

HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF ASMFC MILESTONES

1941

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

1942

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

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

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

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

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

1943

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

1945

The Commission meets without wartime restrictions for the first time.

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

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

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

1947

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

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

1949

John B. Bindloss of Connecticut is elected ASMFC Chair.

North Carolina ratifies the Compact on June 10th, completing the Commission's membership.

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

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

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

1950

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

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

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

1951

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

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

1952

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

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

1953

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

1954

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

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

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

1955

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

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

1956

J. Berdan Miller of Georgia is elected Commission Chair.

Fish & Wildlife Act of 1956 reorganizes the USFWS and creates the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

1957

Francis W. Sargent of Massachusetts is elected Commission Chair.

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

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

1959

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1960

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

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

1961

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

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

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

1962

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

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

1963

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

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

1964

Ronald W. Green of Maine is elected Commission Chair.

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

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

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

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

1965

24th Annual Meeting, held in Miami, is a joint venture with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. Commissioners from both organizations hear lectures with such titles as "Glamorize and Merchandize," and "The West German Fisheries Go Modern."

1966

Milton T. Hickman of Virginia is elected Commission Chair.

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

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

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

1967

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

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

1968

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

Commission's Biological Committee is redesigned as the **Advisory Committee**.

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

1969

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

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

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

1970

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1973

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

1974

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

1975

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

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

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

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

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

1976

Congress enacts P.L. 94-265, the **Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976**, extending US fishing jurisdiction out to 200 miles and providing for the establishment of eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. **NMFS proposes establishment of four regional data centers**

(Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest) to acquire data concerning catch, effort, licenses, fees value, and management.

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

1977

Theodore B. Bampton of Connecticut is elected Commission Chair.

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

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

1978

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

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

1979

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

Commission chooses the theme "**Implementing Interstate Fisheries Management in the Territorial Sea**" for its 38th Annual Meeting and asks the question, "Is the Commission the vehicle to manage the territorial sea?"

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

1980

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

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

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

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

1981

Spencer Apollonio of Maine is elected Commission Chair.

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

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

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

1982

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

Commission adopts the **Summer Flounder FMP**.

1983

Ralph W. Abele of Pennsylvania is elected Commission Chair.

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

1984

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

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

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

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

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

1985

Elton J. Gissendanner of Florida is elected Commission Chair.

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

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

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

1986

ISFMP is reorganized and streamlined.

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

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

1987

Robert A. Jones of Connecticut is elected Commission Chair.

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

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

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

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

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

1988

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

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

1989

Duane Harris of Georgia is elected Commission Chair.

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

Commission adopts **Bluefish FMP**.

Chair Bob Jones notes at the 48th Annual Meeting that with the onset of the ISFMP, the Commission has become an **organization of significant consequence**. It is not uncommon to find the Commission named in articles and reports in the daily newspaper and in magazines catering to sportsmen and commercial fisheries.

1990

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

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

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

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

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

1991

Philip G. Coates of Massachusetts is elected Commission Chair.

John H. Dunnigan is hired as Executive Director.

Annual budget totals \$770,000.

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

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

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

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

1992

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

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

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

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

1993

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

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

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

1994

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

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

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

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

Commission receives “**Excellence in Sport Fisheries Management Award**” from the American Sport Fishing Association.

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

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

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

1995

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

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

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

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

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

Atlantic striped bass stocks are declared recovered.

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

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

Commission establishes the **Management & Science Committee (MSC)**, composed of state and federal representatives, to carry out assignments at the specific request of the Commission,

Executive Committee, or the ISFMP Policy Board, and provides advice to these bodies concerning fisheries management and the science of coastal marine fisheries.

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

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

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

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

1996

Paul A. Sandifer of South Carolina elected Commission Chair.

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

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

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

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

1997

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1998

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1999

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

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

Commission establishes Internet presence by launching new website (**www.asmfc.org**).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commission approves creation of **NEAMAP** (Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program) to provide coordination of existing fisheries-independent data collection programs in the Northeast and develop new programs to fill in gaps in sampling coverage.
Northern Shrimp Section approves use of **double Nordmore Grate** and cod end strengthener to reduce finfish bycatch.

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

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

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

2000

Susan Shipman of Georgia is elected Commission Chair.

Striped Bass Conservation Act reauthorized.

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

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

States reduce coastwide commercial **horseshoe crab bait landings** by 25%.

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

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

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

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

2001

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2002

John Nelson of New Hampshire is elected Commission Chair.

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

Vince O'Shea is hired as the Executive Director.

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

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

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

Aquaculture Guidance Document released.

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

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

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

Commission presents Annual Awards Excellence to **CAPTAIN JIM HANLON**, Massachusetts Environmental Police; **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES MARINE PATROL**; **STEVEN DRISCOLL**, New Hampshire; **TOM O’CONNELL**, Maryland Department of Natural Resources; and **DOUG VAUGHAN**, NOAA Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research.

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

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

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

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

Commission bestows the Chairman’s Award for Distinguished Meritorious Service to **SENATOR JUDD GREGG (NH)**.

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

2003

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

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

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

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

Commission presents Annual Awards Excellence to **SERGEANT FRANCIS FLOOR**, Rhode Island Department of Environmental; **SPECIAL AGENT KEVIN FLANAGAN**, NOAA Fisheries, Office of Law Enforcement; **NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE, MARINE LAW ENFORCEMENT**

REGION, DISTRICT 8; JEAN FLEMMMA, former legislative staff for the House of Representatives Committee on Resources; **John Mason**, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; **Stu Kennedy**, Ph.D., Florida Marine Research Institute; **DR. EILEEN SETZLER-HAMILTON**, Potomac River Fisheries Commission-posthumously; and **COLONEL CLARENCE WAYNE LEE**, North Carolina-posthumously.

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

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

JACK TRAVESTEAD, Chief of Fisheries Management for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 63rd Annual Meeting in New York City.

2004

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

Commission bestows the *Chairman's Award for Distinguished Meritorious Service* to **SENATOR OWEN JOHNSON (NY)**.

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

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

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

Commission presents Annual Awards Excellence to **MAJOR BRUCE BUCKSON**, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; **CAPTAIN HERB DRAKE**, New Hampshire; and **ARTIE ODLIN**, Maine.

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

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

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

DR. WILLIAM HOGARTH, NOAA's Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, is presented the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 64th Annual Meeting in New Castle, New Hampshire.

2005

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

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

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

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

Commission presents Annual Awards Excellence to **WILLARD "BILL" COLE** of the US Fish and Wildlife Service; **LEWIS FLAGG** of the Maine Department of Marine Resources; **DAVID WHALEY**, Senior Staff for Fisheries Policy for the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans; **DOUGLAS GROUT** of the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department; and **GARY SHEPARD** of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

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

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

CHIEF ROB WINKEL, former Deputy Director for New Jersey Law Enforcement, is presented the *Captain David A. Hart Award* at the Commission's 65th Annual Meeting in Galloway, New Jersey.

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

2006

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

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

Commission presents Annual Awards of Excellence to **LIEUTENANTS DON MCMILLEN** and **CAMILLE SOVEREL**, **INVESTIGATORS TONY HOWELL** and **AL CORFIELD** of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Law Enforcement; **SUSAN OLSEN**, Grants Team Leader with NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region's State-Federal and Constituent Program Office; **ROBERT GLENN** of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries; **ANDREW KAHNLE** of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and **BYRON YOUNG**, formerly of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

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

George Lapointe of Maine is elected Commission Chair.

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

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

2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commission presents Annual Awards of Excellence to **FRED SCHWAB, DR. JOHN MERRINER**, formerly of the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Beaufort Laboratory, and **COLONEL JOSEPH FESSENDEN**, Maine Bureau of Marine Patrol.

PRESTON P. PATE, JR., former Director of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries receives the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 66th Annual Meeting in Annapolis, Maryland.

2008

Commission presents Annual Awards of Excellence to **DR. DAVID PIERCE** with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, **DR. GARY NELSON** with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, **SERGEANT FRANCES ETHIER** with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Division of Law Enforcement, and **JOHN CARMICHAEL** of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commission presents Annual Awards of Excellence to **ROY MILLER** with the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife, **RICK ROBBINS, DR. DAVID SMITH** with the US Geological Survey, and **WAYNE HETTENBACH** of the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division (Interagency Watershed Taskforce)

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

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

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

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

JOHN I. NELSON JR. posthumously receives *Captain David H. Hart Award*.

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

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

2010

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

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

Commission presents Annual Awards of Excellence to **VITO CALOMO** (Legislative category), **DR. MARK TERCEIRO** of the National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and **KIM MCKOWN** of the New York State Department of Conservation (Scientific, Technical, and Advisory category) at its Spring Meeting.

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

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

ASMFC purchases office space in Arlington, VA, moving out of Washington D.C.

JOHN E. FRAMPTON receives *Captain David H. Hart Award*.

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approves Addendum II to Amendment 6. The Addendum revises the definition of juvenile recruitment failure based on a recommendation from the Striped Bass Technical Committee.

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

2011

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

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

South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board approves Atlantic Croaker

Addendum I to Amendment I to change the management unit to one region (New Jersey through the east coast of Florida) and modify the biological reference points used to assess stock condition.

Tautog Management Board approves Addendum VI in response to the latest scientific advice that the stock continues to be overfished with overfishing occurring.

Commission presents **Annual Awards of Excellence to MICHAEL HOWARD (Law Enforcement), CHARLES WENNER, DR. DOUGLAS S. VAUGHAN, DR. ERIK H. WILLIAMS, MR. JOSEPH W. SMITH and MS. ETHEL A. HALL** (Scientific, Technical, and Advisory).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2012

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

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

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

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

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

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

DR. JOHN SWEKA (USFWS) receives the Commission **Technical Achievement Award** for his significant contributions to the assessments of horseshoe crab, river herring, American eel, and Atlantic striped bass. He is the first recipient of this new award.

The Annual Awards of Excellence 2012 recipients are **DENNIS F. ABBOTT** (Legislative), **RITCHIE WHITE** (Management and Policy), **WILLIAM T. WINDLEY** (Scientific, Technical and Advisory), and **MAJOR HAROLD KNUDSEN** (Law Enforcement).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commission presents **GEORGE LAPOINTE**, long-time ASMFC Commissioner and former Maine Commissioner of Marine Resources, the *Captain David H. Hart Award*, at the Commission's 71st Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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

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

Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership bestowed the first *Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award* upon **DR. WILSON LANEY** of the US Fish and Wildlife Service for his exemplary work in furthering the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fishes.

Commission approves Amendment 2 to the Atlantic Menhaden FMP. The Amendment established a 170,8000 MT total allowable catch (TAC) beginning in 2013 and continuing until completion of, and Board action on, the next benchmark stock assessment scheduled for 2014. The Amendment also established requirements for timely reporting and improved biological monitoring.

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

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

2013

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

Toni Kerns, a veteran ASMFC Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Coordinator, was named **Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Director**.

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

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

Commission and National Marine Fisheries Service's Northeast Region co-host a workshop to discuss **technological solutions to reduce sea turtle and Atlantic sturgeon bycatch in southern New England and Mid-Atlantic gillnet fisheries**.

2013 Annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the Spring meeting to the following recipients: For Management and Policy Contributions: **WILLIAM J. GOLDSBOROUGH**, Chesapeake Bay Foundation; **THOMAS W. MCCLOY**, New Jersey Marine Fisheries Administration; **DR. MALCOLM RHODES**, South Carolina Governor Appointee to the Commission; **ROBERT J. ROSS, JR.**, NOAA Fisheries Northeast. For Law Enforcement Contributions: **WAYNE HETTENBACH** and **PATRICK DUGGAN**, US Department of Justice; **SPECIAL AGENT JAMES CASSIN, JR.**, **SPECIAL AGENT JEFFREY RAY**, **CAPTAIN MARK CARNALE**, **CONSERVATION OFFICER CRAIG JAMES**, **CONSERVATION OFFICER JEREMY TREMBLEY**, **LIEUTENANT KARL YUNGHANS**; and **CAPTAIN DOROTHY THUMM** (retired), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

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

American Lobster Management Board approves Addendum XX, formalizing measures for bottom sharing in Closed Area II of Georges Bank to prevent gear conflicts and protect large concentrations of egg bearing females.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Atlantic Herring Section approved **Addendum VI**, refining Commission specification processes.

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

American Lobster Management Board approves Addendum XXI, modifying the trap transferability program for Areas 2 and 3 allowing for flexibility in the movement of traps.

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

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

WILLIAM GOLDSBOROUGH of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation receives the **2013 Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award**.

DR. ALEXI SHAROV and **JIM GARTLAND** are presented with the Commission's **Annual Award of Excellence** for their outstanding contributions to the field of fisheries science.

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

2014

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

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

2014 Annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the Spring meeting to the following recipients: For Management and Policy Contributions: **MICHAEL P. LUISI**, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Service; For Scientific, Technical and Advisory Contributions: **PAUL CARUSO**, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries; **DR. ROBERT LATOUR**, Virginia Institute of Marine Science; **CHERI PATTERSON**, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department; For Law Enforcement Contributions: the state and federal members of the joint enforcement team Operation Lookout - **CAPTAIN JOHN CRAFT** and **SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR JERRY SIMPSON**, Virginia Marine Police; Special Agents **SARA BLOCK**, **TRACEY WOODRUFF**, and **STEVEN NIEMI**, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement; and Trial Attorney **James Nelson**, US Department of Justice.

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

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

Commission adopts **Policy on Commissioner's Financial Disclosure and Conflict of Interest** designed to bolster accountability to the public and stakeholders through increased transparency.

ASMFC presents *Captain David H. Hart Award* to **PATRICK AUGUSTINE** at its 73rd Annual Meeting in Mystic, Connecticut.

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approves Addendum IV to Amendment 6, establishing new fishing mortality reference points.

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

Spiny Dogfish Management Board approves Addendum V to ensure consistency in spiny dogfish management with the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 by prohibiting processing-at-sea, including the removal of fins. An implementation date of May 1, 2015 was set.

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

EMILY GREENE receives the **2014 Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award** given by the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership for her exemplary work in furthering the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fishes.

2015

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

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

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

Commission presented its **Annual Awards of Excellence** to **STEVEN HEINS**, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; **DR. MATTHEW CIERI, PH.D.**, Maine Department of Marine Resources; **JEFFREY BRUST**, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Fisheries Administration; **MICHAEL HENDRICKS (retired)**, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; **SERGEANT JAMES KANE**, Connecticut State Environmental Conservation Police; and **JANICE PLANTE**, former writer and associate editor for *Commercial Fisheries News* (CFN) and *Fish Farming News*.

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

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

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

Commission and NOAA Fisheries announce the release of the **River Herring Conservation Plan**.

2015 American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report indicates record high stock abundance and recruitment in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank, and record low abundance and recruitment in Southern New England. The SNE stock is severely depleted with poor prospects of recovery, necessitating protection. The Management Board established a working group of Board and Technical Committee members to review the assessment and peer review findings and develop recommendations for Board consideration.

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

Commission awards **WILLARD COLE** the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at its 74th Annual Meeting, held jointly with the **66th Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Annual Meeting** in St. Augustine, Florida.

Douglas Grout, Chief of the Marine Fisheries Division of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, is elected **ASMFC Chair**.

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

Deputy Director for Marine Resources with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources **Robert Boyles** elected **ACCSP Coordinating Council Chair**, while acknowledging the many accomplishments of outgoing Chair, Cheri Patterson.

2016

Commission presents **its Annual Awards of Excellence** recognizing outstanding efforts by professionals making a difference in the way fisheries are managed and conserved. The award recipients are: The American Lobster Trap Tag Team: **MIKE CAHALL, NICHOLAS MWAI, and KAREN HOLMES** of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP); **PETER BURNS, CHIP LYNCH, ALLISON MURPHY, JULIE MACKEY, and TED HAWES** with NOAA Fisheries; **CHERI PATTERSON and RENEE ZOBEL** with New Hampshire Fish and Game; **TOM HOOPES, STORY REED, and KERRY ALLARD** with Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries; **SCOTT OLSZEWSKI, DANIEL COSTA, and JOHN LAKE** with Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife; **MARK ALEXANDER and COLLEEN GIANNINI** with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; and **KIM MCKOWN** with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Scientific and Technical Contributions: **JASON MCNAMEE**, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; Law Enforcement Contributions: **DEPUTY CHIEF KURT BLANCHARD**, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; **SPECIAL AGENT TODD SMITH**, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement.

American Lobster Management Board approves **Addendum I to the Jonah Crab FMP**, establishing a bycatch limit of 1,000 crabs per trip for non-trap gear (e.g., otter trawls, gillnets) and non-lobster trap gear (e.g., fish, crab, and whelk pots).

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

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

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

Coastal Sharks Management Board approves Addendum IV, amending the FMP to allow smooth dogfish carcasses to be landed with corresponding fins removed from the carcass.

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

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

The Commission approves initiation of an **FMP for the Atlantic Migratory Group of Cobia** to complement fishery management efforts of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

At the Commission's 75th Annual Meeting in Bar Harbor, Maine in October, **WILLIAM GOLDSBOROUGH** receives the *Captain David H. Hart Award*. **BONNIE BICK AND JIM LONG** receive the *2016 Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award*.

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

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

2017

American Lobster Management Board approves **Jonah Crab Addendum II**, establishing a coastwide standard for claw harvest.

ACCSP Recreational Program Manager **Geoff White** received the **ASMFC Executive Director's Award for Meritorious Service** for superior performance in the successful launch and completion of the first year of state conduct of the APAIS.

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

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

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

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

Atlantic Herring Section approves Addendum I to Amendment 3 to establish management measures intended to stabilize the rate of catch.

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

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

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

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

PAUL DIODATI receives the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 76th Annual Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia.

Commission approves **Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 3**, which maintains the management program's current single-species biological reference points until the review and adoption of menhaden-specific ecological reference points as part of the 2019 benchmark stock assessment process. It also addresses a suite of commercial management measures including allocation, quota transfers, quota rollovers, incidental catch, the episodic events set aside program, and the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap.

Commission approves the **Interstate FMP for Atlantic Migratory Group (AMG) Cobia**, establishing a recreational minimum size and bag limit, as well as state-specific soft targets for the recreational fishery. It also maintains current federal management measures for the commercial fishery.

Commission elects **James Gilmore, Jr.** (NY) its new Chair and **Patrick Keliher** (ME) its Vice-Chair.

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

Atlantic Sturgeon Benchmark Stock Assessment indicates slow recovery since moratorium. Resource remains depleted.

American Eel Stock Assessment Update finds resource remains depleted.

2018

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

Commission presents its **Annual Awards of Excellence** for outstanding contributions to science and law enforcement to **DAN MCKIERNAN** (Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries), **LARRY JACOBSON** (formerly with NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and **COLONEL KYLE OVERTURF** (Connecticut Environmental Police).

Atlantic Menhaden Management Board initiates a noncompliance finding in response to the Commonwealth of Virginia's failure to fully implement the mandatory provisions of Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

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

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

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

American Eel Management Board approves Addendum V, increasing the yellow eel coastwide cap.

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

ROY MILLER, Delaware's Governor Appointee Commissioner and former Director of Delaware's Division of Fish and Wildlife, receives the *Captain David H. Hart Award* at the Commission's 77th Annual Meeting in New York City.

Coastal Sharks Management Board approves Addendum V, allowing the Board to respond to changes in the stock status of coastal shark populations and adjust regulations through Board action rather than by addendum.

Northern Shrimp Section extends commercial fishing moratorium through 2021 in response to the continued depleted condition of the northern shrimp resource.

2019

ASMFC presented its **ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE** to an esteemed group of fishery and data managers, scientists, law enforcement officers and environmental attorneys for their outstanding contributions to fisheries management, science, and law enforcement along the Atlantic coast: **ROBERT BALLOU** (Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management), **GEOFFREY WHITE, COLEBY WILT, ALEX DIJOHNSON** and **SARAH RAINS** (Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) Team), **MICHAEL CELESTINO** (New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife), **DR. JOHN SWEKA** (US Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Fishery Center), **NOAA SPECIAL AGENTS CASEY ORAVETZ** and **SARA BLOCK** (Assistant US Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina), **BANUMATHI RANGARAJAN**, and the US Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division's Environmental Crimes Section **TRIAL ATTORNEYS LAUREN STEELE, SHANE WALLER, SHENNIE PATEL**, and **JOEL LA BISSENNIERE**.

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

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

GEOFF WHITE is named the ACCSP Director.

PATRICK C. KELIHER of Maine elected ASMFC Chair and **SPUD WOODWARD**, Governor's Appointee Commissioner from Georgia, is appointed Vice-Chair.

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

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

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

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

2020

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

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

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

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

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

Atlantic Menhaden Board adopts ecological reference points (ERPs) in the management of Atlantic menhaden.

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

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

2021

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

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

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

SPUD WOODWARD (GA) is elected ASMFC Chair and **JOSEPH CIMINO**, Marine Fisheries Administrator for the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection, is elected Vice-Chair.

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

2022

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

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

ANDREW GOOD of the Atlantic Salmon Federation (2020) and **WENLEY FERGUSON** of Save the Bay (2022) are awarded the *Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award*.

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

Commission approves Atlantic Striped Bass Amendment 7 to strengthen measures to support stock rebuilding.

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

Commission presents Annual Awards of Excellence for 2020 and 2021 to **LYNN FEGLEY** and **DEREK ORNER** for management and policy contributions; **RICH WONG, JIMMY** and **BOBBY RUHLE**, and a subset of the Atlantic Menhaden/ Ecological Reference Points Team for technical and scientific contributions; **GREG DIDOMENICO** for outreach and advocacy contributions; and **CAPTAIN MICHAEL EASTMAN, SPECIAL AGENTS CHRIS MCCARRON** and **STEVEN NIEMI**, and **Enforcement Officer TIMOTHY WILMARTH** for law enforcement contributions.

AMERICAN LOBSTER MANAGEMENT BOARD approves American Lobster Addendum and Jonah Crab Addendum IV to establish electronic tracking requirements for federally permitted vessels in the American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries, with the goal of collecting high resolution spatial and temporal effort data to support several ongoing efforts.

Commission presents Annual Awards of Excellence for 2022 to **PETER BURNS** (NOAA Fisheries), and **ERIC REID** (Chair of the NE Fishery Management Council). Award recipients for *Scientific and Technical Contributions* were **DR. CONOR MCMANUS (RIDEM)**, **JEFF KIPP (ASMFC)**, **DR. BURTON SHANK (NOAA)**, **DR. BRYAN NUSE** (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies), **DR. ANA TUCKER** (Iowa Cooperative Fish & Wildlife

Research Unit), and **CAITLIN STARKS** (ASMFC). Award recipient for Law Enforcement Contributions was the **NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, BUREAU OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**.

STEVEN G. BOWMAN (VMRC) is awarded *Captain David H. Hart Award* for 2022.

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

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

2023

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

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

ASMFC presents the **2023 Annual Awards of Excellence** to **MIRANDA PETERSON**, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Frank Pallone, for congressional/legislative contributions; **CAROL HOFFMAN**, retired New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, for technical and scientific contributions; and **REGION 3 NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION POLICE** for law enforcement contributions.

2023 Black Drum Benchmark Stock Assessment finds stock not overfished or experiencing overfishing.

American Lobster Management Board approves Addendum XXVII to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster, establishing a trigger mechanism to implement management measures and to improve the resiliency of the GOM/GBK stock.

Horseshoe Crab Management Board approves revisions to a guidance document on Best Management Practices for handling horseshoe crabs for biomedical purposes, outlining standards that are expected to minimize mortality and injury of horseshoe crabs.

In August, ACCSP Deputy Director, **JULIE SIMPSON** was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the American Fisheries Society for her unique contributions that directly impact fisheries science.

American Eel Benchmark Stock Assessment finds stock is at or near historically low levels due to a combination of historical overfishing, habitat loss, food web alterations, predation, turbine mortality, environmental changes, and toxins, contaminants, and disease. Based on several trend analyses, the stock is considered depleted, consistent with the findings of the 2012 and 2017 assessments.

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board extends the current emergency action through October 28, 2024, or until the implementation of Addendum II to Amendment 7 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

On September 28, 2023, **JAMES A. RUHLE, Sr.** (Jimmy) passed away at the age of 75. The Commission is deeply indebted to Jimmy for his staunch support of and involvement in our management activities and for his dedication to ensuring that managers and scientists have the best data available to sustainably manage Atlantic coast fisheries.

At the Commission's 81st meeting held in October in North Carolina, **JOSEPH CIMINO** (NJ) is elected ASMFC Chair and **DAN MCKIERNAN** (MA) is elected Vice-Chair; and **ROBERT H. BOYLES, JR.** (SC) receives the 2023 *Captain David H. Hart Award Recipient*.

ANDREW BUTTON, Shellfish Management Division Head of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, receives Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership's **Melissa Laser Fish Habitat Conservation Award**.

American Lobster Management Board modifies implementation date for measures under Addendum XXVII to January 1, 2025.

Horseshoe Crab Management Board approves harvest specifications for Delaware Bay-origin horseshoe crabs, maintaining 500,000 male harvest only despite new ARM output to allow for limited female harvest.

ACCSP launches on-line biological and bycatch metadata inventories for the Atlantic coast.

Jonah Crab Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report indicates the rangewide population of Jonah crab remains above historic lows of the 1980s and 1990s. However, evidence of declining catch per unit effort in the fishery presents substantial concern and uncertainty for the status of the stock.

2024

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approves Addendum II to Amendment 7, modifying recreational and commercial measures to **reduce fishing mortality in 2024**, establishes an expedited response process to upcoming stock assessments, and addresses requirements for recreational filleting.

ASMFC releases **Fish Habitat of Concern Designations for Commission-managed Fish and Shellfish Species**.

Horseshoe Crab Board approves the 2024 Horseshoe Crab Stock Assessment Update.

ISFMP Policy Board & MAFMC approve **modifications to the process for setting recreational measures (bag, size, and season limits), as well as the recreational accountability measures, for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish**. These changes are part of a broader long-term effort by both the Council and Commission to improve recreational management of these jointly managed species.

At the Commission's Spring Meeting, **MIKE ARMSTRONG** was named the *Captain David H. Hart Award* recipient for 2024. Over his more than 30-year career, Mike became a leading voice in supporting scientific advice for sound, defensible decision making.

ASMFC recognizes the following **Annual Awards of Excellence** recipients: **PHIL EDWARDS (RI DEM)**; **NICOLE LENGYEL COSTA (RI DEM)** and **LAURA LEE (USFWS)**; and **JASON SNELLBAKER** for their respective contributions to management and policy, scientific and technical, and law enforcement contributions.

TINA BERGER, Director of Communications, is acknowledged for 30 years of dedicated service to the Commission.

American Eel Management Board approves Addenda VI and VII. Addendum VI **maintains Maine's quota at the current level of 9,688 pounds** for three years. Addendum VII **reduces the coastwide cap for yellow eel commercial landings to 518,281 pounds**.

In June, the **American Lobster Board** approved **Addendum XXX**, clarifying the Commission's intent for how the measures of Addendum XXVII will apply to foreign imports of American lobster once implemented.

On June 28th, 2024, **WILLARD "BILL" COLE**, a longtime participant and steadfast supporter of the ASMFC, passed away. Bill was a legend in the realm of fisheries management and science, dedicated to the protection, restoration, and conservation of fisheries resources and their habitats along the Atlantic coast.

ACCSP announces the launch of SciFish, a mobile application that allows the public to participate in scientific research.

In October, two longtime participants of the Commission passed away. Former Commission Chair (1991-1993) **PHILIP G. COATES** made profound contributions to the Commission and fisheries management along the east coast; **LEWIS SCOTT GILLINGHAM** was also a longstanding participant in the Commission serving on many committees and as a representative on the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program.

American Lobster Management Board approves **Addendum XXXI**, postponing the implementation of certain measures from Addendum XXVII to July 1, 2025, to allow Canada more time to consider implementing complementary management measures, as well as reduce potential impacts to the US and Canadian lobster industries.

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board receives the **results of the 2024 Atlantic Striped Bass Stock Assessment Update**, which indicates the resource is not experiencing overfishing but remains overfished relative to the updated biological reference points.

Horseshoe Crab Management Board approves **500 male only harvest** for horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay-origin.

Horseshoe Crab Management Board convenes **Horseshoe Crab Management Objectives Workshop**, aimed at generating recommendations for Board consideration regarding horseshoe crab management in the Delaware Bay region. The workshop responds to public concern and differing positions related to use of the [Adaptive Resource Management \(ARM\) Framework](#).

2024 Red Drum Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report indicates the northern stock of red drum (New Jersey through North Carolina) is not overfished and not experiencing overfishing, while the southern stock (South Carolina through the east coast of Florida) is overfished and experiencing overfishing.

SCOTT CUPPETT, Program Manager at Cornell University's Water Resources Institute, receives the **ACFHP's Melissa Laser Award**.

Atlantic Sturgeon Stock Assessment Update finds that while coastwide population remains depleted relative to historic levels, population has shown signs of improvement with a significant positive trend over the time series. Further, there is a high probability that abundance in 2022 was greater than abundance in 1998 at the start of the coastwide moratorium.

Coastal Pelagics Management Board approves **Cobia Addendum II**, which modifies recreational allocation framework, allows Board to update allocations quickly if the underlying data are revised, expands the of data used in harvest evaluations, and allows Board to set management measures for a longer period of time. Addendum II responds to increased cobia harvest in some Mid-Atlantic states in recent years, as well as concerns about high uncertainty associated with cobia recreational harvest estimates.

River Herring Benchmark Stock Assessment finds the coastwide populations of both alewife and blueback herring are depleted relative to historic levels, with the habitat model indicating that overall productivity of both species is lower than an unfished population before the occurrence of any habitat modifications (e.g., dams or human alterations to the environment).

ASMFC approves **Northern Shrimp Amendment 4 in response to the continued poor condition of the northern shrimp stock**. Amendment 4 modifies the first objective of the FMP to recognize the influence of environmental conditions on stock productivity and lengthens the amount of time the Northern Shrimp Section can set a moratorium from one year to up to five years. Amendment 4 also adds management triggers to the FMP as part of the annual stock monitoring process.