



ASMFC

FISHERIES *focus*

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

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ASMFC Presents Annual Awards of Excellence



From left: ASMFC Executive Director Robert Beal, Cheri Patterson, Dr. Robert Latour, Michael Luisi, Paul Caruso, Sara Block, and ASMFC Chair Louis Daniel

At its Spring Meeting, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission presented Michael P. Luisi, Paul Caruso, Dr. Robert Latour, Cheri Patterson, and the state and federal members of the joint enforcement team Operation Lookout with its Annual Awards of Excellence for their outstanding contributions to fisheries management, science, and law enforcement along the Atlantic coast.

"Every year a great many people contribute to the success of fisheries management along the Atlantic coast. The Commission's Annual Awards of Excellence recognize outstanding efforts by professionals who have made a difference in the way we manage and conserve our fisheries," said ASMFC Chair Louis B. Daniel, III of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. "Today, we honor several exceptional individuals for their contributions to the management and conservation of Atlantic coast fisheries."

Management & Policy Contributions

Michael Luisi, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Service

Mr. Luisi has made significant contributions to the successful management of summer flounder and black sea bass fisheries throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Active at the management level at both the Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, he worked closely with staff,

continued, see ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE on page 6

Upcoming Meetings

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as the deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species. The fifteen member states of the Commission are: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Dr. Louis B. Daniel, III (NC)
Chair

Douglas E. Grout (NH)
Vice-Chair

Robert E. Beal
Executive Director

Patrick A. Campfield
Science Director

Toni Kerns
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June 4 (5 PM)

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Public Hearing on Atlantic Herring PID, MA DMF Annisquam River Station, 30 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA.

June 5 (11 AM)

Maine Department of Marine Resources Public Hearing on Atlantic Herring PID, Rockland Terminal, 517 Main Street, Rockland, ME.

June 9 - 13

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Sawgrass Marriott, 1000 PGA Tour Boulevard, PonteVedra Beach, FL.

June 10 - 12

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Radisson Hotel of Freehold, 50 Gibson Place, Freehold, NJ.

June 17 (12:30 - 5:30 PM)

ASMFC Tautog Stock Assessment Subcommittee, ASMFC Offices, 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA.

June 17 - 19

New England Fishery Management Council, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME.

June 18 (9 AM - 5 PM)

Joint ASMFC Tautog Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Subcommittee, ASMFC Offices, 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA.

June 19 (9 AM - 5 PM)

ASMFC Biological Ecological Reference Points Working Group, ASMFC Offices, 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA.

June 23 (7 PM)

New Hampshire Fish and Game Public Hearing on Atlantic Herring PID, Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth, NH.

July 2 & 23

ASMFC Atlantic Herring Days Out Conference Calls, times to be determined.

August 5 - 7

ASMFC Summer Meeting, Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria, 901 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA.

August 12 - 14

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, W Hotel, 515 15t Street NW, Washington, DC.

September 8 - 12

ASMFC Technical Committee Meeting Weerk, location to be determined.

September 15 - 19

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, The Charleston Marriot Hotel, 170 Lockwood Boulevard, Charleston, SC.

September 23 - 25

ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment Workshop, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, 1213 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA.

September 30 - October 2

New England Fishery Management Council, Cape Codder Resort, Hyannis, MA.



ASMFC Weighs In on Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) is the primary law governing marine fisheries management throughout the federal waters of the exclusive economic zone. While the Commission focuses its management on interstate fisheries resources, there is significant overlap on eight species we cooperatively manage with the three East Coast Fishery Management Councils. Given the fishery management plans for these species must all be MSA-compliant, the Commission and its member states have a keen interest in the MSA's pending reauthorization and its impact to state fisheries and coastal communities. The Commission conducted a workshop during the 2014 Spring Meeting to aid our Commissioners in developing a coastwide position on proposed changes to the MSA.

Commissioners at the workshop greatly benefited from the participation of the three congressional staffers in charge of drafting the reauthorization: Jeff Lewis on the Senate Commerce Committee; Bob King in the office of Senator Mark Begich (D-AK), and Dave Whaley on the House Natural Resources Committee. Commissioners agreed both discussion drafts contained some positive steps forward and offered comments on several overarching state/federal issues contained in the discussion drafts. Following is a brief summary of the Commission's submitted comments.

Improved State/Federal Coordination – Improved coordination between NOAA Fisheries, the Commission, and the states is a high priority for our Commissioners. There have been gaps in our partnership and we are concerned that states' interests are sometimes overlooked on highly migratory and other cooperatively managed species. Although it is hard to legislate a principle such as cooperation, we asked the committees to ensure Atlantic states are treated as equal partners in managing coastal fisheries.

Complementary Statutes – The Commission supports reauthorization of the several expired statutes vital to fisheries management along the coast, with a request to increase funding authorizations to at least keep pace with inflation. The statutes include the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, and the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act.

Rebuilding Timelines – Reasonable flexibility with regard to federal rebuilding timelines is needed, but the committees should guard against allowing too much latitude to protect progress that has been made in recent years. The ten-year rebuilding requirement can result in considerable economic impacts. Mortality targets could help curb the negative effects of assessment uncertainties.

Definition of Overfishing – The Commission recognizes fishing pressure is not the only thing that affects fish

populations and supports use of the term "depleted" when stocks are at reduced levels due to factors other than fishing mortality (e.g., environmental factors, predation, habitat quality and availability).

Recreational Fisheries – Continued improvement of recreational data quality should be a point of emphasis in the reauthorized MSA. Recreational fisheries possess unique management needs when compared to commercial fisheries given the vastly different way data are collected from these fisheries. However, those needs should not be addressed at the expense of rebuilding progress and the overall goals of fisheries management in rebuilding stocks.

Ecosystem Management – Regional fishery management councils should have authority, but not be required, to implement ecosystem management plans. Plans should be implemented incrementally as data, resources, and management capabilities evolve. The states oppose any federal requirements that restrict the autonomy of the states to manage fisheries within their jurisdictions.

Sustainability Certification – The Commission is concerned federal sustainability certification may put state fisheries at a competitive disadvantage and requests the states be engaged in the process and the development of guidelines.

Data Confidentiality – The Commission and the states acknowledge that certain types of data should remain confidential to protect the identity of data contributors, however, access to fisheries data is crucial to conduct robust analyses and make informed management decisions. Further restriction of this data will hamper the ability of managers to effectively manage state and federal fisheries.

Electronic Monitoring – Electronic monitoring is a useful tool to improve at-sea monitoring and reduce its costs, however, it should not be a complete substitute for at-sea observers. There should be an increased emphasis on the quality and timeliness of fisheries data, and electronic monitoring is a useful tool to help achieve that goal.

New England and Mid-Atlantic Council Configuration & Representation – The Commission recommends from the Carolinas north, the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils configuration should be aligned in accordance with the large marine eco-regions along the coast and Council membership should reflect the major fishery interests (i.e., respective states) that border and rely upon these regions.

Commissioners and Commission staff will continue to follow closely as Congress works to reauthorize this important piece of legislation.

Species Profile: Atlantic Herring

Important Northeast Fish Provides Bait and Forage Needs

Introduction

Off the coast of Maine in early fall of 2006, a team of researchers used ocean acoustic remote sensing to capture images of a rapidly forming school of fish. At its peak, the mass spanned nearly 25 miles. The individual fish making up the shoal – an estimated quarter of a billion of them – was the small, silver Atlantic sea herring (*Clupea harengus*). They have gathered to spawn, an event critical for replenishing a stock that supports the northern Atlantic marine ecosystem and fishing industries alike.

The Atlantic sea herring is one of 200 species in the clupeid family, which includes menhaden, shad, and river herring. It exists in coastal waters of the U.S. from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina through Labrador, Canada, and off the coasts of Europe. Herring form the base of the food web as a forage species for marine mammals, seabirds, and many fishes throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. Even the vast amount of eggs produced during spawning events serve as an important protein source for other animals, from starfish and whelk to economically important fish such as haddock, cod, and flounder. Atlantic herring also provide effective and affordable bait to lobster, blue crab, and tuna fishermen, and are sold as canned sardines, steaks, and kippers. They are also a valued commodity overseas where they are frozen and salted.

Life History

Atlantic herring's entire life cycle occurs in the ocean and is closely associated to plankton. After hatching, the larvae drifts passively along coastal currents among plankton, consuming eggs and larvae of copepods, barnacles, and other invertebrates. After the larvae herring metamorphose into juveniles (called sardines), they begin to gather in schools inhabiting shallow, inshore waters during the warmer months of the year. As they grow into adults, sea herring continue to feed on plankton. Feeding behavior consists of nightly vertical migrations following the zooplankton that inhabit deep waters by day and surface waters by night. Adults (age three and older) migrate south from summer/fall spawning grounds in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank to spend the winter in Southern New England and the Mid-Atlantic.



THE SARDINE INDUSTRY. Children at a sardine cannery cutting off heads and tails, and cleaning small herring for canning. From a photograph by T.W. Smillie. Image © NMFS Historic Fisheries Collection.

Herring spawn as early as August in Nova Scotia and eastern Maine and during October and November in the southern Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and Nantucket Shoals. When temperatures are ideal, the ripe adult herring aggregate in massive shoals over habitats consisting of rock, gravel, or sand bottoms ranging from 50-150 feet deep. A single mature female can produce between 30,000 and 200,000 eggs. Schools can produce so many eggs the ocean bottom is covered in a dense carpet of eggs several centimeters thick. Eggs hatch in 10-12 days depending on water temperature. By its fourth year, fish are about ten inches in length and may eventually grow to about 15 inches (1 ½ pounds) at ages 15 to 18 years.

Commercial Fisheries

The earliest herring fisheries in North America date back to 450 years. Today, Atlantic herring is predominantly a commercially caught species and markets exist in the U.S. and Canada. Since 2003, the domestic ex-vessel value of commercial herring landings has averaged 88.5 metric tons (mt) valued at \$36 million each year. The most common gears used to catch Atlantic herring are trawls (midwater and bottom) and purse seines. A small fixed-gear fishery continues in Maine.

Species Snapshot

Atlantic Herring
Clupea harengus

Management Unit:

Maine -
New Jersey



Common Names:

- Sea herring, sardine, herring

Interesting Facts:

- Atlantic herring and other clupeid fish have exceptional hearing. They can detect sound frequencies up to 40 kilohertz, beyond the range of most fish. This allows the schooling fish to communicate while avoiding detection by predatory fish.
- While most members of the clupeid family are typically 5.9 - 9.8 inches in length, the tarpon can grow up to 8 feet long and weigh up to 280 pounds.
- Fresh herring bait is considered a premium product and demands the highest prices.

Age/Length at Maturity:

- 3 years/9.1 inches

Stock Status:

- Not overfished and not experiencing overfishing (2012)

Total catches peaked in 1968, when more than 477,767 metric tons (1 billion pounds) of Atlantic herring were caught. This excessive harvest led to a collapse of the offshore herring stock. Total landings reached the lowest point in 1983 at 44,613 mt (98 million pounds). Since then, landings have increased as the stock recovered. In 2013, catch totaled 106,375 mt (234.5 million lbs), an increase from 2012's 85,883 mt (189.3 million lbs). The herring resource was once primarily used for the canning industry, but now provides bait for important fisheries such as lobster, blue crab, tuna, and striped bass.

Stock Status

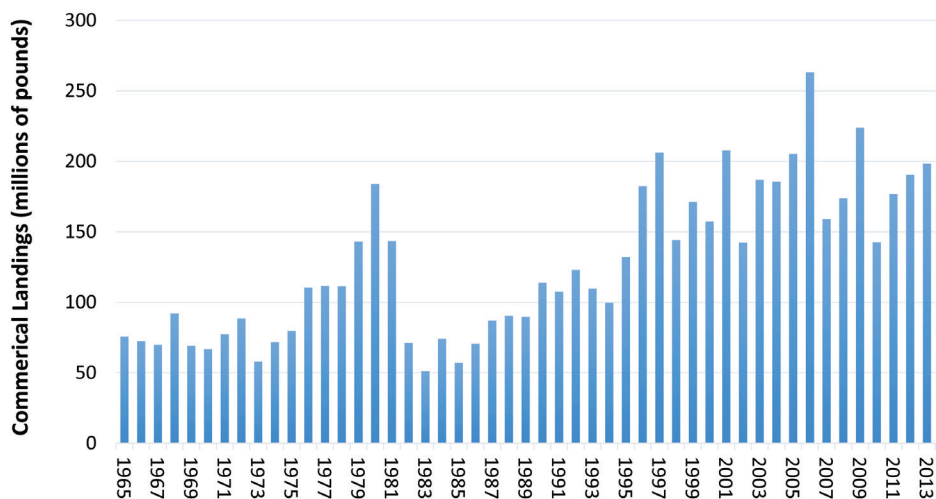
The latest stock assessment, conducted by the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop in 2012 concluded that Atlantic herring are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. In fact, the stock is considered rebuilt, mainly because of a strong cohort born in 2009. Spawning stock biomass (SSB) in 2011 is estimated at 518,000 mt (1.1 billion pounds), well above the SSB threshold and target of 78,500 mt (173 million pounds) and 157,000 mt (364 million pounds), respectively. Current fishing mortality is estimated at 0.14, below the fishing mortality threshold of 0.27. The 2012 assessment represents a significant departure from previous assessments because it examines predator consumption on Atlantic herring biomass and productivity to address herring ecosystem functions. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center will conduct a new stock assessment for herring in 2015.

Atlantic Coastal Management

The Commission's Atlantic Herring Section manages herring in state waters (0 – 3 miles from shore), while the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) regulates the stock in federal waters (3 - 200 miles from shore). Both the Commission and Council seek to maintain the resource's high abundance level while also maintaining traditional use patterns in the fishery, allowing for an expanded bait fishery, and protecting herring's role as forage in

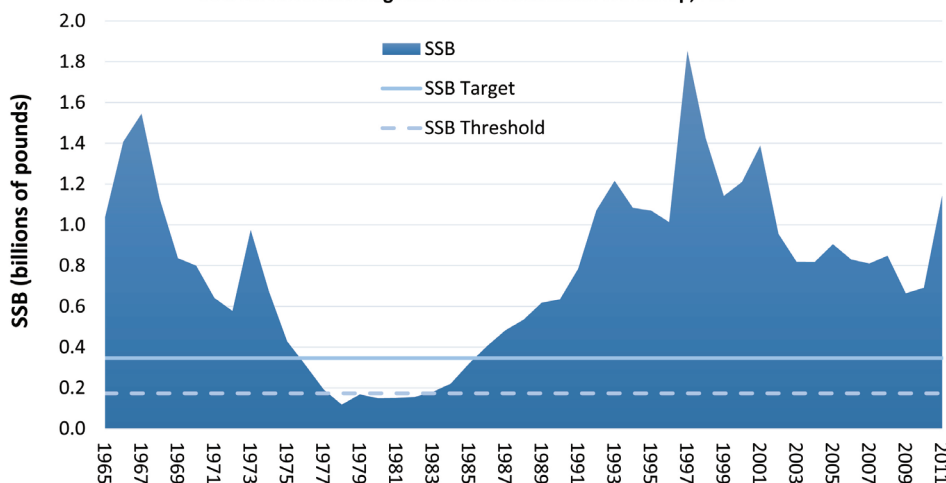
Atlantic Herring Commercial Landings

Source: ACCSP Data Warehouse, 2014



Atlantic Herring Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB)

Source: Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop, 2012



Timeline of Management Actions: FMP (1993); Amendment 1 (1999); Amendment 2 (2006); Addendum I (2009); Addendum II (2010); Addendum V (2010); Addendum VI (2013)

the marine ecosystem. Complementary FMPs between the Commission and Council use annual quotas, called a total allowable catch (TAC), for four management areas. The TACs for these areas are set based on the maximum sustainable yield that allows for a sustainable harvest. Management of Atlantic herring includes conservation of its relative, the river herring (alewife and blueback herring). Unlike the abundant sea herring, river herring have precipitously declined in recent years. The Commission and Council have been working together to develop a comprehensive monitoring and bycatch

reduction program to assess and reduce the extent of river herring bycatch in the directed Atlantic herring fishery. There are a few differences between the interstate and federal plan. Atlantic herring in state waters are managed under Amendment 2 to the Interstate FMP and its associated addenda. The Commission's plan includes spawning closures in the Gulf of Maine and a "days out" provision to control harvest and availability of sea herring during peak demand. "Days out" is the primary effort control measure for the inshore fishery, and works by limiting the number of

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Annual Awards of Excellence

ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE,
continued from page 1

technical representatives, industry, and state and federal colleagues to develop and implement regional management approaches for both species. These approaches have allowed the states to maintain recreational black sea bass and summer flounder fisheries when existing policies would have resulted in severely curtailed or non-existent fisheries. For black sea bass, that meant moving away from coastwide management toward a regional approach more suitable to their life history. For summer flounder, it meant moving away from conservation equivalency and the informal sharing of fish that were not otherwise harvested by other states into a more formal regional approach. These approaches have helped minimize the risk of overharvest while still providing headboats, charter boats, and anglers opportunities to fish. Mr. Luisi's efforts have benefited not only Maryland, but all states with summer flounder and black sea bass fisheries. Through his actions, Mr. Luisi has truly embodied the Commission's Mission "To promote the better utilization of the fisheries....of the Atlantic seaboard by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries."

Scientific, Technical & Advisory Contributions

Paul Caruso, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Mr. Caruso has devoted nearly three decades to advancing the field of fisheries biology and stock assessments. He has been a tireless contributor to state, regional and coastwide fisheries management activities through his state tagging and fishery-dependent sampling projects, and his participation and chairmanship of numerous Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council technical committees. In Massachusetts, Mr. Caruso has used his encyclopedic knowledge of fisheries to address a multitude of projects and species issues from oversight of the state's Marine Recreational Information Program project, to the conduct of tagging programs for striped bass and

summer flounder, to his extensive outreach efforts to the recreational fishing community. Regionally and coastwide, Mr. Caruso's expertise and leadership have guided the development of numerous addenda and amendments for species such as striped bass, tautog, bluefish, black sea bass, summer flounder, and scup. He has helped advance stock assessments and the data upon which they are based through his work on cooperative tag and recapture programs, fish ageing protocols and sampling efforts, and improved biological monitoring requirements.

Throughout his entire career, Mr. Caruso has approached his work with enthusiasm and good humor, quickly embracing and accomplishing tasks. His goal has always been to supply managers with the information they need to properly manage fisheries. Mr. Caruso's accomplishments are many and his efforts have been impactful to the countless fisheries biologists and staff he has mentored by sheer example.

Dr. Robert J. Latour, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Dr. Latour has made outstanding contributions to the science underpinning the management activities of the Commission. He has contributed to numerous benchmark stock assessments and stock assessment updates, and focused much of his research program and student mentorship on addressing specific research needs of various Mid-Atlantic fisheries. These latter efforts have led to a variety of important peer-reviewed manuscripts focused on improving striped bass tagging models; fish diet composition and community ecology; Atlantic menhaden feeding ecology; and disease epidemiology in Chesapeake Bay striped bass. Collectively, Dr. Latour's work has helped to further the ongoing efforts of various Commission technical committees and the longer term knowledge base used to aid our understanding of fisheries dynamics.

For the last 15 years, Dr. Latour has maintained an active role on

Commission technical committees for Atlantic menhaden, striped bass tagging, multispecies assessment, and assessment science. He is co-principle investigator of the Chesapeake Bay Multispecies Monitoring and Assessment Program and the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program. These two relatively new data collection platforms are dedicated to improving the assessments of many Commission managed fisheries, including otherwise data-scarce assessments such as black drum and Atlantic sturgeon. The emergence of these new data sources is a testament to Dr. Latour's hard work and dedication to improving fisheries management along the Atlantic coast. A highly respected scientist, Dr. Latour's expertise is sought as an external peer reviewer and as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Council's Science and Statistical Committee. In all that he does, Dr. Latour provides exemplary scientific expertise and sage advice in an effort to elevate the scientific rigor of our stock assessments and the information upon which fisheries management decisions are based.

Cheri Patterson, New Hampshire Fish & Game Department

Ms. Patterson has dedicated her 35 year career to not only improving the collection and use of fishery-dependent and independent data along the Atlantic coast, but also to the conservation and protection of diadromous fish habitat. She began her career working for the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department as a member of the scientific crew for the Gulf of Maine Northern Shrimp Survey. Today, this survey represents one of the longest running cooperative state/federal research surveys along the Atlantic coast, and forms the basis for the assessment and management of the northern shrimp resource. She played an integral role in the development of Amendment 2 to the Northern Shrimp Plan and has been a longstanding and engaged member of the Commission's Shad & River Herring Technical Committee and Management

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EXCELLENCE on page 7

& Science Committee. Ms. Patterson has also been a passionate participant in the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program at all levels of the Program since its inception in the mid-1990s and currently serves as Chair of the ACCSP Coordinating Council. She was the driving force in developing and implementing ACCSP-compliant lobster harvester and dealer reporting systems in New Hampshire.

In recent years, Ms. Patterson has become increasingly involved in diadromous fish monitoring and habitat restoration, participating on the Commission's Habitat Committee and Fish Passage Committee, as well as the Steering Committee for the Atlantic

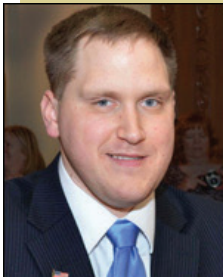
Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership. A notable crowning achievement in Ms. Patterson's work on diadromous fish restoration came with her leadership in overseeing the removal of two head of tide dams in rivers of New Hampshire's Great Bay Estuary.

Law Enforcement Contributions **Operation Lookout Members – Captain John Croft and Special Investigator Jimmy Simpson, Virginia Marine Police; Special Agents Sara Block, Tracey Woodruff, and Steven Niemi, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement; and Trial Attorney James Nelson, U.S. Department of Justice**

Members of the joint state/federal law enforcement team of Operation Lookout investigated and documented the poaching of striped bass in the

exclusive economic zone off the coast of Virginia. In order to obtain the proper evidence and documentation, Operation Lookout conducted high risk undercover operations in an extremely dangerous environment. Their undercover efforts, led to the indictment of five individuals with several charges applied to each individual. Finalization of this operation is still pending given that some of the individuals have confessed to felonies but have not been sentenced while others have not been adjudicated or had a plea agreement entered. As this operation's prosecution comes to a close, it is fitting that the Commission recognize the sacrifice and due diligence of the members of Operation Lookout in protecting migratory striped bass populations for the benefit of all fishermen along the Atlantic coast.

ASMFC Comings and Goings



COMMISSIONERS **Asm. Sgt. Robert Andrzejczak**

In May, Sgt. Robert (Bob) Andrzejczak was appointed New Jersey's legislative representative to the Commission. Elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 2013, Bob is a resident of Middle Township and is a Lower Township and Cape May County native. A retired Army Sergeant, Bob joined the Army in 2005 as infantry

and went through basic training in Georgia. He was then briefly stationed in Hawaii before being deployed for the first time to Iraq in 2006 and again in 2008. Just two months into his second deployment, his convoy was attacked and he was badly wounded, losing his leg when an enemy grenade was hurled at the vehicle in which he was riding. Bob received a host of medals for his service and heroism, including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Bob also received two Army Achievement medals, an Army Good Conduct medal, a National Service of Defense medal, a Global War on Terror medal, an Iraq Campaign medal with a Campaign Star, an Army Service Ribbon, and a Combat Infantry Badge. Welcome aboard Bob!



Pat Augustine

In May, Pat Augustine stepped down as New York's Governor Appointee to the Commission after serving in that capacity for 16 years. Over that time, he was an

enthusiastic and passionate participant and supporter of the Commission's fisheries management and science programs. He chaired a number of management boards, including American eel, bluefish, tautog, spiny dogfish and coastal sharks, and weakfish. He also he served as a longstanding member of the Commission's Awards Committee, which focuses on honoring those who have committed their time and efforts to advance the conservation and management of Atlantic coastal resources. We wish Pat a long, healthy, and happy retirement. He will be greatly missed.

Emerson C. Hasbrouck

This May, Emerson C. Hasbrouck Jr. was appointed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve as the state's Governor Appointee to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Emerson is a Senior Natural Resources Specialist and former Marine Program Director with Cornell University Cooperative Extension's Marine Program based at the Cornell Cooperative Extension offices of Suffolk County, Riverhead, NY. No stranger to the fisheries management arena, he has worked with New York's fishing industry for over 40 years. The Marine Program is known and respected nationally and internationally in its mission to protect the waters and marine resources of Long Island. Emerson has



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Proposed Management Actions

American Eel Draft Addendum IV

In May, the Commission's American Eel Management Board approved Draft Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Eel for public comment. The Draft Addendum proposes a suite of options to address the commercial glass, yellow, and silver eel fisheries along the Atlantic coast. Management options under consideration include glass and yellow eel quotas, a catch cap for the yellow eel fishery, a moratorium on the glass eel fishery, and a seasonal closure and license cap for the silver eel fishery in the Delaware River (NY).

The Draft Addendum also includes glass eel harvest allowances for aquaculture purposes and a conservation-based allocation program in which the states may earn a glass eel quota via stock enhancement programs that increase glass eel passage. The Draft Addendum intends to build upon the management measures established under Addendum III in order to reduce overall mortality and increase conservation of American eel stocks.

The Board's actions respond to the findings of the 2012 benchmark stock assessment indicating the American eel population in U.S. waters is depleted. The stock has declined in recent decades and the prevalence of significant downward trends in multiple surveys across the coast is cause for concern. Causes of decline are likely due to a combination of factors including historical overfishing, habitat loss, food web alterations, predation, turbine mortality, environmental changes, toxins and contaminants, and disease.

States of Maine through Georgia will be conducting public hearings on the Draft Addendum throughout June and July. The details of those hearings follow.

Maine Department of Marine Resources

June 30, 2014; 10 AM – Noon
Natural Resources Service Center
Conference Room, 6 Beech Street
Hallowell, Maine

June 30, 2014; 3 – 5 PM

Jeff's Catering and Event Center
15 Littlefield Way
Brewer, Maine
Contact: Terry Stockwell at 207.624.6553

New Hampshire Fish and Game

June 23, 2014; 7:30 PM*

Urban Forestry Center
45 Elwyn Street
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
Contact: Doug Grout at 603.868.1095
*Hearing to immediately follow ASMFC Atlantic Herring public hearing which starts at 7 PM.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

July 1, 2014; 6 – 8 PM

Bourne Public Library Meeting Room
19 Sandwich Road
Bourne, Massachusetts
Contact: Nichola Meserve at 617.626.1531

Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife

June 24, 2014; 6 PM
URI Narragansett Bay Campus
Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Road
Narragansett, Rhode Island
Contact: Phil Edwards at 401.789.0281

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

June 24, 2014; 7 PM
Dinosaur State Park, 400 West Street
Rocky Hill, Connecticut
Contact: David Simpson at 860.434.6043

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

July 14, 2014; 7 PM
Marine Resources Office
205 North Belle Mead Road
East Setauket, New York
Contact: Carol Hoffman at 631.444.0476

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

July 10, 2014; 7 PM*
Atlantic County Library, Galloway Branch
306 Jimmie Leeds Road
Galloway, New Jersey
Contact: Russ Allen at 609.748.2020
*Hearing immediately follows Marine Fisheries Council meeting which starts at 4 PM.

Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

July 8, 2014; 7 PM
DNREC Auditorium
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware
Contact: John Clark at 302.739.9914

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

July 2, 2014; 6 – 8 PM
Tawes State Office Building
C1 Conference Room, 580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland
Contact: Keith Whiteford at 410.643.6776

Potomac River Fisheries Commission

June 26, 2014; 6:30 PM
222 Taylor Street
Colonial Beach, Virginia
Contact: Ellen Cosby at 804.224.7148

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

June 25, 2014; 6 PM
2600 Washington Avenue, Fourth Floor
Newport News, Virginia
Contact: Rob O'Reilly at 757.247.2247

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

June 24, 2014; 6 PM
943 Washington Square Mall
Highway 17
Washington, North Carolina
Contact: Garry Wright at 252.948.3872

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

June 11, 2014; 6 – 8 PM
Marine Resources Auditorium
217 Fort Johnson Road
Charleston, South Carolina
Contact: Bill Post at 843.953.9821

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum IV by either attending public hearings or providing written comments. The Draft Addendum is available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under *Public Input*. The public comment deadline is **11:59 PM (EST) on July 17, 2014**. Comments should be submitted to Kate Taylor, Senior FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201 or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: American Eel). Final action on the Addendum is scheduled to occur in August.

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First Year of Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 2 Implementation Yields Positive Results

The Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Management Board accepted the 2014 Fishery Management Plan Review detailing the results of the 2013 fishing year and implementation of Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Total 2013 harvest excluding bycatch was 166,077 metric tons (mt), 2.8% below the coastwide total allowable catch (TAC) of 170,800 mt established through Amendment 2. In 2013, the reduction fishery harvested 131,034 mt while the bait fishery harvested approximately 35,043 mt. A total of 1,942 metric tons were harvested under the 6,000 pound bycatch allowance with approximately 91% of bycatch coming from pound nets. Bycatch accounted for 1.2% of the total coastwide harvest, but does not count towards the TAC. Amendment 2 does not provide for the rollover of unused quota from one year to the next because the stock is currently experiencing overfishing.

"Through the cooperative efforts of the Atlantic states in implementing Amendment 2, we have taken measurable steps towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Atlantic menhaden resource for both its ecosystem services and the fisheries that depend on it," stated Commission Chair Louis Daniel of North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

Amendment 2 implementation has also improved reporting as well as expanded biological monitoring for the bait fishery. The accompanying table details state quotas for the 2014 fishing year after setting aside 1% for episodic events. Any overages in the 2013 quotas because of late reports will come out of the 2014 quotas. Progress on the upcoming benchmark stock assessment continues with an assessment workshop scheduled for June 2 -5, 2014 at the NOAA Beaufort Lab and the peer review scheduled for December 2014. It is anticipated that

2014 Atlantic Menhaden Quotas		
STATE	2014 Quota (MT)	2014 Quota (LBS)
ME	66.58	146,787
NH	0.05	112
MA	1417.94	3,126,024
RI	30.29	66,779
CT	29.50	65,034
NY	93.76	206,695
NJ	18924.42	41,721,164
DE	22.33	49,230
MD	2320.98	5,116,874
PRFC	1049.69	2,314,174
VA	144272.84	318,066,790
NC	833.23	1,836,948
SC	-	-
GA	-	-
FL	30.39	66,995
TOTAL	169092.00	372,783,605

the Board will consider the results of the peer review at the Commission's Winter Meeting in February 2015.

Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum Development Continues

The Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to review and consider approval of Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass for public comment. The Draft Addendum will propose new fishing mortality reference points, as recommended by the 2013 benchmark stock assessment, and associated management measures to achieve the proposed target fishing mortality rate. While the Board did not approve the document for public comment, it approved substantive changes to the document and will reconsider a revised draft for public comment at the Commission's Summer Meeting in August.

The most significant change was the addition of a three-year timeframe to reduce fishing mortality to its target with options to achieve the reduction in harvest incrementally over the three years. This extended timeframe is intended to lessen the impacts of taking the required harvest reductions in one year. As a result, the Draft Addendum will

propose measures to achieve the required reduction all in one year or incrementally over three years.

The Board also received a report from the Technical Committee on the development of Chesapeake Bay specific fishing mortality reference points for inclusion in the Draft Addendum. Due to the nature of the fishery, which targets smaller and predominantly male fish, the Technical Committee could not develop Bay-specific reference points at this time. It reported the reference points approved for management use in the 2013 benchmark stock assessment represent the best available scientific advice to manage fishing mortality on the entire striped bass population. The proposed coastwide target fishing mortality rate is designed to maintain the spawning stock biomass at its target level over the long-term. The effects of the Bay's harvest of smaller fish on the total coastwide stock are already incorporated into the coastwide population reference points due to different selectivity patterns for the Bay and coastal fishing fleets.

Based on data through 2012, the Atlantic striped bass stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring under the proposed reference points. While the stock has declined, it remains at levels similar to 1995 when the stock was declared recovered. The revised Draft Addendum will continue to focus on the same management measures that are currently used to regulate the coastal and Chesapeake Bay striped bass fisheries – recreational bag and size limits, and adjustments to the commercial quotas. The Board established a subgroup to work closely with the Plan Development Team to help guide the inclusion of the new options. The revised Draft Addendum will be considered by the Board for approval for public comment in August, with public hearings conducted throughout the fall and final addendum approval slated for October at the Commission's Annual Meeting. If approved, the states would then implement management measures in early 2015.

continued, see SPECIES UPDATES on page 11

ACCSP Approves 2014 - 2018 Strategic Plan

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) unanimously approved its 2014-2018 Strategic Plan at the Commission's 2014 Spring Meeting in Alexandria, VA. The Plan revises the Program's vision to "To be the principal source of fisheries-dependent information on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners" and establishes seven goals and related strategies to pursue this vision. The ACCSP's 2014-2018 Strategic Plan will guide this highly interactive and collaborative fisheries data management program through new challenges and opportunities during the next five years.

"The document, initiated by the ACCSP Operations Committee and approved by the ACCSP Coordinating Council, reminds and informs the 23 program partners and staff of the purpose of the Program, the significant accomplishments, the priorities, and the critical success factors that are integral to keeping the Program contemporary - while also preparing for the future needs of fisheries data management," states ACCSP Coordinating Council Chair Cheri Patterson of New Hampshire.

"Many of the goals and strategies of the Plan are reflective of the 2012 Independent Program Review's recommendations towards improving the Program. This Plan will challenge the program partners and staff to assure the Program will continue to meet the commercial and recreational fisheries data management needs in a transparent, timely, and accurate manner while also being fiscally responsible in light of declining budgets. The ACCSP has conquered many challenges since its inception in 1995 and with the new Strategic Plan, the interactive collaboration, and the hard work all the partners, committees, advisors, and staff put in I believe it will continue to be a role model for other fisheries data management programs."

The Plan's seven goals are:

1. Manage and expand a fully integrated data set that represents the best available fisheries data
2. Continue working with the program partners to improve fisheries data collection and management in accordance with the evolving ACCSP standards within the confines of limited funds
3. Explore the allocation of existing Program funds and work with partners to pursue additional funding
4. Maintain strong executive leadership and collaborative involvement among partners at all committee levels
5. Monitor and improve the usefulness of products and services provided by the ACCSP
6. Collaborate with program partners in their funding processes by providing outreach materials and other support to demonstrate the value of ACCSP products and the importance of maintaining base support for fishery-dependent data collection programs to state partners and their executive and legislative branches as well as to all other partner agencies
7. Support nationwide systems as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The 2014-2018 Strategic Plan is available on the ACCSP website at http://www.accsp.org/documents/ACCSP_2014-2018FinalStrategicPlan.pdf.

ACCSP is a cooperative state-federal program that designs, implements, and conducts marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and integrates those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. For more information about ACCSP, please visit <http://www.accsp.org/>.

ACCSP Welcomes Elizabeth Wyatt as New Program Assistant

Ms. Elizabeth Wyatt joined the ACCSP staff as Program Assistant in May 2014. Transitioning from her academic career into her professional career, Ms. Wyatt moved to the area recently from Michigan. She is currently finishing a Master's degree in Marine Sciences at the University of New England, where she is writing a thesis examining larval transport, distribution, and hybridization of two blue mussel species in the northern Gulf of Maine. Ms. Wyatt was also awarded the NSF GK-12 Fellowship while completing her degree where she found her passion for outreach and communication in science.



Ms. Wyatt also has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Central Michigan University. There she worked as a research technician in a conservation genetics lab concentrating in freshwater mussels. Survey and genetic work was done throughout Michigan and Ontario, Canada including addressing management issues with the invasive species, zebra mussels.

As a Program Assistant, Ms. Wyatt's primary responsibilities include coordinating committee activities, and assisting the ACCSP Director and the ACCSP Program Manager in the development of program documents. Ms. Wyatt will help coordinate the annual funding process and monitoring of funded projects, including data products from these projects.

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Northern Shrimp Amendment Initiated to Consider Limited Entry

The Commission's Northern Shrimp Section approved development of Draft Amendment 3 to consider establishing a limited entry program for the northern shrimp fishery. While the fishery is managed through a total allowable catch and defined season, it remains an open access fishery and has experienced significant fluctuations in participation over the last 30 years. This open access, coupled with continued concern about the health of the stock, led the Section to move forward on a limited entry program to further control effort in the fishery. A limited entry program will consider the appropriate number of participants in the fishery given biological, environmental, and economic considerations.

The Section had previously considered limited entry in Amendment 2 (2011) and Addendum I (2012). Based on submitted public comment, the Section established a control date of June 7, 2011 but did not implement a limited entry program. As the first step in the Draft Amendment 3 development process, a Public Information Document (PID) will be developed to gather information concerning the northern shrimp fishery and provide an opportunity for the public to identify and comment on major issues relative to the management of the species with an emphasis on limited entry, state-by-state allocations and multi-year specifications.

Northern shrimp underwent a benchmark stock assessment in 2013. As part of this assessment, all current data inputs were evaluated, new data sources were considered, and new modeling approaches were explored. The final assessment was reviewed by a panel of independent experts in January 2014 through the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop process.

The Peer Review Panel concluded the results of the assessment models used were not appropriate for management

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Atlantic Croaker & Spot Draft Addendum

In May, the Commission's South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board approved a Draft Addendum to both the Spot and Atlantic Croaker Fishery Management Plans (FMP) for public comment. The Board initiated the development of new management options in response to concerns over trends in the spot and Atlantic croaker fisheries and the extent of bycatch and discards of both species in the shrimp trawl fishery. The Draft Addendum proposes a new method (Traffic Light Approach, TLA) to evaluate the status of the fisheries and potential coastwide or state-specified management actions (e.g. bag limits, size restrictions, time & area closures, and gear restrictions) based on the annual fisheries evaluation. The Draft Addendum to the Atlantic Croaker and Spot Fishery Management Plans seeks to address concerns over trends in the spot and Atlantic croaker fisheries and the extent of bycatch and discards of both species in the shrimp trawl fishery. It proposes a new method (Traffic Light Approach, TLA) to evaluate the status of the fisheries and potential coastwide or state-specified management actions (e.g. bag limits, size restrictions, time & area closures, and gear restrictions) based on the annual fisheries evaluation.

The TLA has been used as a precautionary framework for fisheries with limited data to allow for a reasonable level of resource management. The name comes from assigning a color (red, yellow, or green) to categorize relative levels of indicators on the condition of the fish population or fishery, which can help clearly illustrate trends in the fishery. The current management of Atlantic croaker and spot compares annual changes in various indices (e.g. recent landings and survey information) to review trends in the fisheries. The most recent review found declines in the commercial and recreational landings for both Atlantic croaker and spot fisheries. However, there is concern that this annual review does not illustrate long-term trends in the stock nor does it include specific management measures to implement in response to declines in the stock or fishery.

The 2010 Atlantic croaker stock assessment indicated that overfishing is not occurring, while the stock status of spot is currently unknown. As both spot and Atlantic croaker are scheduled for benchmark stock assessments in 2016, the management options proposed in the Draft Addendum are intended to provide an interim approach until the benchmark assessments for both species are completed.

Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia will be conducting public hearings on the Draft Addendum in June. The details of those hearings follow.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

June 12, 2014 at 6 PM
C-1 Conference Room, 580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Contact: Harry Rickabaugh at 410.643.6785

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

June 16, 2014 at 6 PM
2600 Washington Avenue
4th Floor Conference Room
Newport News, Virginia
Contact: Joe Grist at 757.247.2237

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

June 17, 2014 at 6 PM
Central District Office
5285 Highway 70 West
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557
Contact: Michelle Duvall at 252.808.8011

Georgia Coastal Resources Division

June 18, 2014 at 5:30 PM
Susan Shipman Environmental Education
Building, One Conservation Way
Brunswick, Georgia
Contact: Pat Geer at 912.264.7218

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Spot and Atlantic Croaker Draft Addendum, either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum is available on the Commission website under the *Public Input*. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM (EST) on July 2, 2014** and should be forwarded to Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; krootes-murdy@asmfc.org (Subject line: Croaker/Spot Draft Addendum).

Katie Drew Receives ASMFC Employee of the Quarter

In the five years that Katie Drew has been with the Commission, she has helped to significantly improve the science upon which the Commission bases its management decisions. Her recent accomplishments include numerable contributions to the recently completed benchmark stock assessments of Atlantic striped bass and northern shrimp, as well as her efforts on the upcoming benchmark stock assessments for tautog and Atlantic sturgeon. In recognition of these achievements, Katie was named Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2014. The award is intended to recognize contributions and qualities in the areas of teamwork, initiative, responsibility, quality of work, positive attitude, and results. Notably, this is the third time Katie has received this award.

With each assessment, Katie's proficiency in several modeling approaches and her ability to motivate fellow committee members has raised the bar for



Commission stock assessments. Katie consistently strives to learn new skills and methodologies and readily shares this knowledge with her coworkers and colleagues. Through her participation on various recreational fisheries initiatives, including the Marine Recreational Information Program Calibration Work Group and Proportional Standard Error Workshop Steering Committee, she has helped to significantly improve the collection and analysis of Atlantic recreational fisheries data. Katie has also played an invaluable role assisting

in the design and content of the Commission's website as well as lending her expertise on audiovisual work, ranging from video recording of assessment training courses to coordinating live broadcasting of management board meetings.

Katie's dedication to teamwork, creative vision, depth of knowledge, and enthusiasm towards her work make her a true asset to the Commission's Fisheries Science Program and the management programs it supports. Katie has a Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Fisheries from the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California. As Employee of the Quarter, Katie received a cash award and small gift, a letter of appreciation for her personnel folder, and her name engraved on a plaque displayed in the Commission's lobby.

Congratulations, Katie!

ATLANTIC HERRING, continued from page 5

days per week in which landings are allowed. On the days in which landings are prohibited ("days out"), vessels are restricted to 2,000 pounds of herring bycatch.

In 2013, the Commission implemented Addendum VI to Amendment 2 to establish management measures consistent with the Council's Framework Adjustment 2. These measures include seasonal splitting of the annual sub-quota for all management areas, up to 10% carryover of an area's sub-quota in the event of an underharvest in a fishing year, triggers to close the directed fishery when 92% of an area's sub-quota has been reached, and the specifications process.

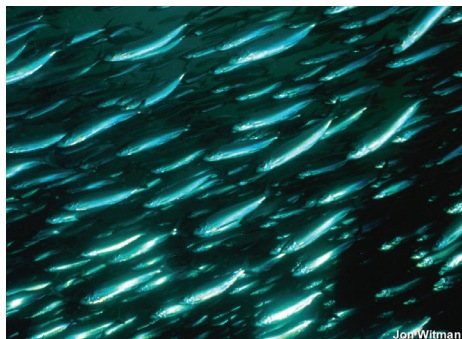
In May 2014, the Atlantic Herring Section approved the Public Information Document (PID) for Draft Amendment 3 to the Interstate FMP. The PID presents four

issues the Commission is seeking public input on to inform the development of management measures for the Atlantic herring fishery. The issues focus on (1) spawning area boundaries and closures in Area 1A, (2) a fixed gear set-aside rollover provision, (3) declaration of fishing gear prior to the beginning of a quota period in order to provide fishery managers a more accurate estimate of effort to inform harvest control measures, and (4) requirement for a vessel's hold to be emptied of fish before a fishing trip departure in order to allow for full accounting of catch and to discourage dumping of unsold fish. The PID is currently out for public comment, with public hearings scheduled in Maine,

Massachusetts, and New Hampshire in June (see Upcoming Meetings on page 2 for the hearing details).

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the PID for Draft Amendment 3 either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The PID is available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under *Public Input*. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM (EST) on July 10, 2014** and

should be forwarded to Melissa Yuen, FMP Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201 or myuen@asmfc.org (Subject line: Atlantic Herring PID).



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been with the Marine Program for 26 years and previously worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Emerson plans, develops, and implements extension programs relative to the effective conservation and utilization of marine and natural resources. These include fisheries data, fisheries management and fisheries economic development for New York's commercial and recreational fishing industries as well as the business that support these industries. He conducts applied cooperative research programs and demonstration projects that help address critical fisheries and natural resource issues for the Mid-Atlantic/Southern New England areas and works with fishermen from Massachusetts to New Jersey. He was instrumental in the formation of the Squid Trawl Network and the Butterfish Avoidance Network and helped with the development and support the L.I. Sport Fishing Education Center. Over the past decade, Emerson has been focusing on conservation engineering gear technology in cooperation with the fishing industry to develop gear modifications and fishing practices that reduce the bycatch of species of concern while allowing important viable fisheries to continue at a sustained level.

Emerson received his M.S. in Marine Science/Fisheries Management from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and his B.S. in Marine Science from Southampton College of Long Island University. Welcome aboard, Emerson!

STAFF
Emily Greene

From 2006 to March 2014, Emily Greene served as the Coordinator for the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat

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	Councils/ Commissions	Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act	NMFS Operations, Research & Facilities
2014 Enacted	\$32,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$812,560,000
House Passed 2015	\$32,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$790,200,000
Senate Proposed 2015	\$32,738,000	\$2,502,000	\$836,192,000

Fiscal Year 2015 Funding Update

The Fiscal Year 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations (CJS) bill, which provides a majority of the Commission's federal funding, is moving steadily through Congress. Easing the way is the fact that both the House of Representatives and Senate have agreed to the same overall CJS funding level of \$51.2 billion, a frequent hurdle for appropriations in years past.

The House of Representatives approved its 2015 CJS bill by a vote of 321-87 on May 30. Funding for Operations, Research, and Facilities for NOAA Fisheries is down \$22 million, or about 2.8 percent, to \$790.2 million from Fiscal Year 2014. However, the Commission's two priority budget lines, *Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions* and *Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act Grants*, are level funded.

The Full Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved its CJS bill on June 6. Senate funding for Operations, Research, and Facilities for NOAA Fisheries is up \$23.6 million, or about 3 percent, to \$836.2 million from Fiscal Year 2014. The *Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions* and *Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act Grants* budget lines both received slight increases. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) intends to consider appropriations legislation on the floor during the last two weeks in June and

two weeks in July ahead of the August recess.

Should the Senate approve its Fiscal Year 2015 CJS bill, both chambers will need to appoint members to a Conference Committee to resolve the differences in the two bills before they can become law. Congress has until October 1, the start of the 2015 Fiscal Year, to approve a CJS Appropriations bill or come up with a stop-gap funding measure.

During final debate of the House Fiscal Year 2015 CJS bill, Rep. John Carney (D-DE) used the opportunity to highlight the importance of horseshoe crabs in a colloquy with the CJS Subcommittee Chairman, Frank Wolf (R-VA). Rep. Carney spoke about the ecological and economic importance of the horseshoe crab, and the Chair and Ranking Member both signaled interest restoring funding for a survey of the Delaware Bay population of horseshoe crabs. Federal funding for an annual survey dedicated to horseshoe crabs ended in 2011 and the Commission is currently working to resume the survey since it plays such a significant role in the Adaptive Resource Management framework and the setting of annual quotas for horseshoe crabs of Delaware Bay origin.

For more information, please contact Deke Tompkins, Legislative Executive Assistant, at dtompkins@asmfc.org.



**Atlantic States Marine
Fisheries Commission**

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Partnership (ACFHP), an assembly of state, federal, tribal, and non-governmental groups whose mission is to conserve habitat for Atlantic coast diadromous, estuarine-dependent, and coastal fish species. Working with ACFHP's committees, Emily coordinated the development and implementation of the program's first conservation strategic plan; developed and maintained the ACFHP website; provided oversight on two major science projects; worked on grant development and reporting; and performed all of the program's communication and outreach activities. In all that she did, Emily displayed a deep commitment to the program and its partners.

This past March, Emily accepted a position with ERT, Inc., where she will be contracting with NOAA to work in its Habitat Protection Division on a number of habitat conservation initiatives. She will also serve as staff to the National Fish Habitat Partnership Board. We are grateful for all Emily has done to advance the mission of ACFHP and wish her the very best in her new job.

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use at this point. The estimates of fishing mortality and overfishing status were sensitive to how the data were weighted within the model. The Panel recommended that Technical Committee continue to develop the presented models, as well as incorporate environmental variables and estimates of fishing effort into the models to increase the stability of the results. However, the Panel agreed that all the survey data and fishery-dependent data examined indicate the northern shrimp stock is at very low levels and there is significant uncertainty about when the stock might recover.

The Northern Shrimp Section will meet in the fall to review the results of the 2014 stock assessment update, consider measures for the 2015 fishery, and consider approval of the PID for public comment. For more information, please contact Marin Hawk, FMP Coordinator, at mhawk@asmfc.org.

