



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.

ASMFC Lobster Board Approves Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment: *State Meetings to be Held in Late October/ Early November*

The Commission's American Lobster Management Board has approved Draft Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for public comment. The Draft Addendum addresses stock declines in Area 2 (waters off of Rhode Island and Massachusetts), and includes changes to Area 3 management measures (offshore waters), circular vent sizes, and the interpretation of the most restrictive rule.

Recent stock information indicates lobster abundance in Area 2 has dropped substantially from the late 1980s and early 1990s, with 2002 abundance significantly below the 20-year average for all sizes of lobsters. From 1999 to 2001,

landings from inshore and offshore waters of Massachusetts and Rhode Island declined 26 and 29 percent below the ten-year average, respectively.

Based on this information, the Draft Addendum presents a suite of options to reduce Area 2 landings to allow for stock rebuilding. These include effort control, closed seasons, quotas, gauge size increases, and a maximum size.

The Draft Addendum also outlines an Area 3 Lobster Conservation Management Team (offshore waters) proposal to reduce traps in 2007 and 2008, as well as a trap transferability program. Additionally, the Draft Addendum proposes a change to the circular vent size from 2 1/2 inches to 2 5/8 inches to be compatible with a 2-inch rectangular vent size. Lastly, the Board moved forward with a proposed modification to the interpretation of the most restrictive rule for multi-area fishermen.

"This is a ambitious Addendum covering a number of complex and difficult issues," stated Board Chair George Lapointe of Maine. "Public comment will be a particularly important component of this process, given that the measures being considered for Area 2 will be incredibly tough because of the condition of the resource. The Commission is committed to providing adequate public input and working cooperatively with Area 2 fishermen to rebuild the lobster resource in this region."

Copies of Draft Addendum IV will be available mid-September, with public meetings scheduled for late October and early November along the Atlantic coast. Specific dates, times and locations will be announced by press release. The Board will meet in December in New York City to take final action on this Addendum.



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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 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.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Upcoming Meetings

10/6 - 9:

Southeast Data Assessment Review, Holiday Inn Brownstone Hotel, 1707 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

10/7 & 8 (9:30 AM - 5:00 PM):

ASMFC Northern Shrimp Technical Committee, New Hampshire Fish & Game, 225 Main Street, Durham, New Hampshire.

10/7 - 9:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Ramada Inn/Outer Banks Resort & Conference Center, 1701 Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina.

10/15 - 17 (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM each day):

ASMFC Horseshoe Crab Stock Assessment Subcommittee, Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center, Virginia Tech Campus, Blacksburg, Virginia; (540)231-5490.

10/20 - 24:

ASMFC Technical Committee Meeting Week, Holiday Inn Providence Downtown, 21 Atwells Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island (see agenda on page 9).

10/31 (10 AM - 5 PM):

ASMFC Northern Shrimp Advisory Panel, Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

11/4-6

New England Fishery Management Council, Holiday Inn, Peabody, Massachusetts.

12/1 - 5:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina.

12/2 - 4:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Sheraton Suites, 422 Delaware Avenue, Wilmington, Delaware.

12/15 - 19:

ASMFC 62nd Annual Meeting, Roosevelt Hotel, Madison Avenue at 45th, New York, New York.

1/6 & 7:

ACCSP Biological Review Panel, location to be determined.

1/7 & 8:

ACCSP Bycatch Prioritization Committee, location to be determined.

Science plays a critical role in shaping our understanding of fish and fish populations. The more we understand what is happening and why, the better equipped we will be to make (and accept) sound management decisions. The Commission places a high value in supporting and enhancing fisheries science. This is about some of our projects and how they fit into our mission of fisheries stewardship.

Stock assessments are the cornerstone of effective fisheries management. They define where we are, help formulate where we want to go, and provide useful advice regarding the best ways to maintain rebuilding progress. We depend on both state and federal scientists to conduct stock assessments for Commission-managed species. ASMFC has established a peer review process, defining standards for how scientists go about the formal process of checking the work of stock assessment scientists. The Commission has also made a substantial investment in human capital by sponsoring workshops to train and update more than 40 scientists in stock assessments, increasing the talent pool available to do this important work. We also coordinate our stock assessment peer reviews with the review efforts of NOAA Fisheries Southeast and Northeast Science Centers.

Closely related to stock assessments, the Commission has initiated an effort to combine more than 70 databases to facilitate the upcoming stock assessment for American lobster, the most commercially valuable species managed by the Commission. We hope the efficiencies and accuracies gained in this effort will cut the time required to conduct the assessment from 18 months to three months. This is a tall order, but success will mean a more timely assessment, and will point the way for us to make similar improvements for assessing other species.

Regarding multispecies, it seems intuitive that to manage fish like striped bass and bluefish you would want to know something about menhaden and the other forage fish predators feed on. Although that's not the way we are managing now, it is the way we are beginning to look at certain groups of fish. Since the late 90's, ASMFC has been working with a variety of scientists to develop a model to capture the relationship between predator and prey species. They've found their model works well with existing fisheries data sets and are currently working to determine how to best integrate model results into stock assessments and fisheries management advice.

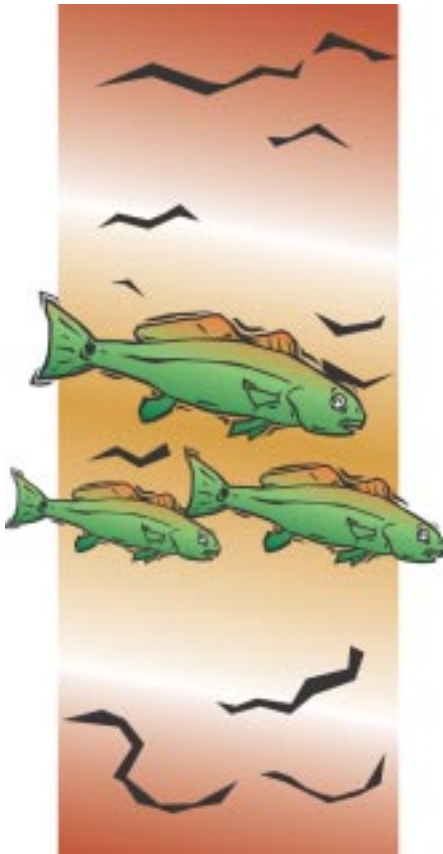
It also seems intuitive that coastal power plants impact a certain amount of fish larvae and juveniles in their saltwater cooling systems. Back when fish stocks were high and there weren't many power plants, the impacts might not

have been significant. Now with more plants and depressed fish stocks, mortality could be a greater percentage of the stocks, and a more important factor in their health and recovery. The Commission's Power Plant Assessment Project is seeking ways to document the impacts of individual plants on certain species, as well as quantify the cumulative impacts of coastal power plants on the broader collection of fish stocks. This effort has the potential to help us understand which plants are having a significant impact, as well as those that are not. We are also trying to improve the quality of data being collected on power plants and link fish mortality data into stock assessment models.

If stock assessments are the cornerstone of fisheries management, then fisheries data are the foundation of stock assessments. That's why the Commission is working hard to standardize and improve the collection of fisheries-independent data. This is the information collected through trawl surveys and other scientific observations that sort, count, and measure fish. Standardized survey methodology can improve the value of the results for trend analysis and comparison with other surveys. Standardized data formats can facilitate the processing, storage, sharing and use of fisheries surveys. This effort has the potential to help us optimize the value of fisheries surveys and research work.

The Commission's science efforts have also included the production of several comprehensive documents regarding Beach Nourishment, Aquaculture, Bycatch and Discards, and Stock Assessments. These are the products of the collaborative work of some of the most knowledgeable scientific minds along the Atlantic coast. They outline and define issues, responses, and guidelines regarding these topics as they relate to fisheries and fisheries habitat. They serve the important function of providing state fisheries managers with a credible reference document for use in formulating a response to these issues when they arise in their states. Managers have immediate access to scientifically-based analysis and response, based on concepts accepted by our 15 states.

These are just a few of the many science-related activities promoted by the Commission. All too often, it seems like our fisheries management issues and disputes get the headlines and attention. But it is important to keep in mind the hard and dedicated work of the fisheries science community working behind the scenes to provide the best information possible. We owe them our attention and our thanks. I hope that's something we could all agree on.



Species Profile: Red Drum

Amendment Seeks to Increase Recruitment and Protect Reproductive Adults

Introduction

Red drum is one of the most popularly sought recreational fish throughout the South Atlantic and yet it also presents one of the greatest fishery management challenges. Data on the adult population is so limited scientists are unable to assess stock status (total biomass or spawning stock biomass). Instead, the stock is managed to ensure a certain percentage of immature females survive to become reproductive adults. This concept is referred to as spawning potential ratio (SPR) and forms the basis for joint management by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Life History

Historic distribution of red drum on the Atlantic coast is from Massachusetts to Key West, Florida, though in recent years few red drum have been reported north of the Chesapeake Bay. Juveniles are most abundant in estuarine waters and inlets, while fish older than age five inhabit deep offshore waters. Because of this distribution, juveniles tend to experience higher rates of exploitation than the offshore adult population. The diet of red drum changes as they grow. Initially, as juveniles, they feed on zooplankton and invertebrates such as small crabs and shrimp. Gradually, red drum expand their diet to include fish and larger invertebrates.

Red drum are prolific spawners, with large females producing up to two million eggs in a single season. Spawning occurs at night in the summer and fall in nearshore waters. Following first spawn, red drum spend less time in the estuaries and more time in ocean waters. Males mature between age one and two (21 inches in length), while females mature at ages three to four (36 inches in length). Red drum may reach 60 years of age and 60 inches in length (corresponding to greater than 90 pounds in weight). Due to their unusual growth pattern, a 36-inch red drum may be anywhere from six to 50 years old.

Commercial & Recreational Fisheries

The recreational fishery for red drum is a nearshore fishery, targeting small, “puppy drum” and large trophy fish. Trophy size fish are caught along the Mid- and South Atlantic barrier islands; puppy drum are taken in shallow estuarine waters. Since the 1980s, recreational fishing has accounted for 90 percent of all red drum landings. The number of red drum harvested by recreational fishermen has generally ranged between 300,000 and 500,000 since 1981. In 1984 and 1985, landings were exceptionally high, reaching over one million fish. Recreational harvest in 2001 was almost 360,000 fish, the majority taken by Florida anglers. The number of red drum released by recreational fishermen has averaged about one million fish per year since 1991 (see Figure 1).

Commercial landings have been reported since the 1880s. Since 1960, landings have fluctuated around 236,000 pounds, with a high of 440,445 pounds in 1980 and a low of 58,059 pounds in 1997. Few commercial landings have been recorded in states north of Maryland since 1960. Only Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey have reported landings since 1980. The fishery is generally non-directed, using pound nets, shrimp trawls, hand lines, haul seines and gillnets. Runaround gillnets were a dominant gear in Florida, taking 65 to 84 percent of the catch. Concerned that overfishing could cause a stock collapse, Florida banned the use of gillnets in state waters in 1995. North Carolina and Virginia remain the only states on the Atlantic coast with a commercial fishery for

Sciaenops ocellatus

Family: Sciaenidae

Common Names:
channel bass, redfish,
bull redfish, drum,
puppy drum, spot tail
bass

Fish Fact: Name derived from their color and the fact that during spawning time, males produce a drum-like noise by vibrating a muscle in their swim bladder

Historic Species Range: Massachusetts to Key West, Florida

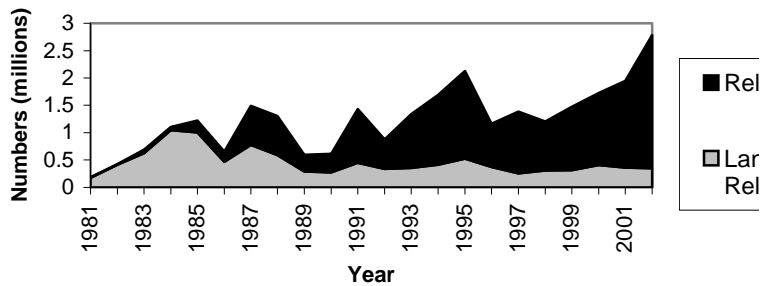
Largest Recorded: 59 inches, 98 pounds

Oldest Recorded: 62 years

Age @ maturity:
Male age 1-2 (21")
Female age 3-4 (36")

Stock Status
Overfishing is occurring; overfished status unknown

Figure 1. Recreational Catch of Red Drum (1981-2002)
NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistic Survey Website, 2002



red drum. The North Carolina fishery has a state-mandated 250,000-pound annual quota and a seven fish limit.

Stock Status

The last stock assessment for red drum was conducted in 2000 and included data through 1998. Due to the nature of the fishery, there is very little information to estimate the stock size of adult red drum. Landings of red drum are principally subadults (ages one to four), and while there are some catches of older fish, they must be released alive due to maximum size restrictions. Because of these data limitations, stock status is assessed through the use of spawning potential ratio (SPR). SPR is defined as the ratio of estimated female spawning stock biomass or egg production in a fished versus unfished stock.

In the northern region (North Carolina to New Jersey), SPR increased from 1.3 percent for the period 1987-1991 to approximately 18 percent for 1992-1998. In the southern region (Florida to South Carolina), estimates of SPR increased from 0.5 percent for the period 1987-1991 to approximately 15 percent since for 1992-1998. Even given these improvements, the current plan's goal of 40 percent SPR results in the

determination that overfishing is occurring.

The 2000 assessment also indicated recruitment has seriously declined in the southern region from a high of 1.2 million recruits to age-1 in 1987 to 200,000 in 1998. Recruitment in the northern region has fluctuated without trend ranging from 550,000 recruits in 1991 to 75,000 in 1998.

Atlantic Coastal Management Considerations

In 1990, the Council completed the Atlantic Coast Red Drum Fishery Management Plan (FMP), closing federal waters to the harvest of red drum. A major concern for the stock has been heavy fishing pressure on juvenile red drum (puppy drum) in state waters, resulting in significantly reduced recruitment to the spawning stock.

In June 2002, the Commission adopted Amendment 2 to the Red Drum FMP. Its primary management goal is to achieve and maintain SPR at or above 40 percent. To achieve this goal, Atlantic coast states from Florida through New Jersey have implemented appropriate bag and size limits to attain 40 percent SPR and a maximum size limit of 27 inches total length (TL) or less. Current state recreational management measures are summarized below. All states must also maintain current or more restrictive commercial fishery regulations.

State	Size Limit (TL inches)	Possession Limit
FL	18 – 27	1 fish
GA	14 – 23	5 fish
SC	15 – 24	2 fish
NC	18 – 27	1 fish
VA	18 – 26	3 fish
PRFC	18 – 25	5 fish
MD	18 – 27	1 fish
DE	20 – 27	5 fish
NJ	18 – 27	1 fish



Research priorities for red drum are directed toward collecting the necessary data to perform an up-to-date stock assessment. This includes improved catch, effort, and length/frequency statistics; increased data from night anglers; tagging of three to five year old fish; standardized sampling of subadult fish; and developing an improved estimate of natural mortality.

For more information, please contact Nancy Wallace, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or <nwallace@asmfc.org>.

ASMFC & MAFMC Approve 2004 TALs for Bluefish, Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass: Assessments Show Continued Improvements to Summer Flounder & Black Sea Bass Stocks



In August, the Commission approved the 2004 total allowable landing (TAL) limits for bluefish, summer flounder, scup and black sea bass. Due to improved stock conditions, summer flounder and black sea bass quotas increased by 21 percent and 18 percent, respectively, from 2003 levels. Scup fisheries will remain unchanged, and bluefish fisheries will undergo a 14 percent reduction. These actions were taken at a joint meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Bluefish, and Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Boards (Board) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council).

Below are the 2003 and 2004 TALs for bluefish, summer flounder, black sea bass and scup in millions of pounds.

Species	2003 TAL	2004 TAL
Bluefish	38.3	31.9
Summer Flounder	23.3	28.2
Black Sea Bass	6.8	8.0
Scup	16.5	16.5

The latest stock assessment for summer flounder indicates the resource is no longer overfished and overfishing is not occurring. Summer flounder biomass is estimated to be above the threshold point for the first time since being under joint Commission and Council management. Accordingly, the Board and Council endorsed the recommendation of the Summer Flounder Technical Monitoring Committee and approved a 28.2 million pound TAL for 2004. This represents a 21 percent increase from last year. Commercial minimum fish and mesh size requirements remain the same, 14-inch minimum size total length (TL) and 5.5-inch mesh size.

Black sea bass has also shown improvements, with the resource no longer overfished. The Board and Council increased the 2003 TAL by 18 percent, approving a coastwide quota of eight million pounds for 2004. Commercial minimum fish size and mesh requirements remain at status quo, 11-inch minimum size TL and 4.5-inch mesh throughout the net.

The bluefish assessment estimates the stock continues to rebuild and overfishing is not occurring. However, bluefish are still considered overfished. As such, the Board and Council maintained the commercial TAL at 10.5 million pounds and the recreational bag limit at 15 fish per person, as recommended by Bluefish Technical Monitoring Committee. The Board and Council determined the current regulations are sufficient to ensure the new TAL will not be exceeded.

Recent data suggest scup is no longer overfished; an assessment of "overfishing" cannot be determined due to poor discard estimates. The Scup Technical Monitoring Committee recommended an 11 million pound TAL. The Board and Council, however, decided to maintain a coastwide quota of 18.65 million pounds for 2004. Both bodies heard considerable anecdotal reports from the commercial, recreational and for-hire sectors regarding the abundance of scup. Commercial minimum fish size and mesh requirements are unchanged from 2003 regulations, 9-inch minimum size TL and 4.5/5.0-inch mesh size.

The Council will be forwarding its rec-

ommendations to NOAA Fisheries for final approval. The Commission's actions are final. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or <tkerns@asmfc.org>.

Scup Addendum X for Public Comment

The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved Draft Addendum X to the Scup Fishery Management Plan for public comment. The Addendum proposes the transfer of unused quota from the winter I period to the winter II period or the combination of winter I and II into a single period. The draft also offers the states the option of starting the summer period on April 15 for state permit holders versus the current May 1 start date. Both measures intend to allow the scup commercial fishery to fully harvest its available annual quota.

For the last two years, the winter I quota has been under harvested, while the winter II quota has been caught prior to the end of the period, resulting in a large number of scup discards in winter II. The proposed action provides access to the full annual quota, while reducing regulatory discards.

The second measure intends to reduce discards occurring in nearshore waters when the winter I period ends before April 30. The Addendum would allow the states to open the summer landing period on April 15 rather than May 1.

continued on page 8

Horseshoe Crab Draft Addendum III Approved for Public Comment: *New Jersey, Delaware & Maryland to Hold Public Meetings in late October*

The Commission's Horseshoe Crab Management Board approved Draft Addendum III to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Horseshoe Crab for public comment. The Addendum seeks to further the conservation of horseshoe crab and migratory shorebird populations in and around the Delaware Bay. It includes options to reduce harvest, implement seasonal closures and revise the Plan's biomedical and monitoring requirements.

The States of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland have scheduled the dates and times of their public meetings on the Draft Addendum. The details of those meetings follow.

October 21, 2003; 7:30 PM

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Richardson and Robbins Building Auditorium
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware
Contact: Roy Miller (302)739-3441

October 29, 2003; 6:00 PM

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Ocean Pines Library
11107 Cathell Road
Berlin, Maryland
Contact: Howard King (410)260-8281

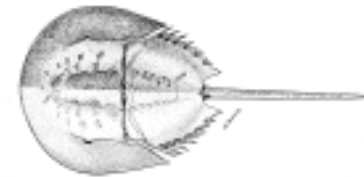
October 30, 2003; 4:00 - 6:00 PM

New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife
Atlantic County Library-Galloway Township
306 East Jimmie Leeds Road
Absecon, New Jersey
Contact: Bruce Freeman (609)292-2083

The Addendum responds to recommendations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Shorebird Technical Committee to reduce horseshoe crab harvest in New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. The intent is to increase the abundance of horseshoe crabs and their eggs to meet the energetic requirements of migratory shorebirds that stopover in Delaware Bay.

Specifically, the Addendum proposes to cap annual harvest in New Jersey and Delaware at 150,000 crabs/state and set Maryland's annual quota at its 2001 landings level (170,653 crabs). Further, it presents an option to require the three states to prohibit the harvest and landings of horseshoe crab from May 1 to June 7. Addendum III also provides states the opportunity to allow crabs destined for the bait industry to be bled for biomedical purposes and returned to the bait market. This option seeks to eliminate mortality associated with the process of bleeding and transporting crabs back to the waters from which they were harvested.

The Draft Addendum is scheduled to be released in mid-September. Once available, it can be obtained from the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org or by contacting the Commission office at (202)289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until November 7, 2003, and should be forwarded to Braddock Spear, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC, 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax); or bspear@asmfc.org.



Dr. Lisa Kline Recognized for 10 Years of Dedicated Service

Dr. Lisa Kline, ASMFC Director of Research & Statistics, was formally recognized for 10 years of dedicated service at the Commission's August meeting week. In presenting the award to Dr. Kline, ASMFC Chair John I. Nelson Jr. noted some of the many things the Commission and the states have achieved under her directorship. As the Commission's first Director of Research and Statistics, Dr. Kline established a collaborative and pro-

ductive environment for the states to conduct research projects. Demonstrating outstanding leadership and vision, she led the development of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program through her service as the first Chair of the Operations Committee. Through her steadfast commitment to integrating science into the management process, Dr. Kline has ensured comprehensive information has been provided to Commissioners supporting

their efforts to improve the quality of their management decisions. Other notable accomplishments include establishment of the Commission's external stock assessment peer review process and development the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program. By these and many other efforts Dr. Kline has truly helped advance the Commission's vision of healthy, self-sustaining populations of Atlantic coast fish species by 2015.



Georgia DNR Completes Data Collection for Socioeconomic Pilot Study

UGA Economists Now Analyzing Data

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has completed the three-year data collection phase of a socioeconomic pilot study of blue crab harvesters for the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP).

Pilot study interviews included questions on fishing effort, income, and fishing-related costs. Those data are now with economists from the University of Georgia at Athens (UGA) for analysis.

The goal of the data analysis is to determine if the data collection procedures used in the pilot study, and the kinds of data collected, can be used to make predictions through economic modeling. Fishery managers would like to better understand the relationship between the behavior of fishermen and reported landings. These things are important for fishery managers to understand, as their decisions can greatly impact the financial stability of fishing families and communities.

Data collection for the Georgia pilot study began in 1999, and was conducted by the Georgia DNR with the cooperation of blue crab harvesters who volunteered for the project. There were always 40 harvesters on the panel of volunteers at one time, but some volunteers stopped and were replaced before the full three years were finished.

Replacement of volunteers is one aspect of the pilot study that economists will examine. The state experimented with telephone and in-person interviews to determine the most cost-effective way to collect these data, and the change in methodology may have influenced results. They also need to determine whether the sample size of 40 was large enough to represent the entire fishery.

UGA economists will be running the data through a variety of economic models in coming months to evaluate its uses in the fishery management process. The ACCSP expects to receive a final report on the Georgia pilot study in the summer of 2004.

The NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region's socioeconomic pilot study will be wrapping up at the end of this year. While the Georgia study collected data from a relatively small, homogenous group of fishermen, the Northeast Region's study includes about 90 participants from most northeast states, various fisheries, and using a variety of gear types.

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 Commission, the three Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For further information please visit www.accsp.org.

Scup Addendum X for Public Comment (continued from page 6)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) jointly manage scup. At its August meeting, the Council recommended the aforementioned measures to the Northeast Regional Administrator through Framework 3. The Commission's action, through Addendum X, seeks to reduce scup discards, maximize access to the full

annual quota, and provide consistency with recommended federal actions.

Copies of Draft Addendum X can be obtained from the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org or by contacting the Commission office at (202)289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until September 26, 2003, and should be forwarded to Toni Kerns,

Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC, 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax); or <tkerns@asmfc.org>. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns at (202)289-6400 or <tkerns@asmfc.org>.

ASMFC Technical Committee Meeting Week

October 20-24, 2003

Holiday Inn Providence Downtown
21 Atwells Avenue
Providence Rhode Island
(401) 831-3900

American Lobster Technical Committee

Monday, October 20, 2003

10:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Winter Flounder Technical Committee

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Stock Assessment Committee

Wednesday, October 22, 2003

8:00 AM – Noon

Meetings Management Training Session

Wednesday, October 22, 2003

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Shad & River Herring Technical Committee

Thursday, October 23, 2003

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Atlantic Striped Bass Technical Committee

Thursday, October 23, 2003

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Weakfish Technical Committee

Friday, October 24, 2003

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM



ASMFC Comings & Goings

Staff:

Nancy Bell -- This August, Nancy joined the Commission staff as Executive Assistant to the Executive Director. A recent graduate from Duke University, Nancy received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and English. In her last job, Nancy worked for Dr. Cindy Lee Van Dover, a deep sea researcher, with the College of William and Mary. Welcome aboard, Nancy!



Chris Van Maaren -- Chris Van Maaren joined the Commission staff this month as a Fisheries Research Specialist. Chris will be responsible for coordinating the activities of the Committee on Economics and Social Sciences, the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program - South Atlantic, and the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program. Chris comes to us



from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, where he oversaw the state's programs for regional fisheries management and angler education and outreach. Chris has a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries from Oregon State University (1997) and a Master of Science in Fisheries from North Carolina State University. Welcome aboard, Chris!

Commissioners:

John E. Frampton -- With his recent selection as Director of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), John Frampton becomes the state's Administrative Commissioner to the ASMFC. At the same time, we say good-bye to John Miglarese, outgoing South Carolina Commissioner, as he steps down to prepare for his retirement in the fall. John Miglarese faithfully served on the Commission since 1998. Thank you John for all your hard work; we wish you health and happiness in your well-earned retirement.

John Frampton began his career with SCDNR in 1974 after receiving a Master's in Wildlife Biology from Clemson University. Career highlights include the establishment of the ACE Basin Task Force and Project, protecting more than 150,000 acres of diverse wildlife habitat around the confluence of the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto Rivers. He also negotiated the acquisition and perpetual protection of the 44,000 acre Jocassee Gorges Wildlife Management Area. As Assistant Director for Development and National Affairs, John focused on securing private and federal funds for agency projects while coordinating DNR's statewide habitat protection. The Commission is sure to benefit from John's expertise and knowledge of natural resource management.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
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Return Service Requested