



ASMFC

FISHERIES *focus*

Volume 19, Issue 3
April 2010

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission • 1444 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C.

Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015

ASMFC Spring Meeting May 3 - 6, 2010

**Crowne Plaza Hotel Old Town
901 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, Virginia**

Preliminary Agenda

The preliminary agenda is subject to change. This agenda reflects substantial changes from the one that was originally released. Specifically, the Horseshoe Crab and Weakfish Boards will now meet on May 4; the Atlantic Menhaden Board will meet on May 5; and the American Eel and Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Boards will meet on May 6. The times for the American Lobster Board, Atlantic Herring Section, South Atlantic Board, and ACCSP Coordinating Council have shifted slightly. The dates/times for the ISFMP Policy, Executive Committee, and Business Session have also been changed. Please check below for all changes. 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 (see guidelines for submission of public comment on page 7).

May 3 , 2010

12:30 PM - 3:00 PM American Lobster Management Board

3:15 PM - 5:45 PM Atlantic Herring Section

May 4 , 2010

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Law Enforcement Committee

9:45 AM - 11:45 AM Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Weakfish Management Board

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Management and Science Committee

2:15 PM - 4:15 PM Horseshoe Crab Management Board

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Business Session

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Annual Awards of Excellence Reception

Inside This Issue

Species Profile: American Shad
Page 4

Atlantic Herring Draft Addenda II & III Released for Public Comment Page 7

ASMFC Public Comment Guidelines Page 7

On the Legislative Front Page 8

In Other Federal News Page 8

Science Highlight: NCCOS Releases Report & Web Tool on Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Page 9

ASMFC Releases Living Shorelines Document Page 9

New England Anglers Introduced to Latest Electronic Logbooks Page 10

continued on page 6

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 a 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

Robert H. Boyles, Jr., (SC), Chair
Paul Diodati (MA), Vice-Chair

John V. O'Shea, Executive Director
Robert E. Beal, Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program
Patrick A. Campfield, Science Director
Laura C. Leach, Director of Finance & Administration

Tina L. Berger, Editor
tberger@asmfc.org

(202)289-6400 Phone • (202)289-6051 Fax
www.asmfc.org

Upcoming Meetings

4/12 (7:00 PM):

ASMFC Public Hearing on Atlantic Herring Draft Addenda II & III, New Hampshire Fish and Game, Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. For more information, contact Doug Grout at (603) 868-1095.

4/12:

2010 Northeast Regional Social Science Symposium, University of New Hampshire, Durham (<http://extension.unh.edu/Marine/NRSSS/NRSSS-Temp.htm>).

4/12 - 15:

ASMFC Advanced Stock Assessment Workshop, Providence Biltmore Hotel, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, Rhode Island. For more information, please contact Patrick Campfield at pcampfield@asmfc.org.

4/13 (9 AM - 3 PM):

ASMFC Committee on Economics and Social Sciences, New England Center, 15 Strafford Avenue, Durham, New Hampshire. For more information, please contact Melissa Paine at mpaine@asmfc.org.

4/13 - 15:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, The Sanderling Resort and Spa, 1461 Duck Road, Duck, North Carolina; 252/261-4111.

4/23 (10 AM - 4 PM):

ASMFC Horseshoe Crab Advisory Panel, Holiday Inn BWI Airport Conference Center, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum Heights, Maryland. For more information, please contact Brad Spear at bspear@asmfc.org.

4/27 - 29:

New England Fishery Management Council, Hilton Hotel, Mystic, Connecticut.

5/3 - 6:

ASMFC Spring Meeting, Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria, 901 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia; (800) 333-3333 (see preliminary agenda on pages 1 and 6).

6/6 - 11:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Renaissance Orlando Hotel Airport, 5445 Forbes Place, Orlando, Florida.

6/8 - 10:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Radisson Martinique on Broadway, 49 West 42nd Street, New York, New York; 212/736-3800.

NOAA's Draft Catch Shares Policy

The concept of using catch shares to improve fisheries management has been around for several decades. The topic gained significantly more visibility when the Administration announced last year its belief that greater use of such approaches could enhance the performance of some U.S. fisheries. As a first step, a diverse team of NOAA experts and representatives from the regional councils developed a Draft Catch Shares Policy, which was released on January 10th for public review.

Concurrently, four catch shares workshops have been held along the Atlantic coast, sponsored by the regional councils and a commercial fishing association. The draft policy and the workshops have generated publicity, understanding, misinformation, and angst, confirming the topic retains some of its hot-button status from ten years ago. Back then, there were many who were understandably driven by their fear of the unknown.

Today, there appears to be a greater recognition of the need to include facts and information in the debate. Fishermen, managers, and scientists now have the advantage of being able to consider the challenges, experiences, and results of catch share systems that have come on line in the past decade. Distinguishing between facts and myths, while often challenging, is a necessary step in making sound decisions.

First, NOAA is using catch shares as a generic term to describe fishery management programs that allocate a specific portion of a fishery's total allowable catch to individuals or other entities. It includes limited access privilege programs, individual fishing quotas, harvesting cooperatives, and other exclusive allocation measures. Recipients are directly accountable to stop fishing when their specific allocation (quota) is reached.

NOAA is considering catch shares because a number of U.S. fisheries face a variety of challenges. These include difficulty in controlling overall catch (i.e., overfishing) while encouraging a race to catch as much fish as possible, leading to overcapitalization, lower profits and, poor product quality with no incentive to reduce bycatch. In addition, there are seasonal gluts of fish in markets with fishermen feeling compelled to operate in unsafe conditions. NOAA and others believe U.S. fisheries are not currently producing their full economic value and employment. Requests to Congress and NOAA for economic assistance are increasing.

By way of potential solutions to these challenges, NOAA believes U.S. and foreign experience with catch shares has demonstrated their potential to address

many of these problems. Total catch has been brought under control, greater economic efficiencies have been achieved, product form has shifted to higher quality and value, and safety at sea has improved. There have been other benefits as well but, to be clear and fair, there have been trade-offs that have created winners and losers. So while the fish have won, there were fishermen who felt they lost out.

Catch shares are not a new concept for the U.S. There are currently 14 U.S. fisheries managed through catch shares, including programs in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Alaska. Some of these programs have been in effect since the early 90s. In addition, for a number of years Canadian halibut and groundfish fishermen in British Columbia have been operating under a catch shares system that has attracted increased interest by U.S. fishermen.

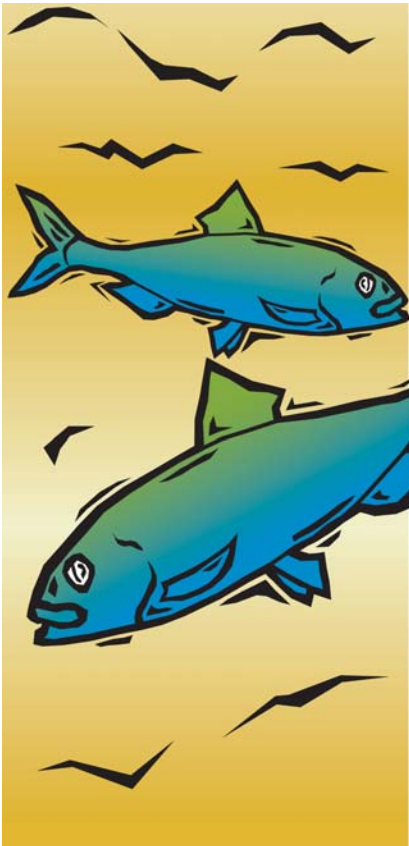
The ongoing debate and consideration of catch shares has been confused by the assertion of some that NOAA has adopted a policy requiring mandatory implementation of catch shares in all U.S. fisheries. Not true. The Draft Catch Share Policy currently states:

NOAA encourages the consideration and adoption of catch shares wherever appropriate in fishery management and ecosystem plans and amendments, and will support the design, implementation, and monitoring of catch shares programs.

To that end, NOAA aims to reduce administrative or organizational impediments to consideration of catch shares and to educate stakeholders of the different options and capabilities of catch share programs. The catch shares workshops mentioned earlier are an example of NOAA's efforts to help interested regional councils and stakeholders learn more about catch shares.

It seems clear that the measures contained in the 2006 Magnuson Stevens Reauthorization Act reflect congressional belief that management of U.S. fisheries should be improved. Experience gained in other fisheries and in other countries demonstrates that the use of catch shares can improve both the biological and economic performance of fisheries. NOAA is simply encouraging us all to become fully informed before deciding to accept or reject catch shares. Making decisions based on facts is hopefully something that we can all agree with.

The draft policy can be found at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/domes_fish/catchshare/comments/. NOAA will accept comments until April 10, 2010



Species Profile: American Shad New Amendment Seeks to Recover Depressed Stocks

Introduction

Each spring, as water temperatures slowly warm, fishermen and nature-lovers know what's moving into the rivers. Following the scent of the water, American shad hone in on streams where they were born. These small fish travel up to 2,000 miles, from their oceanic feeding grounds to their freshwater spawning grounds. As they enter freshwater and swim upstream they are a favorite target for recreational fishermen, as shad are known to put up a good fight. Many communities hold festivals to celebrate the arrival of shad in the spring. As a forage fish, shad are an important seasonal prey for larger predators, including birds and other wildlife. However, declines in many shad stocks have prompted the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Com-

mission) to adopt new management measures to help ensure the sustainability of shad populations.

Life History

American shad are a migratory anadromous fish that spend most of their life at sea along the Atlantic coast and enter freshwater as adults in the spring to spawn. The young leave their home river within the first year and will spend the next few years at sea, schooling in large numbers with shad from other regions and feeding on plankton and other small fish or crustaceans. Upon reaching maturity – at about age four – they will return to the streams they were born in to spawn. Males or “buck shad” return first, followed by females or “roe shad.” They spawn usually at night or during overcast days. In the southern range, females release as many as 700,000 eggs during the spawning season, but both males and females normally die after spawning. In the northern range, females typically release 300,000 eggs or less during the spawning season; however, most shad will return again to spawn in the following years, with some shad living up to ten years.

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

Since the early 1800s, American shad have supported major commercial fisheries along the Atlantic coast and were one of the most valuable food fish of the U.S. Atlantic coast before World War II. The estimated U.S. Atlantic coast catch in 1896 was 50 million pounds, but by the 1950s landings had declined to approximately 10 million pounds. In-river fisheries target river-specific stocks of American shad, while ocean fisheries target mixed stocks of shad as they are schooling at sea. In-river landings began decreasing and ocean harvest landings began increasing during the



Tagged American shad courtesy of NYSDEC Hudson River Fisheries Unit

American Shad *Alosa sapidissima*

General Characteristics:

- * Adults average 20" in length and 4 lbs. in weight
- * Range from Newfoundland to Northern Florida
- * Opportunistic predator feeding primarily on plankton
- * Females are larger than males

Interesting Facts:

- * George Washington was an avid and exceptional shad fisherman.
- * The Latin name translates as “most savory.”
- * The State of Connecticut designated American shad as its state fish in 2003.

Stock Status:

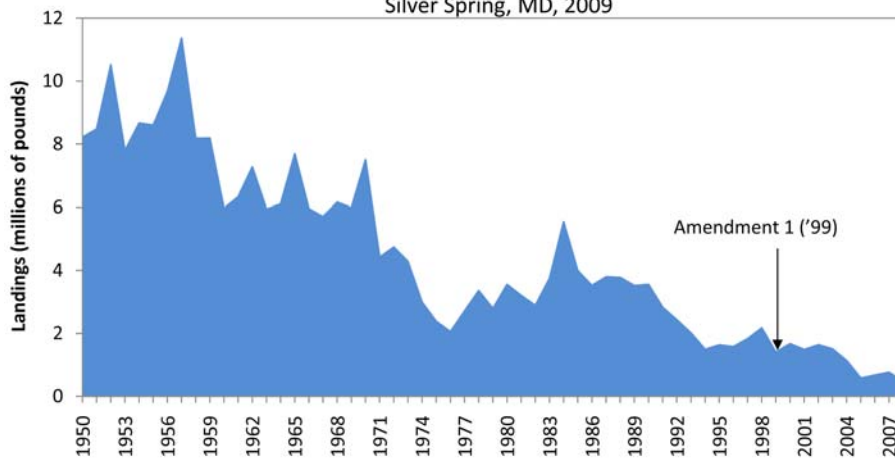
- * There are 86 individual American shad stocks on the East Coast.
- * Many stocks remain severely depressed compared to historic levels

Recent Records:

- * A shad weighing just over 9 lbs. was caught in the Hudson River in 2007, making it the state record!

American Shad Commercial Landings

Source: Personal communication from NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division, Silver Spring, MD, 2009



1970s, with coastwide landings at approximately 2 million pounds annually. By 1996 ocean harvest comprised 67% of the coastwide landings. The ocean-intercept fishery was closed in 2005 and, since then, coastwide landings have averaged 500,000 pounds annually, with the largest landings occurring in North and South Carolina.

Data on recreational fisheries for American shad are limited, however, it is estimated that tens of thousands of shad are caught by recreational hook and line from large Atlantic coast rivers each year. There are large recreational shad fisheries that occur on the Connecticut, Hudson, Delaware,

Susquehanna, Santee-Cooper, Savannah, and St. Johns Rivers. The actual harvest (i.e. catch and removal) may amount to only about 20-40% of total catch as a result of catch-and-release angling practices. Recreational catch-and-release anglers are encouraged to use a barbless hook and to keep shad in the water when removing the hook to avoid stress to the fish.

Stock Status

The 2007 American shad stock assessment report identified 86 separate tributaries or potential individual stocks. American shad stocks are river-specific; that is, each major tributary along the Atlantic coast appears to have its own spawning stock. The stock assessment found that stocks were at all-time lows and did not appear to be recovering to acceptable levels. Although improvement has been seen in a few stocks, many remain severely depressed compared to their historic levels. The 2007 stock assessment report identified primary causes for stock decline as a combination of overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss due to dam construction.

Atlantic Coastal Management

At the Commission's 2010 Winter Meeting, the Shad and River Herring Management Board approved Amendment 3 to the Shad and River Herring FMP. In an effort to aid in the recovery of depleted or declining stocks, Amendment 3 prohibits state waters commercial and recreational fisheries beginning January 1, 2013. States or jurisdictions have the option of developing a sustainable management plan, which will describe sustainability targets that must be maintained to prevent closure of the fishery. All states and jurisdictions will be allowed to maintain a shad catch-and-release recreational fishery.

Importance

American shad play an important ecological role in freshwater, estuarine, and marine environments during its anadromous life cycle. Once in the ocean American shad are preyed upon by many species including sharks, tunas, king mackerel, seals, and porpoises. American shad are also a seasonally important prey species for a number of fish, birds, and wildlife species, with the adult spawning American shad arriving in the early spring when other prey may be scarce and the nesting/breeding season is just beginning for many wildlife predators. During earlier periods of high abundance, American shad also played a significant role in ecosystem nutrient and energy cycling. For example, in South Atlantic coastal river systems, many shad die shortly after spawning and provide beneficial marine-derived nutrients to the freshwater systems.

Stock Status

Recent Declines

- * Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Georgia stocks
- * Hudson (NY), Susquehanna (PA), James (VA), and Edisto (SC) Rivers

Low / Stable Abundance

- * Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware, and some South Carolina and Florida stocks
- * Upper Chesapeake Bay and the Rappahannock River (VA)

Slow Recovery

- * Potomac and York (VA) Rivers

Data limitations precluded conclusions about status or trends of many of the stocks in North and South Carolina.

continued on page 6

Species Profile: American Shad (continued from page 5)

American shad also played an important cultural role to Native Americans and early colonists. Their importance today is still seen in the many communities which still celebrate the arrival of American shad in the spring by holding festivals to mark the occasion. These festivals include activities such as fishing for shad, shad bakes or “planking,” along with a variety of other activities including running events, arts and crafts shows, music, and many other activities to foster community relations, attract tourists, and benefit the local economy. A listing of shad and river herring festivals can be found in Amendment 3 to the Shad and River Herring FMP on the Commission’s website under Breaking News.

When the fish slow down and in themselves declare the end of the [spawning] season, you can stand on a rock in the river and watch them go by. These are the ghost days. The fish, always in single file as they climb into faster water and advance the migration, are gray and spectral. But they keep going. If you throw out a proper cast and let it swing downcurrent an occasional shad will hit. They may be tired but they’re not defeated.

— John McPhee, *The Founding Fish*

From Their Home To Your Home – View Shad During Their Upstream Migration!

Can’t make it out to see shad this year? You can watch shad swimming to their spawning grounds online at:

- ◀ Boshers Dam on the James River -- www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/shadcam
- ◀ Fairmount Dam on the Schuylkill River -- fairmountwaterworks.com/fishcam.php



ASMFC Spring Meeting Preliminary Agenda (continued from page 1)

May 5, 2010

8:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
11:15 AM - 12:15 PM	Executive Committee
1:15 PM - 3:15 PM	South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Business Session
4:45 PM - 6:00 PM	Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board

May 6, 2010

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Business Session (continued)
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	American Eel Management Board
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board
11:45 AM - 12:15 PM	ISFMP Policy Board (continued)
12:15 PM - 12:45 PM	Business Session (continued)
1:15 PM - 3:15 PM	Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council

Atlantic Herring Draft Addenda II & III Released for Public Comment

In mid-March the Commission released Draft Addenda II and III to Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sea Herring for public review and comment. The states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts conducted public hearings on the Addenda in late March and early April.

Draft Addendum II was designed to mirror the New England Fishery Management Council's Amendment 4 and proposes changes to the specifications' definitions (and associated acronyms) as well as the process to set specifications. The Draft Addendum also proposes annual payback measures for total allowable catch overages that correspond with accountability measures in Amendment 4.

Draft Addendum III was designed to address concerns raised by small mesh bottom trawl (SMBT) vessels regarding Amendment 2's days out provision. The Draft Addendum proposes higher possession limits and/or alternate days out for SMBT vessels fishing in Area 1A. It also contains options to establish a SMBT quota and restrict the fishery seasonally and spatially to discourage new participation.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addenda, either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. The Draft Addendum is available on the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM on April 16, 2010** and should be forwarded to Christopher Vonderweidt, FMP Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Addenda II & III).



ASMFC Public Comment Guidelines for Spring Meeting

For issues that are not on the agenda, management boards will provide the opportunity for the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will use a speaker sign-up list in deciding 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 by April 12th will be included on the briefing CD.
2. Comments received by 5:00 PM on April 27th will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting and a limited number of copies will be provided at the meeting.
3. Following April 27th, the commenter will be responsible for distributing the information to the management board prior to the board meeting or providing enough copies for the management board consideration at the meeting (a minimum of 50 copies).

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

On the Legislative Front: Lots of Fish Talk on Capitol Hill

February 24th marked the day that commercial and recreational fishermen rallied together in D.C. to demand changes in our nation's fisheries law. About 20 Senators and Congressmen joined the fishermen in arguing for more flexibility in the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act. They maintained that relaxing the current rebuilding requirements will help avoid fisheries closures while still allowing the stocks to rebuild.

Since the rally, Congress has held two hearings that focused on fish. On March 3rd, the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Wildlife and Oceans conducted an oversight hearing to investigate NOAA's fisheries law enforcement programs and operations. Testimony and questions stemmed from a recent Commerce Department Inspector General report that highlighted several areas where the agency should make improvements. Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and head of NOAA, agreed with many recommendations in the report and has already starting acting on them.

On March 16th, the House Subcommittee held a hearing to discuss implementation of catch shares. The most recent reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act encourages the development of catch shares as another tool for managing fisheries. Members of Congress expressed their concern that NOAA's push to implement catch shares may be at the expense of other management responsibilities and fundamental data needs. Former ASMFC Commissioner and NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Eric Schwaab highlighted the benefits of catch share programs by pointing out successful examples already in place in the U.S.

Written testimonies and video coverage of both hearings can be found on the House Natural Resources Committee website (<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/>).



In Other Federal News...

Russell Dunn Selected as National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries -- NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator, Eric Schwaab, has selected Russell Dunn as the Service's National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries. As national advisor, Russell Dunn will work with anglers to address their interests as NOAA builds and implements an action agenda to provide for the long-term health of fish stocks and work to protect and enhance the significant social and economic benefits fisheries provide to anglers and to our coastal communities. Mr. Dunn will report directly to the NMFS Assistant Administrator.

In addition 22 members of the recreational fishing community have been appointed to a Recreational Fisheries Working Group to provide expertise to

NOAA's Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC). For more information please visit the NOAA website at http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100323_fisheries.html.

NOAA Releases Our Living Oceans: Report on the Status of U.S. Living Marine Resources -- A new NOAA report shows that the last decade has been a period of progress in rebuilding depleted fish stocks, sustaining many fisheries populations, and gaining a better understanding of the complex relationships between marine species and their habitats.

The report cites the Alaskan groundfish fisheries-walleye pollock, Pacific cod, rockfishes and Atka mackerel as prime examples of how managers and fishermen are working together to keep fish harvest rates at sustainable levels

while reducing risks to other species in the ecosystem, including marine mammals, juvenile fish and other fish species not being targeted. For more information, please visit the NOAA website at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/LivingOceans.html>.

Federal Agencies Propose ESA Listing Changes for Loggerhead Sea Turtle -- NOAA's Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have published a proposed rule soliciting comments on their joint preliminary findings that the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) is globally comprised of nine distinct population segments (DPSs) that qualify as "species" for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The proposed

continued on page 11

Science Highlight: NCCOS Publishes Report and Launches Web Tools for Assessment of Existing Information on Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat

NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science has completed a collaborative project titled, "Assessment of Existing Information on Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitats: Development of a web-based spatial bibliography, query tools, and data summaries." The report, which is published through a NOAA Technical Memorandum, describes the development of a spatial bibliography by linking standard bibliographic and relevant assessment information within a GIS-based spatial framework. It also provides summaries of key habitat condition indicators, and qualitative analyses of information on threats to habitat and conservation recommendations. Finally, it identifies a set of specific recommendations for improving the spatial bibliography, and applying it to other purposes in coastal conservation planning.

The bibliography is a comprehensive, searchable database of over 500 se-

lected documents and data sources on Atlantic coastal fish species and habitats. Key information captured for each entry includes basic bibliographic data, spatial footprint (e.g. waterbody or watershed), species and habitats covered, and electronic availability. Information on habitat condition indicators, threats, or conservation recommendations were extracted from approximately half of the bibliography entries and recorded in a separate linked table. Web-based query tools were developed to enable resource managers to access assessment information through a bibliographic query, spatial query, and indicators, threats, and/or action query.

The Assessment of Existing Information was developed to inform conservation planning by the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP), and the general approach is being applied towards the coastal

component of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) 2010 Assessment. A PDF version of the technical report, along with additional information, is available at <http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/ecosystems/estuaries/coastalfish.html>; the web-based query tools are accessible at <http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/bhv/spatbibindex.html>.

The work for the assessment was funded in part through a Multi-State Conservation grant awarded by contract through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on behalf of ACFHP. For more information on the report and web tools, please contact David Moe Nelson at (CCMA) at (301)713-3028 x154 or david.moe.nelson@noaa.gov. For more information on ACFHP, please contact Emily Greene at (202)289-6400 or egreene@asmfc.org.

ASMFC Releases "Living Shorelines: Impacts of Erosion Control Strategies on Coastal Habitats"

The Commission announces the release of the tenth publication in its habitat management series, entitled "Living Shorelines: Impacts of Erosion Control Strategies on Coastal Habitats." Living



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

shorelines, or soft shorelines, are an approach to shoreline stabilization that preserves natural sand edge or vegetated shoreline. An increasingly popular management strategy along the Atlantic coast, living shorelines not only control erosion but create environmentally desirable features, including habitat and vegetated buffers that improve water quality and reduce the effects of upland runoff. Unlike traditional bulkhead or revetment approaches to shoreline protection, living shorelines also tend to dissipate rather than reflect wave energy.

The document provides a brief overview of traditional erosion control methods and living shorelines, as well as the types of habitats that may be considered when creating living shorelines. It identifies the impacts of some shoreline erosion control measures on the environment, and presents examples of how various regulatory authorities are involved. To illustrate the value of living shorelines in a "real world" setting, the document provides a case study of their use in Maryland. This document should not be considered a complete review of existing living shorelines literature. That information can be found in other

continued on page 11



New England Anglers Introduced to Latest in Electronic Logbooks

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) participated in the New England Saltwater Fishing Show held in Providence, Rhode Island from March 19-21, 2010. The show was sponsored by the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association and brought in over 9,000 fishermen and party/charterboat captains from all over New England.

Interested show goers were able to learn about the latest application of the Standard Atlantic Fisheries information System (SAFIS), a product of ACCSP. Recreational logbooks, or eREC, are a web-based application that collects data from recreational anglers on a voluntary basis. Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey currently offer this program to recreational anglers.

The logbooks are a great way recreational anglers to monitor their fishing season and aid in their conservation efforts. The entered data are confidential and can only be accessed in aggregate. One of the best features of the eREC application is it allows recreational anglers to create reports of their fishing to see trends over time. Some of the reports that may be created include (vary by state): total

number of fish caught by species, total number of fish caught by month, and average length by species.

ACCSP would like to thank the Chair of the ACCSP Advisory Committee, Mr. Mike Bucko of Bucko's Tackle in Tiverton, RI, and a member of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, who was instrumental in helping secure a booth space at the show.

Here is a complete listing of the various applications of SAFIS:

Electronic Dealer Reporting (eDR): A web-based application that collects landings data from dealers. This may include species, condition, and price.

Electronic Trip Reporting (eTRIP): A web-based application that compiles catch and effort data from fishermen. Trip reports, or logbooks in some fisheries, provide catch and effort data from a permitted fishing entity (fishermen of a vessel) or a single vessel. A trip is any single round where fishing was attempted, regardless of catch. Trips may be categorized as *commercial*, *party/charter*, or *recreational*.

Recreational Logbooks (eREC): A web-based application that collects data from recreational anglers on a voluntary basis.

SAFIS Management System (SMS): A web-based application providing administrative tools to SAFIS administrators for management of information such as user accounts, participants, or permits. It is often used to monitor quotas.

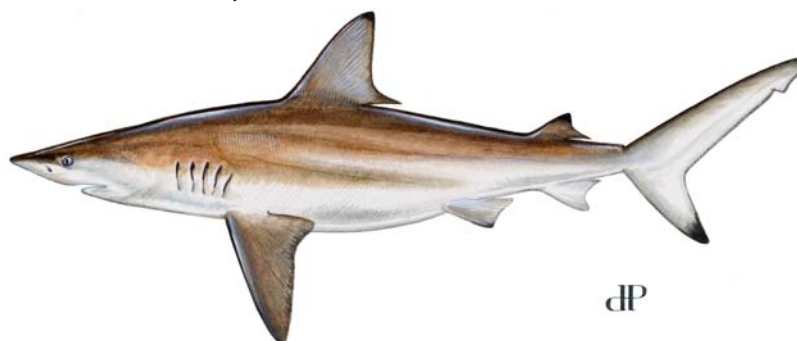
For more information, please contact Ann McElhatton, ACCSP Outreach Coordinator, at info@accsp.org or (202) 216-5690.



Each year the New England Saltwater Fishing Show has over 1000 vendors from along the Atlantic coast.

About ACCSP

ACCSP is 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.



In Other Federal News (continued from page 8)

rule published in the Federal Register on March 16th, formally announced the findings and requests comments on petitions to list the North Pacific and Northwest Atlantic populations of the loggerhead as DPSs with endangered status and proposes to list nine separate loggerhead DPSs worldwide, including the two petitioned populations. Comments must be submitted by June 14, 2010. For more information, please visit http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100310_loggerhead.html.

NOAA Takes Steps to Assure Fair and Effective Enforcement to Protect Resources -- On March 18th, NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco outlined specific steps the agency has taken and will take to assure that NOAA has an effective and fair enforcement program to protect fisheries and other marine resources that sustain the jobs and economic vibrancy of America's coastal communities, in response to a January review of the Commerce Department Inspector General.

The report details several actions already taken by NOAA, including:

- ◀ Transferring oversight of the Asset Forfeiture Fund, which holds fines imposed by NOAA, from NOAA's Fisheries Service to the NOAA comptroller.
- ◀ Freezing the hiring of criminal investigators until a work force analysis is completed and approved by Dr. Lubchenco that will address the appropriate mix of criminal investigators and civil enforcement officers.
- ◀ Requiring high-level review of all proposed charges for alleged violations and of all settlements by the general counsel.
- ◀ Filing a rule to place the burden of justifying a particular civil penalty or permit sanction on NOAA rather than the respondent in cases before administrative law judges.

The report also outlines a number of specific actions that the agency intends to take, including:

- ◀ Developing a new penalty policy, including a revision of the penalty and permit sanction schedules.
- ◀ Reviewing and revising NOAA law enforcement and general counsel operations manuals.
- ◀ Developing a communications plan to provide greater outreach to fishermen and fishing communities, and other fisheries stakeholders.

For more information, please visit http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100318_enforcement.html.

NOAA Announces Measures to Rebuild Blacknose Sharks, Manage Smooth Dogfish, and End Overfishing of Shortfin Mako Sharks -- NOAA's Fisheries Service has outlined new measures

to rebuild the populations of blacknose sharks, help end overfishing on shortfin mako sharks, and begin management of smooth dogfish. The public may review the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the measures, which are expected to go into effect this June. The new measures would place smooth dogfish under federal management for the first time, beginning in 2012. This open access fishery involves an estimated 223 vessel operators who use gillnets to fish for smooth dogfish in waters from North Carolina to New England. Conservation and management of the species, fished for food and its fins, would allow NOAA to collect data on fishing effort and information on the shark's life history to better understand its role in a healthy ocean ecosystem. For more information on this action and the federal register notice, see <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.

Living Shorelines (continued from page 9)

documents included in the bibliography. Appendix B suggests potential erosion control projects. The purpose of this document is to provide resource managers and the general public with a concise comparative discussion of the benefits of living shorelines, and a case study of successful projects to use for reference within their own programs.

"Living Shorelines: Impacts of Erosion Control Strategies on Coastal Habitats" is available on the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News, or through the direct link at <http://www.asmfc.org/publications/habitat/hms10LivingShorelines.pdf>. It is also available on CD-ROM; please send requests to info@asmfc.org (Subject line: Living Shorelines CD).

A limited amount of printed copies will be published. If you are interested in receiving one, please contact Tina Berger at tberger@asmfc.org or (202) 289-6400.

Other reports available through the Commission's habitat management series include:

- ◀ Atlantic Coast Diadromous Fish Habitat: A Review of Utilization, Threats, Recommendations for Conservation, and Research Needs (January 2009)
- ◀ The Importance of Habitat Created by Molluscan Shellfish to Managed Species along the Atlantic Coast of the United States (May 2007)
- ◀ Beach Nourishment: A Review of the Biological and Physical Impacts (November 2002)

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1444 Eye Street, N.W., 6th Floor
Washington D.C. 20005

Return Service Requested