



ASMFC

FISHERIES *focus*

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

Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015

ASMFC Presents Annual Awards of Excellence

Mr. Vito Calomo, Dr. Mark Terceiro, and Ms. Kim McKown were presented the Commission's Annual Awards of Excellence at its Spring Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia for their contributions to the success of fisheries management along the Atlantic coast. Mr. Calomo received an award in the Legislative category, while Dr. Terceiro and Ms. McKown received awards in the Scientific, Technical, and Advisory category.

Legislative

Mr. Vito Calomo has been involved in New England fisheries management issues for nearly half a century. He began his career working in various capacities for the fishing industry, from organizing and managing longshoremen crew for a fleet of vessels, to trawling for groundfish and northern shrimp, to purse seining for Atlantic herring. For the last 15 years, he has been a dedicated and passionate advocate for New England commercial fishermen at the state, interstate and federal levels. He brought his extensive fisheries experience to the Commission process first as an industry advisor on the Commission's Atlantic Herring and Northern Shrimp Advisory Panels and later as proxy to Massachusetts' Legislative Appointee, Representative Anthony Verga. He actively participated on all the management boards for which Massachusetts had an interest, fervently promoting positions beneficial to New England's commercial fishermen. Mr. Calomo also chaired the Commission's Legislative Committee for four years, ensuring their views and concerns were fully integrated in the Commission's decision-making processes. Outside of formal meetings, he was instrumental in bringing Commissioners, staff, and scientists together, providing opportunities to meet one another personally to informally discuss issues and exchange ideas. A lifelong proponent for New England fishermen and the fishing community, Mr. Calomo's efforts improved communication among various participants in the Commission's process, enhancing the involvement of the fishing industry in the management process.

Scientific, Technical, and Advisory

Through his scientific analyses and technical committee involvement, Dr. Mark Terceiro of the National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Fisheries Science Center has ensured that the best available scientific information has been provided to



From left: ASMFC Chair Robert H. Boyles, Jr., Vito Calomo, Kim McKown, Mark Terceiro, ASMFC Awards Committee Chair Jack Travelstead and ASMFC Executive Director John V. O'Shea

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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 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

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Upcoming Meetings

6/8 - 10:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Radisson Martinique on Broadway, 49 West 42nd Street, New York, New York; 212/736-3800.

6/21 - 25:

ASMFC Technical Committee Meeting Week, Holiday Inn Brownstone, 1707 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, North Carolina; 800/331-7919 (see page 12 for the meeting schedule).

6/22 - 24:

New England Fishery Management Council, Eastland Park Hotel, Portland, Maine.

7/22 (10 AM- 5 PM):

ASMFC American Lobster Management Board, Providence, Rhode Island area (specific location to be determined).

8/2 - 5:

ASMFC Summer Meeting, Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria, 901 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia; 703/683-6000.

8/17 - 19:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Holiday Inn Historic District Philadelphia, 400 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; 215/923-8660.

9/13 - 17:

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

9/27 - 10/1:

ASMFC Technical Committee Meeting Week, location to be determined.

9/28 - 30:

New England Fishery Management Council, Hotel Viking, Newport, Rhode Island.

10/12 - 14:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Congress Hall, 251 Beach Avenue, Cape May, New Jersey; 609/884-8421.

11/8 - 11:

ASMFC 69th Annual Meeting, The Francis Marion Hotel, 387 King Street, Charleston, South Carolina; 843-722-0600.

11/16 - 18:

New England Fishery Management Council, Ocean Edge Resort, Brewster, Massachusetts.

Achievements and Challenges

Earlier this year we issued the Commission's Annual Report, summarizing the status of the stocks under our charge and highlighting the actions our Commissioners took in 2009 to protect and restore state fisheries. The Report is required under Article XII of the Compact and is therefore sent to members of Congress and the Governors of our states each year. The Annual Report is posted on our website; printed copies can be requested through the website.

Readers of the 2009 Report will find documentation of noteworthy accomplishments and evidence of significant challenges. There is good news about the continued health and abundance of our restored stocks. They are providing an important source of economic activity and jobs to our coastal communities from Maine to Florida. Solid rebuilding progress has also been made on some of our stocks undergoing restoration. Increased abundance should serve as a sign of good things to come and provide encouragement for managers and stakeholders to stay the course.

The issue of depleted species tops the list of challenges. In 1998 the Commission selected a 17-year rebuilding period for itself; the resultant deadline of 2015 is growing closer. Some believe stock recovery is being prevented by environmental factors beyond the control of fisheries managers. In other cases, extremely low biological levels now magnify the impact of all sources of mortality, including directed fishing, discarding from other fisheries, and predation. Besides representing significant opportunity costs in forgone catch and revenue, depleted stocks also pose a potential threat to other fisheries if they fall to levels triggering protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Stocks whose status is unknown represent a different type of challenge. In most cases, these species suffer from the lack of survey data scientists need to assess the stocks. Obtaining this information will require additional funding for new surveys – money the states do not have and Congress is reluctant to appropriate. When funding does become available, it will take multiple years of surveys to develop the time series needed for assessments. Meanwhile, managers, scientists, and fishermen operate with incomplete information, not fully understanding stock abundance and the impacts of fishing removals.

The challenge of bycatch monitoring and adequate at-sea observer coverage is a significant issue for both

managers and scientists. At-sea observer coverage is a critical element of successful fisheries management in other regions, yet remains severely underfunded in the Atlantic. It has long been suspected that discard mortality of both federal and Commission species is having a significant impact on stock status and confounding rebuilding efforts. Despite this, observer coverage for most Atlantic fisheries remains at less than five percent.

Another challenge emerging from the 2006 Magnuson Stevens Act is the requirement to implement annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for federal fisheries. Councils must now follow scientific advice more closely and adhere to the upper bounds of catch quotas set by scientists. Since a significant portion of Commission scientific advice comes from state scientists, there is a potential for differences in jointly managed species with regard to quotas, rebuilding targets, and deadlines. In addition, the three Atlantic regional councils are each developing individual policies to deal with risk and uncertainty. Any policy developed by the Commission would need to consider these three approaches.

Implementation of ACLs and AMs will also place increased workloads on stock assessment scientists. The frequency and complexity of assessments will have to increase to support management decisions. Many federal biologists are currently involved in Commission managed species such as striped bass, menhaden, and lobsters. Our states have concerns this involvement will decrease. As state budgets are reduced there will be less state scientists available to work on Commission and federally-managed species.

Finally, the potential implementation of catch share programs in federal fisheries raises concerns about the complexities of managing fleets of harvesters operating under different landing rules. This range of regulations may create confusion and/or loopholes which will challenge both fishermen and enforcement officers.

The bright side to these and the many other challenges are our 45 Commissioners - state officials, legislators, and volunteer fisheries experts. They all share the common value to act with courage to protect and restore the public fishery resources under their charge. They have developed a strong track record of results, reflecting their commitment to conservation and cooperation. Hopefully, that is something we can all support.



Species Profile: Atlantic Menhaden

New Benchmark Assessment Indicates Stock is Not Overfished but Shows Signs of Concern

Introduction

Atlantic menhaden, a small, oily, schooling fish, is a major source of omega-3 fatty acids. Omega-3 continues to be a popular diet supplement and food additive. It has been shown to cut risks of heart disease and possibly other diseases such as Alzheimer's. In addition to being an important source of omega-3, menhaden are increasingly valuable for use as bait and for conversion into aquaculture fish feed. [See the side-bar "The Evolving Commercial Uses of Menhaden" for more historical perspective.] The species also plays an important role in marine ecosystems as a forage fish for many predator species.

Life History

Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) are found in estuarine and coastal waters from northern Florida to Nova Scotia and serve as prey (food) for many fish, sea birds and marine mammals. Adult and juvenile menhaden form large, near-surface schools, primarily in estuaries and nearshore ocean waters from early spring through early winter. By summer, menhaden schools stratify by size and age along the coast, with older and larger menhaden found farther north. During fall-early winter, menhaden of all sizes and ages migrate south around the North Carolina capes to spawn.

Sexual maturity begins just before age three, with major spawning areas from the Carolinas to New Jersey. The majority of spawning occurs primarily offshore (20-30 miles) during winter. Buoyant eggs hatch at sea and larvae are carried into estuarine nursery areas by ocean currents. Juveniles spend most of their first year of life in estuaries, migrating to the ocean in late fall. Adult and juvenile menhaden migrate south in fall-winter, and adult menhaden migrate north in spring.

Menhaden feed by straining plankton from the water, their gill rakers forming a specialized basket to efficiently capture tiny food. Menhaden provide a link between primary production and higher organisms by consuming plankton and providing forage (food) for species such as striped bass, bluefish and weakfish, to name just a few.

Commercial Fishery

The Atlantic menhaden commercial fishery consists of both a reduction fishery and a bait fishery. The reduction fishery first began in New England during the early 1800s and spread south after the Civil War. The purse seine was introduced after the Civil War allowing the fishery to expand. Major technological



THE MENHADEN FISHERY: Fish pens on top floor of factory. The fish are led through a trough to the cooking tanks. From a photograph by T.W. Smillie. Image courtesy of NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service Historic Fisheries Collection.

Atlantic Menhaden *Brevoortia tyrannus*

Common Names: menhaden, bunker, mossbunker, pogey, fatback, bugmouth, skipjack

Family: Clupeidae (includes herring, sardine, and shad species)

Management Unit: Maine to Florida

Interesting Facts:

* The "modern" record for the largest menhaden landed occurred in Reedville, Virginia in 1996. The fish measured 19.4" and weighed 3.4 lbs!

* Pre-colonial Native Americans called menhaden 'munawhatteaug,' which means fertilizer.

* A large crustacean parasite is commonly found in the mouth of Atlantic menhaden; hence its common name "bugmouth."

Age at Recruitment: Fully recruited at age 2 (9-10", 1/2 lbs; 50% recruited at age 1 (6", 2-3 oz.)

Stock Status: Not overfished and not experiencing overfishing

innovations led to further expansion of the fishery coastwide. As a result, landings and fishing effort increased from 1940 through the late 1950s, declined precipitously during the 1960s when the population was overfished, and then increased significantly during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Currently, there is one remaining reduction plant in operation on the Atlantic coast processing menhaden into fishmeal and oil. The fishmeal is used as fertilizer and animal feed. The fish oil is used in many commercial products and in omega-3 supplements for human health. The coastwide bait fishery supplies fishermen with bait for popular commercial and sport fish.

The 2009 harvest of Atlantic menhaden for reduction was 143,800 metric tons (mt), which was similar to harvest in 2008 (141,100 mt) and 7.8% below average landings for the previous four years (155,000 mt). Twelve purse-seine vessels landed Atlantic menhaden during the 2009 season.

The bait fishery for menhaden has become increasingly important from North Carolina to New England. The major portion of bait landings in recent years has been harvested from Virginia and New Jersey waters, followed by Massachusetts and Maryland. Bait landings for 2009 were 37,874 mt, 3.2% below the average landings for the previous four years (39,076 mt).

Status of the Stock

Based on the current reference points, the 2010 benchmark stock assessment found that on a coastwide basis Atlantic menhaden are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

The overfishing threshold for menhaden is F_{MEDIAN} , the instantaneous fishing mortality rate that should allow the population to replace itself. In earlier

Menhaden Stock Assessment Q&A

What Data Were Used?

The assessment used both fishery-dependent and independent data as well as information about Atlantic menhaden biology and life history.

Fishery-Independent Surveys

Data collected from seine surveys conducted in RI, CT, NY, NJ, VA, MD, and NC were used to develop an index of relative abundance for juvenile menhaden. Data from all seven surveys were statistically combined into one coastwide index.

Fishery-Dependent Surveys

Pound net landings collected by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) were used to develop an index of relative abundance for adult menhaden, since the pound nets target menhaden ages 1-3 years.

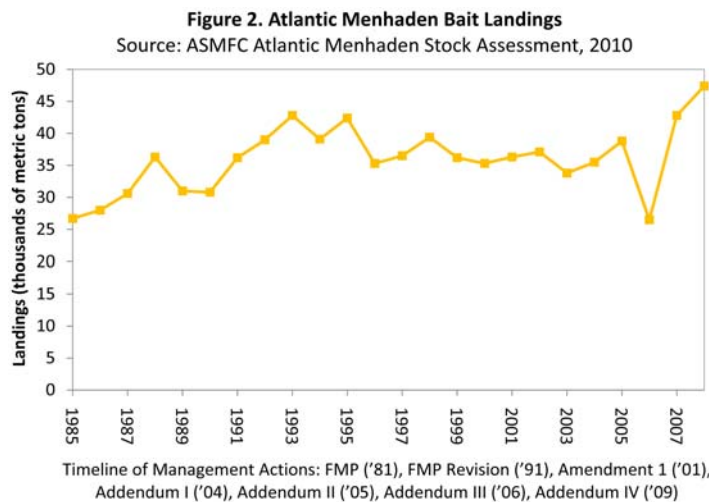
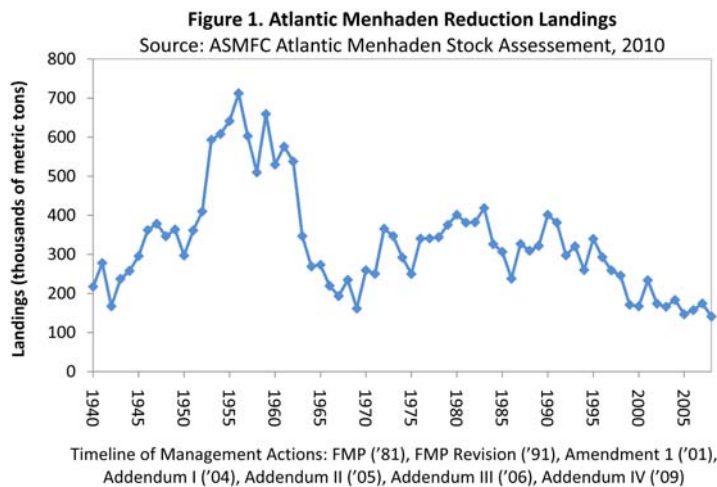
What Models Were Used?

Five alternative modeling approaches were pursued, including the Beaufort Assessment Model, Stock Synthesis 3, the University of British Columbia Model, the MSVPA, and Stock Reduction Analysis. After comparing model performance, reliability, flexibility, and assumptions requirements among the five alternatives, the Beaufort Assessment Model was chosen as the base model for providing management advice.

The Beaufort Assessment Model is a statistical catch-at-age model that estimates population size at age and recruitment in 1955 and then projects the population forward in time to 2008. The model estimates trends in population dynamics, including abundance at age, recruitment, spawning stock biomass, egg production, and fishing mortality rates.

What Are the Primary Assessment Findings?

- Based on the current reference points, menhaden are not overfished and not experiencing overfishing.



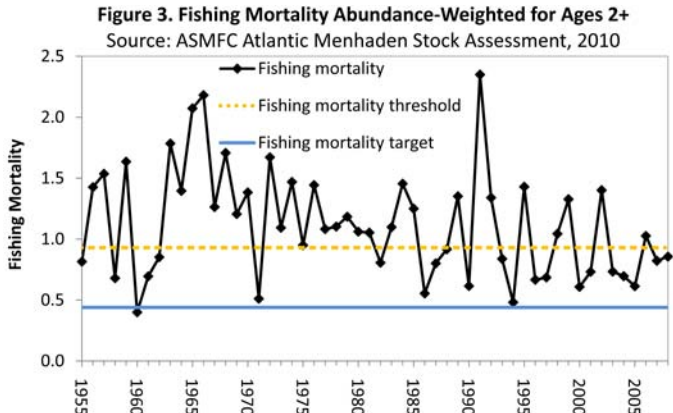
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Species Profile: Atlantic Menhaden (continued from page 5)

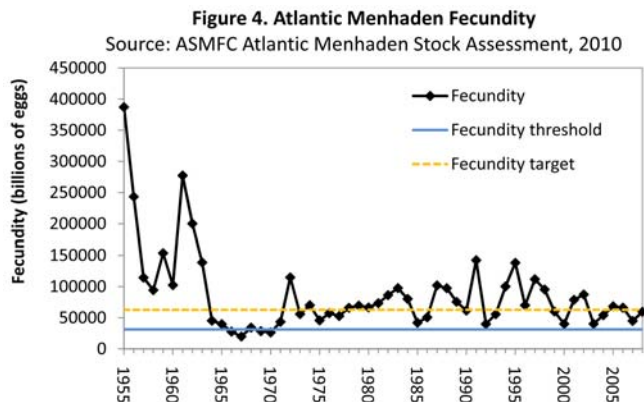
decades, fishing mortality rates were largely above the median (population replacement) line, however in recent years, rates have fluctuated around the median. Fishing mortality on ages 2 and older fish was just below the threshold in 2008, hence overfishing is not occurring.

The biological reference point that determines the fecun-



Timeline of Management Actions: FMP ('81), FMP Revision ('91), Amendment 1 ('01), Addendum I ('04), Addendum II ('05), Addendum III ('06), Addendum IV ('09)

dity target for Atlantic menhaden is defined as the mature egg production one would expect when the population is being fished at the threshold fishing mortality rate. Population fecundity was estimated to be well above the threshold and near the target. This means that the spawning stock in 2008 appears to be adequate to produce the target number of eggs; thus, the population is deemed not overfished. However, the number of young fish in the population has been consistently low in recent decades, indicating that high egg production may not be translating into high survival of young menhaden.

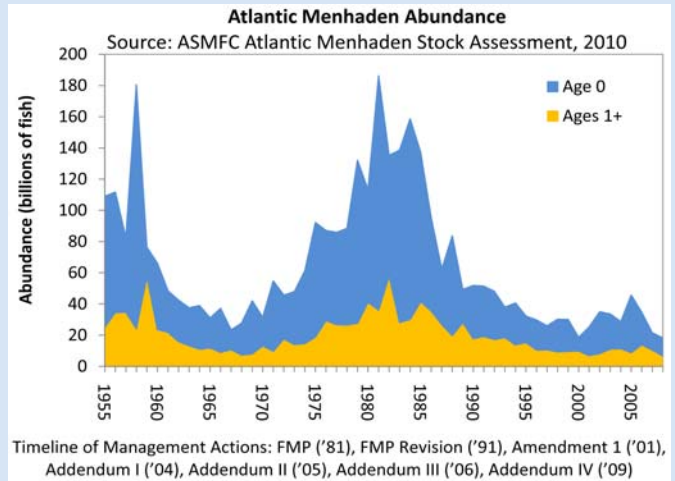


Timeline of Management Actions: FMP ('81), FMP Revision ('91), Amendment 1 ('01), Addendum I ('04), Addendum II ('05), Addendum III ('06), Addendum IV ('09)

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Menhaden Stock Assessment Q&A (continued from page 5)

- The population has undergone several periods of both high and low abundance over the time series. Abundance has declined steadily since the peak observed in the early 1980s and recruitment (age 0 fish) has been relatively low.



Timeline of Management Actions: FMP ('81), FMP Revision ('91), Amendment 1 ('01), Addendum I ('04), Addendum II ('05), Addendum III ('06), Addendum IV ('09)

- Population fecundity (measured as number of maturing ova, or eggs) was high in the late 1950s and early 1960s, low in the late 1960s, and generally increasing since that time.
- Fishing mortality rates (F) were highly variable throughout the entire time series, with a decline in fishing mortality from the mid-1960s to the 1980s. Since the mid-1980s, F has varied between some of the highest and lowest values in the entire time series. The model suggests a high degree of variability but, in general, the reduction fishery has experienced declining F since the mid-1960s, while the bait fishery has experienced increasing F since the 1980s.

What's Needed to Improve Future Assessments?

The Atlantic menhaden stock assessment would be substantially improved by the development of a coastwide fishery-independent survey to replace or supplement the existing PRFC pound net index as a coastwide index of adult abundance at age.

What Are the Next Steps?

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board has tasked its technical committee with developing new reference points to increase protection to the spawning stock, as well as identifying alternative reference points that account for predation on menhaden.

ASMFC Northern Shrimp Section Closes Fishery Effective 2359 Hours (EST) May 5, 2010

At 2359 hours (EST) on May 5, 2010, the Commission's Northern Shrimp Section and its member states closed the 2009/2010 fishery. The decision to close the fishery prior to the season end of May 29 was based on preliminary landings data that indicate that harvest is already at 4957 mt, 57 mt in excess of the Technical Committee recommended landings level. In addition, the Section voiced concern about more harvest of smaller shrimp, a significant component of the May fishery. The Technical Committee projected landings could range between 5700 and 6500 metric tons if harvest continued through May 29.

"I am pleased with the Section's unani-

mous decision to close the fishery early," stated Section Chair Douglas Grout from New Hampshire. "The action it took protects smaller shrimp that will be more valuable to the stock and to the market in future years. The Section strives to manage the fishery to promote a high and stable abundance of shrimp. This stability allows harvesters and processors to better plan their businesses into the future."

The Section's action was taken pursuant to the emergency action provision of the Commission's ISFMP Charter, Section 6(c)(10). The provision specifies that the Commission will hold four



public hearings within 30 days of the action. The first public hearing was held during the Section's April 30 conference call, with the remaining public hearings held in early May in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

For more information, please contact Braddock Spear, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or bspear@asmfc.org.

ASMFC American Lobster Board Approves Addendum XVI Addendum Establishes New Reference Points for 3 Stock Units

On May 3, 2010, the Commission's American Lobster Management Board approved Addendum XVI to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. The Addendum establishes new reference points for the three lobster stocks and modifies procedures for adopting and implementing new reference points.

Addendum XVI establishes a four-tiered approach to define abundance reference points in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Georges Bank (GBK), a four-tiered approach to define exploitation reference points for all three stock units, and a three-tiered approach to define abundance reference points for Southern New England (SNE). The Board set the SNE abundance reference points to a lower target level than the GOM and GBK stocks because it believes the SNE stock has limited ability to rebuild to

higher historical levels. Members of the Board believe that environmental and ecosystem changes have reduced the resource's ability to rebuild to historical levels.

Based on these new reference points, GOM abundance is in favorable condition and exploitation falls in the middle of the range. GBK abundance and exploitation are in favorable condition. The SNE abundance estimate is below the reference point limit and requires Board action to rebuild the stock.

The Addendum also broadens definitions for status determination criteria for the three stock units, allowing for greater flexibility in incorporating changes to the reference point definitions as science and assessment methodologies evolve. Changes to reference points may now be made through Board action (versus addendum) follow-

ing a peer-reviewed stock assessment. A more detailed overview of the Addendum's new reference points and stock status by assessment area will be available on the Commission's website under Breaking News by the end of May.

In response to the condition of the SNE stock, the Board initiated the development of a draft addendum to address stock declines, including a range of alternatives from no action to a moratorium. The Board will meet in the Providence, Rhode Island area on July 22 (10 AM - 5 PM) to review the document and consider sending it out for public comment. Meeting details should be finalized by the end of May; visit <http://www.asmfc.org/meetings.htm> for updates. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at tkerns@asmfc.org.

ASMFC Presents Annual Awards of Excellence (continued from page 1)

support management decisions programs for scup and summer flounder. For nearly two decades, he has played an active role on the Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Technical Committee, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committees, and the National Marine Fisheries Service's Southern Demersal Working Group. He was the lead biologist for the Data Poor Working Group scup stock assessment that was peer reviewed and accepted, a major accomplishment given that scup stocks have not had an acceptable analytical assessment for many years. As a result of his efforts, managers have been able to incorporate stronger scientific advice into their management decisions. For many years, Dr. Terceiro has successfully performed and defended the benchmark assessments and annual stock assessment updates for summer flounder. His rigorous and thorough analyses have consistently produced

strong, defensible assessments and lent considerable credibility to the scientific foundation of our management decisions for this very important and controversial Mid-Atlantic species. Dr. Terceiro's impressive contributions, coupled with his dedication and devotion to his work, make him an extremely valuable asset to the fisheries management process.

Ms. Kim McKown, Senior Fisheries Biologist with the New York State Department of Conservation (NYSDEC), has been involved in fisheries research and monitoring activities for 25 years and in the Commission's science activities for almost two decades. Her early work focused on oversight of NYSDEC's sampling programs for striped bass and Atlantic sturgeon. Today, she leads research and monitoring activities for American lobster, horseshoe crab, and other crustacea in New York's coastal waters. Over the years, Ms. McKown has been a contributor on several ASMFC committees, including the At-

lantic Striped Bass Technical and Tagging Committees, the Horseshoe Crab Technical and Stock Assessment Committees, and the Atlantic Sturgeon Stock Assessment Subcommittee and Plan Review Team. For the last two years, she chaired the Lobster Stock Assessment Subcommittee, instrumental in the completion and approval of the 2009 benchmark stock assessment by peer review, which will provide the foundation for lobster management actions over the next few years. She also serves as Vice Chair of the Assessment Science Committee, the Commission's oversight body for all stock assessment and peer review activities. This past March, Ms. McKown chaired the peer review panels for both the Atlantic croaker and Atlantic menhaden benchmark stock assessments. Ms. McKown has added the strength and credibility to the Commission's science process through her impressive work ethic, high leadership skills, and strong adherence to high scientific standards.

ASMFC Striped Bass Board Approves Draft Addendum II for Public Comment

On May 4, 2010, the Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved Draft Addendum II to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass for public comment. The Draft Addendum proposes two changes to the striped bass management program: (1) an increase in the coastal commercial quota, and (2) revising the definition of recruitment failure based on Technical Committee advice.

The proposal to increase the coastal commercial quota is intended to improve equality between the commercial and recreational fishery sectors. Although Amendment 6 established management programs for both fisheries based on the same target fishing mortality rate, the

implementation of state-specific quotas for coastal commercial harvest (and not for recreational harvest) has prevented the commercial and recreational fisheries from responding equally to changes in striped bass population size. Since 2003, coastal commercial harvest has decreased by 3.6 percent, while recreational harvest has increased by 13.7 percent. Under the option, the Board would select a percent increase to be applied to the coastal commercial allocations assigned in Amendment 6.

The Management Board voted to include a second issue in the Draft Addendum based on information presented at the meeting. As part of its review of the juvenile abundance indices, the Striped Bass Technical Committee



recommended to the Management Board a revision to how striped bass recruitment failure is defined. Juvenile abundance indices are an important component of the striped bass monitoring program and are used to determine periods of recruitment failure which can

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Species Profile: Atlantic Menhaden (continued from page 6)

Atlantic Coastal Management

The Commission approved Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Menhaden in 2001. Management authority is vested in the states because the vast majority of landings come from state waters. The goal of Amendment 1 is “to manage the Atlantic menhaden fishery in a manner that is biologically, economically, socially and ecologically sound while protecting the resource and those who benefit from it.” Amendment 1 established new overfishing/overfished definitions based on fishing mortality and spawning stock biomass.

Addendum 1 to Amendment 1, approved in August 2004, revised the biological reference points, changed the frequency of stock assessments, and updated the habitat section. The current biomass target and threshold are based on fecundity (or the number of mature or ripe eggs/ova) instead of spawning stock biomass. The current fishing mortality target and threshold were also adopted through Addendum I. Based on a recommendation from an independent panel that reviewed

the 2010 stock assessment, the Management Board tasked the Technical Committee to begin developing alternative reference points including ones that account for predation.

Recent Activities

In November 2009, the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board approved Addendum IV to Amendment 1. It extends the provisions of Addendum III through 2013. The main provision is a five-year annual cap on reduction fishery harvests in Chesapeake Bay of 109,020 mt, a number derived from the average of harvests from 2001 – 2005. Harvest for reduction purposes will be prohibited in the Chesapeake Bay when 100% of the cap is landed. Overharvest in any given year would be deducted from the next year’s quota. The Addendum also includes a provision allowing under-harvest in one year to be credited only to the following year’s harvest, not to exceed 122,740 mt.

For more information, please contact Braddock Spear, Senior FMP Coordinator for Policy, at bspear@asmfc.org.

ASMFC Expands 2010 Recreational Black Sea Bass Season

On May 4, 2010 the Commission’s Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board modified the 2010 season length for the black sea bass recreational fishery. The season will now run from May 22 to October 11, 2010 and from November 1 to December 31, 2010.

The season represents an extension from what was originally planned. When the original season was developed, the Board only had 2009 harvest estimates for January through June. Harvest estimates for July through December 2009 were projected using previous years’ data to calculate a total harvest estimate. Based on these preliminary projections, the original season was developed with the intent of reducing recreational harvest by 44% from 2009 levels.

Final 2009 harvest estimates were made available at the end of April. The estimate indicates that harvest is less than previously projected and only a 21.4% reduction is required for the 2010 recreational season. The newly approved season is anticipated to achieve a 26% reduction and allows for a reasonable conservation buffer to account for uncertainty in the harvest estimates and the effectiveness of regulations. The season was further expanded into November and December to allow for increased access by party/charter boats and private boat/shore-based anglers that did not have a late fall/early winter season last year.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at tkerns@asmfc.org or (202) 289-6400.

The Evolving Commercial Uses of Menhaden

Since at least the early 1600s, menhaden have played various important roles in American culture. The first documented users of menhaden are Indians in New England. They are reported to have used them as fertilizer, planting one fish with each crop of corn. By the end of the 1700s, menhaden had become an industrial-scale fertilizer. Fast forward nearly 175 years and menhaden oil replaced whale oil as a major product to carry our country’s industrial revolution. Menhaden oil was used as an industrial lubricant and fuel. Throughout the 1900s, soaps, cosmetics, and paints were made with the fish’s oil.

After World War II, the solids left over from pressing oil from menhaden were found to be quality feed additives for poultry and swine. Later menhaden found its way into pet foods and feed for horses. Starting around 1980, menhaden was widely used as bait in lobster and crab traps. In the 1990s, coincident with the boom in aquaculture, menhaden became an ingredient in fish feed. The latest evolution of menhaden use took place around 2000 when its omega-3-rich fish oil started to show up as a food additive and health supplement. Keep your ears open for the next application for menhaden.



Electronic Reporting Options Expanded

Farewell to Coordinating Council Chair

Electronic Reporting Options Expanded

This spring the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) was proud to help launch new electronic reporting options in Rhode Island and Maryland.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) initiated the web-based electronic reporting application, eREC or electronic logbooks, for recreational anglers.

eREC enables anglers to contribute to accurate assessments of recreational species while maintaining a personalized electronic record of fishing activities. As a benefit to the angler, the logbook provides summaries of information on all species caught by the angler.

DEM staff will also now have the ability to analyze catch data more quickly and accurately. The information collected from participants in the logbook program will be kept confidential and will only be used by DEM to improve finfish stock assessments in Rhode Island. Rhode Island is the third state to start using the electronic logbook. New Jersey began using eREC to report striped bass in January of 2008. Massachusetts expanded the application to report over 30 species.

For more information on the program and to sign up, go to www.saltwater.ri.gov.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has launched the electronic harvest reporting system. Although the paper forms are still acceptable, DNR strongly recommends using the electronic method since it is easier for both watermen and DNR, and it provides more helpful information with fewer reporting mistakes.

As in Rhode Island, all of the information entered through the electronic method is confidential. Commercial watermen using the electronic system will be able to print reporting receipts and be able to view and print historical reports.

To begin using the electronic harvester trip reporting sys-

tem in Maryland, please contact Tim Sartwell at tsartwell@dnr.state.md.us.

Farewell to Coordinating Council Chairman

After a two year appointment Spud Woodward left his post as the ACCSP Coordinating Council Chairman. Mr. Woodward is currently the Director of the Coastal Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. James Gilmore of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation was named new Chairman of the Coordinating Council.



Spud was honored with a commemorative parting gift at the May 6, 2010 Coordinating Council meeting in Alexandria VA. He is pictured above (far left) with the ACCSP Operations Committee Chair Greg Power of the National Marine Fisheries Service (far right), and ACCSP Director ACCSP, Mike Cahall.

About ACCSP

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.

Christopher Vonderweidt Awarded ASMFC Employee of the Quarter

While at the Commission, Christopher Vonderweidt has played a vital role in the management of a number of contentious and complicated Atlantic coast fisheries. His efforts have firmly established him as an important contributor to the Commission's Vision of "healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015." In recognition of his accomplishments, Christopher was named Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2010. The award is intended to recognize contributions and qualities in the areas of teamwork, initiative, responsibility, quality of work, positive attitude, and results.



Christopher has had numerous accomplishments in his four years with the Commission. He worked with the states and federal partners to develop management responses to assessment information that indicated that tautog and winter flounder stocks were significantly depleted. Both management programs significantly restrict fishing in order to allow the stocks to rebuild. He has coordinated with staff at the New England Fishery Management Council to ensure that the state and federal management of Atlantic herring are aligned, while striving to meet state needs. He collaborated with the states, advisors, and stakeholders to develop Draft Herring Addendum III, which has been controversial and challenging given the range of opinions within the states. He effectively worked with the states, Councils, and NMFS staff to develop the Interstate Coastal Shark Fishery Management Plan. Implementation of the Coastal Shark Plan has required considerable effort to assist the states due to the numerous provisions of the Plan.

Christopher's strong working relationships and thorough understanding of state and federal management make him a valued contributor to the Commission's fisheries management program. Chris has a Master's in Environmental Management from Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences and a Bachelor of Arts from Ithaca College in New York. As an Employee of the Quarter, he received a \$500 cash award, a small gift, and a letter of appreciation to be placed in his personnel record. In addition, his name is on the Employee of Quarter Plaque displayed in the Commission's lobby. Congratulations, Chris!

ASMFC Comings & Goings



John A. Arway -- In April, John A. Arway became Pennsylvania's Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC. Mr. Arway replaces Douglas Austen, who served in that position since 2004. Mr. Arway was recently appointed the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, where he has served for thirty years

in various capacities. For more than twenty of those years he was head of the Environmental Services Division and advisor to the Executive Director and agency staff. Mr. Arway has a Master of Arts in Biology from the Tennessee Technological University and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the Uni-

versity of Pittsburgh. Mr. Leroy Young will serve as his on-going proxy. Welcome aboard, Mr. Arway!

William A. McElroy -- In April, Mr. McElroy became Rhode Island's Governor Appointee to the Commission. He has actively lobstered since 1976 and is a member of the Area 2 Lobster Conservation Management Team. He is one of seven founders of the Rhode Island Lobsterman's Association (RILA) and serves as RILA's longtime treasurer and board member. As a representative of RILA, he has been involved in a number of projects, including the Providence River Dredge Project, RI's License Restructure, the RI Ocean SAMP Windmills, Addendum #7 Facilitated Industry Negotiations, and "North Cape" Lobster Restoration Program. Mr. McElroy received a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of Notre Dame. Welcome aboard, Mr. McElroy!

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

Return Service Requested

ASMFC Striped Bass Board Approves Draft Addendum II for Public Comment

trigger management action under Amendment 6. Adopting the proposed recommendation would result in a fixed value to determine recruitment failure in each surveyed area rather than a value that changes from year to year. Use of either the Amendment 6 definition or the Technical Committee recommendation for recruitment failure does not result in any necessary changes to the current management program.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum II, either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. The Draft Addendum is available via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM on October 1, 2010 and should be forwarded to Nichola Meserve, FMP Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at nmeserve@asmfc.org (Subject line: Addendum II). The public hearing schedule will be released in late May; visit <http://www.asmfc.org/meetings.htm> for more details.

ASMFC Technical Meeting Week June 21 – 25, 2010	
Holiday Inn Brownstone 1707 Hillsborough Street Raleigh, North Carolina 800/331-7919	
Group	Meeting Dates & Times
Shad and River Herring Technical Committee	6/21; 12:30 – 5:00 pm 6/22; 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
American Eel Stock Assessment Subcommittee	6/21; 12:30 – 5:00 pm 6/22; 8:30 am – 5:00 pm 6/23; 8:30 am – 5:00 pm 6/24; 8:30 am – 12:00 pm
Weakfish Technical Committee	6/23; 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Subcommittee	6/24; 1:00 – 5:00 pm 6/25; 8:30 am – 12:00 pm