# ATLANTIC COASTAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

2011 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW | GOOD DATA, GOOD DECISIONS

# PHILOSOPHY

# VISION

To be the principal source of fishery-dependent information on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners in the collection and processing of common fisheries data and dissemination of the information for purposes of fisheries science and management

# 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

# 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, but confidential data must be protected
- Data shall be accessible and easy to use
- Responsibilities should be matched with available resources





Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

# PROGRAM PARTNERS

# FEDERAL AGENCIES

NOAA Fisheries Service (NOAA) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

# COUNCILS & COMMISSIONS

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) New England Fishery Management Council (MEFMC) Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

# **STATE AGENCIES**

Maine Dept. of Marine Resources (ME DMR) New Hampshire Fish & Game Dept. (NH FGD) Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife (RI DEM) Connecticut Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife (NJ DFW) Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife (DE DFW) Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) District of Columbia Fisheries & Wildlife Division (DC FWD) Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources (MD DNR) Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NC DMF) South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources (SC DNR) Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources (GA DNR) Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FL FWCC)



# LETTER from the CHAIR

I am honored to present to you the 2011 Fiscal Year in Review of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). I invite you to look to review this annual report to learn more on 'Who We Are', understand more on the highlighted accomplishments of 2011, as well as appreciate the growth from the original Program vision.

To reminisce, it was June of 1997, and the technical committee work on the initial program design was underway. Several Commercial Technical Committee members and I had just white-knuckled a carnival ride approach-and-landing at the Charleston International Airport. I remember vividly Greg Power lugging a "stateof-the-art" projector encased in what looked like a large, industrial suitcase, all the way across the tarmac, as we both speculated on how the weight of that behemoth may have challenged the flight dynamics of the Dash-8 we had just flew in on. However, that projector helped to facilitate a week-long marathon-of-a-meeting in which we hammered out the basic architecture of what would eventually become the commercial portions of the first program design. There had been a number of technical committee meetings before, but I recall this as the milestone event where we not

I am honored to present to you the 2011 Fiscal Year in Review of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). I invite you to look to review this annual report

> Here we are more than 15 years after that meeting, and as new Chair of the Coordinating Council, I find myself honored - at the same time humbled. A remarkable amount of talent and dedication has made and maintains what ACCSP is today. It is an important data resource that not only supports the needs of Atlantic coastal fisheries management and industry, but continues to evolve to address new opportunities and challenges. I thank the previous chair, Jim Gilmore, and the rest of the Council for the leadership that has made that possible. Furthermore, the ACCSP vision could not have been realized. nor could it prosper, without the huge effort of the staff of program partners, industry advisors, and Program staff. They have all continued to refine the pieces that together make ACCSP work, which is evident in two important activities that have taken place in the past year.

> First, the technical committees, as well as the Advisory and Operations Committees have wrought the third edition of the program design, <u>Atlan</u>-

tic Coast Fisheries Data Collection Standards. This was a monumental effort that involved many rounds of discussion by all of the committees and was facilitated by the collaborative and innovative tools to elicit and organize feedback on preliminary drafts. I even understand that the definition of "bycatch" was revisited and dispatched in under 7 minutes by the Bycatch Committee. In May, the document (and the definition) will be presented for approval to the Coordinating Council.

Secondly, the Program will soon be undergoing its second program review. Over the past year, the Independent Program Review Work Group has formulated a strategy that will emphasize impartiality and objectivity during the review process. This will involve utilizing an independent contractor to conduct a comprehensive survey of Program constituents, the results of which will then be assessed and critiqued by a panel of independent reviewers. This review will provide not only a key reality check, but also spark further evolution of the Program. I appeal to partners and constituents at all levels to devote time and thought to the survey portion of the upcoming review.

These efforts are just two of the Pro-



gram accomplishments from this past year. There are many more as you will see in this annual report. Again, I want to thank all of the people that collaboratively make up the ACCSP. I'll venture to speak for the entire Coordinating Council when I state that your efforts are commendable and thoroughly appreciated. We have come a long way. Looking back again, I vaguely seem to recall that, "the gentleman from Massachusetts" arranged to have that massive video projector shipped back to Gloucester after the Charleston meeting. For the sake of us flying out together, that was probably a good thing.

Regards,

Man alwah

Mark Alexander Fisheries Biologist, CT DEEP Chair, ACCSP Coordinating Council

### COORDINATING COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Mark Alexander* | CT DEEP Robert H. Boyles, Jr. | SC DNR A.C. Carpenter | PRFC Alex Chester | NOAA Louis Daniel | NC DMF Paul Diodati | MA DMF *Jaime Geiger* | USFWS Mark Gibson | RI DFW *James Gilmore* | NYS DEC Peter Himchak | NJ DFW Paul Howard | NEFMC Pat Keliher | ME DMR Bryan King | DC FWD Robert Mahood | SAFMC Chris Moore | MAFMC Thomas O'Connell | MD DNR John V. O'Shea | ASMFC Cheri Patterson | NH FGD Aaron Podey | FL FWCC Alan Risenhoover | NOAA Buck Sutter | NOAA Jack Travelstead | VMRC Spud Woodward | GA DNR Leroy Young | PFBC

# COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Since its inception, the 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 partners, provide the framework for the collaborative processes that create and manage the 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 policies.

This past year the committees spent a considerable amount of time revising and updating the <u>Atlantic Coast</u> <u>Fisheries Data Collection Standards</u>, which is used to guide partner data collection over the next several years. The Coordinating Council will consider the document for approval in May 2012.

### 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 project funding priorities. The Operations Committee provides recommendations to the Coordinating Council.

### **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.

### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

Technical committees develop or revise standards which in turn are reviewed by the Operations and Advisory Committees and submitted to the Coordinating Council for final approval.

The Biological Review Panel develops program strategies and standards to collect and manage 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.

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.

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

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

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

The Recreational Technical Committee develops data collection standards for monitoring catch and effort of recreational and for-hire fisheries.

# PROGRAM PROJECTS

# WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

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

### **PROGRAM STAFF**

Program staff is dedicated to maintaining ACCSP standards and handling administrative aspects of the Program, including outreach. This also includes monitoring the program projects that are funded each year.

### 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 systems that the Program manages, as well as internal systems that support program activites.

### ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was awarded \$245,084 for an observer program for the Mid-Atlantic and Rhode Island small mesh otter trawls. The goal of this project is to increase observer coverage (i.e., increase at sea days) of small mesh bottom trawl fishery with a mesh size of less than 5.5" on otter trawl vessels in state and federal waters off Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia.

Objectives include documenting discards and collecting biosamples of river herring, scup, weakfish, croaker, bluefish, black sea bass, summer flounder, spiny dogfish, as well as collecting catch and effort data. 257 sea days on single or multi-day trips, broken down by month and state, over the 12 month period (i.e., approximately 21 days for each month) are scheduled to achieve these goals. Data are collected and processed according to Northeast Fisheries Observer Program data collection standards and internal processing goals of a 90-day turnaround time. At the mid-point of the project scope, 95



at sea days have collected 380 scale samples and 212 otolith samples.

# MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) received \$183,976 for the ongoing project to continue portside bycatch sampling and commercial catch sampling of the Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*), Atlantic mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*), and Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) fisheries. This project began as a pilot study in 2003 and became fully funded in 2004. There have been over 7,600 trips sampled including over 400 bycatch studies. A majority of bycatch studies are focused on herring directed trips, but there have been samples of Atlantic mackerel and menhaden during trips.

Also, DMR received \$280,605 to continue to manage dealer and harvester reporting in Maine. At the mid-point of the project scope, staff fielded over 900 phone calls troubleshooting reporting issues, mailed over 200 compliance letters to delinquent dealers, made over 190 compliance calls to delinquent dealers, sent two lists of over 100 delinquent dealers to Marine Patrol, and assisted federally-permitted dealers in installing and using electronic reporting software at their dealer locations.

Also, when state law changed in 2010 declaring that it is illegal for dealers to buy from unlicensed harvesters, Maine Landings Program staff began an outreach effort to educate dealers on the new law. The staff identified fisheries where the practice of purchasing from unlicensed harvesters is a particular issue and sent instructions to dealers. Staff also stressed to all dealers the importance of abiding by the law to report truthful and accurate information.

All of this hard work has benefits for the ACCSP and its partners. Over 300,000 positive trip records were entered into the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAF-IS). The Landings Program staff is always encouraging new dealers to report electronically using SAFIS. In the past six months, of the 82 new dealers, 32% chose a form of electronic reporting. Staff also switched ten existing dealers from paper reporting to reporting electronically. *For more information on SAFIS please see page 14.* 

DMR also received \$29,302 to fill critical data gaps for at sea sampling of commercially caught white hake (*Urophycis tenuis*) in the Gulf of Maine. This project was funded to provide year round commercial samples to compliment survey samples and supply data that is currently missing from the assessment process. Some challenges to accomplishing the project goals project include acquiring enough samples to accurately represent the commercial fishery and validating otolith ageing methods.

### MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries received \$93,175 to continue collecting trip-level reports for all Massachusetts commercial permit holders. The benefits to this project include 1) comprehensive, standardized catch and effort data, 2) near real time monitoring of state groundfish landings by stock area, 3) improved ability to track quality issues, 4) ability to better characterize commercial fisheries, 5) eliminated duplicative reporting, and 6) data available to program partners, scientists, and managers. There have been over 7,500 permits issued.

### RHODE ISLAND DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

The Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife received \$90,088 to maintain and coordinate fishery-dependent data feeds to ACCSP. This project has been funded since 2000 with approximately 2,394 licensed fishermen and 135 licensed dealers. In 2011, over 60,000 records were entered by state dealers. Data collected through the program have been used for 1) daily tracking of quota monitored species, 2) tracking of license activity, 3) used in species advisory panels to formulate fisheries management plans, 4) used in possession limit prediction models for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass, 5) stock assessments, 6) allocations of initial quota and track landings for the Fluke Sector Pilot Program, as



# PROGRAM PROJECTS

Rhode Island State Sea Grant.

# **NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) received \$104,500 to continue the state fishery-dependent data collection and biological sampling. All state dealer report data are entered into SAFIS by DEC staff. They also continue to collect biological samples for a limited number of species. Effective January 1, 2012 New York state licensed dealers must submit dealer reports via SAFIS.



# well as 7) socio-economic analysis by **NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF** FISH & WILDLIFE

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center jointly received \$188,707 to further develop biological characterization and implementation of SAFIS for the New Jersey commercial fisheries. The SAFIS eDR management tool has been recognized not only by DFW as a benefit to commercial fisheries management, but has also gained the support of the fishing industry as a successful improvement to quota management.

> Since 2008, 172 eTRIP users have entered 14, 574 individual trip reports allowing staff to monitor several commercial fisheries in New Jersey. Implemented in 2008, DFW staff has completed a total of 49 at sea lobster observer

trips and has measured over 27,339 lobsters. These data have been used to develop management options for the Southern New England stock in Lobster Conservation Management Areas 4 and 5 off of New Jersey. The biological characterization project in New Jersey has yielded a total of 8 sampled species (American eel, black sea bass, summer flounder, American shad, menhaden, tautog, Atlantic croaker, and weakfish) producing over 8,590 age samples used in several ASMFC stock assessment models.

### MARYLAND DEPARTMENT **OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was awarded \$81,947 to improve timeliness and reporting accuracy by expanding online reporting for commercial fisheries. This project was implemented at the mid-point in the year after an extensive search for appropriate personnel. With the arrival of more staff came a focus on outreach, in particular, mailing letters and handouts to county heads and watermen, set up and maintenance of a several social media tools, as well as continual updates of the DNR website to advertise online reporting. New staff have also been sending translated DNR sampling data (e.g., blue crab, striped bass, etc.) to ACCSP.

# SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT **OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources received \$201,902 to continue instituting a collection method for ACCSP commercial module in South Carolina. Timely data submissions to ACCSP have been able to move from yearly to quarterly and there has been 100% implementation of SAFIS electronic data submissions for federally permitted dealers in South Carolina.

### ACCSP COMMERCIAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Commercial Technical Committee of the ACCSP received \$173,986 to begin a project to validate finfish and shellfish conversion factors. Many fisheries land products in whole form which do not require conversion (i.e., some fisheries land product gutted, filleted, fins or some other partial form of the fish). Conversion factors are also necessary for product landed in units other than weight in pounds, such as number, bushels, or dozens. Conversion factors are applied to these landed conditions or units to obtain a whole weight value in pounds. There is wide variability between conversion factors both spatially and temporally and this collaborative project will result in more accurate data for stock assessments, quota monitoring and other data needs required by fisheries management for all regions.

Each participating partner has a particular species or species groups identified as a sampling priority. For example, Rhode Island is focusing on shellfish (e.g., quahogs, soft shell clams, blue mussels, and whelks) while Southeastern states have a unified interest in sampling a variety of snapper grouper species, as well as highly migratory species (e.g., sharks, tunas, and swordfish).

The conversion factor project is a multipartner effort between Rhode Island, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, as well as the NOAA Fisheries Service - Northeast and Southeast Regional Offices. The "Validation of Commercial Finfish and Shellfish Conversion Factors". Project partners will continue to sample through 2012 and will result in a final public report once all funds have been used and sample targets have been reached.

# ACCSP RECREATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Recreational Technical Committee of the ACCSP received \$252,971 to increase intercept sampling levels for the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) for-hire methodology of the charter boat and headboat fishery on the Atlantic coast (New Hampshire through Florida). These samples are a benefit to recreational data users because they improve precision of catch estimates for charter boat and headboats and emphasize 'high priority' species for 2012 assessment updates. This project also increases collection of biological information (e.g., lengths and weights) using discards and harvested landings. At the mid-point of the project there was a 44% increase (approximately 30% of all samples) in headboat samples and 63% increase (approximately 40% of all samples) in charter boat samples as a result of this add-on to MRIP.



### **ALLOCATION OF FUNDED PROJECTS**

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission	\$245,084
Maine Department of Marine Resources (3 projects)	\$493,883
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries	\$93,175
Rhode Island Division of Fish & Wildlife	\$90,088
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	\$104,500
New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife	\$188,707
Maryland Department of Natural Resources	\$81,947
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources	\$201,902
ACCSP Commercial Technical Committee	\$173,986
ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee	\$252,971

# DATA WAREHOUSE

tabase populated with Atlantic coast fishery-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 2011.

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 area. Also, it gives users flexible and intuitive data queries to retrieve and download the information they need. Users of the Data Warehouse include anyone interested in Atlantic coast fishery-dependent data, such as fishery managers, stock assessment scientists, writers, historians, commercial and recreational fishermen, students, NGOs, as well as federal, state, or local government employees.

Most users access the Data Warehouse by requesting a confidential or non-confidential account. 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

The Data Warehouse is an online da- those data that are appropriate. The Program currently has 480 accounts in the Data Warehouse. See page 12 for a figure illustrating the increase in accounts over the past several years.

> Depending on the level of access, users may also be able query nearreal-time data. 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 2011, almost 40 individualized and unique data requests were completed. This past summer, staff also instituted two Data Warehouse webinars. These webinars included over 50 participants spanning from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute to the University of Washington.

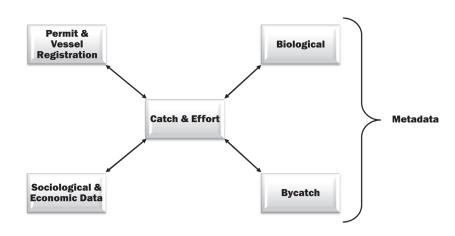
> > The chart to the right illustrates modules and collection process. Progress on each module varies. The most complete is the catch and effort module.

# 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. The figure below presents an overview of the various modules and the overall collection process. At this time, progress in the catch and effort data module is the most complete. The chart on the opposite page illustrated reflects how the catch and effort data are presented in the Data Warhouse. More importantly, this chart reflects 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

# OVERVIEW OF MODULES



request recreational catch and effort data. The most recent data includes wave 6 (November - December) for 2011. The 2004-2011 data have been updated in conjunction with the new MRIP estimation methodology released February 2012. This includes both the public estimates and the advanced queries for bag limit analysis and directed trips.

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.

# COMMERCIAL CATCH & EFFORT DATA

The chart below illustrates how data are collected at the partner level and the level of detail at which those data are submitted to the Program. For example, "Trip reports (presented as monthly summaries)' means that data were collected by partners at the trip level and submitted as monthly summaries to NOAA Fisheries Service or ACCSP. The Program began receiving all data directly from partners in 2007.

	1950 - 1977	1978 - 1985	1986 - 1988	1989	1990 - 1993	1994	1995 - 2000	2001 - 2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 - today
ME DMR												
NH FGD												
MA DMF												
<b>RI DFW</b>												
CT DEEP												
NYS DEC												
NJ DFW												
DE DFW												
MD DNR												
VMRC												
NC DMF												
SC DNR												
GA DNR												
FL FWCC												

Annual summaries	Monthly summaries	Trip reports (presented as monthly summaries)	Mixed (Trip reports and monthly summaries)	Trip reports (all fisheries)	

# 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" requires 3 separate contributors to fisheries data. This precludes the identity of a single contributor to fisheries data. 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. Each partner is responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of its data. They decide who has access to their confidential data. Program partners grant individuals access to their data housed in the Data Warehouse. In 2011, the Program improved and automated the processes to request and expire access to confidential data.

# DATA WAREHOUSE ACCOUNTS



# 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 nonconfidential.

# T 674459 Ryan ya Dallan

# STOCK ASSESSMENTS

Many custom data requests are used to aid stock assessments. 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 fishery-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.

During 2011, staff provided commercial landings for SEDAR 25 (Black sea bass and golden tilefish), as well as acted as the workgroup rapporteur and data collector. Also, data were provided to ASMFC for the American eel stock assessment data workshop.

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

# 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 of the United States (FUS)</u>. In the spring of 2011, staff compiled and submitted over 45 datasets to NOAA Fisheries Service, including SAFIS dealer reports through an open and collaborative process led by ACCSP. These datasets were obtained in the spring as preliminary and were updated as final data in the fall of 2011.

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

> The chart to the right lists the 2010 datasets that were compiled by staff in the spring of 2011.

# ACCSP SUBMISSIONS OF DATA BY SOURCE

ACCSP - SAFIS	NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE	PROGRAM PARTNER
Dealers reports: ME DMR, NH	Bluefin tuna and ocean quahog/surf	ME DMR supplemental harvest records
FGD, MA DMF, RI DFW, NYS DEC, NJ DFW, DE DFW, MD DNR, VMRC	clam ITQ (CODES): ME DMR, NH FGD, RI DFW, CT DEEP, NYS DEC, NJ DFW, DE DFW, MD DNR, VMRC	NH FGD coastal harvest & lobster supplemental
MA DMF swordfish canvas		RI DFW horseshoe crab & lobster
NYS DEC (Horseshoe crab & menhaden)	MA DMF bluefin tuna/surf clam (CODES)	supplemental
NJ DFW eTRIP (Blue crab &	RI DFW RICAN07	NYS DEC crustacean, gillnet, Hudson River shad, lobster annual recall, shell-
tautog)	NJ DFW swordfish canvas	fish data, & striped bass tag reports
		NJ DFW blue crab supplemental, fishermen and dealer reports (eel), & menhaden
		DE DFW finfish trip level & state shellfish
		MD DNR fishermen & monthly dealer reports
		PRFC data
		VMRC fishermen reports
		GA DNR state trip reports
		SC DNR state trip reports

# SAFIS

In 2003, partners created the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) to meet the increasing need for real-time commercial landings data. The system is now comprised of five distinct applications. It is important to recognize that while these applications function independently, all are kept within the same database and share standards and codes that are ACCSP compliant.

The chart on the following page is a current overview of the number of records for each public application. The number of records is the records since the implementation date to the end of February 2012.

# ELECTRONIC DEALER REPORTING (eDR):

A web-based application that allows dealers to enter an electronic dealer report. Fields that must be entered for a completed report include: fisherman, port, date landed, time landed, date purchased, vessel number, species, disposition, gear, quantity, and price.

eDR has a unique price board feature that allows for the price of a species to be saved for 14 days. It will automatically be adjusted to all reports for that time frame and incorporated to any incomplete reports. After 14 days the price must be re-entered. When reports are completed electronically an interactive report can be made to view progress and history of landings.

# 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. Trips may be categorized as commercial, party/charter, or recreational.

This application allows fisherman to create a trip report after entering in the required fields in the trip, effort and catch categories. Similar to the eDR application interactive reports can be made to illustrate progress and history of catch and effort.

# VOLUNTARY RECREATIONAL LOGBOOKS (eLogbook):

A web-based application that collects data from private recreational anglers on a voluntary basis.

eLogbook provides summaries of information on all species caught by the angler, it can be an invaluable tool to anglers since it can provide a way to narrow strategies for any given set of conditions and is more efficient way for anglers to take a look at the past and save the daily entries.

# SINGLE TRIP TICKET DEALER REPORTING (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.

# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING SAFIS IN YOUR STATE?

- 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

# SAFIS APPLICATIONS SNAPSHOT

PROGRAM PARTNER	APPLICATION	IMPLEMENTATION DATE	TOTAL # OF DEALER RECORDS	TOTAL # OF TRIP RECORDS	TOTAL # OF ANGLER RECORDS	TOTAL # OF RECORDS BY STATE	
ME DMR	eDR	April 2006	619,479			619,479	
NH FGD	eDR	May 2004	23,560			23,560	
	eDR	May 2004	434,134				
MA DMF	eTRIP	August 2008		195,184		630,189	
	eLogbook	May 2009			871		
	eDR	Jan. 2004	153,007				
ri dfw	eTRIP	April 2010		13,003		167,303	
	eLogbook	April 2010			1,293	1	
	eDR	May 2004	17,714			20.012	
CT DEEP	eTRIP	March 2009		20,299		38,013	
	eDR	Feb. 2007	10,055				
NYS DEC	eTRIP	Oct. 2008		15.851		25,906	
	eDR	Sept. 2005	56				
NJ DFW	eTRIP	March 2008		14,566		18,248	
	eLogbook	Jan. 2008			3,626		
eDR		Feb. 2005	65			181	
DE DFW	eLogbook	January 2011			116	- 101	
	eDR	May 2004	12,434				
MD DNR	eTRIP	Jan. 2010		6,334		18,782	
	eLogbook	March 2010			14		
SC DNR	e-1 Ticket	March 2011		943		943	
GA DNR	e-1 Ticket	June 2011		30		30	
Noaa - Ne	eDR	March 2004	2,357,330			2,357,330	
NOAA - SE	eDR	Jan. 2011	1,013			1.052	
NOAA - SE	e-1 Ticket	June 2011		39		1,052	
TOTAL # RECOR	DS BY APPLICATION		3,628,847	266,249	5,920	3,901,016	

# NATIONAL NETWORKING

The Program takes an active role in collaborating and advising on national fishery-dependent data collection programs. Each year, positive momentum is made for improved data quality. These national networks bring together Commissions, state, NOAA Fisheries Service, and regional councils 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.

# HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

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, known as eDEALER. 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. Those data will be loaded to the new eDEALER stand-alone application (not part of the suite of SAFIS applications) on a real-time basis. In addition to providing HMS data, staff has designed a portal to the eDEALER application for non-SAFIS users (predominantly those in the Gulf coast).

# FISHERIES ONE-STOP SHOP

In October 2011, the Program was pleased to announce the first release of the National Fisheries One-Stop Shop (FOSS) application produced by the Fisheries Information System (FIS) Program of NOAA Fisheries Service. This application provides public access to U.S. commercial and recreational nonconfidential landings (three or more vessels or companies) information for U.S. vessels, as well as U.S. landings in foreign ports.

The primary goal of FOSS is to offer a national view of fisheries landings using the up-to-date, real-time access to the sources of these data. Data sources summarized in the first release include the ACCSP, Gulf Fishery Information Network (GulfFIN), Alaska Fishery Information Network (AKFIN), Pacific Fishery Information Network (PacFIN), United States Geological Survey (Great Lakes landings), the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), and the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC).

Duane Harris former Chairman of SAFMC

stated to Congress, "It is unfair to have the fishermen pay the price for an ineffective quota monitoring program through payback of overages when the more efficient ACCSP system could have been used at no cost to NOAA

Fisheries Service". (See right sidebar for more information)

# **OUT & ABOUT**

The ACCSP presented at the 134th Annual American FisheriesSociety Meeting in Seattle, WA, but sponsored the National Electronic Fisheries Information Systems workshop. The day was spent discussing developing technologies and how fisheries managers can take advantage of these technologies and handle any issues that might arise. Staff also presented at the symposium, "Advances in Data Managementand Dissemination: The View from the Edge of a New Frontier".

# SAFMC TO CONGRESS: ACCSP SAVES MONEY & JOBS

On July 26, 2011 Duane Harris, former chairman of the SAFMC, testified before Congress during a hearing on NOAA Fisheries Service, "Is the Lack of Basic Science Costing Jobs" before the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs House Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. Harris was focused on informing the Subcommittee how certain 2007 amendments of the reauthorization Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act affected marine fisheries resources in the South Atlantic and how those issues could be resolved. He stated, "The existing Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Commercial Quota Monitoring Program that operates in the states of North Carolina northward could be extended to the states of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida at no cost for software. This ongoing ACCSP program provides automatic daily reports on species with a commercial quota". For the testimony in its entirety please visit www.safmc.net.

# FUNDING

As in previous years, a majority of the funds that are allocated to the Program are distributed to program partners for data collection projects. See pages 6-9 for more details on each project.

The remaining funds, collectively known as the Administrative Grant, account for slightly less than 45% of the overall budget. The administrative grant budget allocates funds for staff support, information systems resources, committee travel, and various outreach projects.

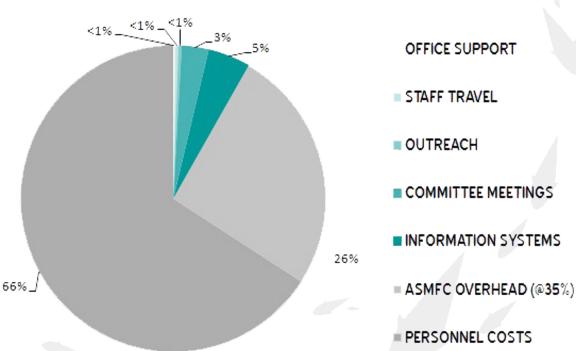
For 2011, personnel were the majority of the administrative budget followed by committee travel, and information systems. Overhead charged to the Program covers office space, utilities, and administrative support provided to the Program by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Office Support Staff Travel & Training Outreach Committee Meetings

BUDGET SUMMARY \$2,500 \$5,000 \$5,000 \$40,000

Information Systems ASMFC Overhead Personnel Costs

\$63,500 \$366,000 \$930,000



# LOOKING FORWARD

to fulfill its mission is foremost in my thinking - as it often is in most previous years. The FY13 budget contains significant cuts in funding used for data collection programs along the Atlantic coast. Our representatives are working to restore these cuts, but there is no guarantee that they will be successful. There is a very real danger that some of the gains that we have made together might be lost if funding is not restored.

Nonetheless, progress must and will be made. We expect to deploy the NOAA Fisheries Service's Highly Migratory Species (HMS) electronic data collection system within a few months. This requires an ongoing coordinated effort between the Program, The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, HMS, and both Atlantic coast Regional Offices of NOAA Fisheries Service enabling us to build stronger partnerships than ever before.

blueprint for the ACCSP - the third edition of the program design, At-

Lack of resources for the Program lantic Coast Fisheries Data Collection Standards. I expect the final version to be put in front of the Coordinating Council in the next few months. An outcome of this which I am very excited about is that the recreational discussion has triggered some continued work on Proportional Standard Error (PSE). We were successful in obtaining funding from MRIP to conduct a workshop. The end result should be a much better understanding of the impacts of PSE on management decisions, and a better grounded data standard for PSE.

> I also expect that in the next few months an independent program review of the ACCSP will be conducted. We look forward to working with a respected panel of experts in reviewing our progress. The process should be completed in time to present the findings and recommendations to the Coordinating Council in November of 2012.

We have nearly finished the revised It seems as if every year we get busier. I take this as a sign of success. In 2011, we were more involved in



providing data and working with partners to improve processes and data collection than ever before. I am very optimistic about the future as we move forward to produce and disseminate dependable and timely marine fishery statistics.

Regards,

Will A. Cohol

Michael S. Cahall ACCSP Director

**STAFF** Michael S. Cahall | Director *Julie Defilippi* | Data Coordinator Karen Holmes | Software Team Leader Ann McElhatton | Program Manager Nico Mwai | Fisheries Programmer Jennifer Ni | Information Systems Specialist *Tim Sartwell* | Data Coordinator Geoff White | Data Team Leader

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Cover page: Marine PhotoBank (Brandon Puckett) Page 5: ACCSP Page 6: ASMFC Page 7: ACCSP Page 8: ACCSP Page 9: NOAA Fisheries Service Page 12: Marine PhotoBank (Rebecca Kibler)

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program





# ATLANTIC COASTAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N Arlington, VA 22201 (p) 703.842.0780 (f) 703.842.0779 (e) info@accsp.org *www.accsp.org*