

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, January 23, 1985
New Orleans, Louisiana

APPROVED BY:


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Walter M. Tatum called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

The following members and guests were present:

Representatives and Alternates (*)

J.Y. Christmas	GCRL
Walter M. Tatum	AL
Barney Barrett	LA
Richard Waller	GCRL/MS
Gary Matlock	TX
Walter Nelson	NMFS
J. Alan Huff	FL
Karen Foote*	LA

Work Group Leaders

Thomas McIlwain*	GCRL/MS
Bill Richards	NMFS
Ken Savastano	NMFS
Warren Stuntz	NMFS
C.E. Bryan*	TX

Staff

Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

Elmer Gutherz	NMFS-ML
Ken Sherman	NMFS-Narragansett
Walter Smith	NMFS-Sandy Hook

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following amendments:

- 1) Item h) Other, was added to the schedule following discussion of Administrative activities for 1986-1988.
- 2) Discussion of providing SEAMAP data to Non-SEAMAP Investigators was added to the scheduled report of the Data Management Work Group.
- 3) Election of new officers was rescheduled following Alan Huff's arrival.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 16, 1984 meeting were discussed. It was suggested and approved by consensus that the minutes should reflect what

actually transpired at meetings rather than a later interpretation of what was intended to be said; in the future, minutes may be corrected officially only at Subcommittee meetings.

Budget Report

* N. Bane noted that the \$70,000 allocated to SEAMAP Administration for FY85 has been approved by the necessary federal review procedure and is available for distribution as approved by the Subcommittee. Detailed expenditures since October 1984 were not available at this time. G. Matlock moved to request that the Chairman note the inability of the Subcommittee to function as directed without specific budgetary information, with a copy of that letter directed to the Executive Director and the TCC Chairman. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Publications Report

N. Bane reported the status of SEAMAP documents, noting publication of a revised edition of the 1982 SEAMAP Atlas (January 22), and the publication by NOAA/NMFS of the 1982 SEAMAP Ichthyoplankton Atlas (January). The 1985 SEAMAP Marine Directory is expected to be completed in March, 1985 and the anticipated date of publication for the 1983 SEAMAP Atlas is summer, 1985.

Elections

* D. Waller nominated the present Chairman, Walter Tatum, for re-election to the position for 1985. W. Nelson moved to close the nominations. The move to close was seconded and the motion passed; W. Tatum was re-elected. B. Barrett nominated the present Vice Chairman, Gary Matlock, for re-election to the position for 1985; W. Nelson moved to close the nominations. The move to close was seconded and the motion passed; G. Matlock was re-elected.

Status of State-Federal Cooperative Agreements

N. Bane reviewed the status of the cooperative agreements, noting that the agreements have been approved by the federal review board for Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, as well as the Commission. Documents have been submitted to the review system by Florida. G. Matlock noted that Texas has not yet submitted its documents because of concern that allocated funds could best be used to replace funding lost to NMFS functions through the \$250,000 committed to non-SEAMAP activities by NMFS administration at the national level; he further noted his subsequent belief that a unified approach to allocations is necessary and intends to submit an application for the financial assistance award, but wished to remind the Subcommittee that the \$250,000 loss was unwarranted.

Discussion of the unanticipated budget cut followed. It was noted that regional congressmen have been alerted to the situation, although the rationale for the cut remains unknown and other governmental agencies also experience such redirected allocations.

Work Group Reports

1) Plankton Work Group.

B. Richards distributed additional information and corrections as addenda to the synopsis of Gulf plankton information distributed earlier; the Subcommittee extended its appreciation for the quality of the information. Discussion of the need for additional surveys and researching of available literature followed, with two gaps in the data base noted: winter (January-February) and late summer. B. Richards noted that present federal travel constraints will probably preclude the planned meeting between NMFS and PESCA (Mexico) plankton and environmental scientists in spring 1985. Possible species priorities mentioned included shrimp, coastal herring, mackerels and sciaenids. B. Richard also clarified reported discrepancies between identified abundance of U.S. and Mexican Gulf plankton, noting that the Polish Sorting Center appears to do a better job of sorting than the personnel at the NMFS Miami Lab.

The Plankton Work Group recommended continuing to conduct plankton surveys piggybacked aboard existing SEAMAP cruises, with states being requested to collect plankton during the late summer-early fall period. The need for additional samples was discussed, as well as the efficiency of collecting and sorting samples. Reported costs for sorting invertebrate zooplankton are \$3500/yr. It was pointed out the specimens collected by GCRL during SEAMAP larval red drum study will be sent to Poland for sorting. B. Richards stated that as in FY85, NMFS will request the sum of \$45,000 for sorting plankton in FY86.

* The wish of the Crab Subcommittee to have an invertebrate plankton specialist on the SEAMAP Plankton Work Group was discussed. A. Huff moved to have an invertebrate specialist appointed to the work group. The motion was seconded and discussed; the motion passed unanimously.

* A. Huff moved to appoint Harriet Perry of GCRL to the Plankton Work Group. The motion was seconded, discussed and passed unanimously.

Other items discussed with respect to plankton activities included the proposed NMFS review of ichthyoplankton activities in the region and merging of plankton data into the SEAMAP Information System. W. Nelson introduced Drs. Walter Smith of the NMFS-Sandy Hook Laboratory and Ken Sherman of the NMFS-Narragansett Laboratory.

2) Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group

C.E. Bryan reported the findings of the Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group, which met Tuesday, January 22, 1985. The work group reviewed the 1984 sampling regime and Scott Nichol's proposed sampling design for the 1985 Spring-Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey. Findings indicated no significant differences in shrimp catch rates resulting from the two sampling legs (E→W; W→E) in 1984; a 21-day sampling design in one direction only was proposed for 1985. State participation and net sizes to be used were discussed and C.E. Bryan noted that the work group also recommended twin trawling between the OREGON II and vessels that have not yet been calibrated for comparability.

The work group's syllabus was discussed, and it was suggested that states use the present unfinished syllabus because of its suitability aboard the OREGON II. A uniform station numbering system will be developed and assigned to participants. C.E. Bryan also stated a difference of opinion with respect to the number of shrimp to be measured during the survey, with 50 the desired number if only the mean is needed, but 200 per station needed for length-frequency analysis (in support of the Texas Closure). The work group recommended a special gear calibration study between 1986 and 1988, as well as expanded fall shrimp/groundfish surveying, beginning in 1986. The wish of Ed Klima to maintain an open-door policy for Mexico to participate in the surveys was expressed.

3) Red Drum Work Group

T. McIlwain reviewed the findings of the Red Drum Work Group at its November 13, 1984 meeting, noting that the work group wished to remain at its present size and had approved a red drum stock identification study sampling design. LSU, conducting the proposed analyses, will be requested to continue working with Paul Ramsey (LA Tech U.) and Bill Wilder (Rice U.); T. McIlwain noted that for FY86-FY88, no specific sampling or survey plan has yet been developed, pending information based on the inshore sampling study. SEAMAP-South Atlantic states have agreed to participate in the study and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science will be contacted about providing specimens from the Chesapeake Bay region. A sampling protocol is being developed by LSU and will be sent to participants soon.

Jeff Matthews' (NMFS-Galveston) paper on shrimp surveys was distributed to meeting participants and discussion resumed on the shrimp/groundfish survey; members agreed by consensus to measure 200 shrimp per sample.

4) Environmental Data Work Group

W. Stuntz reported that the existing problem with the 1983 chlorophyll data has been resolved as a result of the October 9

Environmental Data Work Group workshop in St. Petersburg, FL; the newly calculated values will be available to the SEAMAP Information System soon. The 1984 chlorophyll data are being completed by FDNR and LSU and will be available through the SIS shortly. The work group recommends that for FY85, data collection activities be similar to those of FY84 (e.g., piggybacked onto existing SEAMAP surveys), with environmental data taken at all biological stations, including plankton. Salinity data from 1984 have also been completed and are ready for entering into the SIS. It was noted that the FY85 SEAMAP funds have been used by NMFS to employ several lab/vessel technicians onboard the OREGON II and CHAPMAN, and will perform SEAMAP analyses this year.

G. Matlock requested information on the status of the 1983 Trawl Gear Calibration Workshop proceedings and was advised that N. Bane will assist John Watson (NMFS-ML) with the final editing and preparation of the work; two papers still require modification prior to publication. The editors were requested to complete the work as soon as possible.

5) Data Management Work Group

K. Savastano distributed a written status report of the SEAMAP Information System and noted that some requests for data remain outstanding because of the unexpectedly long shut-down during the A-76 system review; data are, however, currently being generated for the 1983 SEAMAP Atlas. No 1982 plankton data have yet been entered into the system, but as a result of K. Savastano's recent trip to the Miami Lab, SIS should soon be able to satisfy requests for these data. It was agreed to use the NMFS Pascagoula bionumeric code for SIS in cross-accessing shrimp/groundfish data; these biocodes have been distributed to all states requesting them.

K. Savastano noted that with no additional funds for the system in FY85, existing resources will have to be used in order to edit 1982-84 data and fill requests; additional funds are needed to generate the necessary master file. The capability of participating states to directly access SEAMAP data was discussed; it appears that such access is at least two years in the future.

G. Matlock expressed his concern about SEAMAP providing data to researchers, especially Non-SEAMAP Investigators, with little or no control over the use of such data, and the desirability of recovering at least part of comparable data bases from these requesters. This situation was discussed, with suggestions for delaying the access to such data, making them available "as is" to requesters (i.e., forcing requesters to come to state agencies to record them), and the need to comply with existing state and federal regulations pertaining to their use. Mechanisms for reimbursing agencies for costs incurred in data distribution were reviewed. It was agreed that N. Bane would request North Carolina Dept. Community Development and Natural Resources to supply a copy of that state's regulations on the matter for review by Subcommittee members.

Some members expressed concern about the possible proliferation of data from many sources, some of them incompatible with SIS, at a time when SEAMAP resources are presently insufficient to manage current survey data.

* G. Matlock moved to have SEAMAP request other agencies (that request SEAMAP data) supply similar data not presently included in SIS. The motion was seconded and discussion followed, with concern for the possible deluge of such data and possible repercussions from such pressure on requesters.

* G. Matlock moved to amend his previous motion, requesting information on the types of information available at such organizations, and, if they are appropriate to the SIS data base, in consultation with the Data Manager and Data Management Work Group, such action will be taken to incorporate these data into SIS. The amendment was seconded; NMFS again expressed concern that the system is fully loaded now and cannot accommodate much more data. The amendment passed with one dissenting vote, thereby voiding the original motion.

The meeting adjourned for 15 minutes.

The meeting resumed at 3:20 with discussion of proposed FY86-88 SEAMAP activities. K. Savastano presented information on anticipated costs for the data management system (\$195,000 per year); A. Huff noted that anticipated archiving costs are \$34,000 for FY86, with increased, undetermined increases for FY87 and FY88. C.E. Bryan addressed anticipated shrimp/groundfish survey activities, with total annual costs at \$500,000 (equal to present costs), and an additional \$500,000 needed annually if the expanded fall shrimp/groundfish surveys are approved, and additional funding required for the proposed 10-day special gear calibration cruise, and workshops. B. Richards noted that plankton surveys are expected to be piggybacked onto other cruises, minimizing plankton survey costs. W. Stuntz advised the Subcommittee that each participant should plan to acquire environmental sampling systems (CTD and backup, e.g., reversing thermometer, Winkler system and O₂ system) with proposed activities for FY86-88 the same as FY85 (i.e., piggybacked onto other cruises, with chlorophyll analyses to be done at NMFS-ML), and noted no funding is available for special surveys (environmental perturbation studies). N. Bane clarified the existing funding scheme for environmental perturbation studies, noting that these should be funded through direct application to SERO, according to the Operations Plan. T. McIlwain advised that future red drum stock identification study costs and activities are unknown at this time; an offshore study would probably be in excess of \$10,000. Projected Commission costs for the administration of SEAMAP were distributed; it was decided to delay discussion of this item until the next day so that L. Simpson, GSMFC Executive Director, could be present.

W. Nelson presented a schedule of other proposed SEAMAP activities for FY86-88, following proposed activities generally outlined in the Operations Plan. These included, for all three years: 1) midwater trawl/high-rise bottom trawls (seasonal); 2) mackerel larvae surveys; and 3) winter coastal herring egg and larvae surveys. Longlining surveys for large fishes on the continental shelf, beginning in FY88, were also proposed. Top priorities of NMFS for this time period were:

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FY86 - data management; FY87 - trawling surveys (with a need for an additional \$150,000); and FY88 - longlining surveys (with a need for an additional \$50,000).

Discussion followed on probable state costs and vessel time available for these activities. Concern was expressed for identifying an activity as a SEAMAP function when only one participant performed survey functions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30, with the notification that the meeting on the following day would begin at 9:00 a.m.

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Thursday, January 24, 1985
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman Walter M. Tatum called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

The following persons were present:

J.Y. Christmas
Larry Simpson
Walter M. Tatum
Barney Barrett
Dick Waller
Alan Huff
Gary Matlock
Walter Nelson
C.E. Bryan
Karen Foote
Warren Stuntz
Bill Richards
Ken Savastano
Nikki Bane

N. Bane reviewed major items presented the previous day on proposed SEAMAP administrative costs for FY86-88. A discussion of the budget followed, focusing on variable costs that can be addressed by several approaches to funding the Coordinator's position. L. Simpson and N.

Bane were requested to provide information and costs for such alternatives, in response to Commission concern for efficient management of the program. Subcommittee members expressed their concern for the quality of program management, even where other options may be less costly. It was agreed that the Chairman would present this information to the TCC and would be available to accompany the TCC Chairman in the latter's review of the options at the March 1985 meeting of the Executive Board. W. Nelson requested that this information be available prior to the March meeting.

Discussion followed on the slate of activities proposed at the previous day's meeting. Members expressed concern that the expanded fall shrimp/groundfish survey might not be feasible for fall (FY)1986; C.E. Bryan and others clarified the intent of the work group to begin this activity in fall (FY)1987.

* G. Matlock moved to table discussion of the expanded fall shrimp/groundfish survey until the March 1985 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned for 15 minutes.

The meeting resumed with discussion of the activities proposed by W. Nelson, who requested the group to consider approval of these surveys. Discussion followed on these activities, with states indicating their respective abilities and needs to participate in the activities. L. Simpson requested the Subcommittee to advise him of general funding requirements for FY86 in order to permit his development of overall GSMFC and regional fishery research and development needs for a congressional hearing. It was agreed to abide by the funding requirements approved in the Operations Plan (\$1.5 million) for this purpose, following consultation with W. Nelson on other proposed NMFS activities and programs.

A target date of July 1985 was suggested for completion of the FY86-88 State-Federal Cooperative Agreement documents. Discussion of

increased costs associated with the proposed activities followed, with agreement that such increases would be necessary for longlining and fall shrimp/groundfish surveys by all participants.

G. Matlock stated his intent to put together additional available literature on plankton off Texas, in order to avoid duplication of surveys, indicating his belief that as yet data sets have not been made available to the Plankton Work Group. Members discussed the importance of synoptic plankton data and identification of sorting and collection costs versus the value of the data. The coastal herring winter egg and larvae survey was approved by consensus.

Concern for appropriate literature searches on squid and butterfish prior to approving surveys for these organisms was expressed, as these resources have been taken in shrimp trawls. The need for monitoring and assessing expanded coverage was noted. The midwater trawl/high-rise bottom trawl survey for squid and butterfish resources was approved by consensus.

Discussion followed on an August mackerel larvae survey to determine abundance and distribution of spawners, spawning locations and spawning stock size. The need for adequate literature searches for these resources was also expressed. The mackerel larvae survey was approved by consensus.

A short discussion followed on the usefulness of the proposed longlining survey. Members approved by unanimous consensus this survey for large fishes not usually captured in existing survey activities. W. Nelson noted that NMFS will work with state participants to develop appropriate survey methodology that can be used effectively by the states.

Other Business

G. Matlock informed the Subcommittee that TPWD had discontinued its beach seining survey activities and does not intend to conduct this type of survey in the future.

Discussion followed on the need for a full day's meeting of the Subcommittee in March. It was decided that four hours would be

sufficient for the meeting. Major topics will include final approval of program plans and administrative activities for FY86-88, detailed FY86 activities, and final approval of the FY85 Spring-Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey.

W. Tatum expressed his appreciation for the Subcommittee's confidence in his leadership and re-election to the position of Chairman, and reminded members of the importance of producing highly visible program results in this first year of federal funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Randy L. Lewis
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC STATISTICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH, 11, 1985
MOBILE, ALABAMA

TCC STATISTICAL SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, March 11, 1985
Mobile, Alabama

Chairman Henry G. "Skip" Lazauski called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Henry G. "Skip" Lazauski, AMR, Dauphin Island, AL
Frederick Deegen, BMR, Long Beach, MS
Claude Boudreaux, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Albert Green, TPWD, Austin, TX
Frank "Stu" Kennedy, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL

Staff

Eileen M. Benton, Staff Assistant

Others

Albert Jones, NMFS, Miami, FL
Sandy Russell, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
John Roussel, LDWF, Grand Isle, LA
Thomas R. Dawley, NMFS, New Orleans, LA
Mark Holliday, NMFS, Washington, DC
Ron Essig, NMFS, Washington, DC
Douglas Gregory, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Andue C. Kvatervik, GDNR, Brunswick, GA
I.B. "Buck" Byrd, NMFS, Miami, FL
John Ray Nelson, GSMFC Commissioner, AL
Robert Chapoton, NMFS, Beaufort, NC

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 17, 1984, were adopted with the following changes:

- 1) Page 2, sixth paragraph, last sentence, should read as follows: The study is designed to tag directly out of the bag seines and trawls, and then with bait purchased by the State.
- 2) Page 4, third paragraph, last sentence, change the word sells to sales.
- 3) Page 5, third paragraph, third sentence, should read as follows: The active aspects are the survey of charter boat captains and the postcard survey done quarterly and forwarded to 10% of all the licensed boat owners to catch the person who has his own personal, private ramp.

- 6) Page 5, fourth paragraph, first sentence, should read: T. Dawley reported that Florida has an overall statistical program. Most of what is being done in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana is plugged into the Cooperative Program.
- 7) Page 7, fourth paragraph, first sentence, change the word principle to principal.
- 8) Page 10, second paragraph, first sentence, change the word liability to reliability.

Reports on Current Projects

Computer Files

H. Lazauski reported on the status of the computer files. He reminded everyone to complete the record forms on all basic data files that the States have on their systems (shrimp, finfish, speckled trout, redfish studies, etc.) and send the completed forms to him so he could develop a central data base file. As of this date, the State of Louisiana and National Marine Fisheries Service are the only agencies that have participated.

* A deadline date for sending H. Lazauski the information was set for July 1, 1985. It was also agreed that this subject would be an agenda item at the October 1985 meeting.

Symposium

H. Lazauski gave a brief summary of the "Design, Collection and Assessment of Angler Volunteered Information Program" symposium to be held at the General Session. Pending funding, the proceedings of this symposium will be published and distributed at a later date.

Presentation by NOAA General Council on the Confidentiality of Collected Information

H. Lazauski reported that due to budgetary travel cuts, NOAA General Council could not attend this meeting. I.B. Byrd presented the following statement from Craig O'Conner, NOAA General Council on NOAA's position on the confidentiality of collected information.

The Magnuson Act provides for confidentiality and NMFS will back confidentiality and will go to court if necessary. The only reason they did not go to court in the last case (Mississippi) was that there was a voluntary agreement on the part of the fisherman to release the information.

Discussion of Confidentiality - Mississippi's Recent Problem

A discussion was held concerning the Internal Revenue Service's attempts to obtain confidential information from the Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources.

* A motion was made to draft a letter to Craig O'Conner, NOAA General Council, requesting a Policy Statement in support of the State(s) refusal to disclose confidential information. The motion carried.

F. Deegen will draft letter, circulate to Subcommittee, then submit for formal reply.

Data Management by NMFS - Discussion

A. Jones gave a summary on the success of the ADP Advisory Committee meeting held in Miami, February 28 - March 1, 1985.

He noted the following events underway:

1) NMFS has leased 800 numbers which will provide cost-free dial up capabilities to the Burroughs 6800 and Burroughs 7800 computers. He noted that they still have a problem in making the Apple computer equipment compatible with the modems. After this problem is resolved, each group will be given the 800 numbers and modems.

2) NMFS is looking at putting together a regional data base using the data management system (DMS II) which is available on the Burroughs Computer.

3) NMFS wants the States to do the data entry (editing, file building, etc.). He noted that they will be asking State people to begin entering their data on the landings and shrimp data.

It was also recommended that an automated tracking system be designed and implemented for documentation updates.

The Subcommittee was also informed that John Poffenberger, NMFS, Miami, will be the point of contact for problems dealing with data management.

Proprietary Data: ^{are they} Whose Data ~~is it~~ Anyway?

A. Green reported his State's concern regarding data being collected and entered into a central data base. Basically he was trying to stimulate discussion regarding publication rights (i.e., someone else publishing information collected by the State of Texas before Texas had an opportunity to publish it, therefore the reluctance of Texas to enter ~~a lot of~~ data into a central data base).

A. Jones' personal feeling was that if the data ^{were} ~~was~~ aggregate then this would be considered public information and if any researcher wanted to use that information, he would have access to that information and could develop a scientific study or research project using that information.

It was suggested that if anyone has a specific data set he wanted protected, he could incorporate that into his cooperative agreement.

A. Jones responded that he felt that as data are collected with public funds an obligation exists to provide a core body of fishery statistics which is what the cooperative program is all about. A. Jones went on to say he felt core data should be made available quickly and generally, but he could restrict that to just the core landings and associated data.

* Motion was made for the Subcommittee to discuss this topic with agency directors and deliver the information at the October 1985 meeting. The motion carried.

Discussion of States' Recreational Surveys

M. Holliday and R. Essig introduced discussion on the States' needs for recreational fisheries. They requested that each State agency representative meet with them to look at the state's objective, kind of data needed, and level of precision and accuracy required.

They also noted that their presentation at the symposium would be a summary discussion on what it is that the national survey collects, how and why NMFS collects it, what is involved logistically, what is involved from the money standpoint and what the outputs of the survey are.

Talk and Discussion on Data FMP with Douglas Gregory

D. Gregory gave a detailed overview regarding the Council's Data Collection Work Plan. (See Attachment 1 for complete work plan.)

* Motion was made for members of Subcommittee to discuss FMP with agency directors, telephone vote (approve/disapprove support of FMP) to H. Lazauski. Motion carried.

Upgrading of State-Federal Computer Terminals

H. Lazauski reported that this item was discussed at the ADP Advisory meeting in Miami. It was agreed by all present at that meeting that the first priority would be to make the 800 numbers and modems available.

Second priority was to have the data in good shape - understandable and workable.

Third priority, delayed until sometime in the future, was the upgrading of the computer terminals. It was noted that next fiscal year two computers will be on line as test cases and when more money is available, the system would be expanded to the rest of the States.

Use of Programmatic Funds/Future Workshops

After discussion and agreement by Subcommittee members on needs for funding, H. Lazauski reported that he will go to the Technical Coordinating Committee to request funding for the symposium publication and funding for a two-day workshop (FY85 or FY86) to be held at the Southeast Fisheries Center, NMFS. It was noted that if funding was approved for FY85 the workshop would be held in conjunction with the Annual State/Federal workshop on June 23 and 24. Total funding request is \$5,000 (\$3,000 for publication, \$2,000 for workshop).

H. Lazauski also mentioned that if anyone has ideas on future workshops they should submit them to him or Larry Simpson.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Discussion was held concerning the various options of electing new chairs.

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* Motion was made to make vice-chairman succeed chairman and to hold election of new vice chairmen at fall meetings. Motion carried.

Other Business

A. Jones thanked the Subcommittee members for their cooperation in meeting the cooperative agreement deadlines.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

DRAFT DATA COLLECTION WORK PLAN

I. Necessity and Purpose

The purpose of a Data Collection Fishery Management Plan (DCFMP) is to establish a Gulf-wide data collection and data management system that will provide management agencies (states, NMFS, and Council) with the information necessary to monitor and optimally manage the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and perhaps the entire southeastern region.

One of the greatest problems facing the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is inadequate information to formulate reasonable and effective management measures needed to maintain fisheries under its purview or to monitor the effectiveness of existing management measures. Standardization is needed to increase the availability of data and its timely dissemination, to avoid duplication, to prevent excessive reporting burden on the industry, and to improve cost effectiveness of data collection efforts. Existing data collection efforts lack the funds and manpower to supply adequately the Council's needs. Additionally, much of the basic information needed (e.g., identification of universe of commercial and recreational fishermen) to construct information gathering programs is not available with present systems of permits and licenses. Recent amendments to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act may provide the impetus to correct current problems in gathering data. The mechanics of initiating comprehensive data collection efforts that meet the needs of the many data users can be explored via the FMP process, which would allow for input by the large number of entities that have needed information or would be affected by a restructuring of data collection programs. A DCFMP appears necessary to obtain accurate data on the condition of fish stocks, the economic and social values of the fisheries, and the appropriate mathematical models for management (see attached discussion paper).

II. Issues to be Resolved

- A. Existing data collection systems need to be expanded and coordinated to provide fishery scientists and managers with the data necessary to assess the status of fishery stocks and to monitor the fisheries for optimal management.
- B. Data need to be standardized to provide more timely dissemination of data for stock assessment analyses and management decision making.
- C. Resource users need to be identified.
- D. A continuous, reliable funding source for current and future data collection activities needs to be established.
- E. The present implementation of ~~catch~~^{fishery} reporting regulations in the southeast on a FMP by FMP basis encourages disjunct data collection activities possibly resulting in a waste of agency resources and an excessive reporting burden on the participants.

III. Possible Alternatives

A. No action.

B. Proceed with a management plan.

1. Establish a regional data collection committee comprised of federal, regional, and state representatives responsible for formulating regional data collection policy and for identifying and solving data collection and management problems.
2. Establish a regional computerized file of saltwater vessels/anglers from state records for use in determining participant levels and as a sampling universe for socioeconomic studies.
3. Establish a funding vehicle to ensure continued support of data collection activities.
4. Standardize existing data collection systems.
5. Identification of resource users.
 - a. Require marine fishing vessel permits for all users.
 - b. Require marine fishing vessel permits only for users where complete census is necessary.
 - c. Require vessel permits only for users not already licensed by states.
 - d. Presuming authority will exist, require marine angler licenses in lieu of vessel permits.
6. Scope of data collection programs (possible management units).
 - a. Include only those fisheries not currently managed under FMPs.
 - b. Include all fisheries under both state and federal jurisdictions.
 - c. Exclude those fisheries largely or entirely under state jurisdictions.
 - d. Include only those fisheries, or portions thereof, where data are judged inadequate for management (some states, e.g., Florida, may have 100 percent commercial landings coverage and provide adequate data).
 - e. Include or exclude the collection and dissemination of recreational fishery statistics.
 - f. Include or exclude the collection and dissemination of commercial fishery statistics.

- g. Include or exclude the collection and dissemination of economic and sociological data.
 - h. Include or exclude the collection and dissemination of biological fishery statistics.
7. Extent of coverage.
- a. For all marine waters (FCZ and state).
 - b. FCZ only.
 - c. For all fishermen and vessels (census).
 - d. For a sample of fishermen and vessels.
8. Public reporting requirements.
- a. Mandatory systems for all fisheries.
 - b. Voluntary systems for all fisheries.
 - c. Mandatory systems for fisheries under FMPs and voluntary for other fisheries.
 - d. Mandatory systems only for fisheries managed under quotas, size limits, bag limits, or with severe resource problems (overfishing, etc.).

IV. Proposed Schedule

1. Identify and notify interested parties - done.
2. NMFS work plan approval - February, 1985.
3. Preparation of Fishery Management Plan, Environmental Assessment, Regulatory Impact Review, Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, Paperwork Reduction Analysis, and draft proposed regulations - March - December, 1985.
4. Completion of initial draft for Council approval - January, 1986.
5. NMFS review completed - March, 1986.
6. Public hearings completed - May, 1986.
7. Publication of proposed regulations - June, 1986.
8. End of comment period - August, 1986.
9. Final regulations - November, 1986.
10. FMP effective - January, 1987.

V. External Participation

Factfinding meetings will be conducted with recreational and commercial industry representatives, the Council's AP, Planning Team, and SSC, and management agency personnel to determine the feasibility and impacts of alternative data collection systems. In addition, Council staff is participating, in March, 1985, in a Data Collection Symposium sponsored by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC).

An advisory panel, consisting of recreational and commercial industry leaders, will be formed and have the opportunity to participate and comment throughout the plan development process. This ensures the input of the various user groups.

The Data Collection Planning Team (DCPT) will be comprised of statistical representatives from each of the Gulf states (one per state), the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (one), and National Marine Fisheries Service (one), in addition to a biologist, economist, and sociologist selected by the Council.

The Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee will thoroughly review all information to ensure that the plan is based upon the best scientific information available as specified in the second national standard.

State resource agencies will participate throughout the process by the presence of their directors on the Council, the DCPT, and the active role they take in developing the DCFMP.

During all phases of plan development the GMFMC will interface with the adjacent Councils, and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and all other groups with a vested interest in the fishery resources.

The general public will be able to supply their input both during public hearing and the extended public comment periods built into the plan development and implementation process.

The MFCMA process is well designed to allow comment and active external participation to all groups interested in the conservation and management of the fishery resources.

A working exchange of information will be maintained with all concerned management agencies, both at the directors level and with agency scientists.

VI. Supplemental Documents

An Environmental Assessment, Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, Paperwork Reduction Analysis and Regulatory Impact Review will be prepared in conjunction with the FMP.

VII. Estimated Costs

The costs expected to be incurred in the development of a DCFMP over the two year proposed schedule are as follows:

Public Hearings - two at eight locations, including staff (2) and Council (1) member
= \$16,000

Advisory Panel - four meetings, including ten members, two staff, and two Council
members = \$24,000.

Data Collection Planning Team - eight meetings, including ten members and two staff
= \$60,000 (includes travel for nonfederal team members).

Scientific and Statistical Meetings - four meetings, including 12 members, two staff,
and one Council member = \$28,000

Management Committee Meetings - no additional cost if meetings held in conjunction
with Council meetings

Inhouse development - estimated 15 hours per week spent by one technical staff and
five hours per week clerical staff = \$27,000.

Total estimated costs = \$135,000.

approved
Walter Tatum
8/27/85

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, March 11, 1985
Mobile, Alabama

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The following members and guests were present:

Subcommittee

J.Y. Christmas	GCRL
Walter Tatum	ADCNR
Dick Waller	GCRL
Walter Nelson	NMFS
Andy Kemmerer*	NMFS
Barney Barrett	LDWF
Alan Huff	FDNR
Karen Jo Foote*	LDWF
Ken Savastano	NMFS
Warren Stuntz	NMFS
Joanne Shultz	GCRL
Harriet Perry	GCRL
Rick Shaw	LSU
Elmer Gutherz	NMFS
Steve Heath	ADCNR

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

Skip Lazauski, ADCNR
Andre Kvaternick, GDNR
Greg Waugh, SAFMC
Graham Gash, SCWMRD
John Gilliken, NCDNRCO
Gil Bane, LSU

*Alternate representative

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following items:

- (1) Protocol for archiving unsorted invertebrate plankton samples at GCRL.
- (2) Nomination of invertebrate plankton collection curator.
- (3) Nomination of additional member to Environmental Data Work Group.
- (4) Discussion of existing plankton data for fall/winter off Texas.

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the January 23-24, 1985 Subcommittee meeting were adopted as presented. Larry Simpson noted that the auditor wished to have approved minutes signed by the acting chairman; this procedure will be followed in the future. It was noted that proposed FY86 SEAMAP activities were adopted by consensus in January, with individual intent to participate indicated.

The new format of the SEAMAP and other Commission minutes was commended.

Budget Report

A two-page budget report was distributed, indicating both the provisional and subsequent State-Federal allocations. A balance of \$4,764 was returned in December to the GSMFC State-Federal funds. Budget categories were explained and discussion and clarification of items followed. A major problem was noted in that the Coordinator's contract with the Commission extends to October 31, 1985, while the NMFS-GSMFC contract continues until December 31, 1985. A return of the \$4,764 to the SEAMAP Program to assist with payment of the Coordinator's salary will require Subcommittee, TCC, and Commission action. The overall problem which has occurred is the allocation of funds for a 12-month program to cover operations of a 15-month program. L. Simpson noted his intent to recommend to the TCC that the \$4,764 in question be used for other GSMFC programs.

Discussion followed on the intent of Dr. Ted Ford in allocating the provisional funds for SEAMAP operations, and reviewed alternatives for funding the Coordinator's salary for two additional months. The Subcommittee expressed its desire for better information on contractual and financial matters concerning the program.

* Barney Barrett moved to have the Subcommittee recommend to the TCC that the sum of \$4,764 be returned to the SEAMAP budget specifically to pay the Coordinator's salary. Motion was seconded and discussion followed. Other budget categories that might be used for this purpose

were reviewed. The motion passed, with a recommendation that the TCC note that the SEAMAP Program returned more than \$1,000 to the Commission from the FY84 budget.

Publications Report

N. Bane presented the current status of SEAMAP publications:

- (1) The 1982 SEAMAP Biological and Environmental Data Atlas has been distributed.
- (2) Several copies of the Operations Plan were made for distribution to SEAMAP-Caribbean; no additional copies of the plan are available.
- (3) Approximately one-third of the 1983 SEAMAP Atlas has been prepared; the anticipated date for submission to the Data Coordinating Work Group is April, with an expected publication date of July 1985. The 1984 Atlas is expected to be completed in January 1986.
- (4) The 1985 Marine Directory has been printed and is ready for distribution; it will contain an errata sheet noting omission of participation by the Florida Institute of Oceanography.
- (5) The Trawl Workshop Proceedings are in a final proofing stage, with expected publication in April 1985; 250 copies will be published at an anticipated cost of \$1,500-\$2,000.

The Subcommittee discussed savings on copying costs, noting expected heavier costs than in FY84 because of a larger real-time data mailing list. A discussion of the logo modification was also held.

State-Federal Cooperative Agreements

N. Bane presented the status of the State-Federal cooperative agreements, noting that all were in place and approved, with the exception of Texas; that State's proposal was currently in the FARB system, with no problems anticipated.

The efforts of the Coordinator and Buck Byrd of the NMFS-SERO Grants and Contracts office were commended. The Subcommittee was reminded that 1986 cooperative agreements should be detailed, with plans

for 1987-1988 more generalized under the three-year proposals to be submitted in July.

Data Request Protocol

A document explaining North Carolina's protocol for processing data requests from non-participants (private agencies) was distributed and discussed. The appropriateness of denying data to requesters was reviewed, with NMFS noting that it cannot deny data unless it is either confidential or non-verified. The Subcommittee's consensus was that the previously adopted SEAMAP procedures on data provision are adequate. Further discussion was tabled pending the arrival of Texas' representative and detailing of specific concerns.

Work Group Reports

(1) Plankton Work Group.

Joanne Shultz reported on an informal meeting of most of the work group participants, in which the group recommended several actions:

- (a) \$3,500 be allocated for sorting invertebrate plankton at the Polish Sorting Center (PSC) to the lowest taxon possible; a decision from the Subcommittee before June 17, the date of a joint NMFS-PSC meeting at Wood's Hole.
- (b) Every effort should be made to schedule vessels to fill in the identified data gaps. The work group also supports the evidence of G. Matlock with respect to the presently adequate sampling of Texas coastal waters; supportive plankton materials from Texas will be transferred to the SEAMAP Archiving Center.

Discussion followed on the appropriateness of collecting specimens for objectives other than spawning times and locations, such as environmental data and numerical studies. Major gaps identified were:

- Coastal areas from Apalachicola to Galveston in December, January and September.
- Open Gulf areas from August to October, and January.

- (c) Vessel time and resources should be made available to study menhaden recruitment for a minimum of 60 days, for intensive experimental work as yet undefined (the work group will scope out the plans at a later date).
- (d) One-half of the 1983 sorted samples have been received from the PSC; work on the 1982 identifications has been completed, but lack of a data base management system impedes proper computerization of data. The Miami Lab is responsible for this management. Specific problems identified were:
 - Lack of the management system.
 - Inadequate computer interactions between workers and the archivist.
 - Different taxonomic biocode use by NMFS and SAC

It was explained that NMFS uses the Pascagoula biocode while FDNR uses the Los Angeles County Museum biocode for the SEAMAP collection; a report written by Jack Gartner, SEAMAP Curator, detailed the biocode differences and suggested that the Data Management Work Group is best qualified to resolve biocode systems problems and conflicts.

Discussion followed on the comparability of biocodes with the SEAMAP Information System and utility of these codes for systematics accommodation, with clarification by K. Savastano and A. Huff of these issues and the Miami Lab's responsibility for data definition.

No additional specific recommendations were made by the work group, noting the importance of recommending the use of slack vessel time to fill in existing data gaps.

D. Waller reviewed and clarified the proposed protocol for archiving and using unsorted invertebrate plankton samples, noting that as sorted invertebrate samples may be available in the future, loan procedures will have to be developed; he also noted that any data generated from specimen loans would not be managed at GCRL until a later date. An IMB personal computer will be on-line to manage the collection and associated environmental data, but will not be accepting additional information.

An objection was expressed to the need to have specimens examined only at GCRL; it was explained that this procedure was necessitated by the absence of paid personnel to process loan specimens by mail and record information. Concern was also expressed that redundant archiving procedures and costs were being created with the invertebrate and ichthyoplankton fractions. It was noted that it is unlikely that FDNR will have the space or inclination to archive invertebrate plankton, thus some degree of duplication of effort may be unavoidable.

It was suggested that the Plankton Work Group discuss the proposed invertebrate protocol for subsequent recommendations to the Subcommittee and, in addition, examine the long-term funding necessary for such archiving.

* W. Nelson moved to adopt the proposed protocol until the October 1985 Subcommittee meeting, when the Plankton Work Group can make its recommendation to the Subcommittee. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Subcommittee was asked to consider sending the invertebrate specialist on the Plankton Work Group as a participant at the June NMFS-PSC meeting at Wood's Hole, in order to determine the practicality and procedures of having the PSC sort invertebrate plankton. It was suggested that annual sorting costs could be funded if each participant received approximately \$500 less in FY1986 than FY1985; a four-year sorting commitment will be necessary. G. Bane then stated the potential availability of LSU funds to cover sorting costs in order to obtain squid larvae.

* W. Nelson moved that the Plankton Work Group inform the Polish Sorting Center that yearly funding for sorting invertebrates will be available, commencing with the 1985 collection. If the Plankton Work Group cannot develop a suitable arrangement for handling the samples, once they are sorted, by the June NMFS/PSC meeting, a positive response to the PSC should not be committed. The motion was seconded.

Discussion followed on the archiving of sorted invertebrate plankton and costs relative to this activity, as well as the probable

need for personnel funding in 1986 or 1987, and the form and priority taxa of returned specimens. The Coordinator restated the previously determined families to be sorted: Penaeidae, Portunidae, Panuliridae, two molluscan families and a few other crustacean families.

It was pointed out that the Commission's Crab Subcommittee wishes to have blue crab larvae sorted, and that GCRL has stated its desire to warehouse the duplicate samples for use by researchers, thus the desirability of sorting the invertebrates. It was also suggested that sorting should begin with the 1982 collection, but that the Plankton Work Group is the proper group to determine archiving costs and location. Species or families to be selected for sorting should also be ascertained by the work group.

The motion passed unanimously.

* D. Waller moved to have K. Stuck of GCRL appointed as the Curator of the SEAMAP Invertebrate Plankton Sorting Center. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

(2) Environmental Data Work Group.

W. Stuntz reported that the Environmental Data Work Group's recommendations on standardized, calibrated equipment were presented at a previous meeting, along with a recommendation for an intercalibration arrangement to calibrate all equipment. The same data set will be collected in 1985 as in the past year.

It was noted that if fisheries landings data are to be used in conjunction with SEAMAP data, it is essential that these sets be compatible. Additionally, NMFS' upgrading of environmental sampling gear and analyses were reviewed. An offer was made by FDNR to supervise a SEAMAP-funded technician to process all chlorophyll samples if NMFS becomes unable to do so. NMFS' present analytical capabilities were explained; it is expected that the Pascagoula Lab will be able to fulfill these commitments.

The Coordinator clarified the role of the Environmental Work Group leader in continuing to review initial drafts of the 1983 Biological and Environmental Atlas.

It was again suggested that all future SEAMAP environmental and plankton sampling gear purchased by participants be standardized (e.g., a standard bongo array is 61-cm, with .333 mesh, as well as a 20-cm net), or calibrated, in the case of hydrographic sampling gear.

* D. Waller nominated Charles Eleuterius, Chief of GCRL's Physical Oceanography Section, to serve as Mississippi's representative on the Environmental Work Group. It was noted that this work group is not scheduled to meet before FY1986, thus no immediate additional costs will be incurred through this appointment. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

(3) Red Drum Work Group.

N. Bane presented work group leader T. McIlwain's report on the status of the red drum stock identification study:

- (a) Red drum specimens have been obtained from Texas and Louisiana.
- (b) Laboratory and project preparations are currently underway, with analyses expected to begin in mid-April.
- (c) T. McIlwain and G. Bane concurred on the plan to analyze 25-30 specimens from each site first, in order to cover every site by the October presentation to the GSMFC; no word has yet been received whether Virginia specimens will be provided.
- (d) A formal presentation is requested for the October meeting, at a time convenient for others attending the Commission meeting who might be interested in the project's initial findings.
- (e) LSU has proposed an inspection and familiarization of the Racial Analysis Laboratory, where the red drum analyses will be performed, by SEAMAP participants and work group members.

Discussion followed on the status of specimen collections by participants; Mississippi announced its intent to collect in late March

or early April. W. Tatum announced that Mark Van Hoose will replace John Hawke as Alabama's representative on the work group, and Alabama will begin sampling that week. Florida announced that it was waiting for budget authority before beginning the collection of red drum specimens. LSU noted that it would prefer to get specimens in lots of at least 25. In the absence of the work group leader, the Coordinator was requested to serve its interests at the afternoon joint SEAMAP Data Management Meeting.

(4) Data Coordinating Work Group.

K. Savastano distributed information on the status of data requests and processing (January-March, 1985). All 1984 NMFS survey data has been entered and edited, except for chlorophyll and salinity values. Most of the States' data has been received and is currently being edited and verified.

Five data requests have been filled since the last meeting and 4-5 more are currently being processed from prior backlogs. The States and NMFS were commended for their excellent participation and response in the verification and editing process.

Coordination Position Options for FY1986

Copies of a prepared paper on the advantages and disadvantages of five options for the Coordinator position in FY1986 were distributed, along with information on funding needed for each option; this information was developed in response to a request by the GSMFC for subsequent Executive Board discussion on March 15, 1985. The options were compared and discussed by the Subcommittee, and the Coordinator and Executive Director clarified pertinent issues. Alternative funding sources for the position were also reviewed.

The Chairman noted that he would advise the TCC on March 13, 1985 that the Commission's directive has been fulfilled, and, with J.Y. Christmas, he would make the presentation and recommendations to the Executive Board.

FY1986 Survey Activities

Activities approved at the January 1985 SEAMAP meeting for FY1986-88 were discussed. Reconsideration was given to a motion tabled at the January meeting to become involved in an expanded fall 1986 shrimp/groundfish survey. The Chairman indicated that confusion existed about the intended time frame for the study, and the issue was clarified. It was noted that NMFS has for several years conducted such a survey and would like to see the survey expanded, although no specific survey design has been developed for State involvement. The purpose of such a survey would be to look at Gulf shrimp stocks and spawner-recruit relationships.

It was suggested that if the States wish to participate this fall (October-November 1985), the survey might be conducted on an experimental basis. Florida noted that assignment of randomly-selected stations is not suitable for its waters as many of these stations will fall in untrawlable grounds; some consideration should be given to this issue before Florida could participate in trawling activities. Concern was also expressed that sampling designs by NMFS for this and other approved future surveys (e.g., coastal herrings and squid/butterfish) should be made available sufficiently in advance to permit the States to assess correlative funding needs. It was suggested that survey designs for a squid/butterfish survey might best be determined by a special work group.

* A. Kemmerer moved that a squid/butterfish work group be formed, composed of representatives from those members interested in participating in such an activity (Louisiana, Mississippi, NMFS and possibly Florida), for the purpose of identifying survey options, methods, seasons and requirements for squid and butterfish resource assessment. The motion was seconded and discussion followed.

Alabama noted its interest in participating in an assessment of the squid stocks reported near Alabama, but would not be able to designate a representative to the work group. Also noted was the financial

desirability of keeping the work group as small as possible. It was pointed out that this work group would have to meet and provide a FY87 sampling design (for fall 1986 sampling) prior to this summer's preparation of State-Federal cooperative agreements. NMFS noted its preference for such a meeting in May, after completion of the April 1985 U.S.-Japanese Gulf squid/butterfish survey, to take advantage of that survey's findings.

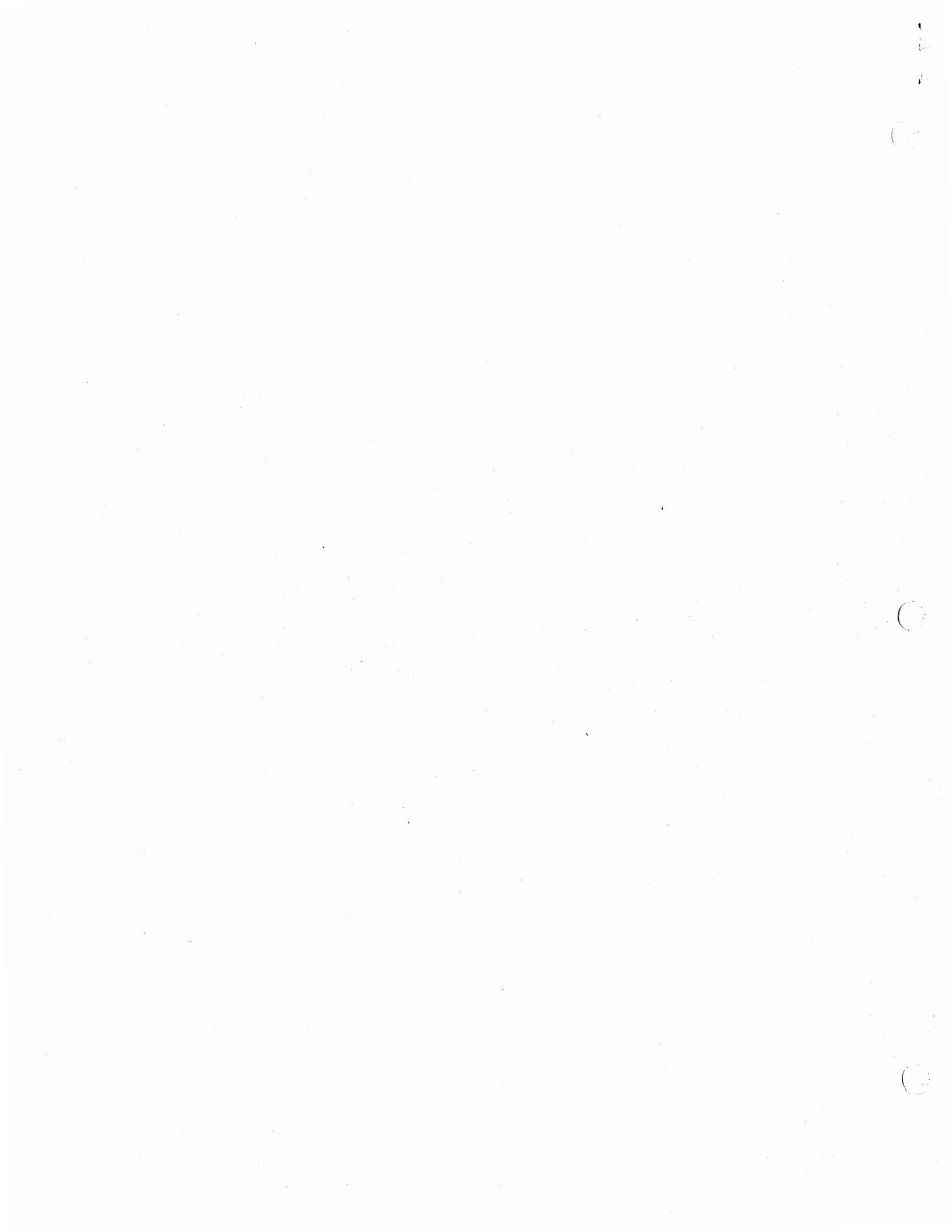
Florida indicated its intent to determine the advisability of participating in a squid/butterfish work group, and desired to keep that option open. It was also remarked that the Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group would not be appropriate to design the squid/butterfish survey because of different sampling gear types and considerations.

The motion was passed unanimously. Participating States will inform the Coordinator of designated work group members.

It was agreed that NMFS would provide the Subcommittee with an appraisal of a fall 1986 (FY1987) shrimp/groundfish survey by October, leaving planning for participation in the survey open until that time.

Participation in bottom longlining activities was reviewed, noting that some participants intend to conduct such activities before the intended FY1988 time frame. Members also discussed a possible mackerel larvae survey for FY1986; this issue will be reviewed by the Plankton Work Group.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.



APPROVED BY:

Larry C. Nicholson
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC ANADROMOUS FISH SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1985
MOBILE, ALABAMA

TCC ANADROMOUS FISH SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, March 11, 1985
Mobile, Alabama

Larry C. Nicholson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm. The following were in attendance:

Members

I.B. "Buck" Byrd, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
R. Vernon Minton, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Larry C. Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Arthur M. Williams, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Edouard J. Crateau, USF&WS, Panama City, FL
Forrest Ware, FG&FWFC, Tallahassee, FL
J. Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Lucia B. O'Toole, Publication Specialist

Others

Frank Richardson, USF&WS, Atlanta, GA
Lou Villanova, USF&WS, Atlanta, GA
John Hall, USF&WS, Atlanta, GA
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Gorden Rogers, GDNR, Atlanta, GA

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of discussion of State-Federal Board Funds under Other Business.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the October 16, 1984 meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana were corrected on page 5 to read \$3.4 million and then adopted.

Discuss Status and Revise Time Frame for Profile Completion

L. Nicholson felt the best way to assess the status was to review the profile section by section. V. Minton volunteered to incorporate Alabama's portion into the various sections where omitted.

The Subcommittee asked F. Ware to voice his comments. F. Ware said he would add some of his agency's (Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission) specific comments to the profile. He reminded members that

jurisdiction of the fish concerned was with FDNR even though FG&FWFC was the only agency producing and maintaining the fish and therefore he had no management comments. L. Simpson said the dual agency input was needed and encouraged so that Florida's position is rounded out. F. Ware said the one subject area that was a concern to his agency was the racial status emphasis that one tends to read in the profile. He was reluctant to share all the enthusiasm relative to the Gulf race and feels more substantive information is needed on the fish. E. Crateau said the profile was based on the best available information and he will write up a description of what the profile is calling Gulf-race fish to be included in the Introduction. F. Ware will write his comments to be interjected into the text under Description of Stocks.

Introduction -- L. Nicholson informed members of his talk with G. Saul whose input was to be delivered by a TPWD representative attending the GSMFC meeting. As G. Saul was still reticent about including data that ~~was~~^{were} not "hard" data, L. Nicholson told him that the Subcommittee as a whole wanted the historical data included regardless, if necessary stating what data ~~was~~^{were} not statistically sound. The Subcommittee again voiced the necessity of inclusion of the historical data.

Description of Stocks -- Alabama's portion needs to be incorporated.

Habitat -- F. Ware will supply L. Nicholson information on the Suwannee and Ochlockonee Rivers for Florida and V. Minton will supply the information on the Bon Secour River for Alabama. L. Nicholson said the spawning populations in Texas are land-locked species and are mentioned strictly for information.

Socio-economics -- This section will be moved to the correct spot.

Fisheries Management Jurisdiction, Laws and Policies Affecting the Stock(s) Throughout Their Range -- F. Ware said the saltwater management agency in FDNR. Item 3 - "State Laws, Regulations and Policies" will be changed to "State Laws, Regulations and Agreements" in all instances. E. Crateau and F. Ware will rewrite the paragraph regarding their agencies verbal agreements.

Description of Fishing Activities Affecting the Stocks -- F.
Richardson asked if the old Bureau of Commercial Fisheries landings had been checked. It was determined that the historical data from those landings should not go in this section but in the Introduction. F. Richardson will locate the information and forward to L. Nicholson.

Management Issues -- A. Huff had been waiting on resolution of changes in Florida before writing this section but as the situation has changed, he will write the section incorporating all States' input and recognizing the open issue in Florida.

Time Frame

1) May 1 - everyone get all information back in to GSMFC for reworking/reformatting.

2) June 28 - revised draft to Subcommittee

3) July 16-17 (2 full days) Summer Workshop

Location: Claude Peteet Mariculture Center or Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, depending on cost of lodging. V. Minton will check lodging prices in Gulf Shores and GSMFC will check in Biloxi.

4) Early August - information from workshop processed and sent to Subcommittee and Frank Richardson allowing 2-3 weeks for review.

5) September - reviewers comments incorporated into new draft and sent to Subcommittee

6) October meeting in Kissimmee, FL - Subcommittee ^{consideration} ~~approval~~ - TCC
^{consideration} ~~approval~~ - Commission ^{consideration} ~~approval~~

L. Simpson informed members that funds from the State-Federal Board may be available, but if not then the States' projects would have to cover travel expenses. The possibility of getting funds from USF&WS for publication was again mentioned. L. Simpson suggested the profile be sent to F. Richardson for review and help in editing. L. Nicholson distributed copies of a letter sent by him on behalf of the Subcommittee to J. Y. Christmas, TCC Chairman, regarding a FY1986 S/F Programmatic Budget Request of \$5,400 to help defray expenses of producing the Striped Bass Management Plan.

V. Minton asked if a contingency plan existed for the introductory material. L. Nicholson said the material he receives from Texas will

be distributed to the Subcommittee for incorporation into the changes due in on May 1. However, if the material does not include the historical data, the section needs to be written using the landings data that F. Richardson will be sending.

Discuss Striped Bass Management Plan and Develop Tentative Arrangement

L. Nicholson stated that the reason so much effort is being put into the Profile is so that hopefully the Profile will lead right into the Management Plan. L. Simpson suggested there be no formal publication of the Profile as the Plan will follow and he again emphasized that a management plan is not binding on the States. The Subcommittee may want to publish the Profile and can recommend to the TCC if so desired. Further discussion will follow at the July meeting.

An hour of the meeting time was spent reviewing comments requiring major/substantive changes which will be incorporated into the next draft. Texas needs to clarify whether or not striped bass ever occurred west of the Mississippi River. All further suggestions for changes submitted by members by the May 1 deadline will be reviewed by L. Nicholson and E. Crateau and incorporated as necessary into the next draft of the Profile. It is essential for everyone to attend the July meeting to critically review the Profile (page by page).

Other Business

L. Nicholson introduced Gorden Rogers (Georgia Department of Natural Resources) who was seeking information on sturgeon - status of research and information on individual river systems in the Gulf region. E. Crateau will send him papers on what has been done on sturgeon in the Apalachicola and Suwannee Rivers.

F. Richardson said USF&WS had sent letters to all states, fishery organization and Congressional delegation concerned indicating their plan to phase out farm pond program, primarily to get into high priority

TCC ANADROMOUS FISH SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -5-

programs such as restoration of anadromous fish or any species of significance that is interjurisdictional. He informed members of the emergency striped bass stocking program in Chesapeake Bay which is now closed to all fishing and of the USF&WS upcoming in-house meeting to look at their anadromous species plan.

L. Simpson discussed his February 21 testimony before the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and the Environment in support of reauthorization of the 88-309 and 89-304 programs.

There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:40 pm.

APPROVED BY:

Paul C. Hammuschmidt
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1985
MOBILE, ALABAMA

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, March 11, 1985
Mobile, Alabama

Paul Hammerschmidt, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. The following members and guests were present:

Members

Phil Steele, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Steve Heath, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Paul Hammerschmidt, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX

Others

Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Lloyd Regier, NMFS, Charleston, SC

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with no revision.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the October 16, 1984 meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana were approved as written with Phil Steele noting the misspelling of his name.

Review of Progress of Crab Research in Each State

Reporting for the States were Phil Steele, Florida; Steve Heath, Alabama; Harriet Perry, Mississippi; and Paul Hammerschmidt, Texas. Gerald Adkins, Louisiana was unable to attend the meeting, but his report was related to the Chairman and is included here.

All States are continuing their assessment and monitoring programs except Florida where the last 3 years' tagging data and adult crab monitoring data will be assessed and reported on in publications.

Commercial blue crab landings were reported to have been up almost 200% in Alabama during 1984 as compared with 1983. Mississippi landings were reported to have shown similar trends. Slight increases in Louisiana reported landings were attributed to the possible increase in the number of crabbers due to major layoffs at two large Louisiana industries.

Preliminary data indicates a possible effect of the 1983 Christmas freeze on the juvenile crabs along the upper Texas Coast. Monitoring data show as much as 50% decline in mean annual catch rate from trawls.

Special Reports

Phil Steele summarized Florida's West coast crab tagging program.

Harriet Perry reported on the success of the National Symposium on the Soft-Shell Blue Crab held in Biloxi, Mississippi during February 12-13, 1985. It was hosted by the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant College Program and the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program. There were approximately 120 registered attendees arriving from areas as far away as New Jersey and Mexico.

Some members of the Crab Subcommittee were privileged to attend the symposium and all agreed that Harriet and the other sponsors did an excellent job in organizing this valuable meeting.

Harriet Perry attended the March 11 morning SEAMAP meeting. She reported to the Crab Subcommittee that SEAMAP discovered the Polish Sorting Center would be willing to sort the zooplankton from all plankton samples for the amount of \$3500/year. GCRL will be able to archive the unsorted samples, but no space is yet available to archive the sorted zooplankton fractions.

Harriet Perry was appointed as zooplankton expert on the Plankton Workgroup of SEAMAP.

Ed Joyce reported that enough directed fishing is taking place on populations of the Golden Gulf Crab, Geryon feneri, that there is now enough supply to create a demand.

Paul Hammerschmidt reported that the date and time of the proposed stone crab workshop had not been finalized as of the date of this meeting.

Subcommittee members briefly reviewed data needs and problem areas identified in the Blue Crab Fishery Profile. Subcommittee members will reevaluate these data needs with respect to new research and publications.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES
ALABAMA
FLORIDA
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS



P.O. BOX 726
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39564
(601)875-5912

MEMORANDUM

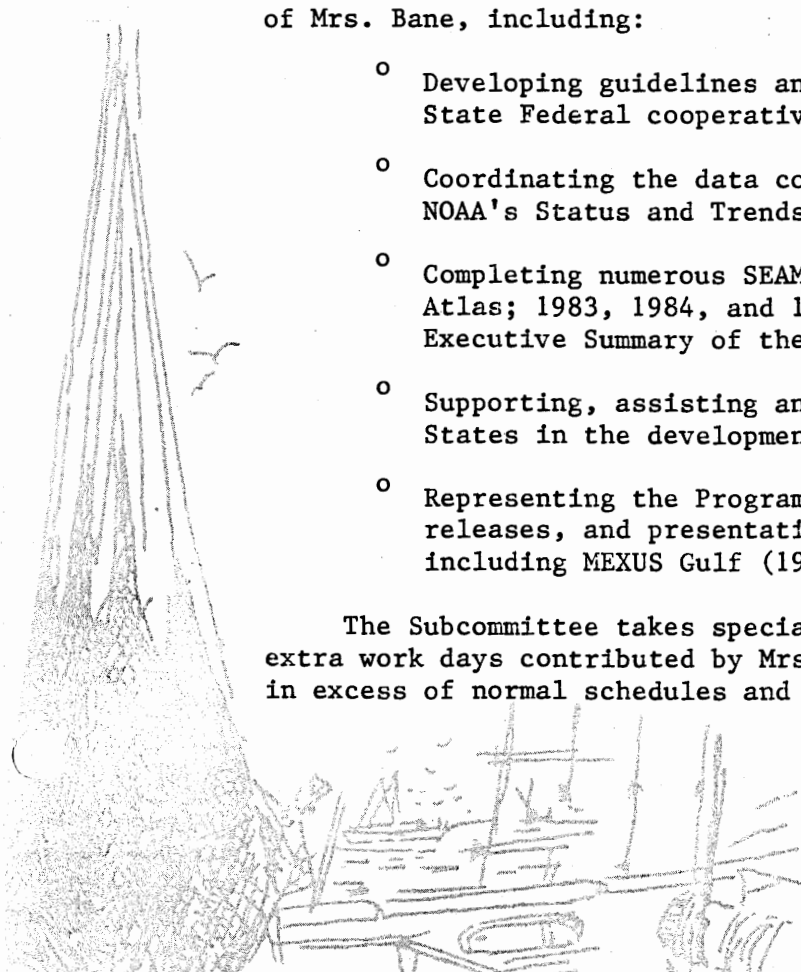
DATE: March 12, 1985
TO: Technical Coordinating Committee
FROM: SEAMAP Subcommittee

The SEAMAP Subcommittee takes this opportunity to commend Mrs. Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator, for her outstanding efforts in behalf of the program. The Subcommittee recommends this commendation be endorsed by the TCC and forwarded to the Commission for their endorsement.

The commendation is based on the dedicated and enthusiastic efforts of Mrs. Bane, including:

- o Developing guidelines and assisting in the preparation of State Federal cooperative agreements for the program.
- o Coordinating the data collection and handling portion of NOAA's Status and Trends Program for the Gulf of Mexico.
- o Completing numerous SEAMAP documents including the 1982 Atlas; 1983, 1984, and 1985 Marine Directories; and the Executive Summary of the SEAMAP Operations Plan.
- o Supporting, assisting and advising NMFS and the South Atlantic States in the development of their SEAMAP program.
- o Representing the Program through special reports, news releases, and presentations to a broad range of audiences including MEXUS Gulf (1984) and Work Boat Show (1985).

The Subcommittee takes special note of the many long hours and extra work days contributed by Mrs. Bane to the program, significantly in excess of normal schedules and particularly we commend the spirit



March 12, 1985
Technical Coordinating Committee
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with which Mrs. Bane has approached her assignment as SEAMAP Coordinator and the enthusiasm generated by this spirit to all SEAMAP participants, cooperators and supporters.

The Subcommittee also would like to recognize the Executive Director and staff of the Commission for their strong and continued support of SEAMAP, without which the program could not have achieved its current level of success.

cc: Commissioners et al.
Dr. Jack Van Lopik, Louisiana State University

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 12, 1985
Mobile, Alabama

Acting Chairman Fred Deegan called the meeting to order at 1:05
p.m. The following members and guests were present:

Members

Villere Reggio, MMS, Metairie, LA
Fred Deegan, BMR, Long Beach, MS
Walter M. Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Frank R. Richardson, USF&WS, Atlanta, GA
Michael Leech, IGFA, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Albert Green, TPWD, Austin, TX

Staff

Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

Edwin A. Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Maumus Claverie, Jr., NOBGFC, New Orleans, LA
Lou Villanova, USF&WS, Atlanta, GA
Rick Wallace, ASG, Mobile, AL
John Burgbacher, OOS, New Orleans, LA
Paul Hammerschmidt, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
Ron Essig, NMFS, Washington, DC
Mark Holliday, NMFS, Washington, DC
Stu Kennedy, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
R.L. Applegate, USF&WS, Albuquerque, NM
James S. Harrison, USF&WS, Albuquerque, NM
Rep. Sam Mitchell, GSMFC, Chipley, FL
Gregg Waugh, SAFMC, Charleston, SC
I.B. Byrd, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Claude Boudreaux, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
John F. Hall, USF&WS, Atlanta, GA
Andre Kvatervik, GDCNR, Brunswick, GA

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on October 17, 1984, in New Orleans, Louisiana, were approved with the following changes:

- 1) Maury Ferguson (TPWD) represented Gary Saul as a proxy at the meeting.

- 2) Comments made at the meeting in written form by Villere Reggio should be corrected as suggested in a re-written form by V. Reggio, to allow for smooth reading.

Wallop-Breaux Appropriation Update - Frank Richardson

The Committee was informed that OMB has put a hold on Wallop/Breaux funds (approximately \$67 million, derived largely from fuel excise taxes), pending their processing through the appropriations process (i.e., each year, all D-J funds would have to go through the process, including review by Congress). The President and administration officials received many calls about this procedure, but Congressman Breaux and Senator Wallop are not concerned at this point. The USF&WS feels, however that the procedure may be a matter of concern to states as the procedure entails not only new money but old funds, and states might not be informed whether they will be funded until there's an appropriations bill; along with other proposal reductions, this may impact states directly.

Discussion followed on possible litigation on the procedure; none is known at this time, although many people feel the act may be illegal; it will be decided in Congress.

M. Claverie noted that other recreational proposals for specific user fees have been suspended, pending the outcome of the OMB procedure, and added that the commercial fishing sector is also closely watching the outcome, especially with respect to a proposed trust for Saltonstall-Kennedy funds.

Proposed NMFS reductions in funding for FY86 were reviewed, and a possible 40% cut noted, with some labs potentially closed and overall reductions similar to those proposed for FY85; the USF&WS is not targeted for large reductions in FY86. Discussion followed on the proposed cuts, noting the disproportionate level of reductions targeted for NMFS, and the potential value of recreational fisheries as an impetus to support scientific research rather than fishery development.

It was observed that all programmatic elements at NOAA, including Sea Grant programs, will be affected, not just research; Fishery Management Council activities are excluded from cuts here. A letter from the GSMFC Executive Director pertaining to the OMB proposal to withhold Wallop-Breaux funds was distributed and commended by members of the Committee.

Update of Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Fishery Management Plans - Doug Gregory (GSMFC)

A comprehensive presentation of GMFMC fishery management plans was given by Doug Gregory, with brochures distributed on individual plans and fisheries.

- (1) Billfish. The Billfish FMP defines billfish as entirely recreational, and is a five-council plan; rod-and-reel is the only gear permitted, with a one fish per species limit in the Atlantic. By-catch of billfish in commercial longlining operations is to be determined by quota and the Council, with NMFS to design a system to determine incidental catch. Action on billfish was prompted by the completion of the swordfish plan. Major fishing grounds were noted.
- (2) Mackerels. New information was presented on the Migratory Coastal Pelagics Plan, noting regulated species (cobia, king and Spanish mackerel) and migratory routes of mackerels. Allocation schemes were reviewed with observations that the Gulf group, but not the Atlantic, appears to be overfished. Action on the plan this season is speculative.
- (3) Reef fish. The FMP was implemented in August 1984 and amendments have been suggested. Major fishing grounds, stressed areas, bag limits and allowable incidental catches, and plan and gear objectives were reviewed. Discussion followed on the appropriateness of requesting information on personal expenditures during angler interviews, effects of proposed regulations on recreational fishery use, and reply

rates of voluntary angler information. It was noted that the Beaufort, NC study of reef fish size limit and survivability had been completed, with very high survival of fish less than 13" which were caught and released.

- (4) Spiny lobster. Major fishing grounds and management measures (size, seasons, females with egg possession, gear) were reviewed and features of the 1984 and 1985 plans defined. "Degradable" (wooden) traps were discussed as a feature. It was noted that under the Wallop-Breaux program, funds cannot be spent for lobster surveys.

Comments from the Committee focused on the need for public information, such as brochures, summarizing regulations for all fisheries rather than for each fishery.

New Committee Members

New members appointed to the Committee were introduced: Michael Leech (International Game Fish Association); Gilbert C. Radonski (Sport Fishing Institute); Randy Bright (Gulf Coast Conservation Association).

Minerals Management Service Bathymetric Maps - Villere Reggio

V. Reggio presented information on the availability and status of MMS bathymetric maps, noting that information for prototype special purpose fishing maps had been compiled and published by the National Ocean Survey and MMS. MMS had already sold over 4,000 copies of its Recreational Fishing Map focused on the Mississippi Delta. He reviewed the history and controversy surrounding development of the special purpose maps, and noted that NDS was soliciting review and comment on its prototype bathymetric fishing maps; these were distributed to the Committee. The contents of the maps were discussed with suggestions on mechanisms to foster development of subsequent maps for other areas. Requests for such maps should be directed to NOAA Acting Administrator Anthony Calio, noting the utility of the maps and suggesting other types

of information that might be useful on future maps (boating safety and regulations, etc.). The cost-effectiveness of such maps was explained as well as MMS' current intent not to print other special purpose fishing maps.

State Recreational Fisheries Report

- (1) Florida. E. Joyce presented current information on recreational fisheries in Florida, noting that Committee Chairman Jim Barrett was unable to attend because of his required presence in Florida on matters pertaining to developing an artificial reef from a wrecked freighter at West Palm Beach. He noted that the artificial reef program in Florida is very successful as a result of CPRC and State funds; reefs are still being built as feasible, but funding is irregular and work is being done in conjunction with fishing and civic clubs.

The status of snook in Florida waters was reviewed, noting their decline in abundance and State plans to develop a snook hatchery with private and State funds and investigate the use of Mote Marine Lab for hatchery and grow-out facilities. Objectives of the program are to determine if hatchery-raised fish help the fishery, and costs of returns; E. Joyce noted that Harbor Branch Foundation is also raising snook to determine causes of population declines. Discussion followed on recruitment failures of snook.

The status of the Florida saltwater license was reviewed and perceived to be gaining additional support in the legislature; it would provide funds for both fisheries research and a large data base.

- (2) Alabama. W. Tatum presented the status of recreational projects in Alabama, noting that since the last meeting, gamefish status has been obtained for both red drum and

spotted seatrout and regulations outlining procedures for importing fish have been drawn up and will take effect in March 1985. Few problems have arisen on the issue with respect to commercial interests.

W. Tatum also described the Department's success with raising spotted seatrout to 6" for tagging and release in the hopes of identifying age groups. Mortality estimates for the young fish are virtually zero from tagging, although high mortalities exist during growout because of the species' intolerance of low salinities and tendency towards cannibalism.

E. Joyce stated his wish to add a comment about the International Game Fish Association's record-keeping activity, wherein lengths and weights are maintained for sport fishes in Florida. Mississippi added that its sport fish records are kept "in-house", following IGFA documentation, as are Alabama's.

- (4) Mississippi. F. Deegen reported on recreational fishing activities in Mississippi, noting the State's plan to create low-profile reefs in 1985 with clam or oyster shells; this type of reef has proven popular and accessible.

Size limits and creel limits for spotted seatrout and red drum may face reduction to 14" and less than 25 fish; the limits are felt justifiable. The Division is producing, for public relations purposes, laminated fish identification posters; educational coloring books are being printed for Mississippi school children.

- (5) Louisiana. J. Roussel described Louisiana's current recreational fishing activities, and noted that the Louisiana Saltwater Finfish Section is presently being staffed; eight persons have been hired thus far, with plans to extend the staff to 25. Input on the Section's needs and proposed activities is being invited from State fishing groups and

organizations. J. Roussel described the Section as organized within the Seafood Division of the LDWF; field crews for data collection have been designated but the final structure depends on the eventual staff size and funding levels. G. Adkins is the chief of the new section.

The State has completed its creel survey and will continue to analyze results in an ongoing program. Input from parish authorities on both freshwater and saltwater recreational fishing needs and problems is activity being sought.

M. Claverie discussed the spillway openings (freshwater introduction) with respect to an open meeting on the issue March 15, 2:00 p.m., 9th Floor of the New Orleans City Hall. Similar meetings will be held at a later date, and interested persons were urged to attend because of the possible influence of the openings on recreationally important resources.

- (6) Texas. A. Green described current projects in Texas pertaining to recreational fishing. The Department will continue to conduct the boat harvest survey, adding to the report standard errors, recreational harvests of shrimp, and weekly data. Negotiations are ongoing with the NMFS-Panama City Lab for joint charter boat studies, focusing on comparability of parameters (catch per trolling hour versus catch per trip hour).

A. Green also noted that Texas will continue to stock red drum in San Antonio Bay, and stated that TPWD would like to develop a report-card system for reporting total catch and number of participants for saltwater species from sport fishing tournaments, such as done by inland fisheries.

Coastwide spotted seatrout recreational catches have declined by 60%, down from 21 fish per 100 hours prior to 1983 to 5 fish per hour in 1983-84; this represents a significant

decrease, except for the Galveston area. This reduction is beyond what would be expected from imposition of the bay and size limits and is attributable to the 1983 freeze.

Other Business

The status of the artificial reef program was reviewed by V. Reggio, at Ron Schmeid's request. Mississippi and Alabama Sea Grant programs were reported as making progress toward site-specific plans; three primary demand areas were noted. The National Artificial Reef Plan has had a programmatic statement developed, with the Corps of Engineers as the primary permitting agency; one full year is anticipated for plan development. States are involved to some extent in the planning and may eventually be the permitting agents. A new American Petroleum Institute (API) publication on oil and gas development with respect to fisheries was distributed to meeting participants by V. Reggio.

E. Joyce introduced the topic of increased pressure for high-price angling tournaments, reviewed at the American Fisheries Society Fishery Management Section, and requested comments from Committee members. Responses indicated the existence of problems related to such tournaments in Mississippi, where complaints of wasting large quantities of fish had led to a recommendation for deleting from tournaments the category "most number of fish caught". In Alabama, the large monetary prizes have led to tournaments being entered by very good anglers, and the Department has sponsored "live fish" awards for red drum and seatrout, a procedure that permits measuring fish; ADCNR would like to include this procedure for other tournaments.

M. Claverie noted an increase in the percentage of tag releases with such tag/release tournaments likely to increase, and stated that the International Billfish League encourages observer programs, while the New Orleans Fishing Club insists that fish be weighed at the dock.

E. Joyce reported that Florida takes advantage of tournaments to increase the data base on recreational fishing. The most severe problems concern the crowding-out of local fishermen at tournaments; State agencies are being requested increasingly to provide monitors (e.g., enforcement for private organizations).

M. Claverie also noted that at the January MAFAC meeting, mention was made of a draft list of impediments to marine recreational fishery solutions, compiled earlier by the Sport Fishing Institute; the report was said to be very informative, although it has not yet been distributed. Members were urged to obtain the list and review it for comments.

Election of Vice Chairman

F. Richardson nominated Fred Deegan as Vice Chairman of the Committee; the motion was seconded. W. Tatum nominated Michael Leech as Vice Chairman of the Committee; the motion was seconded. F. Richardson moved to close the nominations, and Fred Deegen requested that his name be withdrawn from candidacy. A short discussion followed on the appropriateness of encouraging active participation from new members.

A motion was made to accept Michael Leech as Vice Chairman by acclamation; the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Jerald K. Wall
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1985
MOBILE, ALABAMA

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 12, 1985
Mobile, Alabama

Chairman Jerald K. Waller called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
The following members and guests were present:

Members

William Walker, TPWD
Tony Beckham, BMR
Tommy Candies, LW&FD
Jerald K. Waller, AMR

Others

Major Wayne Brewer, New York Department of Environmental
Conservation
Capt. Kenneth Williams, AMR
Robert Perkins, Alabama Department of Public Health
Douglas Gregory, GMFMC

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Opening Remarks

Chairman Waller expressed concern that all Gulf States were not represented. He stated the need for enforcement to be part of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) has been proven by the essential exchange of information that has taken place between the States, between the State and Federal agencies, and between enforcement officers from member States. Waller also stressed the need for a closer working relationship between biologists, industry, and law enforcement so we can compliment each other's efforts toward a common goal for the wise use and protection of marine fisheries resources.

Waller gave a brief summary of the Committees' previous discussions of the common problem of enforcement of laws and regulations relating to the shellfish (oyster) industry. The lack of uniform shellfish laws and regulations among the States is a major problem. For example:

- (1) There is no uniform barrel measure.
- (2) There is no uniform method to determine the legal size limit.
- (3) There is no uniform tolerance as to the amount of undersize oysters that can be possessed.

- (4) There is no uniformity of regulations governing the shipment of oysters out of state.
- (5) There is no uniformity of penalties.

Major Wayne Brewer of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation was introduced by Chairman Waller.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Law Enforcement Committee

Major Brewer stated he had served as Chairman of the ASMFC for the past two years. He discussed the problems their Committee had encountered in the effort to become a viable part of the ASMFC. There was a discussion of the solutions they had tried and how these might be adapted by the GSMFC Committee. Major Brewer advised the Atlantic States had a common problem with shellfish enforcement. He summarized the differences of the various States laws and the enforcement difficulties encountered. The ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee has proven to be an extremely valuable vehicle for working on solutions to these problems.

General Discussion

There was a general discussion on the interstate shipping of oysters harvested from polluted areas. It was agreed unless there is a uniform workable tagging system adopted it will prove extremely difficult to control this violation.


Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)

Douglas Gregory, a staff representative of the GMFMC, advised he was there as an observer but would be glad to answer questions or listen to comments concerning the Council. He graciously accepted the barbed remarks of the Committee members about the enforceability of the management plans and the fact that the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel had an organizational meeting several years ago and has not met since. He stated he would relay these concerns to his boss.

Proposals

- I. The law enforcement representatives on the GSMFC recognizes the problems relating to the enforcement of laws and regulations that are not uniform, practical, or enforceable, and as commercial fishermen are extremely mobile these problems affect all Gulf States, therefore, the Law Enforcement Committee proposes:
 - (1) That the GSMFC strongly urge State Commissioners to have a law enforcement representative from each State in attendance at the GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee meeting and Law Enforcement Liaison Committee meetings.
 - (2) As out-of-state travel for law enforcement is usually the first cut when budgets are tight, the Law Enforcement Committee requests the GSMFC consider reimbursing the Law Enforcement Committee members for two meetings per year and at least one Law Enforcement Liaison Committee meeting per year. Estimated cost - \$2,500/year.
- II. The Law Enforcement Committee recognizes the need to be informed of new enforcement methods and techniques being developed and used in other States, therefore, the Committee requests the GSMFC consider authorizing and reimbursing and expenses incurred by having a speaker present these new methods and techniques at a Law Enforcement Committee meeting. Estimated cost - \$2,000/year.
- III. The Law Enforcement Committee recognizes the necessity to be informed of updates and changes in NMFS and GMFMC agreements and rules and regulations, therefore, the Law Enforcement Committee requests that the GSMFC strongly urge the NMFS and the GMFMC to have a representative to attend the Law Enforcement Committee and Law Enforcement Liaison Committee meetings to provide the above.

APPROVED BY:


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1985
MOBILE, ALABAMA

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 12, 1985
Mobile, Alabama

Chairman Ralph Rayburn called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

The following persons attended the meeting:

Members

William D. Chauvin, American Shrimp Processors Association
Leslie Casterline, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (TX)
Clyde Richbourg, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (FL)
John Ray Nelson, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (AL)
Leroy Kiffe, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (LA)
Ted Shepard, Louisiana Shrimp Association/National Fisheries Inst.
Charles H. Lyles, Louisiana Shrimp Association/Mississippi Coast
Fisheries Association
Ralph Rayburn, Texas Shrimp Association

GSMFC Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Ginny K. Herring, Executive Assistant
Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

Robert B. Chapoton, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Don Ekberg, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Andrew J. Kemmerer, NMFS, NSTL, MS
John Burgbacher, OOC, New Orleans, LA
Frank Richardson, USF&WS, Atlanta, GA
Lloyd Regier, NMFS, Charleston, SC
Rick Wallace, Sea Grant, Mobile, AL
LCDR W.J. Morani, Jr., USCG, Washington, DC
Lt. Morris Stephens, USCG, Mobile, AL
Villere Reggio, USDI, MMS, Metairie, LA
Dalton R. Berry, Petrou Fisheries Inc., Empire, LA
Ed Smith, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Douglas Gregory, GMFMC, Tampa, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following changes: Items 4 and 5 were reversed in order and a discussion on count laws regarding white shrimp was added.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held October 17, 1984 in New Orleans, Louisiana were adopted with the following change:

1) Page 7, second paragraph, first sentence under Jones Act/Insurances Losses was changed to read "R. Rayburn stated that there is a lot of interest in Washington on this issue."

Fishing Vessel Insurance and Safety

Vessel insurance and safety are current problems in the fishing sector. Congress recognizes this as a crucial interest to industry and something they must deal with. The NMFS, SERO is currently dealing with vessel safety, major sources of accidents, and losses in the fishing industry. Don Ekberg of the NMFS, SERO presented the findings of that office.

He stated that the insurance problem has rapidly escalated since 1972, with a 300% increase within a 13-year period. Some factors contributing to this problem are laws and insurance mechanism used. Mr. Ekberg briefly discussed these laws and types of insurance.

All registered vessels fall under Admiralty law. Any legal action will be settled by Federal jurisdiction. There are two methods of filing suit under Admiralty Law: (1) personam action, a complaint against a person, and (2) rem action, unusual because you can file suit against a vessel.

Marine insurance, unlike other insurances in the United States, is not regulated. This gives the company authority to turn down bad risk and to show a profit. It also gives U.S. company's the opportunity to compete with companies outside the United States. Although group plans are available they seem to reduce the companies overhead and may produce large premiums for group members. Self-insurance has been met with some success but requires a great deal of capital and may fail when faced with catastrophic claims.

Other types of insurance discussed briefly were hull, and protection and indemnity (P & I) policies.

Another law that has created insurance problems is the Jones Act. This law was enacted to help protect seamen who in the past were not getting proper treatment for injuries at sea. The Jones Act

enables an injured seaman to sue his employer for damages. The law is administered for the sole benefit of the injured seaman. He can win a suit by proving that he was a crew member, that the defendant was the owner of the vessel at the time the injury occurred, that he was injured while at service on the vessel, and that negligence by the defendant was the approximate cause of the injuries.

Problems with the Jones Act are: (1) the employer must provide a safe place to work; (2) the employer must provide medical care for an injured seaman; (3) a seaman injured in the course of employment may sue his employer for damages; and (4) there have been 23 recent suits based on declaration of unseaworthiness. Possible solutions for these problems include: (1) upgrading vessel seaworthiness, (2) providing training courses for crew members, (3) certifying of seaworthiness, and (4) improving insurance situation. In discussion about the Jones Act, it was mentioned that if a vessel was not documented then it would be possible to avoid any action under the Jones Act. D. Ekberg discussed this with a NOAA/NMFS attorney and was told that as long as an employee-employer relationship exists and all other necessary conditions exist to constitute a suit - the Jones Act is applicable.

D. Ekberg stated that the major causes of accidents not involving vessels are human error, unsafe practices, and unsafe posture. Major causes of accidents involving vessels are human error and equipment failure. He displayed a chart of vessel casualties for all areas involving shrimp vessels. It was noted that the 1980 figure of cost for casualties was unusually high. It was discussed that perhaps this figure was high due to inflation or perhaps the overlap in filing and settling of vessel casualty claims.

D. Ekberg ended his presentation by detailing how one shrimp fleet owner solved some of his safety problems. A safety engineer was hired and after researching past claims he was able to identify and correct major safety problems. In addition to these problems, he was able to establish vessel policy and safety directives in the form of posted signs and written policy statements. J. Sahlman was able to reduce his

annual claim payments from approximately \$300,000 annually to \$100,000 annually.

Fishing Vessel Safety

LCDR Bill Morani, USCG, Washington, D.C. presented an overview of what the Coast Guard was doing in regards to fishing vessel safety. He agreed that there exists a safety and insurance crisis in the fishing industry. He gave overall statistics on recent fishing vessel losses, accident-related death rates for fishermen and insurance claims under the Jones Act. These statistics were all on the rise from previous years.

The Coast Guard in cooperation with the NMFS, Sea Grant and industry representatives began a safety program in the spring of 1984. The program is a voluntary one aimed at reducing the number of uninspected fishing vessel casualties by not less than 10% by 1991.

It will be a two part program. The first is a "Voluntary Vessel Standards Program" which consists of a series of navigation vessel inspection circulars (NVIC). These circulars will basically be an industry guideline covering such areas as stability, construction, and machinery, and electrical, fire, life saving and navigational equipment.

The second part of the program is a "Safety Awareness Program." This program will develop a fishing vessel safety and health guide in association with courses aimed directly at the fishermen.

LCDR Morani stated that in developing these programs the Coast Guard is soliciting comments and suggestions from the fishing industry.

Vessel Documentation

Lt. Morris Stephens, USCG, Marine Safety Office, Mobile, Alabama, presented current vessel documentation regulations. Basically, any vessel that is five net tons or more and that engages in commercial fishing operations must be issued a Certification of Documentation by the USCG, unless exempt. The regulations governing vessel documentation are found in Title 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 67.

He discussed the most common violations of the U.S. Vessel Documentation Laws and Regulations and the penalties. Recent inquiries from industry and Congress regarding Vietnamese shrimp vessels are prompting a close watch and programs to educate the Vietnamese fishermen on U.S. regulations. Current problems with drug traffic have resulted in more rigid vessel investigations and some proposed changes to vessel documentation regulations.

One proposed regulation change will require that documentation numbers be clearly marked on the stern of the vessel. Other changes involve the sale of documented vessels to an undocumented status. The seller will be responsible for surrendering the Certificate of Documentation to the USCG at the new homeport of the vessel. The new owner is then responsible to apply for and secure new documentation.

Progress on Developing Grading Standards for Fresh Shrimp

R. Rayburn reported that subsequent to a recent meeting of the Gulf Shrimp Industry Roundtable (GSIR) it was agreed to actively pursue the establishment of standards on domestic shrimp as they come off the shrimp vessel. In support of the Roundtable decision, the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc. (GASAFDFI) awarded funds to Dr. Ranzell Nickelson of College Station, Texas to look at the problem of quality shrimp onboard domestic shrimp vessels and to come up with some standards that could be used in determining shrimp quality and a mechanism for grading shrimp. Although funds are no longer available, Dr. Nickelson and the GASAFDFI are seeking a method of continuing this very important work.

Basically what Dr. Nickelson is working on is a grade standard based on two conditions. These are the physical condition, that is all segments are in place when the shrimp come off the vessel; and a chemical condition which can help determine actual quality. He then feels that a system should be developed to merge the physical and chemical characteristics so that a grade scheme can be set up within the

industry to enhance the quality of domestic shrimp and thereby challenge the crews onboard the shrimp vessels to meet these standards and put the domestic shrimp industry in a more competitive position with imports.

The next GSIR meeting will be held in Tampa, Florida, April 24-25, 1985. A report on Dr. Nickelson's work will be presented at that time.

Progress Report on MARFIN

L. Simpson reported that MARFIN represented a long-term effort to bring a focus to Gulf fisheries and their needs to emphasize development as well as enhancement of existing fisheries. The document has been finalized, published and widely distributed. On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., L. Simpson and T. McIlwain were able to present the document and discuss it with Congressmen Trent Lott and John Breaux as well as Dr. Anthony Calio. It was received very enthusiastically and it is hoped that Dr. Calio will put the MARFIN program into his budget for FY86. Advisory Boards will be set-up that will include groups such as the IAC as well as other trade groups. L. Simpson felt very strong about some type of program resulting from the MARFIN Document.

Reauthorization of FCMA

L. Simpson distributed copies of FCMA reauthorization draft which included a section-by-section analysis and discussion from the Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee staff. He briefed the Committee on the changes. Of particular interest were amendments to Section 7. These amendments relate to the regional fishery management councils. Some proposed changes are to consolidate the existing eight councils to six; to delete the authorization for council members to receive compensation other than actual travel expenses; to bar council members from voting on any matter in which that member has some financial interest; to close meetings which will involve a discussion of confidential statistics; and to adopt administrative procedures to be consistent with the laws and regulations of a state or the Secretary. The proposed amendment regarding criteria in making at-large council appointments was

of particular interest to IAC members. This amendment would (1) require that an individual be both knowledgeable and experienced with regard to the conservation and management of fishery resources; (2) require that at least 50 percent of the at-large appointments be from the commercial fishing industry; and (3) require the number of each state's at-large seats must be based on the relative contribution of that state's commercial fisheries to the regional totals. IAC members were generally in support of this amendment but agreed that a more thorough review of all of the amendments was necessary.

NMFS Budget

L. Simpson gave a brief report on NMFS FY86 budget. He expressed concern over the administration's philosophy in regards to fisheries programs. He stated that cuts were severe and included serious cuts in statistics, development and laboratory facilities. The Commission will continue to support a strong NMFS budget to promote all fisheries programs of importance.

ITC Hearing (Section 332)

The International Trade Commission (ITC) is conducting a fact-finding study of the U.S. Gulf shrimp industry at the request of Congressman John Breaux, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and the Environment. L. Simpson distributed a questionnaire to those in attendance and requested that they fill them out and return them to the ITC. The questionnaire will provide key data about the industry that is not now available. He stated that a field hearing would be held in New Orleans on March 21, and encouraged interested persons to attend and participate.

It was the general feeling of those present that the input being generated by the ITC about the concern for the level of imported shrimp coming into the Country would result in some type of fee or tariff to be used for a domestic shrimp marketing campaign.

Count Laws (White Shrimp)

L. Kiffe expressed his concern that the count law in Louisiana is not effective and is of no benefit unless a federal law was in place that would encompass all white shrimp landed.

* It was motioned and passed to recommend that the Commission write a letter to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council recommending that they establish a count law for white shrimp to enhance the enforceability of State laws.

Shrimp Farming - Status and Outlook

B. Chauvin presented an in-depth report on farm raised shrimp. Most recent data estimates that the world production of farm raised shrimp is nearly 200 million pounds (heads on), 5% of world production.

Ecuador is a leading producer although problems did occur in their 1984 production. Ecuador's production is ahead of its technology. They depend largely on obtaining larval shrimp from other countries or from the wild. Climatic conditions reduced 1984 production. Four hatcheries currently exist in Ecuador but do not supply an adequate amount of larval shrimp. Thirteen hatcheries will be completed by 1987. Their yearly production should remain the same - about 45 million pounds.

Columbia is also on the rise with 20 new shrimp farms. Shrimp are not indigenous to the area and they therefore import their larval shrimp.

Brazil has a great potential for shrimp production. It is expected that within five years, Brazil alone could produce 150-350 million pounds of shrimp per year.

Mexico also has the potential to produce farm raised shrimp. The land is available for development but unlike Ecuador, where U.S. and others have been able to invest, Mexican law restricts outside investments. Mexico will not develop as fast as Ecuador.

In the Asian areas, according to the FAO, nearly 70% of the world's tropical shrimp are produced. Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia, and the Philippines have achieved the most success in cultivating shrimp. The major species produced is the "tiger shrimp." Freshwater prawns are also prevalent throughout Asia. They are consumed domestically since international trade is not financially attractive at this time.

B. Chauvin finished his presentation with slides showing shrimp farming operations in different countries. He described operations in Ecuador, Mexico and Hawaii. He stated that if the estimates for 1990 farm raised shrimp are accurate then farm raised shrimp will represent 15% of world production and will have a severe impact on the world market as a whole. He anticipates a lot of changes in coming years in the domestic and world shrimp market.

U.S. - Japanese Venture

A. Kemmerer reported that there will be a cruise with the Japanese on April 15, operating in waters east of Mobile to the Louisiana-Texas border in about 20-300 fathoms. They will be operating a net designed to catch squid and butterfish. It is strictly an exploratory fishing operation - the Japanese will not retain any of the catch. They will be looking at stocks of squid and butterfish. A meeting will be held on March 20 at the NMFS Pascagoula Lab to finalize cruise plans. A. Kemmerer asked that if any persons had questions regarding the cruise to please contact him.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Dale Berry
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

GS-FFMB MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1985
MOBILE, ALABAMA

GS--FFMB MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 12, 1985
Mobile, Alabama

Chairman Dalton Berry called the meeting to order at 1:19 pm. The following members and guests attended.

Members

Dalton Berry, Petrou Fisheries, Inc., Empire, LA
Jack Styron, Wallace Menhaden Products, Inc., Mandeville, LA
W. Borden Wallace, Wallace Menhaden Products, Inc., Mandeville, LA
T. G. Christopher, Standard Products Co., Inc., Moss Point, MS
J. Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Robert Chapoton, NMFS, Beaufort, NC

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Lucia B. O'Toole, Publication Specialist

Others

William C. Lunsford, Jr., Zapata Haynie Corp., Timonium, MD
Mike Millard, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
David Etzold, USM, Hattiesburg, MS
Lloyd Regier, NMFS, Charleston, SC
Eldon Levi, NMFS, Gulf Breeze, FL
James Geaghan, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Deborah Fuller, LSU/CFI, Baton Rouge, LA
Richard Condrey, LSU/CFI, Baton Rouge, LA
I. B. Byrd, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Richard Leard, BMR, Long Beach, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as amended to include the following items under other business:

- 1) brief summary on MARFIN project - L. Simpson
- 2) report on surimi project - L. Simpson
- 3) discussion of any recommended projects for programmatic funds
- 4) comment on research on Gulf menhaden - V. Guillory

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana on October 17, 1984 were adopted as written.

Report on Plans and Outlook for 1985 Fishing Season

R. Chapoton reported that 1984 landings set a new record of 983,000 metric tons, 6% greater than in 1983 and 16% greater than the 1984 catch forecast. He cited the main reason as being three to four times more individual fish recruited into the fishery than a decade ago. 19% of the catch was landed in Mississippi and 81% was landed in Louisiana. Peak landings occurred in July. Samples of landings from all ports in the 1984 Gulf fishery indicate that of the 16,000 fish collected, 70% were age-1. The strong showing of age-1 menhaden and large amount of landings from eastern and western grounds relative to other fishing areas in 1984 suggest a larger than average 1983 year class. This should carry over and support good fishing success in all areas, especially the central fishing areas, in 1985. NMFS estimates the landings for 1985 to range between 630,000 and 965,000 metric tons.

1983 and 1984 Data on Captain's Daily Fishing Reports (CDFRs) and Plans for 1985 Captain's Daily Fishing Reports Data

R. Chapoton informed the Committee that as of November 1984 NMFS had coded and key entered all of the 9,810 CDFRs obtained from Gulf menhaden vessels for 1983. Coding of the 9,750 CDFRs received from the 1984 fishing season has begun using a shortened coding form. The short form will speed up the turn around time for the basic information on sets, catch and location. Individual companies will be contacted to determine the number of forms needed for the 1985 season. NMFS has about a four month supply on hand and additional forms can be printed in one month's time.

Update on 1981 Captain's Daily Fishing Reports Completed Data

R. Condrey reported the 1981 data had been checked and the tape is now ready to be sent to Beaufort. Students at LSU have taken the 1980 data and made the forms legible for key punching which will begin shortly. R. Condrey said that with students' help during the summer,

one year's data could be completed and verified in one month's time for a cost of \$12,000-\$14,000. The written reports on the 1981 and 1980 data will be forwarded to the Committee when available. R. Condrey requested that the 1985 CDFR data be done on a real-time basis either by LSU or NMFS.

Results of Louisiana Board of Regents Project - Searching Time

R. Condrey reported that a few years ago aboard a menhaden vessel he had seen a classical predator-prey (fishermen-menhaden) model in effect. More current analysis using the Holling Disk Equation has shown that at high density population most of the time is spent in harvesting and at low density population most of the time is spent in searching. Most drastic testing suggests that the fishery can continue to expand in terms of the number of vessels (tonnage into the fishery) before the fishery would approach the MSY level and begin to exceed it. R. Condrey stated that searching time is a more sensitive parameter to measure the decline of the population abundance to prevent overfishing and is also something that can be regulated on a weekly basis. He would like to find historical data for the 1950's-1960's, get inferences of searching time, and test to see if actual data give similar readings as projections. Members of the Committee informed him that the necessary historical information might be obtained from a personal interview (with a captain) because the old recorded data only covered fish catch, number of boats, etc.

Other Business

L. Simpson reported that MARFIN represented a long-term effort to bring a focus to Gulf fisheries and their needs to emphasize development as well as enhancement of existing fisheries. The document has been finalized, published and widely distributed. On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., L. Simpson and Tom McIlwain, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, were able to present the document and discuss it with

Congressmen Trent Lott and John Breaux as well as Dr. Anthony Calio. It was received very enthusiastically and it is hoped that Dr. Calio will put the MARFIN program into his budget for FY86. L. Simpson felt very strong about some type of program resulting from the MARFIN Document and commended D. Berry for his contribution on behalf of the menhaden industry.

L. Simpson also reported on the NMFS menhaden-surimi project concept paper which outlines broad parameters. Bruce Morehead, NMFS Washington office, told L. Simpson that a detailed RFP would be out mid to late March. Of the \$1 million add-on for menhaden in FY85, \$250,000 was assessed by NMFS as administrative costs. With only \$750,000 available and since the east coast fish is less oily than the Gulf, the work will be done on the east coast. The actual work will be done during the next fishing season.

V. Guillory reported on the ongoing Barataria Bay larval menhaden studies and on the juvenile abundance work. Results of the first year will be available shortly. He noted that trawl samples of 1984 show large numbers of juvenile menhaden - the highest in several years.

D. Berry initiated discussion of the availability of State-Federal programmatic funds.

* The Committee agreed by consensus to write letters of support for: 1) the work of Barton Rogers on the effect of weirs on menhaden (to Dr. Jack Van Lopik, Dean Center for Wetland Resources, LSU) and 2) the work of Dr. Richard Condrey in the computerization of CDFRs including appreciation for further support for the computerization of the 1985 data on a real-time basis (to Dr. Gil Bane, Director Coastal Fisheries Institute, LSU).

R. Condrey requested \$10,000 to develop statistical tests of pre-MSY conditions in the menhaden industry which would be applicable to any purse seine fishery.

GS-FFMB MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -5-

* H. Schafer moved to request \$10,000 funding from the State-Federal Board in support of R. Condrey's project. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

APPROVED BY:


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1985
MOBILE, ALABAMA

GULF-STATE FEDERAL FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT BOARD
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 13, 1985
Mobile, Alabama

Chairman Hugh Swingle called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The following members and proxies were present:

Members

Al Green	(proxy for Travis)	TX
W.S. Perret	(proxy for Angelle)	LA
Leroy Kiffe	(proxy for Patti)	LA
Hugh A. Swingle	(proxy for Hodnett)	AL
Richard L. Leard	(proxy for Strong)	MS
J.Y. Christmas	(proxy for Millette)	MS
Edwin Joyce	(proxy for Gissendanner)	FL
Taylor Harper		AL
I.B. Byrd		NMFS

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Ginny K. Herring, Executive Assistant

Others

Walter Tatum, ADNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Leslie Casterline, GSMFC, Fulton, TX
Paul Hammerschmidt, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
Dalton Berry, Petrou Fisheries, Inc., Empire, LA
Jack Styron, Wallace Menhaden Products, Mandeville, LA
Billy Lunsford, Lunsford & Assoc., Inc., Timonium, MD
Clyde Richbourg, GSMFC, Gulf Breeze, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of a discussion regarding FY86 State-Federal funds.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held October 18, 1984, in New Orleans, Louisiana, were reviewed and approved as written.

Status Report - "Data Accumulation, Planning and Administration for Interjurisdictional Management of Marine Fisheries Resources in the Territorial Sea of the Gulf of Mexico (1985)."

L. Simpson reported that all objectives and responsibilities of Cooperative Agreement Number SF-28 are being accomplished and quarterly reports will be sent to the Southeast Regional Office, NMFS. He distributed a financial statement (attached) for the period October 1, 1984 through February 28, 1985.

There was discussion regarding S-F SEAMAP funding. L. Simpson was concerned that perhaps a duplication of effort existed since the SEAMAP program was also being funded with Congressional funds. There currently is \$4,700 unexpended in the S-F SEAMAP program. B. Byrd stated that it was appropriate to continue to fund the SEAMAP program with these available funds.

State Report - Menhaden Advisory Committee

D. Berry reported that the Menhaden Advisory Committee had met on Tuesday, March 12.

R. Chapoton, NMFS, Beaufort Laboratory, reported on the 1984 menhaden fishing season and the outlook for 1985. The 1984 season was a record year with 983,000 metric tons of fish being landed.

R. Condrey, LSU, reported that the 1981 Captains Daily Fishing Report data was complete and that he was in the process of getting the 1980 forms ready for key punching. He also reported on the results of the Louisiana Board of Regents Project which looks at searching time. He discussed predator-prey relationships, population densities, searching time, harvesting time and their relationships.

Other topics discussed included reports on MARFIN, the NMFS Menhaden-Surimi Project Concept Paper and a report on the Barataria Bay Larval Menhaden Studies.

The Committee drafted letters to Jack Van Lopik, Dean, Center for Wetland Resources, LSU, supporting the work of Barton Rogers on the effect of weirs on menhaden; and to Gil Bane, Director, Coastal Fisheries Institute, LSU, supporting the work of Dr. Richard Condrey in the computerization of the Captain's Daily Fishing Reports.

A recommendation was made that the Board consider a proposal by R. Condrey entitled, "Statistical Tests of Pre-MSY conditions in the Menhaden Industry." A formal proposal will be sent to the Commission office for consideration and distribution.

The Board voted to accept the change of language in the Committee's charter (attached).

Status Report - Crab Subcommittee

P. Hammerschmidt reported that the Crab Subcommittee had met Monday, March 11, 1985 and had reviewed each State's progress in crab research. They received a report on the National Symposium on Soft-Shell Blue Crabs held in Biloxi, Mississippi, February 12-13, 1985. H. Perry was appointed zooplankton expert on the SEAMAP Plankton Workgroup. They discussed a proposed Stone Crab Workshop and reviewed data needs and problem areas identified in the "Blue Crab Fishery Profile."

Status Report - SEAMAP Subcommittee

W. Tatum briefly reported the highlights of the recent SEAMAP Subcommittee meeting. These included (1) the 1985 shrimp/groundfish survey has been completed, (2) the red drum project is in collection and analysis phase, (3) the 1982 Atlas has been published, and the 1983 Atlas is being prepared; (4) the 1985 Marine Directory has been published; (5) the Gear Workshop Proceedings is being readied for publication; (6) all State-Federal agreements have been implemented except Texas which is pending; and (7) a SEAMAP plankton invertebrate archiving center has been established at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. He also read a letter that the SEAMAP Subcommittee had prepared to be sent to the TCC commending Nikki Bane for her outstanding efforts on behalf of the SEAMAP program.

Status Report - Anadromous Fish Subcommittee

L. Simpson briefed the Board on this Subcommittee's activities. He stated that the Subcommittee was actively working on a Striped Bass Profile and that all information from the various States should be in the Commission office by May 1 and that a draft should be ready for review by June 28. It is hoped that the Profile will be approved by the TCC at the October 1985 meeting. The Subcommittee is preparing a proposal to submit to the Board for FY86 funding to be used in development of a Striped Bass Management Plan.

FY86 S-F Programmatic Funds

It is anticipated that \$25,000 will be available in FY86.

Several preliminary requests for FY86 S-F programmatic funds have been made. They are as follows:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| - Striped Bass Management Plan | \$5,400 |
| - Publication of Proceedings of "Design, Collection and Assessment of Angler Volunteered Information Programs" | \$3,000 |
| - Workshop for Statistical Subcommittee to follow-up on information procedures regarding cooperative efforts with NMFS | \$2,500 |
| - Statistical Tests of Pre-MSY conditions in the Menhaden Industry | \$10,000 |

These requests total \$20,900, leaving an available amount of \$5,100.

The Commission office will send out a request for formal proposals. These proposals will then be sent to TCC members for review and prioritizing and then sent to Board members for review and approval. The Commission will have the final proposals and appropriate documents into the NMFS, SERO no later than July 1, 1985 for processing.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

STATE-FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE SUPPORT
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 10/1/84 - 2/28/85

STATE/FEDERAL AGREEMENTS
 (Administrative and Committee Support)

BUDGET CATEGORIES

<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>FY 85 Budgeted Amount</u>	<u>Current Month Expenses</u>	<u>Year to-Date Expenses</u>	<u>Encumbrance Amount</u>	<u>Available Balance</u>
1. SALARIES					
a. Executive Director	-	-	-	-	-
b. Asst. to the Director	-	-	-	-	-
c. Executive Asst.	3,500	291.66	1,458.35	2,041.62	.03
d. Secretary	1,750	134.60	740.30	1,043.15	(-33.45)
e. Publ. Spec.	1,750	134.60	706.65	1,043.15	.20
f. Contract Labor (SEAMAP Coordinator)	10,585		5,293.00	5,292.00	-
g. Health Insurance	-	-	-	-	-
h. Retirement	-	-	-	-	-
i. Payroll Taxes	-	-	-	-	-
2. Maintenance/Operations					
a. Office Rental	-	-	-	-	-
b. Office Supplies	634	78.18	251.92	-	382.08
c. Postage	830	-	830.00	-	-
d. Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-
e. Travel (staff)	5,133	559.12	3,031.52	-	2,101.48
f. Telephone	1,130	75.00	605.01	-	524.99
g. Office Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
h. Copying Expenses	575	-	488.00	-	87.00
i. Printing	-	-	35.00	-	(-35.00)
j. Meeting Cost	1,113	19.33	1,215.24	-	(-102.24)
k. Subscriptions/Dues	-	-	-	-	-
l. Auto Expense (gas/repairs)	-	-	-	-	-
m. Insurance (auto/bond)	-	-	-	-	-
n. Maintenance (off. equip.)	-	-	-	-	-
o. Petty Cash	-	-	-	-	-
p. Commission Courtesies	-	-	-	-	-
q. Committee Travel	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>14,500</u>	<u>455.00</u>	<u>6,224.50</u>	<u> </u>	<u>8,275.50</u>
Total	41,500	1,747.49	20,879.49	9,419.92	11,200.59

APPROVED BY: ✓

[Handwritten Signature]
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1985
MOBILE, ALABAMA

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 13, 1985
Mobile, Alabama

Chairman J.Y. Christmas called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.
The following members and others were present:

Members

J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Walter M. Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Hugh Swingle, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
J. Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Edwin A. Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Richard Berry, SEFC, Miami, FL
Corky Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

→ proxy for C.E. Bryan

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Barney Barrett, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Skip Lazauski, AMR, Dauphin Island, AL
Paul C. Hammerschmidt, TPWD, Port O'Conner, TX
Albert Green, TPWD, Austin, TX
Jack T. Styron, Wallace Menhaden Products, Inc., Mandeville, LA
W. Borden Wallace, Wallace Menhaden Products, Inc., Mandeville, LA
David Etzold, USM, Hattiesburg, MS
Leroy Kiffe, GSMFC, Lockport, LA
Gerald Adkins, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Thomas R. Dawley, NMFS, New Orleans, LA
Lloyd Regier, NMFS, Charleston, SC
Stu Kennedy, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Gil Bane, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Claude Boundreaux, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
William Lunsford, Zapata-Haynie Corp., Timonium, MD
Eldon J. Levi, NMFS, Gulf Breeze, FL
Philip Steele, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
I.B. Byrd, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Douglas Gregory, Jr., GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Richard Leard, BMR, Long Beach, MS
Warren Stuntz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Clyde Richbourg, GSMFC, Gulf Breeze, FL
Walter Nelson, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
James Geaghan, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Mike Millard, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Andrew J. Kemmerer, NMFS, NSTL Station, MS

Approved

Others (continued)

Frank R. Richardson, USF&WS, Atlanta, GA
Ed Crateau, USF&WS, Panama City, FL
Ralph Rayburn, TSA, Austin, TX
John Ray Nelson, GSMFC, Bon Secour, AL
Elmer Gutherz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Virginia Van Sickle, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as amended to include the following items:

- (1) Walter Tatum's report would include items other than the SEAMAP report.
- (2) Ed Joyce was requested to report on two topics: (A) inclusion of invertebrate species in recreational fisheries surveys; and (b) mosquito control problems in Florida.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 17, 1984, were reviewed and approved as written.

The minutes for the special meeting held on December 7, 1984, were reviewed and approved as written.

Committee Membership

* Committee membership was discussed by the Chairman, referring to material distributed on Section 8 (composition) of the Commission's by-laws. Accordingly, J.Y. Christmas appointed E. Joyce as Vice Chairman of the TCC; E. Joyce accepted the appointment.

* The Chairman also noted the need for membership changes: (1) Bill Demoran had resigned from the Committee and Tom McIlwain of GCRL was nominated to serve in his place; the death of Ted Ford left a vacancy from Louisiana, therefore Corky Perret, previous alternate, was nominated as a member and Barney Barrett nominated as the alternate Louisiana member.

* A motion was made by Alan Huff to accept the nominations; motion was seconded. Discussion followed on the procedure for nominating members and it was noted that the TCC has retained the option to select members in an informal way. The motion was passed unanimously. Larry Simpson expressed his intention to notify Louisiana of the action.

The Chairman also noted that while the Commission and State-Federal Board vote by state, the TCC vote, representing scientific expertise, is different in that each sitting member has a vote.

Status Report on Controlled Freshwater Introduction - David Etzold

D. Etzold presented updated information on the freshwater introduction project, noting that the Corps of Engineers has consolidated the three areas of proposed freshwater introduction into one single effort. The Davis Pond Site report is complete and was sent to Washington in November; final designs are in progress and the expected completion date is 1990. Construction on the Caernarvon site is expected to begin in September 1986, with an expected completion date of November 1988.

The Bonnet Carre site was then discussed in detail, noting the project's review in January of 1985 by the Mississippi River Commission, which approved the study; it is presently in a 90-day review process in Washington. Review is expected to be complete in May and will then go to Congress for action. Project completion is expected in 1991-92. It was suggested that letters be sent to legislators, urging approval of the project by the COE, as well as a TCC resolution to the COE stating the Commission's involvement in the project and urging approval.

* H. Swingle moved that the Commission prepare a resolution to the COE supporting approval of the Bonnet Carre Project, and noting the need for providing adequate preproject and project monitoring. The motion was seconded and passed.

Status Report on the Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) - Larry Simpson

J.Y. Christmas commended L. Simpson's leadership and work with the many people involved with MARFIN. L. Simpson also thanked all who

participated. He noted that since the last meeting, the report was widely distributed for review, and in January, he and T. McIlwain presented the document in a meeting with Congressmen John Breau and Trent Lott, and NOAA Administrator Anthony Calio; the proposal was well received. Congressman Breau indicated it will be immediately useful. L. Simpson and T. McIlwain also met with NMFS Administrator William Gordon, who accepted the document as an outstanding distillation of actions currently being discussed.

Additional meetings were held in Washington with other legislators and their aides, including Senator John Stennis' staff. It was noted that the document is the only one of its type for the country, but Alaska and other regions are contemplating similar action. L. Simpson observed that it may be difficult to obtain action on the initiative immediately, but the Executive Summary of the document is available for distribution.

Report on Current NMFS Efforts Dealing with Underutilized Species in the Gulf of Mexico - Andrew Kemmerer

A. Kemmerer presented a slide show of current NMFS programs on underutilized species in the Gulf. The following topics were discussed:

- (1) Coastal herring. Potential yield: 1-5 million metric tons. Efforts center on developing sampling gear and use of sound scans; next survey in Winter 1986.
- (2) Other underused species (tunas, sharks, octopus, squids, etc.). Current project underway with Congressman Breau, GCRL and LSU to assess squid/butterfish resources in conjunction with U.S.-Japan survey. Next sampling will be in April 1985, concentrating in the northern Gulf.
- (3) Elements of latent resources program: gear and tactics, surveys, market research, etc.
- (4) Strategic plan: priority species, approach, program participants, phasing and scheduling, budget requirements, coordinating and reporting requirements.
- (5) FY85 efforts involve the Galveston, Mississippi, Miami, Beaufort, and Charleston Labs, and the Regional Office.

A. Kemmerer introduced Ms Pat Kurkel of the NMFS Northeast Regional Office, who will be assisting in the development of the NMFS latent resources program.

Update on Louisiana Finfish Task Force - Gerald Adkins

G. Adkins presented a slide show illustrating features of the new Louisiana Finfish Task Force:

- (1) Problems involving red drum and spotted seatrout include large catches, gear conflicts and consumer problems; harvests, landings, and legislation were also reviewed.
- (2) Licensing structures and regulations were reviewed (gear, size and limits), as well as provisions for the new 21 Task Force positions (presently 9 positions have been funded and 8 persons hired).
- (3) Public and private goals and objectives were detailed, as well as activities for their implementation.
- (4) Data analysis and uncontrollable problems in the environment (e.g., floods, industrial conflicts, etc.) were also explained relative to the program.

Questions from the Committee and audience focused on the importance of this type of program to the Gulf and details of the licensing and regulations structure.

Following a short recess, J.Y. Christmas made several announcements of interest to participants, including delay of the State-Federal Board meeting until 2:00 p.m.; a memorial plaque in honor of Mel Waters (Lloyd Regier of NMFS serving as coordinator); and introduction of a distinguished visitor, Ms Virginia Van Sickle, Deputy Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Discussion of Marine Shellfish Introduction and Export - Ed Joyce

E. Joyce led a discussion of potential problems and dangers of importing and relocating shellfish, especially shrimp, and noted that no action has been taken by the TCC on this issue. The major perceived

problem is the potential transmission of disease organisms in the Gulf, with no State or Federal activities proposed to prevent infection of native stocks. Present laws of such states as Florida are probably not enforceable. Additionally, the issue of introducing hatchery-raised animals with genetic differentiation was discussed; Florida has recommended that standards and criteria be developed on this issue and that if an organization desires to release juveniles in an area, stocks should be taken from that area. These issues were discussed by the Committee, with several recommendations made for action:

- * (1) E. Joyce will check with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission to determine what actions that agency may recommend.
- * (2) Gil Bane, of LSU, will try to determine the status of a paper being prepared on the topic by the late Dr. Ted Ford.
- * (3) The TCC appointed an Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of W. Tatum and E. Joyce, to investigate potential concerns and actions appropriate for the TCC on this issue and report findings at the October 1985 meeting.

Inclusion of Invertebrates on Recreational Fishing Surveys - Ed Joyce

E. Joyce led a discussion on the need to include such invertebrate species as shrimp, oysters, blue crab, scallops, and other shellfish in USF&WS and other recreational fishing surveys. It was noted that some scientists have been invited to participate in designing future surveys, including those which are federally funded and may be used to generate D-J (Wallop-Breaux) or other funds. The use of such data in developing federal funds was clarified; it was noted that USF&WS can collect such data regardless whether D-J funds can be applied to a project. Frank Richardson of the USF&WS expressed his desire for a letter from the Commission urging action on this issue; such a letter should also be addressed to NMFS.

- * The TCC approved, by consensus, a recommendation to the GSMFC that the Commission take action, through a recommendation to USF&WS, to

increase efforts to acquire information on recreational fishing of invertebrate species, with a copy of this resolution to NMFS.

Subcommittee Reports

(1) SEAMAP Subcommittee - Walter Tatum.

W. Tatum reported recent activities of the SEAMAP

Subcommittee:

- (a) Re-election of Walter Tatum as Chairman and Gary Matlock as Vice Chairman.
- (b) Change of name from the SEAMAP Ichthyoplankton Work Group to the SEAMAP Plankton Work Group, and addition of Harriet Perry (GCRL) to the work group as an invertebrate specialist.
- (c) Completed planning of the summer shrimp/groundfish survey, consisting of a 21-day leg west of the river for information relevant to the Texas Closure, and surveying east of the river.
- (d) Implementation of the Red Drum Stock Identification study, with collections to date from Louisiana, Alabama and Texas; analysis of specimens to begin in April at LSU.
- (e) Data management requests are being filled as funds permit, in spite of activities being scaled back because of budget cuts.
- (f) Since October 1984, two Subcommittee meetings were held (January and March 1985).
- (g) All FY85 State-Federal agreements have been implemented, with the exception of Texas, which is pending.
- (h) Publications since October include the revised 1982 Environmental and Biological Atlas and the 1985 Marine Directory; the Trawling Gear Workshop Proceedings are expected to be published in April 1985.

- (i) A SEAMAP Invertebrate Plankton Archiving Center has been established at GCRL to house duplicate (paired) and unsorted invertebrate plankton specimens from SEAMAP surveys; a recommendation will be made later this spring whether to sponsor invertebrate plankton sorting in Poland.

J.Y. Christmas commended the Subcommittee for spectacular progress and accomplishments.

* H. Swingle moved to accept the SEAMAP Subcommittee report; motion was seconded and passed.

W. Tatum then noted a problem with the SEAMAP Coordinator's salary funding, where the original intent of the TCC was to fund the position for the entire FY85 period but current State-Federal funding of the program covers a 15-month period instead of 12 months; thus funding is needed for two months' salary (funding began on November 1 instead of October 1, 1984).

W. Tatum recommended that the State-Federal funds be amended to carry the program through the contractual period (December 31, 1985). Discussion followed, clarifying budgetary procedures and existing SEAMAP State-Federal funds.

* H. Swingle moved to reprogram existing SEAMAP State-Federal funds to permit the recommended two months' salary for the Coordinator; motion was seconded. Discussion followed and the question was called. The motion carried.

* W. Tatum read a resolution commending the SEAMAP Coordinator, the GSMFC Executive Director and the GSMFC staff for their efforts in behalf of the SEAMAP Program, and moved to have the commendation accepted by the TCC. The motion was seconded and passed.

(2) Crab Subcommittee - Paul Hammerschmidt.

P. Hammerschmidt presented progress and activities of the Crab Subcommittee:

- (a) Blue crab landings in the Gulf were reported up.
- (b) H. Perry had been appointed to the SEAMAP Plankton Subcommittee.

- (c) Members of the Crab Subcommittee were involved in the successful February softshell crab workshop in Biloxi.
- (d) Several softshell crab operations were reported as developing recently.
- (e) The Blue Crab Profile data needs are being addressed by interaction with SEAMAP on zooplankton transport information; P. Hammerschmidt thanked that group for its cooperation.
- (f) Other species being addressed for data needs by the Subcommittee are stone crab and golden Gulf crab (Geryon fenneri), for which a fishery is reported in Florida.
- (g) The Subcommittee wished the TCC to note its blue crab profile had received the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries award for ^{the outstanding} ~~best~~ publication ^{of the year} ~~of the year~~. *Biologists' Association*

approved

J.Y. Christmas commended the Crab Subcommittee for the considerable state-of-the-art knowledge it has developed for the region.

* W. Tatum moved to accept the Crab Subcommittee's report; the motion was seconded and carried.

(3) Statistical Subcommittee - Skip Lazauski

S. Lazauski presented progress and activities of the Statistical Subcommittee:

- (a) A meeting was held on March 11, 1985.
- (b) Ongoing projects include an intent to generate computer files on fishery-dependent data kept by each State; and development of symposium on recreational fishing surveys (March 14, 1985), for which the Subcommittee thanked L. Simpson for his efforts.
- (c) The Subcommittee presented information on the issue of confidentiality versus the IRS obtaining fisheries' data, noting it is the current policy and practice of NMFS to protect this data.
- (d) A. Green has requested discussion on proprietary data, which could be a problem; no Subcommittee recommendation ensued.

in fisheries for

- (e) State and national recreational fishery surveys were discussed.
- (f) The Fishery Management Plan resolution requested by Douglas Gregory (GMFMC) was not acted upon.
- (g) The status of computer systems and use of programmatic funds for a workshop were also reviewed.
- (h) The Subcommittee voted to have the current Vice Chairman assume the office of Chairman each year, to insure continuity.
- (i) The Subcommittee requested available State-Federal funds for FY85 and FY86. Requests include:
 - \$4,700. for a statistical workshop (FY85).
 - \$3,000. for publication of proceedings from the March 1985 statistical workshop (FY86).
 - \$2,500 for a two-day follow-up workshop in Miami (FY86).

The funding requests were discussed by the TCC, including clarification of funding sources and how they are allocated.

* W. Tatum moved to accept the Statistical Subcommittee report; motion was seconded and passed. J.Y. Christmas commended the Subcommittee for its accomplishments.

A. Huff moved to accept the request of the Statistical Subcommittee for FY85 and FY86 State-Federal funds; motion was seconded and passed.

(4) Anadromous Subcommittee - Larry Nicholson

L. Nicholson presented progress and activities of the Anadromous Subcommittee:

- (a) A meeting was held on March 11, 1985.
- (b) The Subcommittee is presently discussing the Striped Bass Profile, and would like the TCC's assistance in funding to help defray costs of a July 16-17, 1985 workshop (total requested funds from FY85 State-Federal funds, for travel and expenses: \$2,400).
- (c) The Subcommittee also requested FY86 funding of \$5,400 to develop the Management Plan.

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -11-

* E. Joyce moved to accept the Anadromous Subcommittee report; motion was seconded and passed.

* J.Y. Christmas noted the need to recommend funding levels to the State-Federal Board for its action. L. Simpson noted that a total of approximately \$4,700 is available for allocation and distribution. Discussion followed on other requests for funds. SEAMAP's needs were discussed with respect to available State-Federal funds. A. Huff moved to accept a request from the SEAMAP Subcommittee for available State-Federal funds; motion was seconded and carried.

* A. Huff moved to accept the Anadromous Subcommittee's request for funding; motion was seconded and passed.

Other Business

E. Joyce discussed the problem of mosquito control in Florida, noting that new State rotary ditching machines dig trenches to 48", considerably deeper than the present 2-6"-deep ditches. States were urged to consider the effects of these new machines in their respective mosquito control programs.

H. Schafer reaffirmed that C. Perret would remain as a TCC member, with B. Barrett as alternate.

Several position vacancies were announced for the benefit of the meeting participants:

- (1) Louisiana: Advertising/Promotion Director for the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.
- (2) Texas - Research Specialist, Fisheries
- (3) NMFS, Charleston Lab - Food Technologist.
- (4) Alabama - Mariculturist for larval fishes.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVED BY:


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE SESSION
MINUTES
FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1985
MOBILE, ALABAMA

EXECUTIVE SESSION
MINUTES
Friday, March 15, 1985
Mobile, Alabama

The meeting was called to order at 8:13 a.m. by Chairman Richard L. Leard. Those in attendance were:

Members

Albert Green	(proxy for C. Travis)	TX
Leslie Casterline		TX
W.S. Perret	(proxy for J. Angelle)	LA
Leroy Kiffe		LA
Richard L. Leard	(proxy for L. Strong)	MS
J.Y. Christmas	(proxy for T. Millette)	MS
Taylor Harper		AL
John Ray Nelson		AL
Walter Tatum	(proxy for J. Hodnett)	AL
Edwin A. Joyce	(proxy for E. Gissendanner)	FL
Clyde Richbourg		FL

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Ginny K. Herring, Executive Assistant
Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator
Lucia B. O'Toole, Publication Specialist
Eileen M. Benton, Staff Assistant

Other

I.B. Byrd, NMFS, SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Jerald K. Waller, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of the following:

- 1) Discussion of Council's FMP Data Collection
- 2) Discussion of Jack Brawner's letter regarding Compatible State Management Measures.
- 3) The order was changed on several agenda items to accommodate commissioners and committee chairman.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held Friday, October 19, 1984, in New Orleans, Louisiana, were reviewed and approved as written.

Report - NMFS, Southeast Regional Office

B. Byrd reported that an excellent relationship between the SERO and the Commission and States exist. He is pleased with the accomplishments and progress made in these cooperative partnerships and

pledged continued support and dedication to this end. L. Simpson requested that B. Byrd extend the Commission's appreciation to J. Brawner for the excellent presentation made by D. Ekberg at the Industry Advisory Committee.

Committee Reports - Law Enforcement Committee

J. Waller, Chairman of the LEC reported that the Committee recognizes the problems relating to the enforcement of laws and regulations that are not uniform, practical, or enforceable, and as commercial fishermen are extremely mobile, these problems affect all Gulf States, therefore, the Committee proposes:

- (1) That the Commission urge the States to have a law enforcement representative from each State in attendance at the LEC meetings and Law Enforcement Liaison Committee meetings.
- (2) Since travel funds for law enforcement are not always available, the LEC requests that the Commission consider reimbursing LEC members for two meetings per year and at least one Liaison meeting per year.
- (3) The Committee recognizes the need to be informed of new enforcement methods and techniques being developed and used in other states, therefore, they request that the Commission consider authorizing and reimbursing the expenses incurred by having experts from other areas present this information at LEC meetings.
- (4) The Committee requests that the Commission urge NMFS and the GMFMC to have a representative attend the LEC and the Liaison Committee meetings to provide updates and changes in agreements, rules and regulations.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding the LEC report. It was agreed that the Committee's requests were problems that the Commission needed to address. The Commission directed the Executive Director to write a letter to the five State marine agencies, to the GMFMC and to NMFS urging them to support the LEC by appointing active

members to the Committee. State directors present directed the LEC to contact them when they had problems with travel funds so that they may help in locating available funds. Although funds were not available through the Commission budget, perhaps a proposal could be submitted for State-Federal funds to support travel expenses for out-of-state experts to attend the LEC meetings and present new enforcement methods and techniques. The Commissioners agreed that in the event that funds were not made available for guest speakers they would consider such a request on a case by case basis depending on Commission budget restraints. Another suggestion was that the Executive Director write the GMFMC and suggest that they utilize their enforcement committee more.

Committee Report - Industry Advisory Committee

L. Simpson reported that IAC members in attendance included Commissioners from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Texas. Trade Associations represented were National Fisheries Institute, Mississippi Coast Fisheries Association, Louisiana Shrimp Association, American Shrimp Processors Association, Southeastern Fisheries Association and Texas Shrimp Association.

* The meeting agenda encompassed major concerns of the industry to include vessel insurance and safety, shrimp quality control, world shrimp mariculture update, International Trade Commission hearings, reauthorization of the FCMA, NMFS budget and progress on MARFIN. In addition there was a discussion of problems with State count laws in regard to white shrimp. As a result of this discussion the IAC requested that the Commission write the GMFMC recommending that they consider establishing a count law in the FCZ for white shrimp that would enhance the enforceability of State law in regulating white shrimp. It was motioned by L. Kiffe to accept this request and direct the Executive Director to write the appropriate letter. The motion carried.

Committee Report - Recreational Fisheries Committee

* E. Joyce reported that the RFC met on Tuesday, March 12. Among topics discussed were Federal activities as a result of artificial reef legislation and an in-depth discussion regarding the need to include recreational information on marine invertebrates in the various surveys being conducted by NMFS and USF&WS. The RFC recommended that the Commission write a letter requesting the USF&WS and NMFS to include invertebrate species information in recreational fisheries surveys. The motion was made by E. Joyce and seconded. The motion passed.

Report - Grant-in-Aid Workshop

B. Byrd reported that under PL 88-309, PL 89-304, SEAMAP, S-F Program and Cooperative Statistic Program, documents had either been approved or are in place awaiting final approval and that all funds allocated under these projects were obligated for 1985. The problem of the time involved in getting documents approved has not changed, but he stated that the States were working together to overcome this problem.

Legislative Update

L. Simpson stated that he gets the feeling from discussion with Congressional Committees, especially appropriation committees, that they do not want to hear further discussion on fisheries programs. He said this may be because we have said basically the same thing every year -- because it still applies and is appropriate. Marine fisheries issues and programs have little or no importance under the current administration. In order to change this philosophy, he feels that our discussion should no longer be aimed at NMFS since they basically agree with much of our budget emphasis, but perhaps direct our discussion to the President, Secretary of Commerce, and people within NOAA.

Proposed Changes for PL 88-309

L. Simpson discussed H.R. 1028 (Interjurisdictional Fisheries Research Act of 1985), and stated that if passed it would replace

PL 88-309. Under this legislation a new apportionment formula for funds is recommended that would essentially reduce Alabama by \$92,700; increase Mississippi by \$77,300; and reduce Texas by \$52,000. In introducing this legislation, Congressman Breaux stated that Congress and the Administration do not support PL 88-309. He stated that amendments to this program were necessary to obtain appropriations and even then it would be difficult. Congressman Breaux did state that the program (old or new) would be reauthorized.

L. Simpson briefed the Commissioners on the history of past amendments to the legislation. Testimony presented by the three compact commissions was distributed which addressed H.R. 1028, but clearly stated the view of the States, that is that they support reauthorization of PL 88-309 without change. The final mark-up for H.R. 1028 was March 5, it will go before the House on March 26 for action. The Senate it is felt will support PL 88-309 in its old form at reduced funding. Although reduced funding is not desired, it may be a mechanism to keep the program intact. H.R. 1028, besides changing the funding formula has a very narrow definition of Interjurisdictional fishery resources. The only projects in the Gulf that could be funded are those which have a Federal plan or a Commission plan in place. The Commissioners were particularly concerned about this definition and again stated the importance of a change of language which would include a resource that "migrates" between waters under the jurisdiction of two or more states or the EEZ. Discussion regarding the new legislation was not favorable but some were concerned that the program could be altogether lost if action by Congress was not taken. T. Harper suggested that the Commission stand firm in its present position that PL 88-309 not be changed or amended, but to continue to work towards changing the unsatisfactory amendments in H.R. 1028. L. Simpson re-stated that Congressman Breaux felt that in order to keep the program, changes would be necessary. It was the consensus of the Commission to stand firm on its current position in support of PL 88-309.

* C. Richbourg motioned to have the Executive Director write letters to Trade Associations requesting their support of PL 88-309. The motion carried.

Reauthorization of PL 89-304

L. Simpson stated that PL 89-304 would be reauthorized without major changes.

Proposed Amendments to FCMA

L. Simpson briefed the Commissioners on FCMA reauthorization and amendments. He stated under Section 7, that it dealt with composition and qualifications of council members as well as a consolidation of the eight Councils to make six Councils. Of particular interest under this Section were amendments refining the criteria to be applied by the Secretary in making at-large council appointments. These amendments stated that (1) no individual may be appointed unless they are both knowledgeable and experienced; 2) at least 50% of the at-large appointments must be individuals whose primary vocations are within either the harvesting, processing or marketing sectors of the commercial fishing industry; and, 3) the number of each State's at-large seats must be based on the relative contribution of that State's commercial fisheries to the regional totals.

J.R. Nelson supported the amendments regarding at-large Council appointments, in particular the part regarding 50% of the at-large appointments be from the commercial fishing sector. He felt that for the most part industry was not adequately represented on Council's.

E. Joyce stated that if the Secretary used current authority in making appointments, industry representation could be accomplished without change to the law.

L. Simpson pointed out that the Gulf Council did not support the percent make-up of the amendment.

* W. Tatum motioned that a letter go out from the Commission to the appropriate persons supporting the language in the reauthorization -- that is that 50% of the at-large members be from industry and that the

appointments should be knowledgeable and experienced. The motion carried with A. Green abstaining.

Section 10 was also of concern. It would allow the Secretary of Commerce to preempt State fishery management authority if he felt that State regulations would substantially and adversely affect a Federal plan. The Commissioners did not support this amendment and at this writing this amendment has been dropped from the reauthorization.

Compatible State Management Measures, Red Snapper

L. Simpson passed out a letter from J. Brawner regarding the lack of minimum size regulations for red snapper in the territorial sea of the five Gulf States and the inability to enforce minimum size regulations in the FCZ. After discussion it was decided that the States are working out their individual problems regarding compatibility within their own States. No action was taken on J. Brawner's letter.

Statues and Update on Wallop-Breaux Fund

L. Simpson stated that the major problem was not only impoundment but that the OMB has suggested that funds set aside as user taxes and designated for a specific job be subject to annual appropriations under the Automatic Appropriations Act of 1951. The Commission is on record as against the impoundment. No further action was taken.

Committee Report - Technical Coordinating Committee

J.Y. Christmas briefed the Commissioners on the TCC meeting held Wednesday, March 13, 1985. E. Joyce was appointed vice chairman, T. McIlwain replaced B. Demoran with T. Van Devender as alternate, and C. Perret replaced T. Ford with B. Barrett as alternate.

* The Committee received a status report on controlled freshwater introduction into the Louisiana marshes. It is expected that the Caernarvon site will be complete by 1988. They reviewed the Bonnet Carre project which will be considered by the Corps of Engineers, and J.Y.

Christmas made the motion that the Commission write a letter of support for this project with a request for an adequate provision for premonitoring and monitoring of the project. The motion carried.

The Committee received reports on MARFIN, current NMFS efforts dealing with underutilized species and an update on the Louisiana Finfish Task Force.

* There was discussion of marine shellfish introduction and export and the potential problem of disease and parasites into fish/shellfish stocks. The TCC established an ad hoc committee to investigate concerns and to report back to the TCC. Members include W. Tatum, E. Joyce and R. Dugas. Others may be requested to participate by the TCC Chairman. J.Y. Christmas motioned that the ad hoc committee be accepted. The motion carried.

The TCC heard committee reports from the Crab Subcommittee, Statistical Subcommittee, Anadromous Subcommittee, and the SEAMAP Subcommittee.

* The TCC recommended that the current contract for the SEAMAP Coordinator be extended until December 31, 1985 and that funds be reprogrammed to accommodate this extension. J.Y. Christmas made the motion, and it carried.

* The TCC approved a resolution commending the work of the SEAMAP Coordinator and the GSMFC Executive Director and staff. J.Y. Christmas motioned that the Commission adopt the resolution. The motion carried.

The TCC reviewed alternative options for SEAMAP Coordinator as presented by the SEAMAP Subcommittee (attached). The TCC recommends Option 2, which is a continuation of a subcontract with LSU for current Coordinator.

SEAMAP FY86 Administration

Copies of five alternative options for SEAMAP Coordinator were distributed to the Commissioners. Option 1 and Option 2 were the alternatives mainly discussed. W. Tatum stated that though Option 1 represented less money than the value of the present Coordinator and her

experience was well worth the additional money. There was concern that the reduction in administrative and fixed cost in Option 2 would reduce the program activities. It was noted that the fixed cost reductions from Option 1 would be supplemented by LSU under Option 2 within the 24% overhead. L. Simpson was concerned that these reductions would inhibit the program, that the fixed cost in Option 1 was actual cost to the Commission. He expressed that the reductions in Option 2 would not allow enough funds for the Commission to provide the necessary services to satisfactorily complete the program. W. Tatum stated that SEAMAP may or may not be able to secure full funding for FY86. E. Joyce suggested that both Options 1 and 2 should be kept open by applying for full funding of Option 2, keeping in mind the fixed cost of Option 1.

* C. Perret motioned to accept Option 2, seconded by W. Tatum. The motion carried.

Review of Financial Assistance Review Board

The FARB is possibly getting better but it is only one aspect of the problem. The Kansas City Central Administration Service Center is also a problem. At the request of the Commission, L. Simpson solicited help from Congressman Breaux urging him to contact the Secretary of Commerce regarding the problem especially as it relates to PL 88-309 and PL 89-304 programs. The problem was discussed at MAFAC and at the Industry meeting held at the SERO. Dr. Calio stated that he would attempt to turn down the "administrative gain" in these procedures and would consider decentralizing the review and approval procedures. There may be an exemption from these review procedures for the PL 88-309, PL 89-304 programs and the State-Federal programs.

MAFAC Report

Most of the topics discussed at the February 1985 MAFAC meeting had already been discussed. The major topic was the FCMA reauthorization. Charles H. Lyles has recently been appointed to serve on MAFAC.

NMFS FY86 Budget

L. Simpson briefed the Commission on NMFS FY86 Budget. He indicated that again the budget called for severe cuts and in some cases zero budget. He feels certain that not all reductions will stand. He stated that the three compact Commissions had submitted a request to present testimony to the appropriations committees but at this time he had the feeling that the request would be turned down because they just did not want to hear their statements again. He is concerned that Congressman Breaux has indicated that he will not appear before the House Appropriations Committee to present the Subcommittee and full Committee recommendations but instead will ask individual Congressmen to represent their views on appropriations.

Nominations for Charles H. Lyles Award

L. Kiffe nominated Theodore B. Ford to receive the award, seconded by C. Perret.

C. Richbourg nominated Robert Jones to receive the award, seconded by J.R. Nelson.

Being no further nominations, the nominations were closed.

Secret ballots were cast and counted. Theodore B. Ford was named the recipient for the Charles H. Lyles Award to be presented at the October 1985 meeting of the Commission.

Executive Director's Report

Audit Report - FY84

The Commissioners voted to accept the report as presented at the Executive luncheon held Wednesday, March 13.

* A copy of the auditor's management letter was distributed which contained a recommendation to establish a telephone log of all long distance telephone calls. It was noted that there existed no abuse of the Commission telephone and that this procedure would be time consuming. L. Kiffe motioned to not establish the log. The motion was seconded and carried.

Another recommendation to establish a formal written travel reimbursement policy for all staff and non-staff personnel was addressed. L. Simpson will direct staff members to prepare this document and it will be distributed to Commissioners for review, comments and a mail ballot approval.

The third recommendation requested a formal written policy of reimbursement for functions for wives to assure that all of the costs that are incurred be covered by registration fees or other non-tax revenues. It was the consensus of the Commissioners not to raise the registration fees of these functions to cover entire cost of program but to continue the policy of paying for any amount not covered by registration fee with Commission operating funds.

The final recommendation was to establish a written policy as to which staff positions qualify for overtime and compensatory time. It was the consensus of the Commissioners that such policy already existed in the GSMFC "Manual of General Administration," Section 5.3 Exemption from Overtime. This section reads The Executive Director and the Assistant to the Director are exempt

Financial Statement as of 2/28/85

L. Simpson distributed copies of the current financial statement to the Commissioners. The financial statement included GSMFC operating funds and all project funds for FY85.

Discussion on Assistant to the Director Position

L. Simpson stated the need for an assistant. Commission activities have increased and the level of work being produced warrants that the position be filled. L. Simpson stated that it has been necessary for him to depend on all GSMFC staff members, all currently holding full-time positions with full-time responsibilities, to help with the increased workload created by this position vacancy. The Commissioners instructed the Executive Director to check available sources of funding and to be prepared to present a proposal with the FY86 budget in October

1985. It was recommended that these funds come from within the Commission in order to establish a permanent position. The Commissioners agreed that a need existed to hire an assistant.

Council Update

L. Simpson reported that current work on the Council involves amendments to the Mackerel Plan and FCMA amendments. The Swordfish Plan has been submitted and work started on Data Collection FMP's.

Future Meetings

L. Simpson stated that our next meeting will be at the Hilton Inn Gateway, Kissimmee, Florida in October 1985. The Commissioners directed the staff to investigate areas in Texas for a March 1986 meeting. These areas should include Brownsville, San Antonio, Corpus Christi and South Padre Island.

Discussion of Council's FMP Data Collection

R. Leard stated that the Gulf Council would like the Commission's Statistical Subcommittee to review and comment on the Data Collection FMP. W. Tatum stated that Statistical Subcommittee is already doing what the Council is proposing to do. He does not feel that further joint workshops are necessary since work is being accomplished at a Gulf States level. It was the decision of the Commissioners to direct the Executive Director to draft a letter to W. Swingle stating that the Commission support the Data Collection FMP when time permits and personnel are able and also inviting the Council to participate on the Commission's Statistical Subcommittee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the March 11, 1985 meeting were adopted as presented.

Budget Report

A worksheet showing FY85 and proposed FY86 budgets was distributed; discussion was postponed until the following day.

Publications Report

N. Bane presented the current status of SEAMAP-Gulf publications:

- (1) The joint Annual Report is currently being prepared by Bane and Pete Eldridge of the South Atlantic program; the format and content were tentatively approved by the South Atlantic Committee. Publication is anticipated in time for distribution at the October 7-11 meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the October 14-18 meeting of the GSMFC.
- (2) The 1983 Biological and Environmental Atlas is being prepared and put onto the GSMFC word processor; publication will be delayed somewhat (target date: late fall 1985) because of priority work on the annual report and State-Federal cooperative agreements, the Trawl Workshop Proceeding and the TCC Report.
- (3) Trawl Workshop Proceedings: the document has been completed and sent to the printer; distribution is expected in September.
- (4) The TCC Report is currently being readied for presentation at the October meeting.

State-Federal Cooperative Agreements

N. Bane presented information on the status of the State-Federal Cooperative Agreements pertaining to the August Squid/Butterfish Trawling Survey. All necessary documents have been submitted to SERO and are currently in the FARB system with no anticipated problems. An amendment is also being processed for the GSMFC for a program addition of ~~\$10,000~~^{9,000} to reimburse travel expenses incurred by Gulf and South Atlantic participants in the Status and Trends Benthic Surveillance Project. (~~\$10,000~~ \$9,000)

Discussion followed on the current funding allocation modifications proposed for the FARB system, in which SEAMAP and other such funds intended by Congress for specific use by the states (non-discretionary) might alternatively be declared as discretionary, thereby mandating a system of bids

Approved

for State-Federal contracts.

- * G. Matlock moved to have the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and GSMFC Executive Directors send letters of support for the present/past administrative procedures (non-discretionary) to FARB. The motion was seconded and amended to include a provision that if a formal statement of the Federal Administration's support for discretionary funding is not available to the Subcommittee, such letters are not appropriate, but if public comment would be helpful, these letters should be sent.

Additional Old Business

Ken Stuck, Curator of the SEAMAP Invertebrate Plankton Archiving Center, was introduced to the Subcommittee.

Walter Nelson requested an agenda addition to discuss a weight variance study done during the Summer 1985 Shrimp/Groundfish Trawling Survey.

Review of Joint SEAMAP-Gulf/SA Budget Meeting

W. Tatum summarized discussions of the two programs at the August 13-14 meeting in Charleston, SC:

- (1) A joint meeting of the two groups will take place at the March 13-14, 1986 GSMFC meeting in Brownsville, Texas.
- (2) Anticipated and potential changes in FARB procedures were reviewed by Dave Pritchard of NMFS-SERO.
- (3) A FY86 budget request of \$247,000 was approved by the SEAMAP-SA Program.
- (4) A. Kemmerer noted a likely 2% tax on all NMFS funds, including SEAMAP, for FY86; funding for the SEAMAP-Caribbean Program is unlikely.
- (5) Priority joint programmatic activities for FY86 were approved: data management and additional plankton sorting.

G. Matlock moved to ~~send~~ ^{request} the GSMFC Executive Director send letters to all Gulf legislators, protesting the arbitrary assessment by NMFS of allocated funds; such actions prevent fulfillment of needed SEAMAP activities, such as data management. The motion was seconded and discussion followed on the advisability of sending the letters since the SEAMAP budget has not yet been approved by Congress. The motion was tabled pending passage of the budget allocation and notification of an assessed tax by NMFS.

*Substitute
request
W.D. Dineen*

Approved

Work Group Reports

(1) Plankton Work Group.

Bill Richards reviewed discussions of the Plankton Work Group's August 21, 1985 meeting in Ocean Springs:

- (a) The SEAMAP 1982 plankton data base is being corrected after discovery of numerous field errors on all ships. Larvae from the 1982 cruises are being identified by Richards and R. Shaw; paired 1982 samples have been archived at SIPAC-GCRL.
- (2) Similar corrections are being made on 1983 SEAMAP survey data; 1983 specimens are currently being accessioned at SAC, with loan procedure modifications approved by the work group. SIPAC will archive the 1983 paired samples upon shipment from Miami.
- (3) Written reports of the Polish Sorting Center (PSC) work were distributed for Subcommittee review.
- (4) 1984 survey data have been entered into the system but will require correction; samples have been shipped to Poland, and H. Perry will, at a later date, select priority 1984 samples for invertebrate sorting.
- (5) 1985 plankton surveys were piggybacked onto the Summer Shrimp/ Groundfish and Squid/Butterfish surveys.
- (6) A laboratory guide to fish larvae and eggs, compiled by the work group, was proposed as a long-term project, with a possible similar, subsequent guide to the invertebrate larvae.

The work group proposed the following recommendations to the Subcommittee, noting the importance of plankton surveys and the existing comprehensive SEAMAP data base, and the rapid turn-around of SEAMAP data into needed management information on finfish spawning times, areas and magnitude:

- (1) Target species for FY1986-1988 are:
 - (a) Coastal herrings, including sardines, herrings, chub mackerels and their relatives, and blue runners.
 - (b) King and Spanish mackerels
 - (c) Sciaenids as a regional target
 - (d) Blue crabs
 - (e) Other crabs (Geryon and stone)
 - (f) Lobsters (phyllosomes).

- (2) FY86-88 plankton surveys should be made in conjunction with planned NMFS and state survey schedules; almost all tentatively-planned OREGON II and CHAPMAN cruises were found to be ideal for plankton sampling purposes.
- (3) Special emphasis should be placed on areas where past surveys indicate the greatest plankton abundance, as well as areas not yet sampled.
- (4) Survey times should emphasize times of known peak abundance as well as dates with no previous sampling.
- (5) The Gulf states should encourage the analysis of data presently available from past SEAMAP surveys.
- (6) Base funding by SEFC for the PSC should be continued, and if more intensive SEAMAP sorting in Poland is desired, additional costs should be borne by SEAMAP; it was noted that no such expansion can occur until the PSC's new building is completed.
- (7) K. Stuck's recommendations to the work group were adopted, including some of the above items and:
 - (a) Sorting of invertebrates should commence with the 1984 samples in FY86.
 - (b) Stuck should travel to Poland in 1985 to train Polish sorters.
 - (c) Travel expenses for the SEAMAP curators to the annual U.S.-Polish advisory committee meeting should be supported.
- (8) Travel for a specialist in coastal herring larvae/eggs identification to train PSC sorters should be supported to improve proficiency in those groups.
- (9) Sampling of Texas coastal waters should be resumed because of inadequate information on the abundance of king mackerel larvae in this region.
- (10) Any planned Atlantic spring 1986 bluefish cruise should include sampling in the entire Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Mexico.

Discussion included:

- (1) A suggestions that nonSEAMAP survey plankton specimens should not be archived without approval by the Subcommittee.
- (2) A request to identify specific plankton information needed from coastal Texas waters.

- (3) A note that the TCC's Crab Subcommittee has requested from the SEAMAP Information System information on crab distribution and abundance.
- (4) A request for neuston net specifications so that all SEAMAP participants conducting plankton sampling can acquire their own neuston gear.
- (5) A request to resolve whether SAC should archive samples from the Atlantic bluefish larvae cruises.
- (6) Determination that K. Savastano will evaluate methods for data storage at SAC and recommend the most suitable of them.
- (7) A note that the annual budget for SAC, FY86-88, will be about \$50,000.

H. Perry discussed the intention of the Crab Subcommittee to use SEAMAP data for studies of portunid distribution and abundance.

(2) Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group.

C.E. Bryan reviewed the Summer 1985 Shrimp/Groundfish Survey activities, noting that this appeared to be the best of any previous surveys, and advising that the states wished to continue the 1986-87 Summer Shrimp/ Groundfish Survey at the same ^{time} of year and at the same sampling level. Suggested design modifications requested for 1986 are:

- (a) As surveying in Texas begins, one-half of the sampling should be performed from north to south; the remainder, from south to north.
- (b) Shrimp mean lengths and number per hour are the needed real-time data, hence the work group recommendation for deleting length-frequencies from real-time data.
- (c) These recommendations will remain constant even if the Texas Closure is dropped as a management measure.
- (d) A Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group meeting will not be required for planning the 1986 survey.

W. Nelson presented a written report of a study conducted onboard the OREGON II during the June 10-14 leg of the 1985 Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey, to evaluate variances in shipboard versus shoreside weights of specimens. Project personnel included Nelson, Karen Lecke and Bennie Rohr of the Mississippi Labs, and N. Bane.

Conclusions of this preliminary, limited scope study were:

- (a) Pooled estimates, when at least five samples are available, are adequate for providing mean estimates of weight by species when those weights are obtained aboard research vessels.
- (b) Differences between individual tows can be significant and a systematic bias may be present, although significant differences were found in only 31% of the species tested.
- (c) Individual differences when a very few small organisms are weighed may be substantial, with relative error increasing as the size of the organism weighed aboard ship decreases.
- (d) The standard error of estimate indicated by regression analysis is 15-20%, and the slopes indicate an overall 5% bias between ship and lab weights for all samples, and a 9% bias for weights of less than 2 lb.
- (e) Since the purpose of taking weights is to estimate biomass, and since pooled estimates seem adequate for biomass estimation, Texas should either provide length-weight curves for the approximately 1500 animal potentially catchable in the northern Gulf, with confidence intervals for estimation of weight from those curves, along with estimates of measuring error, or invest in a \$20.00 grocer's scale.

Concern was expressed that the study data should have been log-transformed to equalize the variances, even though the percent errors of regression were small.

The Subcommittee adjourned for lunch.

The meeting resumed at approximately 1:15.

A. Kemmerer reported on the progress of the Status and Trends Benthic Surveillance Project, noting that analysis of heavy metals and hydrocarbons in sediments and finfish has not yet been completed, although 70% of the histopathological analyses were complete. The Subcommittee will receive a report of the findings by December, and if desired, project personnel will present a full project report at the Spring 1986 SEAMAP meeting.

A short discussion of the project followed, with a request for the study's raw data, by state, and note of a calibration problem within the project.

(3) Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group, continued.

Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey. W. Nelson introduced Dr. Arvind Shah of the University of South Alabama, who, with the NMFS-Mississippi Labs, has been analyzing existing data to evaluate the precision of sampling, and develop a suitable fall shrimp/groundfish survey design. Extensive information was presented by Dr. Shah, with the following recommendations:

- (a) The survey should expand to depths from 2-100 fm, from Apalachicola to Brownsville.
- (b) A pilot study is recommended for FY86, with a total of 500-600 stations, although 400 would probably be acceptable; tows would be for 10 minutes, parallel to depth contours.
- (c) Day/night sampling should be done, with approximately 20 sampling days east of the Mississippi River and 20 west of the River. Random stations will be assigned proportional to the area off each state's boundaries; one day's work would be repeated at night.

It was noted that Texas would be interested in participating in the survey, using 20-ft trawls in the daytime, with the NOAA vessel conducting nighttime, 40-ft trawls. Additionally, because of a prior commitment to early fall sampling, Louisiana will not be able to participate in the survey; as well, Florida will not be a participant this year.

*

G. Matlock moved that the Subcommittee adopt the approach of an expanded shrimp/groundfish survey in the fall to as much of the Gulf as is possible. The motion was seconded; a short discussion followed, and the motion was passed unanimously.

*

G. Matlock then moved that the current NMFS Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey be expanded in October-November 1985 to as much of the Gulf as can be accomplished with available NMFS and state personnel and vessels, without jeopardizing the integrity of the existing NMFS Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey. The motion was seconded, with discussion following on the advisability of NMFS reducing the number of stations as much as possible. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Matlock then moved that as part of the fall 1985 survey, NMFS collect 16 randomly-selected samples off Texas at night in each of four areas, with 40-ft trawls, for comparison with 20-ft trawls during the day in those areas. The motion was not seconded.

Discussion followed on the day/night design and alternate sampling sites.

* D. Waller moved that the Subcommittee adopt a compromise with the day/night design, with day/night replicates at some stations only, because of the pilot study nature of the survey; NMFS should make every effort to sample at night in Texas waters. The motion was seconded, and discussion followed on survey depths and the need for good gear calibration conversion. The motion passed unanimously.

(3) Environmental Data Work Group.

W. Nelson presented the work group's recommendations for FY86, in work group leader Warren Stuntz' absence; current recommendations are the same for FY86 as in FY85. States were encouraged to purchase standardized gear. Analysis of summer survey chlorophyll samples by the NMFS-Pascagoula Facility will begin in mid-September.

(4) Red Drum Work Group.

Tom McIlwain presented information on the status of the Red Drum Stock Identification Study, noting that about 25% of the Gulf-collected red drum specimens have been analyzed by LSU's Coastal Fisheries Institute; it is anticipated that all of them will have been analyzed by the October meeting, when a preliminary report of findings will be presented. For FY1986, no recommendations were made, other than continuation of the current analyses. It was noted that only a few specimens of fish from Mississippi were collected because of a lack of personnel to conduct the sampling.

(5) Data Coordinating Work Group.

K. Savastano presented a report of the March joint SEAMAP-Gulf/SA data management work groups' meeting, with the following recommendations from that meeting:

- (a) Input on user needs and personal computers functions is requested.
- (b) The system needs to look at current systems designs.
- (c) Varying biocodes currently in use by participants and SEAMAP components should be evaluated and discussed.
- (d) Additional joint meetings of the two groups will be required for resolution of design parameters.

Savastano also reported on the status of the SEAMAP Information System, and distributed written handouts detailing requests fulfilled in 1984-85. He noted the continuing existence of problems with some of the '83 chlorophyll readings, and added that the real-time data for 1985 surveys were rewritten, software is in place for squid/butterfish survey real-time data, SIS was used to generate the data for the 1983 Atlas, and plans are being made for SIS to develop a baseline personal computer system similar to GCRL's. Additionally, the system is evaluating the possibility of factoring in known hangs, in order to optimize station selection for surveys.

(6) Squid/Butterfish Work Group.

Buck Sutter presented results of the Summer Squid/Butterfish Trawling Survey, in which Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and NMFS participated from July 31 - August 19, 1985. Results of the survey indicated that in general, butterflyfish and squid catches were low, with the largest catch near the Mississippi River. Recommendations of the work group are:

- (a) SEAMAP should participate in an expanded Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey to give a better estimate (lower variance) of butterflyfish biomass, covering the area from Pensacola to Brownsville, to depths of 100 fm or deeper.
- (b) A Spring Squid/ Butterflyfish Survey is also recommended, using 80-ft high-rise nets in a stratified random design. The areas to be sampled should include butterflyfish concentrations identified in previous cruises, from Pensacola to Texas, at depths from 1-150 fm, between April and May. During some part of this survey, NMFS and state vessels should spend at least two days sampling together to obtain vessel comparisons. The effect of using a bridle on the gear should also be examined, and calibration performed between the 80-ft and 40-ft trawls.

- (c) An effort should be made to gather all available information on nearshore populations of juvenile and adult butterflyfish from each of the Gulf states, to augment offshore data and increase the accuracy of population assessments.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 until the following day.

Wednesday
August 28, 1985
New Orleans, LA

Chairman Walter M. Tatum convened the meeting at approximately 8:00 a.m.

FY86 Administrative Budget Report

*Approved
Correction*

The Subcommittee discussed the proposed FY86 administrative budget and requested further information on some budget categories in the FY85 budget (current salary and associated costs for the Coordinator) in order to relate those to FY86 needs. Also questioned were administrative travel costs proposed for FY86. The Executive Director and Coordinator will prepare information to clarify these items.

A projected shortfall was proposed for the FY 85 budget (budget \$95,000)

Other Old Business

G. Matlock presented a statement of research needs by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; the Subcommittee determined to examine the relationship of these needs to SEAMAP activities subsequent to considering work group recommendations for FY86.

Planning for 1986-88 SEAMAP Activities

Work group reports were considered individually for purposes of planning future SEAMAP activities.

(1) Plankton.

The Subcommittee urged that standardized gear be purchased by the states. Additional target species were suggested as priorities.

- * A. Huff moved that target species for SEAMAP plankton surveys should be those recommended by the Plankton Work Group (coastal herrings, mackerels, sciaenids, blue crabs, Geryon and stone crabs, and lobster phyllosomes) and lobsters (other stages), squid, and shrimp. The motion was seconded and passed.

Discussion followed on the areas, time frames and collection techniques to be used, as well as total number of sampling days; budgeting for data handling and necessary gear were urged for the states. The Subcommittee will urge the SEFC to continue base funding of the Polish Sorting Center; it was noted that the group previously agreed to increase funds for this activity, but it was also pointed out that in FY86, no additional funds can be applied because of inadequate building facilities in Poland. A higher priority for SEAMAP specimens is required (i.e., higher than that of the NEFC).

Funding for K. Stuck's trip to train personnel at PSC was discussed; Louisiana agreed to contribute \$500. of SEAMAP funds for this purpose. Other discussion focused on Stuck's salary during his absence from GCRL and the desirability of sending a specialist to train Polish personnel in coastal herring larvae and egg identification.

* D. Waller moved to send K. Stuck to Poland in December 1985 if funds for this activity can be identified. The motion was seconded and discussion followed, noting that training for invertebrate sorting was critical, while that for herrings was not; concern was expressed that providing funding for this travel might detract from sampling. A. Huff indicated that some Florida funds may be available to assist with travel. The motion was passed.

* Discussion followed on the recommendation to send two people to Poland in June 1986. G. Matlock moved that SEAMAP not send people to the advisory meeting in Poland as attempts are currently being made to send K. Stuck for this purpose. The motion was discussed briefly and passed.

A motion was made to send a coastal herring expert to Poland; the motion was seconded, and failed. No coastal herring advisor will be sent to Poland.

A motion was made to increase inshore Texas plankton sampling in order to assess mackerel abundance. The motion was seconded and discussion followed; Texas agreed to provide additional

literature but did not wish to do the work group's task. The motion failed; no additional plankton sampling will be done in coastal Texas waters. Reconsideration may be done later.

Discussion of a bluefish survey to enhance SEAMAP-Gulf activity followed, with concern expressed over scheduling conflicts with the OREGON II and present adequate coverage of spring spawning times. Subcommittee members were polled on this item: Florida, yes; Texas and Alabama, no; Mississippi, Louisiana and NMFS, abstain. The recommendation was rejected.

(2) Shrimp/Groundfish.

Discussion began on the work group's recommendation that the FY86 Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey follow FY85 procedures but modify them to omit length-frequencies from real-time data and include mean length. Concern for increased real-time reporting effort was expressed. A motion was made to continue survey procedures in 1986 as in 1985. The motion was seconded and passed.

Transmittal of length-frequencies as real-time data was discussed, with concern expressed for reliability of count size estimates. A motion was made to transmit mean lengths but not length-frequencies. The motion was seconded and passed. It was further noted that Texas has bought a scale to weigh the specimens.

C. E. Bryan noted that he will sample half-way down Texas and then move south and sample the other half towards the north if no objection is forthcoming from NMFS survey design personnel (S. Nichols).

G. Matlock moved to have the Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group advise the Subcommittee on having a set trawl time rather than all night in the 1-fm range; the group should examine the impact of setting tow times at set times rather than towing

across a fathom. The motion was seconded and passed.

It was noted that the work group agreed conceptually with a fall shrimp/groundfish survey, and a request was presented to minimize the number of forms on the survey; K. Savastano reported that a reduction from 10 to 3 has already occurred.

(3) Environmental Data.

* W. Nelson moved that standardized environmental sampling gear be used. The motion was seconded and passed.

(4) Red Drum.

* G. Matlock moved that the Subcommittee encourage Mississippi to complete its collection of specimens for analyses next year, during the appropriate time frame, if LSU will agree to perform the analysis. The motion was seconded. Brief discussion followed, with concern expressed for year class variability. The motion was passed.

(5) Data Coordination.

* Discussion followed on options for data management desired by the program, including a system design study incorporating all aspects, at an approximate cost of \$25,000. A. Huff moved to have a system design study implemented in FY86. The motion was seconded and passed. It was suggested that the study be performed in winter so that the results could be considered at the March Subcommittee meeting. Funds for the study would come from the FY86 NMFS-designated monies.

(6) Squid/Butterfish.

* Recommendations of the work group were summarized. Discussion followed on expansion of the Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey; it was agreed to weigh and measure butterfish, and noted that the Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group had recommended replication of some day/night stations. A motion was made to identify sources of butterfish data files. The motion was seconded and passed.

The recommended Spring Squid/Butterfish Survey was discussed, with NMFS noting that the agency has already scheduled the CHAPMAN for such a survey; Florida, Alabama and Louisiana noted their interest in the survey, contingent on availability of suitable charter vessels. A motion was made to conduct a Spring 1986 Squid/Butterfish Survey. The motion was seconded and passed.

(7) Administrative Budget.

It was noted that the budget had already been discussed.

(8) Archiving data needs.

A. Huff noted that no money for archiving data management will be available until FY86 funds are obtained (January 1986), and requested consideration of this item at the October Subcommittee meeting in order to permit discussion of needs by K. Savastano and FDNR personnel. It was agreed that Florida would keep the Subcommittee appraised of their decisions.

Sea Grant Involvement in the SEAMAP Program

Discussion focused on the previous involvement with Sea Grant in the Gulf states fishery research effort, with little of it directed toward management problems. It was suggested that A. Kemmerer is preparing information on advantages of Sea Grant participation, and discussion would be enhanced by this material. It was suggested that the issue be tabled until Kemmerer could be present at the October meeting. Additional discussion was desired, with concern expressed for non-managers involved in SEAMAP voting issues. D. Waller moved that, as before, the program formally invite Sea Grant to attend Subcommittee meetings, at their own expense. The motion was seconded and passed.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Involvement in the SEAMAP Program

Discussion focused on possible contributions of research needs information by the Council, noting that in the South Atlantic SEAMAP program, it's position has been to monitor and vote. Clarification of the state agencies' representation as duplicated on SEAMAP-Gulf was presented; only G. Matlock is a council designee. Concern was expressed that duplicate

representation might occur as NMFS is a research arm of the Council; alternate participation was suggested to avoid diluting states' intentions. Input from the two absent NMFS members was also suggested.

- * A. Huff moved to have a Council member serve on the SEAMAP Subcommittee as a non-voting member, with participation expenses to be borne by the SEAMAP Program. The motion was seconded and passed, with NMFS absent and Texas abstaining. This action will require approval by the TCC and the Commission.

GMFMC Needs Relative to SEAMAP Activities

Stated Council research needs were addressed:

- (1) Lobster larvae. Pending information from the Plankton Work Group, SEAMAP will collect and separate the larvae; a letter to this effect will be sent to the Council.
- (2) Offshore spawning grounds of shrimp. This issue will be addressed by the SEAMAP expanded fall survey and plankton, and by the invertebrate sorting in Poland.
- (3) Habitat alteration effects. Present environmental data collection by SEAMAP addresses that problem.
- (4) King mackerel. The Plankton Work Group is addressing estimates of recruitment at this time.
- (5) Reef fish spawning areas and seasons. Information on this problem is also being obtained through efforts of the Plankton Work Group, although reef fish are not a target species for the program.

FY86 Budget Requests

The following requests were approved by consensus for the SEAMAP-Gulf Program in FY86, following Congressional allocation of the anticipated \$1 million:

		<u>Comments:</u>
GSMFC	\$ 95,000	Administrative program
TPWD	51,000	Participation in all activities
LDWF	121,000	Same level of activity as in FY85
MDWC/GCRL	110,000	Participation in all activities
ADCNR	80,000	Some participation in all activities
FDNR	80,000	\$30,000 archiving; \$50,000 spring and fall cruises; plus \$10,000 from SEAMAP-SA Program
NMFS	<u>196,000</u>	
Total	\$ 733,000	

Other budget allocations from FY86 funds:

SEAMAP-SA Program	\$ 247,000	(includes \$105,000 for NMFS activities)
Estimated NMFS surcharge @ 2 %	20,000	
Total	\$ 267,000	
TOTAL SEAMAP BUDGET	\$1,000,000	

Concern was raised for travel funds for K. Stuck, Council travel costs, and printing expenses by the GSMFC, and for the difficulty anticipated in covering NMFS costs associated with satellite and data management programs. It was suggested that sufficient flexibility be presented in the cooperative agreements to permit changes when the NMFS surcharge is determined.

The need for a model cooperative agreement was stated; K. Foote was requested to work with Buck Byrd of SERO on the document immediately. A conference call between Foote, Byrd and Kemmerer was requested for August 29, to determine the status of the cooperative agreements.

It was determined that NMFS personnel will decide necessary modifications to the Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey, and, in addition, would work to design an appropriate Spring Squid/Butterfish Survey; participants in the survey design will be Chris Gledhill, W. Nelson, S. Nichols and A. Shah of NMFS.

G. Matlock requested information on the results of the SEAMAP squid/butterfish activities relative to achievement of SEAMAP goals.

The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED BY:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, October 14, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida



DRAFT

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, October 14, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. The following members and guests were present:

Subcommittee

J.Y. Christmas	GCRL
Walter Tatum	ADCNR
Dick Waller	GCRL
Andy Kemmerer *	NMFS
Barney Barrett	LDWF
Alan Huff	FDNR
Doug Gregory	GMFMC
Ken Savastano	NMFS
Warren Stuntz	NMFS
C.E. Bryan*	TPWD
Gary Matlock	TPWD
Bill Richards	NMFS
Tom McIlwain*	GCRL
Buck Sutter	GCRL
Jack Gartner	FDNR

Staff

Larry B. Simpson	GSMFC
Nikki Bane	GSMFC
Virginia Herring	GSMFC
Eileen Benton	GSMFC
Lucia O'Toole	GSMFC

Others

Gil Bane	LSU
Brad Brown	NMFS

* Alternate representatives

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as modified to include a continuation of the October 1985 meeting discussion of Sea Grant participation on the Subcommittee.

Minutes

The minutes of the August 27-28 meeting were approved as corrected to include the following items:

- (1) The correct add-on amendment to the GSMFC 1985 State-Federal Cooperative Agreement was \$9,000.
- (2) The record should note that, on page 3, the Executive Director was requested, not directed, to send letters of concern to all Gulf legislators about the arbitrary assessment by NMFS of allocated SEAMAP funds.

Introduction of New Member

Doug Gregory of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council was introduced and seated on the Subcommittee as the Council's representative.

Budget Report

Nikki Bane submitted the financial statement ending September 30, 1985. Total FY1985 budget was \$99,000; current month expenses were \$6,594.82; year to-date expenses, \$66,546.16; encumbrances, \$16,264.56; available balance, \$16,189.28. The Coordinator expressed a concern that the available balance might not be sufficient to cover all FY1985 expenses (ending December 31, 1985).

Publications

N. Bane presented the current status of SEAMAP publications:

- (1) The SEAMAP Sampling Gear Workshop Proceedings has been printed; initial distribution was to the Subcommittee at this meeting, with general distribution to follow. A total of 250 copies of the document was printed.

- (2) 1983 Environmental and Biological Atlas. The first draft of the completed atlas is expected in November, 1985, with review of the document by the Data Coordinating Work Group scheduled for November-December, and publication in January 1986. Work on the 1984 atlas will begin immediately thereafter.
- (3) Technical Coordinating Committee Report. The 1985 Annual Report to the TCC was distributed to the Subcommittee, with copies to be distributed at the TCC meeting on Thursday, October 17.
- (4) Joint Annual Report. The 1985 joint Annual Report of the SEAMAP-Gulf and SEAMAP-South Atlantic programs was distributed to the Subcommittee, with copies available for distribution to interested persons. It was noted that 50 copies were supplied to the South Atlantic program for distribution at the October 7-10 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting in Southampton, NY, with an additional 200 copies to be distributed by October 31.

A discussion followed on the format of the 1984 and all subsequent Biological and Environmental atlases, noting concern that an inordinate and needless amount of effort might be undertaken to produce these atlases. It was determined that because of the high cost of producing the atlas, in terms of man-years by NMFS and GSMFC personnel, the Subcommittee should re-examine the need and format of the document. It was noted that production is untimely, requiring more than two years to produce each atlas after data collection.

* A. Kemmerer moved to form an ad hoc group to review the atlas format, with a report to be presented at the next Subcommittee meeting; specific recommendations should be presented for consideration. The motion was seconded, and discussion

centered on the existing Data Coordinating Work Group's charge to address this type of issue. The motion was amended to utilize this work group for review of the format. The motion passed unanimously, and it was noted that the Chairman has the authority to designate additional persons to assist in the effort.

Status of FY1986 Funds and Activities

N. Bane reviewed the status of the FY1986 cooperative agreements, noting that documents from Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and the Commission have been processed by the Southeast Regional Office. A. Huff reported that Florida's documents were presently undergoing internal review, with expected submission to SERO within two weeks. G. Matlock reported that the Texas documents were expected to be completed by the following week for submission to SERO.

A. Kemmerer distributed information on the status of NMFS funding and allocations for FY1986, noting the likelihood, but uncertainty, of a two percent tax by NMFS on the allocation, and the present undivided status (within states) of funds to be allocated to the South Atlantic program. A total program projection of \$337,000 in expenses by NMFS was detailed, presenting a deficit to NMFS of \$35,000. Options available to meet this shortfall were summarized, including an across-the-board cut to each participant of six percent (excluding the GSMFC), and lack of necessary data management and satellite system facilities for the year.

Discussion followed on the issue, including clarification of increased costs for FY1986, ^{the} possible necessity for amending already-submitted State-Federal cooperative agreements, the considerable in-kind support already provided by state agencies, the previous (FY1985) cut resulting in a lack of adequate data management activities, and increased funding by the Subcommittee of Polish Sorting Center expenses. At the Chairman's direction, action on the issue was tabled to follow the work group reports.

Work Group Reports

- (1) Plankton Work Group. N. Bane presented materials prepared by Bill Richards detailing recommendations for FY86-88 activities and pre-sorting distribution of neuston samples. Target species identified by the work group are coastal herrings, mackerels, sciaenids, blue and other (Geryon and stone) crabs, phyllosome lobsters, squid and shrimp. Survey emphasis was urged for areas of previously weak coverage and where plankton is abundant, with times to coincide with peak abundance; analysis of previously collected data was encouraged. Invertebrate sorting recommendations included commencing with the 1984 collections and travel to Poland by Ken Stuck to train sorters, as well as travel support for SEAMAP curators to the annual U.S.-Poland Advisory Committee meeting (this last recommendation not supported by the Subcommittee, as well as a recommendation for travel for a specialist in coastal herring larvae/eggs to train PSC personnel). Other recommendations were for resumption of sampling in Texas waters and Gulf-wide sampling for bluefish in 1986 (not supported by the Subcommittee).

B. Richards recommendation against sorting of the neuston samples for Scomberomorus larvae prior to their shipment to Poland was explained. Additionally, the 1983 SEAMAP Ichthyoplankton Atlas was described as completed and ready for printing. J. Gartner explained corrections made on 1982 specimen identifications in the the Archiving Center.

Brad Brown explained the SEFC position on neuston sorting, noting that he supported Richards' position against that action. The previous approval by the NMFS representative for prior sorting of neuston samples was thereupon withdrawn.

- (2) Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group. C.E. Bryan noted that the SEAMAP Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey is going into its fifth year of sampling, and because of improved sampling designs, the work group will not need to meet to design the survey this year. 1985 was described as the best year of sampling yet, with projected plans for 1986 similar to 1985, and probably suitable through at least 1990, with incorporation of a fall survey as well.

A. Kemmerer noted that the design for the pilot expanded 1985 Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey has been developed for Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, with a day/night comparability study designed for Texas/NMFS, using 20-ft and 40-ft nets. This design will enable evaluation of error sources in the survey and planning for future day/night sampling surveys. In response to concern for the role of the surveys in the event the Council recommends against the Texas Closure for 1986, it was suggested that the survey would continue at least by NMFS regardless, and noted that more such trawl calibration studies are necessary.

- (3) Environmental Data Work Group. Warren Stuntz reported that the work group's recommendations were for collection of the same types of environmental data as in 1985. A request for suggestions to improve data collection was sent to members of the work group, with no major recommendations ensuing. Minor questions to be resolved include continued sampling for chlorophyll and assessment of environmental data user needs.

- (4) Red Drum Work Group. Tom McIlwain summarized previous Subcommittee activities leading to the present collection and analysis of red drum specimens for stock identification, noting that in addition to Gulf collections, the SEAMAP-South Atlantic program has been collecting specimens for analysis by LSU. LSU has been requested to furnish a detailed report of the analyses by the end of November, which will then be sent to the Subcommittee and regional electrophoresis experts for evaluation and discussion at the January Subcommittee meeting.. If future analyses are recommended, funding for such activities will need to be identified.

Gil Bane and David Nieland of LSU presented initial findings of specimens analyzed from Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and South Carolina using high performance liquid chromatography and electrophoresis. Discussion followed on the results and techniques used, with concern expressed for variability in protein peaks, statistical analyses used to differentiate proteins and relative merits of the two analytical techniques.

* A. Huff moved to have the Red Drum Work Group meet ^{in January,} including such regional electrophoresis experts as Bill Wilder (Rice University) and Paul Ramsey (Louisiana Tech University), to evaluate completed findings of the study. The motion was seconded and approved.

- (5) Data Coordinating Work Group. Ken Savastano distributed the quarterly report of SEAMAP Information System use and development. He noted that chlorophyll values for 1982 and 1983 have been adjusted in the data base, and distributed a draft Request for Proposals, System Design Study for SEAMAP-Gulf and SEAMAP-South Atlantic Data Manage-

ment, requesting input/corrections from the Subcommittee. Discussion followed on SEAMAP versus NMFS needs and priorities, access by participants, and cross-filing for the Archiving Center and Miami Labs. Members were requested to have comments back on the proposal by November 1, 1985.

The meeting was adjourned until 1:00 p.m.

W. Tatum convened the afternoon session of the Subcommittee at 1:15 p.m.

- (6) Squid/Butterfish Work Group. Buck Sutter distributed a list of recommendations on 1986 squid/butterfish surveys, along with a draft document by Chris Gledhill of the NMFS-Pascagoula facility on preliminary estimates of Gulf butterfish (Peprilus burti) MSY and Economic Yield. Recommendations of the work group were: (a) participation of SEAMAP in the expanded Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey to give a better estimate of butterfish biomass; (b) a Spring Squid/Butterfish Survey with 80-ft high-rise nets in a stratified random design, at depths from 10-150 fm in April-May (at least two days of sampling should be spent on NMFS-state vessel comparisons and calibration); and (c) all available information on nearshore butterfish populations should be collected from each of the Gulf states.

It was further noted that results of the Summer 1985 Squid/Butterfish were summarized in the 1985 Annual Report to the TCC and the 1985 Joint Annual SEAMAP Program Report. Discussions between NMFS and work group personnel will commence in October/November to begin planning a preliminary spring survey sampling design; a specific time for the work group meeting has not been designated, but will be held in early 1986 to finalize plans for the spring survey.

advantages and concerns were detailed, with the major advantage the coupling of analysis with data collection and the major concern involvement of a non-management agency entity in decision-making.

A. Kemmerer moved to provide one seat on the Subcommittee for a Sea Grant representative, to be either a voting or non-voting member and travel and related expenses to attend SEAMAP meetings to be paid by Sea Grant. The motion was seconded; the Chairman requested a five-minute limitation on discussion. Discussion on the issue focused on travel reimbursement policy, lack of previous participation by Sea Grant after invitations to attend meetings, current availability of SEAMAP data to Sea Grant researchers and present involvement of some Sea Grant-funded researchers with SEAMAP projects. The question was called and the motion defeated, 4 to 2.

* D. Waller moved to send invitations to all four Gulf Sea Grant organizations for their designated observers at SEAMAP meetings, in order to provide input to the Subcommittee. The motion was seconded and discussion followed, centering on selection by Sea Grant of appropriate observers. The motion carried.

Status of FY1986 Funds and Activities

Discussion resumed on options available to the Subcommittee for meeting the projected FY1986 shortfall in the NMFS budget. Alternatives included NMFS total assumption of the shortfall, distribution of the shortfall among all SEAMAP participants through a six percent tax, or other, unnamed options. Discussion on the issue focused on the funding of the Polish Sorting Center costs by the Subcommittee, total assumption of the 25 percent tax from NMFS by that agency in FY1985, the decision by the Mississippi Labs' Director not to bury the shortfall in favor of hidden benefits from other sources affecting SEAMAP, and the undesirability of modifying already submitted State-Federal

Administrative Report. Larry Simpson and N. Bane distributed a revised (9/15/85) Administrative Budget for FY1986, with total projected expenses \$95,000. Budget categories were explained and detailed.

Program Review and Evaluation. A. Kemmerer summarized the need for evaluation of the program, quoting the Operations Plan relative to yearly reviews. Major focus should be on program priorities, efficiency of funding, South-Atlantic/Gulf program funding splits, and program needs. He recommended an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate the program, with participation from states, the GSMFC, and someone outside NMFS, with a report to the Subcommittee in March. It was noted that self-review is already being done through reports to the TCC, Joint Annual Report, and the Commission audit. Concern was expressed for costs associated with external review, and it was suggested that the TCC be requested to approve external evaluation at no additional cost to the program.

A. Kemmerer moved to have the Subcommittee recommend to the TCC that a formal program evaluation be conducted prior to the next Subcommittee meeting to address goals and objectives in terms of activities, and that this procedure be done through persons selected by the Commission, including at a minimum, representatives from the Subcommittee, NMFS, Commission and/or TCC and a state. The motion was not seconded.

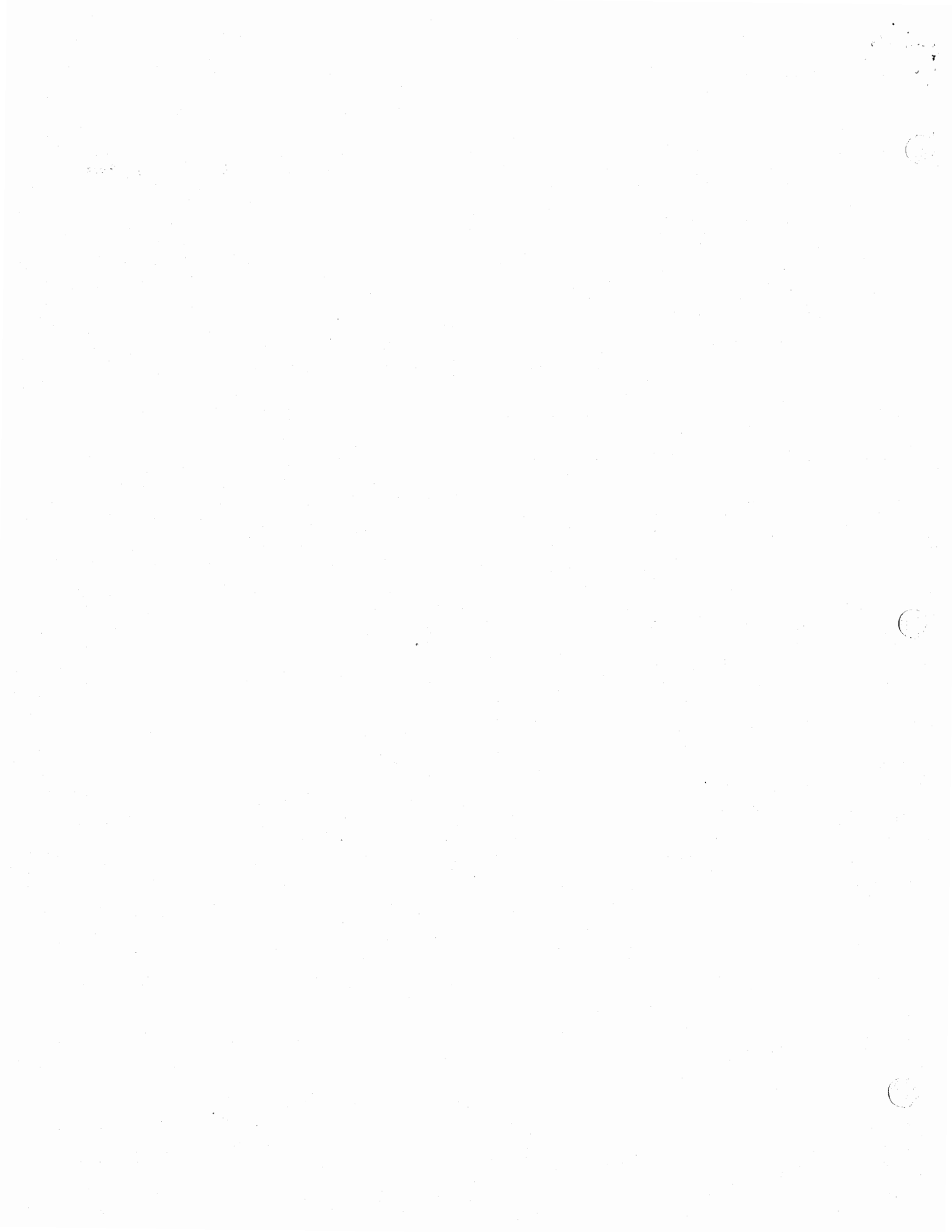
Participation by Sea Grant in the SEAMAP Program.

A. Kemmerer distributed an issue paper on inviting Sea Grant to formally participate in SEAMAP, containing the recommendation to provide one seat on the SEAMAP Subcommittee as either a voting or non-voting member, with travel and associated expenses paid by Sea Grant, similarly to NMFS. Major ad-

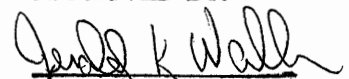
cooperative agreements.

* A. Kemmerer moved to make up the deficit in the NMFS SEAMAP program funds by an across-the-board cut (tax) of six percent on SEAMAP participants. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. It was noted that the state agency directors were likely to disapprove of the tax because the cooperative agreements have already been submitted, and that there was a likelihood that cruise days and schedules would have to be dropped to accommodate the cut. The Chairman noted his previous statement to his agency head that data management and sorting costs were needed to upgrade the program, but further reduction of Alabama's allocation was unwise. The motion was called, and passed, 2 to 0, with abstentions by Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Texas.

* A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.



APPROVED BY:


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

JOINT GSMFC/GMFC
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 15, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

MINUTES
GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGMENT COUNCIL
LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY PANEL

KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 15, 1985

ATTENDANCE

Members

Robert Wilson
W. Perry Allen
Sgt. Hendricks
Tommy Candies
Jerry Gollott
William Walker
Kathy Pease

Participants

Carl Covert
Suzanne Montero
Joe Matosse
Luke Hause

Staff

Douglas Gregory
Elaine Peters

The meeting of the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel was called to order by Vice Chairman Robert Wilson at 9:05 a.m., Tuesday, October 15, 1985.

o **Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted as written.

o **Review and Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on May 20, 1983, in Tampa, Florida, were adopted as written.

o **Presentation "South Carolina's Approach to Shellfish Problems and Enforcement"**

Mr. Luke Hause, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, provided a presentation on the duties of the Department of Health. He explained the Department of Health identifies the sources of pollution in shellfish, and the function of the deperation plants which take in ocean water and purify it with an ultraviolet light system or ozone.

o **Review of Federal and State Regulations Affecting The Fisheries**

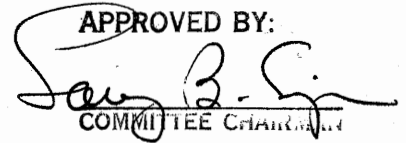
Mr. Gregory briefly summarized the regulations pertaining to each fishery. Mr. Wilson made a recommendation to the Council to look into what has been done to improve compatible regulations. Sgt. Hendricks stated the spiny lobster fishery had an enforcement problem. Mr. Walker also recommended to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Council to enforce the closure of white shrimp in Texas during the brown shrimp closure. Agreed by consensus. Sgt. Hendricks stated there was no compatibility problem in Florida concerning the shrimp fishery. Mr. Candies felt that when the Louisiana season for shrimp is closed the FCZ should also be closed. Sgt. Hendricks expressed concern over the differing size limits between the state waters and the FCZ on reef fish and requested the Council to consider adopting size limits similar to those now in effect for Florida waters.

o **Consideration of Adoption of Uniform Vessel Identification Systems for Vessel Engaged in State and Federal Fisheries**

Mr. Wilson reviewed and explained regulations for vessel identification. Mr. Gregory summarized a memo sent to the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel from Wayne E. Swingle, dated September 18, 1985. Ms. Pease questioned the efficiency of color codes. Sgt. Hendricks explained it is easier view them aerially. Mr. Covert stated numbers smaller than ten inches defeat the purpose of having numbers on the boat. Sgt. Hendricks suggested using a decal instead of a color code. By consensus it was agreed to recommend to Council to require federally documented vessels use their official number as the identifying number for fisheries markings, and for state documented vessels outside the baseline to use their official number as the identifying number for fisheries markings. Mr. Allen made a moved to make no recommendation on color or prefix on the official number at this time. Motion carried. Ms. Pease moved to require all color codes be the same for each fishery, and for the same permit number to be used regardless of the fishery and a common prefix for fisheries be identified such as "C" for crawfish, etc. Also, rather than issue separate gear identification numbers, use the last three or four digits of the official number as on the vessel. Then have on the buoy the digits as well as prefix number. Motion carried without objection. Mr. Allen moved to require 18 inch numbers on boats over 65 feet long, 10 inch numbers over 25 feet long and 8 inch numbers on boats 25 feet long or smaller, and to require the diameter of the color code circle to be 18 inch circles on boats over 65 feet long, 10 inch circles on boats over 25 feet long and 8 inch circles on boats 25 feet or smaller. Motion carried without objection.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

APPROVED BY:


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Marine Fisheries Initiative Task Force
MINUTES
New Orleans, Louisiana

Monday, October 15, 1984

L. Simpson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:20 am and outlined the procedures to be followed during the day's discussions. The agenda, allowing one hour for discussion of each section and any substantive changes, was adopted. L. Simpson reminded the group that 8-11 am, Thursday October 18, was reserved for the Task Force.

The new cover design submitted by Ken Varden (Ron Becker), modified by replacing the porpoise with a shrimp, deleting "Research" from the title and changing Gulf Coast Phase to "Gulf of Mexico Phase," was accepted. The preface will be changed to include acknowledgement of the artist. D. Etzold suggested the document be referred to as "MARFIN." W. Swingle's suggestion of the addition of a list of abbreviations/ acronyms following the Table of Contents will be incorporated.

W. Swingle's suggestion to add a program emphasis section in the Executive Summary and in Section 3 was discussed. His example concerning setting guidelines for attaining goals was handed out for review. Consensus of further discussion on Section 1 was to have a traditional type Executive Summary within the document, more concise and eliminating the program management language, and the expanded version for separate publication.

Inconsistencies and errors in the numbers (boats, employment, value) will be reviewed and cleared up. For consistency throughout the document, pounds will be used for weight, metric units for length and fathoms for depth. Section references will be deleted. There were questions on the paragraph dealing with RFP's which will require rewriting.

A. Kemmerer recommended that the Southeast Regional Office review the section on program management and better define the function of the Board and the role it will play, as well as the role of the program manager. R. Becker said that the document should state "The Program Management Board will advise the Regional Director." He further suggested adding a block under NMFS (on the diagram) showing program

approval. T. McIlwain said the Consultants would work with J. Greenfield to make the section acceptable.

T. McIlwain, acknowledging the inconsistencies in numbers for volume, value, etc, opened discussion on Section 2. A. Huff said that the impact of mariculture of shrimp in Central and South America and India on the Gulf shrimp fishery needs to be defined. J. Van Lopik said the national benefit as a result of the better utilization of Gulf fisheries should be made clearer. R. Becker suggested a lead-in paragraph under the 2.2 heading and A. Kemmerer suggested the sections on recreational and commercial (2.2.1 and 2.2.2) be made roughly the same length.

J. Y. Christmas and T. McIlwain had additional material for Section 3 handed out (Table 3.1, Table 3.2, 3.3 Research Action Program Summary [text]). R. Becker said the information covered in Section 3 might be placed in an appendix. A. Kemmerer said dollars and landings should not be given in exponential terms and the use of scientific names subsequent to the listing should be avoided unless germane to the issue. The consensus was to delete the outline followed by the Task Force in preparation of the original reports, replacing it with a few sentences discussing what the reports addressed. A. Huff suggested changing the order of the anadromous/catadromous unit by placing it after estuarine fish.

There was much discussion on the format and position of various segments of Section 3. T. McIlwain outlined the consensus as follows: beginning on page 3-1 - an introductory statement relative to the whole of the research units, followed by entire research unit listing with page number noting where text on each unit begins, followed by discussion of shrimp fishery (1st unit), followed by tables relative to shrimp (Tables 3.1, 3.2), followed by an annotation of each of the proposed projects; then menhaden, etc.

J. Y. Christmas suggested adding a statement following the first paragraph of the shrimp unit discussion to show domestic landings provided less than half the demand for shrimp in the U.S. R. Rayburn said last year's seafood exports totalled \$1.2 billion and shrimp imports totalled \$1.4 billion. The discussion will be expanded.

The discussion of the menhaden unit will be changed to reflect that MSY may change annually.

In the coastal pelagics unit it was determined that blue runner school with little tunny and redfish. W. Tatum stated that in Alabama Gulf bluefish appear to migrate just opposite of what was stated.

The suggestion that the reef fishery is not well understood biologically and therefore the paragraph should be deleted will be considered.

L. Simpson read a comment from R. Anderson on Section 4 which questioned the value of creating another administrative organization. J. Van Lopik reminded the Task Force of A. Kemmerer's recommendation to have J. Greenfield review the section. J. Greenfield, J. Brawner and L. Simpson were appointed to review/refine the entire section as soon as possible. Discussion continued concerning staff, location, roles and duties, and similarity of system to SEAMAP. C. E. Bryan questioned the need for a Program Management Board or a staff. Basically, everyone felt the system could work but that it needed more defining.

Section 5 and Figure 5.1 were discussed at length and determined to need revision as the section is so closely tied to Section 4. Section 6 was brought up for discussion and W. Tatum moved that nothing more be done to Section 6 until Sections 4 and 5 are acceptable. Motion carried.

Discussion was resumed on Section 3 with coastal herrings and associated species. As mortality estimates were not provided for the other fisheries the statements regarding mortality will be made more general. R. Becker suggested some statement regarding potential use be added. T. McIlwain said that the Consultants had previously suggested a summary be appended to this section relative to potential use.

W. Swingle said there is a developing fishery for yellowfin tuna in the Gulf via longline (ocean pelagics unit). J. Y. Christmas said a sentence should be added to that effect in the last paragraph. It was determined that the section needed to be reviewed by the original workgroup.

Commenting on marine mollusks, E. Joyce said there was a fairly good recreational clam fishery in southwest Florida in which he foresees a great bit of development. A. Huff will review and provide T. McIlwain

the recent information as T. McIlwain had mostly historical information. W. Swingle and E. Joyce discussed qualifying the statement dealing with little prospect for increased natural oyster production. E. Joyce recommended adding a sentence stating that other species of conchs may bear further monitoring.

R. Becker said the growing interest in soft shell production (crabs and lobsters unit) should be reflected. C. E. Bryan said he felt the Texas landings of blue crab had plateaued. The spiny lobster is under the management of the GMFMC and the state of Florida.

T. McIlwain gave assignments to be completed before Thursday morning's session. The persons originally assigned to research units were to review Table 3.2, the annotated summary of problems and the original problems received and make recommendations. It was noted that after reviewing the problems received, the Consultants had found a number of problems applicable to all fisheries and lumped them together under a new category - General.

Items to cover on Thursday were discussed: fill in gaps, assign priorities on projects (combining some), management structure (mainly a rewrite, some discussion at next workshop), and mariculture. The Consultants were given editorial license to do some combining on projects and then seek Task Force approval. R. Rayburn suggested each unit work group choose the top three priorities. R. Becker said that the monitoring and evaluation doesn't address evidence of economic benefits and that the evidence should be identified under the general category.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm until 8:00 am October 18.

Thursday, October 18, 1984

L. Simpson, Chairman, called the meeting to order and invited everyone providing input to sit at the table. He briefly informed guests of the purpose and goals of the Task Force and welcomed Tim Smith, House Merchant Marine & Fisheries Committee, Jack Brawner, Southeast Regional Director, and Dick Berry, Southeast Fisheries Center Director. J. Brawner expressed his support of the initiative and suggested T. McIlwain attend the NMFS policy meeting seeking industry input at the Regional Office on November 7 to outline to the commercial

fishing industry leaders the basic concepts of the Marine Fisheries Initiative. D. Berry agreed with J. Brawner, stating that NMFS is very much behind the effort and pleased with the progress.

T. McIlwain asked each work group for their recommendations. E. Joyce said transboundary migration was the major priority and incidental take of endangered species was another high priority (had combined with bycatch and gear modification) for the shrimp unit.

A. Kemmerer said coastal herrings has one of the greatest potentials for fishery development and is funded to some degree. He asked if those projects ongoing should be listed. T. Smith suggested that if the group felt projects currently funded would need additional funding in later fiscal years then those projects should be listed. The consensus of the Task Force was to add ongoing projects.

B. Brown felt the major areas were addressed under ocean pelagics. C. Boudreaux will review marine mollusks and report back to T. McIlwain. B. Hosking said additional areas need to be addressed in crabs and lobsters and will report back in writing.

A. Kemmerer suggested B3 be eliminated in the bottomfish projects because it appeared to be an overview of B1 and B2. W. Tatum said he had added five projects to estuarine fish, none of which cost a great deal, and will provide the information.

For mariculture, T. McIlwain said one project needed to be added involving filling in gaps on shrimp maturation and spawning, nutrition, and parasites and diseases. In discussion related to large amount of funding, T. McIlwain said some shifting may be done. W. Tatum suggested some mention of bait fish included. There was no intention to eliminate any area and T. McIlwain asked the Task Force for more input.

Ongoing projects, especially those which will require funding in later years, will be listed under marine mammals/endangered species. Corals and sponges covers the major problem. The dollar figures will be provided for the anadromous/catadromous projects.

Specialists at the various labs will be asked to review the projects. R. Rayburn said it should be made clear within the report that the suggested projects are only possible projects/guideline areas. D. Etzold said the first task of the organization that operates the program is to review the research projects. The Consultants will

proceed with editorial license and get a final draft out to the Task Force for review after all input is received (10/31).

D. Etzold asked for J. Brawner and D. Berry's comments relative to the management organization structure after allowing them time to review the draft. J. Brawner said that it was critically important that the legislative history clearly spell out roles and responsibilities of the various partners including some general guidelines, and show the advance agreement in terms of general distribution of the resources to avoid unnecessary competition for the monies. He suggested a document which stresses the expertise of the various partners (number of vessels each state owns, etc.) be placed in an appendix. D. Berry said being careful not to create a new layer of bureaucracy should be a major concern. Program Management Board funds could be supplied to GSMFC to add a person or two to handle report generation, keep track of who's doing what, and get the communication network established. Instead of having a member of GSMFC serve on the Board, a member of GSMFC could function as executive director of the Board and that slot be filled with another state representative. The responsibility for the technical aspect - releasing RFP's, peer review process, etc. - will be handled by NMFS.

D. Etzold requested that A. Kemmerer work with the Consultants on the new draft on the management structure which will reflect the discussions. T. Smith said the write up on the management structure should be clear enough to alleviate the concerns of double funding, some agency taking some of the money to do lesser priorities, etc. Good descriptions of how the work interrelates with other work already done, ongoing, and planned will be required in the project proposals. G. Matlock reiterated C. E. Bryan and B. Kemp's comments by letter on utilizing existing structures.

Discussion was resumed on Section 3. Bottomfish will need editing. Commenting on estuarine fish, W. Tatum recommended some maricultural work with spotted seatrout. He said as mullet had the greatest opportunity for increasing to the commercial market, more information on the fish is needed, including safe harvest limits.

W. Tatum said shrimp mariculture work may present more problems as the work previously done has adversely impacted a current fishery. He

felt baitfish had the greatest economic potential. He said this initiative may provide an opportunity to develop a plan for an ideal mariculture arrangement - defining good areas for mariculture work, helping the manager set these areas up, helping the manager pick species, looking at market areas.

As the general category was felt to be one of the more important areas, it will be expanded.

The following schedule for completion was established:

October 31	All input to GSMFC office
November 7	Tom McIlwain/Larry Simpson to attend NMFS policy meeting seeking industry input and present update on Marine Fisheries Initiative (Regional Office)
November 19	Final draft of document to Task Force
December 6-7	Workshop (Biloxi, MS) - Final Task Force Approval Approval - TCC Approval - Commission
January 10	Document to GASAFDFI

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

PARTICIPANTS
 October 15 & 18, 1984 Workshops
 New Orleans, LA

<u>Task Force Member</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Attendee</u>
Mr. Robert J. Kemp Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. 4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744 (512) 479-4857	State agency	Mr. C. E. Bryan* TPWD (512) 479-4861 Dr. Gary Matlock** TPWD (512) 479-4849
Mr. J. Burton Angelle Louisiana Dept. Wildlife and Fisheries P.O. Box 15570 Baton Rouge, LA 70895 (504) 925-3617	State agency	Mr. Claude J. Boudreaux LDWF (504) 925-3617
Dr. Richard L. Leard Bureau of Marine Resources P.O. Drawer 959 Long Beach, MS 39560 (601) 864-4602	State agency	Self**
Dr. Elton J. Gissendanner Florida Dept. Natural Resources 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32303 (904) 488-1554	State agency	Mr. Edwin A. Joyce, Jr./ Mr. J. Alan Huff FDNR -- 100 8th Avenue, S.E. St. Petersburg, FL 33701 (813) 896-8626
Mr. Hugh A. Swingle Marine Resources Div. P.O. Box 189 Dauphin Island, AL 36528 (205) 861-2882	State agency	Mr. Walter M. Tatum MRD Drawer 458 Gulf Shores, AL 36542 (205) 968-7575
Dr. Frederick Deegen Bureau of Marine Resources P.O. Drawer 959 Long Beach, MS 39560 (601) 864-4602	Rec. fishing industry	
Dr. Kenneth J. Roberts Center for Wetland Resources Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (504) 388-1558	Specialist	
Dr. Wade Griffin Texas A&M University Dept. Agricultural Economics College Station, TX 77843 (409) 845-2333	Specialist	

PARTICIPANTS
October 15 & 18, 1984 Workshops
New Orleans, LA
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<u>Task Force Member</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Attendee</u>
Dr. Theodore B. Ford 263 Stanford Avenue Baton Rouge, LA 70808 (504) 388-6283	GSMFC Technical Coordinating Committee	Dr. Richard Condrey** Center for Wetland Resources Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (504) 388-1558
Dr. James I. Jones MS-AL Sea Grant Consortium Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Ocean Springs, MS 39564 (601) 875-9341	MS-AL Sea Grant	Mr. William Hosking AL Sea Grant Advisory Prog. 3940 Government Blvd. Mobile, AL 36609 (205) 661-5004
Dr. James C. Cato Florida Sea Grant Building 803 University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611 (904) 392-5870	FL Sea Grant	
Dr. Jack R. Van Lopik Sea Grant Program LSU Center for Wetland Resources Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (504) 388-6710	LA Sea Grant	Self*/Mr. Ronald E. Becker* SGP LSU-CWR
Mr. Feenan D. Jennings Sea Grant College Program Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77843	TX Sea Grant	Mr. Willis H. Clark SGCP TX A&M Univ.
Dr. Richard J. Berry NMFS Southeast Fisheries Center 75 Virginia Beach Drive Miami, FL 33149 (305) 361-4286	NMFS SEFC	Dr. Bradford E. Brown** NMFS SEFC
Mr. Jack T. Brawner NMFS Southeast Regional Office 9450 Koger Boulevard St. Petersburg, FL 33702 (813) 893-3141	NMFS SERO	Self**
Mr. Wayne E. Swingle Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council 5401 W. Kennedy Boulevard Suite 881 Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 228-2815	GMFMC	Self*

PARTICIPANTS
October 15 & 18, 1984 Workshops
New Orleans, LA
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<u>Task Force Member</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Attendee</u>
Mr. Ralph Rayburn Texas Shrimp Association 403 Vaughn Building Austin, TX 78701 (512) 476-8446	Comm. fishing industry	Self
Mr. Charles H. Lyles Louisiana Shrimp Association Route 7 Box 277A Ocean Springs, MS 39564 (601) 875-9860	Comm. fishing industry	
Mr. Nick A. Mavar, Jr. Mavar Shrimp & Oyster Co. P.O. Box 208 Biloxi, MS 39533 (601) 374-1373	Comm. fishing industry	Self*
Mr. Dalton R. Berry Petrou Fisheries, Inc. P.O. Box 128 Empire, LA 70050 (504) 657-9711	Comm. fishing industry	Self
Mr. Dick Ingram Gulf Coast Conservation Association 4801 Woodway, Suite 220 W Houston, TX 77056 (713) 626-4222	Rec. fishing industry	
Mr. Tom Sebring P.O. Box 867 Islamorada, FL 33036 (305) 664-4029	Rec. fishing industry	
Mr. Robert P. Jones Southeastern Fisheries Association 312 East Georgia Street Tallahassee, FL 32301	Comm. fishing industry	

PARTICIPANTS
 October 15 & 18, 1984 Workshops
 New Orleans, LA
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<u>Ex-officio/Administrative Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Attendee</u>
Mr. J. Y. Christmas, Consultant Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Ocean Springs, MS 39564 (601) 875-2244 (601) 875-4638	GSMFC	Self
Dr. David J. Etzold, Consultant Univ. of Southern Mississippi Southern Station Box 5077 Hattiesburg, MS (601) 266-4675 (601) 264-4946	GSMFC	Self
Dr. Thomas D. McIlwain, Consultant Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Ocean Springs, MS 39564 (601) 875-2244	GSMFC	Self
Dr. Andrew J. Kemmerer National Marine Fisheries Service National Space Technology Laboratory NSTL Station, MS 39529 (601) 688-3650	NMFS	Self
Dr. Roger D. Anderson Gulf & South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc. 5401 W. Kennedy Boulevard Suite 571 Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 870-3390	GSAFDF	
Mr. Larry B. Simpson Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission P.O. Box 726 Ocean Springs, MS 39564 (601) 875-5912	GSMFC	Self
Ms. Lucia B. O'Toole Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission P.O. Box 726 Ocean Springs, MS 39564 (601) 875-5912	GSMFC	Self

PARTICIPANTS
October 15 & 18, 1984 Workshops
New Orleans, LA
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Others

Affiliation

Jim McCallum	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, DC
Clyde Richbourg	GSMFC, Gulf Breeze, FL
E. L. Nakamura**	NMFS, Panama City, FL
John F. Hall**	USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Aaron Rosenfield**	NMFS, Oxford, MD
Ed Klima	NMFS, Galveston, TX
Dick Berry**	NMFS, Miami, FL
Tim Smith**	House Merchant Marine & Fisheries Committee, Washington, DC
Lloyd Regier*	NMFS, Charleston, SC
Albert C. Jones*	NMFS, Miami, FL
Scott Nichols*	NMFS, Miami, FL
William J. Richards*	NMFS, Miami, FL
Douglas S. Vaughan*	NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Bob Chapoton*	NMFS, Beaufort, NC

*In attendance on October 15 only.

**In attendance on October 18 only.

APPROVED BY:

dcn
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC ANADROMOUS FISH SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 15, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

TCC ANADROMOUS FISH SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 15/
Wednesday, October 16, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

Chairman Larry Nicholson called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.
The following were in attendance:

Members

I. B. "Buck" Byrd, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
J. Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Edouard Crateau, USFWS, Panama City, FL
R. Vernon Minton, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Gary Saul, TPWD, Austin, Texas

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Lucia B. O'Toole, Publication Specialist

Others

Jim Clugston, USFWS, Gainesville, FL
Clyde Richbourg, GSMFC, Milton, FL
Don Culbertson, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Lou Villanova, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Richard L. Applegate, USFWS, Albuquerque, NM
Norville S. Prosser, SFI, Washington, DC
T. Brad Durling, Lillian, AL
Gerald Verburg, USDA/SRRC, New Orleans, LA

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented with item 5 (Finalize the Profile/Plan) deemed "optimistic".

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the March 11, 1985 meeting held in Mobile, Alabama were adopted after changing "data was" to "data were" (page 2) and "approval" to "consideration" (page 3).

L. Simpson and D. Applegate briefed the Subcommittee on Wallop/Breaux (D/J) funding status, stating the best target figure as \$125 million. The first checks were awarded in ceremony in Washington, DC on October 1. They knew of no existing problems concerning automatic

appropriations or level of funding. One item of concern is whether the level of the rebate for the motorboat fuels tax is appropriate.

Oversight hearings will probably be held next year. It was recommended that the states continually update their Congressional delegations on what is being done.

Discuss Status of Profile and Management Plan

L. Nicholson thanked all members for their hard work which had become a good framework to achieve their goal. In order to get the document ready for review he asked each member to say exactly what he felt about each section.

It was decided that as the document met most interstate plan criteria it would be called a plan rather than a profile. Much work is needed on the Management Section.

Sections 1, 2, 3, and 7 were thoroughly reviewed by the members.

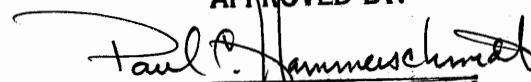
Finalize the Profile/Plan

Sections 4, 5, and 6 are to be reviewed, marked-up, and mailed to L. Nicholson by November 15. A revised draft document will be mailed to members by December 15. Subcommittee comments on the revised document will be forwarded to L. Nicholson by January 15, 1986. A penultimate draft should be ready for TCC review by February 15, 1986.

G. Saul requested the original charge (develop profile or plan) of the TCC to the Subcommittee be researched and that finding sent to all members.

L. Nicholson thanked the guests for their input, especially to the management section. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am (10/16).

APPROVED BY:


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 15, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 15, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

Paul Hammerschmidt, Chairman, called an informal meeting of the Subcommittee at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the development of goals, objectives and procedures for collating, analyzing, and publishing data on crab species collected during SEAMAP trawl samples from 1982 through 1985.

Members present:

Paul Hammerschmidt, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
Phil Steele, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Gerald Adkins, LDWF, Bourg, LA

The members reviewed printouts of SEAMAP data provided by Ken Savastano, NMFS. Andrew Kemmerer, NMFS, aided in providing information about the samples.

Decisions made were as follows:

- 1) To develop a manuscript format similar to the recent NMFS MEXUS-Gulf OREGON II publication. This would include: a) species diversity list; and b) trends in abundance of the 10 or 12 most abundant crab species (these to be determined at a later date).
- 2) To request all SEAMAP data from 1982-1985 (if 1985 available) formatted with species ranked according to abundance.
- 3) To begin procedures for writing and publishing the document.
- 4) To explore methods of obtaining NMFS Fall trawl data (1979 to present) for future publication.

The Subcommittee wishes to thank Andrew Kemmerer for his direction, Ken Savastano for the data, and especially Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator, for her invaluable assistance in helping the Subcommittee get started on this project.

Informal meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The Chairman called the formal meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. The following members and guests were present:

Members

Paul Hammerschmidt, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
Phil Steele, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Gerald Adkins, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL (proxy for S. Heath)

Staff

Eileen M. Benton, Staff Assistant, GSMFC

Others

Rob Erdman, USF, St. Petersburg, FL
Randy Hochberg, USF/FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Aaron Rosenfield, NMFS, Oxford, MD
Bill Clark, Texas A&M/Sea Grant, College Station, TX
Lloyd Regier, NMFS, Charleston, SC
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Charles Moss, Sea Grant Advisory Service, Angleton, TX

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following changes: Item 4, Election of New Chairman would be the last agenda item and Item 9, General discussion of procedures, methods, and objectives for writing a document using information gathered on various species of crabs in the Gulf of Mexico during SEAMAP sampling was discussed in the informal meeting held earlier.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the March 11, 1985 meeting held in Mobile, Alabama were approved as written.

Review of Progress of Crab Research in Each State

Each State present reported on landings and crab research for their respective State. They noted that all States are continuing routine monitoring, and blue crab landings indicate average or above average amounts for 1985 over 1984.

P. Steele reported concerns by processors of taking undersize crabs. He noted that they are also getting imported crab meat from Venezuela that is being sold at \$2.00-\$3.00/lb. less than blue crabs.

G. Adkins reported that Louisiana landings have increased since 1983 -- from 19.6 to 29 million pounds in 1984 and are expected to be 22-23 million in 1985. He felt that this was caused by layoffs of many industry people who entered the fishery.

C. Moss reported that Texas processors are wanting more crabs and are looking for States to buy from. He also noted that crab landings indicate no major shortage problems.

Report on SEAMAP Meeting Concerning Invertebrate Plankton Sorting and Archiving.

P. Hammerschmidt briefly reviewed H. Perry's report. He noted that Harriet has attended meetings of the Plankton Work Group and has since made some recommendations to the SEAMAP Subcommittee as follows:

1) Sorting of invertebrates should begin with the 1984 SEAMAP samples rather than the 1985 samples as proposed. Concerning the backlog of SEAMAP samples currently held at the Polish Sorting Center (PSC) and the time schedule proposed to work these samples, data and specimens from the 1985 samples would not be available until late 1987. Since the 1984 samples will not be processed until 1986, ample time is available to develop and initiate the needed protocol.

2) Ken Stuck, GCRL, should participate in the training program for the Polish sorters. This interaction would allow the development of expertise at the PSC for the specific identification of invertebrate taxa. The PSC could then provide data rather than archive specimens for many invertebrate taxa. This would reduce costly archiving expenses, reduce turn around time on sample processing, and increase availability of data to user groups.

P. Hammerschmidt concluded that he was under the impression that the recommendations have been accepted by SEAMAP and will be initiated.

Report on Upcoming Stone Crab Symposium

Report on Florida Tagging and Trap Program

P. Steele notified the Subcommittee that Florida will host the Stone Crab Symposium sponsored by the Florida Department of Natural Resources, Florida Sea Grant and Mote Marine Laboratory. The symposium will be held on April 24 and 25, 1986 at the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida. The conference will address three main issues: (1) the clarification and synthesis of available systematic ecological and biological information on the recently described taxonomic subdivisions of M. mercenaria; 2) the potential for development of new fisheries in the regions of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic not presently

supporting commercial fisheries; and 3) the status and management of the Florida stone crab fishery. He also noted that this symposium should provide an opportunity for badly needed communications among individuals conducting ongoing stone crab research and among scientific researchers, user groups, and management personnel.

P. Steele made a presentation of stone crab information prepared by Terri Bert and himself. Items discussed were as follows:

- 1) Life history and distribution in Florida
- 2) Speciation and hybridization between penninsular and northern Gulf versions
- 3) Commercial CPUE
- 4) Survival studies on boated crabs
- 5) Treatment of claws before processing
- 6) Regeneration characteristics on claws

R. Erdman made an excellent presentation on harvesting and life history of the golden crabs. Items reviewed were as follows:

- 1) Trap designs
- 2) Areas caught (150-250 fm)
- 3) Marketing problems
- 4) Size of fishery in Florida

Report on the Economics of Gulf Blue Crab Price Differences

P. Hammerschmidt presented a report by Garey Perkins, economist from Mississippi State, entitled "Future Regional Price Quantity Relationships" (report attached).

Election of New Chairman

* Motion was made to elect Phil Steele, Chairman of the Subcommittee. Motion passed unanimously.

P. Steele thanked Paul Hammerschmidt for his excellent work as Chairman of the Subcommittee for the past year.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

INTERREGIONAL PRICE-QUANTITY RELATIONSHIPS

FOR

HARD BLUE CRABS, 1960 - 1980

Prepared by

Garey B. Perkins, Ph.D.
Food and Fiber Center
Mississippi State University

October 1985

Introduction

This paper is a first attempt to analyze price-quantity relationships of hard blue crabs within and between the several geographical regions where they are harvested. A better understanding of the statistical relationships between the major areas and the five states in the Gulf of Mexico region is essential in formulating plans and marketing strategies. A primary emphasis of both governmental and fishing entities in the Gulf region is to enhance the economic value of hard blue crabs. Resource management, enhancement, and utilization is dependent upon the orderly distribution and marketing of an acceptable consumer product.

This paper does not address the overall marketing and distribution problems associated with the blue crab fishery. Rather, it is a discussion and preliminary analysis of interregional price-quantity relationships. The primary limitation of the analysis is that the most recent landings and price data were not included. Subsequent analyses will include the most recent data.

The relationship between price in the Gulf and quantities landed are as expected, negatively correlated, with quantities landed in the U.S., the Chesapeake, and South Atlantic region. A negative correlation means that as landings increase in those regions the price of blue crabs falls in the Gulf region, and vice versa. Another way of saying this is that there is an inverse relationship between landings in those regions and the price in the Gulf.

The relatively low correlation between Gulf prices and landings in the South Atlantic region indicate relatively little relationship between the two regions, in effect the price in the Gulf is independent of the South Atlantic landings volume. Price in the Gulf and price in the South Atlantic are highly correlated. This perhaps indicates that prices in each region are determined by forces outside those regions.

The price of hard blue crabs in the Gulf of Mexico is highly and positively correlated with prices in the United States, the Chesapeake and South Atlantic regions.

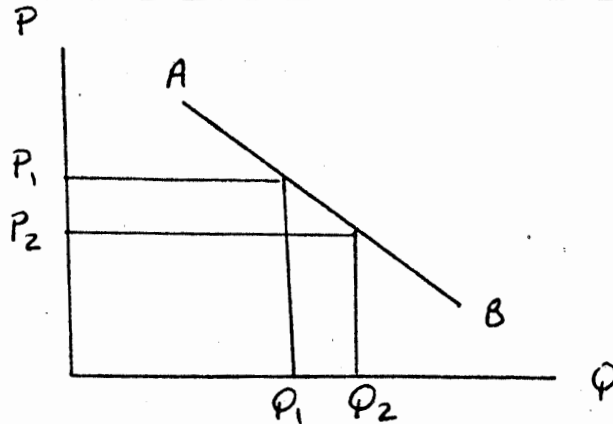
Correlations are as follows:

<u>Variable</u>		<u>Price in the Gulf Region</u>
Quantity Landed, U.S.	(Qus)	-.1981
Price, U.S.	(Pus)	.9883
Quantity Landed, Chesapeake	(Qc)	-.5681
Price, Chesapeake	(Pc)	.9648
Quantity Landed, South Atlantic	(Qsa)	-.0054
Price, South Atlantic	(Psa)	.9821
Quantity Landed, Gulf	(Gg)	.7057
Price, Gulf	(Pg)	
Quantity Landed, Florida	(Qf)	-.3465
Price, Florida	(Pf)	.9974
Quantity Landed, Alabama	(Qa)	.2986
Price, Alabama	(Pa)	.9626
Quantity Landed, Mississippi	(Qm)	.2010
Price, Mississippi	(Pm)	.9967
Quantity Landed, Louisiana	(Ql)	.6743
Price, Louisiana	(Pl)	.9961
Quantity Landed, Texas	(Qt)	.9002
Price, Texas	(Pt)	.9853

Within Region Price Quantity Relationships

The hypothesized relationship between price and quantity of crabs landed in a particular region is one of an inverse relationship. An increase in landings would be expected to bring about a lower price and a decrease in landings would bring about an increase in price. If each of the regions were isolated or otherwise independent of the other, the hypothesized situation would be expected. Interdependencies between the regions, which once may have existed because of transportation limitations, no longer exist. Live crabs from one region can be quickly and effeciently transported from one region to the other. The nature of the demand and the market for blue crabs is such that most of the flow of crabs is from the Gulf to the Chesapeake region. The Chesapeake with a traditionally large crab consumption and greater population is a deficit area for blue crabs for much of the year. In addition, there is a great demand for the larger male crabs in the Chesapeake region.

Figure 1. Hypothesized Price-Quantity Relationship



The curve AB in Figure 1 shows the expected inverse relationship between price and quantity. In this instance, there is a 1 to 1 relationship, a one unit increase in quantity, from Q1 to Q2 would cause a corresponding price reduction from P1 to P2. The relationship is usually expressed as a percentage change, especially in demand analysis.

Of these regions, the Chesapeake more closely conforms to that normally expected. The correlation coefficient between price and quantity in that region is -0.68 , that is, a one unit change in quantity of crabs landed in the Chesapeake would be associated with a 0.68 unit change in price in the opposite direction. Such an inverse relationship exists only for the Chesapeake region. Relationships in the other regions are positive, indicating an increase in price with higher landings. The Gulf region shows a relationship of 0.71 with landings in the same region but a -0.57 relationship with the Chesapeake.

Relationships between Gulf prices and landings reported in each Gulf state exhibits some interesting variations. Gulf price is negatively correlated with Florida West Coast landings, but positively correlated with landings in each of the other four Gulf states. The most highly positive correlation is with Texas landings. The coefficient of 0.90 indicates an almost perfect correlation, that is, Gulf price movements follow, almost identically, Texas landings.

The reasons for such a high correlation are not clear. The explanation cannot be that Texas landings dominate Gulf landings because Louisiana landings are considerably higher. The relationship between Gulf prices and Louisiana landings is not as strong.

The explanation may be in the structural nature of the Texas blue crab fishery. A relatively large proportion of blue crabs harvested in Texas are sold into the Chesapeake region.

Dependency of the Gulf blue crab fishery on the supply and demand for blue crabs in the Chesapeake region may be preventing the Gulf fishery from reaching its full economic potential.

An obvious implication is that a stronger and more dependable market for blue crabs should be developed in the Southeast, in areas nearer to the Gulf. Increased emphasis should be devoted to the exploration and elimination of barriers to marketing blue crabs in the South and Southeast.

MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS
OF BLUE CRAB LANDINGS AND PRICES BY
GEOGRAPHIC REGION, 1960-1980

	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Standard Deviation</u>
Landings-Gulf (Qg)	34,634 (1000 lbs) ¹	5,866
Price-Gulf (Pg)	11.47 (cents/lb) ²	6.57
Landings-Chesapeake (Qc)	66,608	11,724
Price-Chesapeake (Pc)	11.14	5.90
Landings-South Atlantic (Qsa)	40,674	7,576
Price-South Atlantic (Psa)	10.30	5.89
Landings-Florida (Qf)	13,207	3,093
Price-Florida (Pf)	10.28	5.76
Landings-Alabama (Qa)	1,517	594
Price-Alabama (Pa)	12.00	8.40
Landings-Mississippi (Qm)	1,628	548
Price-Mississippi (Pm)	12.47	6.74
Landings-Louisiana (Ql)	12,859	4,603
Price-Louisiana (Pl)	11.70	6.56
Landings-Texas (Qt)	5,311	2,093
Price-Texas (Pt)	12.70	7.26
Landings-U.S. (Qus)	143,817	14,520
Price-U.S. (Pus)	11.20	6.20

1. All landings are in thousand pounds.

2. All prices are in cents per pound.

APPROVED BY:

Henry S. Leganski
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC STATISTICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 16, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

TCC STATISTICAL SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, October 16, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

Chairman Henry G. "Skip" Lazauski called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Henry G. "Skip" Lazauski, AMRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Claude Boudreaux, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Albert Green, TPWD, Austin, TX
Frank "Stu" Kennedy, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom Van Devender, BMR, Long Beach, MS (proxy for F. Deegen)
Albert Jones, NMFS, Miami, FL (proxy for H. Prytherch)

Staff

Eileen M. Benton, Staff Assistant

Others

Thomas R. Dawley, NMFS, New Orleans, LA
Orman Farley, NMFS, Galveston, TX
Ernie Snell, NMFS, Miami, FL
Ken Harris, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Mary Anne Treadway, NMFS, Miami, FL
Douglas Gregory, Jr., GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Robert Muller, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Barney Barrett, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Ron Schmied, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Ed Burgess, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Hal Osburn, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Ron Essig, NMFS, Washington, DC
Brad Brown, NMFS, Miami, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of the reconsideration of the Vice-Chairman election motion passed at the March 1985 Subcommittee meeting.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Mobile, Alabama, Monday, March 11, 1985, were adopted with the following changes:

- 1) Page 4, agenda title should read as follows: Proprietary Data: Whose Data Are They Anyway?
- 2) Page 4, second paragraph, first sentence, change data was to data were.

- 3) Page 4, sixth paragraph, third sentence, change the word kind to kinds.

States' Computer Data Files

H. Lazauski reported that the States have turned in their computer data. He will now work on a summarization of the material and mail to Subcommittee members within the next month.

It was agreed by the Subcommittee members to update State computer data files October 1 of each year.

Proprietary Data

A. Green reviewed discussion on proprietary data held at the March 1985 Subcommittee meeting.

A. Green recommended some type of formal flagging system be developed indicating for what purpose certain data records could be used. A. Jones suggested tagging a note on the data with the agency's stipulations on the use of the data. Jones feels that most of the problems can be handled with courtesy and notification as to what the qualifications are on the use of the data. H. Lazauski directed question to M. Treadway, NMFS, as to a programmer's problems with developing a flagging system. She noted that it would be no problem but would require written permission to release the data to requestors.

H. Lazauski appointed A. Green to work up recommendations to present to the Subcommittee. It was agreed that A. Green would contact the States and the National Marine Fisheries Service, get their input into the recommendations, and present his report at the March 1986 Subcommittee meeting.

Statistical Document Preparation for FY86

NMFS Data Management: Available Reports, etc.

Status Report on Statistical Data Management - SEFC

A. Jones and M. Treadway presented and distributed a progress report on the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program and a report on the Creel Survey and Biological Sampling Program (CSBSP).

* After discussion, motion was made to further discuss at the March 1986 Subcommittee meeting the option of including data analysis and report preparation as a function item under the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program. Motion carried.

Data Collection Needs and Plans for 1986

H. Lazauski reported that the State of Alabama is collecting mullet and reef fish data for the CSBSP. He noted that because they are seeing a lot of fishing for flounder, Alabama might start improving flounder data in future projects.

T. Van Devender reported that the State of Mississippi is seeing an increase in the number of Menticirrhus, thus they are adding Menticirrhus in their files and probably dropping red snapper.

C. Boudreaux reported that the State of Louisiana is collecting data on mackerel, grouper, reef fish, mullet and black drum.

F. Kennedy reported that the State of Florida is planning this year to reduce a few of the king fish data. He noted that they are going to try to add more Spanish mackerel and probably add mullet.

A. Green reported that the State of Texas, within their recreational survey, is collecting data on everything and anything they can find. He noted Texas' activity list last year included the hiring of a fishery statistician to look at their commercial fishery and try to develop a sampling plan. He noted that this plan will be much like their recreational plan, in that they will not target a species whenever they sample, but they will count and measure everything they encounter.

Symposium Publication Status

H. Lazauski reported that the symposium held at the March 1985 GSMFC Meeting on "Design, Collection and Assessment of Angler Volunteered Information Systems," was approved for publication by the GSMFC Technical Coordinating Committee and granted funding by the Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board (GS-FFMB). He noted that he has contacted all authors, and is in the process of editing the already received papers. He encourages the other authors to send their papers to him as soon as possible as he would like to submit them to the Commission by the end of December for final typesetting, and publication.

A. Green questioned the reproduction of his presentation since it had already been published in several different publications. H. Lazauski suggested that he rephrase and summarize those publications (using those publications as a reference) and thus eliminate duplicity of publications.

A. Green noted that this would be satisfactory with him and pending approval of other authors involved, would send his presentation to H. Lazauski.

National Recreational Survey

Ronald Essig gave a progress report on the national recreational survey, summarized as follows:

Data Availability. NMFS recently distributed the 1983-84 survey publication. He noted that this publication does not represent the total data available through the national survey, but because of space consideration, includes only summary data. The more detailed information is available either by special requests through his office or available on computer tapes at the Burroughs site.

State Participation. State participation in 1985 includes three states; Georgia (actually using their state personnel to go out in the field and collect the raw data), Virginia and Maryland (contributing money to NMFS subcontractors who collect and increase the number of samples in their particular state). He noted that NMFS has at least one-half dozen states in other regions committed to participate in their survey. North Carolina, New York and Massachusetts will participate in 1986. Many of the other states that he has talked to will participate pending Wallop-Breaux funds.

R. Essig reported that the plans for 1986 are essentially to work toward having States participate in the survey. He feels that this cooperation would be beneficial to both parties and seems to be a cost effective way of gathering data, particularly in cases where states do not have their own survey ongoing. He noted that they would need a 45-day notification period before starting data collection, in order to hire and train interviewers and develop State-Federal contracts.

A. Green reported problems the State of Texas has with the National Recreational Survey as follows:

- 1) Failure of NMFS honoring a cooperative program.
- 2) Problem with National Marine Recreational Survey having less precision than their own program within the State.
- 3) Methodology problems with the National Marine Recreational Survey.

After much discussion into the above three areas, A. Green distributed a resolution regarding collection of recreational fisheries data to the Subcommittee to consider for recommendation to the Technical Coordinating Committee and then to the Commission for adoption.

* Motion was made for the Statistical Subcommittee to send a representative to the National Recreational Statistics Review Committee Meeting pending approval for funding from a source. Motion carried.

A. Green asked Chairman to poll Subcommittee as to their feelings on working to get the resolution in an acceptable form for approval within the time frame of the meeting. Votes tallied indicated it would be impossible for the resolution to pass at the meeting within the given time frame.

* Motion was made for this resolution to be considered for an agenda item at the March 1986 meeting. Motion carried.

D-J Funding Use in the Gulf

C. Boudreaux reported that for the State of Louisiana in the first five years, the bulk of their money would be used for boating access facilities (boat ramps, fishing piers, etc.) He noted that it was also probable that the State would use D-J funds to participate in the National Recreational Survey.

T. Van Devender reported that the State of Mississippi would probably use their funds on access points and some money would be put into a fund for a red fish hatchery as a long range plan.

F. Kennedy reported that the State of Florida would distribute approximately 80% of their funds for visible projects and approximately 20% would be put into a one-year study (possibly 2 years) for fishing sites.

A. Green reported that the State of Texas is already using D-J funds in their recreational survey and their independent monitoring

program. He noted that most of the increases would probably lead to research activities, stocking of fish and some funds for the seafood marketing program.

H. Lazauski reported that the State of Alabama in the first year would use their funds on physical things (access points, boat ramps, etc.), after that they envision special projects (speckled trout, and redfish).

Other Business

H. Lazauski reported that the GSMFC Technical Coordinating Committee approved, and the GS-FFMB funded \$2,000 for a statistical workshop in the spring of 1986. He noted that the agenda for this workshop will focus on the status of the items that were discussed at the last State-Federal workshop.

After discussion, the Subcommittee agreed that the workshop would be scheduled in April and, provided key NMFS personnel could attend, it would be held at the Florida Department of Natural Resources in St. Petersburg, FL. F. Kennedy agreed to handle the logistics of the workshop.

Motion was made for the motion of the vice-chairman to succeed chairman be reconsidered. Motion was rejected.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Fred Deege
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 16, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, October 16, 1985

Chairman Jim Barrett called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Jim Barrett, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Gary Saul, TPWD, Austin, TX
Ron Schmied, NMFS-SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom Van Devender, MBMR, Long Beach, MS
Bruce Cartwright (proxy for Randy Bright), GCCA, Houston, TX
Don Culbertson, USF&WS, Atlanta, GA
Walter M. Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL

Staff

Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

T. Brad Durling, Lillian, AL
Pat Durling, Lillian, AL
Norville S. Prosser, SFI, Washington, DC
Richard L. Applegate, USF&WS, Albuquerque, NM
Roy O. Williams, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
W.H. Herke, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Barton Rogers, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Richard Leard, MBMR, Long Beach, MS
Al Green, TPWD, Austin, TX
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Gerald B. Verburg, SRRC, New Orleans, LA
Ron Essig, NMFS, Washington, DC
Gerald Adkins, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Barney Barrett, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Lou Villanova, USF&WS, Atlanta, GA
I.B. Byrd, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Gary Matlock, TPWD, Austin, TX
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Skip Lazauski, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Paul Hammerschmidt, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following changes:

- (1) The update on Wallop/Breaux funding would be presented by Lou Villanova and Don Culbertson in place of Frank Richardson.
- (2) Gary Matlock would present issues and problems with the Gulf king mackerel fishery.
- (3) The order of State Recreational Fisheries Reports would vary from that suggested, with the addition of a report on NMFS activities by Ron Schmied.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on March 12, 1985, in Mobile, Alabama, were approved with the following changes:

Albert Green, TPWD, Austin, TX should have been listed as a proxy for Gary Saul, TPWD, Austin, TX.

Page 4, Paragraph 3, should read as follows: V. Reggio presented information on the availability and status of MMS bathymetric maps, noting that information for prototype special purpose fishing maps had been compiled and published by the National Ocean Survey and MMS. MMS had already sold over 4000 copies of its Recreational Fishing Map focused on the MS Delta. He reviewed the history and controversy surrounding development of the special purpose maps, and noted that NOS was soliciting review and comment on its prototype bathymetric fishing maps; . . .

Page 4, Paragraph 3, last sentence should read as follows: The cost-effectiveness of such maps was explained as well as MMS' current intent not to print other special purpose fishing maps.

Page 7, number (6) should read as follows: Texas. A. Green described current projects in Texas pertaining to recreational fishing. The Department will continue to conduct the boat harvest survey, adding to the report standard errors, recreational harvests of shrimp, and weekly data. Negotiations are ongoing with the NMFS-Panama City Lab for joint charterboat studies, focusing on comparability of parameters (catch per trolling hour versus catch per trip hour).

A. Green also noted that Texas will continue to stock red drum in San Antonio Bay, and stated that TPWD would like to develop a report-card system for reporting total catch and number of participants for saltwater species from sport fishing tournaments, such as is done by inland fisheries.

Coast-wide spotted seatrout recreational catches have declined by 60%, down from 21 fish per 100 hours prior to 1983 to 5 fish per hour in 1983-84; this represents a significant decrease, except for the Galveston area. This reduction is beyond what would be expected from imposition of the bay and size limits and is attributable to the 1983 freeze.

Page 7, last paragraph, last sentence, EIS should be changed to API (American Petroleum Institute).

Update on Wallop/Breaux (D-J) Funding - Lou Villanova, Don Culbertson

L. Villanova presented information on the status of Wallop/Breaux apportionments, noting that the preliminary distributions have been made for Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Funds for 1986; apportionments were not based on a freshwater versus saltwater basis, but on a percentile basis. It was noted that OMB has again begun to look at the W-B funds as a revenue source for the Treasury, a situation that will require vigilance from all concerned for continued funding.

* D. Culbertson reviewed the status of the National Fish Hatcheries Bill (HR3167), stating that objectives in the program were structured in a tiered fashion, with state or private facilities under contract to provide fish with federal funds. Objectives are: (1) mitigation of federal projects' impacts; (2) restoration of fishery resources determined to be in need of restoration; (3) stocking of waters to meet international and Indian treaty obligations; (4) research and development in support of system objectives; and (5) implementation of recovery plans for threatened and endangered species. A secondary objective is to stock waters on Federal lands and Indian lands. The bill would require fishery management plans for restoration and mitigation programs prior to the expenditures of funds for these activities. Ron Schmied moved to accept the report as presented; the motion was seconded and approved.

National Artificial Reef Plan - Ron Schmied

R. Schmied reviewed the status of the National Artificial Reef Plan, noting that it has been produced as required by act in 1983. Experts gathered earlier this year in Vicksburg, MS, to put the plan out for review; input was sought from more than 50 persons and organizations, and has been received from many of these. The latest draft is being prepared and involves states, the Federal government and the private sector, with the intent to update the plan periodically. Needed is work on the document, especially the section pertaining to donation of suitable materials for reef construction. Copies of the latest draft were distributed to the Committee. R. Schmied responded to questions on liability, and noted that they will be addressed by the courts, with the plan providing guidelines. In Florida, it was noted, the state attorney general disclosed that the management agency cannot

be legislatively isolated from lawsuits; documents have been created, therefore, for acceptance by both the donor and agency.

Developments in Recreational Fishing as it Related to Council FMPs

The scheduled discussion of developments in recreational fishing as it relates to Council FMPs was deleted from the agenda.

Problems in the Spanish and King Mackerel Fisheries - Roy Williams

R. Williams presented a review of current problems and issues affecting mackerel fisheries, excluding those of the king mackerel fishery being addressed by NMFS; these latter issues would be addressed by G. Matlock. An assessment of conditions of Spanish mackerel will be held in Miami on May 30, 1986.

The past data bases on Spanish mackerel were reviewed, noting little on mortality; recreational data bases from the NMFS Florida recreational intercepts were cited, noting declines in catch rates from 1979-84 in the Gulf, average size decline over the last six years on the Atlantic coast; and an almost complete collapse of the Gulf fishery in 1976 was reported. The report concluded that the abundance of Spanish mackerel in the Gulf has declined significantly, and the availability and harvestability have increased substantially in recent years. Areas of concentrated fisheries were noted.

Reasons for the decrease in fishing effort in many areas of the western Gulf were cited as increased effort for the more favored king mackerel; the effort on the west coast was felt to be in need of study to determine whether a problem exists. The yield per recruit at age one was discussed, and yield per recruit as a function of fishing mortality. Ongoing studies to examine stock differences were also reviewed.

The Chairman noted that Dr. Gissendanner would be present at the Executive Board meeting and was concerned about the fishery, in view of information presented at the ASMFC meeting the previous week regarding a rejection of the proposed bluefish FMP by the Department of Commerce (largely a state waters fishery and thus similar to the Spanish mackerel fishery). It was felt that the fishery is best suited to the states taking the initiative for presentation to the Council.

G. Matlock reviewed issues related to the king mackerel fishery in the Gulf and summarized results of a meeting in Washington between State, Federal and university people concerned with the matter; the

meeting was precipitated by the recent SAFMC action on the Gulf mackerel fishery. At issue was the apparently conflicting scientific data on catches and stock identification. It was felt that the perceived reduction in spawning biomass in the western Gulf was not valid; higher catches in 1982-84 were noted for this area. Five-year old fish continue to dominate catches; other year classes remain constant. A joint meeting of the GMFMC and SAFMC was planned for October 28 to address the proposed moratorium.

State Recreational Fishery Reports

(1) Alabama - Water Tatum

W. Tatum reviewed state management activities related to recreational fishery, noting that the most important of these is marine mariculture. Stocking of 6800 spotted seatrout has been achieved, and a creel survey has been planned for next year. New regulations concerning this species are a 14" minimum size and a bag limit of 10 per day. State Wallop-Breaux funds will be used for stocking seatrout and construction of boat ramps.

(2) Mississippi - Tom Van Devender

T. Van Devender reported on new ordinances in Mississippi, noting a limit of 25 per day and a 33" (FL) minimum size for cobia. Mississippi's Wallop-Breaux funds will be used for development of boating access points.

(3) Louisiana - Harry Schafer

H. Schafer reviewed the new regulation for a saltwater fishing license in Louisiana and discussed the new State finfish section, noting that the State report would be given by Gerald Adkins, chief of the section. G. Adkins reviewed progress in the section, noting recent hiring of several new persons for the projected seven fishing areas and development of data systems to support the section. Underway are projects with LSU and the Corps of Engineers, and a red drum spawning project for stocking State waters. Private land use for mariculture development is also being investigated. Special permits for unapproved gear have been granted for Spanish mackerel, pompano and other species, and a cooperative

LDWF-LSU chopstick fishing experimental project involving Vietnamese fishermen. Involvement in the offshore rigs-to-reef program was described. Red drum were discussed at length, with findings of a strong year class of this species and spotted seatrout, and probably good spawning of the large offshore red drum population. The large number of red drum captured offshore has affected the price of the fish; increased catches for shipment to the northern U.S. are reported, and include black drum. Discussion followed on the impact of the continued heavy fishing for red drum, with concern expressed for the lack of accurate landings data, the very large offshore harvest, and the heavy mortality of juveniles inshore in Florida. It was suggested that it may be time to pursue a fishery management plan for this species, in view of this new fishing effort. Research needs for age and size monitoring, recruitment, and stock identification were noted. It was felt that a potential for complaints exists from anglers becoming aware of the large commercial harvest.

(4) Texas - Gary Saul

G. Saul reviewed the benefits of Texas Sunset Review process, noting increased authority for TPWD, including licensing fees, license revocation and implementation of the licensing. The Saltwater Stamp Act was described, as well as purchasing and reporting procedures for commercial fisheries. The Department will have regulatory authority over shrimp and oysters, with FMPs to be finalized in 1987. A red drum FMP is currently being reviewed. Regulations on red drum and spotted seatrout imports will be stiffened. The increased Coastal Fisheries budget will be used also to hire 25 new people, including an economist to evaluate fisheries, and to expand Department activities to include the Lake Sabine area. Also noted were adjustments in the red snapper limits, amended king mackerel bag limits and stocking of red drum in Texas bays with the goal of stocking 10 million per year in each of two bays; results of stocking to date indicate elevated catch rates in

one such bay. These catch rates were explained in detail, as well as spawning success of the species.

(5) Florida - Jim Barrett

J. Barrett reviewed recreational fishing issues in Florida, noting a new bag limit of two per day, and a November 1-March 1 season on the Atlantic coast from Daytona south. Size limits were also noted for cobia (33" FL or 37" TL), red drum (18" everywhere in the state except west of Suwannee); a bag limit, prohibition of gill nets, and regulation of mesh size are under consideration by the Department, as well as a 14" limit on seatrout. Other regulations include a closure in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties for Spanish and a 3½" minimum mesh size, with a season from November 15-March 15; a minimum size of 24" for snook, with a bag limit of two and only one of these over 34", with closure extended through August; new size limits have also been imposed for groupers.

(6) National Marine Fisheries Service - Ron Schmied

R. Schmied reported on recreational fishery issues with respect to NMFS activities, noting that the Southeast Regional Office has established the position of Coordinator of Marine Recreational Fisheries, and appointed Grant Beardsley to that office. Also reported were a revised directory of Saltwater Fishing Clubs, which is now available, thanks to the contributions of the State agencies. A vessel-wide canvas of headboats, charterboats and dive boats has been approved and the data from this survey are now being verified and computerized for availability to states and others; this survey will be updated annually. A tag previously used for tunas has been found useful for tagging king mackerel and will be used to resolve questions of migrations in an expanded NMFS tagging program. With respect to S-K funds, less money is available than was available last year, but may be used for underdeveloped sport species; two years of research has been completed on developing strategies to encourage fishing for such fishes. A stock identification workshop has been set for November at the NMFS-Panama City Laboratory, with an early

December meeting planned for recreational fishing leaders to discuss mackerel stock identification methods and implications.

Other Business

G. Saul proposed adoption of a resolution calling for the use of more complete catch statistics on recreational use of king mackerel prior to development of regulations on the Gulf king mackerel fishery. The resolution was summarized by G. Saul and the motion was seconded.

Discussion on the motion concerned the intent of the resolution, clarified as to encourage a better survey, and NMFS' role in seeking such data in the past. It was noted that where funding was mentioned in the resolution (W-B) funds, some states may not have such funds for recreational survey projects and it would therefore be appropriate to include additional sources of possible funds. The motion was amended to delete specific reference to Wallop-Breaux funds.

NMFS noted strong exception to sections of the resolution indicating faults within the agency on data collection and reviewed areas where it has sought to improve survey efficiency, noting that a similar resolution was not passed at the meeting of the TCC Statistical Subcommittee.

* The question was called, with a directive by the Chairman for a roll call vote: Ayes: Barrett, Schafer, Saul, Van Devender, Cartwright, Tatum; Nay: Schmied; Abstention: Culbertson. The resolution was adopted as amended (see attached).

Elections

* A motion was made by G. Saul to nominate Fred Deegen as Chairman for the following year. The motion was seconded. A motion was made by W. Tatum to close the nominations; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Fred Deegen was elected Chairman of the Committee.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

RESOLUTION

BY

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

REGARDING

COLLECTION OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES DATA

WHEREAS, the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA, PL 94-265) established the Fishery Conservation Zone (FCZ), established the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) and mandated the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to provide research on the fishes of the FCZ; and

WHEREAS, the NMFS established the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) to help meet the needs of the MFCMA in the FCZ by providing recreational harvest of fishes; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress established the MFCMA policy to "assure the national fishery conservation and management program utilizes, and is based upon, the best scientific information available; involves, and is responsive to the needs of, interested and affected States and citizens; promotes efficiency; draws upon Federal, State, and academic capabilities in carrying out research, administration, management and enforcement; and is workable and effective"; and

WHEREAS, during 1981-1984, the MRFSS exerted between forty-seven and sixty-one percent of its intercept interviews in the Gulf region on shore-based fishing modes which constitute state fisheries; and

WHEREAS, certain other monies may become available to the states to expand or implement recreational surveys within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the MRFSS does not concentrate its efforts on fishermen utilizing the FCZ, and, therefore, could not provide meaningful data on king mackerel catches for deliberations by the GMFMC; and

WHEREAS, the MRFSS does not utilize existing state programs whose estimates are of greater precision; and

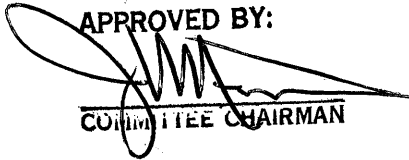
WHEREAS, the MRFSS is duplicative of state programs and other federal programs, including NMFS programs; and

WHEREAS, the NMFS has determined that the estimates produced by the MRFSS for individual states are not meaningful,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the GSMFC has determined that the MRFSS could better meet its legislative mandate and satisfy the needs of the Gulf States if the MRFSS would take into account work being done by the states, incorporate the results of ongoing state programs, and eliminate duplication of effort, thereby, improving precision of the estimates; and

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the NMFS should actively work to promote federal/state cooperation by focusing their efforts within their mandated area of responsibility.

APPROVED BY:


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

GS-FFMB MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 16, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

GS--FFMB MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, October 16, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

Chairman Dalton Berry called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The following were present:

Members

Jack T. Styron, Wallace Menhaden Products, Inc., Mandeville, LA
J. Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
C. E. Bryan, TPWD, Austin, TX
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
George A. Brumfield, Zapata Haynie Corp., Moss Point, MS
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Borden Wallace, Wallace Menhaden Products, Inc., Mandeville, LA
Dalton Berry, Petrou Fisheries, Inc., Empire, LA

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Lucia B. O'Toole, Publication Specialist

Others

William C. Lunsford, Jr., Zapata Haynie Corp., Timonium, MD
Ray Richardson, Standard Products Co., Inc., Port Monmouth, NJ
Gary Matlock, TPWD, Austin, TX
David Etzold, USM, Hattiesburg, MS
John Christensen, Alpo Pet Foods, Pascagoula, MS
Lloyd Regier, NMFS, Charleston, SC
Dean Ahrenholz, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Eldon J. Levi, NMFS, Gulf Breeze, FL
Leroy J. Wieting, USA, Portland, TX
Bill Herke, Sch. of Forestry, Wildl. & Fish., Baton Rouge, LA
Barton Rogers, Sch. of Forestry, Wildl. & Fish., Baton Rouge, LA
Aaron Rosenfield, NMFS, Oxford, MD
Jim Gilmore, NFI, Washington, DC
Gerald Adkins, LDWF, Bourg, LA
William "Corky" Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was amended by the addition of discussion of a proposed resolution under other business and the postponement of item 5 (report by R. Condrey/D. Fuller) until the March meeting, and then adopted as amended.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the March 12, 1985 meeting held in Mobile Alabama were adopted as written.

Update Report on 1985 Fishing Season

J. Merriner reported purse-seine landings through October 4 were about 863,000 metric tons. Landings for all of the 1985 season are projected to be 865,000 metric tons, the third highest catch on record. The projected landings will exceed the initial NMFS forecast for 1985 by 5%. Ages 1 and 2 supported most of the catches.

NMFS estimates purse-seine landings for 1986 will be about the same as in 1985 (800,000-900,000 metric tons).

Status Report on 1983 and 1984 Data on Captain's Daily Fishing Reports

J. Merriner informed members that 88% (8,566 of 9,750) of the CDFRs from the Gulf menhaden fishing fleet for 1984 had been coded and key entered by September 30. By the same date 5,596 CDFRs for 1985 (73 vessels) had been received. As in the past, lack of funds and personnel prevent processing the CDFRs on a real-time basis, but they are being processed faster now than a year ago.

D. Berry had talked with Richard Condrey about the funding problems which prevented LSU from processing 1985 CDFRs on a real-time basis. R. Condrey had informed him that there were no problems with funding for their ongoing work on the earlier CDFRs.

Semi-Impoundment and Its Effect on the Menhaden Nursery Grounds

B. Herke stated that although the School of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries' studies on semi-impoundment by use of weirs had not concentrated on menhaden, much information had been accumulated. He said the overall effect of semi-impoundment is likely detrimental to menhaden. He handed out and discussed a list of reports/publications resulting from their department, some 25 of which contained some information on menhaden. These documents will be ordered for the repository.

B. Rogers presented a slide show on their Sabine Fisheries Study which looked for information on estuarine-dependent fishes and

crustaceans in relation to weirs. They feel that there may be slight modifications that may be done on weirs to allow estuarine dependants to migrate in a better fashion and yet still act to preserve the marsh.

Update on Surimi Project Bids

L. Simpson reported that only one bid had been received for the East Coast. Currently the proposal has been referred to DOC Inspector General who referred it to the Defense Contract Audit Agency in New Orleans, Louisiana. They are working with the bidder on additional contract information and feasibility studies are being carried out. The delay is procedural and poses no problem to the project. The 25% assessment on the \$1 million by NMFS may or may not occur.

Other Business

MARFIN

L. Simpson reported that the full House had approved \$3½ million and in the Senate \$1 million was proposed and received full Senate Appropriations Committee approval. It is anticipated that between \$1-3½ million will be forthcoming provided the Federal Budget is approved.

Menhaden Repository

L. Simpson said that five articles are currently held in the GSMFC office, more will be solicited from LSU, and an update will be provided members in March.

Resolution

B. Wallace expressed the appropriateness of the Committee's adopting a resolution honoring Robert Chapoton. B. Wallace moved that the Committee consider the prepared draft (attached) and recommended that the Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board actually make the resolution. Motion carried. L. Simpson read the draft resolution and it was decided the resolution should come from the Committee, Board, and Commission.

* A motion was made and unanimously passed to adopt the resolution.

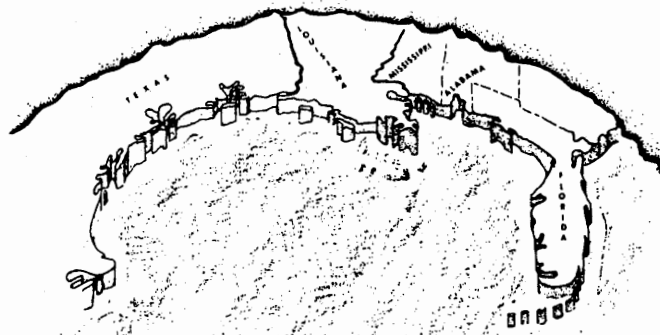
Election of Chairman

B. Wallace noted background (10/16/79) information for rotation of chairmanship between industry, state, and federal representatives. It was determined time for a federal representative to serve as chairman. J. Merriner informed members that he would be the new federal representative. J. Merriner was appointed Chairman by unanimous acclamation.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 am.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES
ALABAMA
FLORIDA
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS



P.O. BOX 726
OCEAN SPRINGS, MS.
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RESOLUTION

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD

GS-FFMB MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Resolved, That on behalf of the five member states of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board, and the GS-FFMB Menhaden Advisory Committee this resolution is adopted in tribute to the memory of Mr. Robert B. Chapoton.

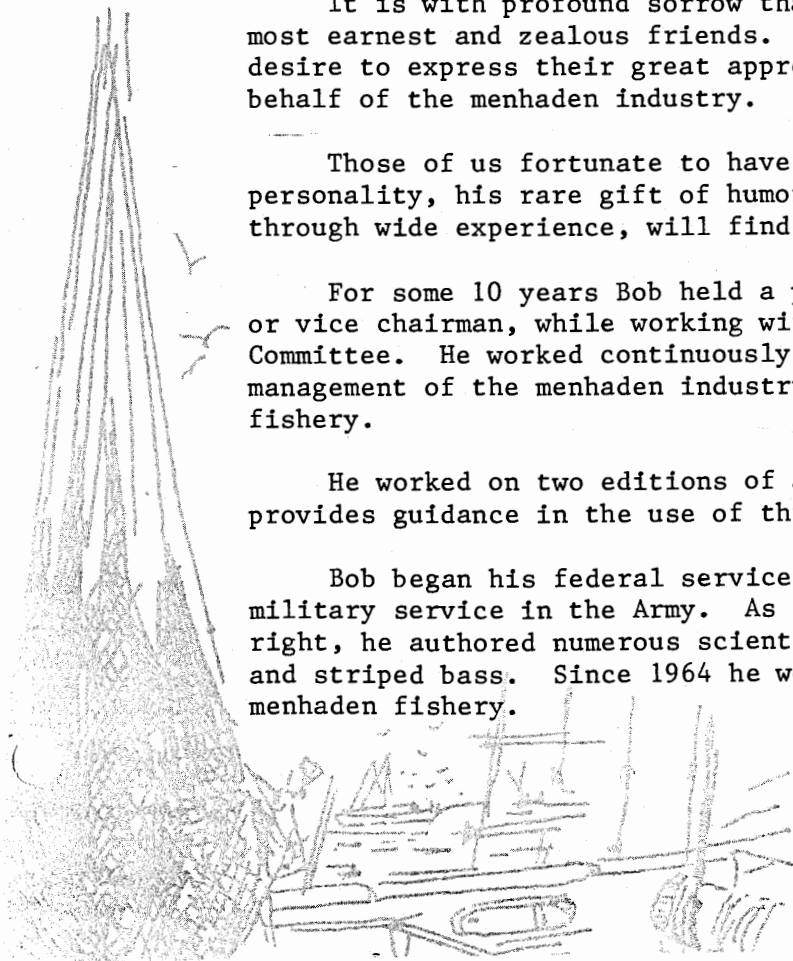
It is with profound sorrow that we record the death of one of our most earnest and zealous friends. The Commission, Board, and Committee desire to express their great appreciation for Bob's tireless efforts on behalf of the menhaden industry.

Those of us fortunate to have known him, with his magnetic personality, his rare gift of humorous expression, and wisdom acquired through wide experience, will find it difficult to cope with his loss.

For some 10 years Bob held a position of leadership, often chairman or vice chairman, while working with the GS-FFMB Menhaden Advisory Committee. He worked continuously to bring advancements in interstate management of the menhaden industry, the nation's largest volume fishery.

He worked on two editions of a Regional Management Plan, which provides guidance in the use of this vast natural resource.

Bob began his federal service in 1957 at Beaufort after his military service in the Army. As an eminent scientist in his own right, he authored numerous scientific papers and articles on menhaden and striped bass. Since 1964 he worked with the Atlantic and Gulf menhaden fishery.

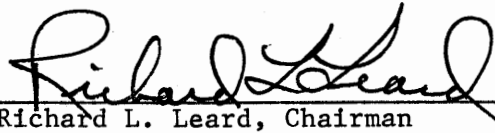


His genuine interest in his work and his working relationship among the companies will be missed.

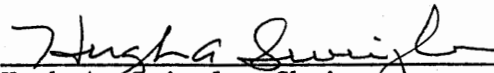
Be It Further Resolved, That the Commission, Board, and Committee have lost by death an associate whose outstanding character as a scientist reflected honor upon his profession and whose memory is a worthy inspiration for all time.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the Commission, Board, and Committee and that a copy be transmitted to Mrs. Chapoton, and that we extend to her and to their five children our sincere sympathy and our heartfelt condolence.

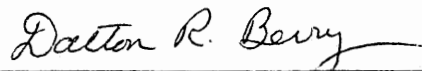
Given this the 18th day of October in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred, eighty-five.



Richard L. Leard, Chairman
Gulf States Marine Fisheries
Commission



Hugh A. Swingle, Chairman
Gulf State-Federal Fisheries
Management Board



Dalton R. Berry, Chairman
GS-FFMB Menhaden Advisory Committee

APPROVED BY:


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 16, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, October 16, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

Chairman Ralph Rayburn called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. The following persons attended the meeting:

Members

Clyde Richbourg, GSMFC (FL)
Jerry Sansom, Organized Fishermen of Florida
Jim Gilmore, National Fisheries Institute
Ralph Rayburn, Texas Shrimp Association
Leslie Casterline, GSMFC (TX)
Leroy J. Wieting, United Shrimp Association
John Ray Nelson, GSMFC (AL)
Robert P. Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association
Leroy "Tom" Kiffe, GSMFC (LA)

GSMFC Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant

Others

John Christenson, Alpo, Pascagoula, MS
Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Lloyd Regier, NMFS, Charleston, SC
Andrew J. Kemmerer, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
C.E. Bryan, TPWD, Austin, TX
Gary Matlock, TPWD, Austin, TX
Aaron Rosenfield, NOAA/NMFS/NEFC, Oxford, MD
Doug Gregory, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
W. C. Lunsford, Jr., Zapata Haynie Corp., Timonium, MD
Jack T. Styron, Wallace Menhaden Products, Mandeville, LA
Barton Rogers, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
George Brumfield, Zapata Haynie Corp., Moss Point, MS
Warren Stuntz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Henry R. McAvoy, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Roger Anderson, G&SAFDFI, Tampa, FL
Willis Clark, Sea Grant, College Station, TX
Ed Burgess, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented noting that Glenn Delaney was not present to address legislative items of interest to the committee.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held March 12, 1985 were adopted without change.

Progress in Solution to Insurance Problems

R. Rayburn briefly reviewed past discussion of mutual insurance problems experienced by the fishing community. Several pieces of legislation have been introduced in Congress. R. Rayburn handed out copies of H.R. 3156, introduced by Congressman Jones, which specifically addresses some of the insurance problems in the Gulf.

Others present discussed ways their particular segments of the industry were dealing with insurance problems. There was concern over higher rates in the Gulf as compared to other coastal areas. Some areas being investigated are claim review committees, rebates based on reduced claims and safety records, and reciprocal agreements between fishermen.

* Congressman Breaux will be holding public hearings on insurance problems. L. Wieting moved to request that the Commission direct a letter to Congressman Breaux requesting that a field hearing on insurance problems be held in the Gulf as soon as possible so that progress in solving the problems can move forward. The motion carried.

Seafood Quality and Inspections

Henry McAvoy, NMFS, St. Petersburg, Florida, reported that the NMFS/USDC conducts a voluntary seafood inspection program on a fee-for-service basis. A wide range of inspection services are available to any interested party including harvester, processor, food-service distributor, importer and exporter. He reviewed all types of inspection services. He stated that the concept of mandatory inspection had been reviewed within the inspection system and although it has merit that aspects of seafood products should be examined further. He also anticipates the voluntary inspection fee may increase.

Jim Gilmore, National Fisheries Institute, reported that NFI had developed a six point concept paper regarding mandatory seafood

inspection. The paper was developed due to several attempts by Congress to pass legislation regarding seafood inspection. Although no serious legislation was considered, NFI membership decided to examine facts and figures regarding seafood inspection. The points covered in the concept are: mandatory inspection programs for processing plants and vessels; product safety and wholesomeness; spot inspections; label and packaging; grade and marking standards; and, federal and state cooperation to avoid duplication. A survey was sent to 900 NFI members regarding their opinion of the concept paper. The survey was not statistically significant but based on responses received, NFI has decided to proceed cautiously with the concept. Unless industry response to concept improves, the paper will not move forward.

L. Regier, NMFS, Charleston, South Carolina, reported that due to problems encountered with the use of sodium bisulfites in food products, experimental testing is currently being done to find an alternative to bisulfites. Although there have been no problems as it relates to shrimp, alternatives are being investigated. No definitive solution has been found but experimental testing will result in published data that will be made available to industry.

Review of S-K Project Awards

H. McAvoy reported that review of S-K applications was complete for FY85. Nationwide there were 229 proposals received. Following technical and industry review and NMFS final review, 56 projects are recommended for funding for FY85 and 8 projects were recommended for out-year funding. Total FY85 funding (not including out-year projects) is \$7.04 million.

Of 59 applications received from the Southeast Region, 19 were recommended for funding but only 8 made it through the review process in Washington. Total funding for these 8 projects was \$1.3 million.

Of the total nationwide funding, the Gulf received 19%, which is comparable to other regions. In addition, the Gulf received an equitable reduction in funds. Total reduction nationwide was 25%, and the cut received in the Gulf was 25%.

H. McAvoy reviewed projects received in the Southeast Region and projects of interest in other regions.

National Legislative Activities

R. Rayburn briefed the Committee on legislative matters of interest to the industry. They included:

- Confirmation of Dr. Tony Calio as Administrator of NOAA on October 4, 1985.

- Senate inclusion in the tax reconciliation package of a provision to permanently exclude certain fishermen from payment of unemployment taxes.

- Water Resources Act originally proposed as a port user fee has been revised to exclude from port user fees fish harvested by U.S. fishermen. S. 366 provides funds for improvements of rivers and harbors by imposing a tax on cargo loaded on vessels. At this time taxable cargo will not include unprocessed fish caught on vessel voyage.

- FCMA amendments have been compiled by Senate Commerce Committee. They are noncontroversial amendments and probably will not be acted on before November.

- Congressman Breaux's Subcommittee on Fish, Wildlife Conservation and the Environment has marked up a substitute to the Seafood Marketing Council Act. The substitute legislation would change the charter and mechanism of establishing such councils.

Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Development Foundation Activities

R. Rayburn informed the Committee that Roger Anderson had resigned his position as Executive Director of the G&SAFDFI to pursue other endeavors within the industry. The position had not as yet been filled and R. Rayburn stated that it would be difficult to replace R. Anderson because of the outstanding job he had done for the Foundation and the industry. R. Anderson is still Executive Director and will assist with the transition until a replacement can be found.

R. Anderson reported that the Foundation has just received an S-K award in the amount of \$1.1 million to be available over the next 24

months. Other funding sources, as well as additional S-K funds, are being received or pursued. Essentially the Foundation is stable and projects are moving forward in marketing, exploratory fishing, extension service and other areas that will benefit the industry.

* R. Rayburn moved to prepare a resolution (attached) for presentation to the Commission expressing gratitude for the outstanding work done by Roger Anderson as Executive Director of the G&SAFDF. The motion carried.

Regional Management Activities

L. Simpson reported on major problems in the region. He briefed the Committee on the background of the mackerel plan. A stock assessment workshop held in September 1983 identified two stocks, Gulf and Atlantic. The Atlantic stock was considered in good condition but steps were taken to decrease Gulf take based on MSY information that came out of the workshop. Based on new king mackerel stock assessment done in August 1985, the Gulf Council recommended a partial moratorium east of the Florida-Alabama state line with the amended regulations to remain in effect for the area west of that line. The NMFS Regional Director made his recommendation to the Department of Commerce and passed on to the Secretary the Gulf Council's action and at this point Bill Gordon has asked the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils to meet and to make a joint decision. Meetings including public hearings will be held to decide the mechanism to be used to solve the king mackerel problems.

Other matters presented to the Gulf Council included the Texas Closure. Texas Shrimp Association is divided as to whether or not to continue the Closure. They cited problems caused by the Closure: 1) pulse fishing; 2) changes in market; 3) lack of participation by other states in the region; and 4) high risk of accidents due to concentration of fishing effort. The Council will take action regarding the Closure following NMFS report on the results of the Texas Closure. The Council has in fact moved to examine all aspects of the shrimp plan.

L. Simpson represented the Committee and Commission's view on the FCMA amendment concerning appointments to MAFAC. No controversial action has been taken at this point. Also presented to the Council was the Committee views regarding 100 count limit for white shrimp in the FCZ off the Louisiana coast. A meeting regarding this problem and other matters regarding amendments to the shrimp plan is currently being held and L. Simpson will report the outcome to the Committee at a later date.

Regional Association Activities

J. Sansom, Organized Fishermen of Florida, reported that his association has been working closely with the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission (FMFC) since it came into existence 2 years ago. The FMFC is busy undertaking legislative actions in particular with pending regulations for Spanish mackerel. J. Sansom was concerned that consumers did not have enough input into the decision making process on fishery matters that impact the consumer.

* J. Sansom moved to request that the GSMFC consider the needs and impacts of the consumer when establishing policy. The motion carried.

* R. Rayburn moved that the Committee invite a consumer group to become a member of the IAC. The motion carried.

There was a discussion regarding Spanish mackerel legislation in Florida and problems that have been created by recent differences with fishery agencies and fishermen within the state.

* L. Wieting moved to request the Commission to write a letter to FDNR requesting they reconsider their position on mackerel and if they found it necessary to reduce mackerel catch that the reduction between commercial and recreational fisheries be an equitable one. The motion carried.

* J. Sansom moved to request the Commission to send a letter to the GMFMC requesting that Spanish mackerel remain under Federal regulation. The motion carried.

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -7-

Election of Chairman

* J. Sansom nominated B. Jones for Chairman. The nomination was seconded and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES

ALABAMA
FLORIDA
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS



P.O. BOX 726
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A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc. was established in 1976.

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Foundation is to promote the commercial fisheries industry and their products which come from the Southeast region.

WHEREAS, Dr. Roger D. Anderson has been employed by the Foundation since its inception.


WHEREAS, Dr. Anderson has worked tirelessly on behalf of the commercial fisheries industry by seeking projects to develop latent resources and enhance traditional fisheries, as well as develop new foreign and domestic markets for Southeast marine resources.

WHEREAS, The GSMFC Industry Advisory Committee wishes to express their great appreciation for Dr. Anderson's efforts in their industry's behalf.

— THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the GSMFC Industry Advisory Committee wish Dr. Anderson much success in his new endeavor in private business; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the Commission and Committee and that a copy be transmitted to Dr. Roger D. Anderson and to the Foundation to be placed in their files, and that we extend our heartfelt thanks to him for his most able past service.

Given this the 18th day of October in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred, eighty-five.



Richard L. Leard

Richard L. Leard, Chairman
Gulf States Marine Fisheries
Commission

Ralph Rayburn

Ralph Rayburn, Chairman
GSMFC Industry Advisory Committee

APPROVED BY:


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday, October 17, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Thursday, October 17, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

Seated members were introduced and a quorum declared. Chairman J.Y. Christmas called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The following members and others were present:

Members

Henry G. "Skip" Lazauski, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Tom Van Devender, MBMR, Long Beach, MS
C. E. Bryan, TPWD, Austin, TX
Gary Matlock, TPWD, Austin, TX
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
J. Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Walter M. Tatum, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Richard Berry, NMFS, Miami, FL
William "Corky" Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Clyde Richbourg, GSMFC, Florida
Jack Brawner, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
I. B. "Buck" Byrd, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Norville S. Prosser, SFI, Washington, DC
Larry C. Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Gerald B. Verberg, USDA/SRRC, New Orleans, LA
David Etzold, USM, Hattiesburg, MS
Douglas Gregory, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Claude Boudreax, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Barney Barrett, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Brad Durling, Lilian, AL
Gary Saul, TPWD, Austin, TX
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Dean Ahrenholz, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Warren Stuntz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Ed Klima, NMFS, Galveston, TX
Aaron Rosenfield, NMFS, Oxford, MD
Andrew Kemmerer, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Lloyd Regier, NMFS, Charleston, SC
Philip Steele, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Frank Patti, GSMFC, Louisiana
Richard Leard, GSMFC, Mississippi

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as amended to include the following items:

- (1) The order of speakers was changed to accommodate those needing to depart early.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Mobile, Alabama, March 13, 1985 were reviewed and approved as modified:

- (1) Al Green served as the proxy for C. E. Bryan.
- (2) Page 9, corrected to read: "The Crab Subcommittee wished the TCC to note its blue crab profile had received the Louisiana Biologists' Association Award for the Outstanding Publication in Fisheries for the year."

Mariculture Report

T. McIlwain presented a report on the status of mariculture in the world, focusing especially on progress in the U.S. and in shrimp farming. The role of mariculture in contributing to the fisheries economy of the U.S., importance of imports from mariculture activities and projected potential mariculture industry in this country were emphasized.

Status Report, Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN)

J. Brawner reviewed considerations appropriate to planning the MARFIN Program Management Board, noting the following major points:

- (1) It is the intent of the Southeast Regional Office to treat the MARFIN program in the same manner as the Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) program, with an advisory panel serving largely in the decision-making role.
- (2) SERO will work with each group to jointly select representatives.
- (3) Program activities will be integrated so far as possible with the S-K program.

- (4) The possibility exists of a pre-allocation, in order to develop a broader base of partners.
- (5) Priorities will be developed between the Board and SERO.
- (6) Recipients will be expected to produce results from funds granted.
- (7) The GSMFC Executive Director is expected to be involved with the program, monitoring contracts and handling progress reports.

Status Report, Controlled Freshwater Introduction

D. Etzold presented a report on the status of the controlled freshwater introduction projects in Louisiana. At this time, no funds appear to be available for construction of Bonnet Carre and Davis Pond projects this year. Additionally, the site location has been changed from Myrtle Grove to Davis Pond; the structures were described for the Bonnet Carre and Caernarvon projects.

Review of State-Federal Program Status

I. B. Byrd reviewed the current status of State-Federal programs affecting fisheries management:

- (1) 88-309: Passed in the Senate.
- (2) 89-304: changes made in the House, with discussion underway in both House and Senate; reauthorization appears likely.
- (3) Status of discretionary versus nondiscretionary program funding: 88-309 and 89-304 programs are not likely to be determined discretionary and therefore subject to a bidding procedure. However, SEAMAP, MARFIN, Cooperative Statistics and State-Federal Administration programs may be subject to a discretionary status and SERO has therefore submitted applications for waivers for these programs. Complicating the situation is a DAO manual which has been developed to administer these programs and will make project administration for the states difficult.

The importance of submitting State-Federal cooperative agreements to SERO as soon as possible was stressed, in order for these programs to be qualified under the SERO waiver.

Ad Hoc Committee Report on Marine Shellfish Introduction/Export

A. Rosenfield presented information on the status of regulations and resolutions concerning the introduction and export of marine shellfish diseases and parasites. Parallels were drawn between agricultural problems and marine shellfish pathogens, with case examples of recent problems affecting U.S. and world fisheries: Delaware Bay oysters, Chesapeake Bay clams, Japanese oysters in California, West coast oyster drills, Portuguese and native oysters in France, and shrimp population viruses. Progress in dealing with these problems was reported, with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission forming a Shellfish Subcommittee which drew up cooperative agreements to address the problems, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) forming a Shellfish Transfer Committee to prepare procedures to control the problem. A draft resolution of the ASMFC Shellfish Transfer Committee was circulated, with the suggestion that the GSMFC may wish to use it as a similar mechanism.

* By consensus, the TCC, in consideration of the seriousness of the issue, formed an expanded TCC Ad Hoc Committee on Marine Shellfish Introduction and Export, charged with returning to the TCC in March with specific recommendations for action. Appointed to the Committee were: Ed Joyce (FL), Chairman; Walter Tatum (AL), Ron Dugas (LA), C.E. Bryan (TX), and Malcolm Meburn (NMFS-Charleston); a representative from Mississippi will be selected at a later date.

Report on Gulf Butterfish Fishery Potential Development

A. Kemmerer presented information on the results of the joint U.S.-Japanese exploratory butterfish cruises in fall 1984 and spring 1985. Among stressed points, the higher biomass of butterfish was found in the spring, with common catches of 8-10 metric tons per set; the spring

biomass was estimated at 124,000 metric tons per 10,000 square miles. The MSY for Gulf was computed at 50,000 metric tons, a conservative estimate. Marketing of butterfish in Japan was also reviewed, leading to a projected ex-vessel value for the Gulf of \$19 million per year; the export value was estimated at \$75 million per year.

Issues of concern to the fishery were discussed, including predator-prey relationships, bycatch of important fishes, fat content of the butterfish in the Gulf, and parasites. Approximate costs to rig and fish butterfish from a conventional shrimp trawler were said to be about \$58,000. A yield of 47,000 metric tons per year would permit a bycatch of 3,000 metric tons currently taken by the shrimp fleet. No significant bycatch or predator-prey problems were foreseen for the fishery.

Subcommittee Reports

(1) SEAMAP Subcommittee

W. Tatum presented a slide show of recent SEAMAP activities and proposed FY1986 activities. Highlights included:

- o FY85 surveys included a winter coastal herring survey, summer shrimp/groundfish survey, summer squid/butterfish survey, plankton and environmental surveys piggybacked on all cruises, and a scheduled fall shrimp/groundfish survey.
- o Preliminary results of the Red Drum Stock Identification Study were presented by LSU, but were inconclusive and lacking data from some states. Recommendations will be made by the Red Drum Work Group for FY86 study activities to delineate stocks.
- o Sampling for the second year of the NOAA/NOS Status and Trends Benthic Surveillance Survey has almost been completed for both the Gulf and South Atlantic at 17 sites.
- o Six publications were produced by the program in 1985: the 1982 Biological and Environmental Atlas; 1982 Ichthyological Atlas; 1985 Marine Directory; 1985 Joint Annual Report; 1983 Trawl Workshop Proceedings.

- o Budget allocations for FY1985 included 78% of funds for surveys, and more than 78% of the total (\$750,000) for state activities.
- o Proposed activities for FY86 include plankton and environmental surveys, summer and fall shrimp/groundfish surveys, a spring squid/butterfish survey, red drum stock identification and benthic surveillance (Status and Trends) surveys; data management, plankton sorting and archiving at FDNR and GCRL; publications and program administration.
- * W. Tatum moved to add to the membership of the SEAMAP Subcommittee a non-voting technical staff member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The motion was seconded and discussed. Concerns focused on funding Council travel from SEAMAP State-Federal funds and a present lack of knowledge of the issue by the Council itself. The motion passed.
- * By consensus, the TCC approved the amendment of the SEAMAP Operations Plan to include the additional membership of the Council on the SEAMAP Subcommittee, if the Commission and the Council so approve.
The TCC reviewed information on the possibility of charging an additional 6% against SEAMAP states, from the FY1986 appropriation, in order to cover a projected \$35,000 shortfall. No action was taken since the budget was not previously submitted for approval.

(2) Crab Subcommittee

P. Steel reviewed the proposed use of SEAMAP trawl data from 1982-85 surveys to determine trends in abundance of blue crabs. Blue crab landings were reviewed with 10-11 million pounds for Florida in 1984, an estimated 23 million pounds in 1985 for Louisiana, and 8-9 million pounds for Texas in 1985, with Texas unable to meet the demand of increased numbers of processors.

Stone crab studies were summarized, noting studies in Florida and Louisiana, and a proposed workshop on stone crabs April 22-24

in Sarasota, held cooperatively with FDNR and Mote Marine Laboratory. The biology mortality and handling problems are being studied in South Florida's stone crab fishery; the CPUE has decreased for this fishery since 1962.

Investigations of Geryon fenneri were also summarized, and it was noted that a directed fishery for this species is not yet operational; exploratory cruises of the Alaskan vessel have not been successful.

The Crab Subcommittee proposed a regime of sorting SEAMAP plankton samples at the Polish Sorting Center, recommending that crabs be sorted first from the 1984 collection and that Ken Stuck of GCRL, the SEAMAP Curator of the invertebrate collection, be sent to Poland to train Polish technicians to sort invertebrates.

(3) Statistical Subcommittee

S. Lazauski reported a greatly improved effort by NMFS in managing data effectively and noted that the Federal workshop on data management resulted in the Subcommittee's improved ability to address statistical concerns expressed previously. Available data files have been identified and user needs assessed.

Current activities of the Subcommittee were reviewed.

- o Subcommittee members have agreed to make available their data files, to be compiled and returned to state representatives by the end of November.
- o Concern was expressed for the use of proprietary data and the legality of withholding data collected with public funds; it was suggested that one method to avoid the problem may be to flag such data in the system. Al Green will study the issue and report findings to the Subcommittee.
- o A progress report on statistical data management from A. Jones and M. Treadway reviewed the status of the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program and the Creel Survey and Biological Sampling Program; the option of including data

analysis and report preparation as a function item under the S-F Cooperative Statistics Program will be discussed at the March meeting.

- o Data collection needs and plans for FY86 indicated the possibility of improved flounder data from Alabama; Mississippi reported increased numbers of Menticirrhus; Louisiana is collecting data on mackerel, grouper, mullet, reef fish and black drum; Florida is planning to reduce input of some king mackerel data and add additional Spanish mackerel and mullet data; Texas collects data on everything as part of its recreational survey.
- o The March 1985 symposium proceedings will be submitted for publication in February 1986.
- o Discussion of the National Recreational Survey focused on a proposed resolution by Texas, following a report on data availability and state participation in the survey; the proposal detailed concerns of Texas over the present survey. The Statistical Subcommittee recommended sending Al Green as a representative to the National Recreational Statistics Review Committee meeting, pending approval of funding.

* W. Tatum moved to have the TCC authorize sending A. Green to the above meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

- o D-J funding use in the Gulf was reviewed, noting use of funds by Louisiana for boating access facilities and possible future use for participation in the National Recreational Survey; Mississippi's use will probably be for access points, with some funds for a red drum hatchery; Florida intends to use these funds for visible projects (80%) and a one-year study for fishing sites (20%); Texas is already using D-J funds in its recreational survey and independent monitoring programs, with most of the increases leading to research, fish stocking

and seafood marketing; Alabama intends to use its funds for access points, boat ramps, etc., and subsequently, for special projects on red drum and speckled seatrout.

- o Fred Deegen was selected as Chairman of the Subcommittee for 1986.

* By consensus of the TCC, the present Subcommittee Chairman, H. Lazauski, was appointed to serve as Chairman, pending election of a new Chairman by the Subcommittee, because of Dr. Deegen's probable inability to serve as Chairman at this time.

(4) Anadromous Subcommittee

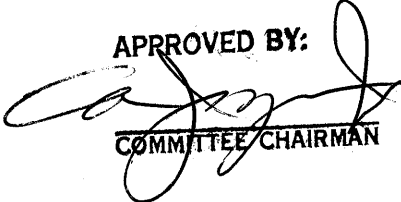
L. Nicholson reported that the Striped Bass Plan is in the final stages of development, with four drafts having been completed. The Anadromous Fish Subcommittee anticipates having the final draft ready for submission to the TCC at the March meeting.

Election of Officers

* G. Matlock, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, moved to nominate J.Y. Christmas as TCC Chairman for 1986. W. Tatum moved to close nominations; the motion was seconded and nominations were closed, with J.Y. accepting the nomination. J.Y. Christmas appointed the current Vice Chairman, Edwin Joyce, to continue serving as the TCC Vice Chairman for 1986. The appointment was accepted.

* G. Matlock moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 pm, there being no further business. Motion passed.

APPROVED BY:



COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday, October 17, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT BOARD
MINUTES
Thursday, October 17, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

Vice Chairman I. B. Byrd called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.
The following persons attended:

Members

Gary Saul	(proxy for Travis)	TX
Elton Gissendanner		FL
Edwin Joyce	(proxy for Mitchell)	FL
Richard Leard	(proxy for Strong)	MS
George Brumfield	(proxy for Millette)	MS
Walter Tatum	(proxy for Hodnett)	AL
W. S. "Corky" Perret	(proxy for Angelle)	LA
Frank Patti		LA
I. B. "Buck" Byrd		NMFS

STAFF

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant

Other

J. Y. Christmas, TCC Chairman
Willis Clark, Sea Grant, College Station, TX

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of a report from W. Tatum on SEAMAP activities.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held March 13, 1985 in New Orleans, Louisiana were reviewed and approved as written.

Final Report - Data Accumulation, Planning and Administration for Interjurisdictional Management of Marine Fisheries Resources in the Territorial Sea of the Gulf of Mexico (1985)

L. Simpson reported that all objectives and responsibilities of this agreement have been accomplished. Administration, committee travel, communication, planning and other activities for the administration of the GS-FFMB and its committees has been provided in

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT BOARD
MINUTES
Page -2-

accordance with this agreement. He stated that a final report will be sent to NMFS/SERO on October 31, 1985.

Status Report - Menhaden Advisory Committee

L. Simpson reported that the Committee had met on October 16, 1985. Dr. John V. Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort Laboratory gave a report on the 1985 fishing season and a status report on the 1984 data on Captain's Daily Fishing reports. Among other topics, the Committee received a report from William Herke and Barton Rogers on semi-impoundment and its affect on the menhaden nursery grounds. Dr. John V. Merriner was elected chairman for the 1985-86 year. The Committee submitted a resolution (attached) to be approved by the Board and the Commission in honor of Robert B. Chapoton for his efforts in behalf of the menhaden industry.

* G. Brumfield motioned to approve the resolution. The motion carried.

Status Report - Crab Committee

W. Tatum reported that the Crab Subcommittee met on October 15, 1985. Much of their discussions centered around plans for the use of SEAMAP data collected on cruises from 1982-1985. They plan to develop a manuscript format that would include a species diversity list and trends in abundance of the most abundant crab species. They received state reports regarding ongoing and current crab projects. Among other topics was a report from Rob Erdman on harvesting and life history of the golden crab. Phil Steele was elected chairman for the 1985-86 year. The report was approved by the Board.

Status Report - Anadromous Fish Subcommittee

L. Simpson reported that the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee met on October 15-16, 1985. They are making final changes to a striped bass

management plan draft and anticipate that a final draft will be ready for publication in FY86. The report was approved by the Board.

Status Report - SEAMAP Subcommittee

W. Tatum reported that the SEAMAP Subcommittee has accomplished all objectives and responsibilities of this project. A 5 year data base now exists and they anticipate carrying forward an even stronger data base for use by resource managers to use in the decision making process. The report was approved by the Board.

Status Report - Data Accumulation, Planning and Administration for Interjurisdictional Management of Marine Fisheries Resources in the Territorial Sea of the Gulf of Mexico (1986)

L. Simpson reported that an application for Federal Assistance was submitted to the NMFS/SERO on June 25, 1985. The application was approved by that office and copies sent to all Board members at that time. To date the actual Award has not been received. This project will permit us to accomplish the following:

- (1) Administrative support for the Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Program.
- (2) Meeting, travel, publication and editorial support for the GS-FFMB and Committees involved in S-F activities.
- (3) Development of a Striped Bass Management Plan.
- (4) Attendance by the Statistical Subcommittee to a two-day workshop at the Southeast Fisheries Center, NMFS.
- (5) Publication of papers resulting from GSMFC symposium entitled, "Design, Collection and Assessment of Angler Volunteered Information Programs".
- (6) Enable the Law Enforcement Committee to invite guests speakers to their meetings to provide expertise in various facets of conservation law enforcement.
- (7) Enter into an agreement with Louisiana State University entitled, "Testing Surplus Production Models with Pre-MSY Data from Searching Fisheries".

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT BOARD
MINUTES
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Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

* W. Tatum nominated C. Perret for chairman. There being no further nominations, C. Perret was elected unanimously.

* G. Brumfield nominated E. Joyce for vice chairman. There being no further nominations, E. Joyce was elected unanimously.

Other Business

* E. Gissendanner motioned that the Board request that the Commission establish a subcommittee under the TCC to look at the needs of the spanish mackerel fishery and to examine the feasibility of a profile and/or plan for the Gulf spanish mackerel fishery and to coordinate the effort with the Atlantic States Advisory Committee. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Clyde Richbourg
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MINUTES

Friday, October 18, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

EXECUTIVE SESSION
MINUTES
Friday, October 18, 1985
Kissimmee, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 8:22 a.m. by Chairman Richard L.

Leard. Those in attendance were:

Members

Gary Saul	(proxy for C. Travis)	TX
Ralph Rayburn	(proxy for T. Santiesteban)	TX
Leslie Casterline		TX
George Brumfield	(proxy for T. Millette)	MS
Richard L. Leard	(proxy for L. Strong)	MS
Edwin A. Joyce	(proxy for S. Mitchell)	FL
Elton Gissendanner		FL
Clyde Richbourg		FL
John Ray Nelson		AL
Walter M. Tatum	(proxy for J. Hodnett)	AL
Frank J. Patti		LA
W.S. Perret	(proxy for J. Angelle)	LA
Leroy Kiffe		LA

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Ginny K. Herring, Executive Assistant
Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator
Lucia B. O'Toole, Publication Specialist
Eileen M. Benton, Staff Assistant

Others

J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
I.B. Byrd, NMFS/SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Ron Rinaldo, NMFS, Washington, DC
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held Friday, March 15, 1985, in Mobile, Alabama, were reviewed and approved as written.

Committee Report - Technical Coordinating Committee

J.Y. Christmas briefed the Commissioners on the TCC meeting held Thursday, October 17, 1985. J.Y. Christmas was elected Chairman for the 1985-86 year and E. Joyce was appointed Vice-Chairman.

The Committee received a status report from T. McIlwain on mariculture, especially shrimp, and the potential contributions to the U.S. fisheries economy.

J. Brawner updated the Committee on the "Marine Fisheries Initiative" (MARFIN) program. It is anticipated that FY86 funds will be available. A management board will be set-up to act as a decision-making panel. The GSMFC will be involved with the administration of the program. The NMFS/SERO will work closely with the management board in developing funding priorities.

D. Etzold reviewed the status of controlled freshwater introduction into the Louisiana marshes. Funds are not currently available for the construction of the Bonnet Carre and Davis Pond locations. The Caernarvon structure should be working by 1989.

B. Byrd briefed the Committee on the status of State-Federal programs. The TCC is concerned about changes in procedure that may have a serious impact on the quality and amount of research being done by State-Federal programs.

* A. Rosenfield discussed problems with parasites and diseases that occur with the movement of marine shellfish. He suggested that a committee be established to address this problem and that the committee interface with the Pacific and Atlantic States' committees. It was the consensus of the TCC to expand the Ad Hoc Committee already established and to request that they return specific recommendations and actions to the TCC at the March 1986 meeting.

A. Kemmerer reported on butterfly fishery potential. Results of joint U.S.-Japanese cruises show a potential development of a \$19 million per year ex-vessel value for the Gulf and an export value of \$75 million per year.

The TCC received reports from the SEAMAP Subcommittee, Crab Subcommittee, Statistical Subcommittee and the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee. W. Tatum, Chairman of the SEAMAP Subcommittee requested that the membership of the Subcommittee be expanded to include a non-voting technical staff member of the GMFMC and that the Operations Plan be amended to include this additional member.

* C. Perret motioned to approve the SEAMAP Subcommittee request for an additional member and to approve the TCC report. The motion carried.

Committee Report - Industry Advisory Committee

R. Rayburn reported on the meeting of the IAC. Topics of interest to industry were discussed and several recommendations made to the Commission. They are as follows:

- * (1) That the Executive Director be directed to write a letter to Congressman Breaux requesting that a field hearing on insurance problems be held in the Gulf as soon as possible.
- * (2) That the Executive Director be directed to write a letter to FDNR requesting they reconsider their position on mackerel and if they found it necessary to reduce mackerel catch that the reduction between commercial and recreational fisheries be an equitable one.
- * (3) That the Executive Director be directed to invite a consumer group (Fish Consumer Association) to become a member of the IAC so that the Commission may consider needs and impact of consumers when establishing policy, etc.
- * (4) That the Commission adopt a resolution honoring Roger D. Anderson for his work in support of fishery development.
- * (5) That the Commission send a letter to the GMFMC requesting that spanish mackerel remain under federal regulations.

It was the consensus of the Commissioners to approve all recommendations except that one dealing with regulations of spanish mackerel which would be discussed later in the meeting.

Committee Report - Law Enforcement Committee

L. Simpson reported that the LEC met jointly with the GMFMC Law Enforcement Advisory Panel and plans to continue annual joint meetings at the GSMFC Fall sessions. They heard a presentation by Luke Hause, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control on South Carolina's approach to shellfish problems and enforcement.

The Committee reviewed current State and Federal regulations pertaining to the compatibility, effectiveness, and enforceability of the fisheries: 1) mackerels, 2) swordfish, 3) spiny lobsters, 4) stone crabs, 5) corals, 6) reef fish, and 7) shrimp.

- * The consensus and recommendations of the Committee are that all Gulf States should adopt regulations compatible to federal regulations

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MINUTES

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for swordfish, spiny lobster, stone crab, and corals to reduce confusion to the public and to reduce interjurisdictional differences. For mackerel, reef fish, and shrimp fisheries, both the States and the Gulf Council should continue to work toward compatible regulations. Other problems and recommendations are:

- * 1) The two fish possession limit on swordfish in Texas is incompatible with Federal regulation and thus, would probably not stand up in court, (consequently this limit is seldom enforced);
- * 2) It is desirable that the Council consider adopting the minimum size limits for reef fish that currently exist in Florida waters;
- * 3) Both the Commission and the Council should request that Texas not permit white shrimp fishing during the Texas brown shrimp fishery closure due to the difficulty of enforcement; and
- * 4) The Gulf Council should close the FCZ off Louisiana to coincide with the closed shrimp season in Louisiana waters.

The Committee also considered the adoption of a uniform vessel identification system for vessels and boats engaged in State and Federal fisheries. The Committee recommends that:

- * 1) All commercial fishing craft (boats and vessels) should be required to display their State registration or vessel documentation number to allow at-sea identification. This should include all commercial fishing craft operations from the coastal baseline outward.
- * 2) The identification number should be 18 inches high for craft, 65 feet and greater in length, 10 inches for craft greater than 25 feet, but less than 65 feet in length, and 8 inches high for all craft less than or equal to 25 feet in length.
- * 3) In trap fisheries, each fisherman should be allowed to choose a color code for his buoys with the condition that the same color code is used in all trap fisheries in which that fisherman participates, and that the color code be displayed on the fishing craft in a manner similar to the identification number. (i.e., 18 inch diameter circles for craft greater than or equal to 65 feet, etc.).

* 4) In addition, for gear identification in trap fisheries, each trap buoy should be marked with a prefix letter, designating the fishery for which the trap is used, and a 3 to 4 digit number taken from the last 3 to 4 digits of the vessel identification number.

* It was the consensus of the Commissioners that the recommendations of this Committee reflected frustrations on the part of enforcement and these serious problems should be dealt with. Because the problems were so broad-based, it would be necessary to instruct the GSMFC staff to research the problems and to contact the Committee Chairman so that solutions could be found.

Committee Report - Recreational Fisheries Committee

W. Tatum reported that the RFC had met and discussed topics of interest in the Gulf. F. Deegen was elected Chairman for 1985-86. L. Villanova updated the Committee on the Wallop-Breaux funds and gave a report on H.R. 3167, National Fish Hatcheries Bill.

R. Schmied distributed copies of the latest draft for the National Artificial Reef Plan for the Committees review. Concern was expressed over the issue of liability.

R. Williams discussed current issues and conditions affecting Florida's spanish mackerel fishery. G. Matlock reviewed problems and issues associated with Gulf king mackerel fishery.

* The Committee submitted a resolution (attached) regarding collection of recreational fisheries data for the Commissioners approval. W. Tatum motioned to approve the resolution and the Committee report. The motion carried.

Report - Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board

B. Byrd reported that all Committees of the Board and that the GSMFC staff were accomplishing all objectives of the Board and that the Board was pleased with progress. C. Perret was elected Chairman and E. Joyce was elected Vice-Chairman.

* The Board requested that the Commission establish a subcommittee under the Technical Coordinating Committee to look at the needs of the Spanish mackerel fishery and to examine the feasibility of a profile and/or plan for the Gulf Spanish mackerel fishery.

* The consensus of the Commissioners was that it was to the advantage of all interested parties and to the fishery that a subcommittee be established under the Technical Coordinating Committee to look at the needs and feasibility of a profile/plan for the Gulf Spanish mackerel. That above all the States should first study the Spanish mackerel fishery so that appropriate and informed decisions can be made. Furthermore, the Commissioners directed the TCC Chairman to appoint members to the subcommittee and requested the Executive Director to write the GMFMC and inform them of the goals of the subcommittee.

Report - National Marine Fisheries Service/Southeast Regional Office

B. Byrd reported that the past year reflected the greatest intensification of cooperative State-Federal efforts in the history of the cooperative programs. That it had been illustrated that cooperative State-Federal partnerships for the conservation and management of marine fisheries can and do work. He stated that he looks forward to a continued strong partnership and to added new areas of cooperation as needed.

Proposed Changes for P.L. 88-309 -- H.R. 1028

L. Simpson stated that the House had passed H.R. 1028 as a substitute for P.L. 88-309, with an additional \$500K bringing the total amount to \$5 million. The Senate passed S. 991, which essentially is P.L. 88-309 in present form with a \$500K reduction bringing the total to \$4 million. This difference between the House and Senate version will be settled in a formal conference.

He reviewed the States' major concerns with H.R. 1028 and stated that if indeed this bill passed there would be a one year delay on implementation to give States time to meet plan criteria for definition of interjurisdictional.

P.L. 89-304

L. Simpson stated that P.L. 89-304 had been reauthorized as is with a reduction of \$500K, reducing total to \$3 million.

Fishery Conservation and Management Act

L. Simpson stated that he had expressed the Commission's concern (qualifications of appointments/100 count white shrimp limit in the FCZ)

with regards to FCMA amendments to the appropriate persons. At this time, all amendments are being examined. FCMA will be reauthorized as is and proposed amendments will be reviewed again in one year.

Status and Update on Wallop-Breaux Fund

L. Simpson reported that the Wallop-Breaux funds are intact and that the first checks were awarded in a special ceremony held in Washington, D.C. on October 1, 1985.

National Marine Fisheries Service FY86 Budget

L. Simpson reported that the Southeast, Gulf, and fisheries in general did very well as compared to the Administration's budget in general. All programs of major impact to fisheries were funded.

Status and Update of MARFIN

L. Simpson reported that chances of getting FY86 funds looked good, but just how much is uncertain. The Commission will be involved with the administration of the program.

Discussion of GSMFC Travel Guidelines

L. Simpson stated that the Commissioners had voted by mail ballot on GSMFC Travel Guidelines and that they had been approved as of May 1, 1985. Based on the comments received, he recommended that the mileage rate used by the Commission adhere to the Federal guidelines, currently 20.5¢ per mile and that the Commission pay for collision damage insurance when authorized travelers use rental cars.

* E. Gissendanner motioned to accept L. Simpson's recommendations and to authorize the necessary changes to be made. The motion carried.

MAFAC Report

L. Simpson distributed copies of the report on the MAFAC meeting held June 24-26, 1985 in Seattle, Washington. He stated that Dr. Tony Calio has been confirmed as Administrator of NOAA and that he looks forward to working with him. Dr. Calio has so far been understanding of the Gulf needs and has already implemented several changes in the format of MAFAC, which should prove to be for the better.

Report - State Wildlife and Fisheries Meeting

L. Simpson distributed the report on the State Wildlife and Fisheries Meeting including a list of priorities submitted by the State caucus. These priorities were: 1) statistics and data needs; 2) research for interjurisdictional fishery management regimes; 3) habitat conservation and relevant research; 4) law enforcement; and 5) fishery development and marketing.

R. Rinaldo reported that NMFS was currently addressing many of the States priorities and that a report would be forthcoming next month. He invited comments and suggestions be sent to his office.

Discussion of Dingell-Johnson Proposal

L. Simpson stated that at the direction of the Commissioners, he had prepared a draft D-J proposal and had sent it out to the Commissioners for a mail vote. Due to the amount of comments he received, he had not presented it at the IAFWA meeting as planned. He received one negative vote and felt there was some misunderstanding of the draft involved. He stated that he had not intended to propose that the Commission hire a D-J coordinator and an assistant to the director. This proposal was intended to assist the Commission with the additional work load created by the staff vacancy instead of hiring an assistant to the director. The position described in the proposal would not lead Gulf-wide D-J projects but would assist the Commission and States at their request. Funds are available, they are not State-apportioned money, no one has yet applied for these funds. L. Simpson feels that with a good proposal and 100% support from the five member States, that proposal would have a good chance of being approved by IAFWA and thus being funded.

* G. Saul motioned that the Executive Director, using all comments and suggestions previously received, resubmit the proposal for Commission approval. The motion carried.

GSMFC FY86 Budget

* E. Gissendanner motioned to accept the FY86 budget (attached) as presented. The budget includes a 5% annual increase for staff members (does not include SEAMAP Coordinator). The motion carried.

* E. Gissendanner motioned to have the Executive Director look into purchasing a new car for the Commission and to bring forward his recommendations at the March 1986 meeting.

* C. Perret suggested that we should adopt a pay plan based on State/Federal salaries so that annual increases could be anticipated and easier to deal with on an annual basis. R. Leard recommended that a budget committee be established so that the budget process could be made easier as the Commission continues to grow. The Executive Director was requested to place these suggestions on the agenda for the March 1986 meeting.

Discussion of Assistant to the Director

L. Simpson stated that Commission activities are increasing. It is anticipated that at least one, possibly two, new projects will get underway within the next year. The additional cost would be approximately \$27,000, which includes a base salary and fringe benefits.

* W. Tatum motioned to table further discussion until the March 1986 meeting when further information on the D-J proposal and MARFIN project would be available. The motion carried.

Florida - State Report

E. Gissendanner reported that within the State of Florida they had been struggling to get the new fisheries commission functioning at full speed. The work load is heavy but he believes in the end, the Commission will be a good fisheries management agency. He reviewed some actions taken in Florida in fishery management within the past year.

They are as listed:

- (1) King Mackerel - two fish limit in Gulf of Mexico; two fish limit south of Daytona Beach from November 15-March 15;
- (2) Redfish - 18" minimum size limit but with a 16" minimum size limit in Panhandle. May keep one fish over 32".
- (3) Snook - 22" minimum size; two fish limit; one fish only over 34"; no fishing January, February, June, July, and August; No sale.
- (4) Cobia - 37" total length minimum; 33' fork.
- (5) Snappers (yellowtail, red, mutton) - 12" minimum.

(6) Groupers (black, gag, Nassau, red, yellowfin, jewfish) - 18" minimum.

(7) Black and Southern Sea Bass - 8" minimum.

Alabama - State Report

W. Tatum stated that Alabama had suffered major damage to oyster reefs due to Hurricane Elena. He is optimistic that with the help of Senator Howell Heflin (AL), disaster money will be available by the spring to restore these reefs.

He reported that the cooperative striped bass project with Mississippi was progressing well. He briefed the Commissioners on a white shrimp tagging project that will determine wintering habits of white shrimp off of the Alabama shore.

Mississippi - State Report

R. Leard reported on recent legislation passed in the Mississippi Legislature in 1984. He discussed a new law that would allow the selling of all commercial licenses between January 1 through March 31 only, in an attempt to reduce effort. Problems were experienced the first year of implementation and it was necessary to extend the selling period through June 1. As of this date, the legislation has been amended, and the new selling period will be January 1 through April 30. Recreational licenses may be purchased year round.

Other legislation includes a law that provides 100% of all oyster shells taken from State reefs remain the non-transferable property of the State. This is achieved by an oyster tagging program which permits the State to collect a few. It is hoped that this source of funding will permit ongoing oyster programs to continue in the State.

Finally, he reported that all commercial regulations had been revised. Basically the same regulations, but in a simplified form. The new form includes current GMFMC regulations and the State laws are now compatible.

Louisiana - State Report

C. Perret reported on significant legislation in the State of Louisiana. Changes included an amended definition of purse seine; changes in saltwater angling licenses; increased size of trawls in

Breton and Chandeleur Sounds; reduction of types of shrimp gear; and, the repeal of a law requiring that the boundaries of Lake Ponchartrain Sanctuary be marked. He discussed the projected use of newly acquired W-B funds (\$500,000). Other areas reviewed were the elimination of chopsticks as a legal gear for the commercial harvest of shrimp; the final report of the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force; in-house review of total licensing system; oyster lease moratoriums; oyster pollution; GMFMC actions; the effects of Hurricanes this past season; and a favorable report for the Louisiana shrimp season.

Texas - State Report

G. Saul reported that the Texas Legislative Session had recently ended and as a result of the recent Sunset Report of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department current legislative action was very favorable to the Department. Some changes include increased authority for the Department in general; authority to raise license and fees; strengthened enforcement authority; saltwater stamp requirement for sport fisherman; clarified requirements for purchasing and recording of all commercial transactions; authority to regulate shrimp and oyster fisheries; increased regulations on red drum and spotted seatrout imports; a 50% increase in the budget for coastal fisheries; adoption of GMFMC red snapper regulations; and, adoption of emergency regulations for king mackerel (two fish per person).

Council Update

L. Simpson reported that current work on the Council involves amendments to the Mackerel Plan and FCMA. The Council is also working towards proposed amendments to the Shrimp Management Plan.

The Law Enforcement Advisory group of the council will be meeting jointly with the Commission's Law Enforcement Committee on an annual basis.

He reported that Julius Collins (TX) is the newly elected Council Chairman and that Frank Barhanovich (MS) is the Vice-Chairman.

Future Meetings

* C. Perret motioned to change the October 1986 meeting site from Baton Rouge to New Orleans. The motion carried and the Commission staff was requested to make the necessary arrangements.

The Commission will hold its March 1986 meeting at the Ft. Brown Motor Inn, Brownsville, Texas and the March 1987 meeting at the Royal D'Iberville, Biloxi, Mississippi.

Other Business

* C. Perret motioned to approve resolution (attached) honoring Robert Chapoton. Motion carried.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

* E. Gissendanner nominated C. Richbourg for Chairman. Being no further nominations C. Richbourg was elected Chairman for the FY85-86 year.

* C. Perret/L. Kiffe nominated F. Patti as Vice-Chairman. Being no further nominations, F. Patti was elected Vice-Chairman for FY85-86.

C. Richbourg congratulated and thanked R. Leard for his outstanding job as Chairman for the past year and presented him with a gift of appreciation from the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES
ALABAMA
FLORIDA
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS



P.O. BOX 726
OCEAN SPRINGS, MS.
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(601)875-5912

RESOLUTION

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD

GS-FFMB MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Resolved, That on behalf of the five member states of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board, and the GS-FFMB Menhaden Advisory Committee this resolution is adopted in tribute to the memory of Mr. Robert B. Chapoton.

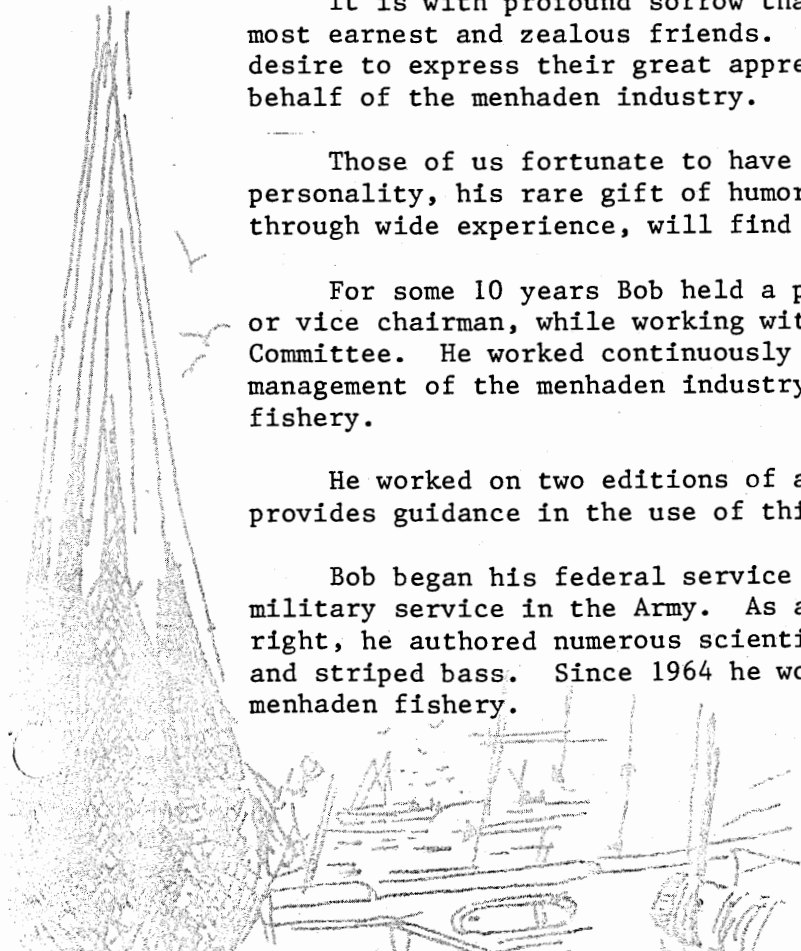
It is with profound sorrow that we record the death of one of our most earnest and zealous friends. The Commission, Board, and Committee desire to express their great appreciation for Bob's tireless efforts on behalf of the menhaden industry.

Those of us fortunate to have known him, with his magnetic personality, his rare gift of humorous expression, and wisdom acquired through wide experience, will find it difficult to cope with his loss.

For some 10 years Bob held a position of leadership, often chairman or vice chairman, while working with the GS-FFMB Menhaden Advisory Committee. He worked continuously to bring advancements in interstate management of the menhaden industry, the nation's largest volume fishery.

He worked on two editions of a Regional Management Plan, which provides guidance in the use of this vast natural resource.

Bob began his federal service in 1957 at Beaufort after his military service in the Army. As an imminent scientist in his own right, he authored numerous scientific papers and articles on menhaden and striped bass. Since 1964 he worked with the Atlantic and Gulf menhaden fishery.



His genuine interest in his work and his working relationship among the companies will be missed.

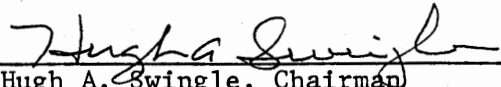
Be It Further Resolved, That the Commission, Board, and Committee have lost by death an associate whose outstanding character as a scientist reflected honor upon his profession and whose memory is a worthy inspiration for all time.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the Commission, Board, and Committee and that a copy be transmitted to Mrs. Chapoton, and that we extend to her and to their five children our sincere sympathy and our heartfelt condolence.

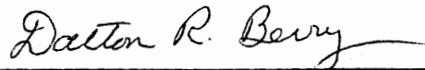
Given this the 18th day of October in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred, eighty-five.



Richard L. Leard, Chairman
Gulf States Marine Fisheries
Commission



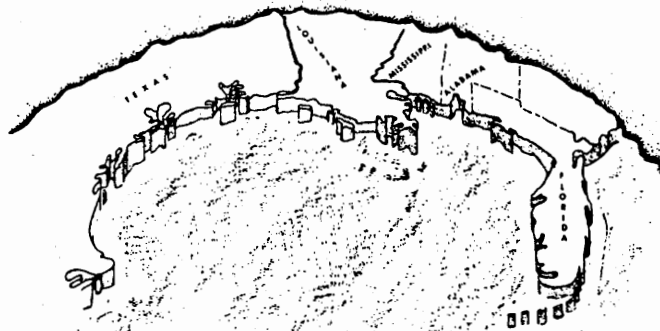
Hugh A. Swingle, Chairman
Gulf State-Federal Fisheries
Management Board



Dalton R. Berry, Chairman
GS-FFMB Menhaden Advisory Committee

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES
ALABAMA
FLORIDA
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS



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A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc. was established in 1976.

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Foundation is to promote the commercial fisheries industry and their products which come from the Southeast region.

WHEREAS, Dr. Roger D. Anderson has been employed by the Foundation since its inception.

WHEREAS, Dr. Anderson has worked tirelessly on behalf of the commercial fisheries industry by seeking projects to develop latent resources and enhance traditional fisheries, as well as develop new foreign and domestic markets for Southeast marine resources.

WHEREAS, The GSMFC Industry Advisory Committee wishes to express their great appreciation for Dr. Anderson's efforts in their industry's behalf.

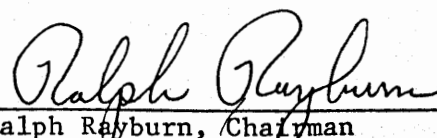
--- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the GSMFC Industry Advisory Committee wish Dr. Anderson much success in his new endeavor in private business; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the Commission and Committee and that a copy be transmitted to Dr. Roger D. Anderson and to the Foundation to be placed in their files, and that we extend our heartfelt thanks to him for his most able past service.

Given this the 18th day of October in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred, eighty-five.



Richard L. Leard, Chairman
Gulf States Marine Fisheries
Commission

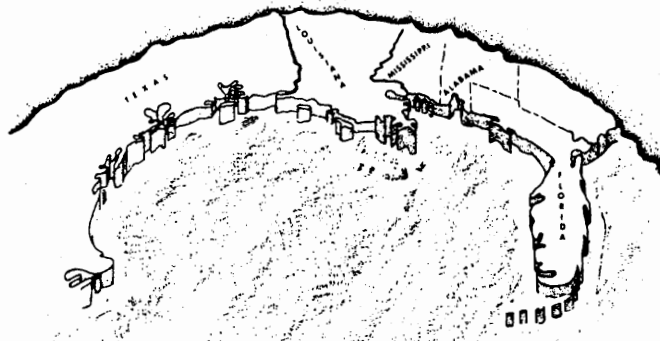


Ralph Rayburn, Chairman
GSMFC Industry Advisory Committee

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

GSMFC
Resolution

MEMBER STATES
ALABAMA
FLORIDA
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS



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A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA, PL 94-265) established the Fishery Conservation Zone (FCZ), established the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) and mandated the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to provide research on the fishes of the FCZ; and

WHEREAS, the NMFS established the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) to help meet the needs of the MFCMA in the FCZ by providing recreational harvest of fishes; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress established the MFCMA policy to "assure the national fishery conservation and management program utilizes, and is based upon, the best scientific information available; involves, and is responsive to the needs of, interested and affected States and citizens; promotes efficiency; draws upon Federal, State, and academic capabilities in carrying out research, administration, management and enforcement; and is workable and effective"; and

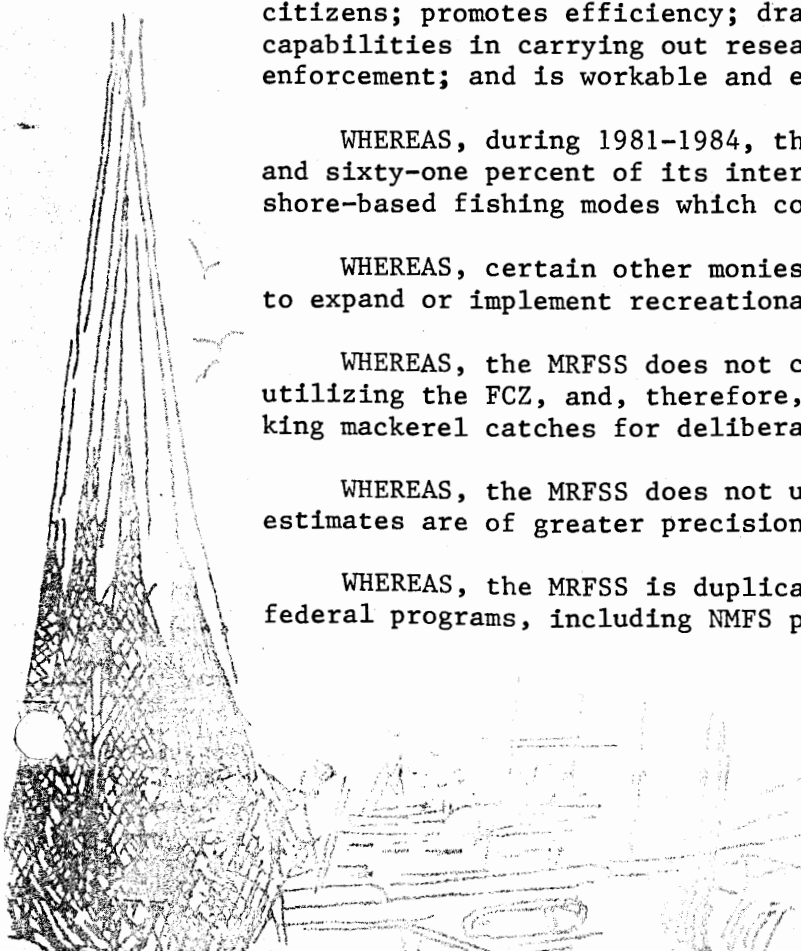
WHEREAS, during 1981-1984, the MRFSS exerted between forty-seven and sixty-one percent of its intercept interviews in the Gulf region on shore-based fishing modes which constitute state fisheries; and

WHEREAS, certain other monies may become available to the states to expand or implement recreational surveys within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the MRFSS does not concentrate its efforts on fishermen utilizing the FCZ, and, therefore, could not provide meaningful data on king mackerel catches for deliberations by the GMFMC; and

WHEREAS, the MRFSS does not utilize existing state programs whose estimates are of greater precision; and

WHEREAS, the MRFSS is duplicative of state programs and other federal programs, including NMFS programs; and



RESOLUTION

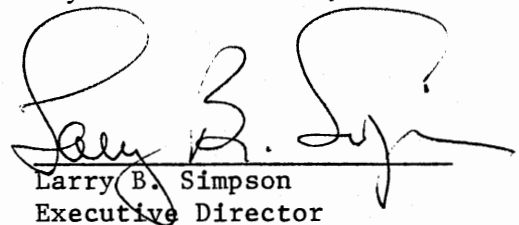
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WHEREAS, the NMFS has determined that the estimates produced by the MRFSS for individual states are not meaningful,

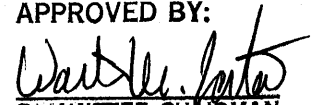
THEREFORE, be it resolved that the GSMFC has determined that the MRFSS could better meet its legislative mandate and satisfy the needs of the Gulf States if the MRFSS would take into account work being done by the states, incorporate the results of ongoing state programs, and eliminate duplication of effort, thereby, improving precision of the estimates; and

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the NMFS should actively work to promote Federal-State cooperation by focusing their efforts within their mandated area of responsibility.

Given this the 18th day of October in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred, eighty-five.


Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

APPROVED BY:


Walter H. Banta
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

October 24, 1985

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES
October 24, 1985

A conference call was held on October 24, 1985, at the request of the Subcommittee Chairman to address amending FY1986 State-Federal cooperative agreements. Participants were:

Alan Huff	FDNR
Gary Matlock	TPWD
Andy Kemmerer	NMFS
Walter Tatum	ADCNR
Barney Barrett	LDWF
Dick Waller	GCRL
Nikki Bane	GSMFC
Ginny Herring	GSMFC

W. Tatum reported that since the October 14, 1985 Subcommittee meeting, at which the Subcommittee had voted to accept an across-the-board six percent tax on SEAMAP participants, Dick Berry (NMFS-SEFC Director) has agreed to pay \$20,000 of the Polish Sorting Center costs, thereby reducing the SEAMAP deficit to NMFS to a total of \$15,000. It was noted that NMFS had tentatively agreed not to tax the program more than two percent with the SEFC assuming any additional tax if not too severe.

It was also noted that Florida had already reduced its budget by \$5,400 in the cooperative agreements, with Texas assuming a \$3,000 cut for a total further reduction in the shortfall of \$8,400; it was approved by consensus that the NMFS participant assume the remaining \$6,600 shortfall. No further changes in the cooperative agreements will be required.

W. Tatum pointed out, on a separate matter, that Alabama legislators have proposed an amendment to the Commerce budget for oyster disaster relief funds.

On an additional topic, it was noted that the SEAMAP Program is in need of further visibility with NMFS and the State agencies, and suggested that the Coordinator should make program presentations to the SEFC, SERO and Washington NMFS offices, as well as the States. It was

CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

Page 2

approved by consensus that this activity should commence with the slowdown in winter of SEAMAP activities.

A. Kemmerer pointed out, in the last item of discussion, that SEAMAP participants would be receiving a letter from the SEFC Director requesting the program's assistance in planning, designing and conducting cooperative State-Federal king mackerel survey activities in 1986. Cooperation would also be sought from Mexico to design and conduct the synoptic survey to collect neuston, in order to: (1) identify king mackerel spawning sites; (2) back-calculate spawning biomass of king mackerel; and (3) collect specimens of king mackerel for racial (stock) determination.

APPROVED BY:


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

November 15, 1985

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 1985

A conference call was held on November 15, 1985 at the request of the Chairman, to address the issue of establishing a stock identification work group, specifically to resolve king mackerel concerns in the Gulf. Participants were:

Walter Nelson	NFMS
Walter Tatum	ADCNR
Dick Waller	GCRL
J.Y. Christmas	TCC
Alan Huff	FDNR
C.E. Bryan	TPWD
Larry Simpson	GSMFC
Ginny Herring	GSMFC
Andy Kemmerer	NMFS
Nikki Bane	GSMFC
Karen Steidinger	FDNR
Mark Godcharles	FDNR
Karen Jo Foote	LDWF

The Chairman noted that David Cupka, SEAMAP-SA Chairman, had endorsed the SEFC-proposed mackerel stock identification study, encouraging the Gulf program to work with it on stock identification plans for FY1986. Discussion of the proposal ensued, focusing on the questionability of creating a new work group specifically for this purpose when existing work groups may be sufficient to address data collection activities. It was noted that the Plankton Work Group specifically addresses all plankton collection, including mackerel. Stock identification of king mackerel was agreed to be important, but collection activities unclear from Dick Berry's letter of request for assistance in planning research from the Subcommittee.

It was agreed by consensus that definition of objectives was needed, identifying specific research problems and potential solutions prior to involvement by SEAMAP. Areas of participation suggested were additional plankton surveys, identification of data gaps in present SEAMAP sampling, and stock identification studies. It was further suggested that a proliferation of work groups for each species targeted as a priority was unwise, and that the Subcommittee should identify the program's objectives with the work groups determining how the data

CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

Page 2

collection should be conducted. It was agreed that the Subcommittee would like to meet with regional experts on king mackerel to determine research needs and appropriate survey activities, than meet to determine the appropriate role for SEAMAP. Experts should include the Council's S&S Committee and the NMFS-Panama City Laboratory.

It was pointed out that the overall stock identification workshop (NMFS-Panama City, November 5-8, 1985) consensus was for a further 10 years of data from a wide variety of stock identification techniques (tagging, plankton studies, HPLC, electrophoresis, mitochondrial DNA, monoclonal antibodies, biometrics, scale analysis, etc.).

By consensus, the participants agreed that an appropriate response to Dick Berry's request was a coordinated SEAMAP-Gulf/SEAMAP-SA intent to participate in planning king mackerel research activities with NMFS and other experts to define SEAMAP's role; a work group was not determined to be warranted at this time.

On other matters, the passing of Charlie White (LDWF) and James Bond (ADCNE) was noted; participants were requested to give some thought to appropriate designees with expertise on king mackerel to meet with NMFS personnel; the TCC Spanish mackerel Subcommittee was explained, with a suggestion that findings from that Subcommittee's upcoming meeting might be useful to the SEAMAP Subcommittee's deliberations on king mackerel. The upcoming meeting for the media (November 20-21) on king mackerel was mentioned and adjudged of minor value to the Subcommittee's deliberations.

The Subcommittee was urged to participate in a king mackerel research planning meeting as soon as possible in order to plan a 1986 cooperative survey with Mexico; with respect to tuna, red drum and sardines, it was pointed out that existing SEAMAP work groups have already been established to address collection on these species.

It was further suggested that in addition to the Chairman's response to D. Cupka and D. Berry on the king mackerel research planning issue, States might well express their interest and intent to respond, at the appropriate level, to D. Berry.