



ATLANTIC COASTAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

2010 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW





COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ACFCMA Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act ASMFC Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission CCE Cornell Cooperative Extension CT DEP Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection eDR Electronic reporting application for dealers and harvesters eLOGBOOK (Formerly eREC) Electronic reporting application for voluntary anglers eTRIPS Electronic reporting application for commercial fishermen and headboat captains FIS Fisheries Information Systems FL FWCC Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission FMP Fishery Management Plan FUS Fisheries of the United States HMS Highly Migratory Species GA DNR Georgia Department of Natural Resources LCMA Lobster Conservation Management Area MA DMF Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries MAFMC Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council MD DNR Maryland Department of Natural Resources ME DMR Maine Department of Marine Resources MRFSS Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey MRIP Marine Recreational Information Program NC DMF North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries NEFMC New England Fishery Management Council NH FGD New Hampshire Fish and Game Department $NJ\ DFW$ New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife NYS DEC New York State Department of Environmental Conservation PRFC Potomac River Fisheries Commission RI DEM Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management SAFIS Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information Systems SAFMC South Atlantic Fishery Management Council SC DNR South Carolina Department of Natural Resources SEDAR Southeast Data Assessment and Review SNE Southern New England VMRC Virginia Marine Resources Commission VTR Vessel Trip Reporting

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R E 1 5 F R S V L in



- 19 Initial staff organizes meetings with the
- newly established Coordinating Council, 96 **Operations Committee, and Advisory** Committee.

19 The first Technical Committees begin meeting to develop program standards. 97

- 19 The Coordinating Council approves the first edition of the program design, includ-98 ing data modules for catch and effort, biological, bycatch, socio-economic, and metadata.
- \$1.5 million in ACFCMA contributions from 19 partners funds first projects. 99

First permanent staff positions are established to coordinate data collection programs, continue evolution of standards, and create and operate the Data Warehouse.

W F

20 GA DNR implements trip-level reporting for commercial fisheries with funding from 00 the ACCSP.

20 Coordinating Council approves standards for biological sampling. 01

> Budget increases to \$3 million after a congressional line item is added for the program.

FL FWCC, GA DNR, and NC DMF establish routine feeds of commercial fisheries data to populate the Data Warehouse.

Funds to increase the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) angler intercept and telephone sampling interviews from Maine to Virginia are established.

20 Budget increases to \$3.5 million.

02

Data Warehouse launches.

Coordinating Council hires a Director and approves the 2002-2006 Strategic Plan.

20 RI DEM launches first SAFIS application, eDR. 03

> MD DNR offers eDR as a quota monitoring option for its commercial fisheries.

> A new For-Hire Pilot Study is adopted as a standard to improve estimates and increase party, charter, and headboat sampling by 100% from GA to ME.

20 04

Coordinating Council approves the 2004-2008 Implementation Plan and the second edition of the program design.

VMRC establishes a routine commercial fisheries data feed to the Data Warehouse.

eDR is available to nearly 700 permitted seafood dealers in the Northeast.

20 **05**

NH DFG, MA DMF, and CT DEP deploy eDR.

New website is launched to improve navigation and access to important information.

'First Ten Years Report' is produced in preparation for an External Peer Review.

20 The Data Team revises the Data Warehouse query system to improve access to both confidential and non-confidential data and improve general usability.

NJ DFW and ME DMR deploy eDR.

An external peer review panel convenes to assess the structure, outline successes, review important lessons learned, and make recommendations for future.

20 | ^r 07 |

20 | NYS DEC deploys eDR.

Directed trip and bag limit analysis capabilities are added to the recreational queries on the Data Warehouse.

Data are submitted to assist in the SEDAR of greater amberjack and red snapper stocks.

20 **08**

20 | NJ launches eLOGBOOK application.

Provides data to assist in the SEDAR for king mackerel, red drum and vermilion snapper.

NJ DFW is the first state to implement eTRIPS. MA DMF and NYS DEC soon follow. Data are coordinated from Northeast partners for use in the 2007 publication of Fisheries of the United States (FUS).

The historical landings time series extended back to 1950.

Data Warehouse develops further resolution due to the FUS data feeds.

20 | MA DMF recreational anglers begin to use eLOGBOOK.

CT DEP implements eTRIPS.

Data are submitted to assist in the stock assessments for American eel, black and red grouper, Atlantic croaker, and Atlantic menhaden.

First annual report is published.

A formalized custom data review and support query process is established to better serve ACCSP.

21 Latest in electronic reporting is launched 10 with many new enhancements.

RI DEM and MD DNR launch eLOGBOOK and eTRIPS application.

Work begins in developing a combined electronic trip and landings reporting (e1-Ticket) application within SAFIS to collect fishermen trip and dealer landings data from the Southeast partners.

Improvements made in the Data Warehouse on validating and aligning data with the partners, especially with federal partners.

Workshop held to begin setting standards for recreational data collection along Atlantic coast in conjunction with MRIP.

LETTER from the CHAIR

As the new Chair of the ACCSP Coordinating Council, I wanted to thank the previous Chair, Spud Woodward, for his strong leadership and dedication to making the ACCSP the premier source of Atlantic coast fisheries-dependent data for fisheries managers, scientists, and the public.

I would also like to extend a great deal of gratitude to my colleagues, committee members, and ACCSP staff for their excellent work this past year. This report summarizes their tremendous efforts and accomplishments in 2010. I applaud their efforts.

Since its inception 15 years ago, the Program has gone through quite a metamorphosis. Well out of its planning phase, today the Program can be commended for keeping the committee process strong and intact. This frequent and meaningful communication happens not only between ACCSP staff and committee members, but also between committee members and the rest of the staff of the program partners. The broadening of the Program's mission has enhanced the use of the Data Warehouse by an ever increasing number of fisheries scientists and managers, and helped to make SAFIS applications a priority for monitoring fisheries.

Over the past 15 years, we have seen the drastic evolution of standardized commercial reporting - all because of the standards set up by the 23 program partners. In 2004, only the five Southeast states were collecting data that were ACCSP compliant. Now, the entire Atlantic coast is collecting trip-level data, with many of the Northeast program partners using applications that take data collection to a level that exceed expectations.

It is often a rather arduous task mandating and implementing various forms of electronic reporting. However, due to the dedication of those in the field we have seen the Program expand by leaps and bounds. The projects that ACCSP funds each year for those working with fishermen, dealers, and harvesters at this ground level are a true testament to the collaborative nature of the Program. Funds for these projects are distributed each Fall in a highly competitive process to maximize benefits to all program partners, while ensuring that ACCSP's priorities are being met in a most effective manner. This report describes 13 projects funded in 2010. As Chair of the governing body that approves the use of these funds, I welcome your feedback on the various projects, data collection methodologies, and ACCSP priorities outlined in this report.

Because ACCSP brings together all state and regional fisheries management agencies along the Atlantic coast, the Program is uniquely positioned to improve recreational reporting standards. In 2011, the Program is anticipating releasing standards for recreational data collection for the Atlantic coast. This set of standards is a high priority to those designing methodologies for recreational data collection.

Also this year, the Program is developing an aggressive plan to implement an independent review for 2012. Of course, we are looking forward to shedding light on the successes of the Program, but we're also eager to challenge ourselves on ways to address the pitfalls and assumptions of the Program. The strength of the staff/committee relationship will certainly be a strong asset as we go forward in creating a more efficient Program.

Again, it is with a great deal of pride that I present this document to you. Often when making critical decisions for fisheries management, our data sources can be overlooked and get taken for granted. Increasingly, it is becoming standard practice to rely on the Data Warehouse to make sound and informed fishery management decisions. ACCSP plays a critical role in management decisions and I am grateful for the opportunity to share with you the Program's accomplishments and identify areas of improvement.

Sincerely,

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James Gilmore, ACCSP Coordinating Council Chairman



LETTER from the DIRECTOR

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

2010 has had several exciting developments in data collection for the Program. First, there is continued expansion of electronic trip reporting by some of our Northeast partners. Massachusetts and Connecticut completed the deployment of SAFIS eTRIPS to meet their vessel reporting needs. Also, eTRIPS was deployed in Maryland for use with head boats and party/charterboats. There have also been additional deployments of eLOGBOOK, a voluntary angler application, in Rhode Island. Staff has been engaged in the deployment of a SAFIS-based electronic dealer reporting application in the Southeast. We've been developing a combined dealer/fishermen reporting tool, e-1Ticket, which will be used in conjunction with other tools to create a complete data set within SAFIS to use for quota and compliance monitoring by our state and federal partners. Finally, the Program is supporting the development and deployment of a new system for NOAA Fisheries Service Highly Migratory Species, which will be linked directly to SAFIS.

In 2010, the Program continued to collect and distribute data from our partners. In April, we supplied the 2009 Northeast landings data for the NOAA Fisheries Service's publication, <u>Fisheries of the United States (FUS)</u>. In addition, the Program supported the NOAA Southeast Regional Office by supplying state landings which it in turn provided for publication. At the close of this fiscal year, activity was already underway to process data for the next edition. Thanks to the continued collaborative efforts of our partners and a lot of hard work by staff, the Program is now able to provide a rigorously reviewed 60-year time series for all species in the Data Warehouse.

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, New Jersey, and Massachusetts and a collaborative observer project managed through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. In addition, a multi-agency proposal, coordinated through our Commercial Technical Committee will provide a much needed update of conversion factors used to create whole weight measures.

We continue to actively participate in the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and Fisheries Information Systems (FIS) projects. The Recreational Technical Committee is currently working on a comprehensive standards review and update in preparation for MRIP. The Data Warehouse served as the prototype data source for the FIS Fisheries-One-Stop-Shop project this year. We look forward to continued collaboration with NOAA Fisheries Service 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.

I'd like to extend our thanks and deepest appreciation to all of you who have participated in ACCSP. 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,

Will A. Cold

Michael Cahall, ACCSP Director

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FEDERAL AGENCIES

NOAA Fisheries Service U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



COUNCILS AND COMMISSIONS

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission New England Fishery Management Council Mid—Atlantic Fishery Management Council Potomac River Fisheries Commission South Atlantic Fishery Management Council





New England Fishery Management Council

Potomac River **Fisheries** Commission

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STATE AGENCIES

Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept. Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife

Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection

New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission District of Columbia Fisheries and Wildlife

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

North Carolina Division of Marine Resources

South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission





C O M M I T T E E O V E R V I E W

Since its inception, ACCSP has been a committee-based organization. Committees are responsible for setting program policies and standards, deciding annual funding allocations, and planning and coordinating data collection and data management programs.

Committees, composed primarily of representatives from the program partners, provide the framework for the collaborative processes that create and manage the program standards, and govern the Program. Technical committees create and manage the program standards with guidance from the Operations and Advisory Committees. The Coordinating Council provides general oversight to the Program and sets overall program policies.

"It has been my pleasure to witness how ACCSP has evolved from the planning to the operational stages. One aspect that remains constant is the commitment of the 23 partners.

Everyone involved is dedicated to decreasing the burdens of reporting on the fishing industry while also meeting the needs of fisheries managers whose job is to protect fisheries for generations to come."

Jack Travelstead, Virginia Marine Resources Commission and member of the ACCSP Coordinating Council since 1995.

COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Coordinating Council is the program governing body and oversees program design and implementation. The policies set by the Coordinating Council guide the Program.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Operations Committee guides the development of program standards and serves as the review body for annual funding priorities. The Operations Committee provides recommendations to the Coordinating Council as part of the annual funding decision process. Project proposals are reviewed and prioritized with funding recommendations forwarded to the Coordinating Council for approval.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee includes commercial and recreational fishing representatives. At least one member of this Committee also sits on each technical committee to provide industry feedback. It also reviews and prioritizes project proposals with funding recommendations forwarded to the Coordinating Council for approval.



TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

In response to a request from the Operations Committee, the technical committees will develop or revise standards which are in turn reviewed by the Operations and Advisory Committees and submitted to the Coordinating Council for final approval.

BIOLOGICAL REVIEW PANEL

The Biological Review Panel develops program strategies and standards to obtain biological data. The Panel biennially recommends target species and sampling levels for biological sampling and works with the Bycatch Prioritization Committee to integrate data collection protocols.

BYCATCH PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

The Bycatch Prioritization Committee develops and updates data collection standards and biennially ranks species for data collection priority based on statutory requirements as well as stock assessments and industry needs.

COMMERCIAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Commercial Technical Committee develops catch and effort data standards for all species commercially harvested on the Atlantic coast.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

The Information Systems Committee guides and informs the development of information systems that support the implementation of program standards.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee provides guidance on how to effectively communicate with partners and stakeholders.

RECREATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Recreational Technical Committee develops data collection standards for monitoring catch and effort of recreational and for-hire fisheries. The following are the members of the ACCSP Coordinating Council during fiscal year 2010.

СНАЮ
lames Gilmore
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
VICE CHAIR
Craig Shirey
Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife
Alex Chester, Patricia Kurkul, Alan Risenhoover,
Buck Sutter
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jaime Geiger
Atlantic Statos Marino Fishorios Commission
John V. O'Shea
New England Fishery Management Council
Paul Howard
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Chris Moore
Potomac River Fisheries Commission
A.C. Carpenter
Robert Mahood
Kobert Manood
Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
George Lapointe
New Hampshire Fish And Game Dept.
Doug Grout, Cheri Patterson
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Paul Diodall Deade kland Dont, of Environmental Management
Mark Gibson
Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection
Mark Alexander
Pennsylvania Fish and Boating Commission
John Arway
New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
Peter Himchak
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
Inomas O'Connell Virginia Marina Pasauraas Commission
lack Travelstead
District of Columbia Fisheries and Wildlife Division
Brvan King
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
Louis Daniel
South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
Robert H. Boyles, Jr.
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
Spud Woodward

W H O W E A R E

The Program is separated into three distinct teams to effectively move toward continued progress of the common goals of the Program.

PROGRAMS & ADMINISTRATION

Staff is dedicated to maintaining

ACCSP standards and

handling administrative aspects of

the Program, including outreach.

This also includes managing the

program projects that

get funded each year.

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.

VISION

To be the principal source of fisheriesdependent information on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners in the collection, tracking, and processing of common fisheries data and dissemination of the information for purposes of fisheries science and management.







DATA TEAM



The Data Team works with partners to identify, transform, and audit datasets so they can be included in the Data Warehouse. They also provide data services to partners by designing custom data requests and participating in data intensive fisheries activities, such as stock assessments.

SOFTWARE TEAM

The Software Team designs and builds

the data collection systems that the

Program manages as well as internal

systems that support

program activities.

VALUES

Accurate data are required for good fisheries management decisions.

Coordination and collaboration amongst the program partners are essential for success.

The Program must be responsive to the changing needs for fisheries data.

Processes must be open and transparent while confidential data are protected.

Data shall be accessible and easy to use.

Responsibilities should be matched with available resources.



PROGRAM PROJECTS

MAINE DEPT. of MARINE RESOURCES

Portside Bycatch Sampling and Commercial Catch Sampling of the Atlantic Herring and Atlantic Mackerel Fisheries (\$88,895)

MODULE: Catch and Effort

Evolving since 2003 when it began as a portside Atlantic herring bycatch survey, this project collects data from three important New England fisheries (Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, and river herring). What makes this project so unique is its true collaborative nature. Not only does ME DMR staff work closely with NOAA Fisheries



Service observers but it also pool resources with staff from partner MA DMF by identifying co-occurring trips and comparing results between at-sea and portside sampling. This year

the partners combined databases to provide a centralized data stream for better analysis.

Recently, results from this project have been used by the NEFMC in the development of Amendment 5, were examined by the ASMFC in its updated assessment report for river herring, and were used as the final requirement for 100% observer coverage of the herring fleet in groundfish closed area 1. Also, catch-at-age matrices have been developed and used in assessments for Atlantic herring and mackerel, while biological samples of Atlantic herring and river herring discards have been used for determining spawning area closures in the directed Atlantic herring and mackerel fisheries.

Implementation of a Mandatory Dealer Reporting System for Maine Commercial Landings (\$298,875)

MODULE: Catch and Effort

DMR completed a third year of mandatory dealer reporting and continued harvester reporting of lobster, spiny dogfish, and sea scallops. This two-ticket system provides the valuable check and balance process needed in a reporting program.

DMR staff have benefited from this project in many ways. It can now:

- detect how many fishermen are active in each fishery,
- learn more about the fleet characteristics in the lobster fishery compared to current sampling,

estimate latent effort in the lobster fishery to use in models for marine mammal interaction, and
use data to validate trends in other sampling programs.

Meticulous audits, follow-up with dealers, and timely data uploads to ACCSP help ensure that this program is well on its way to being the expected standard in the seafood industry.





MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION of MARINE FISHERIES

Trip-Level Reporting for Harvesters (\$120,162)

MODULE: Catch and Effort

Funds were allocated to help initiate a comprehensive trip-level reporting program in order to streamline the multiple types of commercial reports that a typical permit holder may have to provide in Massachusetts. Specifically, funds were used to cover a portion of the data entry

RHODE ISLAND DEPT. of ENVIRONMENTAL MNGT.

Maintenance and Coordination of Fisheries-Dependent Data Feeds (\$106,298)

MODULE: Catch and Effort

Rhode Island now requires all seafood dealers holding a Rhode Island seafood dealer license to enter complete trip-level data into SAFIS (RI Marine Fishery Council Reg. Section 19.14). With over 130 permit holders and only two staff members, the two-ticket mandatory report-

services and the associated costs to handle the paperbased reports submitted by permit holders who do not already report federally, thus eliminating burdensome and duplicative reporting.

Although 71% of the state-reporting permit holders submitted paper-based reports in 2010, the

reports in 2010, the remaining 29% have signed up for electronic reporting using SAFIS eTRIPS (an online reporting application for commercial and recreational fishermen). This was significantly more than anticipated and bodes well for reduced costs in the future for handling paper-based reports.

The major benefit to scientists and managers of this trip-level reporting program is that it can be combined with the federal vessel trip report (VTR) for a better analysis of all commercially harvested species, particularly those that are managed regionally, such as lobster, striped bass, scup, and black sea bass. Also, since the data are collected each month, data quantity and timeliness are vastly improved.

ing system can be a bit overwhelming to manage. But, that hasn't stopped a areat deal of success in such a little state. 2010 brought about the introduction of two very well received new reporting applications to permit holders: eLOGBOOK (a voluntary online reporting application for recreational anglers) and eTRIPS. This is due in part to the close

in part to the close relationship between the state and its fishing industry. Industry is now beginning to accept the need for standardized, comprehensive data. Both systems are components of SAFIS and run through ACCSP.

The state relies on these data feeds for fisheries management programs, including quota monitoring, resource assessment, license tracking, and resource allocation. When catch and effort data feeds and biological sampling data are entered into the Data Warehouse, it is accessible by other program partners as well as stock assessment scientists.

NEW YORK STATE DEPT. of ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Continuation and Expansion of Fisheries-Dependent Data Collection and Biological Sampling (\$184,017)

MODULE: Catch & Effort and Biological

The NYS DEC has been waiting to resume a contract with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County - Marine Program (CCE). CCE had been responsible for the collection, review, and processing of dealer reports and state fishermen trip reports since 2003. Without a contract with CCE, NYS DEC will have a significant reduction in the review and processing of trip report data. NYS DEC staff has assumed the responsibility of entering all crustacean and horseshoe crab fishermen trip report data into eTRIPS and is also reviewing state dealer reports and entering the data into eDR. At this time, DEC is proposing regulations that will require state licensed dealers to report electronically to ACCSP via eDR. Once a contract is executed with CCE, the collection and processing of fisheries-dependent data and dockside biological samples will be resumed.



NEW JERSEY DIVISION of FISH and WILDLIFE

Introduction and Continuation of SAFIS and Biological Characterization of Commercial Fisheries (\$191,913)

MODULE: Catch & Effort and Biological

This project was awarded funds to help maintain the essential monitoring and management of New Jersey's significant marine fisheries. Over the past 6 decades, New Jersey has been ranked in the top 6 states for commercial fisheries landings. Since 2001, New Jersey has implemented several programs with ACCSP funds. These programs have helped DFW meet the fisheries management guidelines and structure required by the ASMFC FMPs.

The scope of this project includes:

- supplying ACCSP with trip-level state harvest data for American eel and blue crab,
- monitoring the commercial bluefish, black sea bass, scup, and summer flounder fisheries,
- implementing phase II of eTRIPS for blue crab harvest reports,
- at-sea observer coverage of the commercial American lobster fishery for a third year,
- biological sampling for age estimates of American eel, American shad, Atlantic croaker, weakfish, and Atlantic menhaden for a fourth year, and continuation of sampling for tautog to continue a 17-year dataset, and
- implementation of biological characterization for summer flounder and black sea bass.

State-specific tautog stock assessments are now carried out based on biological information provided from the sampling project. The at-sea lobster observer program in LCMAs 4 and 5 is the only one of their kind. These data are invaluable for New Jersey in the SNE stock management area, providing data in areas that are otherwise not sampled at sea. Data collected provided actual harvest and sub-legal size, sex, and count numbers seen within the commercial fishery.



NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION MARINE FISHERIES

Age Sampling of the Commercial Snapper/ Grouper Fishery in North Carolina and Age Structures of the Black Sea Bass in the Commercial Snapper/Grouper Complex (\$79,042)

MODULE: Catch & Effort and Biological

This project focuses on analyzing morphometry of black sea bass, vermilion snapper, and white grunt otoliths to determine if stock structure (groups of fish of the same species separated spatially or temporally) exists in the South Atlantic for these species. The project focuses on two species in the top quartile of the ACCSP biological sampling matrix, black sea bass and vermilion snapper. Collecting information on otolith shape and how it relates to stock structure will assist the ACCSP in establishing targets for length and age samples for fishes collected in different states. If evidence of stock structure along the South Atlantic for these species is observed, then the ACCSP could suggest that state by state otolith and length targets are needed for these species. These sampling targets would be based on stocks of fish rather than based on a broad geographic range to better represent the harvested population.

Implementation of a Fishery Observer Response Team (\$78,460)

MODULE: Catch & Effort and Biological

This project was funded to expand upon existing observer coverage in North Carolina. Specifically, funds were allocated to focus on the large mesh commercial gillnet. There is already a considerable amount of observer coverage in North Carolina existing in the recreational hookand-line and winter small mesh gillnet fisheries.

As a result of a settlement agreement with the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center a response team is being planned to specifically observe large mesh gillnets in the shad fishery. Particular attention is being paid to this fishery due to changes in the management of large mesh gillnets in North Carolina.

A main goal of this project is investigating the fishery is to assess the amount of the bycatch which is needed to implement management measures needed to sustain fishery stocks.

Below is a chart illustrating the goals and objectives of the observer coverage throughout North Carolina.

Project Goals	Objectives
Recreational Hook-and-Line Observations	Positive trips where catch is made (collected with industry participation)
	Discard composition and mortality from recreation- al anglers
	Gathering > 200 intercepts to share in conjunction with MRFSS
Winter Small Mesh Gillnet Observations	Gathering > 100 trips
Biological Data Collection	Obtaining 30 of each species to fill in age-data gaps
Response Team	Efficiency of the Response Team with consideration to the fishery, area, or time-specific basis

GOALS & OBJECTIVES OF OBSERVER COVERAGE IN NORTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPT. of NATURAL RESOURCES

Continuation of the Establishment of a Collection Method for an ACCSP Commercial Module (\$96,945)

MODULE: Catch & Effort

There are three stages to effectively transform the logbook data into the timely and properly converted data that are available in the Data Warehouse. First, dealers receive a logbook to fill out monthly. Those data are submitted by the 10th of the following month. If they do not comply, law enforcement is notified and ramifications such as a citation, a fine, or a conviction may occur. Two hourly staff then enter the submitted data. Complete edited 2010 data are scheduled to be submitted to ACCSP by March 2011.

Over time, staff have become more efficient by creating 'traps' to eliminate entry errors. Also, staff have increased outreach to dealers and fishermen to ensure complete understanding of the importance of accurate reporting.

The last part of the process is converting the data so it can be integrated to the Data Warehouse as well as the NOAA Fisheries Service. To streamline the process, the initiation of an electronic reporting mechanism for offshore products collected by federally permitted dealers has begun.

Continuation of Sampling Hard Parts for Aging from Offshore Commercial Fisheries (\$56,937)

MODULE: Biological

In order to support the stock assessment analyses for several federally managed offshore fisheries (snapper/grouper complex and pelagic and migratory species) biological sampling efforts and length frequency data continued to be collected. Sampling targets have been set by the ACCSP, NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center and Trip Interview Program (TIP). From July 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 staff collected 2,858 length frequencies and 2,684 age structures (otoliths and spines) from 119 commercial fishing trips, in accordance with established ACCSP biological sampling procedures and species targeting protocols.

ACCSP RECREATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Increase Intercept Sampling Levels for MRIP, For-Hire Methodology of the Charterboat and Headboat Fishery on the Atlantic Coast (\$354,093)

MODULE: Catch & Effort

To supplement MRIP, this project aims to increase the sample size for the coastal household telephone survey and dockside intercept interviews from anglers that recreationally fish from private boats. The ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee requested funds to raise sample sizes to a level sufficient to achieve a 20% proportional 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. Also, this project has improved catch estimates for some species of concern, which were infrequently encountered prior to increasing intercept sample sizes.



Reducing Catch and Effort Variances for Important Managed Recreational Fisheries on the Atlantic Coast (Maine through Georgia) (\$133,153)

MODULE: Catch & Effort

This project increases sample sizes for forhire (charterboat and headboat) catch data collected by MRIP. Increased sample sizes are needed to reduce variance in catch estimates at the state level 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 charterboat trips each year.

In 2008, the report issued by SEDAR 15 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 the above project.

Wave 1 Telephone Survey to Expand MRFSS/ MRIP in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia: A Pilot Study (\$61,307)

MODULE: Catch & Effort

In wave 1 (January/February) sampling was funded due to an increasing interest in the fishing effort along the Mid-Atlantic coast. For instance, there was evidence in recent years of a growing striped bass fishery along the Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina coasts during the winter months. Even the world record tautog was caught in New Jersey in January of 1998.

The goals of this pilot project are to illustrate that further sampling during wave 1 in the Mid-Atlantic is important and may need to be included by MRIP. Suggestions for the intercept sampling targets will be made based on the results of this survey. In 2010, the coastal household telephone survey was conducted, while the for-hire survey portion of the project was not conducted until 2011. Preliminary estimates from the coastal household survey show few trips taken in wave 1 by private and shore-based anglers. Perhaps the very intense winter along the Mid-Atlantic has impacted results.



DATA WAREHOUSE

The Data Warehouse is an online database populated with Atlantic coast fisheries-dependent data. It is one way the data collected from the program projects is organized and disseminated. The Data Warehouse currently contains landings from Maine through Florida from 1950 to the present.

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

Did you know there are over

47 million landings records

in the Data Warehouse?

Did you know over

69,000 fishermen have catch

in the Data Warehouse?

Did you know over

54,000 vessels have catch

in the Data Warehouse?

Did you know over 10,000 dealers have landings in the Data Warehouse?



Users of the Data Warehouse are 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, and federal, state, or local government employees.

Most users access the Data Warehouse by requesting a confidential or nonconfidential account (see page 21 to see the increase in confidential and nonconfidential accounts over the past six years). The Data Warehouse uses an online query tool that allows users to build their own queries. The tool understands the users level of access and presents only those data that are appropriate. Depending on the level of access, users may also be able query near-real-time data SAFIS. Many state partners use this query tool to monitor quotas using the SAFIS portal. Custom data requests are another way ACCSP helps customers utilize the data effectively. In 2010, almost 60 individualized and unique data requests were completed. Many were for our program partners, but this year also saw the first international requests (see page 22 to see the growing number of custom data requests over the past three years).



WHAT DATA are in the DATA WAREHOUSE?

The goal of program partners is to continue to make strides toward implementing and maintaining trip-level reporting for all fisheries. Commercial catch and effort is the first of five data collection modules to be completed and uploaded into the Data Warehouse.

Progress of the catch and effort data module is illustrated below. This chart not only illustrates how the data in the Data Warehouse are presented but how collection methods have evolved. The most basic level of catch and effort data in the Data Warehouse are annual summaries dating back to 1950.

Data Warehouse users can also query or request recreational catch and effort data. The most recent data includes wave 6 for 2010. This includes both the public estimates and the advanced queries for bag limit analysis and directed trips.

Annual summaries		Mon	Monthly summaries		moi	Trip reports (Presented as monthly summaries)			Mixed (Trip reports and monthly summaries)			Trip reports (All fisheries)		
Year(s)	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	D	E MD	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
1950 - 1977														
1978 - 1985														
1986 - 1988														
1989														
1990-1993														
1994														
1995-2000					$\overline{\ }$									
2001					$\overline{\ }$									
2002					\geq									
2003					\searrow									
2004					\searrow									
2005					\searrow									
2006					$\overline{\ }$									
2007														
2008														
2009														
2010														

COMMERCIAL CATCH & EFFORT DATA

DATA WAREHOUSE

In 2004, the ACCSP accepted MRFSS as meeting the standards for recreational fishing data collection. Currently, the ACCSP is updating its recreational data standards while actively participating in the MRIP development process.

Additionally, users have access to available biological data. This biological data includes information on American lobster from 1981-2007 and Atlantic herring from 2002-2010. Currently, this information is only available through a custom data request.

Did you know that **'understanding landings history and trends'** is the most popular reason for querying the Data Warehouse?

'Learning about fishery participation information' and 'gathering information for stock assessments' are other popular reasons.

DATA WAREHOUSE USER ACCOUNTS







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 rapidly compile and disseminate fisheries-dependent data for various audiences.

Throughout the data compilation process, ACCSP is available to guide scientists in properly submitting data requests, determining specialized formats for data tables, and providing details about particular records that were questionable. This helps the process move forward quickly. Not only does participation in the stock assessment process increase visibility for ACCSP, but staff is able to see firsthand how the information in the Data Warehouse is used for future stock assessments. During 2010, ACCSP participated in several data review workshops (listed below).

2010 STOCK ASSESSMENT PARTICIPATION

Oversight	Species
ASMFC	River herring
saw 51	Loligo squid
SEDAR 21	HMS sandbar, dusky, and black- nose sharks
SEDAR 24	Red snapper

NUMBER of CUSTOM DATA REQUESTS





DATA & CONFIDENTIALITY

Along with data dissemination comes the responsibility of protecting confidentiality. The Program strives to achieve the right balance between confidential and available data. Confidential data are data that can lead to the identification of the contributing individual or individuals. Federal and state laws prohibit disclosure of confidential data.

The Program uses 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 it collects and summarizes. Program partners also individually decide who has access to those confidential data.

FISHERIES of the US

Since 2007, the Program has worked in cooperation with NOAA Fisheries Service to bring together commercial landings data for the annual publication <u>Fisheries</u> <u>of the United States (FUS)</u>. In the spring of 2010, staff compiled and submitted 39 datasets (see opposite page for a listing of the datasets), including SAFIS dealer reports through an open and collaborative process led by ACCSP. These datasets were obtained in the spring as preliminary and the in the fall of 2010 were updated as final data.

By working with partners to develop the FUS datasets, the Program is able to populate the Data Warehouse at a finer resolution to further support the ACCSP mission.

Data from Maine to Virginia are provided to NOAA Headquarters, while, data from South Carolina and Georgia are provided to NOAA Southeast Regional Office. North Carolina and Florida provide data directly to NOAA Fisheries Service.

SAME FISH, NEW POND

2010 was the year ACCSP moved to Virginia! What this meant was an office merge with ASMFC (which provides administrative support to Program). The Program not only led the evaluation and implementation of transferring the information technology infrastructure but also assisted monitoring of the move with the Commission. Major upgrades were completed on external connectivity, network components, telephone systems, and power and air conditioning. This was all done on time, under budget, and within a 24hour outage of web-enabled applications (SAFIS, Data Warehouse, and e-mail). Overall, the transition was seamless and our customers were not disrupted by our change of location!



FISHERIES of the US: ACCSP SUBMISSIONS of 2009 DATA

Source	Dataset					
	ME state and federal reports					
	NH dealer reports					
	MA swordfish canvas					
	MA dealer reporting					
	RI dealer reports					
	CT dealer reports					
	CT VTR data					
ACCSP - SAFIS	CT eTRIPS					
	NY dealer reports					
	NJ dealer reports					
	NJ Blue crab - eTRIPS					
	DE dealer reports					
	MD dealer reports					
	VA dealer reports					
	ME bluefin tuna and ocean					
	quahog/surf clam ITQ					
	NH bluefin tuna and ocean					
	quahog/surf clam ITQ					
	MA bluefin tuna/surf clam					
	RI bluefin tuna and ocean					
	quahog/surf clam ITQ					
	RI aquaculture					
	CT bluefin tuna and ocean					
NOAA	quahog/surf clam ITQ					
Fisheries Service	NY bluefin tuna and ocean					
(CODES)	quahog/surf clam IIQ					
	NJ bluefin tuna and ocean					
	quanog/suff clam IIQ					
	NJ swordlish canvas					
	DE bluefin tuna and ocean					
	VA bluefin tuna and ocean					
	quahog/surf clam ITQ					
Fisheries Service (CODES)	NY bluefin tuna and ocean quahog/surf clam ITQ NJ bluefin tuna and ocean quahog/surf clam ITQ 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					

Source	Dataset					
NJ DFW	Menhaden					
	Horseshoe crab reports					
	Hudson River shad					
	Crustacean					
NYS DEC	Lobster annual recall					
	Gillnet					
	Shellfish data					
	Striped bass tag reports					
	Horseshoe crab supplemental					
	Lobster supplemental					
SC DNR	State trip reports					
VMRC	Fishermen reports					
VA/NOAA	VA submitted PRFC data to					
Fisheries Service	NOAA Fisheries Service					

CFDBS - Commercial Fisheries Database System CODES - Commercial Data Entry System ITQ – Individual Transferable Quota

"I am pleased with the relationship ACC-SP has developed with NOAA Fisheries Service and other partners to efficiently collect and disseminate data for the FUS publication. It has only been three years that we've been working with ACCSP for FUS, but each year there has been improvement in the data collection process. I look forward to continuing this positive collaboration and working together on future enhancements."

Alan Lowther, Statistician, NOAA Fisheries Service

S A F I S

In 2003, the partners of ACCSP created SAFIS to meet the increasing need for real-time commercial landings data. The system is comprised of five distinct applications. It is important to recognize that while these applications are stand alone, all are kept within the same database and share standards and codes that are ACCSP compliant.

Electronic Dealer Reporting (eDR): A

web-based application that collects landings data from dealers. This includes species, disposition, and price.

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

Voluntary Angler Logbooks (eLOG-BOOK): A web-based application that collects data from private recreational anglers on a voluntary basis.

e-1Ticket: A web-based application providing the ability to collect trip/effort/ catch data and simultaneously create a dealer report. This application was released into production in March 2011.

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. It is often used to monitor quotas.

APPLICATION IMPLEMENTATION

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 offering the application.

The e-1Ticket application is not overviewed since it was just released to South Carolina and Georgia at beginning of the 2011 fiscal year.

ELECTRONIC DEALER REPORTING

Electronic Dealer Reporting (eDR): A webbased application that collects landings data from dealers. This includes species, disposition, and price.

Partner	Implementation Date	# Dealer Reports in 2009	# Dealer Reports in 2010
RI DEM	Apr-03	106,361	131,289
NH FGD	May-04	19,814	21,666
MA DMF	May-04	371,858	388,085
CT DEP	May-04	13,324	15,808
MD DNR	May-04	8,304	10,046
DE DFW	Feb-05	33	55
NJ DFW	Sep-05	56	56
NOAA - NE	Oct-05	1,400,223	1,882,691
ME DMR	Apr-06	418,710	514,827
NYS DEC	Feb-07	4,985	7,634



VOLUNTARY ANGLER LOGBOOKS

Voluntary Angler Logbooks (eLOGBOOK): A web-based application that collects data from private recreational anglers on a voluntary basis.

"As a benefit to the angler, voluntary an-

gler logbooks provide summaries of infor-

mation on all species caught by the angler

throughout the year including descrip-

tive tables of their catch. Data elements

tracked include mode, area, species, size,

and quantity of fish landed per trip."

Daniel Costa, ACCSP Coordinator, RI DEM

Partner	Implementation Date	# Trip Reports in 2009	# Trip Reports in 2010
MA DMF	May-09	292	584
NJ DFW	Jan-08	2,282	2,972
MD DNR	Mar-10	n/a	14
RI DEM	Apr-10	n/a	570



ELECTRONIC TRIP REPORTING

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

Partner	Implementation Date	# Commercial Reports in 2009	# Commercial Reports in 2010	# Party/Charter Reports in 2009	# Party/Charter Reports in 2010	# Recreational Reports in 2009	# Recreational Reports in 2010	# Trip Reports in 2009	# Trip Reports in 2010
MA DMF	Aug-08	24,330	102,110	1	1	1	224	24,332	99,839
NYS DEC	Oct-08	7,920	12,421	13	13	0	162	7,933	12,596
NJ DFW	Mar-08	13,721	14,146	1	0	0	0	13,722	12,596
CT DEP	Mar-09	6,132	14,940	0	0	80	114	6,212	15,054
MD DNR	Jan-10	24	2425	0	776	0	0	24	3,198
RI DEM	Apr-10	n/a	71	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	71

S A F I S

CATCH & EFFORT DATA COLLECTION STATUS

Most program partners are collecting and transmitting trip-level data directly to the Program, either individually or by using SAFIS. A few program partners are still working to implement trip-level data collection programs that meet the Program's standards.



WHAT are the BENEFITS of SAFIS?

- Provides up-to-date information on species caught and their impact on fisheries and quotas.
- Allows confidential access to data-of-record by fishermen and dealers.
- Fulfills state and federal reporting requirements through online data entry and eliminates duplicative reporting.
- Has the ability to collect highly migratory species data.
- Has an integrated price board to automatically generate pricing information.
- Allows for flexibility in creating favorites (species, gears, fishermen, dealers, and disposition) so reporting is quick and easier than ever.
- Management tools facilitate maintenance of partner-owned data such as participants, online permits, and vessels.



HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES APPLICATION

For the past several years, the Program has been working with the NOAA Fisheries Service's Highly Migratory Species (HMS) division to create an application within the current electronic dealer reporting application.

This application, to be known as eDEALER, was still in development at the end of the 2010 fiscal year. Staff was requested to provide design assistance on the particulars of what should be collected and also on how to best roll out this important application to users.

Currently, the SAFIS electronic dealer reporting application collects additional data fields for HMS. Those data will be loaded to the new eDEALER stand-alone application on a real-time basis. In addition to providing HMS data, ACCSP will design a portal to the eDEALER application for non-SAFIS users (predominantly those in the Gulf coast).

WHAT PEOPLE are SAYING about SAFIS

"Greatly appreciate the availability of electronic trip reporting. Thank you."

"I didn't think I would like this new way of reporting but I must admit ... I like it!"

"I love the new report. It is simple to access, simple to update ... very happy with it."

"Just like to say how great this system for reporting the catch is. It's fun to do and cuts down on my paperwork."

"I really like this site more each time I use it! Keep up the great work!"



NATIONAL NETWORKING

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

SAFMC LEARNS BENEFITS of E-REPORTING

Amidst the debate and discussion about snapper/grouper at the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) meeting in June of 2010, Michael Cahall, ACCSP Director, gave a presentation on the merits of electronic reporting.

The Council invited ACCSP to speak on the history of the implementation of electronic reporting in the Northeast and discuss the implications of deploying electronic reporting in the Southeast to gain a better understanding of the snapper/grouper complex. The focus was on explaining base requirements for entering data in the electronic systems. For instance, all of the ACCSP trip reports are centered on trip reports that use coding standards and support both commercial and recreational trip reports.

Mr. Cahall explained that the benefits of using the electronic reporting systems include near real-time data, eliminating redundant reporting and automated auditing. Maine was used as an example. Before the electronic systems were implemented a single vessel could put the fishery over the quota. In fact, once the quota was exceeded by over 7 years. After implementation, summarized data audits (via daily e-mail) enabled Maine fisheries managers to efficiently prevent exceeding the quota.

FISHERIES-ONE-STOP-SHOP

In the summer of 2010, staff took part in a Professional Specialty Group (PSG) meeting to create a Fisheries One Stop Shop (FOSS). The PSG aims to direct development of the FOSS as a simplified means for the public to get to the very rich data that NOAA Fisheries Service possesses, therefore increasing the value of these data.

The meeting was held from June 29-July 1, 2010 in Silver Spring, MD and was hosted by NOAA Fisheries Service. Staff from national and regional branches of NOAA Fisheries Service as well as other regional data organizations such as GulfFIN, AKFIN, and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Dept. were on hand to contribute to the goals the meeting.

The goal of this meeting was to specify regional and national reporting technical requirements of creating the FOSS. To begin development the PSG identified a list of objectives that would aid in fulfilling the goal. These objectives included identifying 1) data sources and gaps as well as where data overlap, 2) reporting requirements and a common platform to create the FOSS, the President's Open Government Directive, and 4) methods for rolling up data from the regional level to the national level. Staff from the Program continues work to execute a prototype for non-confidential level data queries.



RECREATIONAL STANDARDS GET RE-EXAMINED

In late fall of 2010, the Program convened the Recreational Technical Committee and several invited presenters to exchange ideas about recreational fisheries data collection in the United States. The focus of the meeting was to evaluate current recreational data collection methodologies around the nation and to begin a review and update of the ACCSP standards for recreational data on the Atlantic coast. NOAA Fisheries Service, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Dept., and the Alaska Fish and Game Dept. were among the list of organizations that gave presentations.

The Committee was then charged to identify the recreational data needs for the Atlantic coast, which will be developed into updated ACCSP recreational data standards for a 2011 edition of the program design. The updated standards are focused on 3 major areas: private and shore-based effort, private and shore-based catch, and for-hire catch and effort.

OTHER FISHERIES-DEPENDENT INITIATIVES

ACCSP staff are also active on several technical and executive committees of other fisheries-dependent data collection initiatives. The Fisheries Information Systems is a collaborative project led by NOAA Fisheries Service to promote timely and effective data collection. MRIP is a data collection and analysis initiative designed to improve the collection and use of recreational data used for fisheries management.

OUT & ABOUT

In 2010, ACCSP was honored to be a part of several national events. In June, the Program was a sponsor of the 9th annual Capitol Hill Oceans Week



(CHOW) at the contributor level. Since 2002, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation has been bringing together Members of Congress and CAPITOL HILL CONGRESSIONAL staff, all

OCEAN WEEK levels of government as well as experts from

industry, academia, and the nonprofit community to share information and build bridges to enhance the understanding of ocean policy. The 2010 CHOW events, held from June 7th through the 12th to coincide with World's Ocean Day on June 8th, are focused on ocean energy issues.

ACCSP was very proud to present at the 140th Annual American Fisheries Society (AFS) Meeting held September 12-16, 2010 in Pittsburgh, PA. The theme of the conference was "Merging Our Deeper Currents". Staff gave a very well



received presentation, "The ACCSP Data Warehouse and How to Go about Custom Data Requests" and was a moderator on a session on

human dimensions and socioeconomics. Also in March of 2010, staff presented a talk titled, "The Sea Change of Marine Fisheries Data Collection," at the 2010 American Fisheries Society: Tidewater Chapter annual meeting in Annapolis, MD. A highlight of the summer activity included being a participant at the 22nd biennial conference of The Coastal Society. The conference, held from June 13-16 in Wilmington, NC, had a theme of "Shifting Shorelines: Adapting to the Future."

FUNDING

As in previous years, a majority of the funds that are allocated to ACCSP are distributed to program partners for data collection projects. See pages 12-17 for more details on each project.

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 2010, personnel were 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.





LOOKING FORWARD

I wish that I could start with something other than resources, but again this year it remains foremost in my thinking. As this letter is written, the Department of Commerce still has no budget and grant funding for the ACCSP and coast-wide program projects cannot be awarded. Continued economic issues have forced additional cuts on our state partners as well, making the



contributions of the Program even more important.

Progress must and will be made. We will continue to work with NOAA Fisheries Service to complete the deployment of electronic dealer reporting in the Southeast. SAFIS will be expanding to include additional partners in eTRIPS and eLOGBOOK. We are also working closely with NOAA Fisheries Service -Highly Migratory Species to facilitate the development and deployment of an electronic data collection system for species for which they are responsible. I expect that project to be largely completed by the end of fiscal year 2011. We are on track to greatly streamline the Data Warehouse access process by automating confidentiality management.

We are well under way to a revising the program design, the blueprint for ACCSP. All of our technical committees are reviewing the relevant portions of the document and bringing the standards up-to-date. The timeline is intended to coordinate best with the MRIP so that the Program may present the needs of our partners to MRIP managers by the end of 2011.

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 website will make data easier to access and to understand.

Even during this time of a funding shortfall, we are pressing forward with our partners to further advance our mission to produce dependable and timely fisheries data.

Sincerely,

hill of Cold

Michael Cahall, ACCSP Director

S T A F F



Back row (L to R): Karen Holmes (*Software Team Leader*) Tim Sartwell (*Data Coordinator*) Michael Cahall (*ACCSP Director*) Geoffrey White (*Data Team Leader*) Paul Philip (*Programmer*)

Front row (L to R): Julie Defilippi (*Data Coordinator*) Ann McElhatton (*Outreach Coordinator*) Jennifer Ni (*Information Systems Specialist*)

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

Cover: Top Right - SC DNR, Lower Right - NH FGD, Left and Back Cover - Shutterstock Page 10: SC DNR Page 10-11: Shutterstock Page 11: FL FWCC Page 12 (Left): Shutterstock Page 12 (Right): ME DMR Page 13: Shutterstock Page 14: SC DNR Page 17: ACCSP Archives Page 18: ACCSP Archives Page 20: Marine Photobank Page 21: ME DMR Page 21: ME DMR Page 25: Shutterstock Page 27: Shutterstock Page 31: ACCSP Archives

"Supporting the collaborative data program was the essential next step in addressing the needs of our coastal fishery resources. We had the management authority under the ACFCMA, but management could not be done well without better data. And we knew that we had to separate the data from the fishery management politics.

So the logical step was a cooperative data program the represented federal as well as state interests. ASMFC did what it does best facilitate organizations and people coming together for common cause and mutual benefit. ACCSP is successful because you cannot call it 'nobody's program' -- it is 'everybody's program'! It has worked because everyone stayed committed to something that was bigger than their own interests. The politics was right, and leadership dedication committed, and the staff outstanding! That's still a pretty good prescription for success."

Jack Dunnigan, Former Executive Director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Assistant Administrator with the NOAA Fisheries Service

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