



ASMFC

FISHERIES *focus*

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Meetings
page 2

From the Executive Director's Desk
ASMFC Approves Policy on Financial Disclosure and Conflict of Interest
page 3

Species Profile
Spiny Dogfish
page 4

Traffic Light Approach Adopted to Assess Stock Trends
page 6

Annual Meeting Preliminary Agenda
page 7

Action on American Eel Addendum Delayed
page 9

Proposed Management Actions
Cancer Crab
Summer Flounder
Atlantic Striped Bass
Spiny Dogfish
page 10

ACCSP Creates Web Portal for ALSI Survey
page 11

The Value of ACCSP
page 11

ASMFC Comings and Goings
page 12

On the Legislative Front
page 13

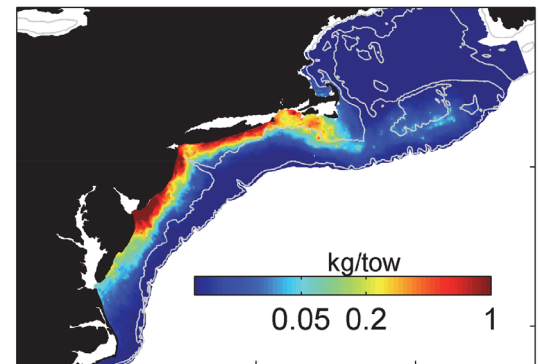
ASMFC Uses New Climate Analysis Tools to Evaluate Changes in Fish Stocks

Climate change can have significant impacts on the behavior and geographic distribution of fishery resources. With warming waters, the availability of habitat for fish stocks may change and species may need to shift their range to seek out more suitable conditions. With stocks that are on the move, there is a need to reassess current management plans and fishery allocations. However, it is important to first fully evaluate the environmental and regulatory drivers that control stock distributions before revising management strategies.

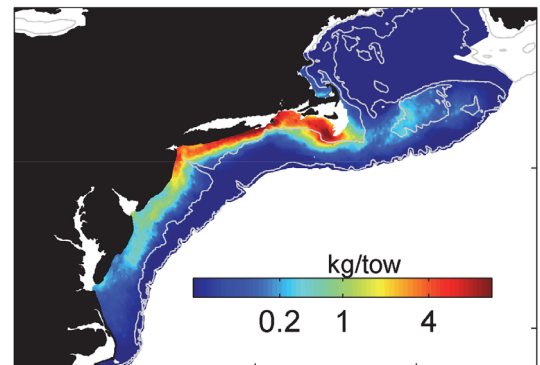
The Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board charged the Management and Science Committee (MSC) with investigating whether climate change and warming coastal water temperatures are causing shifts in the geographic distributions of several stocks. And, where shifts are occurring, the Committee was tasked to reconsider the state-by-state allocations and the need for adjustment.

The MSC collaborated with scientists at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) to determine the state of knowledge for select focal species and to demonstrate distribution shifts for stocks where it is occurring. The scientific component of the collaborative work determined if the center of biomass along the Mid-Atlantic and Southern New England coast changed over time for four species - black sea bass, scup, summer flounder, and winter flounder - using NEFSC trawl survey data. If a species demonstrated a change in center of biomass, the shifts were then attributed to changes in temperature, fishing pressure, stock rebuilding, or a combination of factors. The results of the investigation found that black sea bass, scup, and summer flounder exhibited a significant shift in distribution while the winter flounder stock did not. The poleward shift for black sea bass and scup in the spring season

1980-1989



2000-2008



A comparison of changes in summer flounder biomass and distribution over time (red denotes areas of higher biomass, while blue reflects areas of no biomass). Source: D. Richardson, NEFSC.

continued, see CLIMATE CHANGE on page 6

Upcoming Meetings

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 the 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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September 8 (begins at 12:30 PM) - 10 (ends at 5 PM)

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Subcommittee, Providence Biltmore, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI

September 9 (10 AM - 5 PM)

ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Technical Committee, Providence Biltmore, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI

September 10 (begins at 12:30 PM) - 11 (ends at 5 PM)

ASMFC Biological Ecological Reference Points Workgroup, Providence Biltmore, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI

September 12 (8:30 AM - 4 PM)

ASMFC Tautog Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Subcommittee, Providence Biltmore, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI

September 15 - 16

ASMFC Black Drum Stock Assessment Subcommittee, The Hotel at Arundel Preserve, 7795 Arundel Mills Boulevard, Hanover, MD

September 15 - 19

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, The Charleston Marriot Hotel, 170 Lockwood Boulevard, Charleston, SC

September 23 (begins at 9 AM) - 24 (ends at Noon)

Recreational PSE Workshop, The Hotel at Arundel Preserve, 7795 Arundel Mills Boulevard, Hanover, MD

September 23 (begins at 9 AM) - 25 (ends at 1 PM)

ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment Workshop, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, 1213 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA

September 30 - October 2

New England Fishery Management Council, Cape Codder Resort, Hyannis, MA

October 7 - 9

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Courtyard Philadelphia Downtown, 21 N. Juniper Street, Philadelphia, PA

October 7 - 10

ASMFC Weakfish Stock Assessment Data Workshop, Courtyard Marriott Raleigh Midtown, 1041 Wake Towne Drive, Raleigh, NC

October 14 - 17

ASMFC Red Drum Stock Assessment Data Workshop, Charleston, SC (specific location to be determined)

October 26 - 30

ASMFC 73rd Annual Meeting, Mystic Hilton, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT

November 18 - 20

New England Fishery Management Council, Newport Marriott, Newport, RI

December 1 - 5

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Doubletree by Hilton New Bern/Riverfront, 100 Middle Street New Bern, NC

December 9 - 11

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Royal Sonesta, 550 Light Street, Baltimore, MD



ASMFC Approves Policy on Financial Disclosure and Conflict of Interest

Since the Commission's creation in 1942, its 15 member states have sought to appoint the most knowledgeable individuals to represent their needs on the coastwide body. Often times, the best suited individuals are also stakeholders such as recreational and commercial fishermen, charter boat captains, fish processors and dealers, and conservation/environmental interests. Looking back through the years,

With these changes the Commission is entering a new era in transparency, which we hope will only increase public and stakeholders support.

it is easy to see the long-standing tradition of stakeholders serving as Commissioners has served the Commission well. The perspectives gained from their wide-ranging backgrounds are one of the Commission's greatest assets and invaluable to ensuring each decision made by this body is a step toward fulfillment of our Vision: *Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*.

However, this diversity and expertise necessarily means from time to time Commissioners will

have a personal interest in the outcomes of Commission management decisions. As an Interstate Compact of the 15 Atlantic coastal states, the Commission affords great deference to its member states to represent their individual interests while also ensuring the highest levels of transparency, accountability, and integrity in our coastwide decision-making process.

The Commission is not the only fisheries management body that has grappled with conflicts of interest and financial disclosure. Congress and the public have long debated the issue within the context of the regional fishery management councils, ultimately amending the Magnuson-Stevens Act to address disclosure of related personal interests. Recent scrutiny by stakeholders and the public has also prompted the Commission to address the issue at the state level.

In August, after more than a year of careful planning and deliberation, the Commission adopted a Policy on Commissioners Financial Disclosure and Conflict of Interest. The foundation of the policy is twofold: defining what constitutes a conflict of interest and outlining restrictions

where a conflict is found to exist. Additionally, the Disclosure Policy is designed to bolster accountability to the public and stakeholders through increased transparency.

Because the 15 Atlantic coast states have varying disclosure requirements, the Commission's Disclosure Policy codifies what our Commissioners have deemed essential to balance transparency to the public and privacy of individual Commissioners. It requires all Legislative Commissioners, Governors' Appointees, and their respective proxies to complete and submit a Disclosure Form that contains high level information about their fishery-related financial interests as well as any past or current involvement in fishery-related industries. The Disclosure Policy does not apply to Administrative Commissioners as state fishery agencies already require a similar disclosure that meets or exceeds the Commission's standards.

The Commission's Disclosure Policy defines a conflict of interest to be instances where a Commissioner or proxy has greater than 10 percent interest in the total harvest, marketing or processing of a fishery; full or partial ownership of more than 10 percent of the vessels using the same gear type within a fishery; or is an employee or representative of a harvesting entity that harvests greater than 10 percent of total harvest of a fishery. In cases where a conflict exists, Commissioners and proxies must recuse themselves from participating in the state caucus and voting. Once recused, a Commissioner or proxy may still participate in the debate but will not be able to make or second motions.

Additionally, the Disclosure Policy requires each state's appointing authority to be notified when a Legislative Commissioner or Governor Appointee appoints a proxy. A copy of each individual's Disclosure Form will be included with the notification. Finally, the completed Disclosure Forms will be available to the public through the Commission website (on the Commissioners page) and at Commission meetings.

The new Disclosure Policy will be in place for our Annual Meeting, beginning on October 27, 2014. With these changes the Commission is entering a new era in transparency, which we hope will only increase public and stakeholders support for the very important management decisions made by the Commission.

To view a copy of the Disclosure Policy, please visit the Commission website at <http://www.asmfc.org/home/meeting-archive>.

Species Profile: Spiny Dogfish



Species Snapshot

Spiny Dogfish *Squalus acanthias*

Common Names:

Spurdog, mud shark, piked dogfish. The common name "dogfish" originated from fishermen who described these fish as chasing smaller fish in large doglike packs.

Interesting Facts:

- Longest gestation period of any vertebrate (18-24 months), gives birth to live young with litters from 2-15 pups (average 6 pups).
- Genus name *Squalus* is Latin for "a kind of sea-fish" while the species name *acanthias* translates as "a prickly thing," describing the spines found on the dorsal fins.

Oldest Recorded: 100 years

Age/Length at Maturity:

- Females - 12 years/29.5 - 31.5"
- Males - 6 years/23.6"

Age/Length at Recruitment:

- Females - 10-13 years/32.3-34.3"
- Males - 15-18 years/29.1-30.7"

Stock Status:

Rebuilt, not overfished nor experiencing overfishing

Fishermen and Processors Seek New Markets for this Abundant Resource

Introduction

The Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) have jointly managed spiny dogfish since 2000. Spiny dogfish were declared rebuilt in 2009 -- going from severely depleted to a sustainable resource in under a decade. The science-based rebuilding quotas not only worked, but rebuilt the stock much quicker than expected. Because the stock has rebuilt, the spiny dogfish fishery has started a new chapter under higher quotas based on the significantly higher target fishing mortality rate. Based on this new target, the 2014/2015 annual quota was set at 51 million pounds in both state and federal waters.

There is continuing concern about the impacts of the rebuilt spiny dogfish population on the ecosystem and other fisheries. Recent changes in the European market have drastically decreased the demand for domestic dogfish. Fishermen and processors are working to develop new domestic markets to address the overabundance of the species in US waters. Ideas under consideration include using spiny dogfish as fertilizer and creating a market for dogfish fish and chips. Given that other New England stocks are overfished or experiencing overfishing, spiny dogfish provides a sustainable alternative for fishermen, processors, and seafood consumers.

Life History

Spiny dogfish inhabit both sides of the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans, mostly in the temperate and subarctic areas. In the Northwest Atlantic, the stock ranges from Labrador to Florida, and is most abundant from Nova Scotia to Cape Hatteras. Spiny dogfish migrate north in the spring and summer and south in the fall and winter. In the winter and spring, they congregate primarily in Mid-Atlantic waters but also extend onto the shelf break of southern Georges Bank. In the summer, they are located farther north in Canadian waters and move inshore into bays and estuaries. By autumn, dogfish have migrated north with high concentrations in Southern New England, on Georges Bank, and in the Gulf of Maine. They remain in northern waters throughout autumn until water temperatures begin to cool and then return to the Mid-Atlantic.

Juvenile spiny dogfish school by size until sexually mature and then aggregate by both size and sex. Female dogfish reach sexual maturity at 12 years (~29.5 inches), while males reach sexual maturity at six years (~23.6 inches). Mating occurs in the winter months and the pups are delivered on the offshore wintering grounds. Females give birth every two years with litters ranging from two to 15 pups. While carrying one litter, the female will begin developing eggs for the fertilization of her next litter. After an 18 to 24 month gestation period, the longest of any vertebrate, pups are released live and fully formed at about 14 inches.

Whales, dolphins, silver hake, white hake, weakfish, goosefish, Atlantic cod, bluefish, striped bass and other large predatory species feed on dogfish. Spiny dogfish are opportunistic feeders, eating several commercially important species, such as Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, squid, and to a lesser extent cod and haddock.

Commercial Fisheries

Prior to the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (now known as the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act), foreign fleets caught the majority of dogfish in U.S. waters but U.S. fishermen have had uncontested access ever since the Act's passage. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) encouraged commercial fishermen to target the bountiful stocks of spiny dogfish in the 1980s and 1990s when stocks of other commercially valuable fish in the Northeast declined. Then in 1998, NMFS determined that spiny dogfish were overfished and implemented stringent harvest restrictions in federal waters to allow the stock to rebound. The states followed shortly after with complementary regulations for state waters.

Today, commercial fishermen catch spiny dogfish using longlines, trawls, and purse seines. Fishermen target female dogfish because the females grow larger than males and tend to school together. Processors prefer the larger dogfish because they are easier to hold and cut. Until recently, dogfish were sent to European food fish markets that use dogfish 'belly flaps' for fish and chips in England and as a popular beer garden snack called shillerlocken in Germany. There is also a small scientific fishery in Maine, which uses spiny dogfish

to study several of the species' unique biological characteristics. Dogfish have an organ called a rectal gland whose study helps scientists better understand the function of human kidneys. They also secrete a molecule called squalamine, which has strong antibiotic characteristics and shows promise as an anticancer agent.

Landings were approximately 37.2 million pounds in 1992, gradually increasing to a peak of about 60 million pounds in 1996. In the late 1990s, landings declined to an average of around 40 million. After federal and state regulations were implemented in the early 2000s, landings declined to less than five million pounds in 2001 and 2002. They then ranged between two and eight million pounds between 2003 and 2009. As the stock began to improve, landings were increased to 12 million pounds in 2009 and 2010 respectively. Commercial landings continue to be mostly female dogfish, with female landings comprising about 98% of the total commercial catch. The 2013/2014 landings were about 12 million pounds, well below the 41 million pound quota.

Stock Status

The most recent stock assessment document is the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Update on the Status of Spiny Dogfish in 2013 and Projected Harvest at the F_{msy} Proxy report. The report is based on the 2010 Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee assessment. The updated fishing mortality target is 0.244 and the threshold is 0.325. The updated SSB target and threshold are 351 and 176 million pounds, respectively. The NEFSC Update estimated the SSB continued to exceed the target in 2013 (for the fifth year in a row) at 466 million pounds.

Atlantic Coastal Management

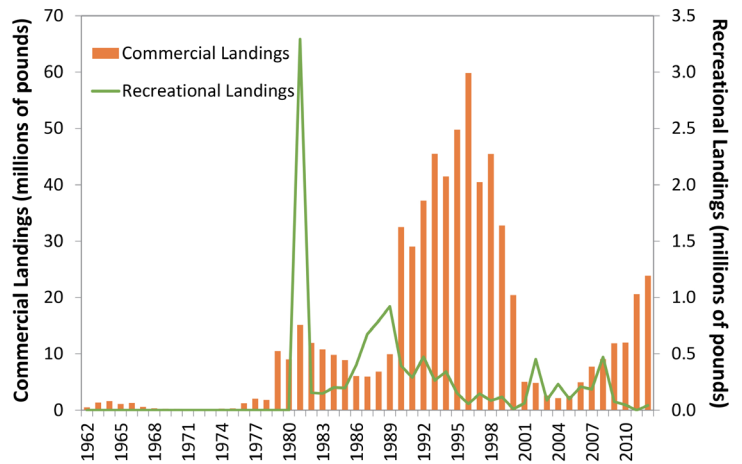
In 1998, NMFS declared spiny dogfish overfished and initiated the development of a joint fishery management plan (FMP) between the Mid-Atlantic (MAFMC) and New England Fishery Management Councils (NEFMC) in 1999. The Commission began development of an Interstate FMP to complement the federal plan in 1999. The Interstate FMP was approved in late 2003 and implemented for the 2003-2004 fishing year. Both the Commission and federal plans use a fishing mortality rate to set annual quotas and trip limits.

Subsequent addenda (Addendum I – IV) addressed various aspects of spiny dogfish management. Currently, 58% of the quota is allocated to the states of Maine to Connecticut, with individual state-shares for the southern states (New York to Virginia). The interstate plan also includes multi-year specification setting, paybacks for quota overages, allows for a five percent rollover once the stock is rebuilt, and allows for up to 1,000 spiny dogfish to be harvested for biomedical supply.

The Commission's Spiny Dogfish Management Board recently increased its spiny dogfish quotas for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 fishing seasons (May 1 – April 30) in response to increases in spawning stock biomass. The 2014/2015 quota is now set at 49,037,000 pounds (previously 41,784,000 pounds) and the 2015/2016 quota is set at 50,612,000 pounds (previously 41,578,000 pounds), with a maximum possession limit of 4,000 pounds per day for the northern region states (Maine through Connecticut). The quota is subdivided into a northern region (Maine - Connecticut) share of 58% and state-specific shares for the southern region, allocated as follows New York (2.707%); New Jersey (7.644%); Delaware (0.896%); Maryland (5.92%); Virginia (10.795%); and North Carolina (14.036%). Any overages from the previous fishing seasons will be paid back by the region or state in the following season, as has been done in the past.

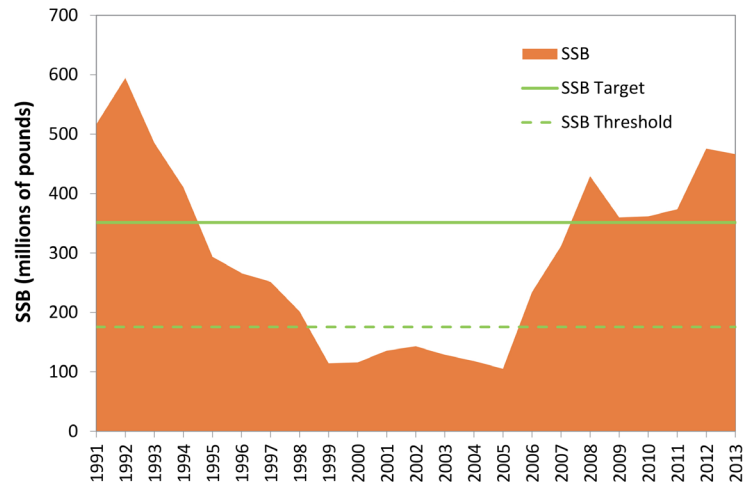
Spiny Dogfish Landings

Source: NEFSC Update on the Status of Spiny Dogfish in 2013 and Projected Harvests at the F_{msy} Proxy & P_{STAR} of 40%, 2013



Spiny Dogfish Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) (>=80 cm)

Source: NEFSC Update on the Status of Spiny Dogfish in 2013 and Projected Harvests at the F_{msy} Proxy and P_{STAR} of 40%



Timeline of Management Actions: Emergency Action (2000); FMP (2003); Addendum I (2005); Addendum II (2008); Addendum III (2011), Addendum IV (2012)

see SPINY DOGFISH, continued on page 14

was attributed to increasing water temperatures. However, the poleward shift of summer flounder was largely attributed to the stock's increase in total abundance and expansion of size structure. This is most likely due to a decrease in fishing pressure since length structure and abundance are largely controlled by fishing. The summer flounder center of biomass will most likely continue to move north with the increase in the abundance of older fish and continued warming.¹

To define the methods for possibly adjusting state-by-state allocations, the MSC crafted several fishery reallocation options. To determine the applicability of each option, the Committee distributed a survey to ASMFC Commissioners. The MSC then developed specific reallocation recommendations based on Commissioner responses. The Commissioners found the "Historical/Current Combination" reallocation option to be the most pragmatic. The option was outlined as "using the historical allocation for 50% of the quota, and reallocating the remaining 50% of quota based on the current distribution of biomass." The MSC recommends that specific percentages should be set for each species (black sea bass, scup, and summer flounder). The MSC also noted that the historical "fixed" and "adjusted" percentages used in the survey on allocation options were only suggested as 50:50, and that other combinations for historical/current percentages could be decided by individual Management Boards in consultation with their Technical Committees. The Historical/Current Combination reallocation option will address distributional changes for a stock that is expanding in range, increasing in abundance, or both. This reallocation option may also provide management flexibility in terms of adjusting to changes in the distribution of stocks, as well as providing for a more gradual

change in adjusted allocations for states, because states keep some portion of their historical allocation.

Based on results of the Commissioner survey, there is interest among the states in looking further at options, but in-depth work with the black sea bass, scup, and summer flounder technical committees will be needed to establish specific reallocation structures and determine the most appropriate data sets to use. Robust data sets are critical to making reallocation decisions and therefore the caveats (e.g., gear selectivity, survey sampling schedules, fishing area, etc.) on the appropriate use of fisheries independent and dependent data should be taken into account.

In anticipation of future climate impacts to fish stocks, the Commission is adding climate evaluations to upcoming benchmark stock assessments, including the lobster, red drum, and black sea bass assessments to be completed in the next few years. The Commission also is incorporating the latest science and analytical tools to evaluate climate impacts to fish habitat, through the ASMFC Habitat Program, and the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership. The Management and Science Committee will continue to track developing scientific tools and management issues related to climate and fisheries, including a new fish stock climate vulnerability tool being developed by NMFS (<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/climate/activities/assessing-vulnerability-of-fish-stocks>).

For more information, please contact Shanna Madsen, Fisheries Science Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or smadsen@asmfc.org.

¹ Bell et al. "Disentangling the effects of climate, abundance, and size on the distribution of marine fish: an example based on four stocks from the Northeast U.S. Shelf." NEFSC report to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, April 2014.

Traffic Light Approach Adopted to Assess Stock Trends and Initiate Management Response for Spot & Atlantic Croaker

In August, the South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board approved two Addenda, one to the Omnibus Amendment for Spot and one to Amendment I to the Atlantic Croaker Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Addenda establish a new management framework (i.e., Traffic Light Approach or TLA) to evaluate fisheries trends and develop state-specified management actions (i.e., bag limits, size restrictions, time & area closures, and gear restrictions) when harvest and abundance thresholds are exceeded.

The TLA is a statistically-robust way to incorporate multiple data sources (both fishery-independent and -dependent) into a single, easily understood metric for management advice. It is often used for data-poor species, or species which are not assessed on a frequent basis, such as blue crabs in North Carolina and snow crabs in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. As such, it serves as an excellent management tool for spot, which has not been assessed on a coastwide basis and Atlantic croaker, which was last assessed in 2010.

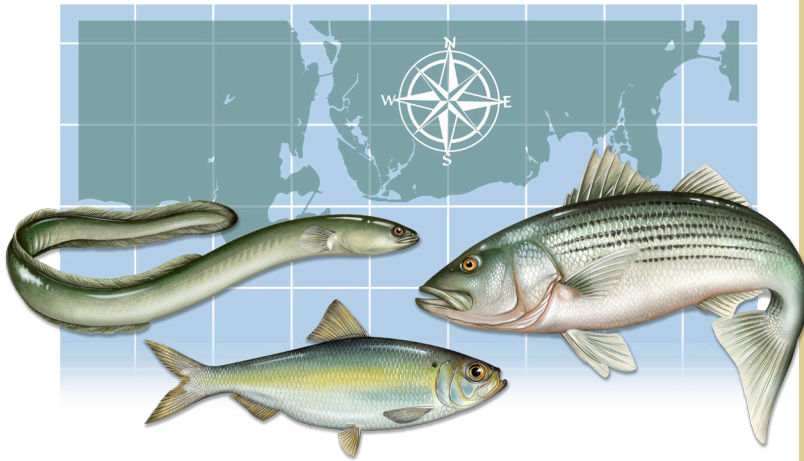
The name comes from assigning a color (red, yellow, or green) to categorize relative levels of indicators on the condition of the fish population (abundance metric) or fishery (harvest metric). For example, as harvest or abundance increase relative to their long-term mean, the proportion of green in a given year will increase and as harvest or abundance decrease, the amount of red in that year becomes more predominant. Under the Addenda, state-specific management action would be initiated when the proportion of red exceeds the specified thresholds (for both harvest and abundance) over three consecutive years for Atlantic croaker and two consecutive years for spot. Management measures would remain in place for three years for Atlantic croaker and two years for spot.

The current management triggers for Atlantic croaker and spot compare annual changes in various indices

continued, see TRAFFIC LIGHT APPROACH on page 14

ASMFC

73rd Annual Meeting



MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT
OCTOBER 2014

Preliminary Agenda

The agenda is subject to change. Bulleted items represent the anticipated major issues to be discussed or acted upon at the meeting. The final agenda will include additional items and may revise the bulleted items provided below. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled Board meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of Board meetings. Interested parties should anticipate Boards starting earlier or later than indicated herein.

Sunday, October 26, 2014

2 p.m. **Registration** (ends at 5:30 p.m.)

Monday, October 27, 2014

7:30 a.m. **Registration** (ends at 1:00 p.m.)

8 – 9:30 a.m. **Atlantic Herring Section**

- Review and Consider Approval of Draft Amendment 3 for Public Comment
- Set 2015 Specifications

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) Steering Committee**

- Review and Rank FY2015 Habitat Restoration Proposals
- Initiate Review of ACFHP 5-year Conservation Strategic Plan
- Presentation on Atlantic Coast Diadromous Fish Habitat Assessment
- Presentation on Climate Change Impacts to Coastal Fish Habitats

see ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA, continued page 8

Public Comment Guidelines

With the intent of developing policies in the Commission's procedures for public participation that result in a fair opportunity for public input, the ISFMP Policy Board has approved the following guidelines for use at management board meetings:

For issues that are not on the agenda, management boards will continue to provide opportunity to the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will use a speaker sign-up list in deciding how to allocate the available time on the agenda (typically 10 minutes) to the number of people who want to speak.

For topics that are on the agenda, but have not gone out for public comment, board chairs will provide limited opportunity for comment, taking into account the time allotted on the agenda for the topic. Chairs will have flexibility in deciding how to allocate comment opportunities; this could include hearing one comment in favor and one in opposition until the chair is satisfied further comment will not provide additional insight to the board.

For agenda action items that have already gone out for public comment, it is the Policy Board's intent to end the occasional practice of allowing extensive and lengthy public comments. Currently, board chairs have the discretion to decide what public comment to allow in these circumstances.

In addition, the following timeline has been established for the **submission of written comment for issues for which the Commission has NOT established a specific public comment period** (i.e., in response to proposed management action).

1. Comments received 3 weeks prior to the start of a meeting week will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5:00 PM on the Tuesday immediately preceding the scheduled ASMFC Meeting (in this case, the Tuesday deadline will be **October 21, 2014**) will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting and a limited number of copies will be provided at the meeting.
3. Following the Tuesday, **October 21, 2014** 5:00 PM deadline, the commenter will be responsible for distributing the information to the management board prior to the board meeting or providing enough copies for the management board consideration at the meeting (a minimum of 50 copies).

The submitted comments must clearly indicate the commenter's expectation from the ASMFC staff regarding distribution. As with other public comment, it will be accepted via mail, fax, and email.

- 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Management and Science Committee**
- Overview of FishSmart/Barotrauma Program and Tools
 - Overview of Research Set Aside Program
 - NMFS Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis
 - Review New ASMFC Webpage for Commercial/Recreational Regulations by State/Species
 - Science Center for Marine Fisheries Presentation
 - Review Stock Assessment Schedule
 - Program Updates

- 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. **Winter Flounder Management Board**
- Review Northeast Fisheries Science Center Stock Assessment Update for Gulf of Maine Winter Flounder
 - Review Update of Abundance and Biomass Indices for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Winter Flounder
 - Set 2015 Specifications

- 11:00 a.m. – 6 p.m. **American Eel Management Board**
- Review and Consider Final Approval of Addendum IV

3:00 – 6 p.m. **Registration**

6:30 – 8 p.m. **Welcome Reception at the Mystic Aquarium**

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

7:30 a.m. **Registration** (ends at 1 p.m.)

- 8 – 10 a.m. **American Lobster Management Board**
- Public Comment Summary of the Cancer Crab Public Information Document
 - Board Guidance on Development of Management Options for Draft FMP for Cancer Crab
 - Review Lobster Gear and Trap Transfer Inconsistencies in State/Federal Waters
 - Review LCMT Reports and Proposals on Southern New England Reductions

- 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Habitat Committee**
- Overview of Action Plan 2015 and Work Plan
 - Review Publications in Progress: *Habitat Hotline Atlantic* (climate change impacts on fish habitats), Habitat Management Series (living shorelines, aquaculture), Sciaenid Habitat Management Document
 - Habitat Bottlenecks

- 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Law Enforcement Committee**
- Review of LEC Guidelines for Enforceability
 - State and Federal Agency Reports
 - Species Board Updates

- 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board**
- Review Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Wave 4 Harvest Estimates for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass (if available)
 - Discuss Available Management Approaches for the 2015 Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Recreational Fisheries

- 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee**
(A portion of this meeting will be a closed session for Committee members only)
- Review Progress of the Independent Program Review (IPR) Recommendations

12:15 – 1:30 p.m. **Legislators and Governors' Appointees Luncheon**

- 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Business Session**
- Commission Chair and Vice-Chair Election
 - 2014 Action Plan Update
 - 2015 Action Planning

2 – 4:30 p.m. **Registration**

- 3 – 4:15 p.m. **ISFMP Policy Board & ACCSP Coordinating Council**
- Review and Consider Recommendations on the State Conduct of the Marine Recreational Information Program-Access Point Angler Intercept Survey

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All meetings, with the exception of closed sessions, are open to the public free of charge. However, if you plan on attending any of the Annual Meeting social events, please help us prepare for these events by registering at <http://mahi.accsp.org:8080/myJSPs/registration73rdAnnualMtg.htm>. The registration fee (\$200 participant, \$150 guest) covers the Monday night reception, the Tuesday night dinner, and the Wednesday Hart Award Luncheon, as well as spouse/guest activities. Payment is not required until you arrive at the meeting; however, we ask that you please assist us in planning for the meeting by registering as soon as possible.

- 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. **ACCSP Coordinating Council**
- Consider and Approve Proposals for FY2015 Funding
 - Program Updates
 - Committee Updates
 - Update from Executive Committee on IPR Recommendations Progress

- 5:15 – 6 p.m. **Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office Strategic Planning Workshop**

- 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. **Annual Dinner at the Mystic Seaport**

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

- 8:00 – 10 a.m. **Executive Committee**
- Review Commission Two-thirds Voting Policy
 - Review Executive Director's Priorities for 2015
 - Advisory Panel Involvement in FMP Development
 - Approve FY 2014 Audit
 - Discuss Future Annual Meetings
- 10:15 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**
- Review and Consider Final Approval of Addendum IV
- 12 – 1:30 p.m. **Captain David H. Hart Award Luncheon**

Thursday, October 30, 2014

- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. **Horseshoe Crab Management Board**
- Review Updates on Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Abundance
 - Set 2015 Specifications
 - Review and Consider Approval of the 2014 FMP Review and State Compliance Report
- 9:45 – 11:15 a.m. **Commissioner Workshop on Fisheries Socioeconomics Using Atlantic Menhaden as a Case-Study**
- Overview of Social Science Evaluation
 - Overview of Economic Analyses
 - Management Scenario Interactive Workgroup Activity
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Coastal Sharks Management Board**
- Review NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species Division Smoothhound Proposed Rule and Consider Development of Board Comments
 - Set 2015 Coastal Sharks Specifications
- 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. **Spiny Dogfish Management Board**
- Review and Consider Final Approval of Addendum V
- 2 – 4:00 p.m. **ISFMP Policy Board**
- Committee Reports: Fish Passage Work Group, Habitat Committee, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, Management and Science Committee
 - Consider Approval of Revisions to the ASMFC Committee Guidance and Assessment Process Document
- 4 – 4:15 p.m. **Business Session (if necessary)**

Action on American Draft Addendum IV Delayed until October

In August, the American Eel Management Board met to consider final approval of Draft Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for American Eel. Draft Addendum IV proposes a suite of options to address the commercial glass, yellow, and silver eel fisheries along the Atlantic coast. Management options under consideration include glass and yellow eel quotas, a catch cap for the yellow eel fishery, and a seasonal closure and license cap for the silver eel fishery in the Delaware River in New York. The Draft Addendum also includes glass eel harvest allowances for aquaculture purposes and as credit for habitat restoration programs.

The Board reviewed public comment from state public hearings conducted along the coast and written comment submitted to the Commission. After lengthy deliberations of the extensive proposed management options and in recognition of the states' varying interests and needs, the Board decided to postpone final action on the Draft Addendum IV. In the interim, Board will convene a subcommittee of its members to identify preferred management measures to be considered by the Board for final action at the Commission's Annual Meeting in Mystic, Connecticut the week of October 27, 2014.

The Draft Addendum is the second phase of management action in response to the 2012 American Eel Benchmark Stock Assessment indicating the American eel population in U.S. waters is depleted. Causes of decline are likely due to a combination of historical overfishing, habitat loss, food web alterations, predation, turbine mortality, environmental changes, toxins and contaminants, and disease. The stock has declined in recent decades and is currently under consideration by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, at ktaylor@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Proposed Management Actions

Throughout August, September and into October, the Commission and its member states are busy gathering public comment on a number of proposed management actions, from the development of a new Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Cancer Crab and a new plan amendment for summer flounder to proposed changes to the management programs for Atlantic striped bass and spiny dogfish. Below is a brief description of the proposed changes. Readers should visit the Commission website at <http://www.asmf.org/about-us/public-input> to obtain the draft documents and view scheduled public hearings.

Jonah Crab. Photo by MA DMF



Cancer Crab

The American Lobster Management Board is seeking public comment on the Public Information Document (PID) for the Draft Fishery Management Plan for Cancer Crab. As the first step in the development

of a FMP, the PID seeks public input on information concerning Cancer crab fisheries, including the identification of major issues and options relative to the management of these species.

The PID was initiated in response to concern about increasing targeted fishing pressure for Jonah crab and rock crab (collectively referred to as Cancer crab). Both species have long been considered a bycatch in the lobster fishery, however, growing market demand has doubled landings in the past seven years. Landings of both species in 2012 was over 12 million pounds and estimated to be worth over \$9 million. Given the absence of state and federal management programs and stock assessments for Cancer crab, there is concern the current harvest may compromise the sustainability of the resource.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the PID either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on October 3, 2014 and should be forwarded to Kate Taylor, Senior FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at ktaylor@asmfc.org (Subject line: Cancer Crabs).

Summer Flounder

The Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) have scheduled a series of scoping hearings to gather public input on the range of issues and information to be considered in the Comprehensive Summer Flounder Amendment. Hearings will be held September 29 – October 22 in coastal states from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

The amendment will involve a comprehensive review of all aspects of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) related to summer flounder. Specifically, the Council and Commission will consider whether modifications to the FMP's goals, objectives, and management strategies for summer flounder are needed.

Scoping is the first and best opportunity for members of the public to raise concerns related to the scope of issues that will be considered. The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding the range of potential issues to be addressed in the amendment. The Council and Commission are particularly interested in comments on the following topics:

- Fishery management plan goals and objectives
- Quota allocation between the commercial and recreational fisheries
- Commercial management measures and strategies
- Recreational management measures and strategies
- Discards in the commercial and recreational fisheries
- Ecosystem, habitat, bycatch, and protected species issues
- Data collection requirements and protocols

The Scoping Document contains background information on summer flounder management and on issues that may be addressed in the amendment, as well as a description of the amendment process and timeline. Additional information and updates will be posted at www.mafmc.org/actions/summer-flounder-amendment.

In addition to providing comments at any of the scheduled scoping hearings, you may submit written comments by 5 PM, EST on October 31, 2014. Written comments may be sent in a number of ways; please visit www.mafmc.org/actions/summer-flounder-amendment for more information.



Photo credit: Captain John McMurray, www.nycflyfishing.com

Atlantic Striped Bass

The Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Interstate FMP for Atlantic Striped Bass proposes new fishing mortality (F) reference points, as recommended by the 2013 benchmark stock assessment, and associated management measures to reduce F to a level at or below the proposed target within one or three years. It responds to results of the 2013 Atlantic striped bass benchmark assessment indicating F in 2012

was above the proposed F target, and female spawning stock biomass (SSB) has been steadily declining below the target since 2006. This means even though the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, SSB is approaching its overfished threshold and stock projections show SSB will likely fall below the threshold in the coming years. In addition, a similar decline

continued, see PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS on page 12



ACCSP Creates Web Portal for ALSI Survey

Recently, the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) released a web portal for the American Lobster Settlement Index (ALSI). The ALSI web portal aims to make the region-wide data set more available to participants and stakeholders. ACCSP was ideal for this project due to its experience with the creation of centralized databases and applications for the submission and distribution of data.

Prior to the web portal, ALSI participant's submitted data annually via spreadsheets, data were collated, and reports were created manually. The web portal allows for both key entry and file upload submission of data to a centralized location. It includes dynamic reports of both raw data and calculated densities and standard error. Figures include length frequencies with dynamic binning and spatial and temporal density comparisons.

The ALSI is an annual survey of American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) nursery grounds in the coastal northeast US and Atlantic Canada. The survey is supported by University of Maine, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Rhode Island Division of Fish & Wildlife, New Hampshire Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada. It gathers data on newly settled, young-of-year (YoY), lobsters as well as older juveniles and associated fauna such as fishes and crabs.

The time series has been sustained and expanded since 1989 and is the largest-scale assessment of lobster nursery habitat of its kind. It has also been the springboard for a variety of research projects, contributing to numerous peer-reviewed publications and technical reports. It has been used to forecast local trends in the abundance of adult lobsters in nearshore trawl surveys and provided valuable insights into both pre- and post-settlement processes influencing lobster population dynamics. To learn more about the American Lobster Settlement Index, please visit <http://www.umaine.edu/marine/people/sites/rwahle/ALSIPage.htm>.

What Is The Value of ACCSP: A View from the New Operations Committee Chair, Thomas Hoopes

Each ACCSP program partner individually does their best to improve data collection methods. However, it is when program partners come together as ACCSP committees, change occurs in data collection methods collectively and in a standardized fashion allowing ACCSP to become the "principal source of fisheries-dependent information on the Atlantic Coast." The Operations Committee guides the development of the Program by providing recommendations to the Coordinating Council and serves as the review body for annual project funding priorities. In October of 2013, Thomas Hoopes was named the Chair of the ACCSP Operations Committee. Mr. Hoopes discusses his experience with ACCSP and how the Program has made an impact in the Northeast:



What is the value of ACCSP and what do you think is the greatest asset to the Program? The vision statement defines the highest value for the Program, which is to provide the best available data for fisheries management decisions. Beyond that, ACCSP provides not only the mechanisms to collect and store fisheries data, if the partners want to use them, but it is a single source repository which is critical when evaluating stocks that exist in and are managed by multiple jurisdictions.

What is the most significant contribution ACCSP has made to fisheries data along the Atlantic coast since 1995? Developing common fishery-dependent standards that all partners can work with, not only when collecting and contributing their data to the Program, but also when using the data to manage stocks that exist in multiple jurisdictions.

In what ways has ACCSP enhanced fisheries management for MA DMF? The ACCSP has provided the mechanisms and the primary repository for most of the fisheries-dependent data collected in MA. Without ACCSP, MA DMF would be hard-pressed to collect comprehensive, trip-level data in the manner that it does. This information is used in multiple ways to characterize the fisheries that occur in MA, and is a critical piece in the management process. Previously, information was collected only about specific fisheries, and it wasn't always done in a standardized way. Now the information is comprehensive, standardized, and it is also available to all other Program partners as well.

What are your short-term and long-term goals as Chair of the Operations Committee? Although more short-term, my main goals are to follow through with implementing, or at least starting, planned responses to recommendations from the Independent Program Review, which was conducted in 2012. I believe many of these recommendations, if implemented, point the Program in a direction that will allow it to build and improve upon its current successes.

Thomas Hoopes runs the Management Information Systems and Fisheries Statistics Program for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF). In this role, Mr. Hoopes has successfully implemented and managed mandatory comprehensive reporting for landings from all seafood dealers acting as primary buyers, as well all catch and effort information from commercial harvesters in Massachusetts. Mr. Hoopes is also past Chair of the ACCSP Information Systems Committee.

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. It is composed of representatives from natural resource management agencies coastwide, including the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the three Atlantic fishery management councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NOAA Fisheries, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For further information please visit www.accsp.org or www.accsp.org/prelease.htm.

Proposed Management Actions (continued)

has been observed in total harvest. In response to these factors, the Draft Addendum proposes management options to reduce fishing mortality to the target level.

The Draft Addendum includes a suite of management options to reduce recreational and commercial harvest along the coast and in the Chesapeake Bay under three reduction timeframes. The timeframes include (1) reducing F to its target in one year with a 25% reduction in 2013 harvest in 2015 (2) reducing F to its target within three years with a 17% reduction in 2013 harvest in 2015, and (3) reducing F to its target within three years with a 7% sequential reduction in harvest for three consecutive years starting in 2015. Specific options to be considered include bag, size, slot and trophy size limits for the recreational fishery and quota reductions for the commercial fishery.

Given the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River (A/R) stock of striped bass contributes minimally to the coastwide complex when compared to the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware, and Hudson stocks, Draft Addendum IV proposes it be managed by the State of North Carolina using stock-specific biological reference points. These stock-specific reference points, which have been approved by the Board, would result in a separate quota that is set to maintain F for the A/R stock at its target level. The Board tasked the Technical Committee with the continued development of Chesapeake Bay-specific reference points for future use.

The Board will review submitted public comment and consider final approval of the Draft Addendum at the Commission's Annual Meeting in October 2014. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on September 30, 2014 and should be forwarded to Mike Waine, FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at mwaine@asmfc.org (Subject line: Draft Addendum IV).

Spiny Dogfish

The Draft Addendum V to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Spiny Dogfish proposes requiring fins remain naturally attached to spiny dogfish through landing in order to ensure consistency with the Shark Conservation Act of 2010. The Act was signed into law to close loopholes in the U.S. shark finning regulations. Specifically, the Act prohibits the removal of any fins of the shark (including the tail) while at sea (with an exemption for smooth dogfish). Fins must remain naturally attached to the corresponding carcass through landing of the fish (including while aboard a fishing vessel or transferred at sea from one vessel to another).

Currently, the Interstate FMP allows removal of the fins of spiny dogfish at-sea as long as the corresponding carcass is retained. The wet weight of fins on-board may not exceed 5% of the dressed weight of carcasses on-board (a 5-to-95 fin-to-carcass ratio). Maine, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida already require fins to remain naturally attached to the fish through landing. The Board will review and consider final approval of the Draft Addendum at the Commission's Annual Meeting in October 2014.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on September 30, 2014 and should be forwarded to Marin Hawk, FMP Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Spiny Dogfish Draft Addendum V).

ASMFC Comings and Goings



DR. LISA HAVEL - In September, Dr. Lisa Havel joined the Commission staff as the new Coordinator for the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership,

an assembly of state, federal, tribal, and non-governmental groups whose mission is to conserve habitat for Atlantic coast diadromous, estuarine-dependent, and coastal fish species. Lisa is a perfect fit for the position having received her Ph.D. from the University of Texas where she studied the relationship between sensory system development and nursery habitat selection in red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) on the South Texas coast. Her work combined laboratory and field experiments with neurophysiology to understand the use of auditory, chemical, and visual cues in navigating from the pelagic to benthic habitats. Lisa received a B.S. from the University of Miami with majors in marine science and biology and minors in chemistry and geography. Welcome aboard, Lisa!



STEFANIE MILES - In August, after more than a decade at the Commission as Administrative Assistant, Stefanie Miles accepted a new position with the Archdiocese of Washington as a Reading Paraprofessional at St. Mary of the Mills School in Laurel, Maryland. Educating today's youth has always been a passion for Stefanie. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



AMY HIRRLINGER, who had interned with the Commission this summer, has accepted a fulltime position with the Commission as Assistant Fisheries Coordinator covering some

administrative responsibilities as well as providing technical support on a number of fisheries management and science activities. Amy recently graduated with a B.S. in Biology with Ecology Focus and a Minor in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Pennsylvania State University. We are thrilled to have Amy on a more permanent basis. Welcome aboard, Amy!

Reps Carney and LoBiondo ask NOAA Fisheries to Fund Mid-Atlantic Horseshoe Crab Survey

Representatives John Carney (D-DE) and Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ) have requested support from NOAA Fisheries to restore the Mid-Atlantic Horseshoe Crab Benthic Trawl Survey in 2015. In a letter dated August 15, 2014, the two Representatives asked NOAA Fisheries' Assistant Administrator Eileen Sobeck to ensure the Mid-Atlantic Horseshoe Crab Benthic Trawl Survey will be conducted in 2015. Representative Carney also took to the House floor on May 28 to speak in support of conducting the survey in 2015. He was joined in his support by the Chair and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee in charge of funding NOAA.



horseshoe crab have been increasing in value since 2002, but the 2014 data gap is major setback.

As noted, in 2014 only limited horseshoe crab data was collected. The data are from the North East Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) trawl survey and a Fish & Wildlife Service tagging program. Neither of the programs are sufficient for use with the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Framework, which incorporates

both shorebird and horseshoe crab abundance levels for the Delaware Bay area.

In the past, federal funding assistance has been provided for horseshoe crab surveys. However, in recent years the survey has relied more and more upon private support from the biomedical and fishing industries. The resulting decrease in funding has led to smaller scale surveys over time. Ultimately, the Mid-Atlantic region horseshoe crab survey did not receive adequate funding for 2014 and was not conducted this year. As with other fisheries, horseshoe crab data is highly dependent upon a consistent time-series in order to track abundance over time. Population and migration data for the Mid-Atlantic

Sustainable horseshoe crab management is critical to both the ecology and economy of the Atlantic coast. The Atlantic coast, specifically the mid-Atlantic, supports the largest population of horseshoe crabs in the world. Horseshoe crabs provide a vital food source for migrating shorebirds; are used as bait for the commercial American eel and conch fisheries; and ensure injectable medications like intravenous drugs, vaccines, and medical devices are free of bacterial contamination.

Lisa Hartman Receives Employee of the Quarter

In the two years that Lisa Hartman has been with the Commission, she has consistently demonstrated why she is a valued member of the Commission staff not only because of her positive attitude but the excellence of her work products and her strong work ethic. In recognition of her accomplishments, Lisa was named Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2014. The award is intended to recognize contributions and qualities in the areas of teamwork, initiative, responsibility, quality of work, positive attitude, and results.

Over the past year, Lisa's design expertise has really made a mark on the Commission's outreach materials from the design of the Annual Report and ASMFC brochure, redesign and layout of *Fisheries Focus* and *Habitat Hotline Atlantic*, as well as layout of various Habitat Management Series, among other projects. Her efforts have allowed the Commission to produce many of its publications in-house, streamlining production and yielding significant cost savings. In addition to these contributions, Lisa oversees new Commissioner orientation, proxy appointments,

and upkeep of the Commissioner Manual, which provides an overview of the Commission's committee structure, programs, and activities. She also assists the accounting manager with accounts payable, having quickly coming up to speed on the accounting software.

In all that she does, Lisa brings her creative insight, graciousness and positivity, and commitment to excellence. As Employee of the Quarter, she received a cash reward, a small gift, and a letter of appreciation to be placed in her personal record. In addition, her name is on the Employee of the Quarter plaque displayed in the Commission's lobby. Congratulations, Lisa!



**Atlantic States Marine
Fisheries Commission**

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TRAFFIC LIGHT APPROACH continued from page 6

(e.g. recent landings and survey information) to review trends in the fisheries. The Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee and Spot Plan Review Team had expressed concern that this annual review did not illustrate long-term trends in the stock nor did it include specific management measures to implement in response to declines in the stock or fishery. The adopted TLA management framework replaces the current management triggers for both species.

The approved management frameworks for both species will be in place until the next benchmark stock assessment, currently scheduled for both species in 2016. Both Addenda will be available on the Commission website, www.asmfc.org, under the respective species pages. For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, FMP Coordinator, at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

SPINY DOGFISH continued from page 5

Draft Addendum V, currently out for public comment, was initiated by the Spiny Dogfish Board in May 2014 to address inconsistencies with the Shark Conservation Act of 2010. The Act was signed into law to close loopholes in the U.S. shark finning regulations. Specifically, the Act prohibits the removal of any fins of the shark (including the tail) while at sea (with an exemption for smooth dogfish). Fins must remain naturally attached to the corresponding carcass through landing of the fish (including while aboard a fishing vessel or transferred at sea from one vessel to another). Currently, the Interstate FMP allows removal of the fins of spiny dogfish at-sea as long as the corresponding carcass is retained. The wet weight of fins on-board may not exceed 5% of the dressed weight of carcasses on-board (a 5-to-95 fin-to-carcass ratio). Maine, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida already require fins to remain naturally attached to the fish through landing. The Board will review and consider final approval of the Draft Addendum at the Commission's Annual Meeting in October 2014.

For more information, please contact Marin Hawk, FMP Coordinator, at mhawk@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.