

ASMFC

FISHERIES *focus*

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On May 22, 2002, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved Amendment 2 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Red Drum. Amendment 2 intends to rebuild Atlantic coast red drum populations through the establishment of state-specific management measures aimed at achieving a 40 percent spawning potential ratio of 40%SPR.

“This Amendment is significant in that it realizes and expands the historic South Atlantic Council Plan to specific state actions to accomplish recovery of red drum not only in the Southeast but throughout the entire historic Atlantic coastal range,” stated Board Chair Louis Daniel of North Carolina.

The concept of SPR has provided the biological basis for red drum management for the last ten years; this concept is maintained in Amendment 2. Simply stated, SPR is a measure of the reproductive potential of the stock. Amendment 2 provides the states with the flexibility to develop and implement bag and size limits for red drum in order to meet the plan’s SPR management goal. Specific bag and size limits will be developed by the states based on this guidance.

Other management measures include a coastwide 27-inch total length (TL) or less maximum size limit and a payback

ASMFC Approves Amendment 2 to the Red Drum FMP

provision for any commercial fisheries that exceed their current landings cap. In addition to these measures within the management unit, Amendment 2 proposes that states outside the management unit (New York through Maine) implement supportive measures to protect the red drum resource. Specifically, those states are asked to implement a provision to prohibit the harvest, possession and sale of red drum greater than 27 inches TL.

Regarding implementation of the plan, the Board recommended two dates for submission of state plans to meet the provisions of Amendment 2, with states in the southern region (South Carolina, Georgia and Florida) required to submit their plans by July 1, 2002. Those states in the northern region (North Carolina through New Jersey), are required to submit their plans by October 1, 2002. All states will be required to implement their regulations by January 1, 2003.

To date, the Atlantic coast red drum population has been jointly managed by the Commission and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. With the Commission’s final approval of the plan, the Council intends to initiate action to withdraw the federal fishery management plan and transfer federal management authority from the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act.

For more information, please contact Dr. Joseph Desfosse, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400.

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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 a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species. The fifteen member states of the Commission are: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Upcoming Meetings

7/1 & 2:

ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Multispecies Subcommittee, Holiday Inn BWI, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland; (800)810-0271.

7/8 - 10:

ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Advisory Panel and Technical Committee, Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel, 1850 Post Road, Warwick, Rhode Island; (401)738-4000.

7/9 - 11:

ASMFC American Lobster Technical Committee/Database Subcommittee, Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth, New Hampshire; (603)431-6774.

7/16 & 17:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Special Council Meeting on Red Porgy Management, Sheraton Grand New Bern, 100 Middle Street, New Bern, North Carolina; (800)325-3535.

7/23 - 25:

New England Fishery Management Council, DoubleTree Hotel, Portland, Maine.

7/24:

Joint Council Meeting (Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico) on Dolphin/Wahoo FMP, Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel, 4736 Best Road, Atlanta, Georgia; (888)627-7211.

8/6 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM):

ASMFC Shad Technical Committee, Holiday Inn BWI, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland; (800)810-0271.

8/6 - 8:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Shertaon Society Hill, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

8/18 - 22:

132nd American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Turning the Tide: Forging Partnerships to Enhance Fisheries, Baltimore, Maryland.

8/26 - 29:

ASMFC Meeting Week, Watergate Swissotel, 2650 Virginia Avenue, N.W., Washington DC.

9/10 - 12:

New England Fishery Management Council, Providence Biltmore, Providence, Rhode Island.

One of the great constants in fisheries management is the broad cross section of people from all fields who all share a common and enthusiastic interest in marine fisheries and their sustainable management. And while most in this arena can easily be described as passionate, a few, truly exceptional individuals readily stand out for their ideas and accomplishments. The highlight of this year's Spring Meeting Week was our Annual Awards of Excellence Ceremony recognizing the outstanding efforts of those who have made a positive difference in the way we manage and conserve Atlantic coastal fisheries. Here is a summary of who was honored.

Steve Driscoll received the Management and Policy Award for his contributions as New Hampshire's Governor Appointee to the Commission from 1993 to 2000. Steve faithfully attended countless Commission meetings over the years and was steadfast in his commitment to improve the Commission process. He championed the notion that our Governor Appointees should have voting rights on all management boards, a change made during his tenure, and one that continues today. A commercial fisherman, Steve brought a world of on-the-water experience and knowledge to Commission proceedings and served as a valuable conduit to the industry. Remarkably, Steve served on the Commission for seven years, with passion and commitment, frequently sacrificing fishing time and personal income.

Tom O'Connell from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Doug Vaughan from NOAA's Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research each received Scientific, Technical and Advisory Awards honoring their important contributions.

Tom was recognized for his work as the Horseshoe Crab Plan Coordinator from 1998 through 2001 while on loan from Maryland DNR. He coordinated the Commission's Advisory Panel, Technical Committee, and Horseshoe Management Board through the entire fishery management plan process; no small task, given the controversy and uncertainties surrounding this species. Notably, through Tom's leadership, the Technical Committee was able to work together to reduce the 2000 horseshoe crab harvest by 40 percent, exceeding the plan's stated target of 25 percent.

Doug Vaughan, a longtime friend of the Commission, was recognized for his active participation for nearly 20 years in numerous stock assessment and technical committees. While probably best known for his work with Atlantic menhaden, he has been a major source of new ideas re-

sulting in an improved stock assessment process for weakfish and red drum. An enthusiastic and thoughtful committee member, Doug has been tireless in his efforts to attack problems, and generous in sharing his knowledge. For many of us involved in the Commission process, our understanding of fisheries biology and stock assessments has been significantly improved as a result of Doug's contributions.

Two awards were also given in the area of Law Enforcement, one to Captain Jim Hanlon of the Massachusetts Environmental Police and a unit award to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Marine Patrol.

Captain Hanlon was recognized for his 24 years of work dedicated to the enforcement of state and federal fisheries regulations throughout the Commonwealth, one of the busiest fishing and landings areas on the East Coast. Besides working closely with various stakeholder groups, Jim has distinguished himself over the years through his effective efforts to establish and maintain strong working partnerships with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Enforcement and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The entire South Carolina DNR Marine Patrol was recognized for their collective efforts to promote joint state-federal fisheries law enforcement. Since the late 1980s Patrol officers have been cross-deputized as federal fisheries enforcement agents allowing them to enforce U.S. fisheries laws in federal waters. An even closer relationship between the Patrol and NMFS Enforcement was established in 1998 with the signing of a Joint Enforcement Agreement providing funding for an increased offshore enforcement program. The Agreement has been a great success, leading to prosecution of over 60 federal cases, and more than 300 state cases, truly a model of state-federal cooperation.

Congratulations, again to all of the recipients, and thanks to them, and all of you who work so hard to make the Commission process and the important business of fisheries management work.

On a closing note, congratulations to Florida Commissioner Ken Haddad who takes a big step up to become Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Although Ken will have a lot on his plate with his new job, he hopes to be able to continue to serve on the ASMFC. Let's hope he is right.

Draft Spiny Dogfish Plan Now Available for Public Comment: State Meetings Scheduled for MA, RI, NY, NJ, MD, VA, NC



The Atlantic coastal states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina have scheduled the dates and times of their public meetings in order to gather public comment and input on the recently released Public Hearing Draft of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Spiny Dogfish. Following are the details of the scheduled meetings.

July 11, 2002; 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
Roanoke Island Festival Park
One Festival Park
Manteo, North Carolina.
Contact: Red Munden at (252)726-7021

July 15, 2002; 7:00 PM
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Best Western Bridge - Bourne Hotel
100 Towbridge Road
Bourne, Massachusetts
Contact: Dr. David Pierce at (617) 626-1532

July 15, 2002; 7:00 PM
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Fourth Floor
Newport News, Virginia
Contact: Jack Travelstead at (757) 247-2247

July 16, 2002; 6:00 PM
Rhode Island Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
3 Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, Rhode Island
Contact: Brian Murphy (401)423-1941

July 17, 2002; 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife
Ocean County Southern Resource Center
225 Recovery Road
Manahawkin, New Jersey
Contact: Bruce Freeman at (609)292-2083

July 17, 2002; 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
North Carolina State University
Center for Marine Sciences & Technology (CMAST)
303 College Circle
Morehead City, North Carolina
Contact: Red Munden at (252)726-7021

July 18, 2002; 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
Brunswick Community College
Aquaculture Facility
Supply, North Carolina
Contact: Red Munden at (252)726-7021

July 23, 2002; 7:00 PM
New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Marine Resources
Conference Room
205 North Belle Meade Road
East Setauket, New York
Contact: Gordon Colvin at (631)444-0433

July 25, 2002; 7:00 PM
Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Service
Worcester County Board of Education Complex
6270 Worcester Highway (Route 113)
Newark, Maryland
Contact: Howard King at (410)260-8264

On May 22, 2002, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Management Board approved the Public Hearing Draft of the FMP. The document provides the states' proposed goals and objectives in managing the spiny dogfish resource in state waters and provides an extensive series of proposed options for interstate management. Some of the management options in the document include harvest levels, trip limits, alternative fishing seasons, and a variety of quota allocation schemes.

"I am very pleased with the document that we have approved for public comment," stated Board Chair John Connell from New Jersey. "It provides an extensive slate of management options upon which our fishing and non-fishing constituencies can provide comment and captures the states' intent to continue to work cooperatively with our federal partners in the management of this important resource."

The Management Board first initiated development of the plan in 1999, with the intent of coordinating on-going federal actions in the exclusive economic zone. Under the federal plan, the fishery is managed through a constant fishing mortality strategy that currently allows for a four million-pound quota, divided into two periods (May 1 - October 31 and November 1 - April 30).

Since August 21, 2000, the states have regulated the spiny dogfish commercial fishery through a series of emergency actions, which close state waters to the commercial harvest, landing and possession of spiny dogfish when there is a closure in federal waters. The final extension of the Spiny Dogfish Emergency Action will expire January 31, 2003. The Management Board intends to approve the final FMP during the Commission's Annual Meeting in November.

Copies of the Public Hearing Draft can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org. Public comment on the document will be accepted until **August 5, 2002** and should be forwarded to Megan Gamble, Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 Eye Street, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC, 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax); or at mgamble@asmfc.org.

ASMFC Finds Massachusetts Out-of-Compliance with Lobster Addendum II, Pending July 1, 2002 Deadline for State Implementation

On May 22, 2002, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission acted to find the Commonwealth of Massachusetts out-of-compliance with the required gauge size increases established by Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP), if the state fails to take action by July 1, 2002.

Addendum II, which was approved in February 2001, implements the recommended Lobster Conservation Management Team proposals for Areas 2-5 and the Outer Cape. Specifically, Addendum II requires minimum gauge size increases of 1/32" in Area 2 and the Outer Cape portions of Massachusetts' state waters. These gauge size increases were required for state implementation by December 31, 2001. To date, Massachusetts has failed to implement these measures.

In its report to the American Lobster Management Board on May 20, 2002, the Commonwealth indicated its inten-

tion to come back into compliance either through the implementation of the required provisions of Addendum II or through Board approved conservationally-equivalent management measures. Massachusetts indicated that it intends on addressing the issue through its Marine Fisheries Commission in early June.

Given this information, the Commission decided to move forward with the finding of noncompliance in the event that Massachusetts fails to implement and enforce the required gauge size increase of 1/32" for Massachusetts' waters of Area 2 and the Outer Cape Cod by July 1, 2002. This increase in gauge size is required to ensure that the egg rebuilding targets of the plan are achieved and to maintain effective cooperative management of the lobster resource.

Under the Commission's ISFMP Charter, the Commission must notify the State, Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior of the

Commission's determination. Upon receipt of the recommendation, the Secretary of Commerce has 30 days to review the recommendation and take final action. If Massachusetts should remain out-of-compliance with Addendum II then ultimately the Secretary of Commerce may place a moratorium on fishing for lobster in Massachusetts (pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 5106). These actions are the result of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, which mandates a cooperative state/federal program to conserve and manage valuable coastal fisheries. It requires the Commission to prepare and adopt FMPs. It also imposes an obligation on each state covered by a FMP to implement and enforce the FMP's regulations in state waters, or else face the possibility of a federal moratorium on fishing for the affected species in that state. For more information, please contact Heather Stirratt, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400, ext. 301.

ASMFC to Conduct Lobster Transferability Workshop in August

In August 2002, the Commission will be hosting a workshop on transferable trap programs for lobster management. The workshop will be held in Washington, D.C. at the Watergate Swisshotel.

This workshop stems from an Advisory Panel recommendation to the American Lobster Management Board and is intended to educate participants on the topic of trap transferability as a lobster resource management tool. Specifically, the workshop will include presentations

focused on potential conservation benefits, enforcement, administration, capitalization and equity issues. Attention will be given to existing national and international transferability programs, as well as those that may be proposed to the Commission for use in lobster conservation management areas in the future. A facilitated discussion will follow the presentations to address concerns and answer important questions relative to implementation of transferable fishing rights programs under the current lobster management regime.

For more information, please contact Heather Stirratt, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 ext. 301 or <hstirratt@asmfc.org>.



ASMFC Finds New York Out-of-Compliance with Lobster Addendum I, Pending July 1, 2002 Deadline for State Implementation

On May 22, 2002, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission acted to find the State of New York out-of-compliance with the required circular escape vent size established by Addendum I to Amendment 3 to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP), if the state fails to take action by July 1, 2002.

Addendum I, which was approved in August 1999, incorporates Lobster Conservation Management Team recommendations to control effort and increase egg production. Specifically, Addendum I establishes a trap tag program, encourages increased data collection, and establishes a circular escape vent size comparable to the rectangular escape vent required by Amendment 3. A circular escape vent size of 2-7/16" was required for state implementation by September 1, 1999. To date, New York has failed to implement this circular escape vent size.

In its report to the American Lobster Management Board on May 20, 2002, the State of New York indicated its intention to come back into compliance through the implementation of the required circular escape vent provisions of Addendum I. New York indicated it will address this issue through state rulemaking in the near future.

Given this information, the Commission decided to move forward with the finding of noncompliance in the event that New York fails to implement and enforce the required circular escape vent size of 2-7/16" in New York state waters by July 1, 2002.

Under the Commission's ISFMP Charter, the Commission must notify the State, Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior of the Commission's determination. Upon receipt of the recommendation, the Sec-

retary of Commerce has 30 days to review the recommendation and take final action. If New York should remain out-of-compliance with Addendum I then ultimately the Secretary of Commerce may place a moratorium on fishing for lobster in New York (pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 5106). These actions are the result of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, which mandates a cooperative state/federal program to conserve and manage valuable coastal fisheries. It requires the Commission to prepare and adopt FMPs. It also imposes an obligation on each state covered by a FMP to implement and enforce the FMP's regulations in state waters, or else face the possibility of a federal moratorium on fishing for the affected species in that state.

For more information, please contact Heather Stirratt, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400, ext. 301.

Draft Striped Bass Amendment 6 Approved for Public Comment

On May 23, 2002, the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved the Public Hearing Draft of Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. It is anticipated that most of the Atlantic coastal states will be conducting public hearings this summer and early fall.

"This Draft Amendment has been a long time in the making, due to the complexity of issues surrounding striped bass management," stated Board Chair, Lewis Flagg from Maine. "The document is designed to solicit public input on a number of difficult issues, not the least of which is allocation of the re-

source. Following the public comment period, the Board's challenge will be to fairly weigh all the issues and create a management program that is equitable to all user groups."

The Draft Amendment provides extensive options for the long-range management of Atlantic coastal striped bass populations. The three primary issues addressed in the Draft Amendment include management program goals, objectives and planning horizon, modifications to the biological reference points, and allocation of the resource by user group and area. The document presents information on habitat issues, bycatch

and discards of striped bass, monitoring programs, and protected species/fishery interactions.

The Public Hearing Draft is scheduled to be available for public comment by the end of June, with the states conducting public hearings throughout the summer and into early fall. Final plan approval is slated to occur during the Commission's Annual Meeting in November 2002. For more information, please contact Robert Beal, ISFMP Director, at (202) 289-6400 or <rbeal@asmfc.org>.



ASMFC Approves Amendment 13 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Plan: Plan Establishes State-by-State Black Sea Bass Allocations for 2003 and 2004

On May 22, 2002, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved Amendment 13 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 13 was developed jointly by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Commission to manage the black sea bass resource in both state and federal waters.

Amendment 13 establishes a state-by-state allocation of the commercial black sea bass quota for the 2003 and 2004 fishing years. During joint Commission and Council deliberations on May 1, 2002, both bodies determined that a management program which allows for state-specific regulations offers the most regulatory flexibility for each gear type used throughout the range of the species. The approved state allocations of the commercial quota are: Maine and New Hampshire - 0.5% each, Connecticut - 1%, Delaware - 5%, New York - 7%, Rhode Island, North Carolina and

Maryland -11% each, Massachusetts - 13%, and New Jersey and Virginia - 20% each

The Board and Council also considered implementing regulations that effect the wet storage of black sea bass pots/traps, limiting the number of pots used by each fisherman and establishing a pot/trap tagging program. Based on substantial public input, both bodies determined to take no action and maintain status quo.

Amendment 13 significantly modifies the current management program for black sea bass, which operates through coastwide quarterly quota allocations. The intent of the quarterly allocation was to provide fishermen with the opportunity to land black sea bass throughout the entire quarter. However, early closures in quarters 3 and 4 of 1999 and 2000 have had serious economic consequences for commercial fishermen, necessitating a change to the management program.

Summer flounder, scup and black sea bass are jointly managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council. The Council is scheduled to take final action on this Amendment in June and will forward its management recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce. These recommendations will likely include a coastwide quota without seasonal breakdowns, while allowing the states to administer the state-specific allocations as described above.

In addition to these actions, the Board also approved New York's and Rhode Island's state-specific proposals for the 2002 recreational scup fishery. The remaining state proposals were approved at a joint meeting of the Board and Council in April.

For more information, please contact Mike Lewis, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or <mlewis@asmfc.org>.

ASMFC Comings & Goings

Lisa Bethea -- For over six years, Lisa has been a woman of many talents and accomplishments here at the Commission. Over that time, her job responsibilities have ranged from Receptionist, to Accounting and Network Specialist, Administrative Assistant for Finance & Administration and, finally, to Personnel & Benefits Administrator. Some of her major accomplishments have been the major revision of the Commission's mailing and committee list database, development of the annual meeting registration database, and creation of the CD-ROM briefing book for ASMFC meeting week materials. At the end of May, Lisa left the Commission to pursue her career in health and nutrition, working for the District of Columbia Education Office on school nutrition pro-

grams. Congratulations and good luck, Lisa. You will be missed!

Jonna Ellis -- Also at the end of May, Jonna joined the Commission staff its new Personnel & Benefits Administrator. Jonna comes to us with a A.A. in Business Administration from McPherson College; she is also currently working towards a B.A. in Human Resources. Jonna last worked for the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties as an Legislative Assistant. With her background in human resources, Jonna is excited about being in a position where she can apply all she has learned, and we are honored to have her as part of our staff. Welcome aboard, Jonna!

ASMFC Approves Revised Peer Review Process

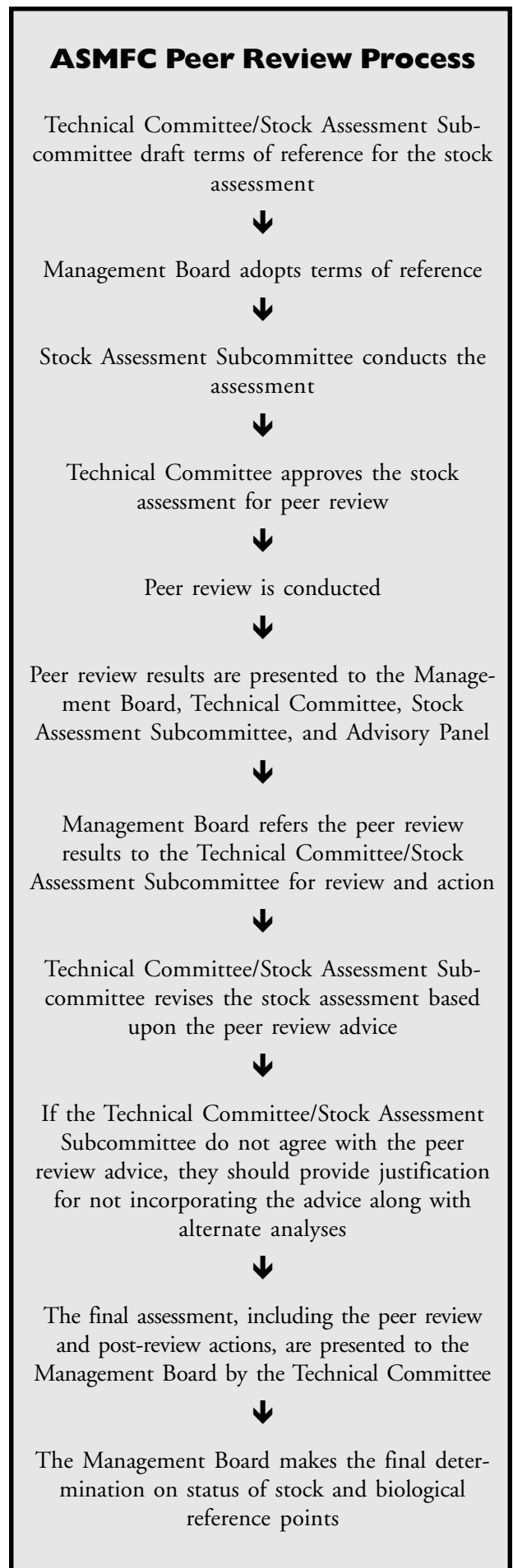
The Commission's Stock Assessment Peer Review Process was adopted in 1998. It includes several types of peer reviews, such as the Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee (SAW/SARC) process, the Commission's external peer review process, use of an existing organization for reviews, and internal reviews by the Commission's technical committees. The purpose of the peer review process is to improve the quality and credibility of assessments and ensure that all assessment undergo periodic review.

Since 1998, the Commission has conducted five external peer reviews, with the majority of peer reviews being conducted through the SAW/SARC process. In order to meet federal mandates, the SAW/SARC process is currently being used by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Regional Fishery Management Councils to provide stock status and overfishing advice. The Commission's external peer review process was originally developed to be consistent with the standards of the SAW/SARC process.

Over the last two years, issues have been raised by several technical and policy members concerning the Commission's external peer review process. In an effort to refine and improve the process, the Commission's Management and Science Committee (MSC) solicited broader input from Commission management boards, technical committees, stock assessment subcommittees, and advisory panels. Several of the major issues of concern included (1) whether changes should be made to an assessment during the peer review, (2) whether ownership of the assessment should pass from the technical committee to the peer review panel, (3) whether the peer review panel should develop stock assessment and management advice, and (4) how to reconcile differences between the advice provided by the technical committee and the peer review panel.

In order to address these issues, the Commission's Stock Assessment Peer Review Process has been modified to include a reconciliation process, which is designed to provide a mechanism to address differences between the advice provided by the technical committee and the peer review panel. The reconciliation process is shown to the right. The implications of this revision mean that no changes will be made to the stock assessment during the Commission's external peer review process and ownership of the assessment remains with the technical committee. The Commission's external peer review panels will not develop management advice, but will develop advice on stock status. The Management Board will have the final determination on stock status consistent with the reconciliation process.

The document is currently being modified to reflect these changes and will be republished by the Commission. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the new publication, please contact Cecilia Butler, Administrative Assistant, at (202)289-6400. For more information, please contact Dr. Lisa Kline, Director of Research and Statistics, at lkline@asmfc.org.



ASMFC Issues Request for Proposals for Power Plant Data Compilation

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has issued a Request for Proposals for the Compilation of Power Plant Impingement and Entrainment Data from New Jersey through South Carolina. These data will support the activities of the Commission's Power Plant Panel in conducting a coastwide assessment to determine the effects of power plant mortality on Atlantic menhaden. The Panel has recommended that a coastwide assessment of power plant mortalities for Atlantic menhaden be conducted at a scale consistent with the existing fishery stock assessment. The power plant assessment will be integrated with existing fishery stock assessment models, therefore, there is no need to modify or create a new stock assessment model for Atlantic menhaden.

The Commission's Power Plant Panel has developed the mathematical equations necessary to support the integration of power plant mortality estimates with the virtual population analysis for Atlantic menhaden. Atlantic menhaden was chosen as the trial species for this project for several reasons (1) it consists of a single

stock from Maine to Florida; (2) there is considerable life history information available; (3) fishery dependent data is one of the most extensive for any species along the U.S. Atlantic coast, and (4) the Commission is currently working to integrate the effect of Atlantic menhaden predation by several key species (striped bass, bluefish and weakfish) into the Atlantic menhaden assessment.

The contractor will be required to assemble losses by life stage and age (e.g., eggs, yolksac larvae, post-yolksac larvae, and juveniles up to age-1; and older fish by age class) for estimating the number of Atlantic menhaden killed through power plant operations. Data should be provided for operations in New Jersey through South Carolina for the period 1985 to the present. The data compilation will include an indication of sampling years, sampling frequency within each year, a list of all stations, water withdrawal rates from all stations, a summary for each station, descrip-



Photo courtesy of Heather Stirratt

tion of sampling gears, taxonomic level of detail, and documentation of data sources. The contractor will be required to present all compiled data to the Commission Power Plant Panel for review and guidance on estimation procedures where data are not available.

Copies of the Request for Proposals and Statement of Work can be obtained via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org or by contacting Cecilia Butler, Administrative Assistant, at [<cbutler@asmfc.org>](mailto:cbutler@asmfc.org). **The deadline for proposals submissions is 5:00 PM, July 19, 2002.** All submissions should be forwarded to Dr. Lisa Kline, Director of Research and Statistics, at 1444 Eye Street, N.W., Sixth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax) [<lkline@asmfc.org>](mailto:lkline@asmfc.org).

Draft Shad Addendum I Available for Public Comment

On June 20, 2002, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission released the Draft Addendum I to Amendment I and Technical Addendum 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad & River Herring for public comment and review. Specifically, the Addendum changes the hatchery marking program from Amendment I, clarifies the definition and intent of de minimis status for commercial and recreational fisheries, and modifies the monitoring requirements outlined in Technical Addendum 1 to Amendment 1.

Management Board approval of the Addendum is scheduled to occur in August during the Commission's Meeting Week (August 26 – 29). The schedule for implementing the new requirements will be determined during the next Management Board meeting.

Copies of the Draft Addendum can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org. Public comment on the document will be accepted until July

20, 2002 and should be forwarded to Megan Gamble, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 Eye Street, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC, 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax); or at [<mgamble@asmfc.org>](mailto:mgamble@asmfc.org). For more information, please contact Megan Gamble at (202) 289-6400, ext. 317.



Coordinating Council Approves an ACCSP Strategic Plan

The Coordinating Council of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) approved a five-year strategic plan at its meeting in Washington on May 22, 2002. The Council spent most of the last year collaborating on the document.

The goals and strategies, as outlined in the ACCSP Strategic Plan, are designed to realize the partners' five-year vision for the program – becoming the premier resource of fisheries statistics on the Atlantic coast; contributing to the restoration and sustainability of marine fisheries; and becoming an efficient, informative, user-friendly and reliable statistical system. Following is a brief description of the plan's primary goals and the identified strategies to achieve these goals.

Goal 1 – Produce complete, timely, and accurate fishery statistics

Associated Strategies:

- Develop partner-specific implementation plans and schedules that specify resource requirements
- Identify and correct data gaps and deficiencies
- Establish coastwide data collection systems, standards and processes
- Establish a unified and consistent data management system
- Help the partners obtain adequate and stable funding, the required human resources and the necessary statutory authority
- Increase and improve industry participation and develop and implement performance measures

Goal 2 – Increase public and industry confidence in fishery information

Associated Strategies:

- Ensure protection of confidential data
- Provide public access to fishery data
- Give providers of the data the opportunity to audit their own data
- Identify and promote awareness of uses and benefits of ACCSP-quality fishery data
- Encourage management agencies to make the stock assessment process and other high-level analyses more understandable
- Conduct public education, public information, and outreach activities
- Develop and implementing performance measures

Goal 3 – Develop and maintain active support and participation by all program partners

Associated Strategies:

- Develop partner-specific implementation plans and schedules that specify resource requirements
- Help the partners obtain adequate and stable funding the required human resources, and the necessary statutory authority
- Develop a model for partner participation and funding.
- Improve liaison between ACCSP staff and the partner agencies
- Communicate program status to partners on a routine basis
- Develop and implement performance measures

Goal 4 – Support the development and operation of a nationwide system for collecting, managing, and disseminating marine fisheries information. Strategies for making this goal a reality include enhanced liaison with the existing regional statistics programs, ensuring information transfer between the ACCSP and the other regional statistics programs, and participating in national workshops that address fishery statistics.

Achieving substantial progress toward the ACCSP vision requires making the program's modules operational. All modules cannot be made fully operational by 2006, so the Council established the following priorities for module implementation:

1. Catch and effort data for commercial, recreational and for hire fisheries, incorporating permit and vessel registration data
2. Biological data
3. Releases, discards and protected species data
4. Quota monitoring data
5. Economic data
6. Sociological data

About the ACCSP

The ACCSP is 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. It is composed of representatives from natural resource management agencies coastwide, including the Commission, the three East Coast regional fishery management councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the District of Columbia Fisheries Division, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For more information, please contact Abbey Compton, ACCSP Outreach Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or abbey.compton@accsp.org.

AAE Award Winners Celebrate!

On May 20, 2002, state and federal fisheries managers, scientists and fishermen recognized the contributions of several outstanding individuals to the conservation and management Atlantic coastal resources at an evening reception of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Commission Chair, Susan Shipman and Awards Committee Chair, David Cupka had the honor of leading the ceremony of the Commission's Fourth Annual Awards of Excellence (AAE), presenting awards in the areas of law enforcement, management & policy, and scientific, technical & advisory contributions.

In his Executive Director's Column, Vince O'Shea provides the details of the awards and the award recipients. And, here are the pictures:



Above -- Award recipients (from left to right): Steve Driscoll of New Hampshire. Craig Whitfield, accepting on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Marine Patrol, John Merriner, accepting on behalf of Doug Vaughan of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research, Tom O'Connell of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Jim Hanlon of the Massachusetts Environmental Police.



Craig Whitfield and David Cupka



Tom O'Connell and Susan Shipman



David Cupka and Jim Hanlon



Left: Steve Driscoll and Susan Shipman

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