

FISHERIES SCIENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Fishing Gear Technology Workgroup

Committee Name: Fishing Gear Technology Work Group (FGTWG)

Purpose: The Fishing Gear Technology Work Group (FGTWG) addresses fishing gear-related issues in fishery operation, fishery management, and habitat impacts. When the Commission's ISFMP Policy Board approved the Management and Science Committee's (MSC) recommendation to form the FGTWG in 2006, the Policy Board tasked the FGTWG with the following tasks:

- Identify and evaluate studies of fishing gear selectivity, bycatch reduction, gear effects on habitat, and impacts of a single gear used in multispecies fisheries (ecosystem planning).
- Develop comprehensive report of gear work along the coast, evaluate the work to see if it is ready to be implemented in the management process and identify research recommendations.
- Determine the transferability of such studies to other species and geographical areas. This includes identifying relevant studies from outside the Atlantic Coast and evaluating gear adaptations for their applicability to Commission species.

Membership: Each state and federal partner agency (NOAA and USFWS) may have a representative on the FGTWG; however, representation is not limited to state and federal gear experts. The Work Group appoints the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Codifying Document: The ISFMP Policy Board approved the creation of the FGTWG in 2006.

Type & Frequency of Meetings: The FGTWG meets as needed to complete tasks from the Policy Board and MSC. The group has been idle since September 2009.

Primary activities: Evaluate current and ongoing gear work along the coast and internationally for applicability to Atlantic coast fisheries. Provide recommendations to the Management and Science Committee regarding use of new gear adaptations in Commission-managed fisheries.

Major accomplishments: Development of the FGTWG Fishery-Gear Evaluation Matrix and Priority Fisheries List (December 2007); completion of a comprehensive report on evaluations of gears that may be applied to Atlantic coast fisheries (December 2008; available at <https://asmfc.org/resources/science-special-report/report-of-the-fishing-gear-technology-work-group-2008/>).

History of Chairmanship:

Current Chair & Vice-Chair: Vacant until reconvened

2007-2009: Chair, Dr. Joseph DeAlteris (University of Rhode Island) & Vice-Chair, Chris Hager (VIMS)

Prior Meetings: The inaugural meeting was held September 2007; June 2008; September 2009. Follow-up discussions to finalize the report were conducted via e-mail and conference calls.

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