



ASMFC

# FISHERIES *focus*

Volume 11, Issue 3  
March 2002

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission • 1444 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C.

## **ASMFC Approves Addendum III to Amendment 3 to the American Lobster FMP**

On February 20, 2002, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved Addendum III to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. The Addendum incorporates the alternative management programs for Lobster Conservation Management Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Outer Cape Cod as developed by the respective Lobster Conservation Management Teams (LCMTs).

“On behalf of the Lobster Management Board, I want to commend members of the LCMTs for their continued commitment to the conservation and management of American lobster,” stated Board Chair George Lapointe from Maine. “Our challenge for the future will be to further enhance the ability of states and fishermen to work cooperatively together to meet the resource’s conservation needs on an area-by-area basis.”

**Area 3 (Offshore)** – Mandatory v-notching requirements (above the 42° 30’ latitude in Gulf of Maine), five-mile overlap boundary between Areas 3 and 5, and a choose and use provision, annual implementation dates for minimum gauge size increases;

**Area 4 (Southern New England)** – Minimum gauge size increases, maximum gauge size (if necessary);

**Area 5 (Mid-Atlantic)** – Minimum gauge size increases, maximum gauge size (if necessary), vessel upgrade limit;

**Area 6 (New York & Connecticut State Waters)** – Minimum gauge size increases (if necessary), escape vent size increase (if necessary); and

**Outer Cape Cod** – Minimum gauge size increases, trap reduction schedule, annual trap transfer period and passive reductions, and additional contingency measures.

American lobster is managed under Amendment 3 to the American Lobster FMP, as well as Addenda I, II and III to the plan. Amendment 3 established a framework for area management, which includes industry participation through seven Lobster Conservation Management Teams (LCMTs). Under the Amendment, the LCMTs are encouraged to develop area-specific management program, which meet the needs of the area while meeting the targets established by the plan. The LCMTs, with support of state agencies, have played a vital role in advancing the area management program.

Addendum III was developed in response to an Addendum II requirement whereby each LCMT was asked to review the revised egg rebuilding schedule, the previous LCMT recommendation, and the area management program, if any and present to the Board alternative measures that will achieve the stock rebuilding targets. Specifically, the Addendum identifies new management measures applicable to commercial fishing in Lobster Management Areas 1 through 6, and Outer Cape Cod, which provide for the following:

**Area 1 (Gulf of Maine)** – Escape vent size increase to 2-inches in 2007 (if necessary), zero tolerance definition of v-notching, and mandatory v-notching requirements;

**Area 2 (Southern New England)** – Annual implementation dates for minimum gauge size increases;

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**T**he 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*

Susan Shipman (GA), Chair  
John I. Nelson (NH), Vice-Chair  
Laura C. Leach, Acting Executive Director  
Robert E. Beal, Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program  
Dr. Lisa L. Kline, Director of Research & Statistics

Tina L. Berger, Editor  
tberger@asmfc.org

(202)289-6400 Phone • (202)289-6051 Fax  
www.asmfc.org

## Upcoming Meetings

**3/19 & 21:**

New England Fishery Management Council, Mystic Hilton, Mystic, Connecticut.

**3/21 & 22:**

ASMFC Interstate Tagging Committee, Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport, 4400 West Cypress Street, Tampa, Florida; 800/325-3535.

**3/26 - 28:**

ASMFC Artificial Reef Technical Committee, Key West Florida.

**3/26 - 28:**

ASMFC Striped Bass Technical Committee, Stock Assessment Subcommittee & Plan Development Team, Sheraton International Hotel BWI, 7032 Elm Road, Baltimore, Maryland; (800)638-5858.

**4/11 (10 AM - 5 PM) & 12 (8 AM - 3 PM):**

ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Plan Development Team, Holiday Inn BWI, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland; 800/465-4329.

**4/16 & 17:**

ASMFC Habitat Committee, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Annapolis, Maryland.

**4/21 - 24:**

58th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine; <http://www.mefishwildlife.com>

**4/30 - 5/2:**

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Omni Hotel, Newport News, Virginia.

**5/14 & 16:**

New England Fishery Management Council, Samoset Resort, Rockland, Maine.

**5/20 - 23:**

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

**6/11 - 13:**

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, The Town Center, Silver Spring, Maryland.

**7/23 - 25:**

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

The following article was provided by Laura C. Leach, Acting Executive Director and long-standing Director of the Finance & Administration.

Wow, I've been waiting 20 years for this opportunity and here it is!!! Unaccustomed as I am to writing a monthly column, I'll do my best to make it interesting! In the days since September 11, I'd venture to say we've all become a bit more nostalgic for the times that were...

Yep, I've been with ASMFC for 20+ years, and the changes from then to now have been nothing short of phenomenal. First, the raw statistics: In 1981, I was the sixth employee on staff and the budget that year was \$130,000; today we have 30 employees and a budget of four million dollars! Most of the growth has come in the past 11 years, of course, under Jack's leadership, but we cannot discount the legacy that Irwin Alperin and his contemporaries left behind. I was fortunate to be introduced to interstate fisheries management by the "old guard," men like Irwin, Dave Hart, Phil Coates, Ralph Abele, Carl Sullivan, Dick Schaefer, Russ Cookingham and Ed Joseph. They were the men who laid the groundwork for the process that we use today and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Times change however, and people retire, and the old guard gave way to men like Gordon Colvin, Duane Harris, Bill Hogarth, Bill Brennan, and Bill Pruitt (causing the Menhaden Board to be called the Bill Board!). The "changing of the guard" was complete in 1991 with the hiring of Jack Dunnigan (Jack who?!) as our new Executive Director. ASMFC had eight employees and a budget of about \$770,000.

After learning that Jack and I could work together and actually enjoy it (Jack being the visionary, big-picture guy and I was the detail, process-oriented person!) the next ten years flew, and the Commission "took off." Although Jack and I did not always see eye-to-eye, I learned more from him than I

thought possible. He was a true mentor and I am grateful for the time he invested in me.

Jack had vision and the ability to translate that vision into action and then reality, and we are where we are today because of his tenacity and leadership and commitment to the success of interstate fisheries management. Recognizing, of course, that he could not have accomplished what he did without the teamwork and support of the 45 Commissioners.

The 90s were exciting times – again, we saw many new Commissioners – Susan Shipman, George Lapointe, Preston Pate, Dave Borden, John Nelson and Paul Diodati, to name a few. We relocated the Commission office twice because our staff continued to grow; our budget continued its upward trend; we started and staffed a Research and Statistics Department; we refined the way we did things, streamlining the process wherever possible; in short, we were no longer the ASMFC that hired this young woman majoring in History at Mary Washington College!

People have asked me how I can stay in one organization for such a long time and I say it's been easy. I have been afforded such opportunities at the Commission that I cannot imagine I would have gotten elsewhere, but more importantly it's the people that I have been privileged to work with. From the old guard that I came in under to the young professionals that we have on staff today, I don't think I could have come across a finer group of people over the past 20 years anywhere.

It is an honor to have been entrusted with leading the Commission during the 2.5 months between Executive Directors, a responsibility that I do not take lightly. I have grown up during my 20 years with ASMFC, and it is a real privilege to be one of the old-timers in this organization!



## **ASMFC South Atlantic Board Approves Amendment 2 to the Red Drum FMP**

On February 20, 2002, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's South Atlantic State-Federal Fisheries Management Board 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 or 40%SPR.

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 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 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.

To date, the Atlantic coast red drum population has been jointly managed by the Commission and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. With its final approval by the Commission in May, 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, FMP Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or <jdesfosse@asmfc.org>.

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## **ASMFC Approves Addendum III to the Tautog Fishery Management Plan**

On February 19, 2002, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved Addendum III to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The Addendum requires the states to develop and implement plans to reduce fishing mortality in their respective recreational fisheries by April 1, 2003 and revises the plan fishing mortality target to  $F_{40\%SSB}$ . In the meantime, states will be required to maintain existing or more restrictive regulations aimed at maintaining current fishing mortality levels.

The Addendum significantly changes the course of tautog management by modifying the stock rebuilding goals of the plan and significantly enhancing the plan's data monitoring requirements. Prior to its approval, the states would have been required to reduce current fishing mortality levels by 63 percent by April 1, 2002. Under the Addendum, the states will still need to reduce fishing mortality levels by approximately 48 percent but lessens the social and economic impacts to fishermen.

Additionally, the Addendum includes requirements to further enhance data collection and monitoring programs coastwide.

One of the greatest challenges of tautog management has been the lack of adequate data particularly in the southern range of the species. To this end, the Addendum mandates state collection of data to support regionally based stock assessments. Until such time as the data are sufficient to perform a regional assessment, the Commission will continue to perform stock assessments on a coastwide basis.

In addition, the Addendum recommends that the Secretary of Commerce fully implement regulations for tautog in the exclusive economic zone that are in accordance with state minimum sizes, possession limits, closed seasons, as well as other landings regulations.

Copies of the Addendum can be obtained via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) or by contacting the Commission office at (202)289-6400. For more information, please contact Heather Stirratt, Tautog Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400, ext. 301.



## ASMFC Approves Black Sea Bass Addendum VI & Scup Addenda V & VII

On February 21, 2002, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved three addenda to

the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The three addenda seek to improve the conservation and management of black sea bass and scup fisheries through the setting of commercial possession limits and triggers for black sea bass, the establishment of state-specific allocations for the commercial scup summer period quota, and the establishment of 2002 recreational fishery specifications for scup.

Addendum VI for Black Sea Bass establishes initial possession limits, triggers and adjusted possession limits for Quarters II (April - June), III (July - September) and IV (October - December), as outlined in the Table 1. All adjustments will take place when 60 percent of the quarterly quota is projected to be taken. Each state will have the flexibility to establish weekly or daily possession limits to meet the specific needs of their fishermen.

Addendum V for the Scup FMP establishes permanent state-shares for the commercial fishery during the summer period (May 1 – October 31). State shares are calculated using the most recent landings data from 1983 – 1992. The state percent allocation will be identical to that in place during the 2001 summer period (see Table 2).

Addendum VII for the Scup FMP establishes the management program for use in the 2002 recreational fishery. States from Massachusetts through New York will develop state-specific management measures based on the calculated effectiveness of 2001 regulations relative to landings from 1998-2000. Under this scenario, some states will need to develop more restrictive regulations, while others will be permitted to maintain or slightly relax their current management programs. These states are also

Table 2. State percent share of the summer period quota. Shares calculated based on the landings from 1983-1992 after the additional landings from Massachusetts landings were included in the database.

STATE	% OF SUMMER QUOTA	SUMMER 2002 QUOTA (in lbs) <sup>a</sup>
ME	0.1210%	3,657
NH	0.0000%	0
MA	21.5853%	610,116
RI	56.1894%	1,698,336
CT	3.1537%	95,321
NY	15.8232%	477,982
NJ	2.9164%	88,148
DE	0.0000%	0
MD	0.0119%	359
VA	0.1650%	4,987
NC	0.0249%	752
TOTAL	100%	3,022,520

<sup>a</sup> State quotas for 2002 have been adjusted for 2001 overages

provided the option of separating their recreational fishery by mode upon review and approval by the Technical Committee and Board. In the case of New Jersey, which has very limited recreational landings data, the Board approved a 10-inch minimum size, 50 fish bag limit and a season of July 1 – October 31. Due to the very low landings in more southern states, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina will be permitted to maintain their current regulations.

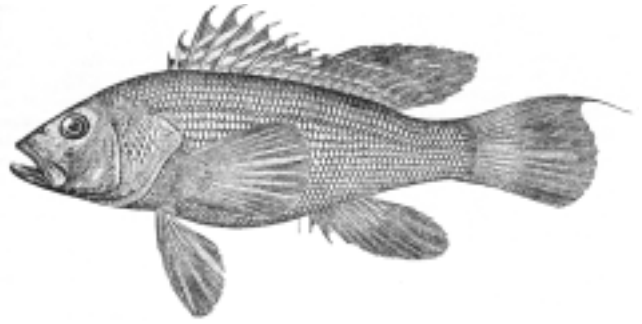
While summer flounder, scup and black sea bass are managed jointly by the Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, these recent actions have been taken by the states for state water management only.

Table 1. 2002 Fishing Season Possession Limits for Black Sea Bass

QUARTER	2002 INITIAL POSSESSION LIMIT	TRIGGER	ADJUSTED POSSESSION LIMIT
II	1,500 lbs/day 6,000 lbs/week	60%	150 lbs/day 1,000 lbs/day
III	500 lbs/day 3,000 lbs/week	60%	100 lbs/day 700 lbs/week
IV	750 lbs/day 4,000 lbs/week	60%	100 lbs/day 700 lbs/week

Copies of the Addenda can be obtained by contacting the Commission office at (202)289-6400, or via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org). For more information, please contact Michael Lewis, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or [mlewis@asmfc.org](mailto:mlewis@asmfc.org).

# ASMFC & MAFMC Schedule Public Hearings for Amendment 13 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Plan



The following information has been reprinted in part from a February 28, 2002 press release of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold seven public hearings to gather input on the public hearing draft of Amendment 13 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Amendment 13 was prepared by the Council and the Commission and is intended to manage the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fishery. This amendment would:

- revise the quarterly commercial quota system for black sea bass implemented in Amendment 9;
- address the problems related to the wet storage of black sea bass pots/traps;
- establish *de minimis* specifications for black sea bass under the Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Program Charter;
- implement tag requirements for black sea bass pots/traps; and
- limit the number of black sea bass pots/traps fished by fishermen.

**March 18, 2002; 7:00-10:00 PM**

Grand Hotel  
1045 Beach Avenue  
Cape May, New Jersey  
(609) 884-5611

**March 18, 2002; 7:00-10:00 PM**

Best Western (Canal Club)  
100 Trowbridge Road  
Bourne, Massachusetts  
(800) 675-0008

**March 19, 2002; 7:00-10:00 PM**

Ocean Pines Library  
11107 Cathell Road  
Ocean Pines, Maryland  
(410) 208-4014

**March 19, 2002; 7:00-10:00 PM**

Sheraton  
110 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway  
Smithtown, New York

(631) 231-1100

**March 19, 2002; 7:00-10:00 PM**

Comfort Inn  
1940 Post Road  
Warwick, Rhode Island  
(877) 805-8997

**March 20, 2002; 7:00-10:00 PM**

Quality Inn Lake Wright  
6280 Northampton Boulevard  
Norfolk, Virginia  
(757) 461-6251

**March 21, 2002; 7:00-10:00 PM**

Roanoke Island Festival Park  
1 Festival Park  
Manteo, North Carolina  
(252) 475-1500

Copies of the Summary Document of the Public Hearing Draft of Amendment 13 can be obtained via the respective websites of the Commission and Council at <[www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)> and <[www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)>, or by contacting either office at (202)289-6400 or (302)674-2331. Written comments should be submitted to either:

Mr. Michael Lewis  
Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1444 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
FAX: (202)289-6051  
Email: <[mlewis@asmfc.org](mailto:mlewis@asmfc.org)>

or

Mr. Daniel T. Furlong  
Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
Room 2115, 300 S. New Street  
Dover, DE 19904

For more information, please contact Mike Lewis at (202)289-6400 or <[mlewis@asmfc.org](mailto:mlewis@asmfc.org)>.

## ASFMC Continues the Development of Amendment 6 to the Striped Bass FMP



The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board (Board) and Advisory Panel (Panel) met in late February to review the latest draft of the Public Hearing Draft of Amendment 6 to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. In general, the Board and Panel agreed that the current draft needed a number of changes prior to being approved for public hearing. The next draft of the Amendment is currently being developed and should be ready for Board and Panel review during the ASMFC Spring Meeting Week in May.

Specifically, the Board and Panel expressed concern over the biological reference points and allocation scenarios that are included in the draft. The current draft includes a number of options for exploitation and biomass targets and thresholds that are based on the analyses developed by members of the Striped Bass Technical Committee (Committee). To date, the

Committee has not come to a consensus on the appropriate range of reference points for this Amendment. The Board and Panel felt that the biological reference point section of the draft was too complicated and needed to have fewer options with a more detailed description of the impacts of each option.

In addition, the section of the draft that contains the allocation options needs to be further developed to have a larger range of options. These options should include additional scenarios for allocating the resource between commercial and recreational fisheries, as well as producer area and coastal fisheries.

In order to fully develop the biological reference points and allocation scenarios in the draft amendment, the Board established a Workgroup to work with the Committee and Plan Development Team

(PDT). The Committee will meet on March 26 & 27, 2002, to continue the development of the biological reference points. On March 28, 2002, the Workgroup will meet with the Committee to finalize the biological reference points and provide direction to the PDT for additional allocation scenarios to include in the Draft Amendment.

The Board will be reviewing the next draft of Amendment in May to determine if the draft is ready to be distributed for public comment. If approved, the states will be holding public hearings during the summer months. For more information, please contact Robert Beal, Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program at (202) 289-6400 ext. 318.

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## ASMFC Continues its Commitment to Economic & Social Sciences

The Committee on Economics & Social Sciences took important strides towards more effectively integrating social sciences into the Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP). The Committee initiated the development of language for inclusion in the ISFMP Charter, to clearly identify the purpose and duties of the Committee. These duties include providing social and economic advice, information, and policy recommendations to the ISFMP Policy Board and Management Boards, and to the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP).

The Committee continued development of a series of seminars to educate ASMFC Commissioners on the benefits and use of economics and social sciences in fisheries management. The Committee reviewed the social and economic sections

of Draft Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Northern Shrimp, and Draft Amendment 2 to the Fishery Management Plan for Red Drum, and worked towards the development of minimum standards for research and analyses in support of Commission fishery management plans. The Committee heard from the American Lobster Socioeconomic Subcommittee, and made a commitment to improve the communication efforts between these two committees. Finally, the Committee made a commitment to investigating broad-level social and economic issues of interest to, and upon direction by, the ISFMP Policy Board. The Committee has identified several issues and will report to the Policy Board for consideration and guidance in May.

The Committee continued its ongoing effort to monitor the development of coastwide collection of social and economic data under the guidance of the ACCSP. The Committee evaluated the collection of ex-vessel price data in North Carolina commercial fisheries, and made a recommendation that ACCSP Partners continue to strive for trip-level collection of ex-vessel price data. At the request of the ACCSP Coordinating Council, the Committee initiated a review of data collected in the Northeast Region for the Commercial Harvesters Pilot Study, in order to ensure the continued quality and utility of the data.

For more information, please contact Darren Benjamin, Fisheries Research Specialist, at (202) 289-6400 or [dbenjamin@asmfc.org](mailto:dbenjamin@asmfc.org).





## The ACCSP Launches its Online Data Management System

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), a state and federal partnership for Atlantic coastal fisheries data collection and data management, launched its online data management system on February 19, 2002, at a reception in Washington, D.C., making data used by resource managers available to public users in a simple, user-friendly database.

“To our knowledge, this is the first instance of a cooperative state and federal partnership that has produced a database used by resource managers that is also available to the public online,” said David Cupka, Chair of the ACCSP Coordinating Council, “We expect this system to be a tremendous asset to the fishing industry, anglers’ groups, the environmental community and academia.”

This free resource is accessible through the Program’s website at [www.accsp.org](http://www.accsp.org). To gain access, email your full name, phone number, mailing address and preferred email address to [support@accsp.org](mailto:support@accsp.org) with “User Request” in the subject line. Users who request accounts will usually have their usernames and passwords emailed to them within two business days. The system is designed for nontechnical users. However, it is important that new users download the simple training materials available on the website before getting started. During business hours, the ACCSP data management staff will be available to assist on the Program’s toll-free technical support line.

The 23 partners of the ACCSP use standardized data elements for inshore and offshore catch and effort and landings data. Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Maryland electronically feed commercial data directly to the database. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) feeds its own offshore data to the ACCSP database, along with the inshore data of South Carolina and all Atlantic states from Virginia north. The ACCSP gets recreational catch and effort data from NMFS’ Fisheries’ Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS).

**New Staff**  
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The ACCSP Coordinating Council’s five-member selection committee has chosen Maury Osborn as the ACCSP Director. Ms. Osborn has an extensive background in coastal fisheries data collection and data management. Most recently, she served as MRFSS Program Manager. She also managed implementa-

tion of commercial trip reporting and data management operations for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Barry Brasseaux joined the Information Systems staff on February 15 as an Applications Programmer. Mr. Brasseaux comes to the ACCSP from the University of Maryland Medical Systems Information Technology Group, where he provided applications and systems development support for both transactional and warehousing applications.

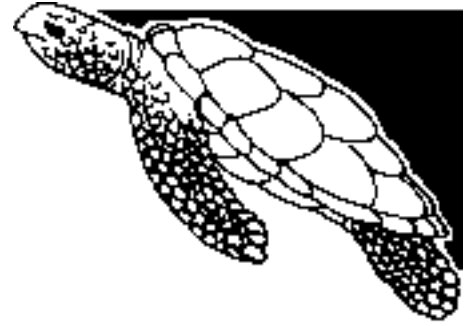
### About the ACCSP

The ACCSP’s partners are the 15 Atlantic states’ natural resource management agencies, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the three Atlantic fishery management councils, the District of Columbia Fisheries and Wildlife Division, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Together these resource managers have developed a plan to cooperatively collect, manage and disseminate fishery statistical data for the Atlantic coast, and to support the development and operation of a national program. For more information on the ACCSP, please contact Abbey Compton at [abbey.compton@accsp.org](mailto:abbey.compton@accsp.org) or 202.289.6400.





# ASMFC Executive Committee and ISFMP Policy Board Tackle Issues of Compliance Efficiency, Endangered Species & More...



The Commission's Executive Committee and the Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board met jointly on February 21, 2002, to address a number of issues, including review of several white papers on compliance efficiency, possible ISFMP restructuring, Commission involvement with the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) and endangered species management. The Policy Board also received and took action on recommendations of the Tautog Management Board and Legislators and Governors' Appointees.

## Vince O'Shea

In its first order of business, however, Commission Chair, Susan Shipman from Georgia, introduced Commissioners to the new incoming Executive Director, Vince O'Shea. He received a warm and enthusiastic welcome and shared his excitement about becoming part of such a relevant organization as the Commission. Vince will begin his new position on April 15, 2002.

## Compliance Efficiency

The Joint Committee and Board reviewed a draft white paper on the states' growing concern over the number of short-term noncompliance issues faced by the states and their federal partners. The goal of the paper is to identify ways in which the states and federal government can minimize the time and administrative burdens placed upon them as a result of short-term noncompliance issues. Committee and Board members agreed to provide their comments on the white paper to Commission staff by the end of March.

## ISFMP Restructuring

Members also reviewed a draft white paper on the potential restructuring of the ISFMP. The paper outlined a number of potential changes that can be made to the program to make the Commission's fisheries management decision-making process more efficient. Commission staff agreed to work on expanding the issues outlined in the document for further discussion by the Joint Committee and Board in May.

## Involvement with MRFSS

The Committee and Board were presented with a white paper, which explored a number of options to increase Commission and state involvement in the implementation of MRFSS. Commission staff agreed to work on expanding the issues outlined in the document for further discussion by the joint Committee and Board in May.

## State/Federal Cooperative Section 6 Agreements

The joint Committee and Board reviewed a white paper on endangered species management in state waters, particularly as

it applies to state/federal cooperative section 6 agreements under the Endangered Species

Act. It was agreed that endangered species/fishery interactions will continue to be an important issue over the next few years, and that the needs of the states and the federal government can best be met through a more cooperative partnership on this issue. Members instructed Commission staff to move forward with the development of a workshop. The workshop goal would be to provide a forum for the discussion of the issues and impacts facing the states in endangered species management, a thorough identification and discussion of state, federal and shared needs, and an identification of potential avenues for state/federal partnership. Workshop participants would include representatives from state fishery and endangered species programs, as well as the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The workshop will be held in the spring.

## Request to LEC

At the request of the Tautog Management Board, the ISFMP Policy Board charged the Commission's Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) with evaluating the magnitude of unreported landings of tautog in both the live market and from non-directed gear (i.e., bycatch). The LEC was requested to report back to the Board no later than the 2002 Annual Meeting.

## Improving the Advisory Panel Process

At the request of the Legislators and Governors' Appointees (LGAs), the ISFMP Policy Board moved to establish an advisory panel oversight committee to provide leadership and guidance to the Commission's advisory panel process. This recommendation was one of several that came out of a two day workshop of Legislators and Governors' Appointees, advisors and Commission staff, with the goal of seeking ways to improve the Commission's advisory panel process. The committee, composed of a subset of the LGAs, two state directors and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee, will provide general oversight, guidance and leadership to the Commission's advisory panel process. Among the committee's first tasks will be to begin implementation of the Workgroup's recommendations for improvement of the process.

For more information, please contact Robert Beal, Director, ISFMP or Laura Leach, Acting Executive Director, at (202) 289-6400.

## Atlantic Menhaden Update

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board met to review reports from both the Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee and the newly formed Advisory Panel. The Board had charged both bodies with a number of tasks to provide guidance in the event that future management measures are necessary. Included in these tasks was a charge to evaluate current fishing practices and the magnitude of the harvest of age-0 menhaden. The Technical Committee was also asked to provide more information to justify a proposed change to the biological reference points in Amendment 1, prioritize potential management options, and evaluate the age structure of the population. Both the Technical Committee and the Advisory Panel were given presentations of the ongoing work to develop a multispecies assessment model for providing future management advice.

The Technical Committee reported that although there has always been some level of age-0 menhaden harvested by the reduction industry, the industry prefers to harvest the larger, older menhaden because they yield more oil and meal compared to smaller, younger fish. The menhaden bait industry also prefers larger menhaden because that is the preferred bait in the lobster and crab fisheries. The

proportion of the age-0 menhaden population harvested each year has been less than 10 percent in all but two years since 1990, and less than five percent of the age-0 population in every year since 1992, with the exception of 1999. The Committee concluded that further work was necessary to evaluate the level of age-0 harvest, which might be problematic in the future. The Advisory Panel concurred with this recommendation to some extent, but added that the Technical Committee should have provided further guidance to the Board concerning the rate of removal of each incoming yearclass that might be problematic. The Technical Committee proposed evaluating this topic further using the multispecies assessment model.

The Technical Committee reiterated the need to revise the biological reference points based on the inclusion of menhaden bait fishery data in the assessment. The reference points in Amendment 1 are based solely on data from the reduction fishery. Given the decline in the reduction landings over the last 10 years, the relative importance of the menhaden bait landings has increased and, therefore, are a more integral part of the landings and the assessment. The Board charged the Committee with evaluating the advisabil-

ity of having fishing mortality reference points which are so close (target  $F=0.9$  and threshold  $F=1.1$ ), and the ability of the Committee to detect actual differences at this level.

The Board recommended that social and economic impact analyses be conducted in order to evaluate any new management measures for both the menhaden fisheries and other fisheries that may be impacted by changes in the menhaden population. This request will be forwarded to the Commission's Committee on Economics and Social Sciences for their input and advice on what information may be available. The Board also asked that the Technical Committee examine environmental data in relation to changes in stock size as well as the occurrence of menhaden in the Gulf of Maine.

For more information, please contact Dr. Joseph Desfosse, Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or [jdesfosse@asmfc.org](mailto:jdesfosse@asmfc.org).



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## Shad Board Addresses Ocean Intercept Fishery Phaseout

The Shad & River Herring Management Board met in February to address two main issues – the American shad ocean intercept fishery phaseout and modifying Amendment I and Technical Addendum #1 to the Shad & River Herring Fishery Management Plan.

By December 31, 2002, states must implement plans to reduce effort in the ocean intercept fishery by 40 percent.

Prior to that date, these plans must be reviewed by the Technical Committee and approved by the Board. To that end, the Board approved a recommendation from the Technical Committee that aids the states with determining how to reduce effort in the ocean intercept fishery. In addition, the Board approved a timeline for the states to submit plans this year for the reduction of effort in the ocean intercept fishery. The Board also approved the

development of an addendum that will address some of the monitoring programs for American shad.

For more information, please contact Megan Gamble, American Shad & River Herring Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400, ext. 317.

## **ASMFC Seeks Public Comment of the Future of Weakfish Management: Public Hearings to be held in late March and April**

At the ASMFC February Meeting Week, the Weakfish Board approved a Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 4, which outlines six issues the Commission is seeking input on from the public. These issues include reference points, bycatch, reference periods, creel limits, age/size structure, and data collection. The Public Information Document also provides an overview of the management history of weakfish at the Commission, information on the recreational and commercial fisheries, as well as an update of the most recent stock assessment.

The most recent stock assessment update indicates that the management measures put in place in Amendment 3 have resulted in positive trends for the weakfish population, with models indicating fishing mortality has significantly declined from levels that existed when Amendment 3 was adopted. The absolute magnitude of impact should be viewed with caution given the uncertainty of the fishing mortality and spawning stock biomass estimates for the most recent year of the assessment, which is often the case with these final year estimates.

Public hearings for the PID will be held in late March through April along the coast. It is anticipated that most states will hold public hearings. The Commission will release a full list of public hearing dates, times and locations as soon as they become available. At press time, the following hearings have been scheduled.

### **April 9, 2002; 6:30 PM**

New Jersey Fish & Game  
Galloway Town Library  
Jimmie Leeds Road  
Absecon, New Jersey

Contact: Bruce Freeman at (609)292-2083

### **April 9, 2002; 6:30 PM**

North Carolina Div. of Marine Fisheries

Morehead City, North Carolina  
Contact: Dr. Louis Daniel at (252)726-7021

### **April 10, 2002; 6:30 PM**

North Carolina Div. of Marine Fisheries  
Manteo, North Carolina  
Contact: Dr. Louis Daniel at (252)726-7021

### **April 11, 2002; 7:00 PM**

Connecticut Dept. of Environmental  
Protection, Fisheries  
333 Ferry Road  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
Contact: Ernie Beckwith at (860)434-6043

### **April 16, 2002; 7:30 PM**

Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources &  
Environmental Control, Auditorium  
89 Kings Highway  
Dover, Delaware  
Contact: Charlie Lesser at (302)739-3441

### **April 18, 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

The Weakfish Public Information Document can be obtained by contacting the Commission office at (202)289-6400 or via the Commission's website at <[www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)>. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the PID, either through attending public hearings or providing written comments. Written comment will be accepted until April 26, 2002, and should be submitted to: Carrie Selberg, Weakfish FMP Coordinator, 1444 I Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax) or <[cselberg@asmfc.org](mailto:cselberg@asmfc.org)>. For more information, please contact Carrie Selberg, at (202)289-6400.

## **ASMFC & MAFMC Meet Jointly to Review 2002 Priorities**

At its February 21, 2002 meeting, the Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup & Black Sea Bass Management Board met with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to establish priorities for 2002. The analysis of summer flounder allocation strategies was identified as a top priority. A Workgroup of Advisors and Technical Committee members will be convened to analyze allocation strategies.

The Board and Council also discussed options for resolving the scup summer period quota discrepancy between the Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). A Workgroup, composed of several state representatives and a NMFS representative, was created to further address this issue and provide recommendations back to the Commission and Council.

In other business, the Board approved state proposals for the 2002 summer flounder recreational fishery. Specifically, proposals from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and North Carolina were approved by the Board in their entirety, while Virginia's proposal was approved with substantial modification.

In addition, Gary Nelson from Massachusetts and Victor Crecco from Connecticut were nominated for participation on the Scup Stock Assessment Subcommittee, and Joan Berko and William Egerter, both from New Jersey, were approved to the Advisory Panel. For more information, please contact Michael Lewis, FMP Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or <[mlewis@asmfc.org](mailto:mlewis@asmfc.org)>.

# **ASMFC Approves Addendum III to Amendment 3 to the American Lobster FMP (continued from page I)**

Copies of Addendum III can be obtained by contacting the Commission office at (202) 289-6400, or via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org). For more information, please contact Heather Stirratt, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400, ext. 301, or [hstirratt@asmfc.org](mailto:hstirratt@asmfc.org).

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1444 Eye Street, N.W., 6th Floor  
Washington D.C. 20005

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