Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

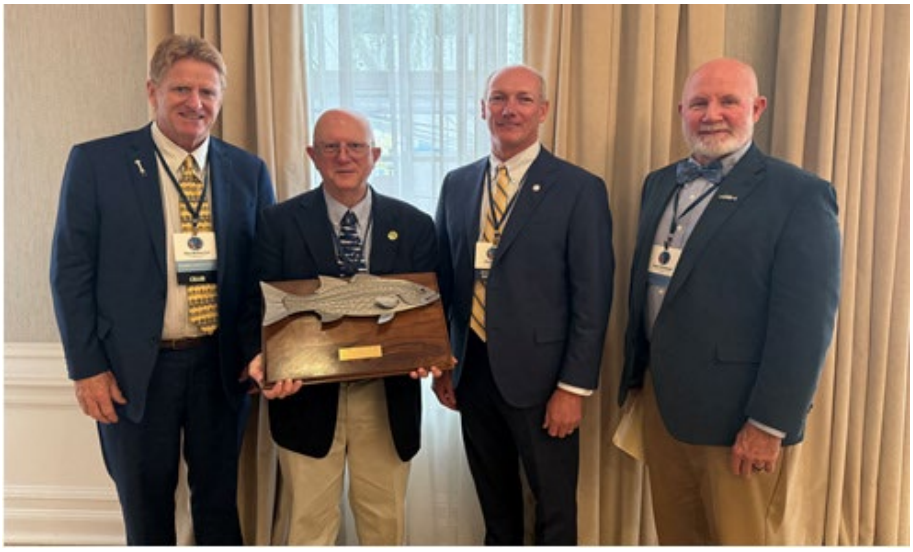
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PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger
703.842.0749

Dr. Wilson Laney Receives Captain David H. Hart Award for Outstanding Contributions to Atlantic Coast Fisheries

Newport, RI – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is pleased to announce Dr. Wilson Laney, formerly with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, as the recipient of the Captain David H. Hart Award, the Commission's highest honor recognizing outstanding individual contributions to marine fisheries along the Atlantic coast.

Dr. Laney is being recognized for more than three decades of exceptional service to Atlantic coast fisheries science and interstate fisheries management. Throughout his career, he has been a dedicated scientist, collaborator, mentor, and advocate for sound science, contributing to virtually every aspect of the Commission's work, including stock assessments, fishery monitoring, habitat conservation, and fishery management planning.



From left: ASMFC Chair Dan McKiernan from Massachusetts, Captain David H. Hart Award recipient Wilson Laney, ASMFC Executive Director Bob Beal, and Awards Committee Chair Spud Woodward of Georgia

"Wilson contributions to Atlantic coast fisheries and this Commission are truly extraordinary. His dedication to sound science, his ability to bring people together, and his tireless commitment to the conservation of our marine resources exemplify everything the Captain David H. Hart Award represents.

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.

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 (phone) asmfc.org

His legacy will continue to benefit fisheries professionals and the resources we manage for years to come," stated Spud Woodward, ASMFC Awards Committee Chair.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Laney played an instrumental role in establishing the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership and provided longstanding leadership to the Commission's Habitat Committee. He also made significant contributions to numerous Commission technical committees and management boards, helping advance science-based management for a wide range of Atlantic coast species.

One of his most notable contributions was his leadership of the Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruises, a research initiative that spanned 38 years. Beginning in the program's early years in 1987, Dr. Laney helped coordinate vessels, researchers, funding, and field operations, bringing together more than 125 scientists and graduate students from state and federal agencies and universities. The cruises generated valuable information on striped bass movements, growth, survival, and mortality, with tagging data contributing to the coastwide striped bass stock assessment and providing a unique source of information on the species' wintering grounds.

Dr. Laney's commitment to fisheries conservation and science has continued well beyond his retirement from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He remains actively engaged in fisheries research, habitat conservation, and mentoring colleagues and students, demonstrating an enduring dedication to the resources and professionals he has served throughout his career.

Named for Captain David H. Hart of New Jersey, one of the Commission's longest-serving members and a tireless advocate for the advancement and protection of marine fishery resources, the award recognizes individuals whose contributions have made a lasting difference to Atlantic coast fisheries.

Dr. Laney exemplifies the spirit of this award through his scientific excellence, collaborative leadership, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to the stewardship of marine resources. The Commission congratulates Dr. Wilson Laney on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for his extraordinary contributions to Atlantic coast fisheries.

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