

FISHERIES SCIENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Committee on Economics and Social Sciences

Committee Name: Committee on Economics and Social Sciences (CESS)

Purpose: The CESS was created in 1995 to provide socio-economic technical oversight for both ISFMP and ACCSP. Among its duties for the Commission:

1. Develop and implement mechanisms to make economic and social science analysis a functioning part of the Commission's decision-making process
2. Nominate economists and social scientists to serve on each species technical committee (TC) or socioeconomic subcommittee, and plan development team (PDT), to provide technical support and development of socioeconomic section of fishery management plans (including amendments and in some cases, addenda)
3. Upon request by species management boards or the Policy Board, provide social and economic advice, information, and policy recommendations to the boards
4. Provide technical recommendations to the social and economic data collection and data management programs of the ACCSP
5. Functions as the technical review panel for social and economic analyses conducted by the ASMFC and ACCSP
6. Establish subcommittees of the CESS or other work groups as necessary to research various social and economic issues

Membership: Committee membership is ASMFC Chair-appointed and consists of one representative from each of the 15 member states, two representatives from NMFS headquarters (one economist and one social scientist), one representative each from NMFS Northeast and Southeast Regions, one representative each from the East Coast Fishery and Management Councils.

Codifying Document: ISFMP Charter

Type & Frequency of Meetings: In-person meetings as needed. Extra meetings may be convened when CESS is tasked by the Policy Board. Conference calls are conducted three to four times as year.

Primary activities:

- A CESS representative or multiple representatives are appointed to each species to provide social and economic expertise for the species' TC and PDT. Participation at PDT and TC meetings is at the member's discretion. Participation is most critical on the PDT when regulatory options are being considered. Engaging with TCs, which focus on biological information, is less frequent.

- Developing a socioeconomic research priorities list

Major accomplishments:

- Socioeconomic Data Standards for the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) (August 2017 – May 2019)
 - ACCSP requested guidance on developing standards for coastwide fisheries economic and social data collection
 - CESS developed a list of priority socioeconomic data elements for coastwide collection. The list represents key elements that can serve as a baseline of fundamental socioeconomic information to support management decisions. The list was approved by ACCSP and included in annual Requests for Proposals in FY2021.
- Socioeconomic Analysis of the Atlantic Menhaden Commercial Bait and Reduction Fishery
 - The Atlantic Menhaden Board requested a study to characterize the coastwide commercial fisheries and the fishing communities they support
 - Interviews and surveys of commercial fishermen and other industry members were conducted, as well as analysis of historic landings price data
 - An economic impacts analysis of quota changes indicated increases and decreases in total allowable catch corresponded to income and employment increases and decreases, with effects concentrated in New Jersey and Virginia
 - Information from the study was incorporated into the socioeconomic section of Draft Amendment 3 to the FMP
- CESS Evaluate Options for a Socioeconomic Study on ASMFC Management Performance in Fostering Economically Viable Fisheries
 - Striped Bass Board requested that CESS complete the socio-economic analysis required to evaluate management's performance with the fourth objective of Amendment 6: to foster quality and economically viable recreational, for-hire, and commercial fisheries.
 - CESS presented and prepared a series of white papers for Board consideration. May 2009 - CESS presented an evaluation of available data quantifying participation, effort, dollars spent, etc. August 2009 - CESS presented two levels of study, which the Board requested be presented to the Policy Board for consideration of other fisheries. February 2010 - CESS presented low cost options for study which will be evaluated in Action Plan discussions for 2011.
- Horseshoe Crab Socioeconomic Study (February 2008)
 - CESS advised the commission of a study to evaluate the economic effects on horseshoe crab and dependent fisheries from a horseshoe crab fishery closure. Industrial Economics, Inc. performed this analysis and reported their findings to the Horseshoe Crab Management board in February 2008.
- CESS Response to the Southwick Report (April 2007)
 - The ISFMP Policy Board requested that CESS evaluate a study by Southwick Associates on the socio-economics of commercial versus recreational striped bass fishing which was commissioned by Strippers Forever. CESS reviewed the report and presented its findings to the Policy Board on May 9, 2007

- CESS also provided a response to a rebuttal letter by Southwick Associates sent to ASMFC regarding CESS's initial response to its report.
- The Cumulative Social, Cultural, and Economic Effects of Seasonal Closures on Fishing Communities (May 2005)
 - Position paper on the cumulative social and economic effects of seasonal closures on fishing communities. Impacts of a single regulatory action are routinely assessed. More difficult to assess are the accumulated impacts of multiple regulations over time.

History of Chairmanship:

Current Chair (2024 - present): Sabrina Lovell, NOAA; Vice Chair: Andrew Scheld, VA

2018 – 2024: Syma Ebbin, CT

2005 – 2017: Madeleine Hall-Arber, MA

2002 – 2004: Ray Rhodes, SC

2001: David McCarron

1999 – 2000: Bonnie McKay

1996 – 1998: Lee Anderson

Staff Lead: Jainita Patel, Fisheries Science Coordinator, JPatel@asmfc.org