



ASMFC

FISHERIES *focus*

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Robert K. Mahood Receives Prestigious David H. Hart Award

On October 17, 2001, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission proudly recognized the commitment of Robert K. Mahood to the conservation and management of Atlantic coast fisheries. The award was presented at the Commission's 60th Annual Meeting in Rockport, Maine.

This year's David H. Hart Award recipient has enjoyed a distinguished 31-year career in state and federal fisheries management. His contributions to the conservation of Atlantic coastal marine fisheries resources are numerous, long-term and represent a state as well as federal perspective.

Bob Mahood is one of our few colleagues who have served as director of the marine fisheries agency in two different states. After serving as the Director of Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, and the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, Bob was appointed Executive Director of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), in which capacity he has served since 1985.

Prior to Bob's appointment to the SAFMC staff, he served as a Council member for six years, representing the North Carolina and Georgia fisheries agencies during that time. Simultaneously, he served as an Administrative Commissioner to the Atlantic States Ma-

rine Fisheries Commission. Bob was a Council Scientific and Statistical Committee member from 1976 until 1980 and an ASMFC Advisory Committee member from 1975 until 1980.

Bob Mahood is one of the longest serving members of the ASMFC South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board, having represented the states with which he was affiliated from 1980 through 1985, and representing the

director capacity in 1983 - 1984 and again, wearing his Council hat, in 1998 - 1999.

Bob has championed the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) since its inception, committing significant Council personnel and fiscal resources to the Program's development and implementation. He has served on the Executive Committee representing all East Coast Council interests.

Bob Mahood has provided executive leadership to the Councils, forging compromises among the Executive Directors on contentious issues such as allocation of Congressional appropriations to the Councils, Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization issues, NMFS operational guidelines for the Councils, etc.. His administrative and executive leadership of the SAFMC has been a major contributing factor to the positive reputation that our Council enjoys in conserving living marine resources and essential fish habitat.



The 2001 David H. Hart Award winner, Robert Mahood, SAFMC Executive Director, joins past award recipients (from left to right) David Cupka (SC DNR), Susan Shipman (GA Coastal Resources Division), Gordon Colvin (NYSEDC), and Richard Schaefer (NMFS).

Council since the ISFMP Charter was crafted in 1984. Because of Bob's easy going demeanor and his institutional knowledge of state/federal fisheries management issues and strategies, the South Atlantic states brought the Council to the interstate fishery management planning table for species of interest to the South Atlantic. This in turn has served as a model for recent changes to the ISFMP Charter. Bob is unique in having chaired the South Atlantic Board in his state di-

The Commission instituted the "Captain David H. Hart Award" in 1991 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the betterment of marine fisheries on the Atlantic coast. The award is named for the Commission's oldest and longest-serving member, a Governor's Appointee from New Jersey who was dedicated to the advancement and protection of marine fishery re-

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 anadromous species. The fifteen member states of the Commission are: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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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

11/6 & 7:

ASMFC Striped Bass Plan Development Team, Holiday Inn BWI, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland; (410) 859-8400.

11/6 - 8:

New England Fishery Management Council, Tavern on the Harbor, Gloucester, Massachusetts.

11/ 13:

ASMFC Northern Shrimp Section, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, Maine.

11/13 - 16:

ASMFC Advanced Stock Assessment Training Subcommittee, Providence Biltmore, Kennedy Plaza, Providence, Rhode Island; (401) 421-0700.

11/29 & 30:

ASMFC Summer Flounder Regulatory Discards Workshop, Holiday Inn BWI, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland; (410) 859-8400.

12/3 (10:00 AM - Noon):

ASMFC South Atlantic State-Federal Fisheries Management Board, Blockade Runner, 275 Waynick Drive, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina; (800)541-1161.

12/3 - 7:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Blockade Runner, 275 Waynick Drive, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina; (800)541-1161.

12/4 & 5:

ACCSP For-Hire Subcommittee, Holiday Inn BWI, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland; (410) 859-8400.

12/11 & 12:

ACCSP Commercial Technical Committee, Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore, 2225 Lois Avenue, Tampa, Florida; (813) 877-6688.

12/12 & 13:

ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee, Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore, 2225 Lois Avenue, Tampa, Florida; (813) 877-6688.

12/11 - 13:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Sheraton Society Hill, One Dock Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; (215) 238-6000.

A prophet in his own time!! Yes!! Well, maybe only a weak and humble one. But if you remember my column last month, you will recall my waxing on about mid-coast Maine as the venue for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 60th Annual Meeting. And if you were there, you will have to admit how right I was. The crisp fall air along Penobscot Bay was invigorating, the Samoset Resort never more beautiful. Those who made it up the drive (or hiked!) to the top of Mount Battie had the chance to gaze down through the fall color on lovely Camden harbor, its coastal cruising schooners secured for the coming winter.

Oh yes, we had a meeting too! And a memorable one at that. The Maine Department of Marine Resources performed an outstanding service to our community with the support they provided to all of us during our week in Rockport and environs. There were a lot of knowing folks at the Owl's Head Museum looking longingly at the historic vehicles on display. Cathy Johnston, and Joe Fessenden along with the terrific folks from his Maine DMR Law Enforcement program, deserve special mention and thanks. We even surprised Laura Leach – quite an impossible task, I assure you from experience – with a celebration in honor of her completing twenty years of service with the Commission.

And oh yes, we also did business at our meeting! The highlights are recounted elsewhere in this issue of ASMFC Fisheries Focus. I was particularly glad to see the Commission continue its commitment to the implementation of its strategic plan. The working session for Commissioners to review the draft Action Plan for 2002 focused on a number of broad issues, and largely was a continuation of the momentum built at a similar discussion at the 59th Annual Meeting in Clearwater Beach the year before. We are entering the fourth year of the five-year plan. One of the things the Commissioners need to begin to focus on is where we go from here. We must begin with an assessment of where we are, how much progress we have made, what the new challenges are, and how the Commissioners and the staff leadership should respond. With an eye to the future, Chair Susan Shipman announced the formation of a Working Group on Staff Leadership. Many of us will be moving on in the coming years, passing the torch off to a new generation of runners. A recommitment to the direction that the states have worked so hard together to pursue, and to the type of leadership needed to sustain that direction and mo-

mentum must begin with an assessment of the challenges and opportunities that will make up the world that our successors must deal with.

We must start with the basic premise that supports mutual state action to promote and protect the productivity of marine fisheries: people care about their marine fisheries resources and want their governments to act as a public trustee for their interests. Even after September 11, we have to assume that this continues to be true. If people care about their resources and expect the states to secure the public trust, then the states must work together. There is no other way. In doing so, and in planning to do so for the future, it is also a reasonable assumption that the world twenty years from now will be at least as different as our world is from twenty years ago. Demographically, we will become older on average. A greater share of our retired population will be financially secure as we learn to save and provide for our own needs rather than rely solely on pensions and government payments. New technology and productivity go hand-in-hand. And in the relative short-term of the next decade, growth in productivity and new technologies (after seeming to take a breather at the moment) will pick up speed and dazzle our expectations. The continuing revolution in communications technology will begin to allow us to focus more and more on content, rather than the gee-whiz of the technology itself. Our marine fisheries constituency will change. We will come to see marine fisheries resources less for their intrinsic values, and more as assets for the various communities and constituencies that we serve.

The greatest challenge will be to maintain the commitment to partnership that the Commission embodies. It somehow runs against our nature to admit that our greatest long-term progress comes from working successfully together in the short-term. Beyond that, the next level of challenge is to maintain the commitment to the fiscal support for fisheries conservation and management. We should expect that post-September 11, the priorities for the federal budget have changed, perhaps dramatically. Where does natural resource conservation fit in those new priorities? It ought to be high on the list, since our resources are so much an integral part of the fabric of our way of life

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From The Executive Director's Desk (continued from page 3)

and our national spirit. But as our political processes turn to these new challenges, the "new normalcy" will look a lot like the old. In an economy driven by ideas and ideals, natural resource concerns will still have to compete with other priorities, and we must be the advocates for marine fishery resources.

After concerns about partnerships and funding, the Commissioners will have to take a hard look at what they can best do to support and carry out the mutual interest of the member states. Information and science will become an even more important focus of our activities, as our policy debates attempt to turn from emotion to reason. How can the Commission best support the partners in these decisions? And consider litigation – it is not going to go away for a while; and the best way to discourage future lawsuits is not to lose them. We will have to be more careful about the substance and the record of our decisions.

So here I go sounding like a futurist. But now is the time to begin planning for what is just over the horizon. One thing certain about the future is that it is coming. And we can either be pushed and squeezed by it; or we can shape it to achieve the goals that we share, that we all know are so important to the future of our country and our people.

Hart Award (continued from page 1)

sources. Past recipients of the award are: Irwin M. Alperin, longtime Executive Director of the Commission; Representative Walter B. Jones of North Carolina; Dr. Edwin B. Joseph with South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources; Richard H. Schaefer, Chief of Staff for Intergovernmental and Recreational Fisheries of the National Marine Fisheries Service; David G. Deuel of the National Marine Fisheries Service; Philip G. Coates, Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries; David M. Cupka of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources; and Sergeant Robert A. Babula, Conservation Officer with the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department; Gordon C. Colvin, Director of Marine Resources for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and Susan Shipman, Chief of Marine Fisheries, Georgia Coastal Resources Division.

For more information regarding the David H. Hart Award, please contact Laura Leach, Director of Finance and Administration, at (202) 289-6400.

ASMFC Extends Spiny Dogfish Emergency Action for Another Year

On October 15, 2001, the Commission announced that it would extend its Spiny Dogfish Emergency Action until January 31, 2003, and proceed to complete its fishery management plan (FMP) for spiny dogfish by the end of 2002. The Emergency Action requires the closure of state waters to the commercial harvest, landing and possession of spiny dogfish when there is a closure in federal waters.

For the new FMP, the Board identified an initial list of management options to be included in the Draft FMP. In developing its plan, the Board will seek to work cooperatively in parallel with the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils as they proceed with the development of Amendment 1 to the federal plan.

"The states continue to be committed to developing an effective joint management process with the Mid-Atlantic and New

England Fishery Management Councils and the federal government," stated John H. Dunnigan, ASMFC Executive Director. "From a process and management perspective, it just makes sense for the states and our regional and federal partners to work together in the development of an effective management program for spiny dogfish. By coordinating our activities, we not only consolidate staff and financial resources but work toward managing the resource in a seamless manner."

According to the current federal plan, the spiny dogfish fishery will reopen November 1, 2001 to allow fishermen to land the remaining annual quota for the 2001 fishing year. The fishery is managed through a four million-pound quota, divided into two periods (May 1 – October 31 and November 1 – April 30). Inherent in the Board's Emergency Action is its support for the federal FMP until the

Commission has something different that is agreed to by the states. The Board heard a presentation of recent scientific information that shows that the spiny dogfish stock continues to be declining, and is experiencing high fishing mortality.

"What this means is that the Commission will be working on its FMP throughout 2002," said Mr. Dunnigan. "If we stick to this schedule, the eventual state program, whatever it is going to provide, will not be in effect for the summer fishery next year."

In other business, the Board elected John Connell, a Governor's Appointee from New Jersey, as the new chair of the Board. For more information, please contact Megan Gamble, Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan Coordinator at (202) 289-6400, ext. 317.

ASMFC Honors Past Maine Commissioner, Past Chair and Longtime Staffer at 60th Annual Meeting

At its 60th Annual Meeting in Rockport, Maine, the Commission had much to celebrate. Following the September 11 incidents, it was simply a pleasure to see old friends and colleagues, and reaffirm our commitment to working together for the conservation and management of Atlantic coastal resources.

But, on a more formal note, the Commission also had a chance to honor the accomplishments of three individuals who have made a difference to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, specifically and Atlantic coastal fisheries, in general.

The first honoree was past ASMFC Legislative Commissioner -- the Honorable Senator Jill Goldthwait from the State of Maine. At a Monday evening reception at the Farnsworth Museum, Senator Goldthwait received the Commission's 2001 Annual Award of Excellence in the areas of Legislative, Management and Policy activities.

The Award was first dedicated to Senator Goldthwait at the Commission's 2001 Spring Meeting back in April, but because of her busy schedule the Senator was not able to accept the Award in person at the time. The Commission meeting in Maine provided a perfect opportunity to see Senator Goldthwait once more and honor her for the many contributions she brought to the Commission.

From the Commission's perspective, Senator Goldthwait has made significant and lasting contributions to refining the way it conducts business — operation-

ally as well as in the management arena. She challenged the Commission to take a long hard look at itself, and championed the concept that the Commission is accountable to the public and its credibility is determined by its responsiveness to its constituents. Her challenge resulted in significant and positive changes in the way the Commission structures, advertises and schedules meeting dates and times.

While with the Commission, Senator Goldthwait served actively on many Commission boards and committees, and in some instances took the lead as Chair as in the case of the Northern Shrimp Section and Legislators Section. She was instrumental in the revised ISFMP procedures, which now provides for the participation of all commissioners from interested states in the fisheries management planning process through caucus voting.

The second honoree was longtime Commission staffer Laura C. Leach, who on November 3, 2001 celebrated her 20th year with the Commission. It would be fair to say that Laura grew up at the Commission, having begun in her early 20s as the Commission's bookkeeper. Since then, she has held a number of important positions at the Commission, including Executive Assistant, Assistant Director, and Interim Executive Director. For the past ten years, she has held the position of Director of Finance and Administration.



Senator Jill Goldthwait accepts the Commission's 2001 Annual Award of Excellence, with David Cupka, Award Chair and Governor's Appointee from South Carolina (at left), and Susan Shipman, ASMFC Chair and Chief of Marine Fisheries for Georgia Coastal Resources (at right).



ASMFC Chair, Susan Shipman presents David V.D. Borden (Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management) with the Chairman's Award of Appreciation.

The last honoree of the Annual Meeting was past Commission Chair and Vice-Chair, David V.D. Borden, who received an award in acknowledgment of the many accomplishments he achieved during his tenure as Chair (1998 - 2000) and Vice-Chair (1996 - 1998). Over that time, David was instrumental in the development of the Commission's first five-year Strategic Plan; and he played a major role in improving the way in which the Commission conducts business. He also ushered in the time when the Legislators and Governor's Appointees became equal players the Commission's fisheries management processes, and he made huge strides in the way the Commission conducts its advisory panel process and outreach activities.



Laura C. Leach, ASMFC Director of Finance & Administration with ASMFC Executive Director, John H. Dunnigan, and ASMFC Chair, Susan Shipman.

ASMFC Approves Draft Lobster Addendum III for Public Input

On October 16, 2001, the Commission approved Draft Addendum III to Amendment 3 to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for public review and comment. The Addendum incorporates the alternative management programs for Lobster Conservation Management Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Outer Cape Cod as developed by the respective Lobster Conservation Management Teams (LCMTs).

Many of the states from Maine through New Jersey will be holding public meetings throughout November to gather public comment of the Addendum (see opposite page for details on currently scheduled meetings).

“The LCMTs have worked long and hard to develop area management programs to meet the egg rebuilding schedule and targets established by Addendum II to the plan,” stated Gordon Colvin, Chair of the ASMFC Lobster Board and Administrative Commissioner from New York. “And, in some cases this has been no easy task. They are the reason why Atlantic coastal lobster management works and the

Board commends them for their willingness to do what is necessary to conserve this valuable resource.”

Addendum III was developed in response to an Addendum II requirement whereby each LCMT was asked to review the revised egg rebuilding schedule, the previous LCMT recommendation, and the area management program, if any and present to the Board alternative measures that will achieve the stock rebuilding targets.

Specifically, the Draft Addendum proposes new management measures applicable to commercial fishing in Lobster Management Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and Outer Cape Cod, which provide for the following:

Area 1 (Gulf of Maine) – Escape vent size increase to 2-inch in 2007 (if necessary), zero tolerance definition of v-notching, and mandatory v-notching requirements;

Area 3 (Offshore) – Mandatory v-notching requirements (above the 42° 30' latitude in Gulf of Maine), five-mile overlap boundary between Areas 3 and 5, and a choose and use provision;

Area 4 (Southern New England) – Minimum gauge size increases, maximum gauge size (if necessary);

Area 5 (Mid-Atlantic) – Minimum gauge size increases, maximum gauge size (if necessary), vessel upgrade limit;

Area 6 (New York & Connecticut State Waters) – Minimum gauge size increases (if necessary), escape vent size increase (if necessary); and

Outer Cape Cod – Minimum gauge size increases, trap reduction schedule, annual trap transfer period and passive reductions, and additional contingency measures.

Copies can be obtained via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org or by contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400 or <vjones@asmfc.org>. Public comment will be accepted until December 31, 2001, and should be forward to Heather Stirratt, FMP Coordinator, 1444, Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (fax) or <hstirratt@asmfc.org>.

ASMFC Approves Draft Herring Addendum II for Public Input

On October 18, 2001, the Commission approved Draft Addendum II to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Sea Herring for public review and comment. The states of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Jersey will be holding public meetings throughout November and early December to gather public comment on the Draft Addendum (see opposite page for details on currently scheduled meetings).

Draft Addendum II presents options for the seasonal allocation of total allowable catch (TAC) for Management Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) of the FMP. This split is designed to alleviate the possibility of an early closure in Area 1A due to the fishery attaining the annual TAC before the end of the fishing year. Two potential causes for an early closure in 1A are: (1) the harvest capacity exceeds the Area 1A TAC; and (2) the cost of harvesting herring from 1A is generally less than that for herring caught in areas farther offshore. This latter factor can create harvester conflict and a “derby-style” fishery. If a closure of

Area 1A occurs before the end of the season (the end of November as determined by the demand for herring as lobster bait), as it did in 2000, some vessels will not be able to continue fishing in other management areas due to their size and vessel safety concerns. Also, some users or communities may not be able to obtain herring to meet the demand for bait. Additionally, the Draft Addendum also specifies the procedures to be followed for Internal Waters Processing (IWP) requests and recommendations to the states.

Copies of the Addendum can be obtained via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org or by contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400 or <vjones@asmfc.org>. Public comment will be accepted until January 15, 2002, and should be forward to Dr. Joseph Desfosse, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1444, Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (fax) or <jdесfosse@asmfc.org>.

States Schedule Public Meetings of Draft Lobster & Herring Addenda

HERRING PUBLIC MEETINGS*

November 28, 2001; 7:00 PM

Maine Department of Marine Resources
Casco Bay Ferry Terminal
Conference Room
Commercial Street
Portland, Maine
Contact: Lewis Flagg at (207)624-6548

November 29, 2001; 7:00 PM

Maine Department of Marine Resources
Maine Marine Patrol Office
Conference Room
Rockland Ferry Terminal
Rockland, Maine
Contact: Lewis Flagg at (207)624-6548

* Other meetings may be scheduled.

LOBSTER PUBLIC MEETINGS*

November 14, 2001; 7:00 PM

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Stratford Ramada
225 Lordship Boulevard
Stratford, Connecticut
Contact: Ernest Beckwith at (860) 434-6043

November 15, 2001; 7:00 PM

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
333 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, Connecticut
Contact: Ernest Beckwith at (860) 434-6043

November 28, 2001; 7:30 PM

New York Department of Environmental Conservation
205 North Belle Meade Road
East Setauket, New York
Contact: Gordon Colvin at (631) 444-0430

December 5, 2001; 7:00 PM

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
University of Rhode Island
Coastal Institute Conference & Visitor Center, Room A & B
220 South Ferry Road
Narragansett, Rhode Island
Contact: Brian Murphy at (401) 782-4713

December 12, 2001; 7:30 PM

New Hampshire Fish & Game
Urban Forestry Center
Elwyn Road
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
Contact: Clare McBane at (603) 868-1095 or
<cmcbane@starband.net>

* Maine, New Jersey and Maryland will also be conducting meetings. For more information, please contact George Lapointe, Maine Department of Marine Resources, at (207) 624-6553; Bruce Freeman, New Jersey Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife, at (609) 292-2083; and Eric Schwaab, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, at (410) 260-8281.

COMBINED HERRING & LOBSTER PUBLIC MEETINGS

December 10, 2001; 7:00 PM

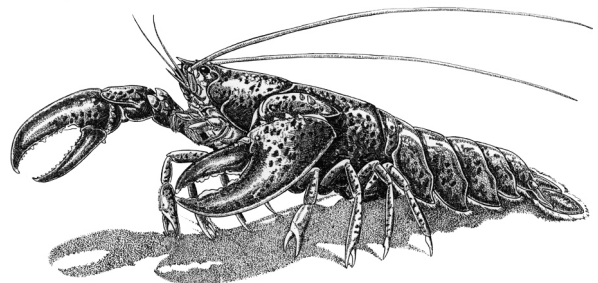
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Division of Law Enforcement Office
Hewitt's Cove
349 Lincoln Street, Building 45
Hingham, Massachusetts
Contact: Jim Fair at (617) 626-1534

December 11, 2001; 7:00 PM

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Gloucester Fuller School
Blackburn Circle
Gloucester, Massachusetts
Contact: Jim Fair at (617) 626-1534

December 12, 2001; 7:00 PM

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Massachusetts Maritime Academy Auditorium
101 Academy Drive
Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts
Contact: Jim Fair at (617) 626-1534



The ACCSP Welcomes Trip Data from Maryland

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Service is the first of the 23 partners of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) to provide a monthly feed of its commercial catch and effort data to the Program's data management system.

Maryland's monthly trip-level landings are currently being used to test the system's functionality. Commercial trip-level catch and effort data are the foundation of the ACCSP's coast-wide data set. "It's great to have data from Maryland to get us started," said Mike Cahall, Information Systems Program Manager, "Connie Lewis and the rest of the staff at Maryland's Fisheries Service have been great to work with."

How They Did It

Commercial catch and effort data collection and data management for coastal fisheries is crucial in maintaining any state's abundant fish stocks and protecting the livelihood of thousands of citizens. As an ACCSP partner, Maryland has worked diligently to collect commercial catch and effort data.

In June of 2000, Maryland's state permitted commercial vessel captains fishing the state's Atlantic shore and ocean-side bays began filling out trip reports for blue crab and finfish on logbooks provided by the state. Seafood dealers had already been reporting trip-level landings of oysters and clams. Maryland fisheries managers were careful to consider the burden of reporting to the industry. Federally permitted watermen were already reporting trip-level data to the National Marine Fisheries Service ("NOAA Fisheries"), so they were not required to submit state reports.

In 2001, the ACCSP funded further trip-level reporting for Maryland. Blue crab trip reporting was expanded statewide, and trip-level landings of finfish were required of more Maryland residents and all nonresidents who landed catches in the state. With these new catch and effort data, a more complete picture of the commercial fisheries in and around Maryland is taking shape.

Expanding mandatory trip-level reporting to all species commercially harvested in the state will meet the ACCSP's standard for commercial catch and effort data

collection. The expectation of Maryland's Fisheries Service is to continue its phased-in approach until that standard is met. "The ACCSP is pleased to have such rapid implementation of its standards in Maryland," says Joe Moran, Program Manager, "We are sure that Maryland will reap the benefits of the Program soon."

About the ACCSP

The ACCSP is a state and federal coastal marine fisheries data collection and data management Program. It is composed of representatives from natural resource management agencies coast-wide, including the ASMFC, the three regional fisheries management councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the District of Columbia Fisheries Division, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Together these resource managers have developed a plan to cooperatively collect, manage and disseminate fishery statistical data for the Atlantic coast and to support the development and operation of a national program. For more information, please contact Abbey Compton, ACCSP Outreach Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or abbey.compton@accsp.org.

The 10th Annual Laura Leach Fishing Tournament Raises Big Bucks for Kids Fishing

The Tenth Annual Laura Leach Fishing Tournament was not only fun for all who were able to participate, but it was again successful in its goal of surpassing funds raised the previous year. All of the money raised from the tournament entry fee will help to support the children's fishing programs sponsored by the Coastal Conservation Association "New Tide" Youth Membership Program.

Grateful appreciation is once again extended to all who entered the tournament – most folks entered the tournament even though they knew that they would not have an opportunity to fish, and several people purchased tee-shirts for their friends and family back home.

Special thanks are extended to the tournament sponsors -- Ducktrap River Fish Farm, DeLorme Mapping Company, Lunker City Fishing Specialists, Maine Department of Inland,

Fish & Wildlife, Maine Lottery Commission, Masters Machine, New England Detroit Diesel, Recreational Boating & Fishing Association, Reny's Dept. Store, Saco Bay Tackle, Company, Shakespeare Fishing & Tackle (Columbia, South Carolina), and the Tackle Shop. It is because of the generosity of these individuals and companies that we are able to give 100% of the tournament entry fee to charity each year.

The big winner at this year's tournament was New Hampshire Commissioner, Ritchie White landing winning catches in several categories. Other winners included Eileen Setzler-Hamilton and Joe Hamilton, and Craig Livingston.

For more information, please contact Laura Leach, Director of Finance & Administration at (202) 289-6400 or lleach@asmfc.org.

Management & Science Committee Addresses Research Issues

The Management and Science Committee (MSC) met during the October 2001 Annual Meeting and discussed several issues involving the ISFMP and Commission research activities.

Stock Assessment Peer Review Process

The Committee reviewed an update to the Commission's Stock Assessment Peer Review Process. This update provided clarification and elaboration of the procedures, standards, and timelines for conducting a stock assessment peer review. The update also attempted to clarify the expectations of what a peer review would and would not provide, and what should be included in the peer review. The Committee also addressed issues involving the accommodation of changes to the stock assessment during the peer review, finalization of peer review findings, and providing advice on stock status. The ISFMP Policy Board expressed concerns and requested that the MSC continue developing modifications to this process. A long-term schedule for stock assessment peer reviews was developed and has been accepted by the ISFMP Policy Board as guidance to ISFMP Management Boards and Commission staff. The Committee recognized that shifting priorities may cause modification of this schedule and recommended periodic review by the MSC in order to monitor and develop recommendations on workload issues.

Invasive Species

The MSC and Habitat Committee discussed issues involving invasive species during a joint session. During 2002, the Committees will monitor ongoing activities involving invasive species, such as the Invasive Species National Task Force, the Chesapeake Bay Ballast Task Force and the Great Lakes Invasive Species Plan. The Committees will develop recommendations on how to coordinate Atlantic coast efforts with these other regional and national activities.

Aquaculture

A draft document titled *Guidance in Support of Development of Sustainable Aquaculture Activities in Atlantic Coast States* has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by the Commission's MSC, Habitat Committee, and Law Enforcement Committee. This document provides recommendations to state fishery and aquaculture agencies on issues that should be considered in the development of sustainable state aquaculture activities. The document is intended to be a guidance document to state agencies and is not intended to be used by the Commission for management purposes.

Multispecies Assessments

The MSC conducted a workshop on a multispecies assessment model for Atlantic menhaden and several key predator species. This model will be forwarded to the Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee for evaluation and use in the assessment and management of this species. The model is currently focused on multispecies interactions in the Atlantic menhaden assessment, but will be expanded to include interactions in the assessments of striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish.

Conservation Equivalency

The MSC also facilitated a policy level workshop on use of conservation equivalency in Commission fishery management plans. General recommendations for improving this process were developed during this workshop and have been referred back to the MSC for further development.

Other activities being conducted by the MSC include development of methods for integrating power plant mortality estimates into fishery assessment models, review and oversight to the Cooperative Interstate Tagging Program, and the development of recommendations to improve the functioning of Commission technical support groups. For more information, please contact Dr. Lisa Kline, Director of Research Statistics, at <lcline@asmfc.org>.

Last Chance to Participate in Summer Flounder Regulatory Discards Workshop!

On November 29-30, 2001 at the Holiday Inn BWI in Linthicum, Maryland, the Commission will be conducting a workshop to address regulatory discards of summer flounder. This species and the fisheries involved will function as a case study with which to evaluate how well a detailed plan for reducing regulatory discards can be identified, developed, and integrated into a fishery management plan. This workshop will be the first step in the process. The goal of the workshop is to provide a solution-driven forum where realistic options are identified to reduce regulatory discards, or increase the utilization of bycatch of summer flounder in the summer flounder and other fisheries.

The workshop will be geared towards the Summer Flounder Advisory Panel, members of the Summer Flounder Management Board, Summer Flounder Technical Committee, Management and Science Committee, and Committee on Economics & Social Sciences. Other participants are encouraged to attend. If you are interested in attending the workshop, please contact Darren Benjamin, Fisheries Research Specialist, at (202) 289-6400, ext 309 or <dbenjamin@asmfc.org>.

Resolution of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in Support of Resource Enforcement During Time of Crisis

Whereas, the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 resulted in diversion of some law enforcement resources from the area of marine resource enforcement; and

Whereas, enforcement of living marine resource regulations is a crucial component of effective marine resource management is a requirement to carry out the public trust responsibility for the sustainability of common property resources; and

Whereas, some individuals may attempt to take advantage of the present focus by law enforcement on National Security issues to violate marine resource management regulations

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission recommends to the criminal and civil penalty authorities of the federal and state governments prosecutors, judicial and administrative, that any person who violates federal and/or state marine resource regulations in a manner that takes advantage of the present national crisis, be assessed the maximum penalties by law, such as fines, seizures, and lengthy permit sanctions; and strongly encourage its member states to take actions to effectuate these recommendations within their jurisdictions.

Done this 18th day of October 2001, in Rockport, Maine.

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

Return Service Requested