

APPROVED BY:

  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 8, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 8, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. The following members and guests were present:

Subcommittee

Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL  
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Wayne Swingle, GMFMC, Tampa, FL  
Warren Stuntz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Bill Richards, NMFS, Miami, FL  
Roy Williams, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL (proxy for A. Huff)  
Frederick "Buck" Sutter, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Walter Nelson, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
Gary Matlock, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Barney Barrett, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Ken Savastano, NMFS, NSTL

Staff

Larry Simpson, Executive Director  
Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator  
Eileen Benton, Staff Assistant

Others

Eugene Nakamura, NMFS, Panama City, FL  
Herb Kumpf, NMFS, Panama City, FL  
\*Andy Kemmerer, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
\*Karen Jo Foote, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Pete Eldridge, NMFS, Charleston, SC  
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

\*Alternate representative

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following change: the discussion of SEAMAP's role and FY86-88 survey activities relating to king mackerel research was moved to follow review of the October/November 1985 minutes.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Kissimmee, Florida on Monday, October 14, 1985 were adopted with the deletion of Bill Richard's name, as he did not attend.

The minutes of the conference call held on October 24, 1985 were adopted as written.

The minutes of the conference call held on November 15, 1985 were adopted with the addition of Karen Jo Foote as a participating member.

Discussion of SEAMAP's role and FY86-88 survey activities relating to king mackerel research

Gene Nakamura thanked the Commission and SEAMAP for assisting in the hosting and coordination of the January 6-7 SEFC King Mackerel Research Planning Workshop. He requested further involvement with SEAMAP to obtain in 1986 early life stage information on king and Spanish mackerel, primarily through bongo and neuston tows in the areas where concentrations of larvae are expected. These should be analyzed for age, growth, mortality, spawning areas and stock identification. The target survey area should be the northern Gulf to 15 fm for Spanish mackerel, and beyond that for king mackerel.

Discussion followed on the better results obtained with neuston over bongo nets, historic areas of mackerel larvae, and the additional proposed SEAMAP activity of sampling for pre-recruit mackerels in the fall. A protocol for plankton sampling and preserving was proposed, including two neuston tows per station to permit freezing of one for studies at the NMFS Panama City Laboratory, and routine sorting of the other by the Polish Sorting Center. Broad area coverage in September is needed.

It was noted that NMFS will conduct the spring SEAMAP plankton cruise and further SEAMAP plankton collections targeted toward mackerel could be obtained through the scheduled April-May Squid/Butterfish and June-July Shrimp/Groundfish surveys, and a proposed special August-September cruise. SEAMAP participants noted their current SEAMAP activities that could be expanded to include mackerel sampling as well as estimated costs to expand sampling. Without additional state participation in 1986, an August-September larval survey would not be synoptically covered. Concern was expressed for development of specific study objectives and expected benefits to participants prior to beginning additional sampling. Planning for plankton sampling to meet mackerel objectives will be satisfied through the February 1986 Plankton Work Group meeting, in conjunction with Mexican scientists.

\* W. Nelson moved to have the Plankton Work Group develop sampling procedures for the April/May and fall 1986 cruises. Motion seconded and tabled.

Discussion followed on the feasibility of a 1986 pre-recruitment survey for king mackerel. It was noted that Texas and Alabama presently intend to conduct fall inshore trawl surveys that could contribute to the proposed project; a NMFS consultant will provide sampling design guidance. Other states noted a historic scarcity or absence of pre-recruit mackerel in previous fall sampling with shrimp trawls.

\* B. Barrett moved for current SEAMAP cruises to include sending mackerel samples to the Panama City Laboratory for analysis. Motion seconded and passed.

#### Budget Report

N. Bane reported that the original budget for SEAMAP was \$90,000 and during FY85 there was a \$9,000 add-on from NMFS for the Status and Trends Project, for assistance by the States. Few reimbursements from that project were requested, thus SEAMAP has not required additional funds to satisfy program administration objectives. Funds were made available to Ken Stuck for his travel to Poland (\$500 funded by Louisiana; \$500 through the savings of Status and Trends money). The 1983 Atlas has been encumbered; the total amount will be paid out of 1985 funds.

N. Bane also reported that per her conversation with Dr. James Jones, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant would have participated in this SEAMAP meeting had he been notified in a more timely fashion.

#### Publications report

N. Bane presented the current status of SEAMAP publications:

(1) 1983 Atlas. The final draft of the 1983 Environmental/Biological Atlas has been reviewed and the changes will be incorporated

next week. The final draft will be submitted to the printer approximately January 17, 1986.

(2) 1984 Atlas. Ken Savastano will report the results of the December 18, 1985 Data Coordinating Work Group meeting and submit recommendations to the Subcommittee regarding the 1984 Atlas. The work schedule projected is a six-month completion and will basically be the same format as the 1983 Atlas.

(3) 1986 Marine Directory. Letters requesting updated information were sent on January 3, 1986. Those should be returned by mid-February. Publication for the 1986 Marine Directory will be complete by early March.

(4) 1985 Joint Annual Report. This was distributed with very favorable responses from legislators receiving copies, the Caribbean program also expressed interest and support for the program. Copies of supportive letters have been sent to Jack Brawner and to Dick Berry.

N. Bane noted that the October 1984 minutes are unclear as to whether a joint annual report will be prepared for 1986, and requested resolution of the matter at the March 1986 joint SEAMAP meeting.

(5) State-Federal Completion Report. The first draft is nearly complete and will be mailed to the Subcommittee members around January 17. It is anticipated that it will be 10-15 pages long and will serve as an overall report of SEAMAP-Gulf's accomplishments for 1985. This completed document should be sent in as the completion report to the regional office in fulfillment of the obligation under the State-Federal cooperative agreement. Completion reports are due within 90 days after December 31.

(6) SEAMAP poster presentation. The SEAMAP poster presentation is now available if anyone wishes to use it for meetings. Rolf Juhl, NMFS Pascagoula Laboratory, has presented it to the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute meeting in Martinique this past November.

L. Simpson suggested that the Subcommittee view the poster presentation at the Subcommittee's March meeting in Brownsville.

#### Status of FY86 Funds

A. Kemmerer distributed information on SEAMAP FY86 funding. He noted that the 2% tax may rise to 3%, adding that NMFS has already

withheld 2.5% of the projected funding decrease. Also reviewed were specific allocations to SEAMAP, the SEFC, and the States, and State/NMFS and SEAMAP-South Atlantic activities. Questions relating to FY86 funding were addressed.

Discussion followed on types of activities that should be considered for funding, the possibility of a six-month (rather than one-year) allocation resulting from pending implementation of Gramm-Rudman legislation, and programmatic difficulties which have resulted from the delayed funding. Explanation of potential Gramm-Rudman impacts on fisheries programs was provided in a paper by Jim McCallum of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

#### Work Group Reports

##### Plankton Work Group

B. Richards reported that the 1983 Ichthyoplankton Atlas is nearly complete and may go to the printer next week.

A meeting is being arranged with the Mexicans this spring; thanks were expressed to the TCC for picking up their travel expenses and to the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory for hosting this meeting. Participants will examine options to produce a joint (U.S.-Mexican) full-scale atlas of fish eggs and larvae from the Gulf of Mexico, and ways to analyze this data.

Ken Stuck will be going to Poland sometime within the next couple of months.

The material from the August 1984 SEAMAP king mackerel cruise was assigned highest priority and should be sorted soon, with the results sent to NMFS. The remainder of the 1984 material will be sorted on schedule.

Major data gaps in Gulf plankton coverage were discussed. B. Richards noted that 1986 NMFS September cruise will fill a major gap, with the remaining gaps mostly pertaining to Mexico.

W. Tatum concluded that the Plankton Work Group is being utilized successfully to accomplish two objectives: filling existing plankton data gaps in the Gulf, while addressing the king mackerel issues.

Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group

G. Matlock reported that the fall groundfish cruise was conducted as scheduled. The data were collected from Apalachicola to Galveston, following the design historically conducted by NMFS.

TPWD-NMFS calibration studies were conducted from Galveston to Brownsville in a very tight time frame. Thirty-two of forty scheduled stations were completed with 36 of them day/night stations, from 5 to 20 fm. Data were sent to NMFS for keypunching and storage. It was noted that all sampling was done within one month throughout the entire survey area, a major accomplishment considering the presence of a late hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Summer Shrimp/Groundfish survey will be conducted, with fall activity to be expanded but not include further calibration study; sampling will be done from Alabama to Brownsville.

Concern was expressed for analysis of the fall survey data. Following discussion, it was resolved that Texas will analyze data west of Galveston, with NMFS to analyze data from east of Galveston.

Discussion followed on the recurring issue of trawling protocol for sampling across a fathom contour; G. Matlock noted that a definitive recommendation from the work group will be made following its consideration by Scott Nichols.

Additional, general discussion centered on the GMFMC's recommendations relating to the Texas Closure and potential impacts on SEAMAP surveys. The helpfulness of a Council member on the Subcommittee to provide information on such issues was noted.

Environmental Data Work Group

W. Stuntz reported that the Pascagoula Laboratory has begun analyzing chlorophyll samples from the 1985 cruises. He noted that there was a delay in the analysis of salinity samples because of equipment failure, but those samples are now being analyzed. The work group has made one modification in sample design: the question was asked whether mid-depth chlorophyll samples were needed, and the

decision reached was to eliminate both the midwater and bottom samples, and replicate surface samples. No other changes in the sample design were made.

W. Stuntz also reported on the effects of Gulf hurricanes during the past year, noting various strandings of marine mammals along the Louisiana coast, analysis of total hurricane impact in the Gulf was suggested.

The need for chlorophyll sampling was questioned. W. Stuntz responded that NMFS is interested in primary production and noted that if SEAMAP examines the Gulf's total ecology, this is one of the levels of productivity that must be analyzed.

It was reported that the Work Group decided to delete the 1983 chlorophyll data from the data base as they were invalid, except for Louisiana's data, which are included. Memoranda have been sent to previous requestors of the 1983 environmental data set advising them of this deletion.

K. Foote noted that Louisiana will continue to do bottom chlorophyll samples off Louisiana due to the hypoxia problem; salinity values in the Gulf were briefly discussed.

Following a lunch break, the meeting reconvened with a brief review by Pete Eldridge of the potential effects of Gramm-Rudman budget cuts.

#### Data Coordinating Work Group

K. Savastano distributed and presented the Data Coordinating Work Group Report, noting Information System usage (requests filled) and survey data entered since October 1, 1985. Also reported was the status of the Information System Design; responses to NMFS RFP for the study are expected by mid-January 1986. Also reported was the development of a data base to identify navigational obstructions.

Recommendations on 1984 and subsequent SEAMAP Atlases, generated by the December 18, 1985 meeting of the Data Coordinating Work Group were presented noting the need to streamline preparation of the atlas and the need to continue producing this document. Recommendations were:

- 1) Contours of catch data (number per hour) should be deleted as they are costly and relatively useless.
- 2) Contours of environmental data (temperature, salinity, chlorophyll) should be deleted for the same reasons. However,



satellite temperature and chlorophyll data should continue to be contoured because of their specific dates and accuracy.

- 3) Computer-generated plots of lb/hr and no./hr should be continued.
- 4) Computer-generated listings of environmental data, by station number and coordinates, should be included with each survey results data set.
- 5) The narrative section should contain reference figures indicating the scope of each survey.
- 6) All approved surveys should be handled separately in the atlas.
- 7) The current NMFS data management system design study should provide for atlas requirements as well as other SEAMAP data needs and functions.

\* Motion was made for the Subcommittee to accept the recommendations of the work group.

\* G. Matlock offered a substitute motion to accept recommendations #1, 3, 5, 6, and 7 and then have further discussion on #2 and 4. Motion seconded and carried unanimously.

\* G. Matlock moved to not accept recommendations #2 or 4 but instead include computer-generated plots of environmental parameters similar to those generated for biological data for the top, middle, and bottom measurements separately. Motion seconded and discussed; motion failed, 4-2.

\* W. Nelson moved that the Subcommittee accept recommendations #2 and 4. Motion seconded and passed, 4-2.

\* G. Matlock moved that any requests received for environmental data be responded to by providing a copy of the Atlas as applicable. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

#### Squid/Butterfish Work Group

B. Sutter reported that Mike Murphy (FDNR) would like to remain on the Squid/Butterfish Work Group but FDNR would probably not be able to provide personnel for the 1986 Squid/Butterfish Survey. He noted that he and Chris Gledhill (NMFS) will plan a preliminary cruise track and

sampling design for the survey; a work group meeting will subsequently be planned, with a detailed report and recommendations presented to the Subcommittee at the March meeting.

A. Kemmerer reported results of the December 1985 NMFS Squid/Butterfish Survey, noting that anticipated catches of butterfish had not materialized, possibly due to gear problems; this is presently being evaluated.

D. Waller noted that a problem may arise for the spring survey if Florida is unable to provide cruise personnel for the TOMMY MUNRO.

#### Red Drum Work Group

T. McIlwain reported that at the October 14, 1985 meeting, the work group was asked about the possibility of meeting in January 1986 to review results of LSU analyses. He noted that he had just received a copy of that report from LSU and will submit this report to the work group for comments and then convene a work group meeting prior to the March Subcommittee meeting. Experts used previously to evaluate biochemical analyses will be invited to participate. HPLC was briefly discussed as an interesting technique that would probably provide much needed information when it is fully developed, explored and verified, but at this time, the work group will probably have to rely on electrophoretic results.

Discussion followed on technical validity of the HPLC method as related to electrophoresis, the growing importance of red drum stock identification as heavy FCZ catches increase, and the need to continue examining other stock identification techniques. Participation by SEAMAP-South Atlantic at the winter work group meeting was advised.

#### Administrative re-programming needed to meet added FY86 objectives

L. Simpson reported that SEAMAP atlas format changes are progressing, with ways to improve the atlas still being considered.

He also reported that the GSMFC is in the process of executing the contractual Coordinator position with LSU; it will be a six-month contract, with further discussion planned for March. At this time, it

is not expected that SEAMAP's new involvement with mackerel sampling will require additional administrative funds, although the effects of Gramm-Rudman are still unknown.

L. Simpson requested clarification of the status of real-time data distribution on the shrimp/groundfish and squid/butterfish survey information. It was concluded that this distribution will continue for FY86.

#### Election of Officers


\* W. Nelson moved to re-elect the present Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Subcommittee. Motion seconded. The question was called and passed unanimously.

#### Other Business

W. Nelson announced his regret to resign as the NMFS representative on the SEAMAP Subcommittee, adding. "Let the minutes show that in my last three confrontations with "Dr. No," that I at least broke even, though he did win the last round." Andy Kemmerer will serve as the NMFS representative until the position of NMFS Resources Survey Chief is filled. W. Nelson added that he was very grateful for being permitted to participate in SEAMAP

W. Tatum thanked W. Nelson for his contributions to SEAMAP, and presented him with a plaque, noting that he had done more to bridge the gap between State-Federal relationships than anyone else in the Gulf of Mexico.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

APPROVED BY: *W. R. Williams*  
*Committee*  
  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC SPANISH MACKEREL SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 21/  
Wednesday, January 22, 1986  
Tampa, Florida

TCC SPANISH MACKEREL SUBCOMMITTEE  
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Tuesday, January 21, 1986/  
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Tampa, Florida

J.Y. Christmas, TCC Chairman, called the first meeting of the Subcommittee to order at 1:15 pm. He stated the TCC had agreed that the Spanish Mackerel Subcommittee follow the general pattern of the SEAMAP Subcommittee to establish membership; all invited entities were present.

The following were in attendance:

Members:

Mike Murphy\*, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Roy Williams\*\*, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Walter Tatum, AMRD, Gulf Shores, AL  
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Joseph Shepard, LDWF, Grand Isle, LA  
Hal Osburn, TPWD, Rockport, TX  
Eugene Nakamura, NMFS, Panama City, FL  
Alex Jernigan, GMFMC, Islamorada, FL  
J. Y. Christmas, TCC -GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS  
Ed Joyce, TCC Alternate/FDNR, Tallahassee, FL

Staff

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

Others

Terrance Leary, GMFMC, Tampa, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was changed to allow R. Williams to "review the current status of Spanish mackerel in Florida" on the following day (first item on agenda) and adopted as amended.

Election of Chairman

J.Y. Christmas opened the floor for nominations for chairman.

\* W. Tatum nominated R. Williams. Nomination was seconded. E. Joyce discussed possible problems and hesitance to allow the vote in R. William's absence. L. Simpson reviewed the TCC's charge to the

\*Present only on 1/21/86

\*\*Present only on 1/22/86

Subcommittee to look at whether it was appropriate for Spanish mackerel to be managed under the Council's FMP or if it was appropriate to consider other mechanisms to manage the fishery. Following much discussion W. Tatum suggested the election be delayed until the following day when R. Williams would be present and further suggested that J.Y. Christmas chair the first day's session. It was deemed improbable that R. Williams could accept the nomination.

\* J. Shepard nominated W. Tatum and the nomination was seconded. W. Tatum declined the nomination. J.Y. Christmas moved the election be delayed. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Review Current Status of Spanish Mackerel

J.Y. Christmas called on L. Simpson. L. Simpson said he was not prepared to make formal statements on the mechanics of managing the fishery but that he would make general statements. L. Simpson said many have the idea that the determinate factor for including a fishery under a Council FMP is whether or not the predominant take is within Federal waters. He said that the only time the word predominant enters discussion in a Council FMP is whether or not the Federal government can preempt the states (Councils authorized to develop FMP's for all fisheries that require management). If the fishery occurs predominantly within Federal waters and the state does or does not do something that adversely affects the management of that fishery, then the Federal government can preempt. L. Simpson said that precedents exist for Council's developing FMP's and then turning management back to the states (east coast) because it was more appropriate, and also precedents for the reverse. His question was what is the proper mechanism if the Subcommittee decides Spanish mackerel is more appropriately managed by the states. The Council is addressing the issue of whether or not Spanish mackerel should be included in the Coastal Pelagics FMP.

J.Y. Christmas outlined questions for the Subcommittee to address: 1) does Spanish mackerel need managing; 2) is a regional FMP necessary to achieve the management that is required; 3) if an FMP is needed then

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where can it best be developed (GSMFC, Council); and 4) if an FMP is to be developed by the states then determine cost, funding sources, etc.

T. Leary informed members that a stock assessment report from NMFS, which is considering all available data on Spanish mackerel, will be received by the Council on March 1, 1986. The Council will reconvene its stock assessment group in March to look at the report.

It was determined that the Subcommittee should not wait that long to report to the TCC, if only a preliminary report could be given. The members were asked to continue the review.

H. Osburn reported that Texas has no directed fishery and has seen a decline in catch rates for Spanish mackerel since 1979 but that most of the 4,000-5,000 fish landed are large (18" TL). Texas' historical commercial landings for the 1920's and before show Spanish mackerel as a major commercial species harvested with the highest price per pound. The fishery began to decline about the time Florida's commercial fishery began. H. Osburn believes there has been a tremendous decline in stocks off Texas and would like more information on migrations, noting that Mexico has a sizeable fishery.

R. Waller stated that in Mississippi the majority of the catch comes from the FCZ rather than state waters. Shrimpers do catch some off the barrier islands. There is very little commercial catch and this could be incidental to the red drum fishery. Commercial landings in 1983 were 46,000 and in 1984 were only 2,600. The average recreationally caught fish in Mississippi is 16-18".

W. Tatum reported that 39 cm fish are landed in Alabama in April, dropping to 29 cm fish landed in August. The recreational fishery is principally 1-year class. There is not much of a commercial fishery. Spanish mackerel account for 31% of the fishing pressure in Alabama and the height of the effort occurs when the fish are present. Landings for 1975 were 750,000 lbs or higher; statistics show the current catch to be 108,000 fish averaging .8 lb. This information substantiates a greatly reduced recreational catch.

J. Shepard noted a general downward trend in catches in Louisiana. There is not much of a fishery, either commercially or recreationally.

Most small fish caught in trawl catches are used for bait. The average size of fish caught is 16" and Louisiana is currently adopting a 14" size limit.

T. Leary stated that most of the commercial catch of Spanish mackerel are taken in gill nets and the majority of those occur in Florida. Florida Marine Fisheries Commission (FMFC) is trying to regulate size of fish caught by proposing a 3½" mesh size for nets. A. Jernigan pointed out that studies do not indicate success with 3½" mesh and that commercial processors want 1½ lb fish.

Following discussions J.Y. Christmas said there is good evidence that a marked decrease has occurred in stocks of Spanish mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico. The information is very sparse and more is needed.

H. Osburn asked M. Murphy to review the proposed regulations in Florida. M. Murphy said from stock assessment it was decided that an increase in minimum size, a ban of roller rigs, and an increase in mesh size in gill nets to 3½" would be beneficial.

Discussion began on migration and stock identification. E. Nakamura reported some tag returns from the NW Gulf (tagged Panama City, FL) and one from Veracruz, Mexico (tagged Port Aransas, TX). Tagging is difficult because gill netted fish are often dead and few commercial fishermen use hook and line. NMFS is putting together all historical data on Spanish mackerel in the Southeast and trying to get recreational length/frequency data. E. Nakamura said that past stock identification studies have shown two separate groups of fish (Carolinas/Georgia, Northern Gulf) and perhaps a mixing of the two as the south Florida fish have characteristics of both. Further studies are needed.

H. Osburn recommended that everyone send E. Nakamura fish (50 to 100) to help with the research as NMFS has trouble getting enough fish to examine. Fish are needed from Texas, Mississippi, and Tampa, Florida.

E. Nakamura said a large number of larval and postlarval specimens are captured off Louisiana and Texas. If more sampling is done with neuston tows NMFS may be able to delineate spawning areas. Researchers



estimate fecundity ranges from 100,000-2,000,000 eggs for females ranging 13-16" FL. R. Waller added that larvae are collected off Mississippi from May through September with peaks in June and August.

H. Osburn said that more knowledge of the Mexican fish/fishery is needed and wondered if the stock assessment group would address this by doing two analyses giving a U.S. only and also a Gulf-wide picture of Spanish mackerel. E. Nakamura said that perhaps the Subcommittee should ask the Center to request the stock assessment group to do the two analyses.

All were in agreement that a problem exists in the Gulf of Mexico. There was much discussion on who is appropriate to manage the fishery and other unknowns. It was decided to get questions down in writing in order to continue.

The first day's session adjourned at 4:47 pm.

Wednesday, January 22, 1986

The meeting was called to order at 8:21 am by J.Y. Christmas. He announced that election of chairman would be held at the end of the meeting. J.Y. Christmas then welcomed R. Williams to present a review of the current status of Spanish mackerel in Florida. R. Williams informed the Subcommittee that FMFC was not successful in meeting legal requirements for getting emergency rules on Spanish mackerel but that the Attorney General recognized biological problems and asked commercial fishermen to restrain themselves. The FMFC will now begin the process for regular rules starting at their March meeting.

R. Williams stated that the assessment was originally prepared at the request of the FMFC and consisted of a review of the commercial and recreational data bases, stock identification, and forced yield analyses. Recreational landings show a decline of east coast catches and no significant changes or trends in the west coast catches but a significant decline in size on the west coast. Spanish mackerel catches

region-wide for the south Atlantic are 23% recreational and 77% commercial, for the Gulf they are 48% recreational and 52% commercial (6 year avg.). Commercial landings for 1975-1977 began to show a rapid change on both coasts, decline on the west and increase on the east. The increase on the east is due to increased effort. There were no real changes in harvest effort on the west coast which suggests a possible biological problem for the Gulf and maybe the Keys. The fishery has become compressed into a 2 or 3 county area and compressed into a very short season. Catches are a fraction of what they were. The east coast of south Florida has a rapid narrowing of the Continental Shelf and fish are found closer and closer to shore (60-65 ft contour) where harvestability is increased. The data is good enough for the east coast to say a problem exists. It may never be known why the bottom fell out on the west coast during 1976-1977. If the fishery is closed as proposed by the FMFC, FDNR hopes to do mark and recapture studies during the closure. Mortality estimates ended up with 1.2. If natural mortality is low there may be a benefit to delay age at entry one year. If mortality is higher a gain in numbers would not be so great. FDNR has suggested effort be reduced.

J.Y. Christmas thanked R. Williams for the excellent review and called on T. Leary to present a summary of the previous day's questions. T. Leary listed the first question "Is there a resource problem?"

\* R. Williams moved that evidence from Florida, Alabama, and Texas indicates that Spanish mackerel have declined in abundance and should be investigated further. Motion carried unanimously.

The remaining questions were as follows:

- 2) Where is the Problem (Resource)?
  - a. Commercial fishery is largest user located mostly in Florida T.S. some in FCZ.
  - b. Recreational fishery mostly in state waters but in some states may be FCZ.
  - c. Mexican fishery unknown
  
- 3) Why Problem?
  - a. Commercial industry: vessels relocated to follow and fish for king mackerel. Cease fishing for Spanish when kings are present.

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- b. FDNR: reduced availability due to excessive harvest.
  - c. GMFMC&SAFMC-SAG: excessive harvest; possibly low recruitment.
  - d. GSMFC: evidence inconclusive.
- 4) Action Needed:
- a. FDNR:
    - 1) reduce total effort
    - 2) reduce catch of small fish
  - b. GMFMC&SAMFC-SAG:
    - 1) determine m.
    - 2) low m: reduce catch of small fish
    - 3) high m: reduce catch of small fish and reduce total catch
    - 4) revise MSY
- 5) Mechanisms:
- a. GSMFC-S/FFMB:
    - 1) can set regs for state T.S.
    - 2) can by possession regs control take in FCZ in absence of FMP
    - 3) Gulf and Atlantic States would agree to regulate state waters
    - 4) Council would amend Spanish mackerel out of FMP
  - b. Continue joint FMP (Gulf & Atlantic with states responsible for T.S.)
    - 1) Councils and states set similar regs for FCZ and T.S.
    - 2) establishing allocations between users will require FMP amendment, also size limits.
    - 3) by notice actions Councils may revise: MSY, quotas, TAC, bag limits
    - 4) state action may require legislation.

\* J.Y. Christmas moved that the Subcommittee ask the Executive Director of GSMFC to write a letter to the Center Director asking the following three considerations be made in the stock assessment report: Gulf stock, eastern vs. western Gulf stocks, U.S. vs. Mexican stocks; and that copies of the report be sent to the Subcommittee as soon as available. Motion carried.

\* H. Osburn moved that the Subcommittee recommend to the Commission that the GS-FFMB become the prime management group for Spanish mackerel. Discussion followed regarding who is appropriate to answer management questions. Motion failed due to lack of second.

\* W. Tatum moved that the Subcommittee develop a recommendation to the TCC providing three mechanisms which could be used to address the

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problem; states working individually, GSMFC through GS-FFMB develop FMP, or leave in hands of the Council; and the pros and cons of each. Motion carried unanimously. Each member will mail his suggestion on the above to the new chairman by February 15, 1986. A March meeting will be held at the call of the chairman.

Election of Chairman

W. Tatum nominated R. Williams for chairman. Nominations were closed. R. Williams was elected by unanimous acclamation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.



# State of Florida

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DR. ELTON K. GISSENDANNER  
Executive Director  
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32303

**GULF STATES MARINE  
FISHERIES COMMISSION**

MAR 13 1986

REPLY TO

Bureau of Marine Research  
100 Eighth Avenue, S.E.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5095

11 March 1986

Mr. Larry Simpson  
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
P.O. Box 726  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Dear Larry:

I have several changes and corrections to the draft minutes of our Spanish Mackerel Committee Meeting on 21 and 22 January. Most of them pertain to the results of the yield per recruit analysis which, I know, is very difficult to follow.

Page 4, sentence beginning line 14: M. Murphy said that the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission had increased minimum mesh size to 3½" on the Florida east coast during 15 November to 15 March and had banned power assisted gill net retrieval systems in Palm Beach and Dade Counties.

Page 5, sentence beginning third line from bottom: Recreational landings on the Florida east coast show a significant decline in catch rates and a significant decline in size of fish landed, whereas on the Florida west coast they do not show any trend in catch rates but do show a significant decline in size of fish landed.

Page 6, sentence beginning line 5: There were no real changes in potential harvest effort on the Florida west coast, suggesting a decline in abundance of fish.

Page 6, sentence beginning line 7: On the east coast the fishery has become compressed into a two or three county area and compressed into a very short season.

Page 6, sentence beginning line 16: Mortality estimates varied with the database but a relatively high value ( $Z = 1.2$ ) was chosen to provide a biologically conservative picture of the population status.

**BOB GRAHAM**  
Governor  
**GEORGE FIRESTONE**  
Secretary of State  
**JIM SMITH**  
Attorney General  
**GERALD A. LEWIS**  
Comptroller  
**BILL GUNTER**  
Treasurer  
**DOYLE CONNER**  
Commissioner of Agriculture  
**RALPH D. TURLINGTON**  
Commissioner of Education

Phone: (813) 896-8626  
SunCom: 523-1011

Mr. Larry Simpson  
Page Two  
11 March 1986

Page 6, sentence beginning line 17: If natural mortality is low, there may be benefits to delaying age at entry by one year, both in terms of yield per recruit and stock abundance (numbers).

Page 6, sentence beginning line 18: insert "natural" before mortality.

Look forward to seeing you next week in Brownsville.

Sincerely,

  
DIVISION OF MARINE RESOURCES

Roy O. Williams  
Biological Administrator I  
Bureau of Marine Research

ROW:pm

APPROVED BY:

Tom Murre  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

MARFIN PROGRAM MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday, February 13/  
Friday, February 14, 1986  
Tampa, Florida

MARFIN Program Management Board  
Thursday, February 13/Friday,  
February 14, 1986  
Tampa, Florida  
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:00 pm. The following were in attendance:

Members

Larry B. Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS  
Tom Murray, GASAFDFI, Tampa, FL  
Wayne E. Swingle, GMFMC, Tampa, FL  
Jack Greenfield, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Andy Kemmerer, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
Walter Tatum, Gulf States (designee), Gulf Shores, AL  
Jim Cato, Sea Grant, Gainesville, FL  
Robert Ditton, Recreational Industry, College Station, TX  
\*Robert Jones, Commercial Industry, Tallahassee, FL

Others

Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
\*Jack Brawner, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Buck Byrd, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Ron Schmied, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Don Ekberg, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Pat Howell, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Terry Leary, GMFMC, Tampa, FL  
\*\*Jean-Martin West, NMFS, Kansas City, KS  
\*\*Brad Brown, NMFS, Miami, FL  
\*\*Ed Burgess, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Lucia O'Toole, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

\*Attendance on 2/13/86 only.  
\*\*Attendance on 2/14/86 only.

J. Greenfield, serving as interim chairman, announced the outcome of the NMFS Recreational and Commercial Steering Committees' polls for Program Management Board (PMB) membership. Dr. Robert Ditton will represent recreational interests. Mr. Robert Jones and Mr. Ralph Rayburn (designee) will represent commercial interests.

J. Greenfield stated that MARFIN monies have been transferred to the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) but a current freeze prevents NMFS obligation of those funds. It is SERO's intent to immediately request authorization to obligate the portion to cover an administrative contract with Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC).



J. Brawner expressed his full support for the MARFIN program which, as clearly stated in the document and by Congressional intent, represents a partnership between the Gulf States, Sea Grant, industry and NMFS. He discussed possible preallocation of the monies to the various partners followed by a program-driven board reviewing all projects and making all decisions. Mr. Brawner further expressed his view of this board (with the possible addition of a few persons) serving also as the advisory panel on S/K project proposals.

The pros and cons of presenting the program in four packages representing the four partners versus one large package were discussed. It was suggested that perhaps generalized contracts with each of the partners (GSMFC for the Gulf States, Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation for industry, etc.) for 1/4 of the funds be considered. General contracts with built-in provisions for transferring funds as the program dictates might be approved by FARB by late spring. Otherwise project monies could not be obligated until late summer.

#### Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the first informal meeting of the PMB held January 23, 1986 in St. Petersburg, Florida were amended on page 1 to read

"After considerable discussion about the relative role of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Southeast Regional Office regarding the program coordinator function, the issue remains open for further discussion."

and on page 2 to read

"Corky Perret asked if copies of the MARFIN minutes relative to program management could be made available..."

and then accepted as amended.

#### Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was amended to allow discussion on the administration and coordination of the program before the election of chairman and then adopted as amended.

Approval of Program Coordinator and Staff

J. Brawner proposed that Don Ekberg of NMFS-SERO serve the PMB as program coordinator with Pat Howell assisting him in monitoring and tracking projects and that GSMFC be contracted to process travel and arrange meetings, record and transcribe minutes of meetings and perform other administrative duties for the PMB.

\* R. Jones moved that the PMB accept the NMFS proposal. Motion was seconded. The floor was opened to discussion. The level of service was estimated to be \$75,000.

\* J. Cato moved to amend the motion to discuss GSMFC's portion of administration in addition to NMFS in order to determine the total cost. Motion was seconded. W. Tatum stated that the motion was inappropriate as the issue was still open to discuss further options. For further discussion the individuals names were omitted from the NMFS proposal.

L. Simpson distributed a proposal from the GSMFC for the program coordinator and administrative support totaling \$103,000/year and suggested that the best way to facilitate the first half year of the program would be to accept the NMFS proposal.

\* J. Cato moved to accept the NMFS proposal for program coordination and GSMFC's proposal less the program coordinator and to reevaluate the responsibilities at the end of the first year. Motion carried unanimously.

\* T. Murray moved that the PMB discuss Don Ekberg and Pat Howell as the individuals to be utilized within NMFS for program coordination. J. Greenfield reviewed the qualifications and background experience of the two individuals. J. Brawner said that SERO would replace them should the PMB be dissatisfied in any way. The question was called on the motion as stated asking Don Ekberg to serve for the initial year as program coordinator with the assistance of Pat Howell. Motion carried.

Election of Chairman

W. Swingle nominated Tom Murray for chairman. Tom Murray was elected to serve a two-year term as chairman of the PMB by unanimous acclamation.

The floor was opened for nominations for vice chairman. R. Jones nominated Andy Kemmerer. Andy Kemmerer was elected vice chairman by unanimous acclamation.

#### Length of Terms of Board Members

Terms of service for PMB members were voluntarily set following suggestions by J. Cato. NMFS and the Gulf States representatives will serve 1 year terms; Sea Grant, GSMFC and the commercial industry representatives will serve two year terms; GMFMC, GASAFDFI and the recreational industry representatives will serve three year terms;. All terms begin February 1986 and at expiration will become three year terms; representatives may serve successive terms. Consensus was that the PMB will be guided by Robert's Rules of Order.

#### Protocol for Developing Consensus Program Plan for FY86

J. Greenfield initiated discussion regarding how to proceed to define the program and begin drafting RFP's within the next 40 days. W. Swingle stated that the PMB should determine the projects/program and then the distribution of funds accordingly. The projects recommended in the summary table of the MARFIN document were those which would reflect an economic return to fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico.

PMB discussion targeted mackerel, transboundary work, latent resources and limited entry as areas of major interest. W. Swingle, J. Cato and J. Greenfield distributed their written ideas on program priority areas. A. Kemmerer distributed copies of a draft strategic plan for development of Southeast latent fishery resources which lists species, areas of work, people logical to work in specific areas, etc. After consultation with represented entities, each member will write a program following the format used by W. Swingle and submit it to D. Ekberg no later than March 7.

Criteria for setting priorities were inherently outlined in the MARFIN document as projects which increase economic return by such categories as development, recovery, maintenance and enhancement.

Discussion was resumed on packaging the program and appropriate funding instrument(s). The possibility of amending existing cooperative agreements to do MARFIN work was discussed. B. Jones questioned the technical review process. J. Brawner responded that D. Ekberg will arrange for any technical review (by NMFS-SEFC, GMFMC, university specialist, etc.) of any project that the PMB desires.

J. Brawner informed the PMB that Jean Martin-West would be available all day on the following day to discuss the appropriate award instrument for accomplishing FY86 programmatic funding.

The first day's session was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Friday, February 14, 1986

T. Murray, chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:15 am and welcomed Jean Martin-West.

Appropriate Award Instrument for Programmatic Funding (length of award)

J. Martin-West informed the PMB that she would recommend the most appropriate procurement instrument after she learned the requirements of the board. Available instruments are contracts (used for acquisition of services or supplies) and two types of financial assistance awards - grants and cooperative agreements. Cooperative agreements have more government involvement than grants. Delays may be avoided in later stages at FARB because of Kansas City's involvement in working with the PMB from the beginning stages.

W. Tatum asked if it were possible to commit funds available this year for a two- or three-year period. J. Martin-West responded that the performance period can be longer.

It was the consensus of the PMB that cooperative agreements and grants will be the funding instruments. The question of matching funds requirements on financial assistance awards was further discussed. J. Greenfield said that Glenn Delaney of Congressman Breaux's staff was

available for verbal expression of Congressional intent on matching as the document is silent on the issue. Historically, enabling legislation has specified when match has been required.

Pros and cons of various ways to package the program were considered. With a single coordinated package it must be recognized that the program is only as fast as the slowest entity. J. Martin-West suggested that a cover memo could be written to accompany individual project submission for coordination. Decision will be made after the program has been defined.

It was stated that the operational plan would help the PMB over many hurdles. The five year operational plan will specify each major event, partners, administrative mechanism, coordinator, etc. The plan will be completed by late spring and should be reviewed/ revised annually.

#### GSMFC Contract for Administrative Services

A "Statement of Work" proposed by NMFS-KC to execute a contract between NMFS and GSMFC for administrative support of the PMB was distributed. L. Simpson has the consent of the PMB to work out agreement on differences with Kansas City in the two proposals. Progress reporting times will be decided by GSMFC. It was noted that meetings held in the Tampa Bay or Miami areas would help NMFS stay within their travel limitations. L. Simpson requested executing the administrative contract for the remainder of FY86 and then addressing the three year contract beginning in FY87. It was determined that the initial contract will be for one year for consistency with the program. The administration of the Program's needs were cost out with certain parameters.

\* J. Cato moved that the PMB authorize \$66,599 to GSMFC for administration of the program. The motion carried (GSMFC abstained).

After phone conversations, J. Martin-West reported that matching funds would not be required unless an entity had been legislatively mandated to match. This would affect Sea Grant and the Foundation. The

PMB felt this was not the intent of Congress. J. Martin-West will be trying to further address this concern. The PMB agreed to proceed for at least the next month with the assumption that there will be no match required.

#### Summary

D. Ekberg and P. Howell will receive input from each PMB member (listing each entity's projects proposed for the FY86 program) no later than March 7. These will be assembled into a general list and returned to PMB within 2 days. Members will prioritize and return general list to D. Ekberg and P. Howell. It is hoped that the total prioritized list is completed before the next PMB meeting.

The draft schedule of events was reviewed. J. Martin-West reiterated that if the packages were in Kansas City by August 1 then she felt fairly certain that problems would not be encountered. Every day of delay after August 1 poses a threat. A. Kemmerer suggested putting the general notice (announcement of funding that is available to do research in certain areas) in the Federal Register before the next PMB meeting. D. Ekberg will write the notice using the general objectives from the MARFIN document and the statement that it is a program-driven board. He will submit the notice to the Federal Register and forward copies to PMB members. To make up time, the 47 days allowed for RFP open season could be shortened to no less than 30 days.

#### Other Business

J. Greenfield said that NMFS had a problem to share with the PMB to see if it might be appropriate for the PMB to authorize NMFS to spend a limited amount of funds in advance of the other full program development. B. Brown informed members that on the assumption that latent resources would be in this year's budget and during the periods of continuing resolution, NMFS had allowed the SEFC to spend latent resource monies at last year's level. The SEFC has spent \$310,000 (to date) of a \$600,000 program and now have a \$310,000 deficit as the latent resources add on was not funded.

If faced with this deficit, SEFC would have to tie-up the CHAPMAN and have to lay off personnel on March 1 when Gramm/Rudman goes into effect. J. Greenfield said the loss of the latent resources add-on left the SERO with a \$200,000 problem. SERO may be able to compete for that \$200,000 within MARFIN but the SEFC has no option.

J. Greenfield said the question is whether the PMB will adopt the principle of considering an advance and if so is there a basis for establishing a safe advance that will not jeopardize the integrity of the program-driven competitive situation. It was noted that the intent of Congress was to get latent resource funds from MARFIN. Also noted was the intent of Congress that MARFIN have a program-driven board.

\* A. Kemmerer moved that NMFS-SEFC be authorized to continue their latent resources program subject to review and approval on March 26-27, 1986 at which time the board could authorize that that program be terminated within two weeks. Motion was seconded. Negative discussion followed and the motion was restated.

\* A. Kemmerer moved that the PMB authorize SEFC \$360,000 for latent resources to cover costs up through the end of March and these funds be transferred immediately. Motion was seconded. J. Cato requested that the PMB see the SEFC's expenditures in their program areas and their priorities assigned to those program areas. B. Brown said the SEFC will prepare a document showing the evaluations. J. Greenfield stated that the record should show that this \$360,000 is an advance on money that will support programs that go through the same process as the rest of the board and therefore represents less than a minimal amount that the SEFC will compete for on a programmatic basis. The question was called on the motion. The motion carried with four affirmative votes and one negative vote.

The GSMFC office will set up all conference calls.

The March 26-27, 1986 meeting of the PMB will be held in the GMFMC conference room in Tampa, Florida.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

APPROVED BY:

*David Cuska*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

APPROVED BY:

*W. H. Pate*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

*As written*  

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GULF STATES MARINE  
FISHERIES COMMISSION

SEP 17 1986

JOINT SEAMAP PROGRAMS

MINUTES

Monday, March 17, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas



JOINT SEAMAP PROGRAMS  
MINUTES  
Monday, March 17, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

Walter Tatum, SEAMAP-Gulf Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. The following members and guests were present:

SEAMAP Gulf Subcommittee

K. Stuck, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
B. Barrett, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
A. Kemmerer, NMFS-MS, Pascagoula, MS  
W. Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL  
G. Matlock, TPWD, Austin, TX  
D. Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
W. Swingle, GMFMC, Tampa, FL  
K. Savastano, NMFS-MS, NSTL, MS  
C.E. Bryan, TPWD, Austin, TX  
F. Sutter, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
T. McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
A. Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL

SEAMAP-South Atlantic Committee

D. Cupka, SCWMD, Charleston, SC  
M. Street, NCDNRCD, Morehead City, NC  
P. Eldridge, NMFS, Charleston, SC  
J. McCallum, ASMFC, Washington, DC  
S. Shipman, GDNR  
A. Huff, FNDR, St. Petersburg, FL

GSMFC Staff

N. Bane, SEAMAP-Gulf Coordinator

Others

J. Jones, MS-AL Sea Grant, Ocean Springs, MS  
S. Nichols, NMFS, Miami, FL  
E. Nakamura, NMFS, Panama City, FL  
J. Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
M. Smith, U.S. Dept. of Energy, New Orleans, LA  
T. Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant  
R. Juhl, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
J. Seijo, Instituto Nacional de la Pesca  
W. Nelson, NMFS, Miami, FL  
R. Condrey, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA  
B. Chauvin, ASPA, New Orleans, LA  
B. Brown, NMFS-SEFC, Miami, FL  
E. Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
D. Etzold, USM, Hattiesburg, MS  
P. Hammerschmidt, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX  
J. Collins, GMFMC, Brownsville, TX  
H. Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
P. Hanson, NMFS, Beaufort, NC

W. Tatum welcomed the MS-AL Sea Grant Director, Jim Jones.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as amended to discuss neuston sampling procedures, the Information System Design Proposal, and substitution of speakers.

Activities Overview, South Atlantic and Gulf

David Cupka, SEAMAP-South Atlantic Chairman, reviewed activities of that program for the past year, noting emphasis has been placed on the Trawl Calibration Study, creation of a Trawl Calibration Work Group, the Bottom Mapping Project, planned participation in the Fall 1986 King Mackerel Plankton Survey, and provision of young red drum to LSU in the joint Red Drum Stock Identification Study.

W. Tatum reviewed the Gulf program's activities in the past year. Noted were the fifth year of summer shrimp/groundfish surveys, a fall shrimp/groundfish survey, squid/butterfish survey, and coastal herring survey. Other major events were the Red Drum Stock Identification Study, plankton archiving at two centers, further development of the Information System, meetings of almost all the advisory work groups, and planning for several other surveys in the summer and fall of 1986.

Peter Eldridge described planned 1987 activities: stock identification methods assessment and a passive gear project to assess Geryon crabs. Discussion followed on details of gear comparisons performed by the South Atlantic program.

Jim Jones of MS-AL Sea Grant noted the benefits to both Sea Grant and SEAMAP that would result from a informalized arrangement between the groups.

Neuston Sorting

Discussion commenced on the setting of priorities for sorting neuston samples in 1986. Protocols and procedures for the samples to be taken during the September King Mackerel Plankton Survey were outlined, and problems resulting from the increased number of program samples were explained.

\* Dick Waller moved to accept the Gulf program's Plankton Work Group report with the knowledge that some of the samples will go to the Polish Sorting Center for sorting and other options are available for sorting.

The motion was seconded and a roll call vote requested. The motion passed, 6-2, 1 abstention.

Administrative Status

Nikki Bane noted a possible future need to clarify rising administrative costs.

\* Gary Matlock moved to endorse documentation of Commission administrative support services. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The TCC Chairman noted that such action is not required and the motion and second were withdrawn.

Red Drum Stock Identification Study Report

Tom McIlwain reviewed the status of the red drum project and the March Red Drum Work Group meeting recommendations. Discussion followed on the status of collections for all participating states, with states not having completed collection to do so as feasible.

Status and Trends Benthic Surveillance Project Report

Peter Hanson of the NMFS-Beaufort Laboratory presented a comprehensive slide show of the past year's sampling activities. Discussion followed on availability of project data to participants and the project status for FY1987.

Cooperative Tagging Project

Walter Nelson described the benefits to the region that would result from SEAMAP participating in a cooperative State-Federal project to tag king mackerel. Problems in need of resolution included rewards, research vs recreational goals, approach to the sampling, data management, tag types, and separation of such an effort from other mackerel tagging efforts. Discussion followed on the use of an angler-assisted tagging effort, and the nature of tag returns as a fishery-dependent activity rather than as a SEAMAP objective. Findings and recommendations from the SEFC-SEAMAP King Mackerel Research Planning Workshop were reviewed. The South Atlantic Program indicated its support for such a coordinated tagging effort, with North Carolina and the NMFS-Beaufort Laboratory working together to maximize efficiency and minimize duplication.

\* G. Matlock moved that the SEAMAP-Gulf Subcommittee recommend through the TCC, and the SEAMAP-South Atlantic Committee recommend through the ASMFC Advisory Committee, that the Commissions support the efforts of NMFS in their cooperative tagging work on king mackerel, coordinated by the SEFC. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

FY1986 Joint Annual Report

\* Following a request from the wishes of the two programs, Mike Street moved to have a FY1986 Joint Annual Report produced. The motion was seconded and passed. The coordinators will resolve problems arising during its preparation.

P. Eldridge announced that he will be on rotation to Washington, DC from May 1 to August 1, 1986, and will be unavailable to the Center during this period.

SEAMAP Information System Design

Ken Savastano presented the results of the two proposals for system design of the proposed information system. The two bids were discussed and a motion made, on K. Savastano's recommendation, to accept the CSC-NASA bid. The motion was seconded and passed. K. Savastano will work with both SEAMAP programs as the study progresses, and each program was requested to provide him with the names of state contacts on the project.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

*David C. Nielson*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC ANADROMOUS FISH SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, March 17, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

TCC ANADROMOUS FISH SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Monday, March 17, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman Larry Nicholson called the meeting to order at 1:14 pm.  
The following were in attendance:

Members

Gary Saul, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Madison "Shine" Powell, AMRD, Gulf Shores, AL  
J. Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
I. B. "Buck" Byrd, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Frank Richardson, FWS, Atlanta, GA

Staff

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

Others

Lou Villanova, FWS, Atlanta, GA  
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Paul Hammerschmidt, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX  
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
Melissa Smith, USDOE, New Orleans, LA  
Richard Anderson, FWS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, October 15/Wednesday, October 16, 1985 in Kissimmee, Florida were adopted as written.

Discuss Status of Management Plan

B. Byrd summarized his impression of the Plan as containing a great deal of important information but extremely hard to follow in the current format. He suggested that some information may be better presented in table or chart form and that the terms saltwater and freshwater be defined. He said that what has been produced to date is never discussed in measured terms.

G. Saul suggested prefacing the Plan with an executive summary which would develop generalizations and eliminate the specifics by state as much as possible. It was the consensus of the Subcommittee to create an executive summary which would include graphics. The decision on whether to publish the executive summary separately or as part of the Plan was delayed until the length of the summary is determined. L. Nicholson and L. Simpson will draft the first cut (perhaps with Nikki Bane consulting) to be reviewed by members.

L. Nicholson asked each member to provide a map, if possible, and a short narrative defining saltwater/freshwater boundary lines for his state. This information will be incorporated in Section 4.

Other reviewers comments were discussed. More information is needed in Section 6. G. Saul will add the dollar value which has been determined in Texas for striped bass and each member will reexamine his state's portion of the socio-economics section.

Some tables were determined to be too long. F. Richardson will have those tables reduced to fit on one page. Stocking tables reflect fry stockings not stated in the text, these will be examined.

Figure 1.1 will show the historical range and instead of the inset, another figure will show the Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam and give more definition to the Apalachicola area.

Members comments on the entire document were discussed and resultant changes will be incorporated in the next draft. Tables will be inserted in the text where possible. Tables 3.1-3.5 may be modified and moved to Appendix B or deleted if variables are determined too variable to be meaningful. A. Huff will check Ed's report.

Members are to address what their respective states are doing now on striped bass and determine how that can be measured as well as how the recommendations of the Plan can be measured.

Establish Time Frame for Review and Comment on Management Plan

Members are to have their assignments mailed to L. Nicholson by April 15, 1986. L. Nicholson will incorporate new material/changes into

a master copy. The revised Plan will be circulated to members within two weeks after submission to GSMFC.

L. Nicholson will inform the TCC that substantial changes are being made on the draft Plan. After Subcommittee comments are received on the revised Plan, the Plan will be sent to TCC members for review.

Discuss Publication Procedures and Costs

L. Simpson informed members that barring any serious objections from the TCC, the Plan will be forwarded to Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board (GS-FFMB) for their approval by mail ballot. It is hoped that the review and approval process will be completed well before September 30. If it appears as though the process will not be completed by that date, a contract for printing may be entered into before the end of the fiscal year. Funds for publication have been provided for FY86 through the GS-FFMB.

Other Business

F. Richardson informed members that FWS has new gear in Apalachicola which, if as successful as in California, may enable them to take more fry.

L. Villanova said that of ten on-going projects, four will be funded this year (2 Gulf/2 Atlantic). He said members should not look for 89-304 funds in FY87, but they should start looking for Wallop/Breaux monies.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.



APPROVED BY:  
*Cecilia L. Baker*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

*As written*  
→

TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, March 17, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Monday, March 17, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.  
The following members and guests were present:

Subcommittee

C.E. Bryan, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Buck Sutter, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Ken Savastano, NMFS-MS, NSTL, MS  
Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Wayne Swingle, GMFMC, Tampa, FL  
Dick Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Gary Matlock, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL  
Andy Kemmerer, NMFS-MS, Pascagoula, MS  
Barney Barrett, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Ken Stuck, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Staff

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

Others

John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Miami, FL  
Peter Eldridge, NMFS, Charleston, SC  
Mike Street, NCDMF, Morehead City, NC  
Clyde Richbourg, GSMFC, Milton, FL  
Eugene Nakamura, NMFS, Panama City, FL  
Melissa Smith, U.S. Dept. of Energy, New Orleans, LA  
Gary Saul, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Maury Ferguson, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Rolf Juhl, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
Juan Carlos Seijo, Instituto Nacional de Pesca  
Ruben Mirabela S., SEPESCA  
Guillermo Gomez, SEPESCA

W. Tatum introduced and welcomed the current Commission Chairman,  
Clyde Richbourg (Florida).

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in New Orleans on Wednesday, January 8, 1986 were approved as written.

Budget Report

Financial statements for program administration (FY1985 inclusive, 10/1/84-2/28/86; FY1986 to date, 1/1/86-2/28/86) were distributed to the Subcommittee, noting that FY1986 programmatic funds have not been received at this date. L. Simpson noted that a NMFS-GSMFC contract must be in hand prior to continuation of administrative activities beyond April 1986. He noted that the Coordinator's projected contract is for a six-month period (January-June) and is presently being covered by LSU.

Andrew Kemmerer distributed a summary of FY1986 funding allocations for the program and noted that funds were not reduced by NOAA but appeared to be held up by paperwork. A possible major reprogramming of NOAA funds was discussed, and it was suggested that any spending of FY1986 program funds at this time was with some risk. The Gramm-Rudman deficit spending bill reduction for SEAMAP totalled 4.0 percent. A. Kemmerer also recommended that, as appropriate following the scheduled State-Federal Conference on March 18, the Subcommittee should meet to determine necessary action to resolve the current funding problems.

Introductions

The Chairman presented and welcomed three distinguished guests from Mexico:

- Juan Carlos Seijo (Instituto Nacional de Pesca)
- Ruben Mirabela S. (SEPESCA)
- Guillermo Gomez (SEPESCA).

Publications Report

Nikki Bane presented the current status of SEAMAP publications:

- (1) 1983 Atlas: 250 copies published, currently being distributed.
- (2) 1984 Atlas: A proposed preparation timeline has been developed and tasks initiated to generate data, tables and plots. Anticipated publication: Fall 1986.
- (3) 1986 Marine Directory: 100 copies published, currently being distributed.

- (4) Meeting Update Bulletin: distributed in late February to Subcommittee, work group leaders and other interested in meeting discussions.
- (5) State-Federal Programmatic Completion Report: completed, distributed to all SEAMAP participants for inclusion with their final report to SERO.

Distributed to the Subcommittee were a list of SEAMAP publications published in FY1985, and a list of 1985 literature citing SEAMAP data.

#### Work Group Reports

##### (1) Plankton Work Group

Ken Stuck reviewed the report of the work group's March 6, 1986 meeting mailed by Bill Richards to the Subcommittee:

- Recommended priority sampling. First: September King Mackerel Plankton Survey; second: April-May (bluefin tuna) Plankton Survey; third: June-July Shrimp/Groundfish Survey (piggybacked plankton); Fourth: Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey (piggybacked).
- Sampling protocol. The projected large number of samples to be sorted by the Polish Sorting Center (PSC) led to the work group's recommendations: (a) only bongo samples should be sent to Poland, with one-half aliquots of the largest samples sorted; (b) all regular neuston samples should be archived at GCRL; (c) at night stations, a second neuston tow be taken specifically for king mackerel, with special handling for sorting and studies by NMFS-Panama City.
- Participation by Mexico. Present planning for the September survey included participation by PESCA and sorting of a specified number of Mexican samples by the PSC/SEAMAP.
- Publications. (a) A joint U.S.-Mexico plankton atlas for the Gulf will be prepared; (b) a manual for identification of species in the southeast region will be prepared, with anticipated completion in 1990.

K. Stuck also distributed and reviewed his report on the Invertebrate Plankton Archiving Center and his upcoming trip to the Polish Sorting Center. A total of 440 unsorted zooplankton samples

have been catalogued and associated records computer filed, with 144 additional lots of sorted cephalopod larvae loaned to LSU under a tentatively adopted protocol similar to that of the SEAMAP (ichthyoplankton) Archiving Center. Cataloguing of expected additional bongo and neuston samples, and sorted invertebrate samples, was reviewed.

Discussion by the Subcommittee followed, regarding the anticipated large number of specimens to be sorted at the PSC and sorting priorities for SEAMAP. Concern was expressed for collection of samples without a clear determination of their subsequent disposition.

\* Alan Huff moved to accept the Plankton Work Group's recommendations as written. Motion was seconded, discussion ensued and the motion failed to pass, 3-3.

\* A. Kemmerer moved to accept the Plankton Work Group's report with the exception of those portions relating to the fate of 1986 neuston samples. The motion was seconded and discussion followed.

\* Gary Matlock moved to table the motion until the SEAMAP-South Atlantic representatives could participate in the discussion at the afternoon joint meeting. Motion was seconded and passed.

A. Huff requested clarification of ownership of specimens archived at SEAMAP archiving centers, in response to a request from Karen Steidinger (FDNR) for this information. Discussion of options relating to stewardship followed.

\* A. Huff moved to have either the Commission or NMFS attempt to resolve the plankton specimen stewardship question by the next SEAMAP meeting. Motion was seconded and amended to instead recommend that the TCC pursue resolution of the question through whatever means might be appropriate. Motion passed.

## (2) Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group

C.E. Bryan reviewed the purpose of the Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey during the Texas Closure: determination whether shrimp size and abundance changed significantly among years. Five years of SEAMAP data have responded to most "brush fire"-type questions, but the size of shrimp is not one of those questions. For the 1986 survey, sampling will be slightly in

advance of previous years because of an earlier shrimp season.

The survey will first sample 20 stations east of the river, 40 each off Louisiana and Texas, with 20 additional stations later taken east of the river. The question of standardizing towing procedures across the fathom contour continues to be a problem, with the work group recommending making additional tows needed to cross the contour, and Texas and Louisiana indicating their intent to limit stations to one per contour because of the extensive width of some contours and personnel/time constraints. Scott Nichols noted that more (narrower) strata could be added to the sampling design, on a state-by-state basis. G. Matlock added that this situation continues to pose a problem at all stations between Sabine and Galveston, and an estimate of the level of precision for the reduced number of tows is needed. S. Nichols stated he would attempt to provide this estimate.

Dick Waller noted that the earlier onset of sampling could interfere with the proposed scheduling of the Squid/Butterfish Survey by the TOMMY MUNRO. C.E. Bryan stated he would review the schedule.

A. Kemmerer stated that the preliminary analysis of the 1985 Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey data (OREGON II only) has been accomplished and is available. Results indicate conclusively that more shrimp are caught at night than during the day.

(3) Environmental Data Work Group

A. Kemmerer stated that the work group's recommendation for 1986 surveys is to continue sampling as before.

(4) Red Drum Work Group

Tom McIlwain reported discussion and recommendations resulting from the work group's March 12-13, 1986 meeting in New Orleans. It was noted that Churchill Grimes replaced Gene Nakamura as the NMFS representative; a representative from the SEAMAP-South Atlantic Stock Identification Work Group, Jess Hawkins (NCDNR), was also present. Preliminary findings of electrophoresis studies at Louisiana Tech and Rice universities, and the HPLC study at LSU, indicated general homogeneity among estuarine red drum sampled

Gulf-wide; it was noted that HPLC has potential importance in this area but its results are difficult to interpret because of an inadequate "library" of samples. Mitochondrial DNA and tagging studies were suggested as possible alternatives that would further contribute to stock definition.

The following recommendations were made by the work group:

- (a) HPLC, electrophoresis, mitochondrial DNA and tag/recapture studies should be initiated on offshore northern Gulf red drum; this research is deemed needed to complete biochemical analyses performed earlier on inshore specimens. Preliminary information on offshore stocks from Florida commercial vessels indicates an age range from 8 to 34; the specific age structure data are also needed.
- (b) Fishery-dependent collection groups obtain data on a routine basis (e.g., NMFS or contracted) on the offshore northern Gulf red drum fishery.
- (c) Available information on red drum should be compiled as an update of the 1980 GSMFC profile and 1984 GMFMC/GSMFC profile. Such information should include format, location, content and other important source data, and should be done immediately and made available to encourage interest groups to analyze the data on a Gulf-wide basis.

Discussion of the tagging recommendations focused on: Texas' opposition to a tagging program for its own sake because no fish over 30" can be landed in the State and TPWD has previously conducted extensive tagging of red drum; the difficulty in designing a suitable study; and appropriate tag types. Concern was also expressed for the limited number of red drum analyzed by LSU from each site; it was noted that these have now been analyzed and a final report is forthcoming. The confidentiality of fishery-dependent data collected by on-board observers, and subsequent possible unavailability of data, were discussed. It was noted that data must presently be aggregated by gear type and statistical zone, but should be unaggregated to be useful.

Possible confidentiality waivers, State-Federal data exchange agreements, and special scientific permits were discussed, as well as the accuracy of existing catch data. The Subcommittee was advised to avoid attempting to obtain a legal definition of the confidentiality issue.

\* The Subcommittee unanimously approved the work group's recommendations (b) (fishery-dependent data collection), and (c) (endorsement of continued electrophoresis and HPLC studies by LSU and Louisiana Tech). Also approved, Texas abstaining, were endorsement of initiating mitochondrial DNA studies on red drum by Rice University, and initiation of tag/recapture studies on offshore red drum.

\* It was noted that, with respect to compilation of available red drum information, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is already involved in such a project. D. Waller moved to endorse the concept in recommendation (a), in conjunction with Texas' effort; the motion was amended to include immediate assistance by the SEAMAP program if Texas should request it. The motion was seconded and passed.

(5) Data Coordinating Work Group

Ken Savastano distributed the current data management report, and reviewed the features:

- (a) Entry, editing and verification of 1985 survey data are continuing.
- (b) 1984 salinity data have been merged into the files and 1984 chlorophyll sample data are being entered.
- (c) Software modification requirements for preparing the 1984 Atlas have been identified and manpower estimates are being generated.
- (d) Of nine data requests received since January 11, 1986, four have been processed and work is being performed on the remainder. A total of 41 requests has been received to date.

Discussion of the SEAMAP Information System design proposals was tabled until the joint afternoon session.



(6) Squid/Butterfish Work Group

B. Sutter distributed the work group's report, detailing discussions and recommendations of its meeting on February 5, 1986. It was noted that Mark Van Hoose replaced Water Tatum as the designated representative from Alabama. The report detailed findings of the past butterfish surveys and contained the following recommendations relative to the spring survey:

- (a) Sampling depths: 20-170 fm.
- (b) Time: 7 May - 4 June 1986; daylight only.
- (c) Design: stratified into 6 subareas, with a total of 42 strata (40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140 fm), 2 stations per strata. Total stations, States: 50 (MS, AL, LA). Total stations, NMFS: 108
- (d) Gear: 80' high-rise with steel "V" doors, 60' nets with wooden (shrimp) doors, as back-up. Rigging: stern-trawl, double-warp, (without bridle). All tows = 30 min.

It was noted that Mississippi has made a tentative commitment to re-rig the TOMMY MUNRO for stern trawling; Alabama and Louisiana will probably charter that vessel.

Environmental sampling will include surface XBTs; surface chlorophyll (9 liters at surface with 3 subsamples); surface, mid-depth and bottom salinities; and other standard SEAMAP data. Recommendations for plankton sampling were deferred to the Plankton Work Group.

(7) Administration

It was noted that the use of SEAMAP data for producing forthcoming atlases has been streamlined by NMFS and the Commission office.

Concern voiced was that funds for SEAMAP and all add-ons may be deleted from the FY1987 NMFS budget.

Other Business

A. Kemmerer distributed information on the proposed, expanded weight-variance study to be conducted in conjunction with the Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey. The study will correct biases (relating to

large samples) found in the 1985 study. No funds are requested for the study.

D. Waller noted that GCRL's recently acquired electronic balance will be tested aboard the TOMMY MUNRO this spring and may prove useful in increasing accuracy of shipboard weights.

\* A. Huff moved to endorse the study. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

APPROVED BY:  
*Harry S. [Signature]*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC STATISTICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, March 17, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

TCC STATISTICAL SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Monday, March 17, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman Henry G. "Skip" Lazauski called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Henry G. "Skip" Lazauski, AMR, Dauphin Island, AL  
Robert G. Muller FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL (proxy for F. Kennedy)  
Maury Ferguson, TPWD, Austin, TX (proxy for A. Green)  
Frederick Deegen, BMR, Long Beach, MS  
Albert Jones, NMFS, Miami, FL (proxy for H. Prytherch)

Staff

Eileen M. Benton, Staff Assistant

Others

Tony Jiovenale, Department of Commerce, Kansas City, MO  
Thomas R. Dawley, NMFS, New Orleans, LA  
Brad Brown, NMFS, Miami, FL  
Buck Byrd, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Guillermo Gomez, PESCA, Mexico City, MX

Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with the following changes: (1) deletion of Item 14 -- Reconsideration of Texas' resolution on collection of recreational fisheries data; and (2) addition of discussion of Data Collection Plan - A. Jones.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Kissimmee, Florida, Wednesday, October 16, 1985 were adopted with the following change:

Page 2, fifth paragraph, first sentence, should read as follows:  
A. Green recommended some type of flagging system be developed indicating for what purposes certain data records could be used.

Status of the symposium publication

H. Lazauski reported that he is lacking three papers/abstracts from the March 1985 symposium. After discussion, it was determined that all reports would be submitted to him by mid-May, at which time he would edit and submit them to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for publication.

Status of the States' data file summary

H. Lazauski reported that all States have turned in their respective data files, however, due to clean-up after Hurricane Elena all data files were inadvertently discarded. H. Lazauski expressed his apologies and requested that the States resubmit their data records to him.

Agenda of the April Workshop for the Subcommittee

H. Lazauski reported that \$2,500 is available for the workshop and commended Stu Kennedy for his excellent work on organizing the workshop. The workshop will be held at the Bay Harbor Inn in Tampa, Florida on April 28-30, 1986.

The following topics were recommended as agenda items:

- 1) Review of data entry programs for Gulf finfish and Gulf shrimp landings
- 2) Discussion of data entry programs, including demonstration, for the biological sampling program (CSBSP).
- 3) Florida landings data system
- 4) Demonstration of IBM computer programs for CSBSP

\* H. Lazauski motioned to accept the above items as the agenda for the April Workshop. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Proprietary Data

M. Ferguson reported that A. Green has not yet been in contact with the other States regarding their views on proprietary data. However, he has requested the lawyer at TPWD work with the University of Texas to find out what protection a researcher has for collective data. She stated that he has also requested the General Council at Texas A&M University review case studies, and he is looking into the possibility of copyrighting data. A. Green plans to write a report on this information and will present it to the Subcommittee.

A. Jones again stated his belief on the need that information be made available for full use. He noted that the NMFS recognizes there is an interest among the people who collect the data as to how data are interpreted, and felt modest steps such as contacting the organization

to find out limitations would be appropriate. He further stated he would not like to see a rigid system, whereby the ability of one group to analyze and distribute information may delay the use of that information.

Gulf Council representation on the Statistical Subcommittee

M. Ferguson stated the following cons on having Gulf Council representation:

- (1) NMFS is already a Federal representative and should be able to take care of liaison and coordination with the Council.
- (2) Meeting are always open to the Council.
- (3) Because of reduced budget, don't feel the need to add duplicate representation of a Federal agency or a Federal fisheries management body.

A. Jones stated he felt that Councils are one of the primary users of the information and feels it would be helpful to have their input and advice.

\* After discussion, R. Muller moved that a vote be taken on whether the Gulf Council have representation with non-voting status on the Statistical Subcommittee. Motion seconded and carried with one abstention.

Vote taken resulted in Council representation as a non-voting member on the Statistical Subcommittee.

H. Lazauski stated that he would contact the Gulf Council and request Douglas Gregory as the possible representative.

Discussion of NMFS data management

R. Muller reported that the State of Florida is in the process of setting up a trip ticket system, accessing Federal data management on historical information. He noted that there is a slight problem with time delay on the availability of the data.

F. Deegen reported that the State of Mississippi has been behind with their data collection, however with the hiring of additional personnel feels this problem has been resolved. He noted that for biological data they use the Apple computer with the data entry program that he developed and he is currently in the process of developing a subroutine program.

M. Ferguson reported that the State of Texas enters all their data on their mainframe and that commercial landing tapes are traded back and forth with NMFS.

M. Ferguson also reported that Texas has five ATs on line (two in Seabrook, two in Rockport, one in Austin) and that they are in the process of setting up training sessions to teach the SAS statistical program and LOTUS 1, 2, 3 programs.

H. Lazauski reported that Alabama has not accessed the Burroughs in a while due to modem problems. He noted they are still using the APPLE and just received an IBM-PC-AT.

A. Jones reported that the 800 numbers seem to be working satisfactory. He noted that NMFS medium range goal is to try to make hardware changes on the Burroughs, which will optimize the use of the 6800 in Miami and the 7800 in Seattle. NMFS long range plan is to replace the Burroughs system with a mainframe system, hopefully in FY88.

A. Jones stated that the State/Federal Workshop will be held the week of June 2. Agenda items include data management and data collection plans and targets for 1987.

#### NMFS Data Collection Plan

Issues of concern regarding the data collection form were discussed, including it was not clear whether data was to be collected on an annual or trip basis; saw no reason to omit recreational fisheries from data item consideration; and that the form had considerable duplication.

A. Jones stated that the purpose of the form was to canvas everyone in terms of what they viewed as essential or important way of data to be collected. He also noted that he encourages any State representative to contact him to work out any problems or concerns.

F. Deegen stated that the State of Mississippi returned the form to NMFS, but due to legislation action, data needs have changed dramatically since the form was sent in.

National Recreational Fishing Survey

H. Lazauski opened discussion and requested State reports on interaction with the National Recreational Survey.

B. Muller reported that the State of Florida has a proposal in for Wallop-Breaux funds to review their site surveys, resulting in this information being submitted to the National Recreational Survey. He also stated that they interact with the Survey in getting data tapes from them and noted that they are working with well with the survey.

F. Deegen reported that the State of Mississippi originally planned to commit Wallop Breaux funds to the National Recreational Fishing Survey this year, but decided funds would be better spent on visible projects. He noted that they anticipate supporting the Survey next fiscal year.

M. Ferguson reported that a great deal of progress has been made as a result of the resolution and discussions with NMFS. NMFS has basically agreed to quit surveying boat access sites, since Texas already surveys these sites. NMFS will allocate that effort to increasing boat access samples in other States. She also reported that Texas has agreed to provide estimates to the National Recreational Survey, thus reducing duplication and difference in estimates.

H. Lazauski reported that the State of Alabama has basically done the same thing as Texas in regard to the National Recreational Survey.

A. Jones stated that NMFS started their survey of charter boats in January. NMFS, in an effort to reduce duplication, uses the national survey intercepts for CPUE and to reduce the variability in the telephone survey, expand effort data through log books.

M. Ferguson stated the following statistical points that she felt the Subcommittee should address:

- (1) Use of recreational and commercial landings in stock assessment (NMFS states there are differences through time with regard to commercial and recreational harvest statistics, however no statistical analyses have been presented that prove there is a difference).
- (2) National Recreational Fishing Survey assumption that each interview is a random sample. Texas feels that the way the sites are chosen results in a cluster sample, creating artificially low variances.



After discussion M. Ferguson made the motion to ask the National Recreational Statistics Review Committee to look at how they should calculate for standard error. Motion seconded and carried.

H. Lazauski requested that M. Ferguson draft letter to the Committee, circulate to the Subcommittee for review and then submit the letter for formal reply.

Discretionary vs nondiscretionary funding of federal projects

T. Jiovenale reported on various issues concerning federal projects as follows:

- (1) Discussion and clarification of discretionary and nondiscretionary projects
- (2) Process of financial award procedures
- (3) Status of FY86 authorizations for funding
- (4) 4.3% Gramm-Rudman cut for FY86.

T. Jiovenale stated that these issues would be discussed in greater detail at the State/Federal Conference being held on Tuesday.

State/Federal cooperative agreements: data analysis and report preparation

Discussion was held regarding the motion passed at the October 1985 Subcommittee meeting regarding the option of including data analysis and report preparation as a function item under the State/Federal Cooperative Statistics Program. No action was taken.

A brief discussion was also held regarding State action if budgets were severally cut, i.e., what collection needs would have to be eliminated, etc.

Statistical Subcommittee representation to the National Recreational Statistics Review Committee

H. Lazauski reported that per B. Byrd's earlier clarification of this Committee, it would probably be a good idea to send suggestions and ideas to improve the survey directly to the Statistics Review Committee.

M. Ferguson suggested combining the standard error issue and this issue in one letter.

The Subcommittee agreed, and H. Lazauski requested that members submit suggestions to M. Ferguson to be incorporated in the standard error letter, and in the future, members should submit suggestions on a semiannual basis to the Chairman.

#### Other Business

##### Chairman and Vice Chairman positions

Discussions were held regarding the election process. It was the consensus of the Subcommittee to allow the current chairman to hold office until an unspecified term.

\* H. Lazauski nominated F. Kennedy as Vice-Chairman. Being no further nominations, F. Kennedy was elected Vice-Chairman of the Subcommittee.

##### Confidentiality of Information

A discussion was held concerning problems associated with NOAA confidentiality laws.

M. Ferguson made reference to a recent problem the Council had in obtaining red drum information and also that Texas requested catch per trip information on red drum which was not released. She noted that it may be necessary to change the confidentiality laws in order to get important information needed to evaluate fisheries.

A. Jones stated that he has been in contact with NOAA lawyers trying to resolve this problem and noted that it may be necessary to incorporate a statement in the cooperative agreements.

##### Collection of Recreational Fisheries Data Resolution

M. Ferguson reported that this resolution was passed by the Commission at the October meeting. Since then, Bill Gordon has responded to the resolution noting it "had a number of inaccuracies and misrepresentations".

\* M. Ferguson motioned that this Subcommittee urge the Commission to respond to Gordon's response on the resolution and that the Commission use R. Kemp's letter as the basis for the response.

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\* After discussion, motion was amended for the Subcommittee to urge the Commission to respond to Gordon's letter regarding the Resolution. Motion carried with one abstention.

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

APPROVED BY:  
*Roy Hallander*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC SPANISH MACKEREL SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 18, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

TCC SPANISH MACKEREL SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, March 18, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

Roy Williams, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

The following members and guests were present:

Members

Roy Williams, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Joseph Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Eugene Nakamura, NMFS, Panama City, FL  
Gary Matlock, TPWD, Austin, TX (proxy for Hal Osburn)  
Walter Tatum, AMRD, Gulf Shores, AL  
Wayne Swingle, GMFMC, Tampa, FL (proxy for Alex Jernigan)

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director  
Eileen Benton, Staff Assistant

Others

Pete Eldridge, NMFS, Charleston, SC  
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Miami, FL  
Walter Nelson, NMFS, Miami, FL  
Clyde Richbourg, Pace, FL  
Brad Brown, NMFS-SERO, Miami, FL  
Bill Gordon, NMFS, Washington, DC  
Frank Richardson, USFWS, Atlanta, GA  
Wil Siedel, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS

Adoption of Agenda

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

Report on results of the Mackerel Assessment Committee meeting held  
in Miami - Scott Nichols.

Adoption of minutes

\* Motion made and seconded to accept to adopt the minutes as written.

Substitute motion: Minutes be adopted with replacing that portion  
on page 6 of the draft minutes dealing with R. Williams talk, with a  
verbatim transcript of that talk. Seconded.

Substitute motion: Motion made to attach R. William's letter as an  
addendum to the minutes. Passed unanimously.

Results of Mackerel Assessment Committee Meeting

S. Nichols reported on the discussions/recommendations of the Mackerel Assessment Panel meeting held in Miami 3/5-3/6/86:

Stock Identification

- 1) There is insufficient data on Spanish mackerel stock identification, and the FMP considered that there is a single stock occurring in the Gulf and Atlantic. However, the panel feels that there is evidence based on electrophoresis studies that now indicates a justification for separating the Atlantic and Gulf groups.
- 2) Panel considered an east and west gulf stock separation, but attempts to provide analysis failed because the data set was too sparse.
- 3) Stock assumptions which included Mexican catches were rejected by the Panel.

Population Analysis

- 1) Panel could not provide advice in terms of short-term trends.
- 2) Gulf Coast commercial catches were relatively stable until the 1976/77 season when they declined from a 10-year average of 7.3 million lbs to 2.5 million lbs. Most of the decline occurred before length frequency data were available and consequently, no conclusion is possible as to what caused the decline.
- 3) Atlantic coast commercial landings were relatively stable before 1975, averaging 3.5 million lbs in the previous decade. Landings increased to over 9 million lbs in 1975/76 and 1976/77 declining steadily thereafter to 4 million lbs in 1983/84. Virtual population analysis demonstrated that a decline in recruitment had occurred.
- 4) Panel used the  $F(0.1)$  criterion suggested under Amendment 1 of the Council FMP as the fishery mortality rate for recovery. The acceptable biological catch was estimated to be current catches times the ratio of  $F(0.1)$  to the current fishing mortality rate. Under this assumption, the acceptable biological catch range for the Gulf and Atlantic as a unit, would be 3.7-4.5 million pounds.

Other Management Options

- 1) Raising minimum size of capture (18 inches) could be expected to raise the yield per recruit perhaps 20% and improvement in spawning biomass two-fold over the next five years. Panel expressed concern that an increased minimum size might not be practical for all fisheries--potential for wasted yield and mortality rates on size just above the legal size might increase.
- 3) Panel recommends that if the Council take action on minimum size regulations that it be exercised in association with a cap on fishing effort.
- 4) Panel recommends the fishing year be changed taking into account the seasonal nature of the fishery.

Following S. Nichols review, the Subcommittee discussed the Councils ability to amend the Migratory Coastal Pelagic FMP in regard to Spanish mackerel. Amendment process is available on the Council's FMP but no action was taken.

Review summary of estimated fractions on Spanish mackerel harvested in Federal waters and in territorial seas.

R. Williams summarized the commercial and recreational harvest landings provided by M. Holliday and E. Snell (handouts). The recreational catch shows 15 million pounds in the territorial sea; 9 million in FZC, concluded that 62% of the total recreational catch is in the territorial sea.

G. Matlock expressed concern as to the method used for estimating State totals, noting that it would be less precise to add individual state totals rather than projecting total catch from all samples within the regions.

R. Williams stated the he would ask M. Holliday for the data in its aggregated form to be reviewed by the Subcommittee, pending the next meeting.

R. Williams reported that Florida produces 97% of the total commercial catch of Spanish mackerel, and that the commercial catch on

the east and west coast of Florida is 56% and 93%, respectively, in the territorial sea.

Region-wide, 67% of the commercial and recreational catches of Spanish mackerel occur in the territorial sea.

Review and discussion of summaries regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the three alternative regulatory authorities for Spanish mackerel (Federal councils, States individually, States via interstate fishery management plans).

R. Williams reported that the Subcommittee agreed at the last meeting that committee members would report their thoughts regarding the advantages and disadvantages of each of the three alternative forms of management (state management uncoordinated, state management coordinated through interstate fishery management plan, federal council management). Attached is the summary, including revisions, as a result of discussions held.

Decision-making and recommendations regarding the three alternative regulatory authorities

W. Tatum noted a possible fourth alternative to be individual state management, coordinated (not through an interstate fishery management plan).

Due to time limitations of the meeting, R. Williams noted that he would include this alternative in his report to the TCC.

G. Matlock moved that the Subcommittee recommend to the TCC that it is inappropriate for Spanish mackerel to be managed under the Council's FMP and it is appropriate to consider other mechanisms to manage the fisheries. Seconded.

A discussion followed with G. Matlock's justifications for the above motion as follows:

- (1) Fishery is prosecuted primary in state waters.
- (2) There has been evidence presented to indicate that there are two groups of Spanish mackerel (one in the Gulf and one in the Atlantic)



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MINUTES

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- (3) If Spanish mackerel were included in the Gulf Council's FMP it was done for the sole purpose of convenience.
- (4) Gulf Council has concluded on other fisheries that are prosecuted primarily within state waters that no FMP was necessary (i.e., gulf menhaden fishery)
- (5) There are existing mechanisms that have been successful for other fisheries that have not required a Council FMP.

\* After discussion, motion was amended for the Subcommittee to recommend to the TCC that it is disadvantageous for Spanish mackerel to be managed under the Council's FMP and it is appropriate to consider other mechanisms to manage the fisheries. Motion carried (4-1, with 1 abstention).

\* Based on W. Tatum's statement that management measures initiated uncoordinated by states may be aimed at benefiting local fisheries with no concern for stocks on a regional basis, the motion was made for the Subcommittee to recommend to the TCC, that in their consideration of alternative management strategies, the Subcommittee believes that it is desirable to coordinate the management activities from Spanish mackerel among the States. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Subcommittee was in agreement that no other discussions/decisions be made until the Technical Coordinating Committee directs the Subcommittee to act further.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
 Spanish Mackerel Subcommittee  
 Brownsville, Texas  
 March 18, 1986

Alternative 1: Individual state management, uncoordinated

<u>Advantages</u>	<u>TX</u>	<u>LA</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>FL</u>	<u>NMFS</u>
1. Rapid response	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. More flexible regulations (No Seven National Standards, manage closer to desires of constituents)	X	X	X		X	X
3. Others						
-Less expensive						
-No FMP needed						
-Most catch occurs in state waters						
-More active state participation						
-Still have NMFS assistance in data manipulation						
-Better control over habitat						

Disadvantages

1. Inadequate protection of stocks (Inability of manage over full range; states ignore problems of migratory spp. outside state waters)	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. No way to resolve interstate conflict and competition	X	X	X	X	X	X
3. Others						
-States may have to depend on largess of other states (for escapement)						
-Potential difficulty in implementing regulations in FCZ						
-Little federal assistance in research and management						
-Possibility of contradictory measures among states						
-Cannot act internationally						

Alternative 2: Federal management through Regional Fishery Management Councils and Coastal Pelagics FMP

<u>Advantages</u>	<u>TX</u>	<u>LA</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>FL</u>	<u>NMFS</u>	<u>GMFM</u>
1. Coordinated management strategy over full range			X		X	X	
2. FMP already in place and can be amended			X	X			
3. Others							
-None							
-Can preempt if necessary							
-Better potential for conducting interstate research than alternative 1 provides							
-Guided by Seven National Standards							
<u>Disadvantages</u>							
1. Slow amendment process	X	X	X	X	X	X	
2. Possible pre-emption problems (even if biologically necessary)	X	X	X	X	X	X	
3. Majority of fishing and harvest occurs in state waters	X		X	X			X
4. Others							
-Only MSY has been calculated							
-Quotas, bag limits, and allocation require FMP amendment							
-Must comply with Seven National Standards							
-Enforcement problems occur where state and federal regulations conflict							

Alternative 3: State management coordinated through S/F FMB

<u>Advantages</u>	<u>TX</u>	<u>LA</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>FL</u>	<u>NMFS</u>	<u>GMFMC</u>
1. Potentially faster than Councils	X	X	X		X		X
2. Coordinated management over full range			X		X	X	
3. States previously unwilling to change rules/regulations more likely to do so	X	X		X			
4. Others							
-Proven to work by (Gulf) menhaden management plan							
-Fishery is predominantly in state waters							
-In absence of Regional Council FMP, S/F FMB can recommend rules for FCZ							
-More flexible							
-Still have NMFS data manipulation assistance							
-Gulf scientists work well together							
-Might force states to coordinate research and data gathering							
-Unified management in U.S. Gulf with state and federal participation							
-Greater likelihood of compatibility between states							

Disadvantages

1. S/F FMB can only recommend rules and regulations	X			X	X		
2. Others							
-Regional Councils and Sec. of Comm. must relinquish control							
-Potential difficulties managing in FCZ							
-S/F FMB approach used only once, in Gulf menhaden which is relatively easy to manage							
-Developing FMP will take some time							
-Developing FMP will take money							
-May still have to adhere to Seven National Standards							
-Regular reassessments may be difficult to coordinate							
-Cannot act internationally							

NOTE: Walt Tatum observed that there is a fourth alternative that was not considered, viz., State Management not coordinated by an ISFMP.

APPROVED BY:

  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 18, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, March 18, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman Bob Jones called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following persons attended the meeting:

Members

Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association  
Ralph Rayburn, Texas Shrimp Association  
Jerry Sansom, Organized Fishermen of Florida  
Bill Chauvin, American Shrimp Processors Association  
John Ray Nelson, GSMFC (AL)  
Leroy "Tom" Kiffe, GSMFC (LA)  
Leslie Casterline, GSMFC (TX)  
Clyde Richbourg, GSMFC (FL)  
Jim Gilmore, National Fisheries Institute  
Leroy J. Wieting, United Shrimp Association  
Jeanette Cooper, Fish Consumers Association, Key West, FL

GSMFC Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director

Others

Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant, San Benito, TX  
Marty Mason, Colburn Marine Services, Jacksonville, FL  
Melissa W. Smith, U.S. Dept. of Energy, New Orleans, LA  
Julius Collins, TSA, Brownsville, TX  
Gary Matlock, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Borden Wallace, Wallace Menhaden, Mandeville, LA  
Rolf Juhl, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
Wil Seidel, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
Guillermo Gomez, PESCA, Mexico City, MX  
Sam Cooper, City Fish, Inc., Marathon, FL  
Ron Harrison, Florida Fish. District, Jacksonville, FL  
David Etzold, USM, Hattiesburg, MS  
Ed Swindell, Zapata Haynie Corp, Hammond, LA  
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
George Brumfield, Zapata Haynie Corp, Moss Point, MS  
William "Corky" Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
W.C. Lunsford, Zapata Haynie Corp., Timonium, MD  
Walter Nelson, NMFS, Miami, FL  
Andrew Kemmerer, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
William Gordon, NMFS, Washington, DC  
Brad Brown, NMFS-SEFC, Miami, FL  
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Miami, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting of the Industry Advisory Committee held October 16, 1985 were adopted without change.

Quality Control Program

Bob Jones reported for Steve Otwell, University of Florida, on their contract with Southeastern Fisheries Association to develop Quality Control Standards for green headless shrimp. He expected June completion with distribution afterwards.

Insurance Situation

Three trade associations, Texas Shrimp Association, Southeastern Fisheries Association and National Fisheries Institute reported on their efforts on behalf of their members to help with the ever increasing costs for hull and personal injury insurance. TSA expects completion of their work with the National Conference on Fishing Vessel and Safety Insurance (NCFVSI) at the end of November. TSA expects to have a multi-phase effort with several alternatives for their association to consider, including but not limited to:

- a. Self insurance
- b. Vessel safety programs
- c. Co-insurance
- d. Multi or group package for insurance

SFA feels if large groups book insurance together, this might reduce the costs. SFA has met with reinsurers in London, New Orleans and Atlanta to explore what they need to do to have favorable treatment by insurance companies. SFA expects their work to be completed in April for presentation to their members.

Discussion about this issue included possible national legislation to cap personal injury claims at some figure say, 200K.

Bill Gordon's budget testimony indicated some \$169 million should be put back in the General Treasury from the unused fisheries loan funds.

\* Motion was passed to have the Commission write a letter recommending these monies be used to address fishing insurance problems, possibly establishing a pool to mitigate insurance problems.

Trawler Efficiency Device

Wil Siedel, NMFS, Pascagoula Laboratory, reported on the TED. He discussed the background and history of NMFS development of the TED. He described how his Harvest Technology group developed the first TEDs, worked with industry vessels over several years to modify and improve the design, weight, costs and effectiveness of the TED.

Currently in the Gulf we have a voluntary use program. He is hopeful the industry will use the device and voluntarily begin to make it part of their operations. Positive benefits are:

1. Finfish reduction
2. Cleaner catches of shrimp therefore less sorting time
3. Reduced drag and therefore fuel savings
4. Virtual elimination of turtle catch
5. Safer, lighter, less expensive than previous models
6. Increased quality of shrimp catch

NMFS in the southeast region expects to build some 100 TEDs and distribute them to shrimpers who will cooperative with their experimental program. They also will make available videos on how to build TEDs, rig, handle and fish them properly.

Discussion about this issue included the need to know which areas and seasons in Gulf have high levels of turtle encounters. This is necessary to know in case a mandatory requirement to use TEDs is enacted. Using the TED in all areas and times in the Gulf may not be appropriate.

Another issue the group felt important was, if all trawlers were equipped with TEDs and the turtle population still declines what other regulations might be proposed?

It was noted that the shrimp industry through the major trade associations have worked very hard over the last several years with this problem, however, these associations include only a part of the total shrimpers in the Gulf.

Anti-commercial fishing efforts to ban nets

Bob Jones reported on Florida's efforts to develop a Fish Consumers Association to expound the virtues of keeping open the supply lines to



consumers of seafood. This was not anti-recreational but against those individuals or groups which were against commercial fishing.

Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc.

The work of the Foundation for this year was reported on by members of the Board of Trustees. At their recent Board meeting, the Foundation approved work in several areas. The Foundation is viable for the current year and expects to continue in the future. Some of the areas where work will be done for industry are:

- TED work in Texas
- Butterfish in north central Gulf
- Educational videos on bisulfite
- Menhaden work in North Carolina

Congressional Activities

Major activities in Congress affecting fisheries currently are marketing board legislation, budget and exemption to FUTA for fishermen.

Other Business

It was noted that officials of Mexico will be involved with industry discussions over the next few days in Matamoros to determine what can be done to better utilize our marine resources in Mexico and the U.S. through cooperative industry actions.

A brief MARFIN update was given by Andy Kemmerer on that program's progress and future actions.

\* A motion was passed to have the Commission write a letter to the appropriate sources in support of continuation of the Fishermen's Contingency Fund program. This program which is not funded from the General Treasury but from oil and gas companies producing, exploring and leasing in the Gulf is recommended by the Reagan administration to be discontinued in FY87.

The Committee also re-emphasized its position to keep Spanish mackerel under the management plan for coastal migratory pelagics by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council rather than any other management scheme.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

*W.F. Doy*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 18, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, March 18, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman Fred Deegen called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The following persons were in attendance:

Members

Fred Deegen, MBR, Long Beach, MS  
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Gary Saul (proxy for H. Osburn), TPWD, Austin, TX  
Henry C. Lazauski (proxy for W. Tatum), AMRD, Dauphin Island, AL  
Edwin Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
Frank Richardson, FWS, Atlanta, GA

Staff

Lucia B. O'Toole, Publication Specialist

Others

Maurry Ferguson, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Wayne Kewley, Offshore Operators Committee, New Orleans, LA  
Lou Villanova, FWS, Atlanta, GA  
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
Tom Bright, TX Sea Grant, College Station, TX  
D. N. Ellingsen, FL Marine Patrol, Tallahassee, FL  
Roy O. Williams, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Eugene Nakamura, NMFS, Panama City, FL  
Carl Covert, TPWD, Austin, TX

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was amended to include discussion on the status of the National Fish Hatchery Act and an update on the FWS budget by Frank Richardson under Other Business; item 7 "Discussion of Confidentiality of Recreational Fisheries Data" was deleted. The agenda was adopted as amended.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held October 16, 1985 in Kissimmee, Florida were amended on page 5 to read "Mississippi's Wallop/Breaux funds for FY86 will be used for development of boating access points" and on page 6 to read "Regulations on red drum and spotted seatrout imports will be stiffened." The minutes were adopted as amended.

Review of Proposed Gulf-Wide Saltwater Fishing Records and Tournament Schedule

F. Deegen reported that he had received a great deal of cooperation from the members in compiling the listing of gulf-wide records. He noted a few discrepancies including the fact that no two states have the same species listing for which state records are maintained. The listing includes species that most of the states have in common. Another discrepancy is that red snapper is not included in IGFA records.

A listing was not yet completed of fishing tournaments but letters from Gulf States referencing upcoming events were distributed. A draft report on Texas tournaments held in 1983 was distributed as well as an updated listing of 1986 Texas state fish records and requirements for eligibility of records. Tournament listings are published in bulletin form by the IGFA monthly but have not included most of the Gulf Coast tournaments.

\* F. Richardson moved that the Committee listing of Gulf Coast tournaments be submitted to IGFA for inclusion in its "International Tournament Schedule" publication. Motion carried. F. Deegen will update the listing of Gulf-wide tournaments and submit it to IGFA.

The possibility of the Commission's publishing a leaflet referencing various state records (and updating) was discussed. F. Deegen will update the listing of Gulf-wide fishing records to species (which will change it considerably) and circulate to Committee members.

Briefing on the 1985 Fish and Wildlife Survey

F. Richardson reported that the FWS conducts a survey of fishing and hunting and related activities every five years. The Census Bureau began conducting the 1985 survey in January with 130,000 random telephone interviews to be followed up with 39,000 one-on-one visits. The survey will include some general shellfish questions and a report will be published early in 1987.

Update on the National Marine Fisheries Service Response to the National Recreational Fishing Survey Resolution

F. Deegen reported that the issue had been discussed thoroughly at the Statistical Committee meeting. Ron Schmied had a "Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey Status Report" (attached) prepared and available for distribution.

\* G. Saul moved that the Committee recommend to the Commission that a response be drafted by the Commission to Bill Gordon's letter of December 26, 1985, perhaps using Bob Kemp's letter as a possible framework. Motion was seconded. There was discussion on the issue of the use of the Texas letter. Consensus was only that the letter be considered when drafting a response. Motion carried.

Update on Marine Recreational Fishing Developments

- Florida

E. Joyce reported that a recreational fishing license bill is being considered this year but will probably not be passed until next year. One of the state's major programs is artificial reef construction; FDNR assists county and other local governments by providing the assistance necessary to transport materials for reefs out to the approved sites.

FDNR plans that 40% of its share of Wallop/Breaux monies will go into artificial reef construction, handled the same way as the state program; 10% will be spent on information and education; 20% will be spent on increasing boating access; 20% will go toward recreational fishery statistics; and 10% will be used to start up a fisheries toxicology set-up.

- Alabama

S. Lazauski informed members that AMRD is planning to spend Wallop/Breaux monies to repair boat ramps and to continue monthly surveys through on-site interviews to document ramp use and quality; to continue spotted seatrout work in the hatchery at Claude Peteet

Mariculture Center through stocking; and to continue recreational hook and line creel survey work.

AMRD is currently trying to increase license fees by order of magnitude (perhaps next year) and is considering a combination license.

- Mississippi

F. Deegen distributed copies of an article dealing with the redfish bill currently being considered by the Mississippi legislature as well as a copy of the Senate approved version of the bill. The bill would prohibit the netting of red drum in state waters, with a \$100 per fish minimum penalty and a change in recreational possession limits to 10 red drum per day and 3 day possession limit and possession of no more than two in excess of 30" in length. The latest version of the highly controversial bill includes a provision that requires the BMR by 1989 to provide an estimate of MSY for red drum and all other commercially important species.

The legislature is also considering a saltwater recreational licensing bill that would be used to fund the BMR. This bill would also include substantial increases in commercial fishing licenses.

Mississippi is spending 90% of Wallop/Breaux funds for the current year on high visibility access projects in each of the three coastal counties. A small portion of the funds will be used for conducting a recreational fishing survey which is currently being designed.

- Louisiana

H. Schafer stated that the LDWF Finfish Section is fully manned except for two positions. Each of the seven areas across the coast has a biologist and at least one aid, all out sampling. The first report will be submitted to the legislature in April.

Wallop/Breaux monies in Louisiana will be spent on boat launching ramps; on a contract with NMFS Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey to get more catch data for Louisiana; and on a contract to do a study on the feasibility of the rigs to reefs in order to keep rigs in state waters.

A package will be presented to the legislature in April proposing license increases and some combinations of licenses. This would provide about \$6 million revenue which would compensate for the loss of oil revenue. Types of licenses issued would be reduced to approximately 20.

Rules and regulations for Louisiana's underutilized species program have been redefined and will provide a better information on what is being taken.

- Texas

G. Saul reported that the state is currently going through the regulatory process to establish new regulations for the coming fiscal year. A saltwater stamp is required of all who fish for non-commercial purposes; boundaries (based on highways) to delineate coastal waters from fresh waters are being proposed in May. The estimated revenue from the saltwater stamp is \$3.5 million and is dedicated to the management of coastal resources and enforcement.

As a result of an emergency proclamation last fall, techniques were developed and utilized in determining and placing values on all wildlife in the state.

King mackerel regulations which have been enforced by GMFMC have been proposed for permanent adoption in Texas.

A charterboat study to compare TPWD versus NMFS (Panama City) ways of estimating charterboat harvest is underway. Results of this study will be published in the spring.

Other Business

F. Richardson reported that the National Fish Hatchery Bill will be submitted by Congressman Breaux to the full committee. This will probably be a little different version than members have seen. If law, it would give Congress the authority to close hatcheries.

F. Richardson stated that the proposed 1987 FWS budget was cut from \$50 million to \$38 million. Anadromous grant money has been eliminated. The sport fishery restoration account (administration) has been cut about 50%. \$150,000 will be cut from the Gainesville, Florida lab. All aquaculture activities will be terminated, thus eliminating \$1 million in low priority hatcheries. If all the proposed hatcheries in the Southeast are closed then a problem would be created for the Gulf race striped bass restoration program. Hatcheries have a good deal of political support and some will probably be put back in.

At the request of Larry Simpson, F. Deegen distributed copies of red drum data for the Gulf (previously distributed at the GMFMC meeting) for Committee review and comment as to accuracy and completeness based on state sources. Members will submit responses to L. Simpson by April 15.

The proposed Federal Saltwater Fishing License was discussed at length. The Committee would like to see more information on this legislation. The license appears to be an open-ended fund generator. While most state representatives seemed in agreement that such a proposal would be of benefit in helping to fund fisheries management efforts, it was felt that the burden of a federal license in states currently requiring a saltwater fishing license might be problematic.

V. Reggio had provided summaries for distribution of four interesting presentations at the last MMS information transfer meeting rigs to reefs session.

F. Deegen welcomed Wayne Kewley, current chairman of the Fisheries Advisory Subcommittee of the Offshore Operators Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.



Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS)  
Status Report for the 1986 Spring Meeting of the  
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

1985 MRFSS

Data collection was completed the first week in January 1986. Tables of preliminary estimates for Wave 6 were sent out for review on March 7. Preliminary annual results will be published in Fisheries of the United States, 1985 in April. Final 1985 data will be published in the Current Fishery Statistics series in June. In 1985, the States of Georgia, Virginia and Maryland participated in the survey by increasing the sample size to obtain more precise state level estimates.

1986 MRFSS

The 1986 survey began on January 1, 1986, with a redefined allocation of samples by mode. More emphasis will be placed on the boat modes of fishing and less on the shore modes of fishing. For example, in 1986 we will be interviewing 4.5 times the number of charterboat fishermen in the Gulf, and 3.0 times the number of anglers in the South Atlantic.

Negotiations continue with Louisiana and nine Atlantic coast states for their participation in the 1986 survey. Negotiations have been held with Texas, Alabama and the SEFC regarding the respective roles of each in recreational data collection. The MRFSS will not be conducting intercept sampling in Texas, although it will continue the telephone survey to obtain special data for Texas Parks and Wildlife. Until Alabama's program can meet NMFS needs, the MRFSS will continue in this state. The SEFC has assumed responsibility for estimating partyboat catches in their region, and has proposed a charterboat logbook for king mackerel.

A series of programs to provide catch per unit effort, length frequency and other statistics from the MRFSS data base has been developed for the IBM Personal Computer. Final testing and documentation is now being done. The statistical contact person in each state will be contacted in the next few weeks on the availability and distribution of the program series.

1987 MRFSS

A request for proposals is being prepared for conduct of the 1987 MRFSS. Target date for award is October 1, 1986.

## Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Review Committee

This NMFS committee was established on December 18, 1984 (see attached memorandum on Committee objectives). Chaired by Mark Holliday (F/S21), the Committee is currently looking at several issues. First is an evaluation of existing marine recreational fishery statistics data matched against NMFS data needs. To accomplish this task, inventories of Federal, State, university and private data collections, and prioritized lists of data needs, are being prepared for each region. Results for the Southeast indicate that many recreational economic data gaps exist. Sales of recreationally caught fish and expenditures by fishermen seem to be the most obvious omission. Comparatively speaking, the majority of biological data needs are incorporated in current SEFC plans.

Other tasks of the Committee are evaluations of: 1) the benefits and costs of alternate year basing of the MRFSS; 2) the relative benefits and costs of mandatory FMP regulations for data collection with voluntarily submitted data; 3) the methodology of paying respondents for data relative to Federal policy and other benefit-cost criteria; and 4) the application of the NEFC offshore pelagic survey methodology to obtain data for South Atlantic and Gulf billfish, tuna and shark fisheries.



F/S1:DD

JAN 28 1985

TO: F/S2 - Mark C. Holliday  
FROM: F/S - Joseph W. Angelov *JWA*  
SUBJECT: Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Review Committee  
Assignment

My memorandum of December 18 establishing the subject review committee, indicated the basic responsibility of the committee will be to advise F/S and the Research Council on marine recreational fishery statistics data collection. This memorandum details some initial assignments for the committee.

Inventory of Data Collection Surveys. This effort would involve an inventory of all ongoing data collection in marine and anadromous recreational fisheries and would include, in addition to NMFS efforts, those by State agencies, other Federal agencies and colleges and universities. The inventory would include the responsible individual and organization, the geographical coverage, the time period covered, the cost, a description of data collected and the basic methodology used. This inventory will provide the basis for committee action in the next two areas.

Evaluation of Data Collection Efforts. An evaluation of ongoing efforts would include appropriateness of the methodology relative to NMFS policy and current scientific practices, how well the effort meets the data collection objectives and needs (data needs must be identified), identification of duplication between surveys, and potential improvements to data collection efforts.

Identification of Key Issues. Based on the above evaluation, several issues will likely be identified. These might include how to integrate and coordinate two or more data collection efforts, mandatory versus voluntary data collection, paying for data, multiple contacts of the same individuals to obtain similar data, the means to statistically evaluate results, methods to exchange technical advice and results, and requirements to enable aggregation and publication of statistics. These issues should be addressed by the committee and recommendations be made to F/S and the Research Council for resolution.



Planning and Coordination of Future Efforts. This would focus primarily on any future data collection efforts by NMFS or, in an advisory capacity, efforts by the States or other Federal agencies. Any new NMFS data collection effort should be measured against a set of guidelines established by the committee before being initiated. The committee guidelines could include whether the identified data needs would be met, the appropriateness of the methodology, the relationship to other data collection activities, the identification of any specific issues related to a proposed data collection effort, and other options, if appropriate. Recommendations should be made to F/S and the Research Council on these new collections using the guidelines established.

Specific planning and coordination issues which need to be examined by the committee are:

- 1) Use of Wallop-Breaux Funds for recreational statistics collection;
- 2) Proposed data collection FMP in the Southeast; and
- 3) Involvement of Interstate Commissions and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the committee role of planning and coordination of future efforts.

If you need clarification of any of the above or if you feel there is a need to modify any of these tasks, please let me know.

APPROVED BY:

*Philip Steele*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 18, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, March 18, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

Phil Steele, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

The following members and guests were present:

Members

Phil Steele, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Paul Hammerschmidt, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX  
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Staff

Eileen Benton, Staff Assistant

Others

Charles Moss, Sea Grant Advisory Service, Angleton, TX  
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Tommy VanDevender, BMR, Long Beach, MS  
J. Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, October 15, 1985 in Kissimmee, Florida were approved as written.

Review of progress of crab research in each state

Louisiana - P. Steele reported (per G. Adkins letter) that there are no new research projects currently underway in coastal Louisiana, however, Louisiana continues to maintain records of all crabs taken in their coast-wide shrimp and finfish monitoring programs.

H. Perry reported that Louisiana State University and Louisiana Sea Grant have been synchronizing molting and computer controlling for soft shell crabs. She noted that they are currently monitoring pH and wish to start monitoring oxygen.

Mississippi/Alabama - H. Perry reported that Mississippi and Alabama are continuing their assessment and monitoring programs. In addition, Mississippi and Alabama have started a joint program investigating hormone injections in intermolt crabs as a new source of product for the soft shell crab industry.

H. Perry reported that the final report on the stone crab study is being written and will be presented at the Stone Crab Symposium in April. Future plans include an intensive trapping study using stone crab traps.

H. Perry also reported that future plans include coordinating a Regional Tagging Program for blue crabs in a cooperative venture with the Sea Grant Advisory Service. She noted that the first year would be a planning phase (setting up teams, etc.) and the second year would be actual field work. Tagging would be done east of the Mississippi River as tagging west of the river would probably be difficult to coordinate.

Texas - P. Hammerschmidt reported that the State of Texas is continuing their assessment and monitoring program. He noted that crab landings were up this year -- 9.7 million pounds. P. Hammerschmidt also stated that they continue to monitor stone crabs, although landings are low -- 136,000 pounds.

C. Moss opened discussion on three concerns in regard to the crab industry as follows:

- (1) Saltbox mortality on juvenile crabs
- (2) Invasion of crabs in freshwater reservoirs (eliminate by chemical vs natural predator)
- (3) Proposal by the Corps of Engineers to dredge the Houston Ship Channel

Although discussions were held, the Subcommittee took no action on the items.

The Subcommittee expressed interest in the prosecution data regarding Florida's new law protecting crabbers' traps, buoys and lines. P. Steele noted that the information is not published yet, but he will report to the Subcommittee as soon as it becomes available.

P. Hammerschmidt reported that the State of Texas has established a price for the value to the State for an individual animal, therefore resulting in violators not only being charged a fine but also being assessed a penalty based on the value of the animal lost to the resource.

Florida

P. Steele reported the manuscript, Population Dynamics of the Blue Crab Callinectes sapidus Rathbun in Tampa Bay, Florida, is near

completion. Data analyses for the west coast migration study are currently underway. P. Steele also presented an update on Geryon fenneri research underway at the University of South Florida.

Report on SEAMAP Plankton Sorting -- Status of Polish Sorting Center Contract

H. Perry reported things are progressing and that A. Kemmerer has confirmed an individual will be available to do invertebrate plankton sorting. She also noted that due to various delays, Ken Stuck is scheduled to go to Poland in early summer.

Report on Status of NMFS Trawl Data Proposal

P. Steele and H. Perry reported that NMFS, GCRL and FDNR will be working cooperatively with NMFS trawl data. NMFS has agreed to write programs and analyze data for five families of crab, resulting in species profiles which NMFS has desired and the availability of distribution data which will be integrated for long range projects (i.e. Geryon, development of an exploratory fish survey to look at deep water crustaceans, etc.). H. Perry noted she will keep the Subcommittee informed on this project.

Report on upcoming Stone Crab Symposium

P. Steele distributed a handout and call for papers for the Stone Crab Symposium. He noted if you have any questions to contact Terrie Bert or Harriet Perry.

Report to Subcommittee on National Blue Crab Industry Association meetings

P. Steele reported on the National Blue Crab Industry Association meeting held February 26-28 in New Orleans, LA, items discussed are as follows:

- 1) Adoption of National Standard for grades of fresh and frozen blue crab products
- 2) Market trends for surimi-based foods
- 3) Irradiation of crab products
- 4) Pasteurization and quality of blue crab



- 5) Fish line - information network for common species of finfish and shellfish
- 6) Soft-shell crab update
- 7) State pasteurization update
- 8) Resource Assessment (handout)

Report on international export/import marketing of crab projects

Based on information provided by Harriet Perry and Martha Hudak-Roos, P. Steele reported estimates of crab meat products being imported into the U.S. as follows:

- 1) 15-20 countries involved in importing crab meat (fresh or frozen) in 1984 totaled 4,212,000 pounds valued at \$13,562,000
- 2) Canned meat products from such areas as Dominican Republic, Bahamas and Japan total 5 million pounds, valued at \$15 million.
- 3) Other products from Mexico, Taiwan, and Republic of Korea total 1,270,000 pounds, valued at \$352,000.

Estimates result in a total of approximately 12 million pounds of crab meat being imported into the United States valued at \$28,000,000 with the majority being imported by Blue Crab Processors.

Other Business

P. Steele stated his concern over the absence of members attending the Subcommittee meetings.

It was suggested that in the report to the Technical Coordinating Committee, the importance of state participation at Subcommittee meetings be stressed.

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

APPROVED BY:

  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

GS-FFMB MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 18, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

GS-FFMB MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, March 18, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman John Merriner called the meeting to order at 9:06 am. The following were in attendance:

Members

Ed Swindell, Zapata-Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA  
W. Borden Wallace, Wallace Menhaden Products, Inc., Mandeville, LA  
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
Gary Saul, TPWD, Austin, TX  
J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Staff

Lucia B. O'Toole, Publication Specialist

Others

William C. Lunsford, Zapata-Haynie Corp., Timonium, MD  
David Etzold, USM, Hattiesburg, MS  
Corky Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Thomas Bright, TX Sea Grant, College Station, TX  
Melissa W. Smith, USDOE, New Orleans, LA  
Richard Condrey, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA  
Leroy Kiffe, GSMFC, Lockport, LA  
Lou Villanova, FWS, Atlanta, GA

Adoption of Agenda

Item 5 of the agenda was amended to include a report on the GS-FFM Program's subcontract for Testing Surplus Production Models with Pre-MSY Data from Searching Fisheries (by R. Condrey); item 6 was amended to allow E. Swindell to report on the surimi project contract. The agenda was adopted as amended.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, October 16, 1985 in Kissimmee, Florida were adopted as presented.

Report on 1985 Fishing Season

J. Merriner reported purse-seine landings for 1985 were 881,090 metric tons, 10% less than in 1984. Fishing effort was 13% less than in

1984. Seven processing plants received Gulf menhaden, four less than in 1984.

There was a very strong showing of age-1 fish and substantial numbers of age-2 in samples from all ports. The age composition shown in the landings indicates there will be good fishing success in 1986. NMFS estimated catch in numbers at age for 1985 shows over 11 billion individuals landed. Stock assessment is underway on Gulf menhaden and correlation between availability of age-1 carrying over into age-2 will be examined.

J. Merriner noted observations in 1984-85 of Atlantic menhaden and other estuarine fish species with ulcerated conditions. Active research is underway.

#### Plans and Outlook for 1986 Fishing Season

The preliminary forecast (using 600,000 VTW) for landings in 1986 is 850,000 metric tons. E. Swindell said that Zapata-Haynie would be adding a safety load line on boats which will reduce tonnage brought in and this may affect the forecast.

#### Status Report on Captain's Daily Fishing Reports

J. Merriner said that all CDFRs received from the Gulf menhaden fishing fleet for 1984 have been coded and key-entered but not edited. Coding of the 7,638 CDFRs received from the Gulf for 1985 has begun using the shortened coding form.

R. Condrey informed the Committee that part of the 1981 data has been completed. R. Condrey will send the program developed at LSU to J. Merriner which will help speed up NMFS processing of CDFRs.

J. Merriner distributed the first output of a summary of CDFR information by port, by set location for the 1984 season. He noted the data was unedited. After much discussion it was determined that it would be helpful if the industry would question their captains on how they are recording distance from shore.

Preventing the Collapse of Searching Fisheries: A Promising Approach Applied to Gulf Menhaden

R. Condrey reported that he would be presenting the results of his Gulf States subcontract at the National Fisheries meetings in Rhode Island in September. He will then show that 15 minute presentation to the Committee at the October meeting in New Orleans. He presented a slide program on his work with surplus production models. He said studying spotter pilots hunting strategy may lead to suggestion of an alternate strategy that may increase the efficiency of the spotter pilots or the catch of menhaden. R. Condrey said that using CDFR information provides a much better indication of where the menhaden fishery is located. Searching time is a very sensitive index of stock abundance which can be used to monitor the fishery.

Update on Surimi Project

B. Lunsford reported that Zapata-Haynie Corp. had signed a contract with the Federal Government in late February (1986). E. Swindell stated the total grant is for \$1.4 million and Zapata-Haynie's contribution is \$600,000. The project which is in the planning stages will start up late in the 1986 season and run through the 1987 season. It focuses on the development of handling, processing and production requirements for Atlantic menhaden surimi. An economic feasibility analysis is underway. The Government will take the resultant surimi product and distribute to other entities for follow-up research on production of analog products for the U.S. market. B. Wallace commented for the record that if one looks at projections for shrimp consumption in the U.S. -- the analog product will not be a replacement for existing production but will simply fill a void that begins to surface as consumption increases.

Other Business

R. Condrey said there was a possibility that purse-seines would be outlawed in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds if part or all of Louisiana's Underutilized Species Act is repealed. LDWF has no evidence that menhaden purse-seining in those areas is harming any other fishery.

J. Merriner read a "Fishery Management Policy" statement adopted by NFMOA in February. Copies are available from NFMOA.

A list of articles on hand in the GSMFC menhaden repository was distributed.

R. Condrey suggested that the Committee send an announcement of the next meeting to universities in the Gulf area inviting abstract submissions for a 15 minute presentation. The Committee could then have a perusal on current information being gathered on menhaden and make a selection of a few for presentation at the meeting. J. Merriner will contact Larry Simpson and through the GSMFC send letters soliciting information from as broad an audience as possible.

E. Swindell asked that B. Lunsford replace him as alternate member for Zapata-Haynie on the membership roster. L. Simpson will seek representation from Petrou Fisheries.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

APPROVED BY:

*Jerald Walker*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 19, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, March 19, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman Jerald K. Waller called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.  
The following members and guests attended:

Members

Capt. Carl P. Covert, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Chief Jerry Gollott, MBR, Long Beach, MS  
Col. D. N. Ellingsen, FMP, Tallahassee, FL  
Maj. Tommy H. Candies, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
W. Perry Allen, NMFS, Miami, FL  
Maj. Jerald K. Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL

Staff

Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant

Others

Lt. David A. Davidson, USCG, Brownsville, TX  
Ed Swindell, Zapata-Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA  
Leslie "Bubba" Casterline, GSMFC, Fulton, TX

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Mobile, Alabama on March 12, 1985 were adopted as presented.

The minutes of the joint GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee and the GMFMC Law Enforcement Advisory Panel meeting held in Kissimmee, Florida on October 15, 1985 were tabled. Chief Gollot and Major Candies stated a misunderstanding and disagreement with the motions carried in consideration of a uniform vessel identification system.

General Discussion

Col. Ellingsen (FMP) stated Florida had a workable vessel identification system and would be reluctant to change. Mr. Perry Allen stated a Gulf wide uniform vessel identification system was needed for vessels engaged in state and federal fisheries. All present agreed this was desirable but no workable system was presented for consideration.



Discussion of Recent Legislation

Capt. Covert discussed the emerging stone crab fishery and related regulations in Texas. Red drum laws and regulations of the Gulf States were discussed at length with the consensus being there is a definite need for state and federal fisheries agencies to coordinate efforts in managing this species. The interstate shipments of the fish and state regulation versus federal non-regulation are creating enforcement problems.

Enforcement Roles and Responsibilities on State and Federal Level

Tabled for future meeting.

Topics for General Session

Enforcement problems relating to shellfish, red drum, and alien documentation of commercial vessels were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

APPROVED BY:

  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 19, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, March 19, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

A quorum was declared by Chairman J.Y. Christmas, who called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Brad Brown, NMFS, Miami, FL  
C.E. Bryan, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Gary Matlock, TPWD, Austin, TX  
J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
J. Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Walter M. Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL  
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Richard Leard, BMR, Long Beach, MS

Staff

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

Others

Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Henry G. Lazauski, AMRD, Dauphin Island, AL  
David Etzold, USM, Hattiesburg, MS  
Frank Richardson, FWS, Atlanta, GA  
Eugene L. Nakamura, NMFS, Panama City, FL  
Andrew J. Kemmerer, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
Peter Eldridge, NMFS, Charleston, SC  
Wayne Swingle, GMFMC, Tampa, FL  
Madison "Shine" Powell, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL  
Maury Ferguson, TPWD, Austin, TX  
I.B. Byrd, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Robert Williams, NMFS, Washington, DC  
Bill Lunsford, Zapata Haynie Corp., Timonium, MD  
Paul Hammerschmidt, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX  
Phil Steele, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Tom Van Devender, BMR, Long Beach, MS  
Ruben Mimbela S., SEPESCA  
Clyde Richbourg, GSMFC, Pace, FL  
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
Lou Villanova, FWS, Atlanta, GA  
Gary Saul, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Walter Nelson, NMFS, Miami, FL

Adoption of Agenda

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

- (1) The report of the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee was advanced to accommodate Larry Nicholson's schedule.

- (2) Richard Leard was scheduled under Other Business to present information on red drum management.
- (3) Andrew Kemmerer was scheduled to present the MARFIN Status Report, in place of Dr. Jack Greenfield.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Kissimmee, Florida on October 17, 1985 were reviewed and adopted as written.

Status Report, Controlled Freshwater Introduction

David Etzold presented a report on the status of the controlled freshwater introduction projects in Louisiana. Studies on the Bonnet Carre' site are expected to be completed in September 1989, with specifications completed in 1½ years. Congressional authorization as a highest priority is needed to obtain funding for this project. The Caernarvon and Davis Pond sites' general designs will be completed in March 1987, review and modifications by July 1987, and bids to follow.

R. Leard introduced a resolution on diversion of river water benefits with respect to coastal deterioration, and noted it should be directed to the States' legislative delegations and the Corps of Engineers.

\* Harry Schafer moved to adopt the resolution, and recommend its passage by the GSMFC. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Report: Anadromous Fish Subcommittee

L. Nicholson reported that the Subcommittee met on March 17, 1986 to review the Striped Bass Plan, and agreed that further review is needed. The Subcommittee expressed its wish to proceed with the revisions already determined and the TCC's recommendations and comments on the previous draft. Appreciation was expressed to the TCC, and especially to the Commission staff for excellent assistance.

It was noted that most additional revisions will be minor, with some alterations of tables, improvement of the socioeconomic section and regulatory recommendations, and development of an executive summary. A targeted completion date of summer 1986 was noted, although a proposed plan implementation date has not been established, and it is possible funding for implementation may not be available.

\* Tom McIlwain moved to accept the Subcommittee's report. Motion was seconded and passed.

Status Report, Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN)

A. Kemmerer presented the current status of MARFIN, noting that because of the Gramm-Rudman deficit spending reduction and NOAA reprogramming, all the \$2.85 million MARFIN appropriations will not be available; approximately \$2.0 million is suggested as available. The program will be managed by the MARFIN Program Management Board, consisting of the following representatives:

State agencies: Corky Perret

National Marine Fisheries Service: Jack Greenfield and  
Andy Kemmerer

Sea Grant: Jim Cato

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission: Larry Simpson

Commercial industry: Bob Jones

Recreational industry: Bob Ditton

Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Development Foundation: Tom Murray

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council: Wayne Swingle

The Program Coordinator at SERO is Don Eckberg.

The Board's first meeting was held in February 1986; a late March meeting will be scheduled to determine project priorities, with RFP's to be announced in April. Sea Grant will administer university funds, with additional monies available to the States.

Discussion focused on concern that disproportionate projected allocations do not reflect a true State-Federal partnership; it was noted that projections are preliminary and may be negotiated, with State input through its representative. It was pointed out that MARFIN was intended to be program driven, not just a source of monies to be divided by participants.

Report on Latent Resources Program

A. Kemmerer presented an update of activities associated with the NMFS latent resources development, noting that with respect to coastal herring (and associated species) fisheries, an estimated biomass of 1 to 5 million metric tons is projected for the Gulf. Large midwater and high-opening bottom trawl gear was used aboard the CHAPMAN in the past

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

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year. An overview of the towed submersible MANTA recently acquired and being used on the CHAPMAN was presented.

Recent butterfish exploratory cruises indicate a yield to 16 tons per hour; at an equivalent value to the northeast butterfish industry, \$30,000/tow is possible. The largest catches were made from 40-120 fm. SEAMAP catches in the summer 1985 were low, and previous large spring catches will be verified by the 1986 May-June SEAMAP survey. The survey will assess butterfish in the northern and western Gulf; past data indicate offshore Texas as the largest source of shrimp trawl discards of butterfish. The projected yearly export value of butterfish is \$75 million, with an ex-vessel value of \$19 million. Problems associated with fat content and tapeworm cysts were cited.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Marine Shellfish Introduction/Export

Ed Joyce reported that the Ad Hoc Committee, formed in October 1985, met on March 17, 1986. Participants were: H. Schafer, C.E. Bryan, E. Joyce, W. Tatum and J.Y. Christmas. The Committee decided that in view of the present laws and difficulty in passing new laws, no further action is recommended. The Committee noted, however, that continuing dialogue on shellfish diseases and parasites is desirable, with new concern focusing on the release of hatchery-raised fish and shellfish into the wild, producing "gene-pool pollution" and disruption of native genetic characteristics. It was suggested that this issue be discussed at the next Commission meeting with respect to possible standardized release guidelines for the Gulf. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended its dissolution to the TCC.

T. McIlwain noted that GCRL is currently involved with studies of viral introductions by Penaeus vannamei, in conjunction with five other U.S. laboratories; GCRL is providing a screening service on cultured and native shrimp in order to maintain disease-free stocks.

\* G. Matlock moved to have the TCC send a letter to Dr. Aaron Rosenfield informing him of the Ad Hoc Committee's report and recommendations for dissolution. The motion was seconded and passed.

Additional discussion focused on current efforts to culture and stock red drum and other species, noting the need for future communication on associated introduction problems.

Subcommittee Reports

(1) SEAMAP Subcommittee

Walter Tatum presented information on recent activities and plans of the Subcommittee.

- ° The 1983 Environmental and Biological Atlas and the 1983 Ichthyoplankton Atlas have been published and distributed, as well as the 1986 Marine Directory. The 1984 Environmental and Biological Atlas is currently being prepared.
- ° The Spring (bluefin tuna) Plankton Survey is scheduled to begin April 22; the Spring Squid/Butterfish Survey, May 6; the Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey, June 10; the Fall (king mackerel) Plankton Survey, September 9.
- ° Preliminary findings of the red drum stock identification analyses indicate homogeneity among specimens from different Gulf estuaries. The Red Drum Work Group recommended further biochemical analyses of offshore red drum and a coordinated tagging program, collection of fishery-dependent data, compilation of updated scientific information on red drum, and letters of endorsement for continued studies at LSU, Louisiana Tech and Rice University.
- ° A total of 41 data requests has been received to date from the SEAMAP Information System.
- ° An expanded continuation of the shipboard-shoreside weight variance study was approved by the Subcommittee.
- ° The joint SEAMAP-Gulf/SEAMAP-South Atlantic meeting on March 17, 1986 was summarized, noting a presentation by Peter Hanson of the NMFS Beaufort Laboratory on preliminary findings of the Status and Trends Benthic Surveillance Project, and the joint recommendation to award the design of the SEAMAP Information System to Computer Science Corporation. Additionally, a joint annual report will again be prepared this year.

\*

W. Tatum moved to have the Red Drum Work Group's recommendations approved with TCC acceptance of the

Subcommittee's report. The motion was seconded and short discussion followed. The motion passed.

(2) Crab Subcommittee

Phil Steele presented a comprehensive slide show of recent Crab Subcommittee activities, focusing on an overview of the Geryon crab fishery in Florida, development work by FDNR and the University of South Florida, and the status of the commercial harvests. Also received were the status, development and research activities relating to the stone crab and blue crab fisheries by Gulf management agencies, universities and Sea Grant programs. Emphasized in the presentation were Geryon trapping techniques recently being applied off Florida's west coast. Problems associated with development of the fishery include funding and marketing limitations.

Also noted were that Ken Stuck will be traveling to Poland under the SEAMAP program to train Polish sorters in crab plankton identification. The Subcommittee is also working with NMFS Pascagoula personnel and will be supplied with past trawl data on four important crab families to develop species profiles. The import and export of crabmeat products were briefly discussed, and it was noted that in 1984 \$28 million of blue crab or crab products other than king or snow crabs were imported into the U.S.; this is twice the value of the Gulf blue crab fishery. Primary economic impacts are being assessed, as well as the quality of imported exports.

\* T. McIlwain moved to accept the Subcommittee's report. Motion was seconded and passed.

W. Tatum moved to have the TCC endorse the SEAMAP Subcommittee's recommendation that the Information System design be awarded to Computer Science Corp. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

(3) Statistical Subcommittee

S. Lazasuski summarized discussions and actions of the Subcommittee's March 17, 1986 meeting:



- The workshop proceedings are still being prepared; three papers are still not available.
- The States' data summary files symposium previously obtained from the States were lost during a hurricane and are again being compiled.
- A NMFS Cooperative Data Statistics Workshop has been scheduled for April 28-30, 1986. The Cooperative Statistical Program Workshop will be in Miami in June, 1986.
- Al Green of TPWD is conducting discussions with TPWD and the University of Texas on proprietary data policies and procedures. Texas requested red drum catch data by individual trip rather than aggregated as are presently available.
- The Subcommittee recommends as a non-voting member a representative of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.
- The status of the NMFS State-Federal data management system was reviewed, as well as use of the National Recreational Fishery Survey by States not supplementing or replacing the survey with their own design.
- The impacts of discretionary versus non-discretionary cooperative projects status were reviewed, as well as the status of cooperative agreements. No consensus was reached on data management and report writing as elements of analysis for funded projects.
- Maury Ferguson (TPWD) will write a letter of concerns about the National Recreational Fisheries Survey to the National Recreational Statistics Review Committee.
- The Subcommittee recommended that the Commission respond to Bill Gordon's letter to Larry Simpson on the matter of inaccuracies contained in the Commission's previous letter on the recreational survey.
- Stu Kennedy was elected Vice-Chairman of the Subcommittee.

\*

T. McIlwain moved to have the Subcommittee's report accepted. Motion was seconded and discussion followed, focusing on an appropriate response to Bill Gordon's letter. Brad Brown suggested that the TCC recommend to the Commission the sending of a letter to Bill Gordon mentioning the Commission's continuing concerns and the need for further dialogue, that such a letter would be used as a tool for continuing to put pressure on the NMFS recreational survey for continued interaction with the States. It was also suggested that the letter should note to Mr. Gordon certain inaccuracies in his letter. The motion to accept the report passed.

(4) Spanish Mackerel Subcommittee

J.Y. Christmas noted the Subcommittee's charge, to examine the feasibility of developing a Commission-recommended Spanish Mackerel Management Plan. Roy Williams then reviewed discussions and recommendation of the March 18, 1986 meeting. The status of the Florida Spanish mackerel fishery was summarized: the east coast fishery is clearly overfished, but assessment of the west coast fishery is unclear, with declines in catches not yet attributable to overfishing. These conclusions were also reached by the NMFS Assessment Report to the Councils. It was further noted that some biological problems are in need of research, and pointed out that two-thirds of the Spanish mackerel harvest occurs in State territorial seas (77% in the Gulf).

Advantages and disadvantages of management plan options were reviewed: (a) individual State plans; (b) coordinated State management; (c) management by the Councils. The Subcommittee considered as decision criteria the areas of the fishery and ability of the plan to respond in a timely manner and over the range of the species. Management by the Councils was determined as disadvantageous; it was perceived management should be coordinated among the States by the State-Federal Fishery Management Board or other such body.

\*

G. Matlock moved to accept the Subcommittee's report. Motion was seconded and passed.

- \* G. Matlock moved to have the TCC recommend to the GSMFC that it notify the Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils of the Spanish Mackerel Subcommittee's conclusions, and request that both Councils begin immediate action to remove Spanish mackerel from the Migratory Pelagics Management Plan. Motion was seconded and discussion followed.

Concern was expressed that no data would be taken in the FCZ, the effects of no interim management plan in place should action be taken by the Council, and the possible unavailability of funding to implement a plan. The motion passed unanimously.

- \* W. Tatum moved to have the TCC recommend to the GSMFC that within one year's time, the Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils may drop Spanish mackerel from existing Council plans, and that we initiate coordination among the States toward the development of a fishery management plan. Motion was seconded and discussion followed.

Concern was expressed that the TCC represents the scientific community and should not extend its authority to political concerns; additional concern was expressed that this action could result in further costs to the Commission and States. A roll call vote was requested: Schafer, McIlwain, Tatum, Huff, Joyce, Matlock, Bryan - yea; Brown - abstain; motion passed.

#### Other Business

R. Leard presented information on the status of the Gulf red drum fishery and previous information available from the Council and Commission's red drum profiles. He noted that the Gulf Council will not prepare a FMP as most of the catch is in State waters, and asked for a TCC recommendation to the Commission that it proceed with the development of a plan for red drum, either through reactivation of that Subcommittee or other in-house composition, using presently available information that will enable the States to use existing management regulations.

Discussion focused on the advisability of the Commission identifying mechanisms currently available to address FCZ red drum management, and determining relative inshore/offshore catch data.

T. McIlwain noted that SEAMAP is currently attempting to address stock identification of red drum, and noted that TPWD is currently updating information on the species. Present State red drum size and gear limits were reviewed, and it was noted that the possibility exists that in the absence of an FMP, preemption will occur.

\* It was moved to have the TCC recommend to the GSMFC that it initiate the development of an FMP for red drum. Motion was seconded and passed.

R. Leard further asked the TCC to consider recommending to the GSMFC that profiles for mullet and black drum should be developed, in view of these rapidly expanding fisheries. These items will be added to the October 1986 meeting agenda.

J.Y. Christmas summarized his participation for the TCC in the October 1985 MEXUS-Gulf meeting in Houston, and noted that scientific input has led to successful joint U.S.-Mexico cooperative projects. He added that during the GSMFC meetings in Brownsville, talks were also ongoing in Matamoros between U.S. and Mexican fishery industry personnel to further cooperative ventures. His report is on file in the GSMFC office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

*Walter S. Kent*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 19, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES  
MANAGEMENT BOARD  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, March 19, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

Vice Chairman Edwin Joyce called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m.

The following persons attended:

Members

Harry Schafer	(proxy for B. Angelle)	LA
Jerry Sansom	(proxy for S. Mitchell)	FL
Walter M. Tatum	(proxy for J. Hodnett)	AL
Richard Leard	(proxy for L. Strong)	MS
Edwin Joyce	(proxy for E. Gissendanner)	FL
Gary Matlock	(proxy for C. Travis)	TX
George Brumfield	(proxy for T. Millette)	MS

*Buck & Harry*  
Staff

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

Others

Wayne Swingle, GMFMC, Tampa, FL  
Frank Richardson, USF&WS, Atlanta, GA  
J.Y. Christmas, TCC Chairman, Ocean Springs, MS  
Juan Carlos Seijo, PESCA  
Robert Williams, NMFS, Washington, DC  
Jim McCallum, ASMFC, Washington, DC  
C.E. Bryan, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Gary E. Saul, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Eugene Nakamura, NMFS, Panama City, FL  
W.C. Lunsford, Jr., Zapata Haynie Corp., Timonium, MD  
Bordon Wallace, Wallace Menhaden, Mandeville, LA  
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
Clyde Richbourg, GSMFC Chairman, Milton, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held October 17, 1985 in Kissimmee, Florida were reviewed and approved as written.

Status Report - Data Accumulation, Planning and Administration for  
Interjurisdictional Management of Marine Fisheries Resources on the  
Territorial Sea of the Gulf of Mexico (1986)

L. Simpson reported that all objectives and responsibilities of this agreement are being accomplished and quarterly financial reports have been submitted to SERO/NMFS. Administration, travel, communication, planning and other activities for the administrative support of the GS-FFMB and its committees has been provided in accordance with this agreement. He stated that the activities accomplished with these funds each year are far-reaching and extremely effective in carrying out the objectives of the Board and that it would be unfortunate if funding for this program were discontinued.

Status Report - Menhaden Advisory Committee

J. Merriner reported that the Menhaden Advisory Committee met on March 18, 1986. NMFS-SEFC presented a summary report on the 1985 fishing season, a preliminary outlook for the 1986 season, plus other aspects of the NMFS research and monitoring program on menhaden. Selected summary statistics from the computerized 1984 Captain's Daily Fishing Reports were reviewed. Among other topics considered, the Committee was briefed on the menhaden surimi project now underway at the Zapata Haynie facility in Reedville, Virginia, an economic feasibility analysis, and a cooperative research program with industry, government and university personnel. R. Condrey discussed his continuing research on fishing vessel searching time and its possible application in stock assessment studies for the menhaden and other searching fisheries. His report was approved by the Board.

Status Report - Crab Subcommittee

P. Steele reported that the Crab Subcommittee met on March 18, and reviewed progress on crab research in the five Gulf States. Other topics discussed was a report on SEAMAP plankton sorting; status of Polish Sorting Center contract; a report on NMFS trawl data proposal; a call for papers for an upcoming Stone Crab Symposium; a report on the National Blue Crab Industry Association meeting held February 26-28,

1986; and a report on export/import marketing of crab projects. P. Steele expressed concern over travel restrictions and absences of Crab Subcommittee members. Board members stated that even though travel is sometimes paid, the States are sometimes restricted by number of persons permitted to travel to the same meeting and with current budget problems travel regulations are much stricter. It is hoped that this is a temporary situation that will correct itself given time. P. Steele's report was approved by the Board.

Status Report - Anadromous Fish Subcommittee

L. Simpson reported that the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee was still in the process of making revisions to the draft management plan for striped bass. When final revisions are made a final draft will be submitted to the TCC and GS-FFMB for approval and final publication should be complete by September 30, 1986.

Status of FY87 State/Federal Funds

B. Byrd reported that the cooperative efforts of the States, GSMFC and NMFS had accomplished a great deal in years past with a very small amount of money. Current budget situations are grave and the deficit is considerable. The budget will affect services, programs and people. He stated that Gramm-Rudman cuts have been severe and that every attempt is being made not to cut programs that are keyed to people. He further explained that only \$25,000 of the State-Federal money that is used primarily for the programmatic aspect of the Board is proposed for cuts, and that the administrative funds in the amount of \$16,500 will be maintained as the budget permits. He suggested that funds may be available through other sources to continue the type of projects accomplished by the Board. Members of the Board while not pleased at the prospects of losing \$25,000, were appreciative of the early notification by the regional office regarding FY87 funds.

J. Sansom questioned the value that NMFS put on State/Federal programs since the funds could perhaps be saved if some other reductions could be made in house. B. Byrd replied that although NMFS does indeed value these programs very highly, this is not true with the current administration.



GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES  
MANAGEMENT BOARD  
MINUTES  
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H. Schafer expressed concern over the Board's role now that program funds were not available. E. Joyce stated that even at a reduced level, the Board should remain active and involved in State-Federal efforts to ensure some kind of future benefits to the States. W. Tatum suggested that only one meeting per year be held in lieu of reduced funding. No action was taken on this suggestion.

\* G. Matlock motioned to place the Board in an inactive status until program funds are once again available. G. Brumfield seconded the motion.

B. Byrd felt that the structure and efforts of the Board should remain intact to further the cooperative atmosphere that currently exist within the region. G. Matlock and J. Sansom agreed that if NMFS felt this program should be continued that perhaps by putting the Board in an inactive status it would encourage NMFS to reinstate program funds and fully support the State-Federal cooperative activities of the Board. B. Byrd felt that this action would only present an attitude of unconcern to NMFS. E. Joyce supported the continuation of the Board as is.

\* G. Brumfield motioned to call the question. The motion carried 4 to 3.

\* G. Matlock's motion to place the Board in an inactive status until program funding is available, failed 6 to 1.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

CR

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MINUTES

Thursday, March 20, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

EXECUTIVE SESSION  
MINUTES  
Thursday, March 20, 1986  
Brownsville, Texas

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Chairman Clyde Richbourg. Those in attendance were:

Members

John Ray Nelson	AL
Jerry Sansom (proxy for S. Mitchell)	FL
Elton Gissendanner	FL
Clyde Richbourg	FL
Leroy Kiffe	LA
Richard Leard (proxy for L. Strong)	MS
George A. Brumfield (proxy for T. Millette)	MS
Leslie Casterline	TX
Ralph Rayburn (proxy for T. Santiesteban)	TX
Gary Saul (proxy for C. Travis)	TX

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director  
Ginny K. Herring, Executive Assistant  
Lucia B. O'Toole, Publication Specialist  
Eileen M. Benton, Staff Assistant  
Mary Ann Crosy, Registration Desk

Others

J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
I.B. Byrd, NMFS-SERO, St. Petersburg, FL  
C.E. Bryan, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Jerald K. Waller, ADNR-MRD, Dauphin Island, AL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held Friday, October 18, 1985 in Kissimmee, Florida were reviewed and approved as written. Subsequent to this meeting, Texas reported an error in Item One of the Law Enforcement Committee's recommendations. The Law Enforcement Committee will correct this error at the October 1986 meeting and amend the report to the Executive Session to correct the inaccuracy.

Committee Report - Technical Coordinating Committee

J.Y. Christmas briefed the Commission on the TCC meeting held Wednesday, March 19, 1986.

The TCC reviewed a status report from D. Etzold on the Corps of Engineers project on controlled freshwater introduction to the Louisiana marshes. The Committee approved a resolution supporting expeditious implementation of this project and requested that it be given top priority.

\* J.R. Nelson motioned that the Executive Session approve and distribute the resolution (attached). The motion carried.

The TCC heard reports by A. Kemmerer on the status of the MARFIN project and on the latent resource program.

\* The TCC Ad Hoc Committee on Disease and Parasites met to discuss problems presented to the TCC by Dr. Aaron Rosenfield. The Committee recognizes the problem but felt that current State laws were sufficient and that additional legislation may create enforcement problems. The TCC recommended that the Executive Director be directed to write Dr. Rosenfield to inform him that no action would be taken at this time but that the problem would be addressed at a later date.

\* W. Tatum reported to the TCC on SEAMAP activities. The Subcommittee expressed concern on the legal ownership of SEAMAP plankton collections. Since the plankton work has been done with NMFS funds it was the consensus of the Subcommittee that it belonged to the Smithsonian Institute. The TCC recommended that Brad Brown, NMFS-SEFC be directed to negotiate the transfer of ownership from the Smithsonian to Florida Department Natural Resources and Gulf Coast Research Laboratory where the plankton is currently located.

Other SEAMAP items requiring action by the Commissioners was recommendations of the Red Drum Work Group's identification study. The SEAMAP Subcommittee approved and submitted for approval by the Commission the following recommendations:

- That fishery-dependent groups collect data on the offshore fishery for red drum on a routine basis through the appropriate agencies.
- That letters of support by the Subcommittee be sent to Paul Ramsey (Louisiana Tech) and Gil Bane (LSU) to encourage their

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continued electrophoresis and HPLC studies on the offshore red drum group.

- That a letter of encouragement be sent to Bill Wilder (Rice University) to begin mitochondrial DNA study of inshore and hatchery red drum
- That tagging studies be implemented as soon as possible on offshore red drum groups in the northern Gulf to establish movement and other information.
- That information currently existing relative to red drum movements, age/growth, etc. in the Gulf be compiled with reference to source, data format, type, etc and that this effort be carried out in conjunction with ongoing studies in Texas. And that this information be made available to agencies and researchers for analytical studies.

\* E. Gissendanner motioned that the Red Drum Work Group's recommendations be approved. Motion carried.

The Crab and Anadromous Fish Subcommittees reported their current activities. No action was required at this time.

The Statistical Subcommittee submitted their report to the TCC and requested that the Executive Director write a letter in response to Bill Gordon's, NOAA/NMFS, letter regarding NMFS recreational program in hopes of rectifying controversy and to permit further dialogue on concerns.

\* G. Saul motioned to approve request. Motion carried.

J.Y. Christmas stated that the TCC Spanish Mackerel Subcommittee had met twice. Roy Williams, FDNR, had been elected chairman. The Subcommittee had reviewed a great deal of detailed information and reached several conclusions that are hereby presented to the Commission.

- That the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council management of Spanish mackerel was not advantageous.
- That a coordinated State management plan was preferred.
- That the GMFMC and G&SAFMC be notified of the Subcommittee's conclusions and be requested to begin immediate action to remove Spanish mackerel from the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Management Plan.

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- That the TCC recommend to the Commission, that in anticipation that the Council may drop Spanish mackerel from existing plans that the Commission initiate coordinated State efforts to proceed in the development of a FMP for Spanish mackerel.

L. Simpson stated that the Subcommittee had based their recommendation regarding the disadvantages of having a Council FMP for Spanish mackerel on the following information.

- That the majority of fish are located in State waters.
- That evidence of two groups of Spanish mackerel exist--Gulf and Atlantic.
- That Spanish mackerel was included in Council's FMP for the sole purpose of convenience.
- That the Council had concluded in similar fisheries that no Council FMP is necessary.
- That successful mechanisms exist for other fisheries not requiring Council FMP.

\* E. Gissendanner motioned to accept the TCC recommendations. J. Sansom seconded. Discussion followed.

Members of the Industry Advisory Committee reported that at their meeting on March 18, they reaffirmed their position to recommend that Spanish mackerel continue to be managed under the Council's management scheme.

J. Sansom stated that the Council management plan did intend to manage Spanish mackerel in the FCZ. He feels if the States have not adopted a plan to complement or coordinate with the Council's plan and in fact the resources have been impacted it is not the fault of the Council's FMP.

G. Saul stated that based on the scientific expertise and intent of the TCC he would support Dr. Gissendanner's motion.

J. Sansom expressed concern as to how the Council might attempt to drop Spanish mackerel from its plan. He was concerned that this may be an effort on the part of a small group of people to influence the Commission and to limit the commercial catch in Florida.

C. Richbourg described the Spanish mackerel fishery in Florida as being in good order and that poor statistics were responsible for statements to the contrary.

\* R. Leard motioned to call the question. Motion carried.

\* Dr. Gissendanner's motion to accept the TCC's recommendations failed, 4 to 6.

\* Dr. Gissendanner motioned that the Commission undertake the development of a coordinated effort for a Spanish mackerel management plan in the territorial waters of the Gulf States. J. Sansom seconded. The motion carried with G. Saul abstaining.

J.Y. Christmas continued with the TCC report. He stated that he had represented the TCC at the MEXUS-Gulf meeting earlier in the year and that the technical work with the MEXUS-Gulf was going well.

Other recommendations of the TCC were that the Commission initiate procedures to develop a fishery management plan for red drum.

\* R. Leard motioned to accept the TCC recommendation. E. Gissendanner seconded.

R. Leard stated that his agency may have funds in the amount of \$10,000 available to assist the Commission with a red drum management plan effort.

G. Saul stated that the State of Texas is currently undertaking the development of a red drum management plan for its citizens. He spoke against the motion stating that the States already have the authority to regulate red drum in their waters and beyond, in fact, States are currently regulating with bag and size limits. He stated that red drum are not highly migratory. Red drum management is not being ignored in the Gulf, in fact, the SEAMAP and MARFIN programs are addressing the request of the States and Council to get necessary information. He feels that since a major problem is increasing catch in the FCZ and northern Gulf that the Commission even with a plan could not resolve major issues. He continued by saying that Texas could ill afford the additional expense and travel involved in such an effort and may not participate based on his comments.

J. Sansom said since the red drum stock is largely in the territorial waters it would be beneficial to the States in developing a plan for State waters that they recommend to the appropriate Federal agencies that they do the same.

\* R. Leard called the question. Motion carried.

\* R. Leard's motion to accept the TCC recommendation to initiate procedures to develop a red drum management plan carried with G. Saul opposing.

Committee Report - Industry Advisory Committee

L. Simpson reported for Chairman Bob Jones. The IAC discussed topics of interest to the industry including quality control, insurance issues and current legislation. They received a report from Wil Seidel, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS on the trawler efficiency device. The Committee's views on management of Spanish mackerel were discussed during the TCC report.

The IAC made two recommendations to the Commissioners. The first was a request to have a letter sent to the appropriate person or agency requesting that existing money in the Fishery Loan Fund which is being terminated, be used to address insurance problems. The second recommendation was a request to have the Executive Director write a letter supporting the continuation of the Fishermen's Contingency Fund which is scheduled for termination in 1987. The funds used by the FCF are an assessment to oil companies.

\* J.R. Nelson motioned to approve the IAC report and recommendations. G. Brumfield seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Report - Law Enforcement Committee

J. Waller reported that the LEC had met on March 19, 1986. The major portion of their meeting centered around discussion of the general session entitled, "Current Marine Fisheries Issues Affecting Enforcement." The Committee expressed their appreciation of support by the Commission and requested continued support and participation. They formally requested that the Commission adopt a resolution (attached) requesting that the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference establish or enact regulations requiring a standardized tagging system with a back-up tag which will prohibit the transport across State lines of shellfish unless in compliance with regulations. In addition, they requested that the Commission staff develop in cooperation with LEC members a summary of laws regarding individual fisheries of the Gulf States to be used by law enforcement persons of the various agencies.



\* E. Gissendanner motioned to approve the LEC report and recommendations. G. Brumfield seconded. The motion carried.

Committee Report - Recreational Fisheries Committee

L. Simpson gave Chairman Fred Deegen's report. Topics discussed included a briefing on the 1985 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey and updates from the various States on marine recreational fishing developments. The Committee discussed proposed Gulf-wide saltwater fishing records and tournament schedules. F. Deegen will update the current listing and submit it to IGFA for inclusion in its "International Tournament Schedule" publication. The possibility of including this listing as a leaflet by the Commission was also discussed. The RFC formally requested that the Commission respond to Bill Gordon's letter of December 26, 1985. (Also acted on in TCC report).

\* J. Sansom motioned to approve the RFC report and accept recommendations. R. Leard seconded. Motion carried.

Report - Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board

L. Simpson presented the report for Vice Chairman Ed Joyce. Current project and Committee reports were reviewed and all responsibilities of cooperative agreements are being fulfilled. There was discussion regarding the possible reduction of FY87 programmatic funds in the amount of \$25,000. No action was required at this time.

Report - National Marine Fisheries Service - Southeast Regional Office

B. Byrd highlighted the efforts by the Gulf States in partnership with each other, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service. These efforts covered the SEAMAP program, S-F Cooperative Fisheries Statistics Program, assistance with the Sport Fish Restoration Program, PL 88-309, PL 89-304 and MARFIN. He stated that NMFS-SERO is determined to maintain effective cooperative State/Federal partnerships in the Southeast. Increased efforts by NMFS and the States will be needed to accomplish this objective with reduced funding. Budgets will be cut in fiscal year 1986 and subsequent years at least through 1990.

Measures must be taken to properly manage the fishery resources of the Southeast Region.

Legislative Update

L. Simpson reported on the current status of the 88-309 program for FY86 and FY87. He indicated the program was not reauthorized last year but appropriations of \$4.25 million were approved for the program. The reason that it was not reauthorized was due to a disagreement between the House, which wants H.R. 1028 instead of the original program, and the Senate, which wants to maintain the original 88-309 program without amendments. Since they could not agree, the program was not reauthorized for FY86 and future years. L. Simpson personally made known to Congressman Breaux the concerns of the States that the program needs to be reauthorized as is, so appropriations can be continued in FY87 and beyond. In FY86, Section 4B monies (\$3 million) were appropriated to replant oyster reefs destroyed by Hurricane Elena in Florida and Alabama.

He expects the Congress to address national legislation to help with the fishing industries problems with insurance, both hull and personal injury. Field hearings were scheduled at the Commission's request in New Orleans this summer. Expected legislation will be along the lines of limiting the level of insurance awards and modification of the application of the Jones Act to fishing vessels.

The President's recommended budget for FY87 again zeroes out many of the programs held as high priority in the Gulf of Mexico, including but not limited to:

- |                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1) 88-309 and 89-304            | -0-           |
| 2) Fishermen's Contingency Fund | -0-           |
| 3) SEAMAP                       | -0-           |
| 4) MARFIN                       | -0-           |
| 5) Statistical programs         | 50% reduction |
| 6) Councils                     | 50% reduction |

The Gramm-Rudman bill passed, which will mean a reduction of 4.3% across the board on all FY86 Federal programs. Next fiscal years reductions depend on how well the Congress reduces the Federal budget and the resultant deficit spending. L. Simpson expects several

reprogramming recommendations to surface aimed at FY86 dollars in programs the Commission holds in high priority. These may range from 17%-38% over and above Gramm-Rudman cuts. These will be recommendations to Congress, which they will have 15 working days to accept or reject these department level proposals. If Congress is silent, the reprogrammings will stick. He feels the reprogramming requests are unfair reductions in marine fisheries programs to offset the 4.3% Gramm-Rudman cuts elsewhere in NOAA and the Department of Commerce. This is unfair and he will make known to key legislators the Commissions displeasure over these types of action.

An Ocean Sport Fishing License is being proposed by the administration. The fate of this legislation is not favorable given the initial responses of marine fisheries responsible legislators.

#### Marine Fisheries Initiative Program

L. Simpson presented an update on the MARFIN program and provided a list of FY86 program priorities for the Commission. He encouraged all Commissioners to make additions or suggestions for MARFIN projects. J.R. Nelson was appointed designee to L. Simpson who will serve on the Program Management Board for the Commission.

\* L. Simpson presented a proposal for the administrative support of the MARFIN Program Management Board. G. Saul motioned to approve the proposal and to submit it for funding. E. Gissendanner seconded. The motion carried.

#### Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

L. Simpson presented a written report for the MAFAC meeting held February 4-6, 1986 in Washington, DC. The major portion of the meeting involved NMFS 1987 budget and budget cuts/reductions. L. Simpson also had the opportunity to make a presentation on behalf of the Commission's support of continued State-Federal efforts in marine fisheries.

#### Dingell-Johnson Proposal

L. Simpson presented a proposal entitled "Coordination and Administrative Support for Cooperative Action Among the Five Gulf States Sharing Jurisdiction Over Migratory Marine Sport Fish." He explained

that the funds sought for this proposal are 100% money and that it is not in direct competition with or part of the State apportioned funds. He further stated that although these funds have been available for use by the Commission and others since the enabling legislation was approved, no similar proposal has ever before been applied for or been awarded. He is guardedly optimistic that U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the IAFWA will fund the proposal.

\* G. Brumfield moved to approve the proposal. J.R. Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried nine to one.

#### Discussion of Assistant to the Director Position

L. Simpson stated that the activities of the Commission were increasing and that the added work created an urgent need to fill the vacancy. J. Sansom suggested that L. Simpson submit a written report on the increased level of activities of the Commission for review at the October 1986 meeting.

#### Gulf State Marine Fisheries Commission Budget Issues

\* The FY85 Audit was presented for approval. J.R. Nelson moved to accept the audit. The motion carried.

G. Herring stated that the Commission had been notified of an increase in the auditors fees for the FY86 audit. J.R. Nelson recommended that she solicit bids from other auditing firms to assure a fair price.

\* G. Herring explained that she had prepared job descriptions for each Commission employee and was in the process of soliciting classification and pay scale information from the various State agencies and Federal government. She requested permission to seek assistance from personnel from the various States in preparing a classification and pay scale for the Commission. G. Saul motioned to approve her request. J.R. Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

An informal budget committee was established to assist Commission staff in preparing the FY87 budget. The Committee will consist of the current Chairman, Vice Chairman and the immediate past Chairman.

L. Simpson was directed to monitor all SEAMAP activities closely and to limit all travel and extraneous expenses pending certification of SEAMAP funds.

State Report - Alabama

To be submitted

State Report - Louisiana

C. Perret submitted the following written report to be included in the minutes:

During the year 1985 the Office of Coastal and Marine Resources conducted a variety of Marine Fisheries Research and Monitoring projects. Scientists at the Department's Marine Lab, which was officially dedicated as the Lyle S. St. Amant Marine Laboratory in 1985, conducted numerous research projects in three broad areas: shrimp, oysters and finfish. Additionally, scientists at the lab worked in close cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on large-scale controlled fresh water diversion projects. In 1985 a biological monitoring program was designed for the planned diversion project at Caernarvon. Scientists at the lab have also been cooperating with scientists from Louisiana State University on a project to determine the feasibility of, and problems associated with, pond culture of red drum.

The Saltwater Finfish Management section which was created by Act 295 of the 1984 Louisiana Legislature became operational in 1985. This section has initiated a coast-wide finfish monitoring program using bag seines, gill nets and trammel nets to collect information on recreationally and commercially important species of finfish during all phases of their life cycle. Scientists within this section began work on a finfish management plan for Louisiana's finfish resources during 1985. Additionally, the rules regulating the Department's Experimental Fisheries Program, which is administered by this section, were completely revised in 1985.

The Department's participation in the State-Federal Cooperative Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) continued for the fourth year. With Federal funds available in 1985, Louisiana increased its participation to include sampling in offshore waters to 15

fathoms. Department personnel staffed a contracted vessel for one week sampling trips in June, July, September and December.

Louisiana State University's Coastal Fisheries Institute was again contracted to fulfill the Department's obligations under the State-Federal Statistics Program. The goals of this project were: 1) to collect catch and effort and bioprofile data on coastal pelagics landed by both recreational and commercial boats in Louisiana; 2) to collect bioprofile data on black drum and striped mullet landed in commercial catches east of the Mississippi River in Louisiana; and 3) to collect catch data from the inshore shrimp fishery in Louisiana's Terrebonne, Timbalier and Barataria Bays.

While 1985 was successful and many meaningful research and monitoring projects were conducted, the budget picture for 1986 does not look as bright. The dramatic decline in State revenues and reductions of Federal research dollars will undoubtedly cause Louisiana to re-think its fishery research priorities.

#### State Report - Texas

R. Kemp submitted the following written report to be included in the minutes:

The TPWD must absorb a 13% budget cut for FY1986. Our Executive Director has placed a freeze on hiring of all permanent and nonpermanent positions. Out-of-state travel has been severely reduced and may be denied even if other sources fund the trip. In-state travel has been limited to operational needs.

The Department's shrimp and oyster plans are in the process of development. Meetings with industry have been conducted and coast-wide public hearings will be conducted this spring. The red drum plan for Texas is scheduled for completion during 1986. We are in the process of establishing a new field station adjacent to Sabine Lake. We have hired three of the scheduled seven personnel for this station to provide coast-wide coverage of Texas bays and the Texas Territorial Seas for the first time. Our fifth Gulf boat is expected to be on line this summer and will sample both Texas and Louisiana waters.

The Department has adopted, on an emergency basis, values for fish and wildlife species in Texas. Permanent rules are currently being

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proposed. The rules allow the Department to seek civil actions against violators of fishing and hunting regulations as well as pollution violators to recover replacement costs of organisms destroyed.

Council Update

L. Simpson stated that the Council had been working on the shrimp management plan, in particularly with the Texas Shrimp Closure. The latest recommendations to the NMFS to limit the Texas Closure to 15 miles out has not been acted on. The king mackerel fishery is currently closed under emergency regulations. The Council is also looking very close at red drum data and preparing for discussions on amendments to the FCMA.

Future Meetings

C. Richbourg informed the Commissioners that the October 1986 meeting will be held in New Orleans at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers and the March 1987 meeting will be in Biloxi, Mississippi at the Royal D'Iberville.

Nominations for the Charles H. Lyles Award

C. Perret submitted J.Y. Christmas' name to receive the 1986 Charles H. Lyles Award. G. Brumfield seconded the nomination.

G. Saul submitted C.E. Bryan's name to receive the 1986 Charles H. Lyles Award. L. Casterline seconded.

Secret ballots were cast and J.Y. Christmas will be the recipient of the 1986 Charles H. Lyles Award.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

# Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES  
ALABAMA  
FLORIDA  
LOUISIANA  
MISSISSIPPI  
TEXAS

P.O. BOX 726  
OCEAN SPRINGS, MS.  
39564  
(601)875-5912



## A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastal zone is deteriorating at a rapid and accelerating rate (40 square miles annually); the deterioration is not simply a matter of land loss, which in itself is just cause for alarm. Rather, the deterioration includes the loss of our valuable coastal fish and wildlife habitat; and

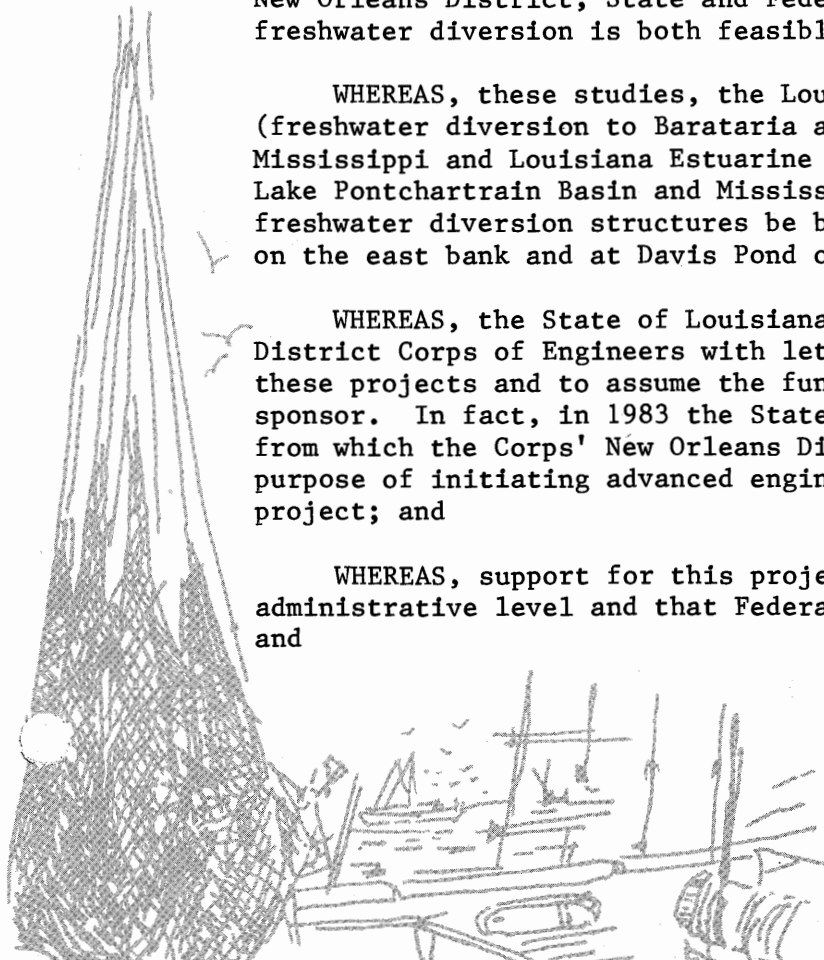
WHEREAS, coastal Louisiana's plight is due in large part to the flood control system of the Mississippi River which has isolated the coastal wetlands from the river's nourishing influence. Recognizing this, the diverting of river water through the levees is the single most effective means by which coastal deterioration can be slowed and fish and wildlife productivity enhanced; and

WHEREAS, exhaustive studies conducted by the Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, State and Federal agencies have determined that freshwater diversion is both feasible and cost effective; and

WHEREAS, these studies, the Louisiana Coastal Area Study (freshwater diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins), and the Mississippi and Louisiana Estuarine Area Study (freshwater diversion to Lake Pontchartrain Basin and Mississippi Sound), recommend that three freshwater diversion structures be built at Caernarvon and Bonnet Carre on the east bank and at Davis Pond on the west bank; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has supplied the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers with letters of intent to participate in these projects and to assume the funding obligations of the non-Federal sponsor. In fact, in 1983 the State established a \$200,000 escrow fund from which the Corps' New Orleans District has drawn funds for the purpose of initiating advanced engineering and design on the Caernarvon project; and

WHEREAS, support for this project in Washington is lacking at the administrative level and that Federal funding may not be forthcoming; and





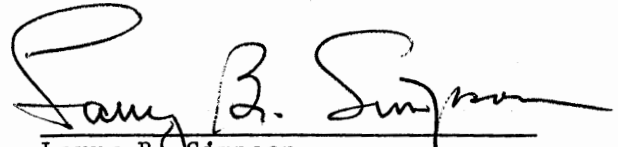
RESOLUTION  
Page -2-

WHEREAS, there is strong support for freshwater diversion among Louisiana's commercial and recreational fish and wildlife interests. Also widely recognized is the increased contribution that fish and wildlife must make to the future economic development of our coastal parishes; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the potential benefits of the diversions will diminish as the coast deteriorates, these projects must be given top priority. This organization supports these projects and the need for expeditious action for implementing them; and

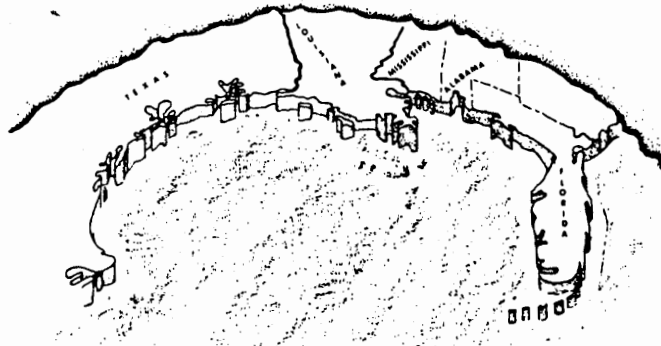
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forward to the legislative delegations of the five Gulf States and the appropriate U.S. Army Corps of Engineers districts.

Given this the 20th day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred, eighty-six.

  
Larry B. Simpson  
Executive Director

# Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES  
ALABAMA  
FLORIDA  
LOUISIANA  
MISSISSIPPI  
TEXAS



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## A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission recognizes the need for effective law enforcement in the area of interstate shellfish shipment; and

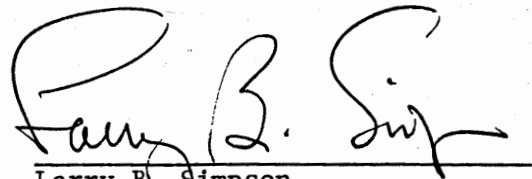
WHEREAS, a large part of the shellfish produced in each of the member Gulf States are shipped to other states; and

WHEREAS, at present, the member Gulf States have shellfish bag-container tagging requirements ranging from none to complex; and

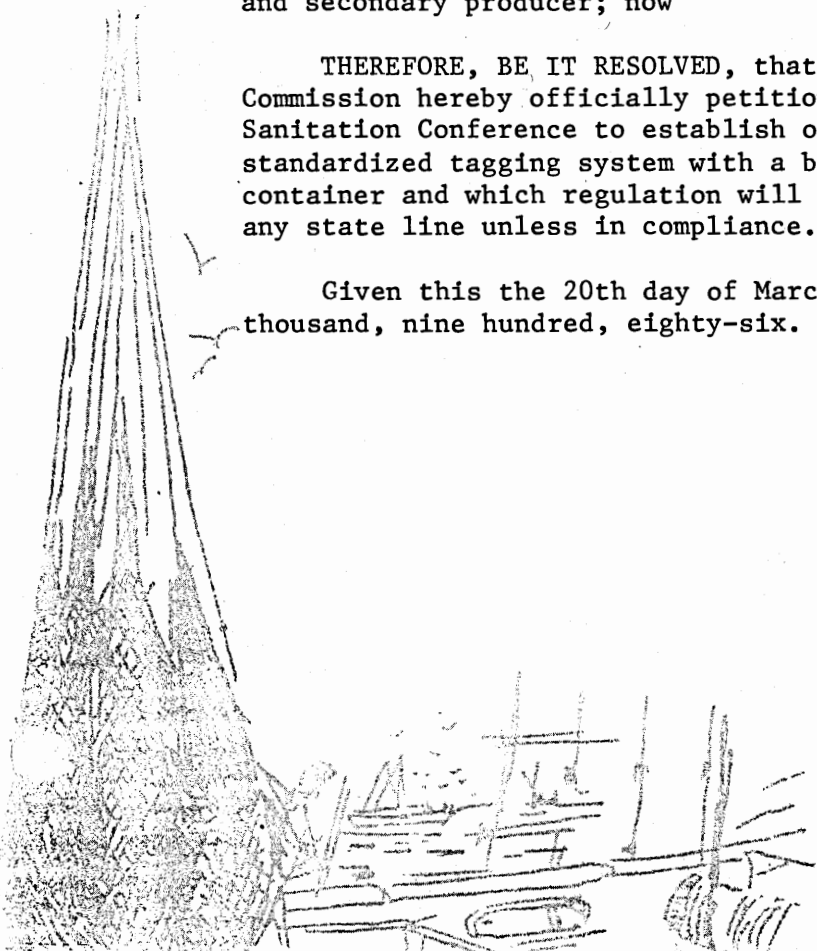
WHEREAS, there exists a need to standardize shellfish container tagging requirements to provide law enforcement officers, shellfish sanitation workers and industry personnel with an understandable system that will readily identify the location of harvest and both the primary and secondary producer; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission hereby officially petitions the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference to establish or enact regulations requiring a standardized tagging system with a back-up tag in each individual container and which regulation will prohibit the transportation across any state line unless in compliance.

Given this the 20th day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred, eighty-six.



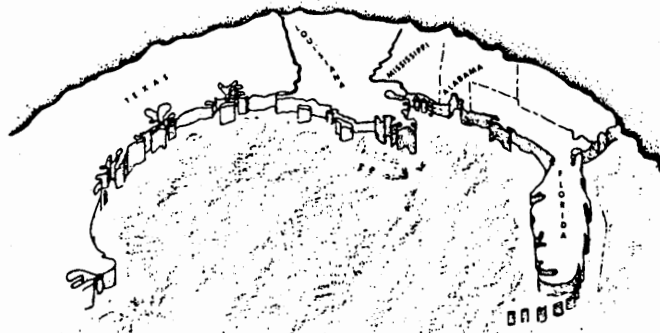
Larry B. Simpson  
Executive Director



# Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

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## A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastal zone is deteriorating at a rapid and accelerating rate (40 square miles annually); the deterioration is not simply a matter of land loss, which in itself is just cause for alarm. Rather, the deterioration includes the loss of our valuable coastal fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, coastal Louisiana's plight is due in large part to the flood control system of the Mississippi River which has isolated the coastal wetlands from the river's nourishing influence. Recognizing this, the diverting of river water through the levees is the single most effective means by which coastal deterioration can be slowed and fish and wildlife productivity enhanced; and

WHEREAS, exhaustive studies conducted by the Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, State and Federal agencies have determined that freshwater diversion is both feasible and cost effective; and

WHEREAS, these studies, the Louisiana Coastal Area Study (freshwater diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins), and the Mississippi and Louisiana Estuarine Area Study (freshwater diversion to Lake Pontchartrain Basin and Mississippi Sound), recommend that three freshwater diversion structures be built at Caernarvon and Bonnet Carre on the east bank and at Davis Pond on the west bank; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has supplied the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers with letters of intent to participate in these projects and to assume the funding obligations of the non-Federal sponsor. In fact, in 1983 the State established a \$200,000 escrow fund from which the Corps' New Orleans District has drawn funds for the purpose of initiating advanced engineering and design on the Caernarvon project; and

WHEREAS, support for this project in Washington is lacking at the administrative level and that Federal funding may not be forthcoming; and

RESOLUTION

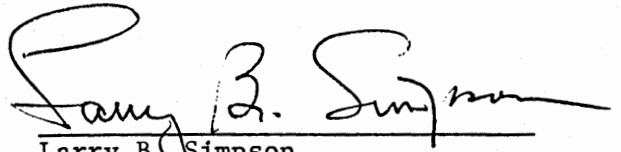
Page -2-

WHEREAS, there is strong support for freshwater diversion among Louisiana's commercial and recreational fish and wildlife interests. Also widely recognized is the increased contribution that fish and wildlife must make to the future economic development of our coastal parishes; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the potential benefits of the diversions will diminish as the coast deteriorates, these projects must be given top priority. This organization supports these projects and the need for expeditious action for implementing them; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forward to the legislative delegations of the five Gulf States and the appropriate U.S. Army Corps of Engineers districts.

Given this the 20th day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred, eighty-six.

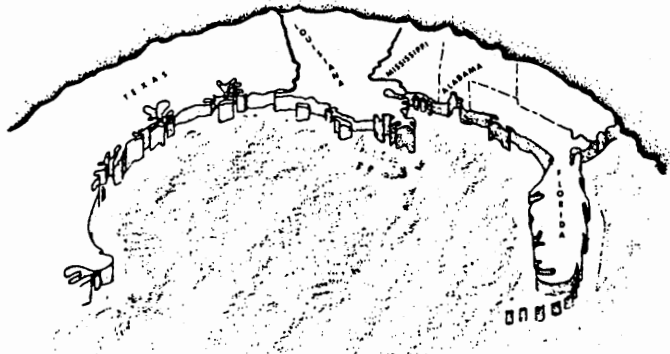
  
Larry B. Simpson  
Executive Director

GSMFC  
Resolution

# Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES  
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## A RESOLUTION

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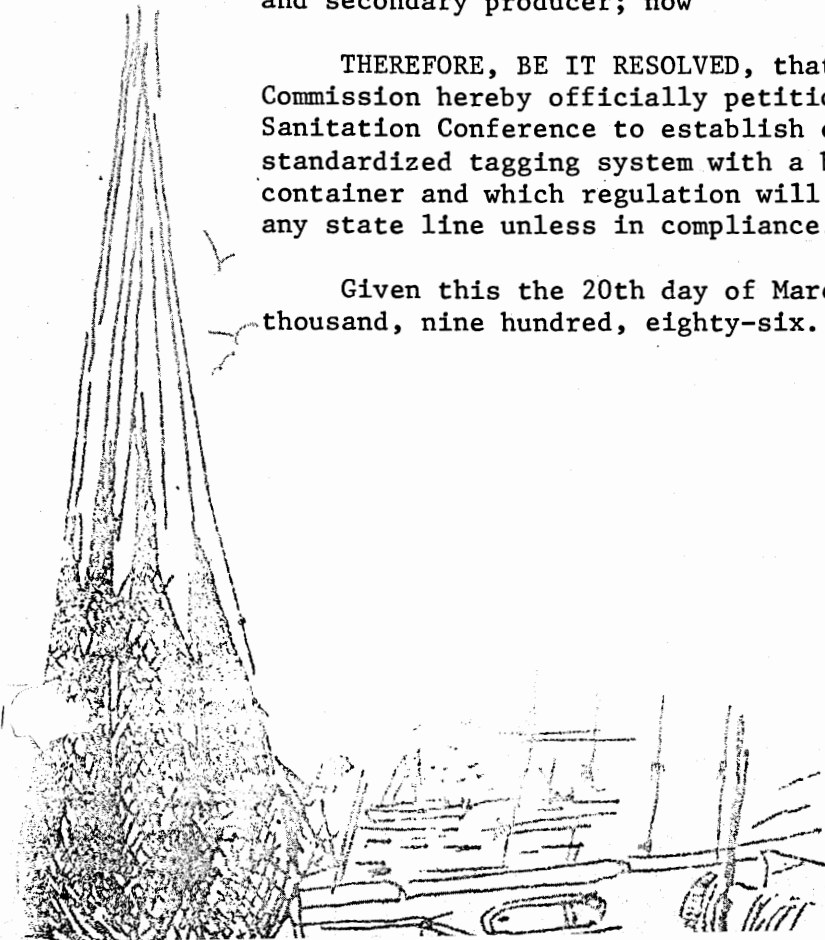
WHEREAS, at present, the member Gulf States have shellfish bag-container tagging requirements ranging from none to complex; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need to standardize shellfish container tagging requirements to provide law enforcement officers, shellfish sanitation workers and industry personnel with an understandable system that will readily identify the location of harvest and both the primary and secondary producer; now

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Given this the 20th day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred, eighty-six.

Larry B. Simpson  
Executive Director



APPROVED BY:

  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

MARFIN PROGRAM MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 26/  
Thursday, March 27, 1986  
Tampa, Florida

MARFIN Program Management Board  
Wednesday, March 26/Thursday  
March 27, 1986  
Tampa, Florida  
MINUTES

**DRAFT**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Murray at 1:00 pm.  
The following were in attendance:

Members

Larry B. Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS  
Tom Murray, GASAFDFI, Tampa, FL  
\*Wayne E. Swingle, GMFMC, Tampa, FL  
Jack Greenfield, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Andy Kemmerer, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
William S. "Corky" Perret, Gulf States, Baton Rouge, LA  
Jim Cato, Sea Grant, Gainesville, FL  
Robert Ditton, Recreational Industry, College Station, TX  
Robert Jones, Commercial Industry, Tallahassee, FL  
Terry Leary, GMFMC (designee 3/27/86), Tampa, FL

Staff

Don Ekberg, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Pat Howell, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Lucia O'Toole, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Others

Glenn Delaney, Fish Wildl. Cons. & the Env. Subc., Washington, DC  
Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Jack Brawner, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Ron Schmied, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Brad Brown, NMFS, Miami, FL  
\*\*Paul Hooker, GMFMC, Tampa, FL

\*Attendance on 3/26/86 only.

\*\*Attendance on 3/27/86 only.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held February 13/February 14, 1986 in Tampa, Florida were amended on page 4 to read

"...at expiration will become three-year terms; representatives may serve successive terms."

on page 5 to read

"J. Martin-West informed the PMB that she would recommend the ..."

on page 6 to add

"The administration of the Program's needs were cost out with certain parameters."

and on page 8 to read

"J. Cato requested that the PMB see the SEFC's expenditures in their program areas and their priorities assigned to those program areas."

and adopted as amended.

There was discussion on the award process and release of funds. It was noted that most of these funds will be released in August or September. A. Kemmerer stated that if NMFS has to go through the same competitive process as the other partners, then they are essentially out of the program as NMFS can not carry over funds. J. Greenfield said that he had envisioned that if the PMB could at this meeting approve in concept the appropriate Federal project share, then NMFS might have 2-3 weeks to submit to PMB members a 2-3 page summary of their proposals. These summaries would enable the PMB to evaluate the approach to the problem, methodology, expected results, output and cost. A desire for an early concurrence from the PMB on the appropriate Federal project share was expressed.

#### Adoption of Agenda

The PMB considered the items to be covered on the agenda and agreed to meet longer on the first day and begin early on the second day. The agenda was adopted as presented and time was allowed for Glenn Delaney to present an overview on the MARFIN program.

G. Delaney said he felt he was asked to attend the PMB meeting to give a perspective on what the members of Congress had envisioned the program to do. He stated that the spirit and intent of MARFIN was to help the Gulf commercial fishing industry through some tough times. The objective was to do this through diversification - to discover and develop new fisheries to give the shrimp fishermen alternatives, providing lots of employment and business opportunities. The entire concept from their perspective was that this was going to be done through the development of underutilized species. To accomplish this as



conceived by the MARFIN organizers was to be done by integrating all the various interests (state, federal, academic, private). He feels that MARFIN is a Federal program which will be guided by all the interested parties. It was not conceived to be a grant program or a matching program, but a Federal program through the NMFS to disperse funds for certain programs and for certain objectives to be determined by the PMB. The program is also to bolster the Federal investment in the Region.

There were questions and discussion on the 20-25% partners share stated in document and priorities listed in addition to latent resources. It was determined that funding will be program-driven. For political purposes of maintaining funding, the high visibility of exploratory research projects and hopefully the resultant discovery of new resources will be the most beneficial approach/priority for the initial years.

It was general concensus that the PMB should consider projects not to exceed 1½ to 2 years in duration. It was stated that market research sometimes discovers opportunities and that both aspects of supply and demand need to be studied in fisheries development. A focus of energy and money on a small number of very high priority projects was suggested.

King mackerel needs were determined to be an unfortunate anomaly to MARFIN. The necessity to have a quick source of funds to do research to resolve critical questions had arisen and MARFIN seemed to be the best source for that funding. However, king mackerel work could be appropriate for program support as restoring a resource for development purposes.

C. Perret said that everyone knows of the paucity of data, the poor data base, and the management decisions made on this data. The Gulf States lean toward projects of the type which will provide information in a relatively short period of time. Information is needed on stock assessment, what and how many fish are out there, how many are taking them, and what can the stocks support.

G. Delaney stated that they were talking about two distinct principles 1) trying to generate data to solve existing management

problems and 2) going out to develop new fishery opportunities--this information would be utilized in the management of that fishery should it develop. He did not see MARFIN as solving the red drum or speckled trout fishery management problems. As MARFIN now has only \$2.3 million the PMB must choose projects to gain visibility and hopefully longevity. The PMB should think in terms of what creates the best well-defined, risk-minimized investment opportunity for people in the fishing industry on the Gulf Coast.

G. Delaney distributed various documents which contained comments/thoughts of Congressman Breaux on MARFIN.

MARFIN Program Status - Funding, Contract, Federal Register Notice

D. Ekberg distributed a sheet delineating the funding status with a current balance (after commitments to date by PMB) of \$1,763.2K. The contract with GSMFC in the amount of \$62.1K for administration is now in effect. The draft document for the Federal Register notice was distributed. This draft was patterned after the S/K document. Jean Martin-West and Cathy Hensley have made comments which have been incorporated. It was decided to go discretionary and try to push through the system as fast as possible by going into OMB and up through NOAA and Commerce in a parallel fashion. The notice should be in the Federal Register by June 1. Hopefully, this date would allow obligation of funds by the end of the fiscal year.

Alternative approaches to get everything in line administratively for obligation of funds this fiscal year were discussed. Some critical issues might be done as sole source contracts or some existing cooperative agreements may possibly be amended. At the next meeting the PMB will be better apprised of what to do if the August review at FARB does not look feasible.

L. Simpson distributed copies of the GSMFC proposal and noted a few changes made for purposes of clarification.

The consensus of the PMB was that if the funds for administrative support of the PMB were exhausted, then the PMB could look at additional funding on a case-basis and amend the contract if deemed necessary.

L. Simpson stated that he was officially named as GSMFC's representative to the PMB and that Mr. John Ray Nelson would be the GSMFC designee.

Review MARFIN Program Recommendations

P. Howell distributed copies of the revised (3/18/86) listing of recommendations of 110 projects totalling approximately \$6 million. D. Ekberg distributed a matrix reflecting most members priorities and listing the top 35 of those. It was determined that all members had different ranking schemes and some had changed opinions since the matrix was developed. The PMB then decided to review the entire listing of recommendations and by voice consent determine which projects to retain for further consideration or to delete.

The remainder of the day's discussion was devoted to the completion of the first cut of the program recommendations. One project was added, S-11, the effectiveness of the butterfly/wing net on harvesting shrimp (funding level of \$25K). The recommendations listing was reduced to 55 projects with a range of \$2.945-\$3.535 million.

The first day's session was adjourned at 6:07 pm.

Thursday, March 27, 1986

Chairman Tom Murray called the meeting to order at 7:43 am.

Develop Final Rankings

It was decided that for voting on the second cut of the program recommendations the PMB would use a program area approach and cover the highest priorities first. L. Simpson noted that on some projects the PMB could be firm regarding money involved but on others the figure may not be a definitive determination.

J. Brawner suggested that the PMB determine how much money would be dedicated to mackerel and then ask the GMFMC to take those monies and from a GMFMC perspective coordinate with the states and the SEFC and see

what additional monies can be provided from other sources to support the needs for king mackerel.

Following is the order in which projects were discussed and approved:

- \* B. Jones moved to include CP-6,7,8 at 150K, CP-4,9,12,13, 14(a)(b)(c) at 100K, CP-18,19 at 50K. Motion carried 7 to 1.
- \* J. Greenfield moved to include CP-16,17,18,31 at 100K. Motion carried 7 to 1.
- \* C. Perret moved to include CH-1(combined with CH-4a) at 100K. Motion carried unanimously.
- \* C. Perret moved to include CH-5,6 at 50K each. Motion carried 7 to 1.
- \* C. Perret moved to include CH-2 at 500K. Motion carried 7 to 1.
- \* C. Perret moved to include CH-7 at 45K. Motion carried unanimously.
- \* C. Perret moved to include EF-2 at 65K, EF-5,6 at 170K, EF-7 at 70K and EF-11 at 40K. Motion was seconded. J. Greenfield asked to let the record show that it was the PMB's intent to consider mullet Gulf-wide. Motion carried 7 to 1.
- \* C. Perret moved to include S-5(b) at 60K. Motion carried 7 to 1.
- \* C. Perret moved to include S-6(b) at 20K. Motion carried unanimously.
- \* A. Kemmerer moved to include S-8(c) at 15K and (d) at 20K. Motion carried unanimously.
- \* C. Perret moved to include S-10 at 50K and S-11 at 25K. Motion carried unanimously.
- \* A need for a Gulf-wide study of charter boats was stated. J. Cato moved that a charter/party boat study be done Gulf-wide that cuts across all species that they utilize and that the work be done for 200K. Motion carried unanimously. Consensus was to call the new project RF-17, Need for Comprehensive Development Information on Recreational Charter and Party Boats in the Gulf Region.

- \* A. Kemmerer moved to include B-3(a) at 100K, (b) at 20K, (c) at 50K, (d) at 25K, (f) at 25K and (g) at 5K. Motion carried unanimously.
- \* R. Ditton stated that CP-19 was the highest priority of the recreational interests and that the project could be done for 100K. Mention was made of 200K already included for charterboat study and there was some feeling that funding should be found outside MARFIN. C. Perret moved to include CP-19 at 100K. Motion carried 7 to 1. J. Brawner stated that SFI will be sponsoring a meeting of economists to address the issue of mackerel and that this group could address the items and advise the PMB as to items of high, medium, and low priority. This forum will be advised of the potential funding availability.
- \* C. Perret moved to include G-1 at 50K. Motion carried unanimously.
- \* A. Kemmerer moved to include G-7(a) at 25K and (b) at 15K. Motion carried 7 to 1.
- \* B. Jones moved to include OP-1,3,5(b) at 10K. Motion carried unanimously.
- \* A. Kemmerer moved to include MM-2 at 25K, MM-3 at 10K, and MM-4 at 10K and noted that the work should be done by industry. Motion carried unanimously.
- \* J. Cato moved to include CL-4 at 75K and CL-5 at 45K. C. Perret made a substitute motion to include CL-4 at 75K. Substitute motion carried unanimously.
- \* T. Leary moved to include CL-5 at 45K. He noted that the information would be applicable to other areas. Motion carried 7 to 1.
- \* B. Jones moved to include B-1(1) at 25K. Motion carried unanimously.
- \* L. Simpson moved to include RF-12,16 at 30K. Motion carried unanimously.
- \* T. Leary moved to include CP-15(c) at 50K. Motion carried 7 to 1.  
Projects CP-21, S-1, and CH-8 were deferred for consideration in the following years of the program.

Discussion and Decision on NMFS Program Portion

The portion of projects identified by the PMB as probable NMFS projects was determined to be approximately \$1 million. The amount of funds available for financial assistance published in the Federal Register will be reduced by the amount of NMFS portion. The notice will state "subject to the availability of funds".

There was much discussion on early release of funds to NMFS in excess of the money for latent resources. B. Brown said he felt that NMFS could compete for the remainder but would need to know something by June.

It was determined that if the PMB wished any work to be done on king mackerel this year then something should be decided within the next few weeks. The GMFMC staff was requested to prepare a proposal of the most critical things necessary to be done this year on king mackerel in order to meet their management needs in the time perspective.

NMFS will submit their itemized proposals in the specified format and expenditures on the money for latent resources up to 800K to D. Ekberg by April 11. These will be circulated to the PMB.

A telephone conference call will be held on April 23 at 9:00 am (CST)/10:00 am (EST) to consider the NMFS proposals. If members can not be included in the call, their comments should be forwarded to D. Ekberg.

If all the dates are not met and it appears that the funds can not be obligated this fiscal year then perhaps the funds can be declared non-year monies. G. Delaney will work on this possibility when he returns to Washington.

Discussion was resumed on king mackerel. T. Leary clarified what the GMFMC staff was being asked to do--to determine if the GMFMC sees something that needs to be done this year on king mackerel.

J. Cato moved that king mackerel be considered as everything else, on a competitive basis. Motion was seconded. This course of action was deemed unsatisfactory.

\* B. Jones made a substitute motion that the determination on king mackerel be delayed until after the GMFMC staff returns a document to the PMB. Substitute motion carried.

The PMB will consider the GMFMC staff findings and reach a decision on king mackerel during the April 23 conference call.

Proposed Review Process

C. Perret suggested that D. Ekberg work with Richard Raulerson and use the same basic system as S/K for proposal review. Proposals will go through SERO and SEFC. NMFS will compile the executive summaries and budgets, and outline strengths and weaknesses of the proposals. These will be submitted to the PMB before the next meeting. It was noted that when proposals come in, the PMB may deviate a great deal from some things which now have a high priority.

A target date for the next PMB meeting to review the competitive proposals was set for July 15-21. Pascagoula was suggested as a location for the meeting in order to allow members to see the NOAA Ship CHAPMAN.

Other Business

The Operation Plan was discussed. Publication was deemed desirable but not critical. Development of the document has been begun by D. Ekberg and P. Howell; completion and publication will be a second year exercise. G. Delaney stated that an annual report on the work completed and the future expectations would be beneficial. A concise document will be prepared which will serve as an annual report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

MARFIN Funding as of March 26, 1986

Initial allocation		\$2,850.0K
Assessments:	G-R-H	\$ 123.0K
	NOAA Administrator's suggested reprogramming	464.0K
	Subtotal	- 587.0K
Commitments to date by board:		
	SEFC	\$ 360.0K
	SERO	75.0K
	GSMFC	62.1K
	Contract for first meeting	2.7K
	Subtotal	- 499.8K
Amount remaining:		\$1,763.2K

(NOAA's Administrator's reprogramming amount is not a firm amount.)



Attached is a revised listing of program recommendations. The following were the only changes made:

- 1) Deleted CP-18,19 since this was included in RF-17
- 2) Modified wording of EF-5,6 to include economics wording (approval received by originator of previous wording - Florida)

Also attached is the edition of the Federal Register notice sent to Washington. This edition reflects the current board recommendations.

pah (4/5/86)

GULF STATES MARINE  
FISHERIES COMMISSION

APR 11 1986

MARFIN PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS (4/3/86)

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Entities</u>
1. <u>SHRIMP</u> (TOTAL - 190)			
S-5	Inshore Stock Sampling: (b) Assessment of migrations by taggings east of the Mississippi River	60	States
S-6	Gear Development: (b) Methods to improve on board handling	20	Ind.
S-8 (new)	Monitoring, analysis and reporting of economic and business factors affecting the shrimp industry: (c) Shrimp and shrimp product situation and outlook analyses. (d) Survey of industry's current situation and future plans with regard to investment and risk management	15 20	NMFS NMFS
S-10(New)	Determine commercial feasibility of alternative and supplementary fisheries for shrimp. This would include an examination of deep sea crustaceans: - determine availability through targeted trial fishing - determine stock size and reproductive capacity - determine gear types for multi-species harvest - determine handling and processing requirements (See also CL-4)	50	SG/Ind.
S-11(New)	Efficiency and effectiveness of wing-net	25	States
3. <u>COASTAL PELAGICS</u> (TOTAL - 550)			
CP-4,9,12, 13,14	Supplemental data collections of king mackerel vital statistics to improve estimates of year-class strengths and harvest levels, augmenting state-federal efforts: (a) Expand commercial/recreational catch and effort statistical data collection (b) Supplement length, sex and age frequency data by gear and location. (c) Implement expanded/accelerated otolith age determination system with verification.	35 35 30	States NMFS/SG States NMFS/SG SG

CP-6,7,8	Identification of king mackerel management units through tagging and collecting tissue samples for small fish in the northern Gulf of Mexico, medium fish in Louisiana and Texas, and all fish sizes in Mexico.	150	States SG/NMFS
CP-15	Development of forecast capability for king mackerel trends in abundance: (c) Evaluate other fishery-independent methods for determining relative abundance, including aerial surveys.	50	States NMFS
CP-16,17, 18,31	Export and bait market potential for coastal pelagics (excluding king mackerel)	100	SG/NMFS Ind.
CP-19	Recreational Angler Participation in Coastal Pelagics - identify users and determine demand - determine variations in demand by area, time and user type - identify primary benefits of mackerel as a recreational fishery - evaluate secondary (impact) benefits of recreational mackerel fishery - determine options available to users as substitute targets for king mackerel - develop data necessary to assess impacts of management options and alternatives	100	SG States
4. <u>REEF FISH</u> (TOTAL - 230)			
RF-12,16	Competition between commercial and recreational fishermen: - investigate the feasibility of using the special area approach to artificial reef development in the Gulf as pioneered in the South Atlantic - develop data necessary to assess impacts of management options and alternatives - investigate the use of artificial reefs as a fishery management tool, particularly for multi-species management	30	SG
RF-17	Gulf-wide charter and party boat study of the structure and economics of the recreational paying passenger vessel fleet	200	SG
5. <u>COASTAL HERRINGS AND ASSOCIATED SPECIES</u> (TOTAL - 745)			
CH-1	Investigate handling and processing:	100	Ind.

(combined with CH-4)	Conduct handling and processing studies for selected species of coastal herrings and associated species, to include on-board studies using the NOAA ship CHAPMAN's sea water and freezer systems, as well as shoreside processing facilities.		NMFS/SG
CH-2	Continue exploratory fishing/gear development for coastal herrings and related latent stocks (e.g., squid) emphasizing fall, winter, and spring periods and utilizing large-mesh bottom and mid-water trawls as well as any other appropriate advanced trawling technologies. This project will obtain environmental data (including satellite) for correlation with distribution/abundance information, will evaluate fish behavioral responses to gear and fishing tactics, and will provide opportunities for technology transfer to industry through cruise participation, workshops, and publications.	500	NMFS/SG
CH-5 EF-12	Economic and business analyses to include the economic evaluation of coastal herrings in new product forms and in new applications, a descriptive study of supply and distribution channels for canned fish products in the U. S., a descriptive study of the U. S. market for exotic animal feeding and bait markets (as they relate to coastal herrings and related species), a catch rate -seasonality - price breakeven analysis for trawl caught finfish, an economic feasibility study of coastal herrings in CH-1 applications, an economic evaluation of alternative grading, sorting, handling and storage options, a processing cost study relating each processing function to volume and seasonality, and situation and outlook analyses and reports for these and other competing finfish. - The economic value of coastal herrings as food fish for important ocean pelagics needs to be investigated in order to achieve the MARFIN purpose of "full and wise use enhancement of fishery resources in the Gulf of Mexico".	50	NMFS/SG Ind.
CH-6 EF-13	Market and distribution analysis including the investigation of the potential for increasing exports of frozen coastal herring species to countries presently importing similar species.	50	NMFS/Ind
CH-7	Predator-prey relationships with emphasis on predators with known recreational and	45	SG/NMFS

commercial impacts. These studies will include the identification of prey species with significant potential for commercial harvest, modeling studies which permit quantitative evaluations of the impact of varying commercial harvest levels on coastal herrings or predatory species with commercial and recreational values, and recommendations for harvesting levels of coastal herrings which minimize adverse impacts on recreationally important predatory species.

6. OCEAN PELAGICS (TOTAL - 10)

OP-1,3,5	Development of Tuna Industry (b) Market development of various tunas	10	NMFS
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7. MARINE MOLLUSKS (TOTAL - 45)

MM-2	Squid harvesting and on-board handling	25	Ind.
MM-3	Squid Product Preparation	10	Ind.
MM-4	Squid Market Development	10	Ind.

8. CRABS AND LOBSTERS (TOTAL - 120)

CL-4	Determine safe harvest potential of deepwater crab. Determine handling and processing techniques.	75	SG/Ind.
CL-5(new)	Completion of Project to Develop Limited Access System for Spiny Lobster Fishery - supported by industry, state and Council - model for similar systems for stone crab - has potential to greatly increase individual earning from fishery - high immediate management priority	45	SG

9. BOTTOMFISH (TOTAL - 250)

B-1	(1) Assess impact of selected TED introduction strategies on bottomfish stocks in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Special attention should be given to the size and abundance of Atlantic croaker. (a) Model TED effects to demonstrate the relationship between rate-of-return and equilibrium at various levels of TED use in the shrimp fishery, considering	25	SG/NMFS
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seasonal as well as spatial differences in TED use and inshore and offshore effects on stocks and fisheries. This study will utilize current finfish separation information and bottomfish assessment data from NMFS and SEAMAP programs.

- (b) Apply economic analyses to selected levels of TED introduction to show cost and benefits to shrimp industry and to all fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico (especially croaker fisheries for pet food, human food, and surimi production).

B-3  
EF-14

Determine yield potentials and harvesting and processing requirements for Gulf butterflyfish:		
(a) Determine seasonal trends in Gulf Butterfish NMFS distribution, abundance, and size patterns, including winter and spring assessment surveys in cooperation with SEAMAP, and determine winter and spring estimates of MSY and recommended yields.	100	NMFS
(b) Provide information on seasonal changes in chemical composition, fat percentage, and parasite infestations in Gulf butterflyfish, utilizing historical samples where practical from the NISSHIN MARU, OREGON II, and CHAPMAN, together with samples obtained from other research and fishing cruises.	20	NMFS/SG
(c) Conduct handling and processing studies specifically for Gulf butterflyfish, including onboard refrigeration, ice, and freezing system studies, shoreside processing and storage studies, while comparing results from similar studies conducted with Atlantic butterflyfish.	50	NMFS/SG/ Ind.
(d) Develop basic Gulf butterflyfish life history information including age and growth, mortality (fishing and natural), migration and movement patterns, and related parameters in cooperation with NMFS and SEAMAP surveys and with appropriate commercial fishing operations.	25	SG
(f) Descriptive study of U. S. butterflyfish distribution and pricing by size and other product characteristics.	25	NMFS

(g) Economic feasibility of butterflyfish production, processing, and distribution. 5 NMFS

10. ESTAUURINE FISH (TOTAL - 345)

EF-2	Determine if separate stocks of red drum exist through on expanded and coordinated tagging study and expanded biochemical and morphometric studies capitalizing on results from SEAMAP and LSU HPLC study of small red drum. Attempt to develop estimates of spawning stock biomass from existing and to be collected red drum egg and larvae data.	65	SG
EF-5,6	Mullet: 1. identification of safe levels of mullet exploitation 2. Economics: Assess profitability of mullet including seasonality, location, and roe market. Dependence on other species such as trout and drum.	170	States SG
EF-7	Improve on the precision of the estimates of year-class strengths and numbers harvested in all segments of the red and black drum fishery. This improvement should be possible through better commercial & recreational effort and landing statistics	70	States/
EF-11(new)	Improve on life history and related information for red drum, verify aging methods and age and length information, while developing refined estimates of natural and fishing mortalities. Describe relationships between inshore and offshore red drum, including information on behavioral factors which cause red drum to closely associate with coastal pelagic species such as blue runners.	40	SG States

15. GENERAL (TOTAL - 90)

G-1	Create better population dynamics models considering both commercial and recreational effort and current movement	50	SG
G-7(new)	Economic, market, and business research applicable to all fisheries. (a) Specialty and less developed country trade show support. (b) Trade missions, directory services, and other generic market services.	25 15	NMFS NMFS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration

DRAFT

4-3-86

**Financial Assistance for Research and Development Projects To Provide  
Information for the Full and Wise Use and Enhancement of Fishery Resources in  
the Gulf of Mexico.**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of financial assistance.

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**SUMMARY:** For fiscal year 1986, Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) funds are available to assist persons in carrying out research and development projects which optimize the use of a U.S. Gulf of Mexico fishery involving the U.S. fishing industry (recreational or commercial) including but not limited to harvesting methods, economic analyses, processing, marketing, fish stock assessment, fish stock enhancement, and associated infra-structures. NMFS issues this notice describing the conditions under which applications will be accepted and how NMFS will determine which applications will be funded.

**DATE:** Applications should be sent to the NMFS Office given below by June 15, 1986.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Dr. Donald R. Ekberg  
Southeast Regional Office  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702  
Telephone: 813-893-3720.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Classification**

NMFS reviewed this solicitation in accordance with Executive Order 12372 and the Commerce Department guidelines implementing that Order. This solicitation is not "major" within the context of the Order or its implementing guidelines because the solicitation does not significantly affect the economy, costs or prices, competition, employment, investment, or productivity. Because the solicitation is issued without prior opportunity for public comment, it is not subject to the provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. Information collection requirements contained in this notice have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act and have been assigned OMB #



## Introduction

The Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related Agencies Appropriation Act of 1986 (99-Stat 1136-PL 99-180) makes funds available to the Secretary of Commerce to enhance U.S. fisheries for fiscal year 1986. \$2.85 million has been appropriated by Congress for the MARFIN program to enhance the use of fishery resources in the Gulf of Mexico. There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all approved projects. U.S. fisheries<sup>1</sup> include any fishery that is or may be engaged in by U.S. citizens. The phrase "fishing industry" includes both the commercial and recreational sectors of U.S. fisheries.

## Funding Priorities

Fisheries research and development proposals should be related to one or more of the priority areas listed below (in no rank order):

1. Shrimp. (1) inshore stock sampling of brown, white, and pink shrimp by taggings east of Mississippi River, (2) development of improved on-board handling, (3) monitorings analysis, and reporting of economic and business factors, (4) determination of commercial feasibility of alternative fisheries for shrimp, and (5) determination of wing-net effectiveness.

2. Coastal Pelagics. (1) improved estimates of king mackerel year-class strengths and harvest levels, (2) identification of king mackerel management units, (3) forecast king mackerel trends in abundance, (4) export and bait market potential (excluding king mackerel), and (5) determination of recreational fishing participation (non-party or charter boat).

3. Reef Fish. (1) competition between commercial and recreational fishermen and methods to solve problems, and (2) Gulf-wide charter and party boat study of the structure and economics of the recreational paying passenger vessel fleet (includes coastal pelagics as well as reef fish).

4. Coastal Herrings. (1) handling and processing on-board as well as shoreside methods, (2) exploratory fishing and gear development (3) economic and business analysis, (4) market and distribution analysis, and (5) predator-prey relationships - particularly recreational and commercial impacts.

5. Ocean Pelagics. Market development of various tunas.

6. Marine Mollusks. (1) squid harvesting and on-board handling, (2) squid product preparation, and (3) squid market development.

7. Crabs and Lobsters. (1) determine safe harvest potential, handling and processing techniques for deepwater crab, and (2) develop limited access system for spiny lobster fishery.

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<sup>1</sup>For purposes of this notice, a fishery is defined as one or more stocks of fish, including tuna, and shellfish which are identified as a unit based on geographic, scientific, technical, recreational and economic characteristics, and any and all phases of fishing for such stocks. Examples of a fishery are Gulf of Mexico shrimp, groundfish, menhaden, etc.

8. Bottomfish. (1) assess impact of Trawling Efficiency Device (TED) on bottomfish stocks, and (2) determine yield potentials and harvesting and processing requirements for Gulf butterfish.

9. Estuarine Fish. (1) Stock assessment (occurrence of separate stocks) of red drum, (2) identification of safe levels of mullet exploration and assessment of mullet profitability including seasonality, location, roe market, and dependence on other species such as trout and drum, (3) improve estimates of year-class strengths and catch of red and black drum, and (4) enhance knowledge of red drum life history including age and length and mortalities.

10. General. (1) develop population models using both commercial and recreational efforts plus other significant factors, and (2) conduct economic, market, and business research applicable to all fisheries including speciality and less developed country trade show support and other generic market services such as trade missions and directory services.

### **How-To-Apply**

#### **A. Eligible-Applicants**

Applications for grants or cooperative agreements for fisheries development projects may be made, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this notice by:

1. Any individual who is a citizen or national of the United States;
2. Any corporation, partnership, or other entity, non-profit or otherwise, if such entity is a citizen of the United States within the meaning of Section 2 of the Shipping Act, 1916 as amended (46 U.S.C. 802).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>To qualify as a citizen of the United States within the meaning of this statute, citizens or nationals of the United States or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) must own not less than 75 percent of the interest in the entity or, in the case of non-profit entity, exercise control of the entity that is determined by the Secretary to be equivalent to such ownership; and in the case of a corporation, the president or other chief executive officer and the chairman of the board of directors must be citizens of the United States, no more its board of directors than a minority of the number necessary to constitute quorum may be non-citizens; and the corporation itself must be organized under the laws of the United States, or of a State, including the District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, the NMI or any other Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States. Seventy-five percent of the interest in a corporation shall not be deemed to be owned by citizens of the NMI, if: (1) The title to 75 percent of its stock is not vested in such citizens or nationals of the United States or citizens of the NMI free from any trust or fiduciary obligation in favor of any person not a citizen or national of the United States or citizens of the NMI: (ii) 75 percent of the voting power in such corporation is not vested in citizens or

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<sup>2</sup>(Cont.)

nationals of the United States or citizens of the NMI: (iii) through any contract or understanding it is arranged that more than 25 percent of the voting power in such corporation may be exercised, directly or indirectly in behalf of any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States or a citizen of the NMI: or (iv) by any means whatsoever, control of any interest in the corporation is conferred upon or permitted to be exercised by any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

No individual or organization that is in arrears on any outstanding debt to be U.S. Department of Commerce will be considered for funding. Any first time applicant for Federal grant funds is subject to a preaward accounting survey prior to execution of the award. The NMFS encourages women and minority individuals and groups to submit applications. NOAA employees including full, part-time, and intermittent personnel, (or their immediate families) and NOAA offices or centers are not eligible to submit an application under this solicitation, or aid in the preparation of an application, except to provide necessary information or guidance about the fisheries development and utilization program and the priorities and procedures included in this solicitation.

## B. Amount and Duration of Funds

For fiscal year 1986 the NMFS will have an estimated \$1.5 million available to fund fishery research and development projects. Although grants or cooperative agreements will generally be awarded for a period of 1 year, multi-year projects may be approved. Once approved, multi-year projects would not compete for funding in subsequent years. For multi-year projects, funding beyond the first year will be contingent on the availability of new fiscal year program funds and the extent to which project objectives are met during the prior year. Publication of this announcement does not obligate NMFS to award any specific grant or to obligate any part or the entire amount of funds available. Funding for successful applications generally will be provided by October 1986.

## C. Cost-Sharing Requirements

Cost sharing is not required for the MARFIN project. However, cost sharing is encouraged.

## D. Format

Applications for project funding must be complete. They must identify the principal participants and include copies of any agreements between the participants and the applicant describing the specific tasks to be performed. Project applications should give a clear presentation of the proposed work, the methods for carrying out the project, its relevance to enhancing the use of Gulf of Mexico fishery resources and cost estimates as they relate to specific aspects of the project. Budgets will include a detailed breakdown by line item with appropriate justification. Applicants should not assume prior knowledge on the part of the NMFS as to the relative merits of the project described in the application. Applications must be submitted in the following format:

1. Cover Sheet. An applicant must use OMB Standard Form 424 as the cover sheet for each project within an application. Applicants may obtain copies of the form from the NMFS Regional Office, NMFS Washington Office, or Department of Commerce Regional Administrative Support Center (RASC); addresses are listed under the "Application Submission" section which follows.

2. Project Summary. Each project within the application must contain a summary of not more than one page which provides the following information:

- a. Project title.
- b. Project status: (new or continuing).
- c. Project duration: (beginning and ending dates).
- d. Name, address, and telephone number of applicant.
- e. Principal Investigator(s).
- f. Project objective.

g. Summary of work to be performed.

For continuing projects the applicant is to briefly describe progress to date in addition to work proposed with the additional funds.

h. Total Federal funds requested (initial and total amount and percentage of total project costs).

i. Project costs to be provided from non-Federal Government sources (initial and total amount and percentage of total projects costs).

j. Total project costs.

3. Project Description. Each project within the application must be completely and accurately described. Each project description may be up to fifteen pages in length. The NMFS will make all portions of the project description available to the public and members of the fishing industry for review and comment; therefore, NMFS will not guarantee the confidentiality of any information submitted as part of any project nor will NMFS accept for consideration any project requesting confidentiality of any part of the project.

Each project must be described as follows:

a. Identification of Problem(s). For new projects describe how existing conditions prevent the full use of Gulf of Mexico fishery resources. In this description, identify (1) the fisheries involved, (2) the specific problem(s) that the fishing industry has encountered, (3) the sectors of the fishing industry that are affected, and (4) how the problem(s) prevent the fishing industry from using the fishery resources.

b. Project Goals and Objectives. State what the proposed project will accomplish and describe how this will eliminate or reduce the problem(s) described above. For multi-year projects, describe the ultimate objective of the project and how the individual tasks contribute to reaching the objective. Describe the time frame in which tasks would be conducted.

c. Need for Government Financial Assistance. Explain why members of the fishing industry cannot fund all the proposed work. List all other sources of funding which are or have been sought for the project.

d. Participation by Persons or Groups Other Than the Applicant. Describe the level of participation required in the project(s) by NOAA or other Government and non-Government entities.

e. Federal, State, and Local Government Activities. List any existing Federal, State, or Local government programs or activities, including State Coastal Zone Management Plans, this project would affect and describe the relationship between the project and these plans or activities. List names and addresses of persons providing this information.

f. Project Outline. Describe the work to be performed during the project starting with the first month's work and continuing to the last month. Identify specific milestones that can be used to track project progress. For

multi-year projects, major project tasks and milestones must be identified. If the work described in this section does not contain sufficient detail to allow for proper technical evaluation, the NMFS will not consider the applications for funding and will return it to the applicant.

g. Project Management. Describe how the project will be organized and managed. List all persons, directly employed by the applicant, who will be involved in the project, their qualifications, and their level of involvement in the project. If any tasks will be conducted through subcontracts, provide copies of any agreements between the applicant and the proposed subcontractors which describe the specific tasks they will perform. If no subcontractor has been chosen, indicate this. All subcontracts must be awarded on a competitive basis. If a subcontractor is chosen prior to application submission, the competitive process used must be documented.

h. Monitoring of Project Performance. Identify who will participate in monitoring the project.

i. Project Impacts. Describe the impact of the project in terms of anticipated increased landings, production, sales, exports, product quality, safety, or any other measurable factors. Describe the specific products or services that will be produced by this project. Describe how these products or services will be made available to the fishing industry.

j. Evaluation of Project Impacts. The applicant is required to provide an evaluation of project accomplishments. Describe the methodology or procedures to be followed to determine, as appropriate, technical or economic feasibility, to evaluate consumer acceptability, or to quantify the impact of the project in promoting increased landings, production, sales exports, product quality, safety, or other measurable factors.

k. Project Costs. Itemized costs for the following must be provided: (1) personnel salaries by position title, (2) total personnel benefits, (3) consultant and contract services, (4) travel, (5) space costs and rentals, and (6) other costs. A standard budget form is available from the offices listed in Section E. A separate budget must be submitted for each project within an application. For multi-year projects, funds will be provided as specified tasks are completed. Therefore, applicants submitting multi-year projects must submit two budgets: one covering total project costs and one covering its initial funding request. Initial funding requests should cover only funds required during the first 12-month period. Ordinarily, funds will not be granted for the purchase of capital equipment. NMFS will not consider fees or profits as allowable costs for grantees. To support its budget the applicant must describe briefly the basis for estimating the value of any matching funds derived from in-kind contributions.

4. Project Consolidation. Applicants may submit two or more related projects under one proposal but must identify project costs including administrative costs, separately for each individual project. As a result, the amount of administrative funds provided will be based on the actual number of projects funded.

5. Supporting Documentation. This section should include any required documents and any additional information necessary or useful to the

description of the project. The amount of information given in this section will depend on the type of project proposed. The applicant should present any information which would emphasize the value of the project in terms of the significance of the problems addressed. Without such information, the merits of the project may not be fully understood, or the value of the project to fisheries use may be underestimated. The absence of adequate supporting documentation may cause reviewers to question assertions made in describing the project and may result in a lower ranking of the project. Reviewers will not necessarily examine all material provided as supporting documentation except where sufficient detail is lacking in the project description to properly evaluate the project. Therefore, information presented in this section should be clearly referenced in the project description, where appropriate.

#### E. Application Submission and Deadline.

1. Deadline. The NMFS will accept applications for funding under this program between May 15, 1986 and June 16, 1986. An application will be accepted if the application is received by the office listed below on or before June 16, 1986.

2. Submission of Applications to the NMFS. Applications are not to be bound in any manner. Applicants must submit one signed original and two (2) copies of the complete application to the address set forth below:

Regional Director  
Attn: D. Ekberg  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Duval Bldg., 9450. Koger Blvd.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702  
Telephone No.: (813) 893-3142.

Questions of an administrative nature should be referred to:

NOAA RAS/CC31  
Attn: Jean West  
Central Administration Support Center,  
Federal Bldg., Room 1758, 601 East 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106.  
Telephone No.: (816) 374-7267

#### Review Process and Criteria

##### A. Evaluation and Ranking of Proposed Projects.

For applications meeting the requirements of this solicitation, NMFS will evaluate the project(s) contained in the application in consultation with the MARFIN Board, representatives from other Federal Government agencies with programs affecting the U.S. fishing industry, members of the fishing industry, public and private research and development organizations, and other fisheries interests, as necessary. NMFS will make project descriptions available for review as follows:

1. Public review and comment.

Applications may be inspected at the National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office in St. Petersburg, FL from June 17 to June 23, 1986.

2. Consultation with members of the MARFIN Board. Applications will be reviewed by the MARFIN Board, which is made up of members from NMFS, Sea Grant, commercial industry, recreational industry, Gulf Fishery Management Council, Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc., Gulf States (FL, AL, MS, LA, TX), and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

3. Consultation with members of the fishing industry. The NMFS shall, at its discretion, request comments from members of the fishing industry who have knowledge in the subject matter of a project or who would be affected by a project.

4. Consultation with Government agencies. Applications will be reviewed in consultation with the NMFS Southeast Research Center and Utilization Laboratories, RASC Grants Officer and, as appropriate, Department of Commerce and other federal agencies. The Regional Fishery Management Councils may be asked to review projects and advise of any real or potential conflicts with Council activities.

The NMFS will conduct a technical evaluation of each project. If an application contains two or more projects, the NMFS will evaluate the projects separately. All comments submitted to the NMFS will be taken into consideration in the technical evaluation of projects. The NMFS will give people point scores based on the following evaluation criteria:

Evaluation Criteria

a. Adequacy of research/development/demonstration for enhancing the use of Gulf of Mexico marine fisheries resources possibilities of securing productive results (30 points).

b. Soundness of design/technical approach for enhancing the use of Gulf of Mexico marine fisheries resources (25 points).

c. Organization and management of the project, including qualifications and previous related experience of the applicant's management team and other project personnel involved (20 points).

d. Effectiveness of proposed methods for monitoring and evaluating the project (15 points).

e. Justification and allocation of the budget in terms of the work to be performed (10 points)

After the technical evaluation, the MARFIN Board will rank the projects filed, considering the significance of the problem addressed in the project along with the technical evaluation and need for funding. This evaluation and ranking will enable NMFS to determine the appropriate level of funding for each project.



## B. Funding Awards

After projects have been evaluated, the MARFIN Board will develop recommendations for project funding. They will submit the recommendations to the MARFIN Program Coordinator in the NMFS Southeast Regional Office for review who will determine the number of projects to be funded based on the recommendations provided, and the amount of funds available for the program. The exact amount of funds awarded to each project will be determined in preaward negotiations between the applicant and NOAA/NMFS Program and grants management representatives. The Department of Commerce (DOC) will review and clear all recommended projects and funding before final authority is given to proceed on the project. The funding instrument will be determined by RASC Grants Officer. Projects may not be initiated until a notice of award document is received.

### **Administrative Requirements**

#### A. Obligations of the Applicant

An Applicant must -

1. Meet all applications requirements and provide all information necessary for the evaluation of the project.

2. Be available, upon request, in person or by designated representative, to respond to questions during the review and evaluation of the project(s).

3. If a project is awarded, manage the day-to-day operations of the project, be responsible for the performance of all activities for which funds are granted, and be responsible for the satisfaction of all administrative and managerial conditions imposed by the award.

4. If a project is awarded, keep records sufficient to document any costs incurred under the award, and allow access to records for audit and examination by the Secretary, the Comptroller of the United States, or their authorized representatives. NMFS may provide a proportionate share of funds as part of the financial award to pay for an audit.

5. If a project is awarded, submit quarterly project status reports on the use of funds and progress of the project to NMFS within thirty days after the end of each calendar quarter to the individual specified as the technical monitor in the funding agreement. The content of these reports will include, at a minimum:

- a. a summary of work conducted which includes a description of specific accomplishments and milestones achieved. NMFS will provide a summary format to standardize tracking of milestone achievements and budget plans;

- b. the degree to which goals or objectives were achieved as originally projected;

- c. where necessary, the reasons why goals or objectives are not being met; and

d. Any proposed changes in plans or redirection of resources or activities and the reason therefore.

6. If a project is funded, submit an original and 2 copies of a final report within 90 days after completion of each project. The report must describe the project and include an evaluation of the work performed and the results and benefits of the work in sufficient detail to enable NMFS to assess the success of the completed project. Results must be described in relation to the project objectives of resolving specific impediments and be quantified to the extent possible. Potential uses of project results in private industry should be specified. Any conditions or requirements necessary to make productive use of project results should be identified.

7. If a project is funded by grant or cooperative agreement, comply with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars, and Department of Commerce, and NOAA policies. Copies of all circulars are available from the RASC Office listed above. Circulars will be provided to all awardees.

8. Submit two copies of all publications or reports printed with grant funds.

#### B. Obligations of the National Marine Fisheries Service

The NMFS will -

1. Provide all forms and explanatory information necessary for the proper submission of applications for fisheries development and utilization projects;

2. Provide advice, through the NMFS Southeast Regional Office to inform applicants of NMFS fisheries development policies and goals;

3. Monitor all projects after award to ascertain their effectiveness in achieving project objectives and in producing measurable results. Actual accomplishments of a project will be compared with stated objectives.

#### C. RASC Grants Officer Responsibility

The RASC Grants Officer is responsible for the administrative processing of NOAA federal assistance awards. Questions from the recipient of an administrative nature will be referred to the Grants Office. The official grant file will be maintained by the Grants Officer who will ensure that OMB, DOC, and NOAA policies are met.

#### D. Legal Requirements

The applicant will be required to satisfy the requirements of applicable local, State and Federal Laws.

This program is not included in the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance.

Dated:

**Carmen J. Blondin**  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
for Fisheries Resource Management  
National Marine Fisheries Service

APPROVED BY:

CR  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES  
Wednesday, July 23, 1986

Executive Session  
Conference Call Minutes  
Wednesday, July 23, 1986

Chairman, C. Richbourg called meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.  
L. Simpson called roll call. The following persons participated:

MEMBERS

Hugh A. Swingle (proxy for Hodnett)	AL
Taylor Harper	AL
John Ray Nelson	AL
Sam Mitchell	FL
Clyde Richbourg	FL
Elton Gissendanner	FL
W. S. "Corky" Perret (proxy for Angelle)	LA
Harry Schafer (proxy for Angelle)	LA
Leroy Kiffe	LA
George Brumfield (proxy for Millette)	MS
Tom Van Devender (proxy for Quisenberry)	MS
Robert Kemp (proxy for Travis)	TX
Leslie Casterline	TX
Edwin Joyce, vice chairman, TCC	FLA

STAFF

Larry B. Simpson, Ex. Dir.  
Ginny Herring, Ex. Asst.

Red Drum

C. Richbourg asked L. Simpson to update the Commissioners regarding red drum actions in the Gulf.

L. Simpson briefed Commissioners on the NMFS/NOAA and DOC emergency regulations enacted on June 25, 1986. These regulations will remain in effect for 90 days unless the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council approves extending them an additional 90 days. The regulations basically set a total directed net harvest (TDNH) in the FCZ of 1 million pounds during the 90 day period. Permit, reporting, and other requirements will apply during this period, June 25 - September 23, 1986. NMFS plans to prepare and submit to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) a Secretarial Fishery Management Plan (FMP) on or before August 18, 1986, which will remain in effect until such time as the GMFMC develops a plan which is approved by the Secretary of Commerce. At the July 11, 1986 meeting of the GMFMC they voted to recommend to the Secretary of Commerce that during the second 90 day emergency period that he preserve existing and future State regulations and that TDNH be set at zero pounds and that certain other measures be established to maintain the red drum stock in the FCZ of the Gulf of Mexico. They additionally voted to develop a red drum FMP to replace or amend the Secretarial FMP. This plan would utilize research currently

being proposed through the SEAMAP Red Drum Work Group which will address stock assessment and identification, age and growth, fishery-independent stock assessment and project coordination in state and federal waters. The research will be a cooperative state/federal/university/Commission effort.

It was the consensus of all participants, that based on activities of the Secretary of Commerce and subsequent actions of the GMFMC that any effort by the Commission to develop a red drum FMP would be duplicative and that the Commission should go forward in assisting the GMFMC with research and other input to facilitate the development of a GMFMC FMP for red drum.

Lawsuit -- Southeastern Fisheries Association (SEFA)/National Fisheries Institute (NFI) vs Secretary of Commerce

R. Kemp requested L. Simpson to update Commissioners on SEFA/NFI current lawsuit filed against the Secretary of Commerce. L. Simpson stated briefly that SEFA/NFI had filed suit against the Secretary of Commerce over one portion of the emergency red drum regulations claiming that the Secretary had not followed MFCMA Administrative Procedures Act, National Environmental Protection Act and other applicable procedures concerning issues of federal regulations not superceding State regulations. L. Simpson will mail each Commissioner a copy of the legal brief when it is available. E. Gissendanner stated that the State of Florida will file a State Rights Suit next week to established if State laws can be preserved under federal regulations.

Spanish Mackerel

It was the consensus of all Commissioners not to take action for developing a coordinated Spanish mackerel FMP in the territorial waters of the Gulf of Mexico at this time. This issue will remain on future GSMFC agendas but will not be acted on unless appropriate to do so.

SEAMAP Coordinator Position

L. Simpson stated that since the current SEAMAP Coordinator had resigned, effective September 30, 1986 that he had begun appropriate procedures to employ a new coordinator. Applications are being taken and interviews will be held in early August. It is hoped that a recommendation can be made to the SEAMAP Subcommittee at their August meeting and that upon the Committee's acceptance, final approval can be solicited from the Commissioners prior to October 1, 1986.

Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board (GS-FFMB) FY 87 Proposal

Commissioners discussed the NMFS/SERO policy decision to reduce the GS-FFMB funds from \$41,500 to \$16,500. It was the consensus of board members present to submit an award application for \$16,500 and that upon approval submit an additional application for the amount of the reduction -- \$25,000. In this way, we would not delay the partial award and still be allowed to show a formal objection to the \$25,000 reduction.

\* S. Mitchell motioned to approve the GS-FFMB administrative proposal in the amount of \$16,500. H. Swingle seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Federal Assistance and Review Board

L. Simpson updated the Commission on ongoing efforts of the GSMFC to reduce the delays that are occurring throughout the Gulf in receiving grants. He recently went to Washington, D. C. with C. Richbourg and with his help solicited the additional support of Sen. Lawton Chiles. He is currently working with Sen. Chiles' staff (as well as Cong. Lott's staff) to set up meetings with persons within the FARB system to somehow find a solution to the delays of these awards. R. Kemp stated that the NMFS/SERO has essentially closed their Grants office. It is expected that the Central Administrative Support Center (CASC) in Kansas City will soon be handling all grants. The Kansas City office is currently working with many of the states with delay problems but the basic problems exist at a policy level and has nothing to do with the mechanisms being used. L. Simpson hopes to be able to report back to the Commission with favorable results in the near future.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

APPROVED BY:

  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

MARFIN PROGRAM MANAGEMENT BOARD

CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

Friday, June 27, 1986



MARFIN Program Management Board  
Conference Call Minutes  
Friday, June 27, 1986

Chairman Tom Murray called roll call at 9:00 am. The following members and staff were present:

Members

William S. "Corky" Perret, Gulf States, Baton Rouge, LA  
Andy Kemmerer, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
Jack Greenfield, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Terry R. Leary, GMFMC, (designee), Tampa, FL  
John Ray Nelson, GSMFC, (designee), Bon Secour, AL  
Robert Ditton, Recreational Industry, College Station, TX  
Tom Murray, GASAFDFI, Tampa, FL  
Jim Cato, Sea Grant, Gainesville, FL

Staff

Donald R. Ekberg, Marfin Program Coordinator, St. Petersburg, FL  
Patricia A. Howell, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
V. K. "Ginny" Herring, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Status of Federal Register Notice

J. Greenfield reported that the notice for the Federal Register was submitted to Bill Gordon and was in his office for twelve days after which it was sent to Dr. Calio. It was in Dr. Calio's office for 7 weeks before submission to the DOC on June 3rd. Dr. Greenfield indicated the apparent concern of both the NOAA staff and the DOC administrative staff about the significant portion of MARFIN funds being committed outside the public solicitation and his concern about the effect of committing more funds outside the solicitation on the eventual outcome on the Federal Register publication date. Dr. Greenfield referenced a telephone request from the DOC for justification of pre-committing MARFIN funds. He provided a two page justification for all pre-committed funds. On June 26th, he received a TELEX stating it was Kathy Hensley's impression that Kay Bulow of DOC had accepted the justifications. He hoped to receive a confirmation on this information today. He stated that although the DOC had been concerned they seemed to be satisfied at this time and was hopeful that publication of the Federal Register notice would be forthcoming in two-three days.

Discussion of proposal entitled "State-Federal Cooperative Program for Red Drum Research in the Gulf of Mexico"

C. Perret stated that he had brought this proposal before the PMB on behalf of the SEAMAP Red Drum Workgroup. He supported the proposal based on content, necessity, expertise and ability of the persons involved in preparation and completion of proposal projects. He felt there was little or no duplication of effort and stated that the proposal was timely and excellent and that the amount of funds involved would be well spent. He proposed that the PMB respond to this proposal in affirmative action and requested further response.

R. Ditton expressed concern over the lack of socio-economic projects which would be necessary in developing a management plan. He was equally concerned that MARFIN was not following through on the competitive basis that the original grant had been intended to do.

J. Greenfield and T. Leary were also concerned about lack of socio-economic projects. C. Perret stated that prior research is necessary before socio-economic work is done and that before the 3-year project is complete socio-economics would be addressed.

T. Leary was also concerned about the difference in the initial amounts identified by the PMB and the amount of this proposal. He asked why other proposals had not been solicited or examined. He agreed that the current situation was an urgent one but felt that it may be best to wait until the Federal Register notice was published and other proposals solicited.

J. R. Nelson stated that NMFS would proceed with emergency regulations based on available information which would be enhanced by work done under this proposal. He feared that we have waited too long already to act and felt that it was essential to move forward in a positive action with this proposal.

A. Kemmerer stated that one positive aspect of this proposal was that it was developed cooperatively by the states and NMFS. J. Cato disagreed stating that he had not been contacted and as a PMB

representative for Sea Grant and Universities he should have been in a position to solicit proposals from other university sources. In fact, he felt some universities may be holding onto proposals awaiting the Federal Register notice. Basically, J. Cato liked the idea of the proposal, felt that some projects were essential research but lacked technical documentation and that the PMB as a whole should decide whether to release the identified funds or wait for a publication of the Federal Register notice to make proposals more competitive and perhaps more cost effective. J. Cato indicated he would follow his comments with a letter which was sent to the Board.

C. Perret added that over 60% would be going to university research. J. R. Nelson stated that results were necessary at this time and that discussion regarding who is getting what funds was of low priority.

J. Greenfield suggested that the proposal be examined to see what is really critical and proceed with less critical areas through the solicitation process, if possible. He felt that dependent stock assessment was critical. He also expressed concern that the expansion of catch-effort data on recreational fishing might be inadequate and argued that recreational data collection should be expanded to make that information closer in degree of precision to the commercial data.

T. Murray supported work that was critical on a short term basis and thought that an all or nothing proposal was unsatisfactory. He wanted to go through each individual project.

A. Kemmerer commented on responses to the proposal. He supported the proposal in its entirety. He justified the additional funds because an emergency situation did not exist when funds were identified. He was also very pessimistic about the Federal Register notice being published in the near future based on the many delays already encountered and felt if the funds were not soon obligated they may be lost. J. Cato felt that the persons responsible for delaying the Federal Register notice may also hold us up on getting a grant document through FARB. A. Kemmerer disagreed.

C. Perret and J. R. Nelson expressed concern for the critical situation in the red drum fishery and the people involved in the red drum fishery and felt that immediate action should be taken to improve the available information on the red drum fishery prior to federal regulatory action.

It was the consensus of the group to vote on each individual project and to determine the most critical and time effective projects, those projects for which it would be necessary to begin within the next 30 days to assure a successful completion.

\* J. Greenfield motioned to delay consideration of projects of a less critical nature until August 1, 1986, at which time they would be re-considered either through appropriate channels if publication of the Federal Register notice has been accomplished or through the mechanism now being used. R. Ditton seconded the motion. The motion carried with C. Perret and J. R. Nelson voting "No" and A. Kemmerer and J. Greenfield abstaining.

\* A. Kemmerer moved to accept proposals entitled "SA-1 Collection of Length, Weight, and Biological Information on Red Drum: Alabama" and "SA-2 Collection of Length, Weight, and Biological Information on Red Drum: Louisiana" as critical. J. R. Nelson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Cato stated that it was necessary for him to leave the conference call and that he would support projects that were critical and for which it was absolutely necessary to start within the next 30 days to collect data before the possible closure of the fishery.

\* A. Kemmerer moved to accept proposal entitled "SA-3 Mark/Recapture Program for Red Drum in the Gulf of Mexico". J. R. Nelson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

\* C. Perret moved to accept proposals entitled "SA-4 Red Drum Stock Assessment: National Marine Fisheries Service," "SA-5 Stock Assessment Information Needed to Manage Red Drum Resources in Louisiana and in the Fishery Operating in the FCZ (a Three-Year Plan): Louisiana," and "SA-6 Vessel and Spotter Pilot Observers and Logs: National Marine Fisheries

Service" as critical. J. R. Nelson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

\* T. Leary moved to accept proposal entitled "SI-1, Red Drum Tagging in Louisiana: Louisiana," as critical. J. R. Nelson seconded. Motion carried with A. Kemmerer/J. Greenfield abstaining.

A. Kemmerer stated that proposal entitled "SI-2, Restriction Endonuclease Analysis of Mitochondrial DNA (mt DNA) in Red Drum, Sciaenops ocellatus, from the Gulf of Mexico: Determination of Major Breeding Stock(s): Texas," was not time sensitive; therefore, could be considered at a later date.

\* C. Perret moved to accept proposal entitled "SI-3, Studies to Assess Migrations of Inshore Red Drum in the Mississippi Sound: Mississippi," as critical. J. R. Nelson seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Upon further discussion a discrepancy regarding the method of tagging in the Mississippi Sound was noted and the following motion reversed this decision.

\* C. Perret moved to delay consideration of proposal entitled "SI-3 Studies to Assess Migrations of Inshore Red Drum in the Mississippi Sound: Mississippi." R. Ditton seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken on proposal entitled "SI-4 Tag/Recapture of Known-Age Young Red Drum Released into the Northern Gulf of Mexico: Alabama." It was the consensus of the PMB to delay consideration of this proposal.

\* C. Perret motioned to accept proposal entitled "SI-5 Tag/Recapture Program in Inshore Waters of Pensacola Bay and Apalachicola Bay in Northwest Florida: Florida," as critical. J. R. Nelson seconded. After discussion regarding cost effectiveness and other elements of the tagging problems peculiar to the State of Florida, the motion failed unanimously.

A. Kemmerer stated that the proposals entitled "AG-1 Structure and Growth Rates of Red Drum Landed in Alabama: Alabama," "AG-2 Age Structure and Growth Rates of Red Drum Landed in Louisiana: Louisiana," and "AG-3 Age Validation of Subadult and Adult Red Drum in Florida:

Florida," were critical and time relevant. The PMB discussed cost comparisons of the three projects.

\* T. Leary motioned to delay consideration of these three projects. R. Ditton seconded.

\* After further discussion, C. Perret made a substitute motion to accept the proposals entitled "AG-1, Age Structure and Growth Rates of Red Drum Landed in Alabama: Alabama," "AG-2, Age Structure and Growth Rates of Red Drum Landed in Louisiana: Louisiana," and "AG-3, Age Validation of Subadult and Adult Red Drum in Florida: Florida," as critical. T. Leary accepted. The motion carried with R. Ditton voting "No". It was the consensus of PMB members present that J. Cato would not support these proposals as critical.

C. Perret stated that proposal entitled "FI-1 Aircraft Sampling Survey Pilot Study: National Marine Fisheries Service" was extremely critical. The PMB discussed current cooperation from private industry. J. Greenfield felt that the proposal could be put off for 30 days. A. Kemmerer stated that NMFS may find that the surveys are warranted within the next few weeks and that this proposal should be accepted as critical so that it could be begun as soon as possible.

\* A. Kemmerer motioned to consider this proposal as critical so that work could be accomplished in a time effective manner. C. Perret seconded. Motion carried with R. Ditton voting "No" and Kemmerer/Greenfield abstaining.

\* A. Kemmerer motioned to delay consideration on proposal entitled "FI-2 Assessing the Stock Abundance of Nearshore Red Drum: Mississippi." J. R. Nelson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

\* A. Kemmerer motioned to accept proposal entitled "PC-1 Coordinating, Planning and Progress-Reporting Activities of the Cooperative State-Federal Research Plan for Red Drum in the Gulf of Mexico: Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission" as necessary. J. R. Nelson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

\* A. Kemmerer motioned that when the PMB established research priorities that the proposal entitled "State-Federal Cooperative Program

for Red Drum Research in the Gulf of Mexico" be re-written and used as a basis for a red drum management plan. Being no second, the motion failed.

The PMB instructed D. Ekberg to work with the GSMFC and the Kansas City office regarding appropriate funding mechanisms for proposals accepted as critical.

The following proposals were accepted as critical and time relevant by the PMB:

MARFIN FUNDS REQUESTED

		FY 86
SA-1	Collection of Length, Weight, and Biological Information on Red Drum: Alabama	\$ 5,000
SA-2	Collection of Length, Weight, and Biological Information on Red Drum: Louisiana	\$ 5,000
SA-3	Mark/Recapture Program for Red Drum in the Gulf of Mexico	\$ 50,000
SA-4	Red Drum Stock Assessment: National Marine Fisheries Service	\$ 25,000
SA-5	Stock Assessment Information Needed to Manage Red Drum Resources in Louisiana and in the Fishery Operating in the FCZ (a Three Year Plan): Louisiana	\$ 55,000
SA-6	Vessel and Spotter Pilot Observers and Logs: National Marine Fisheries Service	\$ 60,000
SI-1	Red Drum Tagging in Louisiana: Louisiana	\$ 25,000
AG-1	Structure and Growth Rates of Red Drum Landed in Alabama: Alabama	\$ 30,000
AG-2	Age Structure and Growth Rates of Red Drum Landed in Louisiana: Louisiana	\$ 30,000
AG-3	Age Validation of Subadult and Adult Red Drum in Florida: Florida	\$ 3,000
FI-1	Aircraft Sampling Survey Pilot Study: National Marine Fisheries Service	\$ 40,000
PC-1	Coordinating, Planning and Progress-Reporting Activities of the Cooperative State-Federal Research Plan for Red Drum in the Gulf of Mexico: Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	\$ 7,000
	TOTAL	\$335,000

The following proposals will be reconsidered on August 1, 1986:

FY 86		
SI-2	Restriction Endonuclease Analysis of Mitochondrial DNA (mt DNA) in Red Drum, <u>Sciaenops ocellatus</u> , from the Gulf of Mexico: <u>Determination of Major Breeding Stock(s): Texas</u>	\$ 80,000
SI-3	Studies to Assess Migrations of Inshore Red Drum in the Mississippi Sound: Mississippi	\$ 25,000
SI-4	Tag/Recapture of Known-Age Young Red Drum Released into the Northern Gulf of Mexico: Alabama	\$ 35,000
SI-5	Tag/Recapture Program in Inshore Waters of Pensacola Bay and Apalachicola Bay in North-west Florida: Florida	\$ 25,000
FI-2	Assessing the Stock Abundance of Nearshore Red Drum: Mississippi	\$ 20,000
	TOTAL	<u>\$185,000</u>

The conference call ended at 11:10 a.m.



MARFIN Program Management Board  
Conference Call Minutes  
Wednesday, July 16, 1986

Roll was called at 2:00 pm (CDST). Those present on the call were:

Members

Larry B. Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS  
Tom Murray, GASAFDFI, Tampa, FL  
Wayne E. Swingle, GMFMC, Tampa, FL  
Jack Greenfield, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Andy Kemmerer, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
William S. "Corky" Perret, Gulf States, Baton Rouge, LA  
Jim Cato, Sea Grant, Gainesville, FL  
Robert Ditton, Recreational Industry, College Station, TX  
Robert Jones, Commercial Industry, Tallahassee, FL

Staff

Lucia O'Toole, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

RED DRUM RESEARCH PLAN

Chairman Tom Murray informed members that the conference call was at the request of Jack Greenfield to discuss the current situation of the S/F red fish proposal developed by the GSMFC which was discussed on the last call. NOAA Administration has expressed a specific interest in expediting the generation of the statistical information in the program to use as the basis to aid in development the Secretarial Plan.

J. Greenfield stated that in his opinion the NOAA Administrator appears to support the policy and strategy of the Southeast Region in terms of addressing red drum and the broader issue of maintaining access to the fisheries of the FCZ for all citizens. As the Secretarial Plan for red drum will be operative for some period it may partially set the tone for future management of the fishery. Therefore the plan should be based on the best possible scientific information. It was suggested that the PMB review the entire research plan previously submitted and consider approving it as a whole. The NOAA Administrator has requested to be informally provided all red drum proposals received by the SERO. With PMB approval, these would be reviewed in NOAA, Commerce, and FARB concurrently with PMB technical review. When the season closes on August 11, the PMB could have a one-week public review period during

which it could obtain technical reviews and then be in a position about August 20 to make a decision on the final red drum package.

B. Jones interrupted and stated that inasmuch as he was a litigant in a current lawsuit that it was inappropriate for him to vote or continue in the conference call. He stated support for any scientific efforts to find out what is happening to the red fish.

The technical review process was discussed. The PMB will rethink and restructure the technical review process. A subcommittee may be appointed to develop a technical review procedure. For expeditious purposes, technical review for red drum will be limited to the SEFC.

J. Greenfield moved that the PMB approve in concept the request of the NOAA Administrator to submit a single proposal for the entire program (520K) minus the 95K already funded through the SEFC. The motion was seconded. Out-year funding was discussed. It was determined that any out-year funding identified in the red drum plan is contingent upon performance during the first year, on satisfying requirements of the 2nd year's solicitation (priorities), and on the review and approval of the PMB.

J. Greenfield reviewed the timing sequence from his perspective up to the time awards go to states and universities. August 25 would be the approximate time he expects final official approval of proposals for red drum research.

The remainder of the MARFIN program proposals would be received by August 11. The full MARFIN package with the exception of red drum would be subject to normal review processes of NOAA, Commerce, FARB -- much like S/K.

\* The motion was restated. J. Greenfield moved that the PMB approve the funding of the full 520K task force research program on red drum for this fiscal year only, recognizing the funds that have already been committed outside the solicitation and with the balance being handled within public solicitation and subject to the understanding that out-year funding for any work identified in the document will be subject to the priorities the coming year and new technical review (no implication of commitment for out years). C. Perret seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CRITICAL RESEARCH

A. Kemmerer stated that the timing of some of the work is critical. The PMB found no objections with asking NMFS if some amount of the 85K they have obligated might be reprogrammed and provided to those entities to begin time-critical research.

AMOUNT OF SOLICITATION

J. Greenfield expressed a possible need to reprogram about 50K into the public solicitation portion in order to satisfy the announced availability of \$1.6 million. He asked permission to explore the possibility of some portion of the 103K committed by the PMB to the SEFC for mackerel research being reprogrammed back into the public solicitation.

\* J. Cato moved that the PMB give J. Greenfield the authority to explore the possibility. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT PMB MEETING

The dates agreed upon for the next meeting are August 21-22 (Thursday-Friday) with the possibility of carrying over into August 23 (Saturday). The locations discussed for the meeting were Atlanta and New Orleans. Details will be forwarded when available.

The conference call ended at 3:08 pm.

APPROVED BY:  
*Walter Tatum*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
August 25-26, 1986  
Mexico City, Mexico

Monday, August 25, 1986

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The following members and guests were present:

Subcommittee

Dick Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Andy Kemmerer, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
Barney Barrett, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
J. Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL  
Terry Leary, GMFMC, Tampa, FL  
Jack Gartner, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Buck Sutter, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Ken Stuck, GCRL, Biloxi, MS  
J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Dave Cupka, SCWMRD, Charleston, SC

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director  
Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator  
Eileen Benton, Staff Assistant

Others

Rolf Juhl, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
Karen Jo Foote, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Jim McCallum, ASMFC, Washington, DC  
Edgardo Hicks, U.S. Embassy, Mexico City, MX  
Alejandro Cid del Prado, INP, Mexico City, MX  
Javier Vasconcelos, INP, Mexico City, MX

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as written.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings (Subcommittee and joint SEAMAP) held in Brownsville on Monday, March 17, 1986 were approved as written.

Budget Report

N. Bane distributed and reviewed the July 31, 1986 budget statement.

Publications Report

N. Bane presented the current status of SEAMAP publications:

- (1) 1986 Marine Directory: 100 copies were published and have been distributed. Additional copies can be printed upon demand.
- (2) 1983 Atlas: 200 copies of the Atlas were published. Due to heavy demand, all copies of the Atlas have been distributed; however, requestors can obtain photocopied pages as required.
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- (4) Joint Annual Report: Due to time constraints, the first draft has not yet been distributed. The Gulf and South Atlantic representatives will receive the draft by the 3rd of September, with delivery of the final draft to printer expected on September 10. Distribution is anticipated by the ASMFC and GSMFC October meetings.
- (5) TCC Report: Presently being prepared with distribution set for the TCC at the October meeting.
- (6) Data Management Report: Presented at the Marine Data Systems Symposium in New Orleans, April-May 1986. Authors are K. Savastano and N. Bane; the paper will be published in the proceedings of that meeting.
- (7) South Atlantic Program SEAMAP Comparative Shrimp Trawling Study: Completed and distributed. Additional copies may be obtained from the SEAMAP-South Atlantic Coordinator.

Status of FY1987 Funds

A. Kemmerer reported that since the August 13-14, budget meeting in Panama City, he has been notified of possible additional budget cuts to the SEAMAP program. He noted that the program could expect a 4.3% Gramm-Rudman reduction and a 3.0% NOAA reduction, resulting in an additional 2.3% cut that was not anticipated at the budget meeting. He also noted a possible 3.0% NMFS reduction, but this reduction would not affect the SEAMAP program.

Due to the possible 2.3% additional reduction, W. Tatum suggested that members re-evaluate projects to determine the best solution for the additional reduction.

Discussion continued, stressing the need to resolve this issue due to the October 1 deadline for State-Federal Cooperative Agreements submission.

\* A. Huff moved to discontinue discussion of this item until Tuesday morning. The motion was seconded and passed.

#### Changes in State-Federal Cooperative Agreements

N. Bane reported that Perry Thompson, NMFS Pascagoula Laboratory, is the new Program Officer for items on the State-Federal Agreement connected with the activities and events. Financial items are being handled at the Central Administrative Support Center (CASC) by Ann Piette, Tony Jiovenale or Jean Martin-West.

N. Bane also noted that this year a semiannual report was added by CASC after submission and approval of agreements. She stressed the importance of careful review of the agreement after approval to ensure compliance with all new and existing requirements.

The Status and Trends amendment is pending for \$7,000. This funding will reimburse state biologists for their participation in the survey; processing of the amendment is anticipated shortly.

N. Bane stated that FY1987 changes in the Cooperative Agreement include completion of the OMB 424 Application. However, the Financial Award document will be completed by the Program Officer. She noted that the Louisiana Cooperative Agreement model will be distributed shortly for review. She also stated the importance of careful consideration of equipment and supplies, noting that any intended equipment purchase over \$300.00 must be specified.

#### Work Group Reports

##### (1) Plankton Work Group

J. Gartner presented Bill Richard's report, summarized as follows:

- (a) The Spring Plankton Survey for bluefin tuna has been completed. Material is ready to be shipped to the Polish Sorting Center (PSC).
- (b) The king mackerel survey will begin the first week of September. This survey will cover most of the Gulf, with

Florida, Mississippi and Alabama surveying their state waters, NOAA Ship CHAPMAN sampling the Mississippi Delta to Brownsville, Texas, and the NOAA Ship OREGON II sampling the eastern Gulf of Mexico outside state waters. If time permits, the OREGON II will also sample the east coast of Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas.

J. Gartner stated that Bill Richards recommends that 1987 cruise plans follow the 1986 time frame but include a cruise sometime in October or November to sample red drum. The Plankton Work Group will be discussing this at the GSMFC October meeting and will present recommendations to the Subcommittee.

A discussion was held regarding problems associated with protocols for the king mackerel survey. After discussion, A. Kemmerer stated that he would coordinate with the States and NMFS to develop and distribute protocols for this survey.

J. Gartner reviewed and distributed the SEAMAP Ichthyoplankton Archiving Center Report, summarized as follows:

- (a) A more rapid, less error-prone data entry system for SEAMAP samples has been implemented.
- (b) Due to few requests for sorted materials, an advertisement has been prepared and will be submitted to appropriate journals.
- (c) Understaffing problems have led to a request to FDNR to provide for a full time position, beginning in January 1987.

K. Stuck presented a slide presentation of his recent trip to Poland to participate in the 12th Annual Committee Meeting of the U.S. Polish Cooperative Research Plankton Sorting Identification Center, and to train Polish sorters on techniques of working SEAMAP samples for selected invertebrates. Summarized below are comments associated with PSC:

- (a) SEAMAP Ichthyoplankton Sorting 1985-86
  - ° 75-80% of PSC total man-hours are needed to complete analysis of samples sent by the SEFC each year.
  - ° PSC recommends pre-printed labels for vials, to save 20-30% of sorting time.
  - ° PSC recommended that the Plankton Work Group consider measures to reduce the time required to sort samples.

- Samples collected during SEAMAP cruises designated specifically for stock assessment should be sorted for target species only.
- The backlog of samples currently held at PSC should be prioritized.

(b) SEAMAP Plankton Sorting 1986-87

- 750 SEAMAP samples will be sorted for ichthyoplankton during the contract period (5/1/86-4/30/87)
- Sorting priority: tuna cruise (80 samples); bluefish cruise (151 samples); with the remaining 519 samples to be selected by the Plankton Work Group from the backlog of samples.
- Due to problems identifying certain larvae, the PSC has requested members of the Work Group to assist in obtaining recent taxonomic literature and reference specimens.

(c) Zooplankton

- The PSC recommends the establishment of a full-time position to sort and identify SEAMAP zooplankton samples. Funds for this position (\$5,000) should be requested of the SEAMAP Subcommittee through the Plankton Work Group.

\* A. Kemmerer moved to ask both plankton work groups, Gulf and South Atlantic, to make recommendations in reference to the PSC (procedures, funding levels, goals, etc.) and present these to the Subcommittee meeting in October. The motion was seconded and passed.

(2) Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group

N. Bane presented C.E. Bryan's report as follows:

- (a) The 1986 Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey was successfully completed. Results of the survey will be listed in the SEAMAP Joint Annual Report.
- (b) The 1987 Summer Shrimp/Groundfish survey will have the same design and sampling procedure as in 1986.
- (c) The 1986 Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey should be similar in design to last year, although it will not include any comparative trawling.

N. Bane also noted that Texas is establishing a winter shrimp/groundfish sampling program and C.E. Bryan feels that if funds



are available, SEAMAP should extend its coverage of shrimp/groundfish surveys into the winter season.

A. Kemmerer reported that Scott Nichols, NMFS Pascagoula Laboratory, recommends a Work Group meeting prior to the Fall Shrimp/Groundfish survey to discuss problems with regard to the survey and possible winter sampling.

(3) Environmental Data Work Group

A. Kemmerer presented W. Stuntz's report as follows:

All environmental samples for chlorophyll and salinity for 1985 have been analyzed. Also, all samples up to the Squid/Butterfish Survey this year have been analyzed.

W. Stuntz is currently in the process of developing a tracking system to computer sort back to samples for verification.

(4) Red Drum Work Group

T. McIlwain reviewed the June 1986 meeting of the Red Drum Work Group, noting development of the State-Federal Cooperative Program for Red Drum Research in the Gulf of Mexico: A Three-Year Plan. Four items identified for research were: stock assessment, stock identification, age and growth validation, and fishery-independent stock assessment. This document was then submitted and approved by the MARFIN board for funding.

(5) Data Management Work Group

A. Kemmerer presented and distributed the Data Management report, summarized as follows:

(a) The near real-time satellite data system was utilized to transmit data during the 1986 Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey.

A. Kemmerer expressed concern for the continuation of distributing this real-time information and stated that this might be a topic for the Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group to address.

(b) Software for the 1984 Atlas has been completed.

(c) 45 SEAMAP data requests have been received, with 41 currently processed.

- (d) The SEAMAP System Design Questionnaire has been completed. The first draft of the requirements report is scheduled for completion by 9/2/86, with the first draft of the system design by 11/17/86 and the final draft scheduled for 12/31/86.
- (e) The cruise track optimization system for the Gulf of Mexico will be complete by 9/2/86.

A discussion was held concerning problems associated with the SEAMAP Information System. A. Kemmerer concluded that it might be useful to have a SEAMAP Program Review. No action was taken.

(6) Squid/Butterfish Work Group

B. Sutter reported on the August 14, 1986 meeting of the Squid/Butterfish Work Group. Recommendations from the work group are as follows:

- (a) An early April 1987 Squid/Butterfish Gear Comparison Study:
  1. Minimum of 55 stations for each vessel.
  2. Comparative trawling between the TOMMY MUNRO and CHAPMAN.
  3. Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana will provide existing gear to the TOMMY MUNRO.
  4. Each participating state will provide scientists for the TOMMY MUNRO.
- (b) A January 1987 Work Group meeting is needed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. with reconvening set for Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 26, 1986

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Dr. Edgardo Hicks briefed the Subcommittee on procedures for obtaining permits to survey in Mexican waters. He stated that the procedure for obtaining permits requires a six-month advance application. The process for approving permits is as follows: application is received by the U.S. State Department, which forwards it to the Mexican Minister of Fisheries. The Minister of Fisheries then

submits the application to various Mexican agencies to evaluate the purpose of the survey, and subsequently returns it to the Minister of Fisheries for approval and returns to the State Department. E. Hicks stressed the importance of the six-month advance application.

E. Hicks also expressed concern that the Minister of Fisheries does not receive reports (preliminary or final) from the cruises. He stated that by sending these reports Mexican and U.S. relations would improve. He noted that the Minister also prefers that five copies of these reports be sent.

#### Continuation of Budget Discussion

Discussion was held regarding state budgets and where proposed budget cuts could take place.

\* W. Tatum moved to delay discussion until after review of SEAMAP-South Atlantic FY1987 programs. The motion was seconded and passed.

#### Review of SEAMAP-SA FY1987 Program Activities

D. Cupka reported that current South Atlantic FY1986 projects include:

- (1) The Bottom Mapping Project, which runs through December 1986. A system is being developed to compile existing information, as well as a separate system to handle additional information.
- (2) The Shallow Trawling Survey: Methodology is currently being developed, with a fall time frame anticipated for the work.
- (3) A pilot shallow trawling project is being designed, which will probably start next year.
- (4) The Geryon Crab Project is continuing.
- (5) A contract has been let with North Carolina and NMFS to begin planning stock identification studies on finfish important to the South Atlantic states.

#### FY1987-88 Activities:

- (1) Expand the Shallow Trawling Project.
- (2) Top priority: Data Management.
- (3) Develop a passive gear workshop.
- (4) Support the Ichthyoplankton Archiving Center activity.

Review of Work Group and Program Administration Recommendations for  
FY1987 and Discussion of Participant Funding Needs

Discussions were held regarding funding needs for FY1987. Concern was expressed for work group recommendations that had not been approved by consensus of the work group members. However, consensus recommendations from work groups were acted upon as follows:

\* A. Kemmerer moved that both SEAMAP programs co-sponsor a passive gear workshop in FY1987. The motion was seconded and passed.

W. Tatum appointed a task force (NMFS-Pascagoula representative, Texas representative, and South Atlantic representative) to make recommendations to the Subcommittee on an appropriate time frame and preliminary agenda.

After discussion, it was concluded that the Subcommittee would not recommend a passive gear sampling activity Gulfwide for FY1987.

\* D. Waller moved that no SEAMAP winter FY1987 shrimp/groundfish activity be conducted Gulfwide. The motion was seconded.

After discussion, A. Kemmerer called the question. The motion carried.

\* D. Waller's motion carried.

\* W. Tatum moved to approve the Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group's recommendation to continue the fall and summer shrimp/groundfish activities at the same level as FY1985. The motion was seconded and carried.

\* W. Tatum moved to approve the Squid/Butterfish work group's recommendation to conduct a spring comparative trawl survey between the CHAPMAN and TOMMY MUNRO. The motion was seconded and carried.

\* D. Waller moved to approve the full set of recommendations of the Squid/Butterfish Work Group, including the Work Group meeting in early FY1987. The motion was seconded and carried.

\* A. Kemmerer moved that the Gulf states accept a 10% reduction in their funding until final work group recommendations are made.

D. Waller seconded the motion.

\* A. Huff moved to table discussion. The motion was seconded and passed.

Discussion of SEAMAP Coordinator Position for FY1987

Chairman Tatum requested that this discussion be limited to the SEAMAP Subcommittee members.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Check  
who?  
page

APPROVED BY:  
*Gary C. Macloch*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, August 25, 1986/  
Tuesday, August 26, 1986

Mexico City, Mexico

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE  
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Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Ken Stuck, GCRL, Biloxi, MS  
J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Dave Cupka, SCWMRD, Charleston, SC

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Others

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Karen Jo Foote, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Jim McCallum, ASMFC, Washington, DC  
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- (b) Due to few requests for sorted materials, an advertisement has been prepared and will be submitted to appropriate journals.
- (c) Understaffing problems have led to a request to FDNR to provide for a full time position, beginning in January 1987.

K. Stuck presented a slide presentation of his recent trip to Poland to participate in the 12th Annual Committee Meeting of the U.S. Polish Cooperative Research Plankton Sorting Identification Center, and to train Polish sorters on techniques of working SEAMAP samples for selected invertebrates. Summarized below are comments associated with PSC:

- (a) SEAMAP Ichthyoplankton Sorting 1985-86
  - ° 75-80% of PSC total man-hours are needed to complete analysis of samples sent by the SEFC each year.
  - ° PSC recommends pre-printed labels for vials, to save 20-30% of sorting time.
  - ° PSC recommended that the Plankton Work Group consider measures to reduce the time required to sort samples.

- Samples collected during SEAMAP cruises designated specifically for stock assessment should be sorted for target species only.
  - The backlog of samples currently held at PSC should be prioritized.
- (b) SEAMAP Plankton Sorting 1986-87
- 750 SEAMAP samples will be sorted for ichthyoplankton during the contract period (5/1/86-4/30/87)
  - Sorting priority: tuna cruise (80 samples); bluefish cruise (151 samples); with the remaining 519 samples to be selected by the Plankton Work Group from the backlog of samples.
  - Due to problems identifying certain larvae, the PSC has requested members of the Work Group to assist in obtaining recent taxonomic literature and reference specimens.
- (c) Zooplankton
- The PSC recommends the establishment of a full-time position to sort and identify SEAMAP zooplankton samples. Funds for this position (\$5,000) should be requested of the SEAMAP Subcommittee through the Plankton Work Group.

\* A. Kemmerer moved to ask both plankton work groups, Gulf and South Atlantic, to make recommendations in reference to the PSC (procedures, funding levels, goals, etc.) and present these to the Subcommittee meeting in October. The motion was seconded and passed.

(2) Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group

N. Bane presented C.E. Bryan's report as follows:

- (a) The 1986 Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey was successfully completed. Results of the survey will be listed in the SEAMAP Joint Annual Report.
- (b) The 1987 Summer Shrimp/Groundfish survey will have the same design and sampling procedure as in 1986.
- (c) The 1986 Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey should be similar in design to last year, although it will not include any comparative trawling.

N. Bane also noted that Texas is establishing a winter shrimp/groundfish sampling program and C.E. Bryan feels that if funds

are available, SEAMAP should extend its coverage of shrimp/groundfish surveys into the winter season.

A. Kemmerer reported that Scott Nichols, NMFS Pascagoula Laboratory, recommends a Work Group meeting prior to the Fall Shrimp/Groundfish survey to discuss problems with regard to the survey and possible winter sampling.

(3) Environmental Data Work Group

A. Kemmerer presented W. Stuntz's report as follows:

All environmental samples for chlorophyll and salinity for 1985 have been analyzed. Also, all samples up to the Squid/Butterfish Survey this year have been analyzed.

W. Stuntz is currently in the process of developing a tracking system to computer sort back to samples for verification.

(4) Red Drum Work Group

T. McIlwain reviewed the June 1986 meeting of the Red Drum Work Group, noting development of the State-Federal Cooperative Program for Red Drum Research in the Gulf of Mexico: A Three-Year Plan. Four items identified for research were: stock assessment, stock identification, age and growth validation, and fishery-independent stock assessment. This document was then submitted and approved by the MARFIN board for funding.

(5) Data Management Work Group

A. Kemmerer presented and distributed the Data Management report, summarized as follows:

- (a) The near real-time satellite data system was utilized to transmit data during the 1986 Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey. A. Kemmerer expressed concern for the continuation of distributing this real-time information and stated that this might be a topic for the Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group to address.
- (b) Software for the 1984 Atlas has been completed.
- (c) 45 SEAMAP data requests have been received, with 41 currently processed.

- (d) The SEAMAP System Design Questionnaire has been completed. The first draft of the requirements report is scheduled for completion by 9/2/86, with the first draft of the system design by 11/17/86 and the final draft scheduled for 12/31/86.
- (e) The cruise track optimization system for the Gulf of Mexico will be complete by 9/2/86.

A discussion was held concerning problems associated with the SEAMAP Information System. A. Kemmerer concluded that it might be useful to have a SEAMAP Program Review. No action was taken.

(6) Squid/Butterfish Work Group

B. Sutter reported on the August 14, 1986 meeting of the Squid/Butterfish Work Group. Recommendations from the work group are as follows:

- (a) An early April 1987 Squid/Butterfish Gear Comparison Study:
  - 1. Minimum of 55 stations for each vessel.
  - 2. Comparative trawling between the TOMMY MUNRO and CHAPMAN.
  - 3. Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana will provide existing gear to the TOMMY MUNRO.
  - 4. Each participating state will provide scientists for the TOMMY MUNRO.
- (b) A January 1987 Work Group meeting is needed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. with reconvening set for Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 26, 1986

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Dr. Edgardo Hicks briefed the Subcommittee on procedures for obtaining permits to survey in Mexican waters. He stated that the procedure for obtaining permits requires a six-month advance application. The process for approving permits is as follows: application is received by the U.S. State Department, which forwards it to the Mexican Minister of Fisheries. The Minister of Fisheries then

submits the application to various Mexican agencies to evaluate the purpose of the survey, and subsequently returns it to the Minister of Fisheries for approval and returns to the State Department. E. Hicks stressed the importance of the six-month advance application.

E. Hicks also expressed concern that the Minister of Fisheries does not receive reports (preliminary or final) from the cruises. He stated that by sending these reports Mexican and U.S. relations would improve. He noted that the Minister also prefers that five copies of these reports be sent.

#### Continuation of Budget Discussion

Discussion was held regarding state budgets and where proposed budget cuts could take place.

\* W. Tatum moved to delay discussion until after review of SEAMAP-South Atlantic FY1987 programs. The motion was seconded and passed.

#### Review of SEAMAP-SA FY1987 Program Activities

D. Cupka reported that current South Atlantic FY1986 projects include:

- (1) The Bottom Mapping Project, which runs through December 1986. A system is being developed to compile existing information, as well as a separate system to handle additional information.
- (2) The Shallow Trawling Survey: Methodology is currently being developed, with a fall time frame anticipated for the work.
- (3) A pilot shallow trawling project is being designed, which will probably start next year.
- (4) The Geryon Crab Project is continuing.
- (5) A contract has been let with North Carolina and NMFS to begin planning stock identification studies on finfish important to the South Atlantic states.

#### FY1987-88 Activities:

- (1) Expand the Shallow Trawling Project.
- (2) Top priority: Data Management.
- (3) Develop a passive gear workshop.
- (4) Support the Ichthyoplankton Archiving Center activity.

Review of Work Group and Program Administration Recommendations for  
FY1987 and Discussion of Participant Funding Needs

Discussions were held regarding funding needs for FY1987. Concern was expressed for work group recommendations that had not been approved by consensus of the work group members. However, consensus recommendations from work groups were acted upon as follows:

\* A. Kemmerer moved that both SEAMAP programs co-sponsor a passive gear workshop in FY1987. The motion was seconded and passed.

W. Tatum appointed a task force (NMFS-Pascagoula representative, Texas representative, and South Atlantic representative) to make recommendations to the Subcommittee on an appropriate time frame and preliminary agenda.

After discussion, it was concluded that the Subcommittee would not recommend a passive gear sampling activity Gulfwide for FY1987.

\* D. Waller moved that no SEAMAP winter FY1987 shrimp/groundfish activity be conducted Gulfwide. The motion was seconded.

After discussion, A. Kemmerer called the question. The motion carried.

\* D. Waller's motion carried.

\* W. Tatum moved to approve the Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group's recommendation to continue the fall and summer shrimp/groundfish activities at the same level as FY1985. The motion was seconded and carried.

\* W. Tatum moved to approve the Squid/Butterfish work group's recommendation to conduct a spring comparative trawl survey between the CHAPMAN and TOMMY MUNRO. The motion was seconded and carried.

\* D. Waller moved to approve the full set of recommendations of the Squid/Butterfish Work Group, including the Work Group meeting in early FY1987. The motion was seconded and carried.

\* A. Kemmerer moved that the Gulf states accept a 10% reduction in their funding until final work group recommendations are made.

D. Waller seconded the motion.

\* A. Huff moved to table discussion. The motion was seconded and passed.

Discussion of SEAMAP Coordinator Position for FY1987

Chairman Tatum requested that this discussion be limited to the SEAMAP Subcommittee members.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

JOINT MEETING: SEAMAP-PESCA  
August 27, 1986

MEETING SUMMARY

I. OPENING SESSION

Representatives from the SEAMAP Program of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Instituto Nacional de la Pesca, Secretaria de Pesca, met on August 27, 1986 to review fishery-independent research needs for king mackerel, red drum and plankton in the Gulf of Mexico. Following presentation of the SEAMAP participants to the Undersecretary of Pesca, Lic. Fernando Castro y Castro, by the SEAMAP Coordinator, Sr. Castro addressed the convocation and expressed his views on the need for joint international research to effect sound management of resources held in common by both countries. Following his remarks, SEAMAP-Gulf Chairman Walter Tatum presented opening statements on behalf of the SEAMAP Program and, with the SEAMAP Coordinator, outlined the objectives and proposed activities for the SEAMAP programs for FY1987.

Participants from both countries were introduced by their respective conference leaders, W. Tatum and Myrna Wong Rios, Director of Fishery Research, INP. A list of participants is attached.

Review of king mackerel research needs was presented in discussion by Javier Vasconcelos for Mexico, and Terry Leary, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, for SEAMAP.

Review of red drum research needs was presented in discussion by Tom McIlwain, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, for SEAMAP, and Myrna Wong Rios, for Mexico.

Review of plankton research needs was presented in discussion by Jack Gartner, Florida Department of Natural Resources, for SEAMAP, and Rosa Maria Olvera Lima, for Mexico.

Review of environmental data research needs was presented by Myrna Wong Rios for Mexico, and Andrew Kemmerer, National Marine Fisheries Service, for SEAMAP.

A. Kemmerer then directed participants at the joint meeting to convene after the buffet lunch for the specific purpose of developing findings on needed fishery-independent research with respect to three areas: king mackerel, red drum, and plankton/environmental data. At his request, three study groups were formed to address these topics.

## II. STUDY GROUP SESSION

All participants at the meeting, including two translators, worked from 2:00 until 4:15 to develop recommendations and conclusions as charged in the Opening Session. Groups met in separate sections of the meeting room, with between 10 and 15 participants in each group. Discussions were conducted primarily in English, with translators and the two meeting coordinators, N. Bane for SEAMAP, and Martha Palacios Fest for Pesca, assisting where necessary. Each group had appointed leaders.

## III. GENERAL SESSION: REVIEW OF STUDY GROUP FINDINGS

Following a brief coffee break, all participants convened in general session to review findings and conclusions, reported to the entire session by one of the two co-leaders of the study groups. The following are those findings and recommendations.

- A. Red Drum Study Group. Co-leaders: SEAMAP- Tom McIlwain; Pesca- Mryna Wong Rios.
  1. Mexico will review the State-Federal Cooperative Red Drum Research Plan for the Gulf of Mexico (GSMFC, June 1986) to determine the level at which Pesca desires to participate.
  2. Identification should be made of species which make up (are identified as) the red drum catch in Mexican waters. Percentage by size, etc., should be determined, and these data analyzed.
  3. The U.S. should provide all published information and reports on red drum to Mexico, including, if feasible, copies of recent NMFS videotapes of aerial spotting and at-sea tagging operations of the commercial fishery.
  4. As a red drum fishery may develop in Mexican waters, Mexico will exchange information with the United States on the development of this fishery.
  5. Red drum should be a priority species in Mexican plankton samples sent to the Polish Sorting Center for sorting.
- B. King Mackerel Study Group. Co-leaders: SEAMAP - Terry Leary; Pesca - Javier Vasconcelos.
  1. Determine interchange of mackerel.
    - \* (c) a. Make recommendations that will continue the emphasis on tagging various size fish and emphasize recaptures.
    - b. Continue the collection (and analysis) of tissues through HPLC, electrophoresis, and other similar biochemical analyses, and exchange resulting information.



- c. Analyze tag loss in king mackerel through double-tagging studies or other methods.
  - d. Consider (or conduct) tagging mortality studies; e.g., the effects of handling, and gear considerations.
  - e. Provide better dissemination of tagging information, in addition to supplying information on tag returns; i.e., exchange information on the tagging process itself.
2. Develop methods to forecast trends in abundance.
- a. Develop methodology to sample for pre-recruits.
  - b. Determine juvenile abundance from plankton data.
  - c. Develop fishery-independent methodology to determine abundance of adult king mackerel (e.g., longlines, spotter planes, etc.).
  - d. Review existing environmental data (i.e., current patterns, temperature/salinity, river discharge, etc.) to determine possible correlations between these parameters and the distribution and abundance of mackerel.
  - e. Provide better distribution of data.
- C. Ichthyoplankton/Environmental Data Study Group. Co-leaders:  
SEAMAP - Jack Gartner; Pesca - Rosa Maria Olvera Lima.
- a. An American scientists should participate in the JUSTO SERRA (INP) September cruise and take up to 150 samples from the cruise to the U.S. for transshipment by NMFS to the Polish Sorting Center (PSC).
  - b. These Mexican samples should be sorted by the PSC to the family level for the following target groups: Scombridae, Sciaenidae, Carangidae; these samples should be returned to Mexico as soon as possible, with other families non-priority.
  - c. The PSC-sorted samples should be returned to Mexico but identified as "SEAMAP" specimens.
  - d. The sorted Mexican SEAMAP samples should be available to U.S. researchers on a loan basis.
  - e. There should be an exchange of curatorial staff between SEAMAP and Pesca, for purposes of improving data management and archiving methodologies.
  - f. There is a need for a meeting of plankto researchers from both countries after the September plankton survey materials have been returned from the PSC, to assess the data and specimens.

#### IV. CLOSING SESSION.

Representatives from both organizations were thanked by the SEAMAP-Gulf Chairman for their active and helpful participation in the meeting. The SEAMAP Program hosted a reception for all participants and their guests immediately following the meeting.

## JOINT SEAMAP-PESCA MEETING PARTICIPANTS

### SEAMAP PROGRAM

- \* Walter M. Tatum, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Chairman, SEAMAP-Gulf of Mexico
- \* David Cupka, South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department  
Chairman, SEAMAP-South Atlantic
- Rolf Juhl, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Center  
Coordinator, U.S. Mexus-Gulf program
- Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
- \* James McCallum, Council Coordinator, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries  
Commission
- \* Barney Barrett, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- \* Karen Jo Foote, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- \* Richard Waller, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory/Mississippi Department  
of Wildlife Conservation
- \* Alan Huff, Florida Department of Natural Resources
- \* Andrew Kemmerer, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries  
Center
- \* Terry Leary, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
- Kenneth Stuck, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory  
Curator, SEAMAP Invertebrate Plankton Archiving Center
- Jack Gartner, Florida Department of Natural Resources  
Curator, SEAMAP Archiving Center
- Frederick Sutter, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory  
Leader, SEAMAP Squid/Butterfish Work Group
- Thomas McIlwain, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory  
Leader, SEAMAP Red Drum Work Group
- Nikki Bane, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission/Louisiana State University  
Coordinator, SEAMAP-Gulf of Mexico
- J. Y. Christmas, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory  
Chairman, GSMFC Technical Coordinating Committee
- Eileen Benton, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Staff Assistant, GSMFC

\* SEAMAP Representative or Alternate

SECRETARIA DE PESCA/  
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE PESCA

Lic. Fernando Castro y Castro, Undersecretary of Fisheries

Myrna Wong Rios, Director, Fisheries Research

Martha Rosa Palacios Fest, Director, Aquaculture Research

Jose Manuel Grande-Vidal, Director, Gear Development

Rosa Maria Olvera Limas

Javier Vasconcelos

Patricia Hernandez

Lilia Shultz

Kimberly Smitt

Francisco Aguilar Salazar

Carlos Diaz Avalos

Pedro Saenz Martinez

Alejandro Cid del Prado

Martha Padilla

Arturo Sanchez Gonzales

Maria Concepcion Rodriguez de la Cruz

OTHERS

Dr. Edgardo Hicks, Office of the Fisheries Attache, U.S. Embassy,  
U.S. Department of State

APPROVED BY:

  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

September 17, 1986

A special budget meeting was called by the Subcommittee Chairman, Walter Tatum and scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 1986. The meeting convened at 10:00 at the National Marine Fisheries Service Mississippi Laboratories' Pascagoula Facility. Attending were the following:

Walter Tatum, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Dick Waller, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory  
Barney Barrett, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Alan Huff, Florida Department of Natural Resources  
Andy Kemmerer, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Scott Nichols, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Karen Jo Foote, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Larry Simpson, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Ginny Herring, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

The entire meeting was devoted to discussion of program and budget needs for FY1987. A. Kemmerer presented a budget workup detailing proposed cuts by NOAA and NMFS, comparing 1986 and 1987 funding, tentative allocation for FY1987, and known FY1987 budget needs; a projected deficit of \$27,000 was stated.

Item discussed included a FY1987 passive gear workshop, to be held jointly with the South Atlantic SEAMAP Program, budgetary needs for the invertebrate archiving center, and sorting options for invertebrates in FY1987.

D. Waller moved to fund SIPAC into the budget at \$12,000. The motion was seconded and accepted by consensus.

A. Huff moved to fund \$5,000 for the invertebrate sorting costs at the Polish Sorting Center as a budget planning item. The motion was seconded and accepted by consensus.

The remainder of the meeting focused on acceptable levels of funding for state, Federal and GAMFC activities in FY1987. The following appropriations were agreed upon by consensus:

GSMFC (includes \$2500. for workshop)	91,500
Texas	46,000
Louisiana	118,000
Mississippi (includes SIPAC)	114,000
Alabama	75,000
Florida	77,000
NMFS	262,000

Total SEAMAP-Gulf Program      \$ 521,500

A summary of the budget materials prepared by A. Kemmerer is attached.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

BUDGET MATERIAL  
FOR  
GULF OF MEXICO SEAMAP MEETING

September 17, 1986  
(Corrected After Budget Meeting)

Mississippi Laboratories  
Southeast Fisheries Center  
National Marine Fisheries Service

TENTATIVE ALLOCATION OF FY 1987 SEAMAP FUNDS

	<u>Amount (\$K)</u>
1. Appropriation	\$1,000.0
2. Reductions	
Graham-Rudman-Hollings (4.3%)	\$43.0
NMFS Administration (0.5%)	5.0
NMFS Reduction on NMFS Portion of FY 1986 Funds (2.2% of \$343.7K)	<u>7.6</u>
Subtotal	<u>55.6</u>
3. FY 1987 Available Funds	<u>\$ 944.4</u>
4. Allocations	
National Marine Fisheries Service	
o Polish Sorting Center - fish plankton	25.0
o Polish Sorting Center - Invertebrates	5.0
o South Atlantic Coordinator	25.0
o Data Management	90.0
o Vessel Operations	<u>117.0</u>
Subtotal	262.0
Gulf of Mexico States	521.5
South Atlantic States	<u>160.9</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 944.4</u>

COMPARISON OF FY 1986 AND  
TENTATIVE FY 1987 FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

<u>Allocation</u>	<u>AMOUNT (\$K)</u>		<u>% Difference</u>
	<u>FY 1986</u>	<u>FY 1987</u>	
Appropriation	\$1,000.0	\$1,000.0	0
Reductions	<u>40.0</u>	<u>55.6</u>	+39.0
Available Funds	<u>960.0</u>	<u>944.4</u>	- 1.6
National Marine Fisheries Service	303.7	262.0	-13.7
Gulf of Mexico States			
Commission (includes \$2.5K for passive gear workshop)	93.1	91.5	
Texas	46.1	46.0	
Louisiana	118.6	118.0	
Mississippi (includes SIPAC)	107.8	114.0	
Alabama	78.4	75.0	
Florida	<u>73.1</u>	<u>77.0</u>	
Subtotal	517.1	521.5	+ 0.9
South Atlantic States			
Commission	0.0		
Florida	9.8		
Georgia	29.4		
South Carolina	60.8		
North Carolina	<u>39.2</u>		
Subtotal	139.2	160.9	+15.6

KNOWN FY 1987 SEAMAP NEW BUDGET DECISIONS

1. Passive Gear Workshop	\$ 5.0	(split \$2.5K/\$2.5K between Gulf & SA)
2. Florida Shipment of Plankton Samples	0.0	
3. Mississippi SIPAC	12.0	
4. Poland Sorting of Invertebrates	5.0	



APPROVED BY:

  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

MARFIN PROGRAM MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday, October 2/  
Friday, October 3, 1986

DRAFT

MARFIN Program Management Board  
Thursday, October 2/Friday,  
October 3, 1986  
Tampa, Florida  
MINUTES

The meeting held in the conference room of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council was called to order by Vice Chairman Andy Kemmerer at 1:00 pm. The following persons attended the meeting:

Members

Larry B. Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS  
Tom Murray, GASAFDFI, Tampa, FL  
Wayne E. Swingle, GMFMC, Tampa, FL  
Jack Greenfield, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
\*Andy Kemmerer, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
Walter Tatum, Gulf States (designee), Gulf Shores, AL  
Jim Cato, Sea Grant, Gainesville, FL  
Robert Ditton, Recreational Industry, College Station, TX  
Ralph Rayburn, Commercial Industry (designee), Austin, TX

Staff

Don Ekberg, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Lucia O'Toole, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Others

Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Ron Schmied, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL

\*Attendance on 10/2/86 only.

Adoption of Minutes

\* Copies of the amended minutes (6/27/86) were distributed for review. W. Swingle moved to table approval of the minutes until the following day in order to allow time for review. The motion was seconded. A. Kemmerer suggested the PMB proceed with revisions to the 8/21-22/86 meeting minutes as follows:

on page 2 to read

...The remaining 16K not yet obligated came from the 85K the MARFIN PMB approved previously for SEFC red drum work. For SEFC to complete the total amount of MARFIN work on king mackerel which had been proposed and approved, the SEFC would need to be reimbursed 15K. A. Kemmerer reported that some of the monies SEFC had received for red drum could be reprogrammed in order to complete the red drum work.

and on page 4 to read

...There was much discussion on project proposals in the red drum area dealing with MTDNA work and...

\* W. Tatum moved the 8/21-22/86 minutes be approved as amended. The motion carried.

#### Adoption of Agenda

It was the consensus of the PMB to discuss the MTDNA proposals and MARFIN program priorities for FY87 on 8/21 rather than 8/22 and to delay the discussion on the Annual Report until 8/22. The agenda was adopted as amended.

#### FY86 Recap and Comments

D. Ekberg distributed a listing of commitments by the PMB for FY86 totaling \$2,727K (attachment 1) and a listing of approved proposals detailing requests for second and third year funds by multi-year requestors (attachment 2). Also distributed was a draft accounting of MARFIN funding for FY86 in K dollars to entities (attachment 3) which appeared to contain a few inaccuracies. The PMB highly approved of the format and will individually analyze and report comments to D. Ekberg.

\* D. Ekberg was informed by Kansas City that any subcontracting in FY87 will have to be competitive. There was discussion on subcontracts and joint cooperative efforts. L. Simpson moved that D. Ekberg write a letter to the appropriate persons in Kansas City requesting clarification on the issue, asking which contracts they had problems with in FY86 and what those problems were. The motion carried.

J. Greenfield relayed several complaints regarding the short (30-day) RFP open season. Consensus of the PMB was that a 60-day season may be the answer.

There was much discussion on the FY86 handling of multi-year proposals. PMB approval of multi-year projects would allow those proposals to only have to go through FARB once and funding would be provided if the proper criteria were met yearly.

D. Ekberg distributed a MARFIN funding estimate for FY87 (attachment 4) and a preliminary draft of the Federal Register notice for FY87. OMB clearance for the notice continues through the end of the calendar year. D. Ekberg will try to get the notice as far as possible before expiration of the clearance. He asked the PMB to thoroughly review the notice as he felt it would be the controlling document.

Progress reports were discussed. NMFS will follow reporting procedures.

#### MTDNA Proposals

D. Ekberg informed the PMB that the red drum stock identification proposals had been sent to the SEFC. J. Cato stated that the PMB should insist the proposals <sup>also</sup> be sent outside the ~~staff~~ <sup>NMFS</sup> for thorough technical review. As these proposals will be required to compete again in FY87, it was suggested that the PMB let a limited RFP immediately for stock identification work. It was further suggested that the SEFC may find the money for this important work if MARFIN monies are not available after the technical reviews are completed, with NMFS to be reimbursed when the MARFIN monies are available. The matter was tabled for further discussion later in the meeting.

#### Discussion of Operations Plan

Format, content, and title of the plan were discussed at length. It was the consensus of the PMB to call the document an "operations plan" rather than a "strategic plan". The plan will be more than a manual of procedures, it will contain a listing of policy statements and identify roles where authority exists. Issues to be addressed will include identification of priority species (following the MARFIN document categories -- enhancement, recovery, maintenance), a schematic showing MARFIN organization/process along with PMB operations and another showing how the annual process flows. A suggestion for charting/tracking the progress achieved in FY86 for the areas of research needed as identified in the MARFIN document was determined appropriate for the Annual Report.

Suggestions to initiate the plan were to appoint a subcommittee to prepare a prototype, contract the writing, and use the SEAMAP Operations Plan and "MARFINize" it.

\* It was the consensus of the PMB for the first step to charge D. Ekberg with the responsibility of developing a comprehensive outline for the plan for PMB members to review and comment on. D. Ekberg said he would probably use the Grants Manual as the basis and he will draft a letter to PMB members with a series of questions seeking input on areas of concern/problems in FY86. The draft will be circulated to members by mail. The PMB may consider a contract for completion of the plan with FY87 funds.

\* A letter of sincere appreciation in behalf of the PMB by consensus will be sent to Jean Martin-West for her outstanding assistance and a copy will be forwarded to her Regional Director.

#### FY86 Annual Report

\* It was the consensus of the PMB that the Annual Report will be drafted by D. Ekberg. It will provide a brief (few pages) general overview of when/how the program was initiated and what occurred during the first year. A short paragraph will be written on each proposal funded using the project summaries. SEAMAP Annual Reports will be mailed for D. Ekberg for use as a format guideline. B. Ditton suggested using species codes from the MARFIN document rather than the Federal Register notice numbers for consistency.

#### Date and Location of Next PMB Meeting

A. Kemmerer suggested the PMB hold the next meeting in Pascagoula in order to see the NOAA Ship CHAPMAN; T. McIlwain extended an invitation to PMB members to see the R/V TOMMY MUNRO. The target date appeared to be sometime in January or February with members objecting to Friday travel.

A. Kemmerer announced upcoming cooperative events under the MARFIN program -- a jointly conducted workshop on latent resources, a joint workshop to address TED issues and a kick-off red drum research conference.

J. Greenfield announced that the NMFS division of Market Research and Development will be losing at least 3 of 17 positions in FY87. The division will no longer be doing any market development work but will be supporting trade enhancement work.

The first day's session adjourned at 5:07 pm.

Friday, October 3, 1986

Chairman Tom Murray called the meeting to order at 8:37 am. D. Ekberg and T. Murray reported on a telephone conversation with Jean Martin-West concerning the red drum stock identification proposals. Some concern was expressed that it was not known if some of the proposed work would produce the expected results. It was decided that requests for stock identification work would be accommodated in the FY87 Federal Register solicitation.

Discussion of MARFIN Program Priorities

Possible second year funding of existing proposals meeting all criteria would appear to be 25% of estimated MARFIN funds available for FY87.

J. Greenfield initiated discussion on how NMFS projects should be handled in FY87. W. Swingle stated that before the monies available for competition can be published in the Federal Register solicitation, the PMB has to decide on the monies going to NMFS for FY87.

\* It was the consensus of the PMB that D. Ekberg write a letter advising NMFS to prepare proposals and budgets for FY87 within 30 days. These proposals should follow the same ground rules as for competitors and NMFS will be expected to prepare progress reports on the same basis.

NMFS will also be asked to produce final progress reports for FY86.

The NMFS proposals will be subjected to technical review outside NMFS to keep the competitive spirit. Technical reviewers will be decided on by the PMB on a project by project basis.

The MARFIN Program Recommendations of 4/3/86 were reviewed and updated for FY87. Discussion resulted in the following changes to project descriptions for the Federal Register solicitation notice.

**Shrimp** -- delete "inshore stock sampling"; change gear development description to "improve shrimp harvest methods"; add "production of domestic bait shrimp in controlled environments"; add "preparation of a synthesis of the literature on environmental parameters affecting shrimp production."

**Coastal Pelagics** -- broaden each category to include Spanish mackerel; add "fishing strategies to selectively harvest blue runner, little tunny and related species"; delete "non-party or charter boat" from determination of recreational fishing participation.

**Reef Fish** -- change "Gulf-wide" to "Florida coast" charter and party boat study; add "regulatory impact analyses"; add "identification of reef fish management units"; add "improved estimates of reef fish year-class strengths and harvest levels."

**Coastal Herrings** -- No changes recommended.

**Ocean Pelagics** -- No changes recommended.

**Marine Mollusks** -- No changes recommended.

**Crabs and Lobsters** -- replace "develop limited access system for spiny lobster fishery" with "provide for a limited access system for stone crab fishery."

**Bottomfish** -- change "access impact of TED" to "assess impact of trawl selectivity modifications on bottomfish stocks"; change "determine yield potentials and harvesting and processing requirements" to "determine yield potentials and stock assessment for Gulf butterfish"; add "assessment of International trade barriers for butterfish."

**Estuarine Fish** -- in item 2 the word exploration was corrected to read "exploitation"; add "fishery-independent sampling for red drum";

add "vessel support for fishery-independent surveys of offshore stocks of red drum"; add "social and economic analyses in support of fisheries management"; add "regulatory impact analysis"; add "determination of recreational fishing participation."

The category (10) "**Marine Mammals and Endangered Species** -- seasonal distribution and abundance of sea turtles in the Gulf" was added.

The category "**Menhaden** -- (1) economic enhancement of the products, (2) larval survival studies, (3) predator-prey relationships, (4) regulatory impact analysis" was added. It was the consensus of the PMB that this category be numbered "2" for consistency with the MARFIN document and subsequent categories renumbered.

**General** (renumbered 12) -- broaden to read "conduct social and economic research applicable to all Gulf of Mexico fisheries"; add "development of state of the art techniques for stock assessment."

#### General Discussion and Review

D. Ekberg informed the PMB that Washington had combined two FDNR proposals for red drum work (30K and 3K) into one.

Mechanisms for proposing and entertaining cooperative work were discussed at length. D. Ekberg suggested that NMFS publish an intent to enter into cooperative agreements with cooperators, listing what NMFS would do and what cooperators would do, and asking for cooperator proposals which would be evaluated on a competitive basis. It was the consensus of the PMB to let NMFS pursue -- not to pursue the issue as a PMB position. Kansas City has no problems with a cooperative approach spelled out in a proposal.

D. Ekberg will ask NMFS for names of potential reviewers for their proposals. NMFS proposals and FY86 progress reports will be circulated to PMB members for review.

D. Ekberg will revise the Federal Register solicitation notice and circulate to PMB members.

Appointment tenures to the PMB will be reviewed. Changes to minutes will be mailed in the GSMFC office.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.



## NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

## MARFIN FUNDING FOR FY 1986

Initial allocation		\$2,850.0K
Assessments: G-R-H	-\$123.0K	
Subtotal		\$2,727.0K
Commitments by Board:		
SEFC (Chapman)	\$ 600.0K	
(King mackerel)	62.0K	
(Red Drum)	150.0K	
SERO (Project Management)	74.8K	
(Economic Studies)	175.0K	
SC (Spiny Lobster)	45.0K	
GSMFC	64.8K	
States (LA - Red Drum)	5.0K	
(AL - Red Drum)	5.0K	
KCA Research (King mackerel)	22.7K	
Coop. agreements	\$1,522.7K	
Subtotal		\$2,727.0K
Balance		- 0 -

FEDNO	YR1	YR2	YR3	ORG	PI	PROPOSAL	PROG.OFF.
1-1	✓ \$24,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	LA W&F DEPT.	BOWMAN, SAVOIE, VANDEVENDER	LA-MS COOP SHRIMP MARK-RECAPTURE PROJECT	KLIMA
1-1	? \$16,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	MS WC DEPT.	BOWMAN, SAVOIE	LA-MS COOP SHRIMP MARK-RECAPTURE PROJECT	KLIMA
1-4	✓ \$50,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$30,000.00	TX A&M RES. FOUN.	GRIFFIN & MCCARL	SHRIMP FISHERIES MGT TO INCREASE ECONOMIC RETURNS	RAULERSON
1-5	? \$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	TX A&M RES. FOUN.	GRIFFIN	IMPACT OF TED IN THE GULF OF MEXICO	RAULERSON
1-5	2 0 \$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	G&SAFDFI	TOM MURRAY	EXPANDED INTRO. OF TED TO GULF SHRIMP FISHERIES	KEMMERER
2-1	✓ \$22,657.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	LA STATE UNIV.	BANE & RUSSELL	EXPANDED KING MACK. BIOPROFILE & CATCH/EFFORT DATA COLLECT/ANALY. IN LA	NAKAMURA
2-2	\$29,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	LA W&F DEPT.	CHATRY	KING MACK. TAGGING & MUSCLE TISSUE COLLECTION OFF THE LA COAST	NAKAMURA
2-2	\$50,001.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	MOTE MAR. LAB.	BURNS & FORTUNE	KING MACK. MIGRA./STOCK ASSESS. IN S GOM	NAKAMURA
2-5	\$56,348.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	U. OF FL	J. WALTER MILON	ESTIMATING REC. ANGLER PART. & ECON IMPACT IN THE GOM MACK. FISH.	JONES
2-5	<del>\$73,516.00</del>	<del>\$0.00</del>	<del>\$0.00</del>	<del>TX A&amp;M RES. FOUN.</del>	<del>DITTON &amp; STOLL</del>	<del>REC ANGLER PART. IN GOM KING MACK: VALUE OF RESOURCE &amp; SOCIO-ECO. IMPACTS</del>	<del>JONES</del>
3-2	<del>\$72,430.00</del>	<del>\$0.00</del>	<del>\$0.00</del>	<del>TX A&amp;M RES. FOUN.</del>	<del>DITTON &amp; STOLL</del>	<del>STRUCTURE &amp; ECON OF THE CHARTER/PARTY BOAT FLEETS OF TX, LA, MS &amp; AL</del>	<del>JONES</del>
4-0	\$97,338.00	\$101,432.00	\$101,433.00	LA STATE UNIV.	SHAW & SCHULTZ	FISH. IND. DATA ON COASTAL HERRINGS & ASSO. SPEC (MACK) FROM N. GOM	RICHARDS
4-1	\$130,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	G&SAFDFI	TOM MURRAY	JOINT VENTURE FOR COM. RSCH./DEV. OF FISHERY FOR COASTL HRGS & RLTD SPCS	GREENFIELD
7-1	\$162,498.00	\$158,518.00	\$0.00	U. OF FL	LINDBERG/BLAKE/PERRY/WALLER	FISH. DEV. OF DEEP-SEA GOLDEN CRAB; GEO & SEAS. PROD. IN GOM	KEMMERER
9-0	\$44,201.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	TX A&M RES. FOUN.	GIAMMONA & CRADDOCK	RELATIONSHIP OF FRESH-WATER INFLOW, COSTL WATER LEVEL & FISHERIES IN NW GOM	KLIMA
9-1	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	MS WC DEPT.	DEEGAN & MCILWAIN	LIFE HIST. & MIG. STUD. OF RED DRUM POPS IN MS	NELSON
9-1	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	LA W&F DEPT.	SHEPARD	RED DRUM TAGGING IN LA	NELSON
9-1	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	AL C&NR DEPT.	TATUM	AGE CLASS STRUC. OF EXPLOITED RED DRUM IN N/C GOM	NELSON
9-1	\$30,178.00	\$33,860.00	\$33,860.00	FL DNR	MURPHY & TAYLOR	TAG, RECAP, AND AGE VALIDATION FOR RED DRUM IN FL	NELSON
9-2	\$47,500.00	\$47,500.00	\$0.00	U. OF FL	PROCHASKA, DEGNER, ADAMS	ECON. ANAL. OF CHANGES IN THE PROD. & MKTG OF MUL./RED DRUM/SEA TROUT	VONDRUSKA
9-2	\$68,900.00	\$68,900.00	\$68,900.00	AL C&NR DEPT.	SWINGLE/TATUM/ET AL	ASS. OF MULLET LNDGS & ID OF ESS. POP INDICAT. & ECO DATA BASE OF MSY	CROSS
9-2	\$146,084.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	FL DNR	MAHMOUDI	POP. ASSESS. OF BLACK MULLET IN E GOM	CROSS
9-3	<del>\$55,000.00</del>	<del>\$55,000.00</del>	<del>\$55,000.00</del>	<del>LA W&amp;F DEPT.</del>	<del>CONDREY / Wilson</del>	<del>STOCK ASSESS. INFO NEEDED TO MNG RED DRUM IN LA AND IN FCZ</del>	<del>NELSON</del>
9-3	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	LA W&F DEPT.	BANE & RUSSELL	CATCH/EFFORT & BIOPROFILE SAMPLING OF COMM. LANDED RED DRUM IN LA	NELSON
9-4	\$25,000.00	\$31,994.00	\$31,994.00	LA W&F DEPT.	WILSON	AGE STRUCTURE & GROWTH RATES OF RED DRUM LANDED IN LA	NELSON
9-4	<u>\$7,000.00</u>	<u>\$7,000.00</u>	<u>\$7,000.00</u>	GSMFC	NIKKI BANE	COORD./PLNG/PROG.-RPTG ACTIV. OF THE STATE/FED PLAN FOR RED DRUM	NELSON
TOTALS	\$1,522,651	\$744,204	\$508,187				

MARFIN FUNDING FOR FY 1986  
IN K\$

USE	STATES						SEA GRANT					INDUSTRY	NMFS	
	FL	AL	MS	LA	TX	GSMFC	FL	AL-MS	LA	TX	NC		SEFC	SERO
RECEIVE	176.3	143.9	96.0	168.0	0.0	71.8	266.3	0.0	120.0	265.1	45.0	312.7	812.0	249.8
USE DIRECTLY	72.8	82.2	64.7	68.0	0.0	71.8	195.3	0.0	120.0	265.1	45.0	312.7	776.0	249.8
SUBCON-OUT	103.5	61.7	31.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	71.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.0	0.0
SUBCON-IN	0.0	6.0	77.0	0.0	16.0	0.0	56.3	61.7	93.0	0.0	0.0	93.5	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	72.8	88.2	141.7	68.0	16.0	71.8	208.6	61.7	213.0	265.1	45.0	406.2	776.0	249.8
GRAND TOTAL		458.5						836.4				406.2	1025.8	
PERCENT		16.8						30.7				14.9	37.6	

10/2/86

## MARFIN FUNDING ESTIMATE

FY 87

Senate           \$2.0M  
 House           \$3.5M  
 Conference      \$?M (probably \$2-3M)

		Funding Requirements
		K\$
G-R-H	(7%)	140-210
NMFS		
SERO		
Admin.		75
Econ. studies		75
SEFC		
Chapman		0- 600
Red Drum		85
King Mackerel		65
Fishery independent Red drum		?
G.S.M.F.C.		63
2nd yr,. of 2-3 yr. Projects		<u>744.2</u>
Total		1247.2 - 1917.2
Avail. for other competition		733 - 1083K

APPROVED BY:

*Shelby Steele*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 14, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, October 14, 1986  
New Orleans, LA

Phil Steele, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

The following members and guests were present:

Members:

Phil Steele, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Steve Heath, AMR, Dauphin Island, AL

Staff:

Dale Burgin, Secretary

Others:

Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA  
Lloyd Regier, NMFS, Charleston, SC  
Terry Scholar, NCMF, Washington, NC  
Charles Moss, Sea Grant Advisory Service, Angleton, TX  
John Supan, LA Marine Advisory Service, Covington, LA  
Donald Baltz, Center for Wetland Resources, Baton Rouge, LA  
Edwin A. Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL

Adoption of Agenda:

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, March 18, 1986 in  
Brownsville, TX were approved as written.

Potential for Regional Tagging Project:

H. Perry introduced John Supan, LA Marine Advisory Service and Don  
Baltz, Center for Wetland Resources, LSU, Baton Rouge and suggested that  
the Regional Tagging Project be discussed at this time. After much  
discussion on regional tagging, it was suggested that input be submitted  
by each state as to when and where to tag for pre-proposal for funding  
in January. It was decided that the state management people should  
write the project up cooperatively using the Crab Subcommittee through  
GSMFC for input in terms of when and where to tag and using the Advisory

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

-Page 2-

Services for personnel for tagging. P. Steele and H. Perry will coordinate project and report to the Subcommittee.

Progress of Crab Research by Each State:

ALABAMA:

S. Heath reported that Alabama is continuing with its monitoring and assessment program. Assessment and Monitoring Reports show landings were <sup>90%</sup>~~90%~~ better than last year. There are no other projects underway at this time.

MISSISSIPPI:

H. Perry reported Mississippi is continuing with its Monitoring and Assessment Program. Also, they are in the third year in the project of using intermolt crabs as a new source of product for the soft shell industry. Work is published in the Tropical/Subtropical - The Last Proceedings (Don R. Ward and Barbara A. Smith, eds.) and in the Annual Report in the Sea Grant Office. A graduate student is working on a cost-per-crab basis for the commercial system, ~~pending FDA approval.~~ <sup>delete</sup> Research on soft shell crabs will continue.

LOUISIANA:

V. Guillory reported on landings in Louisiana. Reports through June, 1986 show it has been a good year. Landings were 90% better than 1985 but not as good as 1984.

V. Guillory also reported on blue crab research being done in Louisiana. He is working on a project on using escape rings in blue crab traps. Research was done on small crabs in the upper Terrebonne and Timberlee Bay systems. He is experimenting with sizes, location and number of rings on each trap. Project should be complete next spring.

Research is also being done in Louisiana on abandoned traps, which will continue through next summer.

TEXAS:

C. Moss reported that crab landings in Texas are off 40%. However, 1986 has been a good year in Texas for soft shell crabs.

Other subjects addressed by C. Moss were:

- 1) Texas Parks and Wildlife has completed hearings on the Legislative and Mandated Shrimp and Oyster Plan which includes recommendations that will have an impact on the Texas crab industry. One recommendation is a limited bait license requested by the Gulf Shrimp industry, which would, in essence, reduce the number of boats catching crabs.
- 2) To obtain publication information from Texas Parks and Wildlife, you must first get approval from Charles Travis, Executive Director, TPWD, then with his approval, the requested information will be sent.
- 3) Copies of Stone Crab Regulations will be sent out by C. Moss.
- 4) There is to be no participation in the Geryon program in the western Gulf.
- 5) 1987-1989 Sea Grant Proposals are being reviewed and will be awarded on October 23, 1986.
- 6) Information from Florida was requested concerning trap violations. P. Steele reported that laws are being enforced and fines are being imposed, i.e., stone crab, blue crab and lobster traps.



FLORIDA:

P. Steele reported that the 3-year Population Dynamics Study Manuscript is completed and going to H. Perry and Willard VanEngle for review.

Tagging migration data has been completed and should be completed in about a year.

Stone crab research (report written by Dr. ~~Jane~~<sup>Jane</sup> Burke and read by Phil Steele) has been initiated in the waters off northwest Florida.

Three major aspects of research being done:

- 1) Comprehensive field survey of NW Florida population.
- 2) Laboratory determination of reproductive success of all forms.
- 3) Laboratory investigations of the effects of the parasite "octolasmis" upon the respiratory apparatus and successive reproductive success of the NW Florida crabs.

Geryon crabs - Population Dynamics and Feasibility Study of Geryon in Gulf (Dr. Norman Blake, University of South Florida, H. Perry, GCRL, and B. Lindberg, University of Florida) is underway with the first trapping cruise scheduled for March, 1987.

SEAMAP Plankton Sorting Report:

H. Perry reported on plankton sorting -- Progress is being made slowly, not as fast as had been expected. Ken Stuck will go back to Poland within 1½ years. The first year of data (1984), including portunids, xanthids, and Geryon larvae should be completed in 1987.

NMFS Fish-Line Blue Crab Report: Comments have been received by P. Steele. The report will be edited by same and again sent out for final comments by January and should be finalized shortly thereafter.

MARFIN-Geryon Research:

H. Perry reported the first organizational meeting is scheduled in November to set up sampling and plans are to be on water next spring and summer. This is a two year project moving along as scheduled.

NMFS Crab Profiles:

P. Steele and H. Perry reported that Proceedings of Soft Crab Symposium is in press at LSU. For more information, contact Harriet Perry.

Soft Shell Research:

H. Perry reported on subject of Soft Shell Research under the subject of Progress of Crab Research, Mississippi.

Election of New Chairman:

Chairman, Phil Steele, opened the floor to nominations. H. Perry requested that P. Steele remain as chairman with no objections.

Other Business:

H. Perry suggested that the subject of "saltboxes" be seriously addressed at a later date.

Vince Guillory will <sup>act as AIternate for</sup> replace Gerald Adkins as representative from Louisiana.

There being no other business, meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

*Gary Malock*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 14, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, October 14, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. The following members and guests were present:

Members

J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Barney Barrett, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Dick Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL  
Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
Ken Savastano, NMFS, NSTL, MS  
Buck Sutter, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Bill Richards, NMFS, Miami, FL  
Warren Stuntz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director  
Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant  
Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator  
Tom Van Devender, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

Karen Foote, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Walter R. Nelson, NMFS, Miami, FL  
Douglas S. Vaughn, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
Jack Pons, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
Churchill Grimes, NMFS, Panama City, FL  
Arvind Shah, USA, Pascagoula, MS  
Perry A. Thompson, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS  
I.B. Byrd, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL  
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Julius Collins, GMFMC, Brownsville, TX  
Bill Gordon, NOAA, Washington, DC  
Tee John Mialjevich, Concerned Shrimpers, Delcambre, LA  
Edwin Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
Joanne Shultz, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Clyde Richbourg, GSMFC (FL)  
John Ray Nelson, GSMFC (AL)  
Lou Villanova, USFWS, Atlanta, GA  
William "Corky" Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held Monday and Tuesday, August 25-26, 1986, in Mexico City, Mexico were reviewed and approved. As a matter of clarification, the Chairman noted that on page 9, motions attributed to the Chair were in fact requests for Subcommittee acceptance of work group recommendations. Minutes of the September 17, 1986 budget meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented.

Introductions

The Chairman introduced the new SEAMAP Coordinator, Tom Van Devender, to the Subcommittee and welcomed him aboard. Larry Simpson introduced Jack Pons, Special Assistant to Dr. Elton Gissendanner. Perry Thompson was recognized as Program Officer for SEAMAP Financial Assistance Awards.

Budget Report

Nikki Bane reported that as of September 30, 1986, an available balance of \$26,463 existed. The total cooperative agreement amount of \$100,000 included an additional \$7,000 reimbursement for participation in the Status and Trends Benthic Surveillance Project.

Publications Report

Nikki Bane presented the status of SEAMAP publications since the last meeting. The following were distributed to the Subcommittee:

- (1) 1986 Joint Annual Report for SEAMAP-Gulf and South Atlantic: additional copies mailed to the ASMFC.
- (2) 1986 Report to the TCC: Additional copies to be distributed at the TCC meeting and made available at the Commission's Executive Session.
- (3) 1984 Atlas: A total of 350 copies -- 100 more than the 1983 Atlas to be published. Copies to be distributed as delivered by the printer.
- (4) 1985 Atlas: Data Coordinating Work Group to meet in early 1987 to develop format and content for the large amount of data with recommendations to be made to the Subcommittee.  
Anticipated publication date: Fall 1987.

(5) Sciaenops: 550 copies of Vol. I, No. I distributed by mail-out. Will be published monthly, except March and September when semi-annual and annual reports will be prepared.

(6) Meeting Update Bulletin: mailed out in September to the people interested in upcoming SEAMAP meeting.

A list of four scientific papers and five presentations on SEAMAP during the past year by the Coordinator is contained in the 1986 TCC report (p. 59).

#### Status of FY87 Funds

A. Kemmerer was unable to attend the meeting; however L. Simpson stated that \$1 million for SEAMAP operations was identified in both the U.S. House and Senate budget bills. The Chairman noted that budget reduction amounts discussed at the September budget meeting presumably remained unchanged.

#### Status of FY87 Cooperative Agreements

P. Thompson reminded all cooperators that under FY86 Cooperative Agreements, final reports are due 90 days after the end of the agreement period.

Cooperators were urged to get FY87 documents in to P. Thompson as soon as possible to begin internal review, however FARB review will be held up until Congress passes a budget. The Chairman inquired as to whether the previous 90-day average review period could present problems. P. Thompson responded that once the documents reach Kansas City, an absolute minimum of three weeks was envisioned.

#### Review of SEAMAP-PESCA Meeting

The Chairman reported on a meeting held August 26, 1986, in Mexico City between members of SEAMAP-Gulf and South Atlantic and Senor Castro, Undersecretary of Fisheries for PESCA in which a number of grievances were aired.

Nikki Bane reported on the meetings the following day of the three study groups: red drum, king mackerel and ichthyoplankton/environmental

data. Discussion of the recommendations from the study groups, previously distributed to the Subcommittee, centered on the need for better exchange of data with PESCA. Accordingly, recommendations from the king mackerel study group were revised to place emphasis on information exchange.

\* It was the consensus of the Subcommittee that the recommendations with noted changes be submitted to the TCC for approval and submission to MEXUS-Gulf.

#### Review of 1986 Shipboard vs Laboratory Weight Variance Study

N. Bane and A. Shah reported on information collected by NMFS personnel aboard the OREGON II. A total of 97 samples was taken at 44 stations in June and July during the Shrimp/Groundfish Survey. Most samples were from areas west of the Mississippi River in order to collect information on samples weighing in excess of 20 pounds. After shipboard weighing, samples were frozen and sent to the NMFS Pascagoula Laboratory for laboratory weighing. The data, analyzed by A. Shah, indicated a lab weight 94% of the shipboard weight, plus or minus a scale calibration factor.

After discussion concerning water loss during freezing/thawing, a 6% variation between shipboard and lab weights was found to be an acceptable level to the Subcommittee.

#### Review of All 1985 Shrimp/Groundfish Pilot Study

A. Shah presented a report on the comparative study of 40-ft vs 20-ft trawl nets and day vs night catches conducted jointly by NMFS and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Analysis of the data continues, however preliminary findings indicate a great deal of variance between day/night catches, possibly due to the small number of shrimp taken in samples.

Following the mid-morning break, the Chairman noted that at the last meeting of the Subcommittee, it was recommended that a Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group meeting be convened prior to the fall survey. Since the work group had not met, discussion centered on problems associated with survey design and allocation of available resources.

Due to the short lead time before the fall survey, S. Nichols recommended that an ad hoc group meet to iron out random station location problems voiced by D. Waller. Others concerns over shrimp/groundfish survey design, roles of the participants and goals of the surveys were deemed high priority items in need of discussion by the Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group.

\* D. Waller moved that a Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group meeting be held in conjunction with the January meeting of the Subcommittee. A. Huff seconded. Discussion on the availability of funding followed; however the importance of such a meeting was stressed. The motion passed unanimously.

### Work Group Reports

#### Plankton Work Group

B. Richards reported on the meeting of the Plankton Work Group held on Monday, October 13, 1986. Several changes in ichthyoplankton sorting protocol were recommended to insure timely sorting of samples for the year, September 1986-August 1987:

- aliquot by 1/2 those inshore samples of greater than 100 ml displacement volume
- sorting 1/4 aliquots for fish eggs
- after sorting and quality control checks, the material will be re-combined
- sorting of eight selected families below family level; others sorted to family only
- all samples will be split with a Folsom plankton splitter, to be supplied to the Polish Sorting Center.

Invertebrate protocols and plans were distributed. It was noted by B. Richards that the lists of taxa to be sorted are those recommended by the Subcommittee, and any differences simply reflect recent taxonomic changes. The work group seeks input from interested parties for species, areas and seasons for sorting from 1985 samples. These ideas should be directed to the SEAMAP Coordinator or to Harriet Perry at GCRL.



Requests for material from backup samples will be treated under standard procedures already in place; however, material could be on a long-term loan. Final disposition would remain with the SEAMAP Archivists. Identifications from backup samples would be requested in a timely manner.

Problems with increasing numbers of samples resulting from increased Gulf surveys and upcoming South Atlantic plankton surveys were discussed. Long-range solution of this problem and funding allocations were identified as topics for a future joint Gulf-South Atlantic Plankton Work Group meeting.

\* A. Huff moved to accept the Plankton Work Group report. The motion carried.

#### Environmental Data Work Group

W. Stuntz reported that since the August meeting little action had been taken, due to red drum priorities placed on personnel at the Pascagoula Laboratory. Chlorophyll and salinity data continue to lag, but a tracking system for these samples has been initiated.

N. Bane stated that environmental data is now available in the 1984 Atlas, Table 1, as requested by the Subcommittee. The effort to track down data "holes" and edit the data will increase as the volume of data entered into the system grows, however preparation of the Atlas does provide a final edit for SEAMAP data.

\* A. Huff moved to accept the Environmental Data Work Group report. The motion carried with no discussion.

#### Red Drum Work Group

\* T. McIlwain noted that a fair amount of interest in red drum research around the Gulf had developed recently. After announcement of the Secretary of Commerce's emergency regulations for red drum, the work group met and identified areas where there was a lack of data in three broad categories: stock identification, stock assessment and age and growth. A number of discrete projects were put together addressing data needs in these three areas, as well as fishery-independent assessment development and project coordination, and submitted to the MARFIN Board for funding. Preliminary results from these projects were to be

presented at the State-Federal Cooperative Program for Red Drum Research following the SEAMAP meeting. The Subcommittee was cordially invited to attend. D. Waller moved to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Squid/Butterfish Work

B. Sutter reported that the specific recommendations presented at the last meeting by the work group remained unchanged. A new study initiated by Chris Gledhill and B. Sutter will examine squid/butterfish cruise data to update MSY and biomass estimates of butterfish and other latent resources. A gear comparison study between the CHAPMAN and TOMMY MUNRO is to be conducted in April 1987 with tow direction, depth and other factors examined. A work group meeting in January will finalize plans for the April cruise.

\* D. Waller moved to accept the report. The motion passed.

#### Data Coordinating Work Group

K. Savastano reported that few changes had taken place since the August meeting. He noted that the System Design Study had been taken over by a new contractor, Sverdrup Technology Inc., and a final draft of the requirements document -- phase I of the contract -- was due out soon. Phase II, the system design, was scheduled for completion in December, or January 1987.

The Cruise Optimization System has been completed by the contractor and turned over to NMFS for testing.

\* Editing and processing of 1985 and 1986 SEAMAP data has slowed due to higher priorities placed on NMFS personnel, as noted by W. Stuntz. Also edited data from some of the states was lacking. A. Huff moved to accept the report. The motion passed.

#### Other Business

B. Richard and H. Perry requested Subcommittee approval of a proposal to aid in the sorting of invertebrates from SEAMAP samples at the Polish Sorting Center. H. Perry noted that with further instruction, sorters at the PSC could identify invertebrates from previously approved families to the lowest possible taxon and improve the quality and timeliness of SEAMAP plankton data.

\* After a short discussion, the Chairman noted that GCRL should develop the proposal for submission to the MARFIN Board. D. Waller moved that the Subcommittee endorse the concept of GCRL soliciting MARFIN funding to send the SIPAC curator to the Polish Sorting Center. A. Huff seconded and the motion passed.

In closing remarks, the Chairman advised that it was rapidly approaching time for planning FY88 activities. Participants were asked to carefully consider the resources available and the importance and costs of the various activities.

The Chairman strongly urged that at the January meeting members give consideration to a program review in order to bring the Subcommittee's actions back into focus.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC STATISTICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 14, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

TCC STATISTICAL SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, October 14, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman Henry G. "Skip" Lazauski called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Henry G. "Skip" Lazauski, AMR, Dauphin Island, AL  
Frank "Stu" Kennedy, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Claude Boudreaux, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Albert Jones, NMFS, Miami, FL (proxy for H. Prytherch)

Staff

Eileen M. Benton, Staff Assistant

Others

Thomas Dawley, NMFS, New Orleans, LA  
B.G. Thompson, NMFS, Washington, DC

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of a discussion on Black Drum Landings in the Gulf of Mexico.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Brownsville, Texas, on Monday, March 17, 1986 were approved as written.

Report on Tampa Workshop

H. Lazauski reported he felt the Tampa workshop was highly productive with numerous data entry, editing and retrieval problems solved, or brought closer to solution. He commended Stu Kennedy for the fine coordination of the workshop.

A discussion was held concerning the possibility of conducting another workshop to be held in conjunction with the State-Federal Workshop held each June.

It was the consensus of the Subcommittee to appoint an organizing committee (membership: South Atlantic representative, Gulf State representative, NMFS representative) to prepare a preliminary agenda for the workshop noting that the agenda should be as flexible as possible.

State Reports on Statistics Projects

Florida. S. Kennedy reported that the trip ticket system programming was completed last November on the mainframe. He noted that 1 million species records have been generated in about 500,000 trips. They are currently in the process of editing March 1986 data. S. Kennedy also noted that the only problem with the trip ticket system is that it taxes people and storage space on the mainframe.

S. Kennedy also reported that the State has 90% compliance in the weights and total catch of species. However, if dealers do not report on time the legal procedure begins as follows:

- 1 month late - Letter from Florida Dept. of Natural Resources
- 2 months late - Law enforcement fines the dealer
- 3 months late - Process of court action on revoking license is begun.

Louisiana. C. Boudreaux reported that the State of Louisiana is continuing the same projects as last year. He noted that LSU receives money from the cooperative agreement and that they are currently looking at catch fishery statistics on black drum and striped mullet.

\* Alabama. H. Lazauski reported that the State of Alabama is continuing their general landings study. He noted that the TIP (Trip Interview Program) is going well, and noted that they have a 3-6 hour turnaround on entry and verification of data.

Mississippi. T. Dawley noted that the State of Mississippi statistical projects are very similar to Alabama. Mississippi anticipates receiving their PC-AT from NMFS by mid-January.

NMFS Reports on:

Cooperative Agreements

A. Jones reported that he hopes to have all cooperative agreements completed by the end of November. He also stated that funding levels should be the same as in FY1986. Priorities for FY1987 include providing real-time information and the study of new and critical fisheries.

Data Management

A. Jones reported on Data Management activities for FY1987 including:

- (a) Moving statistical files from Seattle to the Burroughs computer in Miami

- (b) Working toward a master Statistical Data Base Management System
- (c) Emphasis on the Trip Interview Program
- (d) Provide Mississippi and Louisiana with microcomputers

Discussion on Forming IBM PC-AT Users Group

H. Lazauski again noted the need for planning of a one-half to full day workshop to be held in conjunction with the State-Federal Workshop in June. The Subcommittee agreed that this workshop should continue on an annual basis.

A. Jones reported that there is going to be an FAO Workshop entitled, "Use of Microcomputers in Fisheries" to be held in Trinidad the week of November 17.

\* It was the consensus of the Subcommittee to request funding through the Technical Coordinating Committee to sponsor H. Lazauski's attendance at the FAO workshop.

MARFIN Project Discussion by State

Florida. S. Kennedy reported that the State of Florida has three funded projects as follows:

- (1) Kingfish - Study of recreational fishing records
- (2) Red Drum - Includes tagging red drum in the Gulf of Mexico
- (3) Mullet - Conduct mortality studies, age and growth, etc.

Louisiana. C. Boudreaux reported that the State of Louisiana has six projects as follows:

- (1) Brown Shrimp - (in conjunction with the State of Mississippi) includes tagging shrimp east of the Mississippi River
- (2) King Mackerel - tagging off southeast Louisiana - collect tissue samples
- (3) Red Drum - four projects
  - Tag red drum

Three red drum projects through LSU

- Catch effort
- Age and growth
- Stock assessment

Alabama. H. Lazauski reported that the State of Alabama has completed two emergency projects as follows:

- (1) Red Drum - Study on purse seine landings
- (2) King Mackerel - Collected and sent heads to NMFS-Panama City Laboratory for age and growth studies

H. Lazauski also reported that the State has two additional projects:

- (1) Red Drum - contracts with Sea Grant (field measuring) and Auburn University (electrophoresis and otoliths)
- (2) Mullet - catch effort, growth, etc.

Black Drum Landings in the Gulf of Mexico

H. Lazauski noted that he has been looking into the landings of black drum in the State of Alabama. He stated he felt black drum landings could be a potential problem and requested that the other States research their landings.

Other Business

A discussion was held regarding establishing a formal written policy of NMFS position on confidentiality laws.

\* After discussion, it was the consensus of the subcommittee for A. Jones to write an informal statement on the confidentiality arrangement.

The Subcommittee noted the following actions from the March meeting in Brownsville were still pending:

A. Green's report on proprietary data.

M. Ferguson made the motion to ask the National Recreational Statistics Review Committee to look at how they should calculate for standard error.

H. Lazauski requested that M. Ferguson draft letter to the Committee, circulate to the Subcommittee for review and then submit the letter for formal reply.



Any suggestions and ideas to improve the National Recreational Survey should be sent directly to the Statistics Review Committee. "M. Ferguson suggested combining the standard error issue and this issue in one letter. The Subcommittee agreed, and H. Lazauski requested that members submit suggestions to M. Ferguson to be incorporated in the standard error letter, and in the future, members should submit suggestions on a semi-annual basis to the Chairman."

H. Lazauski stated that he would contact A. Green and M. Ferguson to get status and will report to the Subcommittee at the March meeting in Biloxi.

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

APPROVED BY:

*Jim Gilmore*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 15, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, October 15, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman Bob Jones called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association  
Clyde Richbourg, Commissioner, GSMFC  
Tee John Mialjevich, Concerned Shrimpers Association  
Leroy Kiffe, Commissioner, GSMFC  
John Ray Nelson, Bon Secour Fisheries, Inc.  
Charles H. Lyles, Louisiana Shrimp Association  
Ralph Rayburn, Texas Shrimp Association  
Bill Chauvin, American Shrimp Processors Association  
Jerry Sansom, Organized Fishermen of Florida  
Jim Gilmore, National Fisheries Institute

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director  
Eileen M. Benton, Staff Assistant

Others

Sonny Bosworth, Texas Shrimp Association  
Marshall Hartley, Coral S&H Seafoods  
Tony Agee, Agee Shrimp Company  
Victor Hatton, Standard Marine Supply  
Larry Foltz, Morgan Shrimp  
Stacy Powell, King Shrimp Company  
Freeman R. Bateman, Capt. Cliff's Seafood, Inc.  
Larry Cotter, Juneau, AK  
Rick Wallace, Alabama Sea Grant  
Joe Moore, Joe's Seafood Company  
Elton Greenberg, Counsel for Gulf & South Atlantic Fisheries  
Development Foundation  
Lloyd Regier, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Borden Wallace, Wallace-Menhaden Products, Inc.  
Philip Bowman, Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Dick Berry, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Jack Brawner, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Margie Grunest, Texas Shrimp Association  
Julius Collins, Texas Shrimp Association  
David Eymard, Texas Shrimp Association  
Carol Eymard, Brownsville, Texas  
J. Alan Huff, Florida Dept. of Natural Resources  
Edwin A. Joseph, Florida Dept. of Natural Resources  
Walter Nelson, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Don Leedy, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Elton Gissendanner, Florida Dept. of Natural Resources  
Sam Mitchell, Commissioner, GSMFC

Others (continued)

M.G. Mitchell, Florida  
Curtis Blume, IND  
I.B. Byrd, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Jack Pons, Florida Dept. of Natural Resources  
Joan Butler, Organized Fishermen of Florida  
Corky Perret, Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Harlon Pearce, Harlon's Seafood  
Jerald Horst, LSU Extension Service  
Will Seidel, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Richard Healy, Florida Marine Patrol  
Chris Ruiz, Chris's Net Shop  
Wilma Anderson, Texas Shrimp Association  
Edith F. McClure, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Larry Oger, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Polly Mirkovich, Texas Shrimp Association  
Lawrence Shafer, SERA  
Deyaun Boudreaux, Texas Shrimp Association/TEC  
Phil Youngberer, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Ed Smith, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Richard Condrey, Louisiana State University

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Brownsville, Texas, Tuesday, March 18, 1986 were adopted as written.

TED - The Current Situation

E. Greenberg, Counsel for Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation, gave a history and status report on the sea turtle issue. The following topics were discussed:

1973 - Proposal to list loggerhead and green sea turtles under the Endangered Species Act.

July 1978 - List loggerhead and green sea turtles as threatened. NMFS issued regulations to conserve sea turtles, however no gear requirements were proposed. NMFS stated that their ultimate objective was to promulgate regulations requiring excluder panels.

1978-Present -- \$3.5 million provided by the Federal Government to develop a Trawling Efficiency Device (TED).

August 1983 - NMFS issued Federal Register Notice describing program -- also issued an environmental assessment document describing

nature and scope of NMFS turtle program. At this time, NMFS also developed a TED that was 97% effective and would not result in any significant reduction of shrimp catch.

Summer 1985 - NMFS Technical Memorandum distributed describing all the characteristics of the TED.

November 1985 - Meeting with Gulf Shrimp Industry Roundtable and representatives from the environmental community. The meeting did not produce any results (no agreements).

End of 1985 - 50 collapsible TEDs were distributed.

August 1986 - Center for Environmental Education writes letter to Federal Government stating violation of endangered species law; 60 days to correct before suit. Letter stated: (1) that NMFS violated both the Endangered Species Act and the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA); and (2) that NMFS should ban shrimping altogether or impose a TED requirement throughout the Gulf and South Atlantic. E. Greenberg felt that this letter was prompted by reports of larger numbers of Kemps Ridley strandings, particularly in Texas over the past 18 months. He also felt that this was a very important issue that needed to be addressed (association of strandings and shrimpers).

August 1986 - Tony Calio, Administrator, NOAA, convened meeting with both representatives of the environmental community and industry. Dr. Calio announced at that meeting that they would proceed down the track of proposing some mandatory gear requirements under the Endangered Species Act. These gear requirements would affect vessels larger than 40 feet (approximately 6,000 vessels Gulf-wide). The initial proposal at this meeting would be that TEDS would be required in four areas by Spring 1987. These areas were (1) off coast of Cape Canaveral in the South Atlantic, (2) area of east Texas and western Louisiana, (3) Aransas Bay, and (4) offshore Padre Island in Texas. However, the precise areas were not defined. It was also stated that regulations would be proposed in November 1986 with a goal of final regulations promulgated by April or May 1987. The basis for the Administrator's proposal was basically found in statistics that have been developed by NMFS on turtle mortality. The discussion at the August meeting resulted in Dr. Calio contacting representatives of both the environmental community and industry to request that they 1) address the nature of the

problem and 2) resolve the problem through mediation in a manner that would be satisfactory to the shrimp industry and to the environmental community. However, if this mediation process would not solve the problem, then the Administrator would promulgate regulations.

Regulations process - (1) Agency proposes a regulation; (2) everyone has an opportunity to comment on that regulation; (3) public hearing held in the areas which are going to be affected; and (4) promulgation of a final rule.

Fines - E. Greenberg noted that the Endangered Species Act has a provision that relates to penalties and enforcement that allows civil penalties to be assessed up to \$10,000 for each violation, and also has provision with respect to criminal violations (which allows fines up to \$20,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year or both).

\* After lengthy discussions, it was the consensus of the Committee to recommend attendance at the framework meetings of the mediation process.

#### Secretary of Commerce Red Drum Management Plan

L. Simpson gave a background on the red drum issue:

Congressman Breaux introduced legislation calling for emergency action to be implemented under the authority of the MFCMA. Subsequent action by the Dept. of Commerce was to take action to have a 90-day emergency regulation put in place which required a 1-million pound quota for the FCZ, reporting requirements, and permits be imposed on commercial net fishing in the FCZ. The quota was filled and a second 90-day emergency rule was then put in place after concurrence of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council without additional commercial quotas. L. Simpson also noted that there are currently public hearings and the Secretary of Commerce's Federal Management Plan will take effect on or about December 22 when the second 90-day emergency action terminates.

L. Simpson noted the following significant points regarding the Secretary's Plan:

- (1) No commercial take of red drum from the FCZ (first year), but 1 million pounds be allocated to a scientific program to assess the red drum population.

- (2) Establishment of a mechanism to get a yearly commercial quota allowed to be harvested from the FCZ.
- (3) No at-sea sales or transfers.
- (4) Recreational harvest in the FCZ will be limited to the level of harvest allowed by existing State laws and regulations.
- (5) State laws and regulations prohibiting landing of purse seine caught red drum would be superceded.
- (6) Major scientific resource assessment program to answer the many data gaps for red drum.

L. Simpson stated that to address Item 6 (above), the Commission's Red Drum Work Group developed a cooperative State-Federal program for red drum research which was submitted and approved for funding by MARFIN. This research is a cooperative effort which includes university, federal agency and state agency work. The studies basically began October 1 and L. Simpson felt that when more studies have been completed, the Secretary's Plan could then be modified. He also noted that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has taken action to develop a management plan for red drum or modify the Secretary of Commerce's Management Plan that could or will replace the Secretary's Plan.

H. Pierce, member of for the Council's Advisory Panel, reviewed the Council's procedure for looking at the red drum issue as follows:

- (1) Problem of state right versus federal right in intervention of States laws and regulations. (Need for uniformity in a plan.)
- (2) Bycatch problem - went along with Secretary's Plan.
- (3) 1 - million pound research situation -- no serious problem with quota, however fish taken should be put in the commercial market to help fund research unless funds would be provided from another source.

H. Pierce also noted that the Panel had a consensus on the following points:

- (1) Problem exists
- (2) Need for some type of management plan
- (3) Need a uniformity of laws that would regulate fishery in both State and Federal waters
- (3) Both the recreational and commercial representatives were ready to sacrifice to make the resource work.

R. Condrey reported that the Council's Scientific and Statistical committee reviewed the Secretarial Plan and the documents prepared by NMFS.

- (1) Supported work, specifically being done at the NMFS-Miami Laboratory, to study stock assessment. Critical problem was identified as a long-term concern over a decline in the spawning biomass which related to heavy inshore fishing in all the Gulf States on the juvenile red drum. The fishery, contrary to the Secretarial Plan, was not in Optimum Yield but related to existing management strategies within the States' waters.

R. Condrey also noted that the committee felt that the species is overfished. Yield-per-recruit in the fishery would be maximized if the fish were harvested at 32", at which time they would be in the FCZ largely unavailable in traditional inshore fisheries. He also stated the dramatic increase in yield that could be afforded by moving the States towards a larger minimum size. He concluded that spawning and recruitment failure was likely in any of the Gulf States, especially in Louisiana.

#### The Council System

C. Lyles noted that he felt that there was not any other option that could replace the present system and do away with politics. However, he suggested that the commercial sector become more organized and involved in the Council.

E. Greenberg noted that amendments to the MFCMA include fair representation on the Council. The Secretary would insure to the extent practicable fair appointment of active participants in the fisheries in making appointments to the Council. He would be required to consult with representatives of the commercial and recreational fishing interests before he makes the appointments. Furthermore, the law would specify that the Secretary take action to insure to the extent practicable that those persons who are dependent for their livelihood upon fisheries be fairly represented as voting members of the regional fisheries management councils.

The Council system was further discussed, however no action was taken.



Election of New Chairman

\* The Committee unanimously elected Jim Gilmore, National Fisheries Institute, as the new Chairman.

Other Business

Artificial Reef Program

B. Wallace reported that Louisiana has enacted legislation which establishes a state reef program which acts in conjunction with the federal program. He stated that they are currently in the process of establishing reef sites and emphasized the need for input in selecting these sites.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

*Donald K. Wall*  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 15, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, October 15, 1986  
New Orleans, LA

Chairman Jerald K. Waller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following members and guests were present:

Members:

Col. D. N. Ellingsen, FMP, Tallahassee, FL  
Chief Jerry Gollott, MBMR, Long Beach, MS  
Col. Ray Montet, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Capt. Carl Covert, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Maj. Jerald K. Waller, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL  
Maj. Tommy H. Candies, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Staff:

Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant

Others:

Richard L. Healy, FMP, Tallahassee, FL  
Wayne Harrington, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Frank Richardson, USFW, Atlanta, GA  
Elton Gissendanner, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
John Ray Nelson, Bon Secour Fisheries, Bon Secour, AL  
Sam Mitchell, FL Legislator, Chipley, FL  
Henry Lazauski, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL  
Edith McClure, NMFS, Washington, DC  
Ron Schmied, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held in Kissimmee, FL in October, 1985 and in Brownsville, TX in March, 1986 were adopted as presented.

Election of New Chairman

\* R. Montet nominated J. Waller chairman for 1986-87. J. Gollott seconded. J. Waller was elected unanimously.

Report - ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee

D. Ellingsen reported that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Law Enforcement Committee had met on October 7, 1986. Major topics discussed were Federal regulations on Striped Bass; the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 (CCCA of 1984); amendments to the FCMA; search and seizure; and, vessel license operations.

\* D. Ellingsen stated that the U.S. Justice Department is currently determining if the CCCA of 1984 includes the Departments of Interior and Commerce. If a negative decision results, he recommended that a resolution (or letter) be prepared and sent to appropriate agencies, requesting that they be included in the Act. This would permit any proceeds from joint enforcement cases under the CCCA of 1984 to be shared with the agencies involved. All members present agreed that D. Ellingsen's recommendation be presented to the Commissioners for action.

\* D. Ellingsen also recommended that the Law Enforcement Committee request the Commission send a resolution (or letter) to appropriate persons supporting amendments to the MFCMA to include a Law Enforcement Advisory Committee with enforcement representatives from each State, U.S. Coast Guard and National Marine Fisheries Service, that the intent and purpose be clearly defined and that such a group would be involved in the development of enforceable regulations prior to FMP approval. The members agreed to this recommendation.

#### Red Drum Emergency Regulations

C. Covert stated that he was currently involved with committees addressing the NOAA Management Study on Red Drum. He reported that the State of Texas had several problems with the Secretary of Commerce's FMP on Red Drum. They are opposed to the landing regulations and the proposed tagging operation (the taking of 1 million pounds to finance the tagging operation). All members present agreed that enforcement problems will occur due to conflicting State and Federal laws.

\* R. Montet motioned to request the Commission to go on record as not supporting preempting State landing and possession laws because of foreseen law enforcement problems. D. Ellingsen seconded. The motion passed with Alabama and NMFS members abstaining.

Report - Summary of Gulf Regulations

The drafts from the States of Alabama, Texas, Louisiana and Florida were reviewed. Drafts for Mississippi and NMFS will be sent out as soon as they are finalized by Commission staff. The summary will be by State and by species in the final document which will also include coastal maps and names and telephone numbers for contact personnel. When final revisions are made on each segment, a complete draft will be sent to all members prior to final publication. Since all expenses will be from Commission funds, it is understood that a simple but convenient format will be utilized. An annual update of each segment will begin in September of each year with the update completed by the end of November depending on the amount of changes necessary.

Other business

It was the consensus of those present that when possible the Law Enforcement Committee will meet with Gulf Council Law Enforcement Advisory Groups. It was also a consensus that in the event of joint meetings an additional meeting will be held at that time for the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Law Enforcement Committee only.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Additional informal discussions took place after lunch.

APPROVED BY:



COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 15, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, October 15, 1986  
New Orleans, LA

Chairman Fred Deegan called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The following persons were in attendance:

Members

Fred Deegan, MBR, Long Beach, MS  
Walter Tatum, AMRD, Dauphin Island, AL  
Ron Schmied, NMFS, SERO, St. Petersburg, FL  
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Villere C. Reggio, MMS, Metairie, LA  
Michael Leech, IGFA, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Frank Richardson, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

Staff

Dale Burgin, Secretary

Others

Brad Durling, GCCA, Lillian, AL  
Richard Condrey, CWR, Baton Rouge, LA  
Skip Lazauski, AMRD, Dauphin Island, AL  
Jerry Sansom, OFOF, Melbourne, FL  
Julius Collins, Collins Trawlers, Brownsville, TX  
Tommy Candies, LDWF, Des Allemande, LA

Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held in Brownsville, Texas were approved as written.

Alabama Update

W. Tatum and S. Lazauski of Alabama reported that the third year of the states recreational creel survey is underway. Primarily targeted for Spanish and king Mackerel, flounder, and spotted seatrout, the survey is fragmented into four strata -- bunk, boat, marina and pier fishing.

W. Tatum also reported that an area off Alabama has been designated for the construction of fishing reefs. Another joint effort between the

State of Alabama and the Gulf Coast Conservation Association (GCCA) will result in the construction of trolling alleys for recreational fishermen. The effect of these fish attractants on stressed populations such as king Mackerel was discussed at length, and an apparent need for further investigation seemed evident. Among Alabama's Wallop/Breaux projects, the stocking of some 11,000 tagged spotted seatrout is, in the opinion of F. Deegan, most commendable. Alabama has also constructed or renovated several boat ramps utilizing D/J funds, including one at Cotton Bayou.

Mississippi Update

F. Deegan reported that Mississippi Wallop/Breaux projects - a pier and several boat ramps - have had difficulty in gaining approval. These projects involve several sources of federal funding and reconciliation among them has resulted in considerable delays. F. Deegan also reported that there may be an impending change in the State's regulations pertaining to red drum and spotted seatrout. In order to provide for the 20% increase in escapement of red drum requested by the Gulf Council, the Division of Saltwater Fisheries will recommend a minimum size limit of 14" for that species where none currently exists. Additionally, a 14" minimum size limit for Spotted Seatrout will be recommended. In each case, considerable evidence appears to exist to support these management measures. R. Condrey went on to point out that a sociologically acceptable solution to attaining the 20% escapement figure might not be possible, but that the National Recreational Fishing Survey provides sufficient inshore fishing mortality data to estimate an appropriate size limit to ensure 20% escapement. Considerable discussion of size limits in general ensued.



Louisiana

H. Schafer reported that the recent legislative package resulted in a reduction of license types from 120 to 40. In addition, the Finfish Section of Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries has completed its first year of sampling and was also evaluating the 1984 census survey data. H. Schafer also stated that the state's Rigs to Reef Project was currently searching for candidate sites for reefs. Wallop/Breaux funds in Louisiana would, among other things, be utilized for increasing recreational fisheries sampling efforts and funding the Rigs to Reef Program.

F. Richardson reported on the Fish and Wildlife Service Budget, indicating that much of the hatchery funds had been restored. In addition, he indicated that Anadromous Fish Funds (approximately 1.5 million dollars), Federal Aid Administration funds have been restored. The Farm Pond Stocking Program, however, is in its final stages.

Florida Update

R. Schmied reminded the group that comments on the Red Drum Plan were due by November 8th. Via handout and discussion, he informed the committee that most of the MARFIN S-K Funds, and other projects had gained approval. R. Schmied also informed the committee of several upcoming meetings and programs.

Election of New Chairman

\* The Committee unanimously elected Gary Saul, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, as the new Chairman for 1986-87.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

APPROVED BY:

  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

GS-FFMB MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 15, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

GS-FFMB MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, October 15, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman John Merriner called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The following were in attendance:

Members

John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
W. Borden Wallace, Wallace Menhaden Products, Inc., Mandeville, LA  
William C. Lunsford, Zapata-Haynie Corp., Timonium, MD  
Walter Tatum, AMRD, Gulf Shores, AL

Staff

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

Others

Douglas Vaughan, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA  
David Etzold, USM, Hattiesburg, MS  
Clyde Richbourg, GSMFC, Pace, FL  
Don Leedy, NMFS, Washington, DC  
Melissa W. Smith, USDOE/SPR, New Orleans, LA  
Lloyd Regier, NMFS, Charleston, SC  
Dick Berry, NMFS, Miami, FL  
Jim Gilmore, NFM&OA, Washington, DC  
Jack Styron, Wallace Menhaden Products, Inc., Mandeville, LA  
Ed Swindell, Zapata-Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA  
W.S. "Corky" Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
Elton Gissendanner, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
Virginia Van Sickle, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Richard Condrey, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA  
Bill Gordon, NOAA, Washington, DC

Adoption of Agenda

One item, Update on oil research and GRAS petition by Lloyd Regier, was added to follow item 8. The agenda was adopted as amended.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, March 18, 1986 in Brownsville, Texas were adopted as written.

Gulf Fishery Status and Season Update

J. Merriner reported landings in the eastern Gulf through September 30, 1986 were down somewhat from the same period in 1985 but about equal to average landings for the area for the past 5 years; landings in the central Gulf were slightly ahead from the same period in 1985 but considerably less than the 5-year average for the area; and landings in the western Gulf were slightly down from the same period in 1985 but significantly ahead of the area's 5-year average. Total purse seine landings through September 30, 1986 for the Gulf amount to approximately 789,000 mt.

If landings in October 1986 approximate the past 5-year average for October of 54,000 mt, total landings for the Gulf are projected to be about 842,000 mt. This would be the fifth largest Gulf menhaden catch on record and the fifth year the catch has exceeded 800,000 mt.

Dr. Merriner also reported a reversal of age trends in catches for 1986 with age-2s predominating (64%) and age-1s representing about 33%. It is difficult to judge the strength of the 1985 year class at this point. Hopefully both the 1985 and 1986 year classes will prove better than average.

A total of 6,591 CDFRs from the Gulf fleet have been received at Beaufort. 1981 CDFRs on computer tape have been provided to NMFS by LSU. 1983 and 1984 CDFRs are available on computer file in unedited form.

1986 Stock Assessment Report Discussion

D. Vaughan briefly reviewed the abstract of the 1986 stock assessment studies which had been previously mailed to members. He invited any comments or questions on the report as well as on any other reports from the Beaufort lab.

Status Report on Menhaden Surimi Plant

B. Lunsford distributed the September 1986 project status report of the Zapata Haynie Corp. for the government contract to produce a minimum of 41 tons of surimi from menhaden and to complete various other production runs. He reported the major portion of construction was completed and one fishing vessel is being specially equipped to deliver food-grade menhaden to the surimi plant.

To assure an effective communication network, Zapata established a Technical Advisory Committee and an Industry Committee. Both will meet several times during the course of the project and each member of the industry is urged to attend all of the upcoming meetings. Requests for product samples, information and plant visits (by qualified visitors) should be addressed to the Project Manager, Surimi Project, Zapata Haynie Corp., P.O. Box 198, Reedville, VA 22539 (804/453-4211).

Update on Oil Research and GRAS Petition

L. Regier informed members that the petition for GRAS (generally regarded as safe), along with 1 ton of backup material, for menhaden oil had been filed with the FDA in June and filed on registers in July. The period for general comment ended in September and the Secretary of Commerce has suggested that the petition be approved as soon as possible.

NMFS Charleston Lab will begin construction on a pilot plant to produce test materials for fish oil biomedical research. The approach is to produce menhaden oil as a test material of known composition and assured quality and the second level of product will be concentrates with higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids.

Testing Surplus Production Model with Pre-MSY Data From Searching Fisheries

R. Condrey presented a few slides and brief report on his recently completed research. In summary, Dr. Condrey said he felt using the CDFR information gave a much better indication of where the menhaden fishery

is and searching time is a very sensitive index of stock abundance which will be useful in monitoring the fishery.

#### Louisiana's Artificial Reef Program

V. Van Sickle described the new Louisiana artificial reef program brought about by the Louisiana Fishing Enhancement Act. She stated they are currently in the process of establishing reef sites and are seeking input in the exclusion mapping and selection process. The Artificial Reef Council meets every two months; Zapata may send a representative to the meetings.

#### Predator-Prey Relationships

J. Merriner informed members that the approaches taken to modeling predator-prey relationships have been briefly summarized in a draft report. When available, he will distribute the report for review to see if it may be appropriate as a position paper for the Menhaden Advisory Committee. A summary of information on predator-prey relationships will be presented by Beaufort at the Spring meeting of the Committee.

#### Research Needs and Priorities

A general discussion of research needs included economic enhancement, shelf life of surimi, larval survival, recruitment processes, and predator-prey relationships. It is hoped that funding may be available from the MARFIN program for FY87.

#### Election of New Chairman

\* B. Lunsford nominated J.Y. Christmas for chairman of the Committee. Nominations were closed and J.Y. Christmas was elected chairman by unanimous acclamation.

GS-FFMB MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Page -5-

Other Business

Fish disease update -- Ulcerative mycosis is still occurring on the Atlantic seaboard in menhaden and numerous other species. The disease does not appear to be as rampant as one year ago. Research is underway. The disease has not been seen in any Gulf of Mexico landings to date. The States are asked to watch for any occurrence when sampling in low salinity zones.

Natural Resource Access Committee -- established by NFI to reflect that most commercial and recreational disputes involve demands by recreational interests for exclusive access to fishery resources sought by all user groups. Jim Gilmore has been designated to represent the views of the commercial sector.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 pm.

APPROVED BY:

  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

GULF STATES-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday, October 16, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana



GULF STATES-FEDERAL  
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD  
MINUTES  
Thursday, October 16, 1986  
New Orleans, LA

Chairman, W. S. "Corky" Perret called the meeting to order at 3:00

p.m. The following persons attended:

Members:

W. S. "Corky" Perret (proxy for J. Angelle)	LA
Richard Leard (proxy for W. Quisenberry)	MS
I. B. "Buck" Byrd	NMFS
Frank J. Patti	LA
Walter M. Tatum (proxy for C. Kelley)	AL
Taylor Harper	AL
J. Y. Christmas (proxy for T. Millette)	MS
Elton Gissendanner	FL
Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director	

Staff:

Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant

Others:

Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Richard Healy, FMP, Tallahassee, FL  
D. N. Ellingsen, FMP, Tallahassee, FL  
Phil Steele, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
David Etzold, USM, Hattiesburg, MS  
Clyde Richbourg, GSMFC, Milton, FL  
Brad Durling, AGCCA, Lillian, AL  
Leroy Kiffe, GSMFC, Lockport, LA  
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
Melissa W. Smith, DOE-SPR, New Orleans, LA  
Donald J. Leedy, NMFS, Washington, DC  
Frank Richardson, USFWS, Atlanta, GA  
Jack Styron, Wallace Menhaden Products, Mandeville, LA

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of election of 1986-87 officers.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held March 19, 1986 were reviewed and approved with the addition of the following persons present:

I. B. "Buck" Byrd and Larry B. Simpson.

Final 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 all objectives and responsibilities of this agreement are being accomplished and quarterly reports have been submitted to the Southeast Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Administration, travel, communication, planning and other activities for the administrative support of the Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board and its committees has been provided in accordance with this agreement.

A subcontract was issued to Louisiana State University, Coastal Fisheries Institute for the project titled "Proposal for Testing Surplus Production Models with Pre-MSY Data from Searching Fisheries".

He reported that the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee has been busy making final revisions to the draft striped bass management plan. The draft was presented to the Technical Coordinating Committee for their consideration and the members voted to recommend approval.

The Statistical Subcommittee attended a fisheries statistical workshop in Tampa, FL on April 28-30, 1986. The committee also completed their publication entitled "Design, Collection and Assessment of Angler Volunteered Information Programs".

Other committees that were supported by this agreement were the Law Enforcement Committee, Menhaden Advisory Committee and the Crab Subcommittee. These funds enabled these groups to meet collectively so that they could maintain the active membership necessary to meet state-federal cooperative goals for the interjurisdictional management of the marine fisheries resources in the territorial sea of the Gulf of Mexico. Although limited funding was proposed by the SERO office for fiscal year 1987, the goals of this program will continue to the extent possible with the reduced funding.

A completion report and copies of all publications will be submitted to the NMFS/SERO prior to January 30, 1987. L. Simpson stated that although fiscal year 1986 was one of the most successful years of the Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board since its inception in 1976 he was saddened that programmatic funding has not been proposed in future years.

\* J.Y. Christmas motioned to approve the report. R. Leard seconded. Motion carried.

Status Report - Data Accumulation, Planning and Administration for Interjurisdictional Management of Marine Fisheries Resources in the Territorial Sea of the Gulf of Mexico (1987)

L. Simpson reported that due to the reduction in FY87 funding for the GS-FFMB a document has been submitted to NMFS/SERO in the amount of \$16,500. These funds will enable the GSMFC staff to continue to monitor state-federal activities and to coordinate efforts. Travel funds have been reduced but a case by case effort will be made to fund approved State-Federal travel. It is anticipated that travel for the TCC Statistical Subcommittee will be made available to permit a member to attend a statistical workshop in Trinidad.

B. Byrd stated that the existing GS--FFMB charter would be beneficial, essential and appropriate in the coordination of other State--Federal efforts in areas where funding can be obtained. He stated that it could be a coordinating vehicle for the proposed D--J projects if funding were to be secured. The GS--FFMB charter permits this type of inter-jurisdictional fisheries activities.

Status Report--Menhaden Advisory Committee

John Merriner reported that the Menhaden Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, October 15, 1986. NMFS/SERO presented a summary report on the status of the Gulf fishery, an update of the 1986 season and results of recent stock assessment studies. Richard Condrey provided an overview of his recently completed research on search-time in the menhaden fishery and its applicability in stock assessment studies. Bill Lunsford briefed the committee on progress of the menhaden surimi project which is underway at the Zapata Haynie site in Reedville, Virginia. Other product research on medicinal and health applications of fish oil and the status of the Generally Regarded As Safe petition to Federal Drug Administration were reviewed by Lloyd Regier. Virginia Van Sickle described the new Louisiana Artificial Reef Program and will receive assistance and recommendations from the industry in the selection of reef sites for development. Other topics discussed were coastwide coordinated research projects with applicability to the 1987 MARFIN solicitation in the general areas of recruitment processes and predator-prey relationships.

\* W. Tatum motioned to approve the report. J.Y. Christmas seconded. The motion carried.

Status Report-Crab Committee

P. Steele reported that the Crab Subcommittee met on Tuesday, October 14, 1986. The committee received updates on progress of crab research from the five Gulf States. Other topics discussed were the potential for a regional tagging project; SEAMAP plankton sorting; NMFS Fish-line Blue Crab Report; MARFIN Geryon research; and, soft shell research.

\* J.Y. Christmas motioned to approve the report. Seconded by E. Gissendanner. The motion carried.

Status Report-Anadromous Fish Subcommittee

L. Nicholson reported that the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee has completed the Striped Bass Management Plan and that it was approved by the TCC at their morning meeting. Copies will be available to Board members upon final publication. He thanked the Board, TCC members and Commission staff for their assistance with the project.

\* E. Gissendanner motioned to approve the report. J.Y. Christmas seconded. The motion carried.

Election of Chairman

\* J.Y. Christmas nominated I.B. Byrd for Chairman, 1986-87. R. Leard seconded. There being no further nominations, Mr. Byrd was elected by acclamation.

\* W. Tatum nominated Richard Leard for Vice-Chairman, 1986-87. J.Y. Christmas seconded. There being no further nominations, Dr. Leard was elected by acclamation.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

*JHC*

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday, October 16, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Thursday, October 16, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

A quorum was declared by Chairman J.Y. Christmas who called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. The following members and guests were present:

Members

J.Y. Christmas, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
William "Corky" Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
J. Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL  
Rick Leard, BMR, Long Beach, MS  
Barney Barrett, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Dick Berry, NMFS, Miami, FL

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director  
Tom Van Devender, SEAMAP Coordinator  
Nikki Bane, SEAMAP Coordinator  
Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant  
Lucia O'Toole, Publications Specialist  
Eileen Benton, Staff Assistant

Others

Elton Gissendanner, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
David Etzold, USM, Hattiesburg, MS  
Harry Schafer, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Virginia Van Sickle, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC  
Lloyd Regier, NMFS, Charleston, SC  
Bill Lunsford, Zapata Haynie, Timonium, MD  
Jack Styron, Wallace Menhaden, Mandeville, LA  
Phil Steele, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL  
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

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

- (1) A resolution presented by W.S. Perret
- (2) Changes in membership to be presented by the Chairman

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Brownsville, Texas on March 19, 1986, were reviewed and adopted as written.

Louisiana Artificial Reef Program

V. Van Sickle presented an excellent program on the use of oil and gas platforms as artificial reefs off the Louisiana coastline. Since 1937 when the first offshore well was completed off Cameron Parish, over 4,000 structures have been placed both inside and outside state territorial waters. She noted that offshore rigs function as "de facto" artificial reefs and are the primary destination of over 70% of all offshore recreational fishing trips originating in Louisiana. Unfortunately, nearshore shallow-water structures were the first in place and will be the first abandoned and removed.

Legislation in 1986 created the Louisiana Artificial Reef Council which provides guidance for the siting of reefs created from abandoned rigs. The LDWF is the permittee for all artificial reefs established. In the development of reef sites, input is being sought from GCCA chapters, the menhaden industry, snapper/grouper fishermen, scuba divers and shrimper organizations.

C. Perret noted that legislation affecting fisheries was generally very controversial in Louisiana, however the Fishing Enhancement Act received strong support from all groups.

Status Report on Controlled Freshwater Introduction

D. Etzold presented a report on the current status of the controlled introduction of freshwater projects in Louisiana. In September 1988 or 1989 detailed design plans for the Bonnet Carre' site will be complete and advance plans and specifications for construction can get underway. The study has been approved by the Chief Engineer and is awaiting approval by the Assistant Secretary of the Army. In FY88 approximately \$1 million will be needed to continue the advanced engineering and design study.

The Mississippi Delta Region Project includes the Carnarveon site just south of New Orleans and the Davis Pond site, which will flow water from the River westward into Barataria Bay. General design work for Carnarveon should be completed by November. In this year's budget \$0.5 million has been requested to begin construction. If approved, real estate acquisition will begin in 1987 and bids will then go out for



construction. Davis Pond site is currently under review in the Chief Engineer's Office. Depending on Carnarveon being approved, Davis Pond will follow with no difficulty.

Status Report on Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN)

L. Simpson reported for A. Kemmerer on the FY86 funding allocations for MARFIN. Dollar amounts for research projects under the following fishery units were presented:

- °shrimp \$215K
- °coastal pelagics \$428.6K
- °coastal herrings \$827.3K
- °crabs and lobsters \$207.5K
- °estuarine fish \$689.7K
- °general (program management, coordination) \$359.K

It was noted that the greatest number of individual projects--primarily involving red drum in the State-Federal Cooperative Research Program--was in the estuarine fishery unit.

As soon as the budget is finalized, the draft Federal Register notice will go out calling for proposals to be funded in FY87. It is expected the Program Management Board will meet in early 1987 in Pascagoula, MS.

Secretary of Commerce Red Drum Management Plan

W. Nelson reviewed issues concerning management of the red drum fishery, beginning with the GSMFC's Red Drum Profile and continuing up through the proposed Secretarial Management Plan.

The Chairman noted that contained in the Secretary's Plan are various recommendations to the states, including uniform recreational size and creel limits, and urged that these items be addressed at the next TCC meeting.

W. Tatum moved that a special session be held at the March TCC meeting to review age and growth patterns and possible recommendations for minimum size limits for state adoption. A. Huff seconded.

\* During discussion, N. Bane pointed out that a March workshop on red drum stock assessment and stock identification was called for in the Cooperative Research Plan and that additional topics could be added. The motion carried.

Subcommittee Reports

(1) SEAMAP Subcommittee

Walter Tatum presented information on recent activities and plans of the Subcommittee.

- Tom Van Devender was introduced as the new SEAMAP Coordinator.
- Perry Thompson was recognized as Projects Officer for all SEAMAP documents.
- Funds were identified for a Passive Gear Workshop to be held jointly with the South Atlantic during the coming year.
- The SEAMAP Annual Report to the TCC was distributed to Committee members. Other publications completed and in distribution: The 1984 Environmental and Biological Atlas; the Joint SEAMAP Annual Report and Sciaenops, a monthly newsletter of the Cooperative Red Drum Program.
- A report on the SEAMAP-PESCA meetings held in Mexico City in August highlighted recommendations from the red drum, king mackerel and ichthyoplankton study groups.
- The Shipboard vs Laboratory Weights Study found a 6% variation in sample weights. Further studies will examine the effect of desiccation on frozen samples.
- Preliminary analysis of data from the Shrimp/Groundfish Pilot Study indicates wide variance between day/night catches.
- The Subcommittee accepted recommendations from the Plankton Work Group establishing new sorting protocols. The new procedures will aid in the problems of escalating numbers of samples and costs associated with archiving and handling.
- The Environmental Data Work Group reported that red drum priorities have slowed processing of SEAMAP cruise data.
- Recognition was given to the Red Drum Work Group for its timely action in identifying data needs and developing projects to answer those needs through the Cooperative State-Federal Red Drum Research Program.
- The Squid/Butterfish Work Group plans a gear comparison study between the CHAPMAN and TOMMY MUNRO in April 1987.

- SEAMAP's Data Coordinating system is in the process of being upgraded by a new system design. When completed, data entry and the filling of SEAMAP data requests will be facilitated.

W. Tatum reported that a program review discussion of SEAMAP is planned for the January meeting. It was felt by the Subcommittee that the original intent of SEAMAP, use of all available resources to sample fisheries Gulf-wide to the mutual benefit of all participants, needed to be re-affirmed.

\* W. Tatum moved that the recommendations of the SEAMAP-PESCA study groups for red drum, king mackerel and ichthyoplankton (copy attached) be submitted for Commission approval for presentation at the MEXUS-Gulf meeting in November. T. McIlwain seconded, and the motion carried.

\* W. Tatum moved that the TCC endorse the concept of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory seeking MARFIN funding to send the SEAMAP Invertebrate Plankton Archiving Center curator, K. Stuck, to Poland in order to instruct Sorting Center personnel in the removal of Geryon crab larvae from SEAMAP samples. D. Berry seconded. After a short discussion on the lack of information concerning deep water crab resources, the motion carried.

\* A. Huff moved to accept the SEAMAP Subcommittee report. T. McIlwain seconded, and without objection the motion carried.

(2) Crab Subcommittee

P. Steel presented current activities of the Crab Subcommittee. A status report on blue crab landings Gulf-wide noted their cyclic nature, falling from a record 64 million lb landed in 1984 to 48 million lb reported in 1985.

- Subcommittee review of the NMFS Fish-Line Blue Crab Report, a computer-generated information source, has been completed and comments forwarded to NMFS.
- Data gaps identified in the 1982 Blue Crab Profile including distribution of larvae offshore, larval transport mechanisms and the role of offshore recruitment to estuarine populations are being addressed through SEAMAP plankton samples. The role of the SEAMAP Plankton Work Group and invertebrate curator in facilitating specimen identification at the PSC was noted.
- Subcommittee work on the NMFS Crab Profile series continues. Information on Portunus, the first group selected, is scheduled for completion by the end of 1987.

- Drafting of a Regional Tagging Project proposal is underway for possible funding in early 1987. Tagging operations from Apalachee Bay to the Mississippi River are planned to examine migration patterns. Input is being sought from the states for times and areas for tagging.
  - Cost analysis studies of the use of molting hormone injections in the Softshell Blue Crab Research project are scheduled for the coming year.
  - Exploratory fishing for Geryon, the Golden Gulf Crab, is also scheduled for 1987 through a MARFIN-supported project.
  - The status of crab research by state included on-going monitoring and assessment programs in Texas, Alabama and Mississippi, development of an artificial crab bait in Louisiana, and population dynamics studies in Tampa Bay.
- \* T. McIlwain moved to accept the Subcommittee's report. Motion was seconded and passed.

(3) Statistical Subcommittee

W. Tatum presented the report of the Statistical Subcommittee for Chairman S. Lazauski.

A publication resulting from the work of the Subcommittee, Design, Collection and Assessment of Angler-Volunteered Information Programs, was commended and note made that extra copies were available from GSMFC.

It was reported that the Subcommittee voted to expand the annual Data Management Workshop to a full day schedule in order to better coordinate activities with the South Atlantic States and NMFS.

State reports on statistics projects included information on the trip ticket landings system in Florida, catch statistics for black drum and striped mullet in Louisiana and the Trip Interview Program for commercial landings in Alabama.

NMFS reported to the Subcommittee that all cooperative agreements should be completed by November with FY86 level funding anticipated.

Formation of an IBM PC-AT Users Group was discussed in conjunction with the announcement of an FAO Workshop on "Use of Microcomputers in Fisheries" to be held in November. It was the consensus of the

Subcommittee to request funding for the Chairman's attendance at this workshop.

A graph of black drum landings for Alabama indicated a fifteen-fold increase in 1986 (through August). Other states were urged to examine their landings, as this may signal a potential problem.

\* W. Tatum moved that \$1,000 be identified from GSMFC funds to send a member of the Statistical Subcommittee to Trinidad in November to attend the FAO workshop on microcomputers. A. Huff seconded. After a brief discussion, the motion carried.

#### Review and Consideration of the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan

L. Nicholson presented the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan for approval of the TCC. Appreciation was expressed to the Commission, the TCC membership and the Gulf States' staff for their support during development of the plan.

\* T. McIlwain moved to accept the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan, subject to editorial changes as necessary. W. Tatum seconded. After a short discussion of recommendations contained in the Plan and input from the Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS into the Subcommittee, the motion carried.

#### Other Business

\* W.S. Perret presented a Resolution in memory of Charlie White (copy attached to minutes). W. Tatum moved to accept the Resolution. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Chairman next presented recommendations for changes in membership of the TCC.

\* W.S. Perret moved that the TCC approve and recommend to the Commission approval in replacing Roy Johnson of Texas as a member with Gary Saul and naming Gary Matlock as alternate. T. McIlwain seconded and the motion carried.

\* W.S. Perret moved that the TCC approve and recommend to the Commission approval in replacing alternate member Tom Van Devender of Mississippi with Fred Deegen. E. Joyce seconded and the motion carried.

A. Huff noted that the video of red drum tagging operations, previously presented at the Tuesday afternoon Red Drum Conference, would be shown again for those who missed it. Arrangements could be made through N. Bane.

Election of Chairman

\* W. Tatum, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, moved that J.Y. Christmas be elected Chairman of the TCC by acclamation. E. Joyce seconded and the motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

JOINT MEETING: SEAMAP-PESCA  
August 27, 1986

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Red Drum Study Group. Co-leaders: SEAMAP- Tom McIlwain; Pesca-Mryna Wong Rios.
1. Mexico will review the State-Federal Cooperative Red Drum Research Plan for the Gulf of Mexico (GSMFC, June 1986) to determine the level at which Pesca desires to participate.
  2. Identification should be made of species which make up (are identified as) the red drum catch in Mexican waters. Percentage by size, etc., should be determined, and these data analyzed.
  3. The U.S. should provide all published information and reports on red drum to Mexico, including, if feasible, copies of recent NMFS videotapes of aerial spotting and at-sea tagging operations of the commercial fishery.
  4. As a red drum fishery may develop in Mexican waters, Mexico will exchange information with the United States on the development of this fishery.
  5. Red drum should be a priority species in Mexican plankton samples sent to the Polish Sorting Center for sorting.
- B. King Mackerel Study Group. Co-leaders: SEAMAP - Terry Leary; Pesca - Javier Vasconcelos.
1. Determine interchange of mackerel.
    - a. Provide better dissemination of tagging information, in addition to supplying information on tag returns; i.e., exchange information on the tagging process itself.
    - b. Make recommendations that will continue the emphasis on tagging various size fish and emphasize recaptures.
    - c. Continue the collection (and analysis) of tissues through HPLC, electrophoresis, and other similar biochemical analyses, and exchange resulting information.
    - d. Analyze tag loss in king mackerel through double-tagging studies or other methods.
    - e. Consider (or conduct) tagging mortality studies; e.g., the effects of handling, and gear considerations.

2. Develop methods to forecast trends in abundance.

- a. Provide better distribution of data.
- b. Develop methodology to sample for pre-recruits.
- c. Determine juvenile abundance from plankton data.
- d. Develop fishery-independent methodology to determine abundance of adult king mackerel (e.g., longlines, spotter planes, etc.).
- e. Review existing environmental data (i.e., current patterns, temperature/salinity, river discharge, etc.) to determine possible correlations between these parameters and the distribution and abundance of mackerel.

C. Ichthyoplankton/Environmental Data Study Group. Co-leaders:  
SEAMAP - Jack Gartner; Pesca - Rosa Maria Olvera Lima.

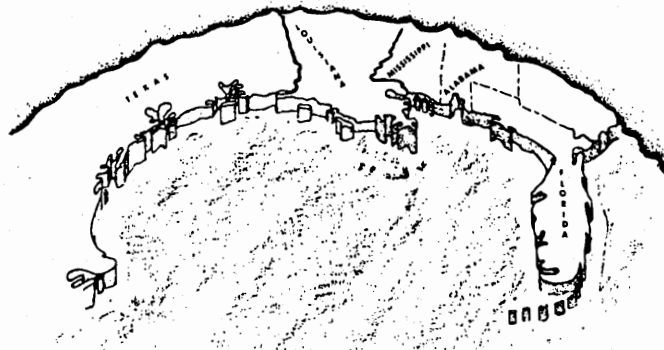
- a. An American scientist should participate in the JUSTO SERRA (INP) September cruise and take up to 150 samples from the cruise to the U.S. for transshipment by NMFS to the Polish Sorting Center (PSC).
- b. These Mexican samples should be sorted by the PSC to the family level for the following target groups: Scombridae, Sciaenidae, Carangidae; these samples should be returned to Mexico as soon as possible, with other families non-priority.
- c. The PSC-sorted samples should be returned to Mexico but identified as "SEAMAP" specimens.
- d. The sorted Mexican SEAMAP samples should be available to U.S. researchers on a loan basis.
- e. There should be an exchange of curatorial staff between SEAMAP and Pesca, for purposes of improving data management and archiving methodologies.
- f. There is a need for a meeting of plankton researchers from both countries after the September plankton survey materials have been returned from the PSC, to assess the data and specimens.



# Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES  
ALABAMA  
FLORIDA  
LOUISIANA  
MISSISSIPPI  
TEXAS

P.O. BOX 726  
OCEAN SPRINGS, MS.  
39564  
(601)875-5912



## A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that in behalf of the five member states of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission this resolution is adopted in tribute to the memory of Mr. Charles White.

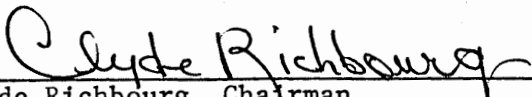
Mr. Charles White, a biologist for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, passed away on November 11, 1985. Charlie worked for the Department for 24 years and was instrumental in the development of many of the shrimp management practices presently utilized along the northern Gulf. He was an excellent researcher, and his findings have greatly enhanced the understanding of fisheries throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Not only was Charlie a highly productive marine biologist, but he was liked by all and liked all he met. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and devoted much of his life to these activities. Charlie's many friends greatly miss him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission desires to express its appreciation of these accomplishments and qualities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and that a copy be transmitted to Mrs. Katie White that we may extend to her our sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolence.

Given this the 17th day of October in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred, eighty-six.

  
Clyde Richbourg, Chairman  
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

APPROVED BY:  
  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MINUTES

Thursday-Friday, October 16-17, 1986  
New Orleans, Louisiana

EXECUTIVE SESSION  
MINUTES  
Friday, October 17, 1986  
New Orleans, LA

Prior to call of order, L. Simpson presented a video describing redfish tagging operations being conducted by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Pascagoula Laboratory. The video film was made available through the NMFS, Pascagoula Laboratory.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Clyde Richbourg. Those in attendance were:

Members

J.Y. Christmas (proxy for T. Millette)	MS
Richard Leard (proxy for W. Quisenberry)	MS
Clyde Richbourg	FL
Elton Gissendanner	FL
Sam Mitchell	FL
Frank J. Patti	LA
W. S. "Corky" Perret (proxy for J. B. Angelle)	LA
Leroy Kiffe	LA
Walter Tatum (proxy for C. Kelly)	AL
Taylor Harper	AL
John Ray Nelson	AL

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director  
Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant  
Tom Van Devender, SEAMAP Coordinator  
Lucia B. O'Toole, Publication Specialist  
Eileen M. Benton, Staff Assistant  
Dale F. Burgin, MARFIN Secretary

Others

I. B. Byrd, NMFS/SERO, St. Petersburg, FL  
Edwin A. Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL  
Frank R. Richardson, USFWS, Atlanta, GA  
Richard L. Healy, FDNR FMP, Tallahassee, FL  
Don N. Ellingsen, FDNR FMP, Tallahassee, FL  
J. R. Herring, Ocean Springs, MS  
Jack Brawner, NMFS/SERO, St. Petersburg, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held Thursday, March 20, 1986 in Brownsville, Texas were reviewed and approved as written.

The minutes of the conference call held July 23, 1986 were reviewed and approved as written.

Review of Commission Voting Procedure

At the March 20, 1986 meeting of the Commission, L. Simpson was directed to research the voting procedures of the Commission and bring this to the full Commission for reaffirmation or amendment of the rules and regulations.

The rules and regulations state "voting in any meeting shall be by States. The vote of each State shall be determined by the majority of its Commissioners. Commissioners present from a State may cast the vote for the State, provided two of the members from that State be agreed". Amendment of the rules and regulations may be addressed at any regular or special meeting of the Commission by majority of the member States provided due notice has been given in the call of the meeting.

L. Simpson presented the following options:

- 1) Voting will be by State, two or more State's Commissioners need to be in agreement and a majority of the five Gulf States (i.e. 3 out of 5) carries the vote. Each State delegation selects one of its three Commissioners as the State delegation chairman/spokesman.
- 2) Voting will be by individual Commissioners with the realization that as per Article VI of the Compact a majority of the whole number of Compacting States (3 out of 5) is required for approval.

\* R. Leard motioned to accept Option 2. S. Mitchell seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Report - Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

J.Y. Christmas briefed the Commission on the Technical Coordinating Committee meeting held Thursday, October 16, 1986.

The TCC received reports from Virginia Van Sickle on the use of oil rigs and platforms as artificial reefs off the Louisiana coastline; David Etzold gave a status report on controlled freshwater introduction to the Louisiana marshes; L. Simpson updated the committee on the FY86 MARFIN funding allocations; Walter Nelson reviewed the Secretary of Commerce's Proposed Red Drum Management Plan, the TCC endorsed a special session to be held in March, 1987 to address red drum, specifically age and growth patterns and standardized size limits; and P. Steele reported on behalf of the Crab Subcommittee. The TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee submitted their report. J.Y. Christmas stated the TCC supported their recommendation to adopt the recommendations of the SEAMAP-PESCA meeting held in Mexico City and that the recommendations be sent to Richard Berry for formal submission at the November MEXUS-Gulf Meeting.

\* J.Y. Christmas motioned to support the TCC endorsement. W. Tatum seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The TCC also supported SEAMAP's endorsement to support in concept the seeking of funding for a SEAMAP invertebrate plankton expert to go to Poland to instruct sorting center personnel in removal of Geryon crab larvae from SEAMAP samples. J.Y. Christmas made the motion, E. Gissendanner seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

\* The Statistical Subcommittee reported to the TCC. The TCC adopted a motion requesting that \$1,000 be identified from Gulf State-Federal

Fisheries Management Program to send a Statistical Subcommittee member to Trinidad in November, 1986 to attend a Food and Agriculture Organization workshop on microcomputers. J.Y. Christmas motioned to approve this recommendation. W. Tatum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

\* The Anadromous Fish Subcommittee has completed a striped bass management plan and the TCC approved it. Final drafts have been previously distributed to the Commission for your review. J.Y. Christmas motioned to approve the striped bass management plan, with minor editorial license for clarification and corrections to be formally printed. J. R. Nelson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

\* J.Y. Christmas presented a TCC resolution (attached) in memory of Charles White, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. He motioned it be approved. Seconded by R. Leard. Motion carried unanimously.

\* Other business of the TCC included the election of J.Y. Christmas as Chairman for 1986-87. The Commissioners unanimously approved J.Y. Christmas as the new chairman.

Committee Report - Industry Advisory Committee (IAC)

\* L. Simpson reported that the Industry Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, October 15 and was attended by approximately 75 people. The main issues discussed were Trawling Efficiency Devices which are being proposed for mandatory use in the shrimp industry beginning next season; the Secretary of Commerce's Red Drum Fish Management Plan; and, the fishery management council system. Jim Gilmore, National Fisheries Institute, was elected chairman for 1986-87. No action items were

submitted to the Commission for their consideration. S. Mitchell moved to adopt the report, seconded by C. Perret. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Report - Law Enforcement Committee (LEC)

D. Ellingsen reported that the Law Enforcement Committee met on Wednesday, October 15, 1986. The major topics of discussion were the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 (CCCA of 1984), FCMA regarding law enforcement advisory groups, Red Drum emergency regulations and the summary being prepared on law enforcement regulations in the Gulf.

D. Ellingsen presented several items that required action by the Commissioners.

The first request was to recommend that the Commission adopt a resolution supporting changes in the CCCA of 1984 requesting the U.S. Justice Department to amend the act to include the Department of Commerce and the Department of Interior and to insure that the trust fund be dedicated to law enforcement. This change will permit funds generated from violators of marine regulations to be split with the Federal and State agencies involved in such cases and would designate the funds to be used for law enforcement enhancement.

\* R. Leard motioned to approve the Law Enforcement Committee request. E. Gissendanner seconded. J. R. Nelson and W. Tatum were concerned that perhaps the move would hamper the law enforcement officers and the judicial systems objectivity. After a great deal of discussion, R. Leard called the question. The motion to call the question passed. The motion to approve the request passed with Alabama voting against it.

The second item the Law Enforcement Committee recommended the Commission adopt was a resolution supporting changes to the MFCMA regarding the purpose, intent and make up of the law advisory groups of

the fishery councils. The main objectives are to permit these groups a review process prior to FMP approval. R. Leard motioned to adopt the resolution. J. R. Nelson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

\* The Law Enforcement Committee requested that the Commission go on record as not supporting preempting State landing and possession laws because of foreseen law enforcement problems involving State laws. R. Leard motioned to support the request. C. Perret seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Other business of the LEC included the election of Jerry Waller, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as chairman for 1986-87.

Committee Report - Recreational Fisheries Committee (RFC)

L. Simpson reported for Chairman, Dr. Fred Deegan, that the Recreational Fisheries Committee met on Wednesday, October 15, 1986. The Committee received reports from the States present regarding recreational fisheries project. F. Richardson reported on USFW budget for FY87. R. Schmied reviewed red drum projects. Gary Saul was elected chairman for 1986-87.

\* C. Perret motioned to approve Recreational Fisheries Committee's report. J. R. Nelson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Report - National Marine Fisheries Service/Southeast Regional Office (NMFS/SERO)

B. Byrd summarized the highlights of efforts by the Gulf States in partnership with each other, the Fishery Management Council, the GSMFC and NMFS. NMFS/SERO are determined to maintain effective cooperative State/Federal partnerships in the Southeast for the conservation and management of marine fisheries. Increased efforts by NMFS and the



states will be needed to accomplish this objective with reduced funding which is anticipated for 1987 and subsequent years.

J. Brawner stated that he supports active State-Federal cooperation to the extent of shared responsibilities in the decision making process.

\* C. Perret motioned to approve the report. S. Mitchell seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Report - Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board (GS-FFMB)

C. Perret reported that the GS-FFMB met on Thursday, October 16, 1986. The major issues discussed were the accomplishments of the Board in FY86, funding sources in FY87 and committee reports from the Menhaden Advisory Committee, Crab Subcommittee and Anadromous Fish Subcommittee. B. Byrd was elected chairman for 1986-87, and R. Leard was elected vice-chairman.

\* J.Y. Christmas motioned to approve C. Perret's report. F. Patti seconded. Motioned passed unanimously.

Legislative Update

L. Simpson reported that the House passed HR 1028 which replaces PL 88-309. HR 1028 (The Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act) limits the program and reduces some State's funding. The Senate passed S 991 which contains the original language of PL 88-309. Following this Senate action, the House approved S 991 with amendments that would replace PL 88-309 with HR 1028 language and MFCMA amendments and at this time is awaiting floor action in the Senate or it may go to conference level. Appropriations for the program have been identified at \$4.25 million; however, the program is not yet authorized. L. Simpson will continue to seek assistance to protect the original language of the program.

L. Simpson reported that the House defeated HR 5013 which would have limited fishing vessel liability and imposed safety requirements for fishing vessels. The defeat was probably the result of intensive last minute lobbying efforts by trial lawyers who were opposed. This probably means no action this year for such legislation. The vote was 241 against, 181 for the Bill.

L. Simpson stated that once again the Federal budget has proposed reduced funding for fisheries programs. Although the budget proposes reductions, strong support by Congress as evidenced by a letter from Congressmen Lott and Breaux should prove beneficial in restoring funding for fisheries programs.

C. Richbourg stated that he was very impressed with L. Simpson's Congressional knowledge and contacts on a recent trip to Washington, D.C. with L. Simpson. He complimented L. Simpson's handling of Commission interest in Congress.

#### MARFIN

L. Simpson reported on MARFIN proposals that were approved for FY86 and advised the Commissioners of the staff administrative support of the Program Management Board. He requested advice from the Commissioners for FY87 projects. Projects of interest that the Commissioners support are a shrimp butterfly net study, channel navigational study, shrimp migration study and studies to verify current data on TED's as well as additional economical reviews and explanations of TEDs.

#### MAFAC

L. Simpson reported that he attended a MAFAC meeting in Miami, FL in May, 1986. The main topics of the meeting were fishery management issues, marine recreational fishing license, budget, seafood inspection,

non-tariff trade barriers and the NMFS habitat initiative. The next meeting of MAFAC will be October, 1986 in San Francisco. After discussion the following comments were established for the Executive Director to carry forth at the next meeting on behalf of the Commission:

- 1) opposes the recommendation that the two decisions of conservation and allocation (as defined in the study) be separated between NOAA and the Councils;
- 2) agrees with recommendations that reviews be completed in 60 days and confined to the administrative record;
- 3) sees no need to change the process of nomination or selection of members;
- 4) no position on eliminating the Western Pacific and Caribbean Councils;
- 5) the report did not sufficiently address interstate management plans, policy and research coordination done by interstate commissions;
- 6) supports the recommendation regarding long-term, stable conduct of priority research and monitoring data;
- 7) supports the inclusion of tunas under the Act;
- 8) opposes the recommendations to impose Federal fishing licenses or fees;
- 9) no comment on limited entry;
- 10) supports fair and equitable treatment of domestic fisheries; and
- 11) supports consideration of habitat requirements and issues.

\* E. Gissendanner motioned to accept the above action. C. Perret seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The NOAA Fishery Management Study will be discussed at the next meeting.

Report - D-J Proposal

L. Simpson reported that the Commission proposal had been revised as per Commission comments and submitted to United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) as well as the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA). The proposal was at first listed in

a non-priority status because USFWS considered it of limited scope (five Gulf States) but with explanation and assistance from B. Byrd that status was changed to priority and submitted to the IFAWA's Executive Committee ranked number 7. The Executive Committee has requested that the proposal be reformatted and re-submitted with proposals from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission (PMFC) to enhance the scope of the proposal. At this stage, it is anticipated that the proposals will be approved by IAFWA at their December meeting and it is hoped that USFWS will fund the project effective January, 1987.

Report - Executive Budget Committee Report

\* E. Gissendanner motioned to approve the Executive Budget Committee's FY87 budget proposal (attached). R. Leard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

\* R. Leard motioned to approve the Executive Budget Committee's proposed salary re-alignment pay plan for Commission employees. W. Tatum seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

\* C. Perret motioned to approve the Executive Budget Committee's proposed changes to the Commission's Manual of General Administration (changes attached). W. Tatum seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Simpson reported that per the Executive Budget Committee's recommendations, he had solicited bids for a new Commission vehicle. The bids were submitted to the Commissioners and a telephone vote was taken. The vote was unanimous in favor of purchasing a 1987 Ford Aerostar with FY86 funds.

At the request of the Executive Budget Committee, the Executive

Director will prepare a position regarding overtime exemptions for certain Commission employees to be submitted at the March, 1987 meeting.

#### Council Update

L. Simpson reported that the major issue currently being addressed by the Council is the Secretary of Commerce Red Drum Management Plan.

Points the Commissioners want addressed are:

- 1) the plan should include only red drum.
- 2) bycatch of Red Drum in non-directed fisheries should be consistent with State landing and gear laws.
- 3) the plan should not preempt State laws.

#### State Directors Report

E. Gissendanner stated that Florida was having a problem in its oyster fishery due to a lack of shells and the concern over who owns the shells shucked in Florida coming into Florida from out of state. He would like to see uniform laws within the Gulf States in anticipation of equitable treatment between the states.

All of the States present agreed that there are problems. Mechanisms were suggested for Florida to use that have been attractive, efficient and economical to oyster fishermen in other States, thereby soliciting the fishermen's assistance with reseeding the oyster beds.

E. Gissendanner will look into these avenues with the help and assistance of the Commission and other Gulf States.

#### Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Commission will be held at the Royal D'Iberville, Biloxi, MS, March 16-20, 1987. It was the consensus of those present to change the location of the October, 1987 meeting and the March, 1988 meeting to permit the Commission to meet jointly with

the ASMFC in October 19-23, 1987 in Key West, FL. The March, 1988 meeting will be held in Mobile, AL.

Election of Chairman

\* R. Leard nominated F. Patti for chairman 1986-87. E. Gissendanner seconded. F. Patti was elected by unanimous acclamation.

J.R. Nelson nominated T. Harper for vice-chairman 1986-87. W. Tatum seconded. T. Harper was elected vice-chairman by unanimous acclamation.

Other Business

C. Richbourg requested L. Simpson to write a letter of thanks to Mrs. Noella Kiffe for the dinner held Thursday, October 16, 1986.

E. Gissendanner stated that he would like to see the issue of Spanish Mackerel addressed in near future. W. Tatum stated that if D-J funds become available, we should utilize the funds in addressing Spanish Mackerel.

C. Richbourg read N. Bane's letter of resignation effective October 24, 1986.

As his first official act, Chairman Frank Patti presented C. Richbourg with a gift of appreciation from the Commission for his outstanding job as Chairman 1985-86.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Suggested amendment to "Manual of General Administration".

(The underlined print is the text to be added.)

Sec. 11 Compensation

Compensation for all employees will be set by the Executive Committee and approved by the full Commission. Jobs are grouped according to the similarity and degree of skill required (job classifications). Job classifications, as well as job descriptions are determined by the Executive Committee and are recorded in the Commission files. Each classification is assigned a title and salary range based on its complexity.

Pay increases are determined by the Executive Committee based on the following:

- Cost of Living: An annual pay increase to be determined by state and federal actions.
- Merit Raise: An increase which is dependent upon job performance evaluation and the availability of funds.
- Promotions: Change in status of job classification.

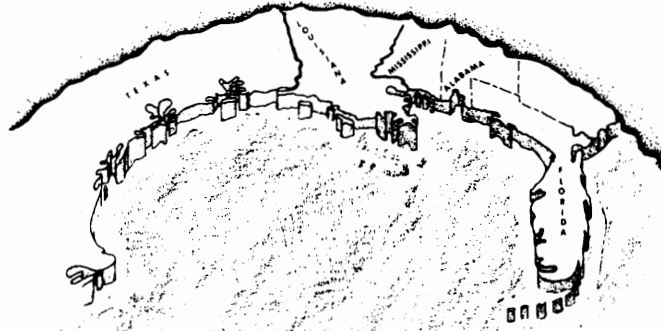
New Section to read as follows:

Sec. \_\_\_ Performance Evaluations

Performance evaluations are based on specific job-related factors and indicate what progress you have made in learning your job duties, how well you are performing those duties and what improvements, if any, you need to make. Employees are evaluated annually after six months on the job or three months after a change in duty assignment. Your immediate supervisor will discuss the evaluation with you before it becomes part of your personnel file. You will be asked to sign it and if you disagree or have comments they may be attached for examination by the Executive Committee.

# Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES  
ALABAMA  
FLORIDA  
LOUISIANA  
MISSISSIPPI  
TEXAS



P.O. BOX 726  
OCEAN SPRINGS, MS.  
39564  
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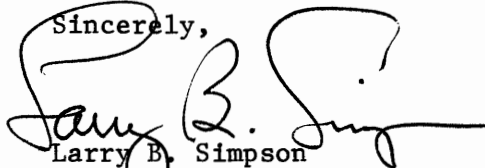
October 20, 1986

Mrs. Noella Kiffe  
Route 1 Box 239  
Lockport, LA 70374

Dear Noella:

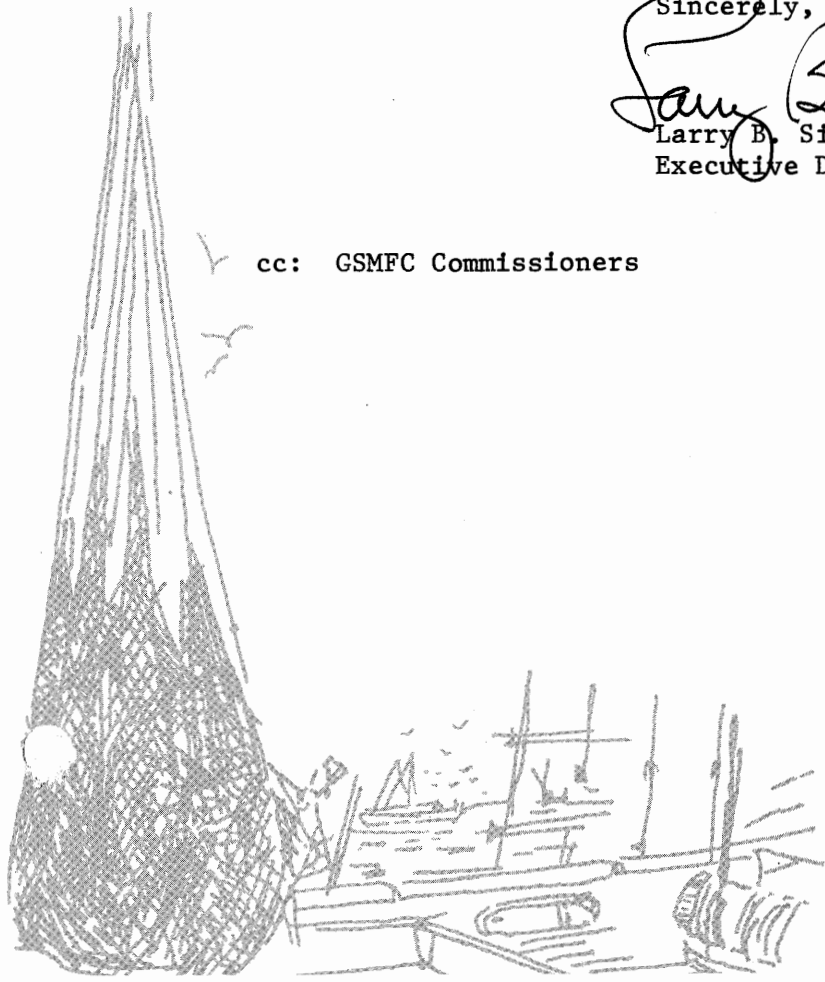
The Commissioners directed me to express to you our heartfelt thanks for your outstanding contribution of food at the Thursday night function. I for one have known for many years your abilities in this area -- now everyone knows! Please accept this thank you on behalf of the Commissioners and staff for a job well done.

Sincerely,



Larry B. Simpson  
Executive Director

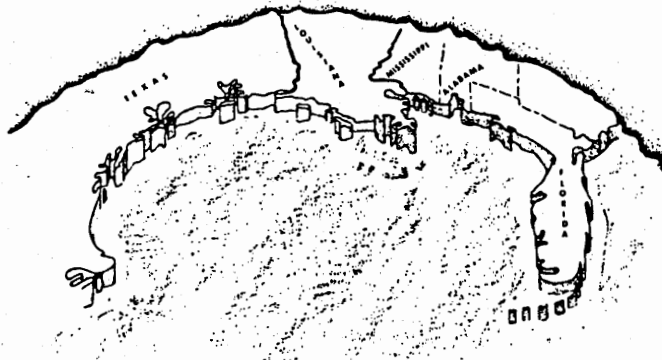
cc: GSMFC Commissioners





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## A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that in behalf of the five member states of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission this resolution is adopted in tribute to the memory of Mr. Charles White.

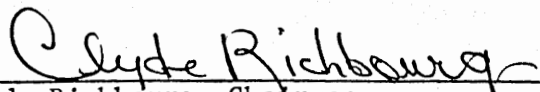
Mr. Charles White, a biologist for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, passed away on November 11, 1985. Charlie worked for the Department for 24 years and was instrumental in the development of many of the shrimp management practices presently utilized along the northern Gulf. He was an excellent researcher, and his findings have greatly enhanced the understanding of fisheries throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Not only was Charlie a highly productive marine biologist, but he was liked by all and liked all he met. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and devoted much of his life to these activities. Charlie's many friends greatly miss him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission desires to express its appreciation of these accomplishments and qualities.

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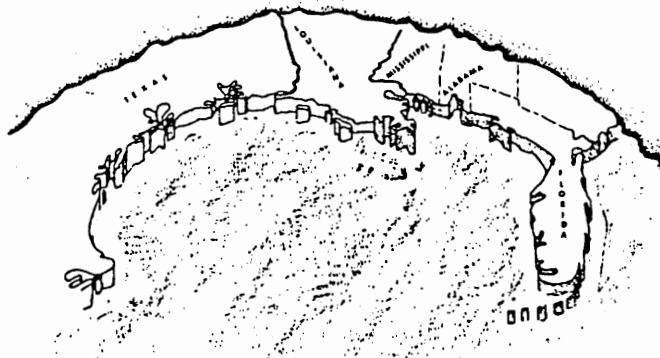
GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
 APPROVED FY87 BUDGET  
 10/1/86-9/30/87

	FISCAL YEAR 1986				FY87
	Year To-Date Expenses	Encumbrance Amount	Available Balance	Budgeted Amount	Total Proposed FY87
<b>1. SALARIES</b>					
a. Executive Director	38,035.92	.10	(-.02)	38,036.00	41,839.00
b. Asst. to the Director					
c. Executive Assistant	21,735.12	.10	(-.22)	21,735.00	24,006.00
d. Staff Assistant	11,877.84	.31	(-.15)	11,878.00	13,191.00
e. MARFIN Secretary	3,694.10	5,649.90	-	9,344.00	11,413.00
f. Publication Specialist	14,705.27	.83	(-101.10)	14,605.00	16,162.00
g. Contract Labor	4,332.38	(-336.25)	47.87	4,044.00	2,000.00
h. SEAMAP Coordinator	-	5,750.00	-	5,750.00	23,000.00
i. Not designated in FY86	-	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	-
j. Health Insurance	9,846.07	1,465.76	719.17	12,031.00	12,730.00
k. Retirement	5,175.32	1,464.76	1,464.92	8,105.00	7,547.00
l. Payroll Taxes	5,885.07	848.09	347.84	7,081.00	9,267.00
<b>2. MAINTENANCE/OPERATIONS</b>					
a. Office Rental	1,000.00	(-50.00)	500.00	1,450.00	3,000.00
b. Office Supplies	4,778.34	(-14.04)	113.70	4,878.00	4,282.00
c. Postage	6,210.17	639.08	289.75	7,139.00	6,675.00
d. Professional Services	1,245.00	-	305.00	1,550.00	1,700.00
e. Travel (staff)	18,254.18	2,085.21	4,673.61	25,013.00	14,475.00
f. Telephone	9,209.10	(-591.66)	1,742.56	10,360.00	9,125.00
g. Office Equipment	9,023.32	1,520.68	500.00	11,044.00	1,000.00
h. Copying Expenses	10,430.56	1,758.44	231.00	12,420.00	9,800.00
i. Printing	55.00	14,865.00	500.00	15,420.00	11,235.00
j. Meeting Cost	12,896.76	(-237.92)	211.16	12,870.00	12,950.00
k. Subscriptions/Dues	815.82	-	505.18	1,321.00	1,000.00
l. Auto Expense (gas/repairs)	806.87	-	193.13	1,000.00	1,500.00
m. Insurance (auto/bond)	1,110.00	-	(-110.00)	1,000.00	1,500.00

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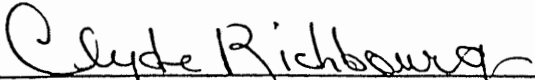
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