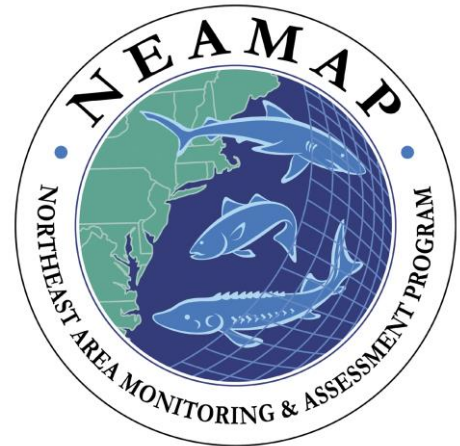


FISHERIES SCIENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program



Active Committees:

NEAMAP Operations Committee
NEAMAP Board
NEAMAP Survey Technical Committee
NEAMAP Data Management Committee

Purpose: The Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) is a cooperative state/federal fisheries independent research and data collection program implemented between the Gulf of Maine and Cape Hatteras, NC. The program is intended to maximize the effective capability of fishery-independent survey activities and maximize the usefulness of data collected by such surveys, through cooperative planning, innovative uses of statistical theory and design, and consolidation of data into a useful data management system. The overall approach of NEAMAP emphasizes the collection of fishery-independent data to fill specific short-term and long-term management needs.

In October 1997, the Commission passed a resolution (Appendix I-1) to develop a cooperative fishery-independent data collection program, in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In June 1998, a workshop was held to begin the design and development of such a program. Details were added to the program during workgroup meetings in late 1998 and early 1999. The NEAMAP MOU was approved on March 28, 2003 and provides the framework for implementation of NEAMAP.

The ***Operations Committee*** serves as the executive-level committee for the program and oversees the design and implementation of NEAMAP, establishes policy to guide program and Partner participation, and serves as the final decision-making authority for the program. The Operations Committee makes its decisions by consensus where possible, or by majority vote. The Committee also serves as the vehicle for coordination of other NEAMAP Committees.

The ***Board*** serves as the liaisons to agency leadership for NEAMAP.

The ***Survey Technical Committee*** develops recommendations on technical details of individual surveys and other relevant tasks as assigned by the Operations Committee. The Survey Technical Committee makes decisions by consensus where possible. If consensus is not possible, the Committees shall identify options and present benefits and shortcomings of each to the Operations Committee.

The **Data Management Committee** develops recommendations on data management and other relevant tasks as assigned by the Operations Committee. The Data Management Committee makes decisions by consensus where possible. If consensus is not possible, the Committees shall identify options and present benefits and shortcomings of each to the Operations Committee.

Membership: Board membership consists of one representative of each signatory Partner (Maine to North Carolina). Operations Committee members are appointed by their respective agencies and its membership consists of one representative of each signatory Partner. NEAMAP Partner agencies appoint members to Technical Committees (e.g., Survey Technical Committee, Data Management Committee). Each committee elects their own Chair and Vice Chairs.

Codifying Document: NEAMAP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Type & Frequency of Meetings: In person meetings (once a year), conference calls as needed.

Primary activities:

NEAMAP Nearshore Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Trawl Survey

Designed to sample fishes and invertebrates from coastal waters bounded by the 20ft. and 60ft. depth contours between Aquinnah, Massachusetts and Cape Hatteras, North Carolina and waters between the 60ft. and 120ft. depth contours in Rhode Island Sound and Block Island Sound using a bottom trawl. The main objective of the survey is the estimation of biomass, population length and age structures, various other assessment parameters, and diet compositions of select finfishes (e.g., summer flounder, black sea bass, weakfish, bluefish) inhabiting the area in spring and fall.

Major accomplishments:

- Maturity Staging Workshop (2020)
- Catch Processing Workshop (2015)
- Onboard Data Processing Workshop (2013)
- NEAMAP 2012 – 2016 Management Plan
- MAFMC Research Set Aside Award 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
- NEAMAP Nearshore Mid-Atlantic Trawl Survey Peer Review (2008)
- NEAMAP Implementation Plan 2007-2011
- NEAMAP Operations Plan 2002-2006
- NEAMAP Operations Plans (annual)
- NEAMAP Nearshore Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Trawl Survey
 - Pilot survey Fall 2006; Fall Survey 2007; Spring and Fall Surveys 2008-2019
- **Outreach Demonstration Tows**
 - On-board demonstrations of collections and catch processing for the survey
 - Demo tow events leave from Port Judith, RI, Montauk, NY, Cape May, NJ, and Hampton, VA when the survey is in each area

History of Chairmanship:

Operations Committee

Current Chair: (2019 – Present): Nicole Lengyel, RI
(2008 – 2018): Jim Gartland, VA
(2005 – 2007): Sally Sherman, ME
(2002 – 2004): Chris Bonzek, VA

Board

Chair: (2017 – Present): Mike Armstrong, MA
(2013 – 2016): Steve Heins, NY
(2011 – 2012) Rob O'Reilly, VA
(2008 – 2011): Frank Almeida, NEFSC
(2006 – 2007): David Pierce, MA
(2003 – 2005): Linda Mercer, ME

Survey Technical Committee

Current Chair: (2018 – Present): Jameson Gregg, VA
(2004 – 2017): Jim Gartland, VA

Data Management Committee

Current Chair (2007 – Present): Chris Bonzek, VA

Staff Lead: Sarah Murray, Fisheries Science Coordinator, SMurray@asmfc.org