

ATLANTIC COASTAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM



Annual Report: 2009 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW





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Mission

Produce dependable and timely marine fishery statistics for Atlantic coast fisheries that are collected, processed and disseminated according to common standards agreed upon by all Program Partners.



The background image is a grayscale photograph of a harbor. In the foreground, a stone pier with wooden pilings extends into the water. Two small, light-colored rowing boats are moored near the pier. In the middle ground, several small white buoys are visible in the water. In the background, a sailboat with its mast visible is anchored. The sky is overcast.

Who We Are

A Message from the Chair



A Message from the Director

Welcome to the Second Annual Report of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). This report is intended to give our program partners, colleagues and friends an overview of the current state of the Program and provide details on progress towards our goals.

In 2009, the Program continued to collect and distribute data from our program partners. Back in April 2009, we supplied the 2008 Northeast landings data for the NOAA Fisheries' publication, *Fisheries of the United States (FUS)*. I can say with a great deal of pride that the deadline was met for the first time in many years. In addition, the Program supported the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region by supplying state landings which they in turn provided for publication. At the close of fiscal year 2009 (Feb 28), activity was already underway to process the next year's data and, a testament to our hardworking partners, many of the data sets had already been submitted. Thanks to the continued collaborative efforts of our partners, and a lot of hard work by staff. Ultimately, the Program is now able to provide a rigorously reviewed 59 year time series for all species in the Data Warehouse.

In addition, for the first time, a comprehensive catalog of the data sets included in the Data Warehouse was prepared and published on our web site. This meta-data directory describes the data collection methods used by each partner for each year and comprises the first step in our metadata module.

The Program continues to support a wide variety of data collection and research activities through its project funding process. Approximately \$2M is distributed to our partners through this process. Of particular note, are the projects supporting mandatory dealer and fishermen reporting in Maine and Massachusetts, as well as, biological and bycatch gillnet research in North Carolina. The former has seen Maine and Massachusetts move from recall summary to trip level reporting for all fisheries in a very short period of time, and meet the lobster trip reporting requirement established by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). In both cases these partners were able to leverage the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) to implement much of the reporting. In addition to the direct benefits of the data collected, North Carolina was able to leverage data collected by our project to to apply for additional research funding on Sea Turtle Bycatch.

On January 1, 2010, the long awaited SAFIS redesign

was deployed to commercial dealers and fisheries managers. Designed collaboratively to overcome some of the shortcomings of the original system, and add additional features, the new system provides a much better end-user experience while at the same time ensuring better quality data are entered and stored.

We continue to actively participate in the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and the Fisheries Information Systems (FIS) projects. The ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee is currently working on standards review process and update in preparation for MRIP. The Data Warehouse served as the prototype 'Authoritative Data Source' for the FIS Fisheries-One-Stop-Shop project this year. We look forward to a continued collaboration with NOAA Fisheries on these important national initiatives.

Staff continues to participate in stock assessments, providing data, analysis and information systems resources. The Program supplies data to satisfy a wide variety of data requests from our partners, academia and the public.

On behalf of myself and staff, I'd like to extend our thanks and deepest appreciation to all of you who have participated in ACCSP. Without your efforts and support, we would been unable to accomplish our mission. We respectfully submit this report to you, our constituents, and especially our program partners, and look forward to continued progress towards all of our common goals.

Sincerely,



Mike Cahall
Director,
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

Program Partners

In 1995, representatives from 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 signed a Memorandum of Understanding to become partners in the ACCSP. These program partners are now implementing standards within their respective areas.

FEDERAL AGENCIES



COUNCILS & COMMISSIONS



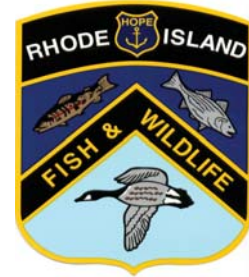
New England Fishery Management Council



Potomac River Fisheries Commission



COASTAL AGENCIES



VA Marine Resources Commission



Committee Overview

Since its inception the Program has been a committee-based organization. Committees are responsible for setting program policies and standards, deciding annual funding allocations, as well as, planning and coordination of data collection and data management programs.

WHAT IS THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE?

The committee structure is such that the technical committees propel the forward motion of the Program. These committees receive direction and approval from the Operations Committee. The work that the technical committees complete is reviewed by the Advisory Committee and the Operations Committee. The Coordinating Council oversees all major decisions, including funding allocations. Below is an overview of each committee and the highlighted achievements for 2009.

Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council is the governing body of the Program and oversees program design and implementation. The policies set by the Coordinating Council guide the Program and each partner's participation in it. Achievements for the Council in 2010 included a review and approval of FY10 proposals submitted for data collection funding. See opposite page for a list of the Coordinating Council members.

Operations Committee

The Operations Committee serves as the steering committee to direct development of program standards. Also, they assimilate information from the various technical committees into cohesive recommendations to the Coordinating Council. Each year a main priority for the committee is to provide feedback for proposals submitted for data collection funding, rank, and give recommendations to the Coordinating Council on those that they feel should receive final approval. A highlight of the efforts of the Committee this past year was the revision of the funding decision process. The Committee was proud of the achievement to set guidelines for funds of data collection projects to be set aside and specifically allocated for new and innovative projects. In 2009 the Committee was also tasked with a review and approval of 1) the biological matrix used to rank proposals, 2) the data collection metrics and recommendations on confidentiality from the Commercial Technical Committee, as well as, 3) the redesign of SAFIS from the Information Systems Committee. The Committee also approved two new members for the Advisory Committee.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee includes representatives from the fields of commercial and recreational fishing. At least one member of this Committee also sits on each technical committee to provide industry feedback. Highlighted achievements for the 2009 included providing feedback on the biological matrix used to aid in ranking proposals, as well as, the initial FY10 proposals. Each committee member also is tasked with ranking final FY10 proposals to provide recommendations to the Coordinating Council.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

Biological Review Panel

The Biological Review Panel develops Program strategies and standards to obtain biological data required for stock assessments. The Panel recommends annual target species and sampling levels for biological sampling and works with the Bycatch Prioritization Committee to integrate data collection protocols. The Biological Review Panel was committed to updating and revising the biological matrix and examine biological data requirements.

Bycatch Prioritization Committee

The Bycatch Prioritization Committee develops and updates data collection standards and ranks species for annual data collection priority based on statutory requirements, stock assessment, and industry needs. In 2009, the Bycatch Prioritization Committee focused on making recommendations for bycatch sampling and determining methodologies for maximizing limited resources for bycatch sampling.



COORDINATING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Spud Woodward (Chair)

Georgia Coastal Resources Division

James Gilmore (Vice Chair)

New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Mark Alexander (*Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection*), **Douglas Austen** (*Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission*), **Robert H. Boyles, Jr.** (*South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources*), **A.C. Carpenter** (*Potomac River Fisheries Commission*), **Alex Chester** (*NOAA Fisheries*), **Louis Daniel, III** (*North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries*), **Paul Diodati** (*Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries*), **Dan Furlong** (*Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council*), **Jaime Geiger** (*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*), **Mark Gibson** (*Rhode Island Fish and Wildlife*), **Douglas Grout** (*New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept.*), **Peter Himchak** (*New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife*), **Paul Howard** (*New England Fishery Management Council*), **Bryan King** (*District of Columbia Fisheries and Wildlife Division*), **Patricia A. Kurkul** (*NOAA Fisheries – Northeast Regional Office*), **George Lapointe** (*Maine Dept. of Marine Resources*), **Robert Mahood** (*South Atlantic Fishery Management Council*), **Jessica McCawley** (*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*), **Thomas O'Connell** (*Maryland Dept. Natural Resources, Fisheries Service*), **John V. O'Shea** (*Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*), **Alan Risenhoover** (*NOAA Fisheries - Headquarters*), **Craig Shirey** (*Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife*), **Buck Sutter** (*NOAA Fisheries – Southeast Regional Office*), **Jack Travelstead** (*Virginia Marine Resources Commission*)

Commercial Technical Committee

The Commercial Technical Committee develops catch and effort data standards for all species commercially harvested on the Atlantic coast. One of the highlights of the 2009 Commercial Technical Committee was the creation of updated recommendations for confidentiality and coding actions. There is also a subcommittee of the Commercial Technical Committee known as the Standard Codes Committee. This year they examined progress of species Integrated Taxonomic Information Systems (ITIS) and the Geographic Names Information Systems (GNIS), focused on eliminating redundant codes and reviewed addition of biological codes.

Information Systems Committee

The Information Systems Committee identifies software applications that can meet reporting needs and develop recommendations to improve Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS), a real-time, web-based reporting system for commercial landings on the Atlantic coast run by ACCSP. The primary goals of the Information Systems Committee in 2009 was to review the redesign of SAFIS.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee provides guidance on how to effectively communicate with the Program's stakeholders. Members of the Outreach Committee have a thorough knowledge of constituents in their respective states and regions and a clear understanding of how those constituents may be effected by the Program. In 2009, the Outreach Committee focused on creating a framework for collecting metrics to illustrate the effectiveness of the Program and continued to work towards the goal of the 2008-2012 Outreach Strategic Plan.

Recreational Technical Committee

The Recreational Technical Committee develops data collection standards for monitoring catch and effort of recreational and for-hire fisheries. The highlighted achievements of the Recreational Technical Committee in 2009 included submitting Recreational Technical Committee proposals for the FY10 funding cycle and creating a subcommittee to discuss and make recommendations for the creation of a Recreational Biological Matrix.





What We Do

Partner Projects

The Program supports partners in achieving data collection goals by awarding grants through a competitive process. The competitive process is linked with the data collection standards for various modules. In 2009, the main priorities of the Program for data collection projects were as follows:

Priority	Data Collection Module*
First	Catch and Effort
Second	Biological
Third	Bycatch/Species Interaction
Fourth	Social and Economics

*Metadata is considered the fifth data collection modules, but, is considered to be absorbed within all other modules.

The following is a summary of the projects funded during fiscal year 2009. These data collection projects have many similar objectives. Some of these include incorporating data into the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS), obtaining data for fishery management plans (FMP), increase sampling of the NOAA Fisheries' Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), and promoting compliance for fishermen and dealer reporting.

Maine Department of Marine Resources

IMPLEMENTATION OF A MANDATORY DEALER REPORTING SYSTEM FOR MAINE COMMERCIAL LANDINGS

Amount funded: \$359,310 / *Module(s):* Catch & Effort

In this fifth year of the project, DMR completed the first year of mandatory dealer reporting. The amount of trip level reports entered into the system exceeded that of Florida, a state with five times the amount of coastline (NOAA Oceans Services). The state continued to promote buy-in and encourage electronic reporting. In 2009, harvester reporting of lobster (Maine's largest fishery), spiny dogfish (an ASMFC species), and sea scallop (state-water species) began.

Overall, both dealer and harvester reporting will provide better quality data which leads to more informed decisions in fishery management.

PORTSIDE BYCATCH SAMPLING AND COMMERCIAL CATCH SAMPLING OF THE ATLANTIC HERRING AND ATLANTIC MACKEREL FISHERIES

Amount funded: \$107,252 / *Module(s):* Catch & Effort and Bycatch

The goal of this project is to document landed bycatch in the Atlantic herring and Atlantic mackerel fisheries with portside sampling methods. These methods are a low cost option to supplement at-sea observer coverage. These forage species have recently become more of a focus as ecosystem man-

agement becomes more of a trend.

A secondary priority of this project allows Maine to assess the commercial sampling of Atlantic mackerel. This fishery has undergone a sizeable growth. Recent stock assessments reduces the total allowable catch from 335,000 metric tons (mt) to 186,000 mt, which is a sizeable increase from the historic landings of 5,000 mt. What DMR notes is that additional sampling along the coast will be necessary to monitor the fishery.

This project is significant because it supplies 100% of the Atlantic herring samples and supplements the mackerel and menhaden samples that are used in stock assessments and management of the fisheries. The data has been collected and funded by ACCSP since 2002.

"Without these herring samples, age based assessments could not be completed. And an important forage species for striped bass, bluefish, and other ASMFC managed species would slip to a data-poor assessment methodology."
Dr. Matthew Cieri, Project Investigator, Maine Department of Marine Resources



Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries

TRIP LEVEL REPORTING FOR LOBSTER HARVESTERS

Amount funded: \$49,880 / Module(s): Catch & Effort

For over 30 years, DMF has been collecting annual lobster catch reports that were summarized monthly. Then in 2007 the ASMFC Lobster Management Board passed the Addendum X to Amendment 3 of the American Lobster Management Plan which required "100% mandatory dealer reporting and at least 10% of active harvesters reporting (with the expectation of 100% of license holders reporting in time)."

All trip level data has been entered into the SAFIS database, so all program partners can benefit from this program.

With the funds from ACCSP they began this transition in the fall of 2008 and now have 100% dealer reporting for all species. Each year, staff from DMF worked to enter approximately 27,000 trip level paper reports (only 7% of dealers report electronically when this report was written). These reports are entered into the SAFIS database on a routine basis. This allows for more accurate monitoring and compliance. One effective measure DMF has enacted to maintain compliance is to hold onto an individual's permit until reports are submitted.



Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife

MAINTENANCE AND COORDINATION OF FISHERIES DEPENDENT DATA FEEDS

Amount funded: \$142,075 / Module(s): Catch & Effort

Since 2000, Rhode Island has been dedicated to implementing ACCSP commercial catch and effort standards. In 2004, they began working with staff from NOAA Fisheries and ACCSP on the development of the prototype for SAFIS. Currently, all licensed seafood dealers are required to enter their landings into SAFIS. Also, standards are being met with a two ticket system for crustacean and finfish fisheries and a one ticket system for the shellfish fishery. At this time, DFW oversees 96 licensed dealers. With the implementation of a quarterly dealer report (inset) in 2009, the

state has seen vast improvements in compliance since dealers are now able to track deficiencies.

The state relies on these data feeds for fisheries management programs including quota monitoring, resource assessment, license tracking, and resource allocation. When data feeds of catch and effort, and biological sampling data are established to the Data Warehouse it is accessible by other program partners as well as stock assessment scientists. Rhode Island is looking ahead to establish two more electronic reporting systems, eREC (a voluntary reporting system for recreational anglers) and eTRIPS (for commercial and recreational fishermen). Both systems are run through ACCSP.

Partner Projects

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

INTRODUCTION AND CONTINUATION OF SAFIS AND BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Amount funded: \$107,252 / Module(s): Catch & Effort and Biological

Over the past 55 years, New Jersey has been ranked in the top 6 states for commercial fisheries landings. Since 2001, several programs have been implemented in the New Jersey with funds from ACCSP which meet the fisheries management guidelines and structure outlined by the ASMFC.

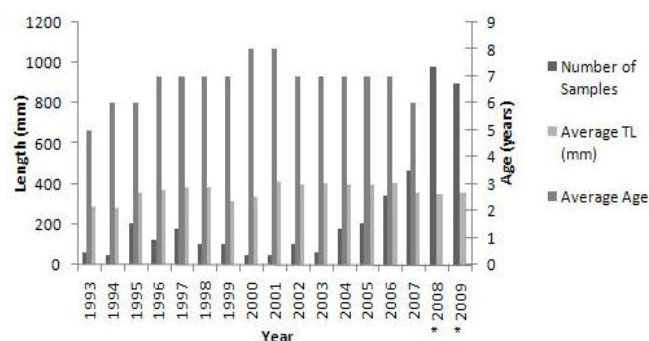
Included in the scope of work for this year's project was expanding eTRIPS to include trip level data collection for blue crab, American eel, and tautog. A significant second component of work includes the biological characterization of commercial fisheries for a select group of species including weakfish, American eel, Atlantic menhaden, and American shad. Funds provided through the ACCSP have vastly increased the samples collected in NJ for these species.

In addition to biological characterization, NJ is also working on at-sea observer coverage of the American lobster pot fishery covering Lobster Conservation Management Areas 4 and 5. A total of 6330 lobsters

were measured during the season which includes all lobsters brought onboard the vessel during sampling.

The collection of fishery dependent tautog data has been ongoing in New Jersey since 1993. Recently however since funds from the ACCSP were received, the collection of data has become comprehensive encompassing the entire year and seasonality of the fishery including length, weight, sex, and age data. Data is collected from two primary sources, the commercial fishery, and the recreational party/charter boat sector. Both dependent sources provide data points not always available from the other. A summary of progress to date can be found in the figure below.

NJ Tautog Biological Characterization (1993-2009)



Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife

CONTINUATION OF INITIATING STATE DEALER REPORTING

Amount funded: \$93,834 / Module(s): Catch & Effort

The objective of this project is to transition Delaware from a fisherman-based logbook reporting system to one that includes electronic seafood dealer reporting, to gather better information about commercial landings.

In 2009, Delaware continued to invite dealers to begin voluntary reporting, so that the state could evaluate the impact of reporting on normal business practices, and introduce the process. Meanwhile, a successful outreach campaign to identify dealers continued from previous years. In the course of the project, Delaware has annually produced 500 copies of a booklet listing the primary seafood dealers in the

state, creating buy-in and an incentive for the dealers. Also, a display was put up at the Delaware State Fair. The display moved to the University of Delaware's Coast Day event, where several thousand people visit annually.

In 2009, legislation was drafted mandating seafood dealer licensing and reporting. However, due to budget shortfalls, the legislature's focus was elsewhere. The dealer legislation was redrafted for the January 2010 legislative session. As the project is funded July 2009 through July 2010, efforts in this project are ongoing.

Delaware continues to try to introduce dealers into the system and get their business accustomed to benefits of SAFIS.



Virginia Marine Resources Commission

CONTINUATION OF INITIATING STATE DEALER REPORTING

Amount funded: \$160,038 / *Module(s):* Biological

Since 1988, Virginia has been collecting biological samples from the state's important commercial and recreational fisheries. With the funds for this project the biological collection program was able to be enhanced with the purchase of updated electronic measuring boards (pictured right) that will improve current data collection.

Also, the funds from this project have been used to modernize the current database to one with more flexibility and accessibility. This new system is still in development phase, but, is designed to be more streamlined and efficient with other fisheries management processes. This new database and enhanced equipment will continue to maintain the

goals of the biological collection program and the data collection standards of the ACCSP.



North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

ESTUARINE GILLNET BIOLOGICAL AND BYCATCH ASSESSMENT

Amount funded: \$68,388 / *Module(s):* Biological and Bycatch

Since 2004, North Carolina has received federal and state funds to facilitate operational gillnet observations. In 2007, when funded by the original sources were thwarted, ACCSP saw the need for North Carolina

to continue collecting the valuable real-time data without the loss of a continuous data set, and, simultaneously expand the use of data.

Currently, DMF continues to obtain observations and data collections aboard commercial gillnet vessels throughout

the estuarine waters of North Carolina. In 2010, DMF will be conducting a pilot study to begin data collections in the recreational hook and line fishery and would like to expand the program to include multiple fisheries if long-term funding becomes available.

Accurate effort data was collected from at-sea sampling, which improves the precision used of stock assessments.

Another use of the gillnet observer data has been the ability to contribute data to implement timely rules and regulations that can significantly reduce if not eliminate protected species interactions in commercial fisheries. These species include (but are not limited to): green (pictured), hawksbill Kemp's ridley, leatherback, and loggerhead sea turtles. These species are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.



Partner Projects

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE REPOSITORY FOR THE TRACKING OF AMERICAN LOBSTER TRAP TAG ALLOCATIONS AND EFFORT

Amount funded: \$143,390 / Module(s): Catch & Effort

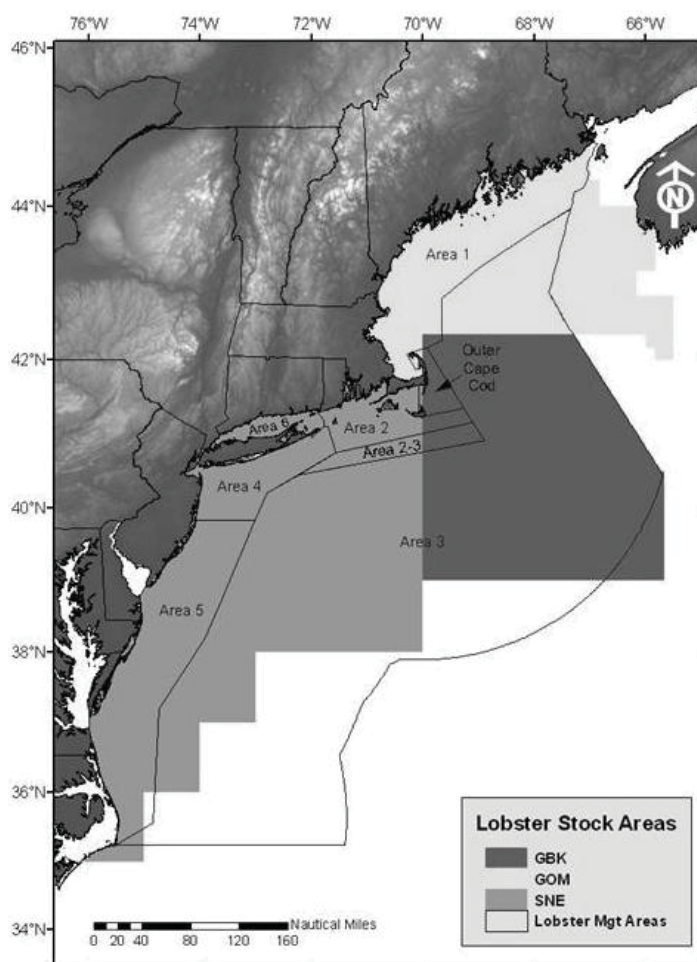
The goal of this project is to develop a database that will record and track American lobster fishery trap allocation and use throughout established Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMA). The tracking system will uniformly catalog a fisherman's trap allocations across all LCMAs and track annual purchases/sales of trap tags by fishermen or vessels participating in a trap transfer program. This tracking system was developed to address the logistical administrative issues of an Individual Transferable Tag (ITT) program. The database would increase the understanding of how many traps have the potential to be fished in each LCMA area.

The database would be developed as an application of the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS). The application would allow the vendor to enter details regarding each tag order. The database application would also provide a means for coordinating the administrative processes that would be necessary in executing a trap allocation transfer between two fishermen. This would involve tools for examining allocations histories, logging approvals by affected partners and crediting and debiting the allocations of the transacting parties.

This database system will be designed to be flexible for future use in other fisheries. Currently, no other ASMFC regulated pot fishery employs trap tags. Those fisheries also do not have a limit to the number of pots that can be fished. If other pot fisheries imple-

ment trap restrictions the design of this database could be used to support those systems.

The map below shows where the trap tag transfers are currently permitted: LCMA 2, 3, and the Outer Cape Cod through Addenda IX (2006), IV (2003), XIII (2008), respectively, of Amendment 3 to the Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster.



“A lobster trap transferability program has long been supported by many in the lobster industry. The Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen’s Association is very pleased that ACCSP determined the Lobster ITT Database Project a proposal worthy of funding. This database is a mandatory component of any transferable trap program, as it is necessary for state and federal agencies to keep accurate, historical records of any and all transactions in order to monitor the progression of trap transfers within the fishery. Funding of this project provides evidence that ACCSP has great vision for the long-term health and viability of our nations fisheries.” Bonnie Spinazzola, Executive Director, Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen’s Association



ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee

INCREASE INTERCEPT SAMPLING LEVELS FOR MRIP, FOR-HIRE METHODOLOGY OF THE CHARTER BOAT AND HEAD-BOAT FISHERY ON THE ATLANTIC COAST

Amount funded: \$309,279 / Module(s): Catch & Effort

This project increases sample sizes for for-hire (charter boat and headboat) catch data collected in the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). Increased sample sizes are needed to reduce variance in catch estimates at the state level

“The recreational at-sea observer survey that is funded by ACCSP, with some contributions from partner states, provides the only available source of data on size distributions of fish released by recreational anglers from Maine through Florida. This information has been very useful for improving regional stock assessments.” Beverly Sauls, Recreational Technical Committee Chair, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission

for for-hire fisheries and to collect vital statistics on recreational discards. Since 2003, this project has funded approximately 400 at-sea observer trips on headboats and 4,000 dockside intercepts from recreational charter boat trips each year.

In 2008, the report issued by SEDAR (South-east Data Assessment and Review) 15, SAR 1 stated that “Survey methods for the for-hire fishing mode have seen the most improvement over time. Catch data were improved through increased sample quotas and state add-ons to the intercept portion of the survey.” The state add-ons referred to were funded by this project.

INCREASE INTERCEPT SAMPLING LEVELS FOR MRIP, FOR-HIRE METHODOLOGY OF THE CHARTER BOAT AND HEAD-BOAT FISHERY ON THE ATLANTIC COAST

Amount funded: \$292,646 / Module(s): Catch & Effort

This project aims to supplement MRIP by increasing the sample size for the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) and increasing dockside intercept interviews from anglers that recreationally fish from private boats. The Recreational Technical Committee requested ACCSP funds to raise sample sizes to a level sufficient to achieve a 20% percent standard error for harvest estimates of important key species along the Atlantic coast. This precision is needed to allow for sufficient state-level fisheries management decisions, allocations, and stock assessments. This project has also improved catch estimates for some species of concern, which were infrequently encountered prior to increasing intercept sample sizes.



Data Warehouse

The Data Warehouse is an on-line database populated with Atlantic coast fisheries dependent data. It is one way the data collected from the partner projects is organized and disseminated. The Data Warehouse currently contains landings from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico side of Florida dating from 1950 to the present.

What makes the Data Warehouse unique is that it harmonizes data received from all program partners into one integrated set of codes for variables such as species, gear, and fishing area, and it gives users flexible, intuitive data queries to and retrieve and download data.

WHO USES THE DATA WAREHOUSE?

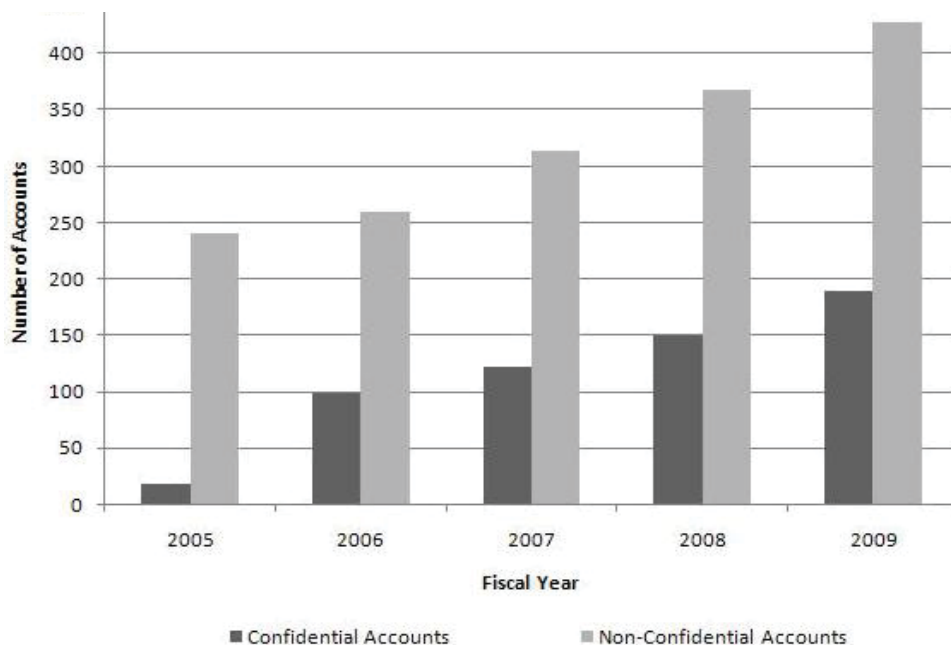
Users have been anyone interested in Atlantic coast fisheries dependent data, which may include fishery managers, stock assessment scientists, writers, historians, commercial and recreational fishermen, students, non-profit employees, federal, state, or local government employees.

All users access the Data Warehouse by creating a confidential or non-confidential account. State partners can utilize the Data Warehouse with a SAFIS access account. This account allows them to see reports that were entered real-time to monitor quotas. The real-time data is not available for confidential and non-confidential account users until it has gone through a rigorous error checking process. The figure below illustrates the increase in confidential and non-confidential accounts over the past five years.

*"The staff have been quite helpful ...
There's a steep learning with this data and
interface, but I think you're making as
easy as you can, and I appreciate that."*
Non-confidential Data Warehouse User

The majority of Data Warehouse queries sought either landings or fishery participation data. Both state and federal partners have used the Data Warehouse to gather landings for stock assessments. It has also been employed to gather fishery participation information.

Growth of Data Warehouse User Accounts



WHAT DATA IS IN THE DATA WAREHOUSE?

The goal of program partners is to continue to make considerable strides toward implementing and maintaining trip level reporting for all fisheries. Commercial catch and effort data is the first of five data collection modules to be completed and uploaded into the Data Warehouse. Progress of the commercial catch and effort data is illustrated below. This chart not only presents how the data in the Data Warehouse is presented, but, how collection methods have evolved. The most primitive level of catch and effort data in the Data Warehouse is annual summaries dating back to 1950.

Commercial Catch and Effort Data

	Annual reported summaries		Monthly reported summaries		Trip reports (presented as monthly summaries)		Mixed: Trip reports and monthly summaries		ACCSP compliant trip reports (all fisheries)					
Year(s)	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	DE	MD	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
1950 - 1977														
1978 - 1985														
1986														
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2007														
2008														

Data Warehouse

Non-confidential and confidential users can also query recreational catch and effort data in the Data Warehouse. This includes data collected through 2008 and waves 1-4 for 2009 from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS), a program currently being administered by NOAA Fisheries.

Additionally, users have access to the biological data that ACCSP has available. This biological data includes landings information on American lobster from 1981-2006 and Atlantic herring from 2002-2006. Currently, this information is only available through a custom data request.

WHAT IS A CUSTOM DATA REQUEST?

A custom data request may be needed when there is a particularly unique question or when an intricate search of the data in the Data Warehouse. Anyone may ask the support staff for a custom data request, not just limited to non-confidential and confidential user accounts. The Data Team is very well suited to address any of your needs due to their broad understanding of the scope of the data in the Data Warehouse and their confidentiality levels.

By requesting a custom data request, many organizations have come to rely on ACCSP as a trusted collaborator and a knowledgeable resource for timely fisheries dependent data.

The following is a list of organizations that have worked with the ACCSP to gain information through a custom data request in 2009:

- *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*
- *Center for Disease Control*
- *Environmental Defense Fund*
- *Indecon Solutions, Inc.*
- *Maine Lobstermen's Association*
- *Marine Resource Research Institute*
- *Maryland Department of Natural Resources*
- *Military, Veterans and Family Assistance Foundation*
- *National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health*
- *National Research Council*
- *NOAA Fisheries*
- *University of California*
- *University of Massachusetts*
- *South Atlantic Fishery Management Council*
- *Virginia Marine Resources Commission*



STOCK ASSESSMENTS

Many custom data requests come to the Program to provide data for the data review section of a stock assessment. To make sound and informed decisions for fish stocks and populations, there must be a fluid data review and assessment process between all those involved. Consequently, the Program has become an integral partner in the stock assessment process due to its ability to compile and disseminate fishery dependent data for various audiences.

Throughout the data review process, ACCSP is available to guide technical committee members and stock assessment subcommittee members in properly

submitting permissions for confidentiality, determine specialized formats for data tables, and provide details about particular records that were questionable so the process can move forward quickly and make decisions. Not only does participation in the stock assessment process increased visibility for ACCSP, but, staff is able to see firsthand how the information in the Data Warehouse were used and, therefore, what subsequent steps are necessary to maintain the Data Warehouse as an essential link to fisheries dependent data for future stock assessments. During 2009, ACCSP participated in several data review workshops (listed below).

2009 Participation in Stock Assessment Process

Species	Organization	Oversight	ACCSP Data Contributions
American eel	ASMFC	American Eel Technical Committee	Commercial landings for all Atlantic coast states (<i>excluding Maine, New Hampshire, Delaware, Maryland, and Florida</i>)
Black and red grouper	SAFMC	SEDAR 19	Commercial and recreational landings (<i>Black and red grouper</i>)
Atlantic menhaden and Atlantic croaker	SAFMC	SEDAR 20	Bait landings 1950-2008 (<i>Atlantic croaker</i>) Coast wide commercial landings (<i>Atlantic croaker</i>) Two MRFSS indexes (<i>Atlantic croaker</i>)

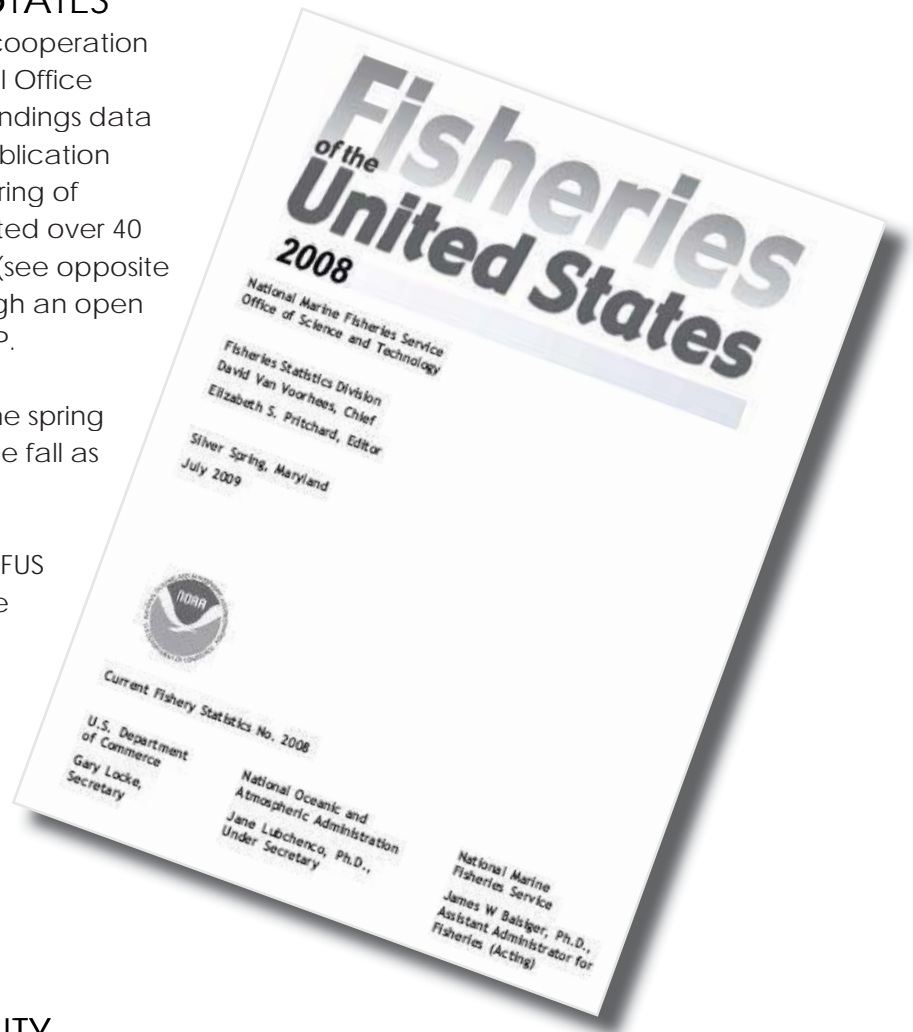
Data Warehouse

FISHERIES OF THE UNITED STATES

Since 2007, the Program has worked in cooperation with NOAA Fisheries - Northeast Regional Office (NERO) to bring together commercial landings data from Maine to Virginia for the annual publication Fisheries of the United States (FUS). In spring of 2008, the partners compiled and submitted over 40 datasets, including SAFIS dealer reports (see opposite page for a listing of the data sets) through an open and collaborative process led by ACCSP.

All of these datasets were obtained in the spring of 2009 as preliminary and released in the fall as final data.

By working with partners to develop the FUS dataset, the Program is able to populate the Data Warehouse at finer resolution and supported our mission to "produce dependable and timely marine fishery statistics for Atlantic coast fisheries that are collected, processed and disseminated according to common ACCSP standards agreed upon by all Program Partners."



DATA AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Along with data dissemination, comes the responsibility of protecting confidentiality. An critical role of the ACCSP is striving toward the right balance between safe and available data. Safe data would be data that does not lead to the identification of the contributing individual or individuals. Federal and state laws prohibit disclosure of that 'confidential' data.

Program partners agreed and identified confidential data by using the "rule of 3" for commercial catch and effort data. The "rule of 3" is defined as any fisheries data that would identify a single fisheries entity. In some cases, annual summary by state and species may still be confidential because only one or two dealers process the catch. Alternatively, if there is only

one known harvester in a state, the harvester's identity is implicit and those data are confidential.

The ACCSP policy for confidentiality requires that any data summary that is publicly disclosed must include landings from at least three dealers, three harvesters and three vessels to be considered non-confidential. Also, each program partner is responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of the data they collect. They individually decide who has confidential access to those data.



Fisheries of the US Data Submissions

ACCSP - SAFIS	ME state and federal dealer reports	ME DMR	Supplemental records
	NH dealer reports	NH FGD	Coastal harvest
	MA dealer reports	CT DEP	Lobster supplemental
	RI dealer reports	CT DEP	Fishermen reports
	CT state reports	RI DEM	Horseshoe crab supplemental
	NY dealer reports	RI DEM	Lobster supplemental
	NJ blue crab reports (eTRIPS)	NY DEC	Crustacean
	NJ dealer reports		Horseshoe crab reports
	DE dealer reports		Hudson River shad
	MD dealer reports		Lobster annual recall
	VA dealer reports		Shellfish data
NOAA Fisheries (CODES)	ME bluefin tuna and ocean quahog/surf clam ITQ		Striped bass tag reports
	NH bluefin tuna and ocean quahog/surf clam ITQ	NJ DEP	Fishermen and dealer reports (eel)
	MA bluefin tuna/surf clam	DE DNR	Finfish trip level
	MA swordfish canvas	DE DNR	State shellfish
	RI bluefin tuna and ocean quahog/surf clam ITQ	MD DNR	Fisherman reports
	RI RICAN 07	MD DNR	Monthly dealer reports
	CT bluefin tuna and ocean quahog/surf clam ITQ	VMRC	Fisherman reports
	NY bluefin tuna and ocean quahog/surf clam ITQ	VMRC/NOAA Fisheries	VA submitted Potomac River Fisheries Commission data to NOAA Fisheries
	NJ blue crab	GA DNR	State trip reports
	NJ bluefin tuna and ocean quahog/surf clam ITQ	SC DENR	State trip reports
	NJ fishermen reporting (tautog, hard clam, lobster)		
	NJ swordfish canvas		
	DE bluefin tuna and ocean quahog/surf clam ITQ		
	MD bluefin tuna and ocean quahog/surf clam ITQ		
	VA bluefin tuna and ocean quahog/surf clam ITQ		

CFDBS - Commercial Fisheries Database System

CODES - Commercial Data Entry System

ITQ - Individual Transferable Quota

RICAN07 - Rhode Island State supplemental landings

SAFIS - Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information Systems

Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information Systems (SAFIS)

WHAT IS SAFIS?

In 2003, the partners of ACCSP created the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) to meet the increasing need for real-time commercial landings data. The system is comprised of four distinct applications:

SAFIS Applications

Electronic Dealer Reporting (eDR): A web based application that collects landings data from dealers. This may include species, condition, and price.

Electronic Trip Reporting (eTRIP): A web based application that compiles catch and effort data from fishermen. Trip reports, or log books in some fisheries, provide catch and effort data from a permitted fishing entity (fishermen of a vessel) or a single vessel. A trip is any single round where fishing was attempted, regardless of catch. Trips may be categorized as *commercial*, *party/charter*, or *recreational*.

Recreational Logbooks (eREC): A web based application that collects data from recreational anglers on a voluntary basis.

SAFIS Management System (SMS): A web based application providing administrative tools to SAFIS administrators for management of information such as user accounts, participants or permits. Often used to monitor quotas.

It is important to recognize that while these applications are stand alone, all are kept within the same database and can share standards and codes that are ACCSP compliant.

REDESIGN AND REDEFINED

This year ACCSP proudly launched a redesigned SAFIS. Staff and program partners listened to a need from the users for the system for the system to be faster and more flexible. In early 2008, efforts began to construct and test the upgraded and realigned components of SAFIS. Some of the major enhancements include:

- 1) the ability to collect highly migratory species data,
- 2) an integrated price board to automatically generate pricing information,
- 3) flexibility in creating favorites (species, gear, fishermen, dealers, disposition), and
- 4) overall improved reporting capabilities.



A VALUE ADDED PROGRAM

Fisheries scientists along the Atlantic coast use the information uploaded by dealers and fishermen into SAFIS to closely monitor how often reports are entered. Being able to monitor these reports, entered in real-time, ultimately allows for a more sustainable fishery. This also allows for a fishery where catch does not rise and fall haphazardly.

For instance, when a dealer in Rhode Island goes on vacation and comes back to work and enters in a late landing of 6,000 pounds of black sea bass into SAFIS, it can send quota monitoring for that species off into a tailspin. Fisheries scientists in Rhode Island are examining that type of behavior and working with dealers and fishermen to keep more consistent reporting patterns. With more consistent reporting pattern and an increase in communication back and forth between scientists, dealers and fishermen, quotas each quarter are not fluctuating as much as in previous years.

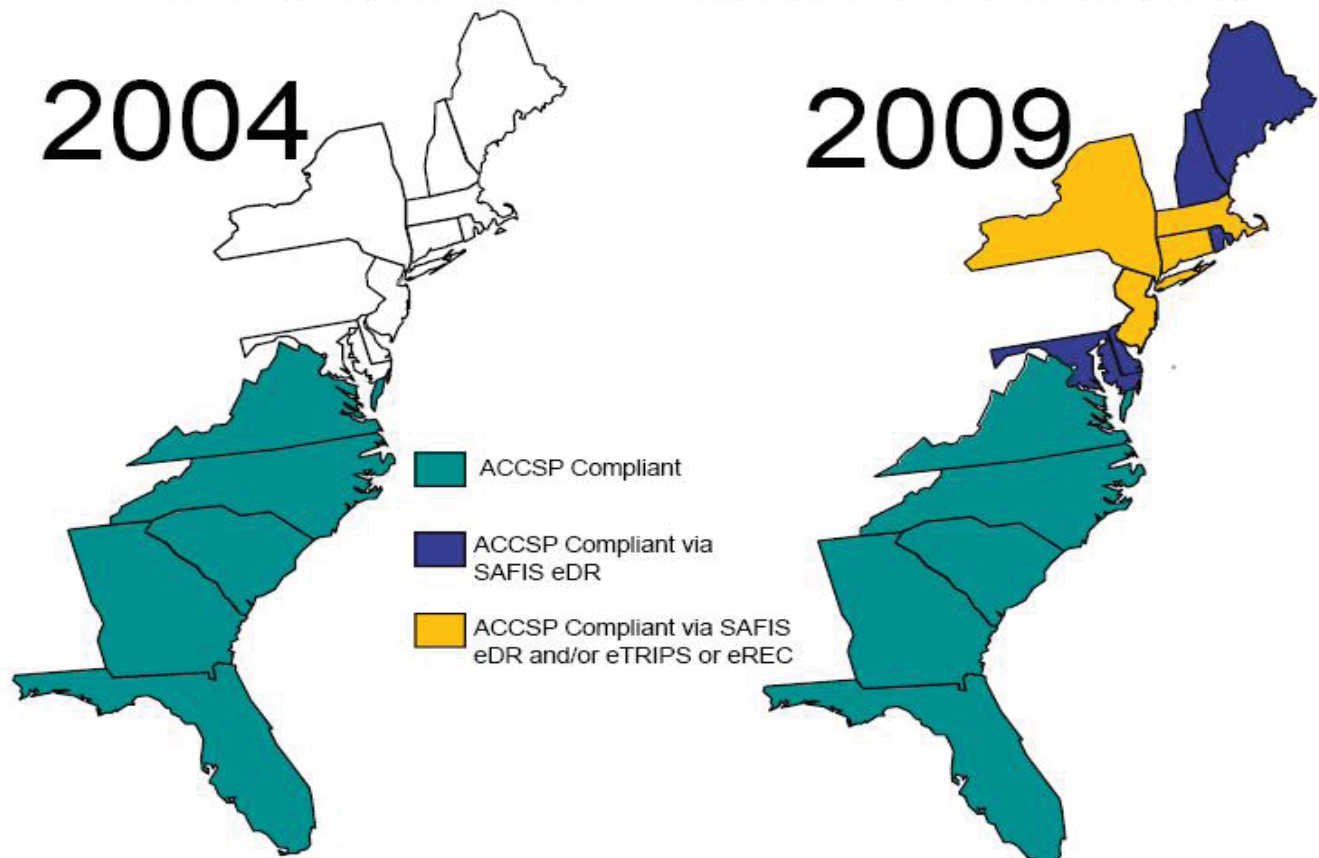
With an increase of understanding of the overall goal of SAFIS, dealers and fishermen are using the system more and more. Fisheries scientists are on-the-ground teaching dealers and fishermen how the program works and support.

Below is an image that illustrates the implementation of SAFIS over the past five years.

“Data from SAFIS allows us to properly manage quota monitored species. This is an invaluable tool. For the first time we are able to accurately track quota and make informed management decisions for the benefit of fishermen and the fishery.”

Dan Costa, ACCSP Coordinator, Rhode Island Fish and Wildlife

Atlantic Coastal Commercial Catch and Effort Data Collection Status



Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information Systems (SAFIS)

IMPLEMENTATION AND STATUS

The following is an overview of the current usage of each public application (ones used for dealers, harvesters, and/or fishermen) and which program partners are utilizing the application.

Who Uses Electronic Dealer Reporting?

Electronic Dealer Reporting (eDR): A web based application that collects landings data from dealers. This may include species, condition, and price.

Partner	Implementation Date	# Dealer Reports
NOAA Fisheries	October 2005	1,400,223
ME DMR	April 2006	418,710
NH FGD	May 2004	19,814
MA DMF	May 2004	371,858
RI DFW	April 2003	106,361
CT DEP	May 2004	13,324
NY DEC	February 2007	4,985
NJ DFW	September 2005	56
DE DFW	February 2005	33
MD DNR	May 2004	8,304



Who Uses Electronic Trip Reporting?

Electronic Trip Reporting (eTRIP): A web based application that compiles catch and effort data from fishermen. Trip reports, or log books in some fisheries, provide catch and effort data from a permitted fishing entity (fishermen of a vessel) or a single vessel. A trip is any single round where fishing was attempted, regardless of catch. Trips may be categorized as *commercial*, *party/charter*, or *recreational*.

Partner	Implementation Date	# Commercial Reports	# Party/Charter Reports	# Recreational Reports	# Trip Reports
MA DMF	August 2008	24,330	0	0	24,330
CT DEP	March 2009	6,132	0	80	6,212
NY DEC	October 2008	7,920	13	0	7,933
NJ DFW	March 2008	13,721	0	0	13,721
MD DNR	January 2010	24	0	0	24

Who Uses Recreational Logbooks?

Recreational Logbooks (eREC): A web based application that collects data from recreational anglers on a voluntary basis.

Partner	Implementation Date	# Trip Reports
MA DMF	May 2009	292
NJ DFW	January 2008	2,282



National Networking

The Program takes an active role in collaborating and advising on national fishery dependent data collection programs. Each year, more momentum is made in positive direction for improved data quality. These national networks bring together Commissions, state, NOAA Fisheries and regional staff to streamline efforts in anticipation of not only making data easier to use, but, learning ways to fill gaps where data is missing and the discovering the best ways to disseminate data.

Fisheries Information Systems (FIS)

The Fisheries Information System (FIS) is a collaborative project led by NOAA Fisheries. The goal of the program is to identify fishery dependent federal and state data collection databases and assist in effective information sharing. Also, FIS helps fisheries management decisions by enhancing web browser interfaces with virtual application environments that provide integrated business solutions for fisheries dependent data.

The following are the current goals of the FIS program as outlined by NOAA Fisheries:

- Consistent with the other FIS goals, expand and adapt data collection to meet current and

future needs.

- Build and Integrate information management systems within and across regions.
- Establish regional and national standards (minimum guidelines) for data collection, management and dissemination to ensure, high quality, completeness, timeliness and accessibility.
- Implement and maintain effective partnerships to support collaboration among stakeholders, and to leverage investments across regions and the nation.

Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)

The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is a data collection and analysis initiative being instituted by NOAA Fisheries to help ensure the long-term sustainability of America's fisheries and the health of our oceans. MRIP represents a management approach based on evaluating entire ecosystems.

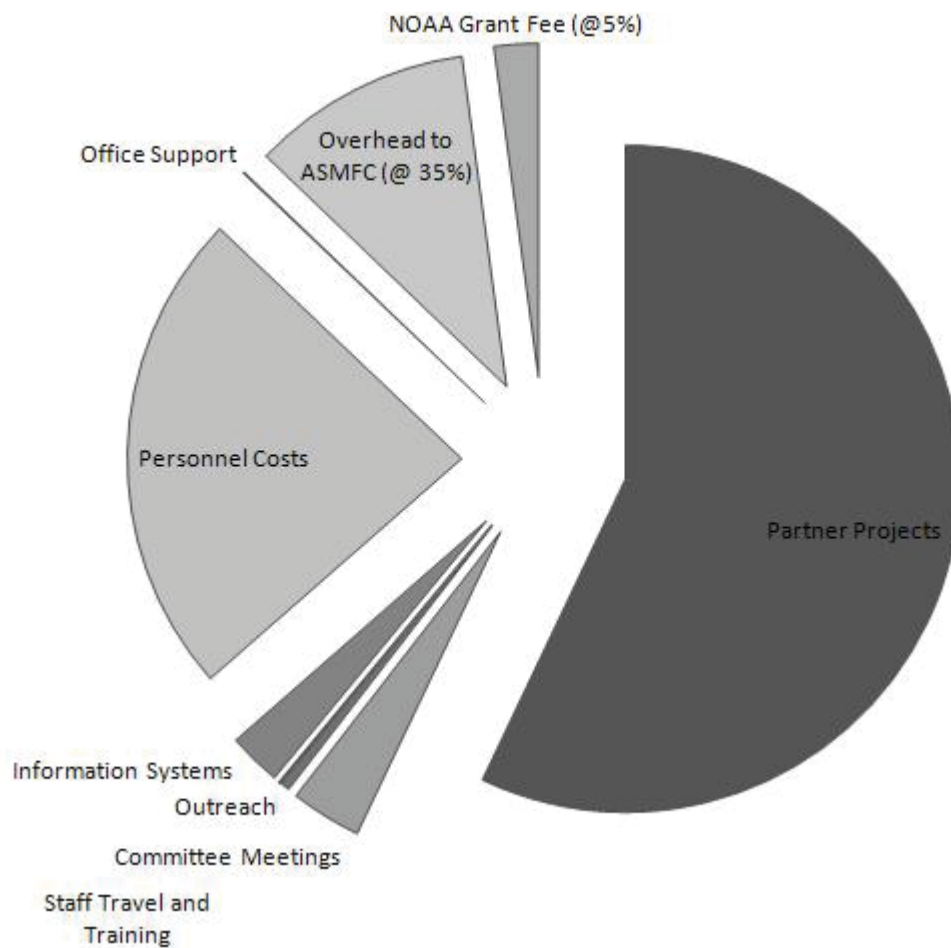
Currently being phased in across the nation, MRIP provides a more comprehensive and detailed picture of the number of trips being taken by recreational anglers, the amount and species of fish they are catching, where and when those fish are being caught, and the economic impact of recreational fishing on local, regional and national economies. ACCSP is helping to piece together the picture of the program design for MRIP.



Program Funding

As in previous years, a majority of the funds that are allocated to ACCSP are distributed to programs partners for data collections projects. The remaining funds account for slightly less than 45% of the overall budget. The administrative budget funds staff support, information systems resources, travel for meetings, and various outreach projects. For 2009, personnel was the majority of the administrative budget followed by committee travel and information systems. Overhead charged to the program covers office space, utilities and administrative support provided to the Program by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a partner centrally located.

2009 Budget



Looking Forward

The 2008-2012 ACCSP Strategic Plan identified the number one challenge to our success as "The availability of funding and human resources." This has certainly proved to be the case. For fiscal year 2010, the Program was forced to absorb a \$140K cut in its overall funding. In order to accomplish this cut recommended projects were cancelled, and the Administrative Grant was reduced to bare minimum. Continued economic issues have forced additional cuts on our partners, as well, making the contributions of the Program even more important.

Even still, *I do believe that progress can be made.* We will continue to work with NOAA Fisheries to implement electronic dealer reporting in the southeast and we look forward to continued expansion of the SAFIS system in the northeast. The work also continues with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to develop a trap tag transfer system that may serve as a prototype for others.

The Program will continue to participate in fisheries data workshops, stock assessments and other data related activities whenever it is appropriate.

Additional enhancements to the public web site will make data easier to access, and to understand.

Our Strategic Plan calls for the Program to begin populating the biological module. The biological and bycatch data set catalog has been completed, and we expect to begin loading the data sets in priority order.

Since the inception of the Program in 1995, there have often been what seem to be insurmountable challenges. Working together, we have been able to overcome them. While funding may slow our progress for the short term, I have no doubt that we will be able to achieve our vision of becoming the '***principal source of fisheries dependent information on the Atlantic coast***' over time.

Sincerely,



Mike Cahall
Director,
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program



Staff



Back row (L to R): Paul Philip (*Programmer*), Christopher Hayes (*Data Coordinator*), Michael S. Cahall (*Director*), Geoffrey White (*Data Team Leader*)

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Cover page - Marine Photobank, Brandon Puckett; *header image* (throughout) - FreeFoto; *page 2 and 3* - FreeFoto; *page 10 and 11* - FreeFoto; *page 13* - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC); *page 15* (top) - ACCSP; *page 15* (bottom) - Marine Photobank; *page 16* - ASMFC; *page 17* - NOAA Photo Library, William B. Folsom; *page 20* - ASMFC; *page 24* - DE DFW, Zina Hense; *page 26* (left) - NOAA Photo Library, William B. Folsom; *page 26* (right) - FreeFoto; *page 27* (left) - NOAA Photo Library, William B. Folsom; *page 27* (right) - Marine Photobank, Ian Wightman; *page 28*: Queen Mary Charterboats, Inc.

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Produce dependable and timely marine fishery statistics for
Atlantic coast fisheries that are collected, processed and
disseminated according to common standards agreed upon by
all Program Partners.



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