Sea** to the Commission. At the conclusion of the Conference, the U.S. agrees to sign four international conventions concerning territorial water.

The Commissioners of the North and Middle Atlantic Sections are concerned about the state of **starfish- invaded oyster beds in the Long Island Sound**.

- The Commission calls a conference for affected states to discuss and institute a program for starfish control.
- As a result of the meeting, a joint committee is formed to share research and find funding to eliminate the problem.

The Commission adopts a resolution advocating a fundamental program of **nutritional research on fishery products** by BCF. The program is designed to determine and disseminate information as to the nutritional content of fish products “in order to inform the consumer of seafood’s uniquely healthful nature.”

## 1960

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Frederick Zimmerman reports that **efforts to extend the territorial sea** had failed by one vote. He warns that the debate will continue and that states should monitor the situation carefully.

Commissioners review the **Catch Statistic Program**, which the Commission helped to initiate and has actively supported since its conception. Twenty-one monthly landing bulletins are published coast wide; standard bulletins include catch by species, but some states include landings by gear, specific area, etc.

## 1961

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**David H. Hart** of New Jersey is elected Commission Chair.

Wayne Heydecker retires as Secretary-Treasurer and is replaced by **Ernest Mitts**, a former Commissioner and Director of Conservation in Florida. The Commission headquarters are relocated to Tallahassee where Secretary –Treasurer Mitts resides.

The increasing popularity of **scuba diving** causes concern among Commissioners. As more and more divers resort to spear fishing, the Commission recognizes the need for specific regulation of the sport.

## 1962

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The Chesapeake Bay Section discusses recent attempts toward mechanizing the **blue crab industry**.

The Legal Committee, at the Commission’s request, drafts a model bill to provide **legislation regulating refuse pollution and sewage** caused by small boats operating in inshore marine areas.

## 1963

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The Commission formally endorses the extension of federal and state jurisdiction over the territorial sea to twelve miles.

The **Potomac River Fisheries Commission** is established through an interstate compact between Maryland and Virginia, and enabling legislation by Congress.

## 1964

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**Ronald W. Green** of Maine is elected Commission Chair.

At the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, **Captain David H. Hart** receives accolades for his efforts on behalf of the Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act, P.L. 88-309.

President Johnson signs the **U.S. Fishing Fleet Improvement Act**.

P.L. 88-308 is passed, **prohibiting fishing by foreign vessels** in U.S. territorial waters. The law comes about partly as a result of the large increase in Soviet fishing in U.S. waters since 1961.

The Commission begins publishing its “**Leaflet Series**,” which are non-technical reports of fish and shellfish for use by industry and administrators for the development of the marine resources. The first release includes Introductory Leaflet, as well as leaflets on Atlantic menhaden, soft-shell clam and southern shrimp.

## 1965

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The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, held in Miami, is a joint venture with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. Commissioners from both organizations hear lectures with such titles as “Glamorize

and Merchandize,” and “The West German Fisheries Go Modern.”

## 1966

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**Milton T. Hickman** of Virginia is elected Commission Chair.

The **Anadromous Fish Conservation Act**, P.L. 89-304, is signed into law, providing conservation and research matching funding for many member states.

Congress enacts the **Marine Resources and Engineering Development Act**, authorizing a long-term program to study and utilize the seas.

The **National Sea Grant Program** is established by P.L. 89-688.

## 1967

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The **U.S. and Soviet Union agree to a joint research cruise**. State biologists from Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey and New York participate in the cruise and spend time on the Russian ship and the ALBATROSS IV.

At the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, **H.E. Crowther**, Director of the BCF, poses the question of whether or not the fisheries should expand to meet the demand of worldwide protein deficiencies, and proposes experiments with an odorless tasteless fish protein concentrate.

## 1968

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**David H.G. Gould** of Georgia is elected Commission Chair.

The Commission’s Biological Committee is redesigned as the **Advisory Committee**.

The Commission forms a much-needed **Middle Atlantic Bight Coordinating Committee**, which meets and agrees to an on-going research program for fisheries in the Bight. At least two cruises per year are agreed upon.

## 1969

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The **Stratton Commission** publishes Our Nation and the Sea, and recommends the creation of a new independent agency, the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency**.

Entertainer and conservationist **Arthur Godfrey** attends the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at his own expense and speaks to the Commission about pollution and the seas.

The Commission considers two **emergency resolutions**: to address the haddock shortage on Georges Bank fishing grounds, and the potential depletion of the sea herring in the Jeffries Ledge area.

## 1970

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**W. Mason Lawrence** of New York is elected Commission Chair.

The Advisory Committee **examines fish species coast wide** in terms of current state of knowledge and status of the fishery.

The Executive Committee agrees to a budget amount of \$33,433 for the 1970-71 year.

A committee is formed to investigate the possibility of **saltwater fishing licenses**.

The Commission passes a resolution urging Congress to develop an adequate **coastal zone management program**.

The **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** is created by Executive Order to concentrate and unify the federal effort directed toward oceanic and atmospheric resources; BCF is moved into NOAA and becomes the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

**Irwin M. Alperin**, long-time Commission member from New York and Massachusetts, is appointed Executive Director.

Commission's offices are moved from Florida to Washington, D.C. This move is made in part to facilitate coordination between the Commission and the federal government.

To revive the **declining menhaden industry**, the Advisory Committee recommends an annually adjusted quota in the Atlantic menhaden fishery.

The Commission's Chesapeake Bay Section talks briefly about the **feasibility of artificial reefs** and the influence of their location on other resources.

## 1973

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**James E. Douglas Jr.** of Virginia is elected Commission Chair.

## 1974

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The **Northern Shrimp Section** is created under Amendment One, the states of Maine, New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts sign on as members to the Section.

## 1975

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**Edwin B. Joseph Jr.** of South Carolina is elected Commission Chair.

**Congressman Studds (MA) and Senator Magnuson (WA)** introduce bills to extend U.S. fisheries jurisdiction out to 200 miles and provide a system for federal fisheries management.

The Commission supports the **Bauman Amendment**, which would prevent federal agencies from enacting regulations affecting the harvesting, processing or transportation of shellfish until a full report on the industry is submitted to Congress.

The Office of Sea Grant chooses Dr. John Montgomery to study the **Commission Compact and Amendment One** to ascertain whether the Commission is in a position to move into interstate management of fisheries resources.

The Council of State Governments proposes a **Model State Fisheries Management Act**.

## 1976

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Congress enacts P.L. 94-265, the **Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976**, extending U.S. fishing jurisdiction out to 200 miles and providing for the establishment of eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. **NMFS proposes establishment of four regional data centers** (Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest) to acquire data concerning catch, effort, licenses, fees value, and management.

ASMFC creates an informal group within the Commission to allow for the participation of **enforcement personnel** in future in Annual Meetings. This group is the precursor to the Commission's Law Enforcement Committee.

## 1977

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**Theodore B. Bampton** of Connecticut is elected Commission Chair.

The U.S. withdraws from the **International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries** (ICNAF) as the new Regional Fishery Management Councils assume primary responsibility for management of the species formerly under the auspices of ICNAF.

Eighteen countries sign **Governing International Fishery Agreements** and permits to better manage marine resources and regulate foreign fishing.

## 1978

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All states except Delaware, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida have adopted **Amendment One**.

A reduction in fishing mortality on **striped bass** is recommended as an interim measure while a fishery management plan is being developed.

## 1979

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**Russell A. Cookingham** of New Jersey is elected Commission Chair.

The Commission chooses the theme “**Implementing Interstate Fisheries Management in the Territorial Sea**” for its 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and asks the question, “Is the Commission the vehicle to manage the territorial sea?”

The Commission participates in a **National Conference on Fisheries Development**, which addresses underdeveloped and under-utilized species

## 1980

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The Commission supports **increased authorizations for the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act**, including an additional \$750,000 for the Chafee Emergency Striped Bass Study to determine the reasons for the recent decline in striped bass populations along the Atlantic coast.

The Executive Committee recommends a revised total contribution rate of \$120,000 per year from the states to cover Commission operating expenses.

The Advisory Committee recommends **discontinuation of the Species Leaflet series** due to decreased sales and publication problems.

The Commission appoints a committee to study the **Executive Committee’s size and composition**. Other committees had recently expressed concerns that their issues were not being adequately addressed.

## 1981

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**Spencer Apollonio** of Maine is elected Commission Chair.

The Commission opposes the new Administration’s drastic cut in the budget for NMFS.

At the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, the Commission unanimously adopts Interstate FMPs for **Striped Bass and Atlantic Menhaden FMPs** as developed through the new Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP).

The Commission’s **Advisory Committee** reevaluates its role and establishes new goals: to advise the Commission on the status and needs of the Atlantic coast fisheries; to review the status of the territorial fisheries of the Atlantic coast; to recommend management priorities to the Policy Board; and to provide the basic staffing for preparation of management plans under the ISFMP.

**Laura C. Leach** is hired as a part-time bookkeeper; annual budget totals \$130,000.

## 1982

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Irwin Alperin serves on the Steering Committee set up to expand and improve the **Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act**.

The Commission adopts the **Summer Flounder FMP**.

## 1983

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**Ralph W. Abele** of Pennsylvania is elected Commission Chair.

Irwin Alperin is appointed to a task force to protect and revitalize the Chesapeake Bay, leading to the formation of the **Chesapeake Bay Program**.

**Paul Perra** is hired as ISFMP Director.

## 1984

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The Commission discusses the alarming results of a coastwise study on the **effects of PCB** on the marine environment.

The Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program – South Atlantic (**SEAMAP-SA**) is implemented, coordinating the collection and use of fisheries-independent data from North Carolina through Florida (East Coast).

Congress passes the **Wallop-Breaux Amendment**, expanding the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act.

The Commission adopts **FMPs for Red Drum and Spotted Seatrout**, increasing the number of FMPs to five.

On October 31, 1984, Congress enacts the **Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act**, requiring mandatory compliance of conservation provisions. Non-compliant states may face federal pre-emption of state fisheries.

## 1985

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**Elton J. Gissendanner** of Florida is elected Commission Chair.

The Commission adopts **FMPs for Weakfish and American Shad and River Herrings**, increasing the number of FMPs to seven.

The Commission urges member states to require **recreational fishing licenses** so that monies collected from sales can be used in part to match Dingell-Johnson funds.

The **Shellfish Transport Committee** recommends a cooperative state agreement and regulatory scheme to protect hard clams.

## 1986

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The **ISFMP** is reorganized and streamlined.

The Commission adopts **FMPs for Atlantic Menhaden and Northern Shrimp**, increasing the number of FMPs to nine.

Congress enacts P.L. 99-569, the **Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act**, forming the foundation of state-federal partnerships in marine fisheries management.

## **1987**

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**Robert A. Jones** of Connecticut is elected Commission Chair.

The Commission embarks on an ambitious project to develop a **Bluefish Plan** jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

The Commission joins in a new partnership with FWS, providing financial support through **Wallop-Breaux** administrative funds.

The Advisory Committee is appraised on the status of mandatory utilization of trawl efficiency devices, also known as **TEDs**, in the Southeast shrimp trawl fishery.

**Captain David H. Hart**, former Commission Chair and longest-serving Commissioner, is honored for his outstanding contribution and dedication to the conservation, management and wise use of living marine resources.

The Commission adopts **FMPs for Atlantic Croaker and Spot**.

## **1988**

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The **ASMFC Handbook**, outlining the structure and processes of the Commission, is adopted.

The Commission establishes a **Conservation Engineering Committee** to coordinate information exchange between state and federal agencies, academia, industry and other interested parties.

## **1989**

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**Duane Harris** of Georgia is elected Commission Chair.

The Commission adopts **Amendment 4 to Striped Bass FMP**, which provides for controlled re-opening of state fisheries to protect strong year classes.

The Commission adopts **Bluefish FMP**.

Chair Bob Jones notes at the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting that with the onset of the ISFMP, the Commission has become an **organization of significant consequence**. It is not uncommon to find

the Commission named in articles and reports in the daily newspaper and in magazines catering to sportsmen and commercial fisheries.

## 1990

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On October 16, **Irwin Alperin**, the Commission long time Executive Director and a pioneer in cooperative regional fisheries management, passes away after a lengthy battle with coronary artery disease.

The Advisory Committee begins to revise the “**Yellow Book**” for publication in conjunction with the Commission 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

The Commission passes a resolution entitled “**Marine, Estuarine and Riverine Habitat Policy Resolution of Agreement**,” outlining ASMFC’s commitment to the conservation and protection of essential fisheries habitat.

The Commission adopts **FMPs for Atlantic Sturgeon and Spanish Mackerel**.

The Commission publishes the first edition of **Forging Knowledge Into Change**, a 50-year history of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

## 1991

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**Philip G. Coates** of Massachusetts is elected Commission Chair.

**John H. Dunnigan** is hired as Executive Director.

Annual budget totals \$770,000.

The Commission publishes ***Interstate Fisheries of the Atlantic Coast***. This publication replaces the “Yellow Book.”

The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Commission is held October 6-10, 1991 at the Stouffer Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Irwin M. Alperin**, long serving ASMFC Executive Director, is presented the first *Captain David H. Hart Award* for outstanding contributions to the conservation and management of Atlantic coastal fishery resources.

The Commission adopts **Amendment 1 to the Red Drum FMP**.

## 1992

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The Commission’s **Habitat Committee** holds its first organizational meeting and begins planning the Commission’s Habitat Program.

***Fisheries Focus***, a monthly newsletter highlighting the activities of the Commission, debuts.

The Commission adopts Amendment 1 to the **Weakfish** FMP, the 1992 Revision to the **Menhaden** FMP, and the FMP for the Inshore Stocks of **Winter Flounder**.

**Representative Walter B. Jones** of North Carolina is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the commission's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

## 1993

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**William T. Hogarth** of North Carolina is elected Commission Chair.

Congress passes the **Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA)**. Like its predecessor, the Striped Bass Conservation Act, ACFCMA establishes mandatory conservation measures and provides for Secretarial pre-emption of any state fishery not in compliance with an Interstate FMP.

**Dr. Edwin B. Joseph** of South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources is presented the Captain David H. Hart Award at the Commission's 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

## 1994

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**Gordon C. Colvin** of New York is elected Commission Chair.

Congress appropriates **\$3.5 million** to fund ACFCMA. The Commission budget reaches \$1 million.

***Habitat Hotline-Atlantic***, a quarterly newsletter covering marine fish habitat issues along the coast, debuts.

Paul Perra, ISFMP Director, ends an 11-year tenure and joins NMFS' Office of Intergovernmental and Recreational Fisheries; **George D. Lapointe** is hired as new ISFMP Director.

The Commission conducts **series of workshops** on saltwater tournaments; state saltwater licensing; socioeconomic data needs; charter/party boat; precision, accuracy and timeliness of marine fisheries data; trawl survey data; red drum data needs; and special management zones.

The Commission receives "**Excellence in Sport Fisheries Management Award**" from the American Sport Fishing Association.

The **Marine Mammal Protection Act** is reauthorized, establishing new regime to govern the incidental taking of marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations (take reduction teams).

The Commission establishes **advisory panels** for striped bass, weakfish, bluefish and winter flounder.

**Richard H. Schaefer**, Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

## 1995

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The Commission initiates new programs for **public outreach and protected species**. The Commission convenes workshop on "The Management of Protected Species/Fisheries Interactions in State Waters."

The Commission establishes **Research & Statistics Program**; Lisa Kline, Ph.D. becomes program director.

The Commission recognizes the importance of considering social and economic issues in its decision-making processes through the establishment of a **Committee on Economics & Social Sciences**.

**Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)** MOU is signed by the 15 Atlantic coast states, the Commission, the three East Coast Fishery Management Councils, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NMFS and FWS. The MOU establishes a cooperative state-federal program to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen.

The **ISFMP Charter is approved**, establishing standard procedures and guidelines for the program.

### **Atlantic striped bass stocks are declared recovered.**

- The Commission approves Amendment 5 to the FMP, allowing increased recreational and commercial harvest for the first time in five years.

**Advisory Committee Charter is modified** to reflect change in committee composition and role. New committee is composed of the chairs of the various species advisory panels, and is charged with providing oversight and advice to the Commission concerning the effectiveness of ASMFC's efforts to promote public involvement in its programs and activities

The Commission establishes the **Management & Science Committee (MSC)**, composed of state and federal representatives, to carry out assignments at the specific request of the Commission, Executive Committee, or the ISFMP Policy Board, and provides advice to these bodies concerning fisheries management and the science of coastal marine fisheries.

The Commission approves Amendment 2 to the **American Lobster FMP**.

Based on its concern over the growing exploitation of **American eel**, the Commission initiates development of FMP.

The Commission establishes **advisory panels** for tautog, shad & river herring, American lobster, northern shrimp, Atlantic herring, scup & black sea bass.

The late **David G. Deuel** of the National Marine Fisheries Service is awarded the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina.

## 1996

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**Paul A. Sandifer** of South Carolina is elected Commission Chair.

The **Sustainable Fisheries Act** passes, reauthorizing the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The Commission approves FMPs for **Scup, Tautog, Black Sea Bass** and Amendment 3 to the **Weakfish** Plan.

The Commission bestows first Chairman's Award for Distinguished Meritorious Service to **Representative Gerry E. Studds (MA)**.

**Philip G. Coates**, Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

## 1997

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The Commission's **Legislators and Governors' Appointees** adopt policies on voting and representation.

The Commission launches pilot program to include full state delegations on species management boards; delegations must caucus on votes and submit one vote per state (yes, no, null or abstain).

The Commission publishes **Prioritized Research Needs Report**, providing a comprehensive listing of research needed to support interstate fisheries management planning activities.

The Commission establishes its **Stock Assessment Peer Review Process**.

The Commission establishes **advisory panels** for American eel and horseshoe crab.

In an effort to increase knowledge and protection of critical near shore habitat, the Commission adopts a **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Policy**.

The Commission budget exceeds **\$2 million**, doubling in three years.

**David M. Cupka** of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

## 1998

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**David V.D. Borden** of Rhode Island is elected Commission Chair.

The Commission adopts **Amendment 3 to the American Lobster FMP**, signaling a major shift in the primary responsibility for lobster management from the New England Council to the Commission; Amendment 3 also initiates unique management by area process.

The Commission initiates development of its first five-year Strategic Plan.

George D. Lapointe resigns as ISFMP Director to become Commissioner for the Maine Department of Marine Resources; **W. Dieter Busch** becomes ISFMP Director.

The Commission conducts formal stock assessment **peer reviews for American shad, Atlantic sturgeon and horseshoe crab.**

- Amendments to the Sturgeon and Shad & River Herring Plans are adopted based on peer review recommendations; **Sturgeon Plan** establishes a 40-year coast wide moratorium, while **Shad & River Herring Plan** includes a five-year phase out of the ocean intercept fishery, fishing mortality targets for in-river fisheries, and 10 fish recreational creel limit.
- **Horseshoe Crab FMP** is adopted; Plan maintains Delaware Bay states existing regulations and implements extensive monitoring requirements.

The Commission recommends that states voluntarily **cap elver harvests** until completion of American Eel FMP.

The Commission approves **Amendment 1 to the Bluefish FMP**, including an overfishing definition and 9- year rebuilding plan.

In order to recognize some of the many individuals who significantly contribute to the conservation and management of Atlantic coastal fisheries, the Commission establishes the **Annual Awards of Excellence.**

The Commission establishes **Stock Assessment Peer Review Process.**

**Sergeant Robert Babula**, Conservation Officer with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia.

## 1999

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**Richard Christian**, Recreational Species Coordinator, is recognized for 10 years of dedicated service.

The Commission adopts first **Strategic Plan** (1999 – 2003), formalizing the states' collective goals with regards to fisheries management.

The Commission forms **Interstate Tagging Committee** to oversee implementation of a cooperative Atlantic coast tagging program.

The Commission establishes Internet presence by launching new website ([www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)).

**Full integration of State Legislators and Governors' Appointees** on species management boards is accepted as standard operating procedure for the ISFMP after successful completion of a one-year pilot study.

**Menhaden stock assessment is peer reviewed**; Management Board recommends development of FMP Amendment.

SEAMAP-SA develops **bottom mapping CD-ROM** for North Carolina through Florida East Coast.

The Commission adopts **Habitat Strategic Plan**. Activities are organized by four main topics – fisheries management planning, Commission policies and resolutions, state and federal policies, and outreach, technical information transfer and education.

The Commission explores states' role in **shark management** through a series of workshops.

- Recommendations lead to the establishment of a **Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Management Board**.
- Board identifies development of Interstate Spiny Dogfish FMP as priority.

**Weakfish stock assessment** shows signs of marked improvement in spawning stock biomass.

The first Annual Awards of Excellence are presented to **Special Agent Scott Doyle**, National Marine Fisheries Service, **Senators Ernest F. Hollings (SC) and George Gunther (CT)**, **Paul Perra**, National Marine Fisheries Service, **Wilson Laney**, Ph.D., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and **Michael W. Street**, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

The Commission approves creation of **NEAMAP** (Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program) to provide coordination of existing fisheries-independent data collection programs in the Northeast and develop new programs to fill in gaps in sampling coverage.

Northern Shrimp Section approves use of **double Nordmore Grate** and cod end strengthener to reduce finfish bycatch.

The Commission approves **American Eel FMP**, with data collection as the fundamental component of the plan.

The Commission budget is more than **\$3 million**.

**Gordon C. Colvin**, Director of Marine Resources for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Mystic, Connecticut.

## 2000

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**Susan Shipman** of Georgia is elected Commission Chair.

**Striped Bass Conservation Act** reauthorized.

The Commission initiates development of **multispecies assessment model** to assess predator-prey interactions for bluefish, weakfish, striped bass and Atlantic menhaden.

**W. Dieter Busch** leaves Commission to head up NOAA's Ecosystem Initiative.

The Commission bestows the Chairman's Award for Distinguished Meritorious Service to the late **Senator John H. Chafee (RI)**.

States reduce coast-wide commercial **horseshoe crab bait landings** by 25%.

The Secretary of Commerce implements final rule for **Spiny Dogfish FMP**. The Commission takes emergency action and closes state waters to the commercial harvest, landing and possession of spiny dogfish for 180 days.

The Commission presents Annual Awards Excellence to **Chief Rob Winkel**, New Jersey Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife, **Dick Sisson**, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish & Wildlife, **Vic Crecco, Ph.D.**, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and **Mark Gibson**, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish & Wildlife.

The Commission releases findings of **American lobster stock assessment peer review**; review panel finds current abundance high but urges use of precautionary approach to management.

Peer-reviewed stock assessments for **summer flounder and scup** show promising news for summer flounder and continued concern for scup populations.

**Susan Shipman**, Chief of Marine Fisheries, Georgia Coastal Resources Division, is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Clearwater Beach, Florida.



## 2001

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**Laura C. Leach**, Director of Finance & Administration, is honored at 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for 20 years of dedicated service to the Commission.

The Commission conducts workshop on **regulatory discards**.

The Commission pilots “**paperless meeting weeks**,” distributing meeting week materials via CD-ROM and website.

The Commission releases **Habitat Managers Database** in order to facilitate and promote interagency cooperation on fish habitat protection.

**Kristina A. Ballard**, Grants and Payroll Administrator, is recognized for 10 years of dedicated service.

NMFS designates **Carl N. Schuster Jr. Horseshoe Crab Reserve**, banning fishing for horseshoe crabs in federal waters off the mouth of the Delaware Bay.

States extend **spiny dogfish emergency action** and fast tracks development of FMP.

American Lobster Board approves **gauge size increases and trap reductions** for 2001 implementation.

The Commission initiates **Power Plant Assessment Study**, evaluating the cumulative impacts of power plant impingement and entrainment on Atlantic menhaden. The assessment will focus on power plants from New York (Hudson River) through South Carolina.

The Commission presents Annual Awards Excellence to **Senator Jill Goldthwait (ME); Max Peterson, Gary Taylor and Naomi Edelson**, International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies; **Linda Mercer**, Ph.D., Maine Department of Marine Resources; and **Bob Fisher**, Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

The Commission approves Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Menhaden FMP. Plan establishes **new overfishing definition and biological reference points**, and restructures Management Board and Technical Committee consistent with other boards/technical committees.

States begin to develop **SAV Conservation Plans** based on recommendations of the Commission report entitled, “Evaluating Fishing Gear Impacts to Submerged Aquatic Vegetation and Determining Mitigation Strategies.” State plans to include information on public education, identifying SAV and gears which impact it, steps taken to address interactions and impacts, and recommendations for ASMFC action.

The Commission conducts series of **Stock Assessment Workshops** for Commissioners.

**Robert K. Mahood**, Executive Director, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in Rockport, Maine.

## 2002

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**John Nelson** of New Hampshire is elected Commission Chair.

**John H. Dunnigan** ends his 10-year tenure as Executive Director to become Director of Sustainable Fisheries for NOAA; **Captain John V. O'Shea** is appointed Executive Director.

**Robert E. Beal** named ISFMP Director.

**Maury Osborn** is selected as the ACCSP Director.

Annual budget totals **\$4 million**.

The Commission initiates development of **American lobster stock assessment database**.

The Commission approves Amendment 2 to the **Red Drum FMP**; South Atlantic Council initiates process to transfer full management authority to the Commission.

The Commission Tautog Board approves Addendum II to the Plan, requiring states to **reduce fishing mortality by 48%** and enhance coast wide data collection and monitoring programs.

The Commission conducts **Asian Oyster Workshop**, exploring the potential benefits and risks of introducing *Crassostea ariakensis* into the Chesapeake Bay.

**Aquaculture Guidance Document** released.

The Commission conducts **Lobster Transferability Workshop**, educating participants about the use of trap transferability as a lobster resource management tool.

The Commission conducts ESA Workshop with the goal of improving communication and cooperation among state and federal marine fishery and endangered species agency representatives. Workshop leads to development of **ASMFC Protected Species Committee**.

The Commission continues to explore **multispecies assessments** through "Workshop on Linking Multispecies Assessments to Single Species Fisheries Management."

The Commission presents Annual Awards Excellence to **Captain Jim Hanlon**, Massachusetts Environmental Police; **South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Marine Patrol**; **Steven**

**Driscoll**, New Hampshire; **Tom O’Connell**, Maryland Department of Natural Resources; and **Doug Vaughan**, NOAA Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research.

As required by Amendment 1 to the Shad FMP, states **reduce shad ocean intercept fisheries by 40%**.

The Habitat Committee releases **Beach Nourishment** publication, highlighting nourishment activities along the coast, potential impacts, and research needs.

The Commission approves **Spiny Dogfish FMP**; Plan complements existing federal measures.

The Commission approves Amendment 4 to the **Weakfish** FMP, including new overfishing definition and biological reference points.

The Commission bestows the Chairman’s Award for Distinguished Meritorious Service to **Senator Judd Gregg (NH)**.

**David V.D. Borden**, Assistant Director for Natural Resources Development and Protection, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission’s 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia.

## **2003**

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The Commission adopts **Strategic Plan** for 2004 - 2008.

The Commission establishes **Employee of the Quarter** Award, recognizing special contributions and qualities in the areas of teamwork, initiative, and responsibility, quality of work, positive attitude and results. **Edith S. Carr**, longtime Staff Assistant, is named first award recipient. Other 2003 award recipients include **Carrie D. Selberg, Geoffrey G. White, and Kristina A. Ballard**.

In an effort to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its meeting processes, The Commission pilots **Technical Committee Meeting Weeks**; two meeting weeks scheduled for 2003.

In response to local stock declines, American Lobster Board initiates **emergency action for Area 2** (waters off of Rhode Island and Massachusetts); states are required to implement immediate gauge size increases.

The Commission approves **Amendment 6 to the Striped Bass FMP**, plan establishes control rule and biological reference points, and allows for increased harvest by both recreational and commercial fishermen.

The Commission establishes **Stock Assessment Committee** to provide oversight to Commission stock assessment and peer review processes.

The Commission presents Annual Awards Excellence to **Sergeant Francis Floor**, Rhode Island Department of Environmental; **Special Agent Kevin Flanagan**, NOAA Fisheries, Office of Law Enforcement; **New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife, Marine Law Enforcement Region, District 8**; **Jean Flemma**, former legislative staff for the House of Representatives Committee on Resources; **John Mason**, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; **Stu Kennedy**, Ph.D., Florida Marine Research Institute; **Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton**, Potomac River Fisheries Commission-posthumously; and **Colonel Clarence Wayne Lee**, North Carolina-posthumously.

The Commission launches **revamped website** to include species-specific pages, expanded pages on science, research and statistics, revised habitat pages, contact information and committee lists, and discussion forums.

The Commission initiates effort to characterize Atlantic coastal **state fisheries and sea turtle interactions**.

**Jack Travestead**, Chief of Fisheries Management for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in New York City.

## 2004

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**Preston Pate Jr.** of North Carolina is elected Commission Chair.

**Lisa Kline**, Ph.D., departs as Director of Research and Statistics, after 11 years of service to the Commission, to join NOAA Fisheries' National Cooperative Research Program.

**Tina L. Berger**, Public Affairs Specialist, is recognized for 10 years of dedicated service. The Commission bestows the Chairman's Award for Distinguished Meritorious Service to **Senator Owen Johnson (NY)**.

Annual budget reaches **\$5 million**.

In order to increase the abundance of horseshoe crab eggs to meet the energetic requirements of migratory shorebirds in the Delaware Bay region, Addendum III to the **Horseshoe Crab FMP** requires the States of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland to further reduce landings.

**American Eel Board** calls for development of an amendment and/or addendum to address continued stock declines.

The Commission presents Annual Awards Excellence to **Major Bruce Buckson**, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; **Captain Herb Drake**, New Hampshire; and **Artie Odlin**, Maine.

**Atlantic Menhaden** Board approves Addendum I, modifying the plan’s biological reference points and stock assessment schedule.

**Black sea bass** state-by-state allocation system approved for 2005 – 2007.

ASMFC holds Industry Workshop on **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass** so that industry leaders will actively participate in solving allocation issues facing their fisheries.

ASMFC staff **Megan E. Gamble, Jonna C. Ellis, Nancy E. Wallace, and Tina L. Berger** receive **Employee of the Quarter Awards**.

ASMFC conducts **Atlantic Menhaden Workshop** to examine the ecological role of menhaden and explore the possibility of localized stock depletion in the Chesapeake Bay.

ASMFC approves Amendment 1 to the **Northern Shrimp Plan** establishing biological reference points and provides new tools for management of northern shrimp fishery.

**Dr. William Hogarth**, NOAA’s Assistant Administrator for fisheries is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission’s 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in New Castle, New Hampshire.

## 2005

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**American Eel Management Board** expands its Advisory Panel membership to include two non-traditional stakeholders.

**Atlantic Sturgeon Board** approves Addendum II, providing exemptions to Amendment 1 to **allow commercial aquaculture operation in North Carolina**.

The Commission’s **Winter Flounder Board** approves state proposals for the implementation of Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Inshore Stocks of Winter Flounder. All plans determined to meet stock-wide conservation standards.

The Commission issues a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development and implementation of a pilot study to assist in the **design and execution of Mid-Atlantic Nearshore Trawl survey** in support of the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program.

**American lobster peer-reviewed stock assessment yields mixed results** – stable abundance for Georges Bank & most of Gulf of Maine; low stock abundance & recruitment for Southern New England; and decreased abundance & recruitment for Area 514 (MA Bay and Stellwagen Bank).

The Commission presents Annual Awards Excellence to **Willard “Bill” Cole** of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; **Lewis Flagg** of the Maine Department of Marine Resources; **David Whaley**, Senior Staff for Fisheries Policy for the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans; **Douglas Grout** of the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department; and **Gary Shepard** of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Commission approves the **development of a new Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks** to complement current federal management actions under the Highly Migratory Species FMP.

ASMFC staff **Toni M. Kerns, Cecilia Butler, Patrick Kilduff and Kristina A. Ballard** receive **Employee of the Quarter Awards**.

**Weakfish Management Board** approves the **biological sampling and reporting program** to bolster data collection and improve future stock assessments.

**Chief Rob Winkel**, former Deputy Director for New Jersey Law Enforcement, is presented the Captain David A. Hart Award at the Commission's 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Galloway, New Jersey.

ASMFC approves **Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Croaker Plan** revising the plan's management goals and objectives, and establishing biological reference points; revises the management of Atlantic croaker to a regional basis; responding to and incorporating information from the latest stock assessment.

## **2006**

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ASMFC approves **Atlantic Herring Amendment 2**, which revises management area boundaries, biological reference points, the specification process, research set-asides, internal waters processing operations, and measures are intended to address fixed gear fisheries.

In ***Medeiros v ASMFC and RI DEM***, the US First Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed judgment of the US District Court for Rhode Island supporting the authority of the Commission and Rhode Island DEM to impose a 100/500 daily trip limit on lobsters caught by trawlers.

The Commission presents Annual Awards of Excellence to **Lieutenants Don McMillen and Camille Soverel, and Investigators Tony Howell and Al Corfield** of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Law Enforcement; **Susan Olsen**, Grants Team Leader with NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region's State-Federal and Constituent Program Office; **Robert Glenn** of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries; **Andrew Kahnle** of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and **Byron Young**, formerly of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Horseshoe Crab Board approves Addendum IV to the Interstate Plan, which establishes a suite of **management measures to reduce landings of horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay origin**. The Addendum intends to address the needs of migratory shorebirds, especially red knots, while maintaining a limited commercial bait fishery.

ASMFC staff **Lydia C. Munger, Braddock J. Spear, Tina L. Berger and Cecilia Butler** receive **Employee of the Quarter Awards**.

**George Lapointe** of Maine is elected Commission Chair.

**John H. Dunnigan**, NOAA's Assistant Administrator for Oceans and Coastal Services is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

**Atlantic Menhaden Board approves** Addendum III, which establishes a **five-year cap on reduction fishery harvests in Chesapeake Bay** of 109, 020; the cap implemented in 2006 and extends through 2010.

## **2007**

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Commission's Habitat Committee serves as a catalyst in developing a coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, launching **Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership**.

ASMFC approves **Amendment 14 to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan** which maintains the current management program for scup applying a constant fishing mortality rate of  $F=0.26$  to determine landings and assesses stock status based on available survey indices.

**American shad peer-reviewed stock assessment** finds most stocks are currently at all-time lows and do not appear to be recovering.

- Shad and River Herring Board **initiate development of Amendments 2 and 3** to the Interstate Plan. Amendment 2 to address declines in river herring stocks coastwide. Amendment 3 to address the recommendations of the 2007 peer-reviewed assessment.

ASMFC staff **Patrick Kilduff, Cindy Robertson, Erika Robbins and Nichola Meserve** receive **Employee of the Quarter Awards**.

**American Lobster Board** approves Addendum XI to Amendment 3 that establishes measures to **rebuild Southern New England depleted stock** of American lobster.

**American Lobster Board** approves the implementation of a conservation-equivalent plan for Long Island Sound instituting a v-notch based stock restoration program.

The Habitat Committee releases ***The Importance of Habitat Created by Molluscan Shellfish to Managed Species along the Atlantic Coast of the United States***, highlighting the shellfish habitats that occur in estuaries, near-shore coastal waters and offshore on a continental shelf, that provides numerous ecological services to these systems.

The Commission presents Annual Awards of Excellence to **Fred Schwab, Dr. John Merriner**, formerly of the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Beaufort Laboratory, and **Colonel Joseph Fessenden**, Maine Bureau of Marine Patrol.

**Preston P. Pate, Jr.**, former Director of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries receives

the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Annapolis, Maryland.

## **2008**

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The Commission presents Annual Awards of Excellence to **Dr. David Pierce** with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, **Dr. Gary Nelson** with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, **Sergeant Frances Ethier** with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Division of Law Enforcement, and **John Carmichael** of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

ASMFC holds workshop on **fish passage** issues impacting the Atlantic coast states.

**Horseshoe Crab Board approves Addendum V**, extending the management measures contained in Addendum IV through October 31, 2009.

**Striped bass peer-reviewed stock assessment** modifies biological reference points and finds spawning stock biomass to be above SSB target and threshold; the stock is not overfished nor is it experiencing overfishing.

Commission approves **Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks**. Plan addresses the management of 40 species, including smooth dogfish, and establishes a suite of management measures for recreational and commercial shark fisheries in state waters (0 – 3 miles from shore).

ASMFC staff, **William Most, Genny Nesslage, Jessie Thomas** and **Melissa Paine**, receive **Employee of the Quarter Awards**.

**Harry Mears**, Director of State, Federal and Constituent Programs Office, NMFS Northeast Region, receives the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

**Spiny Dogfish Board approves Addendum II**, retroactively applying an annual quota of 7,940,776 pounds (after adjustments for overages) to the 2008/2009 fishing season.

**American Eel Board approves Addendum II**, maintaining status quo state management measures and placing increased emphasis on improving the upstream and downstream passage of American eel.

ASMFC approves **2009- 2013 Strategic Plan**, charting a course to achieve its long-term vision of "healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015."



## 2009

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ASMFC published the 9<sup>th</sup> document in its Habitat Management Series entitled, *Atlantic Coast Diadromous Fish Habitat: A Review of Utilization, Threats, Recommendations for Conservation, and Research Needs*, by Karen Green, Jennifer Zimmerman, Wilson Laney, and Jessie Thomas-Blate.

**Atlantic Herring Section approves Addendum I** to Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sea Herring, aiming to control fishing effort within the Area 1A by allowing the Section to employ bimonthly, trimester, or seasonal quotas with flexibility to prohibit landings before June 1.

**American Lobster Board adopts Addendum XII**, establishing protocols for the consistent application of individual trap transferrable programs for the plan's lobster conservation management areas.

The Commission presents Annual Awards of Excellence to **Mr. Roy Miller** with the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife, **Rick Robbins**, **Dr. David Smith** with the US Geological Survey, and **Wayne Hettenbach** of the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division (Interagency Watershed Taskforce)

ASMFC approves Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring (**River Herring Management**), which prohibits state waters commercial and recreational fisheries beginning January 1, 2010, unless states/jurisdictions develop sustainable management plans.

**Winter Flounder Management Board approves Addendum I**, establishing harvest reductions for both the Gulf of Maine and Southern New England/ Mid-Atlantic inshore stocks of winter flounder.

American Lobster Management Board approves Addendum XIV, which modifies the Lobster Conservation Management Area (LCMA) 3 trap transfer program, including changes to the conservation tax and trap cap.

ASMFC facilitates the formation of the **Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership** by providing staff and logistical support. ACFHP's mission is to accelerate the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fishes through said partnerships.

ASMFC staff, **Tina Berger**, **Toni Kerns**, **Dr. Genevieve Nessler**, and **Emily Greene** receive **Employee of the Quarter Awards**.

**Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board approves Addendum XX**. Addendum XX allows for the transfer of commercial allocations for black sea bass (entire year) and scup summer period (May 1-October 31) managed under the Commission's plans.

**John I. Nelson Jr.** posthumously receives *Captain David H. Hart Award*.

Weakfish Management Board approves **Addendum IV** in response to depleted stock status; measures to reduce exploitation by over 50 percent in both the recreational and commercial sectors. This requires states to implement a one fish recreational creel limit.

**Robert H. Boyles Jr. (SC) and Paul Diodati (MA)** elected ASMFC Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

## 2010

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ASMFC publishes the 10<sup>th</sup> publication in its habitat management series, entitled *Living Shorelines: Impacts of Erosion Control Strategies on Coastal Habitats*.

The Commission approves **Amendment 3** to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring (**American Shad Management**), establishing a coast wide moratorium on commercial and recreational fisheries, with exceptions for sustainable systems.

**Mr. Eric Schwaab** is appointed as Assistant Administrator to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Commission presents Annual Awards of Excellence to **Mr. Vito Calomo** (Legislative category), **Dr. Mark Terceiro** of the National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and **Ms. Kim McKown** of the New York State Department of Conservation (Scientific, Technical, and Advisory category) at its Spring Meeting.

**American Lobster Board** approves Addendum XVI, establishing new reference points for the three lobster stocks and modifies procedures for adopting and implementing new reference points.

ASMFC **Horseshoe Crab Board** approves Addendum VI; it extends current provisions to through April 30, 2013, while the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Framework is further developed and long-term funding is secured to support the horseshoe crab monitoring program that the ARM Framework is dependent upon.

ASMFC and ACCSP offices relocate to Arlington, VA.

**John E. Frampton** receives *Captain David H. Hart Award*.

The **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board** approves **Addendum II to Amendment** to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Addendum revises the definition of juvenile recruitment failure based on a recommendation from the Striped Bass Technical Committee.

The **Atlantic Herring Section** approves Addendum II to Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sea Herring modifying the process to set specifications and the definitions (and associated acronyms) used by the Commission in setting Atlantic herring specifications.

ASMFC staff, **Stefanie Miles, Dr. Katie Drew, Kate Taylor and Christopher Vonderweidt**, receive ASMFC Employee of the Quarter Award.

**Robert Boyles, Jr.** and **Paul Diodati** are re-elected Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, at the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

## **2011**

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Members of the biomedical and commercial fishing industries pledge over \$117,000 to continue **Horseshoe Crab Trawl Survey in 2011**.

**ACCSP Staff Geoffrey White and ASMFC Staff Kristina Ballard, Melissa Paine and Toni Kerns** receive ASMFC Employee of the Quarter awards.

**Northern Shrimp Section Closes 2010/2011 Fishery** - Effective 2359 hours (EST) on February 28, 2011, the Commission's Northern Shrimp Section and its member states closed the 2010/2011 northern shrimp fishery based on projections that the TAL had already been exceeded by 192 metric tons.

**Senator Dennis Damon (ME), Rep. Bob Lane (GA) and George Lapointe (ME)** step down as ASMFC Commissioners. Senator Damon and Rep. Lane served for 8 and 14 years, respectively. George Lapointe served as Administrative Commissioner from Maine for 12 years.

The South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board approves **Addendum I to Amendment I** to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for **Atlantic Croaker** to change the management unit to one region (New Jersey through the east coast of Florida) and modify the biological reference points used to assess stock condition.

The Tautog Management Board approves **Addendum VI** to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog in response to the latest scientific advice that the stock continues to be overfished with overfishing occurring.

The Commission presents **Annual Awards of Excellence to Michael Howard (Law Enforcement), Charles Wenner, Dr. Douglas S. Vaughan, Dr. Erik H. Williams, Mr. Joseph W. Smith and Ms. Ethel A. Hall** (Scientific, Technical, and Advisory).

The Commission's ISFMP Policy Board affirms its strong support for the direction, pace, and goal of NOAA's **Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)**.

The Commission approves the **Omnibus Amendment for Spot, Spotted Seatrout, and Spanish Mackerel**; it updates all three plans with requirements under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (1993) and the Interstate Fishery Management Program Charter (1995). The updates to the plans include commercial and recreational management measures and recommendations, adaptive management options, *de minimis* thresholds and exemptions, and monitoring recommendations.

The Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council establish the 2012 commercial quotas and recreational harvest limits for **summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish**. The Commission's actions are final and apply to state waters.

The Commission's ISFMP Policy Board approves resolution on non-native invasive catfish (blue and flathead) based on concern about the potential impacts these species may have on Commission managed species, particularly in the Chesapeake Bay region.

**Patten White**, Maine lobstermen and longtime Governor Appointee to the Commission, receives *Captain David H. Hart Award*.

The Commission approves **Amendment 2** to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for **Northern Shrimp**, which includes a new suite of management tools, such as trip limits, trap limits, and days out of the fishery, to regulate the fishery; also modifies the fishing mortality reference points to include a threshold level, includes a timelier and comprehensive reporting system, and allows for the initiation of a limited entry program to be pursued through the adaptive management addendum process.

**Paul Diodati (MA)** and **Louis Daniel, III (NC)** are elected ASMFC Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

The **American Lobster Management Board** adopted a 10% reduction in exploitation by all fishing sectors and all gear types starting January 1, 2013 as the first phase in the Board's efforts to rebuild the Southern New England stock.

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board approves **Addendum V** to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for **Atlantic Menhaden** establishing a new interim fishing mortality threshold and target (based on maximum spawning potential or MSP) with the goal of increasing abundance, spawning stock biomass, and menhaden availability as a forage species.

**Toni Kerns** Awarded ASMFC Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2011.

**Patten White** steps down as Maine's Governor Appointee to the Commission. His tenure with the Commission culminates in being presented with the Captain David H. Hart Award.

Full time commercial lobsterman **Stephen R. Train** appointed as Maine's Governor Appointee to the Commission.

Director of Finance and Administration, **Laura Leach** honored by the director, Commissioners and staff for her 30 years of outstanding service to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Laura is the first Commission employee to reach this impressive milestone.

**The Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board** approves a 30-million-pound quota for the 2012/2013 fishing season. The quota represents a 50% increase from last season's quota of 20 million pounds.

**The Horseshoe Crab Management Board approves Addendum VII to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan.** The Addendum implements the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Framework developed by the Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey.

## 2012

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The **Bluefish Management Board** approves **Addendum I to Amendment 1** to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for **Bluefish** establishing a coast wide sampling program to improve the quantity and quality of information available for use in future bluefish stock assessments.

The **Horseshoe Crab Management Board** approves **Addendum VII** to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan implementing the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Framework, which incorporates both shorebird and horseshoe crab abundance levels to set optimized horseshoe crab harvest levels for the Delaware Bay area.

**The Northern Shrimp Section revises the total allowable catch (TAC) for the 2012 northern shrimp fishery** to 2,211 mt, an increase of 211 mt from the originally established TAC. The Section modified the TAC to address harvester and processor concerns regarding their ability to maintain markets that have been established over the past few seasons.

**The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council revise catch and harvest limits for summer flounder and scup.** The Board and Council adopted a recreational harvest limit of 8.76 million pounds, representing a 26% decrease from the 2011 limit.

**Northern Shrimp Section and its member states close the 2012 northern shrimp fishery.** Landings are projected to have already exceeded the total allowable catch (TAC) of 2,211 mt.

**Steven Bowman** retires as Commissioner of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to become Chief of Police of the Smithfield Police Department.

**Jack Travelstead** is named VMRC's Acting Commissioner as well as Virginia's new Administrative Commissioner.

**John Frampton** retires as Director of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) after a 37-year career of service to the citizens and natural resources of South Carolina.

**Robert H. Boyles Jr.**, SCDNR's Deputy Director for Marine Resources, appointed to serve as the state's Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC.

**Fentress "Red" Munden** retires from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, ending a 43-year career in marine fisheries management

**The Tautog Management Board lowers the harvest reduction necessary for states to comply with Addendum VI.** States from Connecticut through Virginia are required to reduce harvest by 39% from the average of 2008 and 2009 levels.

**Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board modifies the percent that states may liberalize their 2012 recreational management measures** to achieve the 1.32 million pound (942,857 fish) harvest limit for the 2012 fishery.

**Christopher Ford** joins the Commission staff as Assistant to the Executive Director

**Meredith Wilson** accepts a position with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries as Assistant to the Director.

**ASMFC River Herring Benchmark Assessment indicates stock is depleted** to near historic lows.

**The Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board increases the 2012/2013 spiny dogfish quota from 30 to 35.6 million pounds.** The increase is consistent with proposed regulations for federal waters as well the recommendations of the ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee.

**Cecilia Butler** celebrates her 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Commission as Human Resources Coordinator.

**Dr. John Sweka** (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) receives the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission **Technical Achievement Award** for his significant contributions to the assessments of horseshoe crab, river herring, American eel, and Atlantic striped bass. He is the first recipient of this new award.

The Annual Awards of Excellence 2012 recipients are **Dennis F. Abbott** (Legislative), **Ritchie White** (Management and Policy), **William T. Windley** (Scientific, Technical and Advisory), and **Major Harold Knudsen** (Law Enforcement).

ASMFC Executive Director **Vince O'Shea** accepts a position as Vice President, Alaska at Pacific Seafood Processors Association. Vince joined the Commission as Director in 2002.

**Robert E. Beal** is appointed the Acting Executive Director for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Bob Beal has been with the Commission for more than 15 years and has served as the Director for the Interstate Fishery Management Program for the past 10 years.

**Representative Curt Schroder** steps down as Pennsylvania's Legislative Commissioner to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, having served in that role since 2003.

**Dr. Eugene Kray** retires as ongoing proxy for Representative Schroder, ending his nearly 10-year involvement with the Commission as both a Governor-appointed Commissioner (2006 - 2009) and legislative proxy (2003 - 2005 and 2010 - 2012).

**Jeff Kipp** joins the Commission staff as Stock Assessment Scientist. He will coordinate the benchmark stock assessment for black drum and fisheries science activities with regards to fish ageing, fish passage, interstate tagging, and fishing gear technology.

**North Carolina State Representative William L. Wainwright** dies on July 17, 2012 at the age of 64. He served as North Carolina's Legislative Commissioner to the ASMFC from October 2005 until his passing.

**The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) endorses three new projects:** the South Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Assessment and Tool, Grassy Flats Estuarine Habitat Restoration Project and Alewife Outreach and Education.

**Representative Mike Vereb** is appointed to serve as Pennsylvania's Legislative Commissioner to the ASMFC.

**ASMFC's 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting** is held at the Radisson Plaza Warwick Hotel in the historic city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approves Addendum III to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.** The Addendum establishes a mandatory commercial tagging program for all states and jurisdictions with commercial striped bass fisheries and recommends increasing penalties for illegally harvested fish.

**The American Lobster Board approves Addendum XVIII to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster.** The Addendum establishes a consolidation program for lobster conservation management areas (LCMAs) 2 and 3 (Southern New England and offshore waters, respectively) to address latent effort by reducing the overall number of traps allocated.

**The Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board approves Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish.** The Addendum updates the definition of overfishing consistent with that of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and provides the Board the flexibility to update or modify the management program's overfishing definition through Board action based on the recommendations of its Technical Committee.

**Lisa Hartman** joins the Commission staff providing support to the Finance and Administration Department.

**Christopher Vonderweit** accepts a position as a Policy Development Specialist with the Maine Department of Marine Resources. Christopher served as the Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for Atlantic herring, spiny dogfish and coastal sharks, tautog, and winter flounder.

**Robert E. Beal** selected as the Commission's new Executive Director. The announcement was made on October 23rd at the Commission's 71st Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**The Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science has funded a study to compare different ways of managing the recreational fishery for summer flounder.** Currently, states modify their bag limits, minimum size limits, and length of the fishing season each year to achieve their target harvest in the summer flounder recreational fishery.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission presents **George Lapointe, long-time ASMFC Commissioner and former Maine Commissioner of Marine Resources, the Captain David H. Hart Award**, its highest annual award, at the Commission's 71st Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**The Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board approves spiny dogfish quotas for the 2013/14, 2014/15, and 2015/16 fishing seasons** with a maximum possession limit of 4,000 pounds per day for the northern region states (Maine through Connecticut). The approved quotas represent an approximately five million pound increase in quota over the 2012/13 season.

**The Horseshoe Crab Management Board approves the harvest specifications for horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay origin.** Under the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Framework, the Board set a harvest limit of 500,000 Delaware Bay male horseshoe crabs and zero female horseshoe crabs for the 2013 season.

**The Winter Flounder Management Board approves Addendum II to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for the Inshore Stocks of Winter Flounder.** The Addendum modifies the commercial and recreational management requirements for the Gulf of Maine (GOM).

**Emily Greene, Kate Taylor, Katie Drew and Mike Waive** receive ASMFC 2012 Employee of the Quarter Award.

The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) bestowed the first **Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award** upon **Dr. Wilson Laney** of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for his exemplary work in furthering the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fishes.

**Danielle Chesky**, FMP Coordinator, accepts a position with the Northeast-Midwest Institute where she will be the Great Lakes Washington Program Director.

**Marin Hawk** and **Melissa Yuen** join the Commission staff as Fishery Management Plan Coordinators. **Christopher Ford**, Executive Assistant to the Director, leaves the Commission to pursue other career opportunities.



**The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has approved Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden.** The Amendment established a 170,8000 MT total allowable catch (TAC) beginning in 2013 and continuing until completion of, and Board action on, the next benchmark stock assessment scheduled for 2014. The Amendment also established requirements for timely reporting and improved biological monitoring.

**The Commission's Northern Shrimp Section has approved Addendum I to Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Northern Shrimp.** The Addendum provides flexibility and transparency in the annual specification process with the goal of maximizing benefits to the fishery while ensuring stock rebuilding. **The Northern Shrimp Section also approved a total allowable catch (TAC) of 625 MT,** representing a 72% reduction from last year's quota.

**ASMFC initiates first coast-wide stock assessment of black drum data.** The assessment will evaluate the health of the black drum stock and will be used to inform fishery management activities.

**The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board approves opening the black sea bass recreational fishery** for January and February with a 15 fish bag limit and a 12.5 inch minimum size limit. The Management Board **also releases Draft Addendum XXIII to the Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan for public comment** regarding using state-by-state or regional measures to manage the 2013 black seas bass recreational fishery.

## 2013

Maryland watermen and Chesapeake Bay advocates lost a dedicated leader and true friend when **Captain Larry Simpson** died on March 14, 2013. Founder and longtime President of the Maryland Watermen's Association, Captain Simns committed his life to maintaining the decades old tradition of an active and vibrant fishing community.

**ASMFC begins preparations for northern shrimp benchmark stock assessment** which will be used to evaluate the health of the northern shrimp stock. The Commission solicits data to be reviewed during the May 2013 Data Workshop.

**Toni Kerns,** a veteran ASMFC Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Coordinator, was selected as the Commission's new **Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Director.**

**Kate Taylor,** a veteran ASMFC Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, was promoted to Senior FMP Coordinator.

**The Commission's Atlantic Herring Section has set the annual catch limit for the 2013-2015 fishing seasons at 107,800 metric tons, an 18% increase from 2010-2012 limits.** The Section also initiated the development of Draft Addendum VI to the Atlantic Herring FMP to include options for seasonal splitting of sub-ACLs and establishment of sub-ACL quota triggers.

**Senator Ronnie W. Cromer** joins the Commission as South Carolina's Legislative Commissioner replacing Robert Boyles, Jr.

**John Duren** steps down as Georgia's Governor Appointee to the Commission, serving in that position since 2005.

**Senator Clark Jenkins** joins the Commission as North Carolina's Legislative Commissioner, replacing Senator Stan White.

**Representative Walter Kumiega III** joins the Commission as Maine's Legislative Commissioner replacing Senator Brian Langley.

**Deke Tompkins** joins the Commission staff as its Legislative Executive Assistant, providing assistance to the Executive Director with legislative and policy issues. Deke comes to us from 6 years of serving as Legislative Assistant to Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI).

**Lisa Hartman, Jeff Kipp, Ed Martino and Deke Tompkins** are awarded ASMFC Employee of the Quarter for the first, second, third and fourth quarter, respectively, of 2013.

ASMFC releases the latest installment of its Habitat Management Series, **Harbor Deepening: Potential Habitat and Natural Resource Issues**, developed by the Commission's Habitat Committee in response to the growing number of Atlantic ports involved in or considering accommodating deep draft vessels such as the Post-Panamax class vessels.

**Larry Simpson, Executive Director of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission** for three decades loses his courageous battle with cancer in early 2013. Our longtime colleague and ally in interstate fisheries management, we will all mourn the loss of this great leader and mentor.

Work on the **2014 benchmark stock assessment for Atlantic sturgeon** begins in Spring 2013. The assessment will be used to evaluate the health of the stock and inform the management of this species. Assessment process and meetings are open to the public and the Commission welcomes the submission of data sources to improve the accuracy of the assessment.

In April 2013, the Commission's **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved Addendum XXIV to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan**, establishing a mechanism to allow states access to the 2013 summer flounder recreational harvest limit (RHL) that is projected to not be harvested. The Board approved proposals from New York and New Jersey specifically to use the available RHL and modify regulations to access additional fish.

**Kirby Rootes-Murdy** joins the Commission staff as its newest Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, assuming coordinating responsibilities for black sea bass, bluefish, scup and summer flounder, Atlantic croaker, black drum, red drum, Spanish mackerel, spot, and spotted sea trout. Kirby comes from SeaWeb where he was a Program Associate focusing on fisheries, aquaculture and sustainable seafood.

In January 2013, the ASMFC and National Marine Fisheries Service's Northeast Region co-hosted a workshop to discuss technological solutions to reduce sea turtle and Atlantic sturgeon bycatch in

southern New England and Mid-Atlantic gillnet fisheries. The Workshop Report is available online at <http://www.asmfc.org/research> Statistics/GillnetWorkshopFinal Report\_April2013.pdf.

**2013 Annual Awards of Excellence** were presented at the Spring meeting to the following recipients: **For Management and Policy Contributions:** William J. Goldsborough, Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Mr. Thomas W. McCloy, New Jersey Marine Fisheries Administration; Dr. Malcolm Rhodes, South Carolina Governor Appointee to the Commission; Robert J. Ross, Jr., NOAA Fisheries Northeast. **For Law Enforcement Contributions:** Mr. Wayne Hettenbach and Mr. Patrick Duggan, U.S. Department of Justice; Special Agent James Cassin, Jr., Special Agent Jeffrey Ray, Captain Mark Carnale, Conservation Officer Craig James, Conservation Officer Jeremy Trembley, Lieutenant Karl Yunghans; and Captain Dorothy Thumm (retired), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

In May 2013, the Commission approved the **Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Black Drum** requiring all states to maintain current regulations for black drum and implement a maximum possession limit and minimum size limit by January 1, 2014.

In May 2013, the Commissioner's **American Lobster Management Board approved Addendum XX to Amendment 3 to the FMP for American Lobster**, formalizing measures for bottom sharing in Closed Area II of Georges Bank to prevent gear conflicts and protect large concentrations of egg bearing females.

**The Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board approved Addendum I to the Atlantic Coastal Sharks FMP** allocating state shares of smoothhound sharks and changing the maximum fin-to-carcass ratio for smoothhound shark processing-at-sea.

**The Winter Flounder Management Board approved Addendum III to Amendment 1 to the FMP** for Inshore Stocks of Winter Flounder establishing an annual specification process to set commercial and recreational management measures for the Gulf of Maine and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic fisheries.

In recognition of her exemplary performance as the Commission's Public Affairs Specialist, **Tina Berger** is promoted to Director of Communications.

**Research Priorities and Recommendations to Support Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management is released.** The report highlights research priorities and data critical to the continued success and improvement of the Commissions 25 species management programs.

**Margaret Hunter** (Maine) received the Commission's Annual Award of Excellence for years of outstanding scientific, technical and advisory contributions to fisheries science and management programs.

In August, the **American Eel Management Board** approves Addendum III and Draft Addendum IV to the FMP for American Eel. Addendum III focuses on size limits, trip level reporting, creel limit, and silver eel seasonal closure and gear type restrictions. Addendum IV will primarily focus on management measures for the glass eel fishery.

As a result of a July 2011 workshop exploring the current state of eel passage at riverine migratory barriers, the Commission release ***Proceedings of a Workshop on American Eel Passage Technologies***, a report summarizing their findings and recommendations.

**The Atlantic Herring Section** approved Addendum VI to the FMP for Atlantic Herring refining Commission specification processes.

**The South Atlantic State Federal Fisheries Management Board** approved two addenda to the FMP for Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout establishing a pilot program to reduce size limits in 2013 and 2014. The Board also approved Addendum I and II to the FMP for Red Drum to include current information on red drum spawning habitat and habitat by life stage.

**The American Lobster Management Board** approved Addendum XXI to Amendment 3 to the FMP for American Lobster modifying the trap transferability program for Areas 2 and 3 allowing for flexibility in the movement of traps.

**Toni Kerns, Senior FMP Coordinator**, is recognized for 10 years of service.

**Senator Philip Boyle** is appointed as New York's Legislative Commissioner.

**Senator Susan Sosnowski** returns to the Commission as Rhode Island's Legislative Commissioner.

**Rep. Peter Martin** departs after three years as Rhode Island's Legislative Commissioner.

**Shanna Madsen** joins the Commission as its Fisheries Science Coordinator.

**Melissa Paine** leaves the Commission after seven years with ASMFC's Science Department.

The ASMFC's 72<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Meeting** is held in St. Simons Island, Georgia, electing **Dr. Louis B. Daniel, III** to serve as ASMFC Chair.

**The ASMFC Captain David H. Hart Award is presented to G. Ritchie White**, long-term Commissioner from New Hampshire, in recognition of his efforts to improve Atlantic coast marine fisheries management.

**Mr. William Goldsborough** of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation was presented the **2013 Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award**.

**Dr. Alexi Sharov and Jim Gartland** are presented with the Commission's **Annual Award of Excellence** for their outstanding contributions to the field of fisheries science.

**The Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council** established commercial quotas and recreational harvest limits for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish for the 2014 fishing season and beyond.

**The Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board** increased its spiny dogfish quotas for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 fishing seasons in response to increases in spawning stock biomass.

**The Horseshoe Crab Management Board** approved harvest specifications for horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay origin.

**ASMFC launches its redesigned website** providing member states, fishermen and other stakeholders with the most up-to-date information on fisheries science and management activities.

**Nancy Addison** is appointed by Georgia's Governor Nathan Deal to serve as the state's Governor Appointee to the Commission. Ms. Addison replaces **John Duren** who served from 2005-2013.

**Peter Himchak** retired after 39 years with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. Serving on many Commission committees and boards since the early 1980s, the Commission is grateful for his many contributions and efforts.

## 2014

ASMFC unanimously approved its **2014-2018 Strategic Plan**. The Plan revises the Commission's long-term vision to "Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries" and establishes seven major goals and strategies to pursue this vision.

**2013 Annual Report** is released, providing an overview of significant management actions and science activities.

**The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board** approved Addendum XXV to the Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass FMP, establishing regional recreational management for both species for the 2014 fishing year.

**The American Eel Management Board** approved a conservation equivalence proposal from the State of Maine to allow quota management of its glass eel fishery.

**The Winter Flounder Management Board** set specifications for the 2014 recreational fishing season for the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic stock. The season will extend from March 1 to December 31 with a two fish creel limit.

**Jack Travelstead retires** as Administrative Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Virginia, ending a more than 30-year career in marine fisheries management.

**John M.R. Bull** is appointed Administrative Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Emerson C. Hasbrouck** is named Governor's Appointee Commissioner from the State of New York.

**Assemblyman Sgt. Robert Andrzejczak** is appointed Legislative Commissioner from the state of New Jersey.

**Pat Augustine** steps down as New York's Governor Appointee to the Commission after serving in that capacity for 16 years.

**2014 Annual Awards of Excellence** were presented at the Spring meeting to the following recipients: For Management and Policy Contributions: **Michael P. Luisi**, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Service; For Scientific, Technical and Advisory Contributions: **Paul Caruso**, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries; **Dr. Robert Latour**, Virginia Institute of Marine Science; **Cheri Patterson**, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department; For Law Enforcement Contributions: the state and federal members of the joint enforcement team Operation Lookout - **Captain John Craft** and **Special Investigator Jerry Simpson**, Virginia Marine Police; Special Agents **Sara Block**, **Tracey Woodruff**, and **Steven Niemi**, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement; and Trial Attorney **James Nelson**, U.S. Department of Justice.

The first year of **Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 2** implementation yields positive results.

**Melissa Yuen** ASMFC Employee of the Quarter Awards for 2014 were given to Melissa Yuen for the first quarter, **Katie Drew** for the second quarter, and **Lisa Hartman** for the third quarter.

**Emily Greene**, Coordinator for the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP), accepts a position with ERT, Inc. to work in its Habitat Protection Division.

**Tina Berger, Director of Communications**, is recognized for twenty years of dedicated service to the Commission.

**Amy Hirrlinger** joins the commission staff as a summer intern working on a number of fisheries management and science activities. Amy graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. in Biology with Ecology and a Minor in Wildlife and Fisheries Science.

**ASMFC uses new climate analysis tools to evaluate changes in fish stocks due to climate change and warming coastal water temperatures.** The Commission is adding climate evaluations to upcoming benchmark stock assessments and the Management and Science Committee will continue to track developing scientific tools and management issues related to climate and fisheries.

In August 2014 the **ASMFC adopted a Policy on Commissioner's Financial Disclosure and Conflict of Interest** designed to bolster accountability to the public and stakeholders through increased transparency.

**In September 2014, Dr. Lisa Havel** joined the Commission staff as the new Coordinator for the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership. Dr. Havel received a Ph.D. from the University of Texas. After more than a decade at the Commission as Administrative Assistant, **Stefanie Miles** accepted a position as a Reading Specialist at St. Mary of the Mills School. **Amy Hirrlinger**, who had interned with the Commission during the summer months, accepted a full-time position as a Fishery Specialist supporting both the Finance and Administration Department and providing technical support to the fisheries management and science departments.

**The 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was held in Mystic, Connecticut in October 2014. Dr. Louis B. Daniel** continues in his role as ASMFC Chair.

**ASMFC presents Patrick Augustine** with the prestigious Captain David H. Hart Award at its annual meeting in October 2014.

**The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.** The Addendum establishes new fishing mortality reference points.

**The Northern Shrimp Section approved a moratorium for the 2015 commercial fishery** in response to the findings of the 2014 Stock Status Report, indicating current fishable biomass is the lowest on record.

**The Spiny Dogfish Management Board approved Addendum V** to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish. The Addendum ensures consistency in spiny dogfish management with the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 by prohibiting processing-at-sea, including the removal of fins. An implementation date of May 1, 2015 was set.

**The Horseshoe Crab Management Board approved harvest specifications for horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay origin.** The Board set a harvest limit of 500,000 Delaware Bay male horseshoe crabs and zero female horseshoe crabs for the 2015 season.

**Emily Greene receives the 2014 Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award** given by the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership for her exemplary work in furthering the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fishes. The award was presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration in National Harbor, Maryland on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

In November 2014, **Jayran Farzanegan** accepts the fulltime position of Accounting Manager for the Finance and Administration department of ASMFC. Jayran will handle payroll, accounts receivable and grants processing.

In December 2014, **Genny Nessler** accepted a position as Visiting Research Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. Genny served as the Commission's Senior Stock Assessment Scientist for 8 years and played a key role in advancing the quality and understanding of fisheries science and stock assessments. **Kate Taylor** accepted a position as the NMFS Program Coordinator within the Office of the Undersecretary. For 6 years, Kate served first as an FMP Coordinator and later as Senior FMP Coordinator making substantial contributions to the Commission's fisheries management program.

In December 2014, **Jeff Kipp** and **Kirby Rootes-Murdy** were co-recipients of the Employee of the Quarter Award for the fourth quarter of 2014. As Stock Assessment Scientist for the past two and a half years, **Jeff Kipp** has made outstanding and numerable contributions to the Commission's Fisheries Science Program. In a little over a year and half as the Commission's Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for a

number of species including summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, bluefish, Atlantic croaker, black drum, red drum, spot, spotted seatrout, Spanish mackerel, **Kirby Rootes-Murdy** has proved he is a critical contributor to the Commission's fisheries management program.

## 2015

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**The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved Addendum XXVI** to the Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan, continuing adaptive regional management for the 2015 recreational summer flounder fisheries.

**The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved Addendum IV implementation plans and conservation equivalency proposals** for all the states and jurisdictions. The implementation plans, which were reviewed and approved by the Technical Committee, contain state-specific management options that achieve a 25% reduction in harvest from 2013 levels for the coastal fishery and 20.5% reduction in harvest from 2012 levels for the Chesapeake Bay fishery.

**The South Atlantic State/Federal Management Board approved the 2015 Black Drum Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report** for management use. Based on the assessment results, black drum is not overfished and not experiencing overfishing.

**The Tautog Management Board approved the 2015 Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report** for management use. Unlike previous assessments, which assessed the stock on a coastwide basis, the 2015 assessment evaluated stock status regionally to reflect differences in life history characteristics and harvest patterns.

In January 2015, **Representative William Carson** is appointed to serve as Delaware's Legislative Commissioner. Representative Carson works for the Town of Middletown and is retired from the Department of Transportation. He is also a veteran of the Delaware Air National Guard and an Honorary Commander of the Dover Air Force Base.

**Senator Richard Colburn** steps down as Maryland's Legislative Commissioner after 13 years of service. **Russell Dize**, Senator Colburn's On-Going proxy, ably represented the interests of Maryland stakeholders and was an active participant of the Commission's Legislators and Governors' Appointees.

**Senator Clark Jenkins** steps down after two years of service as North Carolina's Legislative Commissioner. **Mike Johnson**, faithfully served as his ongoing proxy, well representing North Carolina stakeholders on numerous species management boards.

**Walter Kumiega** steps down as Legislative Commissioner after actively participating on boards and sections representing Maine's interests. He was Vice Chair of the LGAs, providing guidance as they worked with their Administrative Commissioners to adopt the Commission's **Financial Disclosure and Conflict of Interest Policy**.

**Senator Brian D. Langley** returns to the Commission to serve as Maine's Legislative Commissioner.



In February **Delegate Dana Stein** is appointed as Maryland's new Legislative Commissioner. A Baltimore native, Delegate Stein is a respected leader in his community.

**Senator Robert L. Venables, Sr.** steps down as the state's Legislative Commissioner after serving 26 years on the Delaware State Senate. Senator Venables served on the Commission for 12 years with **Bernie Pankowski** serving as his ongoing proxy for his full tenure. Bernie diligently represented the interests of Delaware stakeholders, playing a key role in developing the Commission's Strategic Plans.

In February, motivated by her passion for promoting sustainable seafood, **Marin Hawk** accepts a position with the Marine Stewardship Council as Fisheries Manager for U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

On April 1, 2015, **Max Appelman** joins the Commission staff as Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for sturgeon and Atlantic striped bass. Max has a Master's degree from Nova Southeastern University where his Master's work was on catch-per-unit-effort metrics for the North Atlantic pelagic longline fishery.

On April 27, **Megan Ware** joins the Commission as a Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for America lobster, Jonah crab, weakfish, and the South Atlantic species (Atlantic croaker, black drum, red drum, Spanish mackerel, spot and spotted seatrout. Megan has a Masters in Environmental Management from Duke University.

**Mike Waine is named Employee of the Quarter** for the first quarter of 2015. The vast majority of Mike's workload over the past two years has focused on the successful completion of benchmark stock assessments for Atlantic striped bass and Atlantic menhaden, both of which were approved by an independent panel of fisheries scientists and accepted for management use by the respective species management boards.

**Mike Waine** is promoted to Senior FMP Coordinator where he will play an important role mentoring new FMP Coordinators. Mike has a Master's in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from North Carolina State University and a B.S. degree in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

**The 2014 Annual Report** is published and distributed.

In May 2015 at the Spring Meeting, the Commission presented its Annual Awards of Excellence for their outstanding contributions to fisheries management, science, law enforcement, and outreach along the Atlantic Coast to **Steven Heins**, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; **Dr. Matthew Cieri, Ph.D.**, Maine Department of Marine Resources; **Jeffrey Brust**, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Fisheries Administration; **Michael Hendricks (retired)**, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; **Sergeant James Kane**, Connecticut State Environmental Conservation Police; and **Janice Plante**, former writer and associate editor for *Commercial Fisheries News* (CFN) and *Fish Farming News*.

**The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board** approved a 10% increase in the total allowable catch for the 2015 and 2016 fishing seasons, responding to positive findings of the 2015 Atlantic menhaden benchmark assessments.

**The American Lobster Management Board** has approved Addendum XXIV to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Lobster Fishery Management Plan, aligning state and federal measures trap transfer programs for Lobster Conservation Management Areas 2, 3, and Outer Cape Cod. Addendum XXIV removes the 10% conservation tax on full business transfers, allows for fewer traps to be transferred at one time allowing more flexibility for a permit holder, repeals restrictions on vessel size and trap allocation transfers, and allows dual permit holders to transfer allocation with dual permit holders from other states.

**Peer reviews** for benchmark stock assessments will take place for bluefish and scup, American lobster, and red drum. Work has begun on the development of the next benchmark stock assessment for black sea bass and weakfish.

**Paul Diodati** retires from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and steps down as the state's Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC. Paul served as Administrative Commissioner for the past 15 years and serves as Commission Chair from 2011-2013.

In May 2015, the Commission with NOAA Fisheries announces the release of the **River Herring Conservation Plan**.

**Geoff White** is named ACCSP Recreational Program Manager, responsible for all aspects of the recreational data program, maintenance of recreational data standards and recreational related projects as well as providing oversight for the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) for Atlantic coast states.

**Shanna Madsen** is named Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2015.

**David Goshorn** is named acting Director for Fisheries Service at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. He replaced outgoing director **Thomas O'Connell** (22 years of service).

**Julie Defilippi** (ACCSP Data Coordinator) is promoted to Data Team Leader. In July, **Heather Konell** joins the ACCSP as its new Fisheries Data Coordinator. Heather has a B.S. in Marine Science with a concentration in Marine Biology from Stockton University.

In June, **Ashton Harp** joins the Commission as its new Fishery Management Plan Coordinator. Ashton earned her Bachelor of Science, Business and Marketing Management from Virginia Tech and completed a Master of Public Policy/Environmental Policy and a Master of Science, Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology from the University of Maryland.

Work begins on the **joint benchmark stock assessments for Atlantic croaker and spot**. The spot assessment will be the first coastwide assessment for these species. Assessment workshop and peer review will be conducted in 2016.

**The 2015 American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report** indicates record high stock abundance and recruitment in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank, and record low abundance and recruitment in Southern New England. The SNE stock is severely depleted with poor

prospects of recovery, necessitating protection. The Management Board established a working group of Board and Technical Committee members to review the assessment and peer review findings and develop recommendations for Board consideration.

In August, the Commission approved the **Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Jonah Crab**. The FMP implements a suite of measures to manage and monitor the Jonah crab resource for the first time along the U.S. Atlantic Coast, limiting participation in the trap fishery to vessels and permit holders that already hold an American lobster permit or can provide prior participation in the crab fishery.

The Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council establish specifications for the **summer flounder (16.26 million pounds), scup (31.11 million pounds), black sea bass (5.50 million pounds) and bluefish (19.45 million pounds) fisheries**. The Commission's actions are final and apply to state waters. Recommendations for federal waters will be forwarded to NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Administrator for final approval.

**2015 benchmark stock assessment for scup is peer reviewed** by the 60<sup>th</sup> Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee. The assessment is the latest and best information available on the status of the coastwide scup stock for use in fisheries management.

In August, **Doug Brady**, is appointed to serve as North Carolina's Governor Appointee to the Commission, replacing the outgoing **Willard Cole** who had served in that capacity since 2008. **Rep. Bob Steinburg** is appointed as North Carolina's Legislative Commissioner.

In August, **Kristen Anstead** joins the Commission as its new Stock Assessment Scientist. Kristen has a Ph.D. in Oceanography from Old Dominion University (Norfolk, Virginia) and a Bachelor of Science from Bates College in Maine.

In September, **Rachel Foster**, joins the Commission as its Human Resources Manager. Rachel has a Master's in Business Administration from Virginia Tech and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Christopher Newport University.

**Amy Hirrlinger** is named Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2015.

In October 2015, the Commission holds its **74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** jointly with the **66<sup>th</sup> Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Annual Meeting** in St. Augustine, Florida.

In October at the Commission's 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, **Willard Cole** is awarded the Captain David H. Hart Award, its highest annual award.

In October, **Ann McElhatton**, rekindling her passion for environmental education, accepts a position as a high school biology teacher at a local Virginia school after 8 years as Outreach Coordinator/Program Manager at the ACCSP.

In October, **Alex DiJohnson** joins the ACCSP staff as Recreational Data Coordinator. Alex has a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Conservation from Juniata College and is currently finishing his Master's degree in Natural Resources from Delaware State University.

In October, **Coleby Wilt** joins the ACCSP staff as Recreational Data Coordinator. Coleby earned his Master's degree in Biology from the University of Nebraska and a Bachelor's degree from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo.

In October, the ASMFC offices undergo significant redesign and rebuild to accommodate the staff increase.

In November, **Douglas Grout** is elected as ASMFC Chair as outgoing Chair, **Dr. Louis B. Daniel** is acknowledged for his many accomplishments. Mr. Grout currently serves as the Chief of the Marine Fisheries Division of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department where he has worked for over 30 years.

In November, the **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board** approved increases to the 2016 black sea bass commercial quota and recreational harvest limit (RHL).

**The 2015 American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report** is accepted for management use.

In November the Horseshoe Crab Management Board approves the harvest specifications for horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay origin.

In November, **Robert Boyles (SC)** elected ACCSP Coordinating Chair Council, while acknowledging the many accomplishments of outgoing Chair, Cheri Patterson. Mr. Boyles currently serves as the Deputy Director for Marine Resources with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

In December, **Sarah Rains** joins the ACCSP staff as Scan Specialist. Sarah has a Master's degree in Marine Estuarine and Environmental Science from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor's degree in Art Education from Penn State University.

**Lisa Havel** is named Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2015. Lisa is the last recipient of this award, given since the first quarter of 2003. A new system of staff recognition will be put into place in early 2016.

## 2016

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In January, **Rep. Chad Nimmer** is named Georgia's Legislative Commissioner to the ASMFC, replacing Rep. Jon Burns who served in that capacity since 2011. Rep Nimmer currently serves in the Georgia House of Representatives on the Natural Resources and Environment, Transportation, and the Information and Audit Committees.

In January, with the recent completion of her Master's in Marine Science from the University of New England, **Elizabeth Wyatt** is prompted to ACCSP Program Coordinator.

In February, **Col. James Kelley** is named Acting Director of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries becoming the state's new Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC, replacing **Dr. Louis Daniel** who served the Commission for 9 years on numerous species management boards and as Commission Chair and Vice Chair.

In March, **Ali Schwaab** joins the ACCSP staff as its new Outreach Coordinator. Ali has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from the University of Maryland, and her Master's degree in Coastal and Marine Resource Management at the University of Portsmouth in the United Kingdom.

In March, ASMFC releases its **2015 Annual Report** providing an overview of significant management actions and associated science activities the Commission and its member states took in 2015.

In March, **Leroy Young** retires from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission thereby stepping down as administrative proxy for PA FBC Executive Director John Arway. Mr. Young served the Commission as proxy for 12 years.

The Commission presents its **Annual Awards of Excellence** recognizing outstanding efforts by professionals making a difference in the way fisheries are managed and conserved. 2016's Award Recipients are: **The American Lobster Trap Tag Team**: Mike Cahall, Nicholas Mwai, and Karen Holmes of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP); Peter Burns, Chip Lynch, Allison Murphy, Julie Mackey, and Ted Hawes with NOAA Fisheries; Cheri Patterson and Renee Zobel with New Hampshire Fish and Game; Tom Hoopes, Story Reed, and Kerry Allard with Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries; Scott Olszewski, Daniel Costa, and John Lake with Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife; Mark Alexander and Colleen Giannini with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; and Kim McKown with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. **Scientific and Technical Contributions**: Jason McNamee, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; **Law Enforcement Contributions**: Deputy Chief Kurt Blanchard, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; Special Agent Todd Smith, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement.

The **American Lobster Management Board** approved Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Jonah Crab.

The **2016 Weakfish Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report** indicate weakfish is depleted and has been for the past 13 years.

**PAT WHITE**, former Governor Appointee Commissioner for the state of Maine, passed away on April 15, 2016. **JOE GRAHAM**, longtime Commission verbatim transcriptionist, passed away on April 24, 2016. Joe served the Commission for 43 years, capturing deliberations and decisions of thousands of Commission board meetings.

**The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)** has allocated more than \$1.6 million to its state and federal partners for 12 new and ongoing projects to improve data collection and processing for coastal fisheries in 2016.

In late April, **Dr. Braxton Davis** becomes North Carolina's Administrative Commissioner.

In early May, **Mike Waine** leaves the Commission after five years to pursue new challenges working at NOAA Fisheries.

**Kirby Rootes Murdy** is promoted to Senior FMP Coordinator.

In August, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council reviewed previously implemented specifications for scup, black sea bass and bluefish fisheries and modified specifications for summer flounder.

The Coastal Sharks Management Board approved Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Coastal Sharks. The Addendum amends the FMP to allow smooth dogfish carcasses to be landed with corresponding fins removed from the carcass.

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board approved Addendum I to Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. The Addendum modifies the bycatch provision of Amendment 2 by allowing two permitted commercial fishermen working together from the same vessel using stationary multi-species gear to land up to 12,000 pounds of menhaden per trip per day.

The Tautog Management Board approved regional stock assessments for Long Island Sound (LIS) and New Jersey-New York Bight (NJ-NYB) for management use.

The Commission approved the initiation of a new Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Atlantic Migratory Group of Cobia to complement fishery management efforts of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

In June, **Rachel Dean**, is appointed to the Commission by Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan. **Bill Goldsborough** concludes over 20 years of service to the Commission as Maryland's Governor Appointee.

In September, **Mike Schmidtke** joins the Commission as Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for horseshoe crab, weakfish, and South Atlantic species. Mike has a Master of Science in Ocean and Earth Science and is working toward a Ph.D. in Oceanography from Old Dominion University.

At the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Bar Harbor, Maine in October, the Commission presents **William Goldsborough** the Captain David H. Hart Award. **Bonnie Bick and Jim Long** receive the 2016 Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award.

In December, the Commission's **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management** Board and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council approved Draft Addendum XXVIII to the Summer Flounder

Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for public comment. The Draft Addendum presents management approaches, including regional options, to achieve the 2017 recreational harvest limit.

The **Northern Shrimp Section** extended the moratorium on commercial fishing for the 2017 fishing season. The Section also approved a 53 metric ton (mt) research set aside (RSA) to allow for the continued collection of much needed biological data.

The **Atlantic Menhaden Management Board** approved a total allowable catch (TAC) for the 2017 fishing season of 200,000 mt, a 6.45% increase from the 2016 TAC.

The **Spiny Dogfish Management Board** approved a spiny dogfish commercial quota of 39,099,717 pounds for the 2017 fishing season (May 1, 2017 – April 30, 2018).

The **Horseshoe Crab Management Board** approved the harvest specifications for horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay origin. Under the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Framework, the Board set a harvest limit of 500,000 Delaware Bay male horseshoe crabs and zero female horseshoe crabs for the 2017 season.

## **2017**

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The **American Lobster Management Board** approved Addendum II to the Jonah Crab Fishery Management Plan, establishing a coastwide standard for claw harvest.

The **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board** approved Addendum XXVIII to the Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan, maintaining regional management for the 2017 recreational summer flounder fishery.

**ASMFC and MAFMC set Black Sea Bass specifications for 2017 and 2018** after benchmark assessment finds resource not overfished and overfishing not occurring.

In January, ACCSP Recreational Program Manager **GEOFF WHITE** received the **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Executive Director's Award for Meritorious Service** for superior performance in the successful launch and completion of the first year of state conduct of the APAIS.

In January, **JEFF KIPP** is named Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2017 for outstanding work in the completion of the first coastwide stock assessment for black drum as well as the benchmark stock assessment for red drum.

In March, **the 2016 Annual Report** is released overviewing significant management actions and associated science activities of the Commission and its member states.

ASMFC releases the 14<sup>th</sup> report in its **Habitat Management Series** entitled *Atlantic Sciaenid Habitats: A Review of Utilization, Threats and Recommendations for Conservation, Management and Research*.

**SEAMAP** releases its 2016-2010 Management Plan serving as a reference for official SEAMAP policies and procedures through 2020.

**MARK ALEXANDER** becomes Connecticut's Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC replacing **DAVID SIMPSON** who had served in that position since 2008.

**LARRY HERRIGHTY** becomes New Jersey's Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC replacing **David Chanda** who had served in that position since 2007.

**AMY HIRRLINGER** left ASMFC to pursue a Masters of Science in Environmental Science and Policy after 2 ½ years as a Fisheries Specialist at the Commission.

**ACCSP** releases its 2016 Annual Report.

**MAX APPELMAN** is named Employee of the Quarter for the Second Quarter of 2017 for his key role in the preparation of the Atlantic sturgeon and northern shrimp benchmark assessments.

**FORGING KNOWLEDGE INTO CHANGE: Commemorating 75 Years of Cooperative Sustainable Fisheries Management** is published as an e-book available on the Commission website.

In July the **Secretary of Commerce** fails to uphold a noncompliance recommendation by the Commission (State of New Jersey found to be out of compliance with Addendum XXVII to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan.)

**The Atlantic Herring Section** approves Addendum I to Amendment 3 of the ISFMP for Atlantic Herring. Addendum includes management measures intended to stabilize the rate of catch.

ASMFC releases *Socioeconomic Analysis of the Atlantic Menhaden Commercial Bait and Reduction Fishery*, characterizing coastwide commercial menhaden fisheries.

**ACFHP** releases five-year strategic plan and two-year action plan (identifying 32 specific actions).

**ASHTON HARP** left ASMFC in July to work at the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in Washington's Olympic Peninsula.

In May, the **Atlantic Herring Section** launches a new website on the Atlantic Herring Area 1A Spawning Monitoring System.

In August, the **Atlantic Menhaden Board** and **Shad and River Herring Board** presented the 2017 Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Update indicating a healthy resource; and the 2017 River Herring Assessment Update indicating river herring near depleted and at historic lows.

**JESSICA KUESEL** joins the ASMFC staff as its Fisheries and Administrative Assistant. Jessica graduated from Duke University with a degree in Biology and Environmental Science and Policy with concentrations in marine biology and marine conservation.



**CAITLIN STARKS** joins the ASMFC staff as Fishery Management Plan Coordinator. Caitlin graduated from the University of Arizona with a BS in Natural Resources, and from Duke University with a Masters in Environmental Management.

**KRISTEN ANSTED** and **MEGAN WARE** named Employees of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2017. Due to their impressive individual and collective accomplishments, they shared this honor for their efforts on the 2017 Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment Update and multiple other projects.

**PAUL DIODATI** receives the prestigious Captain David H. Hart Award at the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia.

In November, the Commission approved **Amendment 3** to the **Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Menhaden**.

At its Annual Meeting in October, the Commission approved the **Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Migratory Group (AMG) Cobia**.

**JAMES GILMORE, JR.** of New York becomes the new Chair, succeeding Douglas Grout of New Hampshire after two years of effective leadership.

**PATRICK C. KELIHER** is elected Commission Vice-Chair.

**LYNN FEGLEY** of Maryland is elected ACCSP Coordinating Chair, succeeding outgoing Chair, **Robert H. Boyles** of South Carolina.

**Atlantic Sturgeon Benchmark Stock Assessment** indicates slow recovery since moratorium. Resource remains depleted. **American Eel Stock Assessment Update** finds resource remains depleted.

**STEVEN BOWMAN** is appointed Commissioner of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and returns to ASMFC as Virginia's Administrative Commissioner.

**STEPHEN MURPHEY** is appointed Director of North Carolina's Division of Marine Fisheries and becomes ASMFC's North Carolina's Administrative Commissioner.

## **2018**

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**JASON McNAMEE** returns to the Commission as Rhode Island's Administrative Commissioner after being named Chief of Rhode Island's Marine Resources Section.

**RACHEL COLLINS** accepted a position in Human Resources with Specialists on Call and departed the Commission in February 2018.

**ELIZABETH WYATT** accepted a position as Program Coordinator in her home state of Michigan and departed the Commission in February 2018.

**ACCSP** announces FY18 Funding Awards of nearly \$1.4 million to its state and federal partners for 11 ongoing and new projects to improve data collection and processing.

**The 2017 ANNUAL REPORT** is released in February 2018 reflecting ASMFC Commissioners' commitment to accountability and transparency in all they do to manage and rebuild stocks under their care.

In May 2018, ASMFC presented its **ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE** for outstanding contributions to science and law enforcement along the Atlantic Coast to Mr. Dan McKiernan (Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries), Dr. Larry Jacobson (formerly with NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and Colonel Kyle Overturf (Connecticut Environmental Police).

In May, the Commission's **ATLANTIC MENHADEN MANAGEMENT BOARD** initiated a noncompliance finding in response to the Commonwealth of Virginia's failure to fully implement the mandatory provisions of Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

Upon direction of the Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board, the **SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD** approved revised 2018 recreational measures for the Northern Region states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York.

**ASMFC HABITAT COMMITTEE** revisits the 20-year policy on Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, conducting a thorough review of the policy, re-evaluating its recommendations and determining the policy is still relevant and more important now than ever.

In April, **PETER AARRESTAD**, Director of the Fisheries Division for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection became Connecticut's Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC.

In April, **MARK ALEXANDER** steps down as Connecticut's Administrative Commissioner, serving since 2017 and serving as Connecticut's administrative proxy since 2008.

In April, the Commission was notified that longtime Governor's Appointee Commissioner from Virginia, **CATHY DAVENPORT**, would no longer be serving the Commonwealth. For nearly two decades, Cathy faithfully represented the interests of Virginia's commercial fishing industry.

In March, **RACHEL DEAN** stepped down as Maryland's Governor Appointee Commissioner. **RUSSELL DIZE** returns to the Commission as Maryland's Governor Appointee Commissioner.

**SARAH MURRAY** joins the Commission staff as its new Fisheries Science Coordinator. Sarah completed a dual master's degree from American University in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development and International Affairs.

In May, **AMY PAQUETTE** joins the Commission as a summer intern helping with the data capture process for the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (AP AIS).

After spending last summer with the APAIS team as a Seasonal Scan Technician, **MIKE RINALDI** has joined the ACCSP's Data Team as its new Fisheries Data Coordinator.

In April, **ACCSP** releases its first digital Annual Report.

**DEKE TOMPKINS** and **CECILIA BUTLER** are named Employees of the Quarter for the first and second quarters of 2018 respectively.

In May, **J. BRYAN PLUMLEE** is appointed by Gov. Ralph Northam to serve as Virginia's Governor's Appointee Commissioner. The Governor also appointed **SENATOR MONTY MASON** to serve as Legislative Commissioner to the ASMFC.

**ACCSP develops an APAIS tablet reporting system** in an effort to streamline survey conduct and data processing to gain more accurate data for recreational estimates. Testing will take place in the Fall of 2018 with full implementation by 2019.

In August, **the American Eel Management Board** approved Addendum V to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Eel, increasing the yellow eel coastwide cap.

In August, **the Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council** established new specifications for black sea bass, bluefish, and summer flounder fisheries.

**ACCSP staff members** lead or contributed to symposiums at the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, indicative of the growing interest in fisheries data technology and ACCSP's strong reputation for innovation in the field. **JULIE SIMPSON** led *Data Management for Dissemination and Data Visualization* including participation by **Alex DiJohnson** and **Joe Myers**; **GEOFF WHITE** gave presentations pertaining to for-hire logbooks demonstrating APAIS intercepts as a viable option for validating charter logbooks.

**IN MEMORIAM – Dr. Lance Lee Stewart**, Governor's Appointee Commissioner since 1995, died on August 29 at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He was one of the founding members of the Habitat Committee and served on northern species boards and ACCSP's Biological Review Panel Committee. He was respected in his field and family, friends, and colleagues enjoyed the benefit of sharing his experiences and adventures.

In August, **CHRIS JACOBS** joined the Commission staff as Facilities and Technology Administrator.

In August, **JAYRAN FARZANEGAN** is named Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2018.

**ASMFC's 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** is held at the Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, October 21-25.

**ROY W. MILLER**, Delaware's Governor Appointee Commissioner and former Director of Delaware's Division of Fish and Wildlife, was presented with the Captain David H. Hart Award at the Commission's 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in New York City.

In October, the **Coastal Sharks Management Board** approved Addendum V to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks, allowing the Board to respond to changes in the stock status of coastal shark populations and adjust regulations through Board action rather than by addendum.

In response to the continued depleted condition of the northern shrimp resource, the ASMFC's **Northern Shrimp Section** extended the moratorium on commercial fishing through 2021.

The **Spiny Dogfish Management Board** approved coastwide commercial quotas for 2019-2021, consistent with the measures recommended to NOAA by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

November **2018 Midterm Elections** on the Atlantic coast featured contests for 11 governors, eleven U.S. Senators, and every member of the U.S. House of Representatives. All nine of ASMFC's Legislative Commissioners on ballots won their election contests.

In December 2018, SARAH RAINS, Recreational Data Analyst, moved on to a position with the Department of Defense.

For the last quarter of 2018 Commission staff recognized **DR. KATIE DREW** for her notable contributions to the Commission's fisheries science program.

## **2019**

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In February 2019, the ASMFC released its **2018 Annual Report**.

In early 2019, DR. JUSTIN DAVIS, Assistant Director of the Fisheries Division of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, became Connecticut's Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC.

Not re-elected due to term limits, Senator Brian Langley stepped down as Maine's Legislative Commissioner to the ASMFC, serving from 2011-2013 and 2015-2019.

In March 2019, SENATOR DAVID MIRAMANT was named as Maine's Legislative Commissioner to the ASMFC.

**REP. CHAD NIMMER** stepped down as Georgia's Legislative Commissioner, having not sought re-election to the Georgia House of Representatives. Rep. Nimmer served from 2016-2019.

**DR. TIMOTHY SCHAEFFER**, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, was named Pennsylvania's Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC.

**SENATOR TODD KAMINSKY** is named Legislative Commissioner of New York, replacing **Sen. Phil Boyle**, who served in that capacity from 2013-2019.

For the first quarter of 2019, Commission staff recognized **FMP Coordinator CAITLIN STARKS** for her notable contributions to the Commission's fisheries management program.

In March, after four years as FMP Coordinator, **MEGAN WARE** accepted the position of Director of External Affairs with the Maine Department of Marine Resources. **ALI SCHWAB**, ACCSP's Outreach Coordinator and Program Manager, moved to New Zealand to join her fiancé.

In April 2019, **Senator Philip Boyle** stepped down as New York's Legislative Commissioner. He was replaced by **Senator Todd Kaminsky**, ranking member of the State's Senate Environmental Conservation Committee.

In May 2019, ASMFC presented its **ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE** to an esteemed group of fishery and data managers, scientists, law enforcement officers and environmental attorneys for their outstanding contributions to fisheries management, science, and law enforcement along the Atlantic coast: **Mr. Robert Ballou** (Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management), **Geoffrey White, Coleby Wilt, Alex DiJohnson** and **Sarah Rains** (Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) Team), **Michael Celestino** (New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife), **Dr. John Sweka** (US Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Fishery Center), NOAA Special Agents **Casey Oravetz** and **Sara Block** (Assistant US Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina), **Banumathi Rangarajan**, and the US Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division's Environmental Crimes Section Trial Attorneys **Lauren Steele, Shane Waller, Shennie Patel**, and **Joel La Bissonniere**.

In May 2019, the Commission staff and program partners of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program bid a fond farewell to the retiring **Mike Cahall, ACCSP Director** (2007-2019) and longtime staff member (1999-2019).

In June 2019, **Dustin Colson Leaning** joined the Commission staff as FMP Coordinator. Dustin graduated from Duke University with a Master's Degree in Environmental Economics and Policy.

**IN MEMORIAM** On June 1, 2019, **Ed O'Brien** (proxy for Maryland's Legislative Commissioner Dana Stein), died peacefully after a long battle with cancer. Ed served for over three decades on the ASMFC Striped Bass Advisory Panel.

For the second quarter of 2019, Commission staff recognized **Fisheries Data Coordinator MIKE RINALDI** for his notable contributions to the Commission's Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Fisheries Statistics Program (ACCSP).

**ACCSP completes updates** to its Confidential Fisheries Data Access application, representing one of the most integrated, modern, and easy to use account management systems for fishery-dependent data access.

In August 2019, **GEOFF WHITE** is named the new **ACCSP Director** based on his long-standing dedication to the Commission and ACCSP, combined with his outstanding record of accomplishments over two decades on staff.

**IN MEMORIAM** On August 19, 2019, lost exceptional coworker and colleague **JOSEPH DEFOSSE**. Joe worked for the Commission from 1995-2002 and then for NOAA Fisheries' Highly Migratory Species Division.

In October 2019, ASMFC holds its **78<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING** in New Castle, New Hampshire.

At the Commission's Annual Meeting, the member states thanked **JIM GILMORE** of New York for his effective two-year term as Chair and elected Commissioner **PATRICK C. KELIHER** of Maine to succeed him. **SPUD WOODWARD**, Governor's Appointee Commissioner for the state of Georgia is appointed Vice-Chair.

**TOM FOTE**, New Jersey's Governor Appointee to ASMFC is presented with the Captain David H. Hart award, its highest annual award, at the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Mr. Fote has admirably served the State of New Jersey and the Commission since 1991 when he replaced Captain David Hart as Governor Appointee Commissioner.

At the Commission's Annual Meeting, we bid farewell to **BOB BALLOU** who for nearly a decade served as proxy for Rhode Island's Administrative Commissioner; **DOUG GROUT**, steadfast in his dedication to New Hampshire Fish and Game and the Commission for over three decades; and **DR. DAVID PIERCE** who served Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries for 47 years and contributed to the Commission's programs in many ways.

The Commission's **Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board** and **Bluefish Board** along with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council adopts 2020-2021 specifications, substantially raising the overall catch and harvest estimates.

The Commission's **Habitat Committee** is in the process of designating "Fish Habitats of Concern" for Commission management species, set to be released in late 2020. Using the Species-Habitat Matrix tool, the Committee will evaluate the relative importance of 26 coastal, estuarine, and freshwater habitats to 131 selected fish and invertebrate species, including all Commission-managed species except Jonah Crab.

The 2019 **Weakfish Assessment Update** indicates weakfish continues to be depleted and has been since 2003.

For the third quarter of 2019, Commission staff recognized **Stock Assessment Scientist DR. KRISTEN ANSTEAD** for her notable contributions to the Commission's fisheries science program.

In July 2019, **REP. TREY RHODES**, Chair of the Georgia House of Representatives Game, Fish and Parks Committee was appointed to serve as Georgia's Legislative Commissioner replacing **REP. CHAD**

**NIMMER** who served since 2016, and was represented by ongoing proxy Pat Geer for the majority of his tenure.

In July 2019, **TREVOR SCHEFFEL** joins the Commission staff as a Recreational Data Coordinator for the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program. He holds a Master’s Degree from University of North Carolina, Wilmington. His thesis work was on estimating mortality rates of southern flounder. Trevor earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Maryland.

In September, **MAYA DRZEWICKI** joins the Commission staff as Fisheries Administrative Assistant. Maya has a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. Maya interned with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

In mid-December, **the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council** recommended and **ASMFC** approved new recreational fishing regulations for the 2020 Atlantic bluefish fishery from Florida to Maine. The most recent operational assessment of stock concluded that Bluefish stock is overfished but not experiencing overfishing.

For the fourth quarter of 2019, Commission staff recognized **Facilities and Technology Administrator CHRIS JACOBS** for his notable contributions to the Commission’s network, computer, office infrastructure and security needs.

In December, **ASSEMBLYMAN ERIC HOUGHTALING** became New Jersey’s Legislative Commissioner replacing **ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERT ANDRZEJCZAK** who served in that position since May 2014.

In December, the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership launches its revised website to serve as a resource to partners as well as those working on conservation.

2010 Habitat Management Series document, “Living Shorelines: Impacts of Erosion Control Strategies on Coastal Habitats” is updated, highlighting the growing body of literature and lessons learned since the original publication.

The 2019 issue of **Habitat Hotline Atlantic** is published.

## **2020**

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In January 2020, **MARISA POWELL** joins the staff as the ACCSP Program Assistant responsible for providing staff support to committees, managing ACCSP outreach and providing support to the Program and Deputy Directors. Marisa graduated from Coastal Carolina University School of Science with a Bachelor degree in Marine Science.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission releases of the 16th publication in its Habitat Management Series, entitled ***Aquaculture: Effects on Fish Habitat along the Atlantic Coast.***

In February, the South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board accepted the **Atlantic Cobia Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report**, including new reference points, for management use.

In February, the Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Management Board accepted the results of the **Single-Species and Ecological Reference Points (ERPs) Assessments and Peer Review Reports** for management use.

In March, ASMFC releases the 2019 **Annual Report**.

In March, a **global pandemic** virtually stopped all normal activity, forcing many of us to work from home, and due to prohibitions on travel and large gatherings, the Commission successfully conducted its Winter, Spring and Summer and Annual Meetings via webinar.

In May, ASMFC withdraws the Commonwealth of **Virginia's Atlantic Menhaden Noncompliance Finding**.

**Joseph Myers** receives the **Employee of the Quarter Award** for the first quarter of 2020.

**Robert H. Boyles, Jr.** steps down as Administrative Commissioner for the State of South Carolina.

**G. Warren Elliott** becomes Pennsylvania's legislative appointee to the Commission.

**Phil Maier** is appointed Administrative Commissioner from South Carolina.

**Cheri Patterson** is appointed Chief of the Marine Division of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, replacing Doug Grout. She will serve as Maine's Administrative Commissioner.

**Sarah Hylton** joins the Commission Staff as an ACCSP Recreational Data Coordinator.

In May, the **ASFMC Atlantic Menhaden Board** adopts ecological reference points (ERPs) in the management of Atlantic menhaden.

In August, ACCSP released SAFIS eTRIPS/mobile version 2 with an addition of the switchboard, offering fast and streamlined data entry, and easy access to past reports.

For the second quarter of 2020, **JEFF KIPP** and **CAITLIN STARKS** receive the **Employee of the Quarter Award**.

In August, **LINDSEY AUBART** joins the Commission staff as part of the ACCSP Data Team, focusing on the new biological module.

In August, **SAVANNAH LEWIS** joins the Commission staff as Fishery Management Plan coordinator. Savannah has a Master's of Science from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and a Master of Science in Biology from Southeastern Louisiana University.



In August 2020, **MIKE SCHMIDTKE**, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator since 2016, leaves the Commission to join the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council as a Fishery Scientist.

Recreational data collection is severely limited by restrictions related to COVID-19. As a result, projections of 2020 harvest could not be generated for any recreational species. Board and Council agree to maintain status quo recreational management measures for Scup, black sea bass, summer flounder and bluefish in federal and state waters in 2021.

\$118 million in **CARES disaster relief funds (Covid-19)** are distributed through ASMFC to our partner states. Nearly 10,000 checks are processed. In December 2020, the US Congress approves second round of Fisheries Disaster Assistance.

**SARAH MURRAY** is awarded Employee of the Quarter for the final quarter of 2020.

## **2021**

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In January 2021, **STEVEN MURPHEY** retires as Director of NC Division of Marine Fisheries and steps down as North Carolina's Administrative Commissioner.

January 1, 2021 the **SAFIS eTRIPS** reporting application's redesign is released. The redesign is the culmination of four years of effort and allows fishermen to create and submit commercial, for-hire, or recreational trip reports via an internet connected web browser.

In January, **EMILIE FRANKE** joins the Commission staff as its newest Fishery Management Plan Coordinator. Emilie received an undergraduate degree from Duke University and a Master of Marine Affairs from the University of Washington.

In February 2021, the **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board** and the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council jointly approve changes in the management program for black sea bass commercial fisheries – modifying the state allocations of BSB quota and, adding state allocations to the Council's FMP, and modifying the regulations for federal in-season closures.

In April, the **ASMFC 2020 Annual Report** is released and distributed to members of Congress, Commissioners and partners.

**DUSTIN COLSON LEANING** is awarded Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2021.  
**JAYRAN FARZANEGAN** is awarded Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2021.

In March, **LISA B. CARTY** rejoins the Commission staff as Deputy Director of Administration, working with the Director of Finance and Administration in support of human resources, office administration, meetings, accounting, grants management and information technology. Lisa worked as the ASMFC's Personnel and Benefits Administrator in 1998.

In May, **Ms. Kathy Rawls** was appointed Director of the NC Division of Marine Fisheries and subsequently now serves as ASMFC Administrative Commissioner from North Carolina.

Summer 2021, the Commission officially endorsed the **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** which can provide dedicated funding for states to implement congressionally mandated State Wildlife Action Plans that benefit both game and non-game species.

The Commission's **Management Boards for bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass** adopt 2022-2023 specification for all four species, incorporating fishery catch and fishery independent survey data through 2019.

**The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board** approves a 1% increase in New York's black sea bass commercial allocation, bringing New York's baseline share of the coastwide quota to 8%.

In July 2021, **MIKE RINALDI** was promoted to Data Team Lead, responsible for supervising the ACCSP Data Team which staffs the Biological Review Panel, Bycatch Prioritization, Commercial Technical, and Standard Codes Committees. He will also coordinate internal and external projects with Program Partners.

In July, ASMFC releases an update to **Profiles of State Artificial Reef Programs and Projects**, providing a summary for each state's artificial reef program, featuring highlights that have occurred since the 1988 first edition.

In September, **NICO MWAI**, Senior Software Developer, accepted a position with Oracle as a developer. Nico played an integral role in ACCSP software development and support.

In September, **LINDSEY AUBART** will become ASMFC's Cooperative Projects Coordinator. Stepping out of her role with ACCSP Data Team, Lindsay will be overseeing cooperative projects between the Commission's member states and NOAA Fisheries.

In October, **SARAH HYLTON** leaves her position with ACCSP, moving to Hawaii.

On October 20, **SPUD WOODWARD** (GA) is elected ASMFC Chair, replacing the outgoing Patrick C. Keliher (ME). Mr. Woodward has dedicated his life to marine fisheries management at both state and interstate levels, including 34 years at GADNR. Mr. Woodward holds the distinction of being only the second Governor's Appointee to serve as Commission Chair and Vic-Chair.

On October 20, the Commission elected **JOSEPH CIMINO**, Marine Fisheries Administrator for the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection, as its Vice-Chair.

In September, past ASMFC Commissioner **DAVID CUPKA** awarded South Carolina's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Palmetto.

**ED MARTINO** is awarded Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2021.

On November 3, **LAURA LEACH** marked 40 years of service with the Commission. Starting as a bookkeeper in 1981, Laura has held many positions from Comptroller to Assistant Director to Council Liaison to serving as Acting Executive Director over three different periods. She currently serves as our Director of Finance and Administration, which she has been for over two decades.

**KRISTEN ANSTEAD** is awarded Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2021.

In November, **ANNA-MAI CHRISTMAS-SVAJDLENKA** joins the ACCSP staff Data Team as one of its Data Coordinators. Ann-Mai comes to us from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and holds a BS in Marine Biology from the University of the Virgin Islands and two Masters, one in Environmental Science from the Western Washington University and the other in Instructional Design from Washington Governor's University.

**ADAM LEE** also joined the ACCSP Data Team as Data Coordinator. Adam has a BS in Marine Science, a Minor in Chemistry from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL. He also has a Masters in Ocean, Coastal, and Earth Science from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

**GABE THOMPSON** also joined the ACCSP Staff as Recreational Fisheries Data Coordinator. Gabe comes to us from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science with a BS in Marine Science with emphasis in Biological Oceanography from the University of South Carolina and a Master of Professional Science in Marine Conservation from the University of Miami.

In December, **SAVANNAH LEWIS** left the Commission staff to join her active-duty Air Force husband in Oahu.

## **2022**

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In January, **KIRBY ROOTES MURDY**, a 9-year veteran of the fisheries management program, moves on to become the Chief of Partner and Employee Engagement for the US Geological Survey.

**CAITLIN STARKS** is promoted to Senior FMP Coordinator in recognition of her dedication and hard work.

**TRACEY BAUER** joins the Commission staff as an FMP Coordinator. Tracey has a Master's of Science in marine science from the University of New England and comes to us from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

**JAMES BOYLE** also joins the Commission as FMP Coordinator. James holds a Master's degree in marine conservation from the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science.

In March, the Commission and NOAA Fisheries cohost the **2022 National Recreational Fisheries Summit** addressing change in the world of marine fisheries in four major areas: Climate Resilient Fisheries, Balancing Ocean Uses, Data Collection and Use, and Management Reform, Flexibility, and Optimum Yield.

In March, the Commission signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding** with NOAA Fisheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Geological Survey.

Andrew Good of the Atlantic Salmon Federation (2020) and Wenley Ferguson of Save the Bay (2022) are awarded the Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award.

**CECILIA BUTLER** and **LISA CARTY** are awarded Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2022.

**JAMAL QUIDIDEN** joins the ACCSP staff as a Programmer. Jamal has a Master's degree in computer science earned in Morocco, and many years of experience in software and web development.

**DANIEL MESTAWAT** joins the ACCSP as a Programmer. Daniel has a BS in engineering earned in Ethiopia and a certificate in software development from NVCC. Daniel has many years in Oracle SQL programming and API development.

ACCSP Partners with GSMFC to incorporate **Socioeconomic Add-on Survey (SEAS)** to the **Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS)**.

In May, ASMFC approved Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Amendment strengthens measures to support stock rebuilding.

**The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council** and the ASMFC's **Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board** approved changes to the recreational fisheries management programs for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish. The changes include a new process for setting recreational measures (bag, size, and season limits) and modifications to the recreational accountability measures.

ASMFC presents Annual Awards of Excellence for 2020 and 2021 to fishery managers, scientists, stakeholders and law enforcement offices for outstanding contributions to fisheries management, science and law enforcement along the Atlantic Coast. Award recipients were **LYNN FEGLEY** and **DEREK ORNER** for management and policy contributions; **RICH WONG, JIMMY** and **BOBBY RUHLE**, and a subset of the Atlantic Menhaden/ Ecological Reference Points Team for technical and scientific contributions; **GREG DIDOMENICO** for outreach and advocacy contributions; and **CAPTAIN MICHAEL EASTMAN, SPECIAL AGENTS CHRIS MCCARRON** and **STEVEN NIEMI**, and Enforcement Officer **TIMOTHY WILMARTH** for law enforcement contributions.

In May, **GARY JENNINGS** became Florida's new Governor's Appointee Commissioner to the ASMFC. Gary serves as Director of Keep Florida Fishing for the American Sportsfishing Association.

**TREVOR SCHEFFEL** is awarded Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2022.

**THE AMERICAN LOBSTER MANAGEMENT BOARD** approved Addendum XXIX to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster and Addendum IV to the Jonah Crab FMP. The Addenda establish electronic tracking requirements for federally-permitted vessels in the

American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries, with the goal of collecting high resolution spatial and temporal effort data to support a number of ongoing efforts.

In August, ASMFC presents Annual Awards of Excellence for 2022 to fishery managers, scientists, stakeholders and law enforcement offices for outstanding contributions to fisheries management, science and law enforcement along the Atlantic Coast. Award recipients for *Management and Policy Contributions* were **Peter Burns** (NOAA Fisheries), and **Eric Reid** (Chair of the NE Fishery Management Council). Award recipients for *Scientific and Technical Contributions* were **Dr. Conor McManus (RIDEM)**, **Jeff Kipp (ASMFC)**, **Dr. Burton Shank (NOAA)**, **Dr. Bryan Nuse** (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies), **Dr. Ana Tucker** (Iowa Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit), and **Caitlin Starks (ASMFC)**. Award recipient for Law Enforcement Contributions was the **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Law Enforcement**.

In August, **STEVEN G. BOWMAN (VMRC)** is awarded the prestigious Captain David H. Hart Award for 2022, ASMFC's highest annual award.

In August, the Commission's Habitat Committee released *2022 Report on Atlantic States' Climate Change Initiatives*, an updated account of the initiatives each Atlantic coast state is taking to reduce its greenhouse gas contribution. This report highlights progress made since the release of the 2018 report.

In July, **JAMIE GREEN** joins the Commission as Virginia's Administrative Commissioner, replacing Steve Bowman. Jamie is a Lt. Col the Virginia Marine Resources Commission Law Enforcement Division.

**DOUG GROUT** returns to the Commission as New Hampshire's Governor Appointee Commissioner. Doug previously served for 12 years as New Hampshire's Administrative Commissioner and two years as Commission Chair.

**SENATORS TODD KAMINSKY** (New York) and **BOB STEINBURG** (North Carolina) step down as their states' Legislative Commissioners.

**RITCHIE WHITE** retires after serving as New Hampshire's Governor's Appointee Commissioner for 22 years. Ritchie's contributions to the Commission are so noteworthy that he received the Captain David H. Hart Award in 2013.

In August, **MAYA DRZEWICKI** left the Commission after 3 years to pursue a Master of Science from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

In September, **MADLINE MUSANTE** joins the Commission as its new Outreach and Fisheries Assistant. Madeline has a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Coastal Environmental Science and a minor in Biology from Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida.

In October, **DR. LISA HAVEL** steps down as the Director of the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) and Coordinator of the Commission's Habitat and Artificial Reef Committees to become Grants Director at the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (part of the EPS's National Estuary Program).

In October, **DEKE TOMPKINS** accepts a position with US Fish and Wildlife Service working on Southeast regional legislative issues. For over 9 years, Deke advanced the Commission's legislative work, building strong relationships with multiple East Coast Congressional offices.

**EMILIE FRANKE**, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator was recognized as Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2022.

At the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Long Branch, NJ (August 2022), **DOUG GROUT**, New Hampshire's Governor Appointee and **DR. JASON McNAMEE**, Rhode Island's Administrative Commissioner are awarded the Captain David H. Hart award for 2020 and 2022 respectively.

**JEFF KIPP** is awarded Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2022.

In December, after nearly 20 years working with the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, **KAREN HOLMES** is moving on from the Commission to pursue other endeavors.

In late October, **SARAH MURRAY** left the Commission in her role as Science Committee Coordinator to explore new opportunities.

In November, Commission staff welcomed **ALEXANDER LAW** as its new Legislative Program Coordinator.

In November, after almost 4 years as Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, **DUSTIN COLSON LEANING** departs to work for the Environmental Defense Fund as the Senior Fisheries Innovations and Policy Specialist.

In November, **SENATOR VIN GOPAL** becomes New Jersey's Legislative Commissioner replacing Assemblyman **ERIC HOUGHTALING** who had served from 2019-2022.

In December, **KRANTHI PALLA** joins the Commission staff as an ACCSP software developer. Kranthi comes to the Commission with over 15 years data systems and Oracle software experience working at the Environmental Protection Agency. Kranthi has a Bachelor's in Computer Science and Information Technology from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University in India.

## **2023**

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In January, the **Management Track Assessments** find winter flounder stocks for the Gulf of Maine and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic are not experiencing overfishing allowing the Board to maintain 2023 recreation and commercial measures for the 2024-2025 fishing years.

In January, Representative **ALLISON HEPLER** was appointed to ASMDC as Maine's Legislative Commissioner, replacing Senator **DAVID MIRAMANT** who served in that capacity from 2019-2022.

In January, Representative **MICHAEL WRAY** becomes North Carolina's Legislative Commissioner, replacing Senator **BOB STEINBURG** who served in that capacity from 2015-2022.

In February 2023, the **Spiny Dogfish Management Board** approved a coastwide commercial quota for the 2023/2024 fishing season on 12 million pounds – a 59.4% reduction based on declining trends in several indicators.

On February 1, **CHELSEA TUOHY** joins the Commission staff as Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for bluefish, northern shrimp, scup and summer flounder. Chelsea received her Master of Environmental Management from the Duke Nicholas School and her undergraduate degree from University of Colorado, Boulder.

In March, ASMFC releases the **2022 Annual Report** informing Congress on the Commission’s use of public funds and providing stakeholders with an overview of activities and progress in carrying out our cooperative stewardship responsibilities for the species under our care.

In 2023, over 100 state staff attend two regional in person training meetings for **ACCSP APAIS staff** on how to conduct interviews, fish identification, fish measurements and data entry and review. Trainees must pass both procedural and fish identification tests each year as a requirement to be an APAIS interviewer.

**TRACEY BAUER** is awarded Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2023.

In April, **SIMEN KAALSTAD** joins the Commission staff as Director for the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership and Coordinator for the Habitat Committee and Artificial Reef Subcommittee. Simen has a Master of Science in Fisheries and Mariculture from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and a Bachelor of Science in Marine and Freshwater Biology from the University of Texas.

ASMFC presents the **2023 Annual Awards of Excellence** to **MIRANDA PETERSON**, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Frank Pallone, for congressional/legislative contributions; **CAROL HOFFMAN**, retired New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, for technical and scientific contributions; and **REGION 3 NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION POLICE** for law enforcement contributions.

2023 Benchmark Stock Assessment finds **Black Drum stock** not overfished or experiencing overfishing.

In May, the **American Lobster Management Board** approved Addendum XXVII to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster, establishing a trigger mechanism to implement management measures and to improve the resiliency of the GOM/GBK stock.

In May, the **Horseshoe Crab Management Board** approved revisions to a guidance document on Best Management Practices for handling horseshoe crabs for biomedical purposes, outlining standards that are expected to minimize mortality and injury of horseshoe crabs.

In May, Representative **JOSEPH P. GRESKO** becomes Connecticut’s Legislative Commissioner to ASMFC, replacing Senator **CRAIG MINER** who had actively served in that position from 2009-2022.

In May, Representative **ANITA ASTORINO KULIK** becomes Pennsylvania's Legislative Commissioner to ASMFC.

In May, **ADAM LEE**, Data Coordinator for the ACCSP since November of 2021, leaves the Commission staff for opportunities in Florida.

In May, **CINDY ROBERTSON** retired after 17 years with the Commission. Cindy began in 2006 as an Administrative Assistant and was promoted to Meetings Assistant in 2011, assisting the Director of Finance and Administration in securing offsite accommodations and meeting venues for hundreds of meetings.

In June, **JAINITA PATEL** joins the Commission staff as its Fisheries Science Coordinator. Jainita has two Bachelor of Arts degrees – one in English and the other in Environmental Studies from New York University, and a Master of Science in Marine Science (Biological Oceanography) from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

In August, ACCSP Deputy Director, **JULIE SIMPSON** was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the American Fisheries Society for her unique contributions that directly impact fisheries science.

In August, the **American Eel Management Board** accepted the American Eel Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report for management use.

In August, the **Coastal Pelagics Management Board** approved a total harvest quota for the Atlantic migratory group of cobia of 80,112 fish for the 2024-2026 fishing seasons. The **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board** extended the current emergency action through October 28, 2024, or until the implementation of Addendum II to Amendment 7 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

**HEATHER POWER** is awarded Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2023.

After nearly 4 decades of service to the Commission, **TOM FOTE** stepped down as New Jersey's Governor's Appointee. In July, **JEFF KAELIN** was appointed as New Jersey's Governor Appointee to the Commission.

In mid-July, **SKYE THOMAS** joined the ACCSP staff as Fisheries Data Analyst. Skye has a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Tech and a Master of Science in marine Biology from the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

On September 28, 2023, **JAMES A. RUHLE, Sr.** (Jimmy) passed away at the age of 75. The Commission is deeply indebted to Jimmy for his staunch support of and involvement in our management activities and for his dedication to ensuring that managers and scientists have the best data available to sustainably manage Atlantic coast fisheries.

At the Commission's 81<sup>st</sup> meeting held in October in North Carolina, **SPUD WOODWARD (GA)** was thanked for an effective two-year term as Chair and **JOSEPH CIMINO (NJ)** was elected to succeed him.



**ROBERT H. BOYLES, JR.** (South Carolina) was named 2023 Captain David H. Hart Award Recipient at the Commission's Annual Meeting.

In October, **ANDREW BUTTON**, Shellfish Management Division Head of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, was presented the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership's Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award.

**CHELSEA TUOHY** is awarded Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2023.

In October, the Commission's **American Lobster Management Board** modified the implementation date for measures under Addendum XXVII to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster to January 1, 2025.

In October, the Commission's **Horseshoe Crab Management Board** approved harvest specifications for Delaware Bay-origin horseshoe crabs.

**ACCSP** launches on-line biological and bycatch metadata inventories for the Atlantic coast.

## 2024

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The Commission's **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board** approved Addendum II to Amendment 7 To the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Addendum modifies recreational and commercial measures to reduce fishing mortality in 2024, establishes an expedited response process to upcoming stock assessments, and addresses requirements for recreational filleting.

In January 2024, Commissioners approved the **2024-2028 Strategic Plan**, guiding the Commission's programs and activities for the next five years.

The first stock assessment for **Jonah Crab** was completed in 2023 to inform management and identify data needs for future stock assessments.

In January, ASMFC releases **Fish Habitat of Concern Designations for Commission-managed Fish and Shellfish Species**.

**MARTY GARY** is named New York's Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC.

**MEL BELL** retired after nearly four decades of service to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. **BLAIK KEPPLER** continues to serve as SC's Administrative Commissioner.

In the fall of 2023, **ASSEMBLYMAN FRED W. THIELE, JR.** became New York's Legislative Commissioner, replacing Todd Kaminsky who served from 2019-2023.

**SENATOR WILLIAM DESTEPH** is elected and serves as the Legislative Commissioner to ASMFC, replacing **SENATOR MONTY MASON**, who served in that capacity since 2018.

In January, after seven years with the Commission, ACCSP Data Team Lead **MIKE RINALDI** left to work as an Oracle application program developer with BAE Systems.

In February, ASMFC releases the **2023 Annual Report**.

In January, the Commission's Accounting team of **LISA HARTMAN and JAYRAN FARZANEGAN** were named the Commission's Employees of the Quarter for the fourth quarter 2023.

In April, the ASMFC **Horseshoe Crab Board** approved the 2024 Horseshoe Crab Stock Assessment Update.

At the Commission's Spring Meeting (May 2024), **MIKE ARMSTRONG** was named the Captain David H. Hart Award recipient for 2024. Over his more than 30-year career, Mike became a leading voice in supporting scientific advice for sound, defensible decision making.

**Annual Awards of Excellence** - In May, ASMFC recognized a number of individuals for their outstanding contributions to management, scientific, and law enforcement efforts along the Atlantic Coast. **PHIL EDWARDS (RI DEM)** was the award recipient for Management and Policy Contributions; **NICOLE LENGYEL COSTA (RI DEM) AND LAURA LEE (USFWS)** were the award recipients for Scientific and Technical Contributions; **JASON SNELLBAKER** was the award recipient for Law Enforcement Contributions.

**TINA BERGER**, Director of Communications, is acknowledged for 30 years of dedicated service to the Commission.

In May, the **American Eel Management Board** approved Addenda VI and VII to the ISFMP for American Eel.

In a recent session titled "Using Oracle APEX/Low Code Solutions to Collect Atlantic US Saltwater Fisheries Data-Customer Story," the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) showcased its extensive use of Oracle tools to revolutionize fisheries data management along the Atlantic coast. The session delved into ACCSP's journey of employing Oracle databases and applications to standardize and centralize fisheries-dependent data collection, enabling more efficient natural resource management. Featured speakers included **Geoff White** and **Julie DeFilippi Simpson** (ACCSP).

In May, **MICHAEL OPIEKUN** joined the Commission staff as the ACCSP Data Team Lead. Michael has a Master of Science Degree from the University of South Carolina and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Miami.

**ALEX DIJOHNSON** is named Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2024.

