



ASMFC

FISHERIES *focus*

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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission • 1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA

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

ASMFC Releases Harbor Deepening Report

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission announces the availability of the latest installment of its Habitat Management Series, Harbor Deepening: Potential Habitat and Natural Resource Issues. The document was developed by the Commission’s Habitat Committee in response to the growing number of Atlantic ports involved in or considering a harbor deepening project to accommodate deep draft vessels such as the Post-Panamax class vessels.

In 2014, an upgrade of the locks in the Panama Canal will be completed, allowing for passage of “Post-Panamax” class vessels with maximum dimensions of 1,200 feet long, 160 feet wide, and a draft of 49.9 feet. The present expansion of the locks as well as future expansion, which ultimately will service ships with a draft approaching 60 feet, have major implications for economic drivers affecting ports and harbors. Not surprisingly, multiple ports along the Atlantic coast (e.g. Norfolk, Baltimore, and New York/New Jersey) have initiated navigation infrastructure improvements to accommodate the larger, deeper draft vessels. Other ports,



MSC BRUXELLES, a large container ship, enters the Port of Charleston, South Carolina. Photo courtesy Port of Charleston.

such as Philadelphia and Miami, are entering construction phases, while others, including Fort Lauderdale, Savannah and Charleston, are aggressively pursuing deepening projects. Clearly these projects can have tremendous economic consequences for local, regional, and national economies. Likewise, however, they also represent large-scale modifications of existing and historical fish habitat. In most cases, they also represent a progression in a series of incremental improvements to navigation infrastructure that has occurred in tandem with other alterations to coastal, estuarine, and tidal riverine bathymetric features.

While the issues associated with harbor deepening projects can be geographically specific, the Harbor Deepening Report describes a number of alterations associated with these projects that should be considered when evaluating the potential effects on habitats and associated biological resources. These can include changes in the water quality and physical characteristics of the harbor and associated drainage systems, as well as both direct and indirect effects on critical biological resources. Mitigation measures for these projects will vary greatly with the geography of the port and maybe triggered by adaptive management measures. The report provides sources of information and documents related to ongoing or planned deepening projects. The report, now available on the Commission’s website at http://www.asmfc.org/publications/habitat/hms12HarborDeepening_Winter2013.pdf, will continue to be updated as new sources of information become available.

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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

6/11 - 13:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Double Tree by Hilton, 700 Hope Road, Eatontown, New Jersey.

6/18 - 20:

New England Fishery Management Council, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine.

7/8 (10 AM):

ASMFC Atlantic Herring Days Out Meeting, New Hampshire Fish and Game Region 3 Office and Marine Fisheries Division, 225 Maine Street, Durham, New Hampshire.

8/5 - 8:

ASMFC Summer Meeting, Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria, 901 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia; 703.683.6000.

8/13 - 15:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Double Tree by Hilton Wilmington, 4727 Concord Pike, Wilmington, Delaware.

9/16 - 20:

ASMFC Technical Committee Meeting Week, location to be determined.

9/24 - 26:

New England Fishery Management Council, Cape Codder Resort, Hyannis, Massachusetts.

10/8 - 10:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Montauk Yacht Club, 32 Star Island Road, Montauk, New York.

10/9-11:

ASMFC American Lobster Stock Assessment Modeling Workshop (This workshop will include but is not limited to the development of catch-at-length matrices and model configuration and parameterization.), New Hampshire Fish and Game Region 3 Office and Marine Fisheries Division, 225 Maine Street, Durham, New Hampshire.

10/27 - 31:

ASMFC 72nd Annual Meeting, The King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort, 201 Arnold Street, St. Simons Island, Georgia.

11/19 - 21:

New England Fishery Management Council, Newport Marriott, Newport, Rhode Island.

12/10 - 12:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, The Westin Annapolis, 100 Westgate Circle, Annapolis, Maryland.

Larry Simpson: Staunch Supporter of Fisheries Resources in the Gulf of Mexico 1948-2013

It is with a heavy heart that I dedicate this space to honoring a true fisheries leader – Larry Simpson, who recently passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. A longtime colleague and ally in interstate fisheries management, Larry served as the Executive Director of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) for three decades. His accomplishments are numerous and attest to his dedication and commitment to marine fisheries at the interstate, regional and national levels. Under his guidance, the GSMFC worked in the interest of the Gulf States to promote the conservation, development, and full utilization of the fishery resources of the Gulf of Mexico to provide food, employment, income, and recreation to the people of the United States.

Passionately committed to partnerships among the states and between the states and the federal government, Larry played a key role in the development, coordination, and administration of a variety of cooperative programs, including those that dealt with fisheries data collection and management (SEAMAP, GulfFIN), support to the fishing industry (Emergency Disaster Recovery Program, Fisheries Economic Program, and Oil Disaster Recovery Program), and broader initiatives such as MARFIN, the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program, and the Sport Fish Restoration Program. He holds the distinction of being the longest standing member of any of the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils.

He received numerous awards for his commitment to the fisheries resources of the Gulf of Mexico, including the Turtle Survival Alliance Kemp's Ridley Award in recognition of his vital support of the bi-national Kemp's Ridley sea turtle population restoration project; the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation's Distinguished Service Award for his many years of outstanding service to the seafood community; and, most recently, the GSMFC's Charles H. Lyles Award for his contributions to the betterment of Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

He pursued his life and work with gusto, bringing warmth, charm, and humor to all his relationships. A lifelong Baptist, he was a deeply spiritual man who served as Chair of the Deacons at the First Baptist Church in Vanclave, Mississippi. Larry is survived by his wife Pam, two adult daughters, and four grandchildren. To say he will be missed is an understatement.

While we all mourn the loss of this great leader and mentor, we are confident that Larry's legacy will live on through the dedication and hard work of the GSMFC staff, state members, friends and family.



From the Executive Director's Desk

Atlantic Herring
Clupea harengus



ASMFC Management Area: ME - NJ

Common Names: Sea herring, sardine, herring

Interesting Facts:

* Atlantic sea herring are often confused with river herring. Sea herring spend their entire life at sea, while river herring migrate annually to freshwater to spawn.
* Atlantic and Pacific herring have been found to produce a burst of sound, called a Fast Repetitive Tick, at night. It is believed that this high-pitched click-like sound is used by herring to signal their location, thereby making it easier to form schools at night (Source: <http://biologybiozine.com>).
* After 100 years of operation, the Stinson Cannery of Gouldsboro, ME, closed its doors in April 2010. It was the last sardine cannery left in the US.

**Age/Length at Maturity: 3 years/
9.1 inches**

**Stock Status: Not overfished and
not experiencing overfishing**

Species Profile: Atlantic Herring **Important Northeast Fish Provides Bait & Forage Needs**

Introduction

Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*) is a member of the clupeid family, which are typically small, schooling marine fishes, such as menhaden, shad, and sardines. This species is also known as sea herring because it spends its entire life cycle in the ocean (unlike the anadromous river herring). Atlantic herring inhabits the coastal waters of the United States from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina through Labrador, Canada, and also off the coasts of Europe. Herring form the base of the food web as a forage fish for marine mammals, seabirds, and many fish throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. They are an effective and affordable bait source for lobster, blue crab, and tuna fishermen, and were historically sold by fish canneries as sardines. Whale watching/ecotourism and salt retailers are indirectly dependent on a steady supply of herring because whales migrate inshore in pursuit of schooling herring and fishermen buy salt to preserve their fish. Overseas, frozen and salted herring are a valued commodity.

The Commission's Atlantic Herring Section manages herring in state waters (0 - 3 miles from shore), while the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) regulates the stock in federal waters (3 - 200 miles from shore). Complementary interstate and federal herring fishery management plans (FMPs) began in 1999 and have evolved through subsequent amendments to meet the changing needs of the resource and communities that rely on them. Both the Commission and Council seek to maintain the resource's high abundance level while also maintaining traditional use patterns in the fishery, allowing for an expanded bait fishery, and protecting herring's role as forage in the Northwest Atlantic ecosystem. Management of Atlantic herring includes conservation of its relative, the river herring (alewife and blueback herring). Unlike the abundant sea herring, river herring have precipitously declined in recent years. Both the Commission and Council have been working together to develop a comprehensive monitoring program to assess the extent of river herring bycatch in the directed Atlantic herring fishery, as well as seek ways to reduce it.

Life History

Atlantic herring are oceanic, plankton-feeding fish that occur in large schools and inhabit coastal and continental shelf waters from Labrador to North Carolina. They usually feed at night following the massive vertical migrations of zooplankton that inhabit deep waters by day and surface waters by night. Juveniles (called sardines) undergo seasonal inshore-offshore migrations. Sardines are abundant in shallow, inshore waters during the warmer months of the year. Adults (age three and older) migrate south from summer/fall spawning grounds in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank to spend the winter in Southern New England and the Mid-Atlantic.

Herring spawn as early as August in Nova Scotia and eastern Maine and during October and November in the southern Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and Nantucket Shoals. Spawning habitat consists of rock, gravel, or sand bottoms, ranging in depth from 50-150 feet. Females can produce between 30,000 and 200,000 eggs each. Schools can produce so many eggs the ocean bottom is covered in a dense carpet of eggs several centimeters thick. Eggs hatch in 10-12 days depending on water temperature. By their fourth year, fish are about 10" in length and may eventually grow to about 15" (1 ½ pounds) at ages 15 to 18 years.



Commercial Fisheries

Atlantic herring is a commercially caught species. Since 2000, the ex-vessel value of commercial herring landings has averaged 86.2 metric tons (mt) valued at \$19.2 million each year.

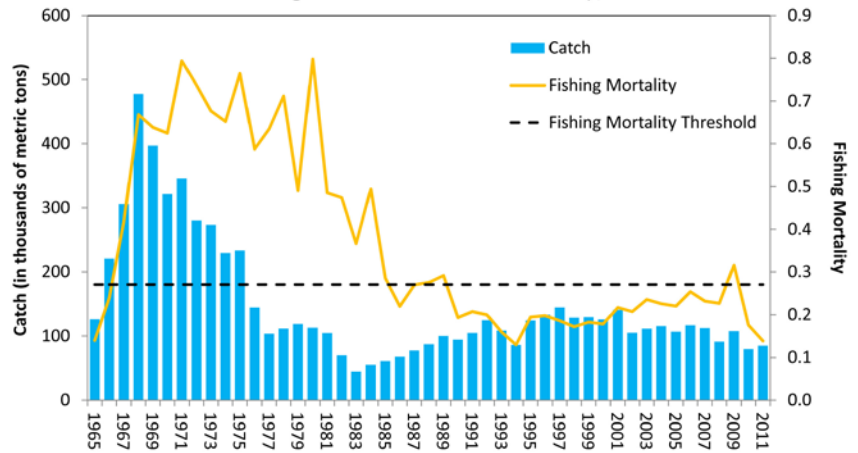
Europeans have been fishing herring for over a thousand years. The earliest herring fisheries in North America date back to 450 years. The commercial herring fishery in New England developed in the late 19th century, spurred by the development of the canning industry. The lobster fishery developed about the same time, creating a market for herring as bait that continues to this day.

Commercially landed herring are caught using purse seines and mid-water trawls. Total catches peaked in 1968, when more than 477,767 metric tons (1 billion pounds) of Atlantic herring were caught. This excessive harvest led to a collapse of the offshore herring stock. Total landings reached the lowest point in 1983 at 44,613 mt (98 million pounds). Since then, landings generally doubled in recent years, averaging 95,081 mt (209 million pounds) per year from 2006-2011.

Stock Status

The latest stock assessment, conducted by the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop in 2012 concluded that Atlantic herring are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. In fact, the stock is considered rebuilt, mainly because of a strong cohort born in 2009. Spawning stock biomass (SSB) in 2011 is estimated at 518,000 mt (1.1 billion pounds), well above the SSB threshold and target of 78,500 mt (173 million pounds) and 157,000 mt (364 million pounds), respectively. Current fishing mortality is estimated at 0.14, below the fishing mortality threshold of 0.27. The latest assessment represents a significant departure from previous assessments in that it examines predator

Figure 1. Atlantic Herring Catch and Fishing Mortality
Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop, 2012



Note: Catch includes the landings from the US fishery and the New Brunswick weir fishery, both of which are included in the assessment as part of the US stock. Since 1996, catch represents landings plus discards. Prior to 1996, catch represents landings ONLY since there is no discard information.

consumption on Atlantic herring biomass and productivity to address herring ecosystem functions.

Atlantic Coastal Management

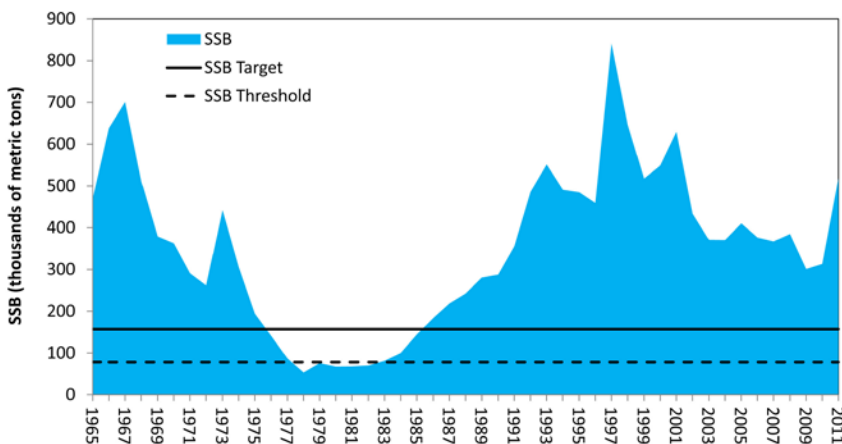
Atlantic herring are managed under Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring and its associated addenda. Because herring can be found in state and federal waters, there are complementary FMPs between the Commission and Council which set annual quotas, called a total allowable catch (TAC), for four management areas. The TACs for these areas are set based on the maximum sustainable yield that allows for a sustainable harvest but leaves enough herring for fish, birds and marine mammals.

While the plans for state and federal waters share management boundaries, there are a few differences. The Council prohibits mid-water trawling from June 1–September 30 in federal waters (3–200 miles from shore). The Commission plan includes spawning closures and a “days out” provision. Days out is the primary effort control measure for the inshore fishery, and works by limiting the number of days per week in which landings are allowed. On the days in which landings are prohibited (“days out”), vessels are restricted to 2,000 pounds of herring bycatch.

Recent concerns raised by the Commission and stakeholders regarding river herring (alewife and blueback herring) bycatch in the Atlantic herring fishery prompted the Council to include catch/bycatch monitoring requirements and measures to reduce interactions with river herring stocks in Draft Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring FMP. The proposed measures include monitoring requirements, avoidance and protection areas, trigger-based approaches, and catch caps. NOAA Fisheries submitted Amendment 5’s Final Environmental Impact Statement in March 2013.

Figure 2. Atlantic Herring Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB)

Source: Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop, 2012



Timeline of Management Actions: FMP (1993); Amendment 1 (1999); Amendment 2 (2006); Addendum I (2009); Addendum II (2010); Addendum III (August 2012)

ASMFC Spring Meeting May 20 - 23, 2013

**Crowne Plaza Hotel Old Town
901 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, Virginia**

Final Schedule

The agenda is subject to change. 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. The Commission's Public Comment Guidelines can be found online at <http://www.asmfc.org/spring2013Mtg.htm>.

May 20, 2013

10:00 - 11:00 AM Atlantic Herring Section

- Public Comment
- Consider Draft Amendment VI for Public Comment (*M. Yuen*) **Action**

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Winter Flounder Management Board

- Public Comment
- Consider Draft Addendum III for Final Approval (*M. Yuen*) **Final Action**
- Review of Management Options (*M. Yuen*)
 - Summary of Public Comment (*M. Yuen*)
 - Consider Final Approval of Draft Addendum III
- Consider Specifications for Fishing Year 2013 (*M. Yuen*) **Action**
 - Pending Approval of Draft Addendum III
 - Review of Federal Specifications for Fishing Year 2013 (*M. Yuen*)
 - Reports from the Technical Committee (*M. Yuen*) and Advisory Panel (*H. Brown*)
 - Consider 2013 Specifications and Harvest Control Measures

1:00 - 5:00 PM Law Enforcement Committee (LEC)

(Note: A portion of this meeting will be closed to the public to discuss ongoing enforcement activities. Only members of the Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) and the LEC Coordinator can be in attendance)

- Public Comment
- ASMFC Staffing Update and Review of LEC Representation
- Review and Discuss Ongoing Enforcement Activities (**Closed Session**)
- Review Draft Addendum III for American Eel and Public Comment
 - Consideration of Additional LEC Comments to the American Eel Management Board
- Review ISFMP Species and Possible Comments to Boards
- Review and Discuss Equipment and Technology for Enforcement Use
- Spreadsheet Review and Vendor Presentation
- Review ASMFC 2013 Action Plan and Enforcement-related Tasks

1:15 - 3:15 PM American Lobster Management Board

- Public Comment
- Consider Draft Addendum XXI for Public Comment (*T. Kerns*) **Action**
 - Review Working Group Definition of Ownership
 - Overview of Draft Addendum XXI Options

Join Our Spring Meeting Webinar to Listen to Board/Section Meetings

Board/Section meeting proceedings will be broadcast via webinar beginning 10:00 AM on May 20th and continuing daily until the meeting adjourns around 3PM on May 23rd. The webinar will allow registrants to listen to board/section deliberations and view presentations and motions as they occur. No comments or questions will be accepted via the webinar. Should technical difficulties arise with streaming the broadcast, the boards/sections will continue their deliberations without interruption. We will attempt to resume the broadcast as soon as possible. Please go to <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/605979646> to register for the webinar. Audio files of the board/section meetings will be posted to the website the week of May 27.

- Consider Approval of Draft Addendum XXI for Public Comment
- Overview of MAFMC Action on Special Management Zones Impacts to the Commercial Lobster Fishery (*T. Kerns*)

2:00 - 3:00 PM Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee

3:30 - 5:30 PM ACCSP Coordinating Council

- Public Comment
- ACCSP Status Report
 - Program Status (*M. Cahall*)
 - Process (Committee) Status (*K. Knowlton*)
- Updates on Program Funding (*M. Cahall*)
- 2013 Funding
- Current Projections for 2014
- Updates on Program Review Process
 - Recommendation Vetting Process, Timeline, and Strategic Planning Process
- Consider Approval of 2014 Request for Proposal and Funding Decision Document (*M. Alexander*) **Action**
- Distribution of 2012 Fiscal Year in Review (*A. McElhatton*)

May 21, 2013

8:00 AM - Noon Strategic Planning Workshop

8:30 AM - Noon LEC (continued)

- Discuss Cooperative Enforcement Agreements and at-Sea Enforcement of Fisheries
- Update and Discuss Joint Enforcement Agreement
- Discuss Enforcement Articles, Features or Presentations for ASMFC Meetings and Publications
- State Issues Presentations by State
- Federal Reports from National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Coast Guard

1:00 - 5:00 PM Management & Science Committee (MSC)

- Public Comment
- Discuss Climate Change Task from the ISFMP Policy Board (*M. Armstrong*)
 - Report from Subcommittee
- Discuss Working with MRIP/MRFSS Ratio Estimators (*J. O'Hop*)
- Discuss Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)
 - Report from MAFMC Forage Fish Workshop (*R. Seagraves*)
 - Discuss How to Integrate EBFM in the ASMFC Process

1:00 - 2:30 PM Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board

- Public Comment

- Review of Preliminary 2013/2014 Spiny Dogfish Quotas (*M. Hawk*)
- Update on HMS Amendment 5a (*K. Brewster-Geisz*)
- Consider Draft Addendum II to the FMP for Coastal Sharks for Final Approval **Final Action**
 - Review Options (*M. Hawk*)
 - Public Comment Summary (*M. Hawk*)
 - Advisory Panel Report (*L. Gillingham*)
 - Consider Final Approval of Draft Addendum II
- Update on Endangered Species Act Listing of Great Hammerhead (*M. Hawk*)

2:45 - 5:15 PM American Eel Management Board

- Public Comment
- Review and Populate Advisory Panel Membership (*K. Taylor*) **Action**
- Consider Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance (*K. Taylor*) **Action**
- Proposed American Eel Endangered Species Act Listing Update (*K. Taylor*)
- LEC Report
 - Maine Elver Fishery Enforcement (*P. Keliber*)
 - Update on Eel Enforcement Issues (*M. Robson*)
- Draft Amendment III for Final Approval **Final Action**
 - Review of Draft Addendum III (*K. Taylor*)
 - Reports of the Advisory Panel, Technical Committee (*B. Chase*) and LEC (*J. Fessenden*)

6:30 - 8:00 PM Annual Awards of Excellence Reception

May 22, 2013

8:00 - 11:00 AM Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

- Public Comment
- Consider Episodic Events Set Aside Proposal by Board Subcommittee (*M. Waine*) **Action**
- Consider State Implementation Plans and Amendment 2 Compliance **Action**
 - Plan Review Team Report (*M. Waine*)
 - Consider Approval of State Implementation Plans
- Technical Committee Report (*M. Dean*)
 - Benchmark Stock Assessment Progress Report
- Consider Benchmark Stock Assessment Terms of Reference (*M. Dean*) **Action**

8:30 AM - Noon MSC (continued)

- Development of Guidance on Risk and Uncertainty (*M. Armstrong*)
 - Reports from the Assessment Science Committee on Characterizing Scientific Uncertainty and the MSC Subcommittee on Management Uncertainty
- Discuss ASMFC 2013 Critical Research Priorities
 - Update on ASMFC 2013 Research Priorities (*J. Kipp*)

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ASMFC Begins Preparations for Atlantic Sturgeon Benchmark Stock Assessment

This spring, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will begin work on the 2014 benchmark stock assessment for Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*). The assessment will be used to evaluate the health of the stock and inform the management of this species. The Commission's stock assessment process and meetings are open to the public, with the exception of discussions of confidential data, when the public will be asked to leave the room.

The Commission welcomes the submission of data sources that will improve the accuracy of the assessment. This includes, but is not limited to, data on catch per unit effort, bycatch interactions, biological samples (length, age, frequency), life history information (growth, maturity, fecundity, spawning stock biomass weights, natural mortality), and tagging data. For data sets to be considered, the data must be sent in the required format, with accompanying description of methods, to the Commission by July 1, 2013.



Data being collected on a juvenile Atlantic sturgeon. Photo: Albert Spells, USFWS.

The Data Workshop date and location have yet to be determined, but it is anticipated it will take place during the late summer. This workshop will review all available data sources for Atlantic sturgeon and identify data sets that will be incorporated in the stock assessment. For those interested in submitting data and/or attending the Atlantic Sturgeon Data Workshop (space is limited), please contact Dr. Katie Drew, ASMFC Stock Assessment Scientist, at kdrew@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board Approves Addendum XXIV: New York & New Jersey May Modify Regulations to Access Additional Fish

In April 2013, the Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved Addendum XXIV to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan, establishing a mechanism to allow states access to the 2013 summer flounder recreational harvest limit (RHL) that is projected to not be harvested. The Board approved proposals from two states – New York and New Jersey – to access the available RHL. New York may decrease its minimum size limit to 19 inches (from 19.5 inches) with a fishing season of May 1 – September 29, while New Jersey may extend its current fishing season (May 18 – September 16) by up to 11 days. The Addendum only applies to the 2013 fishery.

“The Board's action seeks to address the concerns of states, such as New York and

New Jersey, who feel that their states have been disadvantaged under the current management system,” stated Board Chair David Simpson from Connecticut. “While Addendum XXIV provides immediate relief to those states, the Board is committed to finding a long-term solution for the 2014 fishery and beyond.”

The Addendum responds to an unintended consequence of using conservation equivalency (e.g., state-specific recreational management measures) to stay within the annually established coastwide RHL for summer flounder. Although the shift away from coastwide management to state conservation equivalency addressed the interests of some states, it created difficulties for other states as overages occurred. While conservation equivalency provided greater flexibility for individual states to

set their limits from year to year, state targets were based upon the 1998 estimate of harvest from the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey. The FMP did not provide the flexibility to adjust state harvest targets or the management strategy except through the addendum process. This resulted in ever increasing size limits, reduced bag limits, and shorter seasons for most of the states while the stock was at a low level and recovering. However, the impact of these ever-restrictive measures seemed to affect New York the most, where the size limit reached 21 inches by 2009, which also saw a very short season including mid-season closure. In 2012, with a fully recovered stock, New York's minimum size (19.5 inches) was at least one inch higher than any other state, one

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ASMFC 2013 Spring Meeting Final Agenda (continued from page 7)

- Finalize ASMFC 2013 Critical Research Priorities (*J. Kipp/M. Paine*)
- Discuss Development of Funding Proposals to Address Critical Priorities (*M. Paine*)
- Updates from Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (*E. Greene*); Fish Ageing Activities (*J. Kipp*); NEAMAP (*M. Paine*); SEAMAP (*M. Paine*); and Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise (*W. Laney*)

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Horseshoe Crab Management Board

- Public Comment
- Update on Virginia Tech Trawl Survey Funding (*M. Hawk*)
- Consider Fishery Management Plan and State Compliance Action Review Biomedical Mortality (*M. Hawk*)
- Review Status of the Horseshoe Crab Stock and Whelk Fishery (*M. Hawk*)

1:15 - 4:15 PM ISFMP Policy Board

- Public Comment
- Discuss the Proposed Rule for the Domestic Elements of the Shark Conservation Act (*K. Denit*)
- Consider ASMFC Public Comment on the Proposed Rule **Action**
- Discuss Concerns with the Implementation of the Marine Recreational Informational Program (*L. Daniel*)
- Consider Revisions to the ISFMP Charter Based on the Approved Technical Guidance Document (*T. Kerns*) **Action**
- Discuss Whelk/Conch Management (*T. Kerns*)
- Review and Consider the Recommendation from the Artificial Reef Committee to Send a Letter to the U. S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (*T. Kerns*) **Action**
- Reports from MSC (*M. Armstrong*); LEC (*M. Robson*); NEAMAP (*R. O'Reilly*); Habitat Committee (*T. Kerns*); ACFHP (*E. Greene*)

4:30 - 5:30 PM Commissioners Meet with John Bullard, NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Administrator, to Review and Discuss Recent Public Listening Sessions

May 23, 2013

7:30 - 8:30 AM Executive Committee

- Public Comment
- Report of the Administrative Oversight Committee (*L. Daniel*)
 - Presentation of the FY14 Budget
 - Action Plan Progress
- 2014-2018 Strategic Planning Process

- Potential for Establishment of 501c (3) Foundation Arm of the Commission
- Future Annual Meetings Update (*L. Leach*)
 - 2013 - October 27-31: St. Simons Island, Georgia;
 - 2014 - Connecticut; 2015 - Florida; 2016 - Maine;
 - 2017 - Virginia

8:45 - 9:45 AM Sturgeon Management Board

- Public Comment
- NOAA Fisheries Atlantic Sturgeon Draft Biological Opinion and Population Estimation Analysis Update (*J. Bullard*)
- Consider Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance (*K. Taylor*) **Action**

10:00 - 11:00 AM Tautog Management Board

- Public Comment
- Consider 2012 Fishery Management Plan Review Report and State Compliance (*M. Yuen*) **Action**
- Consider Maryland's Recreational Fishery Proposal (*J. McNamee*) **Action**
- Consider Terms of Reference (*J. McNamee*) **Action**
 - Overview of Benchmark Stock Assessment Progress and Terms of Reference
- Elect Vice Chair **Action**

11:15 AM - 12:45 PM South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

- Consider Black Drum Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Final Approval (*T. Kerns*) **Final Action**
 - Review Options (*T. Kerns*)
 - Public Comment Summary (*T. Kerns*)
 - Advisory Panel and Habitat Committee Reports (*T. Kerns*)
 - Consider Final Approval of Black Drum FMP
- Consider North Carolina White Paper on Spanish Mackerel (*L. Daniel*) **Action**
- Technical Committee Report (*T. Kerns*) **Action**
 - Florida Red Drum Recreational Measures
 - Black Drum Terms of Reference
- Discuss Proposed Rule that Designates Beaches as Critical Habitat for Loggerhead Sea Turtles (*L. Daniel*)
- Review SEAMAP Report (*M. Paine*)
- Consider Red Drum Habitat Draft Addendum I for Public Comment (*T. Kerns*) **Action**

1:15 - 2:15 PM ISFMP Policy Board (continued)

- Consider Shad and River Herring Research Proposals (*K. Taylor*) **Action**
- Review of Non-compliance Findings (if necessary)

2:30 - 2:45 PM Business Session

- Public Comment
- Consider Black Drum Interstate FMP for Final Approval (*L. Daniel*) **Final Action**
- Review of Non-compliance Findings (if necessary)



ACCSP Releases Advisory Committee Guidelines

Seeks Nominations for New Committee Members

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) is proud to release a set of guidelines for its advisors, after approval from Operations Committee this May. The purpose of this document is to facilitate a stronger advisory process and inform existing and potential advisors about the ACCSP, as well as their role in the overall Program. The ACCSP Advisory Committee provides an essential role in the ACCSP since its members not only provide input on the implementation of Program activities, but also act as a valuable information link between the Program and its fishing constituents. The document describes the Program, its development, and current status as well as the duties, responsibilities, and expectations of its Advisory Committee members.

As of May 2013, the Advisory Committee is seeking advisors to fill either a commercial and/or recreational seat from Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, or Florida. If you are interested, please send a letter of interest to the ACCSP Operations Committee member from your state. A list of Operations Committee members can be found at <http://www.accsp.org/opercommittee>. Advisors are formally appointed by the Coordinating Council upon receipt of a nomination form from a Operations Committee state representative. The Advisory Committee is expected to provide perspectives from a variety of fishing experiences.

Rick Bellavance, Chair of the Advisory Committee and active member of the New England fishing community (he is a member of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council, President of the Rhode Island Party, and Charter Boat Association and a NOAA Fisheries' Highly Migratory

Species Advisory Panel Member), shared this on his experience as an ACCSP Advisor,

As a lifelong recreational and commercial fisherman, I had never given much thought to what happens to the information I provided to dealers and shore side surveyors. I was content to believe that anything I had to offer was just ignored by the decision makers who end up doing whatever they wanted to. Well, that mindset changed when I became an ACCSP Advisor for the State of Rhode Island. Learning how data is collected and, more importantly, where it goes after it has been collected, has been of tremendous value to me as I try to understand the decisions made by fisheries managers and stock assessment scientists. Having the opportunity to provide common sense advice as a fisherman through my role as an advisor is something I find fulfilling. Working in conjunction with dedicated industry representatives from other states along the East coast in an effort to improve fisheries -dependent data collection is both fun and rewarding. Improved stock assessments is on the minds of both fishermen and fisheries managers and I have always felt, if given the choice, it is better to participate in the process of making things work better. The ACCSP Advisory Committee is one way that participation is possible and I recommend the Committee to anyone interested in learning more about data collection.

You can download the guidelines and review the nomination form at http://www.accsp.org/documents/ACCSPAdvisorGuidelines_May2013.pdf.

For a complete list of the current members of the ACCSP Advisory Committee, please visit <http://www.accsp.org/advicommittee.htm>.



ACCSP Advisor, Eleanor Bochenek, conducts an education, outreach, and applied research program for the commercial and recreational fishing industries primarily in New Jersey. Photo © Eleanor Bochenek.

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. It is composed of representatives from natural resource management agencies coastwide, including ASMFC, the three Atlantic fishery management councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NOAA Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

For more information, please contact Ann McElhatton, ACCSP Program Manager, at ann.mcelhatton@accsp.org.

Jeff Kipp Awarded ASMFC Employee of the Quarter

Since joining the Commission staff in June 2012 as Stock Assessment Scientist, Jeff Kipp has made outstanding contributions to the Fisheries Science Department. Jeff’s support of the Black Drum Technical and Stock Assessment Committees, taking a lead analyst role, has helped to accelerate the development of the first ever coastwide black drum stock assessment. For this and many other notable achievements, Jeff was named Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2013. Intended to recognize contributions and qualities in the areas of teamwork, initiative, responsibility, quality of work, positive attitude, and results, Jeff has earned this recognition because of his impressive work toward 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.”



Jeff has proved to be an effective collaborator with Commission staff and committee members, and easily engages scientists and stakeholders from the fisheries community. Jeff takes on new projects with enthusiasm and delivers high quality scientific products from start to finish. Jeff’s recent work in developing FERC and eel passage technology guidance, facilitating age sample exchanges, reviewing state tagging programs for ASMFC certification, compiling assessment uncertainty information, and updating ASMFC Research Priorities has greatly benefited the work products of several Commission scientific committees.

Jeff’s fresh ideas and an easy-to-work-with attitude make him a great coworker and a true asset to the Commission’s Fisheries Science Program and the management programs it supports. Jeff has a Professional Science Master’s Degree in Quantitative Fisheries from University of Maryland Eastern Shore and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from High Point University in North Carolina. The Employee of the Quarter Award comes with a \$500 cash award, a small gift, a letter of appreciation placed in Jeff’s personnel folder, and his name engraved on the plaque displayed in the Commission’s lobby. Congratulations, Jeff!

ASMFC Comings & Goings

Staff

Kirby Rootes-Murdy -- In April, Kirby Rootes-Murdy joined the Commission staff as its newest Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Coordinator, assuming coordinating responsibilities for species in the Mid-Atlantic (black sea bass, bluefish, scup and summer flounder) and South Atlantic (Atlantic croaker, black drum red drum, Spanish mackerel, spot, spotted sea trout) Regions. Prior to starting with the Commission, Kirby worked for SeaWeb as a Program Associate focusing on fisheries, aquaculture, and sustainable seafood. Kirby holds a Master of Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Religious Studies from Hobart College. Welcome aboard, Kirby!



Species and Committee Assignments by FMP Coordinator

FMP Coordinator	Responsibilities
Marin Hawk	Coastal Sharks, Horseshoe Crab, Northern Shrimp, Spiny Dogfish, Weakfish
Kirby Rootes-Murdy	Atlantic Croaker, Black Drum, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Red Drum, Scup, Spanish Mackerel, Spot, Spotted Seatrout, Summer Flounder,
Kate Taylor	American Eel, American Lobster, Shad and River Herring
Michael Waine	Atlantic Menhaden, Atlantic Striped Bass, Sturgeon
Melissa Yuen	Atlantic Herring, Tautog, Winter Flounder, as well as Habitat and Artificial Reef Committees

As a result of a number of staffing changes in the Interstate Fisheries Management Program, there has been a change in responsibilities by coordinator. The accompanying table provides species and committee assignments by FMP Coordinator.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
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Summer Flounder Addendum XXIV (continued from page 8)

and a half inches higher than its Long Island Sound bordering state, Connecticut and two inches greater than its ocean / New York Harbor bordering state, New Jersey.

The Board also approved a technical addendum to use the final Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) 2012 estimate of black sea bass mean weight to convert the recreational harvest limit from pounds to number of fish. This change results in a decrease (from 32% to 24%) in the reduction required for the northern region (Massachusetts to New Jersey). The preliminary mean weight estimate changed after the release of the final MRIP estimates (from 1.84 to 1.66 pounds per fish). The five northern states have indicated they will consider changes to their 2013 recreational black sea bass regulations over the next few weeks. States may make changes to their currently proposed regulations without Board approval if they employ the same methodology that was used to develop their current regulations. Any changes in methodology will require Technical Committee review and Board approval.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director, at tkerns@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Report on Sea Turtle & Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Reduction in Gillnet Fisheries Now Available

In January 2013, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service's Northeast Region and co-hosted a workshop to discuss technological solutions to reduce sea turtle and Atlantic sturgeon bycatch in southern New England and Mid-Atlantic gillnet fisheries. The goal of the workshop was to identify potential gear technology solutions to reduce bycatch, or impacts from bycatch, in gillnet gear of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), while maintaining retention of the targeted catch.

This was achieved through a collaborative process that involved the fishing industry, species experts/researchers, the conservation community, managers, and other interested parties. A range of research ideas were proposed, including deterrents and changes to fishing gear and practices. In addition, participants discussed research into sea turtle and Atlantic sturgeon behavior and data needs.

The Workshop Report is now available online at http://www.asmfc.org/researchStatistics/GillnetWorkshopFinalReport_April2013.pdf.