ASMFC
Fisheries focus
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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission • 1444 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C.

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

Senator Judd Gregg

Senator Judd Gregg Honored with ASMFC Chairman's Award for Distinguished Meritorious Service

The Honorable Judd Gregg of New Hampshire was presented the Commission's most prestigious award, the Chairman's Award for Distinguished Meritorious Service, the evening of March 22nd, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

In presenting the award, Commission Chair John I. Nelson, Jr. said, "In his long career of public service, as Governor of the State of New Hampshire, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and as a United States Senator, Judd Gregg has maintained a steadfast commitment to cooperative interstate marine fisheries conservation and management. He has worked tirelessly to promote the mutual efforts of the states, in concert with our federal partners, to address the common interests in their shared, valuable coastal commercial and recreational fisheries along the Atlantic coast. As Governor, he supported the efforts of the State of New Hampshire as a leader among the fifteen member states of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission."

Senator Judd Gregg has championed a strong role for the states through his vigorous support of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. He believes that in partnering with the federal government, the states are in a unique position to promote, conserve, and achieve local and national interests in coastal fisheries. As Chair of the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Gregg recognizes and supports the critical role that states play in managing coastal fisheries. Senator Gregg has a deep respect for our coastal heritage and the unique opportunities it provides to our coastal communities and the nation as a whole. This respect was founded on a lifetime on and near the water as a child and as an adult raising his own family there. He is committed to ensuring that this invaluable coastal heritage is passed on to future generations, a commitment which is evident in his words and his actions.

Senator Gregg is the third recipient of the Chairman's Award for Distinguished Meritorious Service, established by the Commission in 1996. It is conferred to individuals that have had a unique and profound impact on the conservation of Atlantic coastal resources over the course of their career. Former Representative Gerry E. Studds was presented the first award in 1996. The late Senator John H. Chafee received the award posthumously in 2000. For more information, please contact Laura Leach, Director of Finance & Administration, at (202)289-6400.

Inside This Issue

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 anadromous 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.

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Upcoming Meetings

4/23 (10 AM - 4 PM):
ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee, Comfort Inn Airport, 1940 Post Road, Warwick, Rhode Island.

4/24 (10 AM - 4PM):
Area 2 Lobster Conservation Management Team, Heritage State Park, 200 Davol Street, Fall River, Massachusetts.

5/1 (10 AM - 5 PM):
ASMFC Atlantic Herring Technical Committee and NEFMC Atlantic Herring Plan Development Team, Holiday Inn, Route 140, Mansfield, Massachusetts.

5/6 & 7:
EPA Symposium on Cooling Water Intake Technologies to Protect Aquatic Organisms, Hilton Crystal City at National Airport, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Washington, D.C.

5/9: (10:30 AM - 4:30 PM)
ASMFC Lobster Socioeconomic Subcommittee, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

5/12 - 14:
ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Stock Assessment Subcommittee & the Southern Dermersal Working Group, Woods Hole Aquarium, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

5/15 & 16:
ASMFC Lobster Technical Committee, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

5/22 (10 AM - 5 PM) & 23 (8 AM- 2 PM):
ASMFC Horseshoe Crab Technical Committee, Renaissance Airport Philadelphia Hotel, 500 Stevens Drive, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

5/28 (10 AM - 4 PM):
Area 2 Lobster Conservation Management Team, Rhode Island Department of Environmetal Management, 235 Promenade Street, Room 390 (cafeteria), Providence, Rhode Island.

5/29 (10 AM - 5 PM) & 30 (9 AM - 3 PM):
ASMFC Striped Bass Technical Committee, Baltimore, Maryland.

6/9 - 12:
ASMFC Meeting Week, Doubletree Crystal City, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Virginia (see pages 7 & 8 for preliminary agenda).

6/16 - 20:
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Cocoa Beach, Florida.

From the Executive Director's Desk

Allocation is one of the toughest issues fisheries managers face. While most can readily agree about the importance of rebuilding depleted fisheries, deciding on who gets to enjoy the benefits of a recovered stock is another story. The volume of that debate has recently risen over striped bass, a rebuilt stock, and summer flounder, which are still being rebuilt.

In approving Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass, the Commission set the long-term course on how this fully recovered species will be managed. The Amendment provides important definitions for overfishing, and contains monitoring measures and triggers to guard against overharvesting. In response to one of the management issues, the Board restored the commercial sector to the average of its 1972-1979 landings. Opponents have since expressed concern about this action, wondering how certain Commissioners could vote, in their words, to give away a public resource. Here are some points to consider.

Amendment 6 provided a range of options regarding commercial allocation, including those more and less generous than what the Board approved; consequently, each side got less than what they had hoped. The Board's action increases the commercial sector by a small amount, about 4 percent of the combined recreational and commercial harvests.

Additionally, both sectors were asked to sacrifice during the rebuilding period on the promise of enjoying improved benefits of a restored stock. When stocks were declared fully recovered in 1995, recreational harvests were allowed to increase while commercial landings were held constant at the levels required by the rebuilding plan. The Board's action reflects the importance of maintaining the credibility of conservation promises.

For some folks, none of these points will resonate because of the fundamental belief there should be no allocation made to the commercial sector. While some states have adopted public policy declaring striped bass a game fish, the majority have not. The Board's action on Amendment 6 reflected this reality, and the desire of Commissioners to consider the interests of their constituents as defined by their state's public policy. Those states recognize the public as those who eat fish as well as those who catch fish. Allocating to both sectors by their definition is allocating to the public.

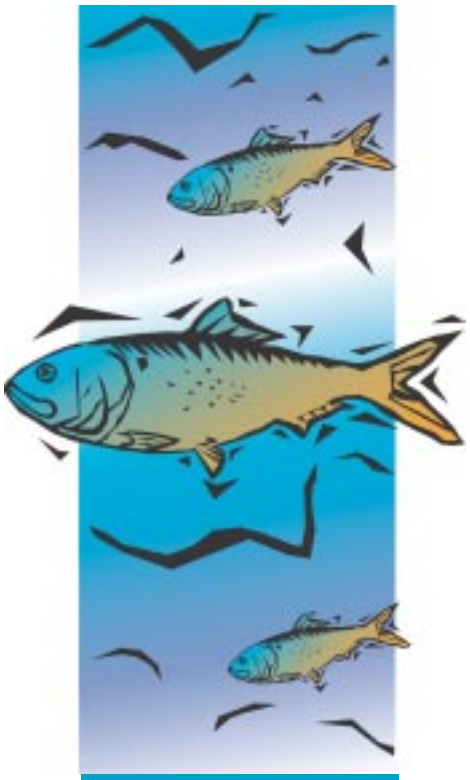
Obviously, the allocation debate is not limited to striped bass. We recently heard from an angler who felt overages in the summer flounder recreational fishery indicated the sector share of total annual landings (TAL) should be increased. He noted there is a 17-inch recreational limit in his state, while commercial harvesters can keep 14-inch fish. He wanted to know the reasons for the difference in size limits and why the allocation is heavily tilted towards commercial, if the stock is viewed as a public resource. He seemed to be suggesting allocating based on harvesting capacity.

Distributing summer flounder through a harvesting capacity rationale wouldn't be helpful here, as the commercial sector is easily able to harvest the entire TAL. Instead, there is a 60/40 commercial/recreational split based on historical data. Commercial harvest is governed by output controls, namely quotas. Landings are monitored and when the quota is reached the fishery is closed. While commercial vessels may be able to keep smaller size fish there is a limit on how many they can take – no more than the quota. Since large fish are worth more, it is unlikely that harvesters would target only small fish.

The recreational fishery is governed by input controls, such as seasons, bag and size limits. When small fish are abundant it is easy for recreational fishermen to catch them in large numbers, quickly reaching their allocation. The fishery can be slowed down, allowing for a longer season through a combination of small bag limits and larger size limits. Since there are not as many big fish available, total harvest should be less. But these estimates are not always precise and if anglers have greater success than expected overharvesting can result, undermining rebuilding efforts. When that happens, it indicates regulations need to be tightened.

The summer flounder biomass is now about half way towards our rebuilding target. When that target is reached it will mean twice as many fish for both sectors. For this good reason all harvesters should strongly support rebuilding efforts. Once that goal is reached, it will still make sense to protect small fish, allowing them to spawn and be harvested later as larger fish. Such protection is in place for striped bass, even though that stock is fully recovered.

As for the continuing arguments between recreational and commercial, keep in mind those commercially caught fish go somewhere – to supermarkets and restaurants for enjoyment by that portion of the public without the means, inclination or ability to catch their own fish. They would argue they should have the same right to the benefits of a public fishery resource as the sport fishing public. Telling them to buy a fishing rod would be about as fair as insisting recreational anglers buy their fish in a store. Bottom line, we need to share. Hopefully, that is something that we can all agree to do.



Brevoortia tyrannus

Family: Clupeidae

Common Names: menhaden, bunker, mossbunker, pogy, fatback, alewife, bugfish, skipjack

Interesting Fact: menhaden travel in large schools, numbering in the millions and making them easy prey for both predators and fishermen

Special Uses: fishmeal, fish oil (high in omega-3 type fatty acids), and fish solubles

Age at Maturity: late age 2 (9 - 10", 1/2 lb.)

Age at Recruitment into Fishery: fully recruited at age 2 (9 - 10", 1/2 lb.); 50% recruited at age 1 (6", 2 - 3 oz.)

Species Profile: Atlantic Menhaden
2001 Amendment Sets Standards for Future Management

Introduction

The menhaden fishery is one of the most important and productive fisheries on the Atlantic coast. For years, it has provided coastal communities with a stable source of employment and the nation with a major source of protein on a renewable and environmentally sound basis. In 2001, the Commission approved Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. This plan institutes new management strategies based on fishing mortality and spawning stock biomass (SSB) targets and thresholds to manage the fishery in a manner that is biologically, economically, socially, and ecologically sound.

Life History

Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) are found in estuarine and coastal waters from northern Florida to Nova Scotia and serve as prey (food) for many fish, sea birds and marine mammals. Adult and juvenile menhaden form large, near-surface schools, primarily in estuaries and nearshore ocean waters from early spring through early winter. By summer, menhaden schools stratify by size and age along the coast, with older and larger menhaden found farther north. During fall-early winter, menhaden of all sizes and ages migrate south around the North Carolina capes to spawn.

Sexual maturity begins just before age three, with major spawning areas from the Carolinas to New Jersey; the majority of spawning occurs primarily offshore (20-30 miles) during winter. Buoyant eggs hatch at sea and larvae are carried into estuarine nursery areas by ocean currents. Juveniles spend most of their first year of life in estuaries, migrating to the ocean in late fall. Adult and juvenile menhaden migrate south in fall-winter, and adult menhaden migrate north in spring.

Menhaden feed by straining plankton from the water, their gill rakers forming a specialized basket to efficiently capture tiny food. Menhaden provide the link between primary production and higher organisms by consuming plankton and providing forage (food) for species such as striped bass, bluefish and weakfish, to name just a few.

Commercial Fishery

The menhaden reduction fishery reduces its catch into fishmeal and fish oil, rather than selling the whole fish as its product. The reduction fishery first began in New England during the early 1800s and spread south after the Civil War. The purse seine was introduced after the Civil War, allowing the fishery to expand. Major technological innovations led to further expansion of the fishery coastwide, including the development of gas and diesel engines, the use of spotter aircraft, radio communications, nylon nets, hydraulic power blocks, aluminum purse boats, fish pumps and large carrier vessels (greater than 150 feet long). As a result, landings and fishing effort increased from 1940 through the late 1950s, declined precipitously during the 1960s when the population was overfished, and then improved significantly during the late 1970s and early 1980s. The population declined once again during the 1990s despite the decrease in the size and scope of the reduction fishery.

The number of vessels in the reduction fishery declined from 150 in 1955 to 31 in 1993, while the number of plants declined from 23 to seven in the same timeframe (including two factory ships). Further consolidation in 1998 resulted in the fleet size decreasing to 12 vessels, supplying the two remaining reduction plants, located in North Carolina and Virginia. The major port for landings on the Atlantic coast is Reedville, Virginia.

In 2001, Atlantic menhaden accounted for nearly 34.5 percent of all U.S. Atlantic coastal commercial fisheries landings by weight, with the majority taken by the reduction fishery. Landings of menhaden used as bait in other fisheries were approximately 17 percent of the total Atlantic menhaden catch. Most menhaden harvest comes from estuaries and nearshore coastal waters, often within a mile of shore. In 2001, 575 million pounds of menhaden yielded an ex-vessel price of $30.3 million dollars.

Stock Status

Atlantic menhaden stocks are considered healthy, with current estimates of SSB (104,500 mt) well above the threshold (20,570 mt) and target (37,400 mt) levels established in Amendment 1 (Figure 1). According to the 2001 stock assessment, Atlantic menhaden stocks are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. SSB, or the weight of the mature females in the stock, is increasing, while fishing mortality is decreasing.

Fishery scientists and managers, however, continue to be concerned about the low level of recruitment seen in the fishery since 1996. The 2001 preliminary estimate for recruits to age 1 was 0.5 billion, the lowest on record. Concern about poor recruitment is further substantiated by investigations with state-based juvenile abundance indices and development of a coastwide index. It should be noted, however, that the most recent estimate of recruitment (2001) has the greatest uncertainty and is likely to change considerably as more data is added to the analysis. It is also believed that recruitment for Atlantic menhaden appears to be largely controlled by environmental conditions, such as increased predation, decreased available food, or other physical driving variables (e.g. river flows and pollutants), and not from a lack of SSB.

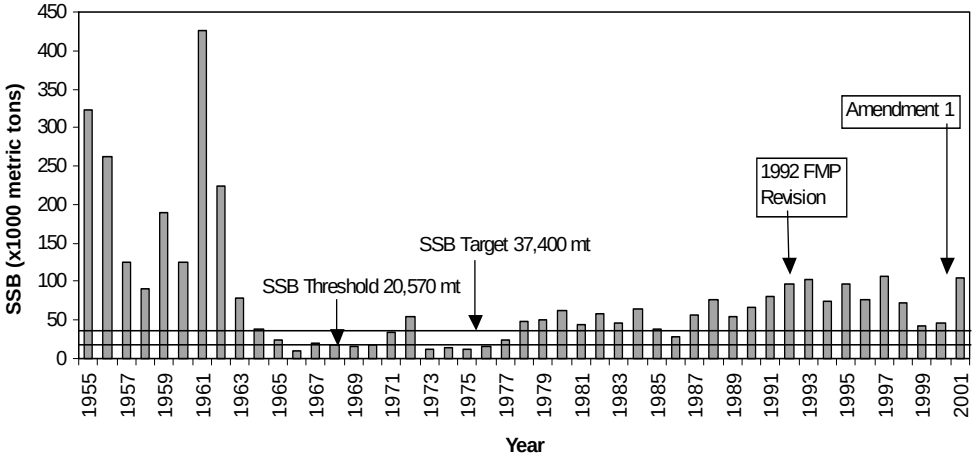
Later this year, the Commission will be updating the stock assessment for Atlantic menhaden, which is also scheduled for peer review in 2003.

Atlantic Coastal Management Considerations

Amendment 1, adopted in 2001, specifies a new overfishing definition based on target fishing mortality rates and stock biomass levels, representing a significant departure from the fishery triggers of the original plan. Amendment 1 also implements a framework for future management measures as the need arises.

The Commission has also begun to develop a multispecies assessment model to look at the effects of predator and prey relationships between bluefish, weakfish, striped bass, and menhaden (see pages 7 & 8). In the future, this model will provide additional information to aid in our fishery management decision-making.

Atlantic Menhaden Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB)
Source: ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee 2002



Menhaden & Its Many Uses

Fish caught in the purse seine reduction fishery are processed into fishmeal, fish oil, and fish solubles. Fishmeal is used as a high quality component in poultry, swine, ruminant and aquaculture feeds, and also in pet foods. Recent technological advances have produced fishmeal that is dried after cooking at relatively low temperatures. This "low temperature" meal, when added to feed formulas, produces exceptional growth rates in target animals.

Fish oil is high in omega-3 type fatty acids which have been linked to positive health effects in humans. Partially hydrogenated fish oils are used in shortening and margarine. While these oils have been used extensively in Europe and Canada for years, partially hydrogenated menhaden oil was approved for general use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1990. The FDA recently adjusted the standard of identity for margarine to include the use of menhaden oil. The FDA is also considering approval of non-hydrogenated menhaden oil for use in selected foods. In the U.S., fish oil continues to be used in the production of water-resistant paints and cosmetics.

Fish solubles are high-protein liquid by-products which are used directly in the feed market or dried onto fishmeal (i.e., whole meal).

Menhaden are used as bait in commercial blue crab, lobster, crayfish, and eel fisheries. Menhaden are also used by recreational anglers as chum and as cut or live bait for sportfish such as striped bass, bluefish, king mackerel, sharks, and tunas.

ASMFC Spring 2003 Meeting Week
June 9 - 12, 2003
Doubletree Crystal City
300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Virginia

Preliminary Agenda

(Note: The schedule is subject to change up until the time meetings are held.)

Monday, June 9, 2003

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Winter Flounder Management Board
- Review and take action on Draft Public Information Document

12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Summer Flounder, Scup & Black Sea Bass Management Board
- Approve scup recreational management programs
- Review public comment and take action on Draft Addendum VIII

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Management & Science Committee
- Recommend priorities for Commission peer reviews
- Review recommendations from October 2002 Multispecies Workshop
- Review and approve Interstate Tagging Issues Paper
- Update on power plant assessments
- Review of Summer Flounder Regulatory Discards Report

3:30 PM - 6:00 PM Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
- Review state implementation proposals for Amendment 6
- Update on Aging Workshop
- Technical Committee Report
- Discussion on single size limit for the next addendum

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM American Lobster Management Board
- Review Area 2 Options Paper and follow-up to Emergency Rule
- Plan Review Team Report on Annual Compliance, Trap Tags and FMP Review
- Technical Committee Report on V-notching Model
- Most Restrictive Rule Subcommittee Report
- Massachusetts Conservation Equivalency Proposal for the Outer Cape Cod
- Long Island Sound Lobster Research Initiative
- Lobster database update

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Management & Science Committee (continued)

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Shark Management Board
- Technical Committee Report

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council
- FY04 Biological & Bycatch Sampling Targets
- Update on FY04 Request for Proposals
- For-hire implementation update
- Update on state conduct of MRFSS intercept survey
- Outreach Committee update

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

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Improving Single Species Management Decisions through Multispecies Assessments

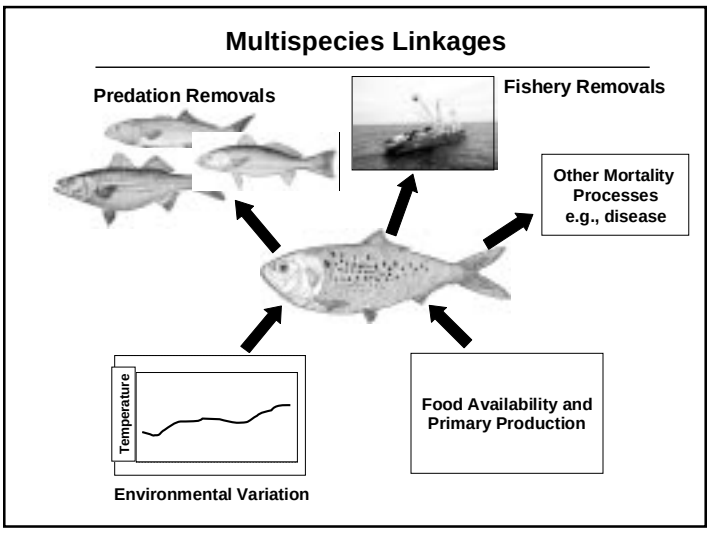
Marine fisheries management along the U.S. Atlantic coast is currently conducted through single species approaches by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission), the Regional Fishery Management Councils, and individual state marine fishery agencies. Over the last several years, advances and improvements in stock assessment methodologies have led to successful management of several Atlantic coastal species, including striped bass, weakfish and summer flounder. These single species assessment and management approaches, however, lack consideration of predator/prey relationships, the impacts of environmental factors, relationships among various components of the ecosystem (i.e., habitat, primary and secondary productivity), and the ability of the ecosystem to sustain high resource abundance.

Over the past two years, the Commission has been exploring the feasibility of conducting multispecies assessments in order to supplement our single species management approaches for Atlantic menhaden, bluefish, weakfish and striped bass. These efforts have included the development of a demonstration model to provide information on the relationship between menhaden as a forage/prey fish and several key predators. One focus of this model is to evaluate the relative impact of fishing mortality on juvenile menhaden in relation to mortality caused by predation. This model is also being expanded to include environmental and hydrographic effects on abundance, migration patterns and localized depletion.

The Commission's most recent effort in this endeavor has been to facilitate discussions on the benefits of pursuing multispecies and ecosystem assessments, as well as the steps necessary to improve the integration of these assessments into current single species assessment and management processes. During a Commission-sponsored workshop held in October 2002, representatives from state and federal marine fishery agencies, non-governmental organizations, Regional Fishery Management Councils, the fishing industry and academia identified the following areas where multispecies assessments can enhance fishery management decision-making.

Gain perspective on the relative impacts of mortality caused by predation and fishing effort

Current single species assessments use a constant rate of natural mortality across all age groups. This approach, however, does not address the fact that the highest levels of mortality for most fish species occur in the early life stages (egg, larval, juvenile). Multispecies/ecosystem models can provide detailed information on the natural mortality rate for all life stages, thus, providing a more realistic benchmark to evaluate the relative impacts of natural mortality and fishing mortality on different life stages.



Identify and assess the multiple uses of forage and predator species

Multispecies/ecosystem assessments can segment out the various demands placed upon a fishery resource. Using Atlantic menhaden as an example, there are multiple demands placed upon this resource as both a forage base and for human use. Menhaden are prey for other species of fish, seabirds and marine mammal populations. They also support important bait and reduction fisheries. Multispecies assessments can identify and quantify these various uses so that they can be explicitly addressed by fishery managers when assessing stock status and developing management strategies.

Evaluate carrying capacity of the ecosystem relative to sustaining high population abundance levels

Multispecies and ecosystem models provide an overall perspective on the maximum quantity of fish an ecosystem can support (i.e., carrying capacity). Currently, single species management strives to maximize abundance levels for all species without regard to the ability of the ecosystem to sustain these high abundance levels. By integrating information on habitat, environmental quality, predator/prey relationships and species abundance, multispecies/ecosystem assessments provide a much clearer picture of the ecosystem's carrying capacity.

Evaluate the feasibility of managing all species at MSY estimated from single species assessments

Species are currently managed to achieve maximum sustainable yield (MSY), which is the largest average catch that can be taken on a sustainable basis from a stock under average environmental conditions. MSY is determined for each individual species based on information specific to that species alone. By incorporating information for all species,

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Improving Single Species Management Decisions through Multispecies Assessments (continued from page 7)

multispecies/ecosystem models may redefine MSY within the context of the entire ecosystem. This will provide fisheries managers with a more realistic view of the interrelationships among individual species and the environment. Inherent in this approach is the understanding that these redefined MSY values may be very different from those that are developed through the single species approach.

Evaluate trade-offs in single species management decisions
Currently, management decisions are made on a species-by-species basis, with little consideration of the interactions among species. Multispecies/ecosystem models can provide fishery managers with additional information on the impacts that changes to one species management program may have on other managed species. The integration of this information will require managers to clearly define species priorities, management goals and objectives.

Ability to evaluate various management scenarios through forward projection tools for multiple species
Currently, scientists have the ability to make future projections based on a suite of management options for a single species. This same ability is also available to multispecies/ecosystem modelers. Using forward projection tools, scientists will be able to project the possible consequences of management decisions for multiple species, thereby, providing fishery managers with a powerful tool to evaluate management effects among interrelated species. Again, this speaks to the need for managers to clearly define species priorities and management goals.

Next Steps
The Commission is finalizing the proceedings of the workshop to be presented to the ASMFC Management Science Committee in June. The proceedings will provide a framework for the development and use of multispecies/ecosystem assessments in the current fisheries management process. Additionally, it will provide recommendations for improving data collection, expanding models to include more information as it becomes available, and improving fisheries management decision-making over the long-term. For more information, please contact Geoff White, Fisheries Research Specialist, at (202)289-6400 or gwhite@asmfc.org.

ASMFC Spring 2003 Meeting Week Preliminary Agenda (continued from page 6)

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

8:00 AM - Noon — Strategic Planning

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM — Law Enforcement Committee

- Presentations by South Carolina and National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement on Joint Enforcement Agreements
- EEZ law enforcement discussions/formulation of an enforcement issues paper
- Presentation on At-sea Transfers: Identifying the Issues for Law Enforcement

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM — Commissioner Workshop: Sociocultural Considerations in Fishery Management Decision-making -- presented by Dr. Michael Orbach, Duke University

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM — Horseshoe Crab Management Board

- Reports of the Shorebird Technical Committee and Horseshoe Crab Technical Committee Report (stock assessment terms of reference)

Thursday, June 12, 2003

8:00 AM - 11:30 AM — Strategic Planning (continued)

Noon - 1:30 PM — Executive Committee

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM — ISFMP Policy Board

- Massachusetts black sea bass appeal

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM — Business Session

Fisheries Community Mourns the Loss of Two Remarkable Individuals

Over the last couple of months, the Commission and the entire marine fisheries community lost two wonderful and dedicated individuals -- Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton and Clarence "Wayne" Lee. Both were passionate in their commitment to marine resource conservation and management, and have left a lasting impression on the people who worked with them and the resources they were dedicated to protect. Eileen and Wayne will be sorely missed.

Eileen Setzler-Hamilton

Throughout her life and in her work, Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton was committed to the preservation of marine fisheries resources and the science that supports Atlantic coast fisheries management. This commitment was evident in her long and active involvement with the Commission's Management and Science Committee, and technical committees for Atlantic striped bass, shad and river herring, and American eel. Her dedication extended to her work with fishermen, always eager and willing to help them better understand the science upon whichmanagement decisions are based. In her own work, Eileen was particularly passionate about the Chesapeake Bay, devoting her career to preserving its resources through her work as a researcher with the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL), the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, and the Chesapeake Bay Program. At the CBL, Eileen shared her passion and enthusiasm about the Bay through the creation and support of the CBL's outreach education program. Eileen is survived by her husband, Joe. Contributions in Eileen's memory may be made through donations to Friends of CBL. These funds will be used to develop a teacher/student outreach program, now named the Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Fund. Tax-exempt contributions should be made payable to the University of Maryland Foundation, Inc., and sent to the Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton Memorial Fund, CBL, P.O. Box 38, Solomons, Maryland 20688.

Eileen (far right) shares her knowledge of marine life with school children

Clarence Wayne Lee

Kind, fair, dedicated, gentleman, and consummate leader are just a few words that have been used to describe Wayne Lee. Wayne was a terrific man, compassionate in his dealings with people and devoted in his commitment to marine fisheries conservation and management. Wayne brought these attributes to bear as an active participant with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, NOAA Fisheries, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and as the Vice-Chair of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Since the mid-1990s, Wayne served as North Carolina's recreational fishing industry representative on Commission advisory panels for striped bass, summer flounder and weakfish. Over the past two years, Wayne chaired the Weakfish Advisory Panel, leading it through the development of Amendment 4 to the Weakfish Fishery Management Plan. He was respected by Board members and advisors alike for his thoroughness, fairness, integrity and strong leadership -- traits which exemplified the way in which he lived his life. Upon approval of Amendment 4 by the Weakfish Management Board, Board Chair Gordon Colvin of New York expressed his deep appreciation for Wayne's chairmanship of the advisory panel by stating, "If anybody wants to have an effective advisory panel process, get Wayne Lee to be the chairman of your advisory panel. He has done a terrific job of leading a diverse group of fishing industry representatives through a complex and difficult amendment process. I can't express how grateful I am for his leadership and commitment."

A retired Colonel with the U.S. Air Force and decorated Vietnam veteran, Wayne is survived by his wife, Kay and two daughters. Contributions in his memory can be made to the following organizations:

Salvation Army
PO Box 1967
Elizabeth City, NC 27906

American Heart Association
PO Box 5216
Glen Allen, VA 23058

American Cancer Society
930-B Wellness Drive
Greenville, NC 27834

ACCSP Announces 2003 Funding

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), a state and federal partnership for marine fisheries data collection and data management, has allocated $3.5 million to its state and federal partners for new and ongoing projects to improve data for coastal fisheries in 2003.

The ACCSP allocated $118,668 for the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) to continue and expand biological sampling efforts and upgrade information systems. The ACCSP continued its support of the DMR's biological sampling of Atlantic herring, an important baitfish to the lobster industry, for the third consecutive year with a grant of $76,908, an increase from the 2002 grant of $67,168. The increased funding will allow sampling of four additional species and up to ten additional ports. The ACCSP also provided $41,760 to the DMR to upgrade its commercial landings database from Microsoft Access to a customized Oracle system.

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department will receive $166,923 to begin ACCSP-quality data collection for commercial fisheries. New Hampshire is beginning implementation with its lobster fishery, and the Department of Fish and Game will be contacting industry members in coming months. The ACCSP is also providing SAFIS, a web-based data entry system for real-time landings, as a value-added service. The system was developed by the ACCSP information systems staff for partners coastwide, and is currently being implemented in Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) will receive $131,760 to expand mandatory trip-level reporting and biological sampling in its commercial fisheries. This is the third year the ACCSP has provided funds to Rhode Island for commercial fisheries data collection efforts. In 2002, the DEM hired an ACCSP Coordinator to work with the ACCSP staff in building the web-based data collection system dubbed SAFIS, and assist dealers in using it.

The ACCSP allocated $124,780 for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to expand and upgrade its commercial fisheries data collection and implement SAFIS. Connecticut's long-standing reporting requirements for lobster meet the ACCSP's standards, and were used to distribute federal disaster relief funds following the Long Island Sound lobster die-off that began in 1999. The DEP will now utilize its ACCSP grant to extend data collection to all fisheries, and implement SAFIS.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will receive $49,000 for an expansion of their commercial fisheries data collection to include all counties and all fisheries. Maryland has been phasing-in data collection for commercial fisheries county-by-county. The ACCSP has assisted Maryland with funds for three consecutive years, totaling $202,000. Through an amendment to the 2002 grant, Maryland will also incorporate SAFIS into quota monitoring for striped bass, black sea bass and oysters.

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission is redeveloping its commercial fishing licensing, permitting, and vessel data system, and the ACCSP is supplying $160,559 to support this work. This redevelopment project should increase operational efficiency, and produce more timely data.

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) will receive a total of $121,529 from the ACCSP's 2003 grant for new and ongoing projects. A grant of $69,300 will support the transition of North Carolina's quota monitoring system from a paper to an electronic database. A second grant of $35,000 will support port sampling for biological data and fishing effort data on snapper-grouper and pelagic fishes. Continuing an ongoing project, the ACCSP has allocated $17,229 for the establishment and implementation of procedures for the collection, storage and dissemination of metadata pertaining to North Carolina fisheries.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources was awarded $94,760 to continue implementation of data collection for commercial fisheries. 2003 funds from ACCSP will support data entry personnel, and help to maintain trip level reporting.

The ACCSP awarded a total of $1,098,238 to NOAA Fisheries for other projects benefiting the commercial and recreational fisheries of the Atlantic coast. Among them is $300,000 to continue at-sea sampling of the groundfish fishery for which the ACCSP also provided funds in 2002, $175,144 to support dockside biological sampling of important species, and $623,094 for increased recreational fisheries sampling and implementation of the new for-hire effort survey.

About the ACCSP

The 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 more information please visit www.accsp.org or call Abbey Compton, ACCSP Outreach Coordinator, at (202)289-6400.

National Whale Conservation Fund Releases RFP for "Fishing Gear Mini-Grants" Program: *Proposals Due by September 1*

The National Whale Conservation Fund (NWCF) was established to support research, management, conservation and education/outreach activities related to the conservation and recovery of whales. The NWCF is a special project of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization established by Congress in 1984. The Foundation operates the Fund under the direction of the NWCF Advisory Council, a panel of conservation leaders and representatives of cooperating entities.

The "Fishing Gear Mini-Grants" program will fund projects that have a strong likelihood of reducing death and serious injury to large whales due to entanglements in fishing gear, and are consistent with applicable regulations pertaining to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. This program provides competitive seed grants ($2,000 - $20,000) to creative and innovative proposals that seek to work with industry to significantly diminish whale entanglements in fishing gear.

Guiding Philosophy and Mission

NWCF seeks to foster the conservation and recovery of large whales by supporting innovative research, management and education projects of high quality and promise. NWCF actively seeks to form new partnerships with corporations, organizations, and individuals to leverage NWCF's resources sufficiently to meet its aggressive conservation goals.

Who is eligible to apply?

Any U.S. citizen is eligible to receive assistance for an idea or method that has a strong likelihood of reducing death and/or serious injury to whales caused by entanglements. For those ideas or methods that involve at-sea time, the applicant must have all necessary local, state, and federal permits to conduct their fishing practices.

What kinds of gear proposals will be accepted?

Proposals for the following grant-types may be submitted:

- *Idea Grants:* Grants that enable a person(s) to develop an idea into a process or object.
- *Pilot Grants:* Grants that enable a person(s) to construct a prototype from their idea or concept and carry out field-testing at-sea on individual or multiple participating fishing vessels.

While this grant program focuses on two areas of emphasis, the overarching goal of the program is to address large whale death and/or serious injury from gear entanglement, with priority given to those projects that work with the industry toward useable solutions.

How do I apply?

- Submit the application form found at http://www.nfwf.org/programs/WhaleFund.htm, or contact the NFWF or NOAA Fisheries contacts listed below to have a copy sent to you. This document should be three to four pages in length and will also serve as your contract should your project be selected.
- The downloadable application packet includes application instructions and tips for writing a competitive proposal.

What are the funding limitations for this grants program?

NWCF will not fund

- Political advocacy, boycotts or litigation
- Indirect or unallocated expenses

When are proposals due?

This call for proposals covers two different project cycles with the following deadlines as funding is available:

- April 1 - with final funding decisions by May 31
- September 1 - with final funding decisions by October 31

Proposals must be received at the NFWF address below via email, fax, by hand or through the mail, no later than the above dates. Proposals can be submitted throughout the year. Proposals received after April 1, will be reviewed in September, proposals received after September 1, will be reviewed in the subsequent project cycle. Proposals should be sent to Michelle Pico at National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 1120 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036; (202)857-0162 (fax); Email: <pico@nfwf.org>. For more information, please contact Michelle Pico at (202) 857-0166 or Sal Testeverde at (978)281-9328, ext. 6502.

ASMFC Participates in Groundhog Job Shadow Day

The Commission recently participated in National Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Groundhog Job Shadow Day is an academically motivating experience dedicated to giving kids an up-close look at the world of work. Participating employees were able to relate their workplace to the community by explaining to the students what is done at the Commission. Students were shown how education can be translated into rewarding careers and provided hands-on experience that links schoolwork to real life.

The students completed an expectations worksheet and personal assessment form in advance so they could be matched with an employer who had complementing interests. Four students were selected from Dunbar Sr. High School for mentoring at the Commission. The students were given an orientation session and they watched a film entitled "Bridging the Gap of Minority Students in Marine Science." The students then met with our Executive Director, Vince O'Shea, introductions were given, then the real fun began.

Students (from left): Porsha Cowell, Jefferson Pearson, Julian Pearson and Shari Jackson

For the mentoring portion of the day, the student were divided into two groups. Each pair spent time with participating employees in Finance & Administration, the Interstate Fisheries Management Program, Research & Statistics, and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program. We ended with a pizza lunch and a wrap up discussion. National Groundhog Job Shadow Day was a very rewarding experience for both the students and staff. Thanks to all the employees for their participation in this worthy cause.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1444 Eye Street, N.W., 6th Floor
Washington D.C. 20005

Return Service Requested