



ASMFC

# FISHERIES *focus*

Vision: Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

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## **ASMFC Presents Steven G. Bowman 2021 Captain David H. Hart Award**

At its Summer Meeting in August, the Commission presented Steven G. Bowman, former Commissioner for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), with its highest annual honor, the Captain David H. Hart Award. The Commission instituted the Hart Award in 1991 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding efforts to improve Atlantic coast marine fisheries. The Hart Award is named for one of the Commission's longest serving members who dedicated himself to the advancement and protection of marine fishery resources, Captain David H. Hart, from the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Bowman began his marine fisheries career at VMRC in 1992 as Deputy Chief of the Law Enforcement Division, was promoted to Chief of Law Enforcement in 1996, and in 2006 he was appointed Commissioner of Marine Resources by then Governor Timothy Kaine. He served as Commissioner under two subsequent governors. Throughout his long history with the Commission, Mr. Bowman served as a member of the Law Enforcement Committee (early in his career) and as Virginia's Administrative Commissioner (later in his career) on the Commission's Executive Committee and Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board, along with several species management boards.



*From left: ASMFC Chair Spud Woodward, Hart Award Recipient Steven Bowman, ASMFC Awards Committee Chair Jim Gilmore and ASMFC Executive Director Bob Beal*

As Virginia's Administrative Commissioner, Mr. Bowman gained a reputation for his ability to successfully bring divergent viewpoints of stakeholders to a reasonable and agreeable compromise. When Virginia faced a non-compliance finding under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act for exceeding the Atlantic menhaden Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap in 2019, Mr. Bowman was instrumental in transferring menhaden management authority from the Virginia General Assembly to the VMRC. At that time, Atlantic menhaden was the only marine species managed by the General Assembly.

*continued, see HART AWARD on page 10*

## Upcoming Meetings

*The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as the deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species. The fifteen member states of the Commission are: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.*

### Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

A.G. "Spud" Woodward (GA), Chair  
Joseph Cimino (NJ), Vice-Chair

Robert E. Beal,  
Executive Director

Patrick A. Campfield,  
Science Director

Toni Kerns,  
ISFMP Director

Laura C. Leach,  
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#### November 7 - 10

ASMFC 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting; see pages 8 - 10 for more information or visit <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2022-annual-meeting>

#### December 5 - 9

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Blockade Runner 275 Waynick Boulevard Wrightsville Beach, NC; visit <https://safmc.net/council-meetings/> for more information

#### December 5 - 9

Bluefish and Spiny Dogfish 2022 Research Track Peer Review; visit <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/bluefish-spiny-dogfish-2022-research-track-peer-review> for more information

#### December 6 - 8

New England Fishery Management Council, Hotel Vikiing, Newport, RI; visit <https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/december-2022-council-meeting> for more information

#### December 12 - 15

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, The Westin Annapolis 100 Westgate Circle Annapolis, MD; visit <https://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2022/december-2022-council-meeting> for more information

#### January 31 - February 3

ASMFC Winter Meeting, The Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA

#### February 7 - 9

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Hotel Washington, 515 15th Street NW, Washington, DC; visit <https://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2023/february-council-meeting> for more information

#### February 15 - 16

East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Summit, location to be determined

#### March 6 - 8

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Westin Jekyll Island, 110 Ocean Way, Jekyll Island GA; visit <https://safmc.net/council-meetings/> for more information

#### April 4 - 6

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Hyatt Place Durham Southpoint, 7840 NC-751 Highway, Durham, NC; visit <https://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2023/april-council-meeting>

#### April 18 - 20

New England Fishery Management Council, Hilton Hotel, Mystic, CT; visit <https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/april-2023-council-meeting> for more information

#### May 1 - 4

ASMFC Spring Meeting, The Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA

#### June 6 - 8

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront, 3001 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA; visit <https://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2023/june-council-meeting> for more information



### Multi-Agency Effort Seeks to Address Climate Change Related Impacts to East Coast Fisheries and Fishing Communities

Over the past year, East Coast fishery management bodies have been collaborating on a Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative designed to explore how climate change might affect fisheries along the East Coast, and to identify consequences for the future of fisheries management and governance. While climate change is clearly having an impact on Atlantic fisheries and the communities that rely on them, it is impossible to predict exactly what future changes will be. What we can do, however, is to plan now by identifying the possible climate-induced impacts on our fisheries and fishing communities in the years to come and determine ways in which we might address these challenges.

The initiative is exploring how fisheries managers can address changing fish stock availability or distribution caused by climate change and will develop a set of strategies to strengthen fisheries management while supporting fishing communities as the ocean environment changes over time. In order to accomplish this, the scenarios take into account how climate-induced changes to oceanographic, biological, and social/economic conditions could create future challenges and opportunities for East Coast fisheries. In working on this project, fisheries managers and hundreds of fisheries stakeholders from coastal communities are banding together to create a more resilient future for coastal fisheries.

This process consists of six phases, including: (1) developing a framework for the scenario planning process; (2) connecting with stakeholders to seek input on concerns regarding anticipated changes to fishing industries and communities over the next 20 years; (3) exploring the major drivers of climate change in greater depth; (4) developing a series of draft scenarios to address possible futures for East Coast fisheries; (5) assessing developed scenarios to identify actions and recommendations; and (6) monitoring to track key changes and outline necessary next steps.

This multi-agency project is currently in phase five, which consists of strategizing on management solutions to draft scenarios. In this phase, the discussion is focused on adaptiveness, using sound data and science, acknowledging alternative ocean uses, and encouraging cross-jurisdictional management efforts. Currently, the group is in the process of conducting brainstorming sessions with fisheries managers to discuss possible strategies and actions managers can take to address concerns raised in the various draft scenarios. During the upcoming Commission and Council meetings in November and December, respectively, each body will hold more in-depth discussions of the scenarios to develop ideas and recommendations to support the Scenario Planning Summit. The scenarios will be used as a platform for these discussions,

in which the management bodies will consider questions such as:

- Under each scenario, what are the challenges and opportunities that fisheries governance and management would face?
- How well would our current fishery governance and management arrangements cope if these new scenario conditions were to occur?
- What needs to change in fisheries governance and management to prepare for these scenario possibilities?
- What are the tools and processes that need to be advanced now in order to ensure that fisheries are governed and managed effectively in an era of climate change?

Following the Commission's and Councils' discussions, the Summit will be held in early 2023 to bring together representatives from participating organizations across the region. The Summit will serve as a venue to discuss the input from the manager sub-group and individual management body sessions, with the goal of developing a set of governance, management, and monitoring recommendations from the scenario planning process. Recommendations generated at the Summit will be refined into a final report following the meeting.

In addition to this work, the Commission's Habitat Committee recently released its *2022 Report on Atlantic States' Climate Change Initiatives*. The report contains information on current climate change initiatives underway by each of the Atlantic coast state agencies. This report is a great informational tool for stakeholders to better understand the initiatives underway in their respective areas. More on this report can be found on page 11.

As we continue to see the adverse effects of climate change impact our lives, the Commission is increasingly aware of the importance of developing adaptive fisheries management guidelines and governance to support successful sustainable fisheries. The Commission is committed to working in a collaborative manner to ensure fisheries managers continue to communicate with stakeholders as fish stocks may change in distribution, abundance, or productivity over time. Addressing this issue with adaptive efforts such as the Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative is an essential step forward to serving the needs of our stakeholders and discerning how to best support our shared resources over time.

In writing this article, our colleagues and friends throughout the Southeast are now dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them as they begin to rebuild their lives and communities.

# Species Profile: Spanish Mackerel

## Managers Revisit Potential Management Updates with New Stock Assessment

### Introduction

The Commission and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) continue to cooperatively manage the South Atlantic stock of Spanish mackerel. The stock experienced years of low biomass and increased fishing pressure during the 1980s and 1990s but was found to be not overfished and not experiencing overfishing in the 2012 stock assessment. With a new stock assessment completed this year, managers will work together to maintain the rebuilt South Atlantic stock for the coming years.

A new stock assessment update for South Atlantic Spanish mackerel was recently completed with data through 2020. As the new assessment undergoes additional review and analysis, state and federal managers are revisiting potential updates to the management program. Management issues raised over the past few years include some related to the commercial fishery, particularly short commercial seasons in federal waters when the federal commercial quota is quickly reached. Additionally, there are some differences between state and federal management measures, including differences related to those commercial management issues.

Management discussions were put on hold until the new stock assessment was available. As final analyses are completed for this new assessment, managers will likely consider actions to update Spanish mackerel management over the next several months.

### Life History

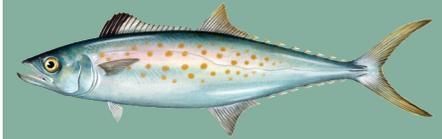
A fast swimming fish, known to gather in large schools and travel great distances, Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*) can be found throughout the coastal waters of the eastern U.S. and the Gulf of Mexico. Their migratory and schooling nature often frustrate anglers, as large congregations of fish can be found in an area one day and gone the next. Spanish mackerel prefer open water but are sometimes found over deep grass beds and reefs, as well as in shallow estuaries. They can live up to 12 years, and females spawn by age 2, releasing between half a million to 1.5 million eggs. Larvae grow quickly, reaching lengths of 12 to 15 inches in a year. Older Spanish mackerel may weigh several pounds, but are much smaller than their relative king mackerel. Along the Atlantic coast, Spanish mackerel range from the Florida Keys to New York, and occasionally as far north as New England. These fish winter off Florida, moving northward to North Carolina in early April and to New York in June. Later in the year, as waters cool, Spanish mackerel return to warm Florida waters. The South Atlantic stock along the Atlantic coast is distinct from Gulf of Mexico Spanish mackerel.

### Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

Spanish mackerel support significant recreational and commercial fisheries in South Atlantic waters and the species has gained importance in the Mid-Atlantic. Many anglers target and catch Spanish mackerel to use as bait for big game fishing. Total landings in 2021 were estimated at 14.6 million pounds, with commercial and recreational fisheries harvesting approximately 33% and 67% of that total, respectively. Coastwide commercial landings have generally been below four million pounds per year since 1995. Commercial landings in 2021 were estimated at 4.8 million pounds. Almost 72% of the commercial landings in 2021 occurred in Florida, with most of the remaining harvest occurring in North Carolina.

Recreational anglers harvested approximately 8.6 million Spanish mackerel (9.8 million pounds) in the 2021 calendar year, which was a large increase from prior years. Florida and North Carolina have historically accounted for the majority of recreational landings in both number and weight. The number of recreational releases has generally increased over time,

### Species Snapshot



### Spanish Mackerel *Scomberomorus maculatus*

#### Management Unit

Rhode Island through Florida

**Common Names:** mackerel, spotted cybium, bay mackerel, spotted mackerel

#### Interesting Facts:

- Spanish mackerel have been known to establish permanent resident populations in particularly favorable spots such as drop-offs.
- They can leap up to 6 feet in the air when taking rapidly trolled bait.
- Fish can grow up to 15 inches in the first year and reach a maximum length of 3 feet.
- Fish form large schools which travel great distances over a short period of time.

#### Largest on Record

- 13 pounds, Ocracoke, NC, 1987

#### Oldest Recorded

- Can live up to 20 years

#### Age/Length at Maturity

- 2 years/13.8 - 14.8 inches

#### Age at Recruitment

- 0 - 2 years due to rapid growth in the first year

#### Stock Status

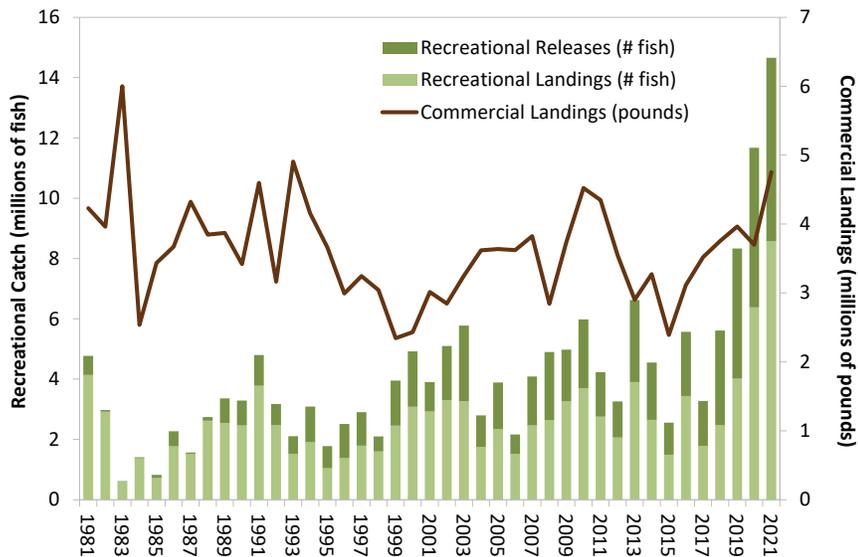
Not overfished and not experiencing overfishing



Photo (c) NJ DEP Delaware River Seine Survey

## Spanish Mackerel Recreational Catch and Commercial Landings

Source: ACCSP Data Warehouse & NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division, 2022



reaching the highest amount in the time series at 6.1 million fish in 2021. It is important to note concerns and questions have been raised regarding the 2020 and 2021 recreational catch estimates, and the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is looking further into these estimates.

### Stock Status

In 2012, South Atlantic Spanish mackerel was assessed and peer reviewed through the SouthEast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR). The results of the 2012 assessment indicated the stock is not overfished and is not experiencing overfishing. The stock biomass remained at a low level from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s and has been steadily increasing since 1995. Fishing mortality has been decreasing since the early 1990s. In 2022, an operational assessment (i.e., update to the last assessment) was completed through the SEDAR process with data through 2020. This most recent assessment (SEDAR 78)

preliminarily indicates the same stock status: the stock is not overfished and it is not experiencing overfishing based on a three-year average of fishing mortality. SEDAR 78 is currently undergoing additional review and analysis before being considered for use in management.

### Atlantic Coastal Management

State waters management of Spanish mackerel along the Atlantic coast is coordinated through the Commission's Coastal Pelagics Management Board (formerly part of the South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board). Management measures for Spanish mackerel include size limits, recreational bag limits, and commercial trip limits. The Commission's Omnibus Amendment for Spot, Spotted Seatrout, and Spanish Mackerel was approved in 2011. Specific to Spanish mackerel, the Amendment includes commercial and recreational management measures, adaptive management measures, and a process for Board review and action in response to changes in the federal regulations. This allows for complementary management throughout the range of the species.

Addendum I (2013) established a pilot program to allow states to reduce the Spanish mackerel minimum size limit for the commercial pound net fishery to 11½ inches from July through September for the 2013 and 2014 fishing years. The Addendum responded to reports about the increased incidence of Spanish mackerel ¼ to ½ inch short of the 12-inch fork length minimum size limit in pound nets during the summer months. The program reduced dead discards of these shorter fish and was extended through the 2018 fishing season. After 2018, North Carolina, the only state to implement the reduced minimum size limit, stopped requesting approval of the program due to no further request from pound net fishermen to continue the program, as well as recent closures in federal waters.

For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [efranke@asmfc.org](mailto:efranke@asmfc.org).



Photo (c) Dean Mitchell



Photo (c) Capt. Walter Bateman



**November 7 -10**

**Ocean Place Resort  
1 Ocean Boulevard  
Long Branch, NJ**

## **Preliminary Agenda**

*This will be a hybrid meeting to allow for remote participation by Commissioners and interested stakeholders in all meetings except for those of the Law Enforcement Committee, Habitat Committee and Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee. The agenda is subject to change. Bulleted items represent the anticipated major issues to be discussed or acted upon at the meeting. The final agenda will include additional items and may revise the bulleted items provided below. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled Board meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of Board meetings. Interested parties should anticipate Boards starting earlier or later than indicated herein.*

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

**9 – 9:30 AM Atlantic Herring Management Board**

- Consider Seasonal Allocation for Area 1A for 2023 Fishing Season
- Update on New England Fishery Management Council's Selected 2023-2025 Specifications and NOAA Rulemaking Timeline

**9:30 AM – Noon Habitat Committee**

- Review Status of *Habitat Hotline Atlantic*, Acoustics Habitat Management Series Document, and Fish Habitats of Concern Document
- Other Discussions and Presentations

**9:45 – 11:45 AM American Lobster Management Board**

- Update on North Atlantic Right Whale Court Cases
- Consider Annual Data Update of American Lobster Indices
- Consider Next Steps on Draft Addendum XXVII on Increasing Protection of Spawning Stock Biomass of the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Stock
- Update from Work Group on Implementation of Addendum XXIX on Electronic Vessel Tracking for Federal Permit Holders
- Discuss the Trap Transfer Tax for the American Lobster Fishery
- Progress Update on Jonah Crab Benchmark Stock Assessment
- Consider Fishery Management Plan Reviews and State Compliance for American Lobster and Jonah Crab for 2021 Fishing Year

- 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM**      **Lunch Break (on your own)**
- 12:45 – 2:45 PM**      **Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council**
- Consider Fiscal Year 2023 Project and Administrative Proposals for Funding
  - Consider Atlantic Recreational Implementation Plan (2023-2027)
  - Update on Program and Committee Activities
  - Elect Vice-Chair
- 1:15 – 5 PM**      **Habitat Committee (continued)**
- 3 – 5:30 PM**      **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**
- Consider 2022 Stock Assessment Update
  - If Reduction Needed to Achieve Stock Rebuilding, Review Management Options Provided by the Technical Committee for Board Final Consideration in December 2022
  - Consider Draft Addendum I on Quota Transfers for Public Comment
- 6 – 7:30 PM**      **Welcome Reception**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

- 9 – 10:30 AM**      **Shad and River Herring Management Board**
- Consider Update to Massachusetts Shad Habitat Plan to include Taunton River
  - Consider the Massachusetts and Maine River Herring Sustainable Fishery Management Plans
  - Consider Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance for Shad and River Herring for the 2021 Fishing Year
- 9 AM – Noon**      **Law Enforcement Committee**  
*(A portion of this meeting will be a closed session for Committee members only)*
- 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM**      **Coastal Pelagics Management Board**
- Consider 2022 Spanish Mackerel Stock Assessment Update
    - Review South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Response to Assessment Update
  - Review Differences Between the Federal Fishery Management Plan and Interstate Fishery Management Plan
  - Consider Fishery Management Plan Reviews and State Compliance for Atlantic Cobia and Spanish Mackerel for 2021 Fishing Year
- 12:15 – 1:30 PM**      **Lunch Break (on your own)**
- 1 – 5 PM**      **Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) Steering Committee**
- Finalize Strategic Plan
  - Initiate and Complete Action Planning
- 1 – 5 PM**      **Law Enforcement Committee (continued)**
- 1:30 – 5 PM**      **Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative Workshop**
- 6:30 – 8:30 PM**      **Annual Dinner**

*ASMFC 80<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING PRELIMINARY AGENDA continued on next page*

**Public Comment Guidelines**

For issues that are not on the agenda, management boards will continue to provide opportunity to the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will ask members of the public to raise their hands to let the chair know they would like to speak. Depending upon the number of commenters, the board chair will decide how to allocate the available time on the agenda (typically 10 minutes) to the number of people who want to speak.

For topics that are on the agenda, but have not gone out for public comment, board chairs will provide limited opportunity for comment, taking into account the time allotted on the agenda for the topic. Chairs will have flexibility in deciding how to allocate comment opportunities; this could include hearing one comment in favor and one in opposition until the chair is satisfied further comment will not provide additional insight to the board.

For agenda action items that have already gone out for public comment, it is the Policy Board's intent to end the occasional practice of allowing extensive and lengthy public comments. Currently, board chairs have the discretion to decide what public comment to allow in these circumstances.

In addition, the following timeline has been established for the submission of written comment for issues for which the Commission has NOT established a specific public comment period (i.e., in response to proposed management action).

1. Comments received 3 weeks prior to the start of the webinar (**October 17**) will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5 PM on Tuesday, **November 1** will be included in the supplemental materials.
3. Comments received by 10 AM on Friday, **November 4** will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting.

The submitted comments must clearly indicate the commenter's expectation from the ASMFC staff regarding distribution. As with other public comment, it will be accepted via mail and email.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

**8 – 10 AM** **Executive Committee**  
(A portion of this meeting may be closed for Committee members and Commissioners only)

- Review and Consider Approval of FY22 Audit
- CARES Act Update
- Review Draft *De Minimis* Policy
- Future Annual Meetings Update

**9 AM – Noon** **ACFHP Steering Committee (continued)**

**10:15 – 11:15 AM** **Business Session**

- Consider 2023 Draft Action Plan
- Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

**11:30 AM – Noon** **Coastal Sharks Management Board**

- Set Specifications for 2023 Fishing Year
- Consider Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance for 2020 Fishing Year

**Noon – 1:30 PM** **Captain David H. Hart Award Luncheon**

**1:30 – 5 PM** **ACFHP Steering Committee (continued)**

**1:30 – 5:30 PM** **Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**

- Consider Draft Addendum I on Commercial Allocations, Episodic Event Set Aside Program, and Incidental Catch/Small-scale Fisheries for Final Approval
- Set Specifications for 2023-2025 Fishing Years

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

**9 – 11:30 AM** **Horseshoe Crab Management Board**

- Consider Draft Addendum VIII on Implementing Recommended Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Changes from ARM Revision and Peer Review Report for Final Approval
- Set Delaware Bay Bait Harvest Specifications for 2023
- Consider Membership on the Work Group to Review Best Management Practices for Handling Biomedical Collections
- Consider Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance for 2021 Fishing Year

**9 AM – Noon** **ACFHP Steering Committee (continued)**

**11:45 AM – 2:15 PM** **Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board**  
(Includes a 30-minute lunch break in the hotel)

- Executive Committee Report
- Consider *De Minimis* Policy
- Update on Ongoing Stock Assessments
- Committee Reports
  - ACFHP
  - Habitat
  - Law Enforcement
- Consider Noncompliance Recommendations (if necessary)

**2:15 – 2:30 PM** **Business Session (continued)**

- Review Noncompliance Findings (if necessary)



## ASMFC Presents Annual Awards of Excellence for 2022

In August at its Summer Meeting, the Commission also presented its Annual Awards of Excellence to an esteemed group of fishery managers, scientists, and law enforcement officers for their outstanding contributions to fisheries management, science, and law enforcement along the Atlantic coast. Specifically, the 2022 award recipients were Eric Reid and Peter Burns for management and policy contributions; Dr. Conor McManus, Jeff Kipp, Dr. Burton Shank, Dr. Bryan Nuse, Dr. Anna Tucker, and Caitlin Starks for technical and scientific contributions; and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Law Enforcement for law enforcement contributions.

“Every year a great many people contribute to the success of fisheries management along the Atlantic coast. The Commission’s Annual Awards of Excellence recognize outstanding efforts by professionals who have made a difference in the way we manage and conserve our fisheries,” said ASMFC Chair Spud Woodward of Georgia. “I am humbled by the breadth and extent of accomplishments of the recipients and am grateful for their dedication to Atlantic coast fisheries.”

### Management and Policy Contributions

***Eric Reid, Chair of the New England Fishery Management Council and Proxy for ASMFC Legislative Commissioner Senator Susan Sosnowski***

For nearly a decade, Eric Reid has devoted countless hours to the fisheries management process at both the Commission and New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), and increasingly at the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Currently Chair of the NEFMC and longstanding proxy for Rhode Island’s Legislative Commissioner to the ASMFC, Senator Susan Sosnowski, Mr. Reid has been a fervent advocate for the New England commercial fishing industry, consistently bringing the industry’s perspective to actions taken by the Commission and Councils. His ability to be objective and seek creative solutions has

often allowed for compromise amongst differing viewpoints. Mr. Reid has been an integral and important voice in numerous high-level actions and discussions including Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument and offshore wind development. His expertise in the commercial fishing industry as well as the fisheries management system allows him to offer unique insights and facilitate management progress on a wide range of important topics. Mr. Reid has played a positive and impactful role in the fisheries management process as a result of his full engagement in the issues before him and his thoughtful consideration of the resource, as well as the economic impacts of proposed actions on the fishing industry.

### ***Peter Burns, NOAA Fisheries***

A valued federal partner to the Commission and its member states for over 15 years, Peter Burns has served as NOAA Fisheries’ lead on numerous Commission management boards and sections, including those for American lobster, northern shrimp, bluefish, spiny dogfish, and tautog, providing sound advice and guidance on the management of these species. He also has made tremendous contributions to federal lobster management, coordinating and leading the Lobster Trap Tag Program, which constituted a fundamental shift in interstate lobster management. His efforts ensured that state and federal trap allocations were aligned and future transfers were correctly implemented and tracked. Mr. Burns fostered productive relationships with the states and industry members on measures put forward by the industry at the Large Whale Take Reduction Team. This action helped to build trust and buy-in to Commission/Take Reduction Plan processes. He also attempted to negotiate alternative measures to the Area 4 (South of Long Island) seasonal closure, coordinating a meeting with industry members and bordering states, putting forward numerous solutions for equivalent measures in an attempt to eliminate the closure. While ultimately unsuccessful, these efforts highlight his commitment

to the Commission process as well as his commitment to collaboration and innovation.

### Scientific and Technical Contributions

***Dr. Conor McManus, Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management; Jeff Kipp, ASMFC; and Dr. Burton Shank, Northeast Fisheries Science Center***

Based on their significant contributions to the 2020 Benchmark Stock Assessment for American Lobster, Dr. Conor McManus, Jeff Kipp, and Dr. Burton Shank are being recognized for their exceptional work and initiative on the American Lobster Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS). As lead modelers for the assessment, Dr. McManus, Mr. Kipp, and Dr. Shank contributed improved and novel analyses to more effectively characterize stock status for Southern New England and the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank stocks. Throughout the assessment’s development, these three individuals consistently brought innovative ideas and technical expertise to SAS discussions. Their contributions and resourcefulness kept the assessment moving forward despite the complex challenges posed by the incorporation of new data to address environmental impacts on the lobster stocks. The contributions of these three individuals were essential to the successful completion and peer review of the 2020 assessment, as well as the adoption of updated reference points by the Management Board.

***Dr. Bryan Nuse, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and Dr. Anna Tucker, Iowa Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife***

Dr. Bryan Nuse, a Research Scientist with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and Dr. Anna Tucker, Assistant Professor at Iowa Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, were instrumental in the development of the revised Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Framework for the management of horseshoe crabs with

ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE  
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consideration for the threatened red knot. In October 2019, the ARM Subcommittee was directed to revise the ARM Framework to incorporate more available data and update the software platform. The ARM Subcommittee recognized it would need expertise in adaptive management and quantitative ecology to successfully model the two species and revise the ARM Framework. Dr. Nuse was added to the committee as an ecologist with experience in bird conservation, adaptive management, and population models. Dr. Tucker joined the effort because she developed a state-of-the-science integrated population model for red knots as part of her PhD thesis with Auburn University and postdoctoral research with the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. While development of the ARM Framework was a lengthy process involving many collaborators, this substantial achievement would not have been possible without the contributions of Drs. Nuse and Tucker.

**Caitlin Starks, ASMFC**

Caitlin Starks, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for numerous species, is being recognized for her meticulous and thorough preparation prior to meetings, her command in leading the meetings in

an effective and efficient manner, and her timely and detailed meeting follow-ups. In particular, Ms. Starks' steady support and guidance in leading the Shad Technical Committee through many challenging meetings as they prepared the 2021 Benchmark Stock Assessment for American Shad. Disagreements between Committee members within a meeting routinely occurred and Ms. Starks would often offer reasonable solutions that allowed opposing sides to reach compromise and advance forward. During the assessment, Ms. Starks did a phenomenal job of keeping the Committee moving through the grind of completing what could have been a daunting task. She often went above the call of duty by having a multitude of meetings ensuring all states were well informed; all Committee members were engaged in and supportive of the assessment; all potential data sources had been identified and thoroughly vetted for potential use in the assessment; and all questions from members were answered before a final product was affirmed.

**Law Enforcement Contributions  
New Jersey Department of Environmental  
Protection, Bureau of Law Enforcement**

The New Jersey Department of

Environmental Protection's Bureau of Law Enforcement is recognized for its outstanding efforts to control illegal harvest of Atlantic striped bass from Raritan Bay and its tributaries. New Jersey Conservation Police Officers from both the inland and marine regions throughout the state were involved with the operation across New Jersey's portion of the watershed. In December 2021, more than 200 summonses were issued and more than 500 illegal striped bass were confiscated. Efforts continued throughout the spring of 2022. From early March to the middle of May 2022, approximately 4,000 inspections were conducted over the course of 650 patrol hours within Raritan Bay, Newark Bay, Arthur Kill, and the Hudson River. These efforts resulted in over 300 summonses being issued for violations including undersized fish, over the limit catch, fishing during the closed season, and interference with the duties of a conservation officer. When possible, some of the seized fish were donated to food banks, while others were submitted to New Jersey Bureau of Marine Fisheries for the collection of biological data. The dedication and commitment of the Bureau's Conservation Police Officers to the enforcement of sustainable fisheries regulations is truly worthy of recognition.

*HART AWARD, continued from page 1*

Mr. Bowman worked deftly with political parties, recreational anglers, conservationists, and the reduction industry to navigate a non-compliance finding. Once the management authority was transferred to VMRC, Mr. Bowman ensured that regulations were quickly prepared and approved to avoid a possible moratorium on menhaden fishing in Virginia waters.

This monumental accomplishment is a microcosm of Mr. Bowman's skillset. It demonstrated the trust Mr. Bowman had from all corners of the marine fisheries management world: industry, anglers, conservationists, state and federal politicians, and his fellow Commissioners. Mr. Bowman's efforts ultimately resulted in the protection of the Chesapeake Bay as a critical nursery area for many iconic species such as striped bass, bluefish, and summer flounder which will provide coastwide benefits for years to come.

**Mark Your Calendars  
ASMFC 2023 Quarterly Meetings**

<b>WINTER</b>	January 31 - February 2 The Westin Crystal City 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202
<b>SPRING</b>	May 1 - 4 The Westin Crystal City 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202
<b>SUMMER</b>	July 31 - August 3 The Westin Crystal City 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202
<b>81<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL</b>	October 15 - 19 Beaufort Hotel 2440 Lennoxville Road, Beaufort, NC 28516

## 2022 Report on Atlantic States' Climate Change Initiatives

In August, the Commission's Habitat Committee released, *2022 Report on Atlantic States' Climate Change Initiatives*. This report is an updated account of the initiatives that each Atlantic coast state is taking to reduce its greenhouse gas contribution and address climate change impacts, highlighting the progress made since the last report, released in 2018. Though the focus is on state coastal regulatory planning, many states reference broader initiatives as well. The report maintains the same categorization of initiatives as the previous report for comparison purposes. They are:

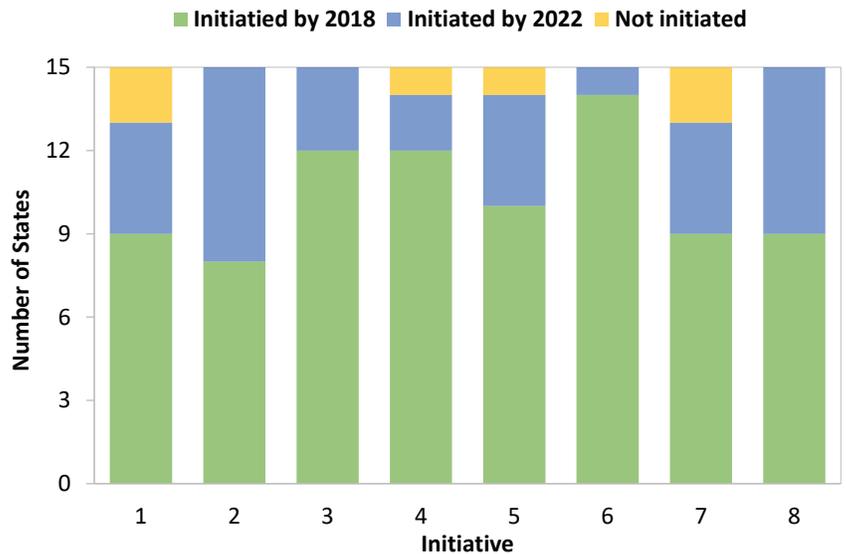
1. Established a working group or legislation to reduce carbon output
2. Established a working group or legislation to respond to climate change threats
3. Produced reports on climate change
4. Assesses and monitors the effects of climate change
5. Has mechanisms in place for collaboration among agencies and other organizations
6. Addresses climate change in planning documents
7. Has responded to climate change on the ground
8. Includes climate change in outreach efforts

As of 2022, each state has implemented between five and eight of the initiatives categories listed above. Eleven states have practices in place that meet all eight categories, up from four states in 2018 (Figure 1).

As evident from the graph, a lot of new work has begun to both reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and respond to the impacts of climate change over the past four years. Details about each initiative, many with links to more resources, can be found in the report at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/Habitat/2022Report\\_on\\_AtlanticStates'ClimateChangeInitiatives](http://www.asmfc.org/files/Habitat/2022Report_on_AtlanticStates'ClimateChangeInitiatives).

**Figure 1. Number of Atlantic Coast States Carrying Out Each Initiative Category in 2022 Compared with 2018**

Note: data were unavailable for Delaware in 2018 but the state is included in the 2022 data.



## ACFHP Announces FY2024 Funding Available for Habitat Conservation Projects

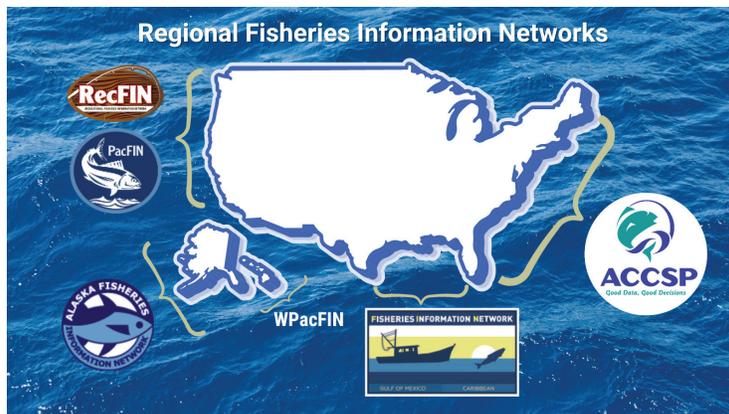
The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) is requesting project applications for funding to restore and conserve habitat necessary to support coastal, estuarine dependent, and diadromous fish species. Federal funding available through the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) program will be used to support the top ranked proposals.

This opportunity places an emphasis on conservation efforts that will improve recreational fishing opportunities and public use of resources. Improvements in public access as a component of projects are also encouraged. Projects must have a minimum of 1:1 non-federal match.

Applications in Microsoft Word format must be received by **5 PM Eastern time on Friday, January 20, 2023** for FY2024 project funding consideration. For complete information and guidelines on how to apply please visit [FY2024 Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Funding Cycle – Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership](https://www.atlanticfishhabitat.org/funding-opportunities/) or look at the 'Funding Opportunities' page under 'Get Involved' on the ACFHP website at <https://www.atlanticfishhabitat.org/funding-opportunities/>. For questions and to submit your application, contact Kent Smith, ACFHP Chair, at [kent.smith@myfwc.com](mailto:kent.smith@myfwc.com) and Jessica Coakley, ACFHP Vice Chair, at [jcoakley@mafmc.org](mailto:jcoakley@mafmc.org).

# ACCSP Update: Atlantic Regional Fisheries Information Network

The Atlantic Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) is one of five regional Fisheries Information Networks (FINs). FINs are collaborative state-federal programs that supply dependable and timely marine fisheries data in their respective regions. Typically, programs within interstate Commissions, the FINs were created to address the integration, standardization, and centralization of multi-state and multi-jurisdictional data needs. Based on regional needs, each FIN is responsible for collecting, storing, processing, and disseminating state and federal fisheries data.



recreational fisheries data collection and identify opportunities for future integration across jurisdictions

- Maintaining a Data Warehouse that harmonizes the data received into one set of codes, making it possible to combine datasets from different sources for larger scale analyses

ACCSP is proud to be the regional FIN program for the Atlantic coast (Maine to Florida). ACCSP's mission is to produce dependable and timely marine fishery statistics for Atlantic coast fisheries that are collected, processed, and disseminated according to common standards agreed upon by all program partners. That mission is achieved through:

- Facilitating development of the Atlantic coast data standards by program partners
- Providing Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System applications to collect fisher and dealer information
- Working with state and federal partners to coordinate

For example, on September 10<sup>th</sup>, ACCSP announced the fall data load to update the 2021 commercial data was complete and available in the Data Warehouse. ACCSP reloaded historical data from Maine from 2008-2020. ACCSP also performed a data refresh for North Carolina data from 2017-2020. These updates and refreshes ensure that the most current version of the data is available to end users.

ACCSP also recently welcomed the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), a long-time partner, as a new direct data provider. PRFC is taking on the role of data security contact in the Data Warehouse, along with other data providing partners. They will be processing confidential access requests to their commercial catch and effort data. Previously, data provision and confidential access for PRFC data were done by Virginia Marine Resources Commission. This marks a major step forward for the quality of data on the Atlantic coast.

## Comings & Goings

### COMMISSIONERS



#### JAMIE GREEN

In July, Jamie Green joined the Commission as Virginia's Administrative Commissioner. Jamie replaced Steve Bowman who served in that position from 2018 - 2022. Jamie first joined the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) in 2005 as a Law Enforcement Officer. Within a few years he became a 1st Sergeant and two years later became Captain of the Middle Area. During his tenure as Captain, he graduated from the Southern Police Institute at University of Louisville, as well as Saint Leo University. Jamie was instrumental in securing and executing several federal grants and managed the Joint Enforcement Agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Jamie serves on numerous marine conservation and maritime committees. As Lieutenant Colonel of VMRC's Law Enforcement Division, he became a certified homeland protection professional. In his free time Jamie enjoys fishing, hunting, golfing, and spending time with his family, Dr.

Jennifer Green and three children Amber, Mackenzie, and Tyler. He also dedicates time to coaching community youth football, baseball and basketball. Welcome aboard Mr. Green!

#### DOUG GROUT

No stranger to the Commission and Atlantic coast fisheries management issues, Doug Grout returns to ASMFC as New Hampshire's Governor Appointee. Prior to his retirement, he worked for 36 years in the Marine Division of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department; first as a marine biologist and finally as the Chief of the Marine Division. Early in his career, he served on numerous ASMFC technical committees, as well as the Management and Science Committee and the Assessment Science Committee. He

COMINGS & GOINGS continued on next page



received ASMFC's Award of Excellence in 2005 for contributions in the area of scientific, technical, and advisory. As Marine Division Chief, he served as New Hampshire's Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC from 2008 - 2020, and as Commission Chair from 2015 - 2017. Doug received his M.S. and B.A. in Zoology from the University of New Hampshire and is a Certified Fisheries Scientist of the American Fisheries Society. He has been a lifelong saltwater angler having fished for numerous marine and anadromous species along the Atlantic coastal waters of the US and Canada. Welcome back, Doug!

**SENATORS TODD KAMINSKY (NY) & BOB STEINBURG (NC)**

With their respective resignations from the New York State Senate and the North Carolina Senate, Senators Kaminsky and Steinburg also stepped down as their states' Legislative Commissioners to the ASMFC. Senator Kaminsky served on the Commission from 2019 - 2022, while Senator Steinburg served since 2015 and was represented by a number of proxies, including Bill Gorham who was an active board participant from 2020 - 2022. We appreciate their collective contributions to the Commission process and wish them all the very best.



**RITCHIE WHITE**

Since joining the Commission in 2000 as New Hampshire's Governor Appointee, Ritchie White has been an integral member of the New Hampshire delegation. During his 22 years as Commissioner, he has actively participated in the Commission's fisheries management process, serving on a number of species management boards, sections and committees, and chaired the Northern Shrimp Section, management boards for the Atlantic herring and winter flounder, and served as Chair of the Governors' Appointees. As Commissioner, Ritchie fostered an open approach to fisheries management and ownership of the Commission actions, holding the Commission to the highest standards of transparency and accountability. His contributions to the Commission are so noteworthy that he received the Captain David H. Hart Award in 2013. We are deeply appreciative of Ritchie's efforts and dedication to the Commission these many years and wish he and his wife Deb only the very best and, of course, many happy days of fishing.

**STAFF**



**MAYA DRZEWICKI**

In August, Maya left the Commission to pursue a Master of Science from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. As part of her master's program, she will be working with Dr. Mike Wilberg to build a spatial stock assessment model for spot. In her three years at the Commission, Maya assisted staff on a slew of projects and tasks, including managing the Commission's social media platforms and providing back-up support on website maintenance; drafting newsletter articles, stock assessment overviews, and fishery management plan reviews; creating story maps on menhaden management and ecological reference points, and aquaculture projects along the Atlantic coast; and solely managing our weekly Atlantic Coast Fisheries News. She also played a critical role in the Commission's quarterly meetings as motion taker as well as the one who kept the presentations flowing smoothly. While she will be missed, we are excited for her as she takes her next step in her marine fisheries career.



**LISA HAVEL**

In October, Dr. Lisa Havel will step 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, a non-profit dedicated to researching, protecting, and restoring the bays and estuaries in the Texas Coastal Bend and part of the EPA's National Estuary Program. Lisa has an impressive list of accomplishments during her eight years with the Commission. When Lisa started at the Commission, ACFHP was just a fledgling program but under her leadership and hard work the Partnership has seen incredible growth and, with increased federal funding, the Partnership has been able to support multiple habitat restoration projects benefiting Atlantic diadromous, estuarine, and coastal fish. Lisa has also strongly guided the Habitat and Artificial Reef Committees through the annual publication of *Habitat Hotline Atlantic*, and multiple habitat management series and reports focusing on aquaculture, living shorelines, sciaenid fish

habitat, habitat bottlenecks, and artificial reef development. We so appreciate all that Lisa has accomplished while she was here, and wish her and her family the very best.

**Madeline Musante**

In September, Madeline Musante joined the Commission as its new Outreach and Fisheries Assistant. She will primarily be working

*COMINGS & GOINGS continued on next page*

## Employee of the Quarter

For the third quarter of 2022, Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Coordinator, was recognized as Employee of the Quarter (EOQ) for her contributions to the Commission and its Fisheries Management Program. Since joining the Commission in January 2021, Emilie has worked tirelessly on species management and continues to encourage open communication with everyone she interacts with. Emilie's drive, inquisitiveness, and strong work ethic make her an incredible colleague and co-worker and a worthy recipient of this award.

Emilie's outstanding work on Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass and the soon to be released striped bass stock assessment update have been a testament to her can-do attitude and strong work ethic. Throughout the Amendment process, she sought out creative ways to ensure the Board and the public were able to follow the complex issues and remain well informed. Furthermore, she elevated the quality of the public hearing documents and final Amendment by maintaining close and effective collaboration with Commission staff and committee members. To this end, Emilie's collaboration with Dr. Katie Drew of the Fisheries Science Program, was an excellent example of the high-quality work that is accomplished cross-departmentally.

As an FMP Coordinator, Emilie has provided support to her species committees and aided other members of the fisheries management team by sharing her knowledge and experience whenever needed. Her collaboration with the Cobia Technical Committee aided in determining quota blocks that better fit with the current management timelines. Similarly, by sharing her knowledge of conservation equivalency buffers and other issues with the Management and Science Committee, Emilie was able to assist the group in addressing concerns in the Conservation Equivalency Guidance Document.

These accomplishments are a clear reflection of Emilie's passion, enthusiasm, and strong dedication to the Commission. As EOQ recipient, Emilie received a cash award and a letter of appreciation to be placed in her personal record. In addition, her name is on the EOQ plaque displayed in the Commission's lobby. Congratulations, Emilie!



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with the Communications Department on outreach and communications, including social media posts, website back-up, story maps, and news clippings (to name a few). She will also provide support to our meeting weeks, as well as work closely with the fisheries management, science, and habitat staff to support the activities of those programs. In the month she has been here, she has already proved to be a valuable staff member, helping with the compilation of comments on the Horseshoe Crab Draft Addendum VIII, spearheading our the weekly Atlantic Coast Fisheries News, and helping us prepare for the upcoming Annual Meeting. She comes to us with a Bachelor of Arts, with a major in Coastal Environmental Science and a minor in Biology from Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida. Prior to coming to the Commission, she worked as a marine biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission conducting fisheries-dependent data collection surveys, with both the for-hire fleet and private anglers. She also was a protected species observer in the Gulf of Mexico. Welcome aboard, Madeline.

**Deke Tompkins** – On October 7<sup>th</sup>, Commission staff bid a fond farewell to Deke Tompkins, Legislative Assistant, after he accepted a position with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service working on Southeast regional legislative issues. Deke has been with the Commission for over nine years and has done an amazing job advancing the Commission's legislative work. His efforts have resulted in increased support for many Commission programs, strong relationships with multiple East Coast Congressional offices, and Commissioner engagement in important fisheries legislation. Deke has also tackled a long list of miscellaneous jobs during his time at the Commission, including staffing at-sea monitoring activities, speech writing, fostering our partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, and many others. Please join us in wishing Deke and his family only the very best as they take the next major step in their lives.

