

Gilley S. Frye

RECFIN COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 12-13, 1993
Charleston, South Carolina

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. The following people were present:

- Steve Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
- Jane DiCosimo, SAFMC, Charleston, SC
- David Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
- Jack Dunnigan, ASMFC, Washington, D.C.
- Carole Goodyear, NMFS, Miami, FL
- Lee Green, TPWD, Rockport, TX
- Albert Jones, NMFS, Miami, FL
- Wilson Laney, USFWS, Raleigh, NC
- Henry Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
- Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
- Steve Meyers, CFMC, Hato Rey, PR
- Joe O'hop, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
- Mauy Osborn, NMFS, Washington, D.C.
- Walter Padilla, PRDNR, Mayaguez, PR
- Ron Schmied, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
- Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
- Tom Siewicki, NMFS, Charleston, SC
- Mike Street, NCDMF, Morehead City, NC
- Tom Van Devender, BMR, Biloxi, MS
- Wayne Waltz, SCWMRD, Charleston, SC

Opening Remarks

A. Jones provided some background information concerning RecFIN. He stated that interest in recreational fishing has increased over the years, and due to that interest, there was a desire to establish a more formalized organization to examine recreational fishing. The plan development team (PDT) was formed to establish such an organization. He reported that the PDT met to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which is being signed and to begin devising a strategic plan. The MOU established the RecFIN committee which is charged with developing and implementing a state/federal program for recreational fisheries data collection and management. A general discussion ensued regarding expectations for RecFIN.

Selection of Chairman

* J. Shepard nominated Henry Lazauski for chairman. The Committee elected Henry Lazauski by consensus. It was suggested that there be two vice-chairman

to insure that all geographic regions were represented. After some discussion, it was decided there would be one vice-chairman, and M. Street nominated Walter Padilla for vice-chairman. The Committee elected W. Padilla by consensus. There was a short discussion concerning who would record the minutes. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) indicated that they would like to perform the coordination function for the RecFIN(SE) Committee and that preparing minutes and housing the administrative records would be one of the tasks involved. The committee agreed.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following additions and changes:

- * add 1993 MRFSS contract status to status report on RecFIN Pacific" and move the entire item after Adoption of Agenda.
- * make the development of committee standard operating procedures and rules the first issue under Suggested Business Items.
- * schedule Issues Involved in Collecting Fish Consumption Data for the first presentation on January 13, 1993.

Status Report on RecFIN (Pacific) and 1993 MRFSS Contracts

M. Osborn reported that the budget for recreational fisheries data collection was \$1.2 million short. Because of this, sampling on the Pacific coast will be reduced and sampling in the Southeast and Northeast will remain the same for the 1993-1995 MRFSS contract.

She stated California and Oregon have begun sampling and Washington is scheduled to begin sampling in March 1993. She reported that due to the cut, the Northwest has had to re-prioritize their activities. She stated that work continues on data base development and administration in the Southeast.

She reported that NMFS is waiting for the 1993 MRFSS contract. It should be received by the end of January. She stated that due to the shortfall, NMFS will provide all equipment (fish keys, scales, etc.) because they can get a cheaper rate, and NMFS will drop the option for flexibility and all extraneous questions which are not essential to determining catch and effort figures. She

also stated that MRFSS will not be expanding into the Caribbean and that it is not one of the options in the 1993-1995 contract.

She stated the MRFSS data base from 1988-1992 is undergoing an extensive cleanup where all the data are being converted into the same format so the data base will be standardized. She noted that a decision support system (DDS) is being developed. The DDS is a PC-based program which is menu driven and will enable a user to select species, area, etc. and provide the information concerning selected topics.

She reported there is now a bulletin board (BBS) for fisheries statistics which provides information concerning MRFSS information which can be downloaded, and that it might be useful to send information to the RecFIN Committee. She stated the travel budget for the program has been reduced; however, they now have sufficient staff to operate the MRFSS program.

Development of Committee Standard Operating Procedures and Rules

* H. Lazauski suggested that the committee use the modified Robert's Rules of Order. After some discussion, the committee standards were established as follows:

- Primary decision-making will be through consensus.
- One vote for every signatory agency which establishes 18 potential votes.
- A quorum is half plus one (10 voting members).
- Voting decisions are determined by a simple majority of those voting members present.
- All questions concerning Robert's Rules of Order are referred to the Vice-Chairman.
- Chairman can vote.
- In the event of a tie, the committee will recess, caucus, reconvene and vote on the issue again. If there is still a tie after the second vote, the motion fails.

* The committee moved to use Robert's Rules of Order as modified above and accept the standards. The motion was passed without objection.

Finalization of Strategic Plan

On behalf of the GSMFC TCC Data Management Subcommittee (DMS), R. Lukens submitted a report entitled "Marine Recreational Fishery Data Collection and Management Programs in the Gulf of Mexico Region: Identification and Resolution of Issues." The report represents three years of intense analysis of and investigation into existing programs and resulted in a number of recommendations for the RecFIN Committee to consider.

* C. Goodyear asked the committee to send her any information concerning their agency's survey activities which they want to be included in the appendices. The issue of who will publish the Strategic Plan was discussed. R. Lukens stated that the GSMFC would consider publishing the document but he had to look into funding possibilities. M. Street suggested that maybe both GSMFC and ASMFC could pool their resources to publish the plan. M. Osborn also noted that NMFS could possibly assist in the publication of the plan. After some discussion, H. Lazauski established an ad hoc committee consisting of Maury Osborn, Jack Dunnigan and Ron Lukens to examine the costs of publishing the Strategic Plan and determine which agency(s) could produce the document.

The Committee conducted a thorough, page-by-page edit of the draft strategic plan. All of the changes consisted of editorial comments, and no substantive changes were made to the document. The revised document itself will represent the administrative record for this portion of the meeting.

The meeting recessed at 6:30 p.m.

January 13, 1993

The meeting reconvened at 8:45 a.m.

Issues Involved in Collecting Fish Consumption Data

T. Siewicki provided some background concerning collection of fish consumption data. He stated NMFS had sponsored three previous studies: Market Facts, Inc. Consumer Panel Survey 1969-70; NPD Research, Inc. Fish Consumption Survey 1973-74; and Market Research Corporation of America National Seafood Consumption Survey 1981. He stated however, these surveys were designed for fish

market analysis and not for risk assessment, and there are problems in using the information collected by these studies. He reported the surveys have some common characteristics, such as the studies were conducted pre-1981 and consumption and distribution of seafood has changed; they collected market data and not information on individual consumers; they relied on commercial harvest data and the harvest location is not known; and they lack species identification and individual detail.

He outlined the fish consumption data that are needed, such as current consumption by recreational and subsistence fishermen; identification of the types of fishermen: preferential fish consumers and at-risk groups; and detailed characterization of consumption including identification of consumers and the species harvested, portion size of species, frequency of fishing, parts of fish that are consumed, how the fish is prepared and location where the species is harvested. He also stated that there is a need for detailed characterization of the consumers. The information necessary includes ethnic background, height, weight, age, gender, residence, income or vocation, health status, fishing mode and avidity and willingness to participate in follow-up.

He stated there seems to be an increasing interest in this area by different agencies. He reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and NMFS have produced documents and manuals and conducted a variety of surveys concerning fish consumption over the years.

He stated that there needs to be multiple approaches to begin to understand recreational fish consumption. One of the possible approaches would be to append questions to the MRFSS. This addition to the survey would identify preferential consumers and at-risk sub-populations. The interviewers can already identify species and harvest locations and could be trained to characterize the fish and portion size. He stated that an addition to the MRFSS would be a cost-effective method of collecting this important information. Throughout the presentation, a number of questions and observations were made by the Committee.

Discussion of Next Meeting and Funding Options

* The Committee discussed the location and dates of the next RecFIN meeting. R. Lukens noted GSMFC does not have a large travel budget for this year and

suggested that an inexpensive location be selected. In an effort to reduce travel costs, it was suggested that the meeting be held on a Friday and Saturday. M. Street noted that at the RecFIN meeting in New Orleans, it was determined that the cost of travel for the committee would be approximately \$25,000 annually and NMFS offered to cover some travel costs. A. Jones stated that NMFS could provide funding for members from North Carolina, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and the Caribbean Fishery Management Council for the next meeting. After some discussion, it was agreed the next RecFIN meeting would be held on March 26 and 27, 1993. Possible locations for the meeting were New Orleans, Atlanta, Miami and Charlotte. R. Lukens offered to conduct a travel cost analysis for each site to determine the meeting location.

H. Lazauski asked the Committee for possible agenda items for the next meeting. Some of the issues to be discussed are finalization of the Strategic and Annual Operations Plans, charges to the work groups, discussion of funding options, and future meeting schedules for the RecFIN committee, subcommittees and work groups.

The committee then explored possible funding sources. The MARFIN program and the Living Aquatic Resources Subcommittee of the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program were mentioned as potential sources. It was stated these sources could be used to fund special surveys or projects but could not be used as long-term survey money. Another possible source was W/B administrative monies. The committee agreed that this issue would be a standing topic at all future meetings.

Development of a Draft Operations Plan

H. Lazauski distributed a plan developed by J. Shepard which outlined the goals and objectives to be completed for 1993-1995 and a RecFIN(SE) task work plan developed by A. Jones. The Committee reviewed the outline and task plan and the final documents are attached. H. Lazauski suggested some objectives be grouped and addressed by subcommittees and work groups. The committee decided the objectives to be accomplished in the first year, and the task work plan for each objective would be used as the basis for development of the draft operations plan.

The committee proposed the establishment of several work groups and subcommittees. The tentative membership includes:

Administrative Subcommittee

Jack Dunnigan
Ron Lukens
Henry Lazauski
Walter Padilla
Maury Osborn
Albert Jones

Biological/Environmental Work Group

Paul Phalen
Albert Jones
Wayne Waltz
Ann Seiler
Maury Osborn
Tom Van Devender
South Atlantic Designee

Social/Economic Work Group

Ron Schmied
Mike Street
Steve Atran
Jack Dunnigan
Ann Seiler
*Mike Orbach

Data Base Work Group

Paul Phalen
*Ken Savastano
*Ron Essig
Ken Haddad
NMFS-Headquarters designee

*These people will be contacted and asked to serve on these groups.

For goal one, objectives one through four have been identified as first-year tasks. Objectives one and two have already been accomplished by the RecFIN committee. Objective three is currently being developed by the RecFIN committee and objective four will be accomplished in part by GSMFC through coordination of mailing list and information dissemination through newsletters of cooperating agencies involved in RecFIN.

For goal two, objectives one through four have been identified as first-year tasks.

RecFIN Goal/Objective: Goal 2, Objective 1

Task Title: Recreational Fishing Components and Data Priorities

Objective: Identify the components of the fishery and required data priorities for each component.

Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group

Approach: Through existing material and personal observations, identify all components of the marine recreational fishing universe by state/territory and quantify the units within each component. Identify data categories fishery management agencies need to reach and evaluate decisions.

Accomplished by: 1) conference calls; 2) mail; and 3) workshops, if necessary.

Resources: Travel costs/meeting costs; conference call costs; report costs; and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Report.

Schedule: Conference call on February 16; report completed by mid/late August; and work group meeting in conjunction with March RecFIN meeting.

RecFIN Goal/Objective: Goal 2, Objective 2

Task Title: Biological/Environmental Data Elements

Objective: Identify biological and environmental data elements required for each fishery component.

Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group

Approach: Use GSMFC Data Report and evaluate/modify as necessary for South Atlantic and Caribbean needs. This will be done for each fishery component by sub-region (matrix).

Accomplished by: 1) conference call; 2) mail; and 3) workshops, if necessary.

Resources: Travel costs/meeting costs; conference call costs; report costs; and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Report.

RECFIN COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -9-

Schedule: Conference call on February 16; report completed by mid/late August; and work group meeting in conjunction with March RecFIN meeting.

RecFIN Goal/Objective: Goal 2, Objective 3

Task Title: Biological/Environmental Quality Assurance and Quality Control

Objective: Identify and determine standards for biological and environmental data collection, including statistical, training, and quality assurance and quality control standards.

Team Members: Biological/Environmental Work Group

Approach: Review existing quality assurance and quality control documents and modify as necessary for application to RecFIN. Accomplished by: 1) conference call; 2) mail; and 3) workshops, if necessary.

Resources: Travel costs/meeting costs; conference call costs; report costs; and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Report.

Schedule: Conference call on February 16; report completed by mid/late August; and work group meeting in conjunction with March RecFIN meeting.

RecFIN Goal/Objective: Goal 2, Objective 2

Task Title: Social and Economic Data Elements

Objective: Identify sociological and economic data elements required for each fishery component.

Team Members: Social/Economic Work Group

Approach: Determine how sociological and economic data should be used in fisheries management. Then determine which data elements are necessary for evaluation and decision-making by fishery managers.

Accomplished by holding a workshop with invited experts to determine necessary data elements.

Resources: Workshop costs; travel costs; conference call costs; report costs; and inkind (time) and staff time.

RECFIN COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -10-

Product: Report.

Schedule: Work group meeting in conjunction with March RecFIN meeting.

RecFIN Goal/Objective: Goal 2, Objective 3

Task Title: Social/Economic Quality Assurance and Quality Control

Objective: Identify and determine standards for sociological and economic data collection, including statistical, training, and quality assurance and quality control standards.

Team Members: Social/Economic Work Group

Approach: Determine standards for collection and management of social and economic data. Accomplished by workshops.

Resources: Workshop costs; travel costs; conference call costs; report costs; and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Report.

Schedule: Work group meeting in conjunction with March RecFIN meeting.

RecFIN Goal/Objective: Goal 2, Objective 4

Title: Evaluation of current programs regarding objectives one, two and three.

Objective: Identify and evaluate the adequacy of current programs for meeting RecFIN(SE) requirements.

Team Members: RecFIN(SE) Committee

Approach: Evaluate reports from Biological/Environmental and Social/Economic Work Groups in relation to existing programs.

Resources: Travel costs/meeting costs; report costs; and inkind (time) and staff time.

Product: Report.

Schedule: RecFIN meeting at the end of 1993.

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

	1993	1994	1995
Goal 1:			
Objective 1	X		
Objective 2	X		
Objective 3	X	X	X*
Objective 4	X	X	X
Objective 5			X
Goal 2:			
Objective 1	X		
Objective 2	X		
Objective 3	X		
Objective 4	X	X	
Objective 5		X	X
Objective 6		X	X
Goal 3:			
Objective 1	X		
Objective 2	X	X	
Objective 3		X	
Objective 4	X	X	X
Objective 5	X	X	
Objective 6		X	X
Goal 4:			
Objective 1	X	X	X
Objective 2	X	X	X
Objective 3	X	X	X

* If program continues

RECFIN(SE) TASK WORK PLAN

RecFIN Goal/Objective:

Task Title:

Task Objective:

Task Team Members:

Task Approach:

Resource Requirements:

Expected Product:

Task Schedule:

Walter Tatum

**SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 16, 1993
Palm Beach, Florida**

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Joe Kimmel, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Joanne Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Staff

David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant

Others

Warren Stuntz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Steve Heath, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Tom Wagner, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Jim Clugston, USFWS, Gainesville, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on October 13, 1992 in Mobile, Alabama were approved with minor editorial changes.

Administrative Report

D. Donaldson reported the Spring Ichthyoplankton Survey is scheduled to begin April 1993 and conclude in the end of May. Florida and NMFS will participate in this survey. The goal of the cruise is to assess the distribution and abundance of bluefin tuna eggs in the Gulf of Mexico. The second Spring Reef Fish Survey will begin in May 1993 and will continue into July. Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and NMFS will participate in this survey. The goal of the survey is to assess relative abundance of reef fish in Gulf of Mexico.

He reported the 1990 Atlas has been published and copies have been distributed to the Subcommittee. Editing on the 1991 Atlas has begun and the Subcommittee should receive a copy for review in late April or early May and the document should be ready for the printer by late May or early June. The Joint Annual Report has been completed and copies were distributed to the Subcommittee.

Update of SEAMAP Plankton Activities

J. Shultz reviewed the Polish Sorting and Identification Center (PSIC) information. She presented a progress report sent by PSIC which showed approximately 600 samples from 1990 and 1991 which have been sorted and the Pascagoula Laboratory had received shipments of sorted samples in December 1992 and January 1993 from Poland. All in all, the PSIC has provided the necessary samples and is continuing to perform satisfactorily.

She reported the Plankton Work Group is working with Ken Savastano to improve the SEAMAP Ichthyoplankton sample module in the Data Management System (DMS) and that Jack Gartner, the SEAMAP Archiving Center (SAC) curator at FMRI, has hired two full-time assistants for data entry at SAC. The assistants will begin cataloging the backlog of samples currently at SAC and should have all the backlogged samples accessioned by late April. In addition, the NMFS has purchased new vials and labels for plankton samples sent to Poland at a cost of approximately \$3,000.

J. Shultz reported that a SEAMAP winter plankton survey, in conjunction with a winter cetacean survey, was conducted by the NMFS in 1993. The survey began on January 5 and continued until February 11, 1993. During the cruise, 112 SEAMAP and 9 tucker trawl stations were sampled throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

J. Shultz noted that the PSIC is currently sending the sorted SEAMAP samples to the Pascagoula Laboratory. Although sending the samples to Pascagoula makes it easier to track the samples, it causes a higher workload on an already stressed staff. Currently, J. Shultz receives the samples and then sends them to SAC. She sends the bluefin tuna samples to Bill Richards in Miami. After some discussion, the subcommittee directed all of the players involved in this issue to discuss this topic and report to the subcommittee at the next meeting.

R. Waller wanted to know which person dealt with the ichthyoplankton field sheets. Presently, the states are not able to enter the ichthyoplankton data collected and R. Waller was curious about how the data will be entered into the system. J. Shultz stated that the NMFS-Pascagoula is currently entering that data and will enter the states' data, however, once the ichthyoplankton module for the DMS is completed, the states should enter their own data.

Discussion of Comparative Tow Survey

J. Shultz stated that the objective was to estimate sample size in order to detect significant differences of catch rates of similar nets towed by different vessels. The data set used by NMFS to estimate the number of tows needed was 30 paired tows taken by the OREGON II and the R/V PELICAN. First, single consistent model, to relate catch of two vessels, was chosen because it best reflected the data base. She presented the most frequently caught species ranked by both frequency caught and numbers caught by the two vessels. Linear regression was used to relate the catches of one vessel with the other. The data were calculated using both an arithmetic and log-transformed scale. The data were plotted and the fit of the line was examined. She presented some of the plots as examples. Sample sizes were then computed for 20 taxa at various levels of error about the slope. It was suggested that level of ± 0.2 be used for this exercise. She stated that B. Pellegrin did not have much confidence in the numbers due to the high variability and if more samples are collected, the sample sizes to detect differences could change. It was noted that one of the assumptions which this model makes is that the species are evenly distributed and that assumption is not necessarily true. R. Lukens stated the proposal calls for a proxy state vessel (probably the R/V TOMMY MUNRO) to tow with the OREGON II to arrive at a calibration figure. He asked if this methodology would answer the questions the subcommittee was asking and enable him to defend spending the funds for this project. This methodology should provide a number of tows needed to detect differences in catch rates.

* After some discussion, the subcommittee decided that some of the other comparative tow data between other state and federal vessels needed to be analyzed and presented to the subcommittee. The analysis would provide the subcommittee with more information to base decisions on and give them a better idea of how many more tows need to be completed. J. Hanifen moved that the R/V TOMMY MUNRO and the A.E. VERRILL, and the R/V TOMMY MUNRO and the OREGON II comparative tow data be analyzed, utilizing the same methodology used for the data presented to the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. D. Donaldson noted that a Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group meeting is scheduled for late April and there is a possibility of utilizing that meeting to discuss this issue. He stated he would be in contact with the subcommittee concerning that possibility.

Status of FY93 Funds

S. Nichols reported that there is really no new information concerning the status of the funds. Due to the new administration, budget deliberations and other activities have been delayed and there is no way of estimating when some information will be available. He stated that as soon as he hears something, he will contact the subcommittee.

Work Group Reports

Environmental

W. Stuntz reported that the Environmental Work Group met on March 15, 1993 to discuss some problems with the collection of environmental data. The main topics discussed were rationale for collection of some of the environmental data. The group reviewed the environmental data form and discussed the usefulness of each parameter. Some of the parameters, such as cloud type and water color, were deemed unnecessary and may be removed from the data sheet. It was decided that others, such as chlorophyll and precipitation, needed a better description in the SEAMAP Shipboard Manual of how to collect the information correctly. There was a brief discussion concerning providing the states with CTD's and the possibility of conducting an environmental data collection workshop. The workshop would provide useful information to field personnel, as well as others, in advances in collection techniques and equipment.

* R. Waller asked if the field personnel should continue to collect the environmental parameters, such as sea state, wind speed, etc., which tend to be subjective in nature. W. Stuntz noted that personnel can become proficient at collecting some of these data. W. Stuntz submitted the report for approval of the subcommittee. J. Hanifen moved to accept the environmental work group report. The motion passed unanimously.

* W. Tatum noted that the work group had not met very often because there was no indication of a need for a meeting. The reason for this is that there was no feedback from various work group leaders concerning problems encountered in the field. The work group considered expanding the environmental work group to include the other work group leaders to combat this problem. J. Kimmel made a motion to expand the environmental work group to include the other SEAMAP work group leaders. W. Stuntz pointed out that with the expansion, the environmental work group would be essentially a duplication of the data management work group. There was some discussion concerning distributing a questionnaire which would enable personnel to respond to the work group about problems with environmental data collection. J. Hanifen made a substitute motion to expand the environmental work group to include the SEAMAP Shrimp/Groundfish, Plankton and Reef Fish work group leaders. After some discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

* In an effort to set up a feedback mechanism, the subcommittee believed that it would be useful if each work group leader would present a report to the subcommittee on a yearly basis. R. Waller moved that each work group leader will present a report to the subcommittee at least every October meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Advances in Invertebrate Taxonomy

H. Perry reported that a field guide has been developed to provide easy identification of invertebrates. The manuals are pictorial guides which provide color photographs of the organisms. Based on distribution data from previous cruises, updated distribution maps will be also provided. She stated that she has spent several cruises gathering some base-line data to determine what actually is caught and is providing guides for the most frequently caught organisms. D. Donaldson mentioned that it might be possible for the GSMFC to provide copies to the subcommittee for their use. He stated he would look into this possibility. H. Perry noted that she might be able to provide a copy of the guide at the next SEAMAP meeting.

Discussion of Joint Meeting Location

D. Donaldson noted that the first or second week of August was a good time frame for the meeting and he will be in contact with the South Atlantic and Caribbean components to discuss the time. He stated that due to lack of additional funds, it does not look promising for conducting a meeting in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. He mentioned that Atlanta, Georgia would be a good site for the Joint meeting since it is easy to reach the hotel and easy to move around the city. The subcommittee agreed that Atlanta would be a good location and D. Donaldson stated that he would be in contact concerning the meeting.

Other Business

J. Kimmel stated that Florida will be participating in the Spring Reef Fish Survey this year. He has already conducted one trip to the Dry Tortugas and shot some video and also counted fish while the camera was working. The results show that his counts are higher than the video.

S. Heath noted that the TED regulations have changed and he wanted to make sure the state vessels are still exempt from using a TED. S. Nichols believed the vessels were still exempt and he would look into the issue and get back to the subcommittee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Handwritten initials

**DATA MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 16, 1993
Palm Beach, Florida**

Chairman Henry Lazauski called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

- Henry Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
- Tom Van Devender, BMR, Biloxi, MS
- Joseph Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
- Joe O'Hop (proxy for F. Kennedy), FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
- Albert Jones (proxy for J. Poffenberger), NMFS, Miami, FL
- Peter Rubec, TPWD, Austin, TX
- John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
- Billy Fuls, TPWD, Rockport, TX
- James Warren, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
- Joe Kimmel, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
- Steven Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL

Staff

- Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
- David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator
- Nancy Marcellus, Administrative Assistant

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion of the GIS symposium under Other Business.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held October 13, 1992 in Mobile, Alabama were approved with minor editorial changes.

State/Federal Reports

Texas

P. Rubec reported that Texas has purchased data acquisition devices such as grid pads and data loggers which will be evaluated by field personnel. A committee for data management has been created to look at streamlining all the information sent to Austin. The commercial landings program and MMPR are being coordinated by Page Campbell. There have been some changes to MMPR software. They are beginning to collect length/frequency data on black drum and hope to collect these data on other commercial species. There is a definite emphasis on stock assessment thus there is collection of length/frequency and otoliths in both Texas' fisheries-dependent and -independent programs. Texas is working on a red drum stock assessment which should be completed within the next several months and there are plans to do other assessments for such species as black drum and spotted sea trout. In Austin, there has been a recommendation that TPWD move towards a relational database on a PC-based system. The system will use either auricle or sibase software and will serve all data base needs of the department. There are several committees and work groups involved in GIS, and the Resource Protection Division is

utilizing GIS technology. There are plans to construct a GIS laboratory which will serve the Resource Protection Division as well as the other divisions in the department. B. Fuls noted that the department is modifying the old commercial intercept program to allow for collection of catch rates for utilization in stock assessments.

Louisiana

J. Shepard indicated that the commercial trip ticket program is on hold due to a lack of funds, and the outlook for funding from the legislature for 1993 is not good. They still plan to implement the program when funds become available. He suggested that when IT-95 is accomplished, NMFS ought to develop a mainframe data entry program for TIP. Louisiana still has PCs that cannot handle the latest TIP software. He indicated that he would like to work with the NMFS Miami staff to develop a mainframe data entry program using SAS. Shepard is also interested in developing an electronic transfer mechanism from the Louisiana mainframe computer directly to the NMFS mainframe computer. This would solve the problem of having multiple files for the same data.

Mississippi

T. Van Devender reported that he thought the Mississippi legislature was going to consider some measure regarding data confidentiality this year; however, latest reports indicate that no action will be taken during the 1993 session. He asked about electronic measuring boards, indicating that he may want to buy one or two units if it is generally thought that they work well. J. Merriner indicated that the Beaufort Lab had used them, and that the only suggestion he has is to keep the units shaded so that they don't get too hot. Otherwise, he feels that they work well. Van Devender asked if there had been any problems with getting appropriate software. Merriner indicated that they had encountered no problems. P. Rubec indicated that software can be downloaded from a PC to the unit with a patch cord. Generally, regarding the commercial statistics program, Mississippi has a vacancy which they may not be able to fill this year; however, they are collecting all the shrimp, crab, and finfish landings. The recreational fisheries survey, funded by Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Funds, is in its fifth year. As of this year, the wade portion of the survey has been discontinued because it is too labor intensive for the number of interviews acquired. He felt that the wade fishery is so small in Mississippi that having surveyed that mode for two years is probably enough for the present. He indicated that having sat on the red snapper permit review board, it appears that one of the main problems related to that situation is data collection. He indicated that state laws related to landing and sale of red snapper create problems, such as a Texas law that allows direct sale to restaurants and a Mississippi law that allows fishermen to sell their catch to anyone. These sale venues circumvent the reporting system resulting in under-reporting of landings and inaccurate fisherman records. Van Devender suggested that the Subcommittee should discuss the issue and try to come up with ways to solve the problem. S. Lazauski suggested that it would be a good topic to handle under ComFIN, relating it to the potential implementation of a universal trip ticket system. Van Devender asked how each state participates in the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP). Louisiana collects all landings except for menhaden and shrimp; Texas participates through their MMPR; Mississippi collects finfish, shrimp, and TIP data; Alabama has two state port agents who collect all commercial data throughout the state except for Bayou La Batre, which is covered by a NMFS port agent; and Florida participates through their Trip Ticket Program. A. Jones indicated that John Poffenberger has just completed a brief history of the CSP. D. Donaldson indicated that the history was written for inclusion in the Strategic Plan for the CSP, which is being handled through the GSMFC office. Regarding the data problem related to red snapper, Lazauski suggested that the GSMFC may be able to get a MARFIN grant to help ComFIN focus on that problem. There was general agreement that it would be a good idea.

Alabama

S. Lazauski indicated that Alabama is continuing with the Cooperative Statistics Program, with two state port agents who collect shrimp and TIP data. He indicated that the TIP 3.2 software is good; however, it does require a minimum of a fast 386 or a 486 computer to run the program. Lazauski

pointed out that red snapper season had opened and that commercial fishermen seem to be concerned that if they don't catch their trip limits and reach their quota that their ability to get a red snapper endorsement may be in jeopardy next season. Weekly red snapper landings data have been requested by the NMFS to assist in monitoring the harvest closely to allow for closure when the quota is reached. He indicated that Alabama has developed a form based on the TIP form for fish houses to fill out, including the reef fish permit number, which will assist in identifying fishermen and how much they harvested. This will provide records for proof of catch for future endorsements. This new form is a defacto trip ticket; consequently, since the Department has the authority to issue the new form, they probably have the authority to implement a full trip ticket system similar to Florida's program. Lazauski is concerned that focusing on landings and value for red snapper (ie. targeting red snapper) may be biasing the TIP samples. He asked if there were any way to indicate on the form or in the data base that other species were caught with the sample but the red snapper were targeted. Some discussion ensued regarding this issue; however, no conclusion was reached.

Lazauski indicated that Alabama now has a recreational fishing license, and asked if everyone else already had one. T. Van Devender indicated that Mississippi does not have a license; however, a license bill has passed the House of Representatives and the Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature. If it is signed by the Governor, the license will start July 1, 1993. Van Devender indicated that the prognosis is good for the license, which will be \$4.00 for residents, \$20.00 for non-residents, and a \$10.00 non-resident four day permit.

Lazauski indicated that Alabama has a Coastal America project for 1993 through the EPA. The project is to mark all state oyster reefs with poles and signs, build an artificial marsh to help in final treatment of effluent from the aquaculture ponds at Claude Petite Mariculture Center, and use archaeological coral as cultch material for oyster reef planting.

Florida

J. O'Hop indicated that they were awaiting action on merging the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with the Department of Environmental Regulation. One proposal includes moving marine fisheries out of DNR and putting it under the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission. Other proposals are also pending. He indicated that the Department is involved in assessing the damage related to two ship groundings. The Florida Geographic Information System is being used in the damage assessment. O'Hop indicated that they are preparing to hire two new people. Advertisements for those positions will be available soon. A discussion ensued regarding Florida's Trip Ticket Program and its relation to collection of red snapper landings and value and fisherman endorsements. O'Hop also indicated that they are involved in quota monitoring for a number of species.

National Marine Fisheries Service

A. Jones provided information regarding the NMFS national activity of strategic planning, which is similar to the activities already accomplished under RecFIN and ComFIN in the Southeast Region. Beginning the first of January 1994, the NMFS will be incorporating market size categories in the General Canvass data base. J. O'Hop indicated that there is a lot of confusion regarding market size categories, and asked if the NMFS is doing anything in response. Jones did not have a solution but indicated that J. Poffenberger is working on the issue. Further discussion ensued regarding the inclusion of market size categories and potential problems. J. Shepard suggested that for the long term, dealers could record actual sizes, thereby avoiding the confusion of different market size categories. Jones indicated that the market size categories information was primarily for economic analyses rather than biological assessments. O'Hop suggested that price could accompany size in the TIP files.

Regarding TIP, Ausbon Brown is anxious to have feedback from the field regarding the new 3.2 software. Currently, Sandra Russell from Louisiana Center for Wetlands Resources is in Miami to try to be able to put her information in the TIP format. If the conversion works for Russell, it will probably also

work for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Jones indicated that the NMFS is busy on quota monitoring for red snapper and developing a system for sharks. The shark management plan, which is awaiting Secretarial approval, will require quota monitoring. Lazauski pointed out that increased quota monitoring requirements is further argument for the need for a universal trip ticket system. Jones provided the Subcommittee with the annual report which includes year-end landings. These data are used in the annual Fisheries of the U.S. Narrative is included to provide a summary of the year's activities. O'Hop indicated that there will be a shark conference at Mote Marine Lab during April. If anyone wants information on registration, he will be glad to provide it.

Stock Assessment Workshop

Lazauski indicated that the GSMFC Stock Assessment Team had met in St. Petersburg, Florida on March 14 and 15 to discuss a regional stock assessment for striped mullet. At that time there was a discussion regarding the upcoming stock assessment training workshop. The proposed dates were the week of May 17th and the week of May 24th. The plan is to have the workshop begin with a half day session followed by a full day and another half day. This would allow travel on the morning of the first day and the afternoon of the last day. Dr. Bob Muller, Florida Marine Research Institute, has made arrangements for using a computer lab in Tallahassee, Florida, at the Florida Department of Natural Resources facility. Dr. Muller has also developed a course outline (attached) and will be teaching the workshop. He wants feedback from the Subcommittee on the course outline. Lazauski discussed the funding for travel to the workshop. D. Donaldson indicated that the Sport Fish Restoration Administrative Program had funds to assist travel.

RecFIN Discussion

A. March 26 and 27 meeting

Lazauski opened the discussion with a reminder to the Subcommittee regarding the upcoming meeting of the RecFIN Work Groups and the RecFIN Committee scheduled for March 26 - 27, 1993 in New Orleans, Louisiana. D. Donaldson indicated that the Work Groups will meet on the morning of the 26th while the full RecFIN Committee will meet the afternoon of the 26th and all day the 27th.

B. State involvement in MRFSS

Lazauski indicated that the Subcommittee has discussed in the past that the NMFS Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) is a major component of the RecFIN, but that it is not RecFIN in total. The issue regarding state involvement in the MRFSS is related to having state agency employees conduct the field intercept/interview portion of the MRFSS, rather than the contractor as is currently done. This is an important part of the overall approach that RecFIN is taking, ie. a full partnership between the state and federal agencies for the collection and management of recreational fishery data. A primary consideration from the states' perspective is the amount of funding that would be made available to the states that are interested in conducting the field intercept/interview portion of the MRFSS. A further consideration is how such an arrangement could be accomplished. There appear to be two options, the first being a subcontract between the interested states and the current contractor, and the second being a cooperative agreement between the interested states and the NMFS. The current position of the states is a preference for a cooperative agreement with the NMFS, using the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) to develop and coordinate that agreement. If the interested states are to be able to begin collecting the data, some compromises and arrangements need to be made soon. Lazauski went on to describe a number of benefits to the states with the option of a cooperative agreement through the GSMFC. It was brought out that in the first several years of the MRFSS on the Pacific coast, the states conducted the field intercept/interviews under a cooperative agreement between the NMFS and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, so obviously the precedent for doing it that way has already been set. A. Jones suggested that the option of subcontracting to the current contractor may be a good way to go for an initial year so that the states could get some experience working with the survey.

Then, once that initial time had passed, assuming that everyone is happy with the results, the cooperative agreement route could be used. There remains some objection on behalf of the states to that option.

Currently the State of Florida relies on the contractor for the field intercept/interviews, but they do the access site survey. They also conduct some angler interviews not covered by the contractor. A. Jones discussed the situation regarding the arrangement between the State of North Carolina and the MRFSS, in which North Carolina conducts the MRFSS base field intercept/interviews and contributes funds from their Sport Fish Restoration state apportionment to increase the number of intercept/interviews. J. O'Hop indicated that the State of Florida is fairly sure that they could not conduct the field intercept/interview portion of the MRFSS for the available funds. Without a clear commitment from the State (agency and legislature) to provide the additional funding to do the job correctly, Florida cannot become involved the way that they would wish. Florida is also interested in conducting a pilot study for a recreational data collection and management program before becoming fully involved in the survey. The purpose is to try out a number of different methodologies in an effort to see what would work best for Florida. Chairman Lazauski tabled further discussion until R. Lukens joined the meeting.

ComFIN Workshop Discussion

Lazauski indicated ComFIN is a cooperative, state-federal program for the collection and management of commercial fisheries data, and that the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP) is a significant component of ComFIN in the same way that the NMFS MRFSS is a significant component of RecFIN. Lazauski pointed out that one of the handouts provided in the Subcommittee folders is a draft set of roles and responsibilities for the states, the NMFS, and the GSMFC in the CSP. J. O'Hop asked about the reference under the GSMFC section to administration of cooperative agreements. Following some discussion, the Subcommittee agreed to substitute the word "coordination" for the word "administration." Lazauski interpreted the GSMFC section to mean that the Commission staff will be involved in future CSP meetings, providing logistics support, taking meeting minutes, and providing overall coordination as is being done for SEAMAP and RecFIN. D. Donaldson indicated that regarding cooperative agreements, the SEAMAP Coordinator assists the states in developing their cooperative agreements, but the states enter into the cooperative agreements individually with the NMFS, and indicated that the CSP language is modeled after SEAMAP. P. Rubec expressed a concern that the CSP document was inclusive only of the states, the NMFS, and the GSMFC, and does not include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It was pointed out that the draft document was specific to the CSP, and the partners are clearly defined. A discussion ensued regarding the different activities being conducted by the individual states and how they could be coordinated. A. Jones indicated that he would like to have an opportunity to review the CSP roles and responsibilities document upon returning home, and forward any comments later.

A. Data Collection Work Group Tasks

Lazauski indicated that there were four tasks initially outlined for the Data Collection Work Group to address resulting from the last CSP meeting and the ComFIN meeting, both held in Atlanta, Georgia. Those tasks are 1) uniformity of data definitions, 2) comparability of data collection methods and procedures, 3) data dictionary, and 4) guidelines for quality assurance. Lazauski briefly described two internal NMFS national data initiatives, including standardization of species and other coding and the development of a strategic plan for data. The latter is related to the impending IT-95. These initiatives are directly related to the ComFIN initiative and should be closely coordinated. A discussion ensued regarding how the NMFS initiatives relate to ComFIN. A. Jones indicated that the Southeast Region should be out front on the NMFS internal initiatives due to the amount of work that has already been done by the Subcommittee and the CSP Committee. J. Shepard pointed out that the work currently before the Subcommittee is most directly related to the CSP; however, it also applies to ComFIN in general.

There was a general discussion related to how commercial data are transmitted from the states to the NMFS, and how coding conversions are currently done. P. Rubec asked about the utility of writing a SAS program that will automatically convert state codes to the NMFS codes and visa versa. It was generally agreed that that would work, however, J. O'Hop pointed out that their data base is not a SAS data base and there may be some complications. Further discussion continued regarding this issue.

A significant discussion ensued regarding the Subcommittee's understanding of the tasks which are being addressed. Following that discussion it was decided that each Subcommittee member will review guidelines for quality assurance, using the document developed for RecFIN as a starting point, as they relate to the CSP and get comments to R. Lukens. Also the Subcommittee agreed to individually work on definitions of data elements. Regarding compiling information for the task of developing data element definitions and descriptions, the Subcommittee agreed to the following elements:

- 1) list of codes (any codes used, eg. water body, species, etc.)
- 2) field name (computer field)
- 3) column width (including decimals)
- 4) alpha, numeric, or alpha/numeric characters
- 5) units and precision
- 6) conversion factors

Each Subcommittee member will get their assignments to R. Lukens by April 30.

Additional RecFIN Discussion

* Lazauski asked Lukens to discuss the situation regarding state involvement in the intercept/interview portion of the NMFS MRFSS. Lukens pointed out that for the immediate future the issue only involved the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Currently, Texas will continue to conduct their state survey as in the past, and Florida has other concerns which must be met before they will be ready to become involved to the extent of conducting field intercept/interviews for the MRFSS. Lukens indicated that the NMFS MRFSS office's preference is to have the GSMFC enter into a single subcontract with the current MRFSS contractor for a period of one year for the three states indicated to conduct the field intercept/interviews. He indicated that there are benefits to proceeding this way, including having the contractor conduct initial training sessions for the state personnel and undergoing a one year period of getting experience in working with the survey. Also of some note is the idea that this would be a compromise approach that could provide a level of comfortability for all parties concerned. Lukens indicated that he expressed the concerns on behalf of the states that it may be difficult to discontinue the subcontracting arrangement once it had become initiated, and also the idea that the states should be able to interact directly with the NMFS without having to be a subcontractor to an independent contractor. Lukens also indicated that the NMFS has a certain level of sensitivity to the new contractor since the latest contract had only just been awarded. Lukens pointed out that currently the states do not know how much funding would be available through the subcontracting route, and that through the subcontracting route there would probably be less available to the states since the contractor would be getting a certain amount of the funding before it would be awarded to the states.

It was pointed out that by withdrawing the three states in question from the MRFSS, the work load on the contractor is not significantly reduced; therefore, the contractor will not be willing, or perhaps able, the give up much of the funding. It was further discussed, though, that the contractor would no longer have the field supervisors or field intercept/interviewers under their administration, and that the states want to do first line data entry. The general feeling is that these two factors being handled by the states would significantly reduce the contractors work load. A. Jones indicated that some cost figures related to the activities discussed above should be available from the MRFSS office, particularly since the contract negotiations are over and the contract is signed. Lazauski indicated that they are going to need


to hire two full time personnel if they are going to be able to do the job right, so there needs to be enough funds to cover those hiring needs. He also made the point that once the personnel are on staff, the number of intercept/interviews would not be limited just to what the MRFSS required. They would be able to collect many more intercept interviews, thus increasing the reliability of Alabama's data.

Lukens reported that he has requested from the current contractor the amount of funds that would be available to the three states in question through a subcontract. Receipt of that information is pending. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the perceptions and thoughts related to funding, subcontracting, benefits, and drawbacks in conducting the intercept/interviews and doing the first line data entry.

Lazauski asked Lukens to explain the proposal which was included in the Subcommittee folder. Lukens explained that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through their Gulf of Mexico Program had sent out a call for proposals to conduct work that is compatible with the emphasis areas developed by that program. Apparently, there is \$1 million available for projects between \$50 and \$100 thousand each. The proposal in the folder is one which Lukens prepared for the Subcommittee to assist during 1994 and 1995 some of the RecFIN and ComFIN work, as outlined in the proposal. He asked that the Subcommittee endorse the proposal and submit it to the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) for their consideration. The TCC would then present the proposal to the Commissioners during the upcoming Commission Business Meeting. The Subcommittee reviewed the proposal and a **motion** was offered by J. Shepard to endorse the proposal and send it to the TCC for their consideration. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The discussion of the GIS symposium was not addressed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.



 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

**S-FFMC MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 MINUTES
 March 16, 1993
 Palm Beach, Florida**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Chairman V. Guillory. The chairman declared the presence of a quorum, and it was noted that D. Berry had replaced G. Brumfield with E. Swindell as his alternate and that J. Mambretti had replaced J. Chaszar with T. Stelly as his alternate. The following persons were in attendance:

Members

V. Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
 Terry Stelly, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX (alt. for J. Mambretti)
 Tom Van Devender, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS
 John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
 Rick Marks, NFMOA, Arlington, VA
 Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Inc., Covington, LA
 Dalton Berry, Zapata Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
 Richard L. Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
 Cynthia D. Bosworth, Staff Assistant

Others

Alton White, Zapata Haynie Corp., Cameron, LA
 Ed Swindell, Zapata Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA
 Richard Condrey, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
 Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
 Corky Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
 John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Adoption of Agenda

*J. Merriner moved and D. Berry seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

B. Wallace questioned the meaning of the second sentence under paragraph three of the "Discussion of Bycatch Study." After discussion, it was noted that the sentence should read as follows: "He noted that published estimates of bycatch from previous studies probably overestimate the magnitude of the bycatch."

*J. Merriner moved and B. Wallace seconded that the minutes be approved as revised. The motion carried unanimously.

Bycatch Report

R. Condrey reviewed the results of the bycatch study noting that the report was still preliminary. He stated that an extension of the contract through July 31, 1993, had been granted in order to finalize analyses.

R. Condrey reported that the most frequent observation regarding the presence of bycatch is "no bycatch." He also noted that when bycatch was observed the most frequently encountered species was croaker followed by silver seatrout and gafftopsail catfish, respectively. He reiterated that based on his findings, previously published estimates of bycatch are probably overestimates. He also stated that a 3-year MARFIN proposal was being prepared to repeat the study for purposes of statistical significance and to reanalyze previously collected bycatch data from Louisiana.

Menhaden FMP Revision

R. Leard explained the status of the FMP revision noting that a partial draft had recently been mailed to the committee for review and comment. He requested help from the committee in editing and revising, especially boldly marked portions. J. Merriner stated that the stock assessment should be completed by the end of April.

R. Marks agreed to provide R. Leard with socio-economic data from the Atlantic menhaden FMP. This data along with other data from NMFS and the industry will be used to develop more complete drafts of the sociological and economic sections of the FMP. R. Condrey agreed to incorporate data on bycatch (incidental catch) into that section and provide draft language.

R. Leard discussed the timetable for completion. He advised that all additional data and comments should be in by early June so that a complete rough draft can be developed and reviewed prior to a committee meeting tentatively scheduled for late July or early August 1993.

In-Season Adjustments

B. Wallace presented options addressed by the subcommittee (see October 13, 1992 minutes). He discussed the advantages and disadvantages that were developed for each of the two options. He stated that the preferred option of the subcommittee was a time-certain extension of the ending date for the season from "the Friday following the second Tuesday in October" to "through November 1 of each year." J. Merriner discussed the possible effects of this extension including a report prepared by D. Vaughan of the NMFS's Beaufort Laboratory. He noted that the extension should have negligible effects given the significant reduction in fishing effort that has occurred over the past years.

*D. Berry moved that the following modifications to seasonal regulations be recommended to the S-FFMC, the GSMFC and the individual states:

"The regular menhaden fishing season shall extend from the third Monday in April through November 1 of each year."

B. Wallace seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Fishing Season Forecast - 1993

J. Merriner reported on the 1992 season noting that final catch amounted to 421,436 mt, down 23% from 1991 and 33% below the 1987-1991 annual average. He also stated that effort amounted to 408,000 vessel ton weeks, down 14% from 1991 and 27% below the 1987-1991 average. He noted that 51 vessels operated in 1992, down from 58 in 1991 and 75 in 1990.

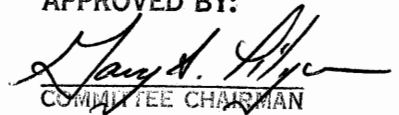
J. Merriner stated that for the 1993 season he expects that 6 plants and 51 vessels will be in operation. Nominal effort is expected to be 402,000 vessel ton weeks, and landings should be approximately 458,000 mt. Chances are four out of five landings will range from 330,000 to 583,000 mt.

V. Guillory stated that based on juvenile indices in Louisiana, he expected that the amount of Age 1 fish available to the fishery in 1993 would be slightly above average; whereas the number of Age 2 fish would be slightly below average. He further added that based on these indices and anticipated effort at approximately 17% below 1991, he expected the Louisiana harvest to range between 300,000 mt and 350,000 mt.

Other Business

It was noted that, if the final bycatch study report was available by the mid-summer FMP meeting, R. Condrey would perhaps be invited to present the findings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

**TCC ANADROMOUS FISH SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 16, 1993
Palm Beach, Florida**

Chairman Gary Tilyou called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

Jim Duffy, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Douglas J. Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Charles Mesing, FGFFC, Tallahassee, FL
Terry D. Stelly, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
Gary Tilyou, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Staff

Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Nancy Marcellus, Administrative Assistant

Others

Gail Carmody, USFWS, Panama City, FL
John Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Austin R. Magill, NMFS, Washington, DC
Jim Clugston, USFWS, Gainesville, FL

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted to include agenda items from the Anadromous Fish Workshop which were not covered the previous day.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October 13, 1992 meeting were approved with one change noted on page 3, ...Otherwise the split is 50% federal 50% state.

Update of Current Activities

Gulf Sturgeon Recovery Plan Development - G. Carmody reported that the Gulf sturgeon recovery plan is going through its final draft preparation and should be submitted for technical review on April 15. There will be a 60 day review process. There is an extensive mailing list of individuals who will receive the draft for technical review, including people on the GSMFC mailing list. The target is to have a public review draft available in September.

Update on Nuclear DNA Project - C. Mesing reported that there has not been a significant change since the Subcommittee last met. Dr. Wirgin, who is conducting the project is much closer to being able to look at these preserved fish and may have some information on preserved fish from the ACF system by the fall meeting. R. Lukens indicated that administratively the deadline for submission of the final deliverable is in three months so we are expecting to close the project out in the near future. Lukens informed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Aid Office that Dr. Wirgin would not need more money, but may need more time to complete the project.

Update on Anadromous Fish Tag Development - G. Carmody reported that a first year summary progress report had been submitted. It does not appear likely that a prototype anadromous fish tag will be completed in 1993. The principal investigator mentioned that he may need a 90-100 day contract extension. The FWS will continue to work with him through completion of that project. R. Lukens indicated that he did change one thing regarding the project. Early on a saltwater/freshwater switch to accommodate fish movement between salt and freshwater was discussed. The Principal Investigator now says that such a switch is not needed, explaining that with improved battery life capability both the radio and sonic functions will remain on at all times and will not degrade the battery's life expectancy.

Update on Lower Mississippi River Initiative - D. Frugé reported that he is still in process of going through the information generated at the April lower Mississippi River coordination meeting in Vicksburg. At that meeting, representatives from state fish & wildlife and water quality agencies along the Mississippi River met to discuss the formulation of a formal coordination organization. Since the fall, the information generated at that meeting, including priorities, goals and objectives, and ideas for organization structure has been organized in the form of draft mission statements, draft goals and objectives, and constitution and bylaws for the foundation of this organization. The information that was generated at the April meeting is currently in draft form, and a meeting has been scheduled for a group of volunteers from the April meeting to come up with a revised draft for state agency review and consideration for approval by the end of this year. The group has elected to call themselves the Lower Mississippi Conservation Committee. He indicated that he will continue to update the Subcommittee on progress of this initiative.

Lake Talquin Study - C. Mesing reported that the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission has approved a three year extension of the study to run through 1996. He expressed confidence that this extension will provide the study about three year classes to examine for the final analyses. At this time the survival difference between Gulf and Atlantic genotypes is not significantly different, extrapolated from a sample of about 50 fish of one year class. These fish are now age five. Normally, in Lake Talquin Atlantic fish die by age six, so the samples from the Fall of 1993 should shed some light on how well the Gulf fish perform versus Atlantic fish under similar environmental conditions. There is some indication of growth differences between the two genotypes. Gulf fish were about an inch larger than Atlantic fish in the same year class; however, the condition factors were not significantly different. They were slightly higher, but it should be understood that condition factors change as fish get different lengths. There is still a group of fish that were a part of the initial year class from 1988 that are identified as D-1. These fish are from Smith Lake, Alabama and originated from the Apalachicola River stock. Dr. Ike Wirgin has been contracted to look at the D-1 mitochondrial genotypes to see if he can differentiate Smith Lake fish from Monks Corner, South Carolina fish. That analysis has not been completed, but based on preliminary analysis, the D-1s appear to come from one group. There is not a lot of variation that would indicate a unique D-1 from the Gulf region.

Sabine River Striped Bass Critical Habitat and Movement Study - D. Frugé briefed the Subcommittee on the Sabine River Striped Bass Radiotelemetry Study. This project began March 18-19, 1992 when ten striped bass were implanted with radio transmitters and released just below the Toledo Bend Dam in the Sabine River. Of those ten fish, signals have been detected from seven and three have never been detected. An initial radiotracking trip was made by boat on March 24, covering 40 miles downriver from Toledo Bend Dam. Numerous other boat or land-based tracking efforts have been made in the general vicinity of the dam spillway and generating station outfall since that time. An additional fish was implanted and released just below the dam on May 4. That fish has not yet been detected. Aerial radiotracking flights began on May 20, 1992 and are continuing in 1993. An additional five fish were implanted and released just below Toledo Bend Dam on January 13, 1993. Signals have since been detected from four of these fish; however, one has not been detected. Another five fish were implanted and released in the north end of Sabine Lake on January 22, 1993. To date, signals have been detected from two of these fish, but not from the other three. Maps indicating locations and movement of the 13

fish from which signals have been detected during radiotracking efforts were distributed to the Subcommittee. Most radiotagged fish occupied the Toledo Bend Dam tailwaters during the summer of 1992. Rather extensive movements have been documented since that time by several fish, with circumstantial evidence that some of them may have entered Gulf waters and then returned to the river. Data on temperature and other water quality variables are being collected in areas of fish locations to the extent possible. Data on ambient river temperatures and other water quality factors will be used for comparison with these data. Field work for this study will continue through January 1994 with completion of a final report anticipated for June 1994.

Discussion of Length-Weight Relationship

Chairman G. Tilyou introduced the discussion topic of establishing a length-weight relationship for striped bass, asking if there is a need for such an analysis, and, if so, what data are needed. C. Mesing indicated that they are interested in fish age because of a need to know how long fish are living prior to being caught. He stated that striped bass weight fluctuates from season to season in thermal refuges in Florida. Growth rate also fluctuates because most striped bass in Florida originate from reservoirs, and there is a problem determining growth and weight factors when fish escape from a reservoir to a river system. It is not known if a fish lived in the river all of its life or if it grew to a certain size in a reservoir and escaped to the river. Charlie Wooley put together something on length-age information in his 1983 publication, with some back calculations from scales. That is the only information that Mesing is aware of related to this issue. It's fairly reliable for the ACF system. Mesing indicated that there are some problems with Wooley's treatment, for example some fish ages appear to be questionable. Florida currently uses otolith to age fish, and Wooley used scales which could result in a difference. For a length-weight analysis there needs to be a large sample of the population with little variation in size. In reservoirs and river systems striped bass grow at different rates, thus causing a problem in analyzing length-weight data.

J. Duffy stated that fish do not have to be sacrificed. If fish are being tagged, they are released at a known age. When the tag is returned, assuming the fish is available, its age is known and can be related to the length and weight. It is important to use an externally imprinted tag so that not only can the information be acquired, but the fish can be returned to the water. Alabama has 1100 lengths and ages. Many of those are fisherman reported and Duffy indicated that he does not want to include them in his data base because of a lack of reliability on the data. Duffy stated that he believes the best and most defensible index of condition, to date, is a basic or site specific length-weight analysis of covariances which provides a slope intercept for comparison of one sample to another.

C. Mesing stated that there is a lot of information that shows that external tags impact growth. Consequently, fish that are tagged may have a different growth rate than fish that are not tagged.

J. Duffy added that there is another reason to establish a basic length-weight relationship, and that is that it is one of the fundamental descriptors used to study fish and devise methods for restoring depleted populations.

T. Stelly stated that Texas has approximately 200 pieces of information on individual fish lengths and weights. There are probably around 100 which include information on length, weight, and sex, and less than 25 that include information on length, weight, sex, and age. Mesing asked if sex was important to this analysis. It was suggested to consult literature from the Atlantic coast regarding the importance of sex to length-weight analysis.

G. Tilyou stated that what data are required depends on the questions you are asking. If one is trying to compare how a certain population is performing with regard to another population, that is one question. The idea of a relative weight is comparative. The answer is how they are compared. If one

is trying to predict weights based on age or length then that is a different question. Tilyou stated that he thinks the purpose should be to have one formula that everybody can use to compare their systems. Duffy responded that that is specifically why any relative weight comes under intense fire. Length-weight formulas require a significant amount of data.

In response to Tilyou, Duffy stated that from year to year it is perfectly fine to compare this year's data to last year's data, or fish from one refuge to fish from another, as long as you define your comparisons to within a single system. In other words, one would not want to compare Alabama River fish to Sabine River fish based on a single equation. But if one wants to compare this year's Alabama fish to last year's Alabama fish or fish from one area in the Alabama River to fish in another area in the Alabama River, that is appropriate.

J. Duffy offered that if everyone would send their length, weight, and age to him, he would be able to conduct some preliminary analyses on those data for the Subcommittee. C. Mesing agreed that it would be a good idea. R. Lukens repeated the Subcommittee task, indicating that each agency will compile their appropriate data and send it to Duffy. He will run the analysis and the Subcommittee can discuss the results at the next meeting.

G. Tilyou suggested that the Subcommittee determine what data elements to send to Duffy. Duffy indicated that he will run the data in SAS, and that everyone should send their data in an ASCII file. The following are the data elements agreed upon by the Subcommittee: 1) Date, 2) Total Length (mm), 3) Weight (gm), 4) Season (January to May and June to December), 5) Sex, 6) Age, 7) Basin, 8) Angler/Biologist collected.

Duffy indicated that he would run four lists of complete analysis of the data broken out in the different classification variables that he receives. He will try to temper the analyses with sample size consideration.

R. Lukens indicated that he would send a memo to the Subcommittee detailing the assignment to be sent back to him by the end of April.

Duffy indicated that those sending data should pay no attention to how the data is formatted, but append a note saying how it is formatted. He also said to add a column on length to indicate whether it is total length, standard length, fork length, etc.

Discussion of DNA Data Base

R. Lukens stated that the funding to conduct the nuclear/mitochondrial analyses has been approved, and will accommodate up to 300 samples Gulf-wide. He indicated that the logical allocation of samples is 60 per state. The Subcommittee agreed that the 60 per state allocation would be fair. Lukens then briefly discussed the sampling protocol provided by Dr. Wirgin, indicating that G. Carmody had said that the protocol may have changed to allow all tissue samples to be placed in alcohol. Blood would still have to be frozen. Lukens said that he would check on the protocol with Dr. Wirgin to determine if it should change or not.

Lukens next indicated that the Subcommittee needed to determine the data elements that need to be included in the DNA data base other than the DNA data itself. Duffy stated that all the data elements identified for the length-weight analysis should be included. He then asked what nuclear DNA analysis provides that mitochondrial DNA analysis does not provide. In other words, do both analyses need to be done? C. Mesing indicated that in the long run, nuclear DNA is probably better because it provides more information. For example, mitochondrial DNA only provides information on the maternal side. Nuclear DNA provides information on both parents. The primary reason for continuing to collect

mitochondrial DNA data is that there is a lot of mitochondrial information available on striped bass for comparison. Also, the only genetic marker that distinguishes the Gulf genotype from the Atlantic genotype is a mitochondrial marker. Until a nuclear DNA marker is found that will differentiate between the two, mitochondrial DNA data should be collected. Lukens stated that according to Dr. Wirgin, the budgeted amount will allow for analysis of nuclear and mitochondrial DNA from each sample collected. Further discussion on data elements ensued. The Subcommittee agreed to include lateral line scale counts (left side only), total length to the nearest millimeter, weight to the nearest gram, ages by otolith examination, and scales. For otolith examination, C. Mesing offered to analyze them in his office. For scales, the Subcommittee agreed to collect ten scales from the area of the fish under the pectoral fin about midway down from the dorsal fin. Also scales should not be cleaned, but allow some tissue to remain. With regard to tissue samples to be collected, if the fish is going to be killed, then collect all tissues identified in the protocol. If the fish is to be released alive, collect those tissues which will not cause fatality.

Lukens indicated that his office will need to go through a bidding process for laboratories to provide proposals for conducting the required analyses. He stated that it was his understanding that Dr. Wirgin was probably the only person who would be set up to conduct the nuclear DNA analyses. The Subcommittee agreed. Lukens related that Dr. Wirgin had suggested to him that he and Dr. Rex Dunham from Auburn University could work together to do all the nuclear and mitochondrial analyses. A discussion ensued regarding the history of involvement of both Dr. Wirgin and Dr. Dunham in these striped bass investigations, and that they should be selected to conduct the work. Lukens said that they would have to go through the bidding process, but that he did not expect a large response to the call for proposals. Lukens said that if Dr. Wirgin and Dr. Dunham receive the contract, he will work out the logistics for distribution of the samples between the two laboratories. There ensued a discussion about shipping samples in dry ice and that extra care should be taken to protect samples that are taken in hot weather.

C. Mesing asked what the objective of the DNA project was. T. Stelly responded that it was his understanding that if the states were to begin to stock Gulf genotype fish, the distribution and frequency of genotypes at large should be known. G. Tilyou agreed. Mesing indicated that he thought that the objective was to determine what genotypes are reproducing in the wild. Lukens responded that it was not the original intent to relate the data to reproduction. Stelly indicated that it is important to know the genetic make-up of striped bass that are currently surviving in the rivers, with the idea that there may be some genetic attributes contributing to their survival. Another aspect identified is to determine if there are any other "pockets" of the unique Gulf genotype anywhere in the Gulf region besides the Apalachicola River system. Lukens added that by establishing a baseline of distribution and frequency of genotypes Gulf-wide, the Gulf genotype could be used as a genetic marker to determine the performance of the Gulf fish, assuming that the states begin stocking the Gulf genotype. Mesing then asked if samples for DNA analysis should be taken from different age classes of fish. The Subcommittee agreed that if an array of size classes are available, samples should be distributed among those size classes. But if not, take whatever samples are available.

J. Brown asked about how long the Subcommittee anticipated the need to conduct DNA analyses. Lukens responded that he understood that it may be necessary to collect data past six years, since there seems to be a survival break, at least for Atlantic fish, at six years. The final results of the Lake Talquin study may help clarify this issue. Mesing made the point that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has spent and continues to spend a lot of money and manpower to maintain Gulf genotype brood stock in several hatcheries with the expectation that the states will want to use those fish for stocking. He asked if everyone were ready to accept and stock Gulf fish if they were available next year. The general feeling was yes, the states want Gulf fish; however, there is some sentiment to wait at least until after the Lake Talquin study is complete so some indication of performance difference, if there is any, will be known. A lengthy discussion followed in which several issues were covered, including the possible listing of the

Gulf striped bass as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, establishing Gulf genotype brood stock in other reservoirs in the southeast, and some of the implications of switching from Atlantic to Gulf fish for stocking.

Lukens next indicated that Dr. Wirgin had recommended a DNA nomenclature workshop which would establish standard nomenclature for all the genetic markers that are found. He indicated that he would begin to organize that workshop in the next several months. Dr. Wirgin has recommended several geneticists that could be invited to participate in the meeting.

Anadromous Newsletter

D. Frugé reported that the Gulf Coast Fisheries Coordination Office and the Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office in Atlanta has discussed the possibility of producing a Gulf anadromous fish restoration newsletter, provided funding can be made available. Such a newsletter would cover any activities involving Gulf anadromous fishes, but primarily focus on striped bass and Gulf sturgeon. Such a newsletter would cost about \$300 per issue to produce, based on approximately 15 pages and a circulation of about 500 people. Production would be on a quarterly basis. Doug asked the subcommittee members if they thought there would be value in producing such a newsletter, and there was general agreement that there would be. There was some discussion of producing the newsletter as a joint FWS/GSMFC project, since the GSMFC currently has desktop publishing capability. The FWS would also need to get specific permission from the Washington Office for publishing such a newsletter. The Gulf Coast FCO plans to go ahead with this pending availability of funding.

Other Business

R. Lukens reported that by next October he will have completed a draft of the TIMS study plan. He indicated that he would build on the way the first project was done, provide refinements, and get cost figures. He indicated that he would be discussing it with the State of Georgia, Charlie Mesing and his group as well as Gail's office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

**TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE
Minutes
March 16, 1993
Palm Beach, Florida**

Tom Wagner, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Steve Heath, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Phil Steele, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom Wagner, TPWD, Rockport, TX

Staff

Rick Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Cindy Bosworth, IJF Staff Assistant

Others

Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Joe Kimmel, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Charles Moss, Sea Grant, Angleton, TX
Dick Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, October 13, 1992, in Mobile, Alabama, were adopted as presented.

State Reports

Texas - Tom Wagner reported Texas landings have continued to decline since 1987. He distributed two proposed changes of crab regulations in Texas. The first regulation states that it is unlawful to remove crab traps from the water or remove crabs from crab traps during the hours from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise of each day. Wagner noted that this management strategy was recommended in the Texas blue crab fishery management plan adopted by the Commission in January 1992. Restriction of crab trap tending to daylight hours only should reduce theft of crabs and crab traps. This regulation should also facilitate law enforcement and improve safety for commercial crab fishermen fishing from boats.

The second proposed regulation states that it is unlawful for any person to fish a crab trap that exceeds 18 cubic feet in volume, and is not equipped with at least two escape vents (minimum 2 3/8-inch inside diameter) in each crab-retaining chamber, and located on the lower edge of the outside trap walls. This management strategy was recommended in the Texas blue crab fishery management plan adopted by the Commission in January 1992. Mandatory use of escape vents in crab traps is expected to reduce sublegal catch, increase or maintain legal catch, reduce culling time, and reduce resource waste caused

by lost of abandoned traps. Wagner noted these proposed regulations were recommended by both the state and regional management plans. He further stated that public hearings were held on the regulations, and final approval is expected in the near future.

Wagner reported that the Texas Crab Industry Advisory Committee held its first meeting in February. The committee is composed of nine persons interested in the fishery. This committee was formed to seek input from industry people, sports fishermen, commercial fishermen and processors. The committee discussed proposed changes in Texas regulations and problems in the fishery. In particular, the committee discussed an issue regarding the Aransas Pass National Wildlife Refuge. This area provides whooping cranes with an over-winter feeding area. Refuge management wants the TPWD to shut down commercial crabbing in areas around the refuge. The FWS is studying habitat degradation by boat propellers (commercial and recreational) and food habits and loss of food habits to the whooping crane. The committee plans to meet two or three times a year.

Louisiana - Vince Guillory reported that 41,744,000 lbs of hard crabs were landed, and 2,755 licenses were sold in Louisiana in 1992. He distributed Louisiana Landings and Effort (attachment 1). Fishing has been stable in Louisiana since 1987. The Crab Task Force continues to meet and is in the process of reviewing legislation which will tighten up regulations on selling of undersized crabs.

Guillory reported that during the regular session of the legislature last year, Resolution No. 72 requested the LDWF to study the effects of crab dredging on the resource and environment. A literature review of crab dredge regulations, use and impacts; a literature review of the potential environmental effects of crab dredges; a report of a biological field survey comparing crab dredges, otter trawl and crab traps; and an overall summary was presented to the Crab Task Force from the LDWF. The use of crab dredges to harvest blue crabs is quite controversial not only in Louisiana but also along the Atlantic Coast. Crab dredges are presently not legal along the Gulf of Mexico. Crab dredges are legal in some Atlantic Coast states, where a winter dredge fishery provides crabs at a time of the year when the trap fishery does not provide an adequate supply of crabs. The report noted pertinent points regarding the use of crab dredges in Louisiana and concluded that the primary impact of crab dredges in Louisiana would probably be socio-economic -- possible lowered ex-vessel prices to traditional trap fishermen during the winter and increased gear conflicts. Guillory expects the legislature to propose a resolution to ban the use of crab dredges.

Guillory distributed a recent report on ghost fishing mortality on vented and nonvented traps. He noted the report is preliminary and solicited comments. Preliminary results indicated that for 10 control and 10 traps with rings, baited and set for two months, crabs caught tagged (dead or alive) and measured, dead crabs in control traps numbered 156 while dead crabs in vented traps numbered 48. Percentage of mortality in control traps was 15.6% and 4.8% in vented traps. Thus the study showed a significant reduction in mortality using the vented traps.

Mississippi - Harriet Perry reported that Mississippi has worked in a cooperative program for two years on megalopal sampling. Analyses have been run on temperature and salinity. Settlement in 1991 was much higher than in 1992. Meteorological information has been received from a NASA data buoy that will be looked into.

Beginning in April 1993, Mississippi will participate in a study to develop a low calcium seawater system for shedding crabs. Laboratory methods developed at GCRL will be put into use at a commercial facility.

Mississippi landings are very low due to Mississippi landings being reported in Alabama, and a general lack of continuity within the fishery.

Alabama - Steve Heath distributed Total Alabama Commercial Crab Landings, 1962-1992 with Total Value and Price Per Pound (attachment 2). He reported that Alabama's landings were on the rise. There are 24 processing shops in Bayou La Batre, and one in Bon Secour. From October 1991 to October 1992, there were 90 commercial crab licenses sold. A tremendous amount of small crabs were seen the spring of 1992. Generally speaking, the fishery is stable. The biggest problem within the fishery is user conflict. A particular problem within the Mobile Bay/Mississippi Sound area is increased gas production vessel traffic which run at night. These vessels inadvertently shear off crab trap markers. In turn shrimp fishermen have increasing problems with catching these unmarked crab traps and blame the crab fishermen, and crab fishermen assume shrimp fishermen are ruining their traps on purpose. A series of workshops are planned for this year to try to get all parties to discuss methods to alleviate these problems.

Florida - Phil Steele reported state-wide landings for 1992 totaled 14,723,332 lbs, a 47.1% increase from 1991. West coast landings totaled 8,008,572 lbs, a 47.5% increase from 1991. East coast landings totaled 6,662,133 lbs, a 47.2% increase from 1991 (attachment 3). The number of fishermen increased 8.6% on the west coast and decreased 7.8% on the east coast. Pounds landed per fishermen increased 36.6% on the west coast and 59.5% on the east coast.

A total of 45,862 trips were reported for 1992, a 14% increase from 1991. West coast trips totaled 18,300, a 5.2% increase from 1991. Total pounds landed per trip increased 23% on the west coast and 39.8% on the east coast. The percentages of total pounds and total trips in 1992 were very similar, suggesting that the increase in landings may have resulted from an increase in effort (number of trips). Production of soft-shell crabs in 1992 totaled 70,918 lbs, a 12% decrease from 1991, with 53.1% of these crabs being produced on the east coast. The stone crab fishery experienced a record year in 1992 with 6.8 million lbs of claws at an approximate value of \$31,000,000.

Steele reported that the Florida FMP was developed over the past two years from a series of workshops. The FMP goes to final public hearing April 13. Problems identified within the plan include too many traps, too many fishermen and underreporting of landings. To try to get a handle on landings, blue crabs will be designated as a restricted species on January 1, 1995. Before a person can get an endorsement and saltwater products license, he must prove that \$5,000 or 25% of yearly income is derived from any commercial fishery. Steele discussed new or changed regulations and highlighted the following. Minimum size restrictions will be 5" tip-to-tip. Currently, a 10% tolerance has been left out of the plan but may be inserted at some point. The FMP also established a minimum size for peeler crabs. No person harvesting for commercial purposes shall harvest or possess any peeler crab measuring less than 3 1/2 inches. The FMP restrictions on gear state that traps shall measure 24x24x24 or the volume equivalent, shall be constructed with wire a minimum mesh of 1 1/2 inches, and have the throat located only on the vertical surface. Traps shall have a degradable panel and one unobstructed escape ring. No more than 5 feet of any buoy line attached to a buoy used to mark a blue crab trap or attached to a trot line shall float on the surface of the water. Recreational fishermen are allowed five traps. Recreational trap buoys are marked with an "R" and tagged with the harvesters name and address on it. The recreational bag limit is 1 bushel or 120 blue crabs. All peelers harvested must be kept in a container separate from other blue crabs. It is illegal to harvest, sell, buy, or possess egg bearing females. If caught, they must be immediately returned to the water.

Steele reported that several years ago the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission decided to manage their resources on allowable area and initiated the Florida Resource Mapping Program. Using maps, the state of Florida was divided into five regions. Regions were broken down into zones. Zones are identified by fishery with a number of variables including habitat and gear. Other information include areas closed, seasons, and numerous anecdotal information.

New Blue Crab Trap Design

Steele noted that a problem with traditional crab traps occurs on the west coast of Florida when turtles, sharks, and dolphins flip over traps to get the bait. Once the trap is flipped, entrance tunnels are on the top which prohibit catch. He stated that about 7-8 years ago, a new trap was designed so that even if flipped, the tunnels are still accessible to crabs. The design is made with vinyl-coated wire, is heavy duty and able to withstand predators. The design comes equipped with an escape ring and biodegradable panel. Cost per trap is \$15-\$20 with rope, line and buoy. Trap life is 3-4 years.

Blue Crab Fisheries Modeling

Steele reported that Jerald Ault, University of Miami, has developed a series of models for blue crabs. He has actually generated a yield per recruit model and several other models for the blue crab fishery. He has taken traditional fisheries models and applied those to the blue crab fishery.

Summary of States' Fishery-Independent Sampling Programs for Blue and/or Stone Crabs

Leard reported that some information has been placed in the repository. Tom Wagner noted that this information will be necessary when developing the revision to the FMP. Each state representative shall outline available data and send the list to Leard by April 1 to study abundance. The committee agreed to look at the last ten years (1982-1992) 16' trawl data (20' Texas).

Interstate Trucking and Processing Effects on Crab Landings

The subcommittee discussed a major problem in the fishery, namely crabs landed in one state and reported in another or not reported at all. Tom Wagner suggested bringing this item to the Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee and ask them to add it to their agenda at the next meeting.

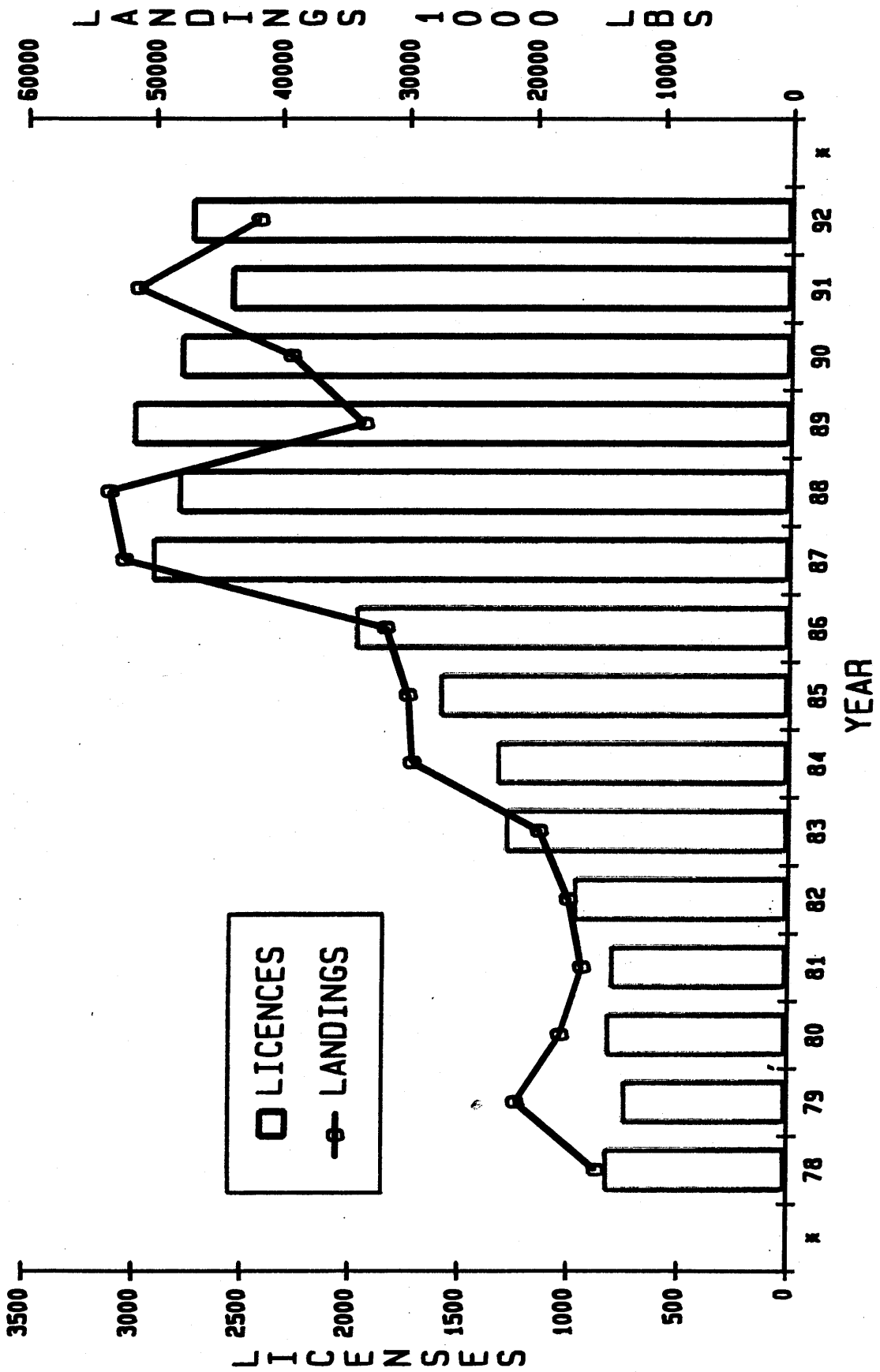
Western Gulf Stone Crab Profile

The latest draft of the profile was distributed to the subcommittee, reviewed and discussed. Any comments to pages 65-58 and sections 6 and 7 should be sent to R. Leard by April 1. All members were asked to update landings, regulations and research needs.

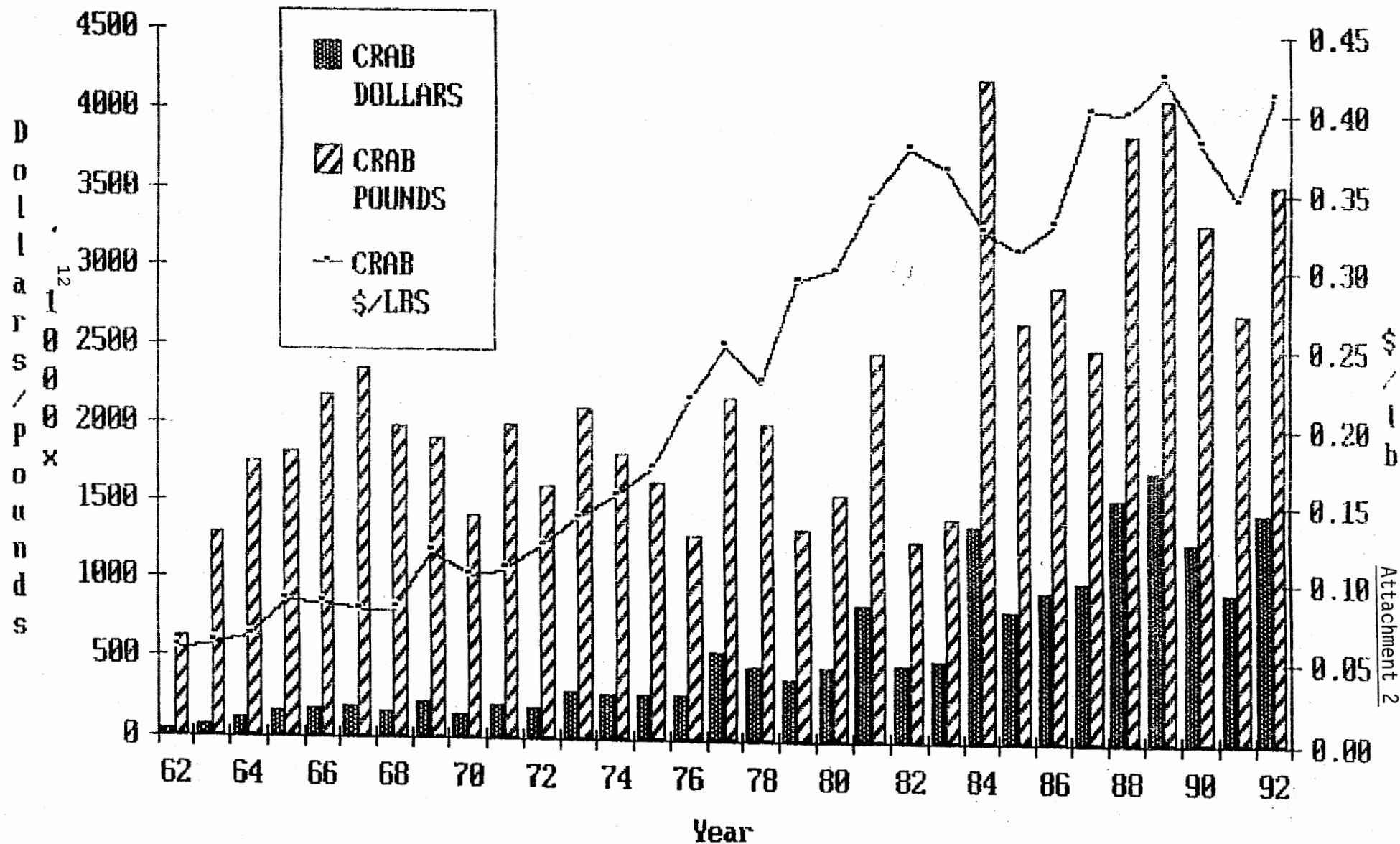
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

The chairman should also invite a rep. of the LEC to the next SC meeting to discuss this issue.

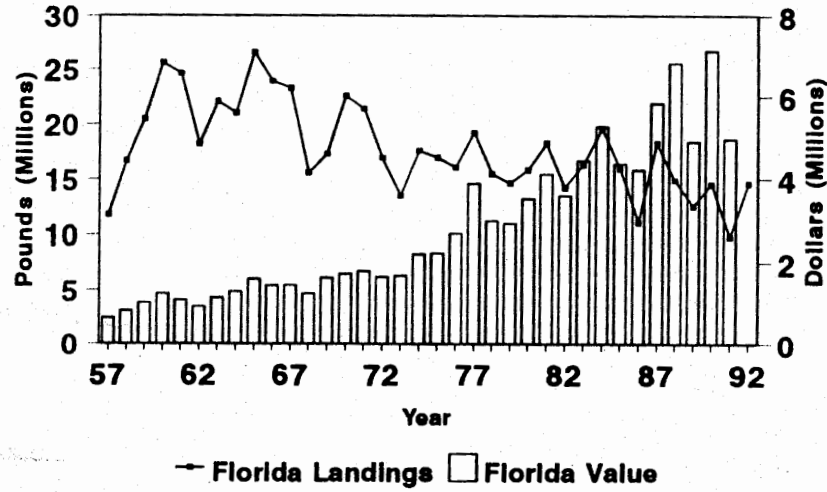
LOUISIANA LANDINGS AND EFFORT



Total Alabama Commercial Crab Landings, 1962 - 1992 With Total Value and Price Per Pound



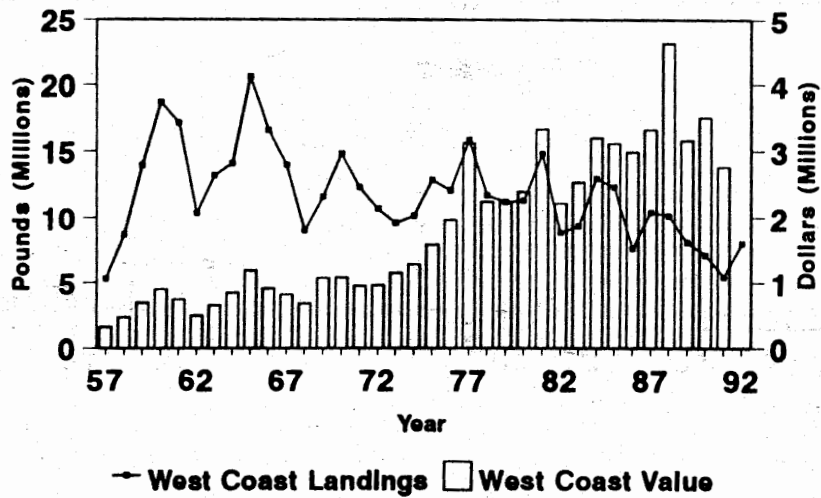
Florida Blue Crab Production: Landings and Value 1957-1992



1957-1986 = NMFS data;
1987-1992 = DNR Trip Tickets;
No Value Data 1992

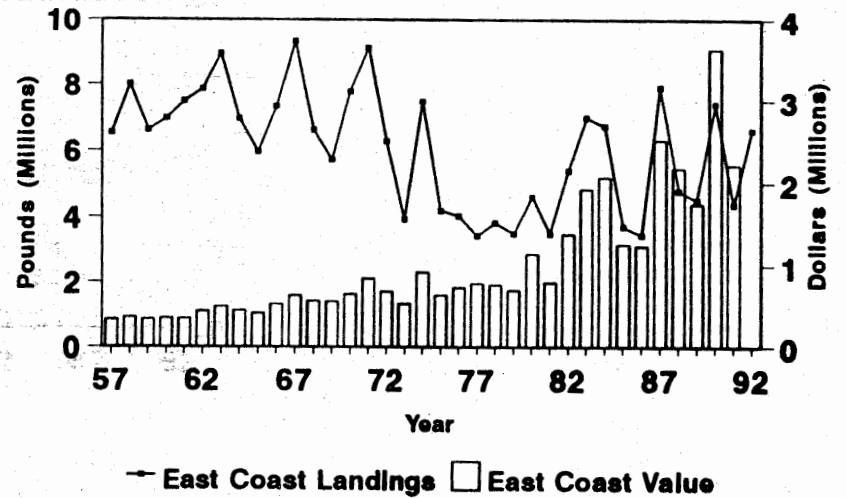
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Florida West Coast Blue Crab Production: Landings and Value 1957-1992



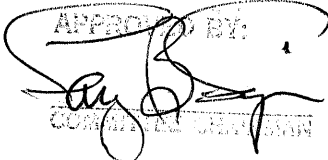
1957-1986 = NMFS Data;
1987-1992 = DNR Trip Tickets;
No Value Data 1992

Florida East Coast Blue Crab Production: Landings and Value 1957-1992



1957-1986 = NMFS Data;
1987-1992 = DNR Trip Tickets;
No Value Data 1992

Figure. 1

APPROVED BY:

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

**STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

March 17, 1993

Palm Beach, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. by L. Simpson. By consensus, L. Simpson continued to serve as moderator, and the following persons were in attendance:

Members

Walter Tatum, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL (proxy for V. Minton)
John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA (proxy for C. Perret)
Tom Van Devender, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS (proxy for J. Gill)
Roy Williams, FMFC, Tallahassee, FL (proxy for R. Nelson)
Rudy Rosen, TPWD, Austin, TX
John Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Daniel Furlong, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL (proxy for A. Kemmerer)
Larry B. Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS (nonvoting)

Staff

Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Rick Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Cindy Bosworth, Staff Assistant

Others

Skip Lazauski, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Dalton Berry, Zapata Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA
Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Mandeville, LA
Ed Swindell, Zapata Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA
Doug Fruge, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Gene McCarty, TPWD, Austin, TX
Austin Magill, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Corky Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Adoption of Agenda

*W. Tatum moved and J. Brown seconded that the agenda be adopted as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

*J. Roussel moved and J. Brown seconded that the minutes be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Black Drum FMP

R. Leard presented the Black Drum FMP for approval. He noted that since the last meeting, questions raised by Texas and later Louisiana had been resolved, and the TCC had approved the plan. Afterwards, the S-FFMC released the plan for public review. He further stated that the only public

comments received were from the NMFS, and they were editorial. R. Leard noted that additional editorial changes would likely be made in readying the plan for publication.

*J. Roussel moved that the FMP be approved. R. Rosen seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Status of the Mullet FMP

R. Leard noted that the "upfront" sections of the plan including the biological description; habitat description; laws, regulations and policies; and the fishery description have been completed. He stated that the stock assessment was needed to drive completion of the remaining sections. He also noted that the SAT had met in St. Petersburg, Florida, on March 14-15, 1993, and that they were nearing completion of the data gathering phase of the assessment. The assessment should be completed by mid-summer and the FMP by the end of the year.

Because mullet move far offshore to spawn and they are most valuable for their roe, a discussion ensued regarding the legality of state landing laws and the ability of states to extend their authority into the EEZ.

The committee agreed to have L. Simpson look into having a federal attorney address these questions at the next meeting.

Menhaden Advisory Committee Report

T. Van Devender reported on discussions of the committee noting that the bycatch report by R. Condrey would be available after July 31, 1993.

R. Leard reported that the committee is reviewing a revised draft of the Menhaden FMP and that NMFS's Beaufort Lab is completing an updated stock assessment. He advised that a completed, rough draft should be available by mid-summer and that a committee meeting was tentatively scheduled at that time.

T. Van Devender reviewed discussions regarding recommendations for adjustments to the menhaden season. He stated that the committee had looked at various options to allow extended fishing time that the industry needs to offset loss of effort from inclement weather and reductions in the fleet. He noted that the committee preferred a fixed ending date rather than a flexible date that would have to be established during the season by some triggering criteria.

*On behalf of the Menhaden Advisory Committee, T. Van Devender moved that the S-FFMC approve the following recommendation for changes to existing state regulations of the menhaden fishing season:

"The regular menhaden fishing season shall extend from the third Monday in April through November 1 of each year."

T. Van Devender also noted that this change would extend the season no more than two weeks depending on the year and that NMFS biologists from Beaufort Lab had determined that the change would have no adverse effect on gulf menhaden stocks.

R. Williams stated that he had insufficient information to vote affirmatively on the motion, specifically noting that catch per unit effort (CPUE) appeared to be dropping over time and there was no understanding of why this was happening.

*Following discussion, J. Roussel moved to call the question and T. Van Devender seconded. The motion to call the question carried. The motion to recommend changes to the menhaden season subsequently carried with R. Williams and R. Rosen voting negatively.

T. Van Devender noted that J. Merriner and V. Guillory provided 1993 season forecasts for the gulf and Louisiana, respectively. Six plants and 51 vessels were expected to operate with landings estimated at 458,000 mt and effort at 402,000 vessel-ton-weeks for the gulf. Louisiana is expecting a harvest of approximately 300,000 mt.

*J. Roussel moved that future menhaden stock assessments be reviewed by the SAT. R. Williams seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Consistency of Regulations

L. Simpson reported on efforts to hold a meeting and problems with schedules. He also noted that the TCC addressed the issue and pointed out that there are legitimate reasons for differences and education of this fact may, in some cases, be more appropriate than change.

T. Van Devender suggested adding shrimp, blue crab, oyster and bait shrimp to the consistency issue species list. There were no objections.

It was noted that some of the problems previously discussed had been resolved. L. Simpson stated that the GSMFC would provide a forum to facilitate resolution of future consistency problems as they may occur.

Data Confidentiality MOA

R. Lukens reviewed the status of signatories to the MOA. He noted that the major problem still occurs in Florida with state law, but officials are working to change the law so that Florida is legally able to sign. Additionally, work continues to gather other signatures.

Stock Assessment Training Workshop

R. Lukens discussed funding for the workshop. R. Leard stated that the SAT was reviewing a draft, proposed course outline developed by B. Muller. Comments on the outline are due April 1, 1993. Afterwards, arrangements will be made for the meeting, tentatively in Tallahassee around the last two weeks in May 1993.

State Policies on Data Requests and Costs

Each S-FFMC representative reviewed their respective agency's policies regarding release, analysis, reproduction and assignment of costs for various requests for information. L. Simpson summarized GMFMC and GSMFC procedures.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 17, 1993
Palm Beach, Florida**



Chairman Ed Joyce called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

John Brown (proxy for J. Pulliam), USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Terry Cody (proxy for H. Osburn), TPWD, Rockport, TX
Billy Fuls (proxy for G. McCarty), TPWD, Rockport, TX
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Henry Lazauski (proxy for V. Minton), ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Scott Nichols (proxy for B. Brown), NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Corky Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Phil Steele (proxy for K. Steidinger), FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Tom Van Devender, BMR, Biloxi, MS
Richard Waller (proxy for T. McIlwain), GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Staff

Larry Simpson, Executive Director
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

Dan Furlong, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Gary Tilyou, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Jim Clugston, USFWS, Gainesville, FL
Austin Magill, NMFS/NOAA, Silver Spring, MD
Rick Marks, NFMOA, Arlington, VA
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Dalton Berry, Zapata Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Peter Rubec, TPWD, Austin, TX
Joe O'Hop, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Tom Wagner, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Robert Saunders, GSMFC, Austin, TX

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the deletion of the Habitat and Recreational Fisheries Management Subcommittee reports.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held October 14, 1992 in Mobile, Alabama were approved with minor editorial changes.

Status Report on Controlled Freshwater Introduction into Louisiana and Mississippi Marshes

D. Donaldson reported for D. Etzold that the Mississippi and Louisiana lawyers are making a final review of the cost sharing agreement for the Bonnet Carre project. It is expected that there will be endorsements for this document on/or prior to the April 21st meeting. There have been several meetings with interested parties such as the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and the Lake Pontchartrain Foundation. It is still anticipated construction will start in September 1993. In regard to the Davis Pond project, there are cost sharing discussions and working on resolving some of the problems with Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Also, the Louisiana Senators and Congressmen are trying to drum up support in Washington for the project. The Caernarvon project has been open continuously at a low discharge level of 500cfs. It has been noted that this structure is aiding oyster growth in the area. Due to various factors, the facility may begin discharging water at a higher rate in the near future. Essentially, the facility continues to operate effectively. C. Perret noted that there is one of the highest population of oysters on the east side of the Mississippi River in recent history.

State/Federal Reports

a. Florida

E. Joyce reported that the State of Florida is currently undergoing some reorganization. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is being combined with the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER). The resultant agency, including approximately 3,000 personnel will be named the Department of Environmental Protection. He mentioned that the lobster trap reduction program is working smoothly. This is a limited entry program which places value on a lobster trap. One of the actions from the implementation of this program was the establishment of an appeals board for people who believed they had been treated unfairly. This activity has shown some of the weaknesses in Florida's statistical data collection programs. The administrative cost of the program is approximately \$25 - 30K which consists mostly of costs related to the appeals board portion of the program.

b. Alabama

W. Tatum reported the State of Alabama is developing a FMP for mullet. The FMP is in the final editing stages and the document should be sent out for review within three or four weeks. The FMP uses information from the GSMFC mullet plan as well as information from Louisiana, Florida and other agencies. The major concern is the dynamics of the mullet fishery now and in the future in regards to the actions of not only Alabama but by other surrounding states. The state has just completed a hooking mortality study for spotted sea trout. He stated the NMFS requested that Alabama initiate a tracking program for the catch of red snapper. For this activity, each dealer has to provide a trip ticket for this species and hopefully this activity can be expanded to all species landed in Alabama. The next FMP to be developed will for crab and there are several conflicts between several user groups. For example, the crab industry and duck hunters. There will be a series of forums to help resolve some of the problems. He noted that Alabama's oyster production has also increased. Lastly, work is being conducted in passing a compromised saltwater fishing license which would establish a resident trip license for fresh and saltwater.

c. Mississippi

T. Van Devender reported that the Mississippi legislature is currently in session and one of the bills of interest is a bill which would establish a saltwater fishing license. It has passed the House and Senate and is waiting for the Governor to sign. The bill would establish a \$4 resident, \$20 non-resident and \$10 4-day trip license. The quota (35,000 lbs) for the commercial catch of red drum has been reached and the fishery is closed. There is a 22-inch minimum size for red drum recreational fishery. Mississippi is striving for red drum escapement of 30% in their waters. There is a continuation of calculating the spawning biomass from the collected eggs and larvae. There has been some compromise in the legal authority for coordinating the closure of water with the federal agencies and the state now is able to

coordinate these closures. Oyster production in Mississippi is quite high this season. Mississippi is ready to continue with the Bonnet Carre project and BMR has been named the lead agency for Mississippi. The money has been appropriated and the state is ready to proceed. Lastly, Mississippi is still in the process of developing net pen aquaculture regulations. The main concern is with fecal and uneaten material which can create hypoxic zones in the area.

d. Louisiana

* J. Roussel stated that at the last meeting he reported about the severe damages from Hurricane Andrew and as a result of these damages, the State of Louisiana has secured \$29.6 million for damage control. Approximately \$5 million will be used for coastal shellfish restoration and enhancement. There will be assessments to determine the actual damage and the money will be used to remove some of the overburden material and for creating new reefs. Louisiana has promulgated some site clearance regulations which states that where oil and gas structures were located that these areas be certified as trawlable areas once the structures are removed. The inshore shrimp season was closed December 21, 1992 and there has not been an offshore closure. The marine lab in Grand Terre will be reopened in the next couple of months. The department recently completed the second update of the stock assessment for red drum and prepared a report to the commission for their use. The oyster tags have been redesigned and adjusted the fees due to the redesign. The department has created three new artificial reef sites under their artificial reef program. W. Tatum asked if the department has looked at the best planting material to restore the damage oyster reefs. J. Roussel reported that the department had not done any evaluation but some private individuals have looked into this issue. Several others mentioned different documents and projects to test different types of clutch materials for reefs. W. Tatum moved to set aside some time at the next meeting to discuss the various types of materials for oyster reefs and the success of those materials. The motion was passed unanimously.

e. Texas

T. Cody reported that the Texas legislature is currently in session. There is a bill which would issue a trophy tag to allow for a large fish such as spotted sea trout and red drum. The bag limit for red drum has been proposed to be increased from three to four fish and the standardization of king mackerel size limit. The reorganization of the department is continuing and they are attempting to fill positions. There have been meetings of the shrimp, oyster and blue crab advisory committees and the artificial reef committee. There is some interest in developing some shallow water artificial reefs which has caused some concern regarding siting, location, etc. of these reefs. Texas is involved in the national estuary program. The Galveston Bay Program is operating and the Corpus Christi Program should be operating soon.

f. NMFS

S. Nichols reported that NMFS will be producing stock assessments for the Gulf Council for king and Spanish mackerel, cobia, amberjack and red drum. NMFS is currently monitoring the red snapper quota. The red snapper landings as of the previous week were 830,000 pounds. There is work continuing with the bycatch issue. There are over 1000 observations for the bycatch characterization portion of the study. NMFS is proceeding with testing 4 types of bycatch reducing devices. The NMFS gear group has been active in Central and South America training personnel in the use of TEDs.

g. USFWS

J. Brown updated on the issue of zebra mussels. The mussels are being found farther and farther south each year. The mussels are being found as far west as Oklahoma. The FWS is doing some actual monitoring activities throughout several offices. The Sportfish Wallop/Breaux fund are generated in part from import duties. In 1990, 1991 and 1992, these duties were overestimated. The net result has been an overdeposit in the W/B account of \$17.4 million. The FWS and the Treasury Department have been discussing the issue and the agreement reached is that the overdeposit will be corrected in FY1994 allocations. This correction equates to a reduction of funding as follows: Alabama - \$200K; Florida -

333K; Louisiana - \$215K; Mississippi - \$174K; and Texas - \$670K. The total impact to Region 4 is \$2.4 million. The Department of Interior is considering a new agency called the Office of Biological Survey. The intent of the agency would be to provide basic scientific data and information to the decision makers with the absence of agency bias. The research operations and functions will be removed from the FWS, NPS, BLM, etc. and placed into this new agency. He stated he would keep the TCC informed on this issue.

Discussion of Consistency of Regulations

L. Simpson reported that this issue originated from the State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee and that one of the most asked questions and most misunderstood issues is why there is no consistency in fishing regulations between states. Each state was asked to examine their regulations and look at the scientific rationale for the regulations. J. Roussel stated that Louisiana uses conservation standard for a species, historical size of the species caught, where fishermen fish, sizes available to fishery and the maximum number of harvest of fish to determine the size and bag limit regulations for Louisiana. Several members stated that consistency of regulations is not a feasible option since there are many differences between the gulf states. The reasoning for having regulations in each state is that those rules best fit their needs.

Subcommittee Reports

a. Anadromous - Gary Tilyou, Chairman

G. Tilyou reported that the subcommittee met on March 15, 1993 for a workshop. One of the items discussed was status reports from each state which outlined activities in their state pertinent to anadromous fish. The subcommittee prioritized the tasks in a work plan developed by the group and where to focus their effort. The tasks were independent and dependent sampling, stock strategies and thermal habitat. At the March 16th meeting, the gulf sturgeon recovery plan is near completion. There is an ongoing nuclear DNA project which provides information on striped bass DNA identification. The members discussed an anadromous fish tag development which has been ongoing for about 2 years. The tag is a radio and sonic tag and this activity should be completed in the near future. The Lower Mississippi River Initiative is continuing but its development is taking more time than expected. The subcommittee addressed the Lake Talquin study which will determine if the Gulf strain of striped bass are better suited to the Gulf of Mexico than Atlantic strain. The members discussed the Sabine River Study which attempts to identify thermal refuges in the Sabine River. The subcommittee discussed establishing striped bass length/weight and DNA databases. The subcommittee is investigating producing a newsletter which would report about the activities concerning anadromous species in the Gulf of Mexico.

b. Crab - Tom Wagner, Chairman

* T. Wagner reported that the subcommittee worked on the final draft of the western stone crab profile. The draft will be distributed in approximately a month. The subcommittee is looking into amending the Blue Crab FMP and this process should begin in 1995. The subcommittee believed it would be beneficial to be included on the Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee agenda to discuss interstate shipment and processing of blue crab. The subcommittee is looking for some assisting from the committee. C. Perret suggested that the Crab subcommittee examine the user group conflicts by state concerning blue crabs and provide some suggestions to approach these problems. W. Tatum moved that the crab subcommittee provide guidance to the TCC concerning user group conflicts concerning crab resources. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Data Management - Henry Lazauski, Chairman

* H. Lazauski stated that the subcommittee members reported about the state and federal activities concerning data management and provided brief overviews of their reports. They also discussed the

upcoming RecFIN meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana where several work groups are scheduled to meet as well as the RecFIN Committee. One of the main objectives of the meeting is to finalize the first year annual operations plan for the program. He noted that a funding proposal for the coordination of fisheries data collection programs had been distributed to the TCC. This document will be submitted to the EPA-Gulf of Mexico program and will generate funds for travel, meeting costs and administrative costs related to recreational and commercial data collection programs. Also, the subcommittee discussed applying for MARFIN funds to assist with these costs. C. Perret moved that the TCC endorse the EPA-Gulf of Mexico funding proposal for the coordination of fisheries data collection programs. The motion passed unanimously.

d. SEAMAP - Walter Tatum, Chairman

* W. Tatum stated that the subcommittee has been attempting to provide a vehicle for utilization of both the state and federal SEAMAP data. Although the data are placed into a data management system, there is some reluctance by NMFS to use the state data for management purposes. Thus, the subcommittee initiated some efforts to begin doing some comparative tows. The number of tows required to detect significant differences was needed by using some of the historical SEAMAP data. W. Tatum moved on behalf of the subcommittee that TCC endorse the action of the R/V TOMMY MUNRO, A.E. VERRILL, R/V TOMMY MUNRO and the OREGON II comparative tow data being analyzed, using the same methodology used for the data present to the SEAMAP meeting to determine the number of tows necessary to detect significant differences in catch. The motion passed unanimously. W. Tatum reported that the Environmental Work Group met on March 15, 1993 to discuss some problems with the collection of environmental data. The main topics discussed were rationale for collection of some of the environmental data. Some of the parameters were deemed unnecessary and would be removed from the data sheet. It was decided that others needed a better description in the SEAMAP Shipboard Manual of how to collect the information correctly. W. Tatum moved on behalf of the subcommittee to allow the environmental work group to modify the environmental data sheets, increase the level of description of instruction for collection of data and change certain items. The motion passed unanimously. W. Tatum noted that the environmental work group had not met very often because there was no indication of a need for a meeting. The reason for this is that there was no feedback from various work group leaders concerning problems encountered in the field. In an effort to combat that, W. Tatum moved on behalf of the subcommittee to expand the environmental work group to include the SEAMAP Shrimp/Groundfish, Plankton and Reef Fish work group leaders. The motion passed unanimously. In an effort to set up a feedback mechanism, the subcommittee believed that it would be useful if each work group leader would present a report to the subcommittee on a yearly basis. W. Tatum moved on behalf of the subcommittee that each work group leader will present a report concerning their work group's activities to the subcommittee at least every October meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

* J. Roussel noted that earlier there were discussions concerning the need for an offshore red drum tagging study. He asked if it would be possible if SEAMAP, MARFIN, the states and others agencies could conduct such as survey. J. Roussel moved that the SEAMAP Subcommittee direct the Red Drum Work Group to review any additional red drum information which has been published since their last meeting and address the need for another red drum assessment survey. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 17, 1993
Palm Beach, Florida**

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Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
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Adoption of Agenda

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upcoming RecFIN meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana where several work groups are scheduled to meet as well as the RecFIN Committee. One of the main objectives of the meeting is to finalize the first year annual operations plan for the program. He noted that a funding proposal for the coordination of fisheries data collection programs had been distributed to the TCC. This document will be submitted to the EPA-Gulf of Mexico program and will generate funds for travel, meeting costs and administrative costs related to recreational and commercial data collection programs. Also, the subcommittee discussed applying for MARFIN funds to assist with these costs. C. Perret moved that the TCC endorse the EPA-Gulf of Mexico funding proposal for the coordination of fisheries data collection programs. The motion passed unanimously.

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Other Business

* J. Roussel noted that earlier there were discussions concerning the need for an offshore red drum tagging study. He asked if it would be possible if SEAMAP, MARFIN, the states and others agencies could conduct such as survey. J. Roussel moved that the SEAMAP Subcommittee direct the Red Drum Work Group to review any additional red drum information which has been published since their last meeting and address the need for another red drum assessment survey. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

GMFMC LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY PANEL
MINUTES
March 17, 1993
Palm Beach, Florida

Phil Bohr, proxy for Suzanne Montero, called the meeting to order at 1:25 pm. The following were in attendance:

Members

Jim Robertson, TPWD, Austin, TX
Jerald K. Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Lewis Shelfer, FMP, Tallahassee, FL
Tommy Candies, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Terry Bakker, BMR, Biloxi, MS
Karl Moore, USCG, New Orleans, LA
Phil Bohr, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL

Staff

Lucia Hourihan, Publication Specialist

Others

David A. McKinney, NOAA Enforcement, Silver Spring, MD
Dan Furlong, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Cynthia S. Fenyk, NOAA Office of General Counsel
Steven Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Bill Robinson, TPWD, Austin, TX
Bob Brown, GDNR, Richmond Hill, GA
Jackie Whitehead, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
C.W. Hinton, GDNR, Brunswick, GA
Perry Joyner, FMP, Tallahassee, FL
Alton White, Zapata Haynie Corp., Cameron, LA

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was amended to include a discussion on the use of crustacean traps to catch fish in the panhandle area and adopted as amended.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held October 14, 1992 in Mobile, Alabama were adopted as written.

Overview of Magnuson Act Process

D. Furlong gave an overhead presentation of how the Council/NMFS rulemaking process works under MFCMA. The MFCMA established eight regional fishery management councils; delineates the seven national standards; requires NMFS to issue operational guidelines, review FMPs for approval, promulgate implementing regulations, and enforce regulations; and authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to prepare FMPs. Furlong outlined steps in FMP preparation, review, implementation and amendment. In terms of enforcement capability, there are 22 federal enforcement agents in the Southeast Region.

Suzanne M. Bohr
10/21/93

received per year and about 800 citations are issued annually. Thirty-five arrests are made yearly and the conviction rate is at the 95% level.

Fish Traps

Bob Williams and Earl Railey of Florida discussed problems encountered in the panhandle of Florida with fishermen using crab traps to harvest reef fish. There currently is no definition of a crab trap vs. a fish trap. This makes enforcement of fish trap restrictions difficult, since a fisherman can claim that he was fishing for crabs and his reef fish catch was simply bycatch. The Florida Marine Fisheries Commission (FMFC) is working on a definition of a crab trap, and has a proposed rule which will go to a final public hearing in April.

L. Shelfer moved that the Advisory Panel recommend that the Council piggyback the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission crab trap definition into the Reef Fish FMP. However, if there is a substantial change made at the FMFC final public hearing, the Advisory Panel should re-review this recommendation. The motion carried with two abstentions (Candies and Waller).

Reef Fish Amendment 7

S. Atran distributed a list of preferred and alternative options that will be in the public hearing draft of Reef Fish Amendment 7. The Council had taken Tom Shuler's recommendations and created a new section for general enforceability options (options 1-8). The Advisory Panel discussed this new set of options. Cynthia Fenyk addressed concerns about the legality of the section in option 1 stating that dealers must make their records available to law enforcement agents, and noted that a similar requirement exists in the surf clam FMP on the east coast.

K. Moore moved that the Advisory Panel endorse options one through seven of this new section and then amended his motion to recommend changing all reef fish regulation size limits to be measured in total length in order to be consistent. Discussion ensued.

T. Candies made a substitute motion that the Advisory Panel endorse the first five options in this section, with changes to option 5 to indicate that it apply to all reef fish rather than just amberjack. The motion carried without objection.

Atran relayed a suggestion that he received from South Atlantic Council staff that an amendment for an ITQ system contain a section on increased sanctions for gross violations of ITQ provisions in order to establish an administrative record for NOAA General Counsel's use in determining the relative gravity of various violations. A section of this type is included in the South Atlantic Council's wreckfish ITQ amendment.

Candies moved that the Advisory Panel recommend that an amendment to adopt an ITQ system include a sanctions section such as that in the wreckfish ITQ amendment. The motion carried without objection.

The panel next discussed the general effort management options. Concern was expressed about the enforceability of an ITQ system. Also, the panel members felt that they did not have adequate time to review the preferred and alternative options.

A motion was made and subsequently failed that the Advisory Panel endorse option 11. A motion was made and subsequently failed that the Advisory Panel endorse the preferred option. After extensive

discussion and some confusion among panel members over the issue, Robertson moved that the Advisory Panel have no comment at this point in time, but that it would like more time to look into enforceability issues and request that it be allowed to meet again before final action is taken on this amendment. The motion carried without objection.

General State/Federal Compatibility and Enforceability Issues

Bohr reported that Alabama and Florida had submitted for reimbursement under the Magnuson Act (Asset Forfeiture Fund) and those were in process. T. Candies requested that he be sent a listing of federal cases in which Louisiana had participated.

Robertson said that he had heard of instances of landing of snapper with the excuse that they had come from Texas. He informed panel members that if anyone lands and sells snapper taken in Texas they must have a finfish fisherman license, a commercial boat license and a general commercial fisherman license or be in violation of the Lacey Act.

Coast Guard Fishery Enforcement Study

Moore reported that the enforcement study had been published but not yet released. The study makes suggestions on how to improve fisheries enforcement. Publication of an implementation plan is underway.

Moore also reported that all vessels larger than 82' are being used for Haitian patrol, so enforcement throughout the Gulf is down. The President has made Haitian patrol a top priority for the Coast Guard.

Other Business

Bohr reported that any state having the necessary hardware and wanting to get on-line with E-Mail should contact him next week and NMFS will purchase the program for them. New regulations are sent out on E-Mail without delays.

McKinney wanted to inform panel members of something that had recently surfaced in Washington with the FBI's uniform crime reports. The FBI is extending their uniform crime reports out to include Lacey Act. This means that when NMFS starts reporting to the FBI uniform crime reports on Lacey Act cases in which NMFS participates with the states, then those states will be able to go back and ask for matching funds. McKinney anticipates that the states will be eligible for some percentage of additional federal matching funds from their law enforcement funds in about a year.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

**COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY**

**Wednesday, March 17, 1993
Palm Beach, Florida**

Moderator Chris Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Leroy Kiffe, Tom Kiffe & Sons, Lockport, LA
Dan Furlong, NMFS/SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Rick Marks, NFMOA/NFI, Arlington, VA
Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Inc.,
Joe O'Hop, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Phil Steele, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Corky Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Walter Keithly, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Chris Nelson, Bon Secour Fisheries, Bon Secour, AL
Steve Branstetter, GSAFDF, Tampa, FL,
Billy E. Fuls, TPWD, Rockport, TX

Staff

Cheryl R. Noble, Staff Assistant

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted. C. Nelson stated Bob Jones and Jerry Sansom were not present so there would not be presentations on the Commercial Fishing Issues in Florida.

Review of Meeting Summary (10/14/92)

The meeting summary was reviewed and no changes were made. L. Kiffe was the only one present at this meeting who was present at the last meeting.

Review of Processing Activities in the Southeast

Walter Keithly gave a slide presentation on a federal project that he and Ken Roberts are conducting on seafood processing in the southeast. He stated the final report should be available by the end of the month and if anyone would like a copy to contact him. The report has information from all seafood processors in the southeast. The information is broken down in three year periods on processing activities such as how many pounds of each species were processed, the value, how many employees by month, the size of the processing firms, the production per firm, and so forth. They used the NMFS data base that has information on supposedly every processing firm in the southeast dating back to 1973. He stated they analyzed the data and tried to bring out as many trends and findings as possible.

Regional and National Issues

- Magnuson Fishery Conservation & Management Act Reauthorization - C. Nelson informed the group that the MFCMA is up for reauthorization this year and he has a copy of the NMFS Staff Draft

- Marine Mammal Protection Act Reauthorization - R. Marks said that at the fishery policy conference, environmental groups were invited to talk about the Marine Mammal Protection Act. It was decided that industry, environmental groups, sport fishing groups, and anyone else with an interest would hold round table discussions to try to negotiate what needs to be done in reference to the reauthorization. Congress had scheduled the first hearing on the Marine Mammal Protection Act this month but when they found out that industry and the environmental groups were trying to work something out before taking it to congress, the hearing was canceled. The group agreed this action was beneficial and wished the same type negotiations could be done with the Endangered Species Act.

- Endangered Species Act Reauthorization - Discussion of the Endangered Species Act and its affects on industry ensued. They discussed how hard it is to get permits through NMFS to test naked nets or to test new devices for bycatch elimination and turtle exclusion. It was pointed out that there is a very large coalition for cattlemen, farmers and ranchers who are probably the largest Anti-Endangered Species Act group around, so the fisheries industry is not the only group contending with this.

New TED Regulations

C. Nelson asked Dan Furlong if he had any information on new TED Regulations to present to the group. D. Furlong stated he was not contacted to give a presentation so he was not prepared to present information on new TED Regulations. He did inform the group that in reference to testing with naked nets, TEDs are now required by law so that is why there will be no more testing with naked nets. A general discussion on TEDs and the Bycatch issue took place.

Status of Shrimp Bycatch Discussions

Steve Branstetter from the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation informed the committee that a gear review panel has been established and the first meeting was last month. Minutes from the meeting are available upon request. The most important results from that meeting was the development of a modified series of guidelines that will be used in the evaluation of the different bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). The Foundation has three observers and are in the process of hiring three more but funding is a problem. The statistical panel wants 145 thousand tows to properly document the bycatch population and quantity. However, at present, only thirty to fifty tows a month are being documented. He stated that because of the high cost, this portion of the research plan will not be achieved and that does not reflect well on the Foundation.

The gear review panel has identified four generic designs for bycatch reduction and the designs are now in operational testing. These are the Fish Eye, the Snake Eye, the NMFS BRD, and one that is a cross between a Snake Eye and an Accelerator Funnel. These four designs are being aggressively addressed throughout the region. There is also a fifth design being ranked called the Sliding Ramp and it has a deflector shield in front of the TED.

The three priorities that have been set are: 1) characterization - identifying and sampling the catch in the shrimp operations throughout the region; 2) analyzing different BRDs under working conditions; and 3) the outreach program - getting this information to the general public and letting the public know that this is a cooperative program involving approximately thirty organizations which represents a broad spectrum of people. S. Branstetter said they are pursuing continued funding for this program. The major funding sources for the Foundation are MARFIN and S-K funds.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.



**COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 17, 1993
Palm Beach, Florida**

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm by Chairman Taylor Harper. He requested the Executive Director to call roll and review pertinent rules and regulations regarding the appropriate meeting procedures.

L. Simpson established a quorum. The following Commissioners and/or proxies were present:

Members

Taylor Harper	AL
Walter Tatum	AL
Chris Nelson	AL
Tom Van Devender	MS
George Sekul	MS
Ed Joyce	FL
Corky Perret	LA
Leroy Kiffe	LA
Rudy Rosen	TX
Robert Saunders	TX

Other persons attending were:

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant
Richard Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Dave Donaldson, SEAMAP Program Coordinator
Lucia Hourihan, Publication Specialist

Others

John T. Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Dan Furlong, NMFS/SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Austin R. Magill, NMFS/NOAA, Silver Springs, MD
Jerald K. Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Inc., Covington, LA
Ed Swindell, Zapata Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA
Dalton Berry, Zapata Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA

L. Simpson reviewed voting procedure. Voting is by individual Commissioner. If there is a question about the vote, each state delegation shall cast one vote. If three Commissioners are present, two out of three will carry the State vote. If only two Commissioners are present from a state, they must agree or their votes will offset each other. If only one Commissioner from a state is present his vote shall represent the state.

L. Simpson briefed the Commissioners on procedures for closed meetings and changes to rules and regulations. Changes to the Commissions Rules and Regulations may be made at any meeting provided due notice has been given in the call for the meeting.

L. Simpson introduced Representative Robert Saunders, new Commissioner from the State of Texas.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes for the October 15, 1992 held in Mobile, Alabama were approved as presented.

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Report

E. Joyce reported that the TCC met on Wednesday, March 17, 1993. In addition to State and Federal reports, the TCC received progress reports from the Anadromous, Crab, Habitat, and Recreational Fisheries Management Committees. The Data Management Committee submitted a proposal soliciting funds from the EPA Gulf Program to assist with coordination of strategic and operation plans for RecFIN and ComFIN. The TCC endorsed this proposal. The TCC also endorsed the SEAMAP Subcommittees efforts to conduct a comparative tow study.

C. Perret stated that TCC received a report on freshwater introduction into Mississippi and Louisiana Marshes. He stated that the Caernarvon site is opened and operational and suggested that it may be a contributing factor to the successful oyster seasons in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) Report

J. Waller reported that the LEC met on Wednesday, March 17, 1993. All Gulf States members were present as well as federal participants from NOAA Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard, and members of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Advisory Panel. Among items discussed was the Black Drum FMP; state/federal regulations of red snapper; ISSC issues; a report from NOAA Enforcement regarding individual quota (IQ) programs; problems associated with harvesting and landing of live rock; and TED enforcement. The State Law/Regulation Summary was provided to members. Additional copies will be provided as soon as possible.

State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee (S-FFMC)

L. Simpson reported that the S-FFMC met on Wednesday, March 17, 1993. The Committee discussed the status of the mullet FMP; consistency of regulations; status of data confidentiality MOA; and, stock assessment training.

R. Leard stated that the Black Drum FMP had been released for public review after questions raised by Texas and Louisiana had been resolved. The only public comments were editorial in nature. The S-FFMC approved the FMP.

*E. Joyce motioned to approve the Black Drum FMP as presented. C. Perret seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

L. Simpson reported that the S-FFMC approved changes to the existing state regulations of the menhaden fishing season as follows: "The regular menhaden fishing season shall extend from the third Monday in April through November 1 of each year." This change would extend the season no more than two weeks depending on the year. It was reported that NMFS Beaufort Lab determined the fishery to be stable and it was their conclusion that this extension will not significantly affect stocks. The S-FFMC requested that the Commission approve their action.

*C. Perret motioned to approve the changes recommended by S-FFMC. L. Kiffe seconded. The motion as approved unanimously.

Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee (CFAC)

C. Nelson reported that the CFAC met on Wednesday, March 17, 1993 for informal discussions. Those present received reports from various experts in the Gulf on topics of interest and relevance to the CFAC. Among topics discussed was a review of processing activities in the Southeast by W. Keithly; R. Marks reported on seafood inspection legislation; and, Dan Furlong gave an impromptu report on TED regulations. No action was required.

L. Simpson briefly reviewed some of the changes made to the meeting format during this meeting. He stated that he would continue to strive to make changes to format and contents to improve meeting quality.

The session ended at 5:00 pm and would reconvene at 8:00 am on Thursday, March 18, 1993.

Thursday, March 18, 1993

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am by Chairman Taylor Harper. L. Simpson established a quorum. The following Commissioners and/or proxies were present:

Members

Taylor Harper	AL
Walter Tatum	AL
Chris Nelson	AL
Tom Van Devender	MS
George Sekul	MS
Ed Joyce	FL
Hans Tanzler	FL
Corky Perret	LA
Leroy Kiffe	LA
Rudy Rosen	TX
Charles Belaire	TX

Other persons attending were:

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Ginny Herring, Executive Assist

Dave Donaldson, SEAMAP Program Coordinator

Others

John T. Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Dan Furlong, NMFS/SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Gene McCarty, TPWD, Austin, TX
John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Rick Marks, NFMAO, Arlington, VA
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

NMFS Southeast Regional Office Report

Dan Furlong, Deputy Regional Director, NMFS Southeast Regional Office reported on personnel changes made by the new administration. Although appointments have not yet been confirmed, it appears that Jim Baker will be Administrator for NOAA, Assistant Secretary will be Doug Hall, and Diane Josephson will be Deputy Under Secretary. The new staff will be reviewing NOAA goals under Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown. D. Furlong promised to send a video to the Commission office showing Secretary Brown introducing his new staff.

Other business discussed was NMFS FY 93 Budget. SEAMAP and Cooperative statistics programs are solid and will be level funded. D. Furlong was complimentary of L. Simpson for his efforts in assisting with changes that will reduce the time frame in the grant approval process. He also reported that MARFIN FY 94 priorities were currently being finalized.

He stated that efforts were still under way to increase the quota for red snapper. He was not sure when this would be accomplished.

USFWS Region 4 Report

John Brown reported on behalf of USFWS Region 4. He reported that there would be personnel changes due to the new administration but as of yet they are unconfirmed. Secretary of Interior, Bruce Babbitt is proposing a new agency. This agency would be the Office of Biological Survey. *Walter Tatum motioned to write a letter to the new Secretary concerning this effort and offering State assistance and advice in regards to this new agency. C. Perret seconded. It was agreed that the States should be involved and learn more about the agency's philosophy. Whether its goals will be resource management; research; or protectionist. The motion passed unanimously.

He reported on several research efforts ongoing in the region, particularly a zebra mussel monitoring project that has been ongoing since 1980. The zebra mussel are appearing on old structures in the Mississippi River. The impact is not clear although the mussels do cause damage to pipes in power plants.

He further reported that an over estimate of funds in the Sport Fish Restoration Account in 1990-92 has resulted in a reduction of funding in 1993-94. The impact to Louisiana will be \$2.2 million for wetland projects. In addition each state's apportionment for Wallop-Breaux will be decreased.

State Director Reports

W. Tatum, ADCNR reported that the agency is developing a Mullet FMP that will be finalized within the next couple of weeks. The FMP recognizes that 85% of the catch is in Florida waters and is

cognizant of the fishery efforts in other states. Other activities include a hook and release mortality study on spotted seatrout and a crab fishery study. The spotted seatrout study is not yet final. The crab study is looking at controversy in the fishery, especially socio-economics. They hope to develop a resolution to problems between crabbers and hunters. W. Tatum reported that Alabama oyster resources were in excellent condition thanks to favorable environmental conditions and management.

E. Joyce, FDNR reported that Florida is currently undergoing a reorganization of the FDNR and Department of Environmental Resources (DER) that will result in a new and larger agency. It will take approximately one year to complete the reorganization. The reorganization will bring together 2,400 employees from FDNR and 1,300 employees for DER combining their budgets to a total of approximately \$360 million. Virginia Wetherell is scheduled to be appointed Executive Secretary of the Agency. Don Duden is Acting Director of FDNR.

C. Perret, LDWF reported that the Louisiana Legislature is in special session to address the Louisiana State budget. LDWF received approximately \$29.6 million from the Federal government for damages received during Hurricane Andrew to Louisiana fishery and habitat resources. It is feared that the Legislature may decrease revenues to LDWF since they are receiving funds for damage. The funds received for hurricane damage are earmarked for specific work such as a freshwater hatchery in central Louisiana.

T. Van Devender, MDWF&P reported that 30 bills were introduced in the Mississippi Legislature. He projected that the saltwater fishing license would pass. He reported that the quota on red drum of 30,000 pounds was slightly exceeded, but stated that they are the only state that institutes a commercial quota. Mississippi encourages the 30% escapement goal recommended by the Council FMP. He discussed gear changes in the mullet food and roe fishery; joint efforts with Louisiana on the Bonne Carre project; and, efforts to develop aquaculture guidelines for raising red drum and striped bass. Mississippi also experienced a good oyster season.

R. Rosen, TPWD reported that his agency is working on legislation that would issue a license or tag that would permit the taking of one (1) trophy size fish or small fish (children's rodeo). Other efforts include artificial propagation as a means of enhancing a fishery. Previous studies indicate that a single hatchery resulted in a 20% enhancement to a fishery. He reported that data analysis on red drum stock assessment is almost complete. Reorganization of TPWD has been finalized and all upper level positions are filled. Texas has also experienced problems similar to those in Alabama in their crab fishery. The Texas oyster resources are strong, although some closures have resulted from heavy rainfall. The Texas State Legislature continues to work on oyster legislation to meet health standards. C. Belaire reported that the U.S. Corp of Engineers had issued the first ever permit to his company to develop wetlands bottoms to replace bottoms that have been filled. He will continue to keep the Commissioners informed on his progress.

L. Simpson reported that P.L. 102-567, NOAA Authorization Act of 1992 has passed. This legislation will provide exemptions for States or interstate agencies. This exemption will provide sole-source funding for financial assistance that is specified by statute or has customarily been awarded to a State or interstate agency.

Reauthorization of Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA)

L. Simpson briefed the Commissioners on major proposed changes to MFCMA. D. Furlong assisted with slides. Items discussed were the marine fisheries trust fund; effective management of highly

migratory species; extension of emergency rule authority; and, enhanced data collection and time limitation on confidentiality of statistics.

Of particular interest to the Commissioners was the proposal to strengthen protection for fisheries habitat. Although those present support this issue it was questionable as to whether or not the MFCMA was the correct vehicle for this type of proposal.

Also of interest was proposed amendments regarding fair and balanced Council representation. C. Perret stated that the problem with Council appointments was not at a State level, but politics at a National level was the cause for continued problems.

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

These presentations will be published under separate cover of these minutes and will be attached.

Reauthorization and Appropriation for Section 308(c) Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act

L. Simpson reported that reauthorization of Section 308(c) of the IJF Act and full appropriation at the level of \$600,000 for the Compacts are imperative to the continued successful management of interstate fish stocks. He requested continued support from the Commissioners and suggested that they contact their respective Congressional delegates and seek their support.

MARFIN Program Request for Funding Priorities

L. Simpson reported on MARFIN programs funded in 1992-93. He presented the Commissioners with NMFS FY 94 program priorities. He also presented them with the areas of emphasis he would support most strongly. After review the Commissioners recommended that in addition to his list the Commission should also emphasize funding for shrimp trawl bycatch; stock identification; reef fish life history; and, distribution of endangered and threatened sea turtles and their life history in the Gulf of Mexico.

FY94 NMFS Budget

L. Simpson presented the Commissioners with a conference report on NMFS FY 94 budget. He reported that he was not sure how the new administration would handle grants to the States, indications are that they will be level funded but he is not sure about fishery projects. He indicated that he thought that the current year reduction of 10% would not be implemented for interjurisdictional projects. D. Furlong thought that the reduction may apply to the total budget, not just programs.

Discussion of GSMFC Video

L. Simpson stated that he was anticipating a draft video at any time from the Bureau of Marine Resources staff, but that it was not available prior to our meeting.

Selection of "Charles H. Lyles" Award

Staff was directed to solicit nominations through the mail and to send out mail ballots no later than April 1.

Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs

R. Lukens discussed draft policy that would be discussed at the IAFWA meeting next week. Specifically he addressed a proposal that would cap funding to the various fisheries commission to \$200 annually. He felt that this was a baseline cap that the Commission could support.

Future Meetings

G. Herring reported that she was working with Gene McCarty of TPWD on the October 19-21, 1993 meeting to be held in San Antonio, TX. With G. McCarty's assistance they had secured obligations from the Lone Star Brewery for a reception and G. McCarty was going to check into other activities for the Commissioners during their meeting in Texas.

G. Herring and all the Commissioners expressed their appreciation to H. Tanzler for his help in bringing the Commission to Palm Beach. Everyone was very complimentary of the hotel and the area.

L. Simpson referred to the Commission Compact and noted that meetings could be held outside of the Gulf States. It was agreed to look at the possibilities of holding joint meetings with other Commissions and to investigate possible savings in areas outside the Gulf of Mexico.

T. Harper asked the Commissioners to consider a weekend meeting during the spring when most State Legislatures were in session. *W. Tatum motioned to hold part of the spring 1994 meeting on a weekend. C. Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

A definite location has not been decided on for the October 1993 meeting. Texas Commissioners will be contacted for advice.

Other Business

E. Joyce requested staff to send letters of appreciation to presenters at the GIS Session. W. Tatum agreed that it was a very good program. R. Lukens was complimented for a very thorough and timely program. Some Commissioners felt this type of program was too time consuming especially when such a technical subject is addressed. The program was a success and staff will continue efforts to provide information in a timely and efficient manner.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE (LEC)
MINUTES
March 17, 1993
Palm Beach, Florida**

Jerald K Waller

Jerry Waller, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The following were in attendance:

Members

Jim Robertson, TPWD, Austin, TX
Jerald K. Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Lewis Shelfer, FMP, Tallahassee, FL
Tommy Candies, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Terry Bakker, BMR, Biloxi, MS

Staff

Rick Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Lucia Hourihan, Publication Specialist

Others

Karl Moore, USCG, New Orleans, LA
David A. McKinney, NOAA Enforcement, Silver Spring, MD
Steven Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Bill Robinson, TPWD, Austin, TX
Bob Brown, GDNR, Richmond Hill, GA
Jackie Whitehead, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
C.W. Hinton, GDNR, Brunswick, GA
Leroy Kiffe, GSMFC Commissioner, Lockport, LA
Perry Joyner, FMP, Tallahassee, FL
Alton White, Zapata Haynie Corp., Cameron, LA
Ed Swindell, Zapata Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was amended to include a discussion of ISSC issues after item 8 and adopted as amended.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held October 14, 1992 in Mobile, Alabama were adopted as written.

Report on TCC Black Drum Subcommittee

J. Robertson reported that the Black Drum Subcommittee had held its final meeting and that the language to address enforcement concerns was included in the FMP. The FMP recommendations stress a uniform size limit with no tolerance for undersized fish. R. Leard reported that the FMP was circulated for public review and publication would follow shortly.

Leard also reported that the State Directors had recently begun talking about coming to consistency in regulations where there is no biological reason for differences. A separate task force may be formed to determine how consistency of regulations may be accomplished.

TCC Mullet Subcommittee

Leard reported that much of the front portion of the FMP (biology, habitat, laws, policies, etc.) has been completed. The next step will be to get the stock assessment completed, and work on the management considerations will follow (perhaps mid-to late summer).

Red Snapper - State/Federal Regulations

The LEC discussed state/federal regulations of red snapper. Louisiana and Alabama have adopted Federal regulations. Adoption of the Federal regulations is in process in Mississippi. Florida allows a possession limit of 2, if someone possesses more than 2 fish in state water then he must have a Federal permit. Texas allows a possession limit of 7, if someone possesses more than 7 fish then he must have a Federal permit. S. Atran discussed the preliminary Gulf Council decision to make ITQ the preferred option for future management of red snapper. Public hearings will be held in June and the Council will make its final decision in July.

The Georgia Connection - Captains Hinton and Brown

Waller informed the LEC that Alabama had encountered some interstate shipment problems with red snapper and speckled trout (with invoices from Georgia). Captains Hinton and Brown had been helpful in resolving those problems. Captain Hinton said that there were so many seafood dealers throughout the state that it was practically impossible to tell where certain fish had come from unless they had come through the coast. Most of the records that the GDNR keeps on catch of seafood are handled on the coast. Hinton said that for the past couple of years GDNR has been involved with NMFS and FWS on illegal shrimp and bait shrimp operations. Hinton said the GDNR investigative group was very good and anyone having a specific problem in a fishery, coming up with a name or an invoice from Georgia, should let them know and they will do their best to help. Captain Brown said that the only way red fish or speckled trout can enter the market from Georgia is through recreational fishing. Anyone transporting undersized fish with a Bill of Lading from Georgia into another state would be in violation of the Lacey Act.

ISSC Issues

Robertson reported on his conversation with Ken Moore regarding issue 88123, asking the FDA for some type of uniform criteria to evaluate the states on their shellfish programs. Robertson said that Moore's understanding of the issue is that the FDA is looking for the Law Enforcement Committee to come up with criteria as to what is necessary for an effective shellfish program. Robertson said that the criteria is laid out in the Patrol document. He will generate a list of criteria and circulate to the LEC for review and comment. The list will be finalized before July. This may or may not aid in resolution of issue 88123.

Waller distributed copies of an "Outline of Policy Statement on Shellfish Control in the USA," and a "Policy Statement on Consumption of Raw Molluscan Shellfish" and highlighted sections of interest to the LEC. Several pieces of correspondence from ISSC and FDA were also distributed and discussed.

NMFS Report

D. McKinney reported on individual transferrable quota (ITQ) programs. The first programs in the U.S. were basically limited entry programs with a commercial twist, allowing sale or trade of their percentage of the particular quota. McKinney looked at the successful New Zealand and Australia IQ programs. Nova Scotia's IQ program which began in the early 1980s was not very successful. The major areas of concern were quota busting, at-sea transfers, and collusion with vessels/processors. Canada has

spent many millions of dollars to put together an elaborate enforcement system and thus make the program successful.

McKinney reported that around the world today there about 4 or 5 different types of IQ programs. They are all limited entry programs. The concept is to preserve the resource or at least allow to maintain an optimum yield while still retaining a good biomass. The individual quota system is divided into what each fisherman by eligibility is able to receive in shares. If that fisherman can sell or transfer his lease then it is called an ITQ program. If the benefit runs to the vessel, it may be called an IVQ program. There are also individual fishing quota (IFQ) programs. These programs are built on 100% voluntary compliance theory. The programs are all heavily dependent on enforcement, and heavily dependent on enforcement at the initiating or structural phase. McKinney said that enforcement's job is broken into two major concepts, safeguarding that program from outside intervention but also making sure that people participating in that program are law-abiding and complying with those regulations.

Asset Forfeiture Fund

McKinney stated that there was approximately \$6 million in the fund at the last audit. He reported they had been successful in going through three or four state packages that had been submitted over the last couple of months. NOAA/NMFS would like to see all states participating in the program. They will try to get the time frame from case submission to receipt of monies to about 60 days. They now have a simplified accounting and receipt process. J. Robertson requested to be sent a copy of a MOU to see how Texas might participate in the program. T. Candies requested to be sent a list of cases which Louisiana had participated in.

Other Business

Discussion on Possibility of Standardizing How Violations are Written Up

Leard said this item was placed on the agenda by Ron Lukens. The request came out of a recent Living Aquatic Resources Conference in New Orleans. Leard was not sure if they were talking about a uniform citation report or something else. The information recorded on citations is standard. Following discussion the LEC determined that they needed further information on the request.

Live Rock

Waller said that ADCNR/MRD has been getting requests from many people wanting to land live rock in the state. Live rock is a calcium base (limestone) which other organisms have attached to. It is not a renewable resource as it takes approximately 100 years to build back up. It is harvested off Florida (not in state waters) for aquaria. It sells for \$13-15/pound. Florida has met the quota and has shut down until July. TPWD has received requests about harvesting live rock in Texas, and Texas has no regulations for or against. Florida has a regulation now being developed which will allow aquaculture of live rock.

State Law/Regulation Summary

Limited copies of the latest edition of the summary were provided members of the LEC. GSMFC will provide 25 more copies of the summary to LEC members as soon as possible. The Blackford Company has opted not to publish the summary as they were unable to sell enough ads due to Hurricane Andrew. The GSMFC staff will explore other publication possibilities.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

RECFIN COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 26-27, 1993
New Orleans, Louisiana



Chairman Henry Lazauski called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Jane DiCosimo, SAFMC, Charleston, SC
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Lee Green, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Albert Jones, NMFS, Miami, FL
Henry Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Joe O'Hop, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Maury Osborn, NMFS, Washington, D.C.
Walter Padilla, PRDNR, Mayaguez, PR
Paul Perra, ASMFC, Washington, D.C.
Tom Schmidt, USNPS, Homestead, FL
Ron Schmied, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Ann Seiler, DFW/USVI, St. Thomas, VI
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Mike Street, NCDMF, Morehead City, NC
Tom Van Devender, BMR, Biloxi, MS
Wayne Waltz, SCWMRD, Charleston, SC

Others

David Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Lisa Kline, ASMFC, Washington, D.C.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following change:

- * Move item #5 Development of Operations Plan after the work group leaders present their reports.

Approval of Minutes

* The minutes from the meeting held on January 12-13, 1993 in Charleston, South Carolina were approved with minor editorial changes. There was a discussion about having future meetings over weekends. R. Lukens noted that holding meetings on Saturday and Sunday does not appear to save very much money and in some instances may cost more. He also stated that it is difficult to get government hotel rates on the weekends for a group the size of the RecFIN Committee. Thus, M. Osborn moved that there be no meetings held on Saturday or Sunday for the RecFIN(SE). The motion passed unanimously.

Finalization of Strategic Plan

* R. Lukens suggested that Appendix D of the Strategic Plan be removed and made into a separate document. Appendix D does not contain information that is essential to the plan and it also increases the size of the plan. M. Street agreed and noted that it could be something that the Committee might want to update periodically. M. Osborn moved to remove Appendix D from the Strategic Plan and make it a separate document. R. Lukens said the GSMFC would publish and produce at least 100 copies of the new document. The motion passed unanimously. The Committee discussed some editorial changes to the Strategic Plan. H. Lazauski asked the Committee if they believed the executive summary was comprehensive enough to understand what the Strategic Plan and RecFIN(SE) entails. The Committee agreed that the executive summary needed to be modified and H. Lazauski, R. Lukens and M. Street were charged with producing a new executive summary. R. Lukens moved that the Strategic Plan be accepted for publication. It was agreed that 300 copies will be produced and numbering series specific for the RecFIN(SE) be used. It was noted that the information in Appendix C was contained in Appendix B. The motion was modified to delete Appendix C if it was duplicative. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee discussed who would publish the Strategic Plan. R. Lukens (GSMFC) offered to publish the document. He reviewed the costs of publishing options:

GSMFC	\$900
ASMFC	\$700
NMFS	\$630

However, there were some budgetary concerns with the ASMFC and the NMFS, thus R. Lukens recommended that the GSMFC publish the Plan. P. Perra (ASMFC) offered to split the costs of publishing the document with the GSMFC, and both commissions would be referenced in the document.

Discussion of Funding

R. Lukens stated he has received assurances that funding for the GSMFC from the Sport Fish Restoration Program will be available through 1994 and he will continue to use those funds to support some RecFIN(SE) activities. R. Lukens submitted a proposal to the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program for funding of RecFIN(SE) activities; however, he does not have much hope that the proposal will

RECFIN COMMITTEE
MINUTES
PAGE -3-

be funded. The selection of proposals will be in May. If this project is selected, a full proposal will be needed and R. Lukens will keep the Committee apprised of the situation. P. Perra noted that the NMFS cut 10% from the IJF budget. However, Congress only authorized a 5% cut which means the states may be receiving some additional monies. If the money is received too late in the year to be used by the state, they can authorize that money to be sent to the commissions instead of being reverted back to the NMFS. If this happens, the commissions can use this money to assist funding RecFIN(SE) activities. H. Lazauski stated that another possible funding source is MARFIN. MARFIN could fund specific projects which could be addressed by work groups. The Committee identified several possible sources for funding:

- * Congressional Appropriation
- * W/B administrative funds
- * EPA Gulf of Mexico Program
- * MARFIN
- * S/K
- * IJF

R. Lukens offered to develop a full administrative cooperative proposal for funding of RecFIN(SE) Committee and various units such as geographic subcommittees, work groups, etc. and submit it to both the regional and headquarters offices of the NMFS. The GSMFC will work with the ASMFC on this issue. A. Jones noted that a good record of inkind contributions should be maintained. The Committee decided that inkind contributions should be reported on a quarterly basis and the information be sent to the GSMFC. The GSMFC will maintain a data base and this information can be used to demonstrate the level of participation of the agencies involved with RecFIN(SE).

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

March 27, 1993

The meeting reconvened at 8:40 a.m. There was a lengthy discussion concerning the modified executive summary of the Strategic Plan. The Committee thoroughly edited the modified summary. P. Perra suggested that the executive summary created during the discussion be sent out and reviewed by the RecFIN(SE) Committee with comments to the GSMFC within three days. It was stressed that

this activity must be completed quickly so the Strategic Plan can be published in the near future.

Work Group Reports

A. Biological/Environmental

M. Osborn presented a conceptual model of the total recreational fishery which defined the scope of the universe and included all possible components. The top of the model is the entire recreational fishery and all participants. The components were defined first by fishing mode or platform: private/rental boats, for-hire boats--headboats and charter/guide boats, and shore fishing, including both beach/bank and man-made shore areas.

Fishing activity was then categorized as to whether it was organized--tournaments, derbies, dive-club competitions, etc.--or unorganized fishing, with various gears categorized beneath each of the sub-groups. Finally finfish and shellfish species or species groups targeted and caught are the last level of categorization. The gear components are annotated to include types of gear important in localized areas such as skin/scuba spear fishing in the Caribbean and shrimp trawls in the Gulf and South Atlantic, so it is clear that all recreational fishing activities are included.

The conceptual model was used to develop an inventory form to define and quantify the magnitude of actual fisheries in all states, territories, and smaller geographical areas. This inventory can be used to group common fisheries and identify unique fisheries in the Southeast Region, to develop priorities for data collection, and identify the best survey strategies for each fishery. The inventory forms will be given to each RecFIN(SE) member to complete for their geographic area. General guidelines are outlined for completing the inventory forms:

- 1) Use the best available source to quantify the number of boats, participants, and access points.
- 2) Attach a sheet documenting what sources were used, applicable time periods, and assumptions used.
- 3) Public access points are defined as open to the public, whether a fee is required or not; private access points are those limited to members of private clubs, locked marinas, etc.

- 4) Guide boats and charter boats have separate columns on the inventory form since the work group felt these components can be fleshed out for specific areas and fisheries. Assignments were given to individuals to develop some preliminary brief written characterizations of some of these fisheries in specific areas. Assignments were given to Wayne Waltz for the South Atlantic, Ann Seiler for the Caribbean, Tom Schmidt for the national parks, and Tom Van Devender for the Gulf of Mexico and are due April 29, 1993 to the GSMFC.

This information will be compiled and distributed for consideration at the next meeting or conference call. Lumping and splitting of all fisheries will be the final step in this process of describing components of the recreational fishery in the Southeast Region.

The data elements table in the For-hire Workshop Proceedings was adapted to apply to the overall recreational fishery. All data elements that pertain to collection and use of biological data were identified from the major categories listed in the table. New items were added, and the priority column will be removed. The table will be revised, and a narrative will be developed to explain the rationale for inclusion of individual elements where needed.

At the next meeting or conference call, the work group will develop a series of tables for each specific fishery. Each table will list data elements important to that specific fishery, how the data are important to that fishery - stock assessment, survey design and operation, and development and/or evaluation of management regulations. Data elements will be ranked by priority within each category of use and feasibility of collection of each item will be addressed. These tables could be expanded upon by the Socio-Economic Work Group with coordination by the work group leaders.

A basic document incorporating standards for quality control developed by states, the GSMFC TCC Data Management Subcommittee, and the MRFSS program has already been compiled. Work group members are to critically review this document for revision and completion during the next meeting or conference call. The work group also discussed the need to develop common definitions for catch, harvest, landings and other recreational fisheries terms. Figure 1 and Table 2 in the For-hire Workshop Proceedings can be used as starting point. Some initial revisions were suggested.

The Biological/Environmental Work Group should be able to finish most of the tasks under the three objectives through conference calls and/or a meeting, and produce reports before the final 1993 RecFIN Committee meeting in September. Many of the members are expected to attend the Cooperative Statistics Annual meeting in July, and the work group could piggyback onto this meeting.

B. Social/Economic

R. Schmied reported that the discussion of the work group revolved around the need for economic impact assessments (EIAs) and social impact assessments (SIAs). The work group believed it would be useful to develop a document which explains why fishery managers are at the point of having to develop EIAs and SIAs, the differences between EIAs and SIAs, and the types of data that are needed to conduct these assessments. The work group report distributed to the Committee is the first draft of this document. R. Schmied stated that SIAs seek to estimate the impact of management actions on the quality of peoples lives. They attempt to determine who will be affected and how they will be affected. They also measure changes in the social fabric and stability of a fishery and associated fishing communities.

Because the area of EIAs and SIAs is fairly new, the work group proposes to formulate its recommendations regarding the collection and use of social and economic data by convening an expert panel of economists and social scientists and seeking their guidance on:

- 1) Appropriate EIA and SIA methods
- 2) Social and economic data needed to conduct these assessments
- 3) The current availability of such data
- 4) Appropriate methods to collect needed data

The work group will develop a more specific proposal of who will be invited to this workshop, an estimate of funds required to complete this task, and potential funding sources. R. Schmied asked the Committee for comments and the Committee spent some time providing input concerning the document. The draft social and economic data elements document is attached.

Time Schedule for Next Meeting

The Committee suggested that a meeting in mid-September would allow for the group to accomplish some of the tasks assigned at this meeting. It was decided

RECFIN COMMITTEE
MINUTES
PAGE -7-

that the Biological/Environmental Work Group will meet in conjunction with the Cooperative Statistics Program meeting in mid-July. The Committee decided the next RecFIN(SE) Committee meeting will be September 16-17, 1993. The tentative schedule will be from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on September 16, 1993 and 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon on September 17, 1993. It will be held in Jacksonville, Florida and P. Perra and J. DiCosimo will send some information to the GSMFC concerning hotels in the Jacksonville area.

W. Padilla noted that the committee needed to establish a time table for the Data Base Work Group. The Committee discussed the task related to the work group pertinent to the goals and objectives. It was decided that the work group should convene a conference call to elect a work group leader, begin compiling an inventory of software and hardware of the RecFIN(SE) participants, and discuss the SEAMAP questionnaire used to develop their data management system and modify it for application to RecFIN(SE). The Committee requested that the inventory of software and hardware be completed and presented at the September RecFIN(SE) meeting.

Development of Operations Plan

A draft copy of the 1993 Operations Plan was distributed to the Committee, and the group edited the document. To assist the Committee, copies of the SEAMAP and PacFIN Operations Plans were distributed. There was a discussion concerning the sections to be included in an operations plan. The committee decided that the tasks should be placed into a worksheet format and identify when the products for a specific task will be completed. The revised 1993 Operations Plan is attached.

H. Lazauski stated that this document is for 1993 and needs to be revised and finalized quickly. D. Donaldson stated he will send out the revised document to the RecFIN(SE) members by April 7, 1993 and the members should provide comments back to the GSMFC no later than April 21, 1993.

Other Business

M. Osborn stated the Biological/Environmental Work Group suggested that they develop definitions for marine recreational data. This task would be accomplished by the Biological/Environmental and the Social/Economic Work Groups.

RECFIN COMMITTEE
MINUTES
PAGE -8-

She asked if this activity should be included in the operations plan as a separate task. The Committee stated that although the activity was not specifically named, it was implied that the work groups would work on this task. R. Lukens asked if there were existing glossaries which could be distributed to the work groups to assist in this activity.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Hal Osburn
12-1-93

TCC Recreational Fisheries Management Subcommittee
MINUTES
Wednesday and Thursday
June 23 and 24, 1993
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairwoman Virginia Vail called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. The following were in attendance:

Members

Virginia Vail, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Jan Culbertson, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Rick Kasprzak, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Walter Tatum, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division
Mike Buchanan, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Bureau of Marine Resources
Tina Berger, Sport Fishing Institute, Artificial Reef Development Center
Hal Osburn, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Staff

Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Assistant Director

Others

Lisa Tripp, Southwick Associates
Buddy Lang, Chevron, U.S.A.
Burt Mullin, Minerals Management Service
Warren Barton, Minerals Management Service
Les Dautrive, Minerals Management Service

Adoption of Agenda

The suggestion was made to move item 9 up between items 4 and 5. With the amendment, the agenda was adopted unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

* Chairwoman Vail pointed out that due to problems with the tape of the last meeting, the record of Mississippi's state update was not included in the minutes. W. Tatum made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 11, 1992 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

State and Federal Program Updates

Florida

V. Vail informed the Subcommittee that Ed Irby had been promoted to Assistant Director of the Division of Marine Resources of the Department. Vail was promoted to Chief of the Office of Fisheries Management and Assistance Services with the primary responsibility of serving as liaison between the Department and the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission and other fisheries groups. As such, an employee yet to be hired will take over direct responsibility for the artificial reef program, and will serve as Florida's representative on the Subcommittee in the future.

In May the Department hosted a state-wide Artificial Reef Summit, the third in a series, in Tallahassee, Florida. The primary purpose of the Summit was to introduce the state artificial reef siting plan and monitoring and assessment plan and seek comments from the Summit participants. Vail indicated that Ron Lukens was the keynote speaker at the Summit, providing a national perspective to set the stage for the presentation of the plans.

She indicated that the Department is handling about 20 to 25 contracts per year for assistance in constructing artificial reefs and conducting research projects. In describing one research project, she indicated that there were three replicate placements of automobiles in response to the question as to whether or not automobile bodies are good artificial reef material. Dr. Steve Bortone is heading up the project and should have a final report by the end of December. H. Osburn asked for clarification of what the project goal was. Vail indicated that the project was simply to deploy automobile bodies and evaluate their efficacy as artificial reef material. The a priori assumption is that automobile bodies will not last very long in the marine environment and that they would be unstable on the bottom. She indicated that the test sites did not show any movement as a result of Hurricane Andrew. Dr. Bill Linburgh is conducting a study on patch reef size and space related to fish. The Dade County artificial reef program is conducting evaluations of prefabricated materials, using several different types of materials.

Alabama

Walter Tatum indicated that the ADCNR/MRD will soon have the regulatory authority to arrest people who have artificial reef material onboard a vessel without

a permit. Currently, neither the ADCNR/MRD, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), nor the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) has the authority to intercept people who have materials onboard their boat without a permit unless the party was seen dumping material overboard. In answer to a question, Tatum indicated that the authority in question will extend only out to the extent of the state's jurisdiction. Once in the federal zone, state enforcement would no longer have the authority. Tatum stated that the USCG and the COE encouraged the State of Alabama to establish such regulatory authority because of the extreme difficulty in obtaining convictions through their respective enforcement activities.

Tatum updated the Subcommittee on the status of the effort by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to include provisions in Amendment 5 of the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan to establish a Special Management Zone (SMZ) around the artificial reef general permit areas offshore Alabama. He indicated that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has held up approval of the proposal pending further investigation by the Council and the ADCNR/MRD. The Council has requested information from Alabama on the historical use of the areas in question. The ADCNR/MRD has distributed a questionnaire to the charter boat industry, interviewed 25 to 30 recreational fishermen, and interviewed all reef fish permit holders in coastal Alabama in an effort to acquire such historical use information. The information gathered to date indicates that there could be as many as 50,000 individual spots within the general permit areas that contain artificial reef material. It is felt that the data regarding the use of the areas by bandit-rig snapper fishermen are not reliable due to some evidence suggesting that they appear to be skewed to the high side, indicating more frequent encounters with bandit-rig fishermen than are actually occurring. The concern over the reliability of the data on bandit rigs cast some doubt on the overall reliability of the data from the questionnaires and interviews; however, it is felt that the number of individual artificial reef spots is indicative of reality. Tatum feels that the data will be adequate to convince the NMFS that the proposed SMZ offshore Alabama should be approved. Tatum explained that the SMZ, if approved, would not prohibit commercial fishing within the areas, but would restrict gears to the traditional gears used, ie. standard hook-and-line gears. Lukens asked about the status of the provisions in the amendment package that would establish a framework through which other applications for SMZs could be considered. Tatum indicated that he did

not know the status, but that it too had been held up by the NMFS along with Alabama's request. Chairwoman Vail asked Tatum if he would make the survey information regarding historical use of the proposed SMZ areas available to the Subcommittee. Tatum indicated that he would send the information to the GSMFC office for distribution. T. Berger asked Tatum how much area the three combined general permit areas covers. Tatum replied that they cover 1,000 square miles combined.

Mississippi

Mike Buchanan indicated that the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, Bureau of Marine Resources is making plans to develop a state artificial reef plan. The Bureau continues to be interested in conducting research on low profile estuarine artificial reefs using oyster and clam shell as material, pending funding. Construction of several such reefs is planned for the near future. H. Osburn asked how much area offshore Mississippi is permitted. Buchanan indicated that he did not know the total; however, compared to the areas offshore of the other states it is not much. It was pointed out, however, that in proportion to the area of jurisdiction of the state and adjacent federal waters, the total permitted area is rather high. J. Culbertson asked if the Bureau is still working in the area of fly ash. Buchanan replied that the Oyster Division continues to work with the Mississippi Power Company and Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension Service on some experimental oyster cultch research.

Louisiana

Rick Kasprzak reported that the Louisiana Artificial Reef Program has received permits for 16 new artificial reef projects. Since January 1993, three oil rig jackets have been deployed. A diving survey was conducted on several reef sites. Of particular interest was the fact that an observational survey was done on a new structure just prior to the occurrence of Hurricane Andrew and following the hurricane. The dive indicated that very little if any impact was evidenced following the passage of the hurricane. The Program has just completed the second in a series of fishing maps for distribution to the public. There has also been an amendment to the state legislation that established the Louisiana Program. Kasprzak indicated that the amendment provides for transferring funds received from the oil and gas

companies for the structures to the Departments Conservation Fund rather than keeping those funds in the State General Fund. Those funds are legislatively protected; however, the legislature can still amend the law to gain access to the funds. By putting the funds in the Department's Conservation Fund offers an additional measure of protection, because it would require a Constitutional amendment to divert funds from the Conservation Fund. Kasprzak does not feel that there is a problem related to that situation. Kasprzak reported that one of the Program's buoys was found off Matagorda Key in south Florida.

Texas

Jan Culbertson reported that their program has been very busy, indicating that much material was being made available for their use. She indicated that it is important to track the contractors that are hired by the oil companies to deploy materials. Recently, a low-bid company neglected to have a NMFS observer on-site when the explosive charges were set off to move a jacket. They also failed to provide lodging and facilities for personnel of the Texas program. Culbertson indicated that the Program had been working with shrimp fishermen, following a request by the COE that the state develop a general permit area off High Island. The Program is seeking input from the fishermen regarding areas that they use for shrimp fishing and areas that could be used for artificial reef development without impacting their shrimp fishing activities. T. Berger asked what motivated the COE to request the state to develop the general permit site. Culbertson replied that it was to avoid having to handle multiple requests for permits on a case-by-case basis. The general permit area would be for the state only as a planning zone, and would permit a large area in which the Program could deploy materials on several sites. The general public would not be able to deploy materials in the general permit area in the manner allowed offshore Alabama.

The Program has acquired two sites for which permits were previously held by Port Aransas Boatman's Association. The sites were re-permitted for the Department. On one site concrete and automobile bodies were deployed in the 1960s, while on the other a barge was sunk. The automobile bodies are no longer on site, but the concrete remains. There are further development plans for the two sites in the fall of 1993 using concrete culvert. The Department has also acquired a site off Port Isabel and another offshore of South Padre Island. Off south Padre Island, the

Department received two rigs from Freeport-McMoran; however, there were a number of problems related to being able to use the rigs, not the least of which was that the water depth was insufficient to get legal clearance. Through a transfer of funds to the oil company, the Department was able to get the oil company to cut the rigs in half so that they could be deployed in the shallow water. The significance of these sites is that they are exemplary of the Program's commitment to development of shallow water reef sites for divers and nearshore fishermen. Culbertson reminded the Subcommittee that she had discussed the fact that Conoco was interested and intended to deploy a "jungle jim" unit made up of oil rig material, primarily for promotional purposes. Conoco has now deployed the unit between two ships that have been down for some time.

Minerals Management Service

Burt Mullin reported that they had been working closely with R. Kasprzak and J. Culbertson related to their Rigs-to-Reefs Programs. They have also been working with T. Berger related to the data base housed at the Artificial Reef Development Center. Mullin indicated that in the next several years approximately 100 rigs will be removed, while only about 70 new rigs will be installed for a net removal of about 30 rigs. He indicated that this is indicative of the trend to be expected, since the oil fields of the Gulf of Mexico are past their prime. Mullin reported that Les Dautrive will be providing more information to the Subcommittee later in the meeting. Lukens asked Mullin if he felt that there was a potential problem with using all of the retiring rigs for artificial reefs thus making them unavailable to the domestic scrap industry. Mullin indicated that he did not feel that there would be a problem related to the availability of scrap material from oil rigs. Lukens indicated that he asked the question in the context of a Congressional hearing related partially to using retired ships as artificial reef material. At that hearing, representatives of the scrap metal industry indicated that they were having problems and needed assistance from Congress to assure that ships would be made available to the domestic scrap market, rather than allowing them to be shipped overseas to scrap markets there. That being the case, there may be some in the industry who would not like to see the rig material used at sea, but rather brought to shore for scrapping. W. Tatum indicated that a similar issue had arisen in Alabama where 150 retired barges were going to be donated for use as artificial reef

material. The offer was later withdrawn, because the value of the barges as scrap increased to the point that they were unwilling to donate them. Some discussion ensued regarding this issue.

House Oversight Hearing on Rigs-to-Reefs

Representatives from the State of Texas and the Sport Fishing Institute's Artificial Reef Development Center (ARDC) were invited by Congressman Soloman Ortiz of Texas to participate in a hearing to discuss the use of oil structures as artificial reefs. Part of the issue is related to site clearance following the removal of an oil rig. Some are of the opinion that when a rig is toppled in place and re-permitted as an artificial reef, that is violation of the site clearance requirements. The concern was raised primarily by the shrimp fishing industry in Texas. It was pointed out that if a rig is being moved to another location to be used as an artificial reef, the site clearance requirements must be met for the original oil rig site. There ensued a discussion related to rig removal and cutting of the pilings fifteen or more feet below the mud line.

H. Osburn handed out Texas' proposed testimony for the hearing and asked for input from the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Subcommittee needs to begin to consider a vision for the future for the use of oil rig material. He asked if rigs can now be left in place as an artificial reef or an underwater park or some other use. B. Mullin replied that he did not think that there were any legal bars to such uses of oil rigs. There is, however, a large expense related to cathodic protection, periodic painting and maintenance, and navigation hazard warnings that must be continued. H. Osburn asked Mullin if a platform is not removed after a lease has expired, does not that violate the site clearance requirements. Mullin responded that the Minerals Management Service can allow oil companies to keep a rig in place after a lease has expired for certain reasons, for example in the event a pipeline is running through the area. It is called the right of use and easement. The structural integrity and navigational aids must be maintained in order to do so. This capability could be exercised for other justifiable use and not violate the site clearance requirements. T. Berger expressed concern over the involvement of the Department of the Navy and how extensive artificial reef development could affect international shipping. Mullin did not think that was a very serious issue. Lukens indicated that he had heard concerns from the Navy several years ago regarding the

possibility of foreign submarines being able to use submerged metal structures as a means to avoid detection. The issue had not been raised since that time and appears to be unimportant now.

T. Berger indicated that she had not finished her written testimony for the hearing, but would have it completed by the next day. She did, however, want input from the Subcommittee on her testimony. She indicated that her testimony will focus on the benefits of artificial reefs in general, and then specifically address Rigs-to-Reefs toward the end. H. Osburn indicated that his conversations with Mr. Ortiz's staff led him to believe that they wanted the ARDC to discuss economics related to the issue. Berger indicated that she had addressed the economic issues as best she could with the limited amount of information that is available.

B. Lang indicated that Chevron's and the oil industry's approach to the testimony is to directly address the industry's position on site clearance and Rigs-to-Reefs activities. His testimony will be positive and will support the current rules and guidelines regarding site clearance. He stated that the industry sees the Rigs-to-Reefs Program as a win-win situation, because it saves money and provides opportunities to enhance marine habitats for support of fish populations, provides opportunities for fishermen to have successful fishing trips, and enhances local economies through fishing and diving related expenditures. There was a concern about an issue in H. Osburn's testimony related to stating that artificial reefs enhance fish populations. The concern was that such a statement may be hard to support in the face of most fish populations being in rebuilding situations. Osburn responded that he will address the issue in the context of providing habitat for reef related species, and all other things being equal (eg. reductions in fishing mortality), increased habitat should provide a benefit to fish populations. T. Berger asked whether or not reference should be made regarding benefits accruing to the commercial fishing industry. Lukens replied that he felt that artificial reefs are not reserved for recreational fishing, and as such any enhancement of fish populations represents a potential benefit to the commercial fishing industry as well as to recreational users. A discussion ensued regarding the need for quantitative data that compares biomass of fish species associated with an oil rig versus biomass associated with a bare bottom. Berger indicated that in developing the testimony for the hearing, it became clear how little hard data exist that supports the assumption that fish biomass is enhanced by artificial reef development. Also, it is clear that

there is a great paucity of economic data to support the assumption that economic benefits are accruing to local businesses and governments. W. Tatum asked an open question as to the possible consequences of the upcoming hearing. H. Osburn indicated that a worst-case scenario would be a directive to review the legislation that makes Rigs-to-Reefs possible, and mandate to the Minerals Management Service (MMS) that sites must be cleared regardless of the value of the rig material as an artificial reef. B. Mullin clarified that when MMS refers to "site clearance" they are talking about a program that is less than two-and-one-half years old, and was developed in response to the shrimp industry's call to clear the debris field around a rig that has been removed. Site clearance does not refer to the removal of a platform, which is called "platform removal." Osburn also indicated that the hearing could potentially open up the National Fishing Enhancement Act, which sets up national standards for artificial reef development and monitoring through the National Artificial Reef Plan. It was agreed that any negative scenario resulting from the hearing is unlikely; however, the states and other interested parties must respond to the criticisms in order to establish the credibility of the program before Congress. H. Osburn asked about the situation off Alabama regarding the possibility that the proliferation of artificial reefs offshore there has increased recruitment or reproductive potential of red snapper in that localized area. W. Tatum indicated that data do indicate that larval recruitment has increased coincident with the development of the Alabama artificial reefs. It was indicated that if those data are conclusive, they could be used as supportive evidence that artificial reef development is beneficial to reef fish stocks. R. Kasprzak asked if the Subcommittee could be apprised of the results of the hearing. Lukens responded that there may not be any results if Congress decides to take no action regarding the issue. At the least, the Subcommittee can get a copy of all testimonies that are presented, and if further action is taken by Congress, the Subcommittee will be notified.

Discussion of Economic Studies on Artificial Reefs

Lisa Tripp, Southwick Associates, indicated that there are economic studies available regarding artificial reefs; however, they were all conducted in the early to mid-1980s. In about 1984, Milon from Florida conducted an assessment of previous studies and developed survey methodologies for conducting economic valuation

studies on artificial reefs. Since that time no substantive follow-up to Milon's work has been conducted. Tripp indicated that agency budgets and other funding sources for scientific work are very depressed. Consequently, it is very difficult to get funding commitments for such work at a time when economic information on fisheries in general is most needed.

Tripp indicated that Southwick Associates conducts economic studies for natural resources and handed out a study that the company completed on the economic benefits of hunting. She pointed out several figures in the document that provide a good indication of the kind of information that can result from properly designed economic studies and how those data can be used to promote and justify artificial reef programs. The previous discussion is a case in point for the need for economic information on artificial reefs. If each agency/organization representative asked to testify before the Congressional committee were able to cite solid economic benefits derived from the Rigs-to-Reefs Program, the argument to continue those activities would be much stronger. Tripp alluded to another Congressional hearing in which members of Congress were interested in the disposition of a number of retired ships being held by the Maritime Administration. The major disposition of ships was for use in the domestic scrap metal industry; however, use as artificial reef material was being considered. In the event that artificial reef proponents had hard economic data indicating significant benefits to local businesses and governments through artificial reef development, there would be a greater likelihood that additional ships would be made available to artificial reef programs. In that hearing, the scrap metal industry representatives were able to tell the committee members the magnitude of economic impact that the vessels would have if they were given to the industry. It is a compelling argument.

Tripp went on to identify several potential funding sources for supporting economic studies on artificial reefs, including Sea Grant, the National Marine Fisheries Service through the Saltonstall-Kennedy Program or MARFIN, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service(FWS)/state agencies through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, or through the Federal Aid Administrative Program, either directly through the FWS or through the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission through their administrative program. V. Vail asked what level of funding would be required to conduct an economic study of artificial reefs. Tripp responded between \$50 and \$100 thousand for one state, primarily because it would require the collection

of primary data. If studies were more restricted in geographic range, such as a county or a specific reef site, the cost would reduce considerably. Tripp indicated that the two types of studies that would be needed for artificial reefs would be "economic valuation" which tells the manager how much user groups value the existence of artificial reefs and "economic impact" which tells the manager how much economic activity is generated by expenditures of anglers and divers using artificial reefs. These two studies combined provide a manager with powerful tools to justify the program, but, more than that, they also provide valuable evaluation tools to the manager to determine whether or not the program is having the desired effect. Studies would have to be tailored to each area to accommodate conditions that could limit a study's effectiveness, such as language barriers or various access sites for on site interviews. The point was made that, while some managers could conduct limited economic studies, the usefulness and validity of such studies would likely be called into question due to not having a qualified economist conducting the work. The suggestion was made to look for economic studies of Japanese artificial reefs. It was pointed out, however, that such studies would not likely be directly applicable to the U.S. because the Japanese programs are tightly controlled, commercial ventures that in most cases have significant government subsidization.

Lukens suggested that if economic studies were to be high priority for the Subcommittee, the GSMFC Federal Aid Administrative Program could fund a project in one state to demonstrate the methodology and the usefulness of the data. Another option would be to submit a multi-state project directly to the Federal Aid Administrative Program through the GSMFC to support a Gulf-wide project. H. Osburn suggested that the first study that should be done is to determine use patterns and magnitude of use of artificial reefs. One way of getting that information is to add questions to existing recreational fishery surveys. W. Tatum suggested that the Subcommittee sponsor a symposium at a GSMFC annual meeting on the economic and social aspects of artificial reefs. A discussion ensued regarding whether or not such a symposium should be a component of a regular GSMFC annual meeting or a separate dedicated session. T. Berger suggested that such a meeting could be handled as a special meeting of the Subcommittee with invited speakers. Such a meeting could also be joint between the GSMFC and ASMFC artificial reef committees. Further discussion ensued, with T. Berger suggesting that the issue be tabled for further consideration at a later time. Tripp indicated that Southwick

Associates had developed a proposal with the State of North Carolina to conduct an economic benefit study on artificial reef use by divers, private boat anglers, and charter/head boats. That proposal will be considered for funding through the Saltonstall/Kennedy Program for 1994. W. Tatum indicated that there may be a number of other activities going on of which the Subcommittee may be unaware. H. Osburn confirmed that assumption by informing the Subcommittee that the State of Texas is budgeting for an economic study of charter/head boat use of artificial reefs off Texas for 1994. He further indicated that he thought that an opportunity for the Subcommittee to learn of what economic studies have been done would be a valuable next step, along with documenting occasions when the use of such data and information would have been beneficial, the upcoming Congressional hearing being a good case in point. A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of getting user groups involved in generating economic data. Lukens indicated that there could be some perceptual problems related to having an industry conduct economic valuation or impact studies on their own activities. The question of professional training in surveying for economic studies is also of concern. It was pointed out that during the Congressional hearing for disposition of retired ships the scrap industry had economic data from their industry; however, it was determined that that was a different situation, because there are widely published data on sales, value of scrap metal, production figures, number of jobs, and other economic data elements. The scrap industry, itself, did not collect those data. They simply took advantage of the availability of the data. It was generally agreed that it would be preferable to have a trained economist conduct any such study with the full cooperation of the user groups involved. At this point the Subcommittee agreed without objection to postpone further discussion of the issue until the next morning.

The Subcommittee agreed to recess until 8:00 am next morning.

Discussion of Data Base Publication

V. Vail indicated that the Subcommittee needs to discuss the sections of the document related to planning, materials, and monitoring, and to consider the objectives under the regional program development section. Lukens indicated that he had followed the guidance provided by the National Plan to develop a perspective on the need to plan at every level, moving from national, to regional, to state, to

local site specific. The language is included in this document in order to establish the link between artificial reef development and the need to plan. It also establishes a position regarding planning on behalf of the state programs in the Gulf region. The section on materials is an attempt to highlight the need to consider the goals and objectives of a particular artificial reef, and then select materials appropriately. For instance, if the purpose is to provide suitable habitat to establish populations of reef fish, long-term, durable materials should be considered. It also provides the criteria for considering materials including practicality, durability, stability, and biological and environmental effectiveness. The section on monitoring provides broad guidance for approaches to post-deployment monitoring of artificial reefs.

Lukens indicated that the section on the regional program is intended to outline the role of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission in assisting the states in formulating regional policies for all appropriate aspects of artificial reef programs. It was pointed out that the regional language was borrowed liberally with permission from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's artificial reef profiles document. The four items highlighted provide broad guidance to the Commission and the Subcommittee regarding the appropriate areas for regional cooperation. Lukens then covered the section regarding federal agency involvement in artificial reef activities. He pointed out that the Corps of Engineers section was weak, and asked if a Subcommittee member could assist in writing that section. Jan Culbertson volunteered to assist in drafting the Corps of Engineers and U.S. Coast Guard sections of the document. The material pertinent to state programs is reflective of the information provided by each state artificial reef program, including program narrative, program summary sheet, data base table information, and coordinates for the distribution maps. Lukens asked each state representative to review the appropriate state data and information carefully for the final draft before publication.

The Subcommittee indicated that it would be useful to include a section on the Environmental Protection Agency and a discussion regarding the involvement of the Coastal Zone Management Programs in each state. It was also agreed to include a statement that the data are accurate as per the publication date and that the maps are included to show distribution only and are not intended as navigation aids.

Artificial Reef Material Project

Chairwoman Vail reminded the Subcommittee that at the last meeting Lukens handed out an outline and an example scenario for the format of the artificial reef material paper, and that copies were also in the Subcommittee folders. A general discussion ensued regarding the primary purpose of the project and the resulting paper. To recapitulate, the Subcommittee had agreed that there should be some introductory language that would include some general history of material use and a discussion of the relationship between materials and fish (eg. thigmotaxis, food, shelter, etc.). The next section would focus on the materials, and would include a discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of a particular material, use recommendations, inspection guidelines, and research recommendations. Lukens indicated that the Subcommittee should be careful to avoid making the paper a litany of state experiences using specific materials; however, the project should rely on past experience to dictate the kinds of information that are included.

Lukens suggested that the next step is for the Subcommittee to develop a list of materials and/or categories of materials which would be included in the document. The following is the list upon which the Subcommittee finally agreed:

- Offshore platforms
- Vessels
- Railroad boxcars
- Concrete
- Vehicles
- Rock and other natural materials (shell, wood, etc.)
- Tires
- Coal ash waste
- Miscellaneous metals
- Appliances (white goods)
- Glass
- Prefabricated materials
- Porcelain goods (sinks, bathtubs, toilets, etc.)

Following the compilation of the list, the Subcommittee assigned each member with the responsibility to work up information on specific materials on the list. It was

agreed that the category of prefabricated materials would be spread into the type of material that the structure is made of, such as plastic or metal. The following are the assignments:

Walter Tatum - Concrete and vehicles
Mike Buchanan - Natural materials (shell, wood, rock, etc.)
Rick Kasprzak - Oil Platforms and white goods
Virginia Vail - Vessels and railroad boxcars
Jan Culbertson - Coal ash waste, bricks, and clay
Tina Berger - Tires, Plastic, potential materials
Ron Lukens - Miscellaneous metals, glass, porcelain goods

T. Berger indicated that she would provide each member with a list of references from the ARDC archives which address the materials assigned. Each member agreed to research their material assignment and provide a first cut at developing the information on the handouts by the next meeting. At the next meeting, the Subcommittee will review progress and determine the next step in developing the document.

ASMFC Artificial Reef Advisory Committee Meeting and ARDC Report

T. Berger indicated that the ARDC continues to update and manage the national artificial reef data base. The Atlantic coast states have recently sent in updates on their programs and site information. The Atlantic coast states, through the ASMFC, will be developing a planning guide, including a discussion of existing plans, their strengths and weaknesses. Berger indicated that she would like to begin an update of the Gulf programs. She stated that there is no formal funding for the ARDC due to the completion of the Saltonstall-Kennedy work that had been supporting the activities of the organization. Lukens suggested that some funding, to maintain the national data base, may be available from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Administrative Fund. Berger indicated that she would check into that option. Berger also indicated that there may be some possibility for maintenance funding from the Saltonstall-Kennedy program.

Berger reported that the ASMFC Artificial Reef Advisory Committee had met jointly with the ASMFC Recreational Fisheries Committee. One of the issues

discussed was the need for increased social and economic data for fisheries, including for artificial reefs. The two committees agreed to develop a resolution that would encourage the states to work toward coordinated collection and management of social and economic data.

Special Management Zones (SMZ) were discussed, particularly related to the inclusion of SMZ provisions in the federal fishery management plan for scup and black sea bass. There is a great deal of concern on behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Council over the specific language of the SMZ provisions, because the Council does not want to go on record as supporting or promoting the use of artificial reefs for fisheries enhancement purposes. Due to a reworking of the language, there is hope that the SMZ provisions will be accepted by the Council and included in the plan. She reported that the ASMFC will be developing a workshop on SMZs for 1995. Lukens suggested that it might be a good idea for the Subcommittee to participate in the SMZ Workshop if the members are interested.

Berger stated that the ASMFC Committee discussed the issues related to PCBs and vessels, indicating that there is still much confusion about the relative danger in using vessels that may have PCBs. North Carolina has indicated that they will not be using vessels, and the Navy has discontinued using ships for target practice because of PCBs. Due to the general concern over PCBs and the difficulty in addressing the associated problems, the Atlantic coast states are afraid to use vessels. Berger indicated that the ASMFC Committee will be developing a "sense of the Committee" document that discusses the issues related to PCBs on vessels and provides a sense of the Committee's thinking on the subject. B. Mullin asked if anyone had evaluated the effort to clean a vessel of PCBs. Berger responded that estimates are several million dollars would be required to clean a vessel of PCBs. Lukens pointed out that if a program acquired a vessel that had PCB contamination, that program would be required to fund the clean-up, and if they could not, they would be stuck with storage costs of the vessel, because the Maritime Administration would not take the ship back.

Berger indicated that the ASMFC had developed a working definition for artificial reefs. She did not have the definition with her, but will provide it upon request. The activity was inspired by a concern over the use of the term "artificial reef" in contexts when it may not be appropriate. There is also a concern that

environmental groups may mount an activism campaign against artificial reefs, and the Committee wants to be prepared for such a movement.

Continuation of Discussion of Economic Studies

L. Tripp recapped that the Subcommittee had tabled the discussion to give some time to think about the next step. She suggested that a small group (including H. Osburn) could meet while attending the upcoming Congressional hearing and evaluate the Saltonstall-Kennedy project that T. Berger completed, among others. Berger indicated that her project was aimed at assessing the use of artificial reefs by commercial and recreational fishermen. Part of that project concerned social and economic considerations. Tripp indicated that by reviewing projects already completed, a small group could make recommendations to the Subcommittee as to what should be done next. Osburn indicated that he probably would not have the time to meet while in Washington, but he agreed with the approach of reviewing existing products and initiatives as a way to determine future activities. Lukens suggested that the Subcommittee consider holding a joint symposium with the ASMFC Artificial Reef Advisory Committee to address economic aspects of artificial reefs. The Subcommittee agreed with that approach. W. Tatum suggested that, in preparation for such a program, each state member should inquire within their respective states regarding any projects that may have been conducted by academic institutions or other organizations. H. Osburn suggested that as part of the program, someone should summarize the need for social and economic data and the drawbacks programs face by not having such data to describe and justify their activities. **Walter Tatum made a motion to pursue a joint meeting with the ASMFC Artificial Reef Advisory Committee in the latter part of 1993 for the purpose of addressing social and economic aspects of artificial reefs.** The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Minerals Management Service (MMS) Mapping Activities

Les Dautrive informed the Subcommittee that the MMS has been working on an in-house working map on the location of all artificial reef materials in relation to gas and oil lease blocks. They hope to be able to make maps available to the states, but for the immediate future they will be for in-house purposes. In developing the map, the MMS worked with T. Berger (ARDC) to get location data from the National Data

Base. Warren Barton indicated that they are using the data in a graphics mapping program. The map tables contain seven subjects including:

- 1) The names of artificial reef planning areas and individual reef names
- 2) Distance from artificial reef planning areas and individual reefs to the nearest coastline
- 3) Average minimum and maximum water depth above the artificial reef structure (feet and meters)
- 4) Data of artificial reef material deployment
- 5) Percent of OCS oil and gas structure yearly as artificial reef material
- 6) Other artificial reef material occurring in artificial reef planning areas or on individually permitted reef sites
- 7) Active lease numbers of the OCS block within artificial reef planning areas or individually permitted sites containing artificial reef material

The first working map will contain latitude and longitude and Loran C locations for artificial reef planning area boundaries, OCS oil and gas structures that will be removed, the placement of removed OCS oil and gas structures used as artificial reef material, and the active federal and state leases plotted on a lease block grid diagram containing artificial reef sites. These data will be provided upon request to operators and lessees who plan operations in affected areas. The preliminary review process for each operator or lessee proposed plan of operation is as follows, Leasing and Environment Analysts will review the updated EIS visual base map for artificial reef planning areas and information from the artificial reef data base, assess if there is artificial reef material in the proposed lease area, determine if proposed deployment of artificial reef material will have the potential to impact operator/lessee operations. If so, the Office of Field Operations will be notified of such potential conflict. The EIS visual base map will be updated to include newly deployed materials. W. Barton then displayed a large map depicting the items discussed above, and discussion ensued regarding the particulars. The ultimate in-house purpose of the exercise is to avoid conflict between artificial reef programs and OCS operator/lessees. J. Culberston pointed out that pipeline location data would also be valuable, because Texas had had a conflict with an oil company

that had a lease to install a pipeline while Texas had a permit to develop an artificial reef. The result was that the oil company put the pipeline through the artificial reef. Dautrive pointed out that the project is being undertaken by MMS to avoid such incidents.

Barton indicated that three other maps will be created. One will be a page-size map with artificial reef material coordinates, block number, and active lease numbers of relocated OCS oil and gas artificial reef material. One wall-size map will outline each state's artificial reef planning area boundaries and will include locations of deployed OCS oil and gas material. The other wall-size map will contain each state's artificial reef planning areas that have OCS oil and gas artificial reef material. Barton provided examples for each kind of map that the MMS will be producing. Though these are being developed for in-house use by the MMS, it is anticipated that the maps will be made available to interested parties, such as artificial reef program managers. A discussion ensued regarding MMS access to the data base for the project and the need to provide T. Berger, ARDC, with updated information for the data base on a more regular basis. Following some discussion, the Subcommittee agreed that they would update the data base quarterly, beginning with **March 30**, and followed by **June 30**, **September 30**, and **December 31**. The GSMFC office will contact each program manager prior to that time and request updates on any artificial reef development that has taken place since the last reporting period.

A discussion ensued regarding the availability of location information for oil and gas pipelines, and J. Culbertson reiterated Texas' conflict between an existing artificial reef and a pipeline that was laid through that reef. W. Tatum indicated that a provision of the general permit off Alabama gives precedent to oil and gas activities over artificial reef activities in those areas, so that a pipeline could legally be laid through an existing artificial reef in the general permit areas. Mullin and Kasprzak then described the process for avoiding conflict between OCS activities and the Louisiana Artificial Reef Program.

1995 International Conference on Artificial Habitats

Lukens indicated that Dr. Chuck Wilson had contacted him regarding planning for the 1995 International Conference on Artificial Habitats for Fisheries. Dr. Wilson is a member of the Steering Committee for the Conference, and has asked about the

possibility of Lukens chairing the state session at the Conference, and wanted the Subcommittee to begin thinking about how the session should be structured. Lukens indicated that he felt that the session should be more issue oriented as opposed to a series of program descriptions. The program descriptions was appropriate for the first state session; however, it would be counterproductive to repeat those presentations. Lukens suggested that the session could focus on planning, and asked the Subcommittee to begin thinking about other suggestions. He also suggested that as part of the planning focus, the session could hold a panel discussion or other format to consider revisiting the National Artificial Reef Plan to determine if it needs to be amended after eight or nine years of operation. Lukens indicated that he would stay in touch with Dr. Wilson, and keep the Subcommittee informed of progress on the Conference planning.

Discussion of Election of Officers

Chairwoman Vail indicated that the current meeting is in all likelihood her last meeting, and asked the Subcommittee if they would like to consider electing a Chairperson for the upcoming meeting. She indicated that the normal time frame for election of officers is in the fall of the year; however, since she is leaving, there may be a need to move that activity up. The Subcommittee decided to ask Vice-Chairman Hal Osburn to serve as interim Chairman through the fall meeting at which time the Subcommittee could elect officers. Osburn agreed to serve as interim Chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

MINUTES

Southeast Cooperative Statistics Committee
Miami, Florida
July 20-22, 1993

The meeting of the Southeast Cooperative Statistics Committee was called to order at 1:00 pm on July 20, 1993, with the following persons in attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Tim Brandt	NMFS/Miami Lab
Connie Henderson	NMFS/Miami Lab
Claudia Dennis	NMFS/Miami Lab
Laura Bishop	NMFS/RMD
Guy Pizzuti	NMFS/Miami Lab
Emily Walton	FDNR
Tom Herbert	NMFS/Miami Lab
Charles Schaefer	NMFS/Miami Lab
Steve Brown	FDNR/Research Lab
Joe O'Hop	FDNR/Research Lab <i>Joe O'Hop</i>
Paul Phalen	NCDMF
Skip Lazauski	Alabama Marine Resources
Joseph Shepard	LDWF
Steven Atran	Gulf Council
Stephen Meyers	DFW, USVI
Ann Seiler	DFW, USVI
Daniel Matos-Caraballo	Puerto Rico DNR
Richard Dumas	NMFS/Beaufort Lab
Paul Anninos	NMFS/HQ
Jane DiCosimo	South Atlantic Council
Guy Davenport	NMFS/Miami Lab
Ed Little	NMFS/Miami Lab
Lee Usie	NMFS/New Orleans
Jim Zweifel	NMFS/RMD
Jeff Trew	FDNR
Rick Beaver	FDNR
John Vondruska	NMFS/Regional Office
Margot Hightower	NMFS/Galveston Lab
Nelson Johnson	NMFS/Beaufort Lab
Ken Harris	NMFS/Beaufort Lab
Lee Green	TPWD
John Merriner	NMFS/Beaufort Lab
Wayne Waltz	SC Wildlife & Marine Resources
Trish Adams	FDNR
Barb Palko	NMFS/Panama City
Debby Fable	NMFS/Miami Lab
Sally Long	NMFS/Regional Office
Ron Lukens	GSMFC
Mary Anne Camp	NMFS/Data Mgt.
Gina Gore	GDNR
John Poffenberger	NMFS/RMD

DUE TO A SCHEDULING PROBLEM, LUKENS, GSMFC, WAS UNABLE TO RECORD THE INITIAL PORTION OF THE OPENING DAY OF THE MEETING; CONSEQUENTLY, MINUTES OF THIS PORTION OF THE MEETING ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS DOCUMENT.

CONFIDENTIALITY

It was reported that an incident had occurred in which Cooperative Statistics port agents in Louisiana had been approached at the dock by enforcement agents and asked for their data. Paul Anninos provided information from the NMFS Headquarters Office indicating that their interpretation of the Magnuson Act is that port agents or other agency personnel in possession of confidential data do not have to turn it over to law enforcement agents, citing Section 1853(f) (Restrictions on Use of Certain Data) of the Magnuson Act (amended). That section, however, pertains to voluntary reporting and observer programs, not port agents. Anninos indicated that as of 6-14-93 the NOAA General Counsel's Office had completed, for the NMFS internal comment and review, draft regulations which pertain to that section, the deadline for which comments were due being 7-21-93. The interim position of the agency is to maintain the original policy until such a time as the draft regulations are finalized. It should be noted, however, that the draft regulations provide that if the confidential data are made available through another source, outside of state or federal agency influence, the Secretary of Commerce will release the data for corroboration when prosecuting violations. Anninos stressed that where port agents are concerned, the agency position continues to be that they are not required to turn over data to law enforcement agents upon request.

The Committee was then informed that the Southeast Regional Office had recently issued a memo which was adverse to the policy cited above, indicating that until further notice, NMFS port agents were to turn over all data requested from law enforcement agents. Some discussion ensued regarding this issue. The question was asked if the Southeast Regional memo was specific to port samplers. The answer was affirmative. Then the question was asked why a distinction would be made between port samplers and agency personnel who handle the data in the office. The answer to that question was not known. A discussion ensued regarding how the memo would affect a state port agent. The general feeling was that state port samplers would report any requests to their supervisors for consideration, but

would not themselves turn over any confidential data to law enforcement agents. J. Poffenberger indicated that he would track the issue and try to get clarification on the national and regional policies.

SCOPE OF TIP

Ausbon Brown, TIP Coordinator, opened a discussion of the scope of TIP, with emphasis on the data collection activities. Brown asked the group to provide input to him regarding the data elements which were being collected, and whether or not they should be changed. It was asked if users of the data in TIP were aware of such nuances as what "developing gonad" means regarding its implications for time of spawning. Also, are there standards for reporting such data elements in light of the fact that spawning periods vary annually due to environmental conditions? Another problem related to reporting gonadal stages is that some species require histological examination to determine the sex of the fish. Field samplers cannot provide that information. It was pointed out that reproductive biologists are in many cases looking at gonadal development and stages, and that the onus for providing such data should not be on the field sampler. The general answer to all these issues is that the data put into the TIP program should be as detailed as possible, especially in light of the increasing demands for data. It was suggested that future versions of TIP could provide for field sampler assessments of gonadal development and a later assessment by reproductive biologists, which would serve as a feedback system for the field sampler. It was suggested that as the number of field samplers decreases and the demand for data for species under fishery management plans increases, some measure of field efficiency must be developed to allow the field samplers to get the most important data. It may be advisable, since reproductive biologists can do a more accurate job of assessing gonadal development, to delete that element from the field samplers' list. There was some agreement on this, and discussion on the issue continued. It was pointed out that there is some concern for "retrofitting" data in TIP, such as age data. Some have indicated that if it is not directly observable by the field sampler, it should not be included in TIP. If gonads are staged at a later time and the data put into the data base, does that constitute "retrofitting?" It was suggested that before we worry about putting "retrofitted" age data in the TIP data base, it should be determined whether or not age is

necessary for the types of analyses that will be conducted. The larger concern is what data are needed for analysis of the fishery. The idea was posed that perhaps TIP should be two programs, the first containing data pertinent to the fishery, and the second containing data related to the biology of the species. Some discussion on this idea ensued. There was not general agreement about the types of data needed for stock assessments. It was pointed out that because of the potential for specific regulations restricting certain types of gear, there is a need for some fishery information in assessing the stocks and potential impacts to the stocks from certain types of fishing operations. Another consideration is that different scientists conduct stock assessments in different ways, and data requirements are different for each method used. Most of the time, the method used to conduct a stock assessment is chosen based on the types of data that are available. **The distinction was made between conducting a pure stock assessment and developing management regulations from the stock assessment.** For a pure stock assessment, fishery data are not necessary; however, in order to be able to formulate management recommendations for a fishery, the fishery data and how they relate to the stock assessment are necessary. Another distinction was made between a long term data collection program and short term projects. For example, the identification of the relationship of gear to fish caught is a short term project, while the collection of other data should be long term. Ausbon Brown indicated that he will be attempting to get input from stock assessment scientists regarding the data needs that they can identify. Some discussion ensued regarding different stock assessment scientists and different data needs.

It was pointed out that the NMFS emphasis in the south Atlantic has been catch by gear, age composition by gear, length frequency by gear, and ages assigned by length frequency. It was added that in order to be able to understand the species that migrate seasonally, data needs include length frequencies by gear type by area by quarter and age at maturity. A discussion ensued regarding the funding cuts experienced by the CSP and how they have affected the states' ability to collect all the data that are needed for state and federal management. It was agreed that because of the funding limitations, there has to be some selectivity in what is collected and with what intensity it is collected. A. Brown indicated that he is interested in identifying those stock assessments that are recurring year after year

and a list of priority species for which data need to be collected. **He provided a preliminary list of species from the federal prospective and asked that the state participants provide him with a list of those species that are high priority from the states' perspective.** It was reiterated by several participants that the CSP and TIP should be considered two separate programs, one providing data on the fishery and the other providing species specific bioprofile data. In that way, guidelines can be constructed as to what the focus for data collection should be.

The question was asked what the original purpose was for setting up TIP. It was suggested that because TIP was not developed for a specific long term purpose, it has evolved independent of identified or potential data needs. It was suggested that the question should rather be what do we want TIP to be for the future. It was suggested that the best approach would be to hold stock assessment (user) data needs workshops in the south Atlantic, Gulf, and Caribbean areas to get definitive input from the scientists who are using the current data bases, then establish what role TIP should play as a component of the CSP. The comment was made that for about four years running the suggestion was made to include stock assessment scientists in the summer CSP workshop to gain their input; however, no one knew why it had not happened.

Regarding the comments about whether to sample trips or species, it was pointed out that what is actually being suggested is that a sampling strategy for TIP is needed. It was pointed out that the development of a sampling strategy was discussed at the 1992 workshop, and a completed strategy was expected at the current meeting. The comment was made that frequently the constraint to what is sampled is dependent upon the dealer and what the dealer will allow. If a sampler goes out to get a certain type of sample, but it is not available, a sampling strategy would provide guidance as to what would be the next best thing to sample. Several field samplers indicated that that is what they do already, they simply make that judgement call at the time. It was pointed out that perhaps it would be better for that decision to be made in the form of guidance rather than the sampler taking it upon himself or herself to make the decision. One participant offered the following scenario that serves as a sampling strategy: Phone calls are made to the assessment scientists to determine what data are needed for what species; the species list is compiled along with the needed data; the list is sent to the field samplers; the field

samplers then use the list to get whatever data are available on the list; if nothing on the list is available then other data are acquired as per the field samplers' judgement.

Ausbon Brown indicated that he would like the group to discuss how to make TIP more efficient and effective and increase the flow of data to the end users. Also important is to establish a projection for future needs. What criteria should be used to establish what a priority species is: Consult the data base to determine landing levels and relationships to declines, use federal council recommendations, public outcry, or grants. As a first effort, A. Brown used the general canvass data base for federally managed species for the past ten years to determine a draft priority listing. He requested that the state participants provide him with priority species from the states' perspective to include in his listing. Steve Meyers pointed out that Brown's preliminary listing and analysis does not include any species from the Caribbean area. There was some concern that the numbers used to arrive at the first draft list were not accurate. Some specific examples are tilefish and lobster.

Collection of commercial TIP data should have the highest priority, with the recreational TIP data being second priority. Ausbon Brown asked for participants opinions on that statement. There was some indication that the TIP program should only collect commercial data. The NMFS Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) does collect bioprofile data, and it was suggested that bioprofile data for the recreationally caught fish should come from that or other directed surveys. It is felt that TIP is flexible enough to handle recreational data; however, the burden at present is on the field sampler to determine whether or not to take recreational samples. It was pointed out that because of some seasonal closures on the commercial fisheries, sometimes the only fish available for sampling are from charter boat or private recreational fisheries. Some debate ensued regarding whether or not the CSP and TIP should include any recreational data if the MRFSS is a dedicated recreational survey which should cover such sampling. Brown offered the opinion that if TIP samplers are available and only recreationally caught fish are available to be sampled, the TIP sampler should take the samples; however, the first priority is clearly for samples from commercially caught fish. It was pointed out that the reason that recreational fish are mentioned at all is for the purposes of bioprofile (hard parts, tissues) samples. The recreational samples are not being collected

strictly for length measurements, but rather for the bioprofile information. There is no intent for the TIP or CSP to duplicate the MRFSS sampling design, and the length/frequency data are not expected to be included in the TIP data base. Florida indicated that during 1992 they were asked to have the state field samplers take recreational data through TIP, and the request was declined because they felt that the focus ought to be on commercial, the MRFSS should collect those data, and there was a concern that the TIP recreational data may go into the MRFSS data base, hence then be housed in two places. It was clarified that the request was specific to acquiring data to produce age/length keys, not to duplicate the MRFSS design. Recreational data in the TIP data base is coded so that it can be identified as recreational data. It was pointed out that in many cases the only way to get bioprofile data on the larger sizes of fish is through recreational sampling.

S. Lazauski pointed out that the extensive discussions already taking place are very detailed with regard to TIP, and that perhaps the more important discussion should be how does TIP fit into overall data collection, including CSP, MRFSS, SEAMAP, and various grant projects. Lazauski indicated that these various programs were not communicating basic data needs among themselves, and no one seems to know why. A. Seiler asked what is the overall goal of the CSP, expressing that she is not sure what the program is trying to accomplish, and likewise perceives a lack of cross-program communication. R. Lukens read from the draft plan for the CSP which provides a mission statement and a set of broad goals and objectives. That mission statement reads "The mission of the State/Federal Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP) is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate landings (including finfish and shellfish) and bioprofile information for marine commercial fisheries in the Southeast Region." A discussion ensued regarding the larger picture of data collection and how the components fit together. J. Poffenberger indicated that the remainder of the agenda is designed to cover the larger picture and that the focus for the present discussion should be restricted to TIP. He further indicated that it was his understanding that the group did not think that recreational length frequency data should be included in the TIP data base. The suggestion was made that the larger picture should be discussed before attempting to fix detailed parts of one segment of the CSP. J. O'Hop indicated that the question regarding whether to base sampling on the trip or the species had still

not been answered. A. Brown indicated that that was the reason for establishing the priority list of species, and that primary sampling would be based on species. It was pointed out that even with priority species there are priority data elements such that if the only data available from a top priority species are data that are not needed, then that species is not priority in that instance. One participant suggested that discretionary decisions by the field samplers should be kept to a minimum, and that guidelines for sampling should be detailed enough to provide adequate field guidance as to what, where, and how much to sample. Brown indicated that such a sampling design is what he was attempting to achieve. Lazauski indicated that producing a sampling design is a complex activity and could not be done in the context of the current meeting. Poffenberger explained that that was not what was being proposed, but rather an identification of what should be sampled so that a sampling design could be developed. TIP was developed to meet stock assessment needs; however, no long term plan was developed to guide how data would be collected, and how the program could change to meet changing state/federal management needs. The original development of TIP was not set up to be statistical in nature, such that expansions could be accomplished across fisheries. It was set up to meet species specific bioprofile data needs. It was pointed out that if sampling were done for trips instead of species, the sampling would be more random and some of the components of the fish stocks on the fringes of their distribution would not be covered if species specific sampling is done. Also to truly randomize the sampling, the sample allocations would have to be stratified by gear types. If the trip is the sampling unit, the dealers could be weighted by the number of trips landed at that particular dock. This approach would not be useful for attempting to get a lot of species specific samples, because the dealers chosen may not even get certain species.

Jim Zweifel indicated that one of the original goals of TIP was to try to identify species that were reported in the general canvass, and that was the main reason for sampling by trip. What has occurred is that trips are selected for sampling, and length frequencies are selectively sampled within a trip. He indicated that field samplers do not pass by a trip, but rather sample all trips to which they have access. He doesn't think that the sampling protocol can be changed. One participant asked for clarification of what a trip sample is. For example does the

sample include talking to the fisherman and getting all the information on the TIP form, or is it a dealer sample which includes sampling a box of fish which may have more than one trip in it, from which the weight of the sample, length frequencies, and species composition can be acquired? Catch and effort cannot be acquired from such a sample. He indicated that a field sampler could get more dealer samples than trip samples as described above. A. Brown agreed with the description of a trip sample as including interviewing the fisherman and recording all the data elements on the TIP form. Several field samplers indicated that they conduct most of their sampling as the fish are being unloaded from the boat, although, some samples are taken from baskets or boxes inside the fish house after unloading.

P. Phalen indicated that he thought it would be better to sample trips in which gear information is available. He indicated that in North Carolina field samplers randomly select fish houses and sample for trips and gear information. J. O'Hop indicated that a truly random sample of dealers would be impossible, because many of the dealers don't cooperate, and in some cases it is considered dangerous for field samplers to go to certain fish houses. He suggested that there may be other ways to select dealers or boats for sampling. One participant offered that field samplers could go anywhere and measure fish all day long if number of measurements is the criteria. But when restrictions such as certain species of fish or certain gear are required, finding available samples is much more difficult, even to the point of sometimes not getting any samples at all. Other examples of field sampler experiences with trying to get samples were discussed, emphasizing the difficulty and complexity of the job of getting good samples. J. Poffenberger asked Lee Green if Texas had completed the assessment of the commercial fisheries creel survey that had been conducted in the past, comparing that survey with the concept of randomizing the selection of fish dealers and surveying them in a statistically designed way. Green indicated that the report analyzing that effort had not been completed; however, the general feeling is that the survey had a lot of problems, primary of which was many days of no sampling because of a lack of activity at the selected sampling sites. A. Brown suggested that by analyzing the data base to determine where species are landed, sampling sites could be selected based on that information. Several field samplers indicated that the fisheries are dynamic, and the places where fish are landed change often enough so as to make such an analysis

useless. Field sampler knowledge and experience with the fisheries, the fisherman, and dealers is the most useful tool in determining when and where to sample.

R. Lukens asked that J. Zweifel repeat what the original goal of TIP was. Zweifel said that when the management plan for reef fish began, there was a problem with the complexity of species in the fishery and there was a need for length frequencies across species. At that time the NMFS personnel analysed the landings and set up sampling quotas by gear and area, and left it to the field samplers to get what samples they could. He indicated that because of the nature of the data needs, the sampling scheme is defacto because a rigid scheme cannot be imposed upon the problems involved, such as those that have been discussed during the current meeting, and there has to be a reliance on the field samplers to make decisions on when and where to sample.

S. Meyers expressed his support for a trip based sampling program, because the shifting from species to species by fishermen who are constantly reacting to fish availability cause the stock assessment scientists and managers to need data on species that previously were not targeted as a primary commercial species. He stated that a trip based, random sampling program would produce a data base that reflects the total fishery at the time, and a time series would then be available on species as they increase and decrease in importance.

It was asked whether or not the Committee should try to develop a TIP sampling strategy at the meeting. The response was that it would be too complex and involved an activity to expect to accomplish at the current meeting. R. Lukens expressed his concern that TIP was different things in different states and he was not sure what it all meant. He suggested that the Committee should determine what role TIP should play in the CSP before any sampling design is developed. He also stated that, recognizing that there are efficiencies in having CSP field samplers take TIP samples, there are not enough funds to run the CSP as originally envisioned and as needed for current management, and that the addition of TIP to this program adds more stress to the system. The question was asked if the NMFS and the states are trying to do more with the CSP, with TIP added, than they are able to do due to limited funding and manpower.

A. Seiler explained that she is relatively new to this program and asked who was responsible for what aspects of the CSP. A. Brown indicated that he is

responsible for TIP. He does not look at the data coming in. J. Poffenberger is the CSP coordinator. Seiler asked if there is a registry of receipt of data, or a log of when and from whom data are received. J. Poffenberger indicated that there is not a log book, per se, that can be referred to for receipt of data. Seiler stated that her concern from the Virgin Islands is that after the twelve years of their cooperation in the CSP it is virtually impossible to determine what happened to much of the data that has been sent into the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, who used them, and how they were used. This is feedback that she needs to evaluate their involvement in the program. Seiler also expressed that the agenda for the current meeting should have been structured differently to allow for the planning activities to be conducted first and then deal with details of program components later. She stated that there seemed to be a lot of confusion over what the CSP is and where it should be going. P. Phalen suggested that it would be useful to move on to later agenda items which address planning and organizational issues, and that that exercise would answer some of the questions being asked. J. Shepard agreed with moving on to the planning and organizational items, and that it would be better to formulate work groups with specific tasks to deal with the types of detail that have been discussed earlier. A. Brown asked that he be able to complete some items related to TIP before the Committee moves on to the suggested items. Some discussion ensued regarding program responsibilities within the NMFS.

A. Brown asked that Joe Shepard provide some discussion on his earlier thoughts regarding the concept that TIP should be two programs, one that addresses fishery trip data and one that addresses species specific bioprofile data. S. Lazauski indicated that he felt that separating the two components of the data collection effort can be a good idea. He added that during the quota monitoring effort for red snapper the data were being collected by fisherman by dealer on a weekly basis. The dealer filled out what was essentially TIP forms, except for lengths, as fishermen unloaded and submitted them as TIP data, because it was all that could be gotten in the time frame involved. This method was used to determine when the quota was reached. He indicated that this was an instance when the data which were collected in the manner described was all that was available, and was good TIP data, even though length data were not collected, and he felt that severability, from an operational perspective, was necessary and worked to

everyone's benefit. However, he added that from a data management perspective, it may be cumbersome to have the data located in two different places when in all likelihood they would have to be combined at a later time. Why not keep it all together, but allow the flexibility for collecting the data that are needed and available. A. Brown stated that the real issue comes into play when a field sampler has a choice of the type of data he/she can take. What sort of guidance can they be given to help them make that choice so that users and managers are sure that the data that are needed are being collected? It is a two-fold decision, the first being made in the office regarding where to go, and the second being made at the sampling location regarding what to sample. A. Brown indicated that it is his opinion that the two data areas, trip versus species specific data, are integrated and as such cannot effectively be separated. He stated that from the users' perspective one can get out of the data what one wants without physically having to separate the two kinds of data. J. Shepard's point is that if you are going to sample trips rather than for species, the way you go about sampling will be different. If you sample for trips, you don't care what species are being unloaded, you are only interested in sampling what is being brought in. If you sample for species, then you would target those dealers who handle the species of interest at the exclusion of other species that are being harvested in the total fishery. He stated that the information needed for stock assessments is different than that needed for regulatory purposes. Both trip (fishery related) data and bioprofile (species specific) data are needed, but for different reasons and different uses. Some discussion continued regarding the above issue.

CSP AND TIP DATA MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Mary Anne Camp informed the meeting participants that anyone who is attempting to transmit notes in the "note file" to Laura or her, that those files do not transmit. The "note file" is for the individuals use only. Any notes or additional information that needs to be transmitted to the SEFSC should be sent separately from the data files. She also said that the new IT95 computer will be delivered by the end of August. The conversion to the new computer will be very difficult, and she asked for patience from the participants until the conversion is well underway. The computer is manufactured by Control Data Corporation and is supposed to be a 64 bit

multiprocessor, silicone graphic workstation. The system will use SAS with Oracle on the mainframe. The NMFS is in the process of designing a relational data base system which will allow users to compare TIP, general canvass, log books, etc. The entry programs at the PC level will still be FOXPRO.

The comment was made that the data entry program was slow, and A. Brown responded that part of the slowness is attributable to the large amount of overhead used to edit in the data entry program itself. **The suggestion was made to split the program into two programs, with the data entry program itself being simple with a few minor checks, and the secondary program being a real edit program that runs independent of the data entry program.** Mary Anne Camp indicated that she agreed that it sounds like a good idea, but she needs a consensus from the CSP participants that they would like to change the data entry program in that way in order to do it. It was pointed out that the current program now has an option to allow the user to turn off the error check program component to allow the program to run faster. The user can then validate the data after it has been entered; however, the data cannot be batched out until the validation has been done, either during data entry or after data entry. Another participant added that the data entry program with the edit function on runs much faster with a 486 computer than with something less. The on/off "button" for the edit function is in the defaults. TIP data entry version 4.0 will be designed to meld with Oracle and the relational data base system. M.A. Camp said that she intends to run the Boroughs A10 through December of 1994, when it will no longer be used.

PROGRAM PLANNING

J. Poffenberger indicated that it is unclear exactly what the Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP) is; however, it seems to be driven by the \$833,000.00 that is allocated to the program through the NMFS budget. It has been defined by four major data collection activities, including 1) General Canvass, 2) Gulf Shrimp, 3) South Atlantic Shrimp, and 4) TIP. Each activity is performed differently in each state, with some states going beyond that which is strictly required by the CSP, other states not even providing general canvass data, while some states do not provide trip interview data. Paul Phalen, Chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's South Atlantic Statistics Committee, provided some written

comments which he had prepared for the purpose of generating discussion regarding the planning exercise that is underway. **Before getting into the planning exercise, R. Lukens handed out a set of minutes from the last meeting which was held in February 1993 in Atlanta, Georgia. Lukens asked that the Committee review the minutes and provide any comments, corrections, or additions to him as soon as possible.** P. Phalen provided a short review of how the group came to be involved in the present planning exercise, saying that the state agencies and program participants became frustrated with the program including results from a NMFS review, and called for a major effort to reorganize the program through the development of a set of general goals and objectives similar to the recently completed RecFIN planning exercise. He indicated that during the last few meetings of the CSP participants focused on developing a strategic plan for organizing and coordinating the program, the results of which are contained in the draft plan which was handed out at the current meeting. P. Phalen indicated that he had gone through the Table of Contents of the draft plan and provided some suggestions for inclusion in the plan as a starting place for discussions.

He suggested that the **Executive Summary** should be completed when the plan itself is complete. He offered that unless otherwise noted the **Introduction** section appeared to be complete. He recommended that a section entitled **Scope of CSP** be added to the draft as section C. following **Need for the CSP**, offering language for consideration. His offering was derived from information compiled by J. Poffenberger which describes the four data collection activities which were described at the beginning of this agenda item. Poffenberger clarified that the **Scope** section would cover what the program should address regardless of the amount of funding that is available. Everyone agreed that needs should be identified and not dictated by funding constraints. Poffenberger further clarified that it was his understanding that the current plan under development would not be a plan for spending the funding allocation for the program. All agreed, and Lukens stated that an operations plan would be a plan for spending the funding, and would be developed after the current plan is complete and adopted. Phalen suggested that a section entitled **Authority** be included, which follows the outline provided by the RecFIN Strategic Plan. This section provides the legislative and Congressional authorities of the state and federal agencies involved as participants in the CSP.

Phalen indicated that he deleted the authorities for the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions. Lukens suggested putting the Commissions' authorities back into the plan, because those authorities clearly indicate the appropriateness of the Commissions' involvement in coordinating such programs. This would be section D. under the **Introduction**. There was no objection to this addition. Phalen indicated that the addition of those items would complete the **Introduction**.

Under the section entitled **History and Status**, Phalen indicated that the language contained in this section is too focused on the funding and should be more an indication of what the participant has done throughout the program. Lukens asked if the reworking of each agency's section should be done after the meeting and mailed to his office. The group indicated that they could rewrite the sections and provide them to Lukens before the last day of the current meeting. Phalen stressed that the individual sections do not need to be very long, and that they could simply be rewritten using the language in the current draft with a focus on program activities rather than money. Phalen noted that the rewrite needs to be done for the states and federal sections. Some discussion ensued regarding the content of the individual sections.

P. Phalen suggested adding a section called **Priorities** which would identify the data collection activities that will be conducted under the CSP in a priority order. Some participants felt that such a prioritization should not be made in the planning document, and some felt that it was necessary. Some discussion ensued regarding this idea, and it was determined that it would be better to table the discussion regarding program priorities until later.

The next topic of discussion was the new section entitled **Scope of CSP**, a draft of which was provided by P. Phalen adapted from information prepared by J. Poffenberger. Poffenberger noted that under the **General Canvass, Monthly Landings** sub-heading that gear, distance from shore, and water body data are no longer included in that data base. He indicated that the data are not being collected from Texas, Louisiana, and Florida, and that in the other states the data are estimated or assigned by the field sampler. He also pointed out that for the purposes of the plan, the description of general canvass data is not correct. The description under the heading deals with monthly landings only. J. Shepard and P.

Phalen suggested that the sub-heading be changed to delete **General Canvass**. Lukens asked what elements defined general canvass. Poffenberger answered gear and distance from shore. The group elected to call the sub-heading **Monthly Landings**, deleting any reference to general canvass. J. Shepard asked whether or not the collection of general canvass data was a part of the CSP. Ken Harris indicated that general canvass was originally a part of the CSP, but that data collection methodologies have changed dramatically over time, and limitations brought about by that change have precluded the collection of those data elements that contributed to general canvass. Poffenberger emphasized that as currently configured, the CSP does not provide general canvass data as it once did. It was suggested that the term general canvass should be deleted from any section regarding description of the CSP, and the Committee agreed. **The suggestion was made to identify the lack of gear, distance from shore, and water body data as a problem to be addressed by the Committee, perhaps through a work group activity.** K. Harris indicated that when the original paper that led to the establishment of the CSP was completed in 1969, it was based on an Agriculture Department project on crop reporting in which all states and the federal government agencies cooperatively collect the same data in the same way, nationally. When the original, first cooperative agreement for the CSP was negotiated with the State of North Carolina, it set up just like the Agriculture Department project. It was anticipated that that would be the way that all subsequent CSP cooperative agreements would be structured. That did not happen, but rather it was decided to allow the cooperative agreements to be different if the states involved so decided. That early situation contributed to the evolution of the CSP, and is, at least partially, responsible for the current fragmented status of the CSP.

A. Seiler pointed out, regarding the discussion about leaving general canvass out of the **Scope** section, that it should be included elsewhere so that the historical information would be documented in the plan. **It was suggested that it would be consistent to include a short discussion of the issue under the NMFS part of the History and Status section.**

The next sub-heading discussed was **South Atlantic Shrimp**. Again, general canvass was deleted from the section, and the words "than monthly landings" were added to the second sentence after the word "detail." A discrepancy was identified

regarding the shrimp data in North Carolina. It was pointed out that from this point on, if someone wants South Atlantic shrimp data, they will also have to access the Monthly Landings data for North Carolina.

The next sub-heading discussed was **Gulf of Mexico Shrimp**. The sentence "In addition, quantity and value are collected in more detail than monthly landings" was added to the end of the section. Poffenberger indicated that for the Gulf shrimp data base, 50-60% of the records are for individual shrimp trips. Finally, for the sub-heading **Trip Interview Program (TIP)**, Lukens suggested changing the word "federally" to "federal", and adding the word "interstate" after "federal" in the second sentence. Also the second paragraph was deleted.

Current Issues was the next topic discussed. Phalen provided a listing of issues that have been identified in the past several meetings and review exercises. A discussion ensued regarding the difference between planning in terms of achieving specific objectives within specific time frames, and planning for organizational and programmatic guidance with broader goals and objectives. **It was pointed out that the plan before the Committee does not have specific objectives to be achieved within a specific time frame, which is akin to an operations plan, but rather is a broad plan for organizational structure and general program guidance.** The following is a preliminary listing of current issues related to the CSP:

A. Funding

1. Inadequate funding
2. Allocation process

B. Data Collection

1. Inconsistent methodologies (data collection, coding, weight conversions, etc.)
2. Alternative methodologies
3. Quality assurance
4. Confidentiality

C. Data Management

1. Historical data (quality and accessibility)

2. Registry system (accessibility, documentation, tracking, timeliness)
3. Discrepancies between data bases
4. Confidentiality

The following is a non-categorized listing of other problems identified and may overlap with the categorized listing above.

- * Inconsistency in data collected and methodologies used
- * Timeliness of submission of data
- * Lack of tracking of data flow
- * Inadequate retrieval capability
- * Inadequate documentation (collection and data bases)
- * Lack of comprehensive collection program (there are gaps in the program)
- * Lack of precision and accuracy
- * Ineffective organizational structure for CSP
- * Impediments to sharing confidential data among CSP partners
- * Discrepancies between data bases
- * Lack of quality assurance (collection and management)
- * Lack of ongoing evaluation and periodic program evaluation
- * Lack of efficiency in data collection activities
- * Lack of specific guidelines for bioprofile (TIP) data
- * Lack of a sampling protocol for the CSP, including TIP

The above list is not inclusive, but represents a limited effort to identify existing problems and program deficiencies.

A discussion ensued regarding funding and the way the available CSP funds are allocated. J. Poffenberger stated that the group should step back from the way the funds have been split up in the past, and allow the data needs to dictate what type of activities get funded rather than focusing on the money and doing some data collection based on that figure. It is understood that the amount of funds limits what can be done, but a set of agreed upon priorities and needs should be developed and used to determine how the money gets spent, rather than saying we have this much

money, how do you want to spend it. The term "entitlements" was used in a number of instances to describe the CSP and the funding provided to the states. Lukens pointed out that the original intent of the program was to provide 100% federal dollars to the states to assist the NMFS in conducting the CSP. That expectation from the states' perspective has never disappeared, even in the face of dwindling funds. That is why the states have the perspective that they do regarding state contributions to the CSP. It was discussed how that mind set could be changed, because in a true cooperative program, all the partners have equal responsibility for carrying out the program. Lukens pointed out that the process that is ongoing to develop planning and guidance documents and identify and find solutions for current problems is expected to change that mind set in favor of establishing a truly cooperative program. He also pointed out that the CSP has never been operated as a cooperative program. Poffenberger agreed saying that the NMFS has simply paid the states to help them collect commercial data. The way in which the funds have been disbursed, through individual cooperative agreement negotiations, is in large part responsible for the fragmented nature of the present program.

P. Phalen suggested another section of the plan entitled **Priorities**, related to the four program areas (ie. monthly landings, South Atlantic Shrimp, Gulf Shrimp, and TIP). J. Shepard indicated that he and several other committee members had discussed the issue of establishing program component priorities and decided that it would not be a good idea to include such a section in the plan. P. Phalen responded that he felt that the would probably become too controversial and difficult to resolve; consequently, he agreed that the section should not be included.

The next section to be considered was **Program Operation** and the sub-heading **Organizational Structure and Administration**. R. Lukens suggested that the first sentence of the section be reworded to read "The organizational structure of the CSP will consist of the Southeast Cooperative Statistics Committee, geographic subcommittees (ASMFC, GSMFC, and CFMC), ad hoc subcommittees, technical work groups, and administrative support." J. Poffenberger indicated that he felt that the NMFS would want the federal councils to play a more prominent role in the organizational structure. P. Phalen indicated that at the last meeting, the South Atlantic, Gulf, and Caribbean Councils had been added to the Committee membership. J. Merriner asked whether or not it would be appropriate to include

the councils' Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC) as a part of the program. It was pointed out that typically the councils have sent staff to the CSP, ComFIN, and RecFIN(SE) meetings. Poffenberger offered the thought that council staff would have the responsibility to elicit comments and input from any organizational component of a council, as opposed to having an actual representative of the SSCs be the committee member. P. Phalen indicated that the Committee itself is made up of the two commissions' committees and the representatives from the Caribbean; consequently, it seemed reasonable to use those groups to provide input regarding issues and problems that may be of more importance or specific to those geographic areas. J. Shepard indicated that council staff is a data user, and that perhaps that input is more valuable than simply adding an SSC representative who is likely to be a state scientist. It was concluded that the commissions' committees and the Caribbean Council group would provide sufficient representation for the three geographic areas.

Lukens suggested that the sub-heading **Statistical Committees** be changed to **Geographic Subcommittees**, since that designation would accurately reflect their composition, and they would be subcommittees of the Southeast Cooperative Statistics Committee (SCSC). Lukens further suggested that sections be added to provide for ad hoc subcommittees and technical work groups. He suggested to use the language in the RecFIN(SE) Strategic Plan, since it adequately describes the groups. Some discussion ensued regarding the implications of having a committee of a commission serve as a subcommittee of the SCSC, the perceived problem being that the subcommittee concept is based on the membership of the subcommittee being made up of the appropriate membership of the SCSC. What happens if the membership of the commission committee changes, and is no longer reflective of the SCSC membership? J. Shepard indicated that it would not matter if the subcommittee membership was always reflective of the membership of the SCSC, and that by virtue of their orientation to data, statistical, and fisheries issues in their respective geographic areas, they would still be able to provide useful input to the SCSC. Further discussion ensued, following which there were no objections to the suggestions made.

The next sub-heading discussed was **Coordination and Administrative Support**. Lukens again recommended that the language in the RecFIN(SE) Strategic

Plan for this section be amended to fit the CSP and used in the plan to describe the coordination and administrative support component of the program. Lukens indicated that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission offers to take the lead role for program coordination initially. It was pointed out that preliminary deliberations with the Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN) indicate an organizational structure much like the one being proposed for the CSP. The question was asked whether or not there would be two such structures if and when the CSP and ComFIN proposals are implemented. Lukens indicated that it was the original intent of the member states of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) to move forward with ComFIN first, providing an organizational structure and coordination that would result in addressing CSP needs in the process. It, however, became evident that there was an immediate need to address problems and issues within the CSP. It is felt that the work currently being done on the CSP will provide a good basis for progress on ComFIN. The GSMFC position is that there not be two structures, but that the CSP and ComFIN will merge at some point in time. That approach was deemed acceptable by the Committee.

J. Zweifel asked the Committee's thoughts about whether TIP data would become a function of RecFIN(SE) or ComFIN or both. The response indicated that no one knows; however, with the RecFIN and ComFIN Committees established, that question could be debated in both arenas and an acceptable solution found. A discussion ensued regarding the NMFS internal planning initiatives and the need to standardize as much as possible regarding the ability to move toward the use of relational data bases.

The final sub-heading discussed by Lukens was **Support Requirements**. Lukens indicated that since this sub-heading is also related to organizational structure and support functions, the language found in the RecFIN(SE) document, with some minor amendments, would sufficiently describe the program area for this section. J. O'Hop asked whether or not funds would be available for assisting in work group activities and the SCSC. Lukens' response was that he would not suggest that funds be diverted from data collection and management to support new administrative activities. It would be better to try to identify new funds to support a new initiative.

There were several references to having the states or the agencies sign the

CSP plan. The question was asked if there was the intent to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the CSP similar to the RecFIN(SE) MOU. Lukens stated that it was his opinion that an MOU was not needed, but the decision to develop one would be up to the SCSC. He stated that, by way of receiving agency approval of the CSP plan, the agencies could review the plan and send letters of approval or acceptance in the event that they were so inclined. The RecFIN(SE) MOU was used as a vehicle to obtain consensus from all the potentially participating agencies to go forward with the planning process and the pilot RecFIN(SE) program. The CSP already has the authority to operate, and the states already participate in the program. Asked about his view of the process following the current meeting, Lukens indicated that the next draft of the CSP plan would be the final draft, and each agency should review it with the idea that it would be the last opportunity to input comments before going to the agencies for approval. Then the document would be transmitted to each participating agency with a request for endorsement to go forward with the program as proposed. The suggestion was made that there be a meeting of the SCSC the day before the September 16 and 17 RecFIN(SE) meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, and the Committee agreed. J. DiCosimo offered to host the meeting at the South Atlantic Council's office if the group and RecFIN wanted to change the meeting from Jacksonville, Florida to Charleston, South Carolina. Lukens said that he would survey the RecFIN Committee membership and see if they were inclined to change the location.

Discussion of the Planning Process

P. Anninos provided the Committee with a number of observations that he has made during the preceding process, relating that he is deeply involved in planning processes through his position with the NMFS. Anninos emphasized that his comments are not offered as an official NMFS (Headquarters or Region) statement or position. They are personal observations that he made as he sat through the Committee's proceedings. He indicated that he had prepared a number of specific questions that the group should ask themselves as the planning process proceeds. He felt that the group should be concerned with maximizing the opportunity of having the collective talents of the participants gathered together.

- 1) **Are we developing a review document or a plan?** Is the activity a plan, or is it simply describing the nature of the CSP? Have the activities of the current meeting been aimed at what you want the CSP to be in the future?

- 2) **What is the purpose of the plan?**
 - **who asked for it?**
 - **what are our expectations?**
 - **what is to be accomplished?**
 - **how will the plan affect change?**
 - **do you have top/senior management support?**
 - **what does a signature really mean?**

J. O'Hop replied regarding some of Anninos' comments that the NMFS had sponsored a review in 1992 of the CSP which pointed out some specific deficiencies in the program. O'Hop continued that Mark Holliday had participated in that program review, and that he had provided the CSP participants, at the 1992 workshop, a presentation of the program review report. Holliday made a number of derisive comments regarding his opinion that the CSP is in need of serious attention because the states, collectively, had not done their job. The planning activity and the formulation of the technical working groups was asked for by the program review and Holliday. He further indicated that top/senior management was involved in the CSP review and that they do indeed support this planning activity. It was also pointed out that the State Directors through the South Atlantic Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission have directly asked for this planning activity to occur, wanting to fix the problems with the CSP so that the program runs more efficiently. Poffenberger indicated that in no way does the document which is being developed by the Committee represent a plan, saying that nothing had been planned by going through the current process. He further indicated that the Committee had defined the scope and identified some current issues, but that planning had not taken place. He said that planning entails determining what you are going to do in a specified time frame and outlining strategies of how to get to that goal. S. Meyers indicated that there may be a problem of semantics, in that what we are doing may

not be a strategic plan, but it is what the group expected to do, regardless of what it is called. He suggested that by developing a mission statement and broad goals and objectives that planning is taking place, albeit not strategic planning. He equated the document being developed with a constitution that provides the overall program structure and guidance. The current document represents only the first step in an overall effort to provide program guidance, coordination, and future planning. He indicated that we are trying to fix identified problems of the past, while laying a framework for the future. Lukens added that during the RecFIN process it was made clear that from a professional planning perspective, we were not developing a strategic plan. The group determined that what we called the process and the document was much less important than the results of the process and the ability to use the document to provide broad guidance to the cooperative efforts. Lukens suggested that if it is distracting or confusing to call the document a strategic plan, that we change the name of the document to more clearly define what it is, adding that no matter what it is called, it is a necessary activity to complete. Poffenberger agreed that the exercise is necessary; however, he is uncomfortable with calling it a plan. Lukens responded that it is a plan for establishing coordination and administration of a program, and it only becomes a program once the plan has been accepted. Some confusion arose, asking why, since the CSP has been operating since 1982, wasn't it already a program. The response from several state participants indicated that it has been operating as an unplanned program. P. Phalen stated that the program planning exercise that is currently underway should have been done at the inception of the CSP, rather than ten years later. Lukens indicated that the document currently being developed will not change the operations of data collection or data management out in the field when and if it is accepted by the agencies. The current initiative is to establish an organizational structure and a set of broad goals and objectives which, when in place, will provide the vehicle to institute change that will affect those operational activities related to data collection and management.

- 3) **What is the planning methodology or process?**
 - have all the stakeholders been involved?
 - is this top down, bottom up, middle out planning?

Anninos indicated that, by virtue of the previous discussion in response to his questions, he had learned a lot about what the group is trying to do and why. He indicated that the group of stakeholders must scan the environment around them and determine what the strengths and weaknesses of the program are, because by doing so, problems can be more readily identified and solutions found. Even beyond that, however, how do we transcend the problems and envision a new world. Organizations in the private sector must conduct such activities on a regular basis in order to stay competitive. Anninos asked of what significance having signatures on the document will really mean. What will it allow the group to do? P. Phalen indicated that the signature of the state directors is vital in order to allow the group to continue to participate and improve the CSP. **It was suggested that the introductory language of the document should contain some of the history of why the current planning exercise is being undertaken.** Poffenberger indicated that he is somewhat uncomfortable with the idea to get agency signatures for approval of the document and the support to continue our collective efforts, stating that he is unsure of the commitment on behalf of the states. He said that he would like to see a signature on a letter that says "I commit this agency to the planning process, financial and personnel necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives of the plan to the extent possible, and 25% of a designated person's time and their travel to four meetings a year to accomplish the planning process. He indicated that that is a real commitment. The question was asked how a State Director could make such a commitment without knowing what the plan is. Poffenberger indicated that he would like to see the commitment for the states to send personnel to the necessary meetings to accomplish the planning needs, but asked if it was really appropriate to continue to go to the commissions for support or to do like RecFIN and ask the NMFS for invitational travel. He indicated that there needed to be a more solid commitment. Lukens responded that he did not expect a State Director to sign a letter committing an employee and funds to anything until that Director knows that there are dollars available from whatever source to ensure that commitment. The NMFS funds do not start out as NMFS funds, but they are funds appropriated by Congress from citizen tax dollars. In the case of the CSP, Congress appropriated funds for the CSP, the funds were transferred to the NMFS and budgeted to the Southeast Region to conduct the CSP. The NMFS recognized a benefit in enlisting the assistance of the

states in accomplishing the purposes of the CSP and set up the Cooperative Agreements with the states to implement the CSP. He indicated that additional funds could be appropriated by Congress to help support the CSP, and while these would be NMFS funds, they would be appropriated for a specific purpose and should be spent that way, pointing out that the only way to get Congressionally appropriated funds for a program identified under a federal agency is to appropriate those funds to the agency. The current problems have arisen because we are all trying to do more with less funding. For example, the addition of TIP into the CSP is an added burden to an already underfunded program. There is also a perceptual problem, in that the states have been contributing their own funds to round out the program due to federal funding shortfalls, while still operating under the original agreement that the CSP is a 100% federally funded program. The states have felt that the NMFS, as a federal agency, has played unfairly, expecting the states to continue to contribute state funds to a federal program without having the kind of input into the program that would warrant state contributions. It is envisioned that the establishment of the organizational and administrative structure, and the concurrence with the mission, goals, and objectives as set forth in the plan will provide the states with the kind of involvement and participation that will identify the CSP as a truly cooperative program in which funding and staff activities will be committed.

- 4) **Where have we made the attempt to look at the future or establish a vision of the CSP 5 years or 10 years from now?**
- **if this is a strategic plan, then where is the "strategic" component?**
 - **where have we developed "futures" scenarios?**
 - **when will we have discussions of what direction we are going? is it possible that we are not comfortable with (or perhaps don't know how to) thinking about the future?**
 - **Have we systematically looked at strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities?**

Anninos indicated that he knows now that the current meeting was not expected to address the "futures" issue; however, he stressed that at some point the group would have to do so, and we should be thinking about when we will do so.

Lazauski indicated that this is the point at which our efforts should be included in the nation-wide NMFS initiative for planning. Anninos agreed.

- 5) **How are we actually breaking "mental" models; are we dispensing with preconceived notions?**
- **what makes this effort different, unique?**
 - **are we in a planning rut? is it just a coincidence that ComFIN, RecFIN, and CSP documents are slight revisions of each other? are these efforts incestuous?**
 - **Have we really asked the right questions to the right people?**

Anninos discussed the concern about getting in a planning rut. He noted that the group was borrowing freely from the RecFIN document, and that he would hate to see the CSP, RecFIN, and ComFIN documents look so much alike that people did not know which plan they were looking at. Lukens responded that in entering into these planning initiatives, models were sought, and two were found. Those were PacFIN, a west coast commercial data program, and SEAMAP, a Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean fishery independent data program. Though each program has differences regarding the type of data collected and the management needs the data are designed to fulfill, the basic structure of the programs are strikingly similar. He added that since the models fit the need very well, it did not seem like a good expenditure of time to reinvent something that seemed to work well. Lukens stated that in his opinion it did not matter if the data program is commercial, recreational, or fishery independent, the organizational structure and coordination function should, of necessity, be similar if they are multi-agency, state-federal cooperative programs. **S. Meyers indicated that the ideal would be to formulate an organizational and coordination plan for fishery data in the Southeast Region, of which the recreational, commercial, and fishery independent programs are components of the whole. He added, however, that because of the compartmentalization of the various programs, the planning initiatives must be dealt with independently.** Anninos suggested that just because we must deal with this compartmentalization now does not preclude us from changing the situation in the future. Anninos stressed that that is why thinking about the future is necessary, and that involving the senior

policy officials in the planning exercises is important.

Meyers indicated that at some point in the future, all these programs will merge, but for the time being, we are forced into this individual approach to problem solving in data programs.

6) When we are done planning, will we really know how to spend (or cut) the next fisheries statistics dollar?

Anninos asked the Committee what they would do if there were suddenly a funding windfall. Do we know how we would spend the money? He indicated that, within the NMFS, they are dealing with the same question. There is an initiative to seek additional funding, and the agency needs to know how the funds would be spent to maximize the benefit from the additional money. Lukens suggested that if new money were suddenly made available, each state would probably very quickly find a way to spend it; however, as a group interested in a regional, state-federal approach to needs, he felt that there would be no consensus on how to spend additional funding. Lukens added that the current planning activity would, at least, give individuals some documentation of need for seeking additional funds from Congress and being able to show Congress how the funds would be spent if allocated.

Anninos thanked the group for allowing him the time to go over some of his observations and concerns. The Committee agreed that the discussion that arose from Anninos' comments was valuable to everyone as a way of clarifying the purpose for going through the current planning exercise.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT SEPTEMBER MEETING

Poffenberger suggested that the group should discuss the agenda for the September meeting that has been requested. He indicated that it would be helpful if documents are going to be discussed to have the documents prior to the meeting so that each participant would be better prepared to bring closure to the discussion. J. Shepard suggested that the group devise a list of tasks from the goals and objectives, so that the operations plan for the next year or two will be outlined. Poffenberger asked if it would be useful to try to develop a vision for where the

Committee would like to be with the CSP in five years, indicating that he had worked on this issue and has a good idea of where he believes fishery statistics should be in five years. Several members of the Committee indicated a desire to be able to review the work done by Poffenberger. It was stressed that Poffenberger's work was his view of where the CSP should be in five years and not necessarily a NMFS position. The group still expressed that the information would be valuable to the ongoing effort to identify priorities and direction for the program. J. Shepard indicated that the development of an operations plan would outline the activities that would be addressed by specific work groups, and would result in answering the kinds of questions that have been raised at the current meeting. P. Phalen added that before the first year operations plan can be developed, an identification of problems and issues must be completed. It was pointed out that the SCSC had already formulated a Data Collection Work Group, a Data Management Work Group, and a Future Needs Work Group to deal with problems and issues within their respective areas. Anninos pointed out that the term operations plan was being used in two completely different contexts. He pointed out that an operations plan is what happens following strategic and management planning. It points out things that will be done operationally. He noted that the Committee is discussing operations plans in the context of establishing work groups to do planning. Lukens responded that it is premature for the Committee to recommend to any operational unit of data collection or management that they should change anything. There remains too much organizational planning to complete before any operational planning could be pursued. Anninos offered that the immediate need is to define a planning process. **Lukens clarified that the operations plan being discussed in the context of the current meeting will be an operations plan for the Committee and its work groups, and has nothing, yet, to do with planning for data collection or management operations.** It was pointed out that there was some difference in semantics regarding what was being called an operations plan and what is a work plan for a committee. Anninos pointed out that using the term operations plan implies a plan that affects program operations. It should be clarified that the operations plan in the current context applies to the operations of the Committee and its work groups. Anninos clarified that what the Committee is attempting to do is develop a vehicle for planning, or a planning design. Anninos asked who could describe the planning

process that the Committee expects to follow. Lukens offered a description which he stressed had been the culmination of the GSMFC Data Management Subcommittee actions over a number of years, saying that the planning process started with the identification that there were problems associated with the CSP. This was the result of a NMFS initiated program review and cumulative states' frustration with their participation in the program. Further, the states were told by Mark Holliday that they had not done their jobs regarding the program, and that was why it was in its current state of disrepair. The South Atlantic state agency directors, through the ASMFC South Atlantic Board, indicated that they wanted to see a more cohesive, cooperative program with more definitive guidance than currently existed. Anninos commented that there was a determined need to plan. Lukens said that the most immediate problem was that there was no organizational structure through which to effect change. Anninos asked how goals and objectives could be formulated if all of the perceived problems have not been identified. Lukens replied that the Committee had spent some time identifying problems, and while they may not be all inclusive, they do reflect the collective thought of the Committee. There was some discussion regarding the differences of opinion as to which should come first, goals and objectives or comprehensive problem identification. Lukens went on to say that by establishing an organizational structure and broad goals and objectives, specific problem and issue identification could take place, resulting in work group actions to solve those problems and issues. Upon solving the identified problems and issues, recommendations could be made as to how to enhance or change program operations to provide better data for fisheries management. Poffenberger asked why we could not collectively determine a vision for where we want to be in five years with collection and management of commercial fishery statistics. Lukens answered that the group does not even know where we are, much less where we should be. He stressed that the most immediate need is to establish what the program is doing and how it relates to current fishery management needs. Once that is known, then it will be easier to establish how the program needs to be enhanced or changed to meet management needs. Anninos agreed that the fact that there is a need to establish where we are with the program is a very important point. Lukens indicated that the current planning document, when completed, will help to establish what exists, with a few improvements. By formalizing the existing situation, the group will be better

able to effect the kind of change that everyone recognizes needs to be made. Jane DiCosimo pointed out that ComFIN will be the more appropriate planning process to determine future directions for commercial data collection and management. It must be recognized that the need to address problems with the CSP before going on to broader issues was firmly established by the State Directors in the South Atlantic. ComFIN will provide the vehicle to address the broader needs and future directions being discussed.

It was suggested that the Committee should develop an agenda for the September meeting. A recommendation was made that the group should engage in a brainstorming session to determine the most comprehensive list of problems and issues that can be established at the time. From that exercise, a plan for future Committee and work group actions can be developed. A discussion ensued regarding whether the existing goals and objectives would be sufficient to identify tasks, or whether the group should reexamine the goals and objectives. There was some concern expressed that the current planning initiative was nearing completion and many did not want to emphasize other activities at the expense of completing the plan. Some discussion ensued regarding the draft mission statement, goals, and objectives that were developed for the CSP Framework Plan. There was some disagreement about what they are intended to provide, eg. general, broad guidelines for the program versus operational goals and objectives that guide how the data are collected. There was an effort by the SCSC to identify problems related to the CSP using the draft goals and objectives as a guideline. The following are 15 problems that were identified by the Committee:

1. Inconsistency in data collected and methodologies used
2. Timeliness of data submission
3. Lack of tracking of data flow
4. Inadequate retrieval capability
5. Inadequate documentation (collection/data bases)
6. Lack of comprehensive collection program (gap in program)
7. Lack of precision and accuracy
8. Ineffective organizational structure for CSP
9. Impediments to sharing confidential data among CSP partners

10. Discrepancy between data bases
11. Lack of quality assurance (data collection and management)
12. Lack of ongoing evaluation
13. Lack of efficiency in data collection activities
14. Lack of specific guidelines for bioprofile (TIP) data
15. Lack of a sampling protocol for CSP (including TIP)

The Committee was unable to make very significant headway in that effort; consequently, P. Anninos suggested that a better approach would be to conduct a facilitated brainstorming session. Following explanation and discussion regarding Anninos' suggestions, there was general agreement that the Committee should have a facilitated brainstorming exercise to identify problems and issues related to the CSP as an agenda item for the September 15th meeting. Anninos suggested a "trigger question" that could be used for the brainstorming session as follows: **In formulating a better State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program, what are the problems and issues that need to be addressed?**

J. Poffenberger asked who would be coordinating the September meeting. Lukens answered that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) will be coordinating the meeting. J. Shepard indicated that that is the reason that the group wanted to establish a formal organizational structure, so that the GSMFC could provide the coordination and that the Committee would have a chairperson.

Election of Officers

The Committee discussed election of officers. It was suggested that the officers elected would serve temporary terms until such a time as Committee operating procedures could be developed. There was general agreement. J. Poffenberger nominated Jane DiCosimo as Chairwoman. She declined the nomination. P. Phalen nominated Joe Shepard. A. Seiler nominated Joe O'Hop. Both nominations were seconded. J. O'Hop was elected as Chairman. J. Shepard was elected Vice-chairman.

Data Element Description Document

Lukens distributed a document which was the result of a work group activity to address the potential for standardizing data element descriptions. He indicated that the Committee could handle the document at the current meeting or take it back home and review it for discussion at the next meeting. A. Seiler indicated that information for the Virgin Islands was not included in the document and that she preferred not working with the document until it was complete. The Committee agreed to postpone discussion of the document until the next meeting. Lukens asked how the Committee would proceed in handling the document. S. Meyers suggested that each state carefully review the information and come to the September meeting in Jacksonville with any comments or changes required to finalize the document. J. Shepard indicated that the document would be used by a work group to assist them in addressing the standardization of data element descriptions. Consequently, the only action required at the September meeting would be to agree that the document is accurate and complete. The Committee agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting of the State-Federal Southeast Cooperative Statistics Committee adjourned at 4:00 pm.



SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, August 18, 1993
and Friday August 20, 1993

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m. The following members and others were present.

Members

Joanne Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Joe Kimmel, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL

Others

Ken Savastano, NMFS, SSC, MS
Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS

Staff

David Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Cheryl Noble, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The Data Management Report was moved to after the Approval of Minutes, then the agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on March 16, 1993 were approved as submitted. In reference to these minutes under other business, Chairman Walter Tatum asked Dave Donaldson to write a letter to Andy Kemmerer asking him to send a letter to each state advising them of the status of the state vessel's use of TED's.

Data Management Report

Ken Savastano submitted a Data Management Report (Attachment I) to the subcommittee. The major accomplishments since October 1992 are:

- Status reports from SEAMAP years 1986-1993 are in Attachments 1-8 of the Data Management Report. All cruise data have been reformatted to SEAMAP version 3.0. All of the South Carolina SEAMAP data entry from 1986-1992 has been completed. SEAMAP 1991 data has been completed and most of the 1992 data is completed. All of the 1992 data should be completed by the end of October.
- 1993 SEAMAP Near-Real-Time data processing was completed.

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -2-

- Processing of the 1991 SEAMAP Atlas has been completed and processing of the 1992 SEAMAP Atlas will start upon completion of data processing/data basing of the 1992 Gulf data set.
- One hundred and thirty SEAMAP requests have been received and one hundred and twenty-seven has been filled.
- Major modification was made in the SEAMAP software system to the ichthyoplankton module and implementation of a meristics data module to handle length/weight/sample data from trap and handline gear. The SEAMAP on-line data base now contains 163 cruises with a total of 1,015,289 records.

Administrative Report

- D. Donaldson stated several surveys have been conducted since the last meeting. The first survey was the spring reef fish survey. This is the second year of the survey. Sampling began in May of this year and is continuing to date. NMFS and Mississippi have finished and have collected about one hundred and fifty samples. Alabama should be going out the week of August 16 and has collected samples from four or five stations already. Florida is scheduled to go out early tomorrow. Florida has made one trip already and it was actually before this fiscal year in February and they visited several reef sites in the Dry Tortugas and at each site made two hour videos but they're still waiting for a playback machine to arrive. They have another trip planned starting tomorrow night and it will be conducted for ten days. The goal of this survey is to identify hard bottom areas and to access relative abundance of reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico.
- The other survey was the Summer/Shrimp Groundfish Survey. The strategy of this survey is to sample the Gulf of Mexico during or prior to the migration of brown shrimp. The survey was conducted from June 1 to July 18 and there was a total of 336 trawl samples taken from Mobile Bay, Alabama to Brownsville, Texas.
- The 1991 Atlas is completed and was sent to the printer in July. Hopefully it will be distributed before the October meeting.
- There were six real time mailings and it was sent to approximately 275 people interested in SEAMAP. Just as an observation of the real time data, the shrimp and the finfish seemed fairly low.
- A copy of last years joint annual report was given to the South Atlantic and the Caribbean SEAMAP coordinators to update. All changes should be completed by October and sent to the printer in November.
- In reference to the budget, at the end of July a memo was received stating SEAMAP will be level funded, last years appropriation was 1,343,000 in the house and the senate.

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -3-

- The Commission's meeting notice for October was mailed last week. The meeting will be in San Antonio. The hotel has given a special rate of \$65.00 for reservations made before September 17. The regular rate is \$135.00 and GSMFC will only reimburse the \$65.00 so please make reservations as soon as possible.

Chairman Tatum asked how SEAMAP was doing financially and D. Donaldson informed him that there is not much money to spare this year mainly due to the cost of meetings.

J. Hanifen asked D. Donaldson if the Environmental Work Group has informed him of any decisions they have made. D. Donaldson reminded the Subcommittee that at the last meeting a motion was passed for each Work Group to give a report at the October meeting. He will send a memo to the work group leaders reminding them of this.

The Subcommittee decided the Reef Fish Work Group should meet before the October meeting to elect a leader, discuss protocol and sampling, and give recommendations to the Subcommittee on these and any other agenda items. J. Shultz informed the group that M. Russel is on medical leave and C. Gledhill should replace him on this group. D. Donaldson will send a letter to the work group informing them of this meeting.

* The Subcommittee again discussed the lack of movement by the Environmental Work Group and the possibility of electing new members. Based on a SEAMAP Subcommittee continued concern with the progress of the Environmental Work Group, Terry Cody moved that all participants evaluate their membership on this work group and look at the possibility of appointing new members to revitalize this work group so it can move forward. The motion passed unanimously. It was suggested a new leader should be appointed because W. Stuntz has been very busy on other projects. It was also pointed out that new members did not have to be from the SEAMAP member's agency, just someone from the gulf area that would be motivated and interested in being on this group.

* J. Shultz moved that Perry Thompson from NMFS, Pascagoula Laboratory, be placed on the Environmental Work Group. The motion passed unanimously. J. Hanifen stated the Louisiana representative, Michelle Kasprzak, would remain on the work group. R. Waller said he would ask the GCRL representative, Charles Eleuterius, if he would like to continue to be on the group. J. Kimmel suggested Carmelo Tomas be added as a Florida member.

Activities and Budget Needs

Each state and the Commission stated their budget needs for FY94:

GSMFC - D. Donaldson stated funding for the Commission is fairly tight mainly due to the April meeting in Palm Beach and an unbudgeted Environmental Work Group Meeting. He said the Commission can not have any more reduction but could manage at level funding but that would be without a January meeting. This

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -4-

is the second year in a row without the January meeting and he stressed the importance of having this meeting if we get extra money. He also would like to do two atlases if there is extra money. By doing two atlases, it would put us a year behind which is the best we can expect. It would take \$5,000 to do another atlas.

ALABAMA - W. Tatum stated they could do the same work for the same amount of money. Level funding would be \$81,165..

FLORIDA - J. Kimmel stated they could do the same work for the same amount of money. Level funding would be \$110,401.

MISSISSIPPI - R. Waller stated they could do the same work for the same amount of money. He stated if extra money was received he would like to purchase a CTD with a fluorometer and a transmissometer. This equipment would save a lot of time when running the trap video. He was not sure of the exact amount but thought \$35,000 would cover the costs. Level funding would be \$111,170 and adding \$35,000 would be \$146,170.

LOUISIANA - J. Hanifen stated they are prepared to do the same thing for the same money. Level funding would be \$146,471.

TEXAS - T. Cody stated they are prepared to do the same thing for the same money which would be \$62,275. He also stated that eventually he would like to see Texas get involved in the reef fish surveys and at the very minimum he thinks to get started would cost \$20,000. This would purchase gear and allow them to develop a sampling strategy. The total amount requested is \$82,275.

Chairman Tatum suggested that a total of \$8,700 be added to the Commission in order to have work group meetings, the January Subcommittee meeting, and the printing of two atlases. The total amount to be requested is \$676,527. The breakdown of totals are as follows:

<u>STATE</u>	<u>LEVEL FUNDING</u>	<u>ADD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
GSMFC	91,345	8,700	100,045
MISSISSIPPI	111,170	35,000	146,170
FLORIDA	110,401	10,000	120,401
ALABAMA	81,165	-0-	81,165
TEXAS	62,275	20,000	82,275
LOUISIANA	146,471	-0-	146,471
TOTAL	602,827	73,700	676,527

During the Joint Seemap Meeting, it was decided that each component would stay at level funding. Some money was shifted from one state to another or to the commission. The final breakdown for the gulf component is as follows:

<u>STATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
GSMFC	94,781
MISSISSIPPI	109,170
FLORIDA	110,401
ALABAMA	80,000
TEXAS	66,475
LOUISIANA	142,000
TOTAL	602,827

Discussion of GMFMC Red Drum Initiative

Chairman Tatum was at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) meeting when the red drum issue was discussed. He gave a brief overview and history of the issue. The bottom line for the proposed research protocol (Attachment II) is 1.6 million dollars and the GMFMC wants the SEAMAP Red Drum Work Group to take the lead on generating this funding initiative. The work would be essentially duplicating the work that was done in the mid to late eighties when the red drum crisis first came about. All the states that were involved took initiatives to reduce the inshore fishing mortality with the aim of improving the recruitment of the offshore stocks. The purpose of the proposal is to estimate the size of the offshore stock and its age structure.

Chairman Tatum feels that in order to tell if recovery has taken place an age composition of the stocks, not the magnitude of the stocks, would have to be conducted. J. Shultz feels that getting the magnitude of the stocks is a valid activity if they are considering reopening the offshore fishery. J. Hanifen feels the proposal needs some very critical evaluation especially the aerial survey. R. Waller stated that the survey is very expensive and pointed out that it doesn't seem valid to conduct an aerial survey of an area you plan to do a tagging survey on the next year. J. Shultz said NMFS is conducting marine mammal aerial surveys covering the entire gulf and suggested maybe a red drum spotter could also go on the plane.

It was not clear exactly what the GMFMC wanted the SEAMAP Red Drum Work Group to do. Chairman Tatum explained that back in the late eighties the SEAMAP Red Drum Work Group was very successful in generating special funding for the initiative and he thinks the GMFMC feels that they would be successful in generating funding for the new study. The Subcommittee decided the Red Drum Work Group should review this proposal. The work group will make recommendations on what action, if any, should be taken by the Subcommittee at the next SEAMAP meeting in San Antonio, Texas in October. Chairman Tatum suggested everyone contact their agencies for their stance and then discuss this again on Friday.

The meeting recessed 5:35 p.m. until Friday, August 20, 1993.

The meeting reconvened Friday, August 20, 1993 at 8:15 a.m.

Comparative Tow Survey

Chairman Tatum informed the Subcommittee that the Comparative Tow Surveys between the TOMMY MUNRO and the VERRILL will begin next week so a decision on what protocol will be used has to be made. An extensive discussion took place on whether SEAMAP protocol or timed tows would be used. Everyone agreed that timed tows would increase the sample size. J. Shultz said B. Pellegrin suggested to vary sample depth to increase the likelihood of getting different taxa.

* Joanne shultz moved that for the Comparative Tow Surveys between the TOMMY MUNRO and the VERRILL, the following protocol be used:

- use 15 minute timed hauls (bottom time)
- use standard SEAMAP sampling gear; also, document the gear specifications for each survey
- conduct tows from inshore to offshore covering depth strata from 5 fm going out to and including 15 fm, then turn around and come back in
- the VERRILL will be the lead boat, they will take water samples and set time and depth and start each run
- get lengths on croaker, red snapper, mackerels, and penaeus shrimp

A. Huff seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

* J. Shultz distributed a memo (Attachment III) that she wrote to the Plankton Work Group in reference to a memo from Don Hoss asking the SEAMAP Subcommittee to endorse a request by the Polish Sorting and Identification Center to increase their funding by 20%. SEAMAP does not have any new and/or uncommitted funds for this increase. The increase will come from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center. This increase would be used to cover operating costs. The Plankton Work Group recommended the Subcommittee endorse this request. J. Hanifen moved that the SEAMAP Subcommittee endorse the Polish Sorting and Identification Center's request for a 20% increase. R. Waller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Chairman Tatum asked J. Shultz and D. Donaldson to write the letter.

Continued discussion on Red Drum

* Most of the people contacted at the agencies didn't understand why SEAMAP was contacted about this. The first sentence of the memo says that the council requests that the SEAMAP Red Drum Work Group develop a research plan and funding initiative and R. Waller asked if this was true. Chairman Tatum said he thought the motion was to develop a funding initiative and he's not sure about a research plan. After discussing the issue again, J. Hanifen moved that the Subcommittee request the Red Drum Work Group to advise the Subcommittee on the

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -7-

research plan and funding initiative, give their recommendations regarding it and give the recommendations at the next GSMFC meeting in October 1993. J. Shultz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. It was also pointed out that the Subcommittee not only wants the Red Drum Work Group to give their recommendations on the research and protocol but also on their plans for seeking funding for such a research program. Let the Subcommittee know where you will get the money, what your intentions will be if we authorize you to go ahead and try to find the money.

Preparation of Cooperative Agreements

D. Donaldson distributed the SEAMAP Operations Plan and the NMFS portion that goes with the cooperative agreement each year. He explained the NMFS portion is essentially the same information but is worded a little bit differently and it's a little bit more descriptive. Regarding the Operations Plan, D. Donaldson asked the Subcommittee to read their sections to make sure that all the information is in there and correct. Several minor changes were made and an edited copy will be mailed to the Subcommittee soon.

Other Business

S. Nichols informed the group that there has been quite a bit of solicitation on sharks in MarFIN. They have received around twenty proposals and most of them are not impressive. He and B. Brown felt it would be a good idea to have SEAMAP get involved in setting up a framework for this issue. S. Nichols proposed an intracomponent framework between the South Atlantic, the Gulf and possibly the Caribbean to address this issue. The approach would be to have a work group or workshop to scope out what a fishery-independent survey for sharks should look like and if it is indeed feasible to have one. This exercise could serve one or two purposes. One, it could be a framework for MarFIN applicants and the other possibility would be the next initiative for SEAMAP. It seems like a very small investment that might pay off. The South Atlantic was interested but concerned about adding yet another work group to the budget and he said he knew the Gulf is in the same shape. Chairman Tatum asked the Subcommittee to go back to their agencies and see what they thought of this and find out what each state is doing if anything on sharks. This issue will be put on the agenda for the October meeting in San Antonio.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

SEAMAP - Gulf, South Atlantic and
Caribbean Subcommittees
JOINT MINUTES
Thursday, August 19, 1993
St. Petersburg, FL

SEAMAP-Gulf Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Henry Ansley, GDNR, Brunswick, GA
Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
David Cupka, SCWMRD, Charleston, SC
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Joanne Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Mike Street, NCDMF, Morehead City, NC
Walter Tatum, ADNCR, Gulf Shores, AL
Nancy Thompson, NMFS, Miami, FL
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Roger Pugliese, SAFMC, Charleston, SC
Phil Maier, SCWMRD, Charleston, SC
Randy Beatty, SCWMRD, Charleston, SC
J. Dunnigan, ASMFC, Washington DC
Alan Huff, FL DEP, St. Petersburg, FL
J. Locer, NMFS, Panama City, FL

Staff

David Donaldson, SEAMAP-Gulf Coordinator
Diane Stephan, SEAMAP-South Atlantic Coordinator
Aida Rosario, SEAMAP-Caribbean Coordinator
Cheryl Noble, SEAMAP-Gulf Staff Assistant

Others

Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
David Pritchard, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Sally Long, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Ken Savastano, NMFS, Stennis Space Center, MS
Kenneth Sherman, NOAA, Naragazeth, USVI

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. David Pritchard requested that Item 12, Grants Administration - Document Preparation, be moved to after Item 4, Discussion of National Coastal Monitoring Initiative. Dr. Scott Nichols requested that Item 8 - Discussion of Bycatch Activities, be moved before Item 14 - Other Business. No other modifications were made and the agenda was approved as modified.

Approval of Minutes (August 13, 1992)

The minutes from the Joint SEAMAP meeting held on August 13, 1992 in Savannah, Georgia were approved as submitted.

Discussion of National Coastal Monitoring Initiative

Dr. Kenneth Sherman presented Legislation by President Bush called the National Coastal Monitoring Act of 1992. The legislation carries with it an authorization of \$70 million dollars, but the reality is that the bill will be funded, but not at that level.

High Points of the Legislation:

1. It is supported by both sides of Congress.
2. It provides the basis, in terms of funding, for getting the job done.
3. It mandates federal agencies to act together. A minimum of \$150 million deals with coastal monitoring today, but it is questionable as to what sort of payoff we get because it doesn't seem very well managed and put together. Because of that, the National Marine Research Council and the National Academy of Sciences were asked to review this issue. They produced a document called Managing Troubled Waters which was given to two principal agencies, NOAA and EPA. The legislation mandates that both agencies work together.

They want specific guidelines toward establishing a clear network for surveying, monitoring and assessing the ecological coastal waters.

Major ecosystems of the U.S. does not include the Caribbean Sea. The legislation requested inclusion of the Caribbean Sea to the major ecosystems of the southeast region. Presently, the health condition of this ecosystem is not known.

Grants Administration - Document Preparation

Mr. David Pritchard distributed a series of documents pertaining to the SEAMAP planning guidelines (attached), which included a checklist of necessary items to be included in the cooperative agreement application. He also provided the schedule for submission of applications for financial assistance for 1994. A list with FY1994 funding levels was also distributed. He stressed the point that all agencies must try to submit their applications before the deadline to allow the Regional Office to review the applications and solve the problems that might arise before sending the applications to the Grants Management Office. Finally, he referred to the reporting guidelines, to make sure that everyone reports accordingly. That way the Regional Office will be able to help agencies in administrating their budget and help with any changes to planned activities, in order to use the budget properly.

Overview of SEAMAP-Caribbean

A. Rosario reported on the activities of the SEAMAP-Caribbean subcommittee:

- * Ms. Rosario presented excuses for Ms. Ann Seiler for not being present. Ms. Seiler was requested to represent the Commissioner of the USVI at the Caribbean Fishery Management Council meeting that was taking place in St. Croix.
- * The Committee met on July 16, and the Reef Resources Work Group held their meeting on the 21 of July. In both meetings, matters related to the presentation that was to be given at the SEAMAP Joint meeting were discussed.
- * Puerto Rico ended its first year of sampling which took place April 1, 1992 through March 31, 1993.
- * The status of the annual report from USVI is unknown because the Coordinator was not informed by the Regional Office if it was approved or not as of this date.
- * USVI ended their first year of sampling that started July 1, 1992 and ended March 31, 1993. Their grant was supposed to start at the same time as PR. The Grants Management Office did not release their funds until the end of June. Furthermore, they were not able to start purchases until July, which further hindered their sampling schedule.
- * Other problems which arose were mechanical problems with their vessel and the crew (captain resigned). Their samples amounted to some three months of data.
- * Some 26K of their award had to be returned to the Regional Office because it was not spent. Although an amendment was requested to use those funds to include St. Croix in the sampling program, it was not granted.

- * Dr. Nancy Thompson stated that a MOU was issued between the University of Puerto Rico and the Fisheries Research Laboratory (FRL) for the use of their vessels as back up for the SEAMAP sampling. This agreement was undertaken to avoid any gaps in the sampling when the FL vessels are out of service this is as far as PR sampling is concerned).
- * The second year of sampling started on April 1, 1993 and a total of 28 stations has been sampled in the 46 trips made to date. No problems are foreseen at the moment that may hinder the sampling schedule.
- * Data collected prior to SEAMAP-C Program is available to any interested party.
- * Dr. Thompson distributed copies of the NMFS Technical Memorandum put together by the Miami Lab to the Chairs of the SEAMAP Programs and to Dr. Nichols. The technical report included the following: the annual report of the PR SEAMAP-C project which covered the period of April 1992-March 1993; a report by Dr. Jim Beets on a set of data from USVI from 1988-1992; and a report by Steve Smith and Dr. Jerry Ault of a data set from PR to determine appropriateness and accuracy of the sampling design relative to the fisheries-independent statistics. Dr. Thompson has copies available upon request.
- * Mr. Tatum asked Dr. Nichols if the 26K not obligated by the USVI will go to the federal government? The answer was yes.
- * NMFS allocated 10K from the Miami Laboratory budget to initiate a fisheries-independent sampling in St. Croix.

Overview of SEAMAP-GULF

Mr. Tatum reported the SEAMAP-Gulf activities:

- * The following publications were completed and distributed since the last Joint meeting: The 1990 Biological and Environmental Atlas, the 1992 Joint Annual Report, the 1992 Report to the GSMFC Technical Coordinating Committee, and the 1993 Marine Directory.
- * The 1992 Fall Plankton Survey was conducted from August 28 through October 19th. NMFS, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana participated in the survey. 42 stations were sampled throughout the Gulf of Mexico.
- * The 1992 Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey was conducted from October 14th through November 27th. Juvenile red snapper sampling was also conducted. NMFS, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas participated in the survey.
- * The Louisiana Seasonal Surveys provided information on the abundance and distribution of major groundfish and shrimp species from the Louisiana Gulf. The 1993 Plankton surveys were conducted with the Shrimp/Groundfish survey.
- * The 1993 Spring Ichthyoplankton Survey was conducted from April 24 through June 15 to associate abundance and distribution of bluefin tuna eggs and larvae. NMFS and Florida participated in the survey.
- * The 1993 Reefish Survey is in the second year of a pilot survey. The purpose of the survey is to access the relative abundance and compute population estimates of reef fish. NMFS, Alabama and Mississippi have completed initial sampling.
- * The 1993 Summer Shrimp and Groundfish Survey was completed with Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas participating.

- * The SEAMAP Subcommittee held a meeting on March 16, 1993 in Palm Beach, FL. The Environmental Work Group also met in Florida. The Shrimp Groundfish Work Group met in April in Ocean Spring, MS.
- * The Gulf Council is suppose to allocate \$1.6 million for a program on the status of the red drum for the next two or three years.

Overview of SEAMAP-South Atlantic

Mr. D. Cupka reported on the SEAMAP-South Atlantic activities:

- * They continued work on two major activities -- the Shallow Water Trawl Survey and the Bottom Mapping Project.
- * The Trawl Survey is in the fifth year and are using standardize procedures. The purpose of the survey is to collect data on the community composition and their distribution according to biomass at nearshore waters of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.
- * A significant database has been built within the five years of the survey, which is foreseen to be utilized in some of the FMP's developed by the Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; some of the FMP reviews; and stock assessments. They are also providing a number of specimens throughout the geographical area to various people requesting it. This remains a major activity of their committee.
- * Bottom Mapping started a couple of years ago. Preliminary work was done to develop the best approach to it. The area surveyed was from North Carolina through Cape Canaveral, Florida to about 200 meters of depth. Basically, trying to utilize existing databases of various sources including scan sonar, TV transects, trawl, dredges and any type of information or data sets that might provide information of the existing bottom areas. The project is under way in South Carolina and Georgia.
- * The benthic characterization study off the east coast of Florida is continuing.
- * The survey of the bays and inside waters of North Carolina was continued, as well as the sound survey off North Carolina.
- * The Trawl Work Group was not able to meet during the past year. The Bottom Mapping Work Group reviewed the bottom mapping project and began to plan activities in North Carolina. The Crustacean Work Group met to review the ongoing crustacean monitoring throughout the South Atlantic area.
- * He documented the state contribution in terms of dollars to the SEAMAP Program. Most activities undertaken do not depend entirely on federal funds for support.
- * In regard to future priorities, and due to budget constraints, they do not feel they can add any major jobs to their ongoing activities unless SEAMAP receives additional funds or until some of their ongoing activities are completed.

Status of FY94 Funds

Dr. Scott Nichols recommended the group plan to use \$1,320,000 for planning purposes. This figure is level funding from last year. He also stated that if the taxes are released, NMFS may get more than \$1,272,000.

Proposed Activities and Budget Needs

- a. Caribbean - priority to include the St. Croix area in it's sampling program. Also, try to get some habitat details of the stations that are being sampled. Additional 35K was requested to include St. Croix. The budget needed for the proposed activities in the Caribbean will be \$161,879.

- b. Gulf - requested additional funds amounting to \$73,700, for the different component's needs. The proposed budget for the Gulf will be \$676,527.
- c. South Atlantic - although there are a number of activities they would like to do and certain areas they will like to include, due to the present budget situation, they are not going to request any increase, but also stated that they cannot afford a decrease. Their budget will be level with their current allocation, \$315,749.
- d. NMFS - requested the same amount of funds as FY93 amounting to \$274,545.

The components recessed to discuss separately their budget needs for FY94.

Joint Discussion of SEAMAP Budget Needs

The following is a breakdown of what each component requested:

- a. Caribbean -\$126,879
- b. Gulf - \$602,827
- c. South Atlantic - \$315,749
- d. NMFS - \$274,545

* Mike Street moved that the four components receive the same funding level as FY93, regardless of their needs. The motion was seconded by Jim Hanifen. (Funding level equals that of FY93, amounting to \$1,320,000 for the major components). After discussion, the motion was amended as follows: the requested allocations for FY94-95 equal those for the current fiscal year. The motion was approved unanimously.

* Mike Street moved to authorize NMFS and the Caribbean to negotiate a split of the funding, that would be between the level of NMFS funding which they actually have to spend on SEAMAP this current fiscal year and the level requested in the previous motion. Jim Hanifen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

* Mike Street moved that if the funding level is over the actual year (\$1,320,000) and near to the proposed (\$1,340,000) that extra 20K goes to NMFS. The motion was seconded by David Cupka and it was approved unanimously.

* Mike Street moved that if the funding level is lower than \$1,272,000, Dr. Nichols will meet with the Chairpersons of the SEAMAP components and decide their budgets for FY94. The motion was seconded by Jim Hanifen and it was approved unanimously.

Planning for 1994 Joint Annual Meeting

* Ms. Rosario extended an invitation on behalf of Ms. Seiler, SEAMAP-C Chairperson to have the 1994 Joint meeting in St. Croix. She also handed out copies of information on air fares and lodging that was compiled by Ms. Seiler. Mike Street moved to have the next joint meeting in the Caribbean. The motion was seconded by David Cupka. During discussion of the motion, some of the members expressed their concern about the air fares and their budget constraints. To that effect, it was decided to schedule the meeting to start on Sunday through Tuesday. The tentative dates set for the meeting were August 6-8, 1994.

* Jim Hanifen moved that if the air fares were too high, the coordinators will find a cheaper alternative to hold the next SEAMAP Joint meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion of Bycatch Activities

S. Nichols presented information on several devices that are being used and tested in the Gulf to reduce bycatch in the shrimp fishery. Data was tabulated as the percent of inclusion and exclusion of finfish against the devices utilized. One of the most important species regarding bycatch in the shrimp fishery in the gulf is red snapper.

The obtained results of the devices tested were diverse. Devices that had very good potential in retaining shrimp and reducing finfish bycatch were basically very poor in reducing red snapper retention. Other devices that were effective in reducing red snapper retention, yielded unacceptable shrimp catches.

The use of a combination of devices may be the answer in reducing the red snapper bycatch, while having acceptable catches of shrimp. Dr. Nichols said there will be an additional year of experimentation to determine the best device to be used.

Other Business

W. Tatum announced a meeting for SEAMAP-Gulf for August 20, 1993 at 8:00 a.m. Mr. Cupka also announced a meeting for SEAMAP-South Atlantic at the same time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

SOUTHEAST COOPERATIVE STATISTICS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Jacksonville, Florida
Wednesday, September 15, 1993

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe O'Hop at 9:15 a.m. The following people were present:

Paul Anninos, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Mary Anne Camp, NMFS, Miami, FL
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
David Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Jack Dunnigan, ASMFC, Washington, D.C.
Scott Gordon, BMR, Biloxi, MS
Lisa Kline, ASMFC, Washington, D.C.
Skip Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Joe Moran, SCWMRD, Charleston, SC
Joe O'Hop, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL JRO 4/5/94
John Poffenberger, NMFS, Miami, FL
Ann Seiler, VIDNR, St. Thomas, VI
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Mike Street, NCDMF, Morehead City, NC

Opening Comments

J. Poffenberger reported on the direction of the cooperative agreements for the CSP. For next year, there will be level funding and any cuts will be absorbed by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Florida, Georgia and North and South Carolina have requested additional funding. It is a possibility that there will be some additional money for these states; however, this issue is still unresolved. He suggested that participants submit for level funding, and if there is additional money, the cooperative agreements can be amended. M. Street reported that North Carolina has to eliminate one of its CSP positions due to lack of funding. North Carolina is implementing a new license system. This program will provide less timely and accurate data, however, the effort information will be improved. J. Poffenberger noted that each state needs to meet with him to discuss the extent of the cuts which will have to be made to that state's CSP activity. The information of what will be reduced or eliminated due to these cuts needs to be compiled and provided to personnel responsible for making the budget reductions. M. Camp reported that the tentative delivery date for the IT95 computer system is November 1993.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the CSP under Other Business and the tabling of Discussion of Data Element Description Document.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the CSP meeting held on July 20 - 22, 1993 in Miami, Florida were approved with the addition that Joe Shepard was elected vice-chairman under Election of Officers and minor editorial changes.

Completion of Framework Plan for the Cooperative Statistics Program

There was a brief discussion concerning the order in which the finalization of the framework plan and the brainstorming session should be addressed. R. Lukens noted that the framework plan addresses program areas and components of the program which are very broad in scope while the brainstorming session will identify specific problems that the program is designed to address. A. Seiler stated that it needs to be clear that the framework plan is just an outline, very broad in scope and can be modified or changed as the CSP changes. The committee decided that the completion of the framework plan would be addressed first. R. Lukens noted that a preface has been added and should be scrutinized by the group. M. Street stated that there needs to be an approval process for this plan. Once the plan is finalized by the group, the committee needs to agree on a specific process for approval and commitment. It would be easy to use the fall meetings of the GSMFC, ASMFC and CMFC to seek this approval. R. Lukens suggested that at the end of discussion of the framework plan, the committee develop a mechanism for getting approval of the plan. The committee conducted a thorough review of the document. The revised document itself will represent the administrative record for this portion of the meeting.

Discussion of Standard Operating Procedures for the SCSC

* D. Donaldson distributed draft standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the committee. After some discussion and minor changes, A. Seiler moved to accept the following as the SOPs for the Southeast Cooperative Statistics Committee:

- One vote for every participating agency which establishes 16 potential votes.
- A quorum is a majority plus one (9 voting members).
- Voting decisions are determined by a simple majority of those voting members present.
- All questions concerning Robert's Rules of Order are referred to the vice-chairman.
- Chairman can vote.
- In the event of a tie, the committee will recess, reconvene and vote on the issue again. If there is still a tie after the second vote, the motion fails.

The motion passed unanimously.

Brainstorming Session on Identification of CSP Problems and Issues

P. Anninos updated the group on the NMFS planning effort. NMFS has hired consultants to conduct this planning activity. There was an introductory meeting in which the consultants were educated on the types of problems they will face. There are two primary questions which will be addressed during the planning process. The questions of "where do we want to be in the next twenty years?" and "how to allocate resources to get there?". There is a dual role for this activity. First, it will help the CSP by identifying issues and problems and improving the program. Second, the issues discussed will be addressed during the NMFS planning process. To answer these questions, the Nominal Group Technique (NGT) was used. NGT allows a group to generate, clarify and rank a set of ideas. Ideas consist as problems/issues which need to be addressed. One definition for problems/issues is the gap between what is and what should be. NGT consists of several steps: 1) defining roles; 2) developing a trigger question; 3) silently generating ideas about the trigger question; 4) round-robin recording method; 5) clarification of ideas; and 6) ranking. Once P. Anninos described the NGT, the group used the technique to develop the following trigger question and issues/problems:

Trigger Question: In the context of building a better southeast fisheries statistics system, what issues should be addressed?

SOUTHEAST COOPERATIVE STATISTICS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -4-

1. Lack of intra-federal coordination and cooperation, i.e., funding, administration and operations.
2. Need to recognize problems with data collection and devise solutions.
3. Define current and future data needs for fishery management (regulations, stock assessment, economics, etc.).
4. Need stronger cooperative relationships among agencies involved in fisheries data programs.
5. Integrate fisheries dependent and fisheries independent data programs.
6. Inadequate data access (need user friendly computer systems).
7. Increase communication between State/Federal partners.
8. Need to achieve equality among participants as partners in CSP.
9. Increase timeliness of data dissemination.
10. Need to establish a unified approach to fisheries statistics data collection by agencies involved in management, i.e., states, federal, international.
11. Need increased input and support from state and federal administrators (directors).
12. Need to define resource users, such as commercial dealers, processors, etc. and recreational, passive, desires, needs, and willingness to cooperate.
13. Need improved communication among agencies involved in fisheries statistics programs.
14. Need coordination within and between agencies for funding of long term projects and monitoring.
15. Need consistency and standardization for coding systems, e.g., species, gear, etc.
16. Inclusion of outside experts in technical, administration, and management processes and procedures for State/Federal statistics program.
17. What role will logbooks play in landings data?
18. How should data be collected?

SOUTHEAST COOPERATIVE STATISTICS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -5-

19. Improve and maintain industry cooperation in CSP and evaluations.
(see 14)
20. Define stock assessment uses of data.
21. Need recognition and support for fisheries statistics by Congress,
industry/state/local government.
22. Assess and streamline amount of data collected (type and quantity).
23. Identify successes and failures and past strengths and weaknesses.
24. Need for formal coordination among agencies involved in fisheries
statistics program.
25. Need for standardized sampling protocol for fisheries statistics for
CSP.
26. Need state input to federal agency funding mechanisms.
27. Define and identify end users. What is an end user? Who are they?
28. Need for standardized summaries and management outlines.
29. Separate port agents' uses from agency uses of data.
30. Identify data gaps and ways to fill them.
31. Need for quality control and quality assurance procedures for data
collection and management.
32. Need sufficient funding for administration, coordination, and
operational components of CSP. (see 8)
33. Funding for short-term special projects.
34. Provide evaluation mechanism for fisheries statistics programs.
35. Decrease federal administration & documentation for cooperative projects.
(see 52)
36. TIP needs direction.
37. Need data registry system (tracking).
38. Protect data from enforcement use. (ensure confidentiality).
39. Need public education programs to enhance support.

SOUTHEAST COOPERATIVE STATISTICS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -6-

40. Formal feedback procedures for end-users.
41. Who'll take credit for good work (see 4, see 25).
42. Need to clarify the relationship between protecting confidential data and using data for various (management, assessment, etc.) purposes.
43. Means to promote professional development of staff.
44. Use of technology to improve data collection, handling, and distribution.
45. Routine individual agency program evaluations.
46. Define participants' role, responsibilities, and accountability (see 10).
47. Need long-term planning process.
48. Paper work reduction.
49. Need to determine role of fisheries independent data programs in management.
50. Is there appropriate staff, i.e., number, type, qualifications and etc.
51. Accuracy, detail, compliance of data timeliness and availability to users.
52. What are data uses.
53. Adequacy of state and federal legislation.
54. Need for social and economic data.
55. Need for effort data.
56. Need for comprehensive gear coverage.
57. What liabilities may be associated with collection, use or misuse, distribution, etc. of fisheries data.
58. Define funding requirement and allocations based on need, requirements.
59. Define confidentiality of business data for individuals, firms, vessels, etc.

Other Business

* R. Lukens suggested that staff could draft a MOU and send to the committee for their approval prior to fall meetings of the GSMFC, ASMFC and CMFC. At these meetings, not only would the approval of the framework plan be sought but also get the MOU signed. The signing of the MOU would indicate approval of framework document and also the intent to continue to participate in the CSP. The purpose of the MOU would simply be the intent to participate in the CSP in its new organizational structure. The MOU would consist of an introduction, intent of the MOU, goals and objectives, authority section and signature pages. There was some discussion concerning the need for the MOU if we are seeking approval of the framework plan. A. Seiler moved that staff draft a MOU for the CSP and distribute it to the committee for their review. The motion passed unanimously. The participants need to brief their directors concerning the framework plan and MOU so they are aware of them at the upcoming meetings. It was noted that since the authorities of the participants to collect data will be included in the MOU, it will be removed from the framework plan and a copy of the MOU will be included in the appendix to the framework plan.

A discussion about the next step concerning the ideas generated during the brainstorming session was addressed. R. Lukens suggested the committee categorize the issues developed during the brainstorming session under the broad areas of the goals and objectives of the CSP. From that categorization, the committee will develop an annual operations plan. The plan will be established on an April-March operating year and contain only administration and coordination activities. The staff will develop a preliminary operations plan for the next meeting. The RecFIN(SE) will probably meet late January/early February 1994. The committee decided that the CSP should piggyback with the next RecFIN(SE) meeting.

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

JLS

RECFIN(SE) COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Jacksonville, Florida
September 16-17, 1993

Chairman Henry Lazauski called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following people were present:

- Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
- David Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
- Jack Dunnigan, ASMFC, Washington, DC
- Graceila Garcia-Moliner, CFMC, San Juan, PR
- Scott Gordon, BMR, Biloxi, MS
- Albert Jones, NMFS, Miami, FL
- Lisa Kline, ASMFC, Washington, DC
- Wilson Laney, USFWS, Raleigh, NC
- Henry Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
- Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
- Joe Moran, SCWMRD, Charleston, SC
- Nick Nicholson, GDNR, Brunswick, GA
- Joe O'Hop, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
- Maury Osborn, NMFS, Washington, DC
- Walter Padilla, PRDNR, Mayaguez, PR
- John Pafford, GDNR, Brunswick, GA
- Tom Schmidt, USNPS, Homestead, FL
- Ron Schmied, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
- Ann Seiler, DFW/USVI, St. Thomas, VI
- Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
- Mike Street, NCDMF, Morehead City, NC

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following changes:

- * Moving Discussion of Adequacy of Current MRF Programs for RecFIN (Goal 2 Objective 4) after Operations Plan.
- * Moving Work Group Reports after Discussion of 1995 Program Review.
- * Adding discussion of new issues of the MRFSS under Other Business.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on March 26-27, 1993 in New Orleans, Louisiana were approved as written.

Discussion of Administrative Proposal

- * R. Lukens presented a proposal which supports the administrative activities of the RecFIN(SE) and ComFIN. It was designed for submission to MARFIN. It was noted that John Brown of the USFWS is interested in getting funding for RecFIN

but it will not be a long-term commitment. R. Lukens asked the RecFIN(SE) Committee (Committee) to review the proposal and asked the Committee for some input. If the Committee accepts this proposal, the staff will submit it to MARFIN and also send a copy to John Brown. The Committee asked for clarification of several points concerning the proposal and offered several editorial comments. A. Seiler moved to approve the proposal. J. Dunnigan suggested that the work summary be modified to provide more information on exactly what will be accomplished by the RecFIN(SE). The Committee suggested that the proposal needs some more detail and expansion of the ideas. A. Jones stated that it may be difficult to defend the activities outlined in this proposal against the actual collection of data. The proposal needs to address the benefits of the coordination activities, accomplishment of work tasks and the future potential of RecFIN(SE) as opposed to the alternative of primary data collection. H. Lazauski asked the Committee what would happen if there was no dedicated funding for RecFIN(SE). R. Lukens stated that the Gulf of Mexico would be able to continue funding travel for the Gulf participants. A. Seiler stated the Caribbean would probably manage and continue getting support through the USFWS and NMFS. J. Dunnigan stated that South Atlantic would be able to provide continued staff support but ASMFC does not have money to support travel costs for members on the Committee and work groups. A. Jones stated that NMFS could probably continue to support some Caribbean and South Atlantic travel. M. Osborn stated that each participant needs to determine how important RecFIN is to them. If RecFIN is low on the priority list, then the participant may need to rethink their involvement in the program. R. Lukens believes that it is not a matter of being uncommitted but that RecFIN is a new initiative which has not been programmed into the budget and there is simply not enough money. R. Lukens stated that the commercial portion of the proposal could be dropped if the Committee believes it would be difficult to justify the proposed level of funding. The Committee believed having recreational and commercial activities in one proposal was a good idea and both should be included. M. Osborn amended the motion to approve the proposal in concept with further development by staff. The motion, as amended, was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion of State/Federal Planning Initiatives

M. Osborn reported that NMFS is in the process of developing a fisheries statistics strategic plan. This plan will chart a course for the fisheries statistics program of the NMFS. There are three key points to this process: the challenges that are faced, what can be accomplished, and the process to be used to achieve success. Currently, there are information gaps and data inconsistencies, overlap, duplication and there are a lot of problems in the fisheries arena in which data are needed. There are changes in resource management such as NMFS IT95 computing system, ITQs, ecosystem management, etc. which managers need to be prepared to handle. There is a need to link this strategic planning with the budget and operating plans. There are a lot of competing interests and there is a need to prioritize these interests. Instead of across the board cuts, there needs to be strategic cuts or strategic increases (with increased funding) based on this priority list. NMFS wants to establish a framework for future planning by assessing current and future data needs, setting goals to evaluate/improve information quality, and develop short/long term budget. NMFS wants to advance uniform, agency-wide standards for collection and management of fishery statistics as well as improve data accessibility and reduce program duplication. The planning process uses both a bottom-up and top-down approach and uses the science of strategic planning. It asks four critical questions: 1) what ought to be done; 2) how can it be done; 3) when will it be done; and 4) who will be responsible for doing it. The process is more important than the plan itself. There will be involvement by states, councils, commissions, etc. This is different from past planning efforts in that there is a commitment from senior management and it is agency-wide; there is involvement of a professional facilitator; it involves thinking more about long range future rather than short range goals; it will include more involvement by NMFS constituents; and it will be used to drive some funding initiatives. The process will be facilitated by three teams. The red team is comprised of NMFS senior management. Their objective is to set strategic goals. The blue team consists of mid-level management, and their task is to determine how to implement these goals. And the green team is comprised of technical level personnel who will

establish when and who will implement the goals. The Committee expressed an interest in being involved with this planning effort. Several members stated that it is important for the constituents to be involved in this process since they are integrally involved in the programs which will be affected.

Discussion of 1995 Program Review

R. Lukens stated that as part of the goals and objectives, there is a task of evaluating the program which will be complete by the end of the three-year pilot period (December 31, 1995). The reason for addressing it now is that funding for this activity needs to be obtained and the Committee needs to decide how it wants to handle this task. The Committee needs to decide what type of review to conduct. One option is to contract with consultants to conduct an outside review of the program. Another option is a comprehensive internal review with all the participants and others conducting the review. A. Jones stated that it is important to determine what is meant by review. If the Committee wants a critical evaluation of the program, it is essential that the review be conducted by an outside group consisting of a panel or an individual consultant. After some discussion, the Committee decided that an outside review consisting of a panel of personnel would provide the best evaluation of the program. A panel will provide a variety of perspectives. The Committee addressed the issue of hiring a consultant or having others coordinate the panel review. It was obvious that the latter would be less expensive. R. Schmied stated that the best option would be to hire consultants to conduct a panel review and if there was not funding to hire the consultants, then have others coordinate the review. The Committee suggested that groups such as National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, American Fisheries Society and possibly the USFWS could provide some expertise for the planning and participating in the panel review. H. Lazauski charged the Administrative Subcommittee to prepare an outline for conducting the program review in 1995 and present its findings to the Committee at the next meeting.

Work Group Reports

a. Data Base

* D. Donaldson reported for work group leader John Witzig that the Data Base Work Group met via a conference call on April 27, 1993. The first order of business was to elect a work group leader. John Witzig was unanimously elected. Next, there was a discussion concerning the goals and objectives pertaining to the Data Base Work Group. Goal 3, Objective 1 was completed and NMFS-HQ volunteered to house the RecFIN data management system. Pertaining to Goal 3, Objective 2, the group decided the survey utilized by SEAMAP to develop their data management system would be a good starting point for the RecFIN system. The Work Group reviewed the document and made the necessary changes. The modified survey will be sent to the RecFIN(SE) Committee for completion by each agency. Pertaining to Goal 3, Objective 4, several Work Group members are compiling documentation of the standard protocols pertaining to data management for major data collection programs such as SEAMAP, MRFSS and CSP. Once these protocols are collected, GSMFC will distribute this information to the work group for their review. The work group will review this material and begin formulating methods for modifying the protocols for application to RecFIN(SE). And pertaining to Goal 3, Objective 5, the Work Group believed that they should not be the only work group to prioritize the projects. They believed the Biological/Environmental and Social/Economic Work Groups should also be involved in the process. It was noted that the document Marine Recreational Fisheries Data Collection Project Summaries contains most of the MRF data collection projects in the Southeast Region. It was suggested that the projects be summarized into a table format and that all three work groups rank the projects for inclusion into the RecFIN data management system specific to their area of expertise. The project summaries table and the Marine Recreational Fisheries Data Collection Project Summaries have been sent to the three groups. The Biological/Environmental Work Group has ranked the projects, and the Social/Economic and Data Base Work Groups have scheduled conference calls to do the same. M. Osborn noted that NMFS will move the MRFSS data base onto ORACLE with the IT95 system and through an ESDIM proposal will hire a computer programmer to develop a system

to accomplish this task. The programmer will develop a user-friendly menu system which would allow users to do some basic computations. The Committee moved to approve the report which is attached. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

b. Social/Economic

* R. Schmied reported that the Social/Economic Work Group has not met since the last RecFIN(SE) meeting. The primary task is to convene a workshop and the group has been working on securing funding for this workshop. Unfortunately, there is no money available to support a workshop; however, there has been some activity in this area. NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Woods Hole Lab conducted a Northeast Data Needs Workshop in March 1993 which resulted in an extensive report identifying economic and sociological needs. He distributed this report and stated that this report was very comprehensive with regards to economic data needs but was lacking with respect to sociological data needs relative to recreational fishing. NMFS Headquarters has initiated the development of a National Fisheries Statistics Strategic Plan (NFSSP) which will include strategic, management and operational planning phases. These will be accomplished through facilitated workshops using the Interactive Management planning methodology and supported by Expert Choice software. Workshops are scheduled to occur during October-December 1993. Strategic Plan approval is expected by May 1994. Current plans are to use the findings generated by the Northeast Data Needs Workshop as a starting point for addressing socio-economic needs in the NFSSP effort. R. Schmied requested that if NMFS-HQ is going to use these reports developed from the workshop, there should be a section pertaining to sociological data needs relative to recreational fishing. J. Dunnigan noted that the recreational social issues in the northeast region are different from those in the southeast and the group may want to explore different methods of getting this information. M. Street mentioned that Mike Orbach is interested in participating on the Social/Economic Work Group but he would not be able to participate in the near future. M. Orbach is now teaching at Duke University and is involved in a program which could provide possible sources (both personnel and funds) for conducting some social and economic work. M. Osborn mentioned that

Texas has conducted extensive sociological surveys regarding the recreational fishermen in Texas and the for-hire workshop document and results from these surveys will be useful in developing sociological data needs. The recommendation from the Social/Economic Work Group is that, given the current lack of funding for a RecFIN(SE) socio-economic data needs workshop and the parallel effort that will occur as part of the NFSSP process, the Committee should allow R. Schmied to monitor the NFSSP process for in respect to collecting recreational socio-cultural data. Also, the Committee should allow him to explore opportunities for Work Group participation in the national effort and use the resulting findings, as appropriate. The Committee moved to approve these recommendations and approved the report which is attached. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

c. Biological/Environmental

* M. Osborn stated there were three tasks assigned to the Work Group which referred to Goal 2, Objectives 1, 2 and 3. The first task under Goal 2, Objective 1 was to identify components of the fishery and required data priorities of each component. Each component has been identified as well as the magnitude of the components. The first step was to develop a set of definitions pertaining to recreational fishing and a figure which outlines the recreational fishery. After some discussion, the definitions and figure were modified by the Committee, and the amended definitions and figures are included in the report. R. Lukens presented a memorandum which provides guidance on definitions on marine recreational fishing and fishermen. The Committee asked the staff to distribute the memo to the group. The Committee believed that the RecFIN(SE) needs to decide which term should be used to describe people who participate in fishing: "fishers" or "fishermen". After some discussion, A. Seiler moved the RecFIN(SE) use the term "fisherman" to describe someone who fishes. The motion was seconded and passed with NMFS, CFMC and Puerto Rico voting against and Alabama abstaining. The next step was the development of a conceptual model of the recreational fishery which defined the scope of the universe and included all possible components. The components were defined by 1) fishing mode or platform: private/rental boats, for-hire boats -- headboats and charter/guide boats, and

shore fishing, including both beach/bank and man-made shore areas; 2) fishing activity: organized -- tournaments, derbies, dive-club competitions, etc. -- or unorganized fishing; 3) gears used; and 4) species targeted. The Committee reviewed the model and the amended model is included in the report.

The conceptual model was used to develop an inventory which shows the presence or absence and relative magnitude of recreational fisheries in all states, territories, and smaller geographical areas. This inventory can be used to group common fisheries and identify unique fisheries in the Southeast Region, to develop priorities for data collection, and identify the best survey strategies for each fishery. Under the magnitude portion of this table, M. Osborn outlined the criteria used by each member when providing the information. These were: 1) Use the best available source to quantify the number of boats, participants, and access points; 2) Document what sources were used, applicable time periods, and any assumptions made; 3) Public access points were defined as "a point of departure or point of fishing location (e.g., boat ramp, dock, marina, pier, shoreline) which is accessible to a member of the general public, either at no cost or by fee." Private access points are "a point of departure or fishing location which is accessible only to members of a limited, restricted group of persons, by reason of membership or ownership"; and 4) Guide boats and charter boats have separate columns on the inventory form since the work group felt these components could be developed separately for state and territorial fisheries. The next set of tables addressed data collection activities for each of the recreational fisheries components and provides some idea of the amount of coverage being obtained for specific fisheries. M. Osborn asked each member to please review all the tables and contact her with any changes as soon as possible.

Under Goal 2, Objective 2, the Work Group identified biological and environmental data elements necessary for the management of a fishery through use in stock assessments, survey design, or formulation and evaluation of management regulations. The data elements table in the GSMFC "for-hire" workshop proceedings was adapted to apply to the entire recreational fishery in the Southeast Region. The group did not assign the various data elements to each

fishery component. The need for any of the items for a specified fishery should be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on management needs. All items listed were deemed important, but all may not be collected depending on survey design and budgets. The list provides a menu to select from based on management needs and survey design. In the report, there is justification for the presence of the variables which have been included in the table.

Additional data called "metadata" were discussed. Metadata is defined as information that is necessary to interpret survey data and is more descriptive than analytical ("meta" means transcending). Such data include environmental perturbations, economic conditions, regulations (including licensing), contracting/procedural changes in conduct of surveys, and social factors. The Work Group recommends that a metadata base be developed for the MRFSS in the Southeast beginning with 1980. Such a file would be incorporated into the national MRF data base to be developed by the MRFSS staff in consultation with other users. In 1994, work group members will provide their thoughts on metadata criteria (types, examples, sources, spatial/temporal scope, etc.) Once criteria are established, the work group will start compiling database items.

Under Goal 2, Objective 3, a draft document incorporating standards developed by the MRFSS program, the States, and the GSMFC Data Management Subcommittee has been compiled. Work group members are in the process of a critical review and adaptation of this document. Final QA/QC standards will be presented in 1994.

* Under other business, the Work Group prioritized MRF projects for inclusion in the national data base. All projects described in the MRF Data Collection Project Summaries (Strategic Plan Appendix) were examined concerning incorporation into regional and national MRF data bases. Of 66 MRF surveys, 13 were classified as high priority, 31 as low priority, and 22 as not appropriate for incorporation. Data bases were evaluated using the following criteria: 1) contain data elements described on data elements table; 2) reasonably wide temporal/spatial scope; 3) reliability; 4) fill current data gaps; 5) do not duplicate other data bases; and 6) provide syntheses of data sets with additional information. R. Lukens suggested that the Social/Economic and Data Base Work

Groups use these criteria when developing their priority lists. The Committee moved to accept the amended report which is attached. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Next, the Committee established a time table for getting information and comments to staff and work group leaders. Each state needs to review the tables in the Biological/Environmental Work Group report and contact M. Osborn by September 30, 1993 with any comments. Then, M. Osborn will send out the revised report to the Committee by the end of October. R. Schmied asked the Social/Economic Work Group and any others to review the economic and socio-cultural reports distributed at the meeting and contact him by October 31, 1993 with any comments. D. Donaldson noted that the Social/Economic and Data Base Work Groups need to complete their prioritization of MRF data collection projects. The Committee decided the Social/Economic Work Group should have a conference call to address this issue, and then the Data Base Work Group will compile a final priority list from the inventories developed by the other work groups for presentation to the Committee.

Time Schedule for Next Meeting

* The Committee discussed the schedule for the next meeting. M. Street noted that piggybacking the meetings of the RecFIN(SE) and the CSP seems to be working quite well and the Committee should continue to conduct the meetings in this fashion. After some discussion about airfare and hotel costs, A. Seiler moved to hold the next meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico during the first week in February. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. R. Lukens noted that the group should have a back-up site. J. Dunnigan moved to conduct the meeting somewhere between Mobile, Alabama and Biloxi, Mississippi, at the discretion of the staff, if it is not possible to have the meeting in Puerto Rico. The time frame of the meeting would be the same. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion of Chairman Tenure

* The Committee discussed election of officers. J. Moran noted that since this is a fairly new program, in an effort to keep some continuity, the chairman

and vice chairman should be elected every two years. H. Lazauski stated that the vice chairman could be the chairman-elect and this would cut down on some discontinuity. J. Shepard stated that to keep it as flexible as possible, the chairman and vice chairman should be elected annually. After some discussion, M. Street moved that the term of chairman and vice chairman will be two years with the potential for reelection. The term would be for the calendar year (January - December). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Other Business

R. Lukens presented a MARFIN proposal from Chris Dyer, a professor from the University of South Alabama, that focused on the need for compilation of a data base on social, cultural, and economic aspects of the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. The reason for presenting the proposal is not to endorse the project but to provide feedback in the usefulness of the project. The Committee was concerned with the perception of supporting the proposal. The Committee believed that C. Dyer could cite the appropriate goal and objective in the RecFIN(SE) Strategic Plan which supports the need for this project and R. Lukens stated he would provide C. Dyer with the appropriate document.

M. Osborn stated that NMFS has hired a new telephone contractor for the MRFSS. Overall, NMFS is happy with their work. However, with a new contractor, there is a learning curve and due to this there were several events that occurred which will affect the estimates for 1993. The first event was that the contractor was not getting proxy information about people who were difficult to contact from other members of the household who had some knowledge of their activities. The second was the contractor did not ask the specific question, "how many trips did you take in the last month?". The last issue was that the contractor threw the trip out if the person being interviewed did not know what county he/she were fishing. The contractor and NMFS have corrected these problems and the data base will be modified accordingly.

The meeting recessed at 5:40 p.m.

September 17, 1993

The meeting reconvened at 8:05 a.m.

Operations Plan

a. Status of current activities

H. Lazauski provided a list of tasks from the 1993 Operations Plan. Their status was distributed and the Committee looked at the tasks individually. After reviewing the list, the Committee agreed that all the activities identified in the 1993 Operations Plan have been examined, the 1993 tasks have been completed, the 1994-1995 tasks have been addressed, and work is currently being conducted to complete them in the allotted time frame. The list of tasks and their revised status is attached.

b. Development of 1994 Operations Plan

* A draft copy of the 1994 Operations Plan was distributed to the Committee which edited the document. S. Gordon noted that objectives in planning should be meaningful and measurable. It may be necessary to expand the narrative of certain sections for some of the tasks. H. Lazauski and R. Lukens stated that the RecFIN(SE) needs to be careful not to set goals that cannot be accomplished and thus putting the program in a negative light. The Committee decided that some of the tasks needed to be more descriptive and measurable which will make it easier to defend the program during the review and evaluation process. The Committee completed a thorough review of each task. After the review, R. Lukens moved to accept the 1994 Operations Plan as amended. An amended copy of the plan will be sent to the Committee for their review. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The revised 1994 Operations Plan represents the administrative record for this portion of the meeting.

Discussion of Adequacy of Current MRF Programs for RecFIN (Goal 2, Objective 4)

H. Lazauski outlined the goals, objectives and the related tasks in the Operations Plan. The Committee determined how this task should be accomplished. H. Lazauski suggested that each agency provide a report concerning the programs which they are responsible for and the Committee could evaluate each one of these

programs. R. Lukens stated that the approach of this task was to examine the results of the evaluations from the Biological/Environmental and Social/Economic Work Groups, and from these reports the Committee would evaluate ongoing programs in respect to providing the necessary marine recreational information and data. This task is the beginning of determining how the RecFIN(SE) can positively affect ongoing programs. A. Jones suggested that the first step might be to develop a list of data elements that are collected by each MRF program. M. Street noted that nothing can be done until the reports from the work groups are finalized. Then, a grading system needs to be developed and the Committee will rate each one of the programs for its adequacy. R. Lukens stated that initially the Committee should focus on the large, routine, ongoing surveys and programs. M. Osborn stated that this task is a three-step process: 1) what do we have and is it adequate? 2) what do we need? (listed as priorities); and 3) designing and implementing a program which meets those needs. The first step in this process is to develop criteria for evaluating these programs. The Committee came up with several criteria such as: statistical validity, statistical precision, data accessibility, timeliness of data, compatibility and comparability, and the spatial and temporal scope of the survey. Using these criteria, the Committee will evaluate the MRF programs and develop recommendations from the evaluation process. It was agreed that the Committee should initially focus on the large, routine, ongoing surveys. M. Osborn stated that she would develop an outline of how the Committee will progress with the evaluation. For the next meeting the Committee will have this outline and a list of surveys that will be addressed. Although the Social/Economic Work Group report is not completed, the Committee decided to proceed with the evaluation of the major surveys, focusing on the biological and environmental aspects. In order to address this issue, there needs to be a full day provided. The Committee assigned people who will be responsible for providing information during the evaluation process for the following surveys:

MRFSS
NMFS Headboat
NMFS Charterboat

Maury Osborn
Albert Jones
Wayne Waltz

Billfish Tournament and Non-tournament Texas surveys Puerto Rico surveys U.S. Virgin Islands surveys	Ron Schmied Page Campbell Walter Padilla Ann Seiler
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Other Business

* R. Lukens noted that, so far, the Committee has focused on the three-year pilot program and tasks from the goals and objectives, and has not thought about the program direction past 1995. It might be a good idea to begin thinking about what has been accomplished and where that will lead the program in the future. R. Lukens asked the Committee to begin considering this notion. There was a brief discussion concerning a logo for the RecFIN(SE). R. Lukens apologized for not getting the proposed logo removed from the inside cover of the Strategic Plan. He stated the staff was acting on the comments from the previous meeting that the Committee might like to develop a logo. M. Osborn stated that a logo is a good idea but it needs to be well-designed and an attention-grabber. The logo needs to be well thought out and representative of all participants in the program. After some discussion, M. Osborn moved that for the time being the RecFIN(SE) remain without a logo. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**DATA MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 19, 1993
San Antonio, Texas**

Chairman Henry Lazauski called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Steve Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
D. Furlong (proxy for J. Poffenburger) NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Lee Green, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Henry "Skip" Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Joe O'Hop (proxy for F. Kennedy), FDEP, St. Petersburg, FL
Joseph Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Tom Van Devender, BMR, Biloxi, MS

Staff

Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

Dale Beaumariage, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Norman Boyd, TPWD, Port O'Connor
Ed Conklin, FDEP, Tallahassee, FL
Billy Fuls, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Edwin Irby, FDEP, Tallahassee, FL
Joe Kimmel, FDEP, St. Petersburg, FL
Rick Marks, NFI, Washington, D.C.
Lance Robinson, TPWD, Seabrook, TX
Peter Rubec, TPWD, Austin
Jim Sagnes, TSA, Austin, TX
Dale Shively, TPWD, Seabrook, TX

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of discussion of ComFIN white paper under CSP/ComFIN Discussion, and discussion of the FWS National Biological Survey under Other Business.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held March 16, 1993 in Palm Beach, Florida were approved with minor editorial changes.

State/Federal Reports

a. Texas

L. Green reported that a GIS laboratory has been established in Austin. It is part of the habitat assessment branch in the resource protection division. There are several S/K projects being conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD). A recreational bycatch study is being conducted in conjunction with

TPWD's ongoing recreational harvest monitoring program. For this project, bycatch is defined as any finfish returned to the water. The main objectives were to collect baseline bycatch data, determine species composition and number, and estimate total bycatch during the study period. As part of this study, TPWD is conducting some research of data collection methods. There is a comparison of the use and no-use of pre-trip prompting using a tally card. Initially, this research has shown that the number of fish reported is more conservative with the card. In general, there is good cooperation between TPWD personnel and fishermen. TPWD is conducting a commercial shrimping bycatch study of bay commercial vessels in central and lower Texas bays. Information is collected during the spring and fall shrimping season on board commercial shrimping vessels. The main objectives are to determine the percent composition by weight and number of all species, and determine catch rates and mean size of all species. To obtain this data, the shrimpers are paid for each 25 pound sample they give to TPWD. In general, there appears to be resistance from the commercial industry towards this project. The red drum stock assessment is still continuing. It was determined there was a need to improve the age-length key. The routine monitoring programs in Texas are continuing without any significant changes. There has been some research regarding fishermen's willingness to pay for a trophy tag. This tag would allow fishermen to keep oversized red drum. Other trophy tag species could be black drum and tarpon. P. Campbell stated that the commercial program is continuing. The internal conversion program is now working. Texas will begin collecting black drum lengths coastwide. TPWD is attempting to have some type of intercept program to collect biological information in place by next fall. L. Green added that TPWD has evaluated grid pads. TPWD has not found any pads that are adequate. Some of the problems were the life of battery seems to be too short for creel surveys and the exposed terminals were not able to withstand the rigors of field work. The relational data base is still in the "dream" phase. The planning stage for getting the system operational may be in about three or four years.

b. Louisiana

J. Shepard stated there is still no funding for Louisiana's trip ticket program and there is a possibility that it could be on line in January 1995 if there is money available. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has implemented a relational data base and is pleased with the system. All the marine fishery-independent and -dependent data is in the system and LDWF is working on incorporating the inland division information into the system. One of the benefits in using this system is that there has been standardization of many elements such as species codes. LDWF is collecting trip interview data, via the CSP, but unfortunately they have only two people in the field which is not adequate to cover Louisiana. A data entry program has been written in SAS and it appears to be working fine. An age and growth lab is being constructed at the LDWF marine laboratory. Presently, personnel will be aging selected species such as speckled trout and red drum.

c. Mississippi

T. Van Devender reported the TIP and commercial shrimp statistics programs are continuing. Last year, the Mississippi legislature passed a law which established a marine recreational fishing license. It costs \$4 for resident, \$20 for non-resident and \$6 for a four-day trip license. The commercial red drum season opened October 1, 1993. There is a 35,000 lb quota which is being monitoring very closely (approximately 3 times per week). Recently, at the Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Commission meeting, BMR made a recommendation to reduce the minimum size limit on red drum from 22 inches to 18 inches. The commission suggested lowering it to 16 inches and after some debate, it was decided to keep the size limit at 22 inches for another year. In the TIP program, BMR is concentrating on vermilion snapper, triggerfish and collecting as much amberjack data as possible. This is the third year of the roe mullet study in Mississippi. Otolith data is being collected from the commercial fish houses. This information has already been used to adjust the mesh size during the fall season. From October 15 - December 15, the mesh size (stretched) was changed from 3¼ inches to 3½ inches.

d. Alabama

H. Lazauski reported that Alabama finished its first year with a marine recreational fishing license and it has been a success. There has been more revenue generated than lost. There are a variety of licenses available, such as trip and pier licenses. The cost of the license is \$15 for residents and the cost for non-resident varies depending upon the home state of the non-resident. The roe mullet season has begun in Alabama. There is a 3¾ inch stretched mesh size. This allows the mullet to spawn at least twice before there is a high probability that they will be caught. The draft of the Alabama Mullet FMP is nearing completion. It includes sections on genetics, age and growth and economics. Alabama continues to collect TIP data on blue crab, reef fish and coastal pelagics. Next year, mullet will be reinstated in the data collected. Alabama is involved with several Coastal America projects. The first was the creation of a marsh where the discharge water from the hatchery was filtered through the marsh and then sent into the Gulf intercoastal waterway. The second was marking of the oyster reefs to keep shrimping activity off the reef. And the last was evaluation of the effectiveness of archeological coral as cultch material for the production of oysters. Artificial reef development is continuing off Alabama. There is approximately 1000 square miles of area where materials can be dumped pending approval by Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) and the Corps of Engineers. The ADCNR finished a two-year MARFIN project which ground truthed the charter boat log book. The results showed that the information provided by the charter boat captains is valid. There is no work being conducted on evaluation of field data collection devices and it will not be initiated until additional money is available.

e. Florida

J. O'Hop reported that Ken Haddad has been named as the new chief of Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI). K. Haddad has constructed a very active coastal marine resources assessment program which is a GIS-oriented program and as chief he will attempt to tie the different programs together into one large program. The fisheries statistics activities include the cooperative agreement for CSP. There are three people funded as port samplers located at various sites in the Gulf of Mexico. All the samplers are collecting trip interview samples and also participate in some of the other field programs but are primarily involved with the collection of reef fish data. There are three other people which collect trip interview data who are paid from other funds. There was a minor oil spill in Tampa Bay in August and the GIS group was responsible for some of the damage assessment and providing the spill location to the Coast Guard and other agencies responsible for clean up. In Florida Bay, there was a massive sea grass die off. FMRI was creating maps which provided the location of the algal blooms which resulted from the increased nutrient from the sea grass kills. Crews are in the process of determining the effects of these blooms and assessing the damage to the resources in the area. Management strategies developed by FMRI have been submitted to the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission (FMFC) for spotted seatrout. It is expected that in 1994 there will be a referendum to limit marine net fish in Florida. If passed, it will have major impacts on the commercial industry in Florida. Gill nets would have to be set in federal waters (approximately 9 miles) and only nets of certain sizes and types would be allowed in the territorial waters of Florida. FMRI has summarized the number of participants (fishermen and dealers), level of participation (pounds and trips) and have calculated the value of various fisheries. These summaries have been provided to the FMRC to gauge the impact to the industry. J. O'Hop presented a document call *Fishing Lines* which provides information concerning fisheries in the State of Florida. E. Irby stated that Florida has instituted a lobster trap certificate program which is a limited entry program. Due to legislative law, the Florida Department of Natural Resources is being combined with the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation into Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

f. NMFS

D. Furlong reported that in May that NMFS awarded the IT95 contract. The IT95 program is approximately a \$13 million project over the next three years. It will be a distributive system and there will be 48 work stations throughout the NMFS. The work station is an indigo, ATT system 5, version 4, graphical user interface with 32 to 96 megabytes of memory. Software for the stations will include Oracle, SAS, Graphics and CPlus Plus. The Southeast Fisheries and Science Center, the Alaska Center and the NMFS-Headquarters will serve as the three main host units. The Southeast Region will have 10 work

stations which will be distributed among the NMFS laboratories and Regional Office. The primary data base system for the Southeast Region will be Oracle. NMFS should receive the stations in approximately six months. In the Northeast Region, the center director, due to the council's continuing drive to shift fisheries from an open access to limited access, is shifting the fish-dependent data collection activities from the center into the Regional Office. This is a significant change in the way of doing business with the NMFS. The main reason for this shift is the scientists lack of confidence in a log book system in terms of receiving credible data.

RecFIN(SE) Discussion

H. Lazauski reported that the RecFIN(SE) Committee met on September 16 and 17, 1993 in Jacksonville, Florida. Several activities were addressed at this meeting. Some socioeconomic data was distributed and this data provides a good template for the collection of socioeconomic data for RecFIN. The Social/Economic Work Group will meet, via conference call October 29, 1993 to discuss prioritization of MRF data collection programs. D. Donaldson noted that the Biological/Environmental Work Group has already completed this task and both lists will be forwarded to the Data Base Work Group who will compile a final priority list for presentation to the RecFIN(SE) Committee. A hardware/software questionnaire was developed by the Data Base Work Group. The group used the survey developed by SEAMAP to establish their data management system. H. Lazauski noted that a letter from John Witzig addressed the issue of how the questionnaire would be used and he stated that planning should look to the future and not look at what is available but provide an inventory and create a forward looking system. D. Donaldson stated that one of the major tasks was to review the 1993 Operations Plan to determine the progress of 1993 tasks. All of the tasks which were identified as being completed in 1993 or starting in 1993 and continuing into future years have been accomplished or addressed. The RecFIN(SE) is also in the process of developing a 1994 Operations Plan which will be completed by the end of this year. The next meeting is scheduled for the first week of February 1994. Thus far, the RecFIN(SE) has been very successful.

CSP/ComFIN Discussion

H. Lazauski opened a discussion regarding ComFIN, and pointed out the ComFIN workshop proceedings in the Subcommittee folders. Lazauski asked how the Subcommittee wished to handle the document regarding endorsing it as a guidance document for continuation of ComFIN. T. Van Devender observed that there are sections in the document that indicated problems with the taping equipment and text was lost. He asked how that should be handled. R. Lukens indicated that each person who provided presentations would have to provide information to fill in the gaps; however, he indicated that that might be difficult, since in several cases presenters did not have formal presentations. Lukens pointed out that he intended to distribute the draft to the presenters so that they can provide any additional information that they feel they can provide. Lazauski asked if the Subcommittee would like to handle approval of the document by mail. Several members indicated that they would like to do that. Lukens pointed out that the real meat of the document is embodied in the recommendations and the mission statement, goals, and objectives that were developed. The missing parts of the presentations are not as critical as those other parts. The Subcommittee concurred that adoption of the document should be handled by mail.

Lazauski indicated that there were some documents in the Subcommittee folders regarding the Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP). He reminded the Subcommittee of the brainstorming session that took place at the CSP meeting held in September in Jacksonville, Florida. He provided a brief description of the methodology used to implement the brainstorming session. Lukens informed the Subcommittee that Paul Anninos and John Poffenberger had categorized the problem statements identified during the brainstorming session into a number of categories, including Cooperation/Communication, Data Needs and Definitions, Data Management, Funding, Procedures, Confidentiality, and Planning. J. Shepard indicated that he felt that the next step should be to analyze those items to determine if there was

anything new to add to the CSP Framework Plan and to categorize those same items under the Goals and Objectives in the CSP Framework Document, and that the Southeast Cooperative Statistics Committee should consider this issue at the next meeting, which is tentatively planned for late January or early February. There was general agreement on that approach. Lazauski described the next step as the point at which specific problem statements are given to work groups or some other entity to devise solution alternatives.

Lukens pointed out to the Subcommittee that since the CSP is nearing a stage of acceptance of the proposed organizational structure, the group should begin to think in terms of having the process evolve from CSP into ComFIN. He stressed that this would primarily be a shift in thinking and would not hamper work toward solving some of the more pressing problems identified under the CSP. Lazauski reiterated that the CSP is envisioned as an element within ComFIN as the NMFS Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) is an element with RecFIN(SE). In that regard, by dealing with an identified problem under CSP, we would automatically be dealing with a ComFIN issue. Lukens further advised the Subcommittee that administratively the GSMFC is beginning to view RecFIN(SE) and ComFIN as two components of a single program to coordinate and provide administrative support for state-federal data collection and management. SEAMAP constitutes a third component of the data family, bringing in the fishery independent aspect. Lazauski offered that the program could be titled as the Fisheries Information Network (FIN), with identifiable components under one umbrella. J. Shepard asked about funding to support ComFIN. Lukens responded that there was no specific timeline for funding, but several strategies are being developed to pursue funding to support the coordination and administration of ComFIN. Shepard felt very strongly that the time had come to begin to fully develop ComFIN. There was general agreement with Shepard's thought from the Subcommittee regarding proceeding with ComFIN development. Lukens stated that he would regard the Subcommittee's agreement as a directive to begin to focus more specifically on ComFIN. It was also agreed that the proposed meeting in January or February would officially begin the planning process for ComFIN, toward the completion of a framework document and a memorandum of understanding for ComFIN by the end of 1994.

Lukens indicated that it is unfortunate that the group was compelled to address the structure of the CSP before proceeding with ComFIN, because developing the documentation for ComFIN so soon behind the documentation for the CSP will seem redundant. The fact of the matter is that because of the work already done toward the CSP, progress toward ComFIN has automatically been realized. Lukens also clarified that the committee established under the CSP MOU would become the ComFIN Committee so that there would not be duplication of organizational structures.

Confidentiality

Lazauski asked that J. O'Hop update the Subcommittee on the status of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Confidentiality and the Florida law that prohibits the State of Florida from signing the MOA. O'Hop indicated that they will try to get the necessary language introduced in a bill as a rider or amendment during the next legislative session that will allow the Department to sign the MOA. The question was asked that since all the other states and the NMFS have signed the MOA, can the intent of the MOA be implemented with the present signatories, or does the whole effort have to wait until Florida signs. The answer is that upon signing the MOA, the signatories can implement the provisions of the MOA among themselves, regardless of the status of Florida. There was some discussion regarding what data from both the state and federal governments would be available under the MOA. It was explained that with regard to data from the NMFS, only those data required to be collected under the MFCMA will be available through the MOA. There are some confidential data that are voluntarily collected by the NMFS which will not be available.

Lukens pointed out that now that the MOA on Confidentiality has been signed, there needs to be a way to implement its provisions. He related that fact that since the directive has not been

communicated to all the appropriate parties, authorized people may still not be able to acquire confidential data. As per the language in the MOA, Lukens developed a statement for signature by all state personnel who will be classified as a confidential agent that states the assurance of protecting the confidentiality of the data under penalty of applicable state and federal law. He asked the Subcommittee to review the statement and determine how to proceed. A discussion ensued regarding the language and a concern that such a statement may be redundant in light of the fact that most confidential agents have already signed statements in their states. Lukens clarified that the current statement makes provisions for a state confidential agent to handle other states' data, not just the data collected in their state. He also explained that the signed statement provides documentation to the various agencies regarding who the various confidential agents are in order to know who is authorized to receive confidential data. Lukens indicated that he had called each state and gotten a list of those personnel who will be considered by each state to be confidential agents. From that list, the GSMFC staff generated a statement for each person identified.

The question was asked as to how a state confidential agent would know if the data he/she was handling were confidential. Lukens suggested that instead of marking out the confidential data as it is done now, the person providing the confidential data could use a check mark or a "highlighter" pen to indicate which portions of the data are confidential. If data are transferred electronically, some other mechanism would have to be devised. J. Shepard indicated that according to Louisiana state law any person who works for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries can handle confidential data. They cannot access or request those data from the NMFS or another state, only one person can do that; however, they can use the data in the course of their duties. Shepard indicated that he would like to have more time to review the statement provided to determine if there is a conflict with Louisiana state law or the agency's policy. The Subcommittee agree that each member would take the statements back to their agencies and begin a review process to determine how best to implement the MOA for their state. Lukens stressed the need to get some implementation mechanism on line, because without such a mechanism, having signed the MOA is useless.

On another issue regarding confidentiality, Lukens referred to a discussion at the Miami CSP meeting in July 1993 regarding a NMFS enforcement agent requiring a port agent to turn over confidential data in his/her possession on the dock. At that time it was reported that the NMFS policy had always been that enforcement offices could get confidential data, but they had to go through channels, not directly to the port agent. At that time someone reported that a memo had been distributed from the NMFS Southeast Regional Office to the effect that if asked by an enforcement officer, NMFS port agents are directed to turn over all data, including those that are confidential, to the officer upon request. A lengthy discussion ensued at that meeting regarding the ramifications of such a policy.

Lukens indicated that since there was confusion about the issue and the issue has serious implications regarding the ability of port agents to effectively interact with fishermen and buyers, he looked further into the issue and acquired a copy of the pertinent section of the NMFS Regional Office memo in question. It was clear from the memo that the stated policy of turning over data referred to NMFS mandatory observers only, and did not apply to state or federal port agents who collect data from fishermen or buyers. A discussion ensued regarding the implications of such a policy, even though it only applies to NMFS mandatory observers. There was general agreement that such a policy could seriously impede voluntary data collection efforts, and in some cases, depending on where an individual is collecting data, could jeopardize a port agent's safety. Dan Furlong provided some background on the events leading up to the issuance of the memo, stating that the policy stipulates that if an enforcement agent acquires the data from an observer under duress (ie. other than through standard channels), those data cannot be used in an enforcement action, but rather only for intelligence gathering purposes to build a case against a known violator. If an observer refuses to provide the data to a law enforcement officer, that employee can be arrested and charged with obstruction of justice. Further discussion ensued, with general agreement that the situation is still volatile, and has the potential to cause significant negative

repercussions for all data collection programs. A better alternative was suggested that a process is formally set up that requires enforcement agents to request data through channels, such that the acquisition of data by enforcement is separated from the port agent. In essence, such a process would separate how data are used administratively from the process of collecting the data.

Discussion of Draft Proceedings - GIS Symposium

During the March 1993 Annual Spring Meeting of the GSMFC, the Subcommittee, under the leadership of Peter Rubec and Joe O'Hop, sponsored a four hour symposium on Geographic Information Systems (GIS). P. Rubec provided the Subcommittee an update on the status of the proceedings of that symposium. He indicated that there were seven invited speakers with separate presentations and an introductory presentation by J. O'Hop, for a total of eight sections in the proceedings. Rubec informed the Subcommittee that drafts for six of the presentations have been acquired, and he and J. O'Hop would like to write a synthesis paper that sums up and draws conclusions and recommendations from the presentations made at the symposium and would include some information that was not presented. Rubec distributed the six draft papers that are on file and asked the Subcommittee to provide him with any comments they feel are pertinent. Some discussion ensued regarding the draft proceedings, and Chairman Lazauski indicated that a deadline should be established for completing the proceedings so that the information included can be made available to the appropriate and interested parties. He reiterated that this topic and the information in the proceedings will be valuable to the ongoing efforts in RecFIN and ComFIN, and apply to the objectives related to keeping up with technological advances that can be applied to data collection and management. He suggested that comments be sent to Rubec on existing drafts as soon as possible so that the final can be completed by the end of 1993. There was general agreement from the Subcommittee that the symposium was a very beneficial program and the proceedings will be a valuable resource document. All members gave Rubec and O'Hop congratulations for a job well done.

Stock Assessment Workshop

1993 Report - Lukens provided the Subcommittee with a brief summary of the stock assessment training workshop that was sponsored by the GSMFC in May 1993. He indicated that a questionnaire had been developed and sent out to the participants to evaluate the workshop on a number of levels. He then distributed the evaluation report that resulted from the questionnaires that were returned. The bottom line result of the evaluation is that the participants felt that the workshop was very successful and useful, and that the GSMFC should continue to sponsor follow-up workshops in the future. The scoring method used to rate the success of the workshop provided a overall perfect score of 40, and the workshop participants rated the success of the workshop at 35.5. Lukens did, however, point out that participants disagreed on the subject matter for the next workshop.

1994 Workshop - Since the workshop participants overwhelmingly agreed that subsequent workshops are desirable, the GSMFC will be sponsoring a training workshop during 1994. Lukens informed the Subcommittee that he will be seeking input from the members as well as the members of the GSMFC Stock Assessment Team and the past workshop participants to narrow down the topic areas that will be covered in the next workshop. Also, he will be seeking guidance on such items as when and where to hold the workshop and who should be asked to provide workshop instruction. Some discussion ensued regarding the first two workshops and some of the latest developments in software programs and models available. Guidance has already indicated that the next workshop should be built upon the material already presented in the 1992 and 1993 workshops. Lukens indicated that he will be in contact with the Subcommittee regarding this issue.

Other Business

Lee Green brought up a discussion related to the National Biological Survey (NBS) which has recently become established under the Department of the Interior. His concern is how does the NBS relate to ComFIN and RecFIN, or does it relate at all. Some discussion ensued regarding this issue, with a general acknowledgement that there is not very much information available on exactly what the NBS will do. Lukens indicated that he would see if there is the potential for overlap of the NBS and the Southeast Regional data activities in which the Subcommittee is involved.

* Lukens provided the Subcommittee with the final copies of the Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP) Framework Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which is proposed to be submitted to the GSMFC for adoption and signature. He asked that the Subcommittee consider voting to endorse the documents and report them to the Technical Coordinating Committee for their consideration for endorsement to report to the GSMFC Commissioners. T. Van Devender made a motion to adopt the CSP Framework Plan and MOU. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Lukens brought up the issue related to the states becoming involved in collecting the intercept data through the MRFSS as a function of RecFIN. He indicated that the current contractor had provided him with a proposal for the GSMFC to enter into a subcontract with the contractor to provide funding to the states of the Gulf of Mexico, except Texas, to conduct the baseline number of intercept interviews. Lukens had already provided the states with the information, but he wanted to indicate that the proposal was unacceptable to him and that the amount of funding provided to the states in the proposal was inadequate to do the job. A discussion ensued regarding this issue, and the conclusion was that the group would have to continue to pursue alternatives to becoming involved in the survey.

Election of Officers

H. Lazauski was nominated for chairman and J. O'Hop was nominated for vice chairman. The nominations were then closed and the two were elected by acclamation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

APPROVED BY:

W.B. Wallace
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

**S-FFMC MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 19, 1993
San Antonio, Texas**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Chairman Vince Guillory. The following were in attendance:

Members

Joseph Smith (proxy for J. Merriner), NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Joe Gill, Jr., MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS
Jerry Mambretti, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
Rick Marks, NFMOA, Arlington, VA
W. Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Inc., Covington, LA
Dalton Berry, Zapata Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA
Walter Tatum, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Richard L. Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Cynthia D. Bosworth, Staff Assistant

Others

Charles H. Lyles, Ocean Springs, MS
Terry Stelly, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
Richard Condrey, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Zoila Culquichicon, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Adoption of Agenda

*B. Wallace moved and D. Berry seconded that the agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

*D. Berry moved that the March 16, 1993, minutes be approved as written. J. Gill seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Bycatch Report

R. Condrey showed a video tape of onboard sampling during the recently completed bycatch study. He outlined the final results of this study noting that they show a skewed distribution of bycatch. He stated there is statistical problem in how to deal with this; however, the most important conclusion is that there is essentially no bycatch and no relationship between weight or number of bycatch species to menhaden. He did find that larger schools (and subsequent catches) were "cleaner" with less bycatch than smaller schools. This phenomenon became apparent when G. Brumfield pointed out bycatch of predator species would be higher in smaller schools because they target these configurations more than the larger dense schools. The final report is currently being written and a completed copy will be sent to the Commission office for distribution to committee members.

R. Condrey distributed copies of a two-year MARFIN proposal he had recently been awarded. He plans to utilize the MAC for semiannual updates and input. The project attempts to further identify and quantify bycatch. The study would include intensified sampling, and it would look at area differences (east of the Mississippi River vs. west) in type and amount of bycatch. J. Mambretti suggested looking at bycatch distribution by water depth. R. Condrey concurred that this could be done.

Hypoxic Area Off Louisiana

J. Hanifen gave a presentation on the hypoxic area off Louisiana. He noted that it was a natural phenomenon that occurs as the result of stratification as the Mississippi River discharges into the gulf. He stated that the area had been monitored since the mid-1980s and was considerably larger than same from the late 1970s, probably because of leveeing and other activities that have centralized the discharge. The area was largest in 1993, probably because of the heavy rains in the midwest that increased the amount of water discharged. It was noted that the area did not seem to affect menhaden or other fish that were capable of moving to other areas of higher oxygen but primarily impacted bottom-dwelling crabs and other less mobile invertebrates.

Review of 1993 Menhaden Season

J. Smith reported that gulf landings of menhaden through September amounted to 463,950 MT, which was about 20% higher than 1992 landings for the same period. Effort through September was estimated at 377,900 vessel-ton-weeks, up 10% from 1992. He noted that projected landings to November 1 would be about 523,000 MT or about 24% greater than 1992 and 14% above the previously forecasted landings. He also noted that 6 plants and 52 vessels had been operating during the season.

J. Smith reported that the age 1 fish dominated landings at all plants except Moss Point where age 2 and age 3+ accounted for 54% of landings. Coastwide age 1 fish accounted for 61% of landings; age 2, 32% and age 3+, 7%.

J. Smith stated the Captain's Daily Fishing Reports for four of the six plants (Moss Point, Empire, Morgan City and Abbeville) in the gulf had been key-entered and that work would continue as permitted by funding and personnel. He also stated that the Pioneer Fund of the Department of Commerce may be a source of funds for hand-entry units aboard vessels that had been discussed at previous meetings.

Changes to the Menhaden Fishing Season

In response to the S-FFMC and GSMFC requests, it was noted that all states (except Florida) had finalized regulations to change the reduction season closure date to November 1 of each year. Florida has never established a season.

Presentation by Zoila Culquichicon

Z. Culquichicon gave a brief presentation on her work at LSU toward a Master's Degree and planned work toward a Ph.D. Her work primarily involves analyses of catch and effort from Captain's Daily Fishing Reports. The committee advised that when estimating fishing hours, she should use from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset as a day's potential fishing period. It was noted that Z. Culquichicon would send a copy of her thesis to the Commission for copying and distribution to the S-FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee.

Menhaden FMP Update

R. Leard reviewed progress in developing a draft update of the Menhaden FMP. He noted that biology, habitat, and law sections were complete and would be edited by the staff and state agency representatives of the committee. He also noted that NMFS had completed a stock assessment, and it was undergoing "in house" review and review by the Stock Assessment Team.

R. Leard described the status of individual sections and asked for guidance from the committee on reviewing and completing them. It was noted that some sections merely needed review and editing while others required more extensive data collection and writing. The committee set a target date of January 15, 1994 to have all information and suggested revisions to R. Leard for the development of a complete rough draft.

IJF Act Reauthorization

L. Simpson reported that reauthorization of Section 308(c) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management Act that provides funds for the GSMFC and other compacts had been attached to the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, and he anticipated passage. He also noted that the reauthorization was for a maximum funding level of \$600,000 (\$200,000 for each commission) rather than the current 350,000.

L. Simpson also reported on various proposals for amending the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Election of Chairman

After checking the records, it was noted that chairmanship had rotated to the industry slot. D. Berry nominated B. Wallace. J. Gill seconded, and B. Wallace was unanimously elected chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Gary S. Tilyou
2/4/94

**TCC ANADROMOUS FISH SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 19, 1993
San Antonio, Texas**

Chairman Gary Tilyou called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

Jim Duffy, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Douglas J. Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
J. Alan Huff, FDEP, St. Petersburg, FL
Charles Mesing, FGFFC, Tallahassee, FL
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Bill Seawell (proxy for D. Applegate), USFWS, San Marcos, TX
Terry D. Stelly, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
Gary Tilyou, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Staff

Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Nancy Marcellus, Administrative Assistant

Others

Conrad Fjetland, USFWS, Albuquerque, NM
Dick Luebke, TPWD, Ingram, TX
Leroy Kiffe, Commissioner, Lockport, LA

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held March 16, 1993 in Palm Beach, Florida were approved as presented.

Update of Ongoing Activities

Gulf Sturgeon Activities

Recovery Plan - The Gulf Sturgeon Recovery Team recently completed the final review of the "Gulf Sturgeon Recovery Plan." Lorna Patrick has been preparing a public review draft to be distributed in October. A final document for FWS internal approval is scheduled for December 1993. The significance of having a joint management and recovery plan is that if recovery of any of the stocks is achieved, then the framework for a management plan is already in place.

West Pearl River Navigation Project - R. Lukens discussed recent correspondence from the Commission and the Gulf Sturgeon Recovery Team to the Corps of Engineers with comments on the EIS regarding a proposal to re-open the barge canal in the West Pearl River. This is mainly a sturgeon issue since a lot of sturgeon habitat would be disrupted, but it has the potential to affect striped bass also. The Subcommittee urged Lukens to contact other organizations to generate pressure against this proposed project.

FWS DNA Survey - D. Frugé reported that Gulf sturgeon samples have been collected from 11 of 18 designated river systems and submitted to Dr. Ike Wirgin, New York University Medical Center, for mitochondrial DNA analysis. Results are pending on samples collected from three systems not previously submitted for genetic analysis - Lake Ponchartrain (n-4), Pascagoula River (n-3), and Yellow River (n-18). State resource agencies from Louisiana and Alabama, Mississippi State University, and the Panama City Fishery Resource office are involved in the project. Additional samples will be collected next spring until a target of n-20 is reached for each system.

Pascagoula River Survey - D. Frugé discussed a project being conducted by the Mississippi State University Coastal Aquaculture Unit and the Natural Heritage Program from Jackson, Mississippi. A survey for Gulf sturgeon in the Pascagoula River began in April. Sampling took place mostly in the lower 3 miles of the Pascagoula River and in the Escatawpa and Chickasawhay Rivers. Since the end of September seven Gulf sturgeon ranging up to 129 centimeters and 10.9 kilograms have been captured. DNA samples were obtained from three of the fish, and radio tags were implanted in two of them. One radio tagged fish was located in early September by air and again by boat and in the Leaf River near McClain, Mississippi. The other radio tagged fish has never been located. More field sampling is scheduled to begin early next month.

Nuclear DNA Project

Wirgin's Research - C. Mesing reported that Ike Wirgin is continuing his research but has no status on preserved fish yet. Mesing expects to have information by January or February to present at the 1994 Morone Workshop as to whether it is going to work or not and what the results are.

Regional Data Base - R. Lukens polled the Subcommittee to determine how many samples have been sent to Ike Wirgin from each state to establish how many samples are up there and if we have reached our target of 300 samples or 60 samples from each state.

J. Duffy, Alabama, reported that he sent 20 samples which were unusable due to shipping problems, but will prepare more to send this week.

D. Frugé advised that John Forester sent samples from the Mississippi and Sabine Rivers. He will provide those numbers upon returning to the office.

G. Tilyou, Louisiana, expects to send at least 10 samples from their fall sampling.

T. Stelly, Texas, sent 40 samples in August and will be sending an additional 20. He also advised that he could provide extra samples if needed.

L. Nicholson, Mississippi, advised that he has about 6 samples ready to send and expects to have more as sampling continues. He will also check with Ron Garavelli to see if he has any samples to send.

C. Mesing, Florida, sent 60 samples.

Lukens advised the Subcommittee to notify Wirgin well in advance before sending any samples.

Anadromous Fish Tag Development - D. Frugé reported that Mr. Bill Whelan had encountered some unexpected difficulties in defining the circuit details of the dual mode tag and had requested an extension to July 1, 1994, for project completion. However, a "sonar-mode-only" tag will be delivered in October to the Panama City staff for field testing. Preliminary indications are that the sonic portion of the tag has the range promised. Plans are to implant tags in striped bass and Gulf sturgeon this fall to test saltwater capabilities.

Lake Talquin Study - C. Mesing updated the Subcommittee on the Lake Talquin study. Basically, through age 4, which was the fall of '92, they saw no difference in survival of the Gulf genotypes (C2s and D1s) or the Atlantic C1s. However, they did see a significant weight increase after adjusting the lengths of the fish through regression analysis indicating that the Gulf C2s, the stripers with a unique genotype to the ACF system, had higher weights than either the Atlantic C1s or the Gulf D1s, but there was no difference in survival. Sampling is scheduled to begin again next month. This project is due to continue for the next three years with this being the first year of a three year extension.

Sabine River Study - D. Frugé reported on the Sabine River striped bass radiotelemetry study in which twenty-one adult striped bass were implanted with radio transmitters and released in the Sabine River (Louisiana and Texas) below Toledo Bend Dam during March and May 1992 (11) and January 1993 (10). Implanted fish were radiotracked by boat, air and land reconnaissance between March 24, 1992 and May 10, 1993. A total of 12 aerial radiotracking efforts were made on an approximately monthly basis. Data were collected on surface temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity and turbidity on at least a monthly basis at six sites in the Sabine River between Toledo Bend Dam and Sabine Lake at the southern end of the drainage.

Signals from four of the fish implanted in 1992 were never detected on any survey, and two of the fish released in 1992 were believed to have died within one month following release. One of the ten fish released in 1993 was captured by an angler 19 days later. Signals from two of the other nine fish released in 1993 were not detected at any time following release.

Radiotracking will continue through January of 1994 and hopefully until all the batteries expire. A final draft of the entire project is planned for September 1994.

Sport Fish Restoration Administrative Program Report

R. Lukens reported that Sport Fish Restoration Administrative funds would be received for 1994. Primary activities include the DNA distribution survey and working up a study plan for another TIMS survey. The only contract activity for next year is to continue the DNA work which was started this year.

Lukens explained the new process of handling these contracts where the three marine fishery commissions - Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf - each get an automatic allocation of \$200 thousand dollars a year from the Fish and Wildlife Service without having to compete for it. It is hoped this relationship will prevail in the future. Lukens advised that they will soon meet with the new Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mollie Beattie, to discuss this arrangement.

Length-Weight Data Base Initiative

J. Duffy indicated that the Subcommittee had expressed at the last meeting that they would like to look into determining if there is enough data to establish a length-weight relationship for striped bass. Duffy volunteered to receive the data and conduct the appropriate analyses to determine if enough data are available and if a regional equation could be derived that would describe striped bass weight as a function of striped bass length. He indicated that he had received data from C. Mesing, Florida which were unusable because it was brood stock data in 1/2 pound increments. He received data from L. Nicholson, Mississippi, which were unusable because they were angler reported. Also, data from Alabama are unusable because they are angler reported. He received usable data from T. Stelly, Texas, and conducted an analysis of those data, which was provided to the Subcommittee. Duffy briefly discussed the analysis of the data that he conducted. He indicated that the exercise that he conducted points out the descriptive nature of regression analysis as opposed to its predictive nature. He said that because of this, he indicated that the Subcommittee could take all of the data that are available, regardless of year, sex, location, or anything else, and conduct a similar analysis and assume that the results would

be as predictive as anything else that would be available. Duffy said that the analysis is descriptive within the range of the data available, and does not provide any insight into data points that would fall above or below the data at hand.

Duffy suggested that the question in which the Subcommittee is interested is "can lengths be taken in the field and weights assigned within some statistical range of confidence." He indicated that he feels that such a goal can be achieved. C. Mesing indicated that the data must be analyzed seasonally, because due to weight gains attributable to gonad development, or weight loss due to staying in thermal refugia, fish may display vastly different length-weight relationships. T. Stelly indicated that data should be analyzed by sex due to the differences between males and females. Duffy indicated that for the analysis of data from fish from Toledo Bend Reservoir, the results showed no difference between males and females. C. Mesing informed the Subcommittee that growth rates for fish from a reservoir and a river differ significantly. This would introduce another measure of complexity into the equation. Duffy said that his analysis agreed with Mesing's statement, saying that analyses of Trinity River fish and Trinity Bay fish showed significant differences. Stelly feels that the analysis provided by Duffy indicates that a Gulf-wide equation could be derived, but would have to be sensitive to coastal versus reservoir fish, and would have to be sensitive to time of year. It was pointed out, however, that the analysis was conducted using Texas data only. Additional data from other geographical areas should be included to determine if there are any differences.

G. Tilyou was of the impression that the reason for conducting the analysis is so that relative weights could be determined. If that were possible, then striped bass workers from different areas could determine if, relatively speaking, fish from other areas are fatter or thinner. There was general agreement that that is the benefit from conducting such an analysis.

Discussion of Alabama Shad Status Paper

A review draft of the Alabama shad status report was circulated in August 1993. A number of comments have been received regarding the report, "**Systematic and Population Status of Alabama Shad in Rivers Tributary to the Gulf of Mexico.**" The final report should be available in November and will be mailed to the Subcommittee. There was a great deal of interest from the Subcommittee in pursuing the status of Alabama shad and some future actions.

Discussion of Regional Hatchery Situation

C. Mesing initiated a discussion regarding plans for a striped bass and sturgeon hatchery for the Apalachicola system for which Florida has agreed to be a sponsor by committing 25% for its operation. Florida is now of the opinion that it does not need a new hatchery and recently upgraded the Blackwater hatchery for striped bass spawning. Because of success at Blackwater last year it is felt that rather than trying to create another state/federal hatchery it would be better to upgrade existing facilities. Mesing pointed out that he did not know where the Service stands on this issue and that the Service has put a lot of work into study plans for developing the new hatchery. Mesing questioned the Subcommittee on who wants Gulf striped bass and what are the needs. He suggested that Subcommittee members submit requests to the Fish and Wildlife Service regional office for fry or Phase 1 or 2 fingerlings for their striped bass programs in the Gulf of Mexico. D. Frugé suggested that rather than each state contacting the regional office individually that the Subcommittee consolidate a summary of what the needs are Gulf-wide to present to the regional office. The Subcommittee agreed to send stocking requests to Frugé by November 12. Requests should ask specifically for striped bass with an XBA2 mitochondrial DNA genotype and indicate whether fry or phase 1 or 2 fingerlings are requested. Requests should also indicate where the fish will be stocked and if any follow-up evaluation is planned.

Discussion of Perdido River Plans

J. Duffy discussed a Wallop-Breaux striped bass stocking project on the Perdido River scheduled to begin early next month. Plans are to stock both Atlantic and Gulf fish for several years and track survival for ten years. Prior to stocking each year, sampling for natural reproduction would be conducted. Duffy sought the Subcommittee's guidance on conducting this study since in an earlier agenda item the Subcommittee agreed to request only Gulf fish for stocking requirements. The Subcommittee advised Duffy to proceed with the project since it follows objectives stated in the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan.

Discussion of a Demonstration Project for Striped Bass Restoration in the Pascagoula River

Due to time constraints at this meeting, this agenda item was not discussed. Doug Frugé agreed to develop a white paper on this topic to discuss at the next meeting.

Other Business

* J. Duffy initiated a discussion about his concerns of having only a half day for the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee meeting. Many Subcommittee members discussed their problems and concerns of trying to rush through a full agenda and not giving proper attention to the agenda items. J. Duffy moved to return to the full day meetings for the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee. D. Frugé seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Election of Officers

The Subcommittee unanimously agreed to retain the same slate of officers with Gary Tilyou serving as Chairman and Terry Stelly serving as Vice-Chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Tom Wagner
 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
October 19, 1993
San Antonio, Texas

Tom Wagner, Chairman, informed the room that a quorum of the subcommittee was not present; therefore, no official action could be taken at this meeting. He stated, however, that established agenda items would be discussed. Further, he requested a general summary of the meeting be written by the staff.

The following were in attendance:

Members

Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
 Tom Wagner, TPWD, Rockport, TX

Staff

Rick Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
 Cindy Bosworth, IJF Staff Assistant

Others

Charles Moss, Sea Grant, Angleton, TX
 Lance Robinson, TPWD, Seabrook, TX
 Norman Boyd, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
 Jerry Mambretti, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
 J. Dale Shively, TPWD, Seabrook, TX
 Edwin Irby, FDEP, Tallahassee, FL
 Edwin Conklin, FDEP, Tallahassee, FL
 Joe Gill, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS
 George Sekul, GSMFC, Biloxi, MS

Discussion of Interstate Trucking and Processing Effects on Crabbing

As previously discussed at the March 1993 meeting, it was noted that this item should be on the agenda for the next meeting, and the chairman would invite a representative from the Law Enforcement Committee to attend. It was asked that this item be placed on the Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee's agenda so that the chairman of the Crab Subcommittee can attend and present the issue for their discussion.

Discussion of State Activities

Florida - A copy of Florida's activities (attachment 1) was distributed.

Louisiana - Vince Guillory stated that the final number for crab landings in 1992 was 52,846,000 lbs, and a total of 2,765 commercial crab licenses were sold. During the 1993 legislature, one bill pertaining to crabs was passed. The bill has to do with user group conflicts. The legislature mandated that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission would designate areas and seasons for harvesting crabs in Sabine Lake during the inshore shrimp season. There are two seasons in question. The spring season runs from May through July; the fall season runs from August through December. No action has been taken by the Commission as yet. V. Guillory distributed *The Effects of Escape Vents on Ghost Fishing in Vented and Unvented Blue Crab Traps*. This document has been submitted in final form for

publication. V. Guillory also distributed and gave a brief overview of *A Management Profile of Blue Crab in Louisiana*. He asked the subcommittee to review this document and provide any comments to him.

Texas - Tom Wagner reported that commercial crab landings in Texas continued to decline since the 1987 high of 11 million pounds. Preliminary landings for 1992 are 5.3 million pounds; preliminary data on landings for 1993 seem up from the last several years. Texas is in the second year of state-mandated trap tagging; this effort will help in the collection of effort data. All traps must be tagged with the department-issued tag. Each tag costs \$1.50. In the first year (1992) of the program, 51,000 crab trap tags were sold to approximately 300 full-time commercial fishermen. In 1993, 63,000 tags were sold. Wagner noted that it is difficult to trace the full-time commercial fishermen from part-time fishermen. T. Wagner reported that the regulatory commission is asking for changes and/or evaluation on (1) implementation of degradable panels in traps as specified in the state and regional fishery management plans and (2) changing the minimum size from 5" to 6." These recommendations may possibly be implemented by September 1994.

Discussion of *Menippe adina* Profile

R. Leard noted that the final rough draft was distributed for their review prior to the meeting. He asked that comments be sent in for the final document.

Discussion of User Group Conflicts

T. Wagner commented that the problem with user group conflicts continues and noted the incident in Vermilion Bay. He suggested that a work group be formed to look into this problem for possible solutions. V. Guillory reported that after the incident in Vermilion Bay, a public hearing was held to discuss the problem. The consensus from the meeting was for the fishermen to try and work out the problems amongst themselves. Since the problems are mainly in Texas and Louisiana, T. Wagner and V. Guillory agreed to be on the work group. V. Guillory will report back at the spring meeting on what steps Louisiana took to help alleviate these problems. T. Wagner asked that a representative from Louisiana attend an upcoming meeting in Texas regarding the Aransas Pass National Wildlife Refuge. This area provides whooping cranes with an over-winter feeding area. Refuge management wants the TPWD to shut down commercial crabbing in areas around the refuge.

Need for Alternative Harvesting Methods

C. Moss discussed the importance of alternative harvesting methods for crab fishing. He reported that during seminars questions are being asked such as how many of you crab, are you catching as much as you used to, and are they as big as they used to be. There are many people crabbing, but no, they aren't catching as many and aren't as big. An alternative may be using trot lines. They are currently being used in the Chesapeake, and long-lining is done in bay systems. However, if long-lining went into effect, crab pots would have to be outlawed. C. Moss asked for any information accumulated on alternative harvesting methods.

Election of Chairman

Since a quorum is not present, those present agreed to defer election of a new chairman until the spring meeting. Tom Wagner stands as chairman.

The group disbanded at 10:05 a.m.

ABSTRACT

Steele, Philip, and Theresa M. Bert. 1993. Population Ecology of the Blue Crab, Callinectes sapidus Rathbun, in a Subtropical Estuary: Population Structure, Aspects of Reproduction, and Habitat Partitioning. Fla. Mar. Res. Publ. No. 51 00 p. We describe seasonal variations in relative abundance, sex ratio, size distribution, molting, and (in females) reproductive condition of the blue crab, Callinectes sapidus, in Tampa Bay, Florida, a subtropical estuary in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. The relationship between biological cycles and spatial partitioning of the bay by subadult and adult crabs is examined from data taken weekly over two nonconsecutive years using traps distributed throughout the bay. We also examined latitudinal variation in these populational characteristics by comparing our results with those of similar studies conducted elsewhere. Our study provides a detailed analysis of spatial habitat partitioning by large juvenile and adult blue crabs in Tampa Bay and provides a summary of the geographic variation in some fundamental populational characteristics.

In Tampa Bay, blue crabs exhibited substantial monthly variation in relative abundance, but abundance was generally higher during warmer months. An annual shift in sex ratio toward higher percentages of females in late fall and winter was probably related to the movement of females into the bay during that time. In general, the duration of higher abundance in blue crabs increases with decreasing latitude, and sex ratio shifts seasonally and in complex patterns throughout the species' range.

In Tampa Bay, the bimodal pattern in molting seen in both sexes is such that the frequency of molting is inversely related to peak summer water temperatures in the bay. With decreasing latitude, the initiation of the principal growth season occurs progressively earlier in the year, and in males, the peak in molting changes from unimodal (summer) to bimodal (spring, early fall). In contrast, throughout the species' range, females tend to exhibit bimodal peaks (spring, early fall) in molting. In both sexes, the principal growth season ends during a narrow period in fall.

Blue crabs spatially divide Tampa Bay, but habitat partitioning may be related more to salinity than to other components of habitat. Males were common in lower-salinity regions, but females utilized particular sites for molting, mating, and spawning. Moreover, specific regions of the bay apparently serve as subadult nursery grounds and refuges for older components of the population.

Population genetics of the blue crab (Callinectes sapidus Rathbun):
modest populational structuring in a background of high gene flow

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Running Head: A.L.M.-J. et al.: Blue crab genetic population structure

Accepted by ¹⁰Marine Biology

Abstract

To determine the genetic population structure of blue crabs (Callinectes sapidus), electrophoretic allozyme analysis was performed on 750 individuals collected from 16 locations ranging from New York to Texas. Twenty enzymes and non-enzymatic proteins coded by 31 presumptive loci were examined. Over 90% of the loci were either monomorphic or polymorphic at less than the $P_{0.5}$ level; alleles for these polymorphic loci were geographically dispersed. Allele frequencies for the majority of the remaining polymorphic loci were homogeneous over all populations, as were levels of polymorphism and heterozygosity. Phenograms generated by the UPGMA and Distance Wagner methods exhibited apparently random geographic clusterings of populations. Significant genetic population structuring was detected only at the EST-2 locus. Genetic patchiness of EST-2 allele frequencies was evident over the entire range. Along the Atlantic Ocean coast, a latitudinal cline of EST-2 allele frequencies was superimposed on the genetic patchiness. In estuaries along the Atlantic Ocean coast, a combination of low adult long-distance migration and a high retention rate of locally-spawned larvae could serve to segregate populations and allow for the development of localized differences in allele frequencies and the geographic cline in EST-2. The lack of apparent genetic population structuring in the Gulf of Mexico could be due to long-distance migration of females in some regions of the Gulf, or to the masking of genetic structure by genetic patchiness.

STATE OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

CHAPTER 46-45

BLUE CRAB

46-45.001 Purpose and Intent; Repeal of Statutory Provisions; Designation as Restricted Species. --

(1) The purpose and intent of this chapter is to protect and conserve Florida's blue crab resources and assure the continuing health and abundance of the species.

(2) It is the intent of this chapter to expressly effect the repeal of and replace Sections 370.135(2) and (3), Florida Statutes.

(3) It is the intent of this chapter to repeal and replace Chapter 63-1217, Laws of Florida, (1963), a rule of the Department of Natural Resources pursuant to subsection (5) of section 2 of Chapter 83-134, as amended by 84-121, Laws of Florida. This Special Act applicable to Citrus County, establishes a minimum size for blue crabs harvested in the county. The Marine Fisheries Commission has determined that repeal of Chapter 63-1217, Laws of Florida, (1963), a Citrus County Special Act, will not adversely affect the marine resources of Citrus County or of the State of Florida.

(4) Chapter 63-1217, Laws of Florida, (1963), a rule of the Department of Natural Resources pursuant to subsection (5) of

1 section 2 of Chapter 83-134, as amended by 84-121, Laws of Florida
2 is hereby repealed.

3 (5) Beginning on January 1, 1995, blue crabs are designated
4 as a restricted species pursuant to Section 370.01(20), Florida
5 Statutes.

6 Specific Authority 370.01(20), 370.027(2), F.S.; s. 2 and 7 of
7 Chapter 83-134, as amended by Chapter 84-121 and s. 1 of Chapter
8 85-163, Laws of Florida. Law implemented 370.01(20), 370.025,
9 370.027, F.S.; s. 2 and 7 of Chapter 83-134, as amended by Chapter
10 84-121 and s. 5 of Chapter 86-219, Laws of Florida. History -- New

11 _____.

12
13 46-45.002 Definitions.-- As used in this rule chapter:

14 (1) "Blue crab" means any crustacean of the species
15 *Callinectes sapidus*, or any part thereof.

16 (2) "Drop net" means a small, usually circular, net with
17 weights attached along the outer edge and a single float in the
18 center.

19 (3) "Eggbearing blue crab" means a female blue crab whose
20 eggs are extruded and deposited on the swimmeretts.

21 (4) "Escape ring" means a rigid ring forming the boundary of
22 an opening with a minimum inside diameter of two inches placed
23 flush with the vertical surface of the wire mesh wall of the outer
24 chamber of the crab trap.

25 (5) "Fold up trap" means a pyramid-shaped plastic or wire
26 meshed collapsing trap, with a square base panel and triangular-

1 shaped side panels, that opens outward to occupy a single plane
2 when placed on the water bottom. It is baited in the center of the
3 base panel and encloses crabs when retrieved by means of a cord
4 drawing together the topmost points of the side triangles.

5 (6) "Mesh size" means the size of the opening or space within
6 a polygon formed by the wire of a crab trap, to be measured at the
7 largest dimension across such opening or space in an undistorted
8 condition.

9 (7) "Harvest" means the catching or taking of a blue crab by
10 any means whatsoever, followed by a reduction of such blue crab to
11 possession. Blue crabs caught but immediately returned to the
12 water free, alive, and unharmed are not harvested. Temporary
13 possession of a blue crab for the purpose of measuring it to
14 determine compliance with the size requirements of this chapter
15 shall not constitute the harvesting of such blue crab, provided
16 that it is measured on the water immediately after taking, and
17 immediately returned to the water free, alive, and unharmed if
18 undersized.

19 (8) "Harvest for commercial purposes" means the taking or
20 harvesting of blue crab for purposes of sale or with intent to sell
21 or in excess of the bag limit.

22 (9) "Peeler crab" means a hard blue crab in pre-molt
23 condition having a new soft shell developed under the hard shell
24 and having a definite white, pink, or red line or rim on the outer
25 edge of the back fin or flipper, and retained used specifically for
26 soft crab shedding operations and marketed only after molting and

1 prior to the hardening of the new shell.

2 (10) "Push scrape" means a mesh net or bag attached to the
3 outer edges of a triangular or rectangular rigid frame with a
4 handle attached that is fished by being pushed across the bottom by
5 a person wading.

6 (11) "Trotline" means a submerged line with bait tied at
7 repetitive continuous measured intervals.

8 Specific Authority 370.027(2) F.S. Law Implemented 370.025, 370.027
9 F.S. History -- New _____.

10
11 46-45.003 Minimum Size Limits.-- ~~(1) Except as provided in~~
12 ~~subsection (2) below, No person harvesting for commercial purposes~~
13 ~~shall harvest or possess any blue crab measuring less than five~~
14 ~~inches measured from the tip of one lateral spine across the back~~
15 ~~of the shell to the tip of the opposite lateral spine. This minimum~~
16 ~~size limit does not apply to the harvest of peeler crabs.~~

17 ~~(2) No person harvesting for commercial purposes shall~~
18 ~~harvest or possess any peeler crab measuring less than three and~~
19 ~~one-half inches measured from the tip of one lateral spine across~~
20 ~~the back of the shell to the tip of the opposite lateral spine.~~

21 Specific Authority 370.027(2) F.S. Law Implemented 370.025, 370.027
22 F.S. History -- New _____.

23
24 46-45.004 Regulation and Prohibition of Certain Harvesting
25 Gear.--

26 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2), (3), (4), (5)

1 and (6) below, the following types of gear shall be the only types
2 of gear allowed for the harvest of blue crab in or from state
3 waters:

4 (a) Traps meeting the following specifications:

5 1. ~~Traps shall have a maximum dimension of 24 inches, by 24~~
6 ~~inches, by 24 inches, or the volume equivalent, be constructed of~~
7 ~~wire with a minimum mesh size of 1 1/2 inches, and have the throats~~
8 ~~or entrances located only on a vertical surface and at least one~~
9 ~~unobstructed escape ring installed. Beginning on January 1, 1995,~~
10 ~~traps shall have a maximum dimension of 24 inches, by 24 inches, by~~
11 ~~24 inches or a volume of 8 cubic feet and a degradable panel, and~~
12 ~~at least one unobstructed escape ring installed.~~

13 2. All traps shall have a buoy or a time release buoy
14 attached to each trap or at each end of a weighted trot line which
15 shall be a minimum of six inches in diameter and constructed of
16 styrofoam, cork, molded polyvinyl chloride, or molded polystyrene,
17 be of sufficient strength and buoyancy to float, and be of such
18 color, hue and brilliancy to be easily distinguished, seen, and
19 located. No more than 5 feet of any buoy line attached to a buoy
20 used to mark a blue crab trap or attached to a trotline shall float
21 on the surface of the water.

22 3. ~~Each trap and buoy attached to a trap~~ used for
23 harvesting blue crab for commercial purposes shall have the
24 harvester's blue crab endorsement license number permanently
25 affixed to it. ~~The license number on the buoy shall be~~ in legible
26 figures at least two inches high. The buoy color and license

1 number shall also be permanently and conspicuously displayed on the
2 boat used for setting the traps and buoys, in the manner prescribed
3 by the Department of Natural Resources, so as to be readily
4 identifiable from the air and water.

5 4. The buoy attached to each trap used to harvest blue
6 crab, other than those used to harvest for commercial purposes,
7 shall have a legible "R", at least two inches high, permanently
8 affixed to it. The trap shall have the harvester's name and
9 address permanently affixed to it in legible letters. The buoy
10 requirements of this subparagraph shall not apply to traps fished
11 from a dock.

12 (b) Dip or landing net.

13 (c) Drop net.

14 (d) Fold-up trap with a square base panel no larger than one
15 foot square.

16 (e) Hook and line gear.

17 (f) Push scrape.

18 (g) Trotline.

19 (2) (a) ~~Peeler crabs may be harvested in traps with maximum~~
20 ~~dimensions of 24 inches, by 24 inches, by 24 inches, or the volume~~
21 ~~equivalent, constructed of wire with a minimum mesh size of one~~
22 ~~inch and with the throats or entrances located only on a vertical~~
23 ~~surface. Beginning on January 1, 1995, each trap used to harvest~~
24 ~~peeler crabs traps shall must have a maximum dimension of 24~~
25 ~~inches, by 24 inches, by 24 inches or a volume of 8 cubic feet and~~
26 ~~a degradable panel. Such trap may be used without bait or, if used~~

1 ~~with bait, shall only be baited with a live male blue crab.~~

2 (b) Each trap used to harvest peeler crabs shall have buoys
3 and be identified as described in subparagraphs (a)2., and (a)3. or
4 (a)4. of this subsection.

5 (c) All peeler crabs harvested must be kept in a container
6 separate from other blue crabs.

7 (3) In addition to the allowable gear provided for in
8 paragraphs (1) and (2) above, blue crabs harvested in fresh water
9 may be harvested with gear permitted by the Game and Fresh Water
10 Fish Commission.

11 (4) Blue crabs may be harvested as an incidental bycatch of
12 shrimp trawls lawfully harvesting shrimp, provided the amount of
13 blue crabs so harvested does not exceed 200 pounds of blue crabs
14 per vessel per trip.

15 (5) Blue crabs not meeting the size requirements contained in
16 46-45.003 may be harvested as bycatch of roller frame trawls,
17 provided the total amount of blue crab so harvested does not exceed
18 10 gallons. Undersized blue crabs so harvested may be sold,
19 bought, bartered, or exchanged solely for their use as live bait.
20 Blue crabs so harvested shall be counted for purposes of
21 determining compliance with paragraphs (4) above and (6) below.

22 (6)(3) Blue crabs may be harvested as an incidental bycatch
23 of other species lawfully harvested with other types of gear so
24 long as the amount does not exceed the bag limit specified in Rule
25 46-45.005 and does not violate any other applicable provision of
26 law.

1 Specific Authority 370.027(2) F.S. Law Implemented 370.025, 370.027
2 F.S. History -- New _____.

3
4 46-45.005 Bag limit.-- Except for persons harvesting
5 pursuant to a saltwater products license with a blue crab
6 endorsement and, beginning January 1, 1995, a restricted species
7 endorsement, no person shall harvest in or from state waters in any
8 one day or possess while in or on state waters, more than 10
9 gallons of whole blue crabs. ~~one bushel of blue crabs or 120 blue~~
10 ~~crabs, whichever is less.~~

11 Specific Authority 370.027(2) F.S. Law Implemented 370.025, 370.027
12 F.S. History -- New _____.

13
14 46-45.006 Other Prohibitions. --

15 (1) The harvest, possession, purchase, or sale of eggbearing
16 blue crabs is prohibited. Eggbearing blue crabs found in traps
17 shall be immediately returned to the water free, alive and
18 unharmed. The practice of stripping or otherwise molesting
19 eggbearing blue crabs in order to remove the eggs is prohibited and
20 the harvest, possession, purchase, or sale of blue crab from which
21 the eggs, egg pouch, or bunion has been removed is prohibited.

22 (2) Traps used to harvest blue crabs or peeler crabs may be
23 worked during daylight hours only. The pulling of traps from one
24 hour after official sunset until one hour before official sunrise
25 is prohibited.

26 Specific Authority 370.027(2) F.S. Law Implemented 370.025, 370.027

Walter Tatum

**TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 19, 1993
San Antonio, Texas**

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Joe Kimmel, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Joanne Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Staff

Larry Simpson, Executive Director
David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant

Others

Dale Beaumariage, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Billy Fuls, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Jim Sagnes, TSA, Austin, TX
Ken Savastano, NMFS, Stennis Space Center

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the deletion of Discussion of EMAP. T. McIlwain asked about the FWS National Biological Survey. He believed the subcommittee should be kept abreast of the status of the survey. D. Donaldson suggested setting up a presentation concerning this topic for the March meeting and the subcommittee agreed to add it to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on August 18 and 20, 1993 in St. Petersburg, Florida were approved with minor editorial changes.

Administrative Report

D. Donaldson reported that several surveys were started since the last meeting. The Fall Plankton Survey has begun. Vessels from NMFS, FL, AL, MS and LA surveyed from August 29 to October 9, 1993. The purpose of the survey is to assess abundance and distribution of red snapper and king mackerel eggs and larvae in the Gulf of Mexico. The Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey began on Oct 13 and will continue until early December. The purpose of the survey is to determine the abundance and distribution of demersal organisms in the Gulf of Mexico. Vessels from NMFS, AL, MS, LA and TX sample waters out to 60 fm from Mobile Bay, Alabama, to the U.S./Mexican border. The 1991 Environmental and Biological

Atlas and TCC Report have been distributed to the subcommittee at this meeting and editing by the NMFS on the 1992 Atlas should begin in November. D. Donaldson stated he is waiting on information from the South Atlantic and Caribbean components concerning the Joint Annual Report. This document will be sent to the printer by December 1993.

An inkind support questionnaire for the South Atlantic was distributed to the subcommittee. The purpose of this form is to establish the amount of inkind funding provided by the states. D. Donaldson asked if the Gulf component would like to compile similar information. W. Tatum stated that when SEAMAP was established, it was intended that states provide inkind funding to the program. The subcommittee believed that it would be extremely difficult to quantify the actual inkind amount which is contributed to the program and could not see the need for this information.

D. Donaldson reported that he would be talking to the Louisiana-Texas shelf program (LATEX) about SEAMAP on October 27, 1993. He stated the letter from Brad Brown concerning increased funding to the Polish Sorting and Identification Center has been distributed to the subcommittee for their information. R. Waller asked about the status of the necessity of using a TED by SEAMAP participants. D. Donaldson stated that a letter was sent to Andy Kemmerer concerning this issue and to date, there has been no response. When S. Nichols arrives, he might have some information concerning the use of TEDs.

Discussion of Implementation of SEAMAP Shark Survey

W. Tatum reported that at the last meeting, the NMFS asked the subcommittee to explore the possibility of implementing a fishery-independent shark survey. T. Cody stated that Texas obtains information on sharks through gill net, long lining and creel survey activities as well as some special studies which include identification of shark tissue to create a library to identify species. The sharks that are captured are usually tagged and released. A survey targeting sharks could not be initiated without additional money. J. Kimmel stated that in Florida there are fishery-independent surveys conducted throughout the state. These surveys are targeting juvenile fish in near shore waters and there are some catches of sharks. However, without additional money, Florida would not be able to conduct a new survey. R. Waller stated that Mississippi conducts routine monitoring of a variety of species and during these surveys there are occasionally catches of shark. There is not a specific survey which targets sharks. He mentioned that Tom Van Devender is interested in a shark survey but without additional funds Mississippi could not conduct such as survey. J. Hanifen stated that Louisiana conducts routine monitoring and there is some catch of sharks but without more money, a survey targeting sharks could not be conducted. W. Tatum stated that Alabama has its normal monitoring and assessment stations but there is not a directed effort towards sharks and they would not be able to conduct a survey without more money. J. Shultz stated that NMFS has no directed efforts towards shark.

* T. McIlwain suggested that all participants combine their data base concerning sharks into one large data base and determine what kind of information is currently available. Most of this data is non-SEAMAP data. S. Nichols mentioned that the information on sharks appears to be a high priority for MARFIN and could be a possible funding source. At present, the subcommittee cannot address this issue due to a lack of funding. W. Tatum asked that if there were additional money, would the subcommittee be interested in designing a sampling program. J. Hanifen suggested that GSMFC request information concerning sharks from the various agencies and send it to the GSMFC for summation. This would be a first step in determining what is out there and if the subcommittee would like to continue. J. Hanifen moved that the coordinator contact each participating SEAMAP agency requesting all pertinent biological and environmental data concerning the catch of sharks during the routine fishery-independent surveys. This information will be compiled by the coordinator and sent on to NMFS-Pascagoula for summarization and the status of shark data in the Gulf of Mexico would be presented at the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Status of Comparative Tow Survey

W. Tatum stated that all data being collected is available through the SEAMAP Information System. Several years ago, it was questioned why only the OREGON II data from the SEAMAP was being used in the bycatch analysis of red snapper. The reason for this was due to reliability of the OREGON II data set. In an effort to correct the problem, the GSMFC provided some W/B money to conduct comparative tows in order to determine a calibration factor between state and federal vessels. The calibration factor would allow for the use of the entire data base.

J. Shultz presented the document discussed at the August meeting compiled by Butch Pellegrin of NMFS. This document contains calculations of the number of tows necessary to detect significant differences in catch for a variety of scenarios. J. Shultz reviewed the document with the subcommittee and the results were quite variable. The recommendation of the report is to use a logarithmic scale with a fitted line through the origin to represent all species. R. Waller stated that he is still concerned with the analysis focusing on individual species. The subcommittee discussed the various number of tows needed to detect significant differences for a variety of species. J. Hanifen mentioned that he had talked to Ron Lukens recently. Although R. Lukens was somewhat concerned with the specific methodology to be used, he believed that collecting the data was very important. Once the data was collected, the subcommittee could worry about the particular method of analysis later. J. Hanifen stated that he had given B. Pellegrin's report to the contract statisticians. The statisticians prepared some comments concerning the proposal and J. Hanifen distributed it to the subcommittee. The comments conclude that a linear model may not be appropriate since it is probably a negative binomial distribution and not a normal distribution. Some suggestions concerning determination of sample sizes were presented in the comments. J. Hanifen submitted the comments as some possible alternatives. R. Waller stated that the subcommittee should be focusing on analyzing the data that has been collected and not how many samples need to be taken to detect significant differences. If the number of tows needed to detect significant differences is the measure of success for this activity, then there is a good chance this activity will fail. The subcommittee needs to refocus on analyzing the current data and move away from determination of sample sizes to detect differences. S. Nichols stated that sample size estimates are not the final product of this exercise. The purpose of the activity is to determine a calibration factor and this has been indirectly conducted by B. Pellegrin during the sampling size estimate exercises. NMFS stated that the comments distributed by J. Hanifen would be examined by personnel at the Pascagoula Laboratory. D. Donaldson asked that B. Pellegrin attend the next SEAMAP meeting in March 1994 to present the analysis of the data collected during the 1993 comparative tow survey.

Work Group Reports

a. Data Coordinating

K. Savastano distributed and reviewed the SEAMAP Data Management Report. The status reports for the 1986 through 1993 SEAMAP data were presented. All cruise data in the SEAMAP on-line-data base have been reformatted to SEAMAP version 3.0. Data processing efforts are currently focused on the 1992 and 1993 SEAMAP cruises, reprocessing the 1988 Gulf cruises, and start up of data management operations for the Caribbean. Processing of the 1992 SEAMAP Environmental and Biological Atlas will start upon the completion of data processing/data basing of the 1992 Gulf data set which should occur in mid-November. The status of the SEAMAP data as of August 16, 1993 consisted of 163 cruises with a total of 1,015,289 records (approximately 40 megabytes of data). Since August 1993, eight cruises have been reprocessed from the NMFS data base through version 3.0 and six cruises were processed through version 3.0 and added to the on-line data base. The SEAMAP on-line data base now contains 177 cruises with a total of 1,163,990 records (approximately 46 megabytes of data).

b. Environmental Data

J. Shultz presented the work group report for Perry Thompson. She stated the Environmental Work Group held a conference call on September 23, 1993 to elect a new work group leader and to discuss revisions to the environmental section in the SEAMAP Operations Manual. The work group elected P. Thompson from the NMFS Mississippi Laboratories to be the work group leader. During the conference call, a number of the SEAMAP Subcommittee concerns with the Environmental Work Group were addressed. The others will be addressed in the near future. Those concerns include updating the environmental section in the SEAMAP Operations Manual, calibration of environmental gear, and improving methods of collecting environmental data. The NMFS held an in-house review in April to discuss problems they were having with their environmental equipment, improving methods of collection, calibration of environmental equipment and problems with analyzing environmental data collected, i.e. chlorophyll. In this review, the Subcommittee's concerns were addressed by Warren Stuntz. W. Stuntz was in the process of incorporating the Subcommittee's concerns into the environmental section of the SEAMAP Operations Manual. A copy of the revised environmental section was sent to the work group for review in September. Changes to the environmental section were incorporated into the SEAMAP Operations Manual and sent to D. Donaldson for distribution to all SEAMAP participants. The Environmental Work Group would like to hold a work group meeting at the NMFS Mississippi Laboratories prior to the March GSMFC meeting to discuss calibration of environmental gear, improved sampling methods, review environmental sampling procedures, etc.

c. Plankton

J. Shultz stated there was no new activity to report on. A letter concerning the update of sorting activity of the Polish Sorting and Identification Center was distributed to the SEAMAP Subcommittee for their information.

d. Red Drum

* T. McIlwain reported that the work group has not been very active in recent years. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Stock Assessment Work Group has been active in looking at data that has been collected by the various states in response to management recommendations. The two groups have almost the same membership. The work group was tasked with reviewing the red drum sampling protocol developed by the Council's stock assessment team. T. McIlwain was asked to poll the work group and the SEAMAP Red Drum Work Group endorses the protocol developed by the Council stock assessment team. The rationale behind endorsing the protocol is that after some strict management activities, it appears that the red drum resource is recovering and thus there is some interest in reopening the fishery. The work group believes that before this occurs, it needs to be verified that the stock is actually recovering and proposed protocol will accomplish this task. W. Tatum stated the protocol is a three-year study. In 1994, there will be an aerial survey; in 1995, there will be a tagging survey and development of an offshore age structure analysis; and in 1996, there will be a recapture study, continuation of the offshore age structure analysis and another aerial survey. The total cost of the project will be \$1.66 million. Several members believed that protocol was scientifically sound and necessary but there was some concern with the high cost of the project. W. Tatum noted there had been some discussion during the development of this protocol that a less expensive method for determining if the management efforts were working would be to conduct an age analysis on the red drum offshore stocks. It may be much easier to obtain approximately \$50,000 to conduct this study opposed to \$1.7 million for the three-year project. J. Hanifen moved to recommend the Red Drum Work Group's sampling protocol to the TCC. The motion passed with Alabama opposing.

e. Reef Fish

R. Waller reported that the Reef Fish Work Group held a conference call on September 28, 1993. The work group elected R. Waller from Gulf Coast Research Laboratory to be the work group leader. J. Kimmel stated that Florida was experimenting with some other technologies concerning the trap/video methodology. These technologies would increase the current video coverage but not change the existing

protocol. There were several technologies discussed including panoramic viewing, tilting the camera and doing some time lapse video. The most promising activity is the panoramic capability. This is a very simple modification and can be accomplished fairly cheaply. He discussed this issue with the U.S. Geological Survey personnel and they indicated that they could construct a panoramic viewing mechanism for approximately \$500/camera. Florida is planning to use this technology during its reef fish survey and will report back to the work group concerning the success of this apparatus. The focal length of the camera was also discussed during the call. Presently, the length is 120 degrees to enable the largest field of view, however, this length distorts the size of the fish. J. Kimmel stated he is also experimenting with different focal lengths in an effort to approximate what the human eye can see. The work group encouraged Florida to continue exploring these issues and keep the group abreast of the progress. R. Waller stated that Mike Russell who was the main contributor to the reef fish survey recently passed away. He believed that the SEAMAP subcommittee should express its condolences to M. Russell's family. W. Tatum stated that he would send a letter to his family expressing the Subcommittee's sympathy. The synopsis of the 1992 trap/video survey given by J. Shultz to MARFIN was distributed to the subcommittee, for their information.

f. Shrimp/Groundfish

D. Donaldson presented the work group report for Steven Heath. He stated that the NMFS, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas participated in the Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey. The survey occurred from June 1 to July 18, 1993. A total of 336 trawl samples was taken from coastal and offshore waters out to 50 fm from Mobile Bay, Alabama, to Brownsville, Texas. The OREGON II collected 185 samples; R/V TOMMY MUNRO collected 37 samples; R/V VERRILL collected 10 samples; R/V PELICAN collected 24 samples; and Texas vessels collected 80 samples. All vessels took environmental data, including temperature, salinity, oxygen, and chlorophyll at each station. In addition, the R/V TOMMY MUNRO and the R/V VERRILL conducted a comparative trawl survey. This survey was conducted on August 24-25 and September 29. A total of 22 comparative trawls were conducted.

The Fall Shrimp/Groundfish started in mid-October and will continue until early December. Mississippi and Alabama have selected the stations which will be sampled east of Mississippi River.

Discussion of GSMFC Funding

D. Donaldson reported that the GSMFC will overspend by approximately \$8,000 for this year. This deficit is mainly due to increased travel costs and office supplies. Next year's budget has been cut by approximately \$6,600 in order to comply with the amount established at the SEAMAP Joint meeting. The major reason for addressing this issue is to inform the subcommittee of the situation. The GSMFC will absorb this year's overage (\$8,000). W. Tatum asked the subcommittee if they would like him to handle this by meeting with the D. Donaldson, L. Simpson and Ginny Herring to discuss this issue.

Election of Officers


T. Cody was chairman of the nominating committee and the committee submitted W. Tatum as candidate for chairman and R. Waller and J. Hanifen as candidates for vice chairman. After ballot vote, W. Tatum was reelected chairman and R. Waller was reelected vice chairman.

Other Business

J. Shultz presented two examples of color keys for invertebrates found in the Gulf of Mexico developed by Harriet Perry. The first example was the original and the second was a laser copy. She asked the subcommittee if the laser copy was of good enough quality since laser copies are much easier

to produce. After some examination, the subcommittee believed the laser copy was adequate. J. Shultz stated she would notify H. Perry of their preference.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

State-Federal Fisheries
Management Committee
MINUTES
October 20, 1993
San Antonio, Texas

L. Simpson called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. He reiterated the committee structure and by consensus continued to serve as moderator with the following persons in attendance:

Members

- Andrew Kemmerer, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
- Walter Tatum, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL (proxy for James D. Martin)
- Joe Gill, Jr., MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS (proxy for Sam Polles)
- Ed Conklin, FDEP, Tallahassee, FL (proxy for Virginia Wetherell)
- William S. Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA (proxy for Joe Herring)
- Rudy Rosen, TPWD, Austin, TX (proxy for Andrew Sansom)
- Douge Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS (proxy for James Pulliam)
- Larry B. Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS (non-voting)

Staff

- Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
- Rick Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
- Cindy Bosworth, Staff Assistant

Others

- John Pedrick, NOAA-OGC, St. Petersburg, FL
- John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA (proxy for William Perret)
- Ed Irby, FDEP, Tallahassee, FL
- Dale Beaumariage, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
- Leroy Kiffe, GSMFC Commissioner, Lockport, LA
- Conrad Fjetland, USFWS, Albuquerque, NM
- Billy Fuls, TPWD, Rockport, TX
- Jan Harper, GSMFC Commissioner, Lake Jackson, TX
- Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
- Wilma Anderson, TSA, Aransas Pass, TX
- Brandt Savoie, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
- Norman Boyd, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
- Terry Stelly, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
- Skip Lazauski, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
- Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
- Dan Furlong, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL

Adoption of Agenda

*J. Gill moved and D. Frugé seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

*J. Roussel moved that the minutes be adopted as written. J. Gill seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Report on Stock Assessment Workshops

R. Lukens reported that the stock assessment workshop held May 25-27, 1993, was a big success and there was a lot of interest in future workshops. He also noted that a questionnaire was sent to participants to critique the workshop and assess the needs for future workshops. He stated that another workshop was planned for 1994. Results from the questionnaire and input from the Stock Assessment Team and Data Management Subcommittee would be used to develop the content of the next workshop.

Status Report on IJF Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)

R. Leard stated that progress on development of a FMP for mullet and a revision for menhaden has proceeded slower than expected primarily because of funding cuts and other commitments of task force members to individual state projects. He noted that development of the mullet plan was proceeding. Data had been gathered for the stock assessment, and Dr. Behzad Mahmoudi will complete this portion for the FMP. He further stated that the plan was approximately 85% complete lacking only the social and economic sections and the management recommendations section. All sections except recommendations should be completed by the end of 1993, and a TTF meeting would be scheduled in early 1994.

With regard to menhaden, R. Leard reported that a revised draft of the menhaden plan was nearing completion and that a draft had been distributed to the S-FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee in early October 1993. He noted that the committee reviewed the draft at their meeting on October 19, 1993, and made assignments for its completion. It was agreed that all comments and additional data would be provided to staff by January 15, 1994. He stated that a completed draft was scheduled for early 1994 and that the review process would likely be started at or prior to the spring GSMFC meeting.

R. Leard noted that a spotted seatrout FMP had not been started and could not be initiated until one of the current FMPs was completed and additional funding was available.

Menhaden Advisory Committee Report

In addition to the FMP progress that R. Leard reported, L. Simpson noted that the previously requested change to the menhaden season had been accomplished by all four states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama) that have seasons. He also noted that R. Condrey was finalizing his bycatch study report and that MARFIN had approved R. Condrey for an additional 2-year expanded menhaden bycatch study. Finally, L. Simpson advised that B. Wallace was elected chairman for the S-FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee for the next year.

Report Card on Implementation of IJF Fishery Management Plans

L. Simpson reviewed the status of implementation of recommendations in each of the completed IJF FMPs. R. Leard noted that no changes had been submitted since its mailout. With regard to Spanish mackerel, it was noted that Alabama had only implemented the net mesh recommendation.

C. Perret suggests that the recommendation for increasing fines for harvesting oysters from "polluted" areas be changed to "areas closed to shellfish harvesting." The committee approved using "restricted or prohibited" areas as the appropriate terminology, and it was noted that Mississippi had implemented this recommendation.

MFCMA Amendments

L. Simpson reported that the Magnuson Act would probably not be reauthorized until next year (1994). He noted that hearings had been held in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate as well as some field hearings. He stated that there did not appear to be any major changes coming forward, and the most controversial suggestions for amendments focused on the definition and insertion of language regarding conflicts of interest for Council members. It was also noted that amendments addressing habitat, user fees, ITQs, and state authority were being considered.

East Coast Interjurisdictional Bill

L. Simpson reported on the history and status of the East Coast IJ Bill. He noted that it originally developed from the concern for weakfish stocks and was patterned after the striped bass legislation. He stated that the ASMFC and the majority of the states supported generic legislation that would give the ASMFC moratorium powers among other things if states did not adequately address interjurisdictional management recommendations.

L. Simpson noted that the legislation has passed committees in the House and Senate and would probably pass. He also stated that reauthorization of Section 308(c) of the IJF Act was attached to this Act and included an authorization of \$600,000 per year for the three compacts.

State Authority and Jurisdiction of Shared Marine Resources in the EEZ and State Waters

J. Pedrick presented legal history of states' regulation regarding citizens fishing in state waters and beyond. He described how legislation and legal actions had affected regulations, and he noted how recent rulings in Florida had resulted in inconsistencies in case law that were presenting management problems for the state, the Gulf Council and NMFS. He especially noted that recent rulings would preclude state regulation of citizens fishing in the EEZ even though no federal plan or action was in effect. He noted that these problems could manifest themselves in other states if similar rulings occurred and if ongoing appeals are unsuccessful. The committee discussed various options to challenge the lack of management authority. Specifically, in addition to legal appeals, amendments to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) and Gulf Council or NMFS action to develop consistent management plans with the states were discussed. The committee discussed a draft two-part amendment to the MFCMA that would address fisheries where no federal FMP was in effect for the EEZ and fisheries where FMPs and EEZ regulations were in effect yet states had differing but consistent regulations.

*By consensus, the committee approved continuing efforts to establish and clarify states' authorities regarding management of species harvested in the EEZ.

Discussion of Wallop-Breaux Reverted Funds

R. Lukens discussed potential ways that the GSMFC could receive reverted funds and apply them to projects in the gulf thus avoiding their loss to other regions or to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

D. Beaumariage described two ways the funds revert. First, recipients have two years to obligate an annual appropriation, afterwards unobligated funds revert. Second, unspent funds after the close-out of a project automatically revert. He stated that states should monitor their funds and if a portion cannot be obligated by the end of the second year states could contact GSMFC, and the commission could

State-Federal Fisheries
Management Committee
MINUTES
Page -4-

coordinate its use in a gulf-wide manner. L. Simpson noted that the same procedures could apply to IJF funds.

D. Frugé stated that the use of reverted funds was a competitive process among FWS offices. Any office could submit proposals and an office could jointly share a project with states. D. Beaumariage noted that the allocation of reverted funds is accomplished outside of the Federal Aid program.

Election of Chairman

No action was taken to elect a chairman.

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

**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, October 20, 1993
San Antonio, Texas**

Chairman Corky Perret called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

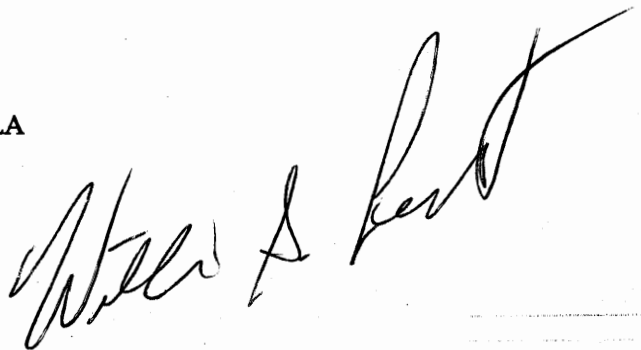
Edwin Conklin, FDEP, Tallahassee, FL
Doug Frugé (proxy for J. Pulliam), USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Alan Huff, FDEP, St. Petersburg, FL
Henry "Skip" Lazauski (proxy for V. Minton), ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Gene McCarty, TPWD, Austin, TX
Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Scott Nichols (proxy for B. Brown), NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Hal Osburn, TPWD, Austin, TX
William "Corky" Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Tom Van Devender, BMR, Biloxi, MS

Staff

Larry Simpson, Executive Director
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

Steven Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Dale Beaumariage, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Norman Boyd, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
Page Campbell, TPWD, Austin, TX
Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Edwin Irby, FDEP, Tallahassee, FL
Joe Kimmel, FDEP, St. Petersburg, FL
Jerry Mambretti, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
Maury Osborn, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Lance Robinson, TPWD, Seabrook, TX
Jim Sagnes, TSA, Austin, TX
Brandt Savoie, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Dale Shively, TPWD, Seabrook, TX
Terry Stelly, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
Gary Tilyou, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Tom Wagner, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Covington, LA
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Roger Zimmerman, NMFS, Galveston, TX



Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with deletions of the discussion on introduction of non-indigenous species findings and the discussion of wetlands policy. These items were not addressed due to lack of time and will be dealt with by the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) at the Annual GSMFC Spring meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held March 17, 1993 in Palm Beach, Florida were approved as written.

Status Report on Controlled Freshwater Introduction into Louisiana and Mississippi Marshes

B. Wallace stated there are three sites which have been selected for freshwater diversion. All sites are located in Louisiana but affect both Louisiana and Mississippi waters. The sites of Bonne Carré and Caernarvon were selected to replenish estuaries east of the Mississippi River and the Davis Pond site was selected to replenish freshwater west of the River.

The Caernarvon structure was completed in 1991 and is fully operational. He noted that oyster production east of the structure has increased significantly which is due, in part to this structure. There is some concern because of a possible full capacity diversion at the end of this year and the beginning of 1994. The purpose of this activity is for the deposit of silt and it is a deviation of the stated goals and objectives of the project.

The Davis Pond project was ready for construction initiation and the Corps of Engineers is currently purchasing real estate to facilitate construction startup. It is estimated that construction should begin in approximately one year.

The Bonnet Carré project continues to be in jeopardy. Federal funds have been appropriated and Mississippi is ready to fund its share of the costs. However, Louisiana is concerned with continuing funds for operational costs of the project. Also, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation has recently launched an all out attack of the project. The foundation sees this project as a way to get back into the public eye. The foundation is attempting to have the funds appropriated by Congress moved to another project. Project construction is scheduled to begin in March 1994.

State/Federal Reports

a. Florida

E. Conklin reported that the department is continuing to reorganize. In March 1992, the Florida legislature passed a bill which combined the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Regulation and the bill took effect in July 1993. The two departments were combined in a new organization called the Department of Environmental Protection. Last year, the legislature reviewed the need for the Marine Fisheries Commission which narrowly escaped being dissolved but this issue will be addressed again this year. There is a constitutional amendment which will probably be on the ballot in 1994 which could potentially ban most inshore entanglement netting. The lobster trap certificate program is a limited entry program which is attempting to reduce the number of traps in the water. The spiny lobster fishery landings have stayed relatively stable over the years but the number of traps have increased. The program is designed to reduce the number of traps by issuing trap certificates to eligible lobster fishermen and then reducing the number of certificates over time. This program is working, however, it is not generating as much revenue as anticipated. This might be due to the overall problems in the commercial fishing industry and the ban the nets issue and license revenues from commercial

fishing industry are dropping. Because of this and a large reduction of Wallop/Breaux funding, the State of Florida is experiencing reductions in funding and staffing.

b. Alabama

W. Tatum reported that a MARFIN project has been completed which attempted to verify the log book data that is collected from charter boat captains on major species such as red snapper, vermilion snapper, gray triggerfish, etc. The study mimicked the federal program and the data collected by Alabama was the same as the data turned in by the charter boat captains. The study proved that the data was almost identical and the recommendation was that the data collecting in Alabama was accurate. Several Coastal America projects have been recently completed. The first was the creation of a marsh where the discharge water from the hatchery was filtered through the marsh and then sent into the Gulf intercoastal waterway. The second was marking of the oyster reefs to keep shrimping activity off the reef. And the last was the evaluation of the effectiveness of archeological coral for production of oysters. Initial evaluation of the coral was extremely good. Alabama is involved in the SEAMAP and the latest survey is a reef fish cruise which utilizes a trap/video methodology. This survey will give some indices of adult reef fish populations in the Gulf of Mexico. The Cooperative Statistics Program is continuing. This program collects fishery-dependent data. Interjurisdictional Fisheries monies are being used to contract with USA to address blue crab user conflict problems. Alabama now has a resident fresh and saltwater trip license. Approximately 35,000 licenses have been sold to date.

c. Mississippi

T. Van Devender reported that Mississippi has implemented a recreational saltwater fishing license this past July. The license cost is \$4 for residents, \$20 for non-residents and \$6 for a 4-day trip license. To date, 19,000 licenses have been sold. The projected total number of licenses is approximately 40,000. There are several Wallop/Breaux projects funded through the Gulf Coast Research Lab involving red drum, cobia, spotted seatrout, red drum larva and striped bass. BMR suggested to its Commission to reduce the current minimum size on red drum from 22 inches to 18 inches. After some debate, the minimum size limit remained at 22 inches. The commercial red drum season (35,000 pound quota) opened on October 21 and will probably close before the end of the year. This year marks the twentieth year for the collection of fishery-independent data. There was an area of low dissolved oxygen in the Mississippi Sound in August. The cause was never identified. Regulations for a net pen aquaculture system are still being developed however, the particular group has moved its operation into Alabama. The State of Mississippi has leased the "footprints" the casinos cast over the water bottoms and BMR receives some of this money. This is unexpected money and there are several projects being developed which will be funded with this money. The oyster season opened on October 11 and a moderate to good season is expected.

d. Louisiana

J. Roussel reported the Louisiana State legislature met since the last meeting and there were 22 laws passed which affect fisheries. One of the laws requires that oysters taken from Louisiana reefs be landed in Louisiana. Another law authorized the use of GPS to determine if a person is shrimping in closed areas. There is a law, effective January 1, 1995, which changes the mesh size on trawls, skimmers and butterfly nets during the fall inshore shrimp season. Another law allows the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to adjust non-resident fishing license fees. About three years ago, the legislature established a marine recreational fishing development board but the board has failed to have a quorum at any of their meetings. This year, a law was passed which expanded the board to include freshwater. The commercial harvest (1 million pound quota) of trout was closed on April 16 and the season reopened on September 16. Roe mullet opened on October 15 and is continuing without any major controversy. LDWF has developed a draft oil contingency plan and participated in a major oil spill drill. It involved over 200 people and covered a 36 hour period. Spring inshore shrimp season was opened in late May and there was relatively poor production. In eastern Louisiana, the season was opened on June 7 and there was above average production. And in western Louisiana, the season also opened on June

7 and there was average production. The fall inshore shrimp season opened on October 16 and initial indicators suggest a poor production. Public oyster seagrounds were opened on September 8 and production has been very good however, market conditions have not been favorable. The public tonging reef in Lake Calcasieu is scheduled to open on November 1 and it is expected that production will be high. The hurricane disaster money was used to cleanse some of the oyster reefs affected by the storm. The Department has initiated a release mortality study on trout and red drum in response to concern from some state legislators. In addition, the Department is in the process of developing a state-of-the-art age and growth laboratory. Since the last meeting, an additional eight structures have been donated to the Artificial Reef Program as well as approximately \$800,000 donated to the artificial reef fund.

e. Texas

H. Osburn reported the Galveston Bay estuary program has a draft plan and a characterization report which is very comprehensive. The program is in the final review process and hopefully should have something by the next meeting. Corpus Christi Bay is also involved in the national estuary program and is in the process of establishing a committee. Texas Park and Wildlife Commission, at the request of the GSMFC, has adopted an extension of the menhaden season. There was some legislation which authorized the Department to issue a tag for any finfish species. There is nothing in place but there are plans to look at tarpon and red drum. There was some liberalization of red drum regulations. It entailed increasing the bag limit to 4 fish. However, there was lack of support for this increase due in part to a strong conservation ethic of the fishermen. Texas may be coming forward with some mild liberalization of the regulations due to increased stocks. The Corpus Christi red drum hatchery provided approximately 20 million fingerlings for stocking and there was the ground breaking for the new Lake Jackson hatchery. This facility will produce both red drum and spotted seatrout fingerlings and have an extensive visitor center and aquarium. The life history and genetic lab is continuing to operate and focusing on red drum, black drum and red snapper studies. The Department continues to use their shrimp and crab advisory committee to ascertain the changes and conflicts in these fisheries. There is an ongoing shrimp bycatch study in Texas bays which could provide some useful information to other states.

f. NMFS

S. Nichols reported NMFS is continuing research in bycatch characterization and gear development. NMFS has been criticized for their determination of shrimping effort. Research on behavior, capture and exclusion of sea turtles is beginning next week. NMFS has a new agency director, Rolland Smitten, who is the former director of the northwest region.

g. USFWS

D. Frugé reported that USFWS has a new director, Mollie Beattie and a new deputy director, Ken Smith. Mr. Smith will head a new office, the Office of External Affairs which includes the federal aid program. The distribution of zebra mussels along the Mississippi River is continuing to be monitored. To date, zebra mussels have been found as far south as 12 miles south of Belle Chasse. The National Biological Survey is being implemented but there is still a need for congressional approval. The survey will probably absorb the cooperative units, the national wetlands inventory, the national wetland research center and the FWS lab in Gainesville. The Lower Mississippi Conservation Committee has developed by-laws and has six of the potential eleven agencies signed on as members. It is anticipated that the other five agencies will sign on as members by the end of the year.

Discussion of Hypoxic Areas in the Gulf of Mexico

J. Hanifen reported that hypoxia refers to waters that contain less than 2 ppm dissolved oxygen. Hypoxia is a natural recurring phenomena in the northern Gulf of Mexico which is related to salinity and temperature stratification and the discharge of the Mississippi River. The information presented was collected by the LDWF through the SEAMAP and LOOP. This year, the area of hypoxia was substantially larger (approximately 5,000 square miles) than the average year. As mentioned early, hypoxia is related

to the discharge of the Mississippi River. This year the discharge of the River was above the historical average and at times as much as three times the normal discharge. During the time period of May through September, the dissolved oxygen levels decreased. The mechanism is a strong stratification based on salinity due to the large influx of freshwater (from the River) and the water column stratifies. The nutrients from the River cause massive blooms of phytoplankton which die off and filter down to the thermocline and contribute to lower dissolved oxygen level. The hypoxic area does not cause high levels of mortality for fisheries since the fish are able to move from the area. Organisms which are found in these areas can tolerate low oxygen or are demersal organisms, generally crabs. For the most part, there is very little effect on fisheries since hypoxia is a near bottom phenomena. The impacts tend to be the displacement of populations opposed to mortality. Once there is stratification of the water column, the dissolved oxygen levels drop off fairly rapidly. The stratification tends to begin breaking up in early fall due to storms which stir the water.

Update on Shrimp Bycatch Research

S. Nichols reported that NMFS bycatch studies consist of two components: gear research for bycatch reduction and bycatch characterization from the observer program. The gear research is divided into 4 phases: 1) initial design; 2) proof of concept; 3) operational evaluation; and 4) industry evaluation. NMFS has identified 4 type of devices which look very promising in reducing finfish bycatch. Devices consist of modified TEDs, fish eye devices and stimulator-type devices. NMFS has concentrated on the TED modification devices while one of the research partners has focused on fish eye devices. TED modification devices exhibit very good shrimp retention but relatively poor reduction of red snapper. The fish eye devices show fairly substantial reduction of red snapper but also some substantial reduction of shrimp. This information was presented to the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council in July and the Council was faced with three options. The first was to wait until more work was complete. The second was to use the devices which retain shrimp well but reduces the bycatch of red snapper at a fair rate. The third was to use the devices that best reduced red snapper catch with some shrimp loss. The Council decided to wait for some more work to be completed. Some work was completed in September on the OREGON II. NMFS was attempting to solve the problem of getting red snapper exclusion and keeping a high retention of shrimp. NMFS used the NMFS TED which seems to solve this problem. The angle of the excluder panel seems to be the reason for reducing the catch of red snapper. In preliminary experiments, there has been a 50% reduction of red snapper.

The historical (GLM) estimates were based on observers on commercial fishing vessels and measuring catch rates of red snapper. At the same time, research vessels were collecting information concerning the abundance of red snapper. From these two data bases, a ratio between commercial shrimping operations and research vessels was established. Thus, multiplying the catch rate of red snapper on commercial vessels times the shrimp effort will result in an estimate of bycatch. The new observer study conducted by the Gulf and South Atlantic Foundation allowed for the collection of data throughout the Gulf of Mexico. NMFS compared the ongoing observer program with the historical estimates and found that both methods show approximately the same catch rate of red snapper. There has been a general increase in shrimping effort over the years. It was noted that some industry members believe there has been a decline in shrimping effort. S. Nichols pointed out that although the number of trips has decreased, the average number of days fished has increased and thus the reason for the increased shrimping effort.

Discussion of Turtle Standings in the Gulf of Mexico

R. Zimmerman reported that there were approximately 107 total strandings. Of those, 102 were Kemp's Ridley's, 3 were loggerheads and 2 were leatherback turtles. The strandings were primarily in statistical zones 13 and 14. Fishery activities in the area include blue crab, menhaden and shrimp trawling. Historical annual strandings (mostly Kemp's Ridley's) were unusually high during 1986 and 1993.

The strandings (again mostly Kemp's Ridleys) by month show a marked increase in May through August. During the 1986 event, strandings were dispersed over a period of 4 or 5 months of large turtles while the 1993 event shows strandings were primarily in May and June of smaller turtles. There is a significantly statistical relationship between shrimping effort and turtle strandings. R. Zimmerman stated that approximately 10-15% of the turtles stranded are from the head start program. It an effort to determine the cause, analysis of toxins is currently being conducted. The stomach analysis of the turtles did not turn up any unusual and foreign material. NMFS believe the turtles were in transition from their pelagic stage to the estuary stage. During the period of the strandings, a significant filament broke off the loop current and this filament moved into near shore Louisiana waters. NMFS believes that this filament was the mechanism which moved the pelagic turtles into inshore waters. Due to the small size of the turtles, it is likely that the turtles passed through the 4-inch bar space on the TEDs. Essentially, it was a failure of the TEDs since the turtles were of such as small size.

Presentation of NMFS Strategic Planning for Statistics

M. Osborn reported that NMFS is in the process of developing a fisheries statistics strategic plan. This plan will chart a course for the fisheries statistics program of the NMFS. There are three key points to this process: the challenges that are faced; what can be accomplished and the process to be used to achieve success. Currently, there are information gaps and data inconsistencies, overlap, duplication and there are a lot of problems in the fisheries arena where data is needed. There are changes in resource management such as NMFS IT95 computing system, ITQ's, ecosystem management, etc. which managers need to be prepared to handle. There is a need to link this strategic planning with the budget and operating plans. There are alot of competing interests and there is a need to prioritize these interests. Instead of across the board cuts, there needs to be strategic cuts made based on this priority list. NMFS wants to establish a framework for future planning by assessing current and future data needs, setting goals to evaluate/improve information quality and developing short/long term budget. NMFS wants to advance uniform, agency-wide standards for collection and management of fishery statistics as well as improve data accessibility and reduce program duplication. The planning process uses both a bottom-up and top-down approach and uses the science of strategic planning. It asks four critical questions: 1) what ought to be done; 2) how can it be done; 3) when will it be done; and 4) who will be responsible for doing it. The process is more important than the plan itself. There will be involvement by states, councils, commissions, etc. This is different from past planning efforts in that there is a senior management commitment and it is agency-wide; there is involvement of professional facilitators; it involves thinking more about the long range future rather than short range goals; it will include more involvement by NMFS constituents; and it will be used to drive some funding initiatives. The process will be facilitated by three teams. The red team is comprised of NMFS senior management. Their objective is to set strategic goals. The blue team consists of mid-level management and their task is to determine how to implement these goals. And the green team is comprised of technical level personnel who will establish when and who will implement these goals.

Subcommittee Reports

a. Anadromous - Gary Tilyou, Chairman

G. Tilyou reported that the subcommittee is working on a Gulf Sturgeon Recovery Plan. It is a joint effort between the GSMFC and Fish and Wildlife Service. It is currently in draft form and should be addressed at the Spring meeting. The EIS for the Pearl River navigation project has been completed. This document seems to slip by and the subcommittee was concerned about the effect of Gulf sturgeon and striped bass known to occur in that area. Work is continuing on identification of the different races of striped bass and development of radio and sonic tags. The Lake Talquin project has been extended for 3 more years. USFWS is continuing to conduct a study on the Sabine River which monitors the movement of striped bass. The Alabama shad status report is being reviewed. The subcommittee discussed giving the FWS a list of state striped bass needs for stocking.

b. Crab - Tom Wagner, Chairman

T. Wagner reported that the subcommittee did not have a quorum and although they met, it was not an official meeting. The subcommittee did discuss some of the crab user conflicts and he reported that some of the states are moving towards solving these problems.

c. Data Management - Henry "Skip" Lazauski, Chairman

* S. Lazauski reported that the subcommittee discussed the stock assessment workshop which was held in Tallahassee, Florida. The group believed it was a successful meeting and would like to continue conducting these meetings. The GSMFC has produced a report outlining the proceedings. There was a RecFIN and Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP) meeting in Jacksonville, Florida in September. The group discussed the finalization of operations plans and strategic plans for the different programs. Paul Anninos facilitated a brain storming session to identify some of the problems with the CSP. S. Lazauski presented the Memorandum of Understanding and the Framework Plan for the CSP and provided some background information concerning the program. He asked the TCC to accept these documents. E. Conklin moved to accept the MOU and Framework Plan for the CSP. The motion passed unanimously. The data confidentiality MOA has been signed by all the Gulf States except Florida. There is a slight problem in Florida which requires a legislative change and could possibly be addressed at the next legislature. The GIS symposium was held in Palm Beach and the proceedings are being prepared and should be ready by the next meeting. S. Lazauski was reelected as chairman and J. O'Hop was reelected vice chairman.

d. Recreational Fisheries Management

H. Osburn reported there was a request from the subcommittees of the U.S. Congress to discuss the status of artificial reefs, in particular rigs-to-reefs in the Gulf of Mexico. H. Osburn, representing Texas and the recreational fisheries management subcommittee, presented a summary of artificial reef activities in the Gulf of Mexico. There was a meeting of the subcommittee in June to discuss the format and development of the materials criteria document. This document will outline the advantages and disadvantages of different artificial reef material. The artificial reef data base update publication provides very detailed information by state on artificial reefs. This document should be completed by March 1994. The fly ash workshop has been postponed due to lack of funding for the meeting.

e. SEAMAP - Walter Tatum, Chairman

* W. Tatum reported that the Annual Report to the TCC and the 1991 Environmental and Biological Atlas were distributed to the members of the committee and the subcommittee at this meeting. W. Tatum noted that Mike Russell of NMFS-Pascagoula passed away recently and the subcommittee asked the SEAMAP chairman to send a letter to Mr. Russell's family expressing the subcommittee's grief over his loss. The subcommittee was asked by NMFS to consider developing a sampling protocol for sharks. There is very little fishery-independent data on sharks in the Gulf of Mexico and NMFS believed SEAMAP could address this issue. Although the subcommittee decided not to address this issue, it was decided the SEAMAP Coordinator would send a letter to all SEAMAP-Gulf participants requesting all fishery-independent data concerning catches of sharks and the coordinator will pass it on NMFS who will summarize the data. The Red Drum Work Group presented a proposal to endorse the red drum sampling protocol which has been recommended by the stock assessment panel of the Gulf Council. It is a \$1.7 million program starting in 1994 with aerial surveys, followed in 1995 with a tagging and age determination initiative and ending in 1996 with further aerial surveys. W. Tatum moved on behalf of the subcommittee to accept the red drum sampling protocol. H. Osburn asked if there was any discussion concerning alternatives such as the study which would focus on determination of the age/growth structure of the fisheries. W. Tatum stated there was some discussion but the subcommittee accepted the full sampling protocol. The motion passed with Alabama and Texas opposing the motion. The Reef Fish Work Group was established and R. Waller was elected leader of the group and P. Thompson was elected leader of the Environmental Data Work Group. W. Tatum was reelected chairman and R. Waller was reelected vice chairman.

Election of Officers

W. Tatum presented the nominating committee's choice for chairman. C. Perret was nominated as chairman and unanimously elected to the position. His first order of business was to appoint a vice chairman and he appointed T. McIlwain as vice chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

**COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
Wednesday, October 20, 1993
San Antonio, TX**

Moderator Chris Nelson called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Covington, LA
Chris Nelson, Bon Secour Fisheries, Bon Secour, AL
Rick Marks, NFMOA/NFI, Arlington, VA
Charles Lyles, Ocean Springs, MS
Dalton Berry, Zapata Haynie Corporation, Hammond, LA
Dwight Smith, Blessing, TX
Kenneth Howard, Fisherman, Pt. Comfort, TX
Andrew Kemmerer, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Dan Furlong, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Roger Zimmerman, NMFS, Galveston, TX
Conrad Fjetland, USFWS, Albuquerque, NM
Tom Heffernan, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Billy E. Fuls, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Jan J. Harper, Lake Jackson, TX
Jimmy Cannette, Commercial Fisherman, Biloxi, MS
Leroy Kiffe, Tom Kiffe & Son, Lockport, LA
Wilma Anderson, TSA, Aransas Pass, TX

Staff

Larry B. Simpson
Richard L. Leard
Cheryl R. Noble

Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Roger Zimmermann will give the presentation on Sea Turtle Deaths off Louisiana, Spring 1993 (Item 4). Discussion of Warning Labels for Oysters was moved to the last item of business on the agenda. No other changes were made to the agenda.

Review of Meeting Summary (3/17/93)

No changes were made to the meeting summary of March 17, 1993.

Discussion of Sea Turtle Deaths off Louisiana, Spring 1993

Dr. Roger Zimmermann gave a slide presentation on Sea Turtle Deaths off Louisiana in the Spring of 1993. He said that a large stranding event occurred in the Grand Isle area during May and June. The total number of strandings from May 28 to June 17 was 107 and included 102 Kemp's Ridleys, 3 Loggerheads and 2 Leatherbacks. The strandings were primarily in shrimp statistical zones 13 and 14 but analysis were done in shrimp statistical zones 10-17. The fishery activities being conducted in the area were blue crab, menhaden, and shrimp; however, shrimp season was closed in Texas during this period.

Dr. Zimmerman noted that the blue crab fishery probably did not contribute to the strandings. He also noted that the menhaden fishery would probably account for few mortalities because seines 400 to 600 feet in length are open and soak time is a half hour to an hour.

As far as the menhaden fishery is concerned, the primary effort is from shore to 10 fathoms. There are some inshore efforts east of the Mississippi river, but it's mostly west. Seines are 400 to 600 feet in length, soak time is a half hour to an hour. The peak period of the fishery is June through August.

Dr. Zimmerman compared annual strandings of turtles and noted that there were similar events during 1986 and 1993. The numbers of Kemp's Ridleys in these strandings were roughly the same with a peak stranding period in May and June and a secondary period in July and August. Cumulative strandings by month compared to inshore and offshore shrimping effort showed a significant relationship with strandings increasing May and June at the onset of shrimping, and continuing into the fall when shrimping activities diminish.

He stated that analyses are ongoing to see if strandings occurred due to factors other than fishing such as toxic spills or pollution. Analyses to date showed no such evidence.

Dr. Zimmerman stated that a contributing factor in the strandings could be the loop current that comes up through the Yucatan Peninsula, loops through the northern Gulf of Mexico and then goes through the Florida Straits. During the past year the loop current extended very high in the Gulf of Mexico toward the Mississippi Delta, and on May 21, 1993 a filament moved over Grand Isle and continued to move landward. Sea turtles often follow this current as they make their life-cycle transition from a pelagic, oceanic phase during their first year of life, to an estuarine phase. The stranded turtles were of the size that would be following this current and making this transition, and the timing of this event with the onset of shrimping suggests that there may be a relationship.

Dr. Zimmerman stated that the present conclusions of this stranding are: 1) A small number of turtles were entangled in menhaden gear; 2) the small size of the turtles would probably have passed through the four inch bar spacings of the TEDs that were being used by shrimpers at that time; 3) tissue analyses do not suggest anything unusual such as toxic spills; and 4) it appears that the loop-current filament concentrated the turtles in that area during the time of the strandings.

L. Kiffe stated that he disagreed with the reported size of menhaden nets given by R. Zimmerman, he said they are likely 2000 feet or so. L. Kiffe said that when the strandings occurred shrimpers were blamed even though they were using TEDs. He distributed an article that quoted Chuck Oravetz (Attachment I) as having said this, and it also quoted Donald Lirette, President, Terrebonne Fisherman's Association, saying that NMFS had no proof of this. In discussion, it was pointed out that 90% of the shrimpers were complying with the TED regulations, fish nets and trawls are not required to have TEDs and can use 3 inch mesh, and skimmers or butterfly rigs do not have to use TEDs, yet shrimpers are blamed.

In response, R. Zimmerman said that the menhaden fishery is not free of implications, but the reasons why they think the deaths were probably caused by shrimping is that heavy fishing effort was going on at that time and the wire spacings on the TEDs were 4 inches and would allow turtles to go through it. In response to questions about more regulations on shrimpers since TEDs are failing, A. Kemmerer said that no new regulations are being proposed but they will be trying to find out how to solve the problems since the shrimpers were using TEDs. He said for example maybe during certain times of the year only upward shooting TEDs should be used. A. Kemmerer also stated that Chuck Oravetz was misquoted, and he pointed out that the NMFS told the media the shrimpers were cooperating in using TEDs but that was never printed and he could not control the media.

After discussion, B. Wallace asked if the strandings data were public. He stated that his company was involved in a clean up on Grand Isle during this period of time and only two turtles were cited. He asked if reports of strandings could be exaggerated. R. Zimmerman said that all the strandings were documented by trained people, it was agreed that he would send individual reports to B. Wallace.

Discussion of Magnuson Act Amendments

Rick Marks, National Fisheries Institute, reported on proposed Magnuson Act Amendments. He noted that the Marine Fish Conservation Network was moving into fisheries management issues, and has distributed to Congress and others a document (Proposal to Strengthen the Magnuson Marine Fish Conservation and Management Act of 1976: Summaries of the Major Issues and Needed Action) that outlines proposals by various groups for changes to the Magnuson Act. Copies of that document were distributed to the committee. Marks said they put a high priority on a national policy on overfishing and on getting highly migratory management back to the council level as opposed to the Secretary of Commerce. They're proposing to add bycatch reduction as a component in all FMPs. They're also looking at conflict of interest provisions for council members and habitat conservation.

He stated that the industry needs to be fully prepared to address these issues because Congress will be discussing them. He felt that the two key issues on the Magnuson Act are going to be user fees and finfish bycatch. He also noted that Vice President Gore had brought up the question of collecting user fees from the commercial fishing industry and that there was some support. Also, Gerry Studds, Chairman of the House's Merchant and Marine and Fisheries Committee has sent a letter somewhat supporting the collection of user fees from the commercial industry and there are some groups in the commercial industry that are supporting the idea. He stated that commercial industry support probably stems from conflicts between different groups over resource accessibility such as ITQs, IFQs, CDQs or others. He noted that some hearings were being held to determine from the industry, states, NMFS and a few others if user fees are necessary, and if so how would they be decided. R. Marks said he would be involved in negotiations and if anyone was interested in receiving information on this to let him know.

On the finfish bycatch issue, the statutory prohibition against regulations expires this year which means that the Gulf Council has the option to initiate discussions on bycatch restrictions, etc. Marks said he did not believe that action would be taken to reauthorize the Magnuson Act this year, but probably a draft bill would be developed.

Reauthorization of the Marine Mammal Protection Act

R. Marks reported that the commercial fishing industry, the sport fishing industry, and the environmental and conservation community had a meeting in which they developed draft legislation on the Marine Mammal Protection Act. He said that they were able to compromise on a lot of issues, and he felt that the commercial industry was in a good position. He noted that the NMFS and the House had also developed draft bills but both versions were opposed by the industry and conservation groups.

R. Marks stated that the language of the legislation included agreement with the conservation community that there would be no quotas, permits, fees or restrictions for taking non-critical stocks; but, any lethal taking would have to be reported. For approximately 12 critical stocks around the nation, a regional plan would be developed to decide how the taking of these critical stocks could be reduced. He also noted that language was still contentious over issues of registration, user fees and nuisance animals. He stated that industry in the gulf was concerned about NMFS's proposal to designate the eastern stock of bottlenose dolphins as an alpha stock.

Discussion of Bycatch Studies and Gear Requirements

Wilma Anderson with the Texas Shrimp Association reported on preliminary results of their bycatch study off Texas. She noted that Texas's portion of the overall bycatch study utilized four cooperators and results were submitted to NMFS. She stated that data would be combined into a gulf-wide study before final results are given. She noted that most bycatch consisted of non-edible species. She stated that their study was peculiar when compared to other studies in that few red snapper were caught. C. Nelson asked if anyone was able to explain this and she said "no" and stated that the final report was only submitted last week and had not been thoroughly analyzed. She noted that these preliminary results were interesting because shrimp catches were relatively consistent with other studies.

W. Anderson stated that a project was planned wherein boats would fish behind the shrimp trawlers and their catch would be analyzed to determine the kinds of fish being caught as the discards go overboard. C. Nelson asked her if there will be any more studies on bycatch in the future, and she said that it depended on how much money was made available because these were very costly projects.

R. Leard said that the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation was unable to send someone to give a presentation on their bycatch study but Judy Jamison sent a report (Attachment II). He said their work was mostly in gear and they have MARFIN funding for future studies.

Discussion on Gulf-wide Vessel Insurance

W. Anderson reported that she testified at a Coast Guard subcommittee meeting and explained that approximately 75% of the boats in the gulf do not have any insurance because they can't afford it. She noted that most of the boats that have insurance are under loans. She stated that there were no underwriters because of the high claims in the past, and that was a terrible problem because of the large number of captains, crews and vessels that were operating without insurance.

C. Nelson asked her if she knew of anyone who had tried a self-insurance program. She stated that the east coast had tried it, but after a couple of claims their fund was exhausted. She suggested that the commercial industry should get together to see what they can do to get gulf-wide coverage that would be affordable. C. Nelson noted that one way would be to have a cap on the amount for claims, but he said this would require an amendment to the Jones Act which wasn't likely to happen. W. Anderson stated that some fictitious claims could be avoided by setting a time limit for filing a claim, i.e. if someone got hurt, they would have to notify the appropriate people within a week.

W. Anderson explained that most people are currently incorporating each boat to reduce liabilities. She said that this was not, however, a solution to the problem. She noted that the real problem stemmed from reduced profits from shrimping and increased costs of operation.

L. Simpson said he heard a very good presentation by Dr. Walter Keithly on the economics of shrimp and the effects of imports. He said that he would ask him to give a presentation at the next meeting.

C. Nelson said this issue deserves more attention and asked if anyone had information on companies who would write policies to report it at the next meeting.

Discussion of Oyster Warning Labels

C. Nelson updated the group on warning labels for raw oysters. He explained that due to several law suits some states were considering and others were implementing warning labels at the point of sale and on containers of oysters, to warn people who are "at risk" that they should not consume raw oysters.

The "at risk" or immuno-compromised people include those who have low stomach acid, liver disease, AIDS, cancer and other diseases. In 1989, Louisiana was the first state to implement a mandatory warning label at the point of purchase or on the container. In 1990, California put forth a strong warning on labels but it was only for oysters that came from the gulf.

C. Nelson stated that the Interstate Shellfish Shippers Conference has suggested that companies voluntarily label their products with the following suggested statement: "Consumer Information: As is the case with consuming other raw animal protein products, there is a risk associated with consuming raw oysters, clams and mussels. If you suffer from a chronic illness of the liver, stomach, or blood or have immune disorders, do not eat these products raw." He also noted that last year the Florida Department of Natural Resources adopted a form of this statement and was enforcing it at the certified dealer level. In May 1993, the Florida Department of Health and Human Services implemented an emergency order to enforce this form of consumer information statement on containers and in restaurants. Most restaurants displayed the statement on the menu, and a decrease in sales caused many to stop serving raw oysters.

C. Nelson stated that he was optimistic about warning labels because beef, poultry and other meats will probably be required to have them in the future because of a growing population of "at risk" consumers and no food group is completely immune from this problem. After a brief discussion, the group agreed that the warning labels may actually help the future sales of raw oysters.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Shrimpers blamed for turtle deaths

The Associated Press

HOUMA — Because 99 carcasses of endangered sea turtles have washed ashore in the Grand Isle area in the last three weeks, federal marine officials want shrimpers to modify their nets.

Chuck Oravetz, chief of the protected species branch of the National Marine Fisheries Service, said although the cause of the mass drownings of the Kemp's ridley turtles has not been determined, shrimp trawling is suspect.

"Nothing is conclusive," Oravetz said. "It seems shrimping is a likely cause."

It seems that every time lots of turtles drown, shrimp trawling is also taking place, Oravetz said Monday.

He said since the required Turtle Excluder Devices apparently don't work on the smaller turtles, he is asking shrimpers trawling near Grand Isle to modify the gear.

TEDs are supposed to be designed to let sea turtles escape shrimp nets and avoid drowning.

Donald Lirette, president of the Terrebonne Fishermen's Organization, said the fisheries service is trying to place the blame on shrimpers without evidence.

"They've got no proof the turtles are even going in the nets," Lirette said. "I think they're overreacting, and they're trying to make something out of nothing."

Oravetz said TEDs have a grid that deflects turtles toward an opening in the bottom of the shrimp

"They've got no proof the turtles are even going in the nets."

Donald Lirette, president
Terrebonne Fisherman's
Association

trawl. The turtles, whose shells are 8- to 10-inches long, may be too small to push through TEDs," he said.

The fisheries service wants Grand Isle area shrimpers to turn the "bottom-shooting" TEDs over, putting the escape opening at the top of the net, or add a 10-pound float to the top of the devices.

This modification should be in effect until July 6. By then, the turtles will have left and most of the shrimp fleet will have moved to Texas fishing grounds.

Lirette said the fisheries service should look more closely at the menhaden boats responsible for a recent massive fish kill off Grand Isle.

The fish and turtles began showing up on the beach at the same time, Lirette said.

The menhaden boats haul millions of pounds of fish at a time, Lirette said. There is no way they can sort out the turtles from the fish.


ATTACHMENT II



MEMORANDUM

17 September 1993

To: Members of Bycatch Steering Committee (BCSC)

From: Steve Branstetter, Program Director GSAFDF, Bycatch Program Coordinator 

Re: update of Foundation activities for Bycatch Reduction Program

Due to the current budgetary situation, the Foundation decided that the most efficient way to transfer information to the BCSC is through periodic written updates. (To bring all the members together for such a meeting would cost over \$30K; I think we all agree that these monies can be put to a more practical and efficient use in this program).

Attached is an update on Foundation activities concerning the Bycatch Reduction Research Program. To provide some sort of "measuring stick" as to our progress, I have also provided some comparative information concerning the complementary activities of the NMFS observer program.

Foundation activities are currently funded through an S-K grant that will end in October '93; this funding provides for a total estimated 1000 observer days for both characterization and BRD work aboard cooperating commercial vessels. This cooperative agreement also outlined the development of regional workshops throughout the southeast to disseminate information on the status of program. Because we are only now compiling a dependable data base, these workshops have been postponed for a period. To accomplish this objective we are seeking a no-cost extension of the current grant in order to organize and complete these workshops. We will additionally continue with observer coverage during this period.

The Foundation has aggressively pursued additional sources of funds to support the Bycatch Program. Although we were unsuccessful with proposals to generate additional observer coverage from the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Wallop-Breaux funds) we did successfully compete for continued funding of the bycatch program through the MARFIN program. This cooperative agreement will support the observer program during FY94, including 400 observer days (300 days for BRD work, 100 days for characterization). We have additionally recently submitted a similar proposal to the Saltonstall-Kennedy grants program to generate an additional 400 days of BRD evaluations and 200 characterization days for observers, and develop regional workshops to disseminate information to the fishing community concerning our research on BRD gears. With the successful completion of these projects, if funded, we will have generated sufficient data, in combination with similar efforts by NMFS personnel, to provide substantial answers to the perceived bycatch problem.

During the first part of 1993 the Foundation had 3 observers working in the Gulf and 2 observers in the South Atlantic. Following the loss of one observer in each region, we solicited applications for additional observers. Four new observers were contracted in May - two in the Gulf of Mexico and two in the South Atlantic - in anticipation of increased shrimping activity during the summer. These observers went through the NMFS training program in May, and began working in June.

Under our new arrangement, Foundation observers are based in various localities around the southeast {1 in NC, 1 in GA, 1 in FL, 1 in LA, and 3 in TX}. By having the observers home-based throughout the southeast we hope to accomplish two things: 1) reduce our travel costs by having observers work in their local area, and 2) by having observers working with local fishermen, both have a general common knowledge concerning conditions and problems of that specific area. The distribution of observers is also roughly in accordance with the sampling protocol's concept of having observer effort match fishing effort according to landings data. According to NMFS statistics, the western Gulf produces about 60-70% of the landings, the eastern Gulf about 15-20%, and the South Atlantic the remaining 15-20%. Our observer coverage, so far, is approximating this effort.

To date, Foundation observer coverage for 1993 through August can be summarized as follows:

Area Effort	<u>Western Gulf</u>		<u>Eastern Gulf</u>		<u>South Atlantic</u>		<u>Total</u>
	BRD	Char.	BRD	Char.	BRD	Char.	
Trips	11	7	2	5	10	6	41
Days	222	131	10	70	47	27	507
Percent	44	26	2	14	9	5	

Much of the Foundation effort has focused on BRD evaluations; by comparison, NMFS activities have focused more attention on characterization, although it should be pointed out that much of the effort for both Foundation and NMFS observers in the South Atlantic has been in North Carolina. This state requires the use of BRDs, therefore because this is the standard gear, NMFS considers any observations there as characterization.

NMFS efforts --

Area Effort	<u>Western Gulf</u>		<u>Eastern Gulf</u>		<u>South Atlantic</u>		<u>Total</u>
	BRD	Char.	BRD	Char.	BRD	Char.	
Trips	11	7	5	6	0	8	37
Days	62	133	48	72	0	70	385
Percent	16	35	12	19	0	18	

As can be seen from these data, the two efforts have been very complementary to each other.

Based on the available data, the Gear Review Panel has advanced four BRD designs to the level of "Operational Testing". Within these four, there may be many variations (especially for fish-eyes)

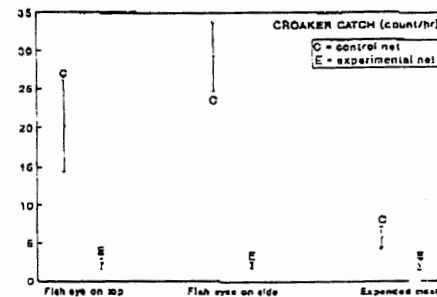
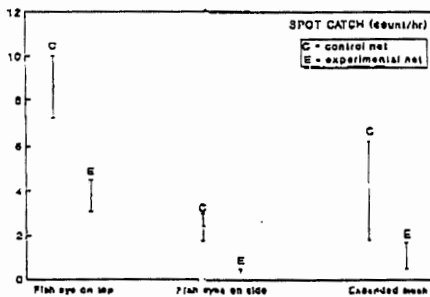
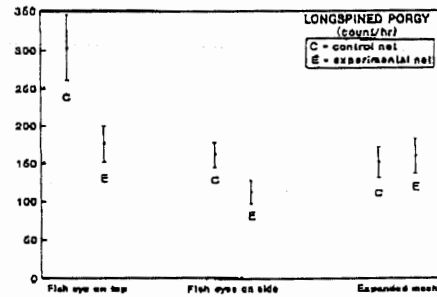
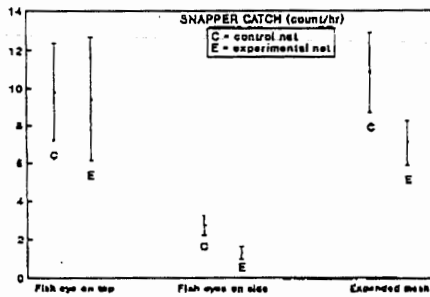
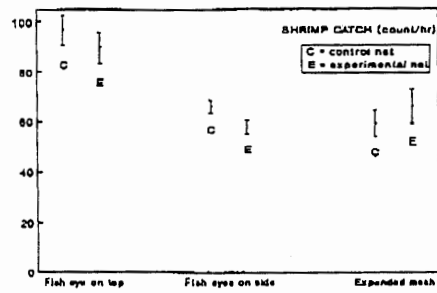
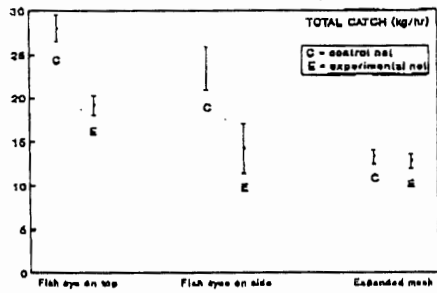
- 1) fish eyes (3 sizes, two construction materials, with placement in the bag divided as to TOP or SIDE, and FRONT, MIDDLE, or BACK of the bag)
- 2) expanded mesh associated with an accelerator funnel (variations include bars depth of the expanded mesh, and how far around the bag it extends)
- 3) extended funnel - this is basically an expanded mesh around a funnel, but NMFS distinguishes it from the normal, short funnel
- 4) snake eyes - (although these could be considered a form of expanded mesh around a funnel)

Attached here are some preliminary analyses of various BRD devices that were being tested during the winter months by Foundation observers aboard participating vessels fishing in the western Gulf. We are having good finfish reductions using all these devices. In some cases, 80% reductions are being achieved. Depending on the design, the geographic area being tested, and the fish composition, shrimp catch fluctuates from a 10% loss to a 10% gain. (Although the 10% loss is not statistically significant, from a personal point of view I would hate to be told I had to take a 10% pay cut --). We are currently looking at some modifications to these gears or fishing activities (i.e. haulback procedures to reduce the potential for "belching") to reduce this shrimp loss.

Of course this whole issue is currently being driven by reducing weakfish and red snapper. Current data indicate that weakfish (once they reach a minimum size) are excludable; red snapper, on the other hand, are more difficult. The NMFS BRD (the hooped accelerator funnels and expanded mesh) does reduce a fair percentage of snapper with little shrimp loss; fish-eyes give variable but generally positive results, and we are working on some modifications that may increase snapper loss without losing shrimp.

We have not been "flooding the market" with news concerning the status of our successes (and failures). We have made presentations on the status of the project including the enclosed preliminary results to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Southeastern Fisheries Association, the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, and some regional fishery associations. Currently, all data are provided to NMFS for processing, and the the large volume of data coming in there has caused some logistic delays in getting these data computerized. The delay is caused in part from everyone's desire to correct errors before computerization occurs. See the attached graphs on the status data "crunching" for NMFS and the Foundation. Although the Foundation is not technically responsible for providing results under its current grant, we will be doing so in future grants, in addition to continuing to supply all data to NMFS for inclusion in a more robust data set.

Catch-per-unit-effort for 3 BRDs.
 Values represent means \pm 1 standard error.



Sample size equals about 25 tows for each gear.

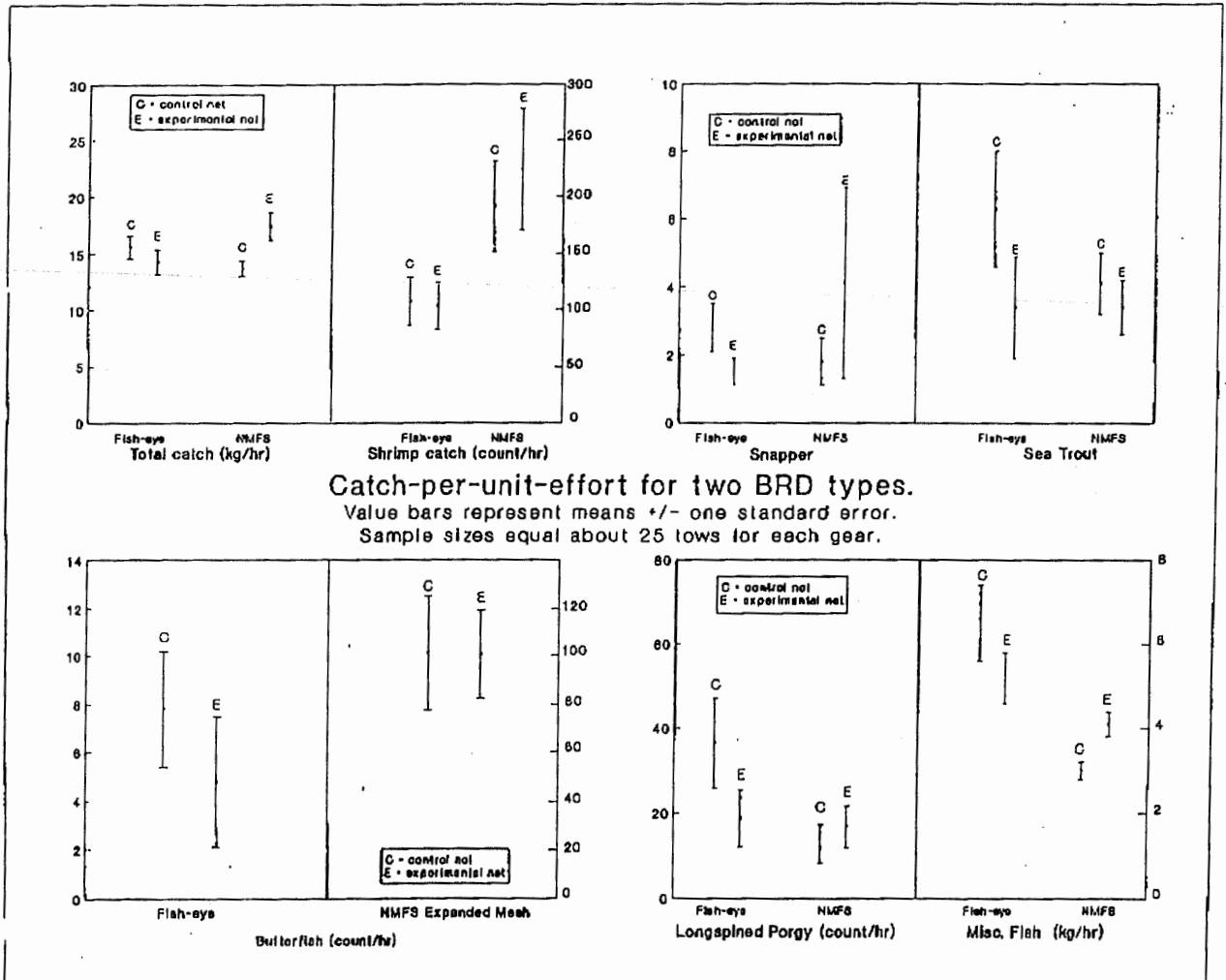


TABLE 3. STATUS OF NMFS DATA 8/3/93.

- STATUS
 1- STILL WORKING ON
 2- SUBMITTED (READY FOR KEY PUNCH)
 3- SENT TO KEY PUNCH
 4- PROOFING
 5- RETURNED TO KEY PUNCH FOR CORRECTIONS
 6- PROOFING CORRECTIONS
 7- COMPLETED

TRIP NUMBER	STATUS							VESSEL CODE	TRIP DATES TRAVEL STATUS	TOWS SAMPLED	OBSERVER
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
GCC01								GAK	4/10-5/7/92	21	TOBIAS
GCC02								GAP	4/14-4/30/92	18	FORREST
GCC03								GQA	8/2-8/24/92	24	MARCINKO
GCC04								GST	8/18-7/7/92	10	JULIE
GCC05								GSD	8/28-7/4/92	8	HOOVER
GCC06								GNS	7/9-7/18/92	22	FORREST
GCC07								GAP	7/8-7/24/92	19	TOBIAS
GCC08								GPS	7/7-7/16/92	8	JULIE
GCC09								GST	7/16-7/24/92	6	JULIE
GCC10								GNS	7/20-7/30/92	24	FORREST
GCC11								GFA	7/18-8/30/92	23	MARCINKO
GCC12								GQV	7/18-8/30/92	7	MARCINKO
GCC13								GVA	8/11-8/28/92	18	HOOVER
GCC14								GLR	8/11-8/28/92	21	LEDEAUX
GCC15								GST	9/2-10/18/92	48	JULIE
GCC16								GCS	9/8-9/8/92	4	HIGGINS
GCC17								GNS	9/9-9/17/92	30	FORREST
GCC18								GCL	9/12-10/2/92	16	MARCINKO
GCC19								GSD	9/22-9/25/92	2	TOBIAS
GCC20								GNS	9/22-10/2/92	33	FORREST
GCC21								GNS	9/22-10/12/92	19	LEDEAUX
GCC22								GAL	9/22-10/4/92	8	HIGGINS
GCC23								GVA	10/8-10/23/92	30	HIGGINS
GCC24								GCT	10/18-10/24/92	1	MARCINKO
GCC25								GST	11/7-11/25/92	11	TOBIAS
GCC26								GAP	11/13-11/25/92	12	LEDEAUX
GCC27								GQV	11/16-11/22/92	6	FORREST
GCC28								GQV	11/18-11/20/92	5	HIGGINS
GCC29								GAP	11/29-12/10/92	12	LEDEAUX
GCC30								GAP	12/2-12/8/92	9	HIGGINS
GCC31								GAP	1/8-1/29/93	11	LEDEAUX
GCC32								GAP	1/11-1/22/93	8	JULIE
GCC33								GAP	1/11-1/25/93	11	FORREST
GCC34								GAP	1/21-2/2/93	8	TOBIAS
GCC35								GAP	1/24-2/18/93	35	HIGGINS
GCC36								GAP	1/28-2/5/93	9	FORREST
GCC37								GAP	1/27-2/7/93	12	JULIE
GCC38								GAP	2/8-3/3/93	20	TOBIAS
GCC39								GAP	2/2-2/11/93	9	LEDEAUX
GCC40								GAP	2/14-2/24/93	7	FORREST
GCC41								GAP	2/2-3/3/93	3	JULIE
GCC42								GAP	3/9-3/11/93	6	FORREST
GCC43								GAP	3/18-3/18/93	0	FORREST
GCC44								GAP	3/22-3/24/93	4	FORREST
GCC45								GAP	3/28-4/10/93	16	HIGGINS
GCC46								GAP	3/28-3/31/93	4	FORREST
GCC47								GAP	4/11-6/3/93	17	LEDEAUX
GCC48								GAP	4/12-4/13/93	4	FORREST
GCC49								GAP	4/15-4/17/93	4	FORREST
GCC50								GAP	4/21-4/23/93	2	HIGGINS
GCC51								GAP	5/10-5/18/93	4	FORREST
GCC52								GAP	5/10-6/18/93	18	FORREST
GCC53								GAP	5/10-6/18/93	5	FORREST
GCC54								GAP	6/10-6/18/93	35	FORREST
GCC55								GAP	6/10-6/10/93	17	TOBIAS
GCC56								GAP	6/10-6/10/93	20	TOBIAS
GCC57								GAP	6/10-6/2/93	18	LEDEAUX
GCC58								GAP	6/12-6/18/93	46	HIGGINS
GCC59								GAP	6/17-6/21/93	9	HARRIS
GCC60								GAP	6/22-6/28/93	12	DAVIS
GCC61								GAP	6/25-7/2/93	47	HIGGINS
GCC62								GAP	7/1-7/19/93	28	HIGGINS
GCC63								GAP	7/5-7/20/93	9	LEDEAUX
GCC64								GAP	7/5-7/15/93	32	FORREST
GCC65								GAP	7/6-7/11/93	7	DAVIS
GCC66								GAP	7/12-7/27/93	30	TOBIAS
GCC67								GAP	7/21-8/7/93	11	LEDEAUX

TABLE 4. STATUS OF FOUNDATION DATA (BASED ON TRIPS RECEIVED) 9/3/93.

STATUS

- 1 = RETURNED TO ORGANIZATION FOR CORRECTIONS PRIOR TO DATA ENTRY
- 2 = SUBMITTED (READY FOR KEY PUNCH)
- 3 = SENT TO KEY PUNCH
- 4 = RETURNED TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR PROOFING
- 5 = RETURNED TO KEYPUNCH FOR CORRECTIONS
- 6 = PROOFING CORRECTIONS (RETURNED TO ORGANIZATION)
- 7 = COMPLETED (ORIGINAL DATA, COMPUTER PRINT-OUT, AND SIGNED LETTER RECEIVED FROM ORGANIZATION VERIFYING DATA ACCURACY)

TRIP NUMBER	STATUS							VESSEL CODE	TRIP DATES TRAVEL STATUS	TOWS SAMPLED	OBSERVER
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
SC001								FAG	7/17-7/18/92	4	OLDS
SC002								RVR	7/20-7/21/92	3	OLDS
SB003								RVR	7/22-8/1/92	12	OLDS
SC004								FMS	7/22-8/2/92	19	GASKILL
SC005								FMS	8/16-8/19/92	17	GASKILL
SC006								FMS	8/23-8/24/92	8	GASKILL
SB007								FMS	8/31-9/3/92	12	GASKILL
SB008								FMS	9/7-9/8/92	8	GASKILL
SB009								FFB	8/9-9/1/92	28	OLDS
SB010								FAG	8/8-8/9/92	3	OLDS
SB011								FFS	12/11-12/21/92	18	OLDS
SB012								FCV	12/29-12/31/92	5	OLDS
SB013								FLL	2/2-2/11/93	8	OLDS
SB014								FBA	2/28-3/11/93	17	OLDS
SC015								FAL	5/16-5/27/93	10	OLDS
SB016								FMJ	6/19-6/22/93	6	OLDS
SC017								FFM	8/22-8/28/93	7	JENSEN
SC018								FFM	8/28-7/2/93	4	JENSEN
SC019								FFM	7/5-7/7/93	5	JENSEN
SB020								FFR	7/5-7/9/93	11	BARILE
SB021								FTG	7/7-7/8/93	4	OLDS
SB022								FMR	7/26-7/28/93	5	BARILE
SB023								FMS	8/8-8/14/93	18	OLDS
FC001								FEC	7/6-7/22/92	28	WALL
FB002								FMT	1/4-2/8/93	24	NIEUWENDAL
FC003								FBL	1/5-1/28/93	17	O'BRIEN
FB004								FS	1/11-3/8/93	61	ROZNOVSKY
FC005								FBL	2/5-3/1/93	17	O'BRIEN
FB006								FS	3/30-5/11/93	50	ROZNOVSKY
FB007								FMD	6/16-6/19/93	6	BISSIG
FB008								FMD	6/20-6/28/93	17	BISSIG
FC009								FE	4/12-5/4/93	21	O'BRIEN
FC010								FCL	5/8-5/51/93	25	O'BRIEN
FB011								FS	6/13-7/2/93	12	ROZNOVSKY
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			506	

Received
8-19-93

August 18, 1993

To: National Industry Bycatch Steering Committee
From: Bob Schoning *Bob*
Subject: Progress report

ROUTING
EXEC. DIR
PROJ. DIR
FILE

Your last previous memo from me was dated November 3, 1992. This one is to bring you current on bycatch developments through the National Industry Bycatch Steering Committee (proposed new name is National Industry Bycatch Coalition).

The November 3, 1992 memo contained minutes of the Boston meeting on October 15-16, 1992 involving several of the steering committee plus NMFS Director Bill Fox, Staff Assistant Nikki Bane, and Northeast Regional Director Dick Roa. It also contained Revised Goals and Objectives of the National Strategic Plan, Revised Management Structure for the National Industry Bycatch Coalition, a draft request for funding to carry the Coalition through December 1992, and a skeleton draft of a flyer to appeal to fishermen nationwide for financial and participatory support of the Coalition. Corrections, additions, recommendations, or comments were solicited. Only one member replied.

On November 17, 1992 Nikki Bane, Bob Jacobson, and Bob Schoning met in Corvallis, Oregon as followup to that memo. During that meeting a phone discussion was held with Guy Thornburgh, Director of the PSMFC, about possible assistance he and his organization might provide in supporting the bycatch initiative. The following assignments were agreed upon:

1. Schoning will obtain statements from six regional industry leaders to supplement draft text he will provide for inclusion in a flyer and send all to Nikki. She will get one from Fox and finalize the document including the quotes, parts of the earlier draft text as appropriate, add new material as needed, and send it to the sounding board for approval and distribution. It will be patterned after the excellent "Managing the Nation's Living Marine Resources" recently done by NMFS. It will be completed quickly with the hope of having it distributed no later than the end of December 1992. It would be prepared in a format that would readily lend itself to inexpensive reproduction by the industry press for wide distribution by local organizations and groups.

Quotes were obtained from Jake Dykstra, Jim Cook, Pete Leipzig, Barry Fisher, and Jim Branson and sent to Nikki with the brief text on December 4, 1992. Repeated attempts to contact Jane Black for the sixth

one were unsuccessful. The completed flyer draft has not been received.

2. Jacobson will talk with Guy Thornburgh about creating a coalition to continue the leadership, housing it at least temporarily with him, sharing services and ideas, hiring a coordinator, and related matters. Bane, Jacobson, Schoning, and Thornburgh agreed that the PSMFC Portland office was a logical at least temporary location where space, utilities, and some secretarial help could be provided for a very minimal cost. The primary impetus for the national bycatch program is in the Pacific Northwest at this time so the PSMFC Portland office seemed appropriate. Nikki will develop a job description and statement of work for the coordinator and send them to Guy. He will assist in locating and interviewing candidates for the position. Primary coordinator duties would include soliciting funds to maintain the office, coordinating regional and national bycatch activities consistent with the management plan and organizational structure, and collecting and disseminating information as appropriate. The draft position description and statement of work have not been received by Guy.

3. Bane will try to obtain NMFS approval and funding for two contracts and draft the necessary text. One will be for about \$25,000 to create and maintain a secretariat in the PSMFC office for six months. The other for Schoning to provide text for a national strategic plan to include a management structure, goals, and objectives, associated boilerplate, and to do other related activities. Neither the funds nor the draft contracts have surfaced. Subsequently, there were indications a second six month contract for the coordinator's office and a larger federally funded contract to get the program off the ground were realistic possibilities. They have not materialized.

4. Bane will include in the wording of the Goals and Objectives of the National Strategic Plan and of the Management Structure for the National Industry Bycatch Coalition the suggested changes as developed by her, Jake, and Bob in Corvallis. Further, Nikki will add boilerplate as she deems necessary and send the revised documents to the sounding board. Jacobson will prepare introductory text for the research project boilerplate for the national strategic plan and send it to Nikki soon. Jake and Bob later examined the earlier boilerplate and concluded that Nikki's wording was sufficient and no further introductory research text was needed. The revised drafts have not yet been received.

The draft texts that were anticipated following the November 17, 1992 meeting in Corvallis between Nikki, Jake, and Bob have not

mentioned. Other higher priority tasks repeatedly surfaced. The national November 1992 election influenced NMFS personnel assignments, organization, operation, and funding priorities. Budget adjustments, finalization, and approval associated with Congressional organization and assignments slowed action. Other priority non-bycatch fisheries problems continued to develop in different geographical areas.

It was agreed at the Boston meeting to solicit \$2,000 from industry in each of the five regions to take care of expenses through the end of 1992, including paying Schoning for his services since the Newport workshop in February 1992. Lead would be taken by the steering committee members in attendance at the Boston meeting with the assistance of the flyer to be drafted. The money would be sent to Natural Resources Consultants in Seattle by the end of the year. The balance in the account left from the Newport workshop and subsequent expenses totalled \$1,206.74 in April 1993 and was sent to Schoning at that time as partial payment. Subsequently, Spike Jones, steering committee member, commercial fisherman from Newport, and a member of the Highliners earmarked his quarterly Highliners' dues payment of \$2,000 for Schoning and sent it directly to him. No other payments have been received. The Fishermen's Marketing Association from Eureka, California through steering committee member Pete Leipzig indicated a willingness to contribute several hundred dollars if other industry entities would also.

I feel badly that the bycatch reduction movement that seemed so encouraging and supported at the Newport workshop has slowed so significantly. I guess that is not uncommon when significant funds and coordinated volunteer effort are required for continuity.

Indications are that an announcement about NMFS directorship change and other associated possible policy adjustments may be forthcoming reasonably soon. The impact this will have on current bycatch programs and funding is unknown. It seems unlikely that anything significant will be done in the interim.

I wanted to bring you up to date on what had transpired since my last memo. Now you know. Much was accomplished but not as much as I had hoped for and sincerely believed would be. I do not anticipate my having further involvement in the bycatch effort, at least in my now-ending capacity as temporary coordinator. Thanks for your interest and participation. Good luck and good fishin'. Further contact on National Industry Bycatch Steering Committee activities should be addressed to Dr. Dayton L. Alverson, President, Natural Resources Consultants, Inc. 4055

**LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE (LEC)
MINUTES
October 20, 1993
San Antonio, Texas**

Jerald K Wall

Jerry Waller, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The following were in attendance:

Members

Bill Robinson, TPWD, Austin, TX
Jerald K. Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Lewis Shelfer, FMP, Tallahassee, FL
Tommy Candies, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Terry Bakker, BMR, Biloxi, MS
LCDR Mark Johnson, USCG, New Orleans, LA

Staff

Lucia Hourihan, Publication Specialist

Others

Capt. Bob Powers, USCG, New Orleans, LA
Morris Pallozzi, NOAA Enforcement, Silver Spring, MD
Steven Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Jim Robertson, TPWD, Austin, TX
Carl Covert, TPWD, Austin, TX
Tommy Gollott, GSMFC Commissioner, Biloxi, MS
W. Perry Allen, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held March 17, 1993 in Palm Beach, Florida were adopted as written.

TCC Mullet Task Force

T. Bakker stated that there was no task force activity to report on due to lack of funds. Responding to question, Bakker said that the task force has not addressed roe mullet. Discussion ensued regarding Florida's recently passed rule regarding roe mullet fishery closures. S. Atran said the final public hearing was being held on this day, October 20, 1993, in Tampa, Florida.

NMFS Asset Forfeiture Fund Reimbursement Program

Corky Perret and T. Candies requested a streamlined process for requesting state reimbursement from the NMFS Asset Forfeiture Fund, especially in cases where there was no federal agent involvement. Perret and Candies also stated that it would be easier to handle, budget-wise, if Louisiana could be paid with equipment in lieu of dollars.

* The LEC agreed by consensus to request the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) to write a letter to the appropriate persons to see if the process for reimbursement might be simplified.

Uniform Size Regulations (Commercial)

The LEC reviewed and discussed a Gulf States listing of commercial size limits. It was agreed that it would be easier to enforce interstate shipment violations if limits were consistent.

* T. Candies moved that the LEC bring the matter up to the GSMFC again. The motion was seconded. Following discussion it was decided by consensus to request the GSMFC to write the appropriate letters in order to try to achieve agreement across the Gulf States for uniform size regulations for the target species of amberjack, cobia, flounder, king and Spanish mackerel, snappers, speckled trout and black drum. It was noted that consistency in measuring practices should also be sought.

State Legislation - Communication

Waller said that there is a time lag in reporting different states' legislation to each other such as license fee changes which would automatically affect another state's license fees. He asked if there were some method which could be set up to communicate these types of changes as they occur. Following discussion the request was withdrawn.

NMFS Report

Waller questioned P. Allen about snapper regulations. In the mackerel regulations a federally permitted vessel could not recreationally fish during the closure in federal waters. Allen said that was not included in the snapper regulations. He said that on snapper, they closed the season at the beginning of last year and made it a condition of a permit that you had to abide by that closed season but when that closed season was over that provision disappeared. Allen said the rationale for that was that a quota closure is no different whether its red snapper, deep water grouper or shallow water grouper, it would be nice from a federal standpoint to say that it's a condition of a permit and that when that's closed it applies wherever you fish. He said that if it's going to be done the Council needs to do it and they need to do it across the board for quota closures. For the emergency rule they made it a condition of the permit but they had no rationale for making it the same for a quota closure.

T. Shuler reported that there were some special initiatives by the state of Louisiana that made quite a few Magnuson Act cases in the last few weeks. Shuler said he has a new training manual that is nearing completion. It is very similar to the previous one he prepared but this one is more extensive, with more fish identifications and more examples of how to do things.

Coast Guard Report

LCDR Mark Johnson introduced himself. He has replaced Karl Moore as the Admiral's designee to the Gulf Council and serves as the Fisheries Officer for the 8th Coast Guard district. Johnson introduced Capt. Bob Powers, Chief of Operations for the 8th Coast Guard district. Both expressed a very keen interest in fisheries enforcement and cooperative efforts with the various states.

ISSC - Patrol Agency Vote

Waller informed the LEC that a very controversial issue had passed at the last ISSC meeting giving non-producing states a full vote as producing states in patrol of shellfish. This issue passed by 1/2 vote. It had been the enforcement standpoint for several years that since the non-producing states are not evaluated, then they should not have the same vote. If Florida and Mississippi enforcement had had a vote at the time the issue may have been defeated. Waller strongly urged those states to seek their vote for enforcement.

NMFS Report Continued

M. Pallozzi reported that he had been approached by the FDA people who indicated a willingness to receive a proposal whereby NMFS would do the investigation/evaluation of state programs. He is waiting on a complete package (including state patrol documents) from FDA. After receipt of the package, a person will be assigned to prepare the proposal within a short time (2 weeks).

Pallozzi spoke on the Asset Forfeiture Fund. The law says that states can be reimbursed for up to 80% of fines collected as long as those monies were expended in the case. Pallozzi feels the system for reimbursement will get more simplistic as time goes on. He volunteered to assign someone to assist Louisiana in the application process and stated that NMFS could reimburse a state with equipment in lieu of dollars.

Election of Chairman

* Jerry Waller was reelected chairman by acclamation.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

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**COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, October 21, 1993
San Antonio, Texas**

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 am by Chairman Taylor Harper. He welcomed two new commissioners, Ed Conklin from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Jan Harper, from Texas. He requested the Executive Director to call roll and review pertinent rules and regulations regarding the appropriate meeting procedures.

L. Simpson established a quorum. The following Commissioners and/or proxies were present:

Members

Leroy Kiffe	LA
Corky Perret	LA
Jan J. Harper	TX
Robert Saunders	TX
Rudy Rosen	TX
Taylor Harper	AL
Chris Nelson	AL
Walter Tatum	AL
Tommy Gollott	MS
Joe Gill, Jr.	MS
George Sekul	MS
Ed Conklin	FL

Other persons attending were:

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Dave Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator
Richard Leard, IJF Coordinator
Lucia Hourihan, Publication Specialist
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant
Nancy Marcellus, Administrative Assistant

Others

Conrad Fjetland, USFWS, Albuquerque, NM
Doug Fruge, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Andy Kemmerer, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Dan Furlong, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Rick Marks, NFMOA/NFI, Arlington, VA
Ed Irby, FLA DEP, Tallahassee, FL
Tom Heffernan, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Skip Lazauski, AMRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Gene McCarty, TPWD, Austin, TX
Jim Sagnes, TSA, Austin, TX

L. Simpson reviewed voting procedures. Voting is by individual Commissioners. If there is a question about the vote, each state delegations shall cast one vote. If three Commissioners are present, two out of three will carry the State vote. If only two Commissioners are present from a state, they must agree or their vote will offset each other. If only one Commissioner from a state is present his vote shall represent the state. He reminded the Commissioners about a luncheon being held in the Bowie Room at 12 noon.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes for the March 17, 1993 meeting held in Palm Beach, Florida were approved as presented.

NMFS Southeast Regional Office (SERO) Report

Andy Kemmerer reported that Rolland A. Schmitten has been appointed as Assistant Administrator for NMFS effective October 17, 1993. He comes from the northwest regional office where he served as a Regional Director. He has also worked in state positions at Washington Game and Fish as well as a state legislator. A. Kemmerer encouraged the Commission to invite Mr. Schmitten to the next meeting.

Dan Furlong discussed regulatory guidelines for P.L. 102-567. This legislation addresses the processing of financial assistance within the NOAA administrative area. It would require guidelines to address the processing of "nondiscretionary" funds, which are funds earmarked by Congress for specific purposes. It would require that these type of applications be awarded within 60 days of receipt. Unfortunately there are some areas which have yet to be addressed, such as problems with the definition of a "complete application". He also discussed the new administrations "National Performance Review" and suggested that this executive order may reduce the authority of P.L. 102-567. D. Furlong will continue to keep the Commission updated on progress of this legislation.

Other areas discussed by D. Furlong were user fees. He discussed different options for setting fees for services and how the revenues from these fees may be used. He expressed his agency's desire to be fair and equitable in the allocation of user fees and that other fees already addressed by the state and/or federal government would be recognized. Of particular interest to the Commissioners was the recognition of state fees already paid, and the mechanics of returning the revenues from the fees back to the region or area where they were generated.

T. Gollott briefly discussed how Mississippi was collecting monies under a tidelands protection act. He suggested the others look into leasing the water bottoms in their States.

USFWS Region 4 Office -Report

Doug Frugé, Gulf Coast Fisheries Coordinator, USFWS reported for Region 4. The Service has a new Director, her name is Mollie Beattie. She comes to the Service from a Vermont natural resources agency. The Service also has a new Deputy Director who will head a new Office of External Affairs. This office will encompass Public Affairs, Federal Aid and Legislative Services. The new Deputy Director is Ken Smith, who was formerly with the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology. This represents a reorganization of Federal Aid at the Washington level, but at this point it is uncertain how,

if at all, this will effect operation of the Federal Aid program at the regional or field level in terms of interaction with the states.

The Service continues to monitor zebra mussel distribution in the Lower Mississippi River. The mussels have been found as far south as 12 miles below Belle Chasse, Louisiana in the mainstem and near Berwick, which is about 10 miles northwest of Morgan City, Louisiana in the Atchafalaya Basin. There is some concern for potential impacts on oysters due to the mussels' being able to tolerate some degree of salinity. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries field biologists were notified to be alert to their possible spread into coastal areas. So far they have not been detected at sites in the coastal zone other than those mentioned previously.

The National Biological Survey is being implemented administratively, but is still pending congressional approval. As such, the situation is still very dynamic and subject to change.

The Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee (LMRCC) is progressing toward becoming an operational entity. This year a constitution and by-laws were developed, and the member agency directors are now in the process of signing these documents to make involvement by their agencies official. So far six agencies have signed as official voting members. It is expected that five more agencies will sign the documents before the end of the year.

A list of potential fish hatchery closures should be forthcoming later this year. The list is expected to include 9 hatcheries nationwide, with several from the Gulf and other southeastern states.

Report - Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

C. Perret reported that the TCC met on Wednesday, October 20, 1993. The committee received a report on freshwater introduction into Mississippi and Louisiana marshes. Progress is being made as state funds become available. Other reports included reports from the various Gulf States, NMFS and FWS. All states now require a marine angling license. Other items of interest from the States included a report on a proposed constitutional amendment in Florida. The amendment is aimed at restricting and prohibiting the use of nets in certain waters off of Florida. The proposal will be placed on the ballot in the Fall of 1994. C. Perret also reported on Louisiana's artificial reef plan. Federal laws require that oil and gas structures be removed following cessation of operation. This plan establishes offshore zones for placing of these structures. The oil and gas companies are able to save money by placing the structures in these zones rather than dismantling them and bringing them onshore for disposal. The money saved by the companies are donated to the artificial reef plan. The fund is currently at \$5 million and operates off interest earned. The plan has been a huge success for the oil industry and the Louisiana offshore fishing industry. Other reports included a presentation on hypoxic areas in the Gulf of Mexico. These are areas where the oxygen is two parts per million and under. Very little sea life can exist in these conditions. These areas occur due to run off of rain waters. Historically they usually cover approximately 1,000 square miles of sea bottom. Heavy flooding this year has caused the largest area ever to occur. It is estimated that approximately 5,000 square miles of sea bottom is virtually devoid of sea life. The impact of this hypoxic area is not yet known but the size of the area indicate that the impact on fishery resources could be far reaching.

The various TCC Subcommittees reported. The Data Management Subcommittee presented a framework plan for the cooperative statistics program. C. Perret stated that the TCC endorsed this framework and requested that the Commission endorse it also. The plan was adopted without objections.

The SEAMAP Subcommittee reported that the Red Drum Work Group received, reviewed and endorsed a sampling protocol for red drum in the Gulf of Mexico. It is a three part study that will cost \$1.7 million to do in its entirety. The TCC supports the sampling protocol without commitment of

funding. A. Kemmerer stated the NMFS does not have the funds to pay for the study but also agrees that it is a good plan. He suggested that funding be sought from other sources such as MARFIN. Alternative studies were also discussed. C. Perret motioned that the Commission endorse this \$1.7 million study, without a commitment of where the funds would come from. W. Tatum amended the motion to endorse the study with any available funding from NMFS or other sources. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Other business of the TCC included the election of C. Perret and T. McIlwain as chairman and vice chairman for 1993-94 year.

Report - Law Enforcement Committee (LEC)

J. Waller reported that the LEC met on Wednesday, October 20, 1993. The committee received a report from Louisiana regarding the process for state reimbursement from the NMFS Asset Forfeiture Fund. The process needs to be streamlined, especially when there is no federal agent involved. The LEC requested that the Commissioners write a letter to appropriate persons requesting a more simplified process for seeking reimbursement. C. Perret motioned to support this request. There being no objection the motioned passed.

Other business included a request to the Commission to write letters in support of uniform size regulations for commercial fisheries. The target species are amberjack, cobia, flounder, king and Spanish mackerel, snapper, speckled trout and black drum. Lack of consistency in measuring practices was also addressed. After discussion, it was agreed that the Commission should look closer at this law enforcement problem. J. Gill stated that Mississippi would hold a meeting to discuss the problem. T. Gollott motioned to invite state directors and enforcement personnel to a meeting to discuss commercial uniform size regulations. J. Gill seconded. The motion passed.

J. Waller reported that at the last ISSC meeting that a controversial issue had passed regarding votes to states that do not produce shellfish. They get the same vote as states that do produce and patrol the shellfish industry. The issue passed by 1/2 vote. If Florida and Mississippi enforcement had had a vote at the time the issue was discussed, it may have been defeated. This is something the LEC will continue to look at.

J. Waller was elected chairman for the coming year.

Report - Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee (CFAC)

Chris Nelson reported that the CFAC met on Wednesday, October 20, 1993. The committee received several reports. Roger Zimmerman, NMFS reported on sea turtle strandings. Preliminary conclusions were that some of the strandings may have been due to entanglements in menhaden nets; some of the turtles were small enough to slip through the bar of TEDs; and, it is believed that the small turtles located inshore entered the area via a loop current filament. Other reports included a presentation by Rick Marks, National Fisheries Institute, regarding the reauthorization of the Magnuson Act and the Marine Mammals Protection Act. Wilma Anderson, Texas Shrimp Association, discussed their work with bycatch and bycatch reduction gear. She also discussed gulf-wide vessel insurance. It is estimated that due to the prohibitive cost of insurance, that approximately 70 percent of the Gulf fishing fleet are not insured. C. Nelson would like to see the Commission address this issue at a meeting. Perhaps a forum that would include members of the insurance industry. T. Harper agreed that we needed to look at this and suggested the staff look into discussing this at the upcoming March meeting. C. Nelson updated the Commissioners on warning labels for oysters. Currently only two states in the Gulf have regulations regarding warning labels - Louisiana and Florida. California has regulations targeting Gulf oysters only.

Report - State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee (S-FFMC)

L. Simpson reported that the S-FFMC met on Wednesday, October 20, 1993. The committee discussed progress by the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management Program. L. Simpson pointed out the reduced funding and will continue to seek additional funds. Other issues discussed included amendments to the MFCMA. No major changes are anticipated and the most controversial suggestions for amendments focus on the definition and insertion of language regarding conflict of interest. J. Gill pointed out that the State of Mississippi would not support the states losing their vote on the councils. The MFCMA probably will not be reauthorized until 1994.

L. Simpson reported on a series of hearings that the Commission is deeply involved in regarding recommendations for MFCMA amendments. The recommendations deal with Section 306, State Jurisdiction. The recommendations are endorsed by the other Commissions as well as the North Pacific and Pacific Marine Fisheries Council. The recommendations would amend Section 306 to specifically establish and/or clarify the authority of the states to manage species harvested in the EEZ that occur in both the state territorial waters and the EEZ in the absence of a council FMP, and also amend the section to enable a state, with the concurrence of the appropriate council to establish landing laws or regulations for species landed from the EEZ as well as state waters. L. Simpson felt strongly about this recommendation making the process of coordinated State-Federal Management better. E. Conklin was supportive of the language in the recommendation and urged the other states to be endorse it. R. Rosen also is supportive of L. Simpson leadership on this issue. This is something all of the state agencies can agree on to clarify the intent of Congress. By consensus, the Commissioners directed L. Simpson to continue presenting this issue to Congress and others for consideration.

The S-FFMC received reports on the previously requested menhaden season change - all states which had season involved have implemented the change. The Committee discussed ways that the GSMFC could receive reverted funds and apply them to projects in the gulf thus avoiding their loss to other regions or the FWS. A copy of a MOA among the states and NMFS regarding data confidentiality was discussed. R. Lukens requested a list from all the states identifying confidential agents. This is necessary to implement the MOA.

NMFS Fisheries Statistics Strategic Plan

M. Osborn gave a slide presentation on the NMFS Fisheries Statistics Strategic Plan (FSSP) process. The three key points are: (1) What are the challenges that NMFS faces?; (2) What can NMFS accomplish?; and, (3) How can NMFS achieve success?

NMFS hopes to fill information gaps and data inconsistencies and to change resource management and computing environments. They plan to accomplish this by establishing framework for future planning by assessing current and additional data needs, setting goals to evaluate and improve information quality, and developing short and long term budgets. In addition, the planning process will advance uniform and agency-wide standards for the collection and management of fishery statistics; improve data accessibility and dissemination; and, reduce program duplication and inefficiency.

This plan will establish a management review team (red team), fisheries statistics steering committee (blue team) and fisheries statistics technical review team (green team). All levels of experts, consultants and constituents will be involved in the process which will include organizational meetings, workshops and national workshops before being finalized. They will be addressing four key questions: (1) What should be done?; (2) How can it be done?; (3) When will it be done?; and, (4) Who will do it? Input from all areas will be sought, including commissions, states, recreational, commercial and environmental. The main thrust of the planning will begin in November and should be accomplished within one year.

FY94 NMFS Budget

L. Simpson reported that the three commissions took a different tact this year when appearing before Chairman Neil Smith's committee. They stressed only a few items such as Interjurisdictional fisheries and red drum research. It was a fair year but not an advancing type year. The House budget recommended \$1 million to the G&SAFRDF for bycatch reduction and approximately \$200k to begin the East Coast RecFin Program. There were many inequities, big dollars were directed to the Alaska region, the rest of the nation did not get much. Closer networking with the other commissions and states is necessary for future increases.

Habitat Education Report

L. Simpson reported that he had met with the other commissions to work on a thinking document entitled "Spills Aren't Slick". This document is educational and is directed toward getting pollution prevention on vessels, at fueling stations, and in port areas. It will increase awareness of how to prevent petroleum spills and properly clean-up and how to report spills that do occur. The commissions are working together to secure funding for these type of programs.

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management Program (IJF) Report

R. Leard reported that progress with the IJF program had been slowed due to funding problems. The Black Drum FMP has been distributed. The Mullet FMP is substantially complete but waiting on stock assessment input. Assignments have been made on the Menhaden FMP revision. No action has been initiated on the Spotted Seatrout FMP.

Sport Fish Restoration Program (SFRP) Report

R. Lukens reported that the SFRP continues to concentrate on four major areas: artificial reefs; fisheries data; anadromous fish; and, fishery management. The coordination of artificial reef development and management continues and a publication will be completed soon that will provide a data base of all existing reefs (excluding "midnight" reefs). RecFin has been formally organized and efforts are continuing on ComFin. The SFRP committees hope to be involved in the National Biological Survey because of the coordinated fisheries data work. In the anadromous fish area emphasis remain on striped bass restoration. A DNA data base study is due for completion soon. Joint effort with the FWS on the sturgeon recovery/management plan continue. R. Lukens will present the status of this work at the March meeting. The SFRP has been able to assist the IJF program in providing stock assessments and stock assessment training activities for selected species.

He reported that thanks to the assistance of R. Rosen, the mechanism to fund the SFRP has changed. The new process is a direct allocation, currently at a level of \$200,000 annually.

Executive Committee Report

T. Harper reported that the Executive Committee met on Wednesday, October 20, 1993. He presented the proposed budget with the following changes. Operating funds were reduced by \$1,720, bringing the operating fund total to \$128,722, and the overall total (including grants) to \$558,836. Other actions recommended by the committee was to increase Mississippi and Alabama dues over a two year period to bring them up to the same amount paid by Texas, Louisiana and Florida. Those states currently pay \$22,500 annually. Mississippi and Alabama currently pay \$11,250. They also recommended a 2.5 percent cost of living increase for the Commission staff.

J. Gill motioned to increase Mississippi and Alabama dues from \$11,250 to \$22,500 annually by increasing 1994 dues by \$5,625, than increasing again in 1995 by the same amount. C. Nelson seconded. The motion carried.

J. Gill motioned to adopt the budget as presented. C. Nelson seconded. The motion passed.

C. Nelson motioned to increase Commission's staff salaries by 2.5% annually. J. Gill seconded. The motion passed.

T. Gollott motioned to adopt the audit for fiscal year ending 1992. W. Tatum seconded. The motion passed.

Future Meetings

L. Simpson discussed the possibility of meeting jointly with the Atlantic and Pacific Commissions in Washington, D.C. This would give the Commissions the opportunity to exchange ideas and the Gulf Commissioners an opportunity to visit Capitol Hill. The meeting would be in April 1994. The Commissioners directed him to look into the possibilities. If unable to firm up for this spring we will meet in New Orleans. L. Simpson will get back to the Commissioners when arrangements are firm.

Publication Update

L. Simpson presented a current list of publications. Some 1993 publications include: Black Drum FMP; 1991 SEAMAP Atlas; RecFin strategic plan; RecFin project summaries; and, other annual GSMFC publications. Anyone wishing to receive a publication should contact the Commission office.

Other Business

L. Simpson reported that Guy Thornburgh, Executive Director, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission has resigned from his position effective December 1993. He is going to work for Northwest Marine Technology to be their Customer Service Manager.

W. Tatum stated that in case the SEAMAP Subcommittee was not successful in receiving \$1.7 million to complete a red drum three-year study he would motion that the SEAMAP Subcommittee direct the Red Drum Work Group to develop a two-year sampling protocol for determining age and distribution of red drum stocks offshore. C. Perret seconded. The motion carried.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

T. Gollott nominated R. Rosen for 1993-94 Chairman of the GSMFC. The motion was seconded and passed.

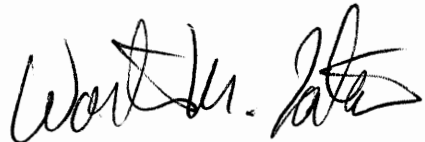
C. Perret nominated J. Gill for 1993-94 1st Vice Chairman of the GSMFC. The motion was seconded and passed.

W. Tatum nominated E. Conklin for 1993-94 2nd Vice Chairman of the GSMFC. The motion was seconded and passed.

Presentation to Outgoing Chairman

R. Rosen presented T. Harper with a gift of appreciation for his service as chairman for 1992-93. T. Harper received a two piece suit.

The being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.



SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
CONFERENCE CALL
MINUTES
November 10, 1993

Roll was called at 10:00 a.m. The following members and others participated:

Members

Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Joe Kimmel, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Joanne Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Staff

David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator

W. Tatum stated there may be an opportunity in 1994-1995 to receive some MARFIN funding for a cooperative state initiative to determine the age structure of offshore stocks of red drum. The Commission charged the SEAMAP Subcommittee, through the Red Drum Work Group, to develop an alternative protocol for determining the age structure of red drum. The reason for this call is to make sure the Subcommittee is in agreement with the development of such a proposal. T. Cody was not able to attend the Commission Business meeting and wanted a brief review of what happened. W. Tatum stated that the Commission endorsed the proposal developed by the GMFMC Stock Assessment Team but in light of the high price tag, made a motion to charge the SEAMAP Subcommittee to develop an alternative cooperative age analysis study. This motion was passed unanimously. J. Shultz warned that the proposal should not be developed with a specific amount of money in mind. The proposal should address all the necessary activities and not be restricted by available money. T. Cody reported that the state is in the process of developing a similar study in Texas. T. Cody asked if the other states are developing or have in place similar age and growth studies and facilities. J. Hanifen stated that Louisiana is developing a program and Mississippi, Alabama and Florida have laboratories in place to conduct this kind of work.

W. Tatum stated there is a fairly short time table for developing this proposal for submission to MARFIN. The proposal will need to be submitted some time in February or March 1994. It is envisioned that the proposal will be a

single cooperative study as opposed to each state submitting separately. R. Waller asked how the red drum will be collected. The method will probably have to be hook and line. Other possible gears could be long lining and gill netting but those are not very probable. J. Kimmel mentioned that the preferred method is purse seine but it was noted that the cost associated with purse seining was too high and would not allow for a comprehensive survey.

* J. Kimmel asked how quickly the work group can develop such a plan. W. Tatum stated that it was not known but the funding for convening a meeting for this year was not available but D. Donaldson noted that there will be funds available for a work group meeting in 1994. One possibility is to ask the GMFMC to convene the Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel (which is almost identical to the SEAMAP Red Drum Work Group) and have them develop the protocol. The next step is that the subcommittee needs to charge the work group to convene a meeting in 1994 for the development of a MARFIN proposal for sampling and age determination of the offshore red drum stock. J. Hanifen moved the SEAMAP subcommittee charge the Red Drum Work Group to prepare a proposal for a two-year age and growth study of red drum in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. This proposal would be prepared for submission to MARFIN in FY1994.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

**RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday and Thursday, December 1 and 2, 1993
New Orleans, Louisiana**

W. H. Lukens

Acting Chairman, Hal Osburn, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm, Wednesday, December 1, 1993. The following members and others were present:

Members

Hal Osburn, TPWD, Austin, TX
Mel Bell, SCMRD, Charleston, SC
Jon Dodrill, FDEP, Tallahassee, FL
Jan Culbertson, TPWD, Seabrook, TX
Rick Kasprzak, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Mike Buchanan, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS
Tina Berger, SFI/ARDC, Washington, DC
Bob Cooke, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Ron Schmied, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Walter Tatum, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL

Staff

Ron Lukens, GSMFC Assistant Director

Others

Kevin Rademacher, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Torré Anderson, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Dale Beaumariage, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Burt Mullin, MMS, New Orleans, LA
Captain Bill Higgins, USN/DLA, Hillsdale, NJ
Les Dautrive, MMS, New Orleans, LA

Adoption of Agenda

The suggestion was made to move item 14 to item 5 and move item 7 to item 14. With these changes, the agenda was adopted without objection.

Approval of Minutes

Two sets of minutes were presented to the Subcommittee for approval. The first set of minutes were from the November 1992 joint meeting of the Subcommittee with the Artificial Reef Advisory Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission held in Jekyll Island, Georgia. J. Culbertson provided a minor correction to page 5 of those minutes. Upon making that correction, the minutes of the November 1992 meeting were approved as amended without objection.

The second set of minutes were from the June 1993 Subcommittee meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana. Upon review, those minutes were approved without objection.

State-Federal-Private Organization Reports

Texas - J. Culbertson distributed an updated artificial reef donation status sheet to the Subcommittee which lists donor, material donated, and funding contribution to the trust fund per material donated. She indicated that she has updates on coordinates for some of the artificial reef sites, and that the program has acquired two rigs since the last meeting. Both have been deployed. She added that Texas now has 17 rigs deployed on 12 sites. In addition, the program has deployed a "jungle Jim" structure and 300 one ton fly ash blocks on a Liberty ship site. The fly ash blocks have about a 20 foot vertical height.

The program funded some data collection and research activities, including a visual census project to estimate the population of an artificial reef, some fish tagging, a benthic transect survey. An economic study has been funded which will assess artificial use by divers and charter boats. Culbertson participated with the MMS and Corpus Christi State to conduct a study of the Port Mansfield site, including the development of a movie. The site contains three Liberty ships and two oil structures. Two oil structures will be deployed on the Port Isabelle site which is four miles offshore in relatively shallow water (72 feet). The program received 33 letters from divers in the State requesting development of the site, including support from a city and a county.

The program has been working with commercial shrimp fishermen in the Sabine Pass area to locate a site for artificial reef development. Recreational fishermen from the area have been requesting some development there, and the attempt is to locate a site that will not conflict with historical use patterns in the fishery. Two options have been identified, and the program will be making a decision on one soon. The program has a permitted area off Galveston which, upon investigation, was found to have a pipeline permitted through the site. She indicated that the MMS now has a new permitting procedure which provides locations for all permitted artificial reef sites. This information should prevent such use conflicts in the future. There is, however, a great deal of concern over the location of the pipeline. Fishermen are using the artificial reef, and officials are concerned that anchoring or other activities could snag the pipeline and cause an oil spill. The concerned parties are continuing to work together to devise some solution to the situation. R. Lukens asked if the pipeline was exposed. Culbertson indicated that it was not exposed;

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -3-

however, it is covered with three feet of silt and one foot of clay, and could be contacted with a large anchor.

The program has been working with commercial shrimp fishermen in the High Island area to determine historical fishing patterns in an effort to avoid use conflicts. They are ready to apply for a permit, and will be proceeding to acquire the location identified. This is a large general permit area for use by the program, and will allow the program to avoid having to secure a permit for each piece of material deployed there. The public will not be able to deploy materials in the general permit area.

Louisiana - R. Kasprzak indicated that since the last meeting the program has developed ten artificial reefs, primarily using oil and gas platforms, with one shell reef. The new developments add to a total of 35 oil and gas structures on 14 locations. He reported that the program has been planning to conduct a side scan sonar survey of artificial reef sites that were thought to have been affected by Hurricane Andrew. That survey has been completed in cooperation with Louisiana State University (LSU). Preliminary results indicate that there was no movement or destruction of any of the sites surveyed. This is good preliminary information indicating that oil and gas platforms are stable materials that can withstand extreme environmental conditions such as a class 4 hurricane. He reported that the program is cooperating with LSU to conduct a hydro-acoustic survey to estimate total biomass around standing platforms, to establish a data base and gain expertise in using the technology. The methodology could be applied to estimating the fish populations around artificial reefs. Kasprzak reported that they plan to acquire four additional oil and gas structures for deployment which were damaged by Hurricane Andrew.

He reported that the Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks (MGFB), an artificial reef group in coastal Mississippi, has been seeking a permit for a large area off the northeast end of the Chandeleur Islands. The proposed area is outside state waters, but is very near the line of state jurisdiction. Early in the process, part of the area was within Louisiana state waters, and the program had objections indicating the need to subject the site to the Louisiana program's public review process. Also, several objections had been raised by commercial shrimp fishermen from Mississippi and Alabama, saying that they utilize the area on a regular basis. Upon resubmitting the permit with the new location and additional materials provisions, all objections to the proposed site have been satisfied. It is expected that the site will

*Using side scan
sonar.*

be approved soon. H. Osburn asked about the resolution for detecting fish size. He indicated that the technology can detect very small sizes and can easily differentiate sizes. K. Rademacher indicated that target strength and position of the target to the beam affect results. The technology is being used in fresh water areas to estimate biomass per species, because those species tend to stratify by depth. In marine application, identification by species would be unlikely; however, by combining hydro-acoustics with underwater video technology, estimation of biomass per species may be possible.

Mississippi - M. Buchanan also reported briefly on the proposed site near the Chandeleur Islands, indicating that the Bureau of Marine Resources had considered calling for a public hearing due to the concerns expressed. He indicated that since objections have apparently been withdrawn, that may not occur. He reported that the Bureau has been working with the MCFB to establish a shallow water site for concrete rubble about 7 to 8 miles offshore (inside the barrier islands) in about 18 feet of water. An attempt will be made, using divers, to evaluate the site. He indicated that the Bureau is trying to secure funds acquired from gambling casino leases to conduct some nearshore, low-profile artificial reef development. If such artificial reefs are developed, they will be evaluated using the existing creel survey conducted by the Bureau. H. Osburn asked if any of the Mississippi offshore artificial reefs have buoys attached. Buchanan responded that they do have buoys, most unlighted. A short discussion ensued regarding inquiries to coastal states from the Mississippi Governor's Office. Apparently, the Governor's Office is interested in artificial reef development and is attempting to acquire information from existing programs. Only recently has the Bureau been contacted to discuss the issue. It is expected that the Governor's Office will continue to work with the Bureau to seek satisfaction with their concerns.

Alabama - W. Tatum reported that the ADCNR/MRD received authority in August 1993 to enforce the State's permit requirements for developing artificial reefs. Specifically, if a vessel is found in state jurisdictional waters with material that is intended to be used as artificial reef material on board, the vessel must have received prior approval for deploying the material or the Department can cite them. The state has no jurisdiction to issue citations if the vessel is in federal waters. It is hoped that this capability will stem the tide of illegal deployment of artificial reef materials within and without the general permit areas. Tatum indicated that he

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -5-

planned to discuss the availability of army tanks, but would defer that discussion until the designated agenda item. Also of interest to Tatum is the use of underwater video to assess fish populations, which will be discussed by K. Rademacher later in the agenda. He indicated that he feels that the trap-video work being conducted by the SEAMAP is the most exciting development to come along to allow for the assessment of reef fish stocks.

Tatum reported that it was the intent of the Department, regarding their proposal for special management zones (SMZ) around their general permit areas, to try to put commercial and recreational fishermen on a level playing field. The proposals only provision is to limit fishermen to the use of no more than three hooks when engaged in the harvest of reef fish species. Many of the commercial fishermen have already agreed that it would be a good regulation. Tatum feels that their proposal will be successful if the constituency will write in their comments to the NMFS. Tatum indicated that Tina Berger, SFI/ARDC, had sent in a very supportive letter.

Tatum indicated that the Department plans to conduct workshops and develop promotional material to educate the public regarding the positive benefits of developing and using artificial reefs. The workshops will provide information related to the values of artificial reefs, problems associated with artificial reefs, laws and regulation related the construction of artificial reefs, and in general encourage potential reef developers to be diligent in placing materials within the general permit areas as specified by the general permit provisions. The individuals that are still placing materials outside the general permit areas do not realize the threat to the program that such activities cause. It is hoped that the workshops and promotional materials will create a more responsible clientele.

Florida - J. Dodrill indicated that due to a promotion of Virginia Vail, he had been hired as the artificial reef program coordinator. During 1993 the program financed 15 artificial reef projects throughout Florida, including approximately 20,000 cubic yards of concrete culvert and rubble, two 265 foot supply vessels, and barges. The program continues to fund ongoing research projects, including a project involving prefabricated concrete blocks with various sized openings and variously spaced. The five year study by the University of Florida is to determine the successional recruitment of fish species to the site. The University of West Florida is just finishing up a project to evaluate the efficacy of using car bodies as

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -6-

artificial reef material, both from stability and biological standpoints. In May, the Department sponsored the 1993 Artificial Reef Summit, designed to address Florida issues. The proceedings of that Summit will be completed soon. At the Summit, the State's artificial reef plans were presented and comments solicited from the public. Those plans have now been finalized.

Two environmental specialists from the Department conduct compliance monitoring diving on selected projects funded through the Sport Fish Restoration Program. They are working to establish ongoing monitoring on several sites around the coast. The new initiative to establish a large general permit area off the western Florida panhandle has been a major issue for the program. This general permit is proposed to function in a similar fashion to Alabama's general permit areas, in that the state would hold the permit and citizens of the State of Florida would be able to deploy appropriate, inspected materials within the general permit area. Some conflict exists over the exact location and size of the subject area. Dade County now has their own general permit area of over 140 square miles and will develop their own procedures standards for development of artificial reefs within the area. However, it is possible that if the Department gets the general permit area off the panhandle, they may inherit the Dade County area as well. Several commercial fishing organizations oppose the panhandle general permit proposal. The Department has submitted a bill related to enforcement capabilities in the event the general permit area is approved. The bill establishes inspection procedures and means for enforcing the program should infractions occur. Dodrill indicated that they had been working closely with the State of Alabama to benefit from their several years of experience in working with the general permit concept. He indicated that from 100 to 220 loads of material per winter season are being deployed from the Destin area alone. If this is occurring in other places, the magnitude of deployments would be significant. These deployments are currently illegal, and unless the Florida Marine Patrol or the Coast Guard catch someone actually putting materials over the side, enforcement is impossible. This situation points out the benefit of the authority just granted to the Alabama program which allows citation of anyone in possession of artificial reef material in state waters without proper clearance. Berger asked if there was any move on behalf of the State of Florida to centralize the data for artificial reefs being built by the different programs. Dodrill indicated that it is recognized as a significant problem, but there is no movement in that direction. The

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -7-

plans recently adopted by the state do not address centralizing the data base. Lukens asked the Subcommittee if it would be useful, as a part of the next meeting, to have detailed presentations of the existing state plans. Some discussion ensued regarding this issue, and the Subcommittee agreed to consider it an issue for the next meeting. Tatum indicated that an oil company has a gas structure offshore Alabama about three miles south of the general permit area. The oil company requested of the Corps of Engineers and the Minerals Management Service to topple the structure in place. Alabama requested that the oil company pull the structure into the permit area; however, they do not wish to do it. The Minerals Management Service representative, Mullin, indicated that they would support the state of Alabama's position of the structure being moved into the general permit area.

Sport Fishing Institute - The Artificial Reef Development Center continues to maintain the national artificial reef data base, as of September 1993, the update of the data for the Gulf region was added to the data base. The entire data base for the Gulf region has been supplied to the Minerals Management Service (MMS), who is using the data to plot artificial reefs on lease block maps as a means to avoid conflicts with artificial reef programs and offshore oil and gas activities. An update of the Pacific coast artificial reef data is expected within a few months.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - B. Cooke indicated that the preliminary apportionment of Sport Fish Restoration Program funds to the states was signed by Secretary Babbitt on Friday, November 26, 1993. He stated that a number of situations have caused the total apportionment to be lower for 1994 than in recent previous years. That number should increase over the next several years and then level off. The FWS distributed a notice that the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Federal Aid Program is now available for review with comments due by January 17, 1994. One public hearing was held on November 17, 1993, in the Washington, D.C. area. Lukens asked if there are any provisions within the draft EIS that would potentially affect the use of funds for artificial reef activities. Cooke indicated that he did not know; however, the preferred alternative has been changed. Initially, the preferred alternative was the "no change" alternative; however, the FWS has changed the preferred alternative to the development of national and regional priorities. Since those priorities are yet to be developed, it is not known what areas of work will be emphasized. Cooke indicated

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -8-

that the mechanism for establishing the priorities has not been decided, but that the states would be integrally involved.

Minerals Management Service - Burt Mullin indicated that the oil and gas activities in the Gulf have increased. Much of the increase is for natural gas. He indicated that several years ago, the region was in a down turn, with platform removals being more numerous than new platforms. Currently, the number of new platforms nearly equals the number of platforms being removed.

Les Dautrive gave a brief update on the mapping activities going on at MMS. The initiative plots artificial reef planning areas and deployment sites on lease block maps, and uses the data provided by the data base from the Artificial Reef Development Center of the Sport Fishing Institute. Dautrive emphasized that the maps are primarily intended for MMS use, but will be made available to the states for their use in planning and conflict management. Dautrive wants to continue to interact with the Subcommittee so that all agencies involved can maximize the benefits of having a comprehensive data base on offshore continental shelf activities.

National Marine Fisheries Service - Ron Schmied indicated that he has had difficulty due to scheduling in making the last several meetings of the Subcommittee, but that he intends to remain involved as much as he can. He mentioned the recent Congressional hearings on the Rigs-to-Reefs program and indicated that he had been involved in preparing NMFS testimony for that hearing.

Schmied then discussed the concept of seawall reefs and other shallow water estuarine and bay reefs. He indicated that interest in developing these types of reefs is increasing. Basically, the idea is that people who own waterfront property along bays, estuaries, and canals and have a seawall or other bulkheading can deploy specially designed materials along the seawall or other structure to enhance the habitat for fish and invertebrate fauna. Dr. Randy Edwards of Mote Marine Laboratory is just completing a project to study seawall artificial reef modules. These modules are comprised of bundled, plastic coated, mesh wire wrapped in cylinders about three feet long. These bundles are then placed perpendicular to the seawall. Schmied indicated that he would make Dr. Edwards' report available to the Subcommittee as soon as it is completed.

Schmied indicated that the NMFS office in St. Petersburg, Florida has a Memorandum of Understanding with Pinellas County Schools to develop a marine science theme school at the middle school level. The learning lab would include a

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -9-

marine trail, which is a board walk along the waterfront. Along the trail are distributed 100 of the seawall reefs discussed above. A curriculum will be developed around this marine trail and the marine resources that are associated with the area. The question was asked if permits were required for the seawall reefs. Schmied indicated that the rule currently states that if you can look across your canal and see another seawall, then there is no permit required. Otherwise, a permit would be required from the Tampa Port Authority. Also the authorities are working on a general permit to allow such activities without a lot of bureaucracy. J. Culbertson asked how the wire cylinders for the seawall reefs are anchored. Schmied responded that they are weighted with oyster shell. This seems to be enough since these areas are relatively low energy areas. Also, after a short period, growth of encrusting organisms adds to the weight of the units.

Schmied discussed a study by Dr. Steve Bortone to investigate marine artificial reefs related to fish associated with different configurations of artificial reef material. He has proposed another similar project to investigate nearshore and estuarine artificial reefs in the Florida Panhandle. These studies are designed to look at artificial reef design and function as they affect species assemblages and colonization.

Schmied discussed the current activities related to aquaculture of live rock, which is limestone or other rock formations with encrusting organisms attached, for the aquarium trade. He indicated that there are a number of people interested in placing pieces of limestone in specially permitted areas for the purpose of encouraging epiphytic growth. After such growth occurs, the limestone is harvested and replaced with fresh limestone pieces. Schmied indicated that these people are submitting for artificial reef permits to conduct this activity. Some discussion ensued regarding the implications of this situation and the fact that it is an aquaculture activity and should not be confused with artificial reef development. Currently, the State of Florida has regulations restricting the harvest of natural live rock. Florida is considering issuing leases in state waters for this activity. A comparison was made with oyster leasing activities wherein the lessee has proprietary rights to harvesting oysters for commercial purposes. Lukens made the point that if such live rock farming is conducted under an artificial reef permit, then a precedent is set which allows individuals exclusive rights to access to an artificial reef, which has not been the case in the past. It would be more appropriate to issue

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -10-

a permit for such activity under an exclusive lease of water bottoms as in the oyster fishery. J. Culbertson indicated that Texas has had several requests from people who want to do live rock aquaculture who want to place the rock in a permitted artificial reef site held by the state. The Texas program does not intend to authorize the placing of rock for live rock aquaculture in permitted artificial reef areas. Also there have been several requests through the Corps of Engineers for permits in the Gulf offshore Texas to culture live rock. The Corps of Engineers is not sure at this point how to handle such requests. T. Berger indicated that there is an amendment (amendment 7) introduced for the South Atlantic federal coral fishery management plan which protects natural live rock. R. Kasprzak pointed out that there will be an enforcement problem if live rock aquaculture is permitted but harvest of natural live rock is prohibited. Some discussion continued regarding this issue. **Chairman Osburn requested that there be a status report at the next meeting regarding the live rock aquaculture issue.**

REEF-EX

Chairman Osburn indicated that Subcommittee members Walter Tatum and Rick Kasprzak had attended meeting in Anniston, Alabama regarding the possible use of retired army tanks as artificial reef materials. Also Captain Bill Higgins, from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) who is heading up the initiative called REEF-EX, was in attendance to provide detailed information. W. Tatum indicated that early discussions leaned toward the tanks being placed in designated artificial reef areas through military training exercises at no cost to the states. However, following the meeting in Anniston, it appeared that a different approach was being taken. Tatum then suggested that Captain Higgins have the floor and provide the Subcommittee with a full briefing of the issue.

Captain Higgins provided the Subcommittee with a brief discussion of his personal and professional background and how he became involved with REEF-EX. He stated that the DLA is the organization that has operational control over all the depots for all the armed services of the U.S. Recently, the Government Accounting Office has requested that these areas be cleaned up, including the Anniston depot, which is the "home" of all retired American tanks, currently numbering 3000. These tanks are no longer valuable for sale as military equipment. Captain Higgins passed out several pictures of the tanks in question. He indicated that the ordinary method

of getting rid of such material is to sell the tanks to the scrap metal industry for recycling into other metal products. At a DLA meeting to determine the best strategy for disposing of the tanks, it was suggested that they be used as artificial reefs. An immediate benefit to the DLA, and the tax payers is that the tanks would not have to be demilitarized since they would be at the bottom of the ocean. Demilitarization was initially estimated at approximately \$30 million. Since that time, demilitarization costs have decreased; however, it was determined that REEF-EX is still a win-win situation. At the Anniston meeting, it was stated that an estimated \$6,000 per tank would be required to move the tanks from Anniston and deploy them on site.

Captain Higgins then provided the Subcommittee with handout materials indicating that the tanks could be scrapped, and that current estimates are that the scrap metal industry would pay from \$35 to \$65 per ton for the opportunity to demilitarize the tanks. This would mean a high end estimate of just under \$10 million into the Department of Defense general fund.

Captain Higgins then discussed original idea of using the reserves through training exercises to transport and deploy the tanks. The final decision was that officers in charge of the reserves and their training determined that this would not constitute valuable training experience and would not be willing to spend training funds to carry out the exercise. He recognized that, in general, the states did not have funds budgeted for such a one-time opportunity as these tanks offer, but he acknowledged that artificial reefs are generally considered to be beneficial to local and state economies, both in the short and long term. Several contacts have been made with both military assets and private industry, including rail and barge companies, to determine how REEF-EX could be implemented. He indicated that the tanks at Anniston represent Stage 1. Stage 2 of REEF-EX takes advantage of other retired military assets, including another 3000 tanks, from other areas of the country. Stage 2 tanks would have to be transported to Anniston for demilitarization. If Stage 1 REEF-EX works, rather than sending the tanks to Anniston, they could be sent directly to coastal staging areas for use as artificial reefs. Funds may still be required to transport them to the reef sites.

Captain Higgins expressed the concern on behalf of the DLA that REEF-EX be carefully explored and planned so that there are no negative environmental consequences or embarrassment associated with the operation. He explained that the

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -12-

tanks would be cleaned and prepared beyond U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requirements. These concerns are why Captain Higgins has been meeting with groups like the Subcommittee, so that all bases can be covered and so that concerns on behalf of the environmental, fisheries, and artificial reef management communities could be aired and addressed. His final conclusion was that in order to make the tanks available for artificial reef material, funds would be required to transport them from Anniston, Alabama to the coastal staging areas and to transport them from the coastal staging areas to the artificial reef sites for deployment. The tanks can be given free of charge to the states, but there are no designated funds for moving them. Either the states would have to identify funds for handling the tanks, or some other source of funds, such as from private industry, would have to be identified.

There was a great deal of interest in the opportunities offered by REEF-EX; however, the state representatives were concerned that there are no funds available for transportation and deployment of the tanks. Captain Higgins indicated that there would be another meeting in Washington, D.C. on the 14th of January and each of the states was invited to attend. The meeting would be aimed at determining individual desire for tanks and specific logistics requirements, including funds, for getting them placed on artificial reef sites. He stressed that even if the state programs themselves could not come up with the transportation funding, there may be some opportunities with the private sector, giving several examples. He indicated that it was imperative that the states be interested in and willing to participate in REEF-EX if it is to work, because the Department of Defense is not interested in spending funds in an austere budget climate to conduct such an initiative if the states do not want it, and when they could have the tanks scrapped at a cost benefit.

Mel Bell, South Carolina, provided the perspective that artificial reef managers are tasked with providing the best and most artificial reef possible with the funds available. He said that the crucial issue is the total price per tank on the bottom, and it may turn out that, for the limited bottom area and the limited habitat complexity offered by a tank, the cost/benefit ratio may not be attractive. Some discussion ensued regarding this perspective.

Captain Higgins indicated that CSX Rail Road had encountered some environmental difficulties and had been sued for \$4.5 million in mitigation and \$3 million in fines. They expressed an interest in transporting the tanks at no charge

in lieu of paying the \$3 million fine. There was some confusion regarding this issue, with Lukens commenting that mitigation should not be used to replace unequal value or function of habitat. It was pointed out that the mitigation factor was not in question, but rather the fines, to which no one objected. As indicated there may be a transportation opportunity with CSX Rail Road. There was general agreement that REEF-EX is a good idea that offers opportunities for all parties concerned. However, there is still a concern regarding funding, such that the states are reluctant to commit to the initiative until funding is identified. Considerable discussion ensued regarding various specific technical and policy issues related to REEF-EX.

Summary of ASMFC Artificial Reef Committee Meeting

Mel Bell indicated that the ASMFC Artificial Reef Committee (Committee) had discussed the REEF-EX issue at length. They also discussed PCBs as they relate to using retired ships for artificial reef material. It was decided that the Committee would send a letter to the EPA requesting guidance related to the use of ships and the possible occurrence of PCBs associated with that practice. They are currently awaiting a response. The Committee has developed a "Sense of the Committee" document related to PCBs on ships which helped formulate the letter. A copy of the document was distributed to the Subcommittee.

Special management zones (SMZ) were discussed related to establishing SMZs in the Mid-Atlantic region. The Committee is proposing to sponsor an SMZ Workshop to discuss a variety of issues related to SMZs and to educate participants as to the appropriateness of applying SMZs as management tools for artificial reefs. The schedule and location for the workshop is as yet undetermined.

Also discussed was the need for social and economic data for artificial reefs. The Committee formulated a resolution which emphasizes the importance of social and economic data for management of artificial reef programs. It was felt that such a resolution, if it passes, would give the Committee additional ammunition to influence the individual state agencies to recognize the importance of funding social and economic studies for artificial reef use.

The Committee also discussed the need for collection of biological and reef performance data, among others, on a coast-wide basis. A rough draft of a proposal has been drafted that addresses areas where programs could work together to

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -14-

conduct assessments, including biological and socio-economic assessments. The Committee discussed the possibility of accepting such a proposal as a committee project. One important aspect regarding the project is that there would be agreed upon standardized protocols and methods for conducting work among the states. No decision has been made as yet regarding proceeding with such a project.

The North Carolina Artificial Reef Program is conducting a vessel use survey designed to assess the degree and interest of usage of vessels as artificial reef material among the other state programs on the Atlantic coast. The survey arose from the interest of the U.S. Congress in making surplus vessels available to the states for artificial reef development. It is hoped that the results of the survey would be used to provide input to Congress in the event that the initiative gains more interest.

J. Culbertson asked that, since the Atlantic States tend to use more surplus vessels, they might be able to provide guidance to any state in the Gulf regarding such issues as vessel clean-up. Bell agreed that they could provide guidance based upon their collective experiences, specifying that the PCB issue is probably the most significant. Chairman Osburn indicated that he felt the regular exchange of information between the Atlantic and Gulf artificial reef groups is extremely valuable, and he would recommend continuing that exchange, adding that it would be useful also to exchange meeting minutes between groups.

Discussion of the June Congressional Hearing on Rigs-to-Reefs

Chairman Osburn indicated that he, Tina Berger, and Ron Schmied were all in attendance at the hearing. He indicated that the Sport Fishing Institute (SFI) had developed a summary of the hearing. Basically, the testimony presented by the state programs, the NMFS, and SFI was well received. There were a number of written questions provided by Congressman Ortiz' office to those testifying. Berger indicated that the questions had been answered, and that no subsequent action has been proposed by the Congressman's office. Osburn indicated that he felt that Mr. Ortiz was pleased that the state and federal agencies and private sector, including the shrimp fishing industry, have been communicating with each other. It was also beneficial that the states had adopted plans to provide program management guidance. Berger indicated that the hearing resulted in some large questions related to the future of artificial reef development and management, including questions

related to how many oil and gas structures are expected to be converted into artificial reefs. These questions should be addressed by both the Gulf and Atlantic artificial reef groups. Osburn indicated that he felt that it was important that the artificial reef representatives demonstrated their credibility in managing environmentally sound programs. It was generally felt that having the Subcommittee as a focus for coordinating a unified voice on such issues as those the hearing raised is very beneficial to the state and federal agencies, and facilitates resolution of such broader issues. Berger indicated that she will continue to track any action resulting from the hearing or the subsequent questions.

Artificial Reef Material Project

Lukens indicated that each Subcommittee member had received information from him and Berger related to developing the necessary information on artificial reef material use. He indicated that the current activity slated for the meeting is the very first step, and that many of the references to materials provided by Berger are very hard to find. Most seem to only mention the use of the material while not addressing specific issues related to that use. Lukens suggested that each member present discuss their particular homework assignment and any progress made.

Walter Tatum was assigned concrete and vehicles. He indicated that he focused primarily on automobiles and concrete, stating that virtually all the information he has is anecdotal. Tatum relied upon activities conducted off Alabama, which has historically used both automobiles and concrete. He indicated that he had followed the outline as best he could and has about two pages written about each material.

Mike Buchanan was assigned natural materials, such as quarry rock, oyster and clam shells, etc. He indicated that he had information from the west coast related to quarry rock. There appears to be a number of references to the use of clam and oyster shell, but most of it is related to rehabilitating oyster reefs. Buchanan indicated that he had not written any specific information as yet.

Rick Kasprzak was assigned oil and gas structures and white goods, including refrigerators, washing machines, driers, etc. He indicated that there is not a lot of information in the literature on the use of white goods as artificial reef material. He indicated that anecdotal information states that such material is very short lived in the marine environment. He stated that he had a great deal of information on the

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -16-

use of oil and gas structures as artificial reef material; however, the focus of such information is not necessarily on the analysis of the efficacy of using those structures as artificial reefs. He indicated that, since his program is a Rigs-to-Reefs program, he will focus on the efficacy aspect as he writes his section. He went through a number of references that he will be using in developing his assignment.

Jon Dodrill, taking over from Virginia Vail, was assigned vessels and railroad boxcars. He indicated that Vail had not begun on the work prior to being transferred to her new duties. Dodrill has started checking state-wide and on the Atlantic coast on the use of boxcars, indicating that preliminary information is not favorable for use of boxcars. Regarding vessels, he is checking state-wide regarding the extent of use of vessels in Florida. He has currently compiled a listing of the kind and number of vessels deployed. He discussed a number of scenarios in which local programs had experienced problems with vessels that had been deployed. He also raised the concern about the use (overuse) of explosives to sink vessels related to fish and other faunal mortality. He indicated that he will continue to compile the pertinent information for the next step.

Jan Culbertson was assigned coal ash waste, brick, and clay. She indicated that there is extensive literature related to use of coal ash. Regarding the use of clay and brick, there are no references that she can find to the use of those materials. She did, however, uncover information that clay tiles were used as a biofouling surface in some studies, but that other materials were subsequently used because clay tiles were too expensive. Brick, too, appears to be too expensive to use. Culbertson indicated that she had not received copies of the format for developing the information. Lukens said that he would provide the appropriate information to her.

Tina Berger was assigned tires, plastics, and potential materials. She has a large amount of information on the use of tires. Most of the references indicate that tires are unstable. Those programs that continue to use tires use elaborate tire-in-concrete (TIC) units; however, recently many tires have washed up on the beaches along North Carolina and Virginia, attesting to the instability factor. These were apparently not TIC units. She indicated that there is a handbook related to using tires in TIC units. Most of the information for the project could be gleaned from the handbook.

She indicated that there is not much literature on the use of plastics. Several references to the use of plastics were made by Subcommittee members. She indicated that she would pursue those and other activities. Related to potential materials, Berger indicated that she had not done much in that area.

Berger stated that she had consulted the profiles data base regarding how many sites were composed of certain materials. The question is whether a material is on a site or not, not how much of the material is there or what other materials are there. Examples resulting for the Gulf region were: 30% have concrete, 26% have vessels, 26% have other miscellaneous materials, and 2% have prefabricated materials.

Ron Lukens was assigned miscellaneous metals, glass, and porcelain goods. Lukens indicated that he had no luck in locating any references in the literature related specifically to the use of the materials for his assignment. He stated that most of his information will probably come from anecdotal references.

Chairman Osburn asked the Subcommittee to comment on the next step in the process. Lukens indicated that he felt the next step should be for each member to contact individuals or programs that had used the materials in question and discuss that use with them. This would fall under the heading of anecdotal information, unless the information has been documented in program or project reports. He suggested using the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) document entitled "Materials Criteria Handbook for Atlantic Coast Artificial Reefs." Lukens advised the members that they get names of people that are contacted, so that appropriate credit can be given to anecdotal comments. That ASMFC document contains specific references to use of materials be Atlantic coast artificial reef programs, and will provide a contact point for each member. Once the additional information is compiled, each member should then develop narrative based on the outline agreed upon by the Subcommittee and see how the document is taking shape. It was suggested that each member have at least written a first draft of the information in time for the next meeting, which is usually in the early summer. Each member should consider that their homework assignment represents the first draft of the final document. The material will be reviewed and edited by the entire Subcommittee, but the individual assignments will provide the initial draft.

The meeting recessed at 5:00pm on December 1, and reconvened at 8:30am on December 2.

Trap-Video Presentation

Kevin Rademacher, NMFS Pascagoula, provided the Subcommittee with background regarding how the trap-video study came into being. Rademacher indicated that the States of Alabama and Mississippi are participating with the NMFS in the program, which is a component of the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) coordinated by the GSMFC. Currently the program is assessing only natural reef areas; however, Alabama is using the technology to assess artificial reefs. Basically, the program uses an underwater video camera mounted on a standard size fish trap. The trap-video unit is lowered onto natural reef (not necessarily coral) bottom and run for a specified time (one hour). The video footage is then analyzed in the laboratory to determine if there is a way to use the data to assess the status of reef fish stocks. Other techniques, such as diver and hook-and-line assessments, have associated problems, and it was felt that the trap-video system may avoid some of those problems.

Rademacher provided the Subcommittee with data resulting from the trap-video work, stating that the basic goal of the effort is to develop a long term, fisheries independent data base for the Gulf of Mexico reef fish population, including abundance, distribution, biology, and habitat needs. Following Rademacher's presentation, the Subcommittee asked a variety of questions regarding the efficacy of the method, equipment costs, among other issues. The most obvious interest of the Subcommittee is the possibility of applying the technology to the assessment of fish populations associated with artificial reefs, an activity in which the State of Alabama is already involved. The Subcommittee expressed its interest in continuing to monitor the progress of the trap-video survey. Rademacher indicated that two products are currently available from the survey. The first is "Reef Fish Assessment Methodology" by Mike Russell and available from the SEAMAP, and the second, currently in press, is a pictorial guide to the identification of groupers, which will also be available from the SEAMAP. A floppy disk version of the guide will be available in Paint Brush so that users can add to the data based on additional observations of groupers.

Finalization of the Data Base Publication

Lukens informed the Subcommittee that the Gulf of Mexico artificial reef data base publication was in its final form and that any last minute changes need to be

made immediately. There were a number of suggestions for changes, such as the addition of a glossary of terms and additional contact persons.

Various other suggestions were made to correct or enhance the text. It was pointed out by J. Culbertson that the latitude and longitude figures for the Texas data may not be consistent with the data for the other states. A discussion ensued regarding how the numbers were standardized for each state. Lukens indicated that he would run a last minute check on the numbers to ensure that they are accurate and consistent. With no further discussion on the content and format of the publication, the Subcommittee approved it for publication pending completion of the identified changes, in hopes of having it ready for submission to the TCC and Commissioners at the 1994 Spring Meeting of the GSMFC.

Status of Gulf Council SMZ Proposals

* Lukens informed the Subcommittee that he had recently checked with Wayne Swingle, Executive Director of the Gulf Council, regarding the status of the special management zone (SMZ) proposals that were included in Amendment five (5) of the Reef Fish Management Plan. Lukens explained that one of the proposals is to establish an SMZ in the federal zone off the State of Alabama in the 1000 square miles of the general permit areas. The other proposal is to establish a framework procedure for other parties to petition the Council for SMZ status for the remainder of the Gulf federal zone. Lukens found that the decision on Amendment 5 will be made by December 16, 1993. The decision could approve or disapprove any portion of the proposed provisions, and there is no preliminary indication as to what the decision will be.

W. Tatum indicated that the Council did endorse both SMZ provisions in the Amendment, as it went to the NMFS and the Secretary of Commerce. He stated that the NMFS was not favorable to the proposal for an SMZ off Alabama, but that they would wait until after public testimony before making a final decision. Tatum and his staff gathered a great deal of data and information to provide to the NMFS as justification for the SMZ during the public comment period. The data and information was mostly related to the historic use of the proposed areas. It was noted that historical use of the area is a key issue, and if a fishery using gear types proposed to be prohibited has been established prior to the SMZ request, it is

usually grounds for a denial. Tatum and Lukens indicated that they would continue to follow the issue through the December 16 deadline.

It was pointed out that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is sponsoring an SMZ workshop, tentatively slated for April 11, 1994, and that the Subcommittee has been encouraged to participate in that workshop. **W. Tatum made a motion to schedule the next meeting of the Subcommittee concurrent with the ASMFC workshop so that the Subcommittee can participate in that activity. It will also afford another opportunity to hold a joint meeting with the ASMFC Artificial Reef Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.** As an alternative, the Subcommittee agreed to a late May meeting time in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Update on Coal Ash Waste Issue

Lukens indicated that he brought up the coal ash waste issue because of the recent EPA ruling that coal ash is not categorized as a hazardous waste. This ruling exempts coal ash from the rules and regulations for handling hazardous waste. Lukens pointed out that the ruling has implications to the concerns expressed by the Subcommittee regarding the use of coal ash in artificial reef development. Ash handlers are now able to say authoritatively that coal ash is not a hazardous waste, and therefore can be used in a variety of applications. He asked if J. Culbertson would like to comment since she is investigating the coal ash issue and there are experimental reefs in Texas. She reported that recently Dr. Andy Landry, who has been conducting the monitoring on the experimental reefs in Texas, attended a meeting in Virginia related to proposed work to be done by Virginia Power and Light. It appears that the state agencies and federal representatives who also attended the meeting were very supportive of the proposals by Virginia Power and Light. There is the thought that aggregate material made from coal ash will enhance their oyster production, which is currently at a low level.

Lukens reported that Virginia Power and Light has plans to deploy an experimental reef using coal ash. Bob Andrews, project coordinator, told Lukens that they plan to spend up to two years conducting laboratory experiments to evaluate the material before going into the bay. He indicated that the source of coal from which the ash will be acquired has never been rigorously tested in the context of environmental application, as opposed to the source of coal being used to develop

the Texas experimental reefs which has been tested. Lukens indicated that he felt that the testing which has been done in Texas, and the testing that is proposed for Virginia is the equivalent of establishing use guidelines related to the material content. This, however, does not address aggregate quality control in block or other type construction, such as proportion of ash to concrete or compression strength. M. Bell expressed his concern that now that ash is a true commodity, it may not be cost effective for artificial reef programs to use ash aggregate materials. In the past, ash handlers were anxious to get rid of ash, and good deals could be found. If programs have to pay competitive prices for ash, pay to have it shipped to a construction site, pay to construct the material, pay to have the material shipped to a staging area, and then pay to transport and deploy the material, the costs may be prohibitive.

Lukens indicated that for the purposes of the charge to the Subcommittee, costs are not a concern. Costs will be a program-by-program consideration. The major concern for the Subcommittee is whether or not guidelines for use of the material can be established. Lukens suggested that Sammy Ray or Andy Landry from Texas could address the Subcommittee related to the testing done on the ash source in Texas, and when the work is completed in Virginia those data could be acquired in an effort to establish broad guidelines for those particular coal sources. This would allow for a significant revision to the resolution that currently calls for a moratorium on permitting the use of coal ash in artificial reefs except in experimental applications. J. Culbertson agreed with Lukens regarding using the work done in Texas and Virginia to establish guidelines. Lukens reminded the Subcommittee that above and beyond the guidelines there are two issues about which to be concerned. The first is that ash handlers may put political pressure on state agencies to use ash material in artificial reef programs whether the program manager wants it or not. The second is that the magnitude and availability of ash far exceeds the need in terms of artificial reef application. **Chairman Osburn suggested that this ash issue should be placed on the agenda for the next joint GSMFC/ASMFC artificial reef meeting. The Subcommittee agreed. Lukens suggested that each state should identify the potential sources of ash and the source of the coal that produces the ash.** This would assist in determining the extent that existing data would apply. Chairman Osburn suggested that the guidelines established for Texas be used to

begin the process of establishing Gulf-wide guidelines, and that the issue should be taken up at the next meeting.

Upcoming International Conference

Lukens indicated that Chuck Wilson had called him and indicated that the 1995 International Conference on Artificial Habitats for Fisheries may be held in Japan rather than in New Orleans as originally planned. Wilson stated that the Conference Steering Committee is aware that few state personnel from the U.S. will be able to go to the Conference if it is held in Japan. As a result of that situation, there are three options available to the U.S. artificial reef constituency. The first is to delay any state sessions until the next conference. The second is to hold a state session in the U.S. at the same time as the Japan conference and bill it as part of the International Conference, and the third is to hold a separate state session in 1996. It would be an obvious conflict to hold the two sessions simultaneously, since people would not be able to attend both, in the event individuals could go to Japan. After much discussion, the general feeling of the Subcommittee was that a separate state conference would be warranted, preferably in 1996; however, it would not necessarily have to be tied to the International Conference. Mel Bell indicated that he would like to see the conference be focused on artificial reef management needs, and have an opportunity to have researchers and managers discuss research needs in a management context. There was agreement that such a session would be valuable. It was suggested that Sea Grant could take a lead role in formulating and hosting the conference, and Lukens indicated that funding might be obtained from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Administrative Program.

Discussion of Economic Studies on Artificial Reefs

T. Berger recapped that each state was interested in locating any social and/or economic studies conducted in their respective states in order to provide a summary of activities already available. She also reminded the Subcommittee that they had also expressed an interest in pursuing social and economic issues jointly with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Artificial Reef Advisory Committee (ASMFC), which has already established a position that there be consistency among states and between the states and federal agencies regarding the collection and management of artificial reef social and economic data. M. Bell

provided the Subcommittee with a draft of the position statement. Berger indicated that Bell from South Carolina had conducted a social and economic study on the artificial reefs in that state. She informed the Subcommittee that the Sport Fishing Institute had produced a report on artificial reef usage (commercial and recreational); however, it is mostly related to the Atlantic coast. Gulf coast participation levels are included. She further indicated that the report provides suggestions on how to collect usage data and what data need to be collected. That report will be made available to the Subcommittee.

Lukens asked if M. Bell would describe the project that he conducted. Bell stated that the project started in 1991 using Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funds. The investigators were two state economists and Bell. Bell indicated that the final report has been completed and will be available to the Subcommittee soon. The sample frame for the survey was the boat registration data base of boats 16 feet and greater, with the first phase being a two page questionnaire that focused on artificial reef usage during 1991. It included expenditure questions. The survey was mailed to a subset of registered boat owners from all counties in the state and out-of state boat owners registered in South Carolina. The response rate was near 40%. The second phase was a quarterly effort in which coastal county and out-of-state boat owners registered in South Carolina were surveyed. That questionnaire was an eight page document which was detailed regarding usage and expenditures. He indicated that there are enough data available to generate reports for years.

Some of the results are: around 36% of boat owners fish in salt water, and 47.8% use artificial reefs. In 1991 there were around 73,000 boat-days fishing around artificial reefs offshore South Carolina. That figure does not account for multiple anglers on a boat. The 1992 portion of the study which surveyed coastal counties and out-of-state boat owners concluded that the total economic benefit was \$17 million. If the interior counties are included, that figure may increase to in excess of \$20 million. The study compares favorable to a similar study from 1978, which concluded that artificial reefs provided a total economic benefit of around \$10 million. At that time there were significantly fewer artificial reefs of South Carolina, and total fishing participation was probably lower. Catch questions were also asked, resulting in king mackerel and black seabass being the most frequently caught species, followed by Spanish mackerel. That was also the case in 1978. Lukens

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -24-

suggested that Bell provide him with a copy of the report, and he will distribute it to the Subcommittee.

It was reported that there is an initiative in Texas that is targeting charter boats and divers using personal interviews and mail surveys. The private boats were surveyed about five years ago through the on-site creel survey, which primarily resulted in usage data for oil and gas structures. While no action was taken regarding this issue, the Subcommittee agreed that the social and economic aspects of artificial reefs remains a significant issue that will require additional attention.

Other Business

Lukens provided the Subcommittee with an article regarding artificial reefs offshore Alabama which appeared in an issue of the Soil Conservation Service and the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program.

Lukens also provided the Subcommittee with an article that was published in the Sun Herald (Biloxi, Mississippi newspaper) which referred to the utilization of automobile tires as artificial reef material. The article in question cited the Subcommittee's position on tire utilization. Lukens indicated that it is good occasionally to see some good press regarding an issue.

Election of Officers

J. Culbertson nominated Walter Tatum for Chairman. That nomination was seconded. There were no further nominations; consequently, Walter Tatum was elected Chairman by acclamation. Chairman Tatum reserved the right to appoint a vice-chairman upon his decision. The Subcommittee agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30pm.

1993 RecFIN(SE) BIOLOGICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL WORKGROUP REPORT

The RecFIN(SE) Biological/Environmental Workgroup held one conference call on February 16th, and two meetings, March 26th in New Orleans and July 23rd in Miami, to accomplish 1993 workgroup tasks. The official workgroup was comprised of Maury Osborn - Chair, Al Jones, Paul Phalen, Thomas Schmidt, Ann Seiler, Tom Van Devender, and Wayne Waltz. Other RecFIN(SE) members also provided valuable input.

The workgroup made substantial progress in meeting RecFIN(SE) Strategic Plan goals. The workgroup was assigned three tasks. Task 1 (goal 2, objective 1) was to be completed during 1993 and Tasks 2 and 3 (goal 2, objectives 2 and 3) were to be completed in 1994. The workgroup completed tasks 1 and 2, and made substantial progress on task 3. In some cases, we completed work that was not specified in the original tasks, but that contributes to an overall description and understanding of the marine recreational fishery (MRF) in the Southeast Region. We believe that our 1993 products will be invaluable when the RecFIN(SE) Committee develops priorities, makes recommendations for new or expanded surveys, recommends the purposes and types of new surveys, recommends what data would be collected, and seeks necessary funds.

Task I. Goal 2, Objective 1: Identify the components of the fishery and required data priorities for each component.

Approach: Through existing materials and personal observations, identify all components of marine recreational fishing universe by State and Territory and quantify the units within each component. Identify data categories fishery management agencies need to reach and evaluate decisions.

Results: In order to ensure understanding and communication and to provide standard terms for all MRF surveys, the workgroup developed definitions of marine recreational fishing terms (Table 1) and a conceptual model of components of marine recreational fishing mortality (Figure 1), including harvest, catch and landings. Recreational and commercial fishermen were defined: the recreational fisherman definition implicitly includes subsistence fishermen. (By direction of the RecFIN(SE) Committee, "fisherman" is to be used rather than "fishers" or "anglers". "Fishers" are a type of weasel in addition to sounding awkward, and use of "anglers" ignores users of other gear for sport fishing.) The definition of for-hire boats, from the "Proceedings: Workshop on Marine 'For-Hire' Recreational Fisheries Survey Methodology" (Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), 1992) was evaluated. "For Hire" was defined as any boat guiding one or more sport fishermen for a fee. The terms "headboat", "charterboat", and "partyboat" have had different meanings in different surveys.

Therefore an operational definition for charter/guides versus headboats was adopted as 1) guide/charter boat will mean smaller boats where passengers pay for an entire party on a per boat basis, and 2) headboat means larger boats where passengers pay on a per person basis. More specific definitions vary according to State and Coast Guard licensing definitions. Also, some boats may switch from charterboat to headboat operations. More specific definitions need to be developed as surveys are designed or modified. Individual boats that switch around may be assigned to one or the other strata or both, depending on survey objectives.

A conceptual model of the recreational fishery in the Southeast Region was developed to define the scope of the MRF universe and include all possible components (Figures 2-5). The top of the model is the entire recreational fishery and all participants in the fishery. Components were defined first by fishing mode or platform: private/rental boats, for-hire boats -- headboats and charter/guide boats, and shore fishing, which includes both beach/bank and man-made shore areas. Fishing mode was then categorized as to whether it was organized and included competition -- e.g. tournaments, derbies, dive-club competitions, -- or not. Use of various gears can be categorized beneath each of these subgroups, and finally finfish and shellfish species or species groups targeted and caught are the last level of categorization. "Gear" includes rods and reels as well as types of gear important in localized areas such as skin/scuba spear fishing in the Caribbean and sport shrimp trawl fisheries in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Charterboats also include the relatively new activity where commercial fishing vessels take tourist groups trawling for fun and the tourists keep the catch.

The conceptual model was used to develop an inventory form to define the absence/presence and quantify the magnitude of each fishery in all States, Territories, and smaller geographical areas such as national parks (Table 2-3). The tables did not include the gear stratification, and focused on mode and species targeted. This combination was logical in terms of adequately quantifying each fishery and in terms of survey design. This inventory can be used to group common fisheries within and among States, to identify unique fisheries in the Southeast Region, to develop priorities for data collection, and identify the best survey strategies for each fishery. All State, Territory, and National Park Service RecFIN(SE) members provided the presence/absence and magnitude data for the inventory based on the following criteria:

- 1) Use the best available source to quantify the number of boats, participants, and access points. This will also be useful in identifying major gaps in knowledge about some components of the MRF. Sources that could be used to quantify the fisheries were the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) participation estimates, other surveys, license sales, boat

registration files, the MRFSS master site list, special surveys, etc.

- 2) Document what sources were used, applicable time periods, and any assumptions made.
- 3) Public access points were defined as "a point of departure or point of fishing location (e.g., boat ramp, dock, marina, pier, shoreline) which is accessible to a member of the general public, either at no cost or by fee". Private access points are "a point of departure or fishing location which is accessible only to members of a limited, restricted group of persons, by reason of membership or ownership".
- 4) Guide boats and charter boats have separate columns on the inventory form since the workgroup felt these components could be fleshed out separately for State and Territorial fisheries. Known examples include offshore charter boats targeting pelagic species; smaller inshore guide boats targeting red drum and spotted seatrout, tarpon, snook, etc.; skin/scuba spear fishing charters in the Caribbean, etc.

The inventory was also used to identify which components of the fishery are being surveyed currently, and which agencies are conducting the surveys (Table 5). This table shows where there are gaps in coverage, duplication of surveys, or cooperative efforts, and can be used to recommend and prioritize expanded or new survey efforts.

The workgroup did not compile a list of required data priorities for each component as specified in the objective approach. We felt that these priorities would shift according to management priorities and would depend upon many factors including type and scope of a survey, purposes of the survey (stock assessment, survey design, or formulation and evaluation of management regulations), budgets, etc.

Task II. Goal 2, Objective 2: Identify biological and environmental data elements required for each fishery component.

Approach: Use GSMFC Data Report and evaluate/modify as necessary for South Atlantic and Caribbean needs. This will be done for each fishery component by subregion.

Results: We identified biological and environmental data elements necessary for the management of a fishery through use in stock assessments, survey design, or formulation and evaluation of management regulations (Table 6). The data elements table in the

GSMFC "for-hire" workshop proceedings was adapted to apply to the entire recreational fishery in the Southeast Region. We did not assign the various data elements to each fishery component. The need for any of the items for a specified fishery should be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on management needs. All items listed were deemed important, but all may not be collected feasibly depending on survey design and budgets. The list provides a menu to select from based on management needs and survey design.

Demographic, Social and Economic Variables

Residence may be needed for estimation procedures (the MRFSS uses an adjustment for coastal/non-coastal residents), it may cause differences in catch rates due to experience factors, and it may be used for allocation purposes. How residence is asked must be carefully considered in areas where "winter residents" are a significant component of the fishery. Boat identification may be needed to standardize catch rates in CPUE indices and can be used in mark-recapture procedures to determine fleet size. The number of trips is needed for effort estimates. Experience levels also may cause differences in catch rates. Species targeted may be used to allocate directed effort and to stratify trips by fishery. Party size is needed to develop effort estimates. Participation, in terms of the total number of participants, is needed for effort estimations and for allocation. Age may be important depending on survey design. For example, if licenses were used as a sampling frame, adjustment for fishermen excluded from licensing by age would be necessary. Experience and specialization may affect catch rates. Disposition of the catch is used to estimate catch, harvest, and landings. The frequency of contact with individual anglers (surveyed before) may influence survey design in order to minimize respondent burn-out.

Effort Variables

Trip mode is important for estimation procedures and allocation of survey samples. The access site (geographic area where landed) is important for survey design, sample allocation, and efficiency. Site can also be used in some economic models. Fishing area is important for management; however, the geographical precision of the defined areas may vary. Time of return and trip time are important for survey design and effort calculation, respectively. Trip time can be broken into travel and searching time, but there was concern that asking anglers to break trip time into these components was not realistic. As long as there is a consistent measure of trip time, calculation of catch rates will not be compromised; however, if there is a lack of fishery independent data, changes in search time versus trip time may indicate changes in abundance. Fishing power is important but it is a composite of many different factors and difficult to calculate. Boat length, passenger capacity, speed, fishing gear, fishing method (trolling,

bottom fishing, etc.), bait and hook type, and technological capabilities (LORAN, fishfinders, etc.) can all affect catch rates and choice of target species.

Biological Variables

The following items were defined as important to gather on a routine survey: gross catch and landings in numbers (released alive and dead), species composition, length, weight, sex and other biological information if possible (maturity stage, gonads, fin spines, otoliths, scales, etc.). Data on the number of fish released and the reasons for releases will increase in importance as regulations increase. Data used for determining age (lengths or hard parts where lengths are inadequate) should be collected as a random sample of the catch. Weights are needed unless length-weight regressions are available. In some situations, weight needs to be collected even though length-weight relationships are known, for example, to calculate condition factors, or where there is evidence of "lighter" stocks of some species, such as mackerel. We felt it was not important to ask anglers whether they caught any tagged fish, although samplers should collect information on tagged fish when encountered.

Environmental Variables

Although many factors may affect fish abundance, fishing effort and catch rates, the environmental factors listed were deemed important for monitoring on a routine basis. Some are important for management, and some for sampling efficiency. Some factors may be important in modeling trends in catch rates by explaining some of the variability.

Metadata

Additional data called "Metadata" were discussed. Metadata is defined as information that is necessary to interpret survey data and is more descriptive than analytical ("meta" means transcending). Such data include environmental perturbations, economic conditions, regulations (including licensing), contracting/procedural changes in conduct of surveys, and social factors. The workgroup recommends that a metadata base be developed for the MRFSS in the Southeast beginning with 1980. Such a file would be incorporated into the national MRF data base to be developed by the MRFSS staff in consultation with other users. In 1994, workgroup members will provide their thoughts on metadata criteria (types, examples, sources, spatial/temporal scope, etc.) Once criteria are established, the workgroup will start compiling database items.

Task III. Goal 2, Objective 3: Identify and determine standards for biological and environmental data collection, including statistics, training, and quality assurance and quality control standards.

Approach: Review existing quality assurance and quality control documents and modify as necessary for application to RecFIN.

Results: A draft document incorporating standards developed by the MRFSS program, the States, and the GSMFC Data Management Subcommittee has been compiled. Workgroup members are in the process of a critical review and adaptation of this document. Final QA/QC standards will be presented in 1994.

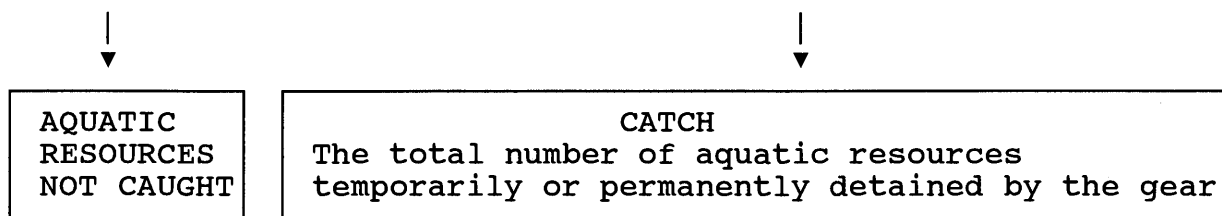
Other Business

All projects described in the MRF Data Collection Project Summaries (Strategic Plan Appendix) were examined concerning incorporation into regional and national MRF data bases. Of 66 MRF surveys, 13 were classified as high priority, 31 as lower priority, and 22 as not appropriate for incorporation (Table 7). Data bases were evaluated using the following criteria:

- 1) contain data elements described on data elements table;
- 2) reasonably wide temporal/spatial scope;
- 3) reliability;
- 4) fill current data gaps;
- 5) do not duplicate other data bases; and
- 6) provide syntheses of data sets with additional information.

Figure 1. Components of Catch and Their Relation to Fishing and Fishing Mortality. * = the sum of these quantities is total fishing mortality (harvest).

AQUATIC RESOURCES IN FISHING AREA



* DEAD ESCAPEMENT
Total number of aq. resources which died before being brought on board by any fishing activity.

LIVE ESCAPEMENT
Total no. aq. resources which were caught by the gear but escaped before the catch was brought on board.

* DISCARDED CATCH - B1
The total number of undersized or undesirable aquatic resources discarded dead before landing

RELEASED CATCH - ALIVE - B2
The total number of undersized or undesirable aq. resources discarded live before landing (includes later mortality)

RETAINED CATCH
The total number of aquatic resources retained

* LANDINGS - B1
Consumption by crew
Used for bait

* LANDINGS - A
Whole or eviscerated aquatic resources for human consumption, meal or oil, or bait.
Filletted or processed on board for human consumption, meal or oil, or bait.

Figures 2-5. Conceptual Models of the Marine Recreational Fishery Components in the Southeast Region.

Table 1. Definitions of Terms for Marine Recreational Fisheries Data Collection Programs.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Catch	Aquatic organisms temporarily or permanently removed from a population.
Commercial Fisherman	Any person who sells, barter, or receives compensation for any or all of their catch.
Fisherman	Any person who attempts to catch aquatic organisms.
Fish Guide	A person who is compensated for accompanying or transporting a recreational fisherman.
Harvest	Aquatic organisms permanently removed from a population.
Recreational Fisherman	Any person who catches or attempts to catch aquatic organisms for personal disposition, except for sale.
Landings	Aquatic organisms brought to land from water.

Table 2. Presence of Marine Recreational Fishery Components by State. X=present. Shaded cells indicate absence.

St	Private Boat						Guide Boat						Charter Boat						Headboat						Shore					
	Finfish			Shellfish			Finfish			Shellfish			Finfish			Shellfish			Finfish			Shellfish			Finfish			Shellfish		
	N	T	L	S	C	M	N	T	L	S	C	M	N	T	L	S	C	M	N	T	L	S	C	M	N	T	L	S	C	M
NC	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X			X		X			X	X		X	X	X	
SC	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					X	X					X					X	X		X	X	X	
GA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X				X					X	X		X	X	X	
FL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X				X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
AL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X				X					X	X		X	X	X	
MS	X	X		X	X	X	X					X	X					X						X	X		X	X		
LA	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					X	X					X					X	X		X	X		
TX	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					X	X		X			X					X	X		X	X	X	
PR	X	X	X			X							X											X	X			X		
VI	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X										X	X	X		X	X	
PS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X						X		X			X				X		

KEY:

- N Non-organized
- T Tournament
- L Spiny Lobster
- S Shrimp
- C Crab
- M Molluscs - oysters, scallops, clams, conch, whelk
- PS National Park Service

Table 3. Magnitude of Marine Recreational Fishery Components by State.

St	Number of Boats				Number of Participants				
	P/R	Gb	Cb	Hb	P/R	Gb	Cb	Hb	Sh
NC	280,000	<20	185	13	300,000	w/Cb	20,000	10,000+	10,000+
SC	61,519	w/Cb	122	29	73,701	w/Cb	13,473	?	?
GA	30,000+	?	70	3	?	?	?	?	?
FL	?	889	851	137	813,000	?	?	?	> 1 M
AL	20,000	10+	90+	2	50,000	1,000+	20,000+	10,000+	10,000
MS	39,215	w/Cb	41	w/Cb	?	?	?	?	?
LA	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
TX	109,286	272	128	29	603,900	12,058	51,252	90,372	688,957
PR	<19,000	?	6	0	?	?	?	0	?
VI	3,000	1	70	0	10,000	200	5,000	0	500
NP	38,000	5,556	360	432	102,657	14,745	1,000	3,000	?

St	No. of Public Access Points					No. of Private Access Points				
	P/R	Gb	Cb	Hb	Sh	P/R	Gb	Cb	Hb	Sh
NC	142	5	32	5	235	?	?	0	0	?
SC	93	?	?	?	20	?	?	?	?	?
GA	77	?	?	2	27	?	?	?	?	?
FL	2,139	?	309	84	3,570	?	?	?	?	?
AL	10+	10+	10+	10+	?	?	?	?	?	?
MS	43+	?	?	?	39+	?	?	?	?	?
LA	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
TX	306	?	?	?	702	121	?	?	?	?
PR	52	?	?	?	193	22	?	?	?	0
VI	50+	1	15	0	?	?	1	0	0	?
NP	9+	?	?	?	?	0	?	?	?	0

KEY:

P/R Private/Rental Boat Cb Charter Boat
 Sh Shore/Pier Gb Guide Boat
 Hb Headboat NP National Park Service

Table 4. Sources of data in Table 3 and additional details.

State Data Source/Notes

NC

No. of boats

P/R: NC Wildlife Resource Commission data. Gb: Best guess. Cb and Hb: NC Division of Marine Fisheries license files.

No. of participants

P/R, Cb and Sh: MRFSS. Gb participants are included with Cb. Hb: NC Wildlife Resource Commission data.

No. of public access points

P/R and Cb: MRFSS Site Inventory. Gb and Hb: Best guess. Sh mode includes 200 beach/bank sites estimates by best guess and 35 public piers from NC license files.

SC

No. of boats

P/R: SC boat registration files. Includes all registered vessels in the six coastal counties. Does not include vessels in inland counties that are used in saltwater. Gb are included in Cb category, currently no way to separate. Cb: Annual (July 1992-May 1993) permits sold to boats carrying six or fewer passengers. Hb: Annual (July 1992-May 1993) permits sold to boats carrying seven or more passengers.

No. of participants:

P/R: Saltwater stamps (July 1992-May 1993). Cb: Based on logbook reports (July 1992-December 1992).

No. of public access points

P/R: Waltz, W. and C. Moore. 1987. Public Access to Marine Recreational Fishing in South Carolina. Unpublished manuscript.

GA

No. of boats

P/R: GA boat registration files. Includes all power driven vessels, including jet-skis) in the 6 coastal counties. Does not include vessels in inland counties that are used in saltwater.

No. of public access points

P/R and Sh: MRFSS Site Inventory. No estimate available for private access for PR, CB, of Sh.

Note: The spiny lobster fishery is quite small (about 10 boats) and is seasonal.

Table 4. Continued.

State	Data Source/Notes
FL	<p><u>No. of boats</u> Gb, Cb, and Hb: Derived from Florida saltwater fishing license information. Those boats licensed to carry 3 or fewer fishing passengers were termed "guide boats"; 4-10 passengers were "charter boats"; and 11 or more passengers were "party/head boats".</p> <p><u>No. of participants</u> P/R: Derived from Florida saltwater fishing license information. Florida residents who fish from boats (there are some additional criteria and license exemptions) and all non-residents (except those fishing from boats or fishing piers) must possess a valid saltwater licence. All saltwater fishing licenses issued were included as a rough estimate of the number of participants. Sh: Loosely derived from NMFS MRFSS estimates of participants in saltwater fishing in Florida.</p> <p><u>No. of public access points</u> P/R, Cb, Hb and Sh: Derived from a survey that the FRMI's Juvenile Fish Monitoring Group conducts of recreational fishing access sites in the State.</p>
AL	<p><u>No. of boats, participants, and public access points</u> 1985 Alabama Creel Survey.</p>
MS	<p><u>No. of boats</u> P/R: State license registrations from coastal counties. Gb, Cb, and Hb: 1993 license sales, can not be separated by class.</p> <p><u>No. of participants</u> Beginning July 1, 1993 a saltwater recreational fishing license will be required.</p> <p><u>No. of public access points</u> P/R and Sh: Mississippi Creel Survey.</p>
TX	<p><u>No. of boats</u> P/R: $x=y*z$ where x=number of private boats, y=boats registered at or near end of FY 1991 (Weixelman et al. 1992), and z=proportion of TX boat owners who used their boat for saltwater sportfishing in 1982 (Ferguson and Green 1987). Gb: $x=y-z$ where x=number of guide boats, y=number of guide and charter boats (L.W. McEachron, TPWD, personal communication), and z=number of charter boats (Holland et al. 1992). Cb: Holland et al. 1992.</p>

Table 4. Continued.

State Data Source/Notes

TX
(cont.) Hb: Includes bay headboats (9) surveyed by TPWD November 1990-May 1991 and gulf headboats (McEachron et al. 1984 and Ditton et al. 1992).

No. of participants

P/R: $x=y*z$ where x =number of private-boat participants, y =5-year (1988-92) estimated mean number saltwater fishermen based on sales of saltwater fishing stamps (850,564), and z =percentage of saltwater fishermen using private boats (71) (Green et al. 1982). Bay Gb and Hb: September 1981-August 1982 McEachron 1984. Gulf Cb: Holland et al. (1992) estimates 51,252. Gulf Hb: $x=y+z$ where x =number of headboat participants, y =number of bay headboat participants (55,999) (McEachron et al. 1984) and z =number of gulf headboat participants (34,373) (Ditton et al. 1992). Sh: $x=y*z$ where x =number of shore-based participants, y =5-year (1988-92) estimated mean number saltwater fishermen based on sales of saltwater fishing stamps (850,564), and z =percentage of shore-based saltwater fishermen (81) (Green et al, 1982).

No. of public access points

P/R: TPWD May-November 1993 boat-access inventory. Includes boat-ramps and wet-slip facilities. Sh: TPWD May 1990-May 1991 wade/bank and lighted pier inventory.

No. of private access points

P/R: Spiller 1987. Includes canal subdivisions and other docking facilities.

Literature Cited:

Ditton, R.B., S.M. Holland, and D.A. Gill. 1992. The U.S. Gulf of Mexico party boat industry: activity centers, species targeted, and fisheries management options. Marine Fisheries Review 54(2):15-20.

Ferguson, M.O., and A.W. Green. 1987. An estimate of unsurveyed coastal recreational boat fishing activity in Texas. Marine Fisheries Review 49(2):155-161.

Green, A.W., L.Z. Barrington, and G.C. Matlock. 1982. An estimation of the total number of Texas fishermen, 1 September 1978 - 31 August 1979. Proceedings Annual Conference Southeastern Assoc. Fish and Wildlife Agencies. 1982:241-251.

Table 4. Continued.

State	Data Source/Notes
TX (cont.)	<p>Holland, S.M., R.B. Ditton, and D.A. Gill. 1992. The U.S. Gulf of Mexico charter boat industry: activity centers, species targeted, and fisheries management options. <i>Marine Fisheries Review</i> 54(2):21-27.</p> <p>McEachron, L.W. 1984. Harvest estimates for Texas marine charter boats (1978-1982). Technical Series Number 29. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Austin, Texas. 90 p.</p> <p>McEachron, L.W., P. Campbell, and K. Meador. 1984. Harvest by Texas headboat fisherman during September 1982-May 1983. Management Data Series Number 58. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Austin, Texas. 25 p.</p> <p>Spiller, K.W. 1987. Inventory of boat access sites on the Texas coast. Management Data Series Number 110. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Branch. Austin, Texas. 69 p.</p> <p>Weixelman, M., K.W. Spiller, and P. Campbell. 1992. Trends in finfish landings of sport-boat anglers in Texas marine waters, May 1974-May 1991. Management Data Series Number 85. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Austin, Texas. 226 p.</p>
PR	<p><u>No. of boats</u> P/R: Puerto Rico DNR. Commission of Navigation. Cb: Sea Grant Report "Developing Strategies to Enhance Charter Boat Fishing Operations in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands".</p> <p><u>No. of participants</u> There are an estimated 81,000 resident sport fishermen, but they are not separated by mode. R.L. Schmeid. 1986. "The Nature and Extent of Marine Recreational Fishing and Associated Developmental Efforts in the Caribbean." Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fishing Institute 40:37-52.</p> <p><u>No. of public access points</u> P/R and Sh: Sea Grant Report "In Support of Marine Recreational Fishing" which includes ramps and marinas. Private beaches are illegal in Puerto Rico.</p>

Table 4. Continued.

State Data Source/Notes

PR
(cont.) Additional information: There are 16 organized sport fishing clubs affiliated with the Asociacion de Pesca de Puerto Rico, an organization that belongs to the International Game Fish Organization. These clubs hold 15-20 tournaments annually. The tournaments target primarily big game fish such as billfish (blue and white marlin, sailfish, spearfish) or other pelagics (wahoo, dolphin, barracuda, shortfin mako, tunas).

Saltwater species preferred by charter boat customers are marlin, tuna, sailfish, dolphin, king mackerel, wahoo, sharks, bluefish, and to a lesser degree bonefish, tarpon, yellow snapper, swordfish, and yellowtail.

Other non-organized fishing targets jacks, snook, tarpon, and reef fish.

VI No. of boats, part., public & private access points
Enforcement (boat registrations).

NP No. of boats, participants, and public access points
P/R and Gb boat and participant estimates are mean annual fishing boater trips from 1973-85 to Everglades National Park (VI parks are not surveyed) (Tilmant et al. 1990). Marine species preferred by P/R participants are spotted seatrout, gray snappers, red drum and snook. Cb and Hb estimates are total 1991 annual estimates from Commercial License Master Log and park visitation figures from the Dry Tortugas National Park. A 1985 estimate for the guide fishery in Everglades National Park was 8,446 boat trips and 24,086 participants (Tilmant et al. 1990). No estimate for Biscayne National Park.

Literature Cited:

Tilmant, J.T., E.S. Tutherford, R.H. Dawson, and E.B. Thue. 1990. Impacts of gamefish harvest in Everglades National Park. pp. 75-103. G. Larson and M. Soukup (eds.) Vol. 6 Proceedings of the Conference of Science in the National Parks. Washington, D.C.

Table 5. Survey Coverage of Marine Recreational Fishery Components by State and Survey Type. (Shaded areas = not applicable.)

State	Private/Rental Boat					
	Finfish		Shellfish			
	N	T	L	S	C	M
NC	B/SS/FS	SS				
SC	B/SS	SS		SS		
GA	M					
FL	M	FS	SS/FS			
AL	M	FS				
MS	M/S	FS				
LA	M	FS				
TX	S/SS	FS		S	S	S
PR						
VI	S	S	S			S
NP	M/F	F				F

M = Federal MRFSS
 S = State routine survey program
 SS = State special study
 B = MRFSS with state add-on
 FS = Federal special study
 F = Other Federal program

Notes:

- NC N SS=Albemarle Sound Creel survey. FS=Large Pelagics Survey. T SS=King Mackerel Tournament survey.
- SC B=SC personnel conduct intercept interviews but do not add to the sample size. SS=additional sampling/different methodology. T SS=Billfish Monitoring Project, Ocean Pelagic Gamefish Survey. S SS=Shrimp Baiting Survey.
- FL T FS=NMFS Recreational Billfish Tournament Sampling. L SS=Survey of spiny lobster recreational license holders. FS=NMFS 1992 special survey of lobster fishing in Dade and Monroe County.
- AL T FS=NMFS Recreational Billfish Tournament Sampling.
- MS S=Creel Survey of the Sound and Adjacent Waters. T FS=NMFS Recreational Billfish Tournament Sampling.
- LA T FS=NMFS Recreational Billfish Tournament Sampling.
- TX S=Monitoring of Coastal Finfish Resources for Sportfish Management. SS=1978-79 Gulf Pier and Jetty Survey; 1974-76, 1979-80 and 1990-91 Wade/Bank and Lighted Pier Survey; 1981 Spring Black Drum Bay Sport-boat Survey; 1981 Fall Red Drum Gulf Pier Survey; 1987-91 Sport-boat Socioeconomic Survey; 1991 Nighttime Flounder Giggling Survey; and 1993-94 Sport-boat Bycatch Survey. T FS=NMFS Recreational Billfish Tournament Sampling.
- VI S=Recreational Port Sampling.
- NP F=Everglades National Park Marine Gamefish Harvest Monitoring, Biscayne National Park Creel Census.

Table 5. Continued.

State	Guide Boat					
	Finfish		Shellfish			
	N	T	L	S	Cr	M
NC	B					
SC	B/S	S				
GA	M					
FL	M	SS				
AL	M					
MS	M/S					
LA	M					
TX	S	S				
PR						
VI	S	S	S			
NP	M/F	F				

M = Federal MRFSS
 S = State routine survey program
 SS = State special study
 B = MRFSS with state add-on
 FS = Federal special study
 F = Other Federal program

Notes:

SC B SC personnel conduct intercept interviews but do not add to the sample size. S=Recreational Pier, Charterboat and Headboat Reporting.
 FL SS=1993 Special survey of guide boat fishing in Apalachicola. This survey will be continued in 1994.
 MS S=Creel Survey of the Sound and Adjacent Waters.
 TX S=Monitoring of Coastal Finfish Resources for Sportfish Management.
 VI S=Recreational Port Sampling.
 NP F=Everglades National Park Marine Gamefish Harvest Monitoring, Biscayne National Park Creel Census.

Table 5. Continued.

State	Charter Boat					
	Finfish		Shellfish			
	N	T	L	S	Cr	M
NC	FS/B/F	FS/F				
SC	B/S	S				
GA	M/F					
FL	M/F	FS				
AL	M/F	FS				
MS	M/F	FS				
LA	M/F	FS				
TX	S/F	FS				
PR						
VI	S	S				
NP	M/F					

M = Federal MRFSS
 S = State routine survey program
 SS = State special study
 B = MRFSS with state add-on
 FS = Federal special study
 F = Other Federal program

Notes:

NC FS=Large Pelagics Survey. F=NMFS Southeast Charterboat Survey.

SC B SC personnel conduct intercept interviews but do not add to the sample size. S=Recreational Pier, Charterboat and Headboat Reporting.

GA F=NMFS Southeast Charterboat Survey.

FL-LA F=NMFS Southeast Charterboat Survey. T FS=NMFS Recreational Billfish Tournament Sampling.

TX S=Monitoring of Coastal Finfish Resources for Sportfish Management. F=NMFS Southeast Charterboat Survey. T FS=NMFS Recreational Billfish Tournament Sampling.

VI S=Recreational Port Sampling.

NP F=NMFS Southeast Charterboat Survey.

Table 5. Continued.

State	Head Boat					
	Finfish		Shellfish			
	N	T	L	S	Cr	M
NC	F/SS					
SC	F/S					
GA	F					
FL	F					
AL	F					
MS	F					
LA	F					
TX	F/S					
PR						
VI						
NP	F					

M = Federal MRFSS

B = MRFSS with state add-on

S = State routine survey program

FS = Federal special study

SS = State special study

F = Other Federal program

Notes:

NC F=NMFS Beaufort Headboat Survey. SS=Albemarle Sound Creel Survey.

SC F=NMFS Beaufort Headboat Survey. S=Recreational Pier, Charterboat and Headboat Reporting.

GA-LA F=NMFS Beaufort Headboat Survey.

TX S=Monitoring of Coastal Finfish Resources for Sportfish Management. F=NMFS Beaufort Headboat Survey.

NP F=NMFS Beaufort Headboat Survey.

Table 5. Continued.

	Shore					
	Finfish		Shellfish			
State	N	T	L	S	Cr	M
NC	B/SS					
SC	M/S					
GA	M					
FL	M					
AL	M					
MS	M					
LA	M					
TX	S					
PR						
VI	S	S				S
NP	M					

M = Federal MRFSS

S = State routine survey program

SS = State special study

B = MRFSS with state add-on

FS = Federal special study

F = Other Federal program

Notes:

NC N SS=Albemarle Sound Creel survey.

SC B=SC personnel conduct intercept interviews but do not add to the sample size. S=Recreational Pier, Charterboat and Headboat Reporting.

TX S=Monitoring of Coastal Finfish Resources for Sportfish Management.

VI S=Recreational Port Sampling.

Table 6. Biological and environmental data items needed in the management of a fishery, assessed as to different data collection methodologies. S=Self-reported, O=Observed, Dash=Not Collectable.

Category Item	On-Site				Off-Site					
	Rove	Access Site	Catch cards	Aerial	On-board Observer	Log Book	Random Phone	Known Phone	Mail	Door to Door
Demographics/Sociology/Economics										
<u>"For-hire" Operator</u>										
Residence - Zip	S	S	S	-	S	S	O	O	S	O
Boat ID	O	O	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Annual or seasonal number of trips	S	S	S	-	S	S	O	O	S	S
Experience (years)	S	S	S	-	S	S	S	S	S	S
Species targeted by trip	S	S	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
<u>Recreational Fisherman</u>										
Residence - Zip	S	S	S	-	S	S	O	O	S	O
Party size	O	O	O	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
No. of participants	-	-	-	-	-	-	S	S	S	S
Age	S	S	S	-	S	S	S	S	S	S
Experience (years fished)	S	S	S	-	S	S	S	S	S	S
Specialization (self-perceived skill)	S	S	S	-	S	S	S	S	S	S
Disposition - catch Surveyed before (frequency)	S	S	S	-	S	S	-	S	S	S
Effort										
Trip Mode	O	O	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Geographic area where landed	S/O	O	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Geographic area where fished	S/O	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
Time and date of return	S/O	O	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Trip duration	S	S	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Fishing time	S	S	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Fishing power										
Boat length	O	O	S/O	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Passenger capacity	S	S	S/O	-	S	-	-	S	S	S
Speed	S	S	S	-	S	-	-	S	S	S
Fishing gear	O	O	S/O	O	O	-	-	S	S	S

Table 6. Continued.

Category Item	On-Site				Off-Site					
	Rove	Access Site	Catch cards	Aerial	On-board Observer	Log Book	Random Phone	Known Phone	Mail	Door to Door
Fishing method	O	O	S/O	O	O	-	-	S	S	S
Bait type	O	O	S/O	-	O	-	-	S	S	S
Hook type	S	S	S	-	O	-	-	S	S	S
Technological capabilities	S	S	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Biological										
Gross catch										
Number released										
Dead	S	S	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Alive	S	S	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Reason	S	S	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Species composition	S	S	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Sex	S	S	S	-	O	-	-	-	-	-
Biological data ^a	S	S	S	-	O	-	-	-	-	-
Tag returns	S	S	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Weight	S	S	S	-	O	-	-	-	-	-
Length	S	S	S	-	O	-	-	-	-	-
Landings										
Number	O	O	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Species composition	O	O	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Sex	O	O	S	-	O	S	-	-	-	-
Biological data ^a	O	O	S	-	O	S	-	-	-	-
Tag returns	O	O	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Weight	O	O	S	-	O	S	-	-	-	-
Length	O	O	S	-	O	S	-	-	-	-
Abiotic										
Windspeed	O	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
Wind direction	O	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
Cloud cover	O	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
Moon phase	O	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
Current										
Surface	S	S	S	-	O	-	-	S	S	S
Bottom	S	S	S	-	O	-	-	S	S	S
Water temperature	S	S	S	-	O	-	-	S	-	-
Air temperature	O	O	S	O	O	-	-	S	-	-
Barometric pressure	O	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
Precipitation	O	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S

Table 6. Continued.

Category Item	On-Site				Off-Site					
	Rove	Access Site	Catch cards	Aerial	On-board Observer	Log Book	Random Phone	Known Phone	Mail	Door to Door
Fog	O	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
Wave height	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
Tide	O	O	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
Water depth	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
Bottom type	S	S	S	O	O	S	S	S	S	S
Water clarity	S	S	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Night/Day/Twilight	S	S	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S
Bottom type/Structure	S	S	S	-	O	S	S	S	S	S

^a Biological data includes such items as maturity stage, gonads, fin spines, otoliths, scales, etc.

Table 7. Projects To Be Included in a National Marine Recreational Fisheries Data Base.

PROJECT TITLE	PRIORITY
USFWS National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation	N
NPS Everglades National Park Marine Gamefish Harvest Monitoring	Y
NPS Biscayne National Park Creel Census	Y
NMFS Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS)	H
NMFS Large Pelagics Survey	Y
NMFS Economic Data Collection - Gulf of Mexico Recreational Reef-fish Fishery	Y
NMFS Beaufort Headboat Survey	H
NMFS Southeast Charterboat Survey	H
NMFS Recreational Billfish Tournament Sampling Program	H
NMFS Recreational Billfish Non-Tournament Sampling Program	H
NMFS Consumption Survey of Fish and Shellfish Caught in Recreational & Subsistence Fisheries	N
NMFS Survey of Recreational Shrimpers in the Bay & Sound Systems of the Gulf Coast	N
NC Albemarle Sound Creel Survey	Y
NC Marine Recreational Statistics Survey (MRFSS)	N
SC Billfish Monitoring Project	N
SC Ocean Pelagic Gamefish Survey	Y
SC Marine Recreational Fisheries Survey, 1985-1986	N
SC Marine Recreational Fisheries Survey, 1987-1988 (MRFSS only)	N
SC Marine Recreational Fisheries Survey, 1989-present (MRFSS & SS)	Y

Abbreviations: SS=Special Study, N=Not Include in National Database (in several cases the data are already included through another program), Y=Do Include in National Database, H=Highest Priority for Inclusion, L=Link Electronically

Table 7. Continued.

PROJECT TITLE	PRIORITY
SC Recreational Pier, Charterboat and Headboat Reporting	Y
SC Survey of Recreational Saltwater Private-boat Anglers and Shellfish Gatherers	N
SC Assessment of Participation & Resource Impact of Shrimp Baiting	Y
SC Survey of the Shrimp Baiting Fishery, 1988-1991	Y
SC Economic and Biological Evaluation of the Pier Fishery	Y
SC Socio-economic Profile of Offshore Sport Fishermen	N
SC Recreational Shellfish Gathering, 1980-1981	N
SC Recreational Shellfish Harvesters - Folly/Stono Rivers & Sullivan's Island/Isle of palms public shellfish areas	N
SC Survey of the Tailrace Canal Recreational Shad Fishery	N
SC Gigging Fishery	N
GA Marine Recreational Fisheries Survey, 1985-1991 (MRFSS)	N
FL Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Data Collection - Site Description Survey	Y
FL Recreational Saltwater Fishing license Database	L
FL Apalachicola River Watershed Investigations	Y
AL Recreational Creel Survey	Y
MS Creel Survey of the Sound and Adjacent Waters	Y
MS Data Collection of Recreational Oyster Harvest	Y
LA Survey of Marine Recreational Fishery of Lower Barataria Bay, 1975-1977	Y

Abbreviations: SS=Special Study, N=Not Include in National Database (in several cases the data are already included through another program), Y=Do Include in National Database, H=Highest Priority for Inclusion, L=Link Electronically

Table 7. Continued.

PROJECT TITLE	PRIORITY
LA Creel Survey of Recreational Saltwater Anglers	Y
LA Survey of Recreational Anglers, 1990-1991	Y
FL Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Data Collection - Angler Interviews	Y
TX Monitoring of Coastal Finfish Resources for Sportfish Management (Boat-based)	H
TX Monitoring of Coastal Finfish Resources for Sportfish Management (Shore-based)	H
TX Night-time Flounder Gig Study	Y
TX Attitude and Opinion Surveys	H
PR Marine Sport Fisheries Creel Survey	H
Developing Strategies to Enhance Charter Boat Fishing Operations in Puerto Rico and the USVI	H
Developing Marine Recreational Fishing in Puerto Rico & the USVI	H
Assessment of Access and Infrastructure Needs of Puerto Rico & the USVI in Order to Support Increased Marine Recreational Fishing	H
VI Recreational Port Sampling, 1981-present	H
VI Recreational Fishing Survey	Y
VI Surface Deepwater Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) - St. Croix	N
VI Fish Attractant Devices (FADs)	N
VI ICCAT Billfish Sampling	N
VI Recreational live-bait fishing for yellowfin tuna	Y
VI Assessment of the Exocoetidae (Flyingfish) and Belonidae (needlefish) Resources	Y

Abbreviations: SS=Special Study, N=Not Include in National Database (in several cases the data are already included through another program), Y=Do Include in National Database, H=Highest Priority for Inclusion, L=Link Electronically

SOCIAL/ECONOMIC WORK GROUP
MARCH 26, 1993
DRAFT 1, GOAL 2/OBJ. 2

Social and Economic Data Elements

Background and Purpose

When marine fishery resources in the Southeast were abundant and supported all user demands without danger of over-exploitation, evaluations of management options were based primarily on their expected or realized effects on fishery resources. Now that most major fishery stocks are fully utilized, stressed, or overfished and allocations among competing users are necessary, managers must also evaluate the likely impacts of management options on local and regional economies, human populations, and social systems.

These additional economic and social assessments are needed to effectively achieve resource management goals with the least possible economic and social disruptions. To carry out these assessments, social and economic data must now be collected along with biological information. The objective of this element of the RecFIN program is to achieve consensus on: 1) how social and economic information can (should) be used in conserving and managing marine fisheries, 2) the types of data that need to be collected, and 3) the most appropriate methods for collecting these data.

Social and Economic Impact Assessments

While economic and social impact assessments are related and even overlap to some extent, they differ considerably in focus, underlying questions, methods and approaches. The same or similar data may be used in both assessments but they may be analyzed and interpreted differently depending on whether the analysis is economic or social in nature. Economic impact assessments (EIAs) determine how efficiently investments of capital and other resources are returned in present or future benefits to society, i.e. do the economic benefits of a management action outweigh the costs. Benefits and costs are typically expressed in terms of resource supply and demand, prices, jobs, operating costs, local trade, economic efficiency, and consumer surplus.

Social impact assessments (SIAs) differ from EIAs in that they seek to estimate the impact of management actions on the quality of peoples lives. They attempt to determine who will be affected and how they will be affected. They also measure changes in the social fabric and stability of a fishery and associated fishing communities. Further, SIAs seek to predict or measure changes in relationships between persons or groups directly involved in a given fishery, and between these persons/groups and local, state or regional community social systems.

Taken together, economic and social impact assessments go beyond biological factors and evaluate a broader array of important characteristics including: a) present participation in the fishery, b) historical fishing practices, c) the economics of the fishery, d) the capability of

participating fishermen/vessels to engage in other fisheries, e) the cultural and social framework of the fishery, f) population and employment changes, g) user conflicts, h) leisure/recreation impacts, i) health and safety impacts, j) community growth or decline, k) changes in natural resource use patterns, and l) other relevant factors.

Social and Economic Data Needs

There have been numerous attempts to identify social and economic data needed to conduct meaningful social and economic impact assessments. Typically, a number of major data categories have emerged:

- Sociodemographic data (e.g., age, sex, ethnicity)
- Trip data (e.g., duration, participants, catch)
- Catch disposition (e.g., eaten, sold, given away)
- Economic value/demand
- Expenditures data
- Attitudinal data (e.g., motivation, satisfaction)
- User group conflict data
- Knowledge of and preferences for management measures
- Experience/participation in other fisheries
- Sources of information

These data groupings can be further defined producing detailed lists of data elements to be targeted in data collections. As shown in Table 1, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions' Data Management Subcommittee published such a list in 1992 as part of a larger report "Marine Recreational Fishery Data Collection and Management Programs in the Gulf of Mexico Region: Identification and Resolution of Issues." These data categories and elements need to be examined further in light of increasing requirements for more complete assessments of state and federal marine fishery conservation and management programs.

Recommended Approach for Task Completion

The Social/Economic Work Group proposes to formulate its recommendations regarding the collection and use of social and economic data by convening an expert panel of economists and social scientists and seeking their guidance on:

- 1) Appropriate EIA and SIA methods
- 2) Social and economic data needed to conduct these assessments
- 3) The current availability of such data
- 4) Appropriate methods to collect needed data.

The Work group will develop an estimate of funds required to complete this task and pursue potential funding sources.

Data Base Work Group Report

The Data Base Work Group met via a conference call on April 27, 1993.

- * The first order of business was to elect a work group leader. John Witzig was unanimously elected.
- * Next, there was a discussion concerning the goals and objectives pertaining to the Data Base Work Group.
 - Goal 3, Objective 1: It was completed and NMFS-HQ volunteered to house the RecFIN(SE) data management system.
 - Goal 3, Objective 2: The group decided the survey utilized by SEAMAP to develop their data management system would be a good starting point for the RecFIN(SE) system. The work group reviewed the document and made the necessary changes. The modified survey will be sent to the RecFIN(SE) Committee for completion by each agency.
 - Goal 3, Objective 4: Several work group members are compiling documentation of the standard protocols pertaining to data management for major data collection programs such as SEAMAP, MRFSS and CSP. Once these protocols are collected, GSMFC will distribute this information to the work group for their review. The work group will review this material and begin formulating methods for modifying the protocols for application to RecFIN(SE).
 - Goal 3, Objective 5: The work group believed that it was not in the purview of the work group to be the only group prioritizes the projects. The group believed the Biological/Environmental and Social/Economic Work Groups should also be involved in the prioritization. It was noted that the document Marine Recreational Fisheries Data Collection Project Summaries contains most of the MRF data collection projects in the Southeast Region. It was suggested that the projects be summarized into a table format and that all three work groups rank the projects for inclusion into the RecFIN(SE) data management system specific to their area of expertise. The project summaries table and the Marine Recreational Fisheries Data Collection Project Summaries have been sent to the three groups.