

RESOLUTION 93-1

Support of Federal Legislation Strengthening Wetlands Protection, Control of Polluted Runoff,

and Improving the National Estuary Program

WHEREAS the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, comprised of the 15 states bordering the Atlantic Ocean and its tributaries, is charged with the overall management of the fisheries under its jurisdiction; and,

WHEREAS healthy and sufficient marine habitat and good water quality are vital to the health of Atlantic coast fisheries; and,

WHEREAS coastal wetlands continue to be lost at a rate of 64 square miles per year; and,

WHEREAS nonpoint source pollution, which includes oils, heavy metals, pesticides, silt, fertilizers, herbicides, and bacteria from streets, sewer systems, lawns, farms, timberlands, boats, and other sources, is currently the most significant cause of water Pollution; and,

WHEREAS water pollution in estuarine areas has resulted in the closure Of many shellfish beds along the Atlantic coast and health advisories on the consumption of certain marine finfish; and,

WHEREAS reauthorization of the Clean Water Act is scheduled for the 103rd Congress,- and,

WHEREAS H.R. 350 and S. 1195 would strengthen wetlands protection; H.R. 2543 would control polluted runoff; and H.R. 1720 and S. 815 would strengthen the National Estuary Program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission recognizes the pressing need for legislation to protect marine habitat and coastal water quality, and strongly supports the adoption of the legislation by the 103rd Congress, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to accomplish these purposes a copy of this resolution be forwarded to members of the U.S. Congress. *Adopted at the ASMFC Annual Meeting, November 14-18, 1993, Newport, RI.*