



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

Horseshoe Crab and Whelk Processors & Dealers Contribute \$10,000 to Horseshoe Crab Trawl Survey

Members of the horseshoe crab and whelk industry from the Chesapeake Bay Packing, LLC and Bernie's Conchs, LLC, have collectively pledged \$10,000 to support the Horseshoe Crab Trawl Survey for 2012. An additional \$500 was contributed by Parenteral Drug Association, a pharma/biopharmaceutical scientific organization. This is the second year the commercial fishing industry has provided much needed funds to help support the Horseshoe Crab Trawl Survey. Last year, the survey was funded in total through the combined contributions of the

commercial fishing and biomedical industries with a matching grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

"On behalf of the Commission's Horseshoe Crab Management Board, I want to sincerely thank and commend Rick Robins for his advocacy and support of horseshoe crab scientific and management activities from his valuable input on the development of the ARM framework to his continuing fundraising on behalf of the Horseshoe Crab Trawl Survey," stated Board Chair David Simpson. "Hopefully, the seed money provided by Chesapeake Bay Packing, Bernie's Conchs, and Parenteral Drug Association will encourage other interested groups to come forward to help support this important survey. An additional \$190,000 is needed to fully fund the survey in 2012."

Rick Robins, who coordinated the commercial fishing industry's support for the survey, stated, "The Commission deserves credit for putting the Delaware Bay regional horseshoe crab population on a solid path to recovery. The Virginia Tech



Scientists tag horseshoe crabs and collect data as part of the Horseshoe Crab Trawl Survey

Horseshoe Crab Trawl Survey provides scientific information to the Commission that is essential to the successful management of this ecologically and economically important fishery."

The survey, which has been administered by Virginia Tech since 2002, is the only survey designed to sample the horseshoe crab population in coastal waters. Its data are a critical component of the coastwide stock assessment and the new Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) framework, both of which were endorsed through an independent peer review in 2009. The ARM framework, which is to be implemented in 2013, includes modeling that links management of Delaware Bay horse-

Inside This Issue

Species Profile: Black Drum Page 4

States Schedule Public Hearings on Black Drum PID Page 5

Bob Beal Named Acting Executive Director Page 6

ASMFC Comings & Goings Page 6

ASMFC Summer Meeting Preliminary Agenda & Public Comment Guidelines Page 7

ASMFC Begins Preparations for New American Lobster Stock Assessment Page 8

ACCSP Releases Request for 2013 Proposals and Welcomes New Data Coordinator Page 9

Nominations Sought for Captain David H. Hart Award Page 10

NOAA Schedules River Herring Workshops Page 11

continued on page 10

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

Paul J. Diodati (MA), Chair
Dr. Louis B. Daniel, III (NC), Vice-Chair

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Upcoming Meetings

6/19 - 21:

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

6/20 (Noon - 5 PM) & 21 (8:30 AM - Noon):

ASMFC Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee and Spot Plan Review Team Joint Meeting, Hilton Garden Inn, 5265 International Boulevard, North Charleston, South Carolina.

6/22 (begins at 9 AM):

NOAA River Herring Stock Structure Workshop, NOAA Fisheries Service's Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, Massachusetts.

6/25 (9 AM - 5 PM):

Atlantic Menhaden Technical Committee, Hilton Garden Inn-Raleigh Durham Airport, 1500 RDU Center Drive, Morrisville, North Carolina.

6/27 (9 - 11:30 AM):

ASMFC Bluefish Advisory Panel, Double Tree by Hilton at the Baltimore (BWI) Airport, 90 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland.

6/26 - 28:

The Relative Importance of Fishing and the Environment in the Regulation of Fish Population Abundance, The American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, New Bedford, Massachusetts. For more information visit <http://www.aifrb.org/symposium-2012/>.

6/27 (12:30 - 5 PM):

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panels, Double Tree by Hilton at the Baltimore (BWI) Airport, 90 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland

7/10 (begins at 9 AM):

NOAA River Herring Extinction Risk Analysis Workshop, Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters, 5 Post Office Square - Suite 100, Boston, Massachusetts.

7/18 & 19 (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM both days):

NOAA River Herring Climate Change Workshop, NOAA Fisheries Service's Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, Massachusetts.

7/30 & 31:

SEAMAP Annual Meeting, Hilton Savannah Desoto, 15 East Liberty Street, Savannah, Georgia.

8/7 - 9:

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

Thanks for a Great Ten Years

Ten years ago I decided to come to work for the Commission because I believed in the states' commitment to extend their winning record of restoring Atlantic striped bass to other overfished and depleted species. Having lived in five of our states, I had seen first hand the economic devastation brought on fishermen, fishing-related businesses, and coastal communities from collapsed stocks. I had also seen the great benefits and opportunities abundant stocks had created in other regions.

In addition to their determination, the states were provided powerful tools from Congress to ensure Commission management plans were effective. Congress also recognized the need to provide fiscal resources to help pay for the fisheries science, catch monitoring, and management activities needed for success. The results of this state-federal partnership these past 10 years have been impressive. Six stocks have been recovered from their overfished status and, thanks to better science, other stocks have moved from unknown to known stock status. The continued high abundance of Atlantic striped bass and the recovery of summer flounder and bluefish are especially significant given their great economic value to the commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities.

In the past decade, our Commissioners have forged new paths in developing fishery management plans and processes that take into account the ecological role of certain species. The Adaptive Resource Model (ARM) used for horseshoe crab management is an innovative systematic approach to setting harvest quotas taking into account crab abundance and harvester needs as well as the nutritional demands of migratory shore birds. After establishing a precautionary Chesapeake Bay harvest cap for Atlantic menhaden several years ago, Commissioners are now crafting management measures to achieve recently approved reference points intended to increase menhaden abundance for forage needs.

Important progress has also been made in fisheries monitoring and assessment. In a multi-year effort, state and federal scientists collaborated to design a nearshore trawl survey to collect the data needed to fill critical gaps in our stock assessments. The result was the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP). The Commission obtained additional Atlantic Coastal Act funds from Congress to fund a proof of concept survey, and with that success moved on to fund the first full year of spring and fall surveys, along with help from NOAA.

This is a requirements-based survey, designed by scientists and conducted on a North Carolina commercial fishing vessel, with a scientific party from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. It covers the nearshore waters from Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod, not surveyed by NOAA's deeper draft research vessel. Both the survey design and operations received high marks from a rigorous Program review, confirming that the trend data now being established will be of sufficient quality for use in stock assessments.

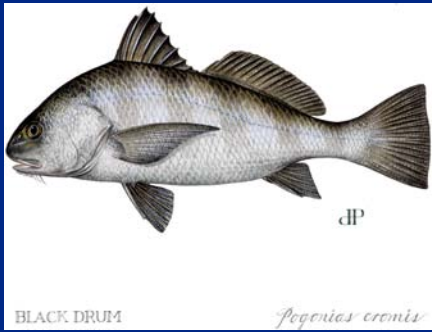
Besides improving the stocks under their stewardship and the science used to inform management, our Commissioners have increased the transparency of their actions. Commission Annual Reports include detailed listings of stock status along with the dates of management actions shown on biomass trend charts. This reflects Commissioners' focus and accountability for their public trust responsibility to look after the natural resources under their stewardship.

All that our states and Commission have accomplished has been through the hard work and dedication of people. Over the years, the pages of this publication have included pictures and names of hundreds of managers, scientists, Commissioners, stakeholders, and staff who have made significant contributions to the Commission's Vision. They are but a small fraction of all those who continue to productively contribute to our process. Their talent, commitment, interest, and passion have been the engine driving our successes. On a sad note, I have used this page to note the passing of colleagues and friends, all dedicated to fisheries. We continue to honor them in our work and in our memories.

As I leave the Commission, I am grateful for having had the opportunity to work with our Commissioners, who have taken on the difficult and often thankless job of managing and restoring fisheries. They and I have been supported by a remarkable and talented staff of professionals willing and capable of doing anything asked of them.

Theodore Roosevelt said: "The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value." As I leave, I am convinced, more than ever, of our states' commitment and the Commission's capacity to do exactly that.

-- Vince O'Shea



Black Drum *Pogonias cromis*

Common Names: black drum, black fish, big ugly, striped drum

Family: Sciaenidae (which also includes red drum, weakfish and Atlantic croaker)

Species Range: Nova Scotia to Florida; Gulf of Mexico; southern Caribbean coast; Orinoco to Argentina

Proposed ASMFC Management Unit: New Jersey - Florida

Interesting Facts:

* Largest member of the drum family, growing to over 100 pounds

* As with other fish in the drum family, black drum make a drumming noise with their air bladder and are capable of producing tones between 100 Hz and 500 HZ when performing mating calls. The drumming noise is so developed in black drum that it can sometimes be heard by boaters as schools swim by.

Maximum Recorded Length & Weight: 67" & 113 pounds

Life Span: 60+ years

Stock Status: Unknown



Species Profile: Black Drum

ASMFC Initiates Development of New Fishery Management Plan for Oldest Living Sciaenid

Introduction

Black drum are the largest member of the drum family, Sciaenidae, reaching weights of over 100 pounds. Although they can grow very large, they are not considered good eating when so large, due to the large number of worms in their flesh. The species is long-lived, with ages ranging upwards of 60 years, although they mature relatively quickly (within three to six years), considering their long lifespan. The range of black drum extends on the Atlantic coast from the Gulf of Maine to Florida, into the Gulf of Mexico, and as far south as Argentina. A coastwide stock assessment has yet to be conducted, although one is currently planned for 2014. As young drum, their appearance includes distinct silver and black stripes. As they grow old, their appeal to the human eye deteriorates, earning them the nickname of "big ugly" in some areas.

Life History

Black drum can live up to 60+ years of age, measure over 45 inches in length, and weigh over 100 pounds. Atlantic coast black drum conduct an age-specific migration northward and inshore in the spring and southward and offshore in the fall. Black drum females typically mature at four to six years (at lengths of 25-28 inches), whereas males mature at three to four years (at lengths of 22-25 inches). Females will spawn multiple times throughout the season, with an average-sized female (13.4 pounds) laying around 32 million eggs each year.

Black drum are primarily bottom feeders. As juveniles, they feed mainly on small fish and invertebrates, progressing to mollusks and crustaceans as adults. As juveniles, black drum are prey to a wide range of estuarine species (e.g., spotted seatrout, crevalle jack). Larger drum are likely subject to predation by sharks.

Commercial & Recreational Fisheries

Coastwide commercial landings of black drum averaged ~370,000 pounds in the 1950s and '60s, and then declined to an average of ~210,000 lbs in the 1970s and '80s. Beginning around 1990, landings have slowly increased to an average ~260,000 pounds. Since 2000, the majority of commercial harvest is landed in North Carolina and Virginia. A smaller portion is



Black drum being sampled as part of the NEAMAP survey. Photo courtesy of NEAMAP.

landed in New Jersey, Florida, Delaware, and Maryland. New York, Rhode Island, and Maine have historically reported small amounts of black drum landings as well, although none in recent years. Relatively substantial increases in commercial landings have been reported since 2000 in North Carolina and Delaware.

Recreational harvest has increased along the Atlantic coast in the last decade. Although Delaware and New Jersey have experienced apparent increases in black drum harvested by anglers, the majority of harvest increases have been attributed to North Carolina. South Carolina also experienced increased harvest until 2007 when it enacted harvest restrictions. Florida and North

Stock Status

No coastwide assessment has been performed for black drum, although the Commission plans to complete a benchmark stock assessment and peer review in 2014. Two regional stock assessments, one in Florida and one in the Chesapeake Bay, have been completed. The Florida assessment, which was conducted in 1995, suggested that its black drum stocks could sustain the level of fishing that occurred in the early 1990s. In 2001, the regional Chesapeake Bay assessment suggested fishing mortality was below F_{MSY} , the fishing level that would sustain the stock at its maximum yield.

There are no targeted surveys for black drum (fishery-dependent or indepen-

States Schedule Public Hearings on Black Drum PID

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

July 12, 2012; 7 PM

Galloway Township Branch of the Atlantic County Library
306 East Jimmie Leeds Road
Galloway, New Jersey
Contact: Russ Allen, 609.748.2020

Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

June 12, 2012; 7 PM

DNREC Auditorium
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware
Contact: Stewart Michels,
302.739.9914

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

July 10, 2012; 6 PM

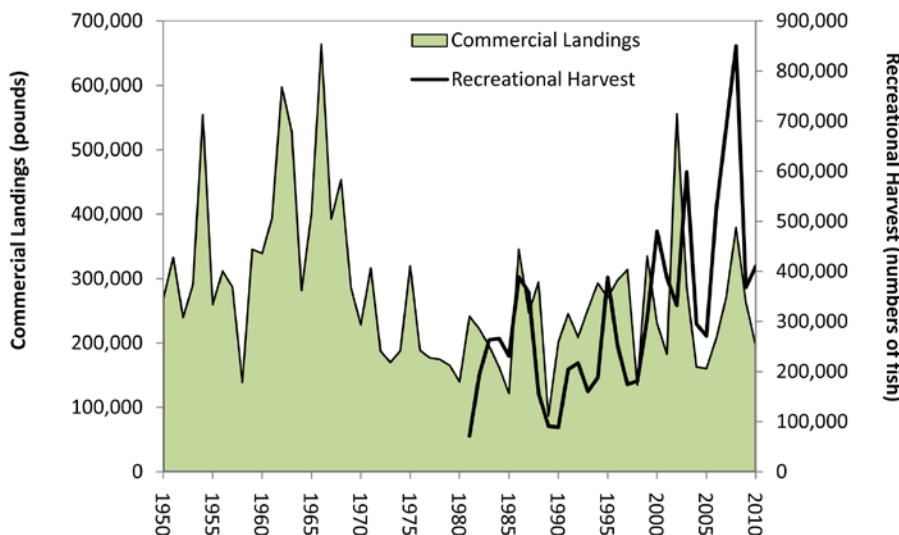
2600 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor
Newport News, Virginia
Contact: Rob O'Reilly,
757.247.2248

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

July 9, 2012; 6 PM

Central District Office
5285 U.S. Highway 70 West
Morehead City, North Carolina
Contact: Chris Stewart,
910.796.7370

Atlantic Coast Black Drum Commercial Landings & Recreational Harvest
Source: Personal communication NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division, Silver Spring, MD, 2012



Carolina fisheries comprise the majority of recreational harvest along the coast. Recreational fishing for black drum is popular from shore as well as at night, which has generally made estimating recreational catch difficult given the current sampling methods.

Although the species gets rather large compared to its other family members, it is not as sought-after for food, especially at the large sizes. As the species grows, its meat becomes coarse and filled with worms, decreasing its appeal on the dinner table.

dent), and current surveys do not sufficiently intersect with the vast ages and sizes of the population. Most landings (i.e., fishery-dependent data) are restricted to younger and smaller fish with some large adults, and fishery-independent surveys rarely encounter adult fish. Abundance indices available along the coast from other surveys are variable, with some indices indicating increasing or decreasing trends while others show no apparent trends. The lack of data will challenge the stock assessment process, although state biologists have indicated that an assessment based on the limited

data is possible and will be able to provide managers some useful information as they develop coastwide regulations to manage the stock.

Atlantic Coastal Management

At present, all states from New Jersey to Florida, except for North Carolina, have implemented harvest regulations for black drum, although no coastwide interstate or federal fishery management plan exists.

continued on page 8

Bob Beal Named Acting Executive Director

Robert E. Beal has been appointed the Acting Executive Director for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. He will serve in that capacity until an Executive Director has been selected by the Commission's Executive Committee. Bob Beal has been with the Commission for more than 15 years and has served as the Director for the Interstate Fishery Management Program for the past 10 years.

"Bob's excellent track record of leading the Commission's fisheries management process for the last decade made him a sure choice to serve as the Commission's Acting Executive Director," stated ASMFC Chair Paul Diodati. "Recognized and well respected by the fisheries management community, he brings to the position strong leadership skills and a thorough understanding of the issues faced by the Commission and the states. His appointment will ensure continuity in the Commission's scientific and management programs during this time of transition."



Over the next couple of months, the Commission's Executive Committee will develop a vacancy announcement and selection process for the new Executive Director. Mr. Diodati continued, "This is an exciting time in the Commission's seventy year history. It offers our Commissioners an opportunity to look back at where we have been and what we have accomplished, and chart a new course for the future."

ASMFC Comings & Goings

Commissioners:

Representative Curt Schroder - On May 6th, Representative Curt Schroder left the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to become Regional Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Healthcare Council. During his nearly 18-year career in public service as a member of the State House, Rep. Schroder served on the House Appropriations, Gaming Oversight, House Insurance, Labor Relations and Professional Committees. He was also active in health care issues, land preservation, and protecting natural resources.

With his departure from the state legislature, Representative Schroder also stepped down as Pennsylvania's Legislative Commissioner to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, having served in that role since 2003. An avid recreational angler and proponent of natural resource management, Representative Schroder consistently supported the Commission's fisheries science and management programs through his participation or that of his longtime proxy, Dr. Eugene Kray.

We wish Representative Schroder the very best in all his future endeavors.

Dr. Eugene Kray - In May, Dr. Eugene Kray retired as ongoing proxy for Representative Schroder, ending his nearly 10-year involvement with the Commission as both a Governor-appointed Commissioner (2006 - 2009) and legislative proxy (2003 - 2005 and 2010 - 2012). Over the last decade, Dr. Kray actively participated on all the boards for which Pennsylvania had declared an interest (primary diadromous species), as well as the Commission's Legislative Committee and Legislators and Governor Appointees. We wish Dr. Kray a long retirement, filled with good health and much happiness.

Staff:

Jeff J. Kipp - In May, Jeff Kipp joined the Commission staff as Stock Assessment Scientist. He will be the lead in coordinating the benchmark stock assessment for black drum, in addition to assisting Drs. Genny Nessler and Katie Drew on other coast-wide stock assessments and peer reviews.

He will also be coordinating the Commission's fisheries science activities with regards to fish ageing, fish passage, interstate tagging, and fishing gear technology.

Jeff has a master's degree in Quantitative Fisheries from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from High Point University in North Carolina. As part of his master's degree, Jeff worked as a stock assessment intern with the NMFS Beaufort Laboratory, where he contributed to preparing the tilefish assessment for SEDAR. Welcome aboard, Jeff!



ASMFC Summer Meeting August 7 - 9, 2012

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

Preliminary 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. Please see the Commission's Public Comment Guidelines below.

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

8:30 - 11:00 AM	Atlantic Herring Section
11:15 AM - 12:45 PM	American Lobster Management Board
1:45 - 3:45 PM	Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
4:00 - 5:30 PM	Shad & River Herring Management Board

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

7:30 - 9:30 AM	Executive Committee
9:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
1:45 - 2:45 PM	Atlantic Menhaden Management Board (continued)
3:00 - 4:30 PM	Sturgeon Management Board
4:45 - 6:15 PM	Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board

Thursday, August 9, 2012

8:00 - 10:00 AM	American Eel Management Board
10:15 AM - 12:45 PM	Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board
1:15 - 2:45 PM	South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board
2:45 - 3:15 PM	ISFMP Policy Board (continued)
3:15 - 3:45 PM	Business Session

ASMFC 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).

continued on page 9

ASMFC Begins Preparations for New American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will begin work on the 2014 American lobster benchmark stock assessment this fall. The assessment will be used to evaluate the health of the lobster stocks. 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 sets that will improve the accuracy of the assessment. For data sets to be considered at the workshops, the data must be sent in the required format, with accompanying methods description, to the Commission at least one month prior to the meeting at which the data will be reviewed (see accompanying schedule of Life History and Data Workshops).

Those who are interested in submitting data should contact Genny Nesslage (gnesslage@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740) by **July 6, 2012** to prepare for the August 6, 2012 Life History Workshop deadline and **November 8, 2012** for the December 7, 2012 Data Workshop deadline in order to meet the submission requirements.

A list of the stock assessment meeting

dates, topics, and submission deadlines is provided below.

September 5-7, 2012 Life History Workshop: This workshop will review all available data sources on lobster growth, maturation, migration, genetics, and natural mortality (including environmental data) and identify the data sets that will be incorporated in the assessment. Location: Maine DMR, West Boothbay Harbor Office. Data submission deadline: August 6, 2012.

January 8-10, 2013 Data Workshop: This workshop will review all available indices of abundance, biosamples, and landings data and identify the data sets that will be incorporated in the assessment. Location to be determined. Data submission deadline: December 7, 2012.

March 12-14, 2013 Modeling Workshop: This workshop will include, but is not limited to, the development of catch-at-length matrices and model configuration and parameterization. Location to be determined.



Scientists collect American lobster data as part of the Gulf of Maine Northern Shrimp Survey.

June 25-27, 2013 Modeling Workshop: This workshop will include but is not limited to the development of catch-at-length matrices and model configuration and parameterization. Location to be determined.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior FMP Coordinator for Management, at tkerns@asmfc.org.

Black Drum Species Profile (continued from page 5)

The Commission initially expressed interest in the status of black drum and the possibility of developing a coastwide stock assessment and interstate fishery management plan (FMP) in November of 2009. Since that time, the Commission has received two reports from a technical working group, suggesting a stock assessment would be possible and an interstate fishery management plan would be beneficial to this migratory species. Concerns were raised because the status of the coastwide stock is unknown, and the black drum population may be vulnerable to fisheries directed at immature animals. As a result the South Atlantic State-Federal Fisheries Management Board approved initiation of the stock assessment and FMP in November 2011. The Commission and the states are currently soliciting public comment on the Black Drum Public Information Document (PID), which is the first step in the development of the interstate FMP.

For more information, please contact Danielle Chesky, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at dchesky@asmfc.org.



Anglers with their black drum catch of the day. Photo courtesy of Gene Kray

ACCSP Releases Request for 2013 Proposals

Welcomes New Data Coordinator

ACCSP Releases Request for 2013 Proposals

On May 8, 2012, the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) issued a request for proposals (RFP) to program partners or Committees for FY13 funding.

The Funding Decision Document provides general guidance and includes information on proposal preparation and the project approval process. Projects in areas not specifically addressed may still be considered for funding if they help achieve Program goals. These goals, listed by priority, are improvements in:

1. Catch, effort, and landings data (including licensing, permit and vessel registration data)
2. Biological data
3. Releases, discards and protected species data
4. Economic and sociological data

Project activities that will be considered, according to priority, may include:

- Partner implementation of data collection programs
- Continuation of current Program funded partner programs
- Funding for personnel required to implement Program related projects/proposals
- Data management system upgrades

or establishment of Partner data feeds to the Data Warehouse or Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information Systems.

Proposals for biological sampling should target 2012 priority species in the top quartile, found here: http://www.accsp.org/documents/RFP2013/ACCSP_FY2013BioMatrix.pdf. Proposals for observer coverage should align with fisheries affecting the top quartile 2012 priority species, found here: http://www.accsp.org/documents/RFP2013/ACCSP_FY2013BycatchMatrix.pdf. Proposals should be submitted to Mike Cahall, ACCSP Director, at mike.cahall@accsp.org by July 9, 2012.

ACCSP Welcomes New Data Coordinator

ACCSP is pleased to announce that Ed Martino has joined the staff as the newest Data Coordinator. Mr. Martino's background reflects his broad interests in coastal fish ecology and information technology. He studied biology and computer science as an undergraduate at Rutgers University. After that he found himself lucky enough to work with world-renowned fishery scientists while completing a Masters in Oceanography at Rutgers and a Ph.D. in Fisheries at the University of Maryland. He is currently taking graduate courses in computer



science to strengthen his modeling and information technology skills.

Mr. Martino's research has focused on climate and habitat effects on living resources and incorporating environmental information in stock assessments. Mr. Martino came to ACCSP from NOAA where he was developing statistical models and synthesizing information from scientific data sets, and he is excited about joining the ACCSP team where he will be able to leverage his broad technical skills. He and his family live on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.



ASMFC Public Comment Guidelines (continued from page 7)

- Comments received 3 weeks prior to the start of a meeting week will be included on the briefing CD.
- Comments received by 5:00 PM on the Tuesday immediately preceding the scheduled ASMFC Meeting (in this case, the Tuesday deadline will be July 31, 2012) will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting and a limited number of copies will be provided at the meeting.
- Following the Tuesday, July 31, 2012, 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.

Nominations Sought for Captain David H. Hart Award

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is currently seeking nominations for its most prestigious award -- the Captain David H. Hart Award. The award, named for one of the Commission's longest serving members who dedicated himself to the advancement and protection of marine fishery resources, was instituted in 1991 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding efforts to improve Atlantic coast marine fisheries. The award will be presented at the Commission's 71st Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 22-25, 2012.

Anyone associated with the activities of the Commission is encouraged to nominate worthy candidates. A "worthy candidate" is an individual (or individuals) who has (have) contributed to the betterment of the fisheries of the Atlantic coast through significant biological, legislative, enforcement or management activities.

The nomination should include a description of the candidate's achievement(s) and its effect(s) on the fisheries of the Atlantic coast. Please note that candidates nominated but not selected will be carried forward and therefore do not need to be re-nominated. Selection will be based on specific accomplishments and other information included in the letter of nomination. Letters of endorsement are not necessary.

Nominations should be sent to Laura C. Leach at lleach@asmfc.org or 703.842.0741 (FAX) by July 20, 2012. Please indicate on your nomination that it is a confidential document.

Past Award Recipients

Patten White, ME
John E. Frampton, SC DNR
John E. Nelson, NH F&G
Harold C. Mears, NMFS Northeast Region
Preston P. Pate, Jr., NC DMF
Jack Dunnigan, NOAA Oceans and Coastal Services
Rob Winkel, NJ F&W
William Hogarth, NOAA Fisheries Service
Jack Travelstead, VMRC
David V.D. Borden, RI DEM
Robert K. Mahood, SAFMC
Susan Shipman, GA CRD
Gordon C. Colvin, NYSDEC
Sergeant Robert Babula, NH F&G
David M. Cupka SC DNR
Philip G. Coates, MA DMF
David G. Deuel, NOAA Fisheries Service
Richard H. Schaefer, NOAA Fisheries Service
Edwin B. Joseph, SC WMR
Representative Walter B. Jones, NC
Irwin M. Alperin, ASMFC

Horseshoe Crab and Whelk Processors & Dealers Contribute \$10,000 to Horseshoe Crab Trawl Survey (continued from page 1)

shoe crab harvest to multispecies objectives, particularly red knot shorebird recovery. It was developed jointly by the Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey in recognition of the importance of horseshoe crab eggs to shorebirds in the Delaware Bay Region.

Generally supported by congressionally-directed funds in the past, the survey would have been shut down last year without the generosity of the companies from the biomedical and fishing industries, who depend upon a healthy population of horseshoe crabs. To garner support for the 2012 survey, the Com-

mission has reached out to various stakeholders groups that have an expressed interest in shorebird conservation and horseshoe crab management. Currently, donations have been received from the commercial horseshoe crab and whelk processors and dealers with a minor contribution from a pharma/biopharmaceutical scientific organization. Support is still being sought to fund the remainder of the 2012 survey, as well as the long-term continuance of the survey.

Horseshoe crabs play an important role on many levels – their blood is used to produce *Limulus* Amoebocyte Lysate, an important tool for detecting contaminat-

ed medical devices and drugs; their eggs are consumed by hundreds of thousands of migratory shorebirds as they complete their northward migration to the Arctic; and the crabs themselves are harvested by fishermen to be used as bait for whelk and eel fisheries. The Commission and the states manage horseshoe crabs through the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Horseshoe Crabs (adopted in 1998) and subsequent addenda. The commercial bait fishery is controlled through state quotas, male-only harvest, and closed seasons. For more information, please contact Danielle Chesky, Horseshoe Crab FMP Coordinator, at dchesky@asmfc.org.

NOAA Schedules Workshops to Gather Information on the Health of River Herring Stocks

NOAA will conduct a series of workshops to gather more information on the status and threats to alewife and blueback herring, collectively known as river herring. NOAA received a petition from the Natural Resources Defense Council in August 2011 to list river herring as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. After reviewing available information, agency scientists and policy managers determined that a full review of the health of these species' populations was warranted.

NOAA has been working closely with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to use information contained in the commission's recent river herring stock assessment and is considering other available scientific information to help make a determination as to whether these species should be listed under the Endangered Species Act. River herring are migratory fish that spend the majority of their adult lives at sea, but return to freshwater areas to spawn in the spring. They are an important source of food for other valuable commercial and recreational fish populations, including striped bass, cod and flounder.

Several areas where additional information is needed include stock structure, extinction risk, and the potential impact of climate change on these species. NOAA plans to hold three workshops in June

and July to gather more information on each of these areas. NOAA has invited participants with specific expertise in these areas to help inform the workshop discussions.

The workshops, which are open to the public and will also be available through webinar for those who cannot attend in person, are scheduled for the following dates:

Stock Structure Workshop

June 22, 2012 (begins 9 AM)
NMFS Northeast Regional Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, Massachusetts
Contact Tara Trinko Lake at tara.trinko@noaa.gov or 207.866.4238

Extinction Risk Analysis Workshop

July 10, 2012 (begins 9 AM)
Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square
Boston, Massachusetts
Contact Sarah Laporte at sarah.laporte@noaa.gov or 978.282.8477



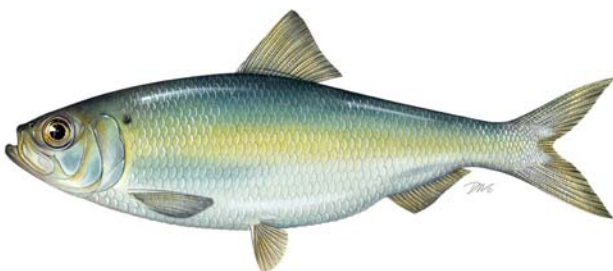
River Herring Run, MA. Photo courtesy of George Loring.

Climate Change Workshop

July 18-19, 2012 (8:30 AM - 4 PM)
NMFS Northeast Regional Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, Massachusetts
Contact Diane Borggaard at diane.borggaard@noaa.gov or 978.282.8453

Anyone interested in attending the workshops, should contact the workshop leaders listed above as space is limited.

Meeting summaries will be prepared for each workshop and independently peer reviewed. NOAA Fisheries is soliciting recommendations for peer reviewers. For more information or further details about qualifications for peer reviewers, please visit http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/candidatespeciesprogram/RiverHerringSOC.htm.



Alewife, *Alosa pseudoharengus*



Blueback, *Alosa aestivalis*

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