



ACCSP Coordinating Council

ASMFC Spring Meeting

Crystal City, VA

10:15 – 12:15 pm | May 7, 2025

Chair: Kathy Knowlton

Vice-Chair: Renee Zobel

Staff: Geoff White

*Our vision is to be the principal source of fisheries-dependent information
on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners.*

Welcome and Introductions

- New Members and Proxies:
 - Carl Wilson (Maine)
 - Richard Wong (Delaware)
 - David McCarron (NEFMC)
 - Julia Beaty (MAFMC)



Council Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from October 2024

Public Comment



Review and Approve FY2026 RFP

Attachment 4

Our vision is to be the principal source of fisheries-dependent information on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners.

Funding Subcommittee



- Charge: October 2024
- Membership:
 - Bob Beal (Chair)
 - Julia Byrd
 - Nicole Lengyel Costa
 - Maryellen Gordon
 - Fran Karp
 - Carrie Kennedy
 - Kathy Knowlton
 - Renee Zobel
- Dec 2025 – Mar 2025: 3 meetings



Funding Subcommittee Review

- Analysis of how changing the scoring would impact overall ranking
- Open discussion of priorities
- Determination that there was not a significant impact implementing the suggested changes



Recommendations: Primary Priority

- Decrease catch and effort range from 0 - 10 to 0 - 8.
- Increase socioeconomic range from 0 - 4 to 0 - 6.

Biological Sampling	0 – 10	Rank based on range within module and level of sampling defined under Program design. When considering biological, bycatch or recreational funding, rank according to priority matrices.
Catch and Effort	0 – 8	
Bycatch/Species Interactions	0 – 6	
Social and Economic	0 - 6	



Recommendations: Secondary Priority

- Socio-economic is the only one that is different (0-1). All the others are 0-3.
 - The Operations and Advisors should determine the change to be made increasing the socio-economic.
- Options:
- Make all three equal
 - Make each secondary half of the existing primary

Potential secondary module as a by-product (In program priority order)	0 – 5 0 – 4 0 – 3 0 – 3	Ranked based on additional module data collection and level of collection as defined within the Program design of individual module.
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Recommendations: Addition

- Add Impact to Management row with a range of 0 - 3 that is the same as Impact on Stock Assessment.

Impact on management	0 - 3	Rank based on the level of data collection that leads to new or greatly improved management as specified in the proposal.
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- Proposal summaries should be specific on how the project will have an impact on stock assessments or be useful for management. For example, this was a research recommendation from X or this partner specifically requested this information. Proposers are encouraged to get letters of support from those that would be using the data.



Funding Decision Document Language

- Proposals that request funding to purchase 3rd party data or develop/purchase 3rd party software that is similar (i.e. performing existing functions) to software offered by ACCSP may not be recommended for funding.



Biological Sampling Priority Matrix

*Created March 2025
For FY2026*

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The Biological Review Panel Recommends:

- Species in the upper 25% of the priority matrix should be considered for funding
- Sampling projects that cover multiple species within the upper 25% are highly recommended



Biological Review Panel recommendations based on matrix*:

* UPPER 25% OF MATRIX

	Fishery Status	Most Recent Stock Assessment (year)	Current/Next Stock Assessment (year)	Council Priority	ASMFC Priority	State Priority	NMFS Priority	Fishery Managed	Sig. change in Landings w/in 24 Months	Sig. change in mgmt w/in 24 Months	Adequacy Level of Sampling	Stock Resilience	Seasonality of Fishery	TOTAL
Species														
Black Sea Bass <i>Centropristis striata</i>	K	MA: 2024 SA: 2023	MA: 2025 SA: 2027	5.0	5.0	3.6	5.0	5	1	4	4	3	1	36.64
Gag Grouper <i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>	K	2021	2025	5.0	0.0	0.9	5.0	3	3	5	4	4	3	32.93
Snowy Grouper <i>Epinephelus niveatus</i>	K	2021	2027	5.0	0.0	1.1	5.0	3	3	4	3	5	3	32.07
American Shad <i>Alosa sapidissima/mediocris</i>	K/U	2020	2030	0.0	3.0	3.8	0.0	5	5	1	4	5	3	29.79
Red Grouper <i>Epinephelus morio</i>	K	2017	2027	5.0	0.0	1.1	5.0	3	1	4	3	4	3	29.07
River Herring <i>Alosa</i>	K/U	2023		0.0	4.0	3.1	0.0	5	5	1	4	4	3	29.07
Tilefish <i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>	K	SA: 2024; MA: 2024	MA: 2027	5.0	0.0	1.8	4.0	5	1	2	3	4	3	28.79
Spanish Mackerel <i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i>	K	2022	2028	5.0	2.0	1.4	4.0	3	3	2	3	2	3	28.36
Red Snapper <i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>	K	2021	2025	5.0		1.1	5.0	3	1	1	4	5	3	28.07
Scamp <i>Mycteroperca phenax</i>	K	2022		5.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	3	1	4	3	4	3	28.00
Red Porgy <i>Pagrus pagrus</i>	K	2020	2028	5.0	0.0	0.7	4.0	3	3	5	3	3	1	27.71
American Lobster <i>Homarus americanus</i>	K	2020	2025	0	5.0	2.6	3.0	3	1	5	3	4	1	27.64
Ocean Pout <i>Macrozoarces americanus</i>	K	2022	2025	0	0.0	0.2	1.0	3	5	5	5	5	3	27.21
Cobia <i>Rachycentron canadum</i>	K	2020	2025	1	5.0	1.6	4.0	3	1	1	4	3	3	26.64
American Eel <i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	K/U	2023	2027	0	3.0	3.5	0.0	5	3	2	4	5	1	26.50
Winter Flounder <i>Pleuronectes americanus</i>	K/U	GB: 2022; GOM & SNE/MA: 2022	2025	0	2.0	2.5	5.0	3	1	3	4	5	1	26.50
Blueline Tilefish <i>Caulolatilus microps</i>	U	2017	2024	3	0.0	1.4	5.0	3	1	4	3	3	3	26.36
Horseshoe Crab <i>Limulus polyphemus</i>	K/U	2024	2029	0	5.0	3.3	0.0	5	1	3	2	4	3	26.29
Atlantic halibut <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	K	2024	2026	4	0.0	1.1	4.0	3	1	1	4	5	3	26.14
Atlantic Menhaden <i>Brevoortia tyrannus</i>	K	2022	2025	0	5.0	3.1	3.0	5	1	3	2	3	1	26.14
Shortfin Mako Shark <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	K	2019	2025	0	1.0	1.1	3.0	5	5	5	2	3	1	26.07
N. Short-fin Squid <i>Illex illecebrosus</i>	K/U	2022	2025	0	0.0	1.2	3.0	3	5	3	4	3	3	25.21
Gray Triggerfish <i>Balistes capriscus</i>	U	2023	2024	5	0.0	1.1	4.0	3	1	3	3	2	3	25.14
Scup <i>Stenotomus chrysops</i>	K/U	2023	2025	1	4.0	2.1	4.0	5	1	3	3	1	1	25.14
Bluefish <i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	K	2023	2025	0	4.0	2.9	3.0	5	3	1	3	2	1	24.93

Bio-sampling Priority Matrix

		Biological Sampling Adequacy	
		Adequate (0 - 2)	Inadequate (3 - 5)
Averaged Priority Columns	High (≥ 3.0)		Black Sea Bass - Spanish Mackerel - Red Snapper
	Low (< 3.0)	Horseshoe Crab - Atlantic Menhaden - Shortfin Mako Shark	Gag Grouper - Snowy Grouper - American Shad - Red Grouper - River Herring - Tilefish - Scamp - Red Porgy - American Lobster - Ocean Pout - Cobia - American Eel - Winter Flounder - Blueline Tilefish - Atlantic Halibut - N. Short-fin Squid - Gray Triggerfish - Scup - Bluefish

Grouping of species in upper 25% of total matrix score, based on sampling adequacy and average priority (average of ASMFC, Council, NMFS, and State priorities)

- Horseshoe crab, Atlantic menhaden, and shortfin mako shark are being sampled adequately and have a low priority, so additional sampling is not needed
- Projects that target multiple upper quartile species should be given a higher priority
- Ocean Pout has low average priority, high significant changes in management and landings, and a high resilience score



Bycatch Sampling Priority Matrix

Created in February 2025
For FY 2026

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Top Quartile of Bycatch Matrix Suggestions

Combined Fleets	Sig. Change in mgmt w/in past 36 mo	Amt of reg discards	Amt of non reg discards	Prot Spp Interactions	Score
Mid-Atlantic Gillnet	3	4	2	5	14
Snapper Grouper H&L Fleet	5	4	1	3	13
South Atlantic Shrimp Trawl	1	4	2	5	12
New England Otter Trawl	3	4	2	3	12
Mid-Atlantic Pound Net	1	4	2	5	12
American Lobster Pots	1	4	1	5	11
Pelagic H&L Fleet (North)	3	4	1	3	11
New England Gillnet	3	2	1	5	11
New England Extra- Large-Mesh Gillnet	0	4	2	5	11
Mid-Atlantic Small- Mesh Otter Trawl, Bottom	1	4	1	5	11
Mid-Atlantic Large- Mesh Otter Trawl, Bottom	3	2	1	5	11
Mid-Atlantic Fish Pots and Traps	3	4	1	3	11
South Atlantic Large Mesh Gillnet	0	4	2	5	11
Southeastern, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico HMS Pelagic Longline	1	4	1	5	11
Mid-Atlantic Dredge, Other	1	4	1	5	11
New England Crab Pots	3	2	1	5	11
South Atlantic Blue Crab	5	2	1	3	11



Program Update

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Software Priorities

- Registration Tracking (2025)
 - Currently being tested by partners in SMS
- eTRIPS/online validations
 - Currently being tested by partners in SMS
 - Working on displaying multiple warnings in the API



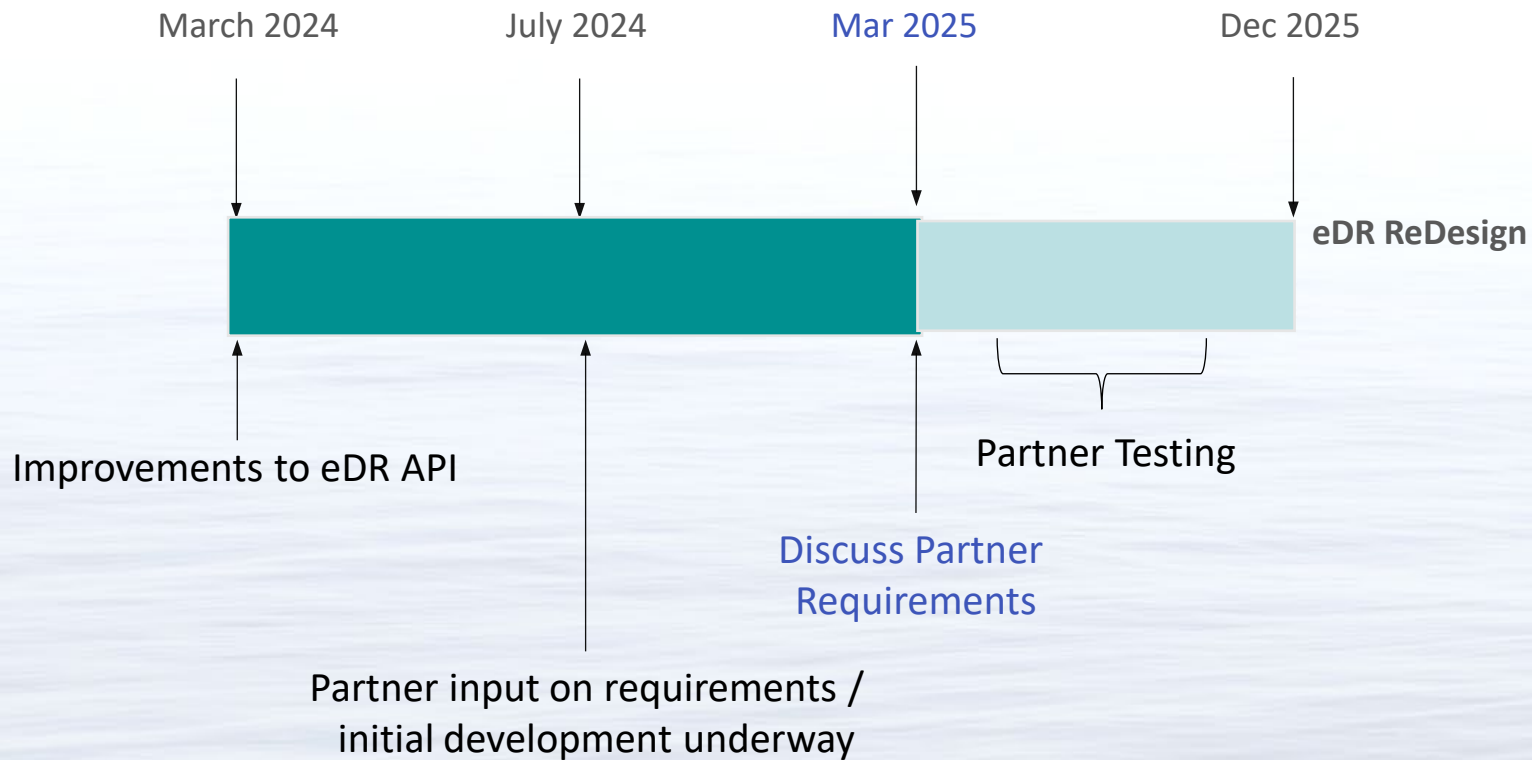
Scoping of State One Stop Reporting



- 2025 Timeline
- What does this mean?
 - Additional state questions
 - Retain federal lookup lists



eDR Redesign Timeline



eDR Redesign IS discussions



- Partner feedback/requirements
- Retire mobile application
- User interface



eDR User Interface Changes

Current Dealer Report & Landing UI (single page)

The current UI is a single-page form. On the left is a 'Species Tree' sidebar with a list of species. The main area contains two sections: 'Create/Edit Dealer Report' with four input fields, and 'Create/Edit Landings' with a 3x3 grid of input fields. The SAFIS eDR logo is in the top left.

Proposed Dealer Report & Landings UI (two pages)

The proposed UI is a two-page form. The first page contains the 'Create/Edit Dealer Report' section with four input fields and a 'Partner-Managed Report Attributes' section with three input fields. A red arrow points from the 'Create/Edit Landings' section of the current UI to the 'Create/Edit Landings' section of the second page. The second page contains the 'Create/Edit Landings' section with a 3x4 grid of input fields and a 'Partner-Managed Landings/Species Attributes' section with three input fields. A light blue arrow points from the 'Partner-Managed Report Attributes' section of the first page to the second page, with the text 'Save Report move to Landings page(s)' next to it. The SAFIS eDR logo is in the top left of each page.



Spring Data Load

- On time public data release on 4/15!
- Highlights:
 - ME Atlantic Mackerel 2024 conversion factor updates as requested by GARFO (updated data in fall load)
 - NY data supplied despite NY data contact resigning
 - NC staff transitions caused issues with data delivery, despite extreme efforts from NC state staff. Nearly complete 2024 data set available.



Limited Confidential Access: Background

- Current confidential access level allows database access to all partner data no matter the request
- Shortened access period greatly increases partner communications
- Partners want access level with fewer permissions and similar timeframe



Confidential Access Permissions

Limited Access

- Can request and receive/view confidential data
- Cannot query confidential data in the Data Warehouse

Full Access

- Can request, query, and view confidential data in the Data Warehouse



Confidential Access Users

Limited Access (Custom Data Request)

- Stock assessment technical committee and subcommittee members
- SEDAR analysts and data compilers
- Grant recipients and associated researchers

Full Access

- ASMFC/ACCSP staff and contractors
- Council staff
- Data security contacts
- Partner data validation staff



Conversion Factors for Select Species Along the Atlantic Coast

Christopher Bradshaw (FL)

Alan Bianchi (NC)

Katherine Rodrigue (RI)

Anna-Mai Christmas-Svajdlenka (ACCSP)

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Conversion Factors: Background

- Conversion factor history
 - Limited supporting data
 - Few updates
- Project – Submitted 2020
 - Priority species
 - American Eel
 - Atlantic Menhaden
 - Atlantic Sharpnose Shark
 - Blue Crab
 - Snowy Grouper
 - Participating states
 - Maine
 - Rhode Island
 - New Jersey
 - Virginia
 - North Carolina
 - Florida



Conversion Factors: Sample Size



Species	Grand Total
American Eel	8,515
Atlantic Menhaden	11,567
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark	108
Blue Crab	15,880
Snowy Grouper	329



Conversion Factors: Impacts & Next Steps

- Factor improvements
 - Data documentation
 - Geographic distinction
 - Partner-specific time periods
- Next steps
 - ACCSP creates and maintains background code
 - Partners update and maintain conversion factors and timelines



Citizen Science Updates

- New SciFish project
 - RI Recreational Discards
- SAFMC FISHstory data and Release lengths accepted at SEDAR 90 (red snapper)



Recreational Fisheries Project Status

- APAIS discards project data collection occurring May-October
- For-Hire Methodology data review – paused for funding



APAIS Developments

- Depredation disposition code development
 - HMS request: Potential 2026 implementation (no new questions, may need till 2027 to add question on potential species preying on catch to allow for Fed PRA)
- Area Fished
 - RTC discussing more granular area fished for APAIS coastal intercepts based on MA and NEFMC request
 - Potential for pilot study
 - Implementation in 2027 possible



MRIP Sampling: Expanded Months

- 2025: FHTS effort sampling done MD-GA. APAIS catch sampling performed in SC (pilot).
- **ASMFC Memo:** requested FES Sampling and catch estimate calculation in SC & GA Jan-Feb 2026 (to allow for NOAA planning & contracting)
- **Request feedback:** state interest in explorative FHTS sampling Jan-Feb 2026 from VA-CT with existing program staff. Minimal cost and extend idea of how much For-Hire effort is occurring.



Regional Data Coordination

- NC/HMS: Bluefin Tuna dealer submission
- SEFSC Commercial Logbook/HMS logbook
- GARFO dealer module development



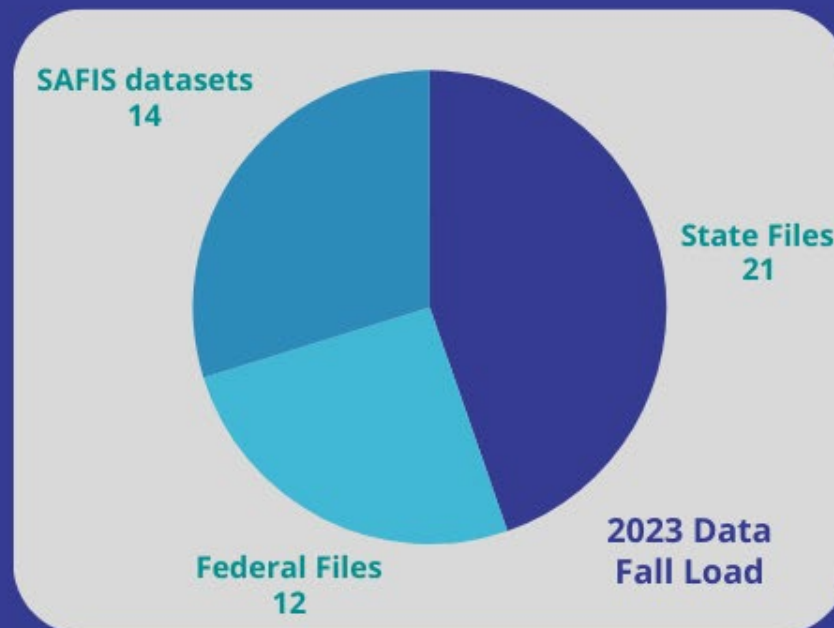
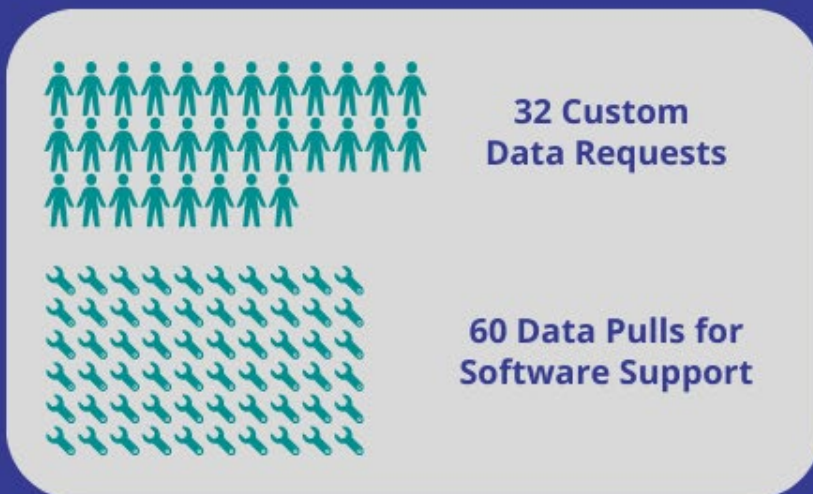
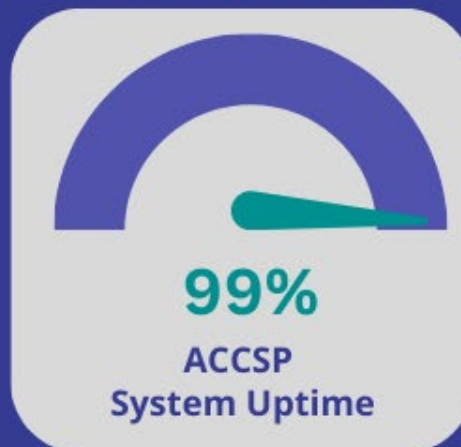
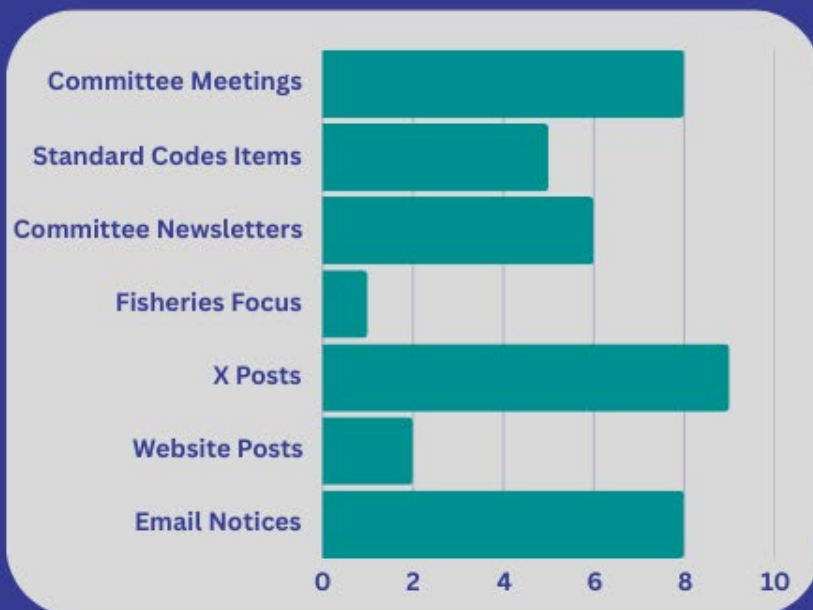
FIS/IRA Atlantic Coast Projects

- Federal Vessel Permit Registry
- East Coast Logbook Project



ACCSP by the Numbers

Reporting Period: September 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025



Funding Uncertainty

- FY2024 – 3 projects not yet funded
- FY2025 – Admin Grant & projects not yet funded
 - Maine agreed to pause Halibut project funding
- FYI2025 – FIS IRA Modernization project start date delayed
- FY2026 – Adjustment to FIN support unclear



Thank You Stephanie Iverson

- Key member of ACCSP Development over 25 years
 - ACCSP proposals in 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2009
 - Technical Committees (ComTech, InfoSys, Standard Codes)
 - Operations Committee (Chair 2004)
 - Coordinating Council

Funded Proposals and Reports



2009 - VA - Upgrades to the Biological Collection Program
Sampling Equipment and Phase III Database Development
Biological



2004 - VA - Commercial Harvesting Catch and Effort
Databases
Commercial Catch and Effort



2003 - VA - Redevelopment of Commercial Fishing
Licensing, Permitting, and Vessel Data System
Commercial Catch and Effort



2002 - VA - Biological Sampling of Horseshoe Crabs and
Spanish Mackerel (with NMFS NERO and SERO)
Biological



2000 - VA - Mandatory Data Reporting
Commercial Catch and Effort



Operations Committee 2006

