APPROVED BY:
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STRIPED BASS TECHNICAL TASK FORCE
MINUTES
January 30-31, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

The first meeting of the Striped Bass Technical Task Force (TTF) was called to order Tuesday, January 30, 2001, at 1:30 p.m. in the Dauphine Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana. Attendance was as follows:

Members Attending
C. Michael Bailey, NMFS/IRF, St. Petersburg, FL
Jim Barkuloo, USFWS Ret., Panama City, FL
Norman Boyd, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
Pete Cooper, Jr., Saltwater Sportsman, Buras, LA
Douglas J. Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
John T. Jenkins, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Charlie Mesing, FWC, Midway, FL
Larry C. Nicholson, USM/IMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Howard E. Rogillio, LDWF, Lacombe, LA
Mark Tupper, FWC/FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL

Members Absent
Jim Duffy, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Ron Garavelli, MDWFP, Jackson, MS

Staff
Steve VanderKooy, Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Cindy Yocom, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS

Doug Frugé, Chairman of the TCC Anadromous Subcommittee, agreed to start the meeting, and each participant introduced themself. The task force is made up of members from the TCC Anadromous Subcommittee with additional members – Mark Tupper, Florida's representative (rather than J. Alan Huff); Pete Cooper, Jr., recreational fishery representative; and John T. Jenkins, law enforcement representative. It was noted that Ron Lukens, long-time staff support for the Anadromous Subcommittee, intended to participant but was forced to cancel due to illness. The task force voiced their hope that he would continue to meet with the group and provide support during the development of the fishery management plan (FMP) revision.

Adoption of Agenda

By consensus, the agenda was adopted as presented.

Interjurisdictional Program Overview and FMP Process

S. VanderKooy, Program Coordinator, presented an overview of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries (IJF) Program and Commission development process for FMPs. The IJF Program is authorized through the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-659, Title III). The purpose of the Act was to promote and encourage state activities in support of management of IJF resources identified in interstate FMPs. The Act also promotes and encourages management of IJF resources throughout their range.

Funding under the Act supports states' long-term monitoring and assessment programs and other research. The Act also provides funding for the three interstate marine commissions (Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific) to develop and revise management plans used by the states to enact appropriate management strategies to maintain harvestable stocks of commercial and recreational fish.

The Commission patterns its plans to those of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) to ensure compatibility in format and approach between regional and federal FMPs. Since the passage of the IJF Act in 1986, the Commission has produced nine FMPs, three revisions, and one amendment. Critical components of FMPs are determined by ten national standards:

1) Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the U.S. fishing industry;
2) Conservation and management measures shall be based on the best scientific information available;
3) To the extent practicable, an individual stock shall be managed as a unit throughout its range, and interrelated stocks of fish shall be managed as a unit or in close coordination;
4) Conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different states. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various U.S. fishermen, such allocations shall be:
   - fair and equitable to all such fishermen;
   - reasonably calculated to promote conservation; and
   - carried out in such a manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges.
5) Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, consider efficiency in the utilization of the resources; except that no such measure shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose.
6) Conservation and management measures shall take into account and allow for variations among, and contingencies in, fisheries, fisheries resources, and catches.
7) Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, minimize costs and avoid unnecessary duplication.
8) Conservation and management measures shall, where consistent with the conservation requirements of this Act (including the prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks), take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities in order to:
   - provide for the sustained participation of such communities, and
   - to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities.

9) Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable,
   - minimize bycatch and
   - to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch.
10) Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, promote the safety of human life at sea.

In order to alleviate confusion with the federal definition of essential fish habitat and its associated requirements, FMPs developed under the Commission program utilize the term "essential habitat."

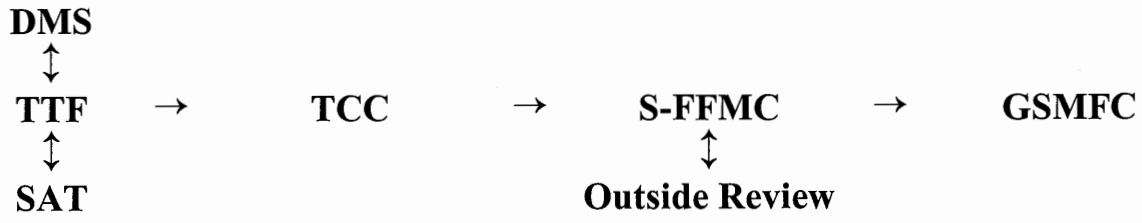
The development of FMPs begins with species prioritization. The State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee (S-FFMC) accomplishes this task and establishes a technical task force to review all technical material, draft a document incorporating current biological, sociological, economic, and fishery information. The TTF shall also provide management scenarios based on this information.

The TTF is composed of a core group of scientists from each Gulf state and is appointed by the respective state directors that serve on the S-FFMC. Also, a TTF member from each of the following GSMFC committees or subcommittees (Law Enforcement, Habitat, Commercial Fisheries Advisory, and Recreational Fisheries Advisory) is appointed by the respective committee. In addition, the TTF may include other experts in economics, socio-anthropology, population dynamics, and other specialty areas when needed. The TTF is responsible for development of the FMP and receives input in the form of data and other information from the DMS and the SAT.

Once the TTF completes the plan, it may be approved or modified by the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) before being sent to the S-FFMC for review. The S-FFMC may also approve or modify the plan before releasing it for public review and comment. After public review and final approval by the S-FFMC, the plan is submitted to the GSMFC where it may be accepted or rejected. If rejected, the plan is returned to the S-FFMC for further review.

Once approved by the GSMFC, plans are submitted to the Gulf States for their consideration for adoption and implementation of management recommendations.

The review process is outlined below:



DMS = Data Management Subcommittee
SAT = Stock Assessment Team
TTF = Technical Task Force
TCC = Technical Coordinating Committee
S-FFMC = State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee
GSMFC = Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Outside Review = standing committees, trade associations, general public

FMP Table of Contents/Assignments

A boilerplate table of contents was reviewed and changed as appropriate. The revised copy with assignment notations follows:

Table of Contents

Striped Bass TTF Membership Discussion

Discussion of additional expertise included the possibility of a representative from the Southeastern Atlantic (Georgia or South Carolina) and a freshwater representative familiar with lake and reservoir stocking. It was decided that there is probably not enough information to warrant a sociology or economics representative. S. VanderKooy agreed to investigate socioeconomic aspects of the fishery. Dr. Bob Ditton (Texas A&M) and Dr. Don Jackson (MSU) will be contacted for pertinent information.

Workshop Discussion

D. Frugé began discussion regarding a follow-up workshop for principle investigators to provide final results of their stewardship projects. There were eight different projects being conducted by six different entities. In November 1999, the first workshop was held in Pensacola, Florida, and provided interim status reports on the projects. The group discussed having a facilitated workshop, and agreed that presentations of final stewardship project results would be advantageous to the development of the FMP revision. This item (workshop) will be discussed further at the TCC Anadromous Subcommittee meeting in March.

Election of Chairman

The floor was opened for nominations. P. Cooper, Jr. moved to elect D. Frugé, and the motion was seconded by M. Tupper. D. Frugé was elected chairman of the Striped Bass TTF by unanimous acclamation.

Next Meeting

The group agreed to invite task force members (who are not Anadromous Subcommittee members) to the subcommittee meeting scheduled during the GSMFC Spring Meeting in March. The agenda will include FMP progress. At that time, the group will review progress and, if appropriate, schedule the next meeting of the task force.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Law Enforcement Strategic Work Session
February 20-21, 2001
Bayou Segnette State Park

LDWF hosted, provided accommodations, and meeting facility. Each agency provided their own transportation. GSMFC provided staff support and light refreshments.

Attendees
C. Yocom, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
B. White, USCG, New Orleans, LA
D. McKinney, NOAA OLE, Austin, TX
K. Raine, NOAA GC, St. Petersburg, FL
J. Mayne, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
J. Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
D. Johnston, TPWD, Austin, TX
B. Buckson, FWC, Tallahassee, FL
L. Young, TPWD, Austin, TX
J. Jenkins, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL

Resultant Action Items

Monthly Conference Call Agenda Items
Meeting Attendance by LEC/LEAP Representatives
- GSMFC
- GMFMC

Hearings/Testimony Comment by LEC/LEAP Representatives
- State
- Federal

1-800 Update

March 2001 LEC Agenda Items
- GSMFC Roster (informational handout)
- GSMFC Rules & Regulations (informational handout)
- List of State/Federal MOUs & Other Agreements (Task 2.1.1) - All
  - each Rep provide a list
- Identify & Evaluate Enforcement Training & Equipment (Task 2.2.1) - All
  - each Rep provide a list of:
  - Available Training
  - Equipment
  - Technology Conferences
- Forensic's Fishery Laboratory Update - D. McKinney/J. Mayne
  - Tory Meter Information - J. Mayne
- Strategic Work Session, August 8-9, 2001
  - funding

location
Enforceability Guidelines Document

October 2001 LEC Agenda Items

GSMFC Roster (informational handout)
GSMFC Rules & Regulations (informational handout)
South Carolina Reporting Software Presentation?

Letters to be Written

Jeff - request a copy of the commission briefing book for LEC members
request funding and staff for the August Strategic Meeting
request funding for the October LEC Meeting

Jerry - request copy of Council briefing books be distributed to LEAP members
request copy of Council roster each September for LEAP members
request LEAP be placed on the GMFMC general distribution list
request agenda item for October 2001 - Prioritize Federal FMPs (For Rule Review), need list of FMPs and major rules
request GMFMC SOPs be distributed to LEAP members
request funding for the LEAP to attend the May Council meeting

Strategic Plan Completion

Dave McKinney - send in electronic badge file
Jerry Waller - send in a better electronic badge file
Terry Bakker - get someone to take a digital photo of Mississippi's badge
Ben White - send graphics - Gulf States and a generic patrol boat
Distribution:

TX - multiple copies for their distribution (L. Young).
FL - B. Buckson 6 copies.
LA - mail to state delegation.
MS - multiple copies for their distribution.
AL - 25 copies for distribution.
NOAA Enforcement - 6 copies
NOAA General Counsel - 6 copies
GSMFC regular distribution - C&P, library

Operations Plan/Timeline for 2001

Cindy - revise as discussed and copy to March 2001 meeting folder

APPROVED BY:
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC ARTIFICIAL REEF SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, February 21, 2001
Jacksonville, Florida

Chairman Jan Culbertson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The following members and others were in attendance:

Members
Michael Bailey, NMFS-IRF, St. Petersburg, FL
Mel Bell, SCDNR/MRD, Charleston, SC
Mike Buchanan, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Jan Culbertson, TPWD, Houston, TX
Les Dauterive, MMS, New Orleans, LA
Jon Dodrill, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL
Steve Heath, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Rick Kasprzak, LDWF, Baton Rouge

Staff
Ronald R. Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Nancy K. Marcellus, Administrative Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Mike Eller, Destin Charter Boast Association, Destin, FL
George Frankel, Eternal Reefs, Inc., Atlanta, GA
Robert Turpin, Escambia County Division of Marine Resources, Pensacola, FL

Adoption of Agenda

R. Kasprzak moved to adopt the agenda. M. Bell seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

M. Bell moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held July 11-12, 2000, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Kasprzak seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

State-Federal Reports

J. Culbertson noted a suggestion that Subcommittee members submit quick bullets or some type of state-federal report at the meeting so it can be incorporated into the minutes in the event of time shortages. There was no objection by the Subcommittee.

Mississippi - M. Buchanan reported that Mississippi deployed two rigs, one from Vintage and one from Apache. They are presently doing some offshore deployment with steel cages embedded in concrete, weighing approximately 2,000 pounds each. They also conducted side scans of most of their reef sites. A study evaluating shallow water estuarine reefs, comparing fish and invertebrate species on and off the reefs, was recently completed.

Alabama - S. Heath reported that since July they have built three new reefs in the bay area as part of the "Roads to Reefs" program. In addition, they added more materials to two others that they had previously deployed. The drydock that Jim Duffy talked about at the last meeting did not work out, and they are now working on another one. They continually try to work on materials issues, including continuing the comparison study being conducted by Dr. Bob Shipp.

Florida - J. Dodrill reported that they have been involved primarily in administrative related projects the last several months. They have 25 ongoing monitoring and construction projects. This time of year the local governments are midway through the process of putting projects out for bid. No public reefs have gone in the water since summer of 2000, but spring will be a busy time. They sent out another call for applications and expect another round of project requests to be in by March 2 for competitive ranking and review. They held two workshops in the last week, one in Destin and one in Fort Meyers Beach. These were scoping meetings as a prelude to more formal workshops to present a draft of an artificial rule that was left at FDEP after the agency merger. Dodrill has been working on the draft rule which will have to go before the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners at the end of the month. He has spent time on the two FFWCC large areas off Escambia County. A couple of short term extensions were obtained on those large areas, and a formal application was submitted back in late August. There were a number of comments on the application. He had to respond to all concerns and is waiting for the Corps to respond. Okaloosa County also had three large areas that were up for reauthorization. The changes include a reduction in metal thickness from 1/4" to 1/8" and a minimum weight of material of 150 pounds.

Lukens commented that there was a rather interesting discussion at the Council meeting about the 150 pound limit. 150 pounds means nothing in terms of material stability. Density, specific gravity, and total mass needs to be considered. Lukens wanted the record to reflect that weight alone is inappropriate criteria, because it does not mean anything unless it is put in context with density and shape. There was general agreement among the Subcommittee members that a minimum weight of 150 pounds is not an appropriate criteria for considering the utility of artificial reef materials.

Louisiana - R. Kasprzak reported that the number of projects in Louisiana will be down during 2001, because the oil and gas industry is not taking out a lot of platforms. They finished a platform study with Texas and MMS evaluating different configurations of artificial reefs and oil and gas platforms as reefs. The study was published as a MMS document. MMS has not released it because it is still in the review process.

Lukens suggested that it might be useful when it is complete that Kasprzak, Culbertson, and Dauterive could give a presentation to the Subcommittee on the project and its results.

Texas - J. Culbertson reported they did 3 rig projects during 2000. They got their general permit renewed with some modifications for another 5 years, with the ability to renew all the general permits at one time every 5 years. They were also able to keep the same number on every reef with the addition of an extension number. They are supposed to receive 7 new rigs during 2001, all of which are to be partial removals. They are working with the charterboat fishermen on the Boatman's Reef off Port Aransas. They received a donation of 152 concrete power poles. They are paying $30,000 for a 3D bathymetry side scan of the bottom to obtain height, depth, and contours of everything in the reef site to determine whether to place the concrete on the existing site or at a new location. They continue to have problems getting release of the *Clipper* from MARAD. As reported at the last meeting, they were planning to conduct a side scan survey of potential reef sites for the *Clipper*. The project was proposed to cost $70,000, and they decided against doing it at that time. Texas obtained title to a MARAD buoy that came up on surplus property. However, when the Navy went to take it to the dock to drop it off there was no crane big enough to pick it up and take it off the boat. It was a mooring buoy that the Coast Guard and the Navy had been using to moor their vessels when they were pumping oil out. They are still trying to figure out how to handle the buoy. Work continues on the tunicate reef. Culbertson has been conducting a growth study on it since the tunicate took over. It has continued to spread, and is now on 7 platforms in the area and at 3 other reef sites. NOAA has offered to share an ROV they are using on natural reefs to help TPWD study the tunicate at deeper depths.

MMS - L. Dauterive distributed copies of "Rigs-to-Reefs Policy, Progress, and Perspective". Dauterive discussed "Forecasting the Number of Offshore Platforms on the Gulf of Mexico OCS to the Year 2023" which indicates a 29% decline in platform installations. If offshore platforms are not looked at as a resource for fisheries habitat, that potential habitat will be gone forever. He suggested that the Subcommittee may want to think about supporting some means of capturing more of those structures that are to be removed. In the near future the industry is going to start removing and decommissioning some of the larger, deeper water structures. A lot of those structures are not within planning areas or general permit areas. Interested Subcommittee members should begin working with the industry to see how those structures can be captured and not lost. Lukens added that to a degree it is up to the industry itself to be a little more willing and flexible in some cases, because in some cases the states do not have the resources to take the rig.

Lukens suggested that Dauterive, Kasprzak, and Culbertson discuss this among themselves between now and the next meeting and determine what might be the best way to approach this issue. A specifically designed workshop could be held to answer questions associated with how to get more oil and gas structure habitat in the water versus brought to shore.

Dauterive mentioned that the proceedings from the fisheries workshop held in October 2000 should be available this summer. The workshop had a significant focus on artificial reefs. He will distribute copies when it becomes available.

London Convention Update

At the last Subcommittee meeting Lukens reported on the Scientific Group meeting of the London Convention that took place in May 2000. The Scientific Group determined that the issues associated with placement of structures for other than disposal would be considered fair game under the London Convention, which regulates dumping of materials at sea. Placement for other reasons than mere dumping are supposed to be considered outside of the purview of the London Convention. During the discussion of this issue, the group determined that most of the issues that were discussed were either policy or political in nature and had nothing to do with science. They decided to refer the issue back to the Consultative Meeting of the London Convention, which involves the primary delegates of the member countries. That meeting took place in September 2000, and the London Convention took no action on the issue except to refer it back to the Scientific Group wanting more specific issues associated. In retrospect, the Scientific Group should have raised specific issues for the Consultative Meeting instead of just sending the issue back with no action. There will be another Scientific Group meeting in May or June 2001, probably in London. Lukens will be in contact with Craig Vogt of the EPA, who is the head of the U.S. delegation to the Scientific Group. His earlier understanding is that this issue would not be dealt with at this upcoming Scientific Group meeting, and any near term resolution of this issue is not anticipated.

Status of GSMFC Sport Fish Restoration Administrative Programs

Lukens noted that the money to support the Subcommittee's activities comes through the Sport Fish Restoration Program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This program was started in 1987 and at that time the three Commissions entered into a grant agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Headquarters level. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission administered that grant agreement on behalf of the other two Commissions. Subsequently, the Commissions established separate grant agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, still at the Headquarters level. Recent problems have been publicized about the administrative portion of the Sport Fish Restoration Act. Congressman Don Young, Alaska, was the primary leader claiming mishandling of administrative funds and identifying expenditures that could not be accounted. Legislation was introduced to revamp the administrative portion of the Sport Fish Restoration Act. Congress was redesigning the administrative part of the Act, which is the part of the Act from which the Commissions received funding. The three Commissions had concerns about language changes that authorized the Service to continue to administer the grant agreements. They entered into some discussions with Young's committee staff and explained the concerns to them. Even though it is only $600,000 nationwide, the funding is important. Large packages of information and reports were compiled and sent to Young's office. That resulted in specific language in the Act to provide funding to the Commissions. The Act annually provides $200,000 each from the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

The Gulf Commission will receive $200,000 a year. A work plan and associated budget will be developed yearly. That work plan is based on issues discussed in Subcommittee meetings. The money is used to support Subcommittee meetings and workshops, which are the vehicles used to

elevate issues and to ultimately resolve them. A database on artificial reef sites is also being maintained. Lukens is in the process of working with the GSMFC Oracle programmer to develop Oracle files for the artificial reef database. The programmer is also going to write a web application data entry program for the database. Once it is complete the artificial reef program managers can enter their data directly into the program centralized database via the GSMFC web site.

Work continues on a searchable literature database using ProCite. ProCite is not required on the individual state's computer to use the program. At this time there are 400+ records in the system which include refereed journals, gray literature, magazine articles, and newspaper articles. For every record in the database, the Commission has a hard copy of the paper/publication. Lukens asked that Subcommittee members look at the database and provide feedback to Lukens. New publications should also be forwarded to Lukens for inclusion in the database.

Charter Boat Industry Perspective on Materials

Mr. Mike Eller made a presentation on behalf of Bob Zales, a charterboat owner and captain in Panama City, Florida, and Bobbi Walker, charterboat owner and Gulf Council member from Orange Beach, Alabama. The presentation outlined their perspective on problems and suggested solutions regarding artificial reef development. Eller stated the following problems, some of which are, in their opinion, erroneous perceptions:

1) artificial reefs are environmentally detrimental and create conflicts among fishermen,
2) "materials of convenience" used as artificial reef material constitute ocean dumping,
3) proper siting and reef materials that are stable and durable,
4) artificial reefs and navigation hazards,
5) liability for property damage and human safety,
6) lack of research and data, and
7) movement of materials by storms.

Eller indicated that they advocate continued development of Large Area Artificial Reef Sites (LAARS). They believe that the use of LAARS will reduce detrimental effects of artificial reefs and reduce or eliminate conflict among fishermen, because individuals would be able to create artificial reefs within a larger site and avoid placing materials in un-permitted and environmentally sensitive areas.

Eller defined "materials of convenience" as any material that can be used as artificial reefs that are not specifically designed for that purpose. The charterboat industry feels that the term "materials of convenience" can cause problems and recommends not using the term. They recommend the following materials criteria:

1) 1/8th inch thick or thicker metal
2) minimum weight of 150 pounds
3) a durability (longevity) requirement for government, tax funded projects

4) a durability requirement of one year for privately funded projects
5) environmental compatibility

Eller pointed out one material that has been used, but has been criticized. He indicated that the material is beneficial and should be allowed. That material is industrial chicken transport containers. There was general, informal agreement that those containers likely meet the criteria set forth in the *National Artificial Reef Plan* and the *Coastal Artificial Reef Planning Guide*.

The charterboat industry in the northern Gulf recommends that there be a buffer zone of 2.5 miles for LAARS in which no materials can be placed. This would minimize the risk of movement of materials during storms. Finally, Eller recommended that artificial reef developers should conduct scientifically designed monitoring programs to collect data that are lacking.

The following are specific recommendations from Eller, Zales, and Walker:

- Continue permitting existing LAARS,
- Plan new LAARS by using sound biological information and working with individuals to insure cooperation to eliminate any possible user conflicts,
- Develop minimum criteria as stated above for qualifying artificial reef materials. Materials such as the Chicken Transport Devices, automobile-casting shipping crates, agricultural equipment, and large truck bodies will easily fall under these criteria,
- Encourage the proper deployment of qualified artificial reef material for use as private artificial reefs,
- Encourage the deployment of large materials for use as public artificial reefs.
- Encourage continued development of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission *Materials Guide for Artificial Reefs* and the *Planning Guide for Artificial Reefs* and also work with the continued development of the *National Artificial Reef Plan*,
- Work with various agencies to educate everyone about the proper development and deployment of artificial reefs for the continued growth of habitat and enhancement of our marine resources.

Eller concluded his remarks by saying that the charterboat industry in the northern Gulf wants to work proactively with the state and federal regulatory agencies to ensure that artificial reef development is environmentally compatible and is not a detriment to fish populations. For a full copy of this presentation, contact the GSMFC office.

Gulf Council Action

Lukens presented the following informational item. Regarding artificial reefs, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council passed several motions at their January 17-18, 2001 meeting held in Galveston, Texas.

The Council's Artificial Reef Committee forwarded the following two motions:

" That the Council inform NMFS that the Council has potential serious concerns with the Draft Artificial Reef Plan, its contents, and how it was developed and therefore, requests adequate time to review the document and offer comments before a notice of availability is published in the Federal Register."

"That the Council support the reauthorization request of Escambia County Artificial Reef Areas and request that future materials be individually inspected by appropriate officials prior to deployment."

The Council's Habitat Committee presented the following motion:

"To send a letter to the Corps of Engineers stating that the Council does not object to modification of the Okaloosa County Commissioners artificial reef permits, provided that the term "chicken coop" is removed from the list of approved reef materials and replaced with the term "chicken transport containers", which are further defined as being constructed of heavy gauge steel and heavy gauge wire, weighing approximately 400 pounds or more and from which the doors and fiberglass floors have been removed."

Durability Issue

Lukens provided a short presentation regarding the issue of material durability. In the previous presentation, Eller indicated that private reef builders should not be held to the same durability requirements as tax payer funded reefs. He indicated that the primary concern with durability is economic, trying to ensure that publicly funded reefs last a long time to get more mileage out of those tax dollars. Lukens stated that he is trying to make a case for his belief that more than economics is involved in the issue of durability. Using long-standing ecological principles which describe the relationship of organisms with their habitats, Lukens indicated that reef obligate species are more like k-selected species than r-selected species. These species represent different life history approaches, with k-selectivity representing species that live long, reproduce less often, spawn in site specific conditions, and exhibit only sexual reproduction. Alternatively, r-strategist are typically short lived, reproduce prolifically, have broad distribution of reproductive material, and may exhibit asexual reproduction. Lukens asserted that constructing short-term habitat (three to five years in longevity) may provide a site that would attract reef obligate species, but such habitat will not likely maintain its integrity long enough for the associated species to complete their life cycle. The question, then, is what is the impact of creating short-term habitat for long-term species.

Lukens made the following discussion points:

- Ephemeral (short-term) habitats will be available to marine fauna for only a short time,
- Reef obligate species will associate with the ephemeral habitat for some portion of their life cycle,

- Such reef obligate species will be faced with searching out other suitable habitat when the ephemeral habitat ceases to be available,
- This may result in new suitable habitat not being located and the increased probability of mortality due to predation or unsuitable environmental conditions
- When ephemeral habitat is reduced in function, new materials would have to be added to the site to maintain it,
- Recruitment of fish and attaching invertebrates would have to begin again,
- Association of large organisms, adult fish, with ephemeral habitat is from migration and wandering of the fish, since they would be too old to have been produced there,
- The use of ephemeral habitat by long-lived species is opportunistic and does not represent a classic example of species/habitat association,
- Creating ephemeral habitat for long-lived species more likely to make those fish more available and easier to catch than to contribute to overall community complexity and enhanced population status

Lukens pointed out that his presentation was for discussion purposes only, and did not represent any agreement that the application of ecological principles to artificial reefs and associated fish species can be supported. He indicated that he would like to refine the paper in conjunction with a trained ecologist and for the suggestions contained in the presentation to be used to develop goals and objectives for research projects that could tell the scientific and regulatory agencies more about the implications and impacts of artificial reef development.

Commission Action on Walter Tetrahedron/tire Unit

At the Commission Business meeting held October 19, 2001 the Commissioners addressed the concerns of Mr. Walter regarding a letter from the Commission Executive Director to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responding to testing and research being conducted by Mr. Walter with tires and concrete being used for artificial reefs. Mr. Simpson's letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was in response to a request from the FFWCC to the Corps for a variance from their permit to allow the deployment of concrete tetrahedron units that have unballasted automobile tires threaded over the beams that form the tetrahedron. The Commissioners passed the following motion:

> *"To have the Executive Director respond to Mr. Walter's letter and that he state that the Commissioners had reviewed his letter and they concurred that he should not withdraw his comments and the he provide copies of the Commission's Position Statement and Resolution to Mr. Walter. The letter should also include information regarding policy in other states. In addition, the Artificial Reef Subcommittee should review both the Position Statement and Resolution."*

A copy of the Commission's letter to Mr. Walter was distributed to the Subcommittee.

Review of Tire Position Statement

The Subcommittee reviewed the Commission's "Position Statement on the Use of Automobile Tires as Artificial Reef Material" which was originally adopted on October 15, 1992.

After considerable discussion, the Subcommittee agreed to several changes to the position statement. A motion to approve the changes and send the Position Statement forward to the TCC was made. Five subcommittee members voted in favor of the motion, one against, and one member abstaining. A copy of the Position Statement with the recommended changes is attached as part of the official minutes.

Review of Materials Resolution

The Subcommittee reviewed the "Resolution on the Use of Selected Materials of Opportunity as Artificial Reef Material" adopted by the Commission on March 21, 1997.

M. Buchanan made a motion to change the first THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED clause from:

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission recommends against the use of materials for artificial reef development that may disassociate in the marine environment, thus making the resulting disassociated pieces free to the environment, and

to:

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission recommends against the use of materials for artificial reef development that are likely to disassociate, have components that are unstable, and would leave those unstable components free to move about in the marine environment, and

The motion was seconded by S. Heath and unanimously approved.

S. Heath made a motion to remove "wooden vessels and other wooden materials" from the clause BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED. Heath indicated that he did not support this in the original resolution. The motion did not receive a second.

L. Dauterive made a motion to remove the term "non-fighter" from the aircraft designation in the same section. The motion was seconded by M. Buchanan and passed unanimously.

A copy of the Resolution with the draft changes to be send forward to the TCC is attached as an official part of the minutes.

Discussion of Revision of Materials Guidelines

Lukens led a brief discussion about the materials guidelines revision indicating that it would be discussed at length in joint session with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Artificial Reef Committee. There was a general consensus among the Subcommittee to follow the same type of format based on the state program's experiences. It was also agreed that a loose leaf type format may be easy to incorporate future section revisions or additions.

Discussion of Operational Protocols and Procedures

Deferred until next meeting

Other Business

Gulf Shores, Alabama was selected for the next meeting location. Lukens will consider dates during the last week of July.

Election of Officers

S. Heath made the motion that current Vice Chairman, Rick Kasprzak move into the Chairman position. J. Dodrill seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

J. Dodrill nominated S. Heath to serve as Vice Chairman. L. Dauterive seconded the nomination, and was unanimously approved.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

DRAFT CHANGES - GSMFC POSITION STATEMENT
Originally adopted October 15, 1992

POSITION STATEMENT ON THE USE OF ~~AUTOMOBILE~~ TIRES

AS ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIAL

Historically, construction of artificial reefs in the marine and estuarine environment in the United States has been accomplished using materials of opportunity, ranging from refrigerators to scuttled ships. A material that has been used rather consistently over time is automobile tires. Use of tires as artificial reef material has been variously motivated by the need for low cost, readily available materials to a mechanism to dispose of a significant source of landside solid waste. Methods of using tires have varied, ranging from the use of single, unballasted tires to the construction of sophisticated units with tires embedded in concrete.

Since most artificial reef programs in the United States still rely upon the use of materials of opportunity for continued construction of artificial reefs, the issue of tire use recurs periodically. Some programs are pressured by local and state governments to use tires toward fulfilling waste disposal goals. Regardless of the underlying motivations for use of tires in artificial reef construction, the practice continues.

Recognizing that ~~automobile~~ tires as artificial reef material in the Gulf of Mexico region are not generally accepted as an optimum material, ~~either physically, environmentally, or biologically,~~ the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission establishes that if ~~automobile~~ tires must be used as artificial reef material in the Gulf of Mexico region, including both state territorial and federal jurisdictions, they should be ~~chipped and incorporated as aggregate in concrete units or~~ properly ballasted ~~in units of multiple tires following the concept established by the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection and Energy, Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife~~. Specific standards for design and ballast may vary depending primarily on bottom sediments, bottom slope, and current velocities; however, artificial reef program should adhere to the basic concept of using established engineering principles to determine appropriate design and ballast weight to assure stability under predictable storm and other events.

_____

~~Leroy Kiffe~~, Chairman

DRAFT CHANGES - GSMFC RESOLUTION
Originally adopted March 21, 1997

RESOLUTION

ON THE USE OF SELECTED MATERIALS OF OPPORTUNITY

AS ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIAL

WHEREAS the National Fishing Enhancement Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-623) established the need for and mandated the development of a National Artificial Reef Plan (National Plan), and

WHEREAS the National Marine Fisheries Service was required to draft the National Plan, and

WHEREAS the National Plan was completed and adopted in 1985 as NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS OF-6, and

WHEREAS the National Plan set forth criteria for application to the use of materials in development of artificial reefs, and

WHEREAS these criteria require that artificial reef materials be functional as long-term habitat for Invertebrate and vertebrate living aquatic resources, compatible with the environment into which they are placed, durable enough to withstand the rigors of the natural environment and still retain their functional capability, stable enough to remain in place through natural storm events and man-made perturbations, and available for use by artificial reef programs, and

WHEREAS materials of opportunity, or man-made substances that are no longer useful for their primary purpose, have been used for decades in the United States as artificial reef material, and

WHEREAS materials of opportunity include, but are not limited to, concrete rubble, automobile and other vehicle bodies, vehicle tires, white goods (washing machines, clothes dryers, refrigerators, etc.), aircraft, railroad cars, steel-hulled vessels and barges, oil and gas structures, military battle hardware, among a host of others, and

WHEREAS many materials of opportunity meet the criteria set forth in the National Plan for artificial reef development, while others do not, and

WHEREAS the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission developed and published "Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials" (1997), and

Derelict Crab Trap
Work Summary
Thursday, April 5, 2001
Ocean Springs, MS

This work session was held to finalize revisions to the white paper entitled, *"Blue Crab Derelict Traps and Trap Removal Programs."* Participants included:

Gary Graham, Texas A&M MAS, Palacios, TX
Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Leslie Hartman, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Kirsten Larsen, USM/CMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Harriet Perry, USM/CMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Tom Wagner, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Steve VanderKooy, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Cindy Yocom, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

The meeting was hosted by Harriet Perry at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's Conference Center. Using the computerized overhead system, corrections were made to the document as they were being discussed. Upon revision, the literature cited section was double-checked for correctness. This document will be finalized and published by the GSMFC. Approximately 100 copies will be professionally printed for light distribution.

The group discussed a mechanism to pull together a panel including law enforcement, biologists, sea grant representatives, and state managers to provide recommendations to solve the problem gulf wide. Specific problems need further thought, and a plan of action should be formulated. Needs include: a definition for "derelict" traps; formulation of guidelines for removal, consideration of legal aspects, development of educational programs, and consideration of disposal options.

J. Rester discussed the Commission's plans to hold a brief session in October on this subject. The meeting will include representation from the Law Enforcement Committee, Crab Subcommittee, Habitat Subcommittee, and Commercial-Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel to discuss this problem further.

APPROVED BY:
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC HABITAT SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, March 12, 2001
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman Dale Shively was unable to attend the meeting. Jeff Rester called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members
Frank Courtney, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL
Glenn Thomas, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Paul Cook, LDWF, New Iberia, LA
Bob Spain, TPWD, Austin, TX
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS (*Proxy for Larry Goldman*)
Jan Boyd, MDMR, Biloxi, MS

Staff
Jeff Rester, Habitat Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Larry Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Virginia Vail, *GSMFC Commissioner*, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL
William Ward, *GSMFC Commissioner*, Tampa, FL
Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Empire, LA
Chris Dorsett, Gulf Restoration Network, New Orleans, LA

Adoption of Agenda

J. Rester stated that Peter Hoar was unable to attend the meeting, so the "National Estuarine Research Reserves" agenda item was deleted. D. Frugé stated that he would like to comment on the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force under "Other Business." With no other changes or modifications, the agenda was adopted.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of October 16, 2000 were adopted with the following change. G. Thomas stated under the discussion of marsh die-off in Louisiana, probably should be added to the sentence detailing the causes of the die off. Researchers were still unsure what the exact cause of the die off was.

Administrative Report

J. Rester stated that he attended a NMFS sponsored fishing gear impacts workshop in November. This was the second in a series of workshops being held in the southeast region to look at the potential impacts of fishing gear on habitat. J. Rester stated that he attended the November Council meeting where they discussed a development in Gulfport, Mississippi and finalized the submerged aquatic vegetation and wetland management policies. The Council also passed a motion to develop a freshwater inflow policy. J. Rester stated that the EFH lawsuit was settled last fall. The judge ruled that the environmental assessment was not adequate and violated the National Environmental Protection Act. The Council would soon begin the process of developing a full environmental impact statement. J. Rester stated that he attended a January Brown Marsh Die Off Conference where speakers discussed the extent and possible causes of the extensive marsh die off in Louisiana. He also attended the January Council meeting where they discussed the Brownsville Weir and Reservoir project and artificial reef materials. In March, J. Rester attended a National Research Council sponsored Bottom Trawling Impact on Habitat meeting. J. Rester stated that ongoing projects included the derelict crab trap report and gathering papers for the annotated bibliography. Since the last update, 40 papers were added to the bibliography. The bibliography was also used to produce a report on gear impacts in the southeast region. J. Rester reported that the habitat poster had been completed since the last meeting and around 20,000 copies produced. He had distributed a few thousand. He was working on distributing the posters to local schools. The Subcommittee expressed how pleased they were with the posters. J. Rester asked the Subcommittee members about the Protecting Fish Habitat brochure that he distributed after the last meeting. He stated that he received a few comments on the brochure. These comments indicated that the brochure should be changed before it is reprinted. The discussion then turned to producing a short ten to fifteen minute video segment on protecting habitat and the importance of habitat to the Gulf of Mexico. This video could be distributed to local television stations and used as a time filler between shows. J. Rester stated that he would check on the costs of producing a video and report back at the next meeting.

Review of the Council's Freshwater Inflow Policy

J. Rester stated that a recommendation was made at the Council's Texas Habitat Protection Advisory Panel meeting last year to develop a freshwater inflow policy. The Council voted to develop a policy, and the Commission's Habitat Subcommittee was again volunteered to develop the policy for the Council's review. He then stated that he drafted a policy for the Subcommittee's review. The policy now needs to be reviewed by the Subcommittee. J. Rester also stated that D. Frugé had provided comments to him. J. Rester displayed these comments for everyone to see.

W. Ward stated that in Florida the Governor is worried about the effects of the drought and the availability of water. Unfortunately, the people in charge of water do not always consider the need for water in the downstream estuaries. W. Ward wanted to know what role the Commission could play in developing water plans. He would like to see formal representation for marine resources in developing all water plans. V. Vail stated that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is represented on environmental issues like water and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is only represented on resource issues. D. Frugé stated that the Commission can become active on issues by adopting a freshwater policy, and then sending the policy along with a letter to other agencies requesting that marine resources be considered in all water management plans and marine representatives be appointed to all water management boards.

Several changes were made to the draft freshwater inflow policy. The Subcommittee agreed that the policy should be reviewed again by the Subcommittee before it is submitted to the Council for their review. The Subcommittee requested that J. Rester send the updated draft to everyone for their review. The Subcommittee would also send it to other members of their agencies for their input before the October meeting.

Derelict Crab Trap Removal Report

J. Rester stated Vince Guillory of the Crab Subcommittee drafted a detailed report on the derelict crab trap problem and possible management recommendations to help alleviate the problem. The Crab Subcommittee was currently reviewing the report, and it would be sent to the Habitat Subcommittee as soon as it was finished. J. Rester then presented a four page executive summary of the report that briefly details the derelict crab trap problem.

J. Rester next presented the presentation that will be made to the Technical Coordinating Committee. Subcommittee members offered suggestions for the presentation. The Subcommittee also discussed the derelict crab trap problem and possible solutions.

D. Frugé suggested exploring the possibility of using biodegradable material for crab traps. Disposal options were also discussed. P. Cook stated that managers at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana were using derelict traps for shoreline stabilization. He also stated that he would provide more information on this to J. Rester.

Habitat Issues of Interest From Each State

G. Thomas stated that Louisiana will be developing massive restoration projects with funding from the Water Resources Development Act.

B. Spain stated that there is currently state wide regional water planning in Texas. Sixteen different regional water plans have been developed. Texas Parks and Wildlife has a representative on each board. Senate Bill 2 is now working on implementing these plans. Texas Parks and Wildlife is concerned about the lack of freshwater for estuaries and its affect on fishery resources. B. Spain stated that most water managers see any water entering an estuary as being wasted. They do not realize the importance of this water to the health of the estuary.

D. Frugé discussed the two proposed pipelines that will traverse the Gulf of Mexico between Mobile Bay and Tampa Bay. He stated that it appears that the pipelines will now be routed outside of the Council's two marine reserves. D. Frugé also stated that freshwater inflow is now a major problem in the panhandle of Florida.

J. Boyd stated that Mississippi is examining the use of dredge material in marsh creation projects. He also stated that the Department of Marine Resources will soon be mapping seagrass in Mississippi Sound. They will also examine the possibility of restoring seagrass in some areas.

Other Business

D. Frugé stated that the Hypoxia Task Force now has a finalized action plan. The goals of the plan do not include a percent reduction in total nutrient input, but instead has a goal of reducing the size of the hypoxic area that forms yearly off Louisiana. The goal is to reduce the size of the hypoxic area by 20% by the year 2015. This would equate to around a 30% reduction in nutrients.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Brownsville, Texas
Monday, March 12, 2001

APPROVED BY:
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Jim Hanifen called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members
Richard Waller, USM/IMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Mark Leiby, FWC/FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Rick Leard, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Joanne Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS

Others
William Ward, *GSMFC Commissioner*, Tampa, FL
Chris Dorsett, GRN, New Orleans, LA
Frank Courtney, FWC/FMRI/SERF, Port Manatee, FL
Randy Blankinship, TPWD, Brownsville, TX
Paul Choucair, TPWD, Corpus Christi, TX
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX

Staff
Larry Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, SEAMAP/Habitat Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Dave Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

J. Shultz asked to change the spelling of Sara Le Croy's name. **R. Waller moved to approve the October 15, 2000 minutes with this one change. T. Cody seconded, and it passed unanimously.**

Administrative Report

J. Rester reported the Fall/Shrimp Groundfish Cruise took place from October 14 - December 1, 2000. Data from this Survey were used to produce the latest red snapper real-time plots which were distributed in January 2001. This is the third year the plots were produced and distributed to

interested individuals. The plots will no longer be mailed but they will be available via the Commission web page. In November, J. Rester attended a South Atlantic SEAMAP meeting where they discussed the new SEAMAP.org web page. He also demonstrated the SEAMAP database to the attendees. The Subcommittee met via conference calls in December, January, and February to discuss the additional $200,000 for SEAMAP. An Environmental Data Work Group conference call was held in January to discuss the possibility of submitting a proposal to the National Environmental Satellite Data, and Information Service (NESDIS). This is a new group located at Stennis Space Center that is interested in environmental data. SEAMAP would like to provide CTD casts to NESDIS and NESDIS will then process the profiles for SEAMAP. The work group stated that if NESDIS is willing to fund equipment purchases, then CTDs and bench top fluorometers should be acquired. Larry Simpson met with Congressmen and Senators February 5-9 to discuss additional funding for SEAMAP. He stated that things went well. A follow up letter was sent to everyone that he visited stressing the need for additional SEAMAP funding. J. Rester asked the Subcommittee to ask their state director's to communicate this need to their delegations. Data from the 1999 cruises are being converted over into the old database so the Data Atlas can be run. There is a problem with the new database but the Atlas should be out for review in April and hopefully the 2000 data can be processed as well. Real time data was produced and distributed last summer and it will be done again this summer. J. Shultz stated a new person will be doing the real-time data. J. Rester reminded the Subcommittee to get all cruise data in as soon as possible.

Fishery Independent Sampling in Texas

Page Campbell gave a presentation on Texas' fishery independent sampling programs. A copy of the presentation is attached (Attachment 1).

Status of the NMFS Reef Fish Survey

J. Shultz distributed a summary (Attachment 2) of the NMFS portion of the Reeffish Survey and discussed each item. She stated that NMFS will attempt their portion of the Reeffish Survey for the first time in three years. They will be sampling areas in the eastern and western Gulf. She stated that Chris Gledhill or Kevin Radenmacher should be able to give a more detailed presentation at the joint meeting in August.

SEAMAP Work Group Meeting Discussion

J. Rester stated there is now money available for work group meetings and asked the Subcommittee which work groups should meet and what issues need to be addressed. The Subcommittee agreed the plankton data issues need to be solved and it is time to update the Operations Manual. J. Shultz stated NMFS will be hiring new personnel in the near future and this will help with the data issues.

R. Waller moved that when resources become available, the cleaning up of the plankton files should be M. McDuff's highest priorities. M. Leiby seconded. After discussion, M. Leiby amended the motion to read to make the plankton files a very high priority as opposed to the highest since there may be other legitimate claims to that. R. Waller seconded and the amended motion passed unanimously.

M. Leiby moved that all of the work groups review the appropriate sections of the SEAMAP Operations Manual for updates and revisions and have changes and suggestions available to the Subcommittee for the October meeting. T. Cody seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. J. Rester will contact the work groups and if they feel a meeting is necessary to accomplish this, he will make the arrangements.

The Subcommittee agreed that the biocode changes need to be completed soon. **J. Shultz moved that the biocode ad hoc group formed at the Savannah meeting should meet, preferably within six months, to resolve the biocode issues for the SEAMAP data set. They should report to the Subcommittee at the October meeting. T. Cody seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.** M. Leiby, J. Shultz and others on the Subcommittee will contact the appropriate personnel to participate in the meeting.

Review of the Plankton Section of the SEAMAP Manual

J. Rester reported the updated plankton section of the SEAMAP Manual has been distributed for review and comments. J. Shultz asked the Subcommittee to distribute it to the people in the field for their comments also. The Subcommittee asked J. Rester to send a copy of this section to the plankton work group. All comments should be submitted by April 15th.

Update on the SEAMAP Web Page

J. Rester gave an update on accessing the SEAMAP database on the web. Currently, the database is accessible, but the Commission does not have enough software licenses to allow public access to the data. This will soon be resolved and interested individuals will then have access to the data. R. Waller stated he is still having problems with this and J. Rester said improvements have been made. He asked the Subcommittee to keep making suggestions on how accessing the database can be more user friendly.

Environmental Data Sampling

J. Rester stated that as he said in his Administrative Report, the Environmental Work Group wants guidance on what to put in the proposal to NESDIS. After discussion, the Subcommittee agreed to state they will provide CTD casts to NESDIS and NESDIS will then process the profiles for SEAMAP. Furthermore, if NESDIS is willing to fund equipment purchases so they may obtain more environmental data from SEAMAP, the proposal should ask for CTDs and bench top fluorometers.

Final Review of the 2001-2005 Management Plan

J. Rester stated that the final draft of the 2001-2005 Management Plan is out for its final review and G. White wanted comments back by March 15th. The Subcommittee stated this is not enough time to review the plan and they will have their comments in by mid-April. The Plan should be finalized at the joint meeting for approval and then the Subcommittee will ask for approval from the TCC via mail ballot.

Other Business

R. Waller said they did receive the electronic measuring boards and after quite a few problems, they are now working.

J. Rester said that he would like to add video clips to the next CD-ROM atlas and asked the states and NMFS to video some of their cruises. He said to tape all of the operations on board such as putting trawls over and pulling them in, measuring/counting the fish from the trawls, CTD casts, etc.

D. Donaldson said GSMFC has a copy of the SEAMAP data base on the server and the software that allows access to unlimited users has been received. It has not been loaded but once it is, they can provide the SEAMAP data to anyone. He said they should develop some canned reports and suggests that J. Rester, J. Hanifen, R. Waller and himself meet to develop some of these reports. He also stated they should advertise the fact that the SEAMAP data is now available on line via the various web pages and the GSMFC newsletter and any other newsletters.

M. Leiby said he feels a lot of time and money is spent on the frequent SEAMAP meetings and suggested some of the meetings be conference call or teleconferencing. The Subcommittee feels the meetings are important but some may be done that way. J. Hanifen asked J. Rester to look into the availability of video conferencing technology in and around the domiciles of the Subcommittee members and see what can be arranged.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Fishery Independent Sampling in Texas

Texas has grown dramatically over the past two decades. Metropolitan areas are expanding and reaching out to urban areas. One of the fastest growing areas is the coast of Texas.

The latest census estimates there are over 21 million Texans with about 6 million living along the coast. Projections are that by 2030 there will be 34 million people living in the state of Texas.

With the increase in population has come increasing numbers of fishermen and increasing demands on fisheries resources. Coastal Fisheries manages and regulates fisheries resources to ensure quality fisheries and prevent depletion of stocks.

An effective management program must be based on a thorough understanding of the life history, abundance, population dynamics, harvest and utilization of target species.

Our management program consists of two long-term monitoring programs and an enhancement program.

- The Resource Monitoring Program monitors the abundance and species diversity of finfish and shellfish.
- The Harvest Monitoring Program monitors commercial and recreational harvest of finfish and shellfish.
- Bear in mind that we have been sampling the resources since the beginning of Parks & Wildlife; however the programs I will describe here are the routine monitoring programs that are currently in place,
- The Enhancement Program seeks to enhance existing populations and fishing opportunities through research, culture and stocking hatchery-reared fishes.

Each of these activities are conducted in all Texas bay systems from Sabine Lake to the Lower Laguna Madre.

The Resource Monitoring Program utilizes 4 gears to provide trend data on species and size composition and abundance of fish and shellfish.

Random sampling regimes are used to insure unbiased estimates of trend information that represent bay systems as a whole. Each bay system, in this case the North end of the Upper Laguna Madre, has been sectioned into 1-minute latitude by 1-minute longitude grids, each grid has been further subdivided into 144 "gridlets". With this grid system, each spot of shoreline and open bay water is a potential sample site depending on the gear used (i.e. each grid that touches a shore line is a

potential gill net or bag seine sample site and each grid with open bay water >3' deep is a potential trawl sample site). All sample sites are selected at random before going to the field.

Our oyster dredge samples for spat small oysters and market oysters. Routine monitoring was established in 1984, we are currently collecting 1,080 samples/yr.

Otter trawls (shrimp trawls) have been used since 1982 to sample juvenile and subadult fish, shrimp and crabs in bay water greater than 3-feet deep. Trawls are 20 ft wide with 1-1/2 stretch mesh throughout the trawl. Twenty 10-minute trawl samples are conducted each month in each bay system, except in the Upper Laguna Madre and Lower Laguna Madre where only 10 samples are conducted each month. A total of 1,680 bay trawl samples are collected each year.

Gulf trawls have been collected off Texas since 1985. These too, sample juvenile and subadult finfish, shrimp and crabs. Sixteen trawls per month are collected off of 5 pass areas along the Texas coast. A total 960 samples are collected per year.

Bag seines have been used since 1977 to sample juvenile fish, shrimp and crabs along bay shore lines. These 60 ft. seines (w-1/2" stretch mesh bag) are stretched perpendicular to the shore and are pulled parallel to the shore for 50 ft. Depending on the species, we use bag seine data as an index of abundance or recruitment. 2,040 randomly selected bag seine stations are sampled each year.

Gill nets have been used since 1975 to provide information on relative size and abundance of adult and subadult fish. Gill nets are 600 ft long and have four panels of 3, 4, 5, 6" webbing. The nets are fished overnight with one end placed on shore and the net deployed perpendicular to shore. Nets are retrieved the following morning. Forty-five gill net sets are conducted during two 10-week sampling period, one in the spring (April - June) and one the fall (September - November) for a total of 760 gill net samples/year.

Here are the total samples taken in a year on our routine resource monitoring program.

All organisms caught in the oyster dredges, trawls, bag seines and gill nets are sorted, identified to species, counted and measured.

Various environmental parameters such as dissolved oxygen, salinity, water temperature and meteorological conditions are collected with every biological sample enabling us to assess environment's condition and correlate the condition to the catch.

Recreational harvest and angler activities are estimated by interviewing private and party boat anglers at public boat access sites. Bay Harvest surveys have been conducted in Texas since 1974. Gulf access sites were added in 1983.

Surveys are conducted coastwide on weekend and weekdays. During 1997-98, we conducted over 1,000 surveys, where 11,000 angling interviews occurred, counting 727,000 anglers, expending 6,338,700 man-hours to harvest 2,294,000 fish.
Data gathered during these interviews provide information necessary to determine species composition of the recreational harvest, to estimate fishing pressure and to calculate the mean size

of fish landed. Data collected during these interviews also enables us to assess the need for and effectiveness of salt water fishing regulations.

Commercial landings have been collected from seafood dealers since 1887. These data were collected sporadically until 1936 when the then Texas Game and Fish and Oyster Commission began collecting data on a regular basis. Finfish, oysters, crabs and shrimp landings and value are monitored through a mandatory self reporting system known as the Monthly Aquatic Products Report.

Since 1956, the National Marine Fisheries Service has collected landings data on shrimp through dealer reports and interviews. An informal data exchange between agencies allowed compilation of total landings. In 1985, NMFS and TPWD entered into a formal agreement to exchange commercial fisheries statistics.

The Harvest and Resource monitoring programs have provided information on 335 fish and 204 invertebrate species.

In addition to the monitoring programs, I have described, Coastal Fisheries operates three fish hatcheries, one located at the CPL plant in Corpus Christi, one near Palacios and the third is located in Lake Jackson.

Current research at the Corpus Christi and Lake Jackson facilities focuses on spawning and raising red drum and spotted seatrout fingerling for stocking in Texas Bays as well as work on Atlantic croaker, Southern flounder and tarpon.

These programs allow us to make the management decisions that will ensure healthy populations for present as well as future generations of Texas fishermen.

We are currently holding the tarpon at Sea Center for spawning. The tank is about 20' in diameter, 5 ft deep and holds about 10,000 gallons and is completely self contained and is controlled completely in terms of environmental parameters such as temperature, light and salinity. The 6 tarpon (17-32 lbs.) have been held on an ambient cycle, but have recently been put on a shortened photo period or condensed cycle to facilitate the initiation of spawning.

The Science staff at Perry R. Bass is divided into two groups, the genetics staff and the life history staff.

Long-term studies of the genetics group focuses on three areas: 1) application of genetic markers for species identification, 2) utilization of genetic tags in the evaluation of stocking success and strategy and 3) examination of genetic structure (genetic subdivisions) prior to management intervention.

The purpose of the life history program at Perry R. Bass is to investigate sport fish population and life history parameters that cannot be adequately addressed using routine monitoring data. Much of their work has concentrated on age, growth and development of age-length keys which are used for population assessments. A number of aging studies have been conducted ranging from studies on red drum, black drum, spotted seatrout, red snapper and southern flounder to examination of otoliths

for archaeological digs in coastal native American middens. Other areas receiving considerable attention involve reproductive biology and stocking program evaluation.

All the data that we collect is used to aid in the management of Texas' marine resources.

Some of the uses of our data include results of our coastwide bag seines for red drum. Catch rates are showing an increasing trend. Also, looking at 1989, you can see effects of the freeze.

Catch rates for red drum caught in gill nets show an increase. Catch rates for red drum >28" caught in gill nets are increasing. From our recreational harvest surveys fishing pressure is increasing and So are the numbers of red drum caught by sport boat fishermen. We can see that the mean weight of red drum caught by anglers has increased which is an effect of size regulations.

This shows how the regulations have changed what we see in our surveys.

In 1980 the size limit was 14"
In 1983 the size limit was 16-30"
In 1987 the size limit was 18-30"
In 1998 20 the size limit was -28 with 2 fish >28"

We are continuing to see new things in our data, For instance, from our surveys we can see how the increased pressure from guided trips have changed the percentage of spotted seatrout being retained by sport anglers in the upper Laguna Madre.

In addition to our routine monitoring, we do special projects like longlining funded by SEAMAP. These show some of the action from one of our sampling trips.

The large red drum were put into a holding tank, their bladders decompressed and then held so that we could send them to one of our hatcheries to add to the brood stock.

Another study was a bycatch device comparison study where we tested different devices in several different bay systems. We have since required that these devices be used in Texas waters.

We also are adding a few new boats to our aging fleet. The older boats are 44 feet in length but our new boats (at 53ft) will allow us more flexibility with studies such as bycatch and also give us better access to the Gulf.

And we will be initiating new studies such as Pilot Charterboat study in Texas that is being funded by FIN.

SEAMAP Reef fish survey.

I. Survey history.

A. Surveys conducted 1992-1997.

1. Current data base 1992-1996. Video tapes from 1997 will be completed by April, 2001. Data base entry and edits completed by December, 2001.

B. 2001 survey April 27-May 6, 2001 on NOAA Ship OREGON II; and June 8 - June 28, 2001 on NOAA Ship McARTHUR

1. Sample design will select individual banks proportional to their size (area, km^2) using bathymetry collected during reef fish surveys and sidescan sonar surveys of west Florida shelf.

2. Selected banks will be surveyed at night with acoustic system to locate structure/reef on the bottom. All structure identified on echograms classified as reef will be assigned a number. Ten of these sites will be randomly selected for sampling with video gear. Three of the sites will be randomly selected for sampling with a chevron fish trap.

II Gear/Equipment.

A. A 4-camera rig with cameras mounted orthogonal to each other is the primary gear. We now use digital camcorders as our primary video gear. We have 4, SONY VX1000 and 4 SONY VX2000 digital camcorders with Gates underwater housings.

B. We will use chevron fish traps. These are the same design used for MARMAP surveys.

III Video Tape Viewing.

A. Tape viewing procedures have evolved during survey history. From 1992-1995, tapes were viewed for 1 hour, with each fish identified to lowest taxonomic level, and enumerated for the duration of each tape. Each fish that came into view was counted.

B. Since viewing 1 hour of tape was time consuming, we conducted a small experiment on 21 one-hour tapes to determine the amount of information we would loose if the sample time was reduced. To do this, video tapes were viewed using a Time In / Time Out procedure. The time when a fish entered the field of

view and the time when it left the field of view was recorded. A resampling experiment was then counted using total view times of 5 minutes to 30 minutes in 5-minute increments. Results indicated that the total number of taxa observed was reduced at shorter view times. At 30 minutes, 82% of the taxa on a 1-hour tape were observed. The proportions of total taxa on a 1-hour tape decreased as sample time decreased, with 73% observed at 25 minutes, 68% at 20 minutes to 49% at 5 minutes. We also measured any bias in the number of individuals of each taxon by measuring the difference between the 1-hour totals, and extrapolated totals for each subsample time. The average difference over 1000 trials for all taxa on video tapes examined was zero. By reducing the amount of tape viewed to 20 minutes (1/3 of 1 hour tape), we determined we could still view 70% of taxa, with no bias to fish counts. Total tape viewed was reduced to 20 minutes. Current viewing methodology now employs Time In / Time Out procedure.

III MMS / USGS Northeast Gulf of Mexico (NEGOM) study.

A. USGS is conducting a multibeam survey in the NE Gulf. The total area will take 2 years to survey. Mapping is the initial work to study biota and oceanography of DeSoto Canyon area for environmental impact study of drilling for gas in area. Multibeam surveys of shelf are critical to identifying habitat for reef fish.

B. Initial multibeam images of Pinnacles region on Miss.-Alabama shelf.

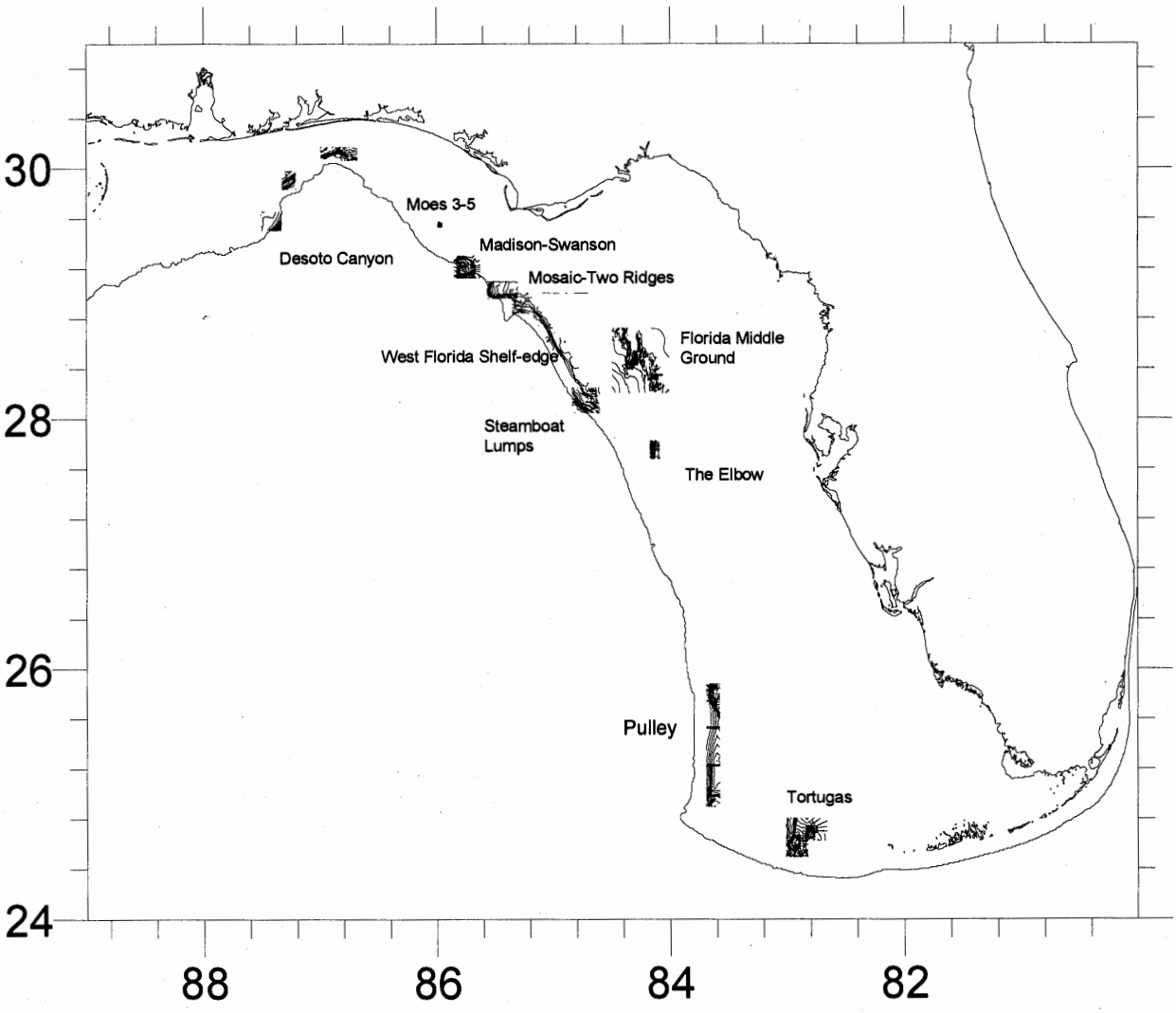


Figure 1. East Gulf of Mexico shelf banks included in sampling frame. Banks include Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps closed areas.

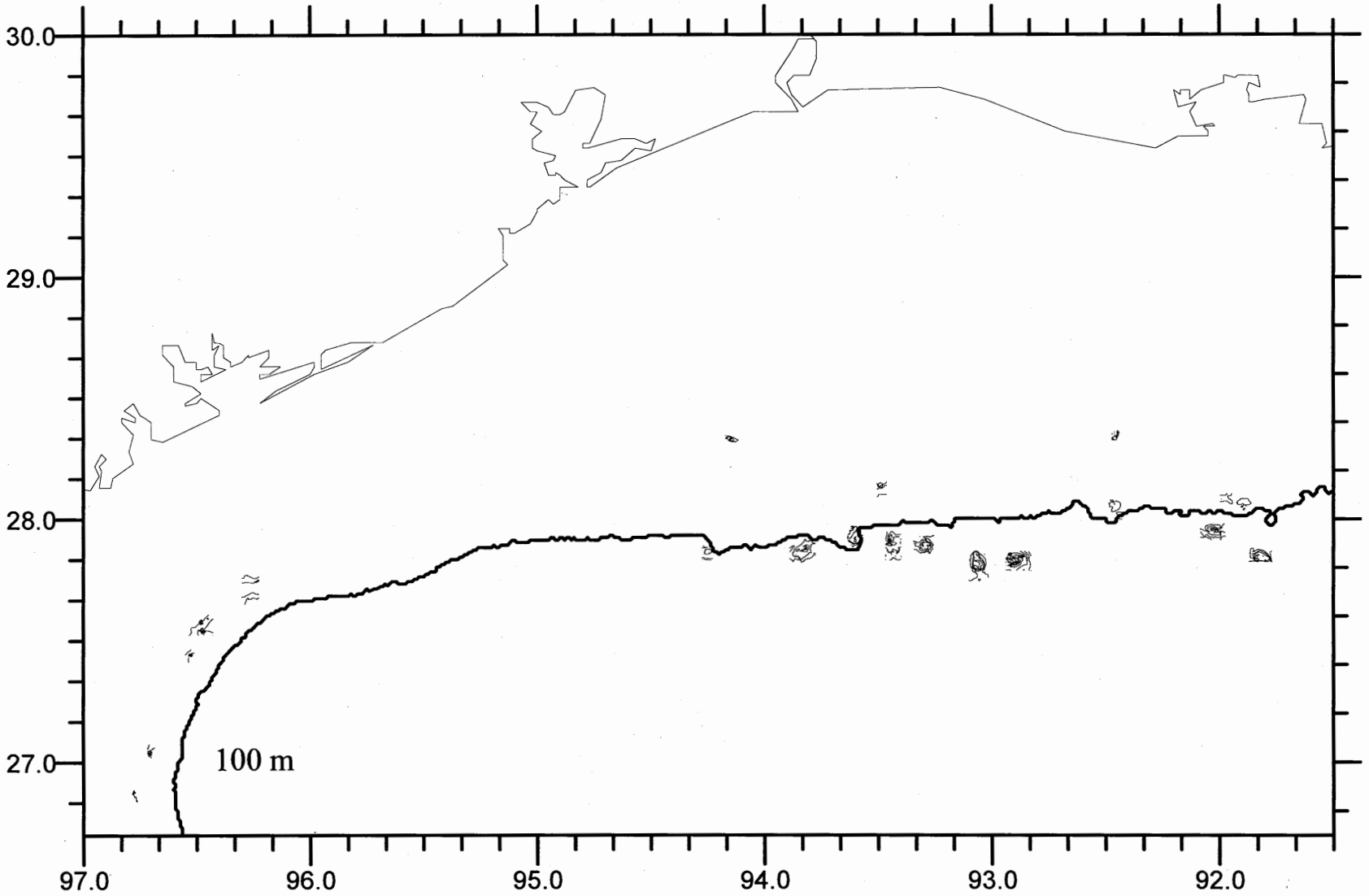


Figure 2. West Gulf of Mexico shelf banks.

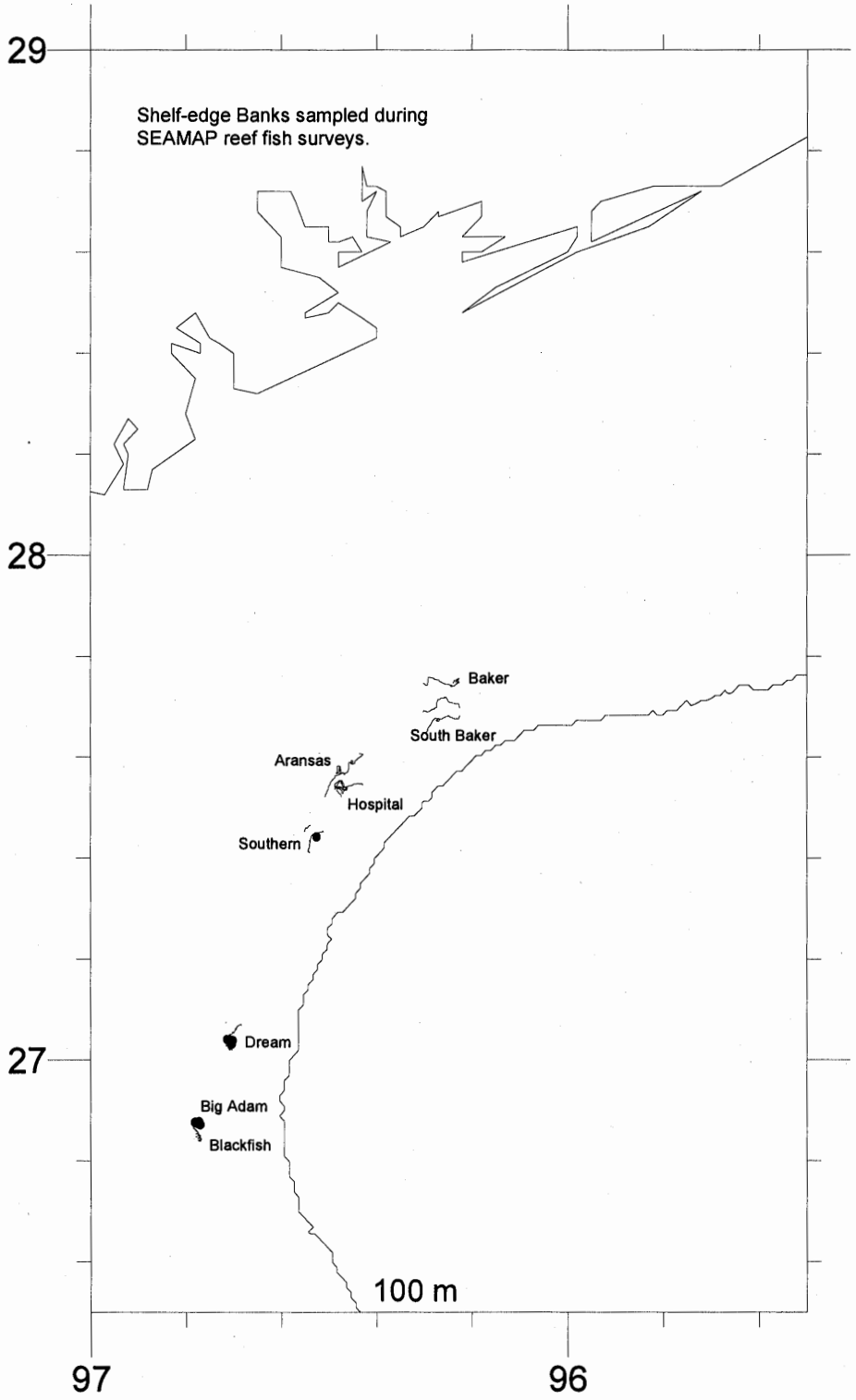


Figure 3. South Texas shelf banks.

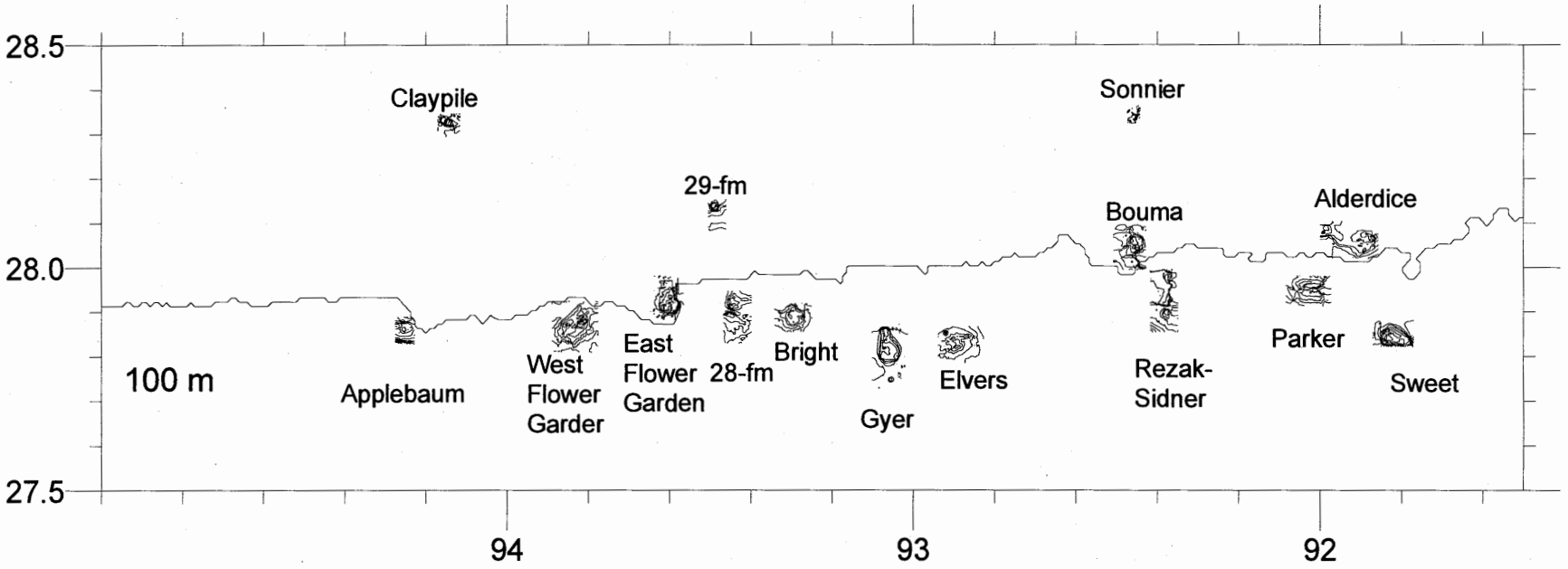


Figure 4. Louisiana-Texas shelf-edge banks.

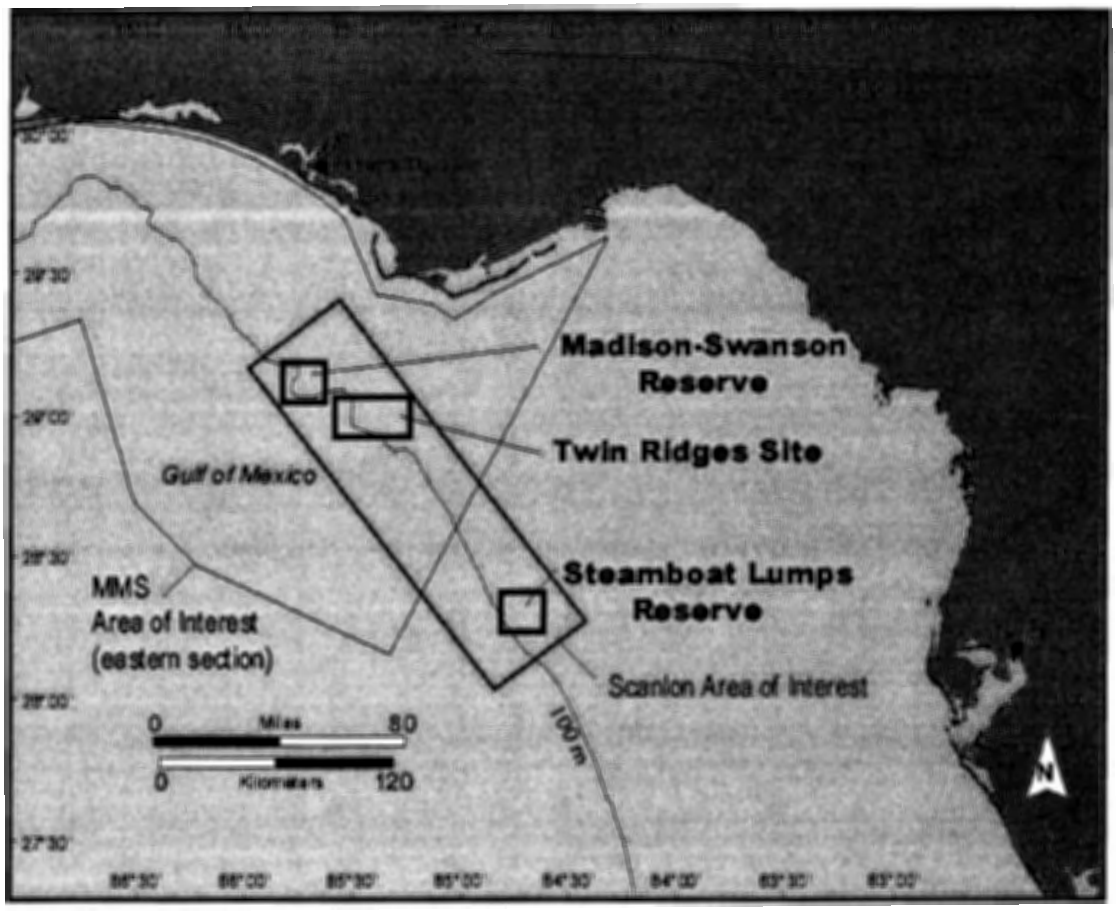


Figure 5. MMS-USGS NEGOM study area.

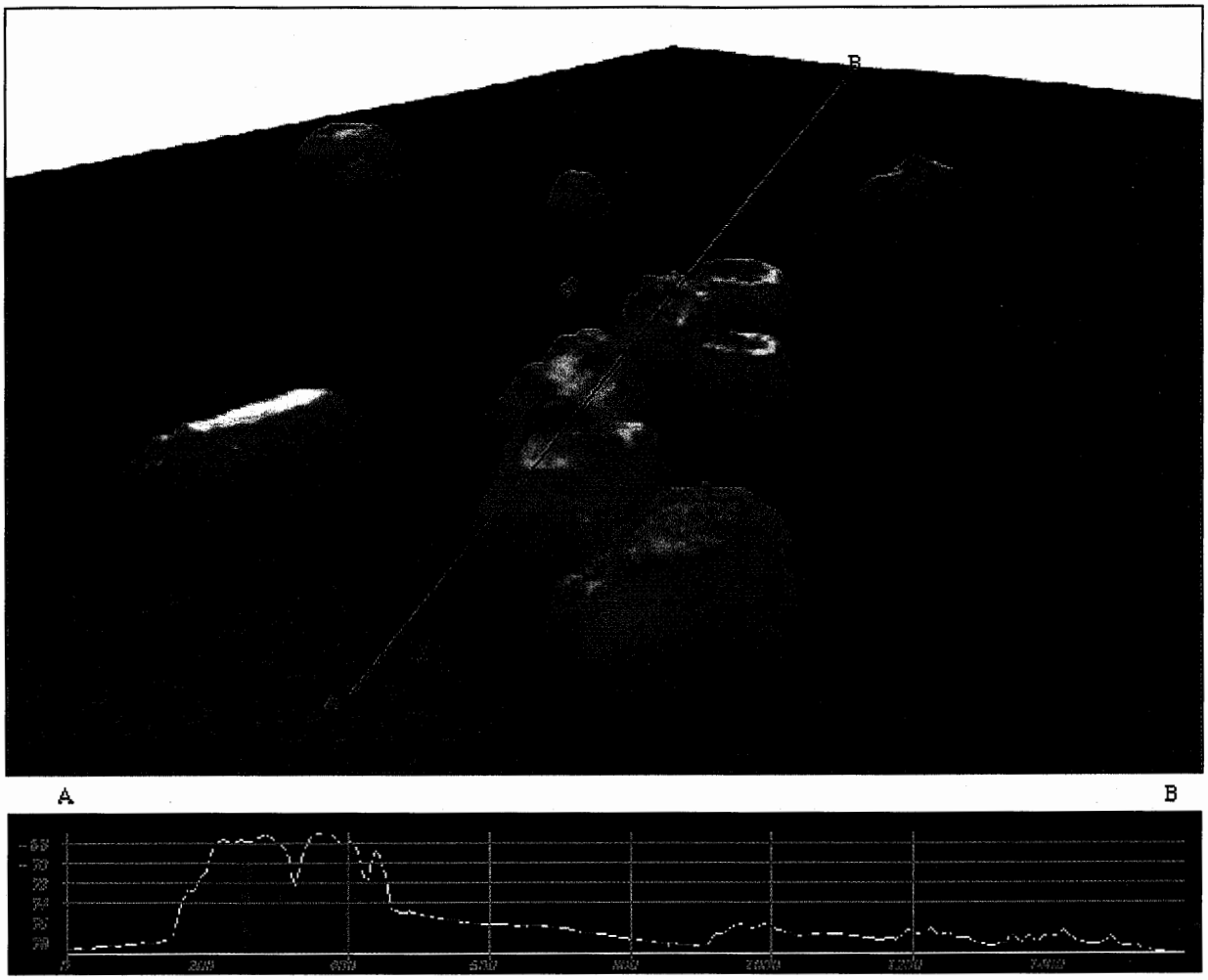


Figure 6. Multibeam image of triple top reef collected during USGS NEGOM work, Pinnacles area of Mississippi-Alabama-Florida shelf.

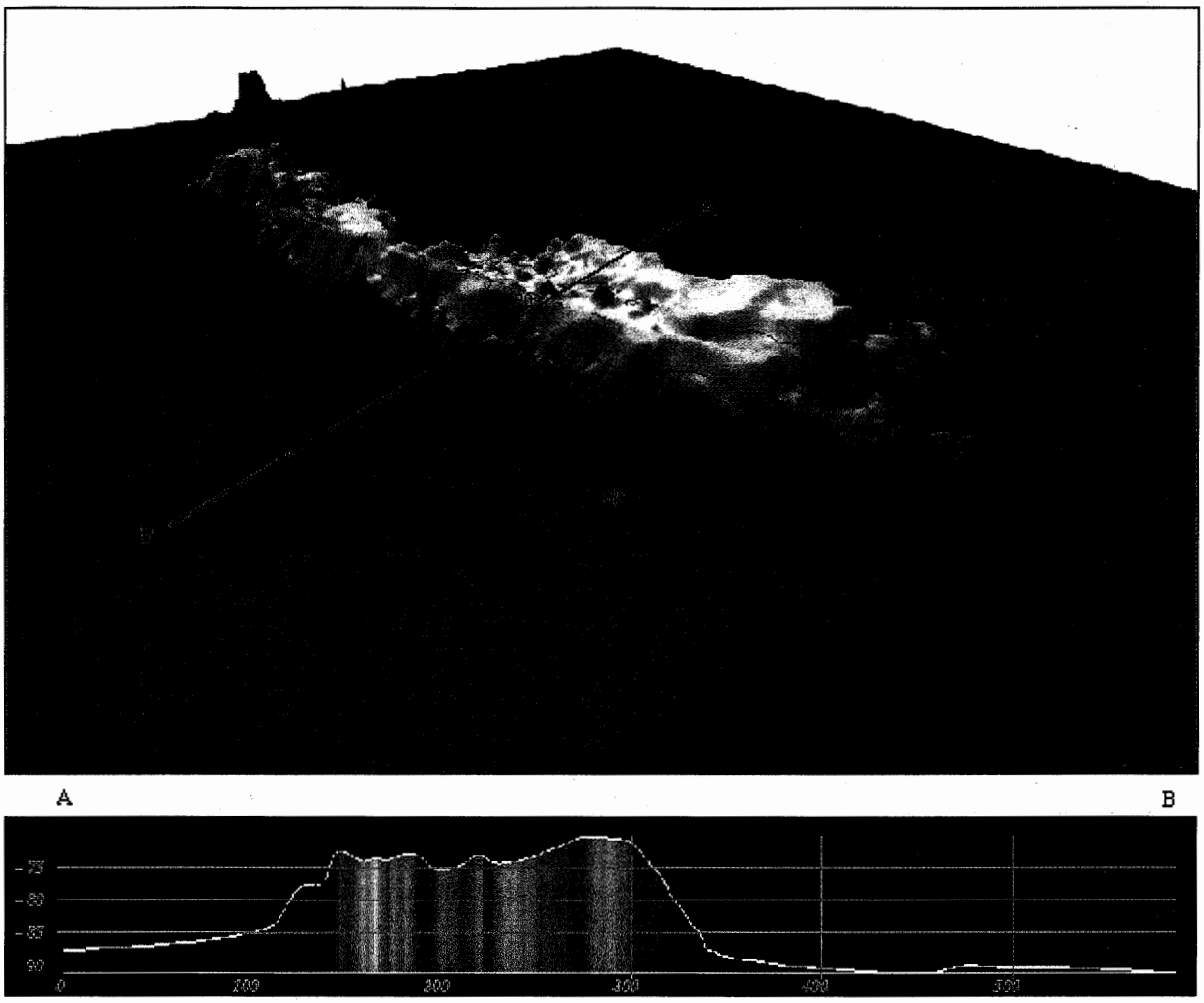
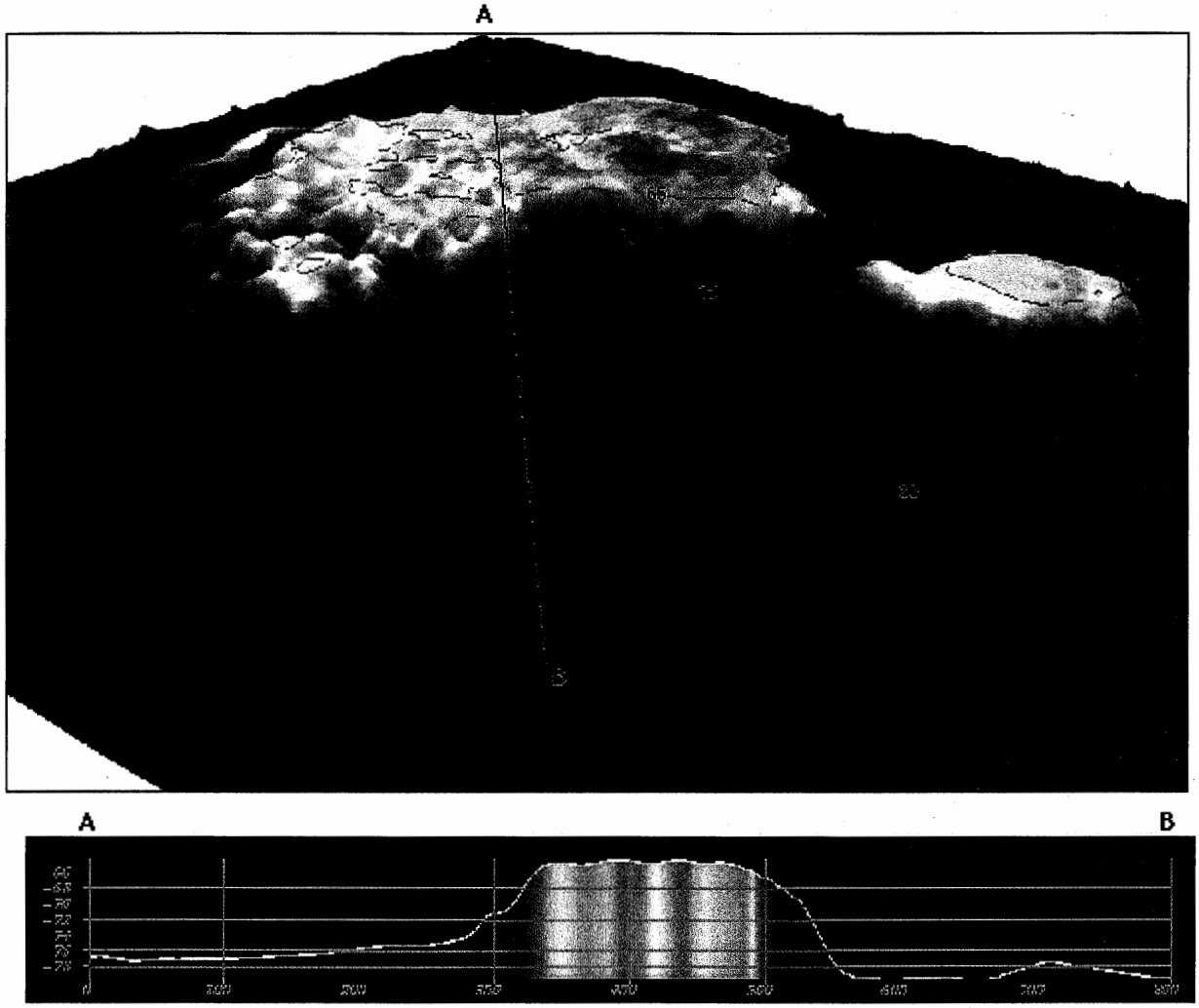


Figure 7. Multibeam image collected during USGS NEGOM work.



Roughtongue reef, looking northeast

Figure 8. Multibeam image collected during USGS NEGOM work.

APPROVED BY:
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

COMMERCIAL/RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES
Monday, March 12, 2001
Brownsville, Texas

P. Horn called the meeting to order at 8:44 a.m. with the following in attendance:

Members
Scott Riley, Tallahassee, FL
Bob Fairbank, Gulfport, MS
Randy Gros, Marrero, LA
Bob Zales, Panama City Boatmans Association, Panama City, FL
Philip Horn, Pascagoula, MS

Staff
Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
David Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Cindy Yocom, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Michael Bailey, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Bobbi M. Walker, GMFMC, Orange Beach, AL
John T. Jenkins, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Gary Graham, Texas A&M Marine Advisory Service, Palacios, TX
Dave Harrington, Georgia Sea Grant, Brunswick, GA
William Ward, *GSMFC Commissioner*, Tampa, FL
Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Inc. Empire, LA
Virginia Vail, *GSMFC Commissioner*, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL
Paul Choucair, TPWD, Corpus Christi, TX
Bill Price, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD

Adoption of Agenda

B. Zales moved that the Artificial Reef presentation to be moved forward on the agenda to allow several members of the audience a chance to hear an issue in the concurrent Habitat Subcommittee meeting. R. Gros seconded, and the agenda was adopted as amended.

Approval of Minutes (October 16, 2000)

R. Gros moved to accept the minutes as written; B. Zales seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Artificial Reefs

B. Zales made a presentation (Attachment 1) and led a discussion regarding a desire to see continued permitting of LAARS or large area artificial reef sites and the development of new LAARS which could help alleviate sources of user conflict. The use of several new materials, chicken transport containers and automobile parts shipping crates, which have proven to be viable building materials for reefs in the Gulf of Mexico was also discussed. Ms. Bobbie Walker presented video footage of divers documenting the production on several artificial reefs made with materials not currently contained in the Commission's Artificial Reef Materials publication. It was pointed out by R. Lukens that the Commission's Guidance document was only a guide, would continue to undergo revision, and that participation from the fishing community was being planned both on the regional and national levels. A hardcopy of Ms. Walker's presentation is available at the GSMFC office.

Related to this issue, R. Lukens gave a brief presentation on the ecological theory of short lived or ephemeral habitats, specifically artificial reefs. He indicated that for *R* selected species (those which are short lived and produce many young), these habitats may be acceptable. However, for *K* selected species (those which are longer lived and produce only a few young seasonally), these habitats may not be of use other than as temporary attractants. He cautioned that this presentation is still in the conceptual stages but that classic, ecological theory supports this conceptual investigation. He will continue to work on this presentation and perhaps report again later.

RecFIN/ComFIN Report

D. Donaldson reported on on-going activities of the FIN program. He updated the Panel on the registration tracking module which tracks vessels, dealers and fishermen. Donaldson pointed out that the C/RFAP is being used as the FIN advisory panel on this issue and their input was encouraged. The purpose of the tracking program is to associate landings of individual vessels, dealers and fishermen through time and space. The name has been changed from "Permitting" to "Registration Tracking" due to the negative connotation associated with permitting. FIN is targeting 2002 to test the system with NMFS and develop the data management structure. The inclusion of certain fields on the registration form were questioned by the Panel, specifically date of birth, size of vessel, and hold capacity. Donaldson pointed out that date of birth relates a registration number in one state to another registration number for the same individual in another state. Before, there was no way to identify a fisherman with multiple state registrations. Social security numbers were suggested as alternatives and Donaldson pointed out that it was technically illegal to request that number but date of birth was an acceptable alternative.

Donaldson also reported that the Trip Ticket Programs were proceeding. Florida, Louisiana, and Alabama's programs are all operational and Mississippi is targeted to begin this year. Texas is currently testing the feasibility of implementing such a program. Trip tickets improve collection of effort data by focusing the sampling universe while additional effort information methodology is planned to be tested in a 2002 pilot study.

The use of recreational fishing licenses as a sampling frame for RecFIN continues to be discussed. It is anticipated that a pilot study could begin in 2002.

Finally, Donaldson gave a status report on the FIN data management system. The commercial catch/effort and biological modules of the FIN data management system have been developed and the FIN is working with the ACCSP to put recreational data into the system in 2001. The goal is to have the data available via the web for everyone.

Status of Fishery Management Plans

S. VanderKooy reported on the IJF activities and updated the group on the status of the five FMPs currently being finished. Some serious concern was indicated on both sides of the table regarding flounder in the Gulf of Mexico. VanderKooy summarized the salient points of the FMP and indicated the lack of good data was the major hurdle to completing a stock assessment. The redirection of both the commercial and recreational sectors to a targeted fishery for flounder made the proper management of these species a high priority. **Therefore B. Zales submitted a motion on behalf of the whole C/RFAP indicating the concern from both sectors regarding flounders: The Recreational/Commercial Fisheries Advisory Panel expresses its recognition of increased interest in harvesting of flounder species and expresses its concern over the lack of data necessary to develop effective management measures. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.** Through this motion they wish to impress upon the states the immediate need to improve the data collection with regard to this species in order to achieve effective management.

TED and BRD Uniformity and Certification

Dave Harrington from Georgia Sea Grant and Gary Graham with Texas Sea Grant updated the group on both proposed changes to the certification protocols by NMFS regarding TEDs and BRDs but also highlighted the problems encountered in the South Atlantic states with the implementation of state BRD requirements. Harrington reported on the lessons learned on the Atlantic with inconsistent BRD specifications in hopes of preventing a similar situation from occurring in the Gulf. When the four southern Atlantic states implemented their inshore BRD requirements, the specifications and placement was varied by state leading to major problems when shrimpers would cross state lines to fish or pass through other waters. Inconsistencies in BRD requirements meant that the devices had to be changed or altered for each state fished. Eventually the problem was solved and the BRDs standardized but not without unnecessary confusion and extra effort. It was generally agreed by the C/RFAP that since no one BRD is right for all states and all conditions, the industry should have several options available to them that are legal in each of the states they may fish whenever inshore implementation is considered in the Gulf of Mexico.

Update on Non-indigenous Species

R. Lukens reported that at the previous meeting, Harriet Perry had presented information on the exotic jellyfish, *Phyllorhiza punctata*, which plagued the Mississippi Sound last summer. A second species had also been reported late in the season off Petit Bois Island and had yet to be identified. Since the last meeting, that species had been determined to be *Drymonema dalmatinum*. It is yet unknown whether these jellies will return next year or if they are now reproducing in the northern Gulf of Mexico, but Lukens will keep the group informed as the year progresses.

The Venezuelan blue crab, *Callinectes bocourti*, which has infrequently been reported in Biloxi Bay appears to have its source in Mobile Bay. Since the states have begun looking for this crab, several

processors in Alabama have reported getting many for quite a while now. Biologists in Alabama are looking into these claims and attempting to identify the populations focus.

Lukens reminded the Panel that he is currently representing the GSMFC on the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee, established under a Presidential Executive Order, and the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, established under federal law. Both these appointments will allow Lukens to stay informed of invasive species issues nation-wide.

Other Business

Scott Riley, the recreational representative from Florida has taken a position which will no longer allow him to participate on the Panel, and the staff will begin the process of requesting a replacement for him. He was a knowledgeable and valuable member of the Panel and will be missed.

The Panel had requested a series of speakers be convened to discuss the recent changes in the Texas shrimp regulations. Since that item was not included on the spring agenda, it will be taken up in October. In addition, a representative from the Crab Subcommittee will be asked to address the protection of egg bearing crabs from harvest. The next meeting of the C/RFAP is set for October 2001 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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

Attachment 1

ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Creating habitat for continued enhancement and sustainability of our renewable marine resources

prepared by

Robert F. Zales, II

With much help from many concerned fishermen
and citizens from the Northeastern Gulf of Mexico

January 9, 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the members of the Panama City Boatmen Association, Destin Charter Boat Association, Pensacola Recreational Fishing Alliance, Pensacola Charter Boat Association, Gulfwide Association f Finfish Fishermen, many recreational for-hire Captains, recreational sport fishermen, commercial fishermen, divers, various governmental personnel, and concerned citizens from the Northeastern Gulf of Mexico who provided information and time to this effort. Without their sincere cooperation and help this paper could not have been done.

OVERVIEW

People have used various materials for the development of artificial reefs for centuries. Until recently the planning of artificial reefs has been mostly by trial and error with very little scientific basis. People have tried various materials and placed them in various locations in an effort to help create habitat and enhance the resource. Efforts to increase habitat by deployment of artificial reefs has taken place when fisheries were abundant and have become more important since fisheries have begun to experience decline. Our sustainable renewable marine resources are stressed from pollution, loss of habitat and increased fishing pressure. We live in a world where once abundant fish stocks are now being overfished and/or are overfished. Everyday we hear about more fisheries becoming fished to a critical state. We hear of the continued loss of habitat due to development and pollution. We hear about the continued increase in fishing pressure as we attempt to rebuild once overfished stocks. We are concerned about the loss of habitat and how that habitat should be replaced. We know that as our fisheries are built to the levels required by the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act (MSFMCA) that habitat enhancement will have to be accomplished in order to provide for the enhancement of our fishery resources.

There appears to be very little hard scientific evidence on the proper materials to be used as artificial reefs and on the proper planning of artificial reefs. We know from real world experience, such as the Large Area Artificial Reef Sites (LAARS) off of Alabama, that cooperation between individuals and government can work to create sustainable habitat and enhance marine resources. Information distributed by the Alabama Department of Marine Resources clearly shows that the combination of using private and public artificial reefs using various types of materials ranging from old automobiles to concrete structures to large liberty ships can create habitat and enhance marine resources. This effort also works to enhance the social and economic resources of local fishing communities. This paper will present information that suggests ways to accomplish increases in habitat and enhancement to our marine resources by using private and public artificial reefs.

PERCIEVED PROBLEMS

It has been suggested that artificial reefs do nothing but attract fish and make the fish more available to harvest. Some say that artificial reefs are detrimental to the

environment and help to create conflicts among fishermen. It is said that "materials of convenience" used as artificial reefs is simply dumping garbage in our oceans. Proper siting, stability and longevity of artificial reefs is a concern to some. Artificial reefs deployed in un-permitted areas that may result in hazards to others has also been discussed. Liability and the lack of scientific and research information is a major concern. Movement of artificial reef materials by a major storm is also a concern.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

We suggest that all perceived problems could be overcome. Real world experiences indicate that proper placement of environmentally safe materials as artificial reefs definitely increase habitat and helps to enhance marine resources. The use of properly planned LAARS can work to create habitat and enhance marine resources. The currently permitted LAARS should continue to be permitted as they are located in areas that have proved to be beneficial to the environment while not being detrimental to any marine user. currently permitted LAARS should continue to be permitted. These LAARS should be used for both public and private artificial reef development. The use of private artificial reefs takes pressure off of both public and natural reefs.

What are "materials of convenience"? We suggest that any material to be used as an artificial reef with the exception of materials specifically created for artificial reefs can be considered as "materials of convenience". Therefore, we believe that the term is mute and serves no purpose other than for those opposed to artificial reef development. We should use minimum criteria, such as $1/8^{th}$ inch metal, minimum weight of 150 pounds, and environmentally safe materials, in developing artificial reefs. We support requiring a minimum period of longevity for artificial reef materials should governmental agencies feel the need to require such to justify the spending of public funds. We do not believe, however, that private artificial reef builders should fall under the same requirement. A private artificial reef builder should be required to use materials that will last at least one year. As long as the material creates habitat, enhances the resource, is not detrimental to the environment and does not adversely affect others, we should not be concerned with longevity. Allowing for a life cycle of any organism is an enhancement that can benefit the Gulf. We are all concerned with the degradation of habitat and should be motivated to build and/or enhance when possible.

Attached you will find several statements from individuals who have been involved with private artificial reef deployment. You will also find pictures of two types of materials currently being used for artificial reefs, which meet the suggested minimum criteria for artificial reef materials. We know of some Chicken Transport Devices (CTD) that have been deployed since 1992 and are still on site and increasing habitat and enhancing the marine resources. The pictures here (chick 4 – 9) are of CTDs that have been deployed for more than 4 years. You can clearly see marine growth and various species of fish. You can also see that the metal is fully intact and should remain for several more years.

LAARS should have a minimum buffer for placement of materials inside their perimeter of at least .25 miles, which should serve as adequate distance to accommodate any possible movement of the materials as a result of major storm activity. There is no doubt that major storms can adversely affect natural reefs as well as artificial reefs. We see no evidence of any great distance of movement of artificial reefs by major storms in the Gulf

of Mexico. We would also suggest that rather than movement some reefs are covered and with time or storms these reefs would be uncovered and continue as essential fish habitat.

Due to the lack of hard scientific information on artificial reef development, we suggest monitoring some public and private artificial reefs. We recommend, as funds would allow, randomly selected monitoring to insure proper placement, amount of habitat production, and how effective the reef has been in enhancing the resource. We monitoring some public and private artificial reefs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We wish to recommend the following;

1: Continue permitting existing LAARS.
2: Plan new LAARS by using sound biological information and working with individuals to insure cooperation to eliminate any possible user conflicts.
3: Develop minimum criteria as stated above for qualifying artificial reef materials. Materials such as the Chicken Transport Devices, automobile-casting shipping crates, agricultural equipment, and large truck bodies will easily fall under these criteria.
4: Encourage the proper deployment of qualified artificial reef material for use as private artificial reefs.
5: Encourage the deployment of large materials for use as public artificial reefs.
6: Encourage continued development of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission *Materials Guide for Artificial Reefs* and the *Planning Guide for Artificial Reefs* and also work with the continued development of the *National Artificial Reef Plan.*
7: Work with the various agencies to educate everyone about the proper development and deployment of artificial reefs for the continued growth of habitat and enhancement of our marine resources.

CONCLUSION

We know from real world experiences that artificial reefs work to create habitat and enhance the marine resources. We know there is much to learn about how artificial reefs interact with natural habitat and the environment. We know there are many individuals who have responsibly worked to deploy artificial reefs for the purpose of creating habitat, enhancing the marine resources, and to help lessen fishing pressure on natural and public artificial reefs. We want to help and be involved. We highly recommend that the various governmental agencies responsible for managing our marine resources work with us to better manage our marine resources. We encourage making information readily assessable to all individuals concerning the management of our marine resources. We suggest that workshops be arranged with government, industry, environmental, and other concerned interests for an exchange of ideas and information to better serve all of our concerns about our renewable and sustainable marine resources. Involvement produces ideas and from ideas comes solutions. Together we can work to achieve the ultimate goal, which is to provide a healthy environment where the marine resources can prosper and we can all enjoy the resources together.

A - 1

December 29, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a recreational fisherman from Panama City, Florida. I have been deploying artificial reefs off of Panama City since 1992. I have had the most success by using chicken transport devices. These units are used by chicken processors to transport chickens for processing. The units measure 4' wide by 5' high by 8' long and weigh approximately 600 pounds. They are stackable and have fork lift slots on the bottom of the unit. They are rectangular in shape, are made of galvanized steel, and have metal bars across the framing. They are readily available, easily transported to reef sites, and are economical to purchase. They are clean of any adverse chemicals to the environment.

I have had these units out as artificial reefs since 1992. I have deployed these units in water depths from 80' to 150' and from 10 to 20 miles offshore Panama City. They seem to all have increased habitat and definitely have enhanced the resource. Some of the units seem to work better than others but I suspect that has to do with the location. They generally do not move from where they have been placed. I have had a few that moved approximately 50' after hurricane Opal, but have remained on site since and still are enhancing the resource. I have periodically checked on some of these units by diving them and have observed tremendous marine growth on the units as well various species of fish. Close inspection of the units reveal that the more heavily weighted end of the unit seems to act as an anchor and buries itself in the bottom up to a foot. This must add to the stability of the unit and helps to prevent it from moving.

By making reefs of my own I am able to fish these places on a random basis and not depend on publicly known natural and artificial reefs. I believe that this is much better for the resource. We all know that fish swim and I am certain that my reefs have helped increase habitat and enhance the resource because the location of my reefs is not public knowledge unless and until someone finds them. As I said earlier, I have had some of these units out since 1992 and they are still there. I can say that they have provided habitat for at least 8 years and all indications are they will be producing habitat for several more. I will provide pictures of some of these units when weather and time permit.

The ability to continue to deploy private artificial reefs is critical to fisherman like myself to help to increase habitat, enhance the resource, and be able to give back to nature things that have been taken away.

Trey Wise

3911 W. 27th Ct.
Panama City, FL 32405
850-763-9228

A-2

MEMO

To whom it may concern:

I have made my living in the fishing industry for the last eighteen years. I have fished from Florida to Texas. Throughout these years I have made artificial reefs. Making of the reefs insures fish for my business and a natural habitat for the fish. The artificial reefs consist of dumpsters, barrels, welded triangles, cars, tires (which are no longer allowed), culvert pipes and other materials. In the past years the individuals that have built reefs have used materials that at one time were considered appropriate for reef building is no longer acceptable. Now under new guidelines reefs are being made from environmentally safe materials.

One of the main functions that artificial reefs do is provide relief for the **natural reefs**. Without the artificial reef program the fishing pressure on the natural reefs will more than triple, causing the natural reefs to be severally over fished. **The reef program is working**. The abundance of fish that at one time were scarce on natural reefs has made dramatic come back. Both natural and man made reefs are now thriving with fish. All of this is due to the fishing industry's efforts to build habitats for fish. If we are no longer allowed to continue building man made reefs not only will the fishing industry suffer so will the fish.

The suggestion of reefs being built solely with concrete has us, the reef builders, scratching our heads. For example, a concrete culvert pipe with the approximate dimensions being 2' x 6' weighing 500 pounds would be to much weight when you need at least six pipes to make one reef. The average reef builder would be unable to handle this load unless he had other means of transportation besides his own boat. The average reef I build weighs at least three hundred pounds but on the average is 8' x 10'. Not only is this reef bigger and in turn will hold more fish, but it can be handled by two men and no heavy equipment. In Louisiana and Texas the quantity of fish far surpasses Florida mainly because of the presence of oilrigs and wrecks which attract the fish. This alone strongly supports that man made reefs have a significant impact on the environment.

If you stop the building of reefs then you stop the growth quantity of fish. This will have a domino effect not only on the reproduction of fish but on the economics of the fishing industry. The industry as a whole needs to work together to find a solution that is amicable for everyone.

Respectfully,

Captain Michael 'Stretch" Haglund

Michael Stretch Haglund

A - 7

LADY GRAY
Fishing Team

Capt. Dave Jacobs
3731 Doe Run
Southport, FL. 32409
850 - 271 - 0184

December 28, 2000

Attention: Bob Zales

Re: Metal reefs offshore, Panama City, Florida.

As of 1995, we have been placing artificial reefs south of Panama City, Florida, in 90' – 130' of water, in permitted reef deployment areas. Once per year, we deploy a group of reefs in a new area, in addition to the ones already placed.

Our materials of choice are containers used for transporting poultry. They are made of galvanized steel, which lasts much longer than most materials, approximately 4' x 6' x 5', weighing anywhere from 550 – 600 lbs.

We have had such success in building our own reefs that now we rarely, if ever, fish live bottom. With the catch ratio, as well as state and federal regulation, we can now catch our limit in a short amount of time. This makes our fishing trip short and enjoyable.

If there is anything we can say or contribute to your cause of maintaining the eligibility of this reef material to ensure our continued success in fishing, we ask that you please contact us.

Thank you,

Capt. Dave Jacobs

Capt. Dave Jacobs
Lady Gray Fishing Team

A - 4

I have been fishing in the Gulf along the Fl. panhandle for the past 25yrs. and have been building artificial reefs for 20yrs. I have built them using cars, truckcabs, buses, tires, concrete, (I find that some concretes hold very little habitat) while reefs built with steel or aluminum create to have the most habitat. I have for the past five years been building artificial reefs using chicken transport containers(CTC)s. These steel reef material weigh around 900lbs. apiece. I have found these (CTC)s to be exellent in creating essential fish habitat. I have been monitoring these for five years and have video tapes showing coral and sponge life growing on them and an abundance of sea life living on the artificial reef. Red snapper, vermillion snapper, grouper, scamp, warsaw,amberjack, banded rudder fish, rocksalmon, grunts, and an assortment of minnows are some of the many fish from juvenile to large that inhabit these artificial reefs (CTC). All of my (CTC)s have survived all storms and hurricanes since 1995.

Capt. Scott Robson

A-5

December 27, 2000

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Glenn Cooper III, and I am an avid recreational fisherman and outdoors man. I am in support of using CTD's in the creation of artificial marine reefs.

To bring up the past for a moment, I will restate what my grandfather told me many years ago, and I have never forgotten. He told me approximately 2% of the Gulf's bottom supported natural reefs, and that these reefs supported over 90% of the marine life. It is this knowledge along with todays' electronics that in my opinion has led to the overuse (fishing & diving) of our natural reefs.

In my opinion the only way to keep up with the over increasing demands being placed on our marine environment is a continual renourishment through the placement of artificial reefs. Furthermore, in my opinion there is nothing better than the CTD.

PROS	**CONS**
clean & durable	
	limited supply
4'x4'x8'-galvanized metal	
500 - 600 pounds	
bottom heavy (to form natural anchor)	
allow tremendous water flow, further enhancing anchoring characteristics	
long lasting	
create great environment for: sponges, crustaceans, minnows, shrimp, crabs, lobsters, fish, etc.[1]	

[1]Thank You Glenn Cooper III

A-6

LAW OFFICES
BOGGS & FISHEL
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

JOHN N. BOGGS
Certified Circuit Civil Mediator

JOHN L. FISHEL
Certified Circuit Civil Mediator

209 EAST FOURTH STREET
PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA 32401
PHONE (850) 763-4111
FAX (850) 769-7350

GEORGIA H. LUDLUM*
REGISTERED NURSE
---
*ALSO ADMITTED IN ALABAMA

December 20, 2000

H. Kay Williams
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
The Commons at Rivergate
3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000
Tampa, FL 33619-2266

COPY

Re: Chicken Coop/Artificial Reefs

Dear Ms. Williams:

I am aware through a series of communications with council member, Jim Fensom, and local charter boat captain and fisheries advocate, Bob Zales, that the Gulf of Mexico Management Fisheries Council is gathering data concerning the utilization of discarded chicken coops as appropriate reef building material. Since I have experience as a reef builder using chicken coops beginning in 1994, both Jim and Bob asked that I provide you with input and information concerning the utility and effectiveness of chicken coops as an appropriate reef building structure.

As a matter of background, chicken processors use the four feet wide by five feet high by eight feet long compartmentalized coops to transfer thousands of slaughter ready chickens from the grower to the processor. The coops are designed with forklift slots and are stackable for semi-truck lowboy transportation of twenty-two coops per load. The coops weigh approximately six hundred pounds, are made of heavy galvanized frame and heavy gauge wire to house the chickens on five floors of holding pens.

Over the past several years, thousands of the chicken coops have been stored or sold as salvage during upgrading procedures by the chicken growers or following truck overturns and damaged coops. As salvage, the coops are relatively inexpensive, easily transportable and stackable for relocation and reef building.

Based upon previous experience of mine in building artificial with abandoned car bodies, years ago, I've found that the life span of a chicken coop or combination of chicken coops exceeds that of car bodies. Placed in a water depth of between sixty and one hundred and fifty feet, the chicken coops typically begin attracting bait fish within six months and reef fish within twelve months. As with any reef building operation, some of the reef sites gather fish more quickly and in more abundance than others, which I assume has to do with their placement and bottom character. Red Snappers are particularly prevalent on the chicken coop reefs and I have

documented that juvenile, twelve inch Snappers after twelve months grow to fifteen to sixteen inch Snappers in twenty-four months and eighteen to twenty-two inch Snappers after thirty-six months. Chicken coop reefs we have dived on after three years are in good shape, fully configured and structurally sound. Even reefs built in 1994, our earliest venture, are still viable structures.

My typical method of placement is to cable two coops end to end to create a sixteen foot long structure but I am aware that even single, eight foot reefs attract and produce fish. Large weather systems, such as Hurricane Opal, have the capability of moving certain of the chicken coops, and for that manner other forms of reefs, short distances, particularly in water depths under eighty feet and for that reason, that I typically cable two coops together to form one reef.

In my opinion, these abandoned and recycled chicken coops are a perfect reef building medium in as much as they are affordable, stackable, heavy enough, but not too heavy, and have enough structural integrity to last for several years as an effective artificial reef.

I trust this information is of assistance in the evaluation of chicken coops as a proper reef building material.

Please contact me if I can be of additional assistance.

Very truly yours,

John N. Boggs

JNB/waw

cc: Jim Fensom
Robert F. Zales, II
Colonel Joe R. Miller

A-7

Bob Zales,II

From: <FISHPCGODFREY@aol.com>
To: <BobZales@fishpc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2000 11:26
Subject: Reef Building

Bobby, I hate it has taken me so long to respond but I've been offshore. You asked about poultry transport containers as reef material. I have been using them since 1989 and think they are the best. Not one has moved off station. Every one is exactly on the same t.d. as when it was put down. Their conditon has not changed other than the marine growth that has collected on them. I think they are the safest way to create habitat and enhance the resource available to us. If you or anyone else would like to visit a few that have been out awhile, I would be glad to take you. Let me know , Mark Godfrey

A - 8

Bob Zales,II

From: <MissKelley29@aol.com>
To: <bobzales@fishpc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2000 1:08
Subject: Reef Building

Kelley's Charter Boat

Service

Capt. Benji Kelley
647 16th. Street
Panama City Beach, FL

32413

Dear: To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to help document the benefits of making artificial reefs in the Gulf of Mexico.
Our family owns a charter boat business in Panama City Beach, FL. We have been in
business since 1954 and currently own three boats. Making artificial reefs is a key
ingredient in our successful business. It allows for us to be consistent at producing fish for
our customers. Without private reefs we would have to relign on the heavily fished public
spots and have no real edge in the business. With private reefs you can farm the spot and
leave fish biting every day only taking a handful of fish, whereas if you find fish on a public
spot everyone tends to over fish them and not leave fish biting.

We have been envolved in making artificial reefs since 1985. When we first started
building spots we used mainly tires and old appliances, which were outlawed in about
1992. After that we switched to welding angle iron cages together in cubes of 5x5x10'
and wrapping with fence and putting culvert inside. We later switch to getting old
dumpsters and cabling two together for each spot. Other products we have used in the
past have been 55 Gallon metal drums. We would cable 30 drums together and anchor
with cleaned cylinder heads and have a fabulous spot.

In our experiences in spot building smaller spots are better. If you put a huge object out
like a bus or big wreck it tends to get found very easily and fished out. The smaller spots

are also much more affordable to build. I don't understand the concern of width of metal in a spot or the weight of an object. Most spots rarely shift from one place to another only with a Hurricane will that occur, and most of the times if they do shift in a Hurricane it will only be about 100 to 150 feet away.

The location of our sites range from about 10 to 25 miles offshore, or 75 to 125 feet of water. We build spots for different length trips, and in different areas, tend to produce different types of fish. Building private reefs no doubt increases habitat for the fish and takes a lot of fishing pressure off of the existing sites. Could you imagine if there had been no spots added to the panhandle of Florida in the last ten years. There would be 200 boats fishing a handful of spots and everyone would be catching nothing because the spots would be fished out. Through the management of the fishery and artificial reef building programs we have seen the red snapper population go from catching an average of one per boat in 1985 to catching our limit every trip in 2000, an average of 40 red snapper per day.

We are not out to hurt our environment because we are the ones that are relying on it to make a living. All we ask is to be allowed to continue the effort of making affordable private artificial fishing spots in the Gulf of Mexico and continue to make an honest living.

Capt. Benji Kelley

A-9

To whom it may concern

It has been brought to my attention That the building of artificial reefs may be to the detriment of marine life. Nothing could be further from the truth. Having spent most of my life on the water either making a living or for recreation I have found this part of the Gulf of Mexico to be eighty to ninty percent uninhabitable. If the bottom were dry land it would be a desert. By placing chicken transporters by the pair on these sandy bottoms could be compaired to building a Howard Johnson in the middle of nowhere. Where you had no water, no shelt you now have habitat. The same goes for the Gulf. Not only snapper & grouper take up residence, but every kind of sealife you can imagine. What we need is more artificial reefs not less.

I can not for the life of me understand how anyone could not understand this

I do hope everyone takes a good hard look at this and understands the overall good artificial reefs provide

Capt Terry Scott Lindsey

A - 10

12/30/00

Dear Sirs,

As a 30 year Boat Captain in Escambia County, Florida I have built countless fishing reefs. In my first years of reef building in the 1970's I built reefs from cars, used appliances and car tires. Approximately two years prior to Hurricane Opal, We developed a new kind of artificial reef which seem to be more productive. The reefs consisted of a 4'x6' metal frame which was approximately 1/8 inch thick and contained ~~a~~ baffled area which would act as a habitat and let ~~tide~~ surges pass through.

We developed 25 of these reefs before Opal weighing 300 lbs each. They were placed in depths of 75-110 feet of water. Opal destroyed approx 20% of the reefs regardless of the depth.

I am a firm believer that artificial reefs are the Genesis or the 1st stage of life.

We in the recreational fish and charter community would strongly urge the ~~State~~ of Fla to drop their criteria of reef building material. This would give the small boat owner a chance to build his own reefs, so that it would take the pressure off the high profile community reefs.

Respectfully,

Capt Joe Hall

A- 11

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Copy C+ TS

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(850)487-3796 TDD (850)488-9542

November 29, 2000

RECEIVED

DEC [illegible]

H. Kay Williams
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
The Commons at River Gate
3018 US Highway 301 North, Suite 1000
Tampa, Florida 33619-2266

Dear Ms. Williams:

As you may or may not be aware of, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is currently in the process of hammering out a new artificial reef program for the State of Florida. I am especially interested in low-profile reefs. While I realize the importance of large artificial reefs made of concrete and ships, I also understand low-profile reefs are extremely productive for fish habitat. Please keep an opened mind as we go forward with the development of artificial reef sites and materials. I understand the Gulf State's Marine Fishery Commission has published a guideline for marine artificial reefs. I have read it cover to cover. I applaud the efforts of the commission. However, I do have reservations regarding some of their findings. I have been an avid diver and fisherman since I was six years old. I have seen what artificial reefs can do firsthand. In addition my undergraduate work was in marine biology. I concur wholeheartedly with Bob Zales that fishing industry interests and development of artificial reef programs and material lists should be considered. Please work with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the direct user groups when making decisions regarding artificial reefs. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Edwin P. Roberts, D.C.
Commissioner
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

EPR/dks

cc: Jim Fenson
Barron, Redding, Hughes, Fight, Bassett, Fenson and Sanborn P.A.
Attorneys at Law
P.O. Box 2467
Panama City, Florida 32402 2467

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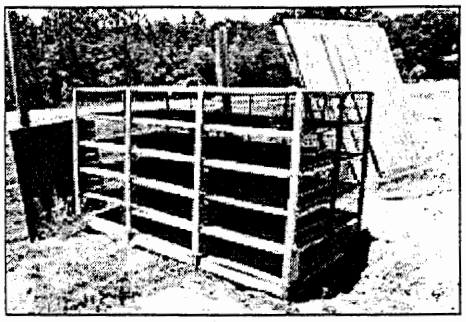
newsherald.com

WATERFRONT ARCHIVE

• Sunday, June 25, 2000

fish magnets

JUST ADD WATER: Chicken coops reborn as reefs.



(Photo: Cages used by commercial chicken producers have emerged as a preferred reef-building material. News Herald Photos: Al Hubbard.)

AL HUBBARD
Outdoors Writer

Artificial reefs built years ago likely consisted of just about anything that would sink and hold together until marine life started growing on it. Fishermen, would lash old tires together, for example, weigh them down with concrete blocks, and push them off the back of the boat.

The number of old tires dumped into the Gulf of Mexico is anybody's guess. They formed excellent red snapper reefs, but, over time, the cables rusted and broke. Storms started washing the tires back up on the beaches. It was as if Mother Nature were throwing them back at us with a "Try again" scolding.

Federal and state regulators became involved and initiated much needed rules governing what can be placed into Gulf waters. Concerns today include the type of material being used in reefs, the areas in which reefs are built and the expected life expectancy of the material. Priorities include keeping navigable seaways clear and protecting areas of live bottom and coral that are scattered throughout the Gulf.

(Photo: Bay County planning official Craig Petermann inspects a chart illustrating the locations of reef permit areas.)

Reef building material has ranged from boats and busses to tanks and airplanes. Bridge rubble and concrete pipes have been placed on the bottom. The Gulf became a final resting place for tired Dumpsters. Commercially made concrete Grouper Ghettos are still being widely used.

Today, chicken coops rule. Not the

chicken-wire pens in the back yard, but heavy metal crates used by commercial operations to transport and house chickens. The coops, measuring 4 by 5 by 6 feet, weigh around 500 pounds and are extremely well-built. When they outlive their usefulness to the chicken industry, they may serve a new purpose as artificial reefs.

Craig Petermann, an employee of the Bay County Planning Division, monitors activity related to the county's reef-building permit in federal waters.

"The chicken coops are working extremely well," he said. "When handled correctly, they make excellent reefs."

Charter boat Capt. Brad Stabler of the Magic Moments agreed.

"We have been using chicken coops for about three years," he said. "We have never found anything that will produce quality snapper as fast. Even one chicken coop placed in the right area can be very effective."

Once a disposal problem, worn-out chicken coops are being brought in from Georgia, Alabama, and even Arkansas. According to the number purchased, they will run from $50 to $120 each, quite a deal when compared to the $250 price of a concrete fish reef. And researchers estimate the coops will exceed the 20-year life expectancy standard established by the Corps of Engineers.

A - 13

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Services
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

beak

University of
New Orleans

Gulf of Mexico Fish and Fisheries: Bringing Together New and Recent Research

October 24-26, 2000 New Orleans

THE ARTIFICIAL REEF DEBATE: ARE WE ASKING THE WRONG QUESTIONS?

Dr. Robert L. Shipp. Department of Marine Sciences University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL

In the last several decades, and especially the last 5-yr., an enormous amount of literature has been published on artificial reef ecology. Although numerous aspects of the issue have been addressed in these works, such as materials of construction, critical minimum size of area, and rates of recruitment, the one persistent question that appears to dominate all the synoptic treatises is do reefs simply attract fishes or is there an actual increase of biomass. It seems to me that often times this is the wrong question. Of greater relevance is the question how is the biomass transformed after placement of artificial reefs. For a case study, I will use the expansive flat inner shelf of the north central Gulf of Mexico off Alabama. Within this area, approximately 3100 km^2 is currently permitted for placement of artificial reefs. During the decade of the 1970s, before establishment of the permitted reef area, we conducted a series of trawling surveys on this portion of the shelf. Trawl catches were primarily small fishes of no economic importance. This trawled bottom now is contained mostly within the heart of the reef permit area. Approximately 8,000-10,000 artificial structures have been placed there, constructed of various materials. Schirrippa (1998) reported that recently more than a third of recreationally caught red snapper from the Gulf of Mexico came from off Alabama, although this area represents less than 5% of the U.S. Gulf shelf. Although the production - attraction debate has become central too much of the discussion of the utility of artificial reefs as management tools, this debate seems to have little relevance in areas where natural hard bottom is sparse or lacking. Rather, in these areas, biomass transformation from "less valuable" to "more valuable" species is indicated.

A-14

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Gulf of Mexico Fish and Fisheries: Bringing Together New and Recent Research

October 24-26, 2000 New Orleans

Copy C&T)

Seasonal and Spatial Variation in the Biomass and Size Frequency Distribution of Fish Associated with Oil and Gas Platforms in the Northern Gulf Of Mexico

David R. Stanley[1] and Charles A. Wilson[2]

[1] Beak International Brampton, Ontario Canada
[2]Coastal Fisheries Institute Center for Coastal, Energy and Environmental Resources Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge LA

The largest artificial reef complex in the world, although unplanned, is composed of the 4,000 petroleum platforms scattered across the outer continental shelf (OCS) of the northern Gulf of Mexico (GOM). The placement of these defacto reefs has undoubtedly impacted the regional marine community although little information is available. Only recently have assessment methods been developed to test these and other hypotheses concerning artificial reefs. The objectives of this research were to use dual beam hydroacoustics in conjunction with visual point count surveys to measure the density and size distribution of fishes associated with three petroleum platforms off the Louisiana coast. The goals of this research were to determine the effect of water depth on fish density, size distribution and species composition and ultimately to measure the fisheries value of platforms of different depths (22, 60 and 219 m) in the same geographical region. The results of this project demonstrated the variability in abundance, size distribution and species composition of fishes associated with petroleum platforms. Similar results from earlier studies have been found with natural and artificial reefs. The variability in density and the size distribution of fishes at petroleum platforms in this project was linked to temporal, spatial and environmental variables. This research confirmed the variability of fish assemblages associated with petroleum platforms and reinforces the need to sample on each side and throughout the water column to obtain an accurate estimate of fish abundance. The high abundance of fishes found at the sites demonstrates the importance of petroleum platforms to the marine environment of the northern GOM. Although some variance was observed, 10,000 to 30,000 fishes were found per site at any one time and since over 1,000 platforms are located in similar water depths it is clear that these structures impact the fisheries of the region.

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Gulf of Mexico Fish and Fisheries: Bringing Together New and Recent Research

October 24-26, 2000 New Orleans

Importance of Geology to Fisheries Management in the Gulf of Mexico

Kathryn M. Scanlon[1], Christopher C. Koenig[2], Felicia C. Coleman[2], and Margaret Miller[3]

[1]U.S. Geological Survey, Woods Hole, MA
[2]Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
[3]National Marine Fisheries Service, Miami, FL

Fishery resources do not exist in a vacuum. Habitat is crucial to the viability of the resource and geology is the framework within which the habitat exists. Moreover, our data suggest that some fish are geologic agents, actively altering their habitat. Many modern marine geology tools, techniques, and interpretations have great value to fisheries management, but they are often overlooked by scientists trained in non-geological specialties. Our work in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico shelf-edge habitats demonstrates how sidescan-sonar imagery, seismic-reflection profiling, geologic mapping, and understanding the regional geologic history can enhance, support, or guide traditional fisheries research and management.

Our new data from the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps Reserves on the shelf-edge in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico reveal complex benthic habitats consisting of high-relief calcareous pinnacles, low-relief karstic hardbottom, rocky outcrops several kilometers in length, variable thickness of mobile coarse-grained sediments, and areas of thick fine-grained sediments. Pleistocene sea-level fluctuations played a dominant role in the development of the present-day regional geology and benthic communities are closely tied to the geologic history. Also, some fish alter the landscape by clearing sediment from hardbottom areas (red grouper, Epinephelus morio) and by burrowing extensively in fine-grained sediment (tilefish, Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps).

We used seafloor imagery and geologic maps to choose sites for biologic sampling. These data are also valuable for setting meaningful boundaries for fishery reserves. Understanding the regional geologic history allowed us to predict where particular habitats would occur in areas that were not well mapped. Interdisciplinary collaboration has greatly enhanced our research and provided management with tools to make better decisions. Traditional organization of institutions by discipline separates potential collaborators, but the benefits of cross-disciplinary research are well worth the necessary extra effort.

A-16
C + TS

GULF FISHERY ... RECEIVED DEC 20

Pensacola Charter Boat Association

P. O. Box 1604
Pensacola, FL 32597

December 15, 2000

H. Kay Williams
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
3018 U.S. Highway 301 N. Suite 1000
Tampa, FL 33619-2266

Dear Ms Williams,

The members of the Pensacola Charter Boat Association have recently contacted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting their approval to renew the Department of Army Permit #199402365 located off the coast of Escambia County, Florida. Also in that request, we asked that the Army Corps to reconsisder the materials list currently used under this permit. We feel that with current regulations and devastating hurricanes to our artificial reefs in the past few years our industry has and will continue to suffer economic losses. We were recently informed that a similar request was made by the Okaloosa County Commissioners to the U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers, and understand that the Gulf Council was opposing their permit request. It was brought to our attention that the councils opposition is based on "The Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials", published by the Gulf States Marine Fishery Commission. The members of the Pensacola Charter Boat Association is not aware of ANY recommendations by the charter fishing industry or any other fishing associations in the development of this publication.
We respectfully request the Gulf Council to reconsider their position on this matter and ask that the council seek interest from the fishing communities and organizations to review "The Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials". We feel it to be only fair that those economically affected by such guidelines and regulation should have some imput according to the laws set forth by the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Act of 1976. We would like for this matter to sent to the Artificial Reef Committee for review and discussed further by the full council at its January meeting in Texas.

Sincerely,

Jerry Andrews
President

HERALD-TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2000

A-17

Copy C&TJ

FISH TALES

STAFF PHOTOS/ROD MILLINGTON

Mote senior biologist Nate Brennan counts the number of young red snapper he is about to place in a mesh bag.

Big plans for small-fry snapper

Government regulators consider red snapper severely overfished and puts tough restrictions on commercial and sport fishermen.

By Eric Alan Barton
STAFF WRITER

Local scientists are hoping piles of oyster shells and concrete dropped into the Gulf will bring red snapper back to Southwest Florida after a 30 year absence.

The overfished snapper is a favorite of restaurants and fishermen, and bringing it back could result in an economic boon for the area.

Piles of rubble were placed off the coast of Sarasota in triangle-shaped reefs last week. Scientists with Mote Marine Laboratory then placed nearly 900 young snapper, grown in laboratories, on the reefs to live.

During the second of two snapper deliveries Tuesday, scientists spotted 10 of the first 450 fish living among the new reefs.

Scientists say the experiment will be successful if one in five of the fish survive. Predators eat half the number of snappers in the first night after their release, in part because the 6-month-old fish haven't learned defensive swimming.

"With the state that these fish are in, being so overfished, it will be worth it no matter what it takes," said Ken Leber, director of Mote's Center for Fisheries Enhancement.

PLEASE SEE SNAPPER ON 11A

Scientists hope to replenish snapper popu

SNAPPER FROM 1A

The piles of rubble involve three designs aimed at determining which reefs the fish prefer when hiding from predators in the flat-bottomed Gulf of Mexico. There's a pile of oyster shells, one of crushed concrete and another of cinder blocks bought at a local home supply store.

"It's amazing. This is just regular stuff that could bring this species back," said Mote senior biologist Nate Brennan.

Red snapper, with vibrant pink bellies and silver backs, once filled the Gulf's depths from the Mississippi River to the Florida Keys. They're now found only in its northern waters, hiding under oil rigs and deep-water reefs.

Government regulators consider red snapper severely overfished and put tough restrictions on commercial and sport fishermen to reduce the number caught.

The restrictions give commercial fishermen only about 60 days a year to catch red snapper, putting them in a dangerous race that can decimate schools.

Efforts to bring snapper back to Southwest Florida are being paid for by the National Marine Fisheries Service, which is spending $1.5 million to study the fish. About 1,200 lab-raised fish were released last year off the Mississippi coast. About 1,800 more were released there this summer.

The fish deposited off Sarasota's coast were brought down by divers who carried them in mesh bags. They released them at the artificial reefs and will track their travels with markings on their tails.

The 10 fish found during three dives Tuesday were swimming between the holes in the cinder blocks and around the mounds of gravel. Schools of various fish quickly developed in the oasis-like reef.

"It's really exciting to see them swimming around after a week down there," said Alesia Read, a fisheries biologist, aboard the research vessel Eugenie Clark after a dive.

> **"It's amazing. This is just regular stuff that could bring this species back."**
>
> NATE BRENNAN, Mote senior biologist

Predators like flounder and grouper will kill most of the fish, but scientists fear fishermen will also learn the locations of the new reefs. Anglers could harm the experiment by snatching the fish and tearing up the reefs with anchors. To prevent that, the scientists are keeping the location of the new reefs secret.

If the experiment is successful, Mote will continue it with larger batches of fish and artificial reefs. Officials plan to seek help from fishermen to pay for future studies because they would benefit from the return of the snapper.

"There are a lot of conservationists who don't want us to promote fishing, but it's part of the American lifestyle," Leber said.

The experiment is being watched by fishery scientists worldwide because the development of good artificial reefs could help bring back dozens of overfished species. Results will be published in scientific journals in perhaps five or 10 years.

Failure could erase plans for the protection of dozens of fisheries in Hawaii, Japan and elsewhere.

"We want to take a long-term look at this because there's so many questions," Leber said. "It's not something we could have a quick slam-dunk on."

Staff writer Eric Alan B[illegible] can be contacted at 742-6167 o[r] eric.barton@herald-trib.com

Mote Marine Laboratory biologists gear up with multilayered wetsuits Tuesday in t[he] as they prepare to release nearly 900 young snapper grown in laboratories to live [in]

w/ amendment

APPROVED BY:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

S-FFMC MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 13, 2001
Brownsville, Texas

Barney White, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m., with the following in attendance:

Members
Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Barney White, Omega Protein, Inc., Houston, TX
Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Inc., Empire, LA
Corky Perret, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Joseph Smith, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Jerry Mambretti, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX

Staff
Larry Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Cindy Moncreiff, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Rick Leard, GMFMC, Tampa, FL

Introductions and Membership Review

B. White welcomed everyone and started the introductions.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. **B. Wallace moved to approve the amended agenda and V. Guillory seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes (10/17/~~2001~~ 2000)

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and C. Perret moved to accept them as written. J. Mambretti seconded and the minutes were accepted.

Final Review of 2000 Fishing Season

J. Smith provided his annual summary of the previous season. During the 2000 fishing season, 579,315 mt of fish were landed for reduction representing a 15% decrease from the previous year. Landings were still higher than the previous 5-year average however. Peak landings occurred in July

although April's landings were the highest for that month since 1989. Four plants were opened in 2000 with Morgan City remaining closed. Forty-one purse boats operated last season along with 4 "run-boats," and two bait boats. While minimal tropical activity made 2000 a quiet year, continued drought drove salinities up inshore and moved many of the harvestable menhaden out of the fishing grounds. In addition, Mississippi Sound was difficult to fish due to remarkable numbers of native and exotic jellyfish. The Texas red tide may have further affected the distribution of menhaden in 2000.

The Atlantic menhaden fishery landed an estimated 167,253 mt in 2000 for reduction. This was 2% less than 1999 and 36% less than the five year average. Only two plants operated on the Atlantic in 2000, Reedville, Virginia, and Beaufort, North Carolina and only 12 vessels fished. Large schools were noted along the New Jersey coast and the bulk of the landings from June to October came from New Jersey waters. The 1999 recruitment may have been above average based on the high percentage of Age 0s in the fall 1999 catch, however, there was a weak showing of Age 1s in the 2000 catch suggesting that recruitment was actually poor in 1999.

Forecast for 2001 Gulf Menhaden Fishing Season

It is expected that in 2001, four plants will process menhaden for reduction in the Gulf of Mexico, with Morgan City remaining closed, and 41 boats and one "run-boat" are expected to fish. Based on potential effort, it is estimated that 510,000 mt of menhaden will be landed. Smith's complete report is available at the GSMFC office.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 2001 Forecast

V. Guillory presented the LDWF 2001 forecast. Louisiana uses water temperature and salinity, rainfall, and river discharge to gauge recruitment each year and compares this meteorologic and hydrologic data with juvenile menhaden abundance indices to determine the strength of the new year class. Generally, winters with low January water temps indicate good years for recruitment and two years of consistently high water temperatures suggesting poor recruitment the last two years and the same appears true for this year. Mississippi River discharge has been down along with rainfall in 1998 and 1999 and high salinities in both years should have resulted in poor recruitment. The LDWF juvenile index from16ft trawl samples indicate a low number of juveniles the last two years suggesting lower numbers of Age 1s and 2s in 2001. Therefore, based on these indexes, Guillory estimates 296,000 to523,000 mt will be landed in Louisiana in 2001. It was noted, however, that these may be underestimates due to increased efficiency in the fleet in recent years. This part of the prediction model will be worked on this year. Oil yield is typically higher when the combination of high rainfall and river discharge reduce salinities. So far for 2001 the opposite is true but yield may improve over the summer following a wet spring.

Y2K Plankton Blooms

Dr. Cynthia Moncreiff from the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, Mississippi presented an overview of plankton blooms in the Gulf of Mexico. She discussed the difficulties associated with investigating reported blooms and the species that might actually be encountered by the fleet while fishing. While 150 species of "bloom" algae exist in the Gulf only 75 are toxic and only 14 directly affect the fisheries in the northern Gulf. These 14 species can strip oxygen from the

water, directly affect fish, invertebrates, or mammals, or kill planktonic prey. *Gymnodinium breve*, or red tide, is the most notorious but has been around since at least the 1500s. This species has heightened awareness of harmful algal blooms by posing public health issues, tourism issues, as well as marine mammal deaths. Moncreiff reported that this species seems to be adapting to the northern Gulf's conditions making it likely to persist in the future. In addition, other species appear to be on the increase although this may be an artifact of increased awareness. Technology may be the future of harmful algal bloom monitoring. Satellite imagery and weather and hydrologic monitoring may allow researchers to pinpoint hot spots and improve the predictive movements of blooms when they do occur. The possibility of linking this technology to the GSMFC website will make real-time tracking available to the industry and prevent encounters with these blooms in the future.

Status of CDFR Data Entry Initiative

S. VanderKooy reported that the historical Captains Daily Fishing Reports (CDFRs) continue to be entered at the GSMFC office. At this time, a little over two years of data have been entered since the start last summer. This effort should continue into the end of 2002.

Status of FMP Revision

S. VanderKooy reported to the group that the TCC had reviewed the latest draft of the Gulf Menhaden FMP since October and he anticipated approval by the TCC to move the plan forward to the S-FFMC. The S-FFMC would review the plan and upon their approval it would go out for public comment then back for final approval by the full Commission.

Other Business

B. White reported a victory for the industry on the Atlantic. ~~New Jersey reversed a previous decision to~~ ban reduction and bait fisheries from its waters allowing continued activity in that state.

It was suggested that due to the lack of participation from a few members of the MAC in the last several years, the membership be reconsidered upon contact with those individuals. This item would be discussed at the October meeting of the MAC in New Orleans, Louisiana.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:13 pm.

TCC ANADROMOUS FISH SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 13, 2001
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman Doug Frugé called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The following members and others were in attendance:

Members
Michael Bailey, NMFS/IRF, St. Petersburg, FL
Norman Boyd, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
Jim Duffy, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Charles Mesing, FFWCC, Midway, FL
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Howard Rogillio, LDWF, Lacombe, LA
Mark Tupper, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL (*Proxy for Alan Huff*)

Staff
Ronald R. Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Nancy K. Marcellus, Administrative Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
David Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Columbus Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
John T. Jenkins, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Jerry Mambretti, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX

Adoption of Agenda

Lukens asked that a discussion of the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act reauthorization be added to the agenda. Frugé wanted to report on the status of the broodfish genetics contract and make an announcement about a new FWS Gulf sturgeon video.

With those additions C. Mesing made a motion to accept the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by J. Duffy and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes (10/17/00)

M. Bailey made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2000 meeting held in Clearwater Beach, Florida. The motion was seconded by M. Tupper and passed unanimously.

Striped Bass Technical Task Force Business

Each Technical Task Force member present gave a brief update on progress they had made on work in developing sections of the revised Striped Bass FMP since the initial TTF meeting held at the end of January. There was also discussion of what would be a reasonable target date for having a first draft of the document prepared. There was general agreement on October 2001.

The dates of November 27-28 were established for a workshop to review and discuss the results of the Fisheries Stewardship projects as well as a discussion of FMP goals. C. Mesing agreed to contact Dr. Isaac Wirgin of the New York University Medical Center regarding his willingness to serve on the TTF to provide genetics expertise. If Wirgin agrees he will be formally invited to join the TTF.

Research Proposal on Significance of Gulf/Atlantic Striped Bass Differences

D. Frugé distributed copies and discussed a proposal that he recently submitted under the Fish and Wildlife Service's reverted Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funding program titled *"An evaluation of the taxonomic status of Gulf of Mexico striped bass using genetic, morphological and life history characteristics."*

Gulf race striped bass from the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river system will be compared to several Atlantic strains on the basis of: 1) heritability of lateral line scale counts; 2) mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequence diversity; and 3) egg buoyancy. Work will be done cooperatively between US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), university and private sector personnel.

This project will clarify some basic questions regarding the taxonomic status of Gulf race striped bass. While the Gulf race is currently recognized as being distinct from Atlantic strains, the taxonomic significance of this distinction has never been systematically evaluated. If differences between Gulf striped bass and Atlantic strains are indicated to be significant enough to warrant subspecies or species designation, there could be substantial implications for conservation and fisheries management of Gulf of Mexico populations.

There was general agreement among the Subcommittee members that this would be a useful and beneficial project. **A motion was made by D. Frugé asking the Commission to send a letter to the FWS expressing support for this proposal. The motion was seconded by L. Nicholson and passed unanimously.**

Gulf Striped Bass Year Class 2000 Fingerling Production Distribution

For informational purposes, Frugé distributed copies of the stocking summary from state and federal hatcheries. He noted that the information was compiled by Laura Jenkins from the FWS office in Panama City, Florida.

Anadromous Fish Habitat Restoration

C. Mesing reported on a proposal for 2001-2002 by the State of Florida to monitor striped bass use of thermal refuge areas following rehabilitation and enhancement of these areas by the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers. This would be part of a broader fish population monitoring project with a total cost of $500,000. Notification of whether funding will be available for this work should be received in May 2001.

Other Business

The Subcommittee discussed issues regarding reauthorization of the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act. The Act was last authorized in 1996 and expires this year. The FWS has not received appropriations under the Act since 1991, though the National Marine Fisheries Service has been receiving $2.1 million per year in recent years. The Gulf states have been receiving less than $50,000 of this per year. The Subcommittee discussed potential benefits to Gulf anadromous fisheries under this Act. **D. Frugé made a motion that the Commission urge the Congress to reauthorize the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act and incorporate language establishing a Gulf Striped Bass Restoration Program authorizing specific funding of $500,000 to the FWS and $500,000 to NMFS for this purpose, and further that the Commission urge the Congress to annually appropriate a total of $3 million each to the FWS and NMFS under the Act. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** Lukens also encouraged Subcommittee members to talk to their state directors and make them aware of this issue.

Frugé mentioned that the FWS recently released a 20 minute video on Gulf sturgeon. Interested parties can receive a copy of the video by contacting him.

Frugé indicated that he had encountered some administrative problems with setting up the contract to have broodstock DNA analyzed during 2001. Beginning in 1998 he was told that he could no longer establish a sole-source contract, but would have to bid the project. Problems with funding availability and contract office issues threatened to delay the contract, so Lukens suggested that the GSMFC may be able to assist. It was agreed that the GSMFC would establish the contract for the broodstock analysis.

M. Bailey reported that NMFS published a technical memorandum on sturgeon. It is available online at *http://www.nmfs.gov/prot_res/prot_res.html.*

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

APPROVED BY:
Harriet Perry
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
Tuesday, March 13, 2001
Brownsville, Texas

Chair Harriet Perry called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. A quorum of the members was not present; therefore, the meeting was declared informal discussion. The following participated:

Members Present
Harriet Perry, *Chairman*, USM/CMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Tom Wagner, TPWD, Rockport, TX

Members Absent
Traci Floyd, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Leslie Hartman, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Anne Jackson, FWC, Tallahassee, FL
Teresa Bert, FWC, Tallahassee, FL

Staff
Cindy Yocom, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, Habitat/SEAMAP Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Gary Graham, Texas A&M Marine Advisory, Palacios, TX
Virginia Vail, *GSMFC Commissioner*, FWC//DMF/MFS, Tallahassee, FL
Jerry Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
George Wright, Sr., MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Glenn Thomas, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Paul Cook, LDWF, New Iberia, LA
Dave Harrington, University of Georgia, Brunswick, GA
Ralph Rayburn, Texas Sea Grant, College Station, TX
Tony Reisinger, Texas A&M Marine Advisory, San Benito, TX

Agenda

All agreed to move items six and seven (derelict crab traps and jellyfish) prior to any state reports.

Minutes

Adoption of the minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday, October 17, 2000, in Clearwater Beach, Florida, was deferred until the next annual meeting in October 2001.

Derelict Crab Traps

As agreed during the October meeting, V. Guillory has drafted a white paper on the problem of derelict crab traps in the Gulf of Mexico. From this report, J. Rester and H. Perry developed an executive summary to present to the Technical Coordinating Committee. The presentation was reviewed and further refined. All agreed that the white paper still needed editing, and a work session was tentatively scheduled in April to complete this effort. In the mean time, V. Guillory will incorporate all comments thus far, and a new draft will be available for the work session. H. Perry volunteered to host the Subcommittee at the newly-refurbished GCRL Conference Center in Ocean Springs. S. VanderKooy agreed to fund travel through the IJF Program as this work is resultant of the Crab FMP. The final paper will be distributed as a GSMFC publication. A brochure may be developed for public distribution.

The group discussed the "next step" to address this problem. H. Perry stated that a mechanism should be sought to pull together a panel including law enforcement, biologists, Sea Grant representatives, and state managers to provide recommendations to solve the problem Gulf wide. The Subcommittee can provide information, but specific problems need to be addressed and a plan of action formulated. Needs include: a definition for "derelict" traps; formulation of guidelines for removal, consideration of legal aspects, development of educational programs, and consideration of disposal options.

Jellyfish Update

H. Perry reported on the population explosion of filter feeding sea jellies (*Aurelia aurita* and *Phyllorhiza punctata*) in the northern Gulf of Mexico last year. The impact from these occurrences is not yet known. The jelly fish are somewhat selective feeders; however, fish eggs have been found in their stomach contents. In addition to the two filter feeding species, *Drymonema dalmatinum*, a non-indigenous scyphomedusa occurred in early fall. This sea jelly is virulent and actually feeds on the moon jelly. The SEAMAP data set shows a large increase in *Aurelia aurita* and *Chrysaora quinquechirra* from 1987 through 1995. Perry requested information from other states. D. Donaldson at the GSMFC has agreed to post sitings on the Commission's web page. Send any reported sitings to his attention.

State Reports

Texas - T. Wagner reported that landings for 2000 are down at 4.3 million pounds from 6.5 million pounds in 1999. This is the lowest in recent history (1972) from a previous low in 1994 of 5.2 million pounds. Price and value are not available for 2000. In 1999, the price per pound was $0.66 which is down from a peak of $0.70 in 1995.

Wagner distributed the January 2001 report, *Status of the Crab License Management Program*. This is a mandatory report to the Governor and the 77th Legislature of Texas to report on Texas' limited entry program for the crab fishery. The program is in its fourth year; there are 259 licensed crab fishermen currently. This number of licensed crab fishermen is down 287 in 1997, the first year of the program. The first license buyback period opened in September 2000. Fifteen bids, ranging from $1,500 to $45,000, were received. Of these bids, seven were accepted, and the TPWD is in the process of attempting to purchase and retire these licenses. The price range for these licenses was

$1,500 to $5,000. The next voluntary buyback period is planned for spring 2001. License transfers will be allowed beginning September 1, 2001.

Wagner also distributed a copy of an article, "Crabs in Crisis," from *Texas – The Outdoor Magazine for Texas*. This article describes the struggles of an Asian crab fisherman.

Texas Senate Bill 1410 was filed on March 8, 2001 and addresses crab traps used in public waters and the removal requirements for abandoned crab traps. This bill would authorize the TPWD to establish a closed season. After the season closes, crab fishermen will have seven days to remove their traps. Traps left in the water will be considered abandoned. If approved the act will take effect September 1, 2001.

The Aransas National Wildlife Refuge has requested an area closure for the crab fishery. Blue crabs are part of the whooping cranes' diet.

Louisiana - V. Guillory reported 1999 landings at 45.8 million pounds. In 2000, 50.6 million pounds of crabs were landed. In 2000, over 544,000 peeler crabs were purchased by soft crab shedders; this is worth an estimated $914,000.00. When a shedder sells a soft crab that is produced from someone else, Louisiana does not capture the data from the second sale. Looking at fishermen who capture and shed their own crabs, soft crab production in Louisiana is 56,000 pounds. Overall production is much greater. The number of licenses sold has increased. In 1998, the crab license moratorium expired; numbers sold in 1999 increased to 4,011. In 2000, 3,700 licenses were sold. Many of these may have been speculative purchases following the moratorium. In the Louisiana Crab Task Force meeting last month, an enforcement agent presented data on undersize crab violations. From 1994 through 1997, there was an average of 342 undersize crab violations in Louisiana. From 1998 to 2000, violations dropped to 67. In 1998, escape rings were made mandatory, and penalties for possession of undersized crabs increased. There have been tremendous areas of marsh die off in Louisiana, particularly between the Atchafalaya and Mississippi rivers. In just the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary, an estimated 27% of marsh acreage was severely damaged, and 37% was moderately damaged. There are a number of factors attributed to the die off – high salinity, low river discharge, drought, and high summer temperatures. Several projects have been proposed to investigate the die off.

Mississippi - H. Perry reported 1999 landings at a ten-year high of 900,000 pounds. As of August 2000, 600,000 pounds were landed. Commercial crab licenses sold thus far for the 2000-2001 license year total 219 (205 residential, five Louisiana, and nine Alabama). This is down slightly from the total last year of 256. A recreational crab license has been approved and will cost $5. The Mississippi Crab Task Force is endorsing crab trap tags which the Department hopes to initiate this year. T. Floyd would like to see examples of the tags from Louisiana; vendor information would also be useful. H. Perry distributed the proof of her paper, "Calcium concentration in seawater and exoskeletal calcification in the blue crab, *Callinectes sapidus*." The paper will be printed by Aquaculture. The technology now needs to be transferred to a commercial facility and operational guidelines can be developed.

Mortality Symposium

H. Perry reported that she is working on the publication overview. It will be one or two pages on mortality, in general. Cover art was provided by Susan Carranza of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.

Blue Crab FMP

S. VanderKooy reported that the fishery management plan is under review by the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee. Permission will be requested to release the plan for public comment. The review period is 30 days. The final plan should be voted upon by the full Commission in October.

Other Business

The group entertained questions on the FMP from Texas marine extension agents present. G. Harrington asked whether freshwater inflow was addressed within the plan. The subject was thoroughly discussed during task force sessions and is addressed within the habitat section. After continued discussion, H. Perry suggested a sentence could be added under the rationale for habitat restoration. "Loss of essential habitat associated with reduced freshwater inflow decreases carrying capacity and limits production" was added to section 10.1.2. This verbiage will be presented during the S-FFMC meeting.

There being no further discussion, the meeting ended at 12:12 p.m.

APPROVED BY:
Frank R. O'Hop 29OCT2001
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC DATA MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 13, 2001
Brownsville, Texas

Vice-Chairman Kevin Anson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members
Kevin Anson, AMRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Guy Davenport, NMFS, Miami, FL
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Tom Van Devender, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Rick Leard, GMFMC, Tampa, FL

Staff
David Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS
Madeleine Travis, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Larry Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Chris Dorsett, GRN, New Orleans, LA
Paul Choucair, TPWD, Corpus Christi, TX
William Ward, *GSMFC Commissioner*, Tampa, FL
Bobbi Walker, GMFMC, Orange Beach, AL
Bob Zales, PCBA, Panama City, FL
Charlie Mesing, FFWC, Midway, FL
Corky Perret, *GSMFC Commissioner*, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Joe Smith, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
John Thomas, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Bill Price, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Columbus Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Michael Bailey, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on October 17, 2000 in Clearwater, Florida were approved with minor editorial changes.

State/Federal Reports

Alabama - K. Anson reported that Alabama made quota for all modes for the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) in wave 1. Alabama is currently testing a scannable intercept form. He has developed a form and will be field testing the form this wave. Alabama will keep the group posted about the results and look at the feasibility of using this technology. Although entry of the data is much faster, there is more QA/QC involved once the data has been computerized. It begs the question, does scanning really save time? Alabama will be examining this issue. The Alabama inshore creel survey and SEAMAP are operating smoothly. There are several sites where larval, trawl, seine and hydrological data are collected. This collection activity has been on-going since 1981. The oyster management system is currently in limbo due to some misunderstanding from the industry. Alabama is trying to model their collection methods after Mississippi's system.

Mississippi - T. Van Devender stated that the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MS DMR) has a new executive director - Glen Carpenter. The Mississippi legislature is currently in session but there is not a lot of marine issues being addressed. One topic of interest is the fishing and hunting license issue between Louisiana and Mississippi. The state legislatures are attempting to develop more equitable licenses fees (fishing in Louisiana and hunting in Mississippi). He will keep the group posted about the outcome of this issue. The MRFSS and Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP) are operating smoothly. Mississippi has initiated a night fishing pilot study which began in January 2001. So far, there has not be very much activity (due to the time of year and cooler weather) but sampling will continue throughout the year. The trip ticket program for oysters is operating and this year's season looks like it should be good based on the preliminary landings. The monitoring assessment program is in its 29th year and work continues on trawling and seine sampling, tagging projects, a sargassum study to determine essential fish habitat and other activities. As mentioned at the last meeting, data from 7 hydrological sites in Mississippi Sound can be accessed from the MS DMR web site. MS DMR has implemented a derelict crab trap program. To date, the volunteers have collected almost 1,600 traps. One problem encountered from this activity is disposal of these traps once they have been retrieved. And there were several minor fish kills in January due to the unseasonably cold weather.

Louisiana - J. Shepard reported that the data collection programs in Louisiana are running smoothly. Louisiana was able to make quota for all modes for the MRFSS. Sampling continues for the head boat, menhaden and commercial data. The trip ticket program is operating better with the new scanning software. The new software was able to focus on several issues that the old software was not able to address. Trip ticket data for 2000 was delivered to NMFS early this month. Work is continuing on the 1999 data and should be delivered by next month. D. Donaldson asked that Louisiana transfer the trip ticket data to the FIN Data Management System (DMS) as well so the action of transferring data into the system can become routine. The Louisiana legislature is also in session but there are no big issues affecting the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Texas - P. Campbell reported that the Texas legislature is in session and there is one bill of interest being debated. This bill would prevent Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) from passing any new rules, regulations, or proclamations regarding the shrimping industry. It would also repeal all rules adopted by July 2000 and revert to rules in place on June 30, 2000. It would also require TPW to conduct an economic impact study regarding all shrimp regulations as well as various other actions. The TPW are watching the status of this bill. Texas has developed sea grass conservation zones in

the Laguna Madre area. There is one voluntary zone and one mandatory zone. In these zones, there is no operating propellers allowed. During the creel survey, interviewers are asking fishermen if they fished in these zones and if they have, they are asked to participate in a mail survey. Texas is proceeding with implementation of the charter boat telephone survey. They have developed a vessel frame and are currently refining the frame. The telephone data will be collected by a contractor and TPW personnel will be collecting the pre-validation and field intercepts. P. Campbell is currently in the process of scheduling outreach meetings for the charter boat survey. These meetings will inform the industry about the proposed methods and allow them to provide feedback about the survey. The meetings will be scheduled for April/May. GSMFC will be entering the field intercept data as well as providing overall coordination of the survey. The target start date was May 1 but due to contractual and administrative issues, the collection of data will probably not start until July 1, 2001.

GMFMC - R. Leard reported that the Council is still attempting to determine the status of the red snapper stock. The Council has received new stock assessments for all 4 groups of king mackerel. They have not yet been able to conduct a stock assessment for cobia but they are targeting mid-summer to conduct the assessment. There has been some disagreement about the parameters used in the red drum stock assessment. The disagreement concerns fish from state and federal waters. The Council is also working on several amendments. For red grouper, the stock was thought to be over fished; however, it may not be as bad as first thought. There are new regulations for gag grouper to stop over fishing. The Council is considering a comprehensive amendment that would address all issues related to the various grouper species. The Council is also working on amendment 11 of the Shrimp FMP. This amendment requires all shrimp vessels be federally permitted to operate in the shrimp fishery. L. Simpson noted that FIN is currently developing a registration tracking system which is similar to the shrimp permitting issue. He stated that it is **imperative that the NMFS and Council work with FIN to ensure compatibility among the various systems. It was recommended that the Data Management Subcommittee write a letter to the Regional Administrator of the Southeast Region stating that NMFS coordinate the shrimp permitting activities with the FIN registration tracking development**. R. Leard stated that the Council is also working on a charter boat moratorium. However, the outcome from this activity is still unknown.

NMFS - G. Davenport reported that NMFS has had some changes in leadership. Bill Hogarth is the acting Administrator of Fisheries; the acting Regional Administrator for the Southeast Region is Joe Powers; and the acting Center Director of the NMFS-Miami Laboratory is Nancy Thompson. There are two positions in the Southeast Region that have been filled since the last meeting. The Chief Economist is John Vondruska and the Chief of Data Management is Susan Molina. He stated that B. Hogarth has instituted a program which charges NMFS with disseminating information about their agency's activities. The oversight of the commercial port sampler has changed. G. Davenport is now in charge of all NMFS commercial port samplers (from Texas - Florida). NMFS and Louisiana are currently in the process of comparing shrimp data from Louisiana. They are comparing the data obtained from the CSP shrimp interviews and the Louisiana trip ticket program. If the data from the trip ticket program meets the data needs of the CSP, it is possible to redirect the samplers efforts in other areas (such as finfish) since the trip ticket system is providing adequate data on shrimp. The delivery of commercial data is running smoothly for all the states except Florida. Florida is currently undergoing a transition into using Oracle software. Therefore, there is about a 6-month delay in getting the data. Florida is aware of the problem and will hopefully work out all

the bugs in the near future. The current cycle for the CSP is February 2001 to January 2002. It is imperative that all CSP monies are allocated and spent within that time frame.

GSMFC - D. Donaldson stated that the activities at the GSMFC are operating smoothly. The coordination and entry of the recreational survey is working fine. All states are doing quite well at collecting the data. As presented earlier, Texas is coming on-line with the charter boat telephone survey and once this happens, the survey will be conducted from Texas through Florida. Other activities under the FIN cooperative agreement such as head boat, menhaden, and commercial data collection are operating as planned. Currently, there is some commercial data in the FIN DMS. M. Sestak is working with Louisiana and Alabama to get their trip ticket data into the system. In addition, he is working with Mississippi to load their oyster trip ticket data. Also, he and J. Bennett are working on loading some of the historical biological data into the DMS. D. Donaldson and M. Sestak will be attending a standard codes meeting in April to discuss codes needed for the FIN and ACCSP DMS.

Development of License Frame Pilot Study

D. Donaldson noted that this issue has been discussed in the past by this Subcommittee, RecFIN(SE) and the GSMFC Recreational Advisory Panel. RecFIN(SE) has compiled information regarding recreational fishing licenses for all the Gulf states as well as developed a criteria for using fishing licenses as a sampling frame. Not much activity has occurred regarding this issue since the development of these material and the GSMFC Recreational Advisory Panel asked the FIN to readdress this topic. The purpose of this activity is to get better and more precise estimates of effort in the shore and private/rental modes of recreational fishing. Therefore, it has been suggested that FIN conduct a pilot study in the Gulf of Mexico (similar to the one conducted in Oregon) to examine the feasibility of using fishing licenses as a sampling frame. In order for FIN to consider this activity, the group needs to develop a proposal for consideration by the Committee in June. The group examined the various states and determined (based on the criteria) that a pilot could be conducted in Texas and/or Louisiana. **The group believed conducting a pilot study in the Gulf was a good idea and recommended moving forward in developing this pilot**. It was decided that J. Shepard, P. Campbell, and D. Donaldson should get together with the MRFSS staff and develop a proposal for conducting a license frame pilot study in the Gulf of Mexico.

Status of Trip Ticket Programs

Alabama - K. Anson reported that Alabama started their trip ticket program in August 2000. He noted that there have been some start up problems but they seemed to have been worked out. Also, there has been some problems with non-reporting from certain dealers. Alabama has been giving them the benefit of the doubt since it is a fairly new program; however, since the problems are still occurring, they may have to get law enforcement involved in the process. He mentioned that delivery of the trip ticket data has been delayed due to lack of personnel. Alabama is working on hiring some additional people to help alleviate this problem. They are also in the process of developing a 3rd type of trip ticket which will handle multi-trip/multi-species events. To date, approximately 9,600 trip tickets have been received by the Alabama Division of Marine Resources.

Mississippi - T. Van Devender stated that currently there is not a state law that requires fishermen to be licensed dealers in order to sell their catch. MS DMR has attempted to get a law passed that

would require someone to be a dealer to sell any marine product. Unfortunately, this law has not been able to get passed. He believes it will be difficult to get such a law passed due to some strong opposition by industry members. L. Simpson noted that he will be giving a presentation about trip tickets to the Mississippi Commission next week. He asked that anyone who has information concerning benefits and positive experiences regarding trip tickets to send that information to staff. He will use this information to help sell the program in Mississippi. Although the trip ticket program has not become operational for finfish, shrimp, crabs, etc., it is operating for oysters. T. Van Devender presented a handout that outlined the history of the program, operational activities such as data entry (by scanning), and purpose of the program.

Louisiana - J. Shepard reported that the trip ticket program in Louisiana is running smoothly. He mentioned that for anyone beginning a trip ticket program, it is essential that the tickets get pre-edited to identify any potential problems before entry of the data. The electronic reporting aspects of the program are also going quite well. As of January 1, 2001, Louisiana released the electronic reporting software to any interested dealer. There are currently about 30 dealers using the software. The response to the electronic reporting capabilities have been very good. The dealers like the various capabilities of the software. The next step in electronic reporting will be a web-based program. Louisiana is currently working on this issue and should have a preliminary version by July. It was noted that it would be interesting to see a presentation about Louisiana's electronic reporting system. D. Donaldson noted that the next Data Management Subcommittee meeting will be held in New Orleans and it would be fairly easy to set up such a presentation. The group agreed and asked staff to put this issue on the next Subcommittee agenda.

Discussion of Otolith Processing Capabilities

D. Donaldson stated that FIN is discussing the possibility of undertaking collection of biological sampling (otoliths, scales, spines, etc.) for commercial and recreational fisheries in 2002. Although the costs of collecting the samples has been considered, not a lot of time has been devoted to processing and analysis of these samples. D. Donaldson distributed a table which outlined the various states' capability for processing and analysis of otoliths. He noted that the processing and analysis components need to be considered when developing cost estimates for conducting this activity. This issue will be considered by the FIN Committee in June. J. Shepard noted that although the information in the table is useful, some additional information is needed to completely assess the capabilities. The maximum processing capabilities (with existing staff and equipment) for each state needs to be included. Staff will compile this information and will provide it to the FIN Committee for their consideration. The group also discussed who would be responsible for conducting the processing and analysis. Although each state as well as NMFS has the capability to process otoliths, they are at near maximum capacity. Therefore, FIN needs to consider who will process the additional otoliths. One idea was presented that FIN develop a regional otolith processing center to handle the additional samples. The states would continue processing the current amount of otoliths (and maybe some additional samples) but the regional center would be responsible for the majority of the additional samples. D. Donaldson noted that the GSMFC would be interested in being this regional center. The group discussed the implications of processing otoliths and will further discuss this issue at the upcoming FIN Committee meeting.

Discussion of Freshwater/Saltwater Boundaries

D. Donaldson distributed letters from MRFSS and a response from Alabama regarding the establishment of freshwater and saltwater boundaries. The MRFSS staff asked if the each state could provide a boundary for saltwater fishing. This would allow for more precisely defined saltwater fishing trips and better estimates. K. Anson stated that establishing a stationary boundary is not possible in Alabama since the freshwater/saltwater boundary moves throughout the year depending on weather, tides, etc. J. Shepard agreed that it would be very difficult to define a specific "line" that designated saltwater fishing. The group believed the request could not be accomplished and therefore would not provide these boundaries to the MRFSS.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

APPROVED BY: 10/30/01
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 14, 2001
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman Corky Perret called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Columbus Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Jerry Mambretti, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Corky Perret, *GSMFC Commissioner*, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
John Roussel, *GSMFC Commissioner*, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Tom Van Devender, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Virginia Vail, *GSMFC Commissioner*, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL
Jim Duffy, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Joseph Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Tom McIlwain, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Roger Zimmerman, NMFS, Galveston, TX (*Proxy for Nancy Thompson*)

Staff
Jeff Rester, Habitat/SEAMAP Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Madeleine Travis, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Larry Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Dave Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Mike Ray, *GSMFC Commissioner*, TPWD, Austin, TX
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Joe Smith, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Michael Bailey, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Chris Dorsett, Gulf Restoration Network, New Orleans, LA
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Barbara Dorf, TPWD, Rockport, TX
William Ward, *GSMFC Commissioner*, Tampa, FL
Ralph Rayburn, Texas Sea Grant, College Station, TX
Bobbi Walker, Orange Beach Fishing Association, Orange Beach, AL
Dave Harrington, University of Georgia, Brunswick, GA
Tony Reisinger, Texas A&M Marine Advisory Service, San Benito, TX
Walter Blessey, *GSMFC Commissioner*, Biloxi, MS
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Bob Zales, Panama City, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as written with a discussion about the Gulf and South Atlantic Shellfish Sanitation Conference being added under "Other Business".

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on October 18, 2000 in Clearwater Beach, Florida were approved as written.

State/Federal Reports

Florida - V. Vail reported that Florida is implementing its stone crab trap certification program. Currently 1.3 million tags have been allocated for traps, with the possibility of 100,000 more being added in the future. Florida has received its Federal Aid Disaster Relief grant for trap fishermen for Hurricane Georges and Tropical Storm Mitch. This grant will be distributed to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and a contractor will be hired to receive fishermen's applications and determine eligibility. The money will compensate fishermen for uninsurable gear losses. V. Vail stated that there might be a possible change in the minimum size limit for oysters. The decrease would be from 3 inches to 2.5 inches.

Alabama - J. Duffy stated that an addition was made to the artificial reef program last August. An oil platform was toppled in place and donated. Three more inshore reefs were added since October. Twenty-one thousand cubic yards of material have been placed on marginal oyster reefs in order to enhance them. J. Duffy stated that the trip ticket program is running smoothly. An oyster management bill is currently before the legislature. This is a trip ticket program that would allow managers to determine harvest levels. Money from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program is being used to acquire land, build an intake pipe from the Gulf to the aquaculture facility, and finish developing some oyster reefs. J. Duffy stated that there have been several recreational bag/size limit changes. Spotted seatrout now have a 10 fish daily bag limit with a 14 inch minimum size. Pompano have a 3 fish daily bag limit with a 12 inch minimum size. Recreational fishermen are now limited to 3 striped bass per day and limited to two Atlantic sharpnose sharks and one other shark 54 inches or longer. Alabama is also exploring an aggregate bag limit on all other inshore species not under management.

Mississippi - T. Van Devender reported that the Department of Marine Resources now has a new director. His name is Glen Carpenter. Through the components of the CARA bill passed last year, Mississippi will receive $24 million. Unfortunately, this money will be distributed by the Department of Environmental Quality and not the Department of Marine Resources. A second oil platform has been donated to the artificial reef program. Mississippi is continuing to build low profile oyster fishing reefs. The MRFSS study is proceeding smoothly and Mississippi is starting to scan in the data. Three hundred thousand sacks of oysters have been harvested since the opening of the season last year. Mississippi is looking to start a new MRFSS night sampling program to survey recreational night fishing. Mississippi will be redoing its portion of the Gulf of Mexico

Estuarine Inventory using the same sampling stations as the original study. This will begin in April or May.

Louisiana - J. Shepard reported that three more platforms have been added to the artificial reef program since October. This brings the total to 100 structures in 32 reef sites. The trip ticket program is now using a computerized system to allow dealers to enter information. Approximately 30 dealers are using this system. Louisiana is also working on developing an Internet based program that runs on the Department's servers. The 2000 shrimp season was one of the best ever with 92.2 million pounds of shrimp landed.

Texas - T. Cody reported that a state auditor report is looking at oyster leases in order to resolve a fair price for the leases. The 8th round of shrimp license buybacks has been completed. To date, 553 licenses have been bought with an average price of $6,200 a piece. In the new crab buyback program, seven licenses were bought with an average price of $3,000 a piece. The second Texas 52-foot vessel is ready for commission. The two new larger vessels will allow Texas to complete more offshore research. Three oil platforms have been added to the artificial reef program. The bycatch reduction device (BRD) testing will be reduced. The excess money will be used to purchase BRDs for shrimp fishermen. The red tide sampling program is continuing. Also continuing, is the virus sampling at aquaculture facilities. An EPA grant to sample for *Pfisteria* has been completed with four areas having positive *Pfisteria* returns, but no evidence of fish kills.

NMFS - T. McIlwain reported that NMFS now has a new automated email system, Fishnews, that provides notification of NOAA Fisheries *Federal Register* actions, news releases, publications and upcoming events of interest to constituents. T. McIlwain reported that MARFIN will receive $750,000 in additional funding this year. The NMFS budget has also been increased, although there is a travel and hiring freeze. The *Oregon II* is in the ship yard and the *Gunter* is out on a marine mammal cruise. R. Zimmerman reported that the 2000 shrimp season was a record year. The hypoxic area off Louisiana was smaller than usual. The drought appeared to open up more habitat for shrimp production. Sea turtles were affected by the record cold weather in the South.

USFWS - C. Brown reported that the Panama City Field Office participated in a mediation process last fall to help work out differences between Florida, Georgia and Alabama on a water allocation formula for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint rivers system. Almost 135,000 Phase II Gulf striped bass were stocked by the Private John Allen, Warm Springs and Welaka National Fish Hatcheries in the lower Apalachicola River during November, December and January. The Panama City Fisheries Resource Office conducted a Gulf sturgeon population survey in the lower Choctawhatchee River during October and November. A total of 196 Gulf sturgeon were collected, tagged, and released in the study. Fish and Wildlife Service special agents assisted the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries with a three-year investigation that recently resulted in convicting the operators of a Cameron, Louisiana seafood company with multiple Lacey Act violations involving oysters. FWS is preparing to promulgate regulations to authorize the incidental take of a small number of manatees under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The incidental take issue is having a serious impact on Corps of Engineers permitting of docks, boat ramps, and marinas. FWS' Jacksonville Field Office review of manatee protection areas continues to draw a tremendous amount of media and stakeholder interest. Because FWS' Jacksonville Field Office received more

than 500 comments from the general public, researchers, and other agencies on the draft manatee recovery plan, it could not adequately be revised before the February 28 deadline. The suggestions indicated that the plan needs substantive changes. The Acting Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service this week notified the fish and wildlife agency directors of the states and territories about procedures for distributing apportionments for wildlife grants under Title IX of the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Act for FY 2001. This law provides $50 million in FY 2001 to FWS for a Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program, a formula-based apportionment to states and U.S. territories. These funds will to be used to develop, revise, and implement state wildlife conservation and restoration plans and programs including wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife-associated recreation projects. The Florida Parks Department has notified FWS of its plans to remove all state personnel and close the state park located on Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge at the end of June. This means the park, which is managed under a cooperative agreement between the state and FWS, will no longer have a staff. About 80,000 visitors come to the island annually. Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1984 to provide nesting habitat for brown pelicans and other water birds. Currently, it is managed as part of Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge, which is 95 miles north of Egmont Key. FWS staffing will be needed to maintain a presence on the island and prevent closure of the island to the public. Officials from FWS and the state are discussing how best to assume management responsibility if the Florida Legislature votes to approve the measure.

Red Tide Monitoring in Florida

J. Rester stated that Karen Steidinger was unable to attend the meeting and report fully on the current status of Florida's red tide quick probe project. Instead she provided a report detailing the status of the project. C. Perret stated that he hoped she would be able to report at a future TCC meeting. C. Perret reported that the probe allows users to rapidly determine the presence of brevetoxin without the necessity of using a solvent to extract the toxin from tissue. Each Gulf state except Alabama donated money from their disaster relief funds to fund this project.

Freshwater Introductions

J. Roussel stated that there were 3 major diversion projects in Louisiana. Two are located east of the Mississippi River and one is located west of the River. Davis Pond is scheduled to become operational July 1st. It will release around 15,000 cfs of water west of the River. Two smaller projects have been proposed for some areas that are impacted by the Bonnet Carre spillway. These would release approximately 1,500 cfs of water each. A proposal has also been made to remove some pins and release around 4,000 cfs of water from the Bonnet Carre spillway. Water levels would allow water release every 3 of 4 years.

Gulf of Mexico Derelict Crab Trap Problem

J. Rester reported on the progress of the joint Crab and Habitat Subcommittees project examining the derelict crab trap problem in the Gulf of Mexico. J. Rester stated that Vince Guillory was preparing a detailed report on the problem that will be completed in the next month. J. Rester then made the presentation. He stated that the Subcommittees felt that the issue had been addressed as

best as it could by the Subcommittees and the issue now required some type of Commission action. C. Perret made the suggestion that advice and input from the Law Enforcement Committee and Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel be sought before proceeding with any Gulf wide removal project. **J. Duffy made a motion to present this issue to the Law Enforcement Committee and the Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel and seek their input on the issue and then provide recommendations and an action plan to the TCC. T. Cody seconded the motion. It passed with J. Shepard voting against the motion.**

Menhaden FMP Update

S. VanderKooy stated that he received few comments from the TCC concerning the Menhaden FMP. **J. Shepard made a motion to submit the FMP to the State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee. J. Duffy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Hypoxia Task Force Update

D. Frugé gave a brief presentation on the Hypoxia Task Force. The Task Force is composed of state, federal, and tribal representatives and is charged with examining ways to deal with the hypoxia problem. D. Frugé stated the Hypoxia Task Force now has a finalized action plan. The goals of the plan do not include a percent reduction in total nutrient input, but instead has a goal of reducing the size of the hypoxic area that forms yearly off Louisiana. The goal is to reduce the size of the hypoxic area by 20% by the year 2015. This would equate to around a 30% reduction in nutrients.

Subcommittee Reports

Anadromous - D. Frugé reported that each Technical Task Force (TTF) member present gave a brief update on progress they had made on work in developing sections of the revised FMP since the initial TTF meeting at the end of January. An initial draft of the FMP will be available in October. Copies of a submitted proposal under the FWS' reverted Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funding program titled *An evaluation of the taxonomic status of Gulf of Mexico striped bass using genetic, morphological and life history characteristics* was discussed. This project would be an investigation and analysis of three aspects of differences between Gulf and Atlantic strains of striped bass involving 1) heritability of lateral line scale count differences between the strains, 2) genetic differences between the strains from the perspective of similar differences in other fish taxa, and 3) quantification of egg buoyancy differences between the strains. There was general agreement among the Subcommittee members that this would be a useful and beneficial project, and a motion was passed to have the Commission send a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Service voicing support for this project and requesting that it be funded. D. Frugé stated that the Subcommittee also discussed issues regarding reauthorization of the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act. The FWS has not received appropriations under the Act since 1991, though NMFS has been receiving $2.1 million per year in recent years. The Gulf states have been receiving less than $50,000 of this per year. The Subcommittee passed a motion to have the Commission urge Congress to reauthorize the Act and incorporate language establishing a Gulf Striped Bass Restoration Program authorizing specific funding of $500,000 to the FWS and $500,000 to NMFS for this purpose, and further that the

Commission urge Congress to annually appropriate a total of $3 million each to the FWS and NMFS under the Act.

Crab - H. Perry stated that J. Rester made a presentation on the derelict crab trap problem. The Subcommittee discussed the presentation and made changes to it. H. Perry stated that the Subcommittee is working on three documents currently. These include the proceedings from the mortality symposium, the derelict crab trap report, and the Blue Crab FMP.

SEAMAP - J. Hanifen reported that the Fall Groundfish Cruise took place from October 14 - December 1, 2000. Data from this Survey were used to produce the latest red snapper real-time plots available on the Commission web site. An Environmental Data Work Group conference call was held in January to discuss the possibility of submitting a proposal to NESDIS to provide CTD casts to NESDIS. NESDIS would provide CTDs and benchtop flourometers. J. Hanifen stated that Larry Simpson met with Congressmen and Senators in February to discuss SEAMAP funding needs. Next, Page Campbell discussed the Texas fishery independent sampling programs. Joanne Shultz then discussed the status of the NMFS portion of the Reeffish Survey which will take place for the first time in 3 years. The FY 2001 SEAMAP budget appropriation contained an extra $200,000. After several conference calls, the Gulf received $100,000 of the new money. This money will be used to add extra sampling days to existing cruises, purchase a new shelving system for the Archiving Center, and overcome the budget shortfalls of past years.

Data Management - D. Donaldson reported that the Subcommittee discussed recreational fishing licenses as a sampling frame for an estimate of fishing effort. Louisiana and Texas might start a pilot study to determine the feasability of using recreational fishing licenses databases. Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana discussed their trip ticket programs. Alabama reported that things are running smoothly and Louisiana discussed their electronic trip ticket program. The Subcommittee also discussed otolith processing capabilities and finally discussed the freshwater/saltwater boundary. The Subcommittee decided not to delineate a specific boundary due to the boundary moving due to weather and time of year.

Artificial Reef - R. Lukens reported that the Artificial Reef Subcommittee met in Jacksonville, Florida on February 21. In addition, on February 22, the Subcommittee met in joint session with the ASMFC Artificial Reef Subcommittee. R. Lukens stated that the Scientific Group of the London Convention determined that the issues surrounding placement of materials are mostly policy, not technical. Because of that determination, they sent the issue back to the Consultative Meeting, which was held last September. At that meeting, the delegates took no action, but kept the issue of placement on the table as an active issue. R. Lukens reported that Frank Stone, who is coordinating PCB studies for the Navy, provided a presentation on the ship issue to the Subcommittee. He indicated that the studies are not yet complete, but preliminary results indicate that PCBs in salt water do not pose an environmental or human health threat. He is optimistic that the final results will be the same, and would like to work with the states and the EPA through the Commissions to develop a plan by which Navy ships can be transferred to states for artificial reef development. The issue of durability of artificial reef materials was raised and challenged by the charter boat industry from the Florida Panhandle and Alabama. They suggest that durability is only an economic issue which should apply to wise use of public funds. Private reef builders should not be held to the same

standard. R. Lukens stated he provided the Subcommittee with a discussion of habitat/fish associations which suggest that the issue of durability is not just an economic issue. The Subcommittee, in cooperation with the ASMFC Artificial Reef Subcommittee, elected to revise the document entitled "Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials." At the request of Bob Zales, Bobbie Walker, and Mike Eller, the joint Subcommittee discussed ways to provide for public input into the revision process. R. Lukens then presented the revised Commission Tire Position Statement and the revised Commission Artificial Reef Materials Resolution. With minor revisions, the TCC accepted the Commission Tire Position Statement and the Artificial Reef Materials Resolution. R. Lukens reported that Rick Kasprzak was elected Chairman, and Steve Heath was elected Vice-Chairman. Finally, R. Lukens reported that Michael Bailey of the NMFS Office of Intergovernmental and Recreational Fisheries is currently in the process of preparing a *Federal Register* notice to receive public comment on the draft National Artificial Reef Plan revision.

Habitat - J. Rester reported that he attended a November NMFS sponsored fishing gear impacts workshop. The Habitat Subcommittee discussed the EFH lawsuit and its ramifications. The Council will now be developing an EIS in order to fulfill NEPA requirements. J. Rester reported he attended a Brown Marsh Die-off Conference where speakers discussed the extent and possible causes of the extensive marsh die off in Louisiana. Ongoing habitat projects include the derelict crab trap report and gathering papers for the annotated bibliography of fishing impacts on habitat. Since the last update, 40 papers were added to the bibliography. The bibliography was also used to produce a report on gear impacts in the southeast region. The Subcommittee also discussed the habitat poster that was produced in January. Around 20,000 were printed and distributed to the states. The Subcommittee reviewed the Derelict Crab Trap presentation and offered suggestions to improve the presentation. Finally, the Subcommittee drafted a freshwater inflow policy for the Council. The current draft will be sent out to the Subcommittee for their final review at the October meeting.

Other Business

C. Perret reported that Mississippi will host the Gulf and South Atlantic Shellfish Sanitation Conference on April 23-25.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

APPROVED BY:
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 14, 2001
Brownsville, Texas

Facilitator Larry Simpson called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members
Columbus Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Jim Duffy, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL (*Proxy for V. Minton*)
Corky Perret, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Joseph Powers, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Mike Ray, TPWD, Austin, TX
John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Larry Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Virginia Vail, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL

Staff
Dave Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, SEAMAP/Habitat Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Madeleine Travis, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Michael Bailey, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Barbara Dorf, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Chris Dorsett, Gulf Restoration Network, New Orleans, LA
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Philip Horn, Pascagoula, MS
Tom McIlwain, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Tom VanDevender, MDMR, Biloxi, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as amended.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on October 18, 2000 in Clearwater Beach, Florida were approved as presented.

Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel Report

Chairman Horn reported on the joint session of the Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel. Issues discussed included artificial reefs and concerns about TEDs and BRDs in the Gulf of Mexico. Horn reported that B. Zales and B. Walker expressed interest in seeing continued permitting and further development of large area artificial reef sites (LAARS) in an effort to alleviate user conflict. Several new artificial reef materials were discussed including chicken transport containers and automobile parts shipping crates. The life span of artificial reefs was also discussed. Horn noted there was discussion on the GSMFC *Guidelines for Artificial Reef Materials*, and indicated that this document was a guide and will continue to undergo revision with participation from the fishing community on both regional and national levels.

Horn noted that S. VankerKooy reported on Interjurisdictional Fisheries (IJF) activities and updated the Advisory Panel on the status of the fishery management plans. Horn reported that both the commercial and recreational Panel members expressed concern regarding flounder. Horn noted that the IJF report indicated that the lack of good data was the major hurdle in completing a stock assessment. **As a result of these discussions, the Advisory Panel passed the following motion: The Recreational/Commercial Fishery Advisory Panel expresses its recognition of increased interest in harvesting of flounder species and expresses its concern over the lack of data necessary to develop effective management measures.**

Horn then reported that D. Harrington from Georgia Sea Grant and G. Graham with Texas Sea Grant spoke to the Advisory Panel on proposed changes to the certification protocols by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding TEDs and BRDs. Harrington reported on the problems encountered in the South Atlantic with inconsistent BRD requirements hoping to prevent a similar situation in the Gulf. The S-FFMC agreed on the importance of states being aware of BRD regulations Gulfwide and indicated that federal guidelines should be used as a minimum requirement.

Horn reported that Scott Riley of Florida will no longer be able to participate as a member of the Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel and a replacement will need to be appointed.

V. Vail moved to accept the Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel Report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Menhaden Advisory Committee

S. VanderKooy reported that J. Smith of NMFS provided his annual summary of the previous menhaden season to the Committee. 579,315 metric tons of fish were landed for reduction in 2000. Although these landings were higher than the previous five year average, they represented a 15% decrease from the previous year. Four reduction plants were in operation in 2000, as well as 41 purse boats, four run-boats, and two bait boats. Continued drought drove up the salinity levels inshore and moved many of the harvestable menhaden out of the fishing grounds. Native and exotic jellyfish in Mississippi Sound made fishing difficult. It is estimated that 510,000 metric tons of menhaden will be landed in 2001.

VanderKooy reported that V. Guillory presented the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) forecast for 2001. It is estimated that 296,000 to 523,000 metric tons will be landed in Louisiana in 2001. Oil yield is typically higher when the combination of high rainfall and river discharge reduce salinities, however the opposite seems to be true in 2001 but oil yield may improve with a wet spring.

VanderKooy reported that C. Moncreiff presented an overview of plankton blooms in the Gulf of Mexico and the difficulties associated with investigating reported blooms encountered by the fishing fleet. Red tide, being the most notorious, has heightened public awareness of health issues, tourism issues, and marine mammal deaths. Moncreiff noted that satellite imagery, weather and hydrologic monitoring may improve the predictive movements of blooms when they occur. In the future it may be possible to link these technologies to the GSMFC website to make real-time tracking available.

VanderKooy reported that the Captains Daily Fishing Reports continue to be entered at GSMFC with approximately two years of data completed. This activity should continue until the end of next year.

VanderKooy noted that the state of New Jersey had reversed a previous decision to ban reduction and bait fisheries from its waters. These activities will continue.

C. Perret moved to accept the Menhaden Advisory Committee Report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Status of IJF Fishery Management Plans and Other IJF Activities

S. VanderKooy reported that the Otolith Work Group continues to work on the handbook. This Group is working toward standardizing the techniques being used so that when regional assessments are attempted comparable data is delivered to the stock assessment team. The next meeting of this Work Group is tentatively scheduled for early spring in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

VanderKooy reported that *The Gulf of Mexico Cooperative Law Enforcement Strategic Plan* was approved by the GSMFC in October 2000 and was adopted by the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council (GMFMC) in January 2001. Publication and distribution will be this spring. The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) continues work on the Operations Plan. The LEC met in February and completed the 2001 timeline for tasks outlined in the Operations Plan.

VanderKooy then reported on the progress of the Fishery Management Plans (FMP). The striped bass Technical Task Force (TTF) met in January 2001 to designate assignments. They will meet again at the end of this year with first drafts of each section presented at that time.

The Menhaden FMP was approved by the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) on April 14, 2001 and has been forwarded to this Committee for review. VanderKooy gave a presentation on the menhaden fishery noting that it is the largest valued commercial fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. VanderKooy reported that this is the fifth revision to the Menhaden FMP. This revision contains Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) guidelines, a habitat section, updated state and federal regulatory information, as well as current landings. The major change in the economic section deals with the reduction in the number of operating companies, plants, and vessels. A new stock assessment has been completed by D. Vaughan of NMFS Beaufort Laboratory which shows that the Gulf menhaden

fishery is very healthy and stable at this time. VanderKooy then distributed copies of the draft Menhaden FMP to Committee members for their review. **C. Perret moved to have the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee (S-FFMC) review the draft Menhaden FMP and to return comments to S. VanderKooy by August 31, 2001. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** The comments will be incorporated into the FMP and will be ready for the October meeting.

VanderKooy reported that comments received have been incorporated into the Blue Crab FMP, and he requested approval to have this FMP released for public comment. During Committee discussion, **M. Ray moved to have the following sentence included in the Blue Crab FMP: *Loss of essential habitat associated with reduced freshwater inflow decreases carrying capacity and limits production.* The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** The Committee discussed the length of time allowed for the public comment period and **C. Perret moved to extend the public comment period for the Blue Crab FMP to 60 days. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

VanderKooy reported that the Spotted Seatrout FMP is currently in review with the Commission and final approval is anticipated when they meet on March 15, 2001. He also noted that the Flounder FMP was approved by the Commission in October 2000, is currently at the printer, and distribution will begin within the coming months.

Status of GSMFC Data Collection Program

D. Donaldson reported that on-going activities for recreational data collection are operating smoothly. May 2001 is the target date to begin data collection in Texas for the telephone survey. The night fishing pilot survey in Mississippi began in January 2001. The data collected during this pilot study will be analyzed and compared to daytime fishing activity to determine the differences.

Donaldson reported that a work group meeting was held in February 2001 to discuss the registration tracking module. This module will allow for the tracking of vessels, dealers, and fishermen. Landings for these vessels, dealers, and fishermen can then be associated. This is a joint project with the Fisheries Information Network (FIN) and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). A list of the data elements for the registration tracking module was made available to the Committee. These data elements will be presented to the FIN Committee at their upcoming meeting. Donaldson reported that in 2002 the system will be tested in conjunction with NMFS and stressed the importance of having the state agencies collect minimum data elements. This will facilitate conducting the pilot study in 2002.

Donaldson reported that commercial catch and effort and biological sampling modules have been developed for the FIN data management system. Currently work is being done to populate the system with data from the states. The software for unlimited users to have access to the system is in place, however there are still some confidentiality issues to be resolved. It is anticipated that by the end of the year recreational data will be entered as well. Donaldson noted that data will also be available on-line.

Donaldson reported that the FIN program has been funding five commercial port agents on an interim basis since NMFS had some funding deficits two years ago. Committee discussion followed

and it was noted that since NMFS will be receiving $7,000,000 in new money for red snapper it is anticipated that in January 2002 NMFS will resume funding the five port agents. **C. Perret moved to accept the Data Collection Program Report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Habitat Program Report

J. Rester updated the Committee on activity in the Habitat Program. He reported that in November he attended a fishing gear impact workshop sponsored by NMFS. Also in November he attended a GMFMC meeting where submerged aquatic vegetation and wetland management policies were finalized. The Council also passed a motion to develop a freshwater inflow policy. Rester explained that the Habitat Subcommittee is working on developing this policy as part of the joint program with the GMFMC. The Subcommittee will work further on this policy when they meet again in October and will then forward it to the GMFMC for their Advisory Panel to review.

Rester reported that in the fall of 2000 the Essential Fish Habitat lawsuit was settled. It now appears that the GMFMC will develop an environmental impact statement for the essential fish habitat amendment.

Rester noted that in January 2001 he attended a brown marsh die-off conference in Louisiana. It appears that the drought had some influence on the die-off but was not the only factor. He also attended a GMFMC meeting in January where the Brownsville weir and reservoir project, as well as artificial reef materials were discussed. Rester reported that he had recently attended a National Research Council conference on bottom trawling impact on habitat. This group has been charged with developing management recommendations for NMFS.

Rester reported that ongoing habitat projects include working with the Crab Subcommittee on the derelict crab trap problem, and additions to the *Annotated Bibliography of Fishing Impacts on Habitat* which is available on the GSMFC website. Rester also noted that the new habitat poster has been printed and delivered to state agencies and other public outlets. The artwork for this poster was done by Clemente Guzman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In the future this poster may be reduced in size and made available to area restaurants as placemats.

Update on Non-indigenous Species

R. Lukens updated the Committee on issues associated with non-indigenous species. Lukens noted that he is a member of the Aquatic Nuisance Task Force which was formed as a result of the National Invasive Species Act (NISA), and the Invasive Species Advisory Committee which was formed to develop a national management plan for invasive species. Lukens noted that his involvement in these groups is to be a conduit of information and action back to the Commission. In addition, he will help determine what role the Commission can play to be an effective partner in the management and control of invasive species in marine and coastal areas, as well as to inject issues that are important to the Gulf of Mexico.

Lukens reported on various invasive species currently being found in the Gulf. A brown crab from South America has been seen in isolated instances in Mississippi waters since the late 1970's. L. Hartman of the Crab Subcommittee found that this brown crab has been detected in Alabama. This

area may be the source for this introduced population through ballast water. This situation will be monitored to determine if there is any impact on the blue crab population.

Lukens then reported on the invasive tunicate which has been found in Texas and is a Pacific species. Monitoring on one of the artificial reefs in Texas detected substantial growth of this tunicate and it has since been found on four artificial reefs. It has been found very close to the Flower Gardens banks and its progress will be closely monitored.

Lukens reported on the Rio Grande cichlid which is a tilapia that is blue in color. This fish is very aggressive, prolific, temperature tolerant, and can stand high fluctuations in salinity. It has been found in canals around New Orleans.

Other Business

The Committee briefly discussed the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) now known as "CARA Light". Since there seems to be some confusion and unusual circumstances surrounding this Act, the Committee requested having "CARA Light" on the agenda for the October meeting.

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

APPROVED BY: 7/30/03
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 14, 2001
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman Jeff Mayne called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members
Bruce Buckson, FWC/DLE, Tallahassee, FL
David Fiedler, USCG 8th District, New Orleans, LA
Dennis Johnston, *Vice Chairman*, TPWD, Austin, TX (*outgoing Texas representative)*
Jeff Mayne, *Chairman*, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Dave McKinney, NOAA OLE, Austin, TX (*Proxy for Eugene Proulx*)
Jerald Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
George Wright, Sr., MDMR, Biloxi, MS (*Proxy for Terry Bakker*)
Larry Young, TPWD, Austin, TX (*incoming Texas representative*)

Staff
Dave Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS
Cindy Yocom, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
David A. Cinalli, USCG 7th, Miami, FL
Julius Collins, TSA, Brownsville, TX
Steven A. Coker, NOAA, Harlingen, TX
John T. Jenkins, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Rick Leard, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Vernon Minton, *GSMFC Commissioner*, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Larry Nicholson, USM/CMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Karen Raine, NOAA GCEL/SE, St. Petersburg, FL
William Ward, *GSMFC Commissioner*, Tampa, FL
Gary L. Young, USFWS/LE, San Antonio, TX

Adoption of Agenda

J. Waller moved to adopt the agenda as presented; D. Fiedler seconded the motion. The agenda was adopted by consensus.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday, October 18, 2000, in Clearwater Beach, Florida. **D. Johnston moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by J. Mayne, and the minutes were approved as written.**

Program Updates

Fisheries Information Network - Dave Donaldson, Data Program Manager, reported that a current undertaking in the Fisheries Information Network Program is the development of a registration tracking system that will allow tracking of vessels, fishermen, and dealers across time and space. Data elements and a unique identifier will allow them to identify and follow a vessel, fisherman, or dealer as movement occurs from state to state. The identifier (birth date) may not have been the easiest way – social security number would have been easier; however, you cannot legally ask for that information.

The Registration Tracking Work Group has met twice thus far, and law enforcement has been providing input from the beginning. As you know, Eugene Proulx volunteered a representative for the LEC, and Beverly Lambert, NOAA Enforcement, has been attending. Also, Jeff Marshton, New Hampshire Fish & Game Enforcement Division, has represented the Atlantic States.

Once this data base is available through the FIN Data Management System, if a fishermen who had been denied a license in one state applied for a license in another state, you could easily check for that information. As you know, it is very difficult to check for that information today.

The trip ticket program is continuing. Alabama started in August 2000 and is running fairly smooth; there are a few bugs. Mississippi is still struggling with legislation, and Texas is determining the feasibility of a program. Hopefully within the next five years, a Gulf-wide trip ticket program will be in place to capture all the landings. Law enforcement is critical to the program. If one participant does not report and there are no ramifications, then everyone may decide not to report either. The entire program would break down.

Current efforts include populating the management system with data. All hardware and software have been acquired that will enable us to provide the data to a variety of users. Florida data is currently in the system, and Louisiana and Alabama data are being integrated at this time. Although Mississippi does not have a full-blown trip ticket program, they do have an oyster trip ticket program; that data will be incorporated into the system. Confidentiality guidelines are being developed. By the end of the year, we hope to have Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, and some of Mississippi's commercial landings data in the system. Once the data is available, everyone will be notified.

J. Waller asked Dave what would happen if Mississippi and Texas does not come on line with a trip ticket program. Is a system in place that will give the necessary data? Donaldson indicated that the trip ticket program is the key to ComFIN. In the interim, data would continue to be collected through the Cooperative Statistics Program. That program, however, does not capture all the data. J. Mayne reminded Donaldson that their agency still get calls from the legislature inquiring whether it is necessary for all this information to be gathered. He stressed that the program needs continued public relations.

IJF Program - Fishery Management Plan Progress - D. Johnston reported that the Flounder FMP is complete and at the printer. J. Waller reported that the Seatrout FMP will be presented at the Commission Business Session on Thursday morning. Positive action is expected. B. Buckson reported that the Crab FMP is in review by the S-FFMC which is expected to release the document

for public review. J.T. Jenkins reported that the Striped Bass Technical Task Force held an organizational meeting in January. The task force members were invited to attend the TCC Anadromous Subcommittee meeting on Monday where FMP progress was discussed. An October deadline for the first rough draft was set.

State/Federal Reports

Texas - D. Johnston, Vice Chairman, announced his promotion to Chief of Marine Enforcement. His replacement on the Committee is Larry Young, Chief of Fisheries Enforcement. Most of the group met him at the strategic work session in January. Larry is very capable, and Johnson felt the group would be very pleased with Young's knowledge and ability. Johnston noted that he had been on the Law Enforcement Committee for four years and found it to be a rewarding experience. Many changes have been made, especially in the last year, that have led to the Committee's current progress. Johnston formally withdrew as Vice Chairman of the Committee and turned over the Texas report to L. Young.

L. Young indicated that he has been in this position for a little over a month and hopes he does not make a nuisance of himself with questions. He would like to provide a short update for Texas. There was quite a bit of legislation passed last year, and they are still in the process of educating everyone with the changes. Most have taken effect with the exception of one or two that will go into effect after the summer closure in the Gulf. A very large case occurred recently where a boat unloaded in the Brownsville area with a Gulf catch of 4,400 pounds of shrimp tails. The vessel was not licensed at all – complete violation. The shrimp was confiscated. The Coast Guard have caught a few people in the new five-mile closed area off south Texas. These have been referred to the local officials. The only legislation that you may be interested in is a bill introduced that will allow the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to establish a closed season for the commercial crab industry. They will be able to close for up to 30 days which will allow for crab trap pickup. During that closure, any trap that is left in public waters will be considered abandoned, and anyone (sportsmen, commercial fishermen, law enforcement, etc.) can remove the trap. The Law Enforcement Division is working with D. McKinney, NOAA, to obtain grant money for TED and BRD enforcement. As of September 1, 2001, if someone in Texas tries to obtain a license and is found to have a civil restitution against them, they will not be able to purchase the license.

Louisiana - J. Mayne reported there are several bills supported by the Department this year in Louisiana. It is currently legal to remove the heads and tails off shark and tuna. New legislation will require that sharks be maintained intact on both commercial and recreational vessels. The shark head weight (about 40%) will be allowed above the commercial trip limit. A reporting requirement is currently in place for shark fishermen, but since the trip ticket program is working well, we are abolishing the reporting requirement. They still must have a permit for shark fishing; however, a three-strikes/you're-out program will be instituted. For the first violation, the shark permit will be suspended for one year; the second violation carries a two-year suspension; and the third violation within a five year period draws a penalty of banishment from the fishery. Fishermen will also be required to maintain the heads intact on tuna which have a size requirement (unless the carcass length is in excess of the minimum size). Louisiana currently has a one-strike/you're-out program for the mullet fishery. The one-strike is across the board for any commercial fishing violation or vessel license violation. Since judges are not inclined to uphold this penalty, Louisiana is proposing a three-strike/you're-out program for the mullet fishery based on mullet violations only. They have

also requested the same program for Louisiana's commercial trout fishery. A bill has also been introduced to initiate a mandatory boater education program. It will, of course, grandfather in certain age groups. Deaths on Louisiana's waterways are at an all time high – boaters need education. Louisiana is also recodifying its game fish statutes for corrective language. Also under consideration is a bill that will clarify the authority of an officer who catches an oyster boat dredging oysters in an area deemed polluted. This legislation will give the officer the authority to dispose of those oysters properly. Legislation is also being introduced that will define and prohibit the use of bandit fishing gear and long-line fishing gear in state waters. Long-line fishing gear is defined as being pulled in electronically or hydraulically. The trot fishery is defined by a maximum length of 300 (440) yards. A few other corrective-type pieces of legislation are also being considered.

Louisiana's joint enforcement agreement has been submitted to Dale Jones, Chief of NOAA Enforcement. They have been very successful with some red snapper operations in Louisiana but had to modify internal policies. They had been issuing verbal warnings to vessels carrying over 2,000 pounds but below 2,050 pounds. This worked well the first year, but it did not take long for the industry to modify their habits. Last season, many boats brought in right at 2,050 pounds. Now a written warning is being issued for the first violation; the second violation, officers are seizing the overage and issuing a citation.

Louisiana's current cadet class includes 20 candidates in training. The agency has over 20 vacancies and is having a difficult time recruiting new recruits. They are working to make salaries more competitive with state police and local sheriff's offices.

Mississippi - G. Wright, Sr. apologized that Colonel Bakker could not be here, but he had a meeting conflict. Wright reported that the new director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is Glenn Carpenter. He comes to the Department from NASA, Stennis Space Center. Thus far, he is pro-enforcement and has agreed with many of the recommendations coming from the law enforcement division. Mississippi is moving forward with their mutual agreements. In January 2001, the division hired four additional officers, all four of which have law enforcement experience. Two will be taking the ten-week Police Academy course in Jackson; the remaining will just need a refresher course. Pending legislation of interest is mainly clarification of existing statutes. Mississippi is beginning to see a problem with air boats. As you know, when these boats run through marsh it destroys the grass. Several members of the Louisiana and Mississippi legislatures held a caucus to work on the problem of high nonresident license fees. J. Mayne reported that a bill has been introduced in Louisiana that will do away with their three-day nonresident license. Louisiana proposed a one-day trip license for nonresidents ($5.00 per day freshwater/$15.00 per day saltwater).

Florida - B. Buckson reported that due to reorganization he currently holds the position of the Assistant Bureau Chief of West Operations. While in that position, he will continue as this group's representative and, for at least a while, the Atlantic States law enforcement representative.
The primary rule change in Florida is the stone crab limited entry/trap reduction program. It is a tagging program and its impact on enforcement will be just that, to make sure that traps in the water are properly tagged. To have proper tags, the fishermen will have to go through a process to prove how many tags should be allocated. That final rule review will occur at the end of the month. Over the past several years, their crawfish trap tagging program or limited entry program has been managed through statute. A year ago, we went through the legislation and got everything but the

penalty section of the stone crab bill within Florida's Commission rulemaking process. This will make the work much smoother.

Another problem that Florida is having and that he has heard of nation-wide is recruiting natural resource enforcement officers. In the not so distant past, Florida had a waiting list of 200 to 300 applicants. That number included applicants that were qualified and had gone through some background screening. Currently, Florida has an academy class in progress that began with 50 students but has diminished to numbers in the 40s. However, there is **no** waiting list at this time. By the time the recruits finish the academy and get out in the field, Florida will have at least the same number of vacancies and will have to run another class. This Committee, as well as the Atlantic States Law Enforcement Committee, should address this problem and try to come up with some solutions to low recruitment.

Alabama - J. Waller took this opportunity to tell outgoing representative D. Johnston how much he has enjoyed working with him on the Committee. Dennis has carried on the fine tradition of his predecessors from Texas and proven to be a voice of reason.

Waller mentioned the retirement incentive that is ongoing in Alabama. Department-wide, Alabama is losing a number of top officers, captains and lieutenants. Enforcement in Alabama is divided into several divisions – wildlife and freshwater fisheries, marine police, and marine resource enforcement. All three divisions have top officers retiring. Recruitment is difficult in Alabama, as well.

New legislation includes an oyster management program similar to Mississippi's program. Oyster fishermen are required to check-in in the morning, receive a trip notification slip (that must be in their possession while on the reefs), and then check out in the afternoon when returning to the dock. Tags will then be issued for their catch. This legislation will assist in oyster management and help better track shellfish for public health reasons. The money received for the tags (25¢ each) is returned to the shellfish planning program.

Alabama has also had problems with individuals running through coastal marshes in air boats and destroying vegetation. We photographed the damage tracks, and a year later those same tracks remained. We are attempting to be proactive and stop the problem now before it becomes much worse. In a meeting with the Conservation Advisory Board, we reported the problem, showed the photographs, and have been successful in submitting a regulation to prohibit air boats within the Alabama coastal area. This regulation is going through administrative procedures and will take approximately 120 days to enact.

J.T. Jenkins reported that the joint enforcement agreement has been sent to Dale Jones, NOAA Enforcement. He expressed his appreciation for the assistance from the states and D. McKinney.

The Alabama Coastwatch Program is doing quite well. There are over 100 members, and eight additional classes have been planned for the next three months. With education and a better knowledge of their man-power and patrol procedures, complaints have actually decreased. David Dexter, Alabama CCA, was contacted regarding the 1-800 phone line and expressed a positive interest in assisting with Alabama calls.

As you know Alabama has a recreational netting law. There is a bill in the legislature to repeal this law. We do, however, have some reservations whether the law will pass.

The Coast Guard is holding a Boarding Officer Class from May14-18 in Mobile. This is quality training that is accessible to all the states.

United States Coast Guard - D. Fiedler reported activities for the 8th District. A dedicated enforcement operation ran last week where they addressed the recreational and commercial snapper closure along with the month-wide Gulf closure for gag, red, and black grouper. That operation ran throughout the Gulf with an emphasis in the eastern Gulf in the gag grouper closure areas. Four cutters were deployed and several dozen boardings were done, but everyone was found to be in compliance. Industry is in compliance; this was good to see. We have also been getting increased, larger cutter support, three to five day periods with 210' cutters in the DeSoto Canyon area. This has allowed us to reach areas that our smaller patrol boats and 41' cutters cannot reach. Our first documented case in DeSoto Canyon occurred in February. A long-liner had set gear in the Canyon. He claimed that he understood the season was extended to March and was confused with the eastern Florida closures. Nonetheless, he agreed to haul back his gear and voluntarily released a few swordfish to sea. Two significant shrimp seizures have recently occurred. One was off Louisiana where a fisherman was fishing without TEDs/BRDs. He had 2,000 pounds of shrimp which were seized and sold for $3,400. Another case off Corpus Christi where a fisherman was fishing with a TED sewn shut. That catch was seized and sold as well. General statistics for the period October 1, 2000 through March 1, 2001 are:

Cutter patrol hours - 6500
Small boat patrol hours - 3250
Aircraft patrol hours - approximately 490
U.S. Commercial F/V boardings: 918
Foreign F/V boardings: 0
Total number of law enforcement boardings: approximately 1945
Magnuson Act violations: 27, approximately 97% observed compliance rate
TED boardings: 608 (39 with TED violations, approximately 94% observed compliance rate)
BRD boardings: 284 (19 with BRD violations, approximately 94% observed compliance rate)
Commercial F/V safety regulations: 413 (approximately 56% observed compliance rate)
Commercial F/V safety regulation terminations: 30
Lancha sightings: 45
Non-United States Master violations: 18
Undocumented aliens: 63

J. Waller indicated that Major McMahon in Massachusetts had reported that the Coast Guard is phasing out their 41' patrol boats. These were built in the 1970s. What would be the possibility of a state procuring a vessel? Fiedler confirmed that these vessels are being replaced by the new 47' cutters. The federal government is first in the pecking order, and states are either second or third in line. To get more information, the Patrol Boat Manager should be contacted at the U.S. Coast Guard Search and Rescue Officer. One of the boats has gone to the Florida Keys, and they are happy with it. Maintenance records have, of course, been kept for all the vessels. D. Fielder volunteered to provide J. Waller with a contact number for further information.

D. Cinalli reported for the 7th District. In April, the Coast Guard held a series of town meetings on the upcoming king mackerel season. Agency participation was good with representatives from the states, Coast Guard, and NOAA Enforcement. Turn out was high. The season opened on a Monday and closed Friday at noon. The season was good and came in right on quota. They are currently observing a lot of activity on the shrimp grounds north of Key West.

NOAA Enforcement and NOAA General Counsel - K. Raine also said she will miss D. Johnston and has enjoyed working with him. NOVAs were issued in 31 cases, 18 of those were Magnuson-Steven Act cases, one was a tuna case, four were endangered species, eight were marine sanctuaries, and one was a Lacey Act. Out of the 31 cases, it is notable that 11 were documented by Florida. That is not to say we are not working with all the states, even though they might not ultimately result in a charge by our office. Some cases ultimately result in a charge by the state. Summary settlements may also be issued even though we might work with the state extensively in anticipation of charges being issued. With the joint enforcement agreements, we are looking forward to working even more with the states.

Raine distributed a quarterly report for the agency. Significant actions included the following. In October 2000, Special Agents and officers from South Carolina seized 2,227 pounds of snapper, amberjack, porgy, sea bass and various other species from a charter fishing vessel. The captain was cited for failing to ensure that passengers released undersized fish and for exceeding the bag and possession limits. The fish were sold for $3,868.50. A Notice of Violation Assessment (NOVA) was issued joint and severely to the captain and owner for $10,000. In November, Special Agents and Coast Guard officers from Station Freeport seized 971 pounds of red snapper from a fishing vessel. The red snapper was sold for $1,699.25. The operator was cited for fishing during a seasonal red snapper closure. The operator and owner were issued a NOVA in the amount of $4,500. A NOVA totaling $12,000 was issued to the owner and operator of a fishing vessel for Tortugas Sanctuary violations. A NOVA totaling $12,500 was issued to the owner/operator of a fishing vessel for transfer at sea snapper/grouper subject to a bag limit and false statement to an authorized officer. A NOVA totaling $37,500 was issued to the owner and operator of a fishing vessel for three counts of importing fish taken in violation of Bahamian law into interstate commerce and for three counts of falsifying or failing to report or maintain required records

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Gary Young, Senior Resident Agent for the Fish and Wildlife Service attended as a guest of the Committee and was invited to give a brief report. Young explained that he has recently moved back to Texas with the USFWS and is based out of San Antonio. Two regions cover the area that the Committee is discussing today – Region 2 is (heading west from) Texas and Region 4 is Atlanta-based; Tom Riley is the director of law enforcement there. I am happy to be here and participate. If there is anything our agency can do to help you individually or collectively, I will be happy to discuss it with you.

2001 Operations Plan

J. Mayne reported that final revisions were made to the document in January at the work session. A revised copy is available in the meeting folder. All agreed that the document looks good and is understandable. From the Operations Plan, several items were requested from the Commission and Council.

J. Waller asked R. Leard to report the status of the items requested from the Council. Leard reported that each representative has been sent a copy of the administrative handbook which has replaced the standard operating procedure. Members should also have gotten a copy the Council membership list, the committee membership list, summaries of the FMPs, and summaries of regulatory amendments. The briefing books will be mailed along with any subsequent additions. He spoke with the Executive Director about the group's request to meet in conjunction with the Council in May. There is not any final action or major issues on the agenda for that meeting. He suggested the group prioritize which meetings to attend based on issues. To that end, Leard noted that there is one more item the group would benefit from, and he will send them the running time line of anticipated actions for the year. This will provide information to plan meeting attendance. There may be final action on the grouper plan in July. That would have substantial enforcement implications if all the options are approved.

J. Mayne reported that we also requested similar information from the Commission which has been received by the membership.

Strategic Plan Distribution

C. Yocom reported that she is waiting for the NOAA Enforcement badge and cover art. Once these items are received the document will be finalized and distributed as requested by the membership.

List of State/Federal MOUs & Other Agreements

J. Mayne reminded everyone to compile a list of their agency's MOUs, MOA, and other cooperative agreements. We will simply list this information and send to Cindy for Gulf-wide compilation. Add a reminder for the April conference call agenda.

List of Enforcement Training & Equipment

Alabama distributed their agency's list of equipment. Louisiana distributed their list of equipment and training. All other states were asked to compile similar lists and send to C. Yocom for Gulf-wide compilation. They will also be reminded of this during the April conference call.

C. Yocom suggested that a good forum on which to post this information would be the GSMFC web site. If all agree, she will ask the web master to create a page that can only be accessed by the LEC through a password. That way, the information can be updated real time, and the group would not have to deal with paper copy under constant revision. All agreed.

Enforceability Guidelines Distribution

B. Buckson reported that the revised document is not yet available. The ASMFC meets next week. Once the document is revised, he will send to C. Yocom for distribution to the group. The Committee agreed to defer work to the next strategic work session.

Strategic Work Session

If funding is available, the next strategic work session will be held in August 8-9. A location in the central Gulf is always best for the budget and those who usually drive. J. Mayne agreed to host the meeting at a state facility in Louisiana, Bayou Signette or Passaloutre. All agreed to a Louisiana location.

D. Fielder indicated a conflict with those dates. After a poll, mid-August would be most convenient for the membership; a final decision will be made during the April conference call.

J. Waller moved to request funding for a work session in August during the Commission Business Session. J. Mayne seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Other Business

Ghost Trap Discussion - J. Waller reported that the TCC Blue Crab Subcommittee is working on a report on the derelict crab trap problem. They want to work with law enforcement in the future on this problem. One of the major problems is defining a ghost trap. The number of ghost traps equals 30% of the number of traps in the fishery. There are astronomical figures – 15,000 in Louisiana alone. The group asked that the trap paper be sent to them when finalized. The executive summary can be sent now. Chairman Mayne will contact the chair of the subcommittee to follow up.

Tory Meter - J.T. Jenkins brought a Tory meter to show the group. It is a very simple tool. You set the meter, place it on the fish, and a number comes up between 0-16. Anything above eight has not been frozen. They cost between $3,500 - $4,500. Alabama had one case in which the meter was used that was successfully settled.

Resource Recruitment - G. Young noted that while the states seem to be having problems recruiting new cadets, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recently had 35 openings for which they received 1,635 applications. Most of which were state people. Insurance benefits and salary seem to be the problems.

Election of Vice Chairman - J. Mayne explained that due to the resignation of D. Johnston from the Committee, a special election will be held for vice chairman through October 2002. He opened the floor for nominations. **J. Waller moved to elect L. Young (Texas) as vice chairman. B. Buckson seconded the nomination, and Young was elected by unanimous acclamation.**

Once again, J. Mayne wished D. Johnston well and expressed appreciation for his service to the Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

APPROVED BY:
Virginia Vail
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 14, 2001
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman Virginia Vail called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. L. Simpson noted that a quorum was present and reviewed pertinent rules and regulations regarding meeting procedures.

The following Commissioners and/or proxies were present:

Commissioners
Vernon Minton, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL (*Proxy for Riley Boykin Smith)*
Mike Ray, TPWD, Austin, TX (*Proxy for Andrew Sansom*)
L. Don Perkins, GSMFC, Houston, TX
Walter J. Blessey, IV, GSMFC, Biloxi, MS
Corky Perret, MDMF, Biloxi, MS (*Proxy for Glen H. Carpenter*)
John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA (*Proxy for James H. Jenkins*)
Frederic L. Miller, GSMFC, Shreveport, LA
Virginia Vail, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL (*Proxy for Allan L. Egbert*)
William Ward, GSMFC, Tampa, FL

Staff
Larry Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Nancy Marcellus, Administrative Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Dave Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, SEAMAP/Habitat Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Joe Powers, NOAA/NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom McIlwain, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Columbus Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Michael Bailey, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom Van Devender, MDMR, Biloxi, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following changes: add item c., under Number 12, to discuss NISA; and, discussion of an enforcement issue regarding a proposed rule (for TEDs). This item will be discussed as time permits. Since it would only be a one hour session, V. Vail suggested that agenda items be addressed in the following order: Items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 10, or until the meeting adjourns at 2:00 pm.

C. Perret moved to approve the agenda with recommended additions and changes. V. Minton seconded. The motion was approved.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held October19, 2000, were approved with the following changes made on Page 62, Paragraph 4 (new paragraph to read):

> **J. Roussel moved to have the Executive Director respond to Mr. Walter's letter. That he inform Mr. Walter that the Commission had reviewed his letter and that they decided that the Executive Director's comments to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers should not be withdrawn. In addition, the letter to Mr. Walter should include copies of the Commission's Position Statement and Resolution pertaining to use of artificial reef material that may disassociate. The letter should also include information regarding policy in other states. D. Perkins seconded and added that the Artificial Reef Subcommittee should review both the Position Statement and Resolution. The motion was approved.**

C. Perret moved to approve the minutes with the recommended change. F. Miller seconded. The motion was approved.

NMFS Southeast Regional Office Reports (SERO)

J. Powers, Acting Director, reporting on behalf of NMFS/SERO, stated that the FY2001 budget distribution was underway. Funds allocated for red snapper have been distributed with the major portion going to bycatch estimation and fisheries observers. The processing of MARFIN proposals has also begun. Administrative funds are being watched closely due in part to a new administration. Travel, both domestic and foreign, is being limited, and a hiring freeze is in place. He anticipates that this will eventually be lifted once the new administration has the opportunity to see how the various departments operate.

T. McIlwain reported that several cruises were currently underway. The *Carretta*, a 65' shrimp boat that operates out of Pascagoula, is currently off the middle grounds in Florida. It has identified several gag spawning aggregations of which they were not previously aware. A moratorium on harvest of grouper has been in place over the last month to allow for spawning. During that time period they have been looking for spawning activities. The *RV Gordon Gunter* is currently on a marine mammal cruise and should return within the next few weeks. The *RV Oregon II* is currently undergoing its annual maintenance in the shipyard.

McIlwain reported that DOC/NOAA/NMFS has adopted a policy for aquaculture. This policy seeks to increase aquaculture production in the U.S. by the year 2025, by approximately 25 million metric tons. Last year Congress appropriated $5 million to support aquaculture research. Last week, a panel met in Washington, D. C. to review project proposals that have been received in response to a call for research proposals. Two hundred twenty-one proposals were submitted. The panel selected 45 proposals, and requested the principal investigators resubmit a complete proposal. These proposals will go through another panel review before they are recommended for funding.

T. McIlwain reported that 2000 was the best shrimp landing season since the 1980s. This is due in part to drought conditions, expanded habitat area in Louisiana, and reduced hypoxic area off the Louisiana coast.

NMFS is sponsoring a new website designed to accomplish agency outreach. This is an attempt to become more user friendly with all constituents. The web site is *www.fishnet.gov* and will provide users with weekly reports and updates on NMFS activities. Additionally, a calendar of events and *Federal Register* notices will be included.

USFWS Region 4 Office Report

C. Brown, reporting on behalf of USFWS Region 4, reported that on March 8, 2001, President Bush nominated Steve Griles to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Griles is currently with National Environmental Strategies and the President of J. Stevens, Giles and Associates. He served under the Reagan Administration as Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals. Tom Riley is the new Assistant Regional Director for Law Enforcement in the southeast region.

C. Brown updated the Commissioners on activities of the FWS, which includes work on regulations to authorize the incidental take of a small number of manatees under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The FWS's plans to release a third edition of Manatee Recovery Plan has been postponed due to substantial rewrites and a second review. The time frame for release has not yet been determined.

The Acting Director of FWS has notified the states and territories about procedures for distributing apportionments for wildlife grants under Title IX of the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Act for FY2001. Priority for funding from this program will be for those species with the greatest conservation needs as defined by the state wildlife and conservation restoration program. Plans from the states must be received by April 16.

C. Brown reported that the Florida Parks Department has plans to close Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge and to remove all state personnel. FWS staffing will be required to prevent closure of the island to the public. In the event that the Florida legislature approves these plans, officials from FWS and the state are discussing how best to assume management.

The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation will be started by the Census Bureau on April 1, 2001. Interviews will be done primarily by telephone, but will also be done in person. The survey should be finalized by Fall 2002.

Brown reviewed activities throughout Region 4. The Panama City field office is working with Florida, Georgia, and Alabama on a water allocation formula for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River system. An agreement has not been reached, but efforts will continue until May 2001. FWS has stocked 135,000 Phase II Gulf striped bass in the lower Apalachicola River during November, December, and January. The Panama City Fisheries Resource Office conducted a Gulf sturgeon population survey in the lower Choctawhatchee River. A total of 196 Gulf sturgeon were collected, tagged and released. Special agents of the FWS worked with LDWF during a three year investigation that resulted in conviction of a seafood operator in Cameron, LA with multiple Lacy Act violations involving oysters.

The FWS has established a Waterbird Bycatch Policy Statement and a task force to develop an action plan to eliminate waterbird bycatch in fisheries. In this regard the Solicitor for the DOI issued an opinion regarding the application of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) beyond the three mile limit. He concluded that the MBTA can be enforced extraterritorially against U. S. citizens for action taken in U. S. waters and beyond three nautical miles as well as in international waters. This opinion is subject to a six month review period. FWS will not implement this opinion during the time period.

FY 2001 NMFS Budget

L. Simpson reported that as of March 9, there was no information available for the FY2002 budget. Although Congress and NMFS have developed budgets, they have not been released. He reported on a study (referred to as the Kammer Report) that was done by an independent group commissioned by the Deputy Under Secretary of NOAA and the Assistant Administrator of NMFS. They looked at the NMFS budget by line item and made various recommendations regarding the agency's capability to meet their responsibilities. They reported that in FY2000 and FY2001, NMFS will fully utilize the fiscal resources and they projected a $13.9 million shortfall. The report concluded that NMFS is underfunded. J. Powers stated that this was a very broad report that covered not only budget shortfalls, but budget restraints imposed on certain types of funding. He felt that the report was beneficial to NMFS. L. Simpson agrees that it is becoming increasingly difficult for NMFS to meet their fiscal responsibilities.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, March 15, 2001
Brownsville, Texas

Chairman Virginia Vail called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The following Commissioners and/or proxies were present:

Commissioners
Vernon Minton, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL (*Proxy for Riley Boykin Smith)*
Mike Ray, TPWD, Austin, TX (*Proxy for Andrew Sansom*)
L. Don Perkins, GSMFC, Houston, TX
Walter J. Blessey, IV, GSMFC, Biloxi, MS
Corky Perret, MDMF, Biloxi, MS (*Proxy for Glen H. Carpenter*)
John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA (*Proxy for James H. Jenkins*)
Frederic L. Miller, GSMFC, Shreveport, LA
Virginia Vail, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL (*Proxy for Allan L. Egbert*)
William Ward, GSMFC, Tampa, FL

Staff
Larry Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Nancy Marcellus, Administrative Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Dave Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, SEAMAP/Habitat Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Sharon Flurry, Bookkeeper, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Joe Powers, NOAA/NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom McIlwain, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Columbus Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Michael Bailey, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom Van Devender, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Mayne, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Tony Reisinger, Texas A & M Marine Advisory Service, San Benito, TX

FY 2001 NMFS Budget (cont.)

L. Simpson reviewed the background of the Fisheries Information Network (FIN). He indicated a need for FY 2002 of approximately $5 million dollars for the cooperative state and Commission activities funded under the GulfFIN line item. He encouraged everyone to support this effort.

SEAMAP has been level funded for some years, and a new effort with the Atlantic participants to increase funding is underway. The SEAMAP partners concluded that the program requires a total of $6 million dollars beginning in FY 2002, a significant increase from the existing $1.4 million. The small increase of 200K for this year will do a great deal to aid the collection of fishery independent data, which are vital to both state and federal agencies.

The USFWS budget for Region 4 has historically languished behind other areas, especially with regard to fisheries work. Even the existing funds for Service work have not been allocated appropriately among the various Regions. The central area of the USFWS budget that most affects shared work with our states is under Resource Management and the portion of that line item titled Fisheries and Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance. He encouraged all to express their interest both to Congress and Region 4 for a more appropriate amount to address critical work

GSMFC Standing Committee Reports

Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) - J. Mayne, Chairman for the LEC reported that the LEC met Wednesday, March 14, 2001. He reported that the Committee received updates on the FIN program and IJF Program. The LEC is dedicated to the Gulf wide success of the FIN program and continues to be involved in the development of fishery management plans under the IJF program. The LEC requested to be involved in a report on the derelict crab trap problem being worked on by the TCC Blue Crab Subcommittee. They would like to be able to attend a meeting of the Subcommittee to discuss how law enforcement could assist in solving this problem.

The LEC received reports from the various states. He updated the Commissioners on the Law Enforcement Strategic Plan. Louisiana CCA will be making a presentation to the National Chapter of the CCA regarding the LEC's funding needs for a 1-800-number to report wildlife and fisheries violations in the Gulf.

In conclusion, he requested funding for a strategic work session to be held in August to work on enforcability guidelines. L. Simpson stated that a meeting with the TCC Blue Crab Subcommittee could be accomplished at no cost during an annual meeting. Funds for a strategic work session in August will be addressed if funds are available.

C. Perret moved to accept the LEC report. V. Minton seconded. The report was approved.

V. Minton discussed correspondence received by his office (ADCNR) from NMFS. This was in response to requested information regarding bait shrimp licenses. V. Minton stated that bait shrimpers are currently exempted from TED regulations. NMFS proposes that they not be exempt because limited tow times by bait shrimpers cannot be enforced. V. Minton expressed concerns about this proposed rule, because regulations for bait shrimpers in Alabama currently require that they use only a 16 foot trawl, they are required to maintain a trawl time of 20 minutes or less, and their activities are monitored by enforcement. He also stated that in Mobile Bay, where the bait shrimpers trawl, there is no evidence of sea turtles. C. Perret agreed, and requested NMFS contact the States before these rules become final. **F. Miller moved to have the Executive Director write NMFS to express the Commission's concerns regarding this proposed rule without having previously consulted the Gulf states. C. Perret seconded the motion, which passed.**

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Report - C. Perret reported that the TCC met on Wednesday, March 14, 2001. The Committee received status reports from the various states, NMFS and FWS.

S. VanderKooy reported that the TCC had reviewed and commented on the Menhaden FMP and the TCC approved it to be submitted to the State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee.

The TCC received reports from the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee, Crab Subcommittee, SEAMAP Subcommittee, Data Management Subcommittee, Artificial Reef Subcommittee, and the Habitat Subcommittee. The Crab Subcommittee and the Habitat Subcommittee are currently addressing issues involving the derelict crab traps in the Gulf of Mexico. **The TCC recommended that these two committees involve the LEC and the Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel in these discussions and report back to the TCC.**

On behalf of the Anadromous Subcommittee, **the TCC recommended that the Commission staff write a letter urging Congress to re-authorize the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act and incorporate language establishing a Gulf Striped Bass Restoration Program. This program would provide funding of $500,000 to each the FWS and the NMFS to assist with establishing this program. The letter should further urge Congress to annually appropriate a total of $3 million each to FWS and NMFS under this Act.**

C. Perret stated that in January, the Habitat Subcommittee had completed publication of a habitat poster. Twenty thousand posters were distributed to the various states.

The TCC reported that they had reviewed a resolution on the use of selected materials of opportunity as artificial reef material that was originally adopted March 17, 1997 by the Commission. They also reviewed the Commission's position statement on the use of automobile tires as artificial reef material that was adopted by the Commission on October 15, 1992. The TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee had revisited these documents at the request of the Commission. Upon review the TCC made minor changes to the documents. **On behalf of the TCC, C. Perret moved to approve both of the documents with the suggested changes. V. Minton offered a substitute motion to delay action on the resolution and position statement to allow time to solicit industry input. C. Perret seconded the motion.** V. Minton stated that in talking to some of the charter boat industry representatives, they expressed concern that industry had not had the opportunity to review these documents, and although they were not necessarily against the resolution or position statement, they would like the opportunity to provide input. **The motion was approved.**

W. Blessey moved to approve the TCC report. V. Minton seconded. The report was approved.

State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee (S-FFMC) Report - L. Simpson stated that the S-FFMC met Wednesday, March 14, 2001. The Committee received reports from the Menhaden Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel (CRFAP).

He reported that the menhaden landings for 2000 were down 15% from the previous year but were higher than the five year average. It is estimated that 510,000 metric tons of menhaden will be landed in 2001. The Commission continues to enter data from the Captains Daily Fishing Reports. This activity should continue through 2002.

The CRFAP recognized the increased interest in harvesting flounder and expressed concern over the lack of data necessary to develop effective management measures.

The S-FFMC also received reports on the status of IJF fishery management plans and other IJF activities. The S-FFMC reviewed the draft Menhaden FMP and will comment by August 31, 2001. The public comment period for the Blue Crab FMP was extended 60 days. The Flounder FMP is currently at the printer and will be distributed within the next two months.

The Committee also received status reports on the GSMFC data collection program and habitat program. D. Donaldson reviewed ongoing activities and the night fishing pilot program in Mississippi. J. Rester reported to the S-FFMC about ongoing projects that included the derelict crab trap issue, the annotated bibliography, and the habitat poster which is now available at the Commission office. R. Lukens updated the group on non-indigenous species in the Gulf of Mexico.

Federal Legislation

CARA - L. Simpson reported that this initiative (Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 2000) was originally designed as a marine use of funds from royalties received from oil and gas exploration and production, to help with environmental effects that occurred to the states from these type activities. Because of concern about what was done last year there are intentions to proceed with CARA legislation again this year. He reported that Congressman Young (Alaska) anticipates introducing legislation again to try establishing CARA as it was originally envisioned. Senator Landrieu (LA), Representative Tauzin (LA), and Senator Lott (MS) are also interested in seeing the act carried forward. He expects to see an effort go forward, he is not sure if it will be successful.

Anadromous Fisheries Act Reauthorization - L. Simpson referred to a letter written in April 2000, to the NOAA/NMFS Assistant Administrator of Fisheries regarding the Commission's concern regarding the distribution of funding under the Anadromous Fisheries Act. The Gulf of Mexico historically received only 3% of available funding, a figure which has decreased in recent years. The Assistant Administrator responded that an increase in funding to the Gulf of Mexico could not be accomplished. The most recent reauthorization provides that not more than $625,000 of the funds appropriated shall be obligated in any one state. This appears to be an effort to distribute the funds more equitably. The Act is coming up for reauthorization once again, but Simpson stated that this is not an automatic process. He believes it will be reauthorized. As indicated in the TCC report, the Commission will write a letter in support of the reauthorization of this Act (See details under TCC report.)

Marine Protected Areas Advisory Committee - L. Simpson reported that in accordance with Executive Order 13158, a Marine Protected Areas Advisory Committee has been established. Nominations were solicited and 26 finalists were selected out of 300. There are four representatives from the Gulf.

Ocean 2000 - L. Simpson reported that his name was one of the 8 names submitted by Senator Lott to serve on this Advisory Committee. The Committee will assess existing and planned facilities associated with ocean and coastal activities; review existing and planned facilities associated with ocean and coastal activities and facilities of federal entities; review cumulative affect of federal law and regulations on oceans; review the known and anticipated supply and demand for ocean and

coastal resources; review opportunities for new products and technology; review state and federal efforts; make recommendations to modify U.S. laws and regulations; and, review effectiveness and adequacy of existing agencies and recommend changes. L. Simpson stated that this was a very positive broad strategy. If he is selected for the Committee by the President it will be sometime this summer.

Red Drum Update

S. VanderKooy presented a summary of the GMFMC's Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel's recent study. His remarks centered on the Panel's concern regarding their stock assessment. He summarized the research needs and estimated cost of the research established by the Panel. He reported on seven research needs identified by the Panel: 1) The age composition of the adults in the offshore area needs to be monitored using a design that would provide a representative sample of adult ages; 2) the absolute abundance of adult red drum in the Gulf of Mexico needs to be accurately measured; 3) a coordinated Gulf-wide sampling program needs to be implemented to randomly sample the commercial and recreational catches for age composition data; 4) a standardized stock assessment methodology that can accept area (state)-specific data and work with these data within the context of a Gulf stock assessment needs to be developed; 5) area (state)-specific contributions of red drum to the offshore adult stock need to be assessed; 6) angler-release and shrimp-trawl bycatch mortality and the ages or lengths of caught-and-released fish need to be determined; and, 7) the length composition of the commercial catch needs to be measured.

F. Miller stated that it was his understanding that the purpose of this study was to compare it to the original study that led to the no-take policy and the current management regime. It appeared to F. Miller that this study was an expansion of those original parameters. He asked if everyone would agree on what they were trying to do with respect to sampling red drum. C. Perret stated that these proposals and this research will not solve the question of the status of the offshore stock. F. Miller asked if the intention of this research is to replicate the original study? J. Powers reported that this panel was not satisfied with their results and therefore they propose to revisit the study. It does not solve the stock assessment issue. There was a great deal of discussion regarding how to determine the health of the offshore stock. F. Miller stated if NMFS cannot answer this question, can some else? Can the five Gulf states do the job? All agreed that this was a problem for the GMFMC to solve. J. Powers indicated that funds have not been designated to do the proposed research. Commissioners that serve on the Council have discussed these issues at GMFMC meetings. There was no Commission action at this time.

New Items on the GSMFC Web Site

L. Simpson reported on new items now available on the Commission's website, *www.gsmfc.org*. Participants of the Commission's Annual and Spring meetings can now register online, review agendas and get hotel information. A new length-weight conversion function is now available. By entering a fish length and the site will give you a calculated weight. The search capabilities have been expanded. Pro Cite information is now accessible for IJF citations, including flounder and menhaden. Other references available include habitat. Artificial reef citations have been gathered and are accessible. The full SEAMAP data base is now on the GSMFC data management system and will be fully available in the near future.

Spotted Seatrout FMP Approval

S. VanderKooy reported that the Spotted Seatrout FMP had been distributed to the Commissioners. All Commissioners had reviewed the FMP. **F. Miller moved to approve the Spotted Seatrout FMP. W. Ward seconded the motion. The plan was approved.**

Invasive Species Update

R. Lukens reported that he is the Commission representative on the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and the National Invasive Species Advisory Council. He reviewed President Clinton's Executive Order which established the Advisory Council and determined the membership make-up for the group. One of the primary activities of the Advisory Council is to establish an invasive species management plan on a national scope. This objective has been completed. The plan is to be updated biennially.

He reported that there is concern among persons involved in the Council and advisory committee processes regarding the future of these groups and the invasive species management plan. He presented a draft letter to the Commissioners addressed to President Bush. The letter urges the new administration to continue support for the concepts embodied in the previous administration's Executive Order, regarding cooperative efforts to prevent, manage and control invasive species.

C. Perret moved to have the Executive Director send the letter to the President. F. Miller suggested some minor editing of the letter. J. Roussel requested that the letter reflect the need for strong state representation in this process. The Commissioners stated that in addition to those listed to receive a copy, that the state agencies, Gulf states Governors, Gulf congressional delegation, and others as appropriate, also receive a copy of this letter. The Commissioners requested to see the final draft before it is mailed. **V. Minton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

R. Lukens informed the Commissioners that the National Invasive Species Act is up for reauthorization. He will keep the Commissioners updated on this process.

Florida Fresh Water Issues

W. Ward reported that he had recently attended a meeting in Tampa, Florida hosted by the Governor of that State to discuss issues relevant to constituents. Of importance to W. Ward was the issue of the drought. Municipalities, county Commissioners, farmers and cattlemen were also there because of their concern regarding the impacts of the drought. He pointed out that no one from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection attended. He contacted people in the Florida Marine Research Institute and the Tampa Bay Estuary Program to get information regarding status of estuaries and freshwater inflows. He also read *"A Review and Application of Literature Concerning Freshwater Flow Management in Riverine Estuaries"* by Dr. Ernest D. Estevez, Director of Center for Coastal and Tropical Ecology, Mote Marine Laboratory. He felt that this was an issue that should be addressed by the Commission since it does affect the status of marine fisheries. Because of the impact that exists to our fisheries, he would like to see the Commission take a more formal and involved role, by initiating discussions and establishing the implications, priorities, and goals.

F. Miller said that water rights issues are becoming a very large issue in Louisiana. He stated that Sabine Lake has been adversely affected by a water diversion from the City of Houston, Texas. Water outflows from the Toledo Bend Reservoir and the Sam Rayburn Reservoir on the Sabine and Neches Rivers provide the estuary with freshwater. He would like to have one our committees begin to assist the Commissioners in focusing on these issues and the potential problems that may impact our essential fish habitat. He suggested either the TCC or Habitat Subcommittee be tasked with educating and advising the Commissioners. D. Perkins agreed that water rights is a serious issue. He thinks it is a state problem not a Gulf-wide problem to solve.

Mississippi and Louisiana have been working cooperatively for many years. J. Roussel stated that Louisiana has established a Water Task Force. The group is diverse and each representative has their own agenda. He feels like marine issues were not taken seriously. C. Perret stated that the states deal with these issues but he agreed with F. Miller and W. Ward - it would be a good idea to deal with this on a Gulf-wide basis. He would like the Commission staff and/or committees to compile information and bring it to the Commissioners. D. Frugé stated that the GMFMC is currently working on freshwater diversion issues through its Habitat Committee. He suggested working cooperatively with that group.

M. Ray reported that the Texas State Legislature passed a bill that provides for representation of the fish and wildlife people to sit on groups dealing with water issues. However, he stated, it is not working well. He would also like to see it addressed and discussed by the Commission.

It was the general consensus that water issues should be addressed by the Commissioners. It was also agreed, that this would be a difficult and challenging job. L. Simpson also felt that this would be a worthwhile effort and that the Commission's Habitat Subcommittee should be the vehicle used to get information and report back to the Commissioners. **It was agreed that he would direct staff to begin these efforts.**

J. Roussel moved to have the Executive Director write a letter to the Gulf States Governors expressing the Commission's concern regarding freshwater issues and the impact on fisheries. This would be beneficial since it would make everyone involved aware of the importance of fisheries and the impact freshwater flows have on fisheries. F. Miller requested that the Commissioners be sent a draft of the letter prior to it being sent. **W. Ward seconded. The motion was approved.**

Consideration of Commissioner Emeritus Status for *Charles H. Lyles* Award Recipients

V. Minton stated that it would be appropriate that when meeting in an area where a recipient of the *Charles H. Lyles Award* lives or works, that the recipient be invited to the meeting at no cost and that they would have the honorary title of Commissioner Emeritus. He felt this would be a small token of the Commissioners' continued appreciation for their efforts on behalf of marine fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. This expression would be for all past and future recipients. **C. Perret moved to adopt this policy. F. Miller seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

Selection of *Charles H. Lyles Award* Recipient for October 2001

D. Perkins nominated Walter Fondren for the recipient of this years *Charles H. Lyles Award.* He stated that Mr. Fondren has played a major role in conservation in the Gulf of Mexico and

would be a worthy recipient. F. Miller seconded. Mr. Fondren was nominated by acclamation.

Executive Committee Report

V. Vail reported that copies of the FY2000 audit report had been distributed to the Commissioners. F. Miller stated that since the Commissioners had just received the report he would like to delay action, and allow the Commissioners to thoroughly review the report. He suggested that a mail ballot be sent out for final approval.

V. Vail stated that several clarifications and a change were required in the GSMFC Administrative Manual. She explained that the staff has never been able to take Columbus Day since it usually interfered with the Annual Meeting. They have been substituting Mardi Gras for Columbus day and requested that if be officially documented in the manual. Another point of clarification, would be to change the title of Washington's Birthday, to President's Day which is now recognized in most organizations. In addition, she stated that the staff currently does not take Martin Luther King's Birthday as a holiday. It is a recognized state and federal holiday and would be appropriate to include as an official holiday. **C. Perret moved to adopt the change and clarifications. D. Perkins seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

L. Simpson took the opportunity to introduce the Commission's new bookkeeper, Sharon F. Flurry.

State Director's Reports

Florida - V. Vail reported on behalf of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. A major initiative currently in Florida is the implementation of a stone crab certificate program. This will be in effect for the 2001-2002 season. Every stone crab trap in state waters must have a tag. If the traps are in federal waters, the trap must have a federally issued tag or a state tag. This initiative is subject to administrative appeal, and V. Vail anticipates that there will be appeals.

There is a proposed rule going before the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to repeal a prohibition on power assist or fishing net deployment. The Commission feels that since the main complaint has been difficulty in maneuvering 2" square mesh nets that the power assist might solve the problem as opposed to a change in mesh size.

Florida allows for a limited amount of sub-sized oysters to be taken as long as it is done within the same harvest. A problem occurs when the wholesale dealers separate the oyster by size. The Commission had been considering decreasing the size limit from 3" to 2-1/2", but because of issues raised by law enforcement, they have requested that the problem be re-examined in a public workshop forum.

Alabama - V. Minton reported on behalf of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division (ADCNR/MRD). In cooperation with UNOCAL an oil platform was put down in about 300 feet of water, 50 miles southeast of Dauphin Island. This was done on August 2, 2000, and he told the Commissioners that if they were interested in viewing the deployment they could access video clips on the Department's website. Inshore, he reported that

Klondike, Fish River and Shell Bank reefs have been planted with 21,000 cubic yards of oyster shells.

Since August 2000, the MRD has been online with a trip ticket program. There has been a very positive response from dealers with this program and it is running smoothly.

Current legislation may provide for a Oyster Management Station Program, similar to the program operating in Mississippi. This program could assist law enforcement and would track each sack of oysters from harvest to the dealers. It is an expensive procedure but would be beneficial for resource management and consumer protection.

ADCNR/MRD was designated by the Governor as a lead agency for the Coastal Impact Assessment Program. Funding available through this program has not yet been distributed but meetings are being held to prioritize the use of these funds. The Department would like to utilize funds to put a saltwater pipeline in from the Gulf to the Claude Peteet Mariculture Center. This would improve water quality and the ability to raise species such as red snapper.

The Department reviewed rules and made several changes to the inshore fisheries. Spotted seatrout now have a 10 fish daily bag limit with a 14 inch minimum size limit, with a tolerance for 2 undersized fish. Based on review and study, the take of 2 undersized fish has been eliminated. Pompano already has a 12" size limit and they now have a 3 fish bag limit. Based on a study from the University of South Alabama triple tails are limited to a 3 fish bag limit with a 16" minimum size. Striped bass has gone from 6 fish to 2 fish. Atlantic sharpnose sharks are limited to 2 per day per fishermen with one additional shark of 54 inches or longer. Other fisheries were addressed to be in accordance with federal rules. Spanish mackerel bag limit was increased from 10 to 15 with no size limit. King mackerel size limit went from 20" to 24". Recreational fishermen can now catch 22 inch gag groupers, and the commercial fishermen are limited to 24 inch fish.

Mississippi - C. Perret reported on behalf of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) that Mr. Glen Carpenter was appointed director of the MDMR by Governor Musgrove. In addition, the Governor replaced two Commissioners. As state revenues fail to meet projections, the Governor has ordered a 5 % reduction of all state agency budgets. He reported that the Coastal Impact Assistance Program was not assigned to MDMR, but to another state agency.

Mississippi has established an Crab Task Force that is made up of both commercial and recreational fishermen, research scientists, law enforcement, and others. The Task Force has requested that efforts be put into place to remove derelict crab traps. To date 1,590 derelict crab traps have been removed. Keesler Air Force Base is recycling the traps for the MDMR. The Mississippi Commission approved a $5.00 recreational crab license. It has met with opposition and there is a current bill in the Mississippi Legislature to prevent MDMR from requiring this license.

Negotiations between Mississippi and Louisiana legislators and agency personnel continue to attempt to resolve a long-standing fee war over non-resident fishing and hunting licenses. Most participants believe that resolution is near.

Despite more rain and associated reef closures this past winter, approximately 300,000 sacks of oysters were harvested through February 2001. All reefs in Mississippi are closed at the present time

due to flooding. The oyster trip ticket system is operating and was modified to utilize scanable forms. MDMR will host the Gulf and South Atlantic Shellfish Sanitation Conference in Biloxi on April 23-25, 2001.

Mississippi finfish personnel continue to collect recreational and commercial landings data and have initiated a nighttime sampling program on recreational gigging for flounder, and fishing from piers and jetties.

Research activities in conjunction with Gulf Coast Research Laboratory involve tagging programs for cobia, tripletail, and spotted seatrout; work involving striped bass restoration; and the investigation of Sargassum mats as essential fish habitat for offshore species.

Over 30 years ago the GSMFC and the then Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (now NMFS) were involved in a cooperative Gulf of Mexico Estuarine Inventory. The MDMR has been able to obtain funds to duplicate the study. The comparison of these studies over time will provide valuable information as to the current status of the marine and coastal resources off Mississippi.

MDMR is actively pursuing trying to get abandoned oil platforms to place in offshore waters as artificial reefs. There is an artificial reef zone specifically for oil and gas platforms off Mississippi, which has already received two small platforms.

Louisiana - J. Roussel, reporting on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), indicated that Louisiana shrimp landings for 2000 totaled 92.2 million pounds. These landings were the second highest annual total on record, falling short of the all-time record of 93.7 million pounds in 1986. White shrimp landings exceeded those reported for any previous year while brown shrimp landings for the year rated 3rd, following the brown shrimp record production years of 1990 and 1986. The commercial fisheries trip ticket program is going very well. The 2000 shrimp data were sent to NMFS a month ago. It is still subject to some editing, but it is working well. Data are near real-time at this point. As of January 1, the trip ticket program is now using a computerized system to allow dealers to enter information and file electronically. Approximately 30 dealers are using this system. LDWF has received many favorable responses. They hope to have a web based version available by this Fall. There is generally a winter/spring closure of offshore estuaries, and this year there is a closure from Freshwater Bayou east to waters off Terrebonne Parish that will stay in effect until Spring.

Louisiana has added three new artificial reefs since October. There currently exists over 100 artificial reef structures (oil and gas) at 32 different sites. Additionally there are 40 armored personnel carriers, and 8 inshore shell reef pads. Plans are underway for additional inshore reefs. There is over $15 million in Louisiana's artificial reef trust fund.

Louisiana has changed their state regulations to be consistent with the federal regulations on the following species: Nassau, black, red and gag grouper; king and Spanish mackerel; marlin; and tuna. Louisiana has eliminated reporting requirements for permit holders for spotted seatrout, pompano, mullet and black drum. They were able to do this because their trip ticket program is now providing this information previously provided by permit holders.

Negotiations continue between Louisiana and Mississippi regarding recreational fishing license fees, charter boat fees, and recreational hunting license. He pointed out that Mississippi charges Louisiana residents more for a hunting license than the other Gulf states.

J. Roussel stated that in regards to previously reported coastal restoration efforts, there have been conflicts. One of the major diversion projects, the Caenarvon, went online in 1991, led to lawsuits filed by the oyster industry claiming damages to their leases. That lawsuit resulted in a trial court settlement in favor of the oyster industry, awarding them $21,000 per acre of oyster lease. That totals to a $48 million dollar judgement in favor of the oyster industry. The settlement expanded the award to all similar leases in the Breton Sound area which brings the total award to between $700 million and $1.3 billion. That ruling will be appealed, and if necessary, it will go to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Texas - M. Ray, reporting on behalf of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), stated that the Texas Legislature is currently in session. The most significant bill to the TPWD is the Sunset Review bill that will describe the direction of the Department over the next 12 years. Other important legislation includes bills regarding oyster lease fees, terms, and conditions and bills regarding the agency's authority to manage marine resources.

In December 2000 a state auditor's report and an attorney general's opinion were received regarding the oyster lease program. These reports have led to a considerable amount of discussion with the oyster industry, the lease holders and the legislature in an attempt to resolve issues addressed in these documents regarding fees, terms and conditions.

The 8th shrimp license buy-back round was completed with a total of 553 bay and bait licenses being retired. The 1st crab license buy-back round resulted in the purchase of 7 licenses. The shrimp licenses averaged $6,200 and the crab licenses average $3,000. Lynn Benefield who has been with the TPWD for 35 years and has been administering the oyster lease program will be retiring at the end of March.

To date, approximately 40 cold stunned green sea turtles, that had been stranded during the recent cold weather, will be released into the vicinity where they were found stranded in the Laguna Madre.

M. Ray reported that he has been appointed by the USFWS and the NMFS to serve as a member of the Kemp's Ridley Recovery Team. The mission of this team is to revise the recovery plan for this species over the next 18 months.

Future Meetings

G. Herring reported that the next meeting will be held October 15-18, 2001 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The March 18-21, 2002 meeting will be held in Biloxi, Mississippi. No contracts have been signed with hotels at this time.

Publication List

L. Simpson stated the Publication List has been updated and is provided for informational purposes. Contact the office if you need copies of any publication.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

NOAA Constituent Meeting
Meeting Summary
Thursday April 26, 2001
Biloxi, Mississippi

Background

With the onset of new a President and administration, there has been a renewed effort on the part of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) also known as NOAA Fisheries, to obtain feedback from the general public on issues relating to marine fisheries throughout the country. For that reason Dr. William Hogarth, Acting Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries, decided to schedule meetings throughout the Gulf, Atlantic, and Pacific coast states to provide the general public an opportunity to voice their questions and concerns and to help better understand the issues that are troubling local stakeholders. The first of these meetings in the Gulf was held in Biloxi Mississippi on Thursday evening April 26th from 7pm to 9pm. Forty seven people attended the meeting.

Overview of Marine Fisheries Status

Dr. Hogarth began with a brief slide presentation providing some general information about fish stocks, economic expenditures, and future agency improvements. Dr. Hogarth explained how the Magnuson-Stevens Act has provided positive results and discussed working toward sustainability of fisheries for all who depend on them. In 2000, 51 additional stocks had acceptable harvest rates when compared to 1999, and 26 fish were removed from the overfished list in 2000. Dr. Hogarth showed that in 1999, 7.8 million people took 56.9 million recreational fishing trips that contributed $25 billion dollars to the U.S. economy. Commercial fishing contributed $27 billion to the U.S. economy. Dr. Hogarth talked briefly about some of the important species in the Gulf and the management issues surrounding them. Red snapper are being managed based on long term rebuilding goals along with instituting a 5 year program to keep management actions in place for recreational users. NMFS hopes to enhance stability, as well a predictability for the public at large and a growing charter boat business. Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRD's) are working to reduce red snapper mortality from shrimp bycatch. Sea turtles also have benefitted

from BRD's, turtle excluder devices (TED's), and longline restrictions. Protections for swordfish and marlin and an upcoming fishery management plan for dolphin and wahoo are examples of some of the issues involving highly migratory species. Dr. Hogarth stated that it was very important to improve National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) working relationship with the industry. He mentioned that better voluntary reporting of data is vitally important. From prior feedback, the NMFS realized that they need to provide better outreach, improved science, better support for industry, balanced council representation with respect to recreational and commercial fishing, and more transparency in decision making. All of these factors are important to improve communication between NMFS and stakeholders.

Red snapper

Several members of the audience had questions and comments concerning the management of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico. Many red snapper questions were centered around the April 21 through October 31 recreational season that was implemented in 2000. One person mentioned that he would like to see the season changed to open in July and close in December. This would help prevent killing many of the small fish caught early in April since the fish are much larger during the winter and would provide anglers a better chance of catching a legal red snapper. This gentleman also has a petition with over 7,000 signatures that are in favor of a July through December recreational red snapper season. Another attendee, owner of a recreational marina in Mississippi mentioned that having the recreational red snapper season closed at any time of the year is detrimental to his business. He asked if it would be possible to have a recreational season similar to the commercial red snapper season where it would be open every month of the year for a given amount of days. Dr. Hogarth mentioned that prior to 2000 there was no stability in the red snapper regulations. It is mandated by law that when the quota is reached for red snapper, the fishery must be closed. In an attempt to better monitor the red snapper fishery under stable regulations, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) decided to formulate regulations for this fishery that would not be changed for a 5 year period. NMFS does not want to shut down the red snapper season but to ensure proper rebuilding the fishery must be closed. GMFMC and NMFS held many stakeholder

meetings in 1999 to get their input on the best dates for having the red snapper season open and close. From their input, GMFMC chose an April 21 through October 31 season. Dr. Hogarth stated this could be changed in the future but NMFS can not make the change, this must be decided by GMFMC. The red snapper fishery is managed by GMFMC and only after GMFMC recommends changing the season can NMFS implement the change. A representative with the commercial industry asked about a rumor that NMFS received a petition to change the red snapper total allowable catch (TAC) in the Gulf of Mexico from 9 million pounds to 3 million pounds which would effectively close the season in May or June. Dr. Hogarth confirmed that they did receive a petition from the Texas Shrimp Association and that any petition must be listed in the federal register. The petition will be subject to comment and review from the public. Dr. Hogarth believes NMFS is satisfied with the 9 million pound TAC. After an inquiry, Dr. Hogarth stated the red snapper season for federal waters was the same for every state. NMFS encouraged the states to manage their state waters for red snapper under the same season as federal waters and for the most part the states do follow the same season.

Red drum

The topic of red drum being closed to all harvest in federal waters was another important topic. Many recreational anglers wanted to know if the harvest restrictions will ever be lifted in federal waters. They are seeing more and more red drum every year and do not understand why the harvest restrictions continue to exist. One angler stated that many of the largest adults spend the majority of their life in federal waters which puts them off limits for harvest. Dr. Hogarth mentioned that the states manage red drum and allow harvest based on proper management regulations. NMFS is not opposed to reopening federal waters to harvest but that change would need to be evaluated in light of health and abundance of the offshore portion of the stock before it could be implemented. Currently red drum are classified as overfished but Dr. Hogarth said there is a plan in the future to re-evaluate red drum in federal waters.

Other Management Issues

A gentleman from the Coastal Conservation Association noted that at a prior meeting Dr. Hogarth mentioned a change in marine fisheries management from harvest concerns to stock rebuilding in the future and wondered how that affects the state fishery managers. Dr. Hogarth responded by saying NMFS will always work in cooperation with state fishery managers to manage shared species since most marine species utilize overlapping State and Federal jurisdictions. Using the state stock assessment staff can help develop a better partnership between NMFS and states managers. Chris Dorsett from Gulf Restoration Net asked what NMFS is doing to resolve the slow process of implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Act since the GMFMC has been slow to proceed. Dr. Hogarth stated NMFS is working with each council to get the overfishing definitions cleared up and is also working on an implementation schedule. Mr. Dorsett also asked how NMFS plans to collect data for overfished and relatively unknown stocks in order to be more proactive in management. Dr. Hogarth noted the difficulty in sampling everything in the Gulf but explained that through cooperative research it may be possible to look at more species and populations. Chris LaGarde from Mississippi Congressman Gene Taylor's office wondered where NMFS was with respect to the Essential Fish Habitat plan. Dr. Hogarth mentioned they've developed a NOAA team to work with the state directors on this issue. He mentioned that this is a broad ranging plan and new methods of looking at the differing habitat types and how they affect fish stocks are still being developed. Becky Gillette, representing the Mississippi Chapter of the Sierra Club, provided a summary of several areas of concern from that group. She emphasized the importance of Marine Protected Areas as control sites for research purposes and noted that these areas must not only be no-take zones but must also exclude all disruptive activities. Gillette noted that the Sierra Club urges state and federal agencies to invest expanded research on habitat, mortality, climate change, threats posed by biotoxins, bacteria, and viruses, and development of less destructive fishing gear and techniques. Dr. Hogarth mentioned ecosystem management approaches will help in the future with global climate changes and their effects. Unfortunately this method is expensive and will require extensive sampling to develop the necessary models. Another person from the audience asked if artificial reefs are being evaluated to determine if they have positive

effects. Larry Simpson of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) stated that research is being done primarily at the state and university level and the benefits are still being evaluated. Mr. Simpson noted that there is a delicate balance involving materials used, location of the reefs, and how the structures are built, that determine the effectiveness of artificial reefs.

A member of the audience noted that there appears to be a large gap between regulators and stakeholders and wondered how the regulators inform the public on changes in regulations or policies. Many other people mentioned that they never hear about changes until they have been implemented and wondered how they could get involved with the process at an earlier stage. Dr. Hogarth explained that the GMFMC holds several meetings to research and gather information on issues in order to decide what needs to be done. Several alternatives are developed to ~~manage~~ address any ~~the~~ issue. That entire report goes out for public review and the public is allowed to come to future meetings to comment. The council then makes a decision based on the best science and feedback they have received. The council then delivers that decision to NMFS and NMFS reviews the recommendation against various federal statutes it must consider. If it is a new regulation that process could take up to two years. If it is an amendment to an existing regulation it can be done in six to nine months. New regulations are then posted in the federal register along with local radio, news, web sites, and mailing lists. The GMFMC does have ample opportunity for public involvement. Much of the audience mentioned they did not know where or how they could find out when and where the council has its meetings. Dr. Hogarth noted that interested parties can go to the GMFMC website at www.gulfcouncil.org. They can provide their e-mail address and will receive notification of all public council meetings. (At the end of this summary we have provided web sites and telephone numbers of several important agencies in the region where important information can be obtained.) Another person asked how the council is formed and who sits on the council. Dr. Hogarth explained that the state director from each Gulf state sits on the council along with at least one appointee from each state chosen from a list of at least 3 individuals submitted by the state's governor. Other members are chosen in a similar fashion but can be from any of the five gulf states for a total of 17 voting members which includes the NMFS regional administrator. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission,

the Coast Guard, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Department are also members but are nonvoting. Typically there is variation in thedistribution between recreational and commercial appointee's on any given council over the years.

Closing thoughts

Dr. Hogarth thanked everyone for their attendance and questions. He emphasized that NMFS will take all of the questions seriously and will follow through on any items brought up that need further attention. He also encouraged anyone with questions to contact NMFS. He recognized there is a great deal of work to be done but he and his staff are there to answer any and all questions from stakeholders.

Agency	Web site	Telephone
National Marine Fisheries Service	http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/	1-301-713-2259
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council	http://www.gulfcouncil.org/	1-888-833-1844
NMFS Southeast Regional Office	http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/	1-727-570-5333
NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center	http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/	1-305-361-5761
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	http://www.gsmfc.org/	1-228-875-5912
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources	http://www.dmr.state.ms.us/	1-228-374-5000
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	http://www.wlf.state.la.us/	1-225-765-2383 (marine fisheries)
Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources	http://www.dcnr.state.al.us/	1-334-968-7577

Otolith Work Group Meeting Summary
Thursday, April 26- Thursday, April 27, 2001
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Participants:
Ken Edds, LDWF
Julia Clifton, LDWF
Eric Robillard, FMRI
Dan Merryman, FMRI
Joel Llopiz, FMRI
Tut Warren, GCRL
Bob Colura, TPWD
Britt Bumgaurdner, TPWD
John Mareska, ADCNR/AMRD
Andy Fischer, LSU
Linda Lombardi-Carlson, NMFS
Karen Foote, LDWF
Lisa Bare, LDWF
Scott Baker, LSU
Cindy Yocom, GSMFC
Steve VanderKooy, GSMFC

The April meeting was hosted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The primary topic of concern was the re-organization of the manual. It was finally agreed that sections based on equipment type might be best. Most labs already have saws in place and techniques based on saw types would allow a reader to go directly to the technique that applies to their setup. In addition, it was agreed that some redundancy must occur between the individual species accounts and the general procedures section. VanderKooy would revise the general section and asked those responsible for the species sections to update theirs accordingly. The next meeting is scheduled for July 23-25 at the Sea Center in Lake Jackson, Texas.

NOAA Constituent Meeting
Meeting Summary
Wednesday May 2, 2001
Tampa, Florida

Background

With the onset of new a President and administration, there has been a renewed effort on the part of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) also known as NOAA Fisheries, to obtain feedback from the general public on issues relating to marine fisheries throughout the country. For that reason Dr. William Hogarth, Acting Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries, decided to schedule meetings throughout the Gulf, Atlantic, and Pacific coast states to provide the general public an opportunity to voice their questions and concerns and to help better understand the issues that are troubling local stakeholders. The second of these meetings in the Gulf was held in Tampa Florida on Wednesday evening May 2nd from 7pm to 9pm. Fifty seven people attended the meeting.

Overview of Marine Fisheries Status

Dr. Hogarth began with a brief slide presentation providing some general information about fish stocks, economic expenditures, and future agency improvements. Dr. Hogarth explained how the Magnuson-Stevens Act has provided positive results and discussed working toward sustainability of fisheries for all who depend on them. In 2000, 51 additional stocks had acceptable harvest rates when compared to 1999, and 26 fish were removed from the overfished list in 2000. Dr. Hogarth showed that in 1999, 7.8 million people took 56.9 million recreational fishing trips that contributed $25 billion dollars to the U.S. economy. Commercial fishing contributed $27 billion to the U.S. economy. Dr. Hogarth talked briefly about some of the important species in the Gulf and the management issues surrounding them. Red snapper are being managed based on long term rebuilding goals along with instituting a 5 year program to keep management actions in place for recreational users. NMFS hopes to enhance stability, as well a predictability for the public at large and a growing charter boat business. Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRD's) are working to reduce red snapper mortality from shrimp bycatch. Sea turtles also have benefitted from BRD's, turtle excluder devices (TED's), and longline restrictions. Protections for swordfish and marlin and an upcoming fishery management plan for dolphin and wahoo are examples of some of the issues

involving highly migratory species. Dr. Hogarth stated that it was very important to improve National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) working relationship with the industry. He mentioned that better voluntary reporting of data is vitally important. From prior feedback, the NMFS realized that they need to provide better outreach, improved science, better support for industry, balanced council representation with respect to recreational and commercial fishing, and more transparency in decision making. All of these factors are important to improve communication between NMFS and stakeholders. Dr. Hogarth finished his presentation by mentioning that compared to 2001, the President's budget for 2002 has an additional 12 million dollars for research purposes in the Southeast. This money can be used for activities such as stock assessments, cooperative research, social-economic data, additional money for the Councils, essential fish habitat, sea turtle recovery, and vessel monitoring research.

Stakeholder questions and concerns

Several questions were raised about problems with data collection and the interpretation of data. Some people were concerned that regulations are being set using data from years that had been affected by unusual environmental conditions (i.e., severe drought, hurricanes, etc.). Dr. Hogarth mentioned that NMFS continues to review their data collection procedures. A mandatory recreational fishing license would be helpful for sampling the recreational fishery. He also mentioned that looking at data over longer time periods for quota and stock assessment purposes helps alleviate the environmental affects that may only affect one year of data. An attendee asked why fishing seasons continue to be shortened and why the size of our fishing fleets are being limited when we need more data of higher quality. Dr. Hogarth explained that NMFS attempts to do the best job it can in collecting high quality data. In the future more cooperation with industry will help provide better data. It was noted that from a stakeholder standpoint, trust in NMFS is at an all-time low. Dr. Hogarth agreed and noted that personnel morale was low but noted that he is committed to form a better relationship between industry representatives and NMFS. He would like to see more discussion and consideration of observer programs. Dr. Hogarth thinks this will help improve confidence in data quality. He also mentioned that NMFS will soon have rebuilding plans for all fish stocks listed as overfished. Anything NMFS can do to get the public involved with the management process will help build confidence in the agency. A woman representing a large commercial fishing operation in Florida was concerned about current commercial snapper regulations, and asked if some changes could be made

to help her fleet because their business suffers with bad weather seasons based on the current quota system. She is also concerned that if United States fishermen are burdened by season closures and size limits that pricing of red snapper and grouper could be by law higher when seasons are open to compensate for money not being made when they are not allowed to fish. Dr. Hogarth mentioned that all of those changes could happen but would have to be made by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC). Dr. Hogarth mentioned that many snapper anglers have asked for individual transferrable quotas (ITQs). Legislation currently states that we can not have ITQs but Congressional hearings will be held in the future to revisit this issue.

The point was raised that currently it appears, that we continue to manage fish with size limits, bag limits, and season closures yet we know that over 90% of finfish in the Gulf of Mexico are estuarine related. Dr. Hogarth mentioned that every Gulf state is showing rapid loss of wetland habitat which directly affects the number of fish available. An attendee asked if reduction in fish stocks is due to loss of habitat more so than overfishing. He also asked Dr. Hogarth if in the future everyone would be held accountable for wetland loss, not just the anglers. Dr. Hogarth mentioned it is nearly impossible for NMFS to protect this habitat. He reminded the audience that most of this land is under the jurisdiction of state laws and people should write their Congressmen on these issues. From a fish stock standpoint, managing the amount and sizes of fish harvested is the only avenue NMFS has to regulate overfishing. A question was raised about how the essential fish habitat plan was progressing. Many people are confused by previous meetings and what essential fish habitat encompasses. Dr. Hogarth explained NMFS is putting together a new group to look at ecosystem management and essential fish habitat. Hopefully a workshop or seminar will be developed by this group and will be announced in the future. There has been some money appropriated this year to look at the effects of fishing on fish habitat which will provide more information concerning essential fish habitat. A question was also raised about the ecosystem management approach. It was noted that many commercial operations target one or two specific species of fish, therefore ecosystem management approaches would be difficult because of the broad based approach. Dr. Hogarth explained it is going to be difficult to collect the massive amount of data necessary to develop models at that level. Hopefully working with the Councils, the ecosystem management approach can provide positive results.

A question was asked about requiring bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in a region of the Florida Keys when this region was not included in the previous BRD mandates and there had been no justification

for requiring them. Dr. Hogarth stated that justification would have to be provided and this would have to come from the Council level. The Council will be looking into this issue at their next meeting which is being held in Panama City, Florida, however the Council is still gathering information and no decision should be expected soon. The original BRD requirement was for red snapper bycatch which is not a big factor in Florida but the Council is looking at all finfish bycatch. Another concern was raised regarding possible errors in NMFS interpretation of regulations after the Council has forwarded recommendations. An attendee noted that, by law, the Secretary of Commerce has discretion in implementing regulations from Council recommendations. The Council is free to come back and state that their recommendation was not carried out in the manner in which they intended. Dr. Hogarth mentioned that NMFS can meet with the Council to assure that they are correct in their interpretation of a recommendation. The question was raised as to whether NMFS had any priorities during the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Dr. Hogarth said that no priorities had yet been identified since much of the NOAA staff has yet to be determined by the new administration. Dr. Hogarth mentioned there will be several meetings this year regarding the Magnuson-Stevens Act and it is unlikely that anything will be done during this congressional session.

Some new commercial captains are concerned about how far back into historical data regulators will look to include captains in the fishery before implementing a moratorium on permits. Steve Atran from the Council stated that there are several alternatives in place, however no decisions have been made. A representative of the Center for Marine Conservation asked Dr. Hogarth to discuss the use of marine protected areas as a future management tool through Council process since current data support the use of these areas. Dr. Hogarth noted that the development of marine protected areas is proper and their usefulness should continue to be explored. A discussion followed concerning the difficulty in enforcing laws for marine protected areas, for both commercial and recreational anglers, and if equal time was being spent in enforcement for both groups. A representative from NOAA law enforcement answered this question noting that it is difficult to enforce imaginary boundary lines, but radar and various patroll tactics are currently being utilized in an attempt to monitor these areas. Future technological improvements in vessel monitoring systems should improve this situation. Both recreational and commercial fisherman caught fishing in marine protected areas have been prosecuted and NOAA enforcement does their best to be as fair as possible to all groups.

Another concern centered around the review of documents sent to the Center for Independent Experts. Some people have the impression that reviews of different scientific documents have been inadequate. Dr. Hogarth explained that NMFS uses this to obtain peer reviews of important documents. It originally was centered at the University of Miami but is now up for rebid. The center is supposed to have a list of reviewers to choose from who coordinate the proper review of documents with no involvement on the part of NMFS in an attempt to obtain an independent peer review.

Dr. Hogarth mentioned earlier that for 2002, the budget for fisheries monitoring in the Southeast is the highest it has ever been. The question was raised as to whether any priorities had been identified with the increased budget. Dr. Hogarth mentioned increases in socio-economic data collection, and observer programs. Much of the research spending will be aided by input from the Councils.

With stocks becoming overfished, limited entry has become an option for helping improve fish stocks. Many fishing operations have few alternatives left since so many stocks have been reduced. A question was raised as to whether NMFS will continue to regulate all boats or if there will be an opportunity to have a buyout of some operations to help reduce the fleet size. Dr. Hogarth felt that a buyout plan will be necessary and that there is already some political backing for such a program, however it will be important to determine what capacity the fishery and industry can support.

A representative from the Aquatic Release Conservation asked for an update on sea turtles with respect to line cutters, dip nets, and dehooking devices. Dr. Hogarth responded that regulations have been implemented regarding line cutters and dip nets. An attendee asked if there was a threshold value where the sea turtle population could be declared recovered. Dr. Hogarth noted that it is different for each species but the numbers can be provided by contacting Dr. Hogarth's office.

Closing thoughts

Dr. Hogarth thanked everyone for their attendance and questions. He emphasized that NMFS will take all of the questions seriously and will follow through on any subjects brought up that need further attention. He also encouraged anyone with questions in the future to call NMFS. He recognized that there is a great deal of work to be done but he and his staff are there to answer any and all questions from stakeholders.

Agency	Web site	Telephone
National Marine Fisheries Service	http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/	1-301-713-2259
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council	http://www.gulfcouncil.org/	1-888-833-1844
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council	http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov/	1-843-571-4366
NMFS Southeast Regional Office	http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/	1-727-570-5333
NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center	http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/	1-305-361-5761
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	http://www.gsmfc.org/	1-228-875-5912
Florida Marine Research Institute	http://www.floridamarine.org/	1-797-896-8626
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	http://www.dep.state.fl.us/	1-850-921-1222

APPROVED BY:
Kevin Anson
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

FISHERIES INFORMATION NETWORK (FIN)
MINUTES
June 5, 6, 7, 2001
St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.

Tuesday, June 5, 2001 - 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Page Campbell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following members, staff and others were present:

Members
Kevin Anson, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Bill Cole, USFWS, Morehead City, NC (proxy for D. Frugé)
Kerwin Cuevas, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Guy Davenport, NMFS, Miami, FL
Bob Dixon, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Stephen Holiman, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Christine Johnson, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Craig Lilyestrom, PRDNER, San Juan, PR
Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Daniel Matos, PRDNER, Mayaguez, PR
Joe O'Hop, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL
Maury Osborn, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Tom Schmidt, NPS, Homestead, FL
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Roger Uwate, USVIDPNR, St. Thomas, USVI (proxy for B. Kojis)

Staff
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Madeleine Travis, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Joe Moran, ACCSP, Washington, DC
William Tobias, USVIDPNR, Frederiksted, St. Croix, USVI

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as amended.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Southeast Recreational Fisheries Information Network [RecFIN(SE)] meeting held on Tuesday, June 13, 2000, The Fisheries Information Network (FIN) meeting held on Wednesday, June 14, 2000, and the Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN) meeting held on Thursday, June

15, 2000 in Austin, Texas were approved.

Status of Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)

J. Moran reported that the ACCSP is implementing the commercial trip ticket system with New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Georgia ready to start providing data. The ACCSP provided funding for Maryland to collect statewide blue crab commercial trip reports and they will begin sending data within 30 days. This will serve as a model for other states with large fisheries, such as lobster. Funding has been approved for South Carolina to begin a trip ticket program with their first data feed to begin in August or September. North Carolina and Florida have had a trip ticket program in place for some time. Virginia is working with the ACCSP to assure that their data elements are compatible and it is anticipated that data feed will begin sometime this year.

Moran reported that M. Cahall has been working with T. Sminkey of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) staff to transfer MRFSS data into the ACCSP system. Moran also reported that the data collection section of the for-hire pilot study in South Carolina has been completed. The ACCSP For-Hire Subcommittee has requested that an independent review panel of the marine fisheries section of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) evaluate this pilot study. This review should take place sometime this fall. Moran also noted that in the 2001 RFP it has been proposed to increase MRFSS sampling in the northeast region of the Atlantic by 50% which should provide much better data. Moran reported that registration tracking will be a joint effort between the ACCSP and the FIN. Some very productive meetings have been held and recommendations concerning data elements have been made, as well as uniquing dealers across state lines.

Moran reported that the data management system will begin receiving data feeds from partners in the near future and a computer analyst will be hired. Another data analyst will be added in January or February when the system is opened to the general public. The ACCSP website contains further information on the above reported items. The new ACCSP e-mail address is accsp.org.

Moran noted that M. Cahall of ACCSP and M. Sestak of FIN are in constant contact to assure compatibility of the two programs in anticipation of the FIS. Abbey Hafner has recently been hired as an outreach coordinator and is available to assist program partners. The Biological and Discard Committees have completed their technical recommendations for TSD #5 which is the ACCSP standard for collection of released discards, protected species interaction, and biological sampling. Moran noted that D. Donaldson attended these meetings to assure coordination with the FIN program. It is anticipated that this will be approved by the Coordinating Council by the end of 2001. Moran noted that the Coordinating Council has

some concerns about the vision for ACCSP in regard to a national program and they are planning on hiring a facilitator to assist in this area.

Moran reported that Georgia is in the third year of a pilot study on socio/economic data. Information is available on the ACCSP website. It is anticipated that this study will be completed in 2002.

The FIN Committee discussed at length a FIN outreach strategy to the various Fishery Management Councils throughout the Gulf, Caribbean, and Atlantic. Committee members from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands will investigate giving a presentation on the FIN to the Caribbean Fishery Management Council.

Review of List of Personnel with Access to Confidential Data

G. Davenport distributed an updated list of state personnel who had signed non-disclosure forms and requested that Committee members review the list and add or delete names as necessary. Non-disclosure statements were also available for new personnel.

Discussion of Commercial Port Sampler Meetings

D. Donaldson reported that a port sampler meeting that had been tentatively scheduled for July, 2001 was being postponed due to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) travel restrictions. If possible, this meeting will be held in October or November of 2001 in the Tampa area and will include samplers from all the Gulf states. Topics to be addressed will be the importance of the collection of social/economic data, the transition into a new way to approach field operations, and new biological sampling methods. The Committee agreed to send a letter to NMFS explaining the need and importance of these meetings.

Donaldson reported that the third meeting of Caribbean port samplers will be held during the first week of October. ComFIN activities will be discussed, a visit to fish houses to review sampling techniques is planned, as well as other issues of importance to port samplers.

Status of Texas Charter Boat Telephone Survey

P. Campbell reported that the start up for the Texas Charter Boat Telephone Survey is planned for July 1, 2001. Sampling frames and preparation of data sheets have been completed. Campbell distributed a charter boat brochure which will be used as outreach material both at meetings and as mailouts. Three more captains outreach meetings will be held prior to the start of the Telephone Survey. Campbell noted that there are approximately 600 boats on the list which include charter boats, head boats, and guide boats. Head boats identified when compiling the list will be sent to B. Dixon for addition to head boat survey.

Status of FIN Data Management System

D. Donaldson gave an update on the Data Management System. The hardware and software for the system have been purchased and currently some data are being entered into the system. M. Sestak and M. Kasprzak are working out details to allow Louisiana trip ticket data to be entered. Test data from Mississippi oyster trip tickets will also be entered into the data management system. Alabama has also sent some test data. The ACCSP has the trip ticket data for Florida and it will be transferred to the FIN data management system. Business Objects is also being tested and when the confidentiality issues are resolved, named users will have access to the data on Business Objects. Recreational data will be available from the ACCSP, FIN, and NMFS in the near future.

Data from several programs will be entered into the data management system. Donaldson reported that J. Smith of NMFS Beaufort Lab had requested that the GSMFC assist with entering the backlog of menhaden data. When the confidentiality issue is resolved these data will also be available. Biological sampling data (TIP) is also being configured for the data management system. Donaldson noted that a web based data entry program has been created for metadata. A web based data entry program for the Charter Boat Survey is being developed and may also be utilized for Texas charter boat activities. Donaldson noted that historically there were problems associated with gaining access to SEAMAP data however these data will now be readily accessible on the web. At the joint SEAMAP meeting being held in August 2001, the development of a public database will be discussed.

Discussion of Revised Estimates of the Red Snapper Harvests in Texas

S. Holiman noted that several years ago Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) revised estimates for the harvest of red snapper. The effect of this re-estimation was that in the years 1992 through 1997 there was a five-fold increase in the harvest of red snapper, and in 1998 there was a two-fold increase. These new estimates were provided to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) by TPWD. Holiman noted that these revised estimates have been used by the GMFMC in their documents, however the original database has not changed and partners need to be aware of this when accessing data from a centralized data base system. P. Campbell noted that red snapper is the only species affected.

Presentation of Recreational Social/Economic Data

M. Osborn gave an presentation on recreational social/economic data which was prepared by B. Gentner of NMFS. (See Attachment A) This presentation was prepared since there are multiple and conflicting groups competing for a limited resource and it explains why economic data are collected on

marine angling.

Discussion on public outreach followed this presentation. The Committee discussed the lack of participation on the part of the public in regard to questions of an economic nature. D. Donaldson noted that at a recent MRFSS wave meeting, B. Gentner had distributed information giving rationale for the collection of social/economic data. M. Osborn noted that there are economic fact sheets on the website and these could be printed as brochures and used for public distribution. Donaldson suggested that an agenda item for the next wave meeting be the development of a brochure explaining the social and economic impact of recreational fishing.

Discussion of FIN and MRFSS Water Body Codes

J. O'Hop reported that the subject of water body codes had been discussed by FIN and ACCSP for several years and noted the need for information on a smaller water body area. On both the recreational and commercial side there appears to be an increasing need for information on where fish were caught. O'Hop noted that as a result of two projects currently underway in Florida the idea of designing an instrument for samplers use was developed. A one minute grid system was developed for Charlotte Harbor. This allows fishermen to identify fishing areas and the samplers to code this information on data sheets.

O'Hop then discussed hatchery-raised red drum being released into Tampa Bay and the need to know where these fish were caught. The one minute grid system was used in this situation also. O'Hop asked Committee members if finer scale water body codes would be appropriate for the MRFSS survey at this time. M. Osborn indicated that discussions on this issue had been held with the contractor and NMFS would not have any objection to investigating this further although changing water body codes would have an impact on the MRFSS program. In addition to changing the forms and the data entry program, the samplers would have to be retrained. The Committee discussed the various problems associated with changing to finer scale codes and suggested doing a pilot study. J. O'Hop suggested sending the samplers out with information to enable them to translate a point on a map indicated by a fisherman to a code that is in the FIN and ACCSP systems. After lengthy Committee discussion on water body codes, J. O'Hop suggested conducting a pilot study using shrimp grids, which would give a finer scale, and the inshore water body codes in the FIN and ACCSP systems.

Meeting recessed at 5:15 p.m. and reconvened on Wednesday, June 6, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.

J. O'Hop had some examples of forms for samplers to use. D. Donaldson stated that the work group

had developed a list of inshore and offshore water body codes but questioned whether these codes provide enough detail. R. Lukens suggested that any partner could, at any time, attempt to get finer resolution. J. O'Hop will continue to investigate the issue of water body codes in Florida and will report back to the Committee.

Discussion of FIN Program Review Report and Recommendations

Copies of the FIN Program Review Report and Recommendations were distributed to Committee members. D. Donaldson reported that the review was conducted in April 2001. Donaldson, M. Osborn, K. Anson, and S. Holiman were in attendance with reviewers A. Loftus, B. Ditton, D. Hayes and D. Sampson. The reviewers were given an overview of the FIN program and a synopsis of the activities that had been conducted over the course of the past five years. A question and answer period followed, then the reviewers were left to develop their report.

The FIN Committee reviewed the report and recommendations and addressed each of the recommendations as follows:

Data Issues and Technical Needs

Socio-economic data needs

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that FIN should take the lead in recognizing the need for high quality biological, social, and economic data to successfully meet present and future fishery management challenges.

FIN Response: This is being addressed and FIN will continue to work on this issue. The Committee finds that there is no need to take additional action at this time.

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that economic data collected as part of the MRFSS should be analyzed and evaluated in a timely fashion in order to be useful for fishery management.

FIN Response: This is being addressed by FIN. No need for FIN to take any action at this time.

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that end users of the data need to be much more involved in defining social and economic data needs as well as in the evaluation of data that have been collected.

FIN Response: Being addressed by FIN. End users have been involved through the various work groups of FIN. The Committee agrees that there is no need for FIN to take any

additional action at this time.

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that social and economic data needs to be determined by a process involving managers and constituents rather than by default.

FIN Response: FIN does not agree. It appears that there was a miscommunication or a misunderstanding on the part of the Review Panel.

Additional data needs

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that essential fish habitat (EFH) and environmental data should be a part of the FIN and receive high priority.

FIN Response: Although the FIN has not focused attention on Essential Fish Habitat and fishery independent data, these subjects are being addressed later in this meeting. This may not be the appropriate body to deal with these matters, however FIN will continue to explore these areas.

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that collection and management of discard data for commercial fisheries should receive high priority.

FIN Response: The FIN has not focused on discards to date, however the importance of this issue has not been overlooked and FIN will be working on this in the near future. Discard data is being addressed by the Data Collection Work Group and they will be asking the FIN Committee for direction in this area.

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that if funding needs for the Caribbean cannot be met through some agreement, then the U.S. Caribbean area should be dropped from the FIN.

FIN Response: FIN disagrees with this recommendation and feels that the conclusion of the Review Panel is incorrect. The FIN recognizes the need for Caribbean funding. Caribbean partners want to continue participation in FIN and FIN will continue to explore ways to help the Caribbean secure funding for data collection in the Caribbean.

Data Collection

Recommendation: The Review Panel was concerned that after five years of program activity, no commercial data is yet available covering all of the FIN states.

FIN Response: The review of the FIN program covers the period from 1996 to 2000. Transition funding was secured in 1998 and operational funding has only been available since 1999. Tremendous advances have been made since that time. FIN considers this recommendation to be incorrect and inappropriate.

Recommendation: The Review Panel questioned whether the proposed complete census of commercial fishing trips is essential, or whether a statistical sampling design would yield the necessary data.

FIN Response: FIN rejects this recommendation since it does not address the charge to the Review Panel. The Panel was asked to review FIN activities in relation to the implementation of the goals and objectives of the program, not a review of the methodologies for collecting data. In addition, this recommendation does not take into consideration modern management methods.

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that a mechanism for determining the statistical adequacy of biological sampling allocations (e.g., number of scales or otoliths collected annually) should be developed. This mechanism should reflect the priorities of the various species/fisheries, as well as the precision required for their management.

FIN Response: The Data Collection Plan had not been produced by 2000 and therefore was not presented to the Review Panel. However this Plan has been developed and is being reviewed by the FIN. Work is in progress to begin implementation .

Metadata

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that FIN undertake a program to develop "true metadata" for the FIN program as a whole.

FIN Response: Apparently it was unclear in the presentation to the Review Panel of what is included in the data management system. This has been addressed by FIN and is part of the data management system.

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that, to the extent possible, FIN develop metadata for each of the component data sets of FIN.

FIN Response: The FIN program has metadata for each of the component data sets. This has been

addressed by FIN and is part of the data management system.

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that FIN metadata reporting complies with the FGDC standards.

FIN Response: FIN believes that these standards are being met and will confirm this with data management personnel.

Data Management

Recommendation: Considering the substantial cost-savings that *may* be achieved without sacrifices to data integrity, the Review Panel recommended that it would be worthwhile for FIN to evaluate and consider alternatives to the centralized data base system for ComFIN before proceeding with additional investments in infrastructure and personnel.

FIN Response: At the last FIN meeting the issue of alternatives to the centralized data base system was considered and the decision was made to continue using the current system.

Quality Assurance /Quality Control

Recommendation: The Review Panel urged that further development of QA/QC documents be completed, and that the FIN managers recognize that QA/QC should be an ongoing activity; it is crucial to the success of the program and does not stop with the completion of the QA/QC documents.

FIN Response: FIN agrees and appreciates the support of the Review Panel. QA/QC will continue to be an ongoing activity during the development of the different modules, including trip tickets, collection of social and economic data, detailed effort data, etc. Individual states also provide training for their samplers on a periodic basis.

Recommendation: The Review Panel urged the continuation of organizing workshops for the state and federal port samplers and consider using these workshops to educate these personnel about their important role as outreach providers.

FIN Response: FIN agrees and will continue to support these activities by coordinating port sampler meetings. MRFSS wave meetings are also held throughout the year.

I

Institutional Issues

Commitment of Partners

Recommendation: The Review Panel was a little surprised, and somewhat concerned, that the program review process did not involve more of the partners. It was not clear to the Review Panel whether participation by partners was limited to minimize costs of the review, or was the result of limited interest on the part of the FIN partners.

FIN Response: It appears that the assumption of the Review Panel regarding the program review meeting was incorrect. The FIN members involved in the review explained to the Panel that it was not necessary for everyone involved to be present. FIN documents were provided to the Review Panel prior to the meeting for their review. It was not necessary for all FIN members to attend since those present were able to address questions posed by the Panel.

Recommendation: The Review Panel strongly recommended that all partners reevaluate their level of commitment to fully implement FIN from a fiscal perspective and from a program implementation perspective.

FIN Response: Although funds are appropriated by Congress for a dedicated purpose, FIN agrees that partners should consider assisting in funding projects where appropriate and when possible.

Prioritization

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that FIN develop a consistent method for ranking the potentially competing needs and desires of these different users as well as consistent approach for prioritizing the various fisheries to be sampled.

FIN Response: This is being done. FIN utilizes the funding decision process to prioritize various projects. This process was developed by the FIN partners in order to make recommendations to the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee which makes the final decisions for Gulf of Mexico component.

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that the cost of sampling should be taken into account when choosing among possible sampling programs to develop. Using such an approach, FIN could maximize the benefits (in terms of information beneficial for fishery assessment and management) of current and new resources available to implement sampling programs.

FIN Response: FIN agrees. Cost is one of the criteria considered as part of the funding decision process.

Budgeting Concerns

Recommendation: The Review Panel saw a need for clear priorities for additional funding sought from Congress. The FIN should develop a process for establishing state level data needs and funding priorities.

FIN Response: FIN agrees and will continue.

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that there needs to be broad-based congressional support for the fisheries information line item in the budget among members of Congress instead of reliance upon only one or two powerful members. Without greater support across the Gulf states, the Review Panel is concerned that the program may be in jeopardy in the future.

FIN Response: Although not every state in the Gulf of Mexico has a delegate on the Appropriations Committee, support has been garnered from Congressional representatives from each state in the Gulf as well as others. This issue will be presented to the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee in October 2001.

Recommendation: The Review Panel believed that the perceived lack of state-level buy-in and support continues to limit the FIN program. The federal funds that are secured could be made available to the states on a matching basis to insure state level buy-in and support of agreed upon FIN priorities and programs. At the very least, state-level in-kind support should be documented on a regular basis to demonstrate state-level participation in the FIN program.

FIN Response: Information on in-kind support has been collected in the past for RecFIN(SE). The possible lack of in-kind support does not necessarily indicate lack of commitment on the part of the program partners.

Personnel Involvement

Recommendation: The Review Panel was concerned that not all data clients/users are completely integrated in FIN development. Active involvement of stock assessment scientists, as well as other users, will be critical to developing feedback regarding the adequacy of the data collected for stock assessment and other fishery management-

related purposes.

FIN Response: FIN agrees and will continue to keep stock assessment scientists involved as Data Collection Plan Work Group members and in other capacities.

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended developing feedback between the end users of the data and the FIN is also important to help better define the benefits produced through FIN implementation.

FIN Response: FIN agrees that this is an important issue and it will be addressed in the outreach effort being undertaken.

Recommendation: The Review Panel strongly encouraged the FIN and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council staff to develop stronger working relationships in order to reduce duplication of effort and address the management needs of the Council.

FIN Response: FIN agrees and will continue to work with the Council by giving periodic reports on the FIN. Discussions have been held with Council staff regarding representation on FIN Committees. FIN appreciates the support of the Review Panel and these activities will continue.

Dissemination

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that FIN needs to develop a process for connecting data collection to information delivery.

FIN Response: FIN agrees and recognizes the importance of this issue. This will be incorporated into the outreach strategy.

ComFIN/RecFIN Merger

Recommendation: The Review Panel believed that there are benefits in maintaining the current level of separation between ComFIN and RecFIN(SE).

FIN Response: It appears that there was a misunderstanding on the part of the Review Panel. There will not be a merger of operational activities regarding commercial and recreational fisheries data. The merger of ComFIN and RecFIN(SE) is solely administrative for meeting purposes.

Outreach

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommends that a strategy for outreach be developed that

identifies desired outcomes (e.g., stock assessment scientists and Gulf Council staff members routinely consult the FIN databases) and alternative methods for achieving those outcomes (presentations, mailing lists, newsletters, a website). Outreach activities should be planned at the forefront, not the end of the program. Two forms of outreach are needed: one to the end users of the data (stock assessment scientists, fishery managers, etc.) and one to the providers of the raw data (commercial harvesters, recreational anglers, etc.)

FIN Response: FIN agrees. The FIN Outreach Work Group had developed a Request For Proposals (RFP) to produce an outreach strategy and this will be addressed later in this meeting.

Recommendation: The Review Panel recommended that it would be advantageous for the FIN to include end-users (e.g., stock assessment scientists and Gulf Council staff) in its advisory program, in addition to members of the fishing industry, thereby expanding the range of participants in its programs.

FIN Response: The GSMFC Commercial/Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel is utilized by FIN at this time. Staff gives updates on FIN to the Advisory Panel semi-annually. The Data Management Subcommittee, Stock Assessment Team, etc., are also involved.

Recommendation: The Review Panel suggested that FIN could take on the role of coordinating certain aspects of the outreach services pertaining to data collection and dissemination such as facilitating information exchange between the agencies, the commercial and recreational fishing communities, and the public by offering workshops to explain and discuss fishery data issues.

FIN Response: FIN agrees that coordination and facilitation of workshops, as well as other activities, will be considered in the development of the FIN outreach strategy.

After each Review Panel recommendation had been addressed by the Committee, the Committee agreed that the Administrative Subcommittee should hold a conference call to make recommendations on the review process for the next FIN review.

Review of Fishery-Independent Survey Activities

D. Donaldson reported that in March 1999 the Technical Coordinating Committee charged the GSMFC staff to review monitoring activities for fishery-independent sampling in each state. It was suggested that the FIN begin by compiling a list of the different activities. Donaldson noted that the SEAMAP Marine Directory lists these activities for the Gulf of Mexico and he will develop a list for the Caribbean. Committee members were provided with a list of fisheries- independent survey activities.

J. Shepard noted that fishery dependent data collection programs are not that different from fishery independent programs and may only require coordination among the states to achieve these goals and objectives. D. Donaldson noted that the SEAMAP program is a regional program with established goals and objectives and perhaps it would be beneficial to discuss this with members of the SEAMAP Subcommittee at their upcoming meeting. J. Moran noted that L. Kline of the ASMFC is working on this issue for the Atlantic states and it may be beneficial to contact her. M. Osborn suggested forming a work group to develop goals and objectives and scope. T. Schmidt stated that there were several fishery-independent surveys which were not listed in the SEAMAP Marine Directory which he will forward to J. Rester of GSMFC. After lengthy Committee discussion on the pros and cons of using the SEAMAP program as a forum for fishery independent work, **R. Lukens moved to direct staff to begin investigating the appropriate people to sit on a work group and charge that work group with the development of framework issues such as goals and objectives, and looking at existing programs to identify deficiencies and the scope of the issue. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** J. Moran requested that L. Kline be included.

FIN Data Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

D. Donaldson reported that last year the FIN Committee decided to get a ruling to determine if the FIN MOA is a legally binding document that would allow for the enforcement of the confidentiality policy. NOAA General Counsel has not yet responded to this request since this ruling would have national implications. Donaldson noted that the Pacific states are in a similar situation and have confidential data in their system. Requests for confidential data hav e always gone to individual states.

The MOA currently covers the NMFS, GSMFC, and the five Gulf states. NPS, FWS, Fishery Management Councils, Puerto Rico and the U.S.V.I. are not included. Donaldson noted that in order for all partners to have access to confidential data, the MOA would need to be expanded to include those agencies as well. The Committee discussed the issue of requests for confidential data, including the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), court orders, enforcement agencies, etc. and agreed that it is essential to get a ruling

from NOAA General Council as soon as possible. J. Moran noted that the ACCSP is also waiting for the response from NOAA General Counsel on the FIN request for a ruling on this matter. R. Lukens noted that the FIN policy at this time if for all requests for confidential data be referred to the state agency that collected the data. **R. Lukens moved that the FIN Committee write a letter to NOAA General Counsel expressing concern over the delay in getting a response on a legal ruling concerning confidential data since there are operational matters coming into play that require a timely answer. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** Lukens also suggested waiting to expand the MOA with additional partners until this matter has been resolved and when revised to include legislative authority for the collection of data. G. Davenport suggested having staff bring this subject to the attention of the State Directors at their meeting being held next week.

Discussion of Inclusion of Caribbean Data into FIN Data Management System

D. Donaldson noted that this issue is related to the previous agenda item in that if Caribbean data is included in the FIN Data Management System, an expanded MOA would be required. C. Lilyestrom stated that Puerto Rico is interested in having their data included in the FIN Data Management System and would like to be considered a full partner by being a signatory of a revised MOA. M. Osborn noted that NMFS would be able to provide recreational data for Puerto Rico and the U.S.V.I. at no cost when it starts up. G. Davenport noted that commercial data could be handled in the same way as recreational data. Donaldson noted that since there are unlimited user licenses, the only cost in adding the Caribbean would be the time involved in translating data sets. D. Matos noted that commercial fisheries data for Puerto Rico from 1983 to present is being entered in the NMFS system in Miami. R. Lukens noted that since the U.S.V.I. and Puerto Rico are interested in being included in the FIN Data Management System, it would be appropriate for them to be signatories to the MOA. Staff will make the appropriate changes to the MOA to include Puerto Rico and the U.S.V.I. so they can have access to confidential data in the FIN Data Management system.

Review and Approval of 2000 FIN Annual Report

The FIN Annual Report for 2000 was distributed to Committee members for their review. D. Donaldson noted that the list of proposed activities in the Annual Report goes through the year 2000 and needs to be updated since this is essential for strategic planning and developing the Operations Plan. Donaldson requested that Committee members contact him with any comments or corrections by the end of June. **R. Lukens moved to accept the 2000 FIN Annual Report. The motion was seconded and passed**

unanimously. The Committee agreed to charge the Administrative Subcommittee with developing tasks for 2002 through 2007. During Committee discussion relating to codes, J. O'Hop suggested modified tail length and natural tail length be added to the length type codes.

Subcommittee and Work Group Reports

Administrative Subcommittee - D. Donaldson reported that the Administrative Subcommittee was charged with the review and revision of the FIN Framework Plan. Conference calls were held in March and April 2001 to complete this task. FIN Committee members were provided with the revised Framework Plan for their review and approval. **K. Cuevas moved to accept the Administrative Subcommittee report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** D. Donaldson asked Committee members to send him any comments or corrections by the end of June.

Gulf of Mexico Geographic Subcommittee - D. Donaldson reported that GSMFC Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel asked the FIN to address the topic of using recreational fishing licenses as a sampling frame. A conference call of the Gulf of Mexico Geographic Subcommittee was held in March to discuss this matter. M. Osborn noted that a pilot study had been done in Oregon and concluded that this was a better way of estimating effort. Donaldson reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the criteria in each of the Gulf states to be able to utilize fishing licenses as a sampling frame. It appears that Louisiana and Texas meet the criteria, Mississippi licensing will be automated shortly, Alabama met most of the criteria and will be automated in July 2002, and Florida is automated but has several issues that need to be resolved.

The Committee then discussed the various recreational fishing license systems. C. Lilyestrom noted that Puerto Rico developed an RFP for an automated recreational fishing license. Central Bank of Missouri was selected with various retail stores, telephone, and internet sales being utilized. This system should be available for use in 2002. P. Campbell noted that Texas has 3,200,000 licenses, will have 2,200 retail outlets for license sales, as well as 130 TPWD offices and the program will cost $3,500,000 per year to operate. There will be no up-front cost to TPWD and the cost to operate is recouped from sales over a five year period. The only cost to the state is personnel. **C. Lilyestrom moved to accept the Gulf of Mexico Geographic Subcommittee report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. R. Lukens moved to have the FIN Committee send letters to the Directors of each state agency requiring modifications to fishing licenses, a list of criteria for using recreational fishing licenses as a sampling frame and recommend that these changes be made in order to make their licenses compatible for use as a sampling frame.**

Biological/Environmental Work Group - D. Donaldson reported that the Biological/Environmental Work Group met in May in Tampa. The first issue discussed was optimizing sampling for offshore and inshore fishing activities. Preliminary evaluation indicates that inland trips for private rental mode may be over-sampled. GSMFC and NMFS personnel will further examine this data and report back to the Committee in the future.

The Work Group then discussed fishing tournament sampling. Responsibility within NMFS has changed regarding tournament sampling. B. Sutter is now in charge of registering Highly Migratory Species (HMS) tournaments and his office has developed a web-based registration system. Donaldson noted the importance of having the HMS and FIN databases be compatible and identified the necessary elements to assure compatibility. The Work Group decided that the FIN tournament lis should be updated. Sutter will send staff the current list of HMS tournaments to avoid duplication of effort and to update the FIN list.

The Biological/Environmental Work Group also discussed the Night Fishing Pilot Study in Mississippi. Donaldson reported that the next step in the study would be analyzing the data to look at species composition, catch rate, etc. The Work Group recommended that sampling should end in December 2001 in order to develop analysis methods and analysis of data to determine if there are differences.

Donaldson reported that since there is a possibility of doing recreational biological sampling in 2002, the Work Group reviewed existing methodologies. The Work Group agreed to utilize a modified TIP sampling form in the field.

Donaldson reported that the Work Group then discussed the data entry module for metadata and decided that the module included all the necessary data elements and FIN should move forward with the entry of fishing regulations data.

The Committee discussed various aspects of the Work Group report. J. O'Hop will send a copy of the forms being used by Florida for biological sampling to D. Donaldson. K. Cuevas stated that Mississippi would like to conduct the Night Fishing Survey for one more year in order to have additional data. Following Committee discussion, **J. Shepard moved to accept the Biological/Environmental Work Group Report. The motion was seconded and passed with Mississippi opposed.**

Data Collection Work Group - D. Donaldson reported that the Data Collection Work Group held a conference call in March. The Work Group discussed the development of the fishery and discards modules. The Work Group decided that pilot study sampling should be conducted at a detailed level for one state and also developed categorizations for type of fishery, gear, and area fished.

Donaldson reported that the Data Collection Work Group also discussed the discards module. The ACCSP has done work on this module and their first step was to compile releases and discards information. Based on the experience of the A CCSP, the Work Group recommended that FIN distribute a survey to the states requesting information about the presence of releases and discards within the various fisheries occurring in their jurisdiction. **J. Shepard moved to accept the Data Collection Work Group report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Data Collection Plan Work Group - D. Donaldson reported that the Data Collection Plan Work Group has met several times and is developing targets for otoliths, biological sampling, etc. The Work Group decided that trip sampling is the preferred method, although data can be collected without the trip information. Samplers must understand that trip ticket sampling is the priority method, and failing that, dealer samples will be accepted.

Donaldson reported that the Work Group then discussed the processing and analysis of otoliths. The GSMFC is currently developing otolith processing guidelines and compiling the otolith processing capabilities of each agency. The Work Group also discussed establishing regional otolith processing centers. The Committee discussed expanding otolith processing capacity and the additional personnel that would be required.

The Committee was provided with copies of the FIN Data Collection Plan for their review and discussed the collection of otoliths. **J. Shepard moved to accept the Data Collection Plan Work Group report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Data Management Work Group - D. Donaldson reported that the Data Management Work Group met in September 2000 and discussed the development of a confidential user form and various data management procedures. The Committee was provided with copies of the FIN Confidential User ID form and an outline of the Data Management Procedures Manual which will be updated periodically. The Committee discussed various aspects of access to confidential data and determined that state members of the FIN Committee will be the gatekeepers of access to these data. The Committee agreed to *add expiration* date to the FIN user access code form. D. Donaldson will add language to the Procedures Manual regarding non-signatory agencies, and will add a list of names of personnel having access to data. **M. Osborn moved to accept the Data Management Work Group report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

FIN/ACCSP Compatibility Work Group - D. Donaldson reported that the FIN/ACCSP Compatibility Work Group met in July 2000 to develop a 3 to 5 year implementation plan, review standard definitions, and discuss additional data management modules. The Committee was provided with the Implementation Plan Outline which will be used to aid in the development of a planning document. The Work Group charged staff with the reordering of the existing definitions for the sake of clarity and this has been done. **J. Shepard moved approve the FIN/ACCSP Compatibility Work Group report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Outreach Work Group - D. Donaldson reported that the Outreach Work Group has held several meetings and conference calls to develop an RFP to design an outreach strategy for the FIN. Potential funding for this project may be available in 2002. Copies of the RFP were distributed to Committee members for their review and comment. Several suggestions were made including, deleting the names of specific organizations in target groups; changing the term "program" to "strategy"; changing the word "should" to "must" in the section *General Proposal Information*; using the term "outreach materials"; leaving out the amount of money available for this project; outlining basic tasks, time, and pay scale. J. Moran will send D. Donaldson a draft copy of the ACCSP report on recommendations for their RFP and several methods of advertising the RFP. After lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed that the wording of the RFP needs to be more explicit and possibly done in three phases: design, development, and implementation. **M. Osborn moved to task the Administrative Subcommittee with giving clear direction on the RFP to the Outreach Work Group. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. R. Lukens moved to refer the issue of the RFP back to the Outreach Work Group with instructions to review the ACCSP draft RFP and to consider the comments made by this Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Registration Tracking Work Group - Copies of the summary of the FIN/ACCSP Registration Tracking Work Group meeting were distributed to Committee members. D. Donaldson reported that the purpose of the meeting was to continue the development of the permitting module. The purpose of this module is to have a unique identifier for individuals and vessels. Included in the summary were the minimum data elements for vessels, dealers, and fishermen. The Work Group also discussed how to maintain a history of changes, protocols, etc. Donaldson noted that J. Hoey is testing the NMFS system. The Committee discussed the problems associated with duplicates, name changes, vessel identification numbers, etc. It was noted that to date there has been no response or cooperation from the U.S. Coast Guard. The Committee agreed to await the results of Hoey's project before going forward. **R. Lukens moved to accept the Registration Tracking**

Work Group report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Social/Economic Work Group - D. Donaldson reported that the Social/Economic Work Group met in May 2001 and reviewed ongoing activities. The Work Group recommended that economic flex questions be asked beginning in 2002 in the Caribbean and the Caribbean should be included in the next cycle for collection of social/economic data in the Southeast Region. M. Osborn noted that they would begin with Puerto Rico and after collecting data for approximately two years, the U.S.V.I. would be phased in. R. Uwate noted that the University of the Virgin Islands is conducting a socio/economic survey and when available will provide a copy of the survey to Committee members. The Work Group then discussed economic data collection and asked that the FIN Committee consider funding economic add-on questions to the Charter Boat Telephone Survey in 2002, and conduct a pilot study on social/economic data for commercial harvesters based on the methods identified in the Program Design Document using one species. S. Holiman noted that there is also going to be a cost and earnings survey of king mackerel commercial fishermen in Louisiana identified through pelagic permits. G. Davenport expressed concern regarding port agents current full time duties and their ability to conduct this add-on survey.

M. Osborn noted that B. Gentner asked that the FIN consider adding flex questions to do a conjoint study in the Gulf similar to the study conducted in the Northeast Region on summer flounder. This study would be conducted beginning with the 2002 Wave 3 or Wave 4. MRFSS would do the followup mail survey using a contractor. Osborn also noted that the Southeast Region would like to use flex questions for sea turtle and/or marine mammal interaction. These projects will be considered at the September Wave meeting. **K. Cuevas moved to accept the Social/Economic Work Group report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Standard Codes Work Group - D. Donaldson reported that the Standard Codes Work Group met in April 2001. The FIN Committee was provided with changes that were made to various codes. Donaldson noted that M. Sestak and M. Cahill are coordinating to assure that the codes are consistent and compatible. After discussing various aspects of the report, **R. Lukens moved to accept the Standard Codes Work Group report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Meeting recessed at 6:05 p.m. and reconvened on Thursday, June 7, 2001 at 8:00 a.m.

Discussion of 2002 FIN Funding Priorities

A list of suggested items for funding consideration was distributed to Committee members. (Attachment ??) D. Donaldson asked members if there were any additions to this list and there were none. Although it is not being considered for funding at this time, Donaldson noted that M. Travis of NMFS had requested that port samplers do some socio-economic data collection in the shrimp fishery possibly in 2003.

Donaldson noted that the first nine activities, except for trip ticket implementation in Texas, are continuing activities which have been funded in the past. The data entry clerk is a new addition to help enter MRFSS data, as well as new projects that are being undertaken, such as the possibility of entering data for the Virgin Islands.

J. Shepard moved to rank the first nine items for funding consideration as high priority. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Committee discussion followed regarding the trip ticket program in Texas and P. Campbell noted that a decision would probably be made by October 2001. J. Shepard noted the importance of trip tickets being done across the Gulf coast. C. Johnson reported that in addition to oysters, other fisheries in Mississippi will be utilizing trip tickets this year.

It was noted that funding for commercial port samplers was not included on the funding list. Donaldson noted that at the last State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee (S-FFMC) meeting it was decided that the port samplers would be funded through 2001. G. Davenport noted that NMFS would be re-instituting those positions.

D. Donaldson noted that the remaining items on the list are new activities and were developed by the FIN Committee or various Work Groups.

Recreational/Commercial Biological Sampling - Until recently there had not been a data collection plan to help guide recreational and commercial biological sampling. However, now there are targets for otoliths and lengths and it was recommended by the Data Collection Plan Work Group, as well as the Biological/Environmental Work Group, that collection of biological samples begin in 2002. Donaldson noted that if the Committee agrees to go forward, statements-of-work and budgets will be required prior to the August meeting of the State Directors. Committee discussion followed on the details of beginning biological sampling, including budgets, statements-of-work, capacity, species selection, training of samplers, etc. It was agreed that the Work Group will hold a conference call prior to the S-FFMC meeting to work out the details. **G. Davenport moved to make Recreational/Commercial Biological Sampling a high priority funding item with costs to include processing. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Detailed Effort Pilot Study - D. Donaldson noted that detailed effort information is not collected on trip tickets and reported that the Data Collection Work Group agreed it was time to implement a pilot study in this area. Donaldson also noted that Louisiana has offered to conduct the detailed effort pilot study. After discussion with G. Davenport, J. Shepard suggested implementing the pilot study with detailed effort for shrimp since NMFS port agents are currently collecting this information and costs would probably be kept to a minimum depending on sample size. G. Davenport noted that it has yet to be determined what areas are to be targeted, what time of year, etc. and also the possibility of requiring assistance from state personnel. Davenport also noted that this would also be a good opportunity for review of trip ticket data for QA/QC purposes. **J. Shepard moved to make the Detailed Effort Pilot Study a high priority item. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Social/Economic Pilot Study - For-Hire sector - The Committee reviewed the Social/Economic Work Group Report. D. Donaldson noted that there would be little or no additional cost for this pilot study since it would only add social/economic questions to the current Charter Boat Survey being conducted in the Gulf of Mexico. The other component of this pilot study would be an annual survey of cost earnings for operating charter boats. Donaldson noted that more charter boat outreach meetings are planned for Florida and information on this pilot study could be added. Outreach meetings could be planned for later this year in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The Committee agreed that outreach is a very important part of this pilot study in order to gain the cooperation of charter boat operators. It was noted that personnel involved in the Charter Boat Survey sign a confidentiality agreement and this information should be included in the outreach material. **R. Lukens moved to make the Social/Economic Pilot Study a high priority item and that it be limited to the charter boat sample frame in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** There was discussion on including head boats in the Social/Economic Pilot Study, and the Committee agreed to await the results of a project being conducted in South Carolina.

Commercial sector - **M. Osborn moved to make commercial cost earnings a high priority item for funding. The motion was not seconded.** J. Moran explained that a three year pilot study of summer flounder permit holders is being conducted by the ACCSP on the east coast. This program is similar to the commercial social/economic pilot study being considered for the Gulf of Mexico. The Committee agreed that further investigation and work needs to be done in this area. **J. Shepard moved to make the Social/Economic Pilot Study in the commercial sector a low priority item, and to charge the Social/Economic Work Group with further developing this project for funding consideration in 2003 and to investigate the feasibility of sampling by gear and area in every fishery. The motion was**

seconded and passed unanimously. The Committee requested that S. Holiman convey to the Work Group the thoughts expressed by the FIN Committee on this issue.

D. Donaldson noted that he will send statements-of-work for ongoing activities to the states for review, but detailed budgets must be provided for these activities. For Recreational/Commercial Biological Sampling and the Detailed Effort Pilot Study, statements-of-work and associated budgets need to be provided. Donaldson noted that B. Gentner has a statement-of-work for the For-Hire Social/Economic Pilot Study and that will be incorporated. Donaldson requested that these items be provided to him by June 30.

Donaldson reported to the Committee that the Texas Charter Boat Survey had been budgeted from January to December 2001. Because of contractual problems, this project will not begin until July 2001 which cuts that budget item in half leaving approximately $76,000 in funds available. Donaldson explained that 2001 is the third year of a three year proposal and these funds cannot be carried over. Several suggestions were made including purchasing equipment for processing otoliths, recreational biological sampling, getting an extension on the cooperative agreement, electronic trip tickets, measuring boards, etc. After lengthy Committee discussion, **B. Dixon made a motion to provide $50,000 to do recreational biological sampling in Florida; $7,500 for the purchase of a computer and digital camera for enhancement of otolith processing in Alabama; and $20,000 for FFWCC personnel to process otoliths at the Panama City Lab. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** K. Cuevas requested that if there are any funds remaining he would like to purchase a low speed saw for $4,500. Donaldson noted that he would need a statement-of-work for these three projects as soon as possible.

Operations Plan

Committee members were provided with information on the status of 2001 FIN activities and the draft FIN Operations Plan for 2002. D. Donaldson reported that all the tasks identified in the Operations Plan for 2001 are either being worked on or have been completed. Donaldson noted that since there have been some significant changes in the Program Design Document, the Committee should review this document at the next FIN meeting.

Donaldson then briefly reviewed the 2002 draft Operations Plan and noted that based on some decisions made by the Committee at this meeting, various changes would need to be made to the Plan. Donaldson will make these modifications and requested that Committee members send any additional comments or corrections to him by June 30, 2001. **J. Shepard moved to accept the Operations Plan for 2002. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Time Schedule and Location of Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to hold the next FIN meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana as first choice or Miami, Florida as an alternative during the first or second week of June 2002.

Election of Officers

K. Anson of Alabama was elected Chairman and J. Shepard of Louisiana was elected Vice Chairman of the FIN Committee. They will serve a two year term.

Other Business

D. Donaldson reported that the Cooperative Statistics Program currently runs from April to March. Because of a shortfall in funding the start date had changed and during discussions on this subject, it was noted that January to December would be preferred. However, E. Roche stated that federal aid coordinators wanted to keep the April to March dates because of new regulations in grants management and the difficulty in receiving funds by January 1 and requested input from the Committee. Following discussion, the Committee agreed on the April to March dates.

J. Shepard questioned the reasons for additions to the site registers. D. Donaldson stated that this was a first step in ascertaining the magnitude of night fishing activity. J. O'Hop noted that Florida has developed a change to the site summary form and will send one to Shepard. Shepard also questioned defining sufficient light and who makes this determination. The Committee discussed revisions to the site registers and agreed to have these issues reviewed at the next Wave meeting. D. Donaldson will present the results to the FIN Committee via conference call or e-mail ballot.

A letter from the GSMFC Flounder Technical Task Force (TTF) to the FIN Committee was distributed to members of the Committee. The TTF is developing a Flounder Fishery Management Plan and has requested that FIN begin to address data deficiencies for this species. Donaldson stated that it would be appropriate for the Committee to respond to the TTF stating that these issues are being addressed by FIN. The Committee discussed speciation, biological sampling, etc. and agreed to have staff respond to the TTF stating that the program is being developed and hopefully next year will be able to address this issue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Attachment A

Economic Data Collection for Marine Recreational Angling

Prepared for Maury Osborn
by Brad Gentner
Economist
Office of Science & Technology
Division of Statistics and Economics
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Why Collect Economic Data About Marine Angling?

• 8.3 million anglers taking 61.8 million trips (excluding Alaska, Hawaii, and Texas)
• Fifth most popular outdoor activity in US.
• Need an understanding of how policies effect users and economics allow the analysis of who wins and who looses when policies change.
• Analyzing the social and economic consequences of policy is mandated by law (MSFCMA, NEPA, SFA, E.O. 12866)

Benefits, Costs & Impacts

• Benefit - the *value* of what we get as a result of a policy change or project
• Cost - the *value* of what we must give up as a result of a policy change or project

• Economic Impacts – how consumer expenditures trickle through a community's economy.

Economic Impacts
Types of Economic Questions

• Economic value questions:

  What would you be willing to pay…
  How far did you travel…
  Did you give up any income…

• Economic impact questions:

  What did you spend on the following items...

• Socioeconomic and demographic questions:

  What is your age/gender/ethnicity….

Economic Add-ons

• Utilizes MRFSS sampling frame
• Three part survey
  – Intercept add-on
  – Telephone follow-up
  – Household add-on
• Conducted in two phases regionally
  – Valuation survey
  – Expenditure survey
• Flexible questions

Valuation Surveys

• Valuation model of choice: Random Utility Model (RUM)
• Completed in Southeast and Gulf states in 1997.

Total Value of a One-day Trip by State & Wave (in Millions

of $'s)

Total WTP for 1 Fish Increase in the Bag Limit (in Millions $), SE Region

Expenditure Surveys

- **Designed to collect detailed expenditure data for use in IMPLAN.**
- **Completed in Southeast and Gulf State in 1999.**

Southeast Region Trip Expenditures (in Millions of US $'s)

Southeast Region Annual Expenditures (in Millions of US $'s)

Southeast Region Total Expenditures (in Millions of US $'s)

Products and Resources

- **Analysis of 1997 SE valuation data and participation data available on web site.**
- **Expenditure reports to be available soon (contact Brad Gentner 301.713.2328 x215 for more information)**
- **Web site: http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/econ/index.html**

Attachment B

FIN Administrative Subcommittee
Conference Call Summary
March 20, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m and the following people were present:

Lisa Kline, ASMFC, Washington, DC
Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Maury, Osborn, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Bob Dixon, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Purpose of Meeting

R. Lukens stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review and recommend changes to the FIN Framework Plan. As part of the goals and objectives of FIN, the Committee needs to periodically review their administrative documents. The Subcommittee was charged by FIN to review and provide recommended changes to the plan. The group proceeded to modify the existing document and the revised document serves as the administrative record for the call. The group decided that staff will made the changes (redlining the additions and striking out the deletions) and distribute the revised document to the group. At a subsequent call (April 2001), **the group recommended that the revised Framework Plan be forwarded to the FIN Committee for their consideration and approval at the June meeting.**

There being no further business, the call was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

FRAMEWORK PLAN

for

the Fisheries Information Network
(FIN)

By: FIN Committee

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

June 2001
Number xx

This project was supported in part by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, under State/Federal cooperative agreement number xxxxxxxxxx.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following state and federal agencies are acknowledged for their contributions of personnel and support for development of this Framework Plan for the FIN:

- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
- Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
- Caribbean Fishery Management Council
- Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fisheries Information Network (FIN) establishes a state-federal cooperative program to collect, manage, and disseminate statistical data and information on the commercial and recreational fisheries of the Southeast Region.[1] There are two separate programs under the FIN: the Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN) and the Southeast Recreational Fisheries Information Network [RecFIN(SE)].

This Framework Plan is the result of combined efforts of program partners which include states and territories of the Region, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the South Atlantic, Gulf, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions. This plan presents the FIN missions, goals, and objectives and broadly describes how these programs will be organized, operated, managed, and funded. This Framework Plan will be implemented through detailed, annual operations plans.

The need for a comprehensive and cooperative data collection program has never been greater because of the magnitude of the commercial and recreational fisheries and the differing roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved. Many southeastern stocks targeted by commercial and recreational users are now depleted, due primarily to excessive harvest and habitat loss and degradation. The information needs of today's management regimes require data which are statistically sound, long-term in scope, timely, and comprehensive. A cooperative partnership between state and federal agencies is the most appropriate mechanism to accomplish these goals.

Efforts by state and federal agencies to develop a cooperative program for the collection and management of commercial and recreational fishery data in the Region began in the mid to late 1980s. In 1992, the NMFS formally proposed a planning activity to establish the RecFIN(SE). Planning was conducted by a multi-agency Plan Development Team through October 1992, at which time the program partners approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which established clear intent to implement the RecFIN(SE). Following signing of the MOU, a RecFIN(SE) Committee was established and met in January and March 1993 to complete a Strategic Plan and develop an Operations Plan. In 1994, the NMFS initiated a formal process to develop a cooperative State/Federal program to collect and manage commercial fishery statistics in the Region. A concept paper outlined a strategy and schedule for developing the program and completing a strategic plan (Brown 1994). It emphasized a cooperative program in conjunction with state and federal fishery management agencies, regional fishery management councils, interstate marine fisheries commissions, and other organizations concerned with marine fishery management. Due to previous work and NMFS action, the Southeast Cooperative Statistics Committee (SCSC) developed a MOU and a Framework Plan for the ComFIN. During the development of the ComFIN MOU, the SCSC, in conjunction with the RecFIN(SE) Committee, decided to combine the MOU to incorporate the RecFIN(SE). The combined MOU creates the Fisheries Information Network (FIN) which evolved from the ComFIN and RecFIN(SE). The MOU confirmed the intent of the signatory agencies to participate in implementing the FIN.

The scope of the FIN includes the Region's commercial and recreational fisheries for marine, estuarine, and anadromous species, including shellfish. Constituencies served by the program are state and federal agencies responsible for management of fisheries in the Region. Direct benefits will also accrue to federal fishery management councils, the interstate marine fisheries commissions, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish

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[1]The Southeast Region (the Region) includes the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

and Wildlife Service, and the NOAA Marine Sanctuaries Program. Benefits which accrue to management of fisheries will benefit not only commercial and recreational fishermen and the associated fishing industries, but the resources, the states, and the nation.

The mission of the FIN is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine commercial, anadromous, and recreational fishery data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Region and to support the development of a national program. The four goals of the FIN include:

- plan, manage, and evaluate a cooperative commercial and recreational fishery data collection program;
- implementing a State/Federal marine commercial and recreational fishery data collection program;
- establish and maintain integrated commercial and recreational fishery data management system; and
- support for the development of a national program.

To carry out the FIN mission, an organizational structure has been created which includes the FIN, Committee; Caribbean and Gulf Geographic Subcommittees; various other subcommittees and working groups; and administrative and coordination support.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of Framework ~~Strategic~~ Plan

This document presents a Framework Plan for a marine commercial and recreational fishery statistics program for the Southeast Region of the United States: the Fisheries Information Network (FIN). Under this program, there are two distinct programs: the Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN) and the Southeast Recreational Fisheries Information Network [RecFIN(SE)]. From this point forward, these program will be referred as the FIN. The FIN is a cooperative effort among agencies that are legally mandated to manage marine commercial and recreational fisheries resources. These agencies need to plan and effect programs to collect, manage, and disseminate statistical data and information on the Region's commercial and recreational fisheries. The goal of the FIN is to provide sound scientific information on catch, effort, and participation that managers need to prudently conserve and manage marine commercial and recreational fisheries resources in the Southeast. The program will assist managers in reducing the risks of overharvesting, rebuilding depleted stocks, and achieving optimal use of these resources.

This Framework Plan is a combined effort of state[2] and federal agencies. It was developed under the premise that a cooperative statistics program for marine commercial and recreational fisheries in the Southeast will avoid duplication of effort, reduce overall costs, and provide a better base of information for formulating management policies, strategies, and tactics. This plan presents the FIN missions, goals, and objectives and broadly describes how these programs will be organized, operated, managed, and funded. This Framework Plan will be implemented through detailed, annual operations plans.

B. Need for the FIN

Commercial fisheries are extremely important in the Region. In 1999, commercial landings were 2.2 billion pounds valued at approximately $955 million (ex-vessel). Because of the Region's productive marine fishery resource base, commercial landings in the Southeast (excluding the Caribbean) account for about 23% of the nation's total commercial harvest (NMFS, 2000).

Recreational fisheries are also very important to the Region. In 1999, recreational anglers in the Region took an estimated 34 million fishing trips and caught approximately 284 million fish. Because of the Region's productive marine fishery resource base and substantial fishing infrastructure, recreational anglers in the Southeast account for about 54% of the nation's total sportfishing effort and 58% of the recreational catch in numbers of fish (NMFS 2000). Along the Region's 30,000-mile shoreline are found an estimated 150 coastal fishing piers; 1,600 marinas; 1,600 charter boats; 180 head boats; hundreds of dive boats and small guide boats; untold miles of "fishable" beaches, bridges, and jetties; and an unequaled assemblage of natural and artificial fishing reefs. Furthermore, over 2.8 million private recreational boats are used by the Region's coastal residents for saltwater fishing.

~~The numerous species harvested by the Region's anglers cover a great range of sizes and habitats, from giant oceanic billfish to small estuarine seatrout. Not to be overlooked are substantial sportfisheries for shrimp, crabs, oysters, and other crustaceans and mollusks. Notably, most of these resources are also utilized for~~

[2]As utilized in this document, "state" includes the commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the territory of U.S. Virgin Islands.

~~commercial purposes, including providing bait for sport fishermen. Of the 21 fishery units of major concern to managers (NMFS 1991), 7 units are centered in the Southeast Region. In addition, the southeastern states are concerned with many other stocks which are also in poor condition. The species are managed under 13 federal fishery management council plans, 17 interstate marine fisheries commission plans, and a number of state agency plans (NMFS 1992). The complexity of the Region's fisheries is shown by the reef fish management units which include about 100 species (excluding those in the marine aquarium trade) that span wide geographic ranges (SEFSC 1992).~~

Many southeastern stocks targeted by the commercial and recreational sector are now depleted, due primarily to habitat loss and degradation and excessive harvest. In response, state and federal fishery managers have developed and implemented fishery management programs to rebuild depleted stocks and to prevent overharvest of other species. ~~Indeed, more and more Southeast species have been brought under direct management control, and associated regulations have become more diverse and complex. In some cases, resources such as red snapper and king mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico have become so severely depleted that combinations of size limits, bag limits, seasons, and quotas have been implemented to reduce harvests and restore the stocks. In these cases, management information requirements have exceeded the capabilities of existing statistical information programs.~~

Management of the Region's fisheries is complicated by their migratory nature. Movements along shore bring many stocks under the jurisdictions of multiple states. Furthermore, many species move between inshore and offshore habitats during different stages of their lives and therefore come under both state and federal jurisdiction at various times. Thus, several fishery management agencies often regulate the same resource or stock. All the agencies face the same problem of conserving important marine resources, while at the same time providing satisfying commercial and recreational fishing opportunities to their constituents.

Catch and effort statistics are fundamental for assessing the influence of fishing on stocks. Information on harvest, fishing effort, size composition, and seasonal and geographic distribution of catch and effort is required to develop rational management policies and plans. Accurate, precise, and timely catch statistics, along with biological, sociological, and economic studies, are integral components of long-term data series needed for fishery modeling and forecasting. Detection of population trends requires statistically consistent data collected over the geographic range of the stock for a time period that is several times longer than the average life span of the animal.

Vital information needed to meet minimum management needs is inadequate ~~lacking~~ for many important fishery resources in the Region. This deficiency has been recognized by management agencies, and attempts have been made to improve and expand current efforts. Although considerable progress has been made in collection of fishery statistics, continuing changes in the nature and status of marine recreational fisheries and increasingly complex management regimes require more comprehensive, accurate, precise, and timely data.

Thus, the ~~initiation~~ continuation of a comprehensive program to cooperatively collect and manage statistics on marine commercial and recreational fisheries in the Region is critical. A long-standing partnership exists among fishery management organizations in the Southeast, which have similar or related mandates to conserve and manage living marine resources in their respective jurisdictions. Southeast fishery management agencies recognize the need for and benefits of a cooperative program for marine commercial and recreational fisheries statistics.

C. Evolution of the FIN

Recreational Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern U.S. [RecFIN(SE)]

In the 1980s, state and federal fishery managers in the Region agreed there was an urgent and compelling need for coordinated collection of comprehensive data on the Region's marine recreational fisheries resources, and recommendations were made through a series of workshops and meetings. In particular, between 1985 and 1992, the Data Management Subcommittee of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) conducted workshops that reviewed survey methodologies for recreational fisheries and recommended changes or additions to current survey procedures, including standards for quality control (Lazauski 1986; Osborn and Lazauski 1989; GSMFC 1991, 1992; Osborn 1992). The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) appointed several work groups to review recreational fishery data collection programs in the Atlantic Coast states (Halgren et al. 1988; McGurrin 1990). The resulting recommendations led to the development of the RecFIN(SE).

In 1992, the NMFS, encouraged by the recommendations from the states through the ASMFC and GSMFC, initiated a formal cooperative state-federal program to collect and manage recreational fishery statistics in the Region. A strategic planning proposal outlined a strategy and schedule for developing the program and completing a strategic plan (NMFS 1992). The proposed comprehensive program was to include examination of total information needs, including quantifying statistical and measurement goals; coordination or integration of existing data collection programs; development of alternate survey designs, when appropriate, to meet special information needs; and development of a comprehensive data management and retrieval system to provide information to managers.

The planning proposal was presented in April 1992 at meetings of the GSMFC and the ASMFC. The proposal emphasized a cooperative program in conjunction with state and federal fishery management agencies, regional fishery management councils, interstate marine fisheries commissions, and other organizations concerned with marine fishery management. In response to the proposal, an interagency Plan Development Team (PDT) was organized to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and draft a strategic plan for the RecFIN(SE)(RecFIN(SE) Committee 1993). During this process, the PDT had the benefit of work recently conducted on the Pacific Coast to initiate a similar cooperative program between the NMFS, the states of California, Oregon, and Washington, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (NMFS undated; PSMFC 1990; NMFS et al. 1991). The MOU confirmed the intent of the signatory agencies to participate in implementing the RecFIN(SE) and was signed by early 1993.

Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN)

In the 1990s, state and federal fishery managers in the Region agreed there was an urgent and compelling need for increased coordination of the collection and management of data on the marine commercial fisheries resources, and recommendations were made through a series of workshops and meetings. In particular, during 1991, the GSMFC Data Management Subcommittee began to review the collection and management of commercial fisheries statistics and information. Their conclusion was that a formal review of all such programs should take place in an effort to design an integrated program to satisfy data and information needs to manage fisheries. As an initial step, a MOU and Framework Plan were developed for the state-federal Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP). These documents established the Southeast Cooperative Statistics Committee (SCSC) which was charged with planning, managing and evaluating the CSP. In addition, a workshop that presented existing commercial fishery statistics programs generated a series of recommendations concerning marine commercial fisheries programs (GSMFC 1994). Those recommendations resulted in a proposal for the development of the ComFIN.

In 1994, the NMFS initiated a formal process to develop a cooperative state-federal program to collect and manage commercial fishery statistics in the Region. A concept paper outlined a strategy and schedule for developing the program and completing a strategic plan (Brown 1994). The proposed comprehensive program was to include examination of total information needs, including quantifying statistical and measurement goals; coordination or integration of existing data collection programs; development of alternate survey designs, when appropriate, to meet special information needs; and development of a comprehensive data management and retrieval system to provide information to managers.

The concept paper was distributed to agency directors for their review. It emphasized a cooperative program in conjunction with state and federal fishery management agencies, regional fishery management councils, interstate marine fisheries commissions, and other organizations concerned with marine fishery management. Due to previous work and NMFS action, the SCSC developed a MOU and a draft framework plan for the ComFIN. During this process, the SCSC had the benefit of the work recently conducted in the Region to initiate a cooperative program regarding marine recreational fisheries [RecFIN(SE)] as well as their own work regarding the development of a MOU and Framework Plan for the Cooperative Statistics Program (NMFS et al. 1993; RecFIN(SE) Committee 1993; NMFS et al. 1994; SCSC 1994). During the development of the ComFIN MOU, the SCSC, in conjunction with the RecFIN(SE) Committee, decided to combine the MOU to incorporate the RecFIN(SE). The joint MOU creates the FIN which is evolved from ~~composed of both~~ the ComFIN and RecFIN(SE). The MOU confirmed the intent of the signatory agencies to participate in implementing the FIN(Appendix A).

D. FIN/ACCSP Coordination

In November 1995, a MOU for an Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) was entered into by the fifteen Atlantic coast states, the District of Columbia, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The intent of the ACCSP MOU is to design and implement a cooperative state-federal marine fisheries statistics program that adequately meets the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. In 1998, the South Atlantic states stopped actively participating at the FIN Committee level due to the continued development of the ACCSP; however, those states are still active on various FIN subcommittees and work groups. In addition, the staffs of FIN and ACCSP regularly attend meetings of each other programs. The reason for these coordinating activities is to ensure continuity, comparability and compatibility of data across regional boundaries and to meet the goal of development of a national program.

E. Scope and Constituency

The scope of the FIN includes the Region's commercial and recreational fisheries for marine, estuarine, and anadromous species with attention to both short- and long-term fishery information needs. Where necessary, it may be expanded to include geographical areas outside the Region. Information that falls within the scope of the FIN includes all forms and types of data collected through fishery-dependent surveys.

The constituency served by the FIN are state and federal agencies in the Region concerned with conservation and management of marine commercial and recreational fisheries. Primary data users will be the MOU signatories that assess stocks, forecast trends, and monitor fishery regulations. These include the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, state fishery management agencies, fishery management councils and interstate marine fisheries commissions. Also benefitting from the FIN information will be other agencies responsible for the conservation or management of living marine resources in the Region, such as the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and NOAA Marine Sanctuaries Program.

The FIN partners are authorized by various federal and state statutes to collect marine commercial and recreational fisheries data in accord with their missions to conserve and manage living marine resources.

II. HISTORY AND STATUS OF DATA COLLECTION

The collection of statistics for commercial fishing in the United States began in the late 1800s under the auspices of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. These early statistics were comprised mostly of monthly landings for broad market categories of marine and some freshwater species. Federal programs for the collection of information on Southeast recreational fisheries started with small, local creel surveys in the 1950s. Long-term surveys began in the mid-1950s. This section outlines some of major data collection activities in the Southeast Region. For detailed project information, the RecFIN(SE) Committee prepared a summary of their current and historic fishery-dependent data collection projects for marine recreational fisheries in the Region and this is available in a separate document (GSMFC 1993).

(A) National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

The major FWS program is a saltwater angling survey conducted every five years since 1955 by the Department of the Interior as part of the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. This survey is ongoing, making it the oldest continuing survey in the Region. The 1991 data collection was completed in March 1992. The survey estimates the number of anglers, hunters, and non-consumptive recreation participants (those who enjoy photographing, observing, and feeding wildlife) nationwide and in the 50 states, as well as how often they participate and how much money they spend on these activities. Data collected include the number of participants in different types of hunting, fishing, and wildlife-associated recreation activities; days of participation and trips; species hunted and fished; types of expenditures; and selected socioeconomic characteristics of participants. The 1991 survey sampled 128,000 households in an initial telephone screening and sub-sampled 40,000 anglers and hunters and 28,000 non-consumptive users for detailed in-person interviews.

(B) Everglades National Park Survey

Marine recreational fishing surveys conducted by the NPS have been directed at monitoring harvest within national park units. Recreational fishing activity and harvest at the Flamingo marina in Everglades National Park were monitored by the University of Miami, under contract to the NPS, from 1958 to 1968 and by the NPS from 1972 to the present. This survey is probably the oldest localized recreational survey in the Region. Data on catch, effort, and fish length are collected through trip reports by fishing guides and boat launch site interviews of non-guided trips. Boating activity is also estimated from land-based counts of trailers and aerial counts of fishing boats. Biscayne National Park has conducted weekly interviews of fishermen, along with trailer counts, since 1976 to collect data on catch, effort, and fish length. Fishermen landings and visual census surveys of fish traps in the nearshore waters surrounding St. Johns, Virgin Islands National Park and Buck Island National Monument have been conducted periodically since 1982.

(C) Cooperative Statistics Program

The concept of cooperative data collection and/or statistical programs was discussed and outlined by the NMFS in the late 1970s. Between 1981 and 1984, formal cooperative agreements were agreed to and signed by the NMFS and all states in the Region. The U.S. Congress appropriated $1.7 million to support the collection of basic fishery statistics in the Region through the state-federal CSP. With this additional funding, two statistics program components were added to the existing monthly landings and Gulf shrimp statistics components. In the South Atlantic region, a program to collect shrimp landings and effort data for individual trips was implemented. The second program consisted of on-site interviews by trained fishery reporting specialists (port agents) to collect fishing effort and location information, species identification and length-

weight measurements for individual fish. The CSP consists of three types of fisheries statistics (four distinct program components) - monthly landing statistics, shrimp statistics for individual fishing trips (separate components in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico), and biostatistical data (also known as the Trip Interview Program or TIP). The data collection activities that are performed by state personnel are described in Section B that follows. The NMFS personnel collect detailed shrimp statistics in the Gulf of Mexico, except for parts of Alabama and Mississippi, and monthly landings statistics in parts of these two states. The NMFS personnel also collect bioprofile data in Texas, and Florida.

(D) Southeast Head Boat Survey

Since 1972, the NMFS has conducted a head boat survey along the South Atlantic Coast. The survey expanded in 1986 to include head boats operating in the northern Gulf of Mexico. The purpose of this survey is to collect data on the number, weight, and size distribution of the catch, along with effort information and biological samples, in order to establish indices of stock status for species of reef fish. Data are obtained by sampling at dockside and occasionally at sea and from logbooks that are now mandatory.

(E) Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey

The Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) has been conducted by the NMFS continuously in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastal areas since 1979. The survey was conducted in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands from 1979 through 1981 but was discontinued after 1981 due to lack of funds. In 1986, sampling in Texas was discontinued in order to stop duplication with a long-term state sampling program after the state of Texas agreed to provide their survey data to NMFS for fisheries management purposes. Also, in 1986, coverage of head boats in the Southeast Region was stopped in order to decrease duplication of effort with the Southeast Region Head Boat Survey. In 2000, the MRFSS was re-established in the U.S. Caribbean, although there were severe problems with attracting and retaining reliable intercept interviewers in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). Sampling in the USVI was dropped during 2001 to allow development of better ways to field the intercept survey, and intercept and telephone sampling is expected to resume in 2002. Current projections are that sampling in the U.S. Caribbean will continue through 2004.

The telephone survey has always been conducted by a contractor; however, on the intercept survey there has been a transition from contracting to cooperative agreements with the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions. In 1997, the MRFSS staff began a cooperative agreement with the Gulf GSMFC to conduct research into alternate methods to collect charter boat effort data. Through that cooperative agreement, the GSMFC gained experience conducting the charter boat intercept sampling and in 1999, after a bench-marking process side-by-side with the MRFSS Intercept Contractor, conduct of the complete MRFSS Intercept Survey in east Florida and the Gulf of Mexico was transferred to the cooperative agreement with the GSMFC and its member states. That arrangement has continued to the present. Conduct of the MRFSS Intercept Survey in the U.S. Caribbean is currently through the intercept contract but in 2002-2004 it may be done through a cooperative agreement with the GSMFC.

In the mid-1990's, the NMFS began a series of cooperative pilot studies to test alternate methods of surveying fishing effort by the charter and head boat fishery. Based on promising results from early studies, the NMFS funded a cooperative state-federal pilot survey with the GSMFC and its member states to test a vessel directory survey of charter boat angling at the regional level from 1997-1999. For this study, charter boat directories were developed and maintained by participating Gulf state agencies and the GSMFC. From September 1997 through the present, state personnel randomly dialed representatives of 10% of the charter boats for each state. The vessel representatives were asked about : 1) the number of chartered fishing trips

in the previous week, 2) the number of paying anglers on each trip, 3) the primary area of fishing for each trip, 4) total hours spent actively fishing, and 5) type of fishing conducted. The pilot survey also included an independent validation survey as a means of estimating possible under- or over-reporting of trips by either weekly interviewing or logbooks, due to concerns over the potential inaccuracy of self-reported data.

The weekly telephone survey produced significantly more efficient, precise, and credible charter angler effort estimates than the traditional MRFSS method. This was primarily due to better coverage of charter angling activity, collecting the fishing area data from vessel representatives rather than their customers, and excellent cooperation rates from the charter fleet.

In the study, the new methodology produced higher charter angler effort in inland waters and lower charter angler effort in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). This results in higher catch estimates for predominantly near-shore species and lower catch estimates for predominantly offshore species. The pilot study also indicates a significantly different seasonal distribution of charter angler effort, which the Gulf charter fleet considers more realistic.

The NMFS adopted the weekly telephone survey methodology as the new MRFSS charter method in the Gulf of Mexico starting in 2000 and hopes to implement it nationwide by 2002. To properly benchmark differences between the two surveys and preserve the historical time series, the NMFS will continue to conduct both the traditional MRFSS and the new survey side-by-side for at least 3 years.

In the 1990's the NMFS began two rounds of surveys across three regions (Northeast, Southeast, and Pacific Coast) in conjunction with the MRFSS. The first round was for valuation and the second round was for expenditures. Valuation surveys are designed to ask questions of anglers that elicit social and demographic information to characterize marine recreational fishing participants while expenditure surveys collect detailed data on anglers' fishing-related expenditures in order to estimate the impacts on regional economies. The valuation surveys were conducted in the Southeast region in 1997 and the expenditure surveys were conducted in the Southeast region in 1999.

(F) Texas Creel Survey

The Coastal Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department began sampling private boats and shore-based anglers in 1974. Private vessels have been surveyed continuously since 1974. Shore angling at wade/bank and lighted pier sites was surveyed from 1974 to 1975, 1979 to 1980, and 1990 to 1991. Surveys of Gulf head boats began in 1980 and were discontinued in 1984; surveys of bay head boats began in 1983 and were discontinued in 1991. Charter boat angling has been surveyed since 1983. All the surveys collect data on species composition, size and number of catch, and catch per unit effort; social and economic elements were included during 1987-1991. In 1986, an annual mail survey was initiated to determine social and economic characteristics of Texas anglers. During 1991, a study was conducted to determine the characteristics and significance of the nighttime flounder gig fishery. Night interviews were conducted at wade/bank and boat-access sites to estimate effort and catch rates, and to collect social and economic information.

(G) U.S. Virgin Island Recreational Fisheries Survey

The U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife began a recreational fishery survey in 1981 to determine harvest and effort of marine sportfishes. The survey was conducted through intercept interviews, telephone interviews, and tournament sampling. A survey was conducted in 1986 to evaluate the efficiency of phone

surveys for obtaining reliable data. Port sampling has also been utilized on St. Croix (1986-87) and on St. Thomas and St. John (1986-89) to determine the effectiveness of fish aggregating devices in attracting pelagic fish species. Port sampling was conducted to determine catch and effort for billfish from 1989-1991. In 1991, two ongoing projects were started that include intercept interviews to obtain catch and effort data on tuna species (in a study to determine the seasonality and feeding habits of tunas and to develop recreational live-bait techniques to harvest yellowfin tuna) and on pelagic sport fish (in a study on the biology of flyingfish and needlefish in relation to their importance as baitfish).

~~C. Cooperative Programs~~

~~Cooperative state-federal programs for collecting and managing fishery information have been operational in the Region since the early 1980s. The CSP focuses on commercial fishery-dependent data, while the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) collects fishery-independent data. Other federal programs such as the Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN), as well as special surveys, are used to cooperatively collect statistical information on specific southeastern fisheries. The ComFIN and RecFIN(SE) will use the above models to establish a comprehensive approach to collecting, managing, and disseminating marine commercial and recreational fisheries data in the Region.~~

~~D. Current Deficiencies~~

~~In spite of progress made through individual and cooperative programs, significant deficiencies still exist. Insufficient state and federal funding makes the development and operation of long-term cooperative data collection programs very difficult. Although federal and state management authorities require similar kinds of data on commercial and recreational fisheries to fulfill their management missions, different priorities and concerns and different levels of timeliness, precision, or detail are common. For example, some agencies may need information for the entire range of a resource to estimate its population status and ensure that overfishing of the stock is not occurring. Other agencies may give priority to information on a more restricted geographic area to deal with questions concerning local availability. The numerous marine commercial and recreational fisheries data collection activities in the Region often have not been coordinated to maximize the usefulness and availability of results.~~

~~The major data collection problems that presently exist are (NMFS 1992):~~

- ~~"State and federal data bases are often not compatible or continuous over time or area";~~
- ~~"Duplication and conflicts occur among surveys";~~
- ~~"Improvements in estimation of fishing effort and catch for some sectors of the commercial and recreational fisheries are needed";~~
- ~~"More precise catch and effort estimates are needed at various geographical levels";~~
- ~~"Significant recreational fisheries for molluscan shellfish and crustaceans are not covered regularly by most surveys";~~

- "Information on highly migratory species and "rare-event" catches is not sufficient to determine the impact of commercial and recreational fisheries on the resources";

- "Better information on length frequencies and catch-at-age by time/area strata is needed for the level of statistical confidence required by decision makers and the precision required by stock assessment scientists";

- "Information about discarded catch and the disposition of landed catch, including consumption, has not been verified or routinely collected";

- "The nature and extent of tournament catches are poorly known";

- "Social and economic data on commercial and recreational fisheries are very limited and, in many cases, nonexistent";

- "The ability to access and analyze commercial and recreational fishery survey data bases is severely limited"; and

- "There is no common forum for concerned agencies in the Southeast to plan, coordinate, and evaluate marine commercial and recreational fisheries data collection and management activities".

The ComFIN and RecFIN(SE) will address these deficiencies and others such as lack of funding for the Caribbean by coordinating and integrating diverse state and federal projects and objectives through cooperative planning, innovative uses of statistical theory and design, and consolidation of appropriate data into a useful data base system. Coordination of these activities will provide better data for management decisions, while controlling costs and avoiding duplication of effort.

III. CURRENT INITIATIVES

Measures to improve and expand collection of statistical data on marine commercial and recreational fisheries were underway prior to development of this Framework Plan. Many of the recommendations made in the ASMFC and GSMFC workshops and reports (Lazauski 1986; Halgren et al. 1988; Osborn and Lazauski 1989; McGurrin 1990; GSMFC 1991, 1992; Osborn 1992; GSMFC 1994) have been implemented. As a result, notable improvements in ongoing surveys have been achieved. Improvements in the organizational structure of the CSP have been made, such as development of the SCSC, Framework Plan and annual operations plans for the CSP as well as improvements in quality control, such as changes in training procedures for MRFSS interviewers, increased instruction in identification of fish species, and closer supervisory control of field personnel. Beginning in 1992, summaries of data from the Texas recreational fishery survey were included in the MRFSS report.

A. Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey

The MRFSS continues to improve. Specific improvements from 1993-1995 include:

- *Cleanup of historical data.* The MRFSS staff completed a major effort to correct remaining errors in data sets produced by the 1981-1995 MRFSS telephone and intercept surveys. Using methods developed for the 1993 MRFSS contract, corrections were made to telephone survey data errors in the accounting of total number of residential households and total sampled non-fishing households by county; as well as intercept survey data errors related to species codes, length/weight relationships, accounting of group catches, and other illogical or out-of-range variable values. The data corrections had relatively minor effects on the state level estimates of effort and finfish catches.

- *Imputation for missing data.* Imputation substitutes data for sampled fishing households in cases where some or all of the trip information was not collected. Although proxy data are collected whenever possible, there are still circumstances where a household is identified as a fishing household, but household fishing data is either incomplete or unobtainable. In previous years missing telephone data was ignored. "Hot deck" imputation procedures were developed and used to revise 1981-1995 MRFSS telephone survey data. This eliminates biases caused by the incomplete counting of angler trips in households contacted by the telephone survey. Imputation of missing effort data increases fishing effort estimates, hence it also increases the finfish catch estimates. Thus far, the extent of this increase in estimated trips appears to be about 5%, but it varies by year, state, wave, and mode.

- *Telephone Survey Sample Weighting.* The MRFSS Telephone Survey sample of households in each state is distributed among coastal counties in accordance with the distribution of the square roots of the county populations of residential households. This sampling method ensures a minimal level of sampling in coastal counties with small populations. The old estimation methodology did not take this weighting of the sample size into account when calculating trip estimates. This resulted in less populated counties receiving proportionally more weight than heavily populated counties in the estimation of the mean trips per household for the coastal zone of the state. The mean trip estimates are now properly weighted by the number of households in the county prior to calculation of a state level estimate of the mean household fishing effort. This new weighting procedure was applied to 1981-1995 corrected and imputed telephone survey data sets and corrected intercept survey data sets to produce revised effort and catch estimates for all MRFSS survey years. Effort estimates generated with this weighting method are more accurate than those produced with the old method. Subsequent

catch estimates, which depend on those effort estimates, are also more accurate. The extent of the differences between new and old estimates of fishing effort and finfish catches varies by year, state, wave and mode. In many strata the difference between "new" and "old" method estimates is minimal. In general, "new" estimates differ most from "old" estimates in states where the coastal counties differ greatly in population size and the large and small population counties differ greatly in household fishing effort.

Home Page with Data Access. The MRFSS staff developed a World Wide Web home page which allows interactive access to Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS)and automatic downloading of data as well as MRFSS documents. Access to trade data bases and historical commercial monthly landings data bases is also available. The interactive access allows users to fill in selected parameters for customized queries of catch, effort, and participation data bases. Data are available down to the cell level of resolution (year, state or subregion, fishing mode, fishing area, species). Summarized query data is returned in table or ASCII file format.

The MRFSS is used to gather detailed data on specialized topics, such as sociology, economics, consumption rates of recreational fishermen, and fishing avidity for selected species. The information is obtained by adding questions to the survey instruments or by using the interviewed fishermen or telephone households as sampling frames for follow-up surveys. In 1994, an economic survey was conducted in the Northeast Region as an add-on to the MRFSS to provide data for random utility demand and participation models. In 1996, baseline economic questions were added to the intercept questions and questions on recreational shellfishing participation in the Southeast Region and subsistence fishing in the Northeast Region were added to the telephone questionnaire.

Some information needs that are not satisfactorily met by the MRFSS continue to be addressed by special surveys. Efforts continue to make these surveys more responsive to the information needs of fishery managers. For example, in 1992 - 1996 the large pelagics survey that provides catch estimates of recreationally caught Atlanta bluefin tuna was modified to increase precision and to provide weekly catch estimates so that U.S. quotas for this species could be more closely monitored. Additionally changes have been made in the procedures and timeliness of data processing of the NMFS charterboat and headboat surveys and in a number of state-sponsored surveys.

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

A MOU for an Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) was entered into bu the fifteen Atlantic coast states, the District of Columbia, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in November 1995. The intent of the MOU is to design and implement a cooperative state-federal marine and coastal fisheries statistics program that adequately meets the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen, The ACCSP will be addressing similar problems being examined by the RecFIN and ComFIN of the Southeast Region, and will coordinate efforts to ensure continuity and comparability of data across regional boundaries.

~~These changes are examples of ongoing efforts to improve the quality and usefulness of information on commercial and recreational fisheries of the Region. The ComFIN and RecFIN(SE) will provide a unifying focus for continued efforts in this direction.~~

III. PROGRAM MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

A. Fisheries Information Network

Mission Statement

~~The mission of the FIN is to provide a forum for discussion and resolution of issues and activities which affect both commercial and recreational fisheries data programs. The FIN provides a unifying focus for fishery-dependent data collection and management activities in the Region. While the FIN will focus on fishery-dependent data the program will coordinate and communicate with existing and future fishery-independent data collection programs.~~

~~**ComFIN**~~

~~***Mission Statement***~~

The mission of the FIN is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine commercial, anadromous and recreational fishery data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Region and to support the development and operation of national ~~an inter-regional~~ program.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: To plan, manage and evaluate a coordinated State/Federal marine commercial and recreational fishery data collection program for the Region.

- **Objective 1** To establish and maintain a FIN Committee consisting of MOU signatories or their designees to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate the program.
- **Objective 2** To develop and periodically review a Framework Plan that outlines policies and protocol of the program
- **Objective 3** To develop annual operation plans, including identification of available resources, that implement the Framework Plan.
- **Objective 4** To distribute program information to the cooperators and interested parties.
- **Objective 5** To conduct a program review at least every five years of operation to evaluate the program's success in meeting needs in the Region.

Goal 2: To implement and maintain a coordinated State/Federal marine commercial and recreational fishery data collection program for the Region.

- **Objective 1** To characterize and periodically review the components of the commercial and recreational fisheries and identify the required data priorities for each component.

Objective 2 To identify and periodically review environmental, biological, social and economic data elements required for each fishery.

Objective 3 To identify, determine, and periodically review standards for data collection, including statistical, training and quality assurance.

Objective 4 To identify, evaluate and periodically review the adequacy of current programs for meeting FIN requirements.

Objective 5 To coordinate, integrate and augment, as appropriate, data collection efforts to meet FIN requirements.

Objective 6 To evaluate and recommend innovative data collection methodologies and technologies.

Goal 3: To establish and maintain an integrated, marine commercial and recreational fishery data management system for the Region.

Objective 1 To periodically review and make recommendations regarding the location and administrative responsibility for the FIN data management system.

Objective 2 To periodically evaluate the hardware, software and communication capabilities of program partners and make recommendations for support and upgrades.

Objective 3 To implement, maintain, and periodically review a marine commercial and recreational fishery data management system to accommodate fishery management/research and other needs.

Objective 4 To develop, maintain, and periodically review standard protocols and documentation for data formats, inputs, editing, storage, access, transfer dissemination, and application.

Objective 5 To identify and prioritize historical databases for integration into the marine commercial and recreational fisheries database.

Objective 6 To evaluate and recommend innovative, cost-effective information management technologies.

Objective 7 To protect the confidentiality of personal and business information, as required by state and/or federal law.

Goal 4: To support the development and operation of a national program to collect, manage and disseminate marine commercial and recreational fisheries information for use by

states, territories, councils, interstate commissions and federal marine fishery management agencies.

Objective 1 To provide for long-term national program planning.

Objective 2 To coordinate FIN with other regional and national marine commercial and recreational fisheries programs.

Objective 3 To encourage consistency and comparability among regional and national marine commercial and recreational fisheries programs over time.

~~**RecFIN(SE)**~~

~~***Mission Statement***~~

~~The mission of the RecFIN(SE) is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate MRF statistical data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Region and to support the development and operation of a national program.~~

~~***Goals and Objectives***~~

~~To further the mission of the program, RecFIN(SE) activities will be directed toward the following goals and objectives:~~

~~**Goal 1:** To plan, manage, and evaluate a coordinated state-federal MRF data collection program for the Region.~~

~~**Objective 1:** To maintain a RecFIN(SE) Committee consisting of MOU signatories or their designees to develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate the program.~~

~~**Objective 2:** To develop and periodically review a Framework Plan that outlines policies and protocols of the program.~~

~~**Objective 3:** To develop annual operations plans, including identification of available resources, that implement the Framework Plan.~~

~~**Objective 4:** To distribute program information to cooperators and interested parties.~~

~~**Objective 5:** To conduct a program review at least every five years of operation to evaluate the program's success in meeting needs in the Region.~~

Goal 2: To implement and maintain a coordinated state-federal MRF data collection program for the Region.

Objective 1: To periodically review the components of the fishery (modes, areas, etc.) and the required data priorities for each component.

Objective 2: To periodically review data elements (environmental, biological, sociological, economic) required for each fishery component.

Objective 3: To determine, maintain and periodically review standards for data collection, including statistical, training, and quality assurance and quality control standards.

Objective 4: To periodically review and evaluate the adequacy of current programs for meeting the RecFIN(SE) requirements.

Objective 5: To coordinate, integrate, and augment, as appropriate, data collection efforts to meet the RecFIN(SE) requirements.

Objective 6: To evaluate and recommend innovative data collection technologies.

Goal 3: To establish and maintain an integrated, MRF data management system for the Region.

Objective 1: To periodically review and make recommendations regarding the location and administrative responsibility for the RecFIN(SE) data management system.

Objective 2: To periodically evaluate the hardware, software, and communication capabilities of program partners and make recommendations for support and upgrades.

Objective 3: To implement, maintain, and periodically review an MRF data management system to accommodate fishery management/research and other needs (e.g., trade and tourism).

Objective 4: To develop, maintain, and periodically review standard protocols and documentation for data formats, input, editing, quality control, storage, access, transfer, dissemination, and application.

Objective 5: To identify and prioritize data bases for integration into the MRF data management system.

Objective 6: To evaluate and recommend innovative, cost-effective information management technologies.

Objective 7 To protect the confidentiality of personal and business information, as required by state and/or federal law.

Goal 4: To support the development and operation of a national program to collect, manage, and disseminate MRF information for use by states, territories, councils, interstate commissions, and federal marine fishery management agencies.

Objective 1: To provide for long-term national program planning.

Objective 2: To coordinate the RecFIN(SE) with other regional and national MRF programs.

Objective 3: To encourage consistency and comparability among regional and national programs over time.

IV. PROGRAM OPERATIONS

A. Organizational Structure and Administration

The organizational structure will consist of the FIN Committee, two geographic subcommittees (Caribbean and Gulf) standing and ad hoc subcommittees, technical work groups, and administrative support. (Figure 1).

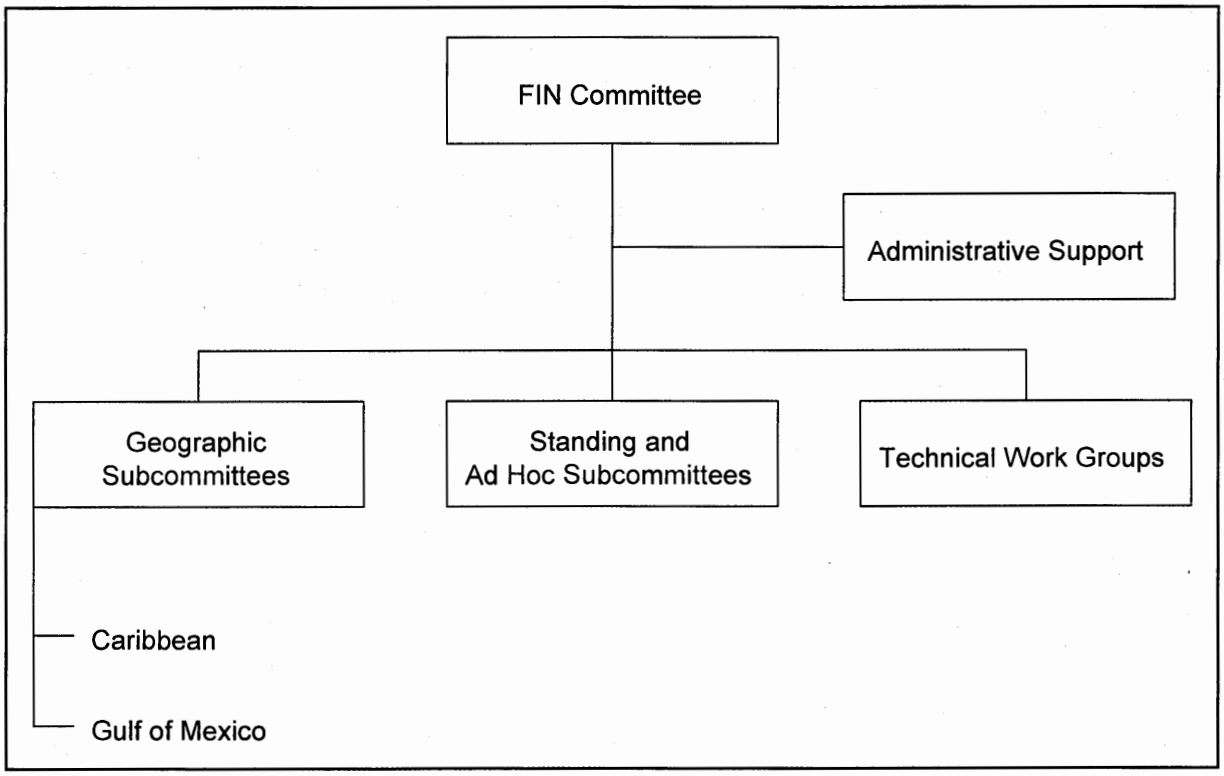

Figure 2. Organizational structure of the FIN.

FIN Committee

The FIN Committee consists of the signatories to the MOU or their designees. Agencies represented by signatories to the MOU are voting members of the Committee:

(A) National Marine Fisheries Service
(B) Fish and Wildlife Service
(C) National Park Service
(D) Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
(E) Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
(F) Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
(G) Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
(H) Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
(I) Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

(J) U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
(K) Caribbean Fishery Management Council
(L) Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
(M) Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

As mentioned early, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission no longer actively participate on the FIN Committee. Although there is no participation from these agencies on the committee level, there are many coordination activities among FIN and ACCSP staff to ensure comparability and compatibility between the programs.

The FIN Committee will meet at least annually to carry out their responsibilities. It is anticipated that most decisions of this Committee will be reached by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, the will of the Committee will be expressed by majority vote of a quorum (2/3 of all members) to determine the preferred action. Each member agency of the Committee will have one vote, even if an agency has more than one Committee member. The duties of the FIN Committee will include but not be limited to:

(A) Establish and implement program policies, priorities, and standard operating procedures;

(B) Establish and disband technical work groups and ad hoc subcommittees;

(C) Review, approve, and implement annual work plans and other reports;

(D) Review funding proposals and make funding recommendations to the State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee and Caribbean Fishery Management Council;

(E) Direct the evaluation of the program;

(F) Support development of national commercial and recreational cooperative data collection programs; and

(G) Sponsor appropriate forums.

Geographic Subcommittees

The FIN Committee will be each divided into two standing subcommittees representing the major geographical areas of the Region: Caribbean and Gulf. These subcommittees will be responsible for making recommendations to the Committees on the needs of these areas. Because meetings will involve fewer members and shorter travel distances, subcommittees may be able to meet more frequently, at lower travel costs, to deal with specific sub-regional and general programmatic issues.

Standing and Ad Hoc Subcommittees and Technical Work Groups

Standing and ad hoc subcommittees may be established as needed by the FIN Committee to formulate administrative policies, to serve as nominating committees for the FIN chair and other positions, or to address other issues as decided by the FIN Committee. Members of these subcommittees will be members of FIN Committee.

Technical work groups will be established as needed by the FIN Committee to carry out tasks on specific technical issues. Work groups will be appropriate for accomplishing many of the specific FIN objectives. Each group will be comprised of persons selected by the Committee for their expertise on the specific subject to be addressed and may include members of the FIN Committee, as well as nonmembers.

Work groups will be charged in writing by the Committee with specific tasks and may be disbanded by the Committee when that task is completed. "Standing" work groups may also be authorized by the Committee and be assigned a series of related tasks over a period of time.

Coordination and Administrative Support

Coordination and administrative support of the FIN will be accomplished through the GSMFC. All participants will be consulted concerning administrative and coordination issues. Major tasks involved in the coordination and administration of the various levels of the FIN include but are not limited to:

(A) Working closely with the Committee in all aspects of program coordination, administration, and operation;

(B) Implementing plans and program directives approved by the Committee;

(C) Providing coordination and logistical support, including communications and organization of meetings for the Committee, subcommittees, and work groups;

(D) Developing and/or administering cooperative agreements, grants, and contracts;

(E) Serving as liaison between the Committee, other program participants, and other interested organizations;

(F) Assisting the Committee in preparation or review of annual spending plans;

(G) Preparing annual operations plans under the direction of the Committee;

(H) Preparing and/or supervising and coordinating preparation of selected documents, including written records of all meetings;

(I) Distributing approved FIN information and data in accordance with accepted policies and procedures as set forth by the Committee;

(J) Assisting in the identification of regional and geographic needs that can be satisfied through FIN activities; and

(K) Conducting or participating in other activities as identified.

B. Support Requirements

Resources will be required to support FIN administrative and programmatic functions. Solicited funds and inkind contributions from participating agencies will be used to meet these needs.

Administrative Functions: Funds will be needed for administrative, travel, and meeting expenses for the FIN Committee, geographic subcommittees, standing and ad hoc subcommittees, and technical work groups. Consulting costs for statisticians and other experts selected to participate on work groups may be necessary.

Programmatic Functions: Ongoing data collection, management, and dissemination activities are agency-funded. Additional funding will be required to maintain current levels of commercial and recreational ~~the CSP (South Atlantic Statistics Committee, 1992) and MRFSS~~ activities as well as for new or augmented FIN needs.

C. Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation

The FIN is a comprehensive program comprised of coordinated data collection activities, an integrated data management and retrieval system, and procedures for information dissemination, as outlined in the mission, goals, and objectives of this Framework Plan. These three program components will be directed by the FIN Committee. Involvement of all program participants in planning and implementation through the FIN Committee, geographical subcommittees, and technical work groups should ensure development of a program strategy that will best meet the fishery management needs of the signatories to the MOU. It is recognized that the needs of individual parties, in some cases, are quite different and that it will be impossible to meet all needs with a common effort. However, by considering the information needs and ongoing surveys of all FIN partners, the present variety of separate data collection and data management activities may be coordinated and/or modified to maximize the return on expenditure of statistical survey monies and the utility of the results. Implementation of annual operations plans will be the means of accomplishing the goals and objectives of this Framework Plan. A detailed annual operations plan for each year will present tasks to be accomplished that year and the approaches for their implementation. The data collection, data management, and information dissemination activities for each year will be determined through repeated monitoring, evaluation, and identification of needs (Figure 2). In addition, the FIN will interact with outside users of the data in various activities and issues (Figure 3).

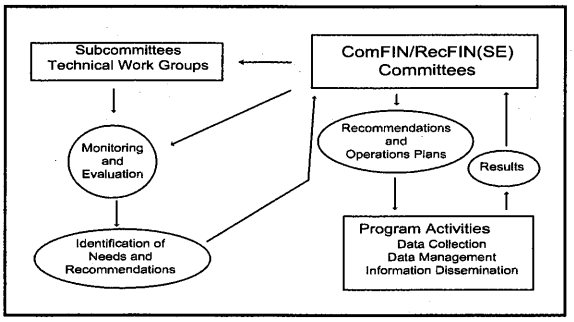

Figure 2. Schematic diagram of the FIN internal operations process.

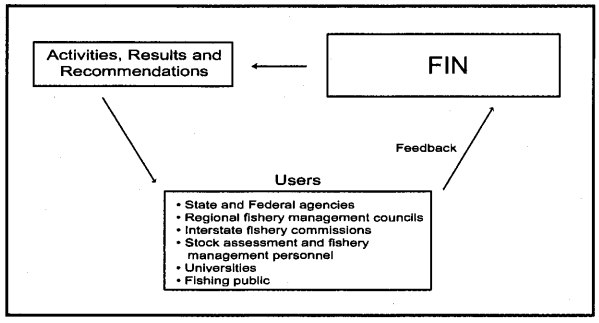

Figure 3. Schematic diagram of the FIN external operations process.

This process is described below for each of the three categories of FIN activities.

Data Collection

The development and implementation of the data collection activities by the FIN partners will be accomplished by:

Committee activities

(A) The Committee will charge the subcommittees and/or technical work groups in writing with specific tasks that address data needs and standards. These tasks will include, but will not be limited to: determination of catch rates and species composition for night fishing and tournaments; development of data collection plan; evaluation of fishery-independent data activities; modify marine recreational fishing licenses to meet criteria for use as sampling frame; development of a social/economic pilot data collection study and other needed activities;

(B) The Committee will evaluate innovative, cost-effective data collections technologies. The Committee will make recommendations to the appropriate personnel/agency;

(C) The Committees will periodically review marine commercial and recreational fisheries data collection activities accomplished by participating agencies.

Operational activities

(A) The partners will continue to develop and implement trip ticket programs in the Gulf of Mexico. Ultimately, each state will have an operating trip ticket program which will capture all of the commercial fisheries landings in the Gulf of Mexico;

(B) The partners will continue the collection of recreational fisheries data in the Gulf of Mexico using the MRFSS methods to survey shore, for-hire, and private boat modes. The GSMFC will continue to provide for the coordination of the survey as well as entry of the intercept data. The NMFS will continue to produce expanded estimates of catch and effort by wave using the existing MRFSS methodology. In addition, the Gulf States will conduct weekly telephone calls to a sample of the Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida charter boat captains to obtain estimates of charter boat fishing effort. Regarding head boats, the FIN will coordinate with the ACCSP and await the outcome of the South Carolina pilot survey which is comparing the MRFSS RDD, captain telephone survey, and mandatory logbook methodologies;

(C) The partners will continue to sample gulf menhaden catches from menhaden purse-seine vessels which operate in Louisiana; and

(D) The partners will continue to sample catches, collect catch reports from head boat personnel, and gather effort data on head boats which operate in Texas, Louisiana, and Florida.

(E) In addition to these on-going activities, the Committee will be addressing a variety of issues and conducting pilot studies to address them. These issues were addressed under Committee activities.

Data Management

A comprehensive data management system will be a fundamental component of the FIN. This system is envisioned to be integrated and distributed from which information on marine commercial and recreational fisheries is easily and effectively retrievable. Communication with the Pacific and Atlantic coasts will also be established and maintained to coordinate with and benefit from its data management efforts and to ensure compatibility with a planned national commercial and recreational fisheries data base system. Development of the data management system will be accomplished by technical work groups established by agency and FIN staff and the FIN Committee. Development and implementation of the system will be accomplished by:

Committee activities

(A) The hardware, software, and communication capabilities of program partners will be periodically evaluated and recommendations will be made to the FIN Committee for changes and upgrades; and

(B) The evaluation of innovative, cost-effective data management technologies will be examined by the FIN Committee and the Committee will make recommendations to the appropriate personnel/agency.

Operational activities

(D) Data management module designs have been conducted for commercial and recreational catch/effort, biological sampling, and metadata. There are plans to design the registration tracking. social/economic, quota monitoring and discards modules; and

(E) Standard protocols and documentation, including quality assurance/quality control standards, for data formats, data element definitions, input, editing, storage, access, transfer, dissemination, and application will be developed.

All of these activities will be coordinated with the ACCSP to ensure comparability and compatibility among the FIN and ACCSP.

Information Dissemination

The information dissemination component of the FIN will consist of activities associated with distribution of three types of information. These tasks may be accomplished by any or all of the groups in the FIN organizational structure.

(A) Administrative information will document program operations and will include annual work plans; annual reports; reports and/or minutes of the FIN Committee, subcommittee, and technical work group meetings; and reports documenting the results of work group studies;

(B) Data base information will include data base inventories, data summaries, system requirements, system design reports, and other data base documentation that will provide critical information to users; and

(C) General program information which will be primarily descriptive, will keep the FIN partners and other interested groups informed about relevant events and issues and will generate interest in the program. This will be accomplished through the development and implementation of an outreach strategy. Means of communication may include informal newsletters, informational articles in newspapers or journals, and presentations to public groups or at technical meetings.

External Review of the Program

At the end of each fifth year of operation or early, the FIN Committee will arrange for a formal external review of the program. This review will be a critical evaluation of the effectiveness of the program in achieving the its respective goals and objectives. A written report will be prepared by the review team and presented to all the FIN signatory agencies, with recommendations for the improvements of the FIN.

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APPENDIX A.

Fisheries Information Network
Memorandum of Understanding

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

AMONG

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FOR
ESTABLISHMENT OF A
FISHERIES INFORMATION NETWORK
FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES
(FIN)

APRIL 1996

PREAMBLE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirms the intent of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); the National Park Service (NPS); the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions; the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils; and the marine fishery management agencies of the states and territories in the Southeast Region[3] of the United States to develop and implement a cooperative program to collect and manage marine commercial and recreational fishery statistics. This MOU recognizes the long-standing cooperation and partnership existing among these organizations in management of and research on the Region's living marine resources and their habitats.

The signatures of senior agency officials on this MOU in no way obligate the signatory agencies to provide personnel or funds for planning and implementation of the Fisheries Information Network (FIN).

Statistical data and information are necessary to achieve optimal benefits from the use of fishery resources and to reduce the risk of overharvesting. Development of a cooperative commercial and recreational fisheries statistics program among state, territory, and federal partners can avoid duplication of effort, reduce overall costs, promote education of resource users, and provide a more complete base of information for formulating management policies, strategies, and tactics.

BACKGROUND

Need for Information

Catch and effort statistics are fundamental for assessing the effects of fishing on stocks of living marine resources. Information on total catch, fishing effort, and seasonal and geographical distribution of the catch and effort is required to develop rational management policies and plans. Accurate and timely catch statistics, along with associated biological, social, and economic data, are required to provide management agencies with the information necessary to plan for the wise use of fishery resources. Statistics are needed by management agencies for assessing the status of stocks and developing and monitoring fishery management plans.

State and territory fishery management agencies and federal agencies with local authority (e.g., the NPS) have long managed the fishery resources within their respective jurisdictions. Recreational and commercial catch and effort statistics have been fundamentally important to these agencies in assessing the influence of fishing and making decisions on appropriate management measures to maintain and enhance fishery resources. In 1976 the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) created regional fishery management councils and greatly increased the involvement of state, territory, and federal agencies in the conservation and management of fishery resources. The MFCMA mandates a national fishery management program and directs that fishery management plans (FMPs) be prepared by regional councils or the NMFS for resources that are in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Through their member states, congressionally established interstate marine fisheries commissions prepare FMPs for fishery resources which occur either

[3]The Southeast Region (the Region) includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

partially or entirely in interstate jurisdictional waters. States and territories also prepare FMPs for fishery resources within their jurisdictions. Consideration of both commercial and recreational harvests is a significant component of all these FMPs.

The major fishery resources of the southeastern United States require interjurisdictional management because of their transboundary distributions. Stocks of fish routinely cross interjurisdictional boundaries, and commercial and recreational fishermen, and other harvesters cross these same boundaries in pursuit of those resources. Because of these movements, information on fisheries in one jurisdiction is useful to adjacent jurisdictions. Adequate information about fishing and other resource uses is also needed by state, territorial, and local government agencies to determine the biological and economic impacts of land and water use decisions.

Inseason regulatory changes and catch quotas have become common fishery management strategies. Timely, accurate and precise harvest information for both recreational and commercial fisheries is required to determine the need for and effects of these m anagement measures.

Historical Programs

Individual management agencies have conducted numerous statistical surveys over the years to provide information for the management of fisheries within their jurisdictions. The collection of statistics for commercial fishing in the United States began in the late 1800s under the auspices of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. These early statistics were comprised mostly of monthly landings for broad market categories of marine and some freshwater species. In the mid-1950s, a program was initiated to collect detailed data on the amount and value of shrimp landings by species and size for individual fishing trips in the Gulf of Mexico. In the late 1970s, the concept of cooperative data collection programs was discussed and between 1981 and 1984, formal agreements were signed by the NMFS and all states, commonwealths and territories in the Region to collect and manage commercial fishery statistics.

Programs to collect statistical information on marine recreational fisheries began in the 1950s with local creel surveys and were followed by saltwater angling surveys conducted every five years (1960 to the present) by the U.S. Department of the Interior through its National Survey of Hunting, Fishing, and Associated Outdoor Recreational Activities. Since 1979 the NMFS has conducted the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey (MRFSS), which produces annual estimates of total fishing effort and catch by species. Management agencies have conducted numerous other surveys, either as enhancements to the MRFSS or as independent surveys.

Data Deficiencies

In response to the recent increase in fishery management information requirements, management agencies in the Region have recognized the need to improve their marine commercial and recreational fisheries data collection programs. Cooperative efforts to identify specific problems have revealed the following major deficiencies:

- State, territorial, and federal data bases are not always compatible or continuous over time or area;

- Some duplication and field sampling conflicts may still be occurring among different surveys;

- Improvements in the estimation of fishing effort and catch for some sectors of the commercial and recreational fishery are needed;

- Significant recreational fisheries for molluscan shellfish and crustaceans are not covered regularly by most surveys;

- Information on highly migratory species and "rare-event" catches is not sufficient to determine the impact of commercial and recreational fisheries on the resources;

- Information about discarded catch and the disposition of landed catch, including consumption, has not been verified or routinely collected;

- The nature and extent of tournament catches are poorly known;

- More precise catch and effort estimates are needed at various geographical levels;

- Better information on length frequencies and catch-at-age by time/area strata is needed for the level of statistical confidence required by decision makers and the precision required by stock assessment scientists;

- Social and economic data on commercial and recreational fisheries are very limited and, in many cases, nonexistent;

- The ability to access and analyze most commercial and recreational fishery survey data bases is severely limited; and

- There is no common forum for concerned agencies in the Region to plan, coordinate, and evaluate marine commercial and recreational fisheries data collection and management activities.

PURPOSE

Having determined that there is an urgent and compelling need for statistical data on marine commercial and recreational fisheries of the southeastern United States, the signatories to this MOU confirm their intent to establish a cooperative, State/Federal, southeastern Fisheries Information Network. The FIN is intended to coordinate present and future commercial and recreational fisheries data collection and data management activities through cooperative planning, innovative uses of statistical theory and design, and consolidation of appropriate data into a useful data base system.

While this MOU establishes the FIN, with its component programs the ComFIN and the RecFIN, for the Southeast Region, it is important to acknowledge the ongoing development of a unified, Atlantic coast cooperative statistics program under the auspices of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. When established, this program will provide coordination and appropriate standardization of protocols and avoid duplication of effort in the collection and management of fisheries data along the Atlantic coast. Throughout the development of this Atlantic coast program, there has been close coordination with the ComFIN and the RecFIN programs of the Southeast Region. It is expected that upon its establishment, a formal linkage

between the Atlantic coast program and the FIN will be developed and implemented. Such a linkage will assure interregional and national coordination and cooperation, as stated in the goals and objectives of this MOU, will avoid duplication of effort among regions, and will provide for a unified approach to the collection and management of marine fisheries data throug hout the nation.

AUTHORITY

Authorization of the parties to this MOU to collect and manage data for use in marine fishery resource management includes the follow ing statutes:

National Marine Fisheries Serv ice:

- Section 1854 (e) of Title 16 of the U.S. Code, part of the Magnuson Act, requires the Secretary of Commerce to initiate and maintain, in cooperation with the fishery management councils, a comprehensive program of research regarding fishery conservation and management and on the economics of the fisheries.

- Section 1525 of Title 15 of the U.S. Code authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to engage in joint projects on matters of mutual interest with other government agencies, and non-profit organizations, where the coast of such activ ities is equitably apportioned among the parties.

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other laws and directives (Regulatory Flexibility Act and E.O. 12291) delineate federal analytical responsibilities for assessing the impact of fishing activities.

- The NMFS Strategic Plan (1992-96) details specific goals and objectives referring to the need for collection of marine commercial fisheries statistics.

- The Migratory Game Fish Study Act of 1959 [16 U.S.C. 760(e)] provides for a continuing study of migratory marine fishes, including the effects of fishing on the species.

Fish and Wildlife Serv ice:

- The FWS conducts national surveys of fishing primarily under the authority of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777-777k, the Dingell-Johnson, or D-J, Act). The D-J Act was expanded in 1984 by Public Law (P.L.) 98-369 (98 Stat. 1015), referred to as the Wallop-Breaux Amendment.

- The FWS also is authorized to collect data under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1956 (U.S.C. 742d-f) and the NEPA.

National Park Service:

- Under the National Park Service Organic Act of 1916, the NPS is charged with the management of the parks to "...conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein, and to

provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for enjoyment of future generations."

- The General Authorities Act of 1970 defines the National Park System as including all the areas administrated by the NPS "...for park, monument, historic, parkway, recreational, or other purposes" and declares that all units in the System will be managed in accordance with their respective individual directives, in addition to the Congressional direction found in the Organic Act, providing the legislation does not conflict with specific provisions.

Alabama:

- Code of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Title 9, Subsection 2-4, Subheading (a), provides the Department with full jurisdiction and control of all resources existing or living in the waters of Alabama.

Florida:

- Florida Statute 370.02 directs the Department of Environmental Protection to secure and maintain statistical records of the catch of marine species by various gear, by areas and other appropriate classifications.

- Florida Statute 370.0607 directs the Department to establish a marine fisheries information system in conjunction with the licensing program to gather marine fisheries data.

Georgia:

- Georgia Code Section 27-1-3(a) declares all wildlife of the state to be within the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for purposes of management and regulation.

- Georgia Code Section 27-1-3(b) authorizes Department of Natural Resources employees to check creels for adherence to daily limits and size limits.

- Georgia Code Section 27-1-6(3) confers upon the Department of Natural Resources the power to enter into cooperative agreements with educational institutions and state, federal, and other agencies to promote wildlife management, conservation, and research.

- Georgia Code Section 27-1-23 authorizes the Department agents to inspect business premises and records of commercial license holders.

- Georgia Code Section 27-1-24 authorizes the Department to board, inspect and examine the vessel, its equipment, wildlife on board, and required documents.

- Georgia Code Section 27-4-118 requires any commercial fishing boat or vessel to maintain and carry a record book showing information pertaining to their catch.

- Georgia Code Section 27-4-135 requires the maintenance of records by sellers and reports of oysters and clams harvested.

- Georgia Code Section 27-4-136 requires the maintenance of records by seafood suppliers.

- Georgia Code Section 27-4-171 requires licensed bait shrimpers to report maintain records and report information pertaining to bait shrimp sales.

- Georgia Code Section 50-18-70 states that all public records be open for inspection to the general population.

- Georgia Code Section 50-18-72 refers to the limited application of provisions and refusal to disclose identity of informant.

Louisiana:

- Louisiana Revised Statute 56:6(6) confers upon the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the authority to collect, classify, and preserve such data and information as will tend to conserve and protect marine resources.

Mississippi:

- Mississippi Ordinance 9.002 directs the Department to obtain statistical information on recreational fisheries landed or processed in the State of Mississippi.

- Mississippi Code of 1972, Section 25-61-1 refers to the Public Records Act of 1983 concerning data confidentiality.

- Mississippi Code of 1972, Section 79-23-1 refers to the Commercial and Proprietary Information Act concerning data confidentiality.

North Carolina:

- North Carolina General Statute (GS) 113-131 charges the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources with stewardship over the state's marine and estuarine fishery resources.

- Research and collection of statistics are authorized by GS 113-181 and the endorsement to sell is authorized by GS 113-154.1.

- Collection and protection of statistical inform ation are authorized by GS 113-163.

Puerto Rico:

- Act Number 23 of June 20, 1972, as amended (known as the Department of Natural Resources Organic Act), and Act Number 83 of May 13, 1936, as amended (known as the Puerto Rico Fisheries Act), confer upon the Department of Natural Resources authority over the natural resources of Puerto Rico and the aquatic resources w ithin jurisdictional w aters of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

South Carolina:

- South Carolina Code Section 50-5-20 gives the Division of Marine Resources jurisdiction over all saltwater fish, fishing and fisheries, all fish, fishing and fisheries in all tidal w aters of the state and

all fish, fishing and fisheries in all water of the state whereupon a tax or license is levied for use for commercial purposes.

- Section 50-17-280 requires license and permit holders (including the recreational shrimp baiting fishery) to keep records and provide information.

- Section 50-20-40 (effective July 1, 1992) requires charter boats, rental boats, and commercial piers to provide catch, effort, and participation data.

Texas:

- Code of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Sections 66.217, 76.302, and 77.004 direct the Department to conduct continuous research and study of the supply, economic value, environment and reproductive characteristics of finfish, shrim p and oysters.

U.S. Virgin Islands:

- U.S.V.I. Code, Title 12, Section 303-326 (Act 3330), authorizes the Department of Planning and Natural Resources with jurisdiction and control of all m arine resources.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries C ommission:

- The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact (P.L. 77-539) provides for a regional approach to improve utilization and prevent waste of the marine and estuarine fisheries resources of the Atlantic Coast.

- The Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (P.L. 99-659) provides authorization for the interstate compacts to develop interstate fishery management plans.

- The Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (P.L. 98-613 and amendments) gives the Commission management authority for Atlantic striped bass in state w aters.

- The Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Title VIII of H.R. 2150) directs the Commission to adopt fishery management plans for coastal fisheries, and establishes an affirmative obligation on the part of the states to implement the Commission's plans. The Commission is required to continuously review state implementation, and report its results to the Secretaries. If it finds that a state is not in compliance, the Commission must report that finding to the Secretaries. If the Secretary of Commerce agrees with the Commission, he may impose a moratorium on all fishing for the species in question w ithin the offending state until they come into compliance.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries C ommission:

- The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Compact (P.L. 81-61) provides for a regional approach to management, monitoring, and utilization of marine fisheries resources.

- The Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (P.L. 99-659) provides authorization for the interstate compacts to develop interstate fishery management plans.

Caribbean, Gulf, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils:

- The MFCMA (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) requires the fishery management councils to develop FMPs according to national standards, including use of the best available scientific information. Each council, through the FMPs, can require the submission of fishery statistics by fishermen and processors (16 U.S.C. 1853).

PROPOSED PROGRAM

The FIN will consist of two major components: the Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN) and the Recreational Fisheries Information Network in the Southeast Region [RecFIN(SE)]. Each program has its own mission, goals, and objectives and address specifics issues related to its area of em phasis.

ComFIN

The mission, goals, and objectives of ComFIN are preliminary and may be refined as the Framework Plan and operations plans are com pleted.

Mission

The mission of the ComFIN is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine commercial and anadromous fishery data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Region and to support the development of a inter-regional program.

Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: To plan, manage and evaluate a coordinated State/Federal marine commercial fishery data collection program for the Region.

Objective 1 To establish and maintain a ComFIN Committee consisting of MOU signatories or their designees to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate the program.

Objective 2 To develop and periodically review a Framework Plan that outlines policies and protocol of the program

Objective 3 To develop annual operation plans, including identification of available resources, that im plement the Framework Plan.

Objective 4 To distribute program information to the cooperators and interested parties.

Objective 5 To conduct a program review at least every five years of operation to evaluate the program's success in meeting needs in the Region.

GOAL 2: To implement and maintain a coordinated State/Federal marine commercial fishery data collection program for the Region.

Objective 1 To characterize and periodically review the commercial fisheries and identify the required data priorities for each.

Objective 2 To identify and periodically review environmental, biological, social and economic data elements required for each fishery.

Objective 3 To identify, determine, and periodically review standards for data collection, including statistical, training and quality assurance.

Objective 4 To identify and evaluate the adequacy of current programs for meeting ComFIN requirements.

Objective 5 To coordinate, integrate and augment, as appropriate, data collection efforts to meet ComFIN requirements.

Objective 6 To evaluate and recommend innovative data collection methodologies and technologies.

GOAL 3: To establish and maintain an integrated, marine commercial fishery data management system for the Region.

Objective 1 To periodically review and make recommendations regarding the location and administrative responsibility for the ComFIN data management system.

Objective 2 To periodically evaluate the hardware, software and communication capabilities of program partners and make recommendations for support and upgrades.

Objective 3 To implement, maintain, and periodically review a marine commercial fishery data management system to accommodate fishery management/research and other needs.

Objective 4 To develop, maintain, and periodically review standard protocols and documentation for data formats, inputs, editing, storage, access, transfer dissemination, and application.

Objective 5 To identify and prioritize historical databases for integration into the marine commercial fisheries database.

Objective 6 To evaluate and recommend innovative, cost-effective information management technologies.

Objective 7 To protect the confidentiality of personal and business information, as required by state and/or federal law.

GOAL 4: To support the development and operation of an inter-regional program to collect, manage and disseminate marine commercial fisheries information for use by states, territories, councils, interstate commissions and federal marine fishery management agencies.

Objective 1 To provide for long-term inter-regional program planning.

Objective 2 To coordinate ComFIN with other regional and national marine commercial fisheries programs.

Objective 3 To encourage consistency and comparability among regional and national marine commercial fisheries programs over time.

RecFIN(SE)

The mission, goals, and objectives of RecFIN(SE) are preliminary and may be refined as the Strategic Plan and operations plans are completed.

Mission

The mission of the RecFIN(SE) program is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine recreational fisheries (MRF) statistical data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Southeast Region and to support the development and operation of a national program.

Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: To plan, manage, and evaluate a coordinated state-federal MRF data collection program for the Region.

Objective 1: To maintain a RecFIN(SE) Committee consisting of MOU signatories or their designees to develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate the program.

Objective 2: To develop and periodically review a Framework Plan that outlines policies and protocols of the program.

Objective 3: To develop annual operations plans, including identification of available resources, that implement the Framework Plan.

Objective 4: To distribute program information to cooperators and interested parties.

Objective 5: To conduct a program review at least every five years of operation to evaluate the program's success in meeting needs in the Region.

GOAL 2: To implement and maintain a coordinated state-federal MRF data collection program for the Region.

Objective 1: To periodically review the components of the fishery (modes, areas, etc.) and the required data priorities for each com ponent.

Objective 2: To periodically review data elements (environmental, biological, sociological, economic) required for each fishery component.

Objective 3: To determine, maintain and periodically review standards for data collection, including statistical, training, and quality assurance and quality control standards.

Objective 4: To periodically review and evaluate the adequacy of current programs for meeting the RecFIN(SE) requirements.

Objective 5: To coordinate, integrate, and augment, as appropriate, data collection efforts to meet the RecFIN(SE) requirements.

Objective 6: To evaluate and recommend innovative data collection technologies.

GOAL 3: To establish and maintain an integrated, MRF data management system for the Region.

Objective 1: To periodically review and make recommendations regarding the location and administrative responsibility for the RecFIN(SE) data management system.

Objective 2: To periodically evaluate the hardware, software, and communication capabilities of program partners and make recommendations for support and upgrades.

Objective 3: To implement, maintain, and periodically review an MRF data management system to accommodate fishery management/research and other needs (e.g., trade and tourism).

Objective 4: To develop, maintain, and periodically review standard protocols and documentation for data formats, input, editing, quality control, storage, access, transfer, dissem ination, and application.

Objective 5: To identify and prioritize data bases for integration into the MRF data management system.

Objective 6: To evaluate and recommend innovative, cost-effective information management technologies.

Objective 7 To protect the confidentiality of personal and business information, as required by state and/or federal law.

GOAL 4: To support the development and operation of a national program to collect, manage, and disseminate MRF information for use by states, territories, councils, interstate commissions, and federal marine fishery management agencies.

Objective 1: To provide for long-term national program planning.

Objective 2: To coordinate the RecFIN(SE) with other regional and national MRF programs.

Objective 3: To encourage consistency and comparability among regional and national programs over time.

IMPLEMENTATION

Participants in this MOU recognize the critical need for a comprehensive program to collect and manage marine commercial and recreational fisheries data in the Region. Participants acknowledge that existing resources to achieve program goals are inadequate. Participants also agree on the appropriateness of cooperative agreements and grants (financial assistance awards) and/or contracts to fund approved projects, subject to the availability of funds and in accordance with applicable agency administrative policies and procedures.

It is hereby agreed that the undersigned will establish and implement the FIN in accordance with the mission, goals, and objectives of the ComFIN and RecFIN(SE), contingent upon available resources. This agreement will become effective with an agency upon signature of the authorized official of that agency.

The terms of this agreement may be modified at any time by mutual agreement of the participants, including the provision for the ComFIN and RecFIN(SE) Committees to extend invitations to other agencies with fishery management or research authority to become participants in the program. Further, it is agreed that any signatory to this MOU may terminate its involvement upon 90-days written notice to the GSMFC. The GSMFC will notify the other signatories of the proposed termination.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Nothing herein is intended to conflict with current state, territory, council, commission, Department of the Interior, or Department of Commerce regulations, policies or directives. If the terms of this MOU are inconsistent with existing practices of a participant entering into this MOU, then those portions of this MOU which are determined to be inconsistent shall be invalid; however, the remaining terms and conditions of this MOU shall remain in full force and in effect. Such changes as are deemed necessary will be accomplished by either an amendment to this MOU or by entering into a new MOU, as determined by the pertinent participants.

Attachment C

FIN Gulf of Mexico Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
March 13, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present:

Kevin Anson, AMRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Guy Davenport, NMFS, Miami, FL
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Tom Van Devender, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Rick Leard, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
David Donaldson, GSMFC, Data Program Manager

Introductory Comments

The TCC Data Management Subcommittee of the GSMFC serves as the Gulf of Mexico Geographic Subcommittee for FIN. There were various other issues discussed during this meeting. Only the discussion regarding the license frame pilot study has been included for this report.

Development of License Frame Pilot Study

D. Donaldson noted that this issue has been discussed in the past by this Subcommittee, RecFIN(SE) and the GSMFC Recreational Advisory Panel. RecFIN(SE) has compiled information regarding recreational fishing licenses for all the Gulf states as well as developed a criteria for using fishing licenses as a sampling frame. Not much activity has occurred regarding this issue since the development of these material and the GSMFC Recreational Advisory Panel asked the FIN to readdress this topic. The purpose of this activity is to get better and more precise estimates of effort in the shore and private/rental modes of recreational fishing. Therefore, it has been suggested that FIN conduct a pilot study in the Gulf of Mexico (similar to the one conducted in Oregon) to examine the feasibility of using fishing licenses as a sampling frame. In order for FIN to consider this activity, the group needs to develop a proposal for consideration by the Committee in June. The group examined the various states and determined (based on the criteria) that a pilot could be conducted in Texas and/or Louisiana. **The group believed conducting a pilot study in the Gulf was a good idea and recommended moving forward in developing this pilot.** It was decided that J. Shepard, P. Campbell, and D. Donaldson should get together with the MRFSS staff and develop a proposal for conducting a license frame pilot study in the Gulf of Mexico.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

FIN Gulf of Mexico Subcommittee
Conference Call Summary
April 20, 2001

The call was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The following members were present:

Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Maury Osborn, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
David Donaldson, GSMFC, Data Program Manager

Purpose of Meeting

D. Donaldson stated that the group needed to discuss the development of a feasibility study for using marine recreational fishing licenses as a sampling frame in the Gulf of Mexico.

Development of Feasibility Study

D. Donaldson stated that NMFS conducted a pilot study in Oregon comparing using a license frame versus the MRFSS random-digit dialing (RDD). The results showed that using a sampling frame method provided more precise estimates of fishing effort. Therefore, the group needs to determine what each state in the Gulf needs to do, in terms of modifying their existing licenses, in order to meet the established criteria developed by FIN. The group examined the recreational fishing licenses matrix and criteria (attached) for each state. **For Texas and Louisiana, it appears that all the criteria are met.** M. Osborn noted that when the license frame can be delivered and if there is a cost involved in delivery of that data needs to be determined. P. Campbell noted that Texas may not be involved in this project since the MRFSS is not conducted in Texas. The only reason for Texas to be involved is if they are not happy with their current effort estimates. Also, if Texas did participate, additional money would have to be allocated for this activity. **For Mississippi and Alabama, most of the criteria have been met except the computerization of the licenses.** It was noted that computerized license data will be needed on a wave basis. It might be productive to develop costs for implementing license point-of-sales systems in Mississippi and Alabama. This would make Mississippi and Alabama compliant with all the criteria. D. Donaldson believed that a different agency (not Alabama Marine Resources Division) was responsible for license sales and this could be problematic for implementing a point-of-sales system. It was agreed that P. Campbell and J. Shepard would bring any information about establishing license point-of-sales systems to the FIN meeting. **For Florida, modification to the shore exemption, collection of telephone number, and computerization of license data would need to be implemented before license frame sampling could be conducted**. These issues need to be discussed by the FIN Committee at their June meeting. It was suggested that the Committee needs to discuss strategies for making these modifications to the existing license in Florida.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

RECREATIONAL MARINE LICENSES

License type	TX	LA	MS	AL	FL
Resident	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Non-resident	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
For-hire	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Free		Handicapped			
Exemptions					
16 or less	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
60 or greater	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Handicapped			Y		Y
Military on leave					Y
Shore/pier fishing					Y
License information					
Name	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Address	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Telephone number	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Duration	9/1-8/31	7/1-6/30	7/1-6/30	8/1-7/31	7/1-6/30
Computerization	Y	Y			

MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE CRITERIA

- licenses needed for all fisheries in jurisdiction (finfish, shrimp, shellfish, etc.)
- identified exemptions
- duration of license and license cycle
- degree of automation (yes or no, partially or fully)
- timeliness of data (how quickly new licenses are entered into the system)
- name, address and phone number required to be collected

RecFIN(SE) Biological/Environmental Work Group
Meeting Summary
May 2, 2001
Tampa, Florida

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. The following people were present:

Jeff Brust, ASMFC, Washington, DC
Tom Sminkey, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Kerwin Cuevas, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Bryan Stone, SCDNR, Charleston, SC
Buck Sutter, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Gregg Bray, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
David Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Discussion of Optimizing Sampling for Offshore and Inshore Fishing Activities

D. Donaldson stated that there is a concern by FIN that the current methods may not reflect actual offshore and inshore fishing activities. Therefore, the Work Group was charged with exploring this issue. G. Bray and T. Sminkey developed some tables which will allow the group to examine offshore and inshore fishing activities. They explained the tables and the group began reviewing the data. Preliminary evaluations may indicate that inland trips for the private/rental mode are being oversampled. **After some discussion, it became apparent that the issue needs to be further explored. It was decided that NMFS and GSMFC will further examine the existing data.** They will look at the possibility of splitting out ocean waters into state and federal waters for the telephone survey. Also, there needs to be an examination of the area fished questions on the telephone versus intercept survey to make sure both questions are asking for the same data. The group also decided that the access question (private vs. public) needs to be explored since if many of the anglers fishing in offshore waters are leaving from private sites, they will not be captured in the intercept survey. It was pointed out that some of the impacts can be modeled which will help determine if there is a significant effect from these impacts. The group also agreed that examining how boats are selected to be sampled during the interviews and the time the intercepts are conducted should be further explored. It was discussed that a potential wave meeting workshop topic could be discussion of boat selection procedures.

Status of Fishing Tournaments Sampling

D. Donaldson stated that due to a change is responsibility within NMFS, the group needs to readdress the issue of sampling fishing tournaments. At previous meetings, FIN had decided to work with the National Seafood Inspection Laboratory (NSIL) regarding compiling information about fishing tournaments in the Southeast Region. However, the responsibility within NMFS has changes so the group needs to discuss this issue. B. Sutter provided a brief history of the issue. NMFS has been conducted the Billfish Sampling Program since 1971. NMFS has compiled information about billfish tournaments in the Southeast and collected data from these tournaments. Due to new regulations, all highly migratory species (HMS) tournaments are now required to register with NMFS. Initially, the NSIL was in charge of this activity but that recently changed and B. Sutter is now in charge of registering HMS tournaments. Currently, tournaments must complete the necessary paperwork and send it to NMFS. B. Sutter stated that his office has developed a web-based registration system. The system will not only allow tournaments to register but also allow users to query the system about the various types of tournaments. They are also working on developing a entry program which will allow tournament personnel to enter catch and effort data about the tournament. D.

Donaldson stated that he hopes FIN can continue to coordinate with NMFS on this issue and B. Sutter said that should not be a problem. It is critical that the data bases developed by NMFS and FIN be compatible. This could allow for one site which will contain all fishing tournaments. **The group decided that the next step is to update the FIN tournament list. It is important that the same information be collected by NMFS and FIN regarding these tournament**. The necessary data includes:

(A) Tournament name
(B) Tournament location (city, state)
(C) Date(s) of tournament
(D) Director/operator name (key contact)
(E) Contact's mailing address, phone and fax number, and e-mail (if available)
(F) Target species of tournament

To avoid duplication of effort, B. Sutter will send staff the current list of HMS tournaments.

Update of Night Fishing Pilot Study

D. Donaldson stated that FIN had discussed the issue of differences between day time and night time fishing activities. Currently, it is assumed that day time and night time fishing activities are the same. However, there are some indications that may not be a valid assumption. Therefore, FIN initiated a night fishing survey in Mississippi early this year to explore this issue. K. Cuevas stated that the same methods are being used as with the day time survey except that there are two samplers involved for safety reasons. He mentioned that activities began in January 2001 and were quite slow during wave 1. Activities picked up in wave 2 and Mississippi samplers have collected 136 interviews (~2X). Information about sheepshead, black drum, ground mullet, redfish, and flounder has been collected. Samplers are varying the times throughout the night that interviews are being conducted to ensure a representative distribution. So far, the cooperation of anglers has been very good and very few problems have been encountered. The next step will be to begin analyzing the data and determine if there are differences in species composition, catch rates, etc. **It was suggested that sampling may continue into 2002, however, the group recommended that the focus should be placed on the development of analysis methods and analysis of data to determine if there are difference before continuing sampling. The group agreed that sampling should end in December 2001.** Based on the outcome of the analysis, the group discuss several options. The first option is that there is no difference and current sampling methods can continue. The other options involve there being differences between day time and night time activities. One option would be to initiate another pilot survey in another region of the Gulf of Mexico while the other option would be to begin a Gulf-wide sampling program. These issues will need to be considered by FIN after the analysis has been completed.

Review of Recreational Biological Sampling Methods

D. Donaldson stated that since recreational biological sampling will probably occur in 2002, the group needs to review the existing methodology to ensure that sampling can begin. The methodology will allow for a separate draw for biological sampling so the base MRFSS activities are not adversely affected. It is important that these two activities be kept separate to ensure the integrity of both activities. The GSMFC/NMFS will be responsible for creating the draws and the Gulf states will be responsible for the collecting the data. The issue of analysis needs to be further explored and the FIN Committee will discuss this issue at their upcoming meeting. The group discussed the development of a sampling form and decided to utilize the existing form used by TIP. K. Cuevas will send staff the current TIP form and staff will modify, as appropriate. **The group agreed that the outlined methodology will allow for collection of biological samples in 2002.**

Review and Action on FIN Metadata Module

D. Donaldson demonstrated the FIN data entry module for metadata. **The group decided that the module included all the necessary data elements and FIN should move forward in the entry of the fishing regulations data.** It was noted that the GSMFC will be entering this information but it is envisioned that the FIN partners will ultimately be using this module to enter data into the system.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Attachment E

ComFIN Data Collection Work Group
Conference Call Summary
March 21, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. and the following people were present:

Guy Davenport, NMFS, Miami, FL
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Barbara Kojis, VIDFW, St, Thomas, USVI
Geoff White, ASMFC, Washington, DC
Dee Lupton, NCDMF, Morehead City, NC
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Purpose of the Meeting

D. Donaldson stated that the main purposes of the meeting were to discuss the development of the fishery module and discuss the development of the discards module. It is envisioned that the group will develop a pilot study for collection of detailed effort data for potential funding in 2002.

Discussion of Development of Fishery Module

D. Donaldson noted that the group needs to refine the details of the fishery module. Some preliminary design has been developed for the module but the group needs to develop some specific methods for collecting effort. This is the next step since most of the states (3 out of 5) have operating trip ticket programs. J. Shepard suggested that the group needs to determine if sampling needs to be stratified by specific type of fishery, gear, and area fished or in more general terms such as getting a representative sample of all commercial trips. The group discussed the pros and cons of each approach. It was noted that there may not be a need for such detailed sampling (by species, gear, area). It was pointed out that if sampling was conducted in greater detail, analysis could be done on a more general level if it was determined that the detailed data was not needed; however, if sampling was done on the general level, analysis could not be conducted at the detailed level. The group decided that pilot study sampling should be conducted at the detailed level for a single state. Since the group decided that sampling should be done at the detailed level, the group needs to define the categories for each stratification. After some discussion, the group determined the following categorizations for type of fishery, gear, and area fished:

TYPE OF FISHERY CATEGORIES

- Inshore finfish
- Offshore finfish
- Coastal pelagics
- Shrimp
- Oyster
- Crab
- Highly migratory
- Sharks
- Mullet

GEAR CATEGORIES

- Purse, haul, and stop seines, gill, trammel, and lampara nets
- Otter and beam trawls and paranzella nets
- Hand lines and trolling gear
- Long lines, bottom and surface
- Divers
- Fish and shellfish traps and pots

AREA FISHED CATEGORIES

- Water body codes and subcodes

The next step will be for the states to map the trip ticket data into the identified cells. From this, the number of samples and associated costs can be determined. J. Shepard stated that he would conduct this task for Louisiana data. It was noted that Alabama and Florida should be contacted to determine if they would be interested in conducting a similar exercise for their state.

Discussion of Development of Discards Module

D. Donaldson stated that the group has discussed this issue is the past and developed some general guidelines for this module. FIN has not really focused on this issue since the emphasis has been on designing and implementing commercial and recreational catch and effort programs. G. White noted that ACCSP has done a fair amount of work on this topic. This first step for ACCSP was to compile releases and discards information (via a survey) to quantify where this activity was occurring. The group believed that although FIN should not focus all of their attention to the development of this module, the creation and distribution of a similar survey would be a good first step in getting a handle on this issue. G. White will send D. Donaldson a copy of the survey and the survey results. **The Work Group recommended that FIN distribute a survey to the states requesting information about the presence of releases and discards within the various fisheries occurring in their jurisdiction** .

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Minimum data elements for the ComFIN catch and effort program (T = information collected on a trip ticket, B = information collected on trip ticket or via survey).

CATCH		
DATA ELEMENT	**DESCRIPTION**	**COLLECTION METHOD**
Trip date	The date (dd/mm/yyyy) that the trip started. A trip is defined as the time the vessel left the dock to the point that the product was transferred	T
Trip number	Sequential number representing the number of a trip taken in a single day by either a vessel or individual. The trip number will default to one (1) when only a single trip is conducted	T
Form type/version #	Version identification number for the ComFIN trip ticket. Criteria will be developed to determine when a new version of the form will be identified	T
Form/Trip ticket number	Unique identifier for a specific trip. This will be printed on the actual trip ticket form. The numbers will be consecutive and the first two digits will be unique state code	T
Vessel ID	Coast Guard or state registration number (will be linked to unique vessel identifier. These identifiers must be trackable through time and space.)	T
Participant ID	Fisherman license# (will be linked to unique participant identifier [SSN, fed tax id#, etc.]. These identifiers must be trackable through time and space)	T
Species	Code for the species of fish caught. Each species is to be identified separately. Use of market or generalized categories should be avoided within species code fields or variables. See appendix xx (to be adopted/developed)	T
Quantity landed	The amount of each marine species that is landed and/or sold.	T
Landing condition	Code for condition landed (whole, gutted, headed, etc.). See appendix xx (to be adopted/developed)	T
Quantity units	Code for the units used for measuring landings (pounds, kilograms, etc.). See appendix xx (to be adopted/developed)	T
Market size range	Actual size range of species landed by market category	T
Ex-vessel value or Ex-vessel price	The total dollar value for each species that is landed or sold by market category The price per unit weight paid for each species that is landed or sold by market category	T
County (minimum) or port (optional) landed	Code that will provide the location within a state where the product was transferred. See appendix xx (to be adopted/developed).	T
State landed	Code that will identify the state where the product was landed or unloaded. See appendix xx (to be adopted/developed)	T
Dealer ID	This element is an identifier for the dealer at the point of each transaction. In the case of multiple dealers, the landings would be reported separately for each dealer.	T
Unloading date	Date (dd/mm/yyyy) the landed species was transferred to a dealer.	T
Market category	Code that will specify any market or grade categories that affect price, usually size related.	T
Primary Gear	Code which describes the primary type of gear used to catch the landed species.	T

Primary Area fished	Code which provides a general location where the fishing occurred, using NMFS/state water body codes. The distance from shore where fishing occurred [inshore, inland (0-3 mi or 0-9 mi depending on state), EEZ (3-200 mi or 9-200 mi depending on state), >200 mi.]	T

EFFORT

DATA ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	COLLECTION METHOD
Trip date	The date (dd/mm/yyyy) that the trip started. A trip is defined as the time the vessel left the dock to the point that the product was transferred	T
Trip number	Sequential number representing the number of a trip taken in a single day by either a vessel or individual. The trip number will default to one (1) when only a single trip is conducted	T
Form type/version #	Version identification number for the ComFIN trip ticket. Criteria will be developed to determine when a new version of the form will be identified	T
Form/Trip ticket number	Unique identifier for a specific trip. This will be printed on the actual trip ticket form. The numbers will be consecutive and the first two digits will be unique state code	T
Gear(s)	Code(s) which identify(s) all the gears used to catch the landed species.	B
Area fished	Code that provides all locations where fishing occurred, using NMFS/state water body codes.	B
Disposition	Code which describes the fate of the catch (i.e. discards, bait, personal consumption, etc). Disposition of discards should be recorded (i.e. regulatory vs. other discards, dead or alive, etc.)	B
Quantity of gear	The amount of gear employed	B
Days at sea	Days from the start of the trip to the return to the dock	B
Number of crew	Number of crew on each trip, including captain.	B
Fishing time	Total amount of time (hrs) that gear was in the water and/or amount of search time for each trip	B
Number of sets	Total number of sets or tows of gear during a trip	B

Fisheries Characterization Metadata

This is a test of Access Hyperlinks, to be added to later with full metadata for the database.

Ex: Maryland dredge and sled is actually a "scrape" for blue crabs survey 2

General database creation information:

This database was created by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), based on a survey sent to state and federal fisheries management agencies participating in the ASMFC Management and Science Committee. Geographic coverage extends from Maine to the Florida Keys. The surveys focused on what fisheries (by gear-species combination) are currently active within jurisdictional waters for each agency. Questions focused on the value of the fishery, gear used, and what discards occur (presence / absence) in that fishery. Original surveys were sent out in 1998, but were error-checked and updated in the spring of 2000. The surveys have been entered into a Microsoft Access Database, which can be searched via pre-set queries or custom queries as built by the user.

Fisheries Characterization Database History

The ASMFC Management and Science Committee is comprised of mid-level fisheries managers from state marine fisheries agencies from Maine to Florida, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In October 1997, the committee initiated the compilation of fisheries-characterization information. A qualitative survey was sent to Committee members to fill out based on their experience in the state's fisheries. The survey data is not based on quantitative on-board fishery observer data.

The original survey focused on bycatch, however, though involvement and use by the ACCSP Discard Prioritization Committee, the focus of this database has changed to the monitoring of discards. This update is due to the clarification of definitions of bycatch (landing of unintended species) vs. discards (species caught in the gear, but thrown overboard, usually dead, and not brought back to the dock to be counted as 'landings'.

By the spring of 1999, all surveys had been received from all participating agencies and were entered into an ACCESS database. Several queries were built into the system for data extraction. At the request of MSC members, additional queries were developed, and the term inshore be clarified to state territorial seas and that offshore be clarified to EEZ. Other requests included a date of last modification be added to the database and that a table with a brief description of each gear type be developed from the standard definitions from other sources (i.e., ACCSP, MSC glossary of terms, NMFS publications, FAO publications).

In the November 1999 MSC meeting, the Committee reviewed species taxonomic groupings, and suggested that users be allowed to define ecological groups. That capability was added in December 1999 and can be found in the "Queries and Reports" section of the database. Gear definitions continue to be a work in progress. Some problems with responses to survey 2 have been clarified, in that only one survey was filled out - regardless of the fishing sector. For example, the value of a fishery is relative and only applicable to each fishery type (i.e., the value of a recreational fishery cannot be compared to a commercial fishery). Aquaculture was changed from a gear type to a fishery level description, and work continues on a metadata format.

This database has been used by the ACCSP Discard Prioritization Committee and Biological Review Panel to prioritize fisheries for CY2001 sampling. As of September 2000, the database first release is complete and available on CD-ROM from Geoff White, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (gwhite@asmfc.org, 202-289-6400).

Suggestions for additional data to be collected in the future:

The ACCSP Discard Prioritization Committee suggested the addition of another variable to quantify protected species interactions as high, medium, and low. These definitions may be difficult to define, and harder to classify without fisheries data. Concern was raised that it would be used for fisheries regulation even though the information was not quantitative. Therefore, it was suggested that this should be added to the database at a later time when the data is available. The committee agreed with this suggestion. Also, if available, landings and value should be included in more specific categories instead of the subjective high, medium, and low ranges.

A copy of the modified survey (tables shortened to save space) is shown on the following three pages.

State / Agency: _____

SURVEY 1A
General Characterization Survey
Commercial Fisheries

(Please put a check in the appropriate boxes to indicate the species/gear combinations in your state)

Targeted Species	Commercial Gear Types														
	Rod & Reel	Long-line	Gill Net	Fixed Net	Haul Seine	Purse Seine	Trawl	Dredge	Cast & Dip Net	Pot & Trap	Spear & Gig	Rake, Hoe & Tong	Hand Line	By Hand	Aqua-culture

SURVEY 1B
General Characterization Survey
Recreational Fisheries - For-Hire Boats

(Please put a check in the appropriate boxes to indicate the species/gear combinations in your state)

Targeted Species	**Recreational Gear Type by Mode of Fishing - For-Hire Boats** (Charterboats, Headboats, Guide boats)													
	Rod & Reel	Long-line	Gill Net	Fixed Net	Haul Seine	Purse Seine	Trawl	Dredge	Cast & Dip Net	Pot & Trap	Spear & Gig	Rake, Hoe & Tong	Hand Line	By Hand

State / Agency: _____

SURVEY 1C
General Characterization Survey
Recreational Fisheries - Private/Rental Boats

(Please put a check in the appropriate boxes to indicate the species/gear combinations in your state)

Targeted Species	Recreational Gear Type by Mode of Fishing - Private/Rental Boats											
	Rod & Reel	Gill Net	Fixed Net	Haul Seine	Dredge	Cast & Dip Net	Pot & Trap	Spear & Gig	Rake, Hoe & Tong	Hand Line	By Hand	Aqua-culture

SURVEY 1D
General Characterization Survey
Recreational Fisheries - Shore Based

(Please put a check in the appropriate boxes to indicate the species/gear combinations in your state)

Targeted Species	Recreational Gear Type by Mode of Fishing - Shore based (Piers & Docks, Other manmade jetties and bridges, natural shore)												
	Rod & Reel	Long-line	Gill Net	Fixed Net	Haul Seine	Dredge	Cast & Dip Net	Pot & Trap	Spear & Gig	Rake, Hoe & Tong	Hand Line	By Hand	Aqua-culture

SURVEY 2
Detailed Gear Characterization Survey
Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

Complete this form for each gear/species combination identified in Survey 1.

State_____

Fishery (Commercial / Rec-For Hire / Rec-Private+Rental / Rec - Shore based / Aquaculture)

Gear/Species Combination_____

Economic Value (check one) ☐ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low

Is this fishery managed under a Fishery Management Plan? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, what type of FMP? ☐ Federal
☐ State
☐ Interjurisdictional

Is this an aquaculture activity? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, what type of gear is used? _____
Is it an open or closed system? ☐ Open ☐ Closed

General area where most fishing occurs: ☐ Estuarine
☐ Inshore (state territorial seas)
☐ Offshore (Exclusive Economic Zone)

General mesh size (fill in mesh size) ☐ Large _____
☐ Small _____
☐ Not applicable

Does bycatch occur in this fishery? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, describe type of bycatch:

Protected species: ☐ Marine Mammals
☐ Sea Turtles
☐ Sea Birds
☐ Finfish(Atlantic sturgeon, shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic salmon)

Non-protected species ☐ Finfish
☐ Crustaceans
☐ Molluscs
☐ Cephalopods (squids, etc)
☐ Other (sponges, sea urchins, etc)

If finfish bycatch occurs, describe type ☐ Regulatory
☐ Other (economic, etc)

FIN Data Collection Plan Work Group
Meeting Summary
December 12-13, 2000
Miami, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. The following people were present:

Bob Muller, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Mike Murphy, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Billy Fuls, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Tut Warren, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Joe O'Hop, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Jim Duffy, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Aida Rosario, PRDNER, Mayaguez, PR
Jerry Scott, NMFS, Miami, FL
Nancie Cummings, NMFS, Miami, FL
Guy Davenport, NMFS, Miami, FL
Josh Bennett, NMFS, Miami, FL
Gary Fitzhugh, NMFS, Panama City, FL
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Purpose of the Meeting

D. Donaldson stated that the main purpose of the meeting was to continue the process of developing the data collection plan for the Fisheries Information Network (FIN). This plan will guide the collection of biological data for commercial and recreational fisheries.

Development of Process for Identifying Amount of Data Needed for Accurate Assessments

D. Donaldson stated that the Work Group met early this year to begin addressing this issue. At that meeting, a process was developed that was designed to identify the amount of data needed to conduct accurate stock assessments. At the current meeting, the group utilized this process and began developing numbers of otoliths, lengths and weights, etc. that would be necessary. D. Donaldson noted that there were various types of data in the meeting packets to facilitate this process. The group discussed the different strata that are needed. The Gulf of Mexico needs to be divided into various regions. For each species/gear combination, it was decided that Florida (Gulf coast) should be divided into 3 regions and Alabama Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas should be one region each. In the Caribbean, Puerto Rico should be divided into 2 regions and the U.S. Virgin Islands should be divided into 2 regions. And the last division is temporal and is divided into 6 sampling periods (2-month intervals). The next step is to begin filling in the various cells of this matrix.

Recommendations for Necessary Lengths, Weights, and Otoliths for FIN Priority Species

The group discussed the development of the draft FIN Data Collection Plan. The group discussed several different methods for determining the number of otoliths necessary to conduct stock

assessments. One way was to determine a set number of measurement per cell. Another was to take 0.5% of the landing within a cell to determine the number of otoliths needed. Yet another was to determine which cells had landings and allocate a number of otoliths (400) based on a statistical model for each cell that has landings. The group discussed these methods for the majority of the meeting. After these discussions, the group decided the best way to determine number of otoliths was the method based on a statistical model (400/cell with landings). Once the method had been determine, the group discussed the next steps for developing the draft Plan. The first step is, for each species/gear combination, to determine the landings of each cell (state/region and 2-month period). The group discussed assignments for providing the data to FIN staff. The following assignments were made:

FL commercial and recreational data	Bob Muller
AL, MS, and LA recreational data and LA commercial data	Joe Shepard
TX commercial and recreational data	Billy Fuls
PR recreational data (if available)	Aida Rosario
MS and AL commercial data	Dave Donaldson

It was noted that NMFS Head Boat data need to be added to ensure all landings are taken into account. The data needs to be sent to FIN staff no later than Tuesday, January 30, 2001. The next step will be for staff to compile the data into the appropriate cells and determine which cells have significant landings. Once the cells with landings have been determined, the number of otoliths will be plugged into appropriate cells and this will be the basis for the draft plan. Once a plan has been drafted, D. Donaldson will distribute to the group and the group will meet (via conference call) to further discuss the plan. D. Donaldson stated that the draft FIN Data Collection Plan will be presented to the FIN Committee at their annual meeting (in June) for their review and possible approval.

The meeting was recessed at 4:45 p.m.

December 13, 2000

The meeting was reconvened at 9:00 a.m.

Other Business

The group needed to discuss various other topics. The first was determination of the necessary length/weight measurements. For recreational fisheries, the current MRFSS interviews get up to 15 lengths per species. It may not be necessary to increase the number of lengths for the recreational fisheries. It was pointed out the Florida is exploring the possibility of conducting biological sampling in conjunction with the intercept sampling. The group stated that samplers should collect otoliths and lengths for rare species as they are encountered in the field. The need for weight measurements is dependent on the species and the type of biological data that are being collected. For the commercial sector, sampling should be utilize the same rationale for recreational sampling - it is more important to get a representative sample of all the vessels then to sample an entire catch from one vessel. The group discussed the number of lengths needed and decided that for each cell with landings, 800 lengths should be collected. This information will be included in the draft Plan. Regarding weight measurements, the group agreed that the same methods should be used for the commercial side as is being employed on the recreational side, i.e. need for weight measurements will be dependent on the species and type of biological data being collected. In addition, weight measurements should be collected when the samplers is able to obtain them. The group discussed the method for sampling vessels. It was decided that trip sampling (collecting data from a catch where the trip information is available) is the preferred method.

However, data can be collected without the trip information although this should not be the standard operating procedure. Obviously, only sampling catches with trip information can pose some difficult problems for samplers. **The group discussed this issue and recommended that FIN should discuss this issue at the FIN annual meeting.**

The next issues discussed concerned the analysis of otoliths. It was noted that some consideration needs to be given to the processing of the additional otoliths that will be collected. Although it is useful to get more data, if these otoliths cannot be processed in a timely manner, some of the benefit is lost. D. Donaldson stated the Steve VanderKooy, GSMFC, is working with a group who is currently developing a otolith processing guidelines document. This document will outline the best methods for processing otoliths and provide a standard to all readers to follow. This will ensure compatibility and comparability among processors which leads to better data. S. VanderKooy is currently compiling the otolith processing capabilities of each agency. The group briefly discussed process capabilities. All agencies currently have the equipment necessary to analyze otoliths; however, to increase their ability to process more otoliths, all agencies would need additional personnel to account for the increase. The group also discussed the possibility of establishing a regional otolith processing center. This issue is related to the guidelines document and if implemented, would further ensure consistency and compatibility in the processing of otoliths. **The group recommended that this issue should be discussed by FIN at their next meeting.** D. Donaldson stated that he would keep the group apprised about the guidelines document and the processing center issues.

The group examined the existing FIN priority species list and discussed possible additions to that list. It was noted that there are alternative ways for prioritizing. It was suggested that although the species currently on the list are high priority now, that may not always be the case. There could be species that become priority in the future and data needs to be collected on those species as well as the current high priority species. J. Scott noted that NMFS has a list of both primary and secondary species and he could provide that to the group for consideration. After some discussion, the group decided to combine the current FIN priority species list with the primary/secondary list from NMFS. This will provide collection of data on not only current high priority species but potential high priority species.

Another topic discussed by the group was 2001 recreational biological sampling activities. D. Donaldson stated that there are some additional funding for 2001 available through the GulfFIN line item. The state directors decided that this money should be used to implement some recreational biological sampling. The Gulf of Mexico Geographic Subcommittee met (via conference call) to discuss the ways of implementing this activity. The group determined that the first step would be to develop the Data Collection Plan so states will have an idea about the number of otoliths and lengths that are needed. Once the Plan has been drafted, the Subcommittee will meet again (via conference call) and begin the development of statements of work and associated budgets.

The last item discussed by the group was the time frame for the next meeting. D. Donaldson stated that he will develop a summary of the meeting and distribute to the group. As mentioned early, the group will meet (via conference call) to discuss the draft FIN Data Collection Plan and determine the meeting schedule at that time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

SPECIES	STOCK ASSESSMENT	AGE CLASSES	SEX
GULF OF MEXICO			
SPOTTED SEATROUT	Y	7	Y
STRIPED MULLET	Y	6	Y
RED SNAPPER	Y	15	N
VERMILION SNAPPER	Y	7	N
SPANISH MACKEREL	Y	3	Y
RED DRUM	Y	3	N
WHITE GRUNT	Y	10	?
DOLPHIN	Y	3	Y
BLACK DRUM	Y	15	N
RED GROUPER	Y	7	N
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER	Y	4	Y
KING MACKEREL	Y	10	Y
GAG	Y	10	N
GULF FLOUNDER	Y	4	Y
GREATER AMBERJACK	Y	11	?
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	P	5	N
GRAY SNAPPER	P	5	N
GRAY TRIGGERFISH	P	5	?
HOGFISH	P	5	Y
YELLOWEDGE GROUPER	P	8	?
BLACK GROUPER	P	10	N
LANE SNAPPER	N	5	N
SCAMP	N	10	N
MUTTON SNAPPER	N	10	N
TILEFISH	N	?	?
SNOWY GROUPER	N	?	?
RED PORGY	N	4	N
LESSER AMBERJACK	N	?	?
SPECKLED HIND	N	?	?
WARSAW GROUPER	N	?	?
GOLDEN TILEFISH	N	?	?

Stock assessment key:

Y Assessment done

N No assessment done

P Potential assessment to be conducted in near future

Sex key:
Y Need to collect sex
N No need to collect sex

SPECIES	STOCK ASSESSMENT	AGE CLASSES	SEX
CARIBBEAN			
BLUESTRIPPED GRUNT			N
BUTTERFLY FISH			N
CONEY			N
GRAY TRIGGERFISH			N
HONEYCOMBED COWFISH			N
JOLTHEAD PORGY			N
KING MACKEREL			N
MUTTON SNAPPER			N
QUEEN CONCH			N
QUEEN SNAPPER			N
QUEEN TRIGGERFISH			N
RED HIND			N
REDTAIL PARROTFISH			N
SCRAWLED COWFISH			N
SILK SNAPPER			N
SPINY LOBSTER			N
STOPLIGHT PARROTFISH			N
WHITE GRUNT			N
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER			N

Stock assessment key:
Y Assessment done
N No assessment done
P Potential assessment to be conducted in near future

Sex key:
Y Need to collect sex
N No need to collect sex

SPECIES PRIORITY LIST
(Species in bold denote primary priority)

GULF OF MEXICO

BLACK DRUM
BLACK GROUPER
BLUEFISH
BROWN SHRIMP
CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER
CERO MACKEREL
COBIA
DOLPHIN
FLORIDA STONE CRAB
GAG
GOLDEN CRAB
GOLDEN TILEFISH
GRAY SNAPPER
GRAY TRIGGERFISH
GREATER AMBERJACK
GULF FLOUNDER
HOGFISH
KING MACKEREL
LANE SNAPPER
LESSER AMBERJACK
LITTLE TUNNY
MUTTON SNAPPER
PINK SHRIMP
RED DRUM
RED GROUPER
RED PORGY
RED SNAPPER
SCAMP
SNOWY GROUPER
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER
SPANISH MACKEREL
SPECKLED HIND
SPINY LOBSTER
SPOTTED SEATROUT
STRIPED MULLET
TILEFISH
VERMILION SNAPPER
WARSAW GROUPER
WHITE GRUNT
WHITE SHRIMP
WRECKFISH
YELLOWEDGE GROUPER

YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER
ALMACO JACK
BANDED RUDDERFISH
BLACKFIN SNAPPER
BLACKLINE TILEFISH
BLUELINE TILEFISH
CARIBBEAN RED SNAPPER
CUBERA SNAPPER
DOG SNAPPER
GOLDFACE TILEFISH
MAHOGANY SNAPPER
MISTY GROUPER
NASSAU GROUPER
QUEEN SNAPPER
RED HIND
RED HOGFISH
RIDGED SLIPPER LOBSTER
ROCK HIND
SAND PERCH
SCHOOLMASTER
SILK SNAPPER
SLIPPER LOBSTERS
SPANISH SLIPPER LOBSTER
TILEFISHES
WENCHMAN
YELLOWFIN GROUPER
YELLOWMOUTH GROUPER

CARIBBEAN

BLUESTRIPPED GRUNT
BUTTERFLY FISH
CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER
CONEY
GRAY TRIGGERFISH
HONEYCOMB COWFISH
JOLTHEAD PORGY
KING MACKEREL
MUTTON SNAPPER
QUEEN CONCH
QUEEN SNAPPER
QUEEN TRIGGERFISH
RED HIND
REDTAIL PARROTFISH
SCRAWLED COWFISH
SILK SNAPPER
SPINY LOBSTER
SPOTTED SPINY LOBSTER
STOPLIGHT PARROTFISH
WHITE GRUNT
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER
ALMACO JACK
BIGEYE
BIGEYE SCAD
BIGEYED SIXGILL SHARK
BLACK JACK
BLACK MARGATE
BLACK SNAPPER
BLACKBAR SOLDIERFISH
BLACKFIN SNAPPER
BLACKLINE TILEFISH
BLUE PARROTFISH
BLUE RUNNER
BLUE TANG
BUTTERFLYFISHES
DOCTORFISH
DOG SNAPPER
FLAMEFISH
FRENCH ANGELFISH
FRENCH GRUNT
GRAY ANGELFISH
GRAY SNAPPER
GRAYSBY
GREATER AMBERJACK
HOGFISH

HORSE-EYE JACK
JEWFISH
LANE SNAPPER
LONGSPINE SQUIRRELFISH
MAHOGANY SNAPPER
MARGATE
MIDNIGHT PARROTFISH
MISTY GROUPER
NASSAU GROUPER
OCEAN SURGEON
OCEAN TRIGGERFISH
PARROTFISHES
PORKFISH
PRINCESS PARROTFISH
PUDDINGWIFE
QUEEN ANGELFISH
QUEEN PARROTFISH
RAINBOW PARROTFISH
RED GROUPER
REDBAND PARROTFISH
REDFIN PARROTFISH
ROCK BEAUTY
ROCK HIND
SAND TILEFISH
SARGASSUM TRIGGERFISH
SCHOOLMASTER
SEAHORSES
SERGEANT MAJOR
SMOOTH TRUNKFISH
SPANISH HOGFISH
SPOTTED GOATFISH
SPOTTED TRUNKFISH
SQUIRRELFISH
SQUIRRELFISHES
TIGER GROUPER
TOBACCOFISH
TRUNKFISH
TRUNKFISHES
VERMILION SNAPPER
WENCHMAN
WEST INDIAN TOPSNAIL
WHITESPOTTED FILEFISH
YELLOW GOATFISH
YELLOW JACK
YELLOWFIN GROUPER

FIN Data Collection Plan Work Group
Conference Call Summary
April 13, 2001

The calll was called to order at 9:15 a.m. The following people were present:

Bob Muller, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Mike Murphy, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Behzad Mahmoudi, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Billy Fuls, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Jim Duffy, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Guy Davenport, NMFS, Miami, FL
Gary Fitzhugh, NMFS, Panama City, FL
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Purpose of the Meeting

D. Donaldson stated that the main purpose of the call was to determine how to allocate sampling targets for each of the established cells. From this, a draft data collection plan for the Fisheries Information Network (FIN) will be developed. This plan will guide the collection of biological data for commercial and recreational fisheries.

Determination of Method for Developing Data Collection Plan

D. Donaldson noted that there are two approaches. The first approach is a three- step process. The first step is to identify significant overall landings by species. The group needs to determine (by percentage or number of lbs) what constitutes "significant". Once that list is developed, then the group needs to determine (again by percentage or number of lbs) significant landings by state, by wave. And the last step is determining (again by percentage or number of lbs) "significant" landings by state, by mode, by wave, by gear. Once this last step is completed, all cells with "significant" landings will be designated for collection of otoliths and targets will be established. For species without "significant landings", no targets will be developed but otoliths can be collected on an opportunistic basis. The other approach deals with the group developing three tiers of species. The first tier will consist of species currently under management. Otolith sampling targets will be developed for this tier for all species with landings by state, by mode, by wave, by gear. The second tier will consist of species of concern. Otolith sampling targets will also be developed for this tier for all species with landings by state, by mode, by wave, by gear. And the third tier will consist of species that are currently not of interest but may be in the future. No targets will be established for this tier but otoliths can be collected on an opportunistic basis. However, there was concern that the at amount of otolith to be collected by either of these approaches would be too large to realistically provide funding for collection and analysis activities. After some discussion, the group decided to pare down the species list. This will reduce the overall number of otoliths that need to be collected to a more manageable amount. The group decided that only high priority species (those in bold) that comprised at least 0.5% of the landings would have targets developed. The revised species list is attached. D. Donaldson stated the next step will be to develop a draft plan. Once the plan is developed, it will be distributed to the group for their review. The group will get together (via conference call) to make any adjustments to the number of otoliths and lengths for each cell based on various sources of data.

There being no further business, the call was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

SPECIES PRIORITY LIST
(Species in bold denote primary priority)

GULF OF MEXICO

BLACK DRUM
COBIA
DOLPHIN
GAG
GRAY SNAPPER
GRAY TRIGGERFISH
GREATER AMBERJACK
GULF FLOUNDER
HOGFISH
KING MACKEREL
LANE SNAPPER
MUTTON SNAPPER
RED DRUM
RED GROUPER
RED PORGY
RED SNAPPER
SCAMP
SNOWY GROUPER
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER
SPANISH MACKEREL
SPECKLED HIND
SPOTTED SEATROUT
STRIPED MULLET
VERMILION SNAPPER
WARSAW GROUPER
WHITE GRUNT
YELLOWEDGE GROUPER
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER
FLORIDA STONE CRAB

GOLDEN CRAB
CERO MACKEREL
CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER
BROWN SHRIMP
BLUEFISH
BLACK GROUPER
WRECKFISH
WHITE SHRIMP
TILEFISH
SPINY LOBSTER
PINK SHRIMP
LITTLE TUNNY
LESSER AMBERJACK
GOLDEN TILEFISH
ALMACO JACK
BANDED RUDDERFISH
BLACKFIN SNAPPER
BLACKLINE TILEFISH
BLUELINE TILEFISH
CARIBBEAN RED SNAPPER
CUBERA SNAPPER
DOG SNAPPER
GOLDFACE TILEFISH
MAHOGANY SNAPPER
MISTY GROUPER
NASSAU GROUPER
QUEEN SNAPPER
RED HIND
RED HOGFISH
RIDGED SLIPPER LOBSTER
ROCK HIND
SAND PERCH
SCHOOLMASTER
SILK SNAPPER
SLIPPER LOBSTERS
SPANISH SLIPPER LOBSTER
TILEFISHES
WENCHMAN
YELLOWFIN GROUPER
YELLOWMOUTH GROUPER

CARIBBEAN

BLUESTRIPPED GRUNT
BUTTERFLY FISH
CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER
CONEY
GRAY TRIGGERFISH
HONEYCOMB COWFISH
JOLTHEAD PORGY
KING MACKEREL
MUTTON SNAPPER
QUEEN CONCH
QUEEN SNAPPER
QUEEN TRIGGERFISH
RED HIND
REDTAIL PARROTFISH
SCRAWLED COWFISH
SILK SNAPPER
SPINY LOBSTER
SPOTTED SPINY LOBSTER
STOPLIGHT PARROTFISH
WHITE GRUNT
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER

ALMACO JACK
BIGEYE
BIGEYE SCAD
BIGEYED SIXGILL SHARK
BLACK JACK
BLACK MARGATE
BLACK SNAPPER
BLACKBAR SOLDIERFISH
BLACKFIN SNAPPER
BLACKLINE TILEFISH
BLUE PARROTFISH
BLUE RUNNER
BLUE TANG
BUTTERFLYFISHES
DOCTORFISH
DOG SNAPPER
FLAMEFISH
FRENCH ANGELFISH
FRENCH GRUNT
GRAY ANGELFISH
GRAY SNAPPER
GRAYSBY
GREATER AMBERJACK
HOGFISH
HORSE-EYE JACK
JEWFISH
LANE SNAPPER
LONGSPINE SQUIRRELFISH
MAHOGANY SNAPPER
MARGATE
MIDNIGHT PARROTFISH
MISTY GROUPER
NASSAU GROUPER
OCEAN SURGEON
OCEAN TRIGGERFISH
PARROTFISHES
PORKFISH
PRINCESS PARROTFISH
PUDDINGWIFE
QUEEN ANGELFISH
QUEEN PARROTFISH
RAINBOW PARROTFISH
RED GROUPER
REDBAND PARROTFISH
REDFIN PARROTFISH
ROCK BEAUTY
ROCK HIND

SAND TILEFISH
SARGASSUM TRIGGERFISH
SCHOOLMASTER
SEAHORSES
SERGEANT MAJOR
SMOOTH TRUNKFISH
SPANISH HOGFISH
SPOTTED GOATFISH
SPOTTED TRUNKFISH
SQUIRRELFISH
SQUIRRELFISHES
TIGER GROUPER
TOBACCOFISH
TRUNKFISH
TRUNKFISHES
VERMILION SNAPPER
WENCHMAN
WEST INDIAN TOPSNAIL
WHITESPOTTED FILEFISH
YELLOW GOATFISH
YELLOW JACK
YELLOWFIN GROUPER

OTOLITH PROCESSING CAPABILITIES

State	Number of Otolith Processors	Number of Otoliths Processed	Maximum Number of Otoliths	Estimate of Cost / Otolith	Backlog	Current Species List
Florida	1 full-time 2 part-time (currently)	8,250/year (4 year avg.)	15,000/year	avg. $10.00/ot	none	everything
Alabama	2 currently (not full-time) (6 staff capable)	1,500/year (staff collects, processes, and reads)	12,000/year	not estimated	none	mullet, drums, and trout
Mississippi	1 part-time	1,500/year (currently)	6,500/year (full-time)	staff $4.30/ot supp. $3.00/ot saw $0.05/ot read's $2.65/ot total $10.00/ot	none	mullet, drums, trout, cobia, flounder, tripletail, catfish, grouper, snapper, wahoo
Louisiana - Baton Rouge	2 full-time 3 part-time	2,000/year (currently)		not estimated	none	red drum, trout
Louisiana - Grand Terre	2 currently (mostly full-time)	1,028/year		not estimated	occasional due to staffing and disproportionate seasonal sampling	mullet, black drum, flounder, sheepshead, grey snapper
Texas	1 full-time 2 part-time	4,000/year	4,000/year	supp. $0.53/ot equip. $0.62/ot labor $8.12/ot total $9.27/ot	one year backlog	red drum, black drum, striped bass, trout, snook, tarpon, croaker, red snapper, flounder
NMFS	6.5 FTE	15,000/year anticipated for 2001	20,000/year with current full time staff	$10/ot	one year lag time to processing	king and spanish mackerel, red porgy, vermilion snapper, red snapper, red grouper, gag, yellowedge grouper, jewfish, sharks: Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, blacktip

FIN Data Collection Plan

May 2001

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Fisheries Information Network (FIN) is a state-federal cooperative program to collect, manage, and disseminate statistical data and information on the marine commercial and recreational fisheries of the Southeast Region.[4] The FIN consists of two components: Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN) and the Southeast Recreational Fisheries Information Network [RecFIN(SE)].

The scope of the FIN includes the Region's commercial and recreational fisheries for marine, estuarine, and anadromous species, including shellfish. Constituencies served by the program are state and federal agencies responsible for management of fisheries in the Region. Direct benefits will also accrue to federal fishery management councils, the interstate marine fisheries commissions, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Program. Benefits which accrue to management of fisheries will benefit not only commercial and recreational fishermen and the associated fishing industries, but the resources, the states, and the nation.

The mission of the FIN is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine commercial, anadromous and recreational fishery data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Region and to support the development of a national program. The four goals of the FIN include to plan, manage, and evaluate commercial and recreational fishery data collection activities; to implement a marine commercial and recreational fishery data collection program; to establish and maintain a commercial and recreational fishery data management system; and to support the establishment of a national program.

The FIN established a formalized process for the development of species priorities and target sampling levels. The objective of the process is to determine the species that will be targeted for size frequency and bioprofile sampling. This plan is a result of the implementation of this process and addresses the needs of stock assessment and enable personnel to conduct assessment with the necessary data. The procedures for the development of the plan are:

- The Data Collection Plan Work Group will coordinate with their agency to identify species of priority (that will need stock assessments), the type and amount of data needed, and the geographic area over which the data need to be collected. The FIN Committee had developed a list of primary and secondary species. The list was developed by the Committee as well as the Data Collection Plan Work Group. The list for the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean are in Table 1. The group will meet prior to the FIN meeting and develop a draft data collection plan. The plan will contain state, interstate, and federal priority species, type and amount of data needed, and the geographic distribution of the proposed data collection. This plan will be presented to the Committee at the annual FIN meeting for review and approval.

[4]The Southeast Region (the Region) includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- This plan will provide guidance to the states, NMFS, and FWS for the development of funding mechanisms that are implemented to provide funding support for collecting the data.

- Each year, during the annual FIN meeting, the Committee will review progress regarding current year's data collection efforts as well as conduct an evaluation of the prior year's effort, including evaluation of adherence to prior year's plan.

COLLECTION OF DATA

Base level biological data for recreational species will be collected through a separate survey to ensure the statistic validity of the MRFSS. Base level biological data for commercial species will be collected through the port sampling program. Sampling is designed to statistically collect random length-frequency measurements, age, sex and reproductive information to aid in stock assessments.

Site Selection

Samples are to be stratified by primary species of concern, gear used, and area fished. Species of concern are listed as primary and will be provided to the sampler. Sampling sites are preselected on a 2-month period (wave) by weighting sites on the landings of each primary species in the strata for the same wave the previous years. Sample selection adjustments should be made with insight from the previous waves activity on landings as well as changes in activity at a site reported by field samplers. The intent is to sample a site in proportion to total landings in that strata.

Sampling Targets (Age, Reproduction)

Species of primary or secondary concern can be sampled at a site with emphasis placed on primary species. Individuals should be selected based on completing a matrix of the number of samples required at a given size range. Individuals should be sampled in a manner that would spread collection throughout the wave. Length measurements are required. For commercial fisheries, every effort should be made to associate a sample with a trip ticket number, but the ticket number is not required. Port agents should work closely with dealers to enhance the productivity of their sampling effort. A list of minimum data elements are included in Table 2. For primary species, sampling target levels for lengths were developed by the Data Collection Plan Work Group. These targets were developed based on historical landings. The number of otoliths were determined by multiplying 0.5% by the total number of fish for a particular region. The total number of otoliths were then distributed within the various cells of a region based on the percentage of landings within each of those cells. It needs to be noted that this is an initial step and the number of samples may be adjusted as more information is collected and becomes available. The target levels are included in Tables 3 and 4.

Sampling Targets (Length-Frequencies)

Species of primary concern can be sampled at a site with emphasis placed on primary species in the stratum assigned by the sample site selection criteria. Individuals should be sampled in a manner that would spread collection throughout the wave. No more than 20 individuals should be measured from each mode (or gear) from a trip. If the catch is not sorted, then randomly select 40 individuals from the unsorted catch. Individuals should be selected at random. For commercial fisheries, every effort should be made to obtain an associated trip ticket number with the sample, but the ticket number is not required. Port agents should work closely with dealers to enhance the productivity of their sampling effort. For primary species, sampling target levels for lengths were developed by the Data Collection Plan Work Group. These targets were developed based on historical landings. The number of lengths were determined by doubling the number of needed otoliths. It needs to be noted that this is an initial step and the number of samples may be adjusted as more information is collected and becomes available. The target levels are included in Tables 3 and 4.

Quality Control and Assurance - Gary's comments

New field samplers will be initially trained in fish identification and sampling techniques. Samplers will be tested on a minimum of 20 fish that are predominant in the fisheries in their state. Fish should be identified to species level and correct ITIS codes associated with each species. Samplers will be re-tested every six months to ensure proper identification of fish. Each new sampler will be accompanied on his first assignment by a supervisor to insure that proper procedures are utilized for sampling and identification of fish. If the supervisor deems it necessary, he/she will accompany the sampler on subsequent assignments until the supervisor is sure the sampler is performing efficiently. Supervisors will review 100% of data collected from the first three solo assignments of a new sampler for accuracy, completeness and compliance with standard operating procedures. After the first three solo assignments, supervisors will review data from one assignment every three months for accuracy.

For each 6 months of active sampling, a sampler will have a quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) visit from a supervisor. The supervisor will check that the sampler has all standard equipment, forms and procedures manual. The supervisor will administer a written questionnaire on standard sampling procedures to the sampler. The supervisor will also observe the sampler conducting an assignment. The supervisor will fill out a rating form grading the sampler on his/her ability to properly identify and subset a sample, record weight and length information, record trip information and properly code all information obtained during the assignment. If the sampler is found to be deficient in one or more areas, the supervisor may recommend partial or complete re-training of the sampler. Periodic meetings of samplers is also part of QA/QC for FIN. The meetings allow for interaction among the samplers and provides them a forum to discuss data collection methods, problems encountered in the field and potential solutions, and other related issues.

TRACKING OF DATA

In conjunction with the collection of these data, tracking of the amount obtained in reference to the established targets will also be conducted. The GSMFC will provide coordination and administration of this activity. Based on the needs identified in the data collection plan, sampling targets will be established for the priority species and these targets will be provided to commercial and recreational field samplers. The samplers will be responsible for providing summaries of collected biological data needs to the GSMFC on a weekly basis. Based on the analysis of the amount, type, and distribution of data that have come in, adjustments can be made, if necessary during the wave. Notices will be sent out by GSMFC to the partners that needs to take some action, either to cease collecting a certain kind of data, or to shift effort over to other priorities as well as a periodic summary report which will contain the progress to date in achieving the data collection goals. In addition to routine monitoring of targets, this process allows for emergency in-season data needs. Requestor will notifies the coordinator (provided by GSMFC) of the species and the type, amount, and distribution of the necessary data. Either a work group or the entire FIN Committee will met, via conference call, to discuss the nature of the emergency data request and its relative priority and then implement the action decided by the group.

Table 1. Primary and secondary species list (species in bold denote primary priority).

GULF OF MEXICO

BLACK DRUM
COBIA
DOLPHIN
GAG
GRAY SNAPPER
GRAY TRIGGERFISH
GREATER AMBERJACK
GULF FLOUNDER
HOGFISH
KING MACKEREL
LANE SNAPPER
MUTTON SNAPPER
RED DRUM
RED GROUPER
RED PORGY
RED SNAPPER
SCAMP
SNOWY GROUPER
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER
SPANISH MACKEREL
SPECKLED HIND
SPOTTED SEATROUT
STRIPED MULLET
VERMILION SNAPPER
WARSAW GROUPER
WHITE GRUNT
YELLOWEDGE GROUPER
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER
FLORIDA STONE CRAB

GOLDEN CRAB
CERO MACKEREL
CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER
BROWN SHRIMP
BLUEFISH
BLACK GROUPER
WRECKFISH
WHITE SHRIMP
TILEFISH
SPINY LOBSTER
PINK SHRIMP
LITTLE TUNNY
LESSER AMBERJACK
GOLDEN TILEFISH
ALMACO JACK
BANDED RUDDERFISH
BLACKFIN SNAPPER
BLACKLINE TILEFISH
BLUELINE TILEFISH
CARIBBEAN RED SNAPPER
CUBERA SNAPPER
DOG SNAPPER
GOLDFACE TILEFISH
MAHOGANY SNAPPER
MISTY GROUPER
NASSAU GROUPER
QUEEN SNAPPER
RED HIND
RED HOGFISH
RIDGED SLIPPER LOBSTER
ROCK HIND
SAND PERCH
SCHOOLMASTER
SILK SNAPPER
SLIPPER LOBSTERS
SPANISH SLIPPER LOBSTER
TILEFISHES
WENCHMAN
YELLOWFIN GROUPER
YELLOWMOUTH GROUPER

BLUESTRIPPED GRUNT
BUTTERFLY FISH
CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER
CONEY
GRAY TRIGGERFISH
HONEYCOMB COWFISH
JOLTHEAD PORGY
KING MACKEREL
MUTTON SNAPPER
QUEEN CONCH
QUEEN SNAPPER
QUEEN TRIGGERFISH
RED HIND
REDTAIL PARROTFISH
SCRAWLED COWFISH
SILK SNAPPER
SPINY LOBSTER
SPOTTED SPINY LOBSTER
STOPLIGHT PARROTFISH
WHITE GRUNT
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER

ALMACO JACK
BIGEYE
BIGEYE SCAD
BIGEYED SIXGILL SHARK
BLACK JACK
BLACK MARGATE
BLACK SNAPPER
BLACKBAR SOLDIERFISH
BLACKFIN SNAPPER
BLACKLINE TILEFISH
BLUE PARROTFISH
BLUE RUNNER
BLUE TANG
BUTTERFLYFISHES
DOCTORFISH
DOG SNAPPER
FLAMEFISH
FRENCH ANGELFISH
FRENCH GRUNT
GRAY ANGELFISH
GRAY SNAPPER
GRAYSBY
GREATER AMBERJACK
HOGFISH
HORSE-EYE JACK
JEWFISH
LANE SNAPPER
LONGSPINE SQUIRRELFISH

MAHOGANY SNAPPER
MARGATE
MIDNIGHT PARROTFISH
MISTY GROUPER
NASSAU GROUPER
OCEAN SURGEON
OCEAN TRIGGERFISH
PARROTFISHES
PORKFISH
PRINCESS PARROTFISH
PUDDINGWIFE
QUEEN ANGELFISH
QUEEN PARROTFISH
RAINBOW PARROTFISH
RED GROUPER
REDBAND PARROTFISH
REDFIN PARROTFISH
ROCK BEAUTY
ROCK HIND
SAND TILEFISH
SARGASSUM TRIGGERFISH
SCHOOLMASTER
SEAHORSES
SERGEANT MAJOR
SMOOTH TRUNKFISH
SPANISH HOGFISH
SPOTTED GOATFISH
SPOTTED TRUNKFISH
SQUIRRELFISH
SQUIRRELFISHES
TIGER GROUPER
TOBACCOFISH
TRUNKFISH
TRUNKFISHES
VERMILION SNAPPER
WENCHMAN
WEST INDIAN TOPSNAIL
WHITESPOTTED FILEFISH
YELLOW GOATFISH
YELLOW JACK
YELLOWFIN GROUPER

Table 2. Standard data elements of biological sampling.

DATA ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT
Unique Identifier	Some Combination of Data Elements That Allows for the Unique Identification of this Action. Use Trip Ticket Number If Available. For the recreational component, it will be site #, data, interviewer id.	see Table A.1
Record Number	Annual Sequential Interview Number by port sampler/recreational interviewer	3 digit numeric
Record Type	Type of data collection activity that data was captured under: Recreational: MRFSS; Texas survey; Biological sampling add-on Commercial At-sea observer	2 digit numeric
Sample Date	Month / Day / Year	see Table A.1
Sampler	Port Agent Code/Recreational interviewer ID	4 digit numeric
State (Landing)	State Code (FIPS)	see Table A.8
County (Landing)	County Code (FIPS)	see Table A.8
Sampling Location	Dealer Number/MRFSS site number	see Table A.2
Gear Code	Gear Code	see Table A.3
Area Fished	Area Code (with detail to lat/long, if possible)	see Table A.10
Depth	Depth of water (in feet) where fishing occurred	4 digit numeric
Landing Condition	Condition Landed (Whole, Gutted, Headed, Etc.). For recreational, this would be a disposition code	see Table A.6
Market Size Range	Actual Size Range	4 digit numeric
Market Category	Code that will specify any market or grade categories that affect price, usually size related.	see Table A.5
State (Sampled)	State Code (FIPS)	see Table A.8
County (Sampled)	County Code (FIPS)	see Table A.8
Total sample weight	Weight of sample	4 digit numeric
Species Code	ITIS species code	see Table A.7
Mode	Mode of fish: charter boat, head boat, private/rental, shore	2 digit character
Specimen Method	Method used to collect the specimen	2 digit character
Number Measured	Number of Fish Measured	3 digit numeric
Length1	First length of individual fish (in millimeters)	4 digit numeric
Length1 Type	Type of measurement taken for first length (total length, forked length, etc)	2 digit alphanumeric
Length2	Second length of individual fish (in millimeters)	4 digit numeric
Length2 Type	Type of measurement taken for second length (total length, forked length, etc)	2 digit alphanumeric
Length3	Third length of individual fish (in millimeters)	4 digit numeric
Length3 Type	Type of measurement taken for third length (total length, forked length, etc)	2 digit alphanumeric

DATA ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT
Weight	Weight of individual fish	4 digit numeric
Weight Units	Units weight was collected in (pounds, kilograms, etc.)	2 digit alphanumeric
Sex	Sex Code	2 digit alphanumeric
Age Tag Number1	First Age Structure Identifier, sequential # by port sampler/rec interview	4 digit numeric
Age Tag Number2	Second Age Structure Identifier, sequential # by port sampler/rec interview	4 digit numeric
Gonad Tag Number	Gonad Identifier, sequential # by port sampler/rec interviewer	4 digit numeric
Stomach Tag Number	Stomach identifier, sequential # by port sampler/rec interviewer	4 digit numeric
Tissue Tag Number	Tissue Identifier, sequential # by port sampler/rec interviewer	4 digit numeric
Tissue Type	Type of Tissue collected - muscle, eye parts, etc	see Table A.2

Table 3. Target Levels for Priority Species in the Gulf of Mexico.

SPECIES=BLACK DRUM

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	14	13	.	6	.	7	40
	CB	.	.	.	1	.	2	3
	PR	8	17	3	9	19	24	80
AL	SH	3	12	8	.	.	.	23
	CB	.	5	.	2	.	3	10
	PR	11	9	47	.	.	1	68
MS	SH	1	4	8	1	.	.	14
	CB	.	2	.	.	.	1	3
	PR	3	5	.	2	2	.	12
LA	SH	23	24	13	3	4	.	67
	HB	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
	CB	3	46	9	4	25	7	94
	PR	143	185	183	191	337	349	1388
TX	SH	1	4	8	1	.	.	14
	HB	1	5	9	3	3	3	24
	CB	.	2	.	.	.	1	3
	PR	35	49	48	25	41	67	265
All		246	382	337	248	431	465	2109

SPECIES=COBIA

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	4	5	4	5	.	.	18
	CB	2	23	5	3	1	.	34
	PR	7	18	24	7	12	.	68
AL	CB	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
	PR	.	1	15	8	3	.	27
MS	PR	.	1	3	2	.	.	6
LA	HB	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
	CB	.	.	.	2	7	.	9
	PR	.	.	17	5	2	2	26
TX	HB	.	1	1	2	.	.	4
	PR	.	1	4	6	.	.	11
All		13	51	74	40	25	2	205

SPECIES=DOLPHIN

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
	CB	153	233	1000	504	54	51	1995
	PR	230	41	269	234	1	.	775
AL	CB	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
	PR	.	.	3	.	.	.	3
MS	PR	.	.	7	.	.	.	7
LA	CB	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	PR	.	2	.	9	.	.	11
TX	HB	.	.	1	2	.	.	3
	PR	.	.	10	47	.	.	57
All		383	276	1291	799	56	51	2856

SPECIES=GAG

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	.	12	17	4	.	.	33
	HB	9	11	11	8	15	13	67
	CB	103	190	193	96	66	147	795
	PR	264	373	297	182	114	393	1623
AL	CB	2	21	12	7	21	2	65
	PR	25	9	19	2	.	.	55
MS	PR	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
LA	CB	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
	PR	1	.	45	4	.	3	53
TX	HB	1	1	1	11	.	.	14
All		407	617	596	314	216	558	2708

SPECIES=GRAY SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	34	16	78	32	29	3	192
	HB	16	15	24	35	20	23	133
	CB	40	26	121	37	22	27	273
	PR	275	253	227	181	147	71	1154
AL	SH	.	.	.	.	5	.	5
	CB	1	16	5	3	3	.	28
	PR	31	5	9	9	7	1	62
MS	CB	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
	PR	.	.	.	2	8	.	10
LA	SH	.	.	13	.	.	.	13
	HB	.	1	11	15	7	4	38
	CB	.	3	18	2	2	.	25
	PR	8	49	179	125	18	.	379
TX	HB	.	.	1	3	.	.	4
	CB	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
	PR	25	1	1	13	24	3	67
All		430	387	687	457	292	132	2385

SPECIES=GRAY TRIGGERFISH

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	2	9	17	13	18	13	72
	CB	77	88	111	121	165	72	634
	PR	82	43	71	24	.	19	239
AL	CB	10	88	45	25	105	35	308
	PR	24	13	19	12	9	5	82
MS	CB	.	1	.	.	.	1	2
	PR	.	4	2	.	.	.	6
LA	HB	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
	PR	6	18	118	2	15	23	182
TX	HB	9	11	14	7	1	.	42
	CB	.	1	.	.	.	1	2
	PR	1	4	6	4	1	2	18
All		211	280	403	209	314	171	1588

SPECIES=GREATER AMBERJACK

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	4	.	.	.	.	.	4
	HB	.	1	2	1	1	1	6
	CB	28	49	27	43	61	46	254
	PR	.	11	15	4	6	2	38
AL	CB	.	3	1	1	10	2	17
	PR	.	.	16	13	3	5	37
LA	HB	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
	CB	.	1	5	.	.	.	6
	PR	.	.	.	7	.	.	7
TX	HB	.	1	1	1	.	.	3
	PR	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
All		32	66	69	70	81	56	374

SPECIES=GULF FLOUNDER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	5	10	61	52	91	33	252
	HB	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
	CB	1	1	5	9	7	2	25
	PR	32	72	57	112	50	40	363
AL	SH	.	.	9	.	.	.	9
	CB	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
	PR	1	2	.	8	.	.	11
LA	PR	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
TX	PR	1	.	1	3	2	5	12
All		41	85	134	185	151	80	676

SPECIES=HOGFISH

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	2	.	.	3	.	.	5
	CB	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
	PR	10	65	85	38	4	13	215
All		13	65	85	41	4	13	221

SPECIES=KING MACKEREL

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	.	6	3	11	3	.	23
	HB	5	1	1	2	1	1	11
	CB	188	144	62	177	176	118	865
	PR	2	153	102	26	19	101	403
AL	SH	.	.	21	.	.	.	21
	CB	.	2	10	7	9	.	28
	PR	.	1	124	38	33	18	214
MS	CB	.	.	4	1	5	2	12
	PR	.	.	.	.	.	25	25
LA	HB	.	.	2	2	.	1	5
	PR	.	.	.	8	1	.	9
TX	HB	1	1	10	66	3	1	82
	CB	.	.	4	1	5	2	12
	PR	.	.	11	98	1	25	135
All		196	308	354	437	256	294	1845

SPECIES=LANE SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	10	7	12	9	4	7	49
	CB	1	18	25	4	10	16	74
	PR	27	107	100	14	31	4	283
AL	CB	1	8	2	2	1	1	15
	PR	.	10	21	6	.	.	37
MS	PR	.	.	3	.	.	.	3
LA	CB	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
	PR	25	2	3	.	.	.	30
TX	HB	1	1	2	5	1	.	10
	PR	.	.	3	2	.	.	5
All		66	153	171	42	47	28	507

SPECIES=MUTTON SNAPPER

REGION	MODE	Sum: WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL	SH	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	HB	3	3	1	1	1	1	10
	CB	8	10	6	4	4	11	43
	PR	41	27	.	2	.	.	70
All		52	40	7	9	5	12	125

SPECIES=RED DRUM

REGION	MODE	Sum: WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL	SH	11	21	12	5	27	13	89
	CB	2	12	3	1	5	13	36
	PR	99	90	123	96	230	83	721
AL	SH	10	13	45	8	14	6	96
	CB	.	10	1	24	34	18	87
	PR	41	26	50	12	109	47	285
MS	SH	.	1	4	.	.	.	5
	CB	.	12	26	13	47	8	106
	PR	6	7	89	23	20	20	165
LA	SH	59	31	40	14	92	21	257
	HB	1	.	1	.	1	1	4
	CB	28	147	142	81	143	21	562
	PR	544	453	889	898	1000	878	4662
TX	SH	.	1	4	.	.	.	5
	HB	5	30	43	57	94	27	256
	CB	.	12	26	13	47	8	106
	PR	143	149	278	287	313	277	1447
All		949	1015	1776	1532	2176	1441	8889

SPECIES=RED GROUPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	5	4	3	3	2	3	20
	CB	20	17	22	12	3	52	126
	PR	43	72	98	182	104	80	579
AL	CB	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
All		68	94	123	197	109	135	726

SPECIES=RED PORGY

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	4	12	38	37	11	7	109
	CB	7	63	25	54	46	25	220
	PR	.	17	.	2	.	.	19
AL	CB	.	8	5	5	3	.	21
	PR	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
All		11	101	68	98	60	32	370

SPECIES=RED SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	9	28	33	34	20	1	125
	CB	409	755	804	545	261	1	2775
	PR	53	67	211	89	24	.	444
AL	CB	68	518	203	90	62	.	941
	PR	419	350	670	112	64	.	1615
MS	CB	.	46	.	1	.	.	47
	PR	29	28	115	25	.	.	197
LA	HB	4	13	22	28	3	.	70
	CB	19	12	10	16	.	.	57
	PR	178	101	96	205	.	.	580
TX	HB	123	139	124	194	36	1	617
	CB	.	46	.	1	.	.	47
	PR	34	44	140	102	92	1	413
All		1345	2147	2428	1442	562	4	7928

SPECIES=SCAMP

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
	CB	6	27	27	28	28	7	123
	PR	.	2	.	7	.	.	9
AL	CB	.	.	.	.	3	.	3
LA	CB	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
	PR	2	.	.	3	.	.	5
TX	HB	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
All		8	29	29	40	31	7	144

SPECIES=SNOWY GROUPER

		Sum				
		WAVE				
		1	2	3	5	All
REGION	MODE					
FL	CB	4	9	1	5	19
All		4	9	1	5	19

SPECIES=SOUTHERN FLOUNDER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	2	5	4	5	42	.	58
	PR	3	9	.	3	.	.	15
AL	SH	15	14	16	135	84	3	267
	CB	.	1	.	.	1	.	2
	PR	9	17	71	106	114	7	324
MS	SH	5	22	143	95	20	1	286
	CB	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
	PR	12	34	105	126	40	13	330
LA	SH	25	14	67	61	25	166	358
	CB	.	12	6	4	28	2	52
	PR	98	204	236	325	182	227	1272
TX	SH	5	22	143	95	20	1	286
	CB	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
	PR	12	34	105	126	40	13	330
All		186	390	896	1081	596	433	3582

SPECIES=SPANISH MACKEREL

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	16	380	441	240	549	59	1685
	CB	21	81	21	161	89	71	444
	PR	92	491	440	349	255	252	1879
AL	SH	.	2	179	.	6	.	187
	CB	.	2	25	26	72	43	168
	PR	.	5	187	263	193	1	649
MS	SH	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
	CB	.	26	101	17	55	.	199
	PR	.	.	6	20	11	.	37
LA	SH	.	.	.	7	.	.	7
	CB	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
	PR	.	36	3	2	68	111	220
TX	SH	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
	HB	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
	CB	.	26	101	17	55	.	199
	PR	.	.	6	48	21	5	80
All		129	1051	1510	1152	1374	542	5758

SPECIES=SPECKLED HIND

		Sum		
		WAVE		
		1	2	All
REGION	MODE			
FL	PR	19	2	21
All		19	2	21

SPECIES=SPOTTED SEATROUT

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	242	178	87	73	11	101	692
	CB	29	125	24	11	9	53	251
	PR	1000	1000	1000	695	686	987	5368
AL	SH	.	.	8	44	.	.	52
	CB	.	18	4	.	2	.	24
	PR	123	43	63	99	54	292	674
MS	SH	1	8	8	20	.	2	39
	CB	.	23	12	.	.	14	49
	PR	75	309	970	288	75	154	1871
LA	SH	157	61	348	1000	123	130	1819
	CB	194	378	551	316	492	176	2107
	PR	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	6000
TX	SH	1	8	8	20	.	2	39
	HB	25	157	581	1000	313	80	2156
	CB	.	23	12	.	.	14	49
	PR	473	1000	1000	1000	844	738	5055
All		3320	4331	5676	5566	3609	3743	26245

SPECIES=STRIPED MULLET

REGION	MODE	Sum: WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL	SH	85	83	348	101	1000	244	1861
	PR	37	154	163	679	547	657	2237
AL	SH	.	.	.	40	.	29	69
	CB	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
	PR	.	.	256	22	.	.	278
MS	SH	.	3	139	5	78	112	337
	PR	.	8	32	105	52	.	197
LA	SH	3	3	.	.	.	.	6
	PR	.	.	2	.	3	.	5
All		125	251	940	952	1681	1042	4991

SPECIES=VERMILION SNAPPER

REGION	MODE	Sum: WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL	HB	6	23	50	58	33	12	182
	CB	22	143	194	303	242	91	995
	PR	.	.	106	13	3	.	122
AL	CB	2	223	91	75	83	13	487
	PR	3	55	178	52	7	.	295
MS	PR	.	.	3	1	.	.	4
LA	CB	.	2	1	.	.	.	3
	PR	1	9	20	.	.	.	30
TX	HB	30	55	26	53	17	2	183
	PR	.	3	4	2	.	.	9
All		64	513	673	557	385	118	2310

SPECIES=WARSAW GROUPER

		Sum				
		WAVE				
		1	2	3	5	All
REGION	MODE					
FL	CB	.	1	1	1	3
AL	CB	.	1	.	.	1
LA	PR	7	.	2	.	9
All		7	2	3	1	13

SPECIES=WHITE GRUNT

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	5	.	14	16	74	88	197
	HB	244	211	164	194	168	251	1232
	CB	155	44	27	17	8	228	479
	PR	1000	1000	1000	972	599	973	5544
All		1404	1255	1205	1199	849	1540	7452

SPECIES=YELLOWEDGE GROUPER

		Sum	
		WAVE	
		2	All
REGION	MODE		
FL	CB	1	1
All		1	1

SPECIES=YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	.	.	.	4	.	.	4
	HB	45	26	26	28	14	32	171
	CB	183	120	35	58	39	81	516
	PR	68	206	60	29	.	2	365
All		296	352	121	119	53	115	1056

SPECIES=BLACK DRUM

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	28	26	.	12	.	14	80
	CB	.	.	.	2	.	4	6
	PR	16	34	6	18	38	48	160
AL	SH	6	24	16	.	.	.	46
	CB	.	10	.	4	.	6	20
	PR	22	18	94	.	.	2	136
MS	SH	2	8	16	2	.	.	28
	CB	.	4	.	.	.	2	6
	PR	6	10	.	4	4	.	24
LA	SH	46	48	26	6	8	.	134
	HB	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
	CB	6	92	18	8	50	14	188
	PR	286	370	366	382	674	698	2776
TX	SH	2	8	16	2	.	.	28
	HB	2	10	18	6	6	6	48
	CB	.	4	.	.	.	2	6
	PR	70	98	96	50	82	134	530
All		492	764	674	496	862	930	4218

SPECIES=COBIA

REGION	MODE	Sum: WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL	SH	8	10	8	10	.	.	36
	CB	4	46	10	6	2	.	68
	PR	14	36	48	14	24	.	136
AL	CB	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
	PR	.	2	30	16	6	.	54
MS	PR	.	2	6	4	.	.	12
LA	HB	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
	CB	.	.	.	4	14	.	18
	PR	.	.	34	10	4	4	52
TX	HB	.	2	2	4	.	.	8
	PR	.	2	8	12	.	.	22
All		26	102	148	80	50	4	410

SPECIES=DOLPHIN

REGION	MODE	Sum: WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL	HB	.	.	2	2	.	.	4
	CB	306	466	2000	1008	108	102	3990
	PR	460	82	538	468	2	.	1550
AL	CB	.	.	.	.	2	.	2
	PR	.	.	6	.	.	.	6
MS	PR	.	.	14	.	.	.	14
LA	CB	.	.	.	4	.	.	4
	PR	.	4	.	18	.	.	22
TX	HB	.	.	2	4	.	.	6
	PR	.	.	20	94	.	.	114
All		766	552	2582	1598	112	102	5712

SPECIES=GAG

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	.	24	34	8	.	.	66
	HB	18	22	22	16	30	26	134
	CB	206	380	386	192	132	294	1590
	PR	528	746	594	364	228	786	3246
AL	CB	4	42	24	14	42	4	130
	PR	50	18	38	4	.	.	110
MS	PR	4	.	.	.	.	.	4
LA	CB	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
	PR	2	.	90	8	.	6	106
TX	HB	2	2	2	22	.	.	28
All		814	1234	1192	628	432	1116	5416

SPECIES=GRAY SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	68	32	156	64	58	6	384
	HB	32	30	48	70	40	46	266
	CB	80	52	242	74	44	54	546
	PR	550	506	454	362	294	142	2308
AL	SH	.	.	.	.	10	.	10
	CB	2	32	10	6	6	.	56
	PR	62	10	18	18	14	2	124
MS	CB	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
	PR	.	.	.	4	16	.	20
LA	SH	.	.	26	.	.	.	26
	HB	.	2	22	30	14	8	76
	CB	.	6	36	4	4	.	50
	PR	16	98	358	250	36	.	758
TX	HB	.	.	2	6	.	.	8
	CB	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
	PR	50	2	2	26	48	6	134
All		860	774	1374	914	584	264	4770

SPECIES=GRAY TRIGGERFISH

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	4	18	34	26	36	26	144
	CB	154	176	222	242	330	144	1268
	PR	164	86	142	48	.	38	478
AL	CB	20	176	90	50	210	70	616
	PR	48	26	38	24	18	10	164
MS	CB	.	2	.	.	.	2	4
	PR	.	8	4	.	.	.	12
LA	HB	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	PR	12	36	236	4	30	46	364
TX	HB	18	22	28	14	2	.	84
	CB	.	2	.	.	.	2	4
	PR	2	8	12	8	2	4	36
All		422	560	806	418	628	342	3176

SPECIES=GREATER AMBERJACK

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	8	.	.	.	.	.	8
	HB	.	2	4	2	2	2	12
	CB	56	98	54	86	122	92	508
	PR	.	22	30	8	12	4	76
AL	CB	.	6	2	2	20	4	34
	PR	.	.	32	26	6	10	74
LA	HB	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
	CB	.	2	10	.	.	.	12
	PR	.	.	.	14	.	.	14
TX	HB	.	2	2	2	.	.	6
	PR	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
All		64	132	138	140	162	112	748

SPECIES=GULF FLOUNDER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	10	20	122	104	182	66	504
	HB	.	.	2	2	.	.	4
	CB	2	2	10	18	14	4	50
	PR	64	144	114	224	100	80	726
AL	SH	.	.	18	.	.	.	18
	CB	.	.	.	.	2	.	2
	PR	2	4	.	16	.	.	22
LA	PR	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
TX	PR	2	.	2	6	4	10	24
All		82	170	268	370	302	160	1352

SPECIES=HOGFISH

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	4	.	.	6	.	.	10
	CB	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
	PR	20	130	170	76	8	26	430
All		26	130	170	82	8	26	442

SPECIES=KING MACKEREL

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	.	12	6	22	6	.	46
	HB	10	2	2	4	2	2	22
	CB	376	288	124	354	352	236	1730
	PR	4	306	204	52	38	202	806
AL	SH	.	.	42	.	.	.	42
	CB	.	4	20	14	18	.	56
	PR	.	2	248	76	66	36	428
MS	CB	.	.	8	2	10	4	24
	PR	.	.	.	.	.	50	50
LA	HB	.	.	4	4	.	2	10
	PR	.	.	.	16	2	.	18
TX	HB	2	2	20	132	6	2	164
	CB	.	.	8	2	10	4	24
	PR	.	.	22	196	2	50	270
All		392	616	708	874	512	588	3690

SPECIES=LANE SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	20	14	24	18	8	14	98
	CB	2	36	50	8	20	32	148
	PR	54	214	200	28	62	8	566
AL	CB	2	16	4	4	2	2	30
	PR	.	20	42	12	.	.	74
MS	PR	.	.	6	.	.	.	6
LA	CB	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
	PR	50	4	6	.	.	.	60
TX	HB	2	2	4	10	2	.	20
	PR	.	.	6	4	.	.	10
All		132	306	342	84	94	56	1014

SPECIES=MUTTON SNAPPER

REGION	MODE	Sum WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL	SH	.	.	.	4	.	.	4
	HB	6	6	2	2	2	2	20
	CB	16	20	12	8	8	22	86
	PR	82	54	.	4	.	.	140
All		104	80	14	18	10	24	250

SPECIES=RED DRUM

REGION	MODE	Sum WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL	SH	22	42	24	10	54	26	178
	CB	4	24	6	2	10	26	72
	PR	198	180	246	192	460	166	1442
AL	SH	20	26	90	16	28	12	192
	CB	.	20	2	48	68	36	174
	PR	82	52	100	24	218	94	570
MS	SH	.	2	8	.	.	.	10
	CB	.	24	52	26	94	16	212
	PR	12	14	178	46	40	40	330
LA	SH	118	62	80	28	184	42	514
	HB	2	.	2	.	2	2	8
	CB	56	294	284	162	286	42	1124
	PR	1088	906	1778	1796	2000	1756	9324
TX	SH	.	2	8	.	.	.	10
	HB	10	60	86	114	188	54	512
	CB	.	24	52	26	94	16	212
	PR	286	298	556	574	626	554	2894
All		1898	2030	3552	3064	4352	2882	17778

SPECIES=RED GROUPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	10	8	6	6	4	6	40
	CB	40	34	44	24	6	104	252
	PR	86	144	196	364	208	160	1158
AL	CB	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
All		136	188	246	394	218	270	1452

SPECIES=RED PORGY

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	8	24	76	74	22	14	218
	CB	14	126	50	108	92	50	440
	PR	.	34	.	4	.	.	38
AL	CB	.	16	10	10	6	.	42
	PR	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
All		22	202	136	196	120	64	740

SPECIES=RED SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	18	56	66	68	40	2	250
	CB	818	1510	1608	1090	522	2	5550
	PR	106	134	422	178	48	.	888
AL	CB	136	1036	406	180	124	.	1882
	PR	838	700	1340	224	128	.	3230
MS	CB	.	92	.	2	.	.	94
	PR	58	56	230	50	.	.	394
LA	HB	8	26	44	56	6	.	140
	CB	38	24	20	32	.	.	114
	PR	356	202	192	410	.	.	1160
TX	HB	246	278	248	388	72	2	1234
	CB	.	92	.	2	.	.	94
	PR	68	88	280	204	184	2	826
All		2690	4294	4856	2884	1124	8	15856

SPECIES=SCAMP

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	.	.	2	2	.	.	4
	CB	12	54	54	56	56	14	246
	PR	.	4	.	14	.	.	18
AL	CB	.	.	.	.	6	.	6
LA	CB	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
	PR	4	.	.	6	.	.	10
TX	HB	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
All		16	58	58	80	62	14	288

SPECIES=SNOWY GROUPER

		Sum				
		WAVE				
		1	2	3	5	All
REGION	MODE					
FL	CB	8	18	2	10	38
All		8	18	2	10	38

SPECIES=SOUTHERN FLOUNDER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	4	10	8	10	84	.	116
	PR	6	18	.	6	.	.	30
AL	SH	30	28	32	270	168	6	534
	CB	.	2	.	.	2	.	4
	PR	18	34	142	212	228	14	648
MS	SH	10	44	286	190	40	2	572
	CB	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
	PR	24	68	210	252	80	26	660
LA	SH	50	28	134	122	50	332	716
	CB	.	24	12	8	56	4	104
	PR	196	408	472	650	364	454	2544
TX	SH	10	44	286	190	40	2	572
	CB	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
	PR	24	68	210	252	80	26	660
All		372	780	1792	2162	1192	866	7164

SPECIES=SPANISH MACKEREL

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	32	760	882	480	1098	118	3370
	CB	42	162	42	322	178	142	888
	PR	184	982	880	698	510	504	3758
AL	SH	.	4	358	.	12	.	374
	CB	.	4	50	52	144	86	336
	PR	.	10	374	526	386	2	1298
MS	SH	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
	CB	.	52	202	34	110	.	398
	PR	.	.	12	40	22	.	74
LA	SH	.	.	.	14	.	.	14
	CB	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	PR	.	72	6	4	136	222	440
TX	SH	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
	HB	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	CB	.	52	202	34	110	.	398
	PR	.	.	12	96	42	10	160
All		258	2102	3020	2304	2748	1084	11516

SPECIES=SPECKLED HIND

		Sum		
		WAVE		
		1	2	All
REGION	MODE			
FL	PR	38	4	42
All		38	4	42

SPECIES=SPOTTED SEATROUT

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	484	356	174	146	22	202	1384
	CB	58	250	48	22	18	106	502
	PR	2000	2000	2000	1390	1372	1974	10736
AL	SH	.	.	16	88	.	.	104
	CB	.	36	8	.	4	.	48
	PR	246	86	126	198	108	584	1348
MS	SH	2	16	16	40	.	4	78
	CB	.	46	24	.	.	28	98
	PR	150	618	1940	576	150	308	3742
LA	SH	314	122	696	2000	246	260	3638
	CB	388	756	1102	632	984	352	4214
	PR	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	12000
TX	SH	2	16	16	40	.	4	78
	HB	50	314	1162	2000	626	160	4312
	CB	.	46	24	.	.	28	98
	PR	946	2000	2000	2000	1688	1476	10110
All		6640	8662	11352	11132	7218	7486	52490

SPECIES=STRIPED MULLET

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	170	166	696	202	2000	488	3722
	PR	74	308	326	1358	1094	1314	4474
AL	SH	.	.	.	80	.	58	138
	CB	.	.	.	.	2	.	2
	PR	.	.	512	44	.	.	556
MS	SH	.	6	278	10	156	224	674
	PR	.	16	64	210	104	.	394
LA	SH	6	6	.	.	.	.	12
	PR	.	.	4	.	6	.	10
All		250	520	1880	1904	3362	2084	9982

SPECIES=VERMILION SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	HB	12	46	100	116	66	24	364
	CB	44	286	388	606	484	182	1990
	PR	.	.	212	26	6	.	244
AL	CB	4	446	182	150	166	26	974
	PR	6	110	356	104	14	.	590
MS	PR	.	.	6	2	.	.	8
LA	CB	.	4	2	.	.	.	6
	PR	2	18	40	.	.	.	60
TX	HB	60	110	52	106	34	4	366
	PR	.	6	8	4	.	.	18
All		128	1026	1346	1114	770	236	4620

SPECIES=WARSAW GROUPER

		Sum				
		WAVE				
		1	2	3	5	All
REGION	MODE					
FL	CB	.	2	2	2	6
AL	CB	.	2	.	.	2
LA	PR	14	.	4	.	18
All		14	4	6	2	26

SPECIES=WHITE GRUNT

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	10	.	28	32	148	176	394
	HB	488	422	328	388	336	502	2464
	CB	310	88	54	34	16	456	958
	PR	2000	2000	2000	1944	1198	1946	11088
All		2808	2510	2410	2398	1698	3080	14904

SPECIES=YELLOWEDGE GROUPER

		Sum	
		WAVE	
		2	All
REGION	MODE		
FL	CB	2	2
All		2	2

SPECIES=YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	.	.	.	8	.	.	8
	HB	90	52	52	56	28	64	342
	CB	366	240	70	116	78	162	1032
	PR	136	412	120	58	.	4	730
All		592	704	242	238	106	230	2112

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	424	729	1069	559	1826	548	5155
	HB	358	351	385	426	308	365	2193
	CB	1460	2180	2739	2189	1302	1114	10984
	PR	3392	4290	4451	3949	2851	3701	22634
AL	SH	28	41	286	227	109	38	729
	CB	84	926	404	267	412	117	2210
	PR	687	547	1748	762	596	377	4717
MS	SH	7	39	302	121	98	115	682
	CB	.	112	143	32	107	26	420
	PR	127	396	1335	594	208	212	2872
LA	SH	267	133	481	1085	244	317	2527
	HB	5	14	39	46	11	6	121
	CB	245	601	744	428	697	206	2921
	PR	2014	2059	2793	2784	2626	2593	14869
TX	SH	7	36	163	116	20	3	345
	HB	196	402	814	1406	468	114	3400
	CB	.	112	143	32	107	26	420
	PR	724	1285	1618	1763	1379	1136	7905
All		10025	14253	19657	16786	13369	11014	85104

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	MODE							
FL	SH	848	1458	2138	1118	3652	1096	10310
	HB	716	702	770	852	616	730	4386
	CB	2920	4360	5478	4378	2604	2228	21968
	PR	6784	8580	8902	7898	5702	7402	45268
AL	SH	56	82	572	454	218	76	1458
	CB	168	1852	808	534	824	234	4420
	PR	1374	1094	3496	1524	1192	754	9434
MS	SH	14	78	604	242	196	230	1364
	CB	.	224	286	64	214	52	840
	PR	254	792	2670	1188	416	424	5744
LA	SH	534	266	962	2170	488	634	5054
	HB	10	28	78	92	22	12	242
	CB	490	1202	1488	856	1394	412	5842
	PR	4028	4118	5586	5568	5252	5186	29738
TX	SH	14	72	326	232	40	6	690
	HB	392	804	1628	2812	936	228	6800
	CB	.	224	286	64	214	52	840
	PR	1448	2570	3236	3526	2758	2272	15810
All		20050	28506	39314	33572	26738	22028	170208

SPECIES=BLACK DRUM

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Cast net	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
	Gig/spear	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
FL-SOUTHWEST	Cast net	1	1	.	.	1	.	3
AL	Gill net	3	2	3	3	13	2	26
	Purse seine	.	.	12	.	.	.	12
MS	Trawl	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
	Cast net	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
	Gill net	2	1	.	.	.	1	4
	Hook&line	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
	Haul seine	1	1	.	.	.	.	2
	Long line	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
LA	Trawl	196	362	13	39	142	144	896
	Tongs/hand gear	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
	Hoop net	.	1	.	.	.	1	2
	Gill net	3	13	14	5	23	19	77
	Trammel net	11	.	.	.	.	.	11
	Hook&line	92	154	45	43	27	22	383
	Long line	310	374	233	341	319	335	1912
	Traps	1	.	1	.	1	1	4
TX	Other	491	344	313	311	533	394	2386
All		1112	1254	635	742	1059	923	5725

SPECIES=COBIA

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	.	7	2	.	.	.	9
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	1	2	.	.	.	1	4
	Long line	.	1	1	.	.	.	2
LA	Hook&line	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
TX	Other	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
All		2	12	4	1	1	2	22

SPECIES=DOLPHIN

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	.	.	1	2	1	.	4
	Long line	.	.	2	1	.	.	3
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
	Long line	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	9	20	166	64	9	6	274
	Long line	.	.	2	3	1	.	6
LA	Trawl	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
	Hook&line	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
	Long line	1	1	23	17	4	2	48
TX	Other	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
All		10	21	197	91	15	9	343

SPECIES=GAG

REGION	GEAR	Sum WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	36	43	30	15	6	13	143
	Long line	5	5	12	10	4	8	44
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Diver	3	1	1	1	.	1	7
	Hook&line	46	53	40	21	24	38	222
	Long line	3	1	.	1	.	4	9
	Traps	1	1	2	2	.	.	6
FL-SOUTHWEST	Diver	1	1	1	1	.	1	5
	Hook&line	43	57	46	28	18	40	232
	Long line	28	37	32	28	20	27	172
	Traps	.	.	.	3	1	.	4
MS	Hook&line	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
LA	Hook&line	2	3	3	2	2	1	13
All		168	202	168	112	75	133	858

SPECIES=GRAY SNAPPER

REGION	GEAR	Sum WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	4	3	5	6	3	5	26
	Long line	.	.	1	1	1	1	4
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Diver	.	1	1	.	.	.	2
	Hook&line	5	14	25	16	8	5	73
FL-SOUTHWEST	Cast net	.	.	1	1	1	.	3
	Diver	2	4	4	6	1	2	19
	Hook&line	46	58	58	111	27	27	327
	Long line	1	3	2	3	3	4	16
	Traps	1	1	2	5	1	1	11
MS	Hook&line	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
LA	Trawl	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
	Hook&line	1	3	6	16	2	1	29
All		60	87	105	166	47	47	512

SPECIES=GRAY TRIGGERFISH

REGION	GEAR	Sum: WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	20	22	20	19	20	18	119
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Diver	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
	Hook&line	7	22	8	3	3	3	46
	Traps	3	2	5	4	2	1	17
FL-SOUTHWEST	Trawl	4	.	.	.	.	.	4
	Diver	4	.	.	.	.	.	4
	Gig/spear	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
	Hook&line	6	6	5	2	2	1	22
	Long line	.	1	1	.	.	.	2
AL	Hook&line	1	1	.	.	1	.	3
MS	Hook&line	1	2	1	2	2	2	10
LA	Hook&line	21	56	27	3	18	12	137
TX	Other	4	5	2	1	8	3	23
All		71	118	69	34	56	41	389

SPECIES=GREATER AMBERJACK

REGION	GEAR	Sum: WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	3	.	1	4	2	2	12
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	21	16	22	6	6	8	79
	Long line	1	.	.	1	1	1	4
LA	Hook&line	1	.	5	11	5	2	24
	Long line	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
TX	Other	1	.	4	4	1	1	11
All		27	16	32	27	15	14	131

SPECIES=HOGFISH

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	.	1	1	.	.	.	2
	Traps	.	.	1	2	2	.	5
FL-SOUTHWEST	Diver	1	2	3	3	2	2	13
	Hook&line	2	1	2	2	1	1	9
	Traps	1	2	4	9	4	1	21
All		4	6	11	16	9	4	50

SPECIES=KING MACKEREL

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	.	.	.	8	20	17	45
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Gill net	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
	Hook&line	.	.	.	2	2	6	10
FL-SOUTHWEST	Gill net	228	.	.	.	.	.	228
	Hook&line	74	19	2	1	2	13	111
AL	Hook&line	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
LA	Trawl	.	.	.	8	.	.	8
	Hook&line	.	.	.	123	.	.	123
	Long line	.	.	.	84	.	.	84
TX	Other	.	.	.	53	.	.	53
All		302	19	2	280	24	37	664

SPECIES=LANE SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	1	1	.	.	1	1	4
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	.	.	1	2	.	.	3
	Traps	2	1	8	8	3	3	25
FL-SOUTHWEST	Trawl	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
	Hook&line	17	38	22	5	3	14	99
	Long line	1	1	.	1	1	.	4
	Traps	7	11	17	13	3	2	53
MS	Hook&line	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
LA	Hook&line	16	19	5	.	20	22	82
TX	Other	.	.	.	.	4	3	7
All		44	71	54	29	36	45	279

SPECIES=MUTTON SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	7	9	12	2	4	3	37
	Long line	9	4	8	5	2	7	35
	Traps	1	1	3	12	2	2	21
All		17	14	23	19	8	12	93

SPECIES=RED DRUM

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
MS	Cast net	1	.	.	.	1	.	2
	Gill net	6	2	3	3	1	6	21
	Hook&line	1	2	1	.	3	8	15
	Haul seine	2	1	1	.	1	1	6
All		10	5	5	3	6	15	44

SPECIES=RED GROUPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	7	9	7	4	3	5	35
	Long line	19	12	41	48	13	27	160
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Diver	.	1	2	1	.	.	4
	Hook&line	17	26	47	69	36	24	219
	Long line	12	16	5	16	4	19	72
	Traps	8	9	74	110	34	17	252
FL-SOUTHWEST	Diver	.	1	1	2	1	.	5
	Hook&line	102	99	99	129	86	72	587
	Long line	407	504	422	324	187	297	2141
	Traps	22	26	49	58	15	17	187
All		594	703	747	761	379	478	3662

SPECIES=RED PORGY

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
AL	Hook&line	1	1	6	8	2	.	18
MS	Hook&line	1	.	25	19	.	7	52
LA	Hook&line	7	9	11	7	12	4	50
	Long line	2	1	2	.	.	.	5
All		11	11	44	34	14	11	125

SPECIES=RED SNAPPER

		Sum					
		WAVE					
		1	2	3	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR						
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	131	192	.	104	26	453
	Long line	.	3	.	36	6	45
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	9	13	.	10	1	33
	Long line	1	.	.	.	.	1
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	6	10	2	6	1	25
	Long line	2	3	.	5	1	11
AL	Hook&line	32	36	.	16	3	87
MS	Hook&line	40	29	.	18	14	101
LA	Hook&line	796	1000	184	466	801	3247
	Long line	.	32	.	30	75	137
TX	Other	451	455	.	467	125	1498
All		1468	1773	186	1158	1053	5638

SPECIES=SCAMP

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	7	8	13	9	3	7	47
	Long line	1	1	4	3	1	6	16
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	1	2	2	1	1	1	8
	Long line	1	6	.	.	.	1	8
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	5	9	8	4	2	5	33
	Long line	7	16	12	13	6	10	64
	Traps	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
MS	Hook&line	.	.	2	1	.	1	4
LA	Hook&line	6	6	12	6	7	7	44
	Long line	2	.	1	.	.	.	3
TX	Other	.	1	.	.	1	.	2
All		31	49	54	37	21	38	230

SPECIES=SNOWY GROUPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	1	1	2	2	.	.	6
	Long line	.	.	1	.	.	1	2
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
	Long line	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	10	7	4	5	3	3	32
	Long line	1	5	9	5	3	6	29
LA	Hook&line	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
	Long line	1	.	1	.	.	.	2
All		13	13	20	13	6	10	75

SPECIES=SOUTHERN FLOUNDER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Trawl	7	7	3	1	6	15	39
	Cast net	.	3	3	2	2	2	12
	Diver	1	1	5	4	6	14	31
	Gill net	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	Gig/spear	1	10	48	41	45	19	164
	Hook&line	2	1	3	2	2	4	14
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Trawl	2	2	4	.	2	3	13
	Cast net	.	1	.	.	1	1	3
	Gig/spear	5	12	26	20	14	7	84
	Hook&line	.	1	2	.	1	1	5
	Haul seine	2	2	.	.	1	.	5
	Traps	1	.	.	.	1	3	5
FL-SOUTHWEST	Trawl	3	4	2	1	1	3	14
	Cast net	3	1	1	1	1	2	9
	Gig/spear	.	.	1	.	.	1	2
	Hook&line	1	2	3	3	3	4	16
AL	Trawl	10	11	10	6	5	57	99
	Gill net	3	22	101	155	98	27	406
	Gig/spear	5	23	18	26	15	18	105
	Purse seine	.	.	3	.	.	.	3
MS	Trawl	3	3	4	4	7	36	57
	Cast net	.	2	9	13	8	1	33
	Gill net	1	7	18	21	5	4	56
	Gig/spear	.	14	40	60	19	6	139
	Hook&line	2	2	5	5	7	22	43
	Haul seine	1	4	9	15	10	1	40
LA	Trawl	26	21	15	6	122	261	451
	Hoop net	.	.	.	.	5	59	64
	Gill net	2	15	9	6	23	11	66
	Hook&line	2	6	6	3	3	3	23
	Long line	2	5	9	14	13	23	66
	Traps	.	2	2	2	11	2	19
TX	Other	25	72	163	134	171	262	827
All		110	256	522	547	608	872	2915

SPECIES=SPANISH MACKEREL

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	.	8	1	2	3	1	15
	Haul seine	.	6	.	.	3	.	9
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Trawl	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
	Cast net	.	7	.	.	.	.	7
	Gill net	.	15	1	2	5	4	27
	Hook&line	.	7	.	.	1	.	8
FL-SOUTHWEST	Trawl	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
	Cast net	5	9	2	.	1	.	17
	Gill net	619	649	2	.	1	.	1271
	Hook&line	82	19	1	1	6	10	119
	Haul seine	1	13	.	1	1	.	16
	Long line	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
AL	Gill net	1	165	65	211	38	1	481
	Purse seine	.	10	27	.	.	.	37
MS	Trawl	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
	Gill net	.	1	1	.	.	.	2
LA	Trawl	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
	Gill net	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
	Hook&line	.	.	.	11	.	.	11
	Long line	.	.	.	3	.	.	3
All		709	910	100	234	59	17	2029

SPECIES=SPECKLED HIND

		Sum				
		WAVE				
		2	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR					
FL-SOUTHWEST	Long line	1	1	1	1	4
All		1	1	1	1	4

SPECIES=SPOTTED SEATROUT

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Cast net	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
	Hook&line	.	.	8	10	.	.	18
FL-SOUTHWEST	Cast net	.	.	2	1	.	.	3
	Hook&line	.	.	21	20	.	.	41
	Haul seine	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
AL	Gill net	.	3	.	.	.	.	3
MS	Cast net	.	1	1	.	1	.	3
	Gill net	5	16	14	.	2	5	42
	Hook&line	20	23	23	.	8	24	98
	Haul seine	.	9	9	.	2	1	21
LA	Gill net	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
	Hook&line	44	26	.	.	.	60	130
	Long line	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
All		70	78	79	33	13	91	364

SPECIES=STRIPED MULLET

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Trawl	.	.	6	2	3	1	12
	Cast net	161	210	242	395	374	635	2017
	Gill net	47	11	24	12	22	.	116
	Gig/spear	.	.	4	2	2	8	16
	Haul seine	.	10	3	.	22	25	60
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Trawl	.	.	.	.	.	24	24
	Cast net	232	196	103	166	224	357	1278
	Tongs/hand gear	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
	Gill net	.	2	.	.	.	2	4
	Gig/spear	.	.	.	1	1	.	2
	Hook&line	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
	Haul seine	295	220	224	286	457	825	2307
	Traps	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
FL-SOUTHWEST	Trawl	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
	Cast net	1000	872	1000	1000	1000	1000	5872
	Other	.	.	.	.	5	.	5
	Gill net	.	3	.	2	.	.	5
	Hook&line	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
	Haul seine	883	125	171	237	369	1000	2785
AL	Gill net	838	647	930	1000	1000	1000	5415
MS	Trawl	.	.	.	.	78	625	703
	Cast net	7	64	54	83	126	177	511
	Gill net	1	57	18	15	71	421	583
	Haul seine	.	24	35	22	17	144	242
LA	Trawl	.	.	.	.	.	6	6
	Cast net	.	1	10	7	.	.	18
	Hoop net	3	13	18	29	14	.	77
	Gill net	266	.	.	.	53	602	921
TX	Other	10	33	37	77	49	19	225
All		3743	2491	2880	3337	3887	6872	23210

SPECIES=VERMILION SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Trawl	.	.	.	2	1	3	6
	Hook&line	505	580	1000	877	388	430	3780
	Long line	.	9	2	.	1	8	20
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	20	37	23	45	25	37	187
	Long line	1	1	.	2	1	6	11
	Traps	1	3	4	4	1	.	13
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	7	17	8	8	6	7	53
	Long line	1	1	4	2	1	.	9
	Traps	.	.	2	1	.	.	3
AL	Hook&line	7	7	15	26	18	6	79
MS	Hook&line	34	27	108	56	19	52	296
LA	Hook&line	367	563	570	350	395	218	2463
	Long line	.	.	3	1	.	.	4
TX	Other	248	463	80	94	216	249	1350
All		1191	1708	1819	1468	1072	1016	8274

SPECIES=WARSAW GROUPER

		Sum					
		WAVE					
		1	2	3	4	5	All
REGION	GEAR						
FL-NORTHWEST	Long line	.	.	1	1	.	2
LA	Hook&line	1	1	1	1	1	5
TX	Other	.	1	.	.	.	1
All		1	2	2	2	1	8

SPECIES=YELLOWEDGE GROUPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	1	1	3	1	.	.	6
	Long line	36	25	32	41	22	24	180
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Long line	.	3	11	8	1	2	25
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
	Long line	3	29	50	30	14	37	163
LA	Hook&line	3	10	5	2	3	1	24
	Long line	22	7	8	3	1	9	50
TX	Other	6	1	10	7	7	17	48
All		71	77	119	92	48	90	497

SPECIES=YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	.	2	.	.	3	.	5
FL-SOUTHWEST	Gill net	6	.	.	.	.	.	6
	Hook&line	991	1000	1000	927	841	646	5405
	Long line	.	2	1	1	.	.	4
	Traps	10	8	3	16	10	3	50
LA	Hook&line	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
All		1007	1013	1004	944	854	649	5471

SPECIES=BLACK DRUM

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Cast net	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
	Gig/spear	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
FL-SOUTHWEST	Cast net	2	2	.	.	2	.	6
AL	Gill net	6	4	6	6	26	4	52
	Purse seine	.	.	24	.	.	.	24
MS	Trawl	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
	Cast net	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
	Gill net	4	2	.	.	.	2	8
	Hook&line	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
	Haul seine	2	2	.	.	.	.	4
	Long line	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
LA	Trawl	392	724	26	78	284	288	1792
	Tongs/hand gear	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
	Hoop net	.	2	.	.	.	2	4
	Gill net	6	26	28	10	46	38	154
	Trammel net	22	.	.	.	.	.	22
	Hook&line	184	308	90	86	54	44	766
	Long line	620	748	466	682	638	670	3824
	Traps	2	.	2	.	2	2	8
TX	Other	982	688	626	622	1066	788	4772
All		2224	2508	1270	1484	2118	1846	11450

SPECIES=COBIA

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	.	14	4	.	.	.	18
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	2	4	.	.	.	2	8
	Long line	.	2	2	.	.	.	4
LA	Hook&line	2	2	2	2	2	2	12
TX	Other	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
All		4	24	8	2	2	4	44

SPECIES=DOLPHIN

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	.	.	2	4	2	.	8
	Long line	.	.	4	2	.	.	6
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
	Long line	.	.	2	2	.	.	4
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	18	40	332	128	18	12	548
	Long line	.	.	4	6	2	.	12
LA	Trawl	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
	Hook&line	.	.	2	2	.	.	4
	Long line	2	2	46	34	8	4	96
TX	Other	.	.	.	4	.	.	4
All		20	42	394	182	30	18	686

SPECIES=GAG

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	72	86	60	30	12	26	286
	Long line	10	10	24	20	8	16	88
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Diver	6	2	2	2	.	2	14
	Hook&line	92	106	80	42	48	76	444
	Long line	6	2	.	2	.	8	18
	Traps	2	2	4	4	.	.	12
FL-SOUTHWEST	Diver	2	2	2	2	.	2	10
	Hook&line	86	114	92	56	36	80	464
	Long line	56	74	64	56	40	54	344
	Traps	.	.	.	6	2	.	8
MS	Hook&line	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
LA	Hook&line	4	6	6	4	4	2	26
All		336	404	336	224	150	266	1716

SPECIES=GRAY SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	8	6	10	12	6	10	52
	Long line	.	.	2	2	2	2	8
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Diver	.	2	2	.	.	.	4
	Hook&line	10	28	50	32	16	10	146
FL-SOUTHWEST	Cast net	.	.	2	2	2	.	6
	Diver	4	8	8	12	2	4	38
	Hook&line	92	116	116	222	54	54	654
	Long line	2	6	4	6	6	8	32
	Traps	2	2	4	10	2	2	22
MS	Hook&line	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
LA	Trawl	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
	Hook&line	2	6	12	32	4	2	58
All		120	174	210	332	94	94	1024

SPECIES=GRAY TRIGGERFISH

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	40	44	40	38	40	36	238
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Diver	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
	Hook&line	14	44	16	6	6	6	92
	Traps	6	4	10	8	4	2	34
FL-SOUTHWEST	Trawl	8	.	.	.	.	.	8
	Diver	8	.	.	.	.	.	8
	Gig/spear	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
	Hook&line	12	12	10	4	4	2	44
	Long line	.	2	2	.	.	.	4
AL	Hook&line	2	2	.	.	2	.	6
MS	Hook&line	2	4	2	4	4	4	20
LA	Hook&line	42	112	54	6	36	24	274
TX	Other	8	10	4	2	16	6	46
All		142	236	138	68	112	82	778

SPECIES=GREATER AMBERJACK

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	6	.	2	8	4	4	24
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	42	32	44	12	12	16	158
	Long line	2	.	.	2	2	2	8
LA	Hook&line	2	.	10	22	10	4	48
	Long line	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
TX	Other	2	.	8	8	2	2	22
All		54	32	64	54	30	28	262

SPECIES=HOGFISH

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	.	2	2	.	.	.	4
	Traps	.	.	2	4	4	.	10
FL-SOUTHWEST	Diver	2	4	6	6	4	4	26
	Hook&line	4	2	4	4	2	2	18
	Traps	2	4	8	18	8	2	42
All		8	12	22	32	18	8	100

SPECIES=KING MACKEREL

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	.	.	.	16	40	34	90
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Gill net	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
	Hook&line	.	.	.	4	4	12	20
FL-SOUTHWEST	Gill net	456	.	.	.	.	.	456
	Hook&line	148	38	4	2	4	26	222
AL	Hook&line	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
LA	Trawl	.	.	.	16	.	.	16
	Hook&line	.	.	.	246	.	.	246
	Long line	.	.	.	168	.	.	168
TX	Other	.	.	.	106	.	.	106
All		604	38	4	560	48	74	1328

SPECIES=LANE SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	2	2	.	.	2	2	8
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	.	.	2	4	.	.	6
	Traps	4	2	16	16	6	6	50
FL-SOUTHWEST	Trawl	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
	Hook&line	34	76	44	10	6	28	198
	Long line	2	2	.	2	2	.	8
	Traps	14	22	34	26	6	4	106
MS	Hook&line	.	.	.	.	2	.	2
LA	Hook&line	32	38	10	.	40	44	164
TX	Other	.	.	.	.	8	6	14
All		88	142	108	58	72	90	558

SPECIES=MUTTON SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	14	18	24	4	8	6	74
	Long line	18	8	16	10	4	14	70
	Traps	2	2	6	24	4	4	42
All		34	28	46	38	16	24	186

SPECIES=RED DRUM

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
MS	Cast net	2	.	.	.	2	.	4
	Gill net	12	4	6	6	2	12	42
	Hook&line	2	4	2	.	6	16	30
	Haul seine	4	2	2	.	2	2	12
All		20	10	10	6	12	30	88

SPECIES=RED GROUPER

REGION	GEAR	Sum: WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	14	18	14	8	6	10	70
	Long line	38	24	82	96	26	54	320
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Diver	.	2	4	2	.	.	8
	Hook&line	34	52	94	138	72	48	438
	Long line	24	32	10	32	8	38	144
	Traps	16	18	148	220	68	34	504
FL-SOUTHWEST	Diver	.	2	2	4	2	.	10
	Hook&line	204	198	198	258	172	144	1174
	Long line	814	1008	844	648	374	594	4282
	Traps	44	52	98	116	30	34	374
All		1188	1406	1494	1522	758	956	7324

SPECIES=RED PORGY

REGION	GEAR	Sum: WAVE 1	2	3	4	5	6	All
AL	Hook&line	2	2	12	16	4	.	36
MS	Hook&line	2	.	50	38	.	14	104
LA	Hook&line	14	18	22	14	24	8	100
	Long line	4	2	4	.	.	.	10
All		22	22	88	68	28	22	250

SPECIES=RED SNAPPER

		Sum					
		WAVE					
		1	2	3	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR						
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	262	384	.	208	52	906
	Long line	.	6	.	72	12	90
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	18	26	.	20	2	66
	Long line	2	.	.	.	.	2
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	12	20	4	12	2	50
	Long line	4	6	.	10	2	22
AL	Hook&line	64	72	.	32	6	174
MS	Hook&line	80	58	.	36	28	202
LA	Hook&line	1592	2000	368	932	1602	6494
	Long line	.	64	.	60	150	274
TX	Other	902	910	.	934	250	2996
All		2936	3546	372	2316	2106	11276

SPECIES=SCAMP

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	14	16	26	18	6	14	94
	Long line	2	2	8	6	2	12	32
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	2	4	4	2	2	2	16
	Long line	2	12	.	.	.	2	16
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	10	18	16	8	4	10	66
	Long line	14	32	24	26	12	20	128
	Traps	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
MS	Hook&line	.	.	4	2	.	2	8
LA	Hook&line	12	12	24	12	14	14	88
	Long line	4	.	2	.	.	.	6
TX	Other	.	2	.	.	2	.	4
All		62	98	108	74	42	76	460

SPECIES=SNOWY GROUPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	2	2	4	4	.	.	12
	Long line	.	.	2	.	.	2	4
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
	Long line	.	.	2	2	.	.	4
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	20	14	8	10	6	6	64
	Long line	2	10	18	10	6	12	58
LA	Hook&line	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
	Long line	2	.	2	.	.	.	4
All		26	26	40	26	12	20	150

SPECIES=SOUTHERN FLOUNDER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Trawl	14	14	6	2	12	30	78
	Cast net	.	6	6	4	4	4	24
	Diver	2	2	10	8	12	28	62
	Gill net	.	.	.	4	.	.	4
	Gig/spear	2	20	96	82	90	38	328
	Hook&line	4	2	6	4	4	8	28
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Trawl	4	4	8	.	4	6	26
	Cast net	.	2	.	.	2	2	6
	Gig/spear	10	24	52	40	28	14	168
	Hook&line	.	2	4	.	2	2	10
	Haul seine	4	4	.	.	2	.	10
	Traps	2	.	.	.	2	6	10
FL-SOUTHWEST	Trawl	6	8	4	2	2	6	28
	Cast net	6	2	2	2	2	4	18
	Gig/spear	.	.	2	.	.	2	4
	Hook&line	2	4	6	6	6	8	32
AL	Trawl	20	22	20	12	10	114	198
	Gill net	6	44	202	310	196	54	812
	Gig/spear	10	46	36	52	30	36	210
	Purse seine	.	.	6	.	.	.	6
MS	Trawl	6	6	8	8	14	72	114
	Cast net	.	4	18	26	16	2	66
	Gill net	2	14	36	42	10	8	112
	Gig/spear	.	28	80	120	38	12	278
	Hook&line	4	4	10	10	14	44	86
	Haul seine	2	8	18	30	20	2	80
LA	Trawl	52	42	30	12	244	522	902
	Hoop net	.	.	.	.	10	118	128
	Gill net	4	30	18	12	46	22	132
	Hook&line	4	12	12	6	6	6	46
	Long line	4	10	18	28	26	46	132
	Traps	.	4	4	4	22	4	38
TX	Other	50	144	326	268	342	524	1654
All		220	512	1044	1094	1216	1744	5830

SPECIES=SPANISH MACKEREL

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	.	16	2	4	6	2	30
	Haul seine	.	12	.	.	6	.	18
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Trawl	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
	Cast net	.	14	.	.	.	.	14
	Gill net	.	30	2	4	10	8	54
	Hook&line	.	14	.	.	2	.	16
FL-SOUTHWEST	Trawl	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
	Cast net	10	18	4	.	2	.	34
	Gill net	1238	1298	4	.	2	.	2542
	Hook&line	164	38	2	2	12	20	238
	Haul seine	2	26	.	2	2	.	32
	Long line	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
AL	Gill net	2	330	130	422	76	2	962
	Purse seine	.	20	54	.	.	.	74
MS	Trawl	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	Gill net	.	2	2	.	.	.	4
LA	Trawl	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	Gill net	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	Hook&line	.	.	.	22	.	.	22
	Long line	.	.	.	6	.	.	6
All		1418	1820	200	468	118	34	4058

SPECIES=SPECKLED HIND

		Sum				
		WAVE				
		2	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR					
FL-SOUTHWEST	Long line	2	2	2	2	8
All		2	2	2	2	8

SPECIES=SPOTTED SEATROUT

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Cast net	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	Hook&line	.	.	16	20	.	.	36
FL-SOUTHWEST	Cast net	.	.	4	2	.	.	6
	Hook&line	.	.	42	40	.	.	82
	Haul seine	.	.	2	2	.	.	4
AL	Gill net	.	6	.	.	.	.	6
MS	Cast net	.	2	2	.	2	.	6
	Gill net	10	32	28	.	4	10	84
	Hook&line	40	46	46	.	16	48	196
	Haul seine	.	18	18	.	4	2	42
LA	Gill net	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
	Hook&line	88	52	.	.	.	120	260
	Long line	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
All		140	156	158	66	26	182	728

SPECIES=STRIPED MULLET

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Trawl	.	.	12	4	6	2	24
	Cast net	322	420	484	790	748	1270	4034
	Gill net	94	22	48	24	44	.	232
	Gig/spear	.	.	8	4	4	16	32
	Haul seine	.	20	6	.	44	50	120
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Trawl	.	.	.	.	.	48	48
	Cast net	464	392	206	332	448	714	2556
	Tongs/hand gear	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
	Gill net	.	4	.	.	.	4	8
	Gig/spear	.	.	.	2	2	.	4
	Hook&line	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
	Haul seine	590	440	448	572	914	1650	4614
	Traps	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
FL-SOUTHWEST	Trawl	.	4	.	.	.	.	4
	Cast net	2000	1744	2000	2000	2000	2000	11744
	Other	.	.	.	.	10	.	10
	Gill net	.	6	.	4	.	.	10
	Hook&line	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
	Haul seine	1766	250	342	474	738	2000	5570
AL	Gill net	1676	1294	1860	2000	2000	2000	10830
MS	Trawl	.	.	.	.	156	1250	1406
	Cast net	14	128	108	166	252	354	1022
	Gill net	2	114	36	30	142	842	1166
	Haul seine	.	48	70	44	34	288	484
LA	Trawl	.	.	.	.	.	12	12
	Cast net	.	2	20	14	.	.	36
	Hoop net	6	26	36	58	28	.	154
	Gill net	532	.	.	.	106	1204	1842
TX	Other	20	66	74	154	98	38	450
All		7486	4982	5760	6674	7774	13744	46420

SPECIES=VERMILION SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Trawl	.	.	.	4	2	6	12
	Hook&line	1010	1160	2000	1754	776	860	7560
	Long line	.	18	4	.	2	16	40
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Hook&line	40	74	46	90	50	74	374
	Long line	2	2	.	4	2	12	22
	Traps	2	6	8	8	2	.	26
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	14	34	16	16	12	14	106
	Long line	2	2	8	4	2	.	18
	Traps	.	.	4	2	.	.	6
AL	Hook&line	14	14	30	52	36	12	158
MS	Hook&line	68	54	216	112	38	104	592
LA	Hook&line	734	1126	1140	700	790	436	4926
	Long line	.	.	6	2	.	.	8
TX	Other	496	926	160	188	432	498	2700
All		2382	3416	3638	2936	2144	2032	16548

SPECIES=WARSAW GROUPER

		Sum					
		WAVE					
		1	2	3	4	5	All
REGION	GEAR						
FL-NORTHWEST	Long line	.	.	2	2	.	4
LA	Hook&line	2	2	2	2	2	10
TX	Other	.	2	.	.	.	2
All		2	4	4	4	2	16

SPECIES=YELLOWEDGE GROUPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	2	2	6	2	.	.	12
	Long line	72	50	64	82	44	48	360
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Long line	.	6	22	16	2	4	50
FL-SOUTHWEST	Hook&line	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
	Long line	6	58	100	60	28	74	326
LA	Hook&line	6	20	10	4	6	2	48
	Long line	44	14	16	6	2	18	100
TX	Other	12	2	20	14	14	34	96
All		142	154	238	184	96	180	994

SPECIES=YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Hook&line	.	4	.	.	6	.	10
FL-SOUTHWEST	Gill net	12	.	.	.	.	.	12
	Hook&line	1982	2000	2000	1854	1682	1292	10810
	Long line	.	4	2	2	.	.	8
	Traps	20	16	6	32	20	6	100
LA	Hook&line	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
All		2014	2026	2008	1888	1708	1298	10942

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Trawl	7	7	9	5	10	19	57
	Cast net	161	213	245	398	376	638	2031
	Diver	1	1	5	4	6	14	31
	Gill net	47	11	24	14	22	.	118
	Gig/spear	1	10	52	43	47	28	181
	Hook&line	718	878	1096	961	559	529	4741
	Haul seine	.	16	3	.	25	25	69
	Long line	61	55	96	105	78	81	476
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Trawl	2	3	4	.	2	27	38
	Cast net	232	204	103	166	225	358	1288
	Diver	3	3	4	2	.	2	14
	Tongs/hand gear	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
	Gill net	.	17	1	2	5	7	32
	Gig/spear	5	12	26	21	15	7	86
	Hook&line	105	176	150	160	111	117	819
	Haul seine	297	222	224	286	458	825	2312
	Long line	18	27	18	29	6	32	130
	Traps	16	17	94	130	43	24	324
FL-SOUTHWEST	Trawl	8	6	3	1	1	3	22
	Cast net	1009	883	1006	1003	1004	1002	5907
	Diver	8	8	9	12	4	5	46
	Other	.	.	.	.	5	.	5
	Gill net	853	652	2	2	1	.	1510
	Gig/spear	.	1	1	.	.	1	3
	Hook&line	1430	1390	1482	1318	1025	862	7507
	Haul seine	884	138	172	239	370	1000	2803

(Continued)

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-SOUTHWEST	Long line	461	608	544	417	245	392	2667
	Traps	43	49	80	117	36	26	351
AL	Trawl	10	11	10	6	5	57	99
	Gill net	845	839	1099	1369	1149	1030	6331
	Gig/spear	5	23	18	26	15	18	105
	Hook&line	41	45	21	35	37	9	188
	Purse seine	.	10	42	.	.	.	52
MS	Trawl	4	3	4	5	85	661	762
	Cast net	8	68	64	96	136	178	550
	Gill net	15	84	54	39	79	437	708
	Gig/spear	.	14	40	60	19	6	139
	Hook&line	99	85	166	84	58	131	623
	Haul seine	4	39	54	37	30	147	311
	Long line	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
LA	Trawl	222	383	29	54	264	412	1364
	Cast net	.	1	10	7	.	.	18
	Tongs/hand gear	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
	Hoop net	3	14	18	29	19	60	143
	Gill net	271	28	23	12	99	633	1066
	Trammel net	11	.	.	.	.	.	11
	Hook&line	1360	1858	883	580	962	1155	6798
	Long line	341	420	280	464	367	444	2316
	Traps	1	2	3	2	12	3	23
TX	Other	1236	1376	609	683	1457	1073	6434
All		10846	10910	8881	9023	9472	12480	61612

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-NORTHWEST	Trawl	14	14	18	10	20	38	114
	Cast net	322	426	490	796	752	1276	4062
	Diver	2	2	10	8	12	28	62
	Gill net	94	22	48	28	44	.	236
	Gig/spear	2	20	104	86	94	56	362
	Hook&line	1436	1756	2192	1922	1118	1058	9482
	Haul seine	.	32	6	.	50	50	138
	Long line	122	110	192	210	156	162	952
FL-WEST CENTRAL	Trawl	4	6	8	.	4	54	76
	Cast net	464	408	206	332	450	716	2576
	Diver	6	6	8	4	.	4	28
	Tongs/hand gear	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
	Gill net	.	34	2	4	10	14	64
	Gig/spear	10	24	52	42	30	14	172
	Hook&line	210	352	300	320	222	234	1638
	Haul seine	594	444	448	572	916	1650	4624
	Long line	36	54	36	58	12	64	260
	Traps	32	34	188	260	86	48	648
FL-SOUTHWEST	Trawl	16	12	6	2	2	6	44
	Cast net	2018	1766	2012	2006	2008	2004	11814
	Diver	16	16	18	24	8	10	92
	Other	.	.	.	.	10	.	10
	Gill net	1706	1304	4	4	2	.	3020
	Gig/spear	.	2	2	.	.	2	6
	Hook&line	2860	2780	2964	2636	2050	1724	15014
	Haul seine	1768	276	344	478	740	2000	5606

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
FL-SOUTHWEST	Long line	922	1216	1088	834	490	784	5334
	Traps	86	98	160	234	72	52	702
AL	Trawl	20	22	20	12	10	114	198
	Gill net	1690	1678	2198	2738	2298	2060	12662
	Gig/spear	10	46	36	52	30	36	210
	Hook&line	82	90	42	70	74	18	376
	Purse seine	.	20	84	.	.	.	104
MS	Trawl	8	6	8	10	170	1322	1524
	Cast net	16	136	128	192	272	356	1100
	Gill net	30	168	108	78	158	874	1416
	Gig/spear	.	28	80	120	38	12	278
	Hook&line	198	170	332	168	116	262	1246
	Haul seine	8	78	108	74	60	294	622
	Long line	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
LA	Trawl	444	766	58	108	528	824	2728
	Cast net	.	2	20	14	.	.	36
	Tongs/hand gear	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
	Hoop net	6	28	36	58	38	120	286
	Gill net	542	56	46	24	198	1266	2132
	Trammel net	22	.	.	.	.	.	22
	Hook&line	2720	3716	1766	1160	1924	2310	13596
	Long line	682	840	560	928	734	888	4632
	Traps	2	4	6	4	24	6	46
TX	Other	2472	2752	1218	1366	2914	2146	12868
All		21692	21820	17762	18046	18944	24960	123224

Table 4. Target Levels for Priority Species in the Caribbean.

Target Samples of Otoliths for Commercial Catch, by Species, State, Wave, Gear 119
Gulf of Mexico 08:46 Monday, May 14, 2001

SPECIES=KING MACKEREL

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
PR	Gill net	2	1	1	1	1	.	6
	Hook&line	2	4	7	4	1	2	20
	Long line	2	7	6	5	1	1	22
All		6	12	14	10	3	3	48

Target Samples of Otoliths for Commercial Catch, by Species, State, Wave, Gear 120
Gulf of Mexico 08:46 Monday, May 14, 2001

SPECIES=MUTTON SNAPPER

		Sum	
		WAVE	
		1	All
REGION	GEAR		
PR	Gill net	1	1
	Long line	3	3
	Traps	3	3
All		7	7

SPECIES=CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
PR	Diver	68	66	66	72	66	72	410
	Gill net	.	2	2	.	.	2	6
	Trammel net	4	2	4	4	8	42	64
	Long line	8	4	6	10	4	4	36
	Traps	110	90	92	76	66	86	520
All		190	164	170	162	144	206	1036

SPECIES=KING MACKEREL

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
PR	Gill net	4	2	2	2	2	.	12
	Hook&line	4	8	14	8	2	4	40
	Long line	4	14	12	10	2	2	44
All		12	24	28	20	6	6	96

SPECIES=MUTTON SNAPPER

		Sum	
		WAVE	
		1	All
REGION	GEAR		
PR	Gill net	2	2
	Long line	6	6
	Traps	6	6
All		14	14

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
PR	Gill net	3	1	1	1	1	.	7
	Hook&line	2	4	7	4	1	2	20
	Long line	5	7	6	5	1	1	25
	Traps	3	.	.	.	.	.	3
All		13	12	14	10	3	3	55

		Sum						
		WAVE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	All
REGION	GEAR							
PR	Diver	68	66	66	72	66	72	410
	Gill net	6	4	4	2	2	2	20
	Trammel net	4	2	4	4	8	42	64
	Hook&line	4	8	14	8	2	4	40
	Long line	18	18	18	20	6	6	86
	Traps	116	90	92	76	66	86	526
All		216	188	198	182	150	212	1146

Attachment G

FIN Data Management Work Group
Meeting Summary
September 6, 2000
Silver Spring, Maryland

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The following people were present:

Guy Davenport, NMFS, Miami, FL
Joey Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Tom Sminkey, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Mike Cahall, ASMFC, Washington, DC
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Mike Sestak, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Purpose of the Meeting

D. Donaldson stated that the main purposes of the meeting were to review of various data management issues that need to be resolved before the Fisheries Information Network (FIN) data management system (DMS) can become fully operational as well as a status report about the commercial catch/effort software.

Discussion of Data Management Issues

D. Donaldson stated that the group needs to address various issues identified by M. Sestak regarding the data management system. J. Shepard stated that before the group works on the finer details of the system, the group needs to address the overall goal of the system. It was decided that the goal of the FIN Data Management System (DMS) is to provide data to all users interested in commercial and recreational statistics. FIN partners need to begin developing a process for routine deliver of data into the DMS. For those states that currently do not have trip ticket programs, summary data should be provided for inclusion into the system. M. Sestak should contact Page Campbell regarding getting Texas data into the DMS. J. Shepard outlined various steps concerning loading of the data. On a weekly basis, states will send data to the DMS. These data will be placed into an initial file which only NMFS and the state collecting partner will have access. As these data are edited and cleaned, the data moves from an initial file into an intermediate file. The data in this file will be accessible by all FIN partners. The last step is the state collecting partner will notify FIN IT Manager when the data become final and then the data are moved into a final file which will be accessible to all users of the system. The group discussed naming conventions for the files that are sent to the FIN DMS. It was decided that files sent to the DMS would be named as followed: STMMDDYYYY.

The group discussed data security issues. It was decided that the responsibility for overall data/network security was tasked to the GSMFC Systems Administrator and the FIN IT Manager. The group discussed the process for allow access to the FIN DMS. For review of personnel with access to confidential data, the group decided to utilize the existing methods where the list of personnel with access is reviewed on an annual basis at the FIN Committee meeting. The point on contact within each agency for assigning people to have access to confidential data will be the FIN Committee members. There will be several levels of access allowed and the FIN Committee member will be responsible to assigning that level. The group discussed the need for an access form which must be completed by the person requesting access as well as the FIN Committee representative. It was decided that a FIN access form needs to be developed. M. Cahall noted that a form has been developed for ACCSP and this form could be used as a template for the development of a FIN form. It was noted that there needs to be some language that states a user cannot let others utilize his/her username and password. A draft FIN access form is attached. The group discussed the need for a user access log and user audit trail and decided that

these items were not necessary to this time. The issue of passwords were addressed by the group. It was agreed that passwords need to be changed every 6 months and it can be set up to automatically prompt the user to change the password after 6 months. The format of the password will be at least 6 characters with at least one (1) numeric.

The group discussed the administration of Business Objects. The FIN IT Manager will add users and groups, publish corporate documents as well as the set up, install and configure the software. However, FIN Committee will make recommendations regarding these items and the FIN IT Manager will implement those recommendations. The FIN Committee members will also be able to create corporate documents within Business Objects. Regarding individual documents, all named users can create individual documents. The issue of the amount of space allocated for each user was discussed by the group. It was decided that this issue needs to be monitored and appropriate actions will be taken as it becomes a problem.

The group discussed the routine submission of data to the FIN DMS. It was agreed that partners should submit data on at least on monthly basis and preferably on a weekly basis. The time of submission will depend on partner capabilities and other factors. The issue of how to transfer the data was discussed. It was decided that FTP was the most efficient method for transferring the data and the group agreed that the GSMFC site would be the most appropriate site. Each partner will need individual user names and passwords to access site. This should be a category added to the FIN access form that denoted the need for access to FTP site. It was decided that each state will have own directory to ensure that confidential data are not accessible to personnel who do not have access. The files sent to the FTP site should be zipped to ensure quicker delivery time. It was decided that once the data has been sent to the FTP site, partners will notify the FIN IT Manager via e-mail. The e-mail should contain the following information: 1) filename; 2) number of records sent; and 3) file size of zipped file (MB). The group then discussed what needs to be sent during the routine submission of data - all records or only the new and/or updated records. It was noted that sending all records could cause a problem with processing towards the end of the year since it will represent an extremely large amount of data. After some discussion, the group decided that partners will send: new records (utilizing the aforementioned naming convention) and the updated records (utilizing the naming convention: STMMDDYYYYU). It was decided that if there are problems with the data (corrupted data; not in the right format; rejected records; etc.), the point of contact will be the FIN committee member for that agency.

The group agreed that a back up copy of each partners' data will be maintained on the individual partners' system by that partner. The group also discussed the loading of old data archives. It was decided that FIN should focus on loading the historical Louisiana and Florida trip ticket data as well as the NMFS summary data. Eventually, all historical data will be loaded into the system.

The group addressed the issue of the best time to bring data offline for backup. It was noted that currently, the system is offline from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. for backed up every night. It was decided that this schedule was fine for the near future, however, it may need to be readdressed as more data gets loaded into the system. The group also discussed having a backup instance of FIN on a separate server. In the past, it has been suggested that FIN could have a copy of their instance on the ACCSP server and vice versa. The group briefly discussed this issue and decided this issue needs to be further explored by FIN and ACCSP.

The final issue discussed by the group concerned the amount of data transferred as well as data base speed. Such issues as average data chunks received via FTP, average download time, breaking data into smaller chunks to increase download speeds, creating separate data into year(s) universe(s), after so many years, create separate universe, allowing current data runtime operation maximum throughput, and analysis on total data still possible (1,000,000 record search vs. 100,000; 10,000,000 record search vs 1,000,000) will need to be addressed in the future as the system progresses and evolves.

It was noted that a data management procedures manual should be developed to outline some of the issues discussed by this group. It was agreed that staff would develop such as manual. A draft of the manual is attached.

Status of Commercial Catch/Effort Software

M. Cahall stated that ACCSP has loaded all the commercial catch and effort software delivered by ICF Consulting. However, it appears that there are problems with some of the deliverables in that the load scripts are inefficient. Therefore, M. Cahall has rewritten approximately 50% of the load scripts to make them more efficient. Some of the other problems included there was no way to determine which files the data came from as well as being unable to delete records in the warehouse. He has made modifications to the software to address these issues and have delivered these modifications to the ICF Consulting. He mentioned that ICF Consulting will be delivering these modifications to the FIN in the near future.

Other Business

D. Donaldson stated that this group needed to discuss develop some type of procedure for updating and adding codes to the FIN and ACCSP DMSs. This issue has arisen because Alabama has asked for some additional codes that are not in current list. After some discussion, the group agreed that the ACCSP and FIN IT Managers need to coordinate to ensure comparability and compatibility between the coding systems. The set of codes used by ACCSP needs to be identical to the set used by FIN. It was agreed that M. Sestak and M. Cahall would contact each other prior to adding new codes to their respective systems.

D. Donaldson reported that although it was initially believed that both ACCSP and FIN would be able to utilize one server license for Webi, it appears now that is not the case. At the end of August, D. Donaldson and M. Sestak met with (via conference call) ICF Kaiser and Business Objects personnel to discuss the various options. Unfortunately, M. Cahall was not able to attend because he was attending the ACCSP Operations Committee meeting. It appears that the best options would be that FIN proceed with purchasing the full access server license and Business Objects is willing to offer a savings for purchasing a second server license. The total cost for both licenses will be $294,000. FIN has already committed to paying $210,000 (cost of one server license) so ACCSP would be able to get a full access server license for the discounted price of $84,000. The price of $294,000 does include support for the first year. This issue will be discussed at the upcoming ACCSP Operations Committee meeting.

The group then discussed the processing and delivery of Florida trip ticket data. Since ACCSP is already committed to loading the Florida trip ticket data into the ACCSP DMS, it appears to be inefficient as well as potential problematic for the FIN to essential duplicate this effort. Therefore, the group decided that ACCSP will be responsible for processing and loading the Florida trip ticket data into the ACCSP system and then allow FIN to retrieve the processed data for placement into their DMS. This would include both east and west coast data from Florida.

M. Sestak noted that there were several issues this group needs to address at future meetings. He wanted to bring them up at this meeting so the group could begin thinking about methods for addresses this topics as well as identifying potential problems. The issues included the development of standard help screens for the DMS as well as development of report search engines. Currently, these topics are not an issue but will need to be addressed in the future as the DMS comes on-line and is being utilized by more and more users.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

FIN Confidential UserID Request

Date: _____

Requesting Partner/Agency: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Access Requested For:

Name: _____

Title: _____

User Information

New Users Functions:

- ☐ Biological Stock Assessment
- ☐ Social/Economic Assessments
- ☐ Quota Monitoring
- ☐ ITQ Analysis
- ☐ Other: _____

User Affiliation:

	Agency Name
☐ State Agency Personnel	_____
☐ Federal Agency Personnel	_____
☐ Regional Fishery Mgmt. Council Staff	_____
☐ Regional Fishery Mgmt. Council Member	_____
☐ Interstate Fishery Commission Staff	_____
☐ Interstate Fishery Commission Member	_____
☐ State Law Enforcement Officer	_____
☐ Federal Law Enforcement Officer	_____

Data Requirements

Type of Data Needed:

- ☐ Access to state data — specify state: _____
- ☐ Access to regional data — specify region: _____
- ☐ Access to multi-regional data
- ☐ Access to FTP site
- ☐ Special
  Specify: _____
  _____
- ☐ Other
  Specify: _____
  _____

I will not disclose any data identified as confidential to any person(s), except as directed by the appropriate personnel. I am fully aware of the civil and criminal penalties for unauthorized disclosure, misuse, or other violation of the confidentiality of such data. I will not share the user name and password assigned to me with any other person.

Signature of New User: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Requestor: _____

Date: _____

FIN Staff Use Only

Date Processed:_____ User ID:_____

Processed by: _____

DATA MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES MANUAL

Introduction

This manual outlines the procedures and methods regarding access to the FIN Data Management System (DMS), loading of data into the system, naming conventions for the files sent to the system, Business Objects issues and other pertinent topics.

Data security

The responsibility for overall data/network security is that of the GSMFC Systems Administrator (Joe Ferrer) and the FIN IT Manager (Mike Sestak). A list of personnel having access to confidential data will be reviewed on a yearly basis at the annual FIN Committee meeting. The point of contact within each agency for designating people to have access to confidential data will be the FIN Committee member. There will be several levels of access allowed to the DMS, and the FIN Committee members will be responsible for determining that level. Before a person is assigned a user ID and password, that person and the FIN Committee member for the parent agency must complete and sign a FIN access form. Once the form has been signed, it will be forwarded to the FIN IT Manager who will assign and distribute the user ID and password. Passwords will need to be changed every 6 months. The system will be set up to automatically prompt the user to change the password after 6 months. The format of the password will be at least 6 characters with at least one (1) numeric (e.g. ABCDE1).

Business Objects Issues

The FIN IT Manager will add users and groups, publish corporate documents as well as the set up, install and configure the software. However, FIN Committee will make decisions regarding these items and the FIN IT Manager will implement any required modifications. The FIN Committee members will also be able to create corporate documents within Business Objects. All named users can create individual documents. The amount of space required by each user's individual documents will be monitored and appropriate action will be taken if it becomes a problem.

Data Submission

The FIN partners should submit data on at least a monthly basis and preferably on a weekly basis. The timing of submission will depend on partner capabilities and other factors. The transfer of data will be carried out via FTP. The GSMFC site will be the site utilized by the FIN. Each partner will be assigned individual user names and passwords to access this site (which is outlined on the FIN access form). Each state will have its own directory to ensure that confidential data are not accessible to unauthorized users. The files transferred to the FTP site should be zipped to facilitate efficient transfer and minimize the space required for storage on the FTP site. Once the data has been transferred to the FTP site, partners will notify the FIN IT Manager via e-mail. The e-mail should contain the following information: 1) the filename; 2) the number of records sent; and 3) the file size of zipped file (in MB). The naming conventions for the files that are sent to the FIN DMS are as followed: 1) for files containing new records: STMMDDYYYY and 2) for files containing updated records: STMMDDYYYYU. If there are problems with the delivered data (corrupted data; not in the right format; rejected records; etc.), the point of contact will be the FIN committee member for the originating agency. A back up copy of each partners' data will be maintained on the individual partners' system by that partner.

Attachment H

FIN/ACCSP Compatibility Work Group
Meeting Summary
July 25, 2000
Tampa, FL

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m and the following people were present:

Lisa Kline, ASMFC, Washington, DC
Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Maury Osborn, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Joey Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Dee Lupton, NCDMR, Morehead City, NC
Bruce Joule, MDMR, West Boothbay Harbor, ME
Mark Alexander, CDEP, Old Lyme, CT
Joe Moran, ASMFC, Washington, DC
Mike Cahall, ASMFC, Washington DC
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Purpose of Meeting

D. Donaldson stated that the purpose of the meeting was to develop 3-5 year implementation strategy for ACCSP and FIN, review of ACCSP and FIN standard definitions, and discussion of development of additional data management modules.

Develop 3-5 Year Implementation Strategy for ACCSP and FIN

D. Donaldson stated that the senior level policy bodies of both FIN and ACCSP have requested a mid-range planning document be developed by the programs. It was stated that it is difficult to develop such a document because it is hard to predict when actions that need to occur will happen. D. Donaldson distributed a draft strategy for the FIN to the group for their consideration. The group believed that this document was a good start and provided a basis for further development of these plans. After some discussion, the group stated that there are several items that need to be developed. They are: 1) 3to 5-year map with linkages to more detailed information; 2) status of current situation; 3) background and detailed information for item 1 and 2; 4) linkages between the modules; and 5) where the various projects fit into the system.

The group discussed how to set up the matrix for compiling this information. Initially, the group believed it should focus on agencies, in terms of what each agency is doing concerning implementation of the programs. However, after some discussion, the group decided to focus of the modules. The group identified the various items that needed to be examined for each module and the extent that these items have been completed. A list of the modules and the various items that need to be included are attached. During the discussions of the Vessel Registration System (VRS), the group discussed reevaluating the involvement of the Coast Guard in the VRS. Currently, the Coast Guard is taking the lead on development of the VRS and the group believed this topic should be reassessed by the policy level personnel. There was discussion that if the Coast Guard was not going to make any progress then we may need to move ahead in a different way. **The group recommended that the involvement of the Coast Guard in the VRS should be reevaluated . This issue should be discussed by the ACCSP Coordinating Council and the GSMFC State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee at their upcoming meetings in October 2000.** It was suggested that the letter from the GSMFC regarding VRS should be distributed to these groups to help facilitate discussion.

Review of ACCSP and FIN Standard Definitions

D. Donaldson stated that this group was charged with reviewing the standard definitions for FIN regarding the clarity of each definition. J. Shepard expressed the need for having very specific and clearly-defined definitions to avoid confusion about the meaning of these definitions. It was noted that these definitions were only developed for guidance and would only be included in the program design document. J. Shepard believed these definitions would be included in procedure manuals for the various data collection activities under FIN. He thought that the definitions needed to be very clear on their meaning. The group agreed and stated that when procedure manuals were developed, clear definitions would be provided. However, for the purposes of the program design, the current list of definitions seem to be appropriate. It was suggested that instead of listing the words alphabetically, they could be group in a more logical order (modes of fishing all together, types of catches together, etc.) Staff will reorder the existing definitions and distribute them to the group. M. Osborn stated that she can provide some diagrams for bank, beach, breach-way, breakwater to clarify those definitions. The group was asked to provide any comments regarding definitions that appeared to be unclear to staff. Staff will incorporate all the comments received and sent out the revised definitions (which will be reordered) to the FIN Committee for their comment and approval. The revised definitions are attached.

Discussion of Development of Additional Data Management Modules

D. Donaldson stated that this item was added to the agenda to plan for future development of other modules. He stated that if additional modules need to be developed in 2001, they need to be identified so they can be added to the list of potential activities for funding. M. Cahall stated that he has made significant changes to the commercial catch/effort module delivered by ICF Consulting. He will be discussing these changes with the ACCSP Computer Technical Committee as well as the FIN Data Management Work Group at their upcoming meetings. He mentioned there is no tracking of which agency sent the data and this could cause some problems. Also, he noted that there is no formal process for making changes to the data base structure. Currently, M. Cahall and Mike Sestak are coordinating these activities. It was advised that Mike C. and Mike S. need to continue this coordination to ensure comparability and compatibility. The group suggested that for the long-term plans, a formal process may need to be developed for this issue. The group discussed that once the systems become operational, there needs to be a process to assess how the systems are meeting the needs of the users. This topic needs to be further explored as the systems become operational and could be discussed by the computer committees of ACCSP and FIN. As some discussion, the group decided that ACCSP and FIN should focus on getting the existing data modules up and running instead of developing more modules.

Regarding existing modules, M. Osborn and M. Cahall provided a brief report on the status of the recreational catch/effort module. NMFS-HQ and M. Cahall are loading effort estimate data into ,the module developed by ICF Consulting. NMFS is testing to make sure the data structures are set up properly and ensuring that the queries will provide accurate results. After we have ensured the effort tables and queries are working we will begin loading catch estimate and intercept data and testing those queries. D. Donaldson mentioned that M. Sestak is available to help with the modification of the recreational module, if needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

3 to 5 year Implementation Plan Outline

Commercial Catch/Effort

1. Data standards development - design and procedures (program level)
2. Data management structure development (program level)
3. Legislative/regulatory action
4. Local data management development
5. Local program implementation - forms, data entry, outreach, enforcement, etc.)
6. Evaluation of components - permitting/licensing system (linked to permitting module)

Recreational Catch/Effort

1. Data standards development - design and procedures (program level)
2. Data management structure development (program level)
3. Research agenda (program level)
4. Local program implemented - forms, data entry, outreach, etc.
5. Increased sampling (ACCSP only in Northeast region)
6. Evaluation of components

For-Hire Catch/Effort

1. Data standards development - design and procedures (program level)
2. Data management structure development (program level)
3. Legislative/regulatory action needed
4. Local data management development
5. Local program implementation - forms, data entry, outreach, etc.
6. Evaluation of components

Please note the # 3-6 are all dependent on the ACCSP South Carolina Pilot Survey

Biological Sampling

1. Data standards development - design, procedures and tracking process (program level)
2. Data management structure development (program level)
3. Legislative/regulatory action (where necessary)
4. Local data management development
5. Local program implementation - development of annual data collection plan
6. Processing capability (analysis) - linked to at-sea observer program
7. Evaluation of components - monitoring of sampling levels

Permitting

1. Data standards development - design and procedures (program level)
2. Data management structure development (program level)
3. Legislative/regulatory action
4. Local data management development
5. Local program implementation - forms, data entry, outreach, enforcement, etc.
6. Evaluation of components

Quota Monitoring

1. Data standards development - design and procedures (program level)
2. Data management structure development (program level)
3. Legislative/regulatory action
4. Local data management development
5. Local program implementation - forms, data entry, outreach, enforcement, etc.

6. Evaluation of components - permitting/licensing system (linked to permitting module)

Data Management

1. Host site location (A CCSP only)
2. Hardware acquisition
3. Software acquisition
4. Administrative issues

Vessel Registration System

1. Data standards development - design and procedures (program level)
2. Data management structure development (program level)
3. Reevaluation of Coast Guard involvement (taking lead on VRS)
4. Legislative/regulatory action
5. Local data management development - awaiting on Coast Guard
6. Local program implementation - forms, outreach, enforcement, etc.
7. Evaluation of components - permitting/licensing system (linked to permitting module)

Social/Economic (for each component: recreational, commercial harvesters and dealer/processors, for-hire, non-consumptive, and fishing communities)

1. Data standards development - design and procedures (program level)
2. Data management structure development (program level)
3. Legislative/regulatory action
4. Local data management development
5. Local program implementation - forms, data entry, outreach, enforcement, etc.
6. Research agenda/pilot studies
7. Evaluation of components

Metadata

1. Data standards development - investigation of data sources (program level)
2. Data management structure development (program level)
3. Partner data entry and quality assurance/quality control
4. Local data management development
5. Evaluation of components

Discards and Protected Species I nteractions - linked to biological sampling module

1. Data standards development - design and procedures (program level)
2. Data management structure development (program level)
3. Legislative/regulatory action
4. Local data management development
5. Local program implementation - forms, data entry, outreach, enforcement, etc.
6. Evaluation of components

Aquaculture

1. Data standards development - design and procedures (program level)
2. Data management structure development (program level)
3. Legislative/regulatory action
4. Local data management development
5. Local program implementation - forms, data entry, outreach, enforcement, etc.
6. Evaluation of components

Recreational Shellfish

1. Data standards development - design and procedures (program level)
2. Data management structure development (program level)
3. Legislative/regulatory action
4. Local data management development
5. Local program implementation - forms, data entry, outreach, enforcement, etc.
6. Evaluation of components

Standard Definitions

Access sites	Areas where fishermen fish from shore, or board or leave a boat to go fishing.
Bank	A stretch of rising land at the edge of a body of water not washed by high water, which could be rocks or an overhanging cliff.
Beach	A level stretch of pebbles, bed rock shore, or sand beside a body of water, often washed by high water.
Breachway	Shore along a connecting channel.
Breakwaters	An offshore structure used to protect a harbor or beach from the forces of waves.
Bridge	A structure carrying a pathway or roadway over a body of water.
Bulkhead, Seawall	A retaining wall along a waterfront.
Causeway	An elevated or raised way across wet ground or water.
Piers	Structure built out over water and supported by pillars without long-term docking facilities for boats
Jetties	A kind of wall, usually made of rocks, built into the water to restrain currents or protect a harbor
Catch	The total number or weight (or other measure) of marine resources (fish, invertebrates, others) captured, which are retained, released or discarded.
Discarded or Released Catch	The portion of the catch that is not retained, (i.e. discarded or released at sea dead or alive) and includes incidental take of protected species.
Immediate Use Catch	The portion of the retained catch used for food or bait before the end of the trip.
Landed Catch	The total number or weight (or other measure) of all marine resources (fish, invertebrates, others) captured, brought to shore and retained at the end of a trip. This includes catch that is discarded or not sold after being landed. This type of catch is indicated by disposition codes.

Retained Catch	The number or weight of marine resources caught and kept for immediate use (bait, food) or for landing.
Private Boat	*Trip Definition* - Any boat trip for which no fee is paid for use of the boat. *Boat Definition* - Any boat for which no fee is paid for use of the boat.
Rental Boat	*Trip Definition* - A trip on a boat that is rented or leased. No captain or crew is hired. *Boat Definition* - A boat that is rented or leased. No captain or crew is hired.
Charterboat	*Trip Definition* - Any trip of a vessel-for hire engaged in recreational fishing (VHERF) that is hired on a per trip basis. For survey purposes, and possible alternative definitions, information should be gathered on: a) number of anglers (refers to all marine recreational resource users); b) size of boat; and c) where fishing occurred. *Boat Definition* - A charterboat is any vessel-for hire engaged in recreational fishing (VHERF) that typically is hired on a per trip basis.
Guideboat	A boat carrying a fishing guide and recreational fishermen engaged in fishing. A guideboat is considered a subset of charterboats for survey purposes.
Headboat	*Trip Def.* - Any trip of a vessel-for-hire engaged in recreational fishing (VHERF) that is hired on a per person basis. For survey purposes, and possible alternative definitions, information should be gathered on: a) number of anglers (refers to all marine recreational resource users); b) size of boat; and c) where fishing occurred. *Boat Def.* - A headboat is any vessel-for-hire engaged in recreational fishing (VHERF) that typically is hired on a per person basis.
Fishing Guide	A person hired by a recreational fisherman to aid in fishing.
Commercial and Recreational Fishermen	For statistical purposes only, anyone who sells or barters any portion of the catch from a trip is a commercial fisherman for that trip, and any marine resources that are sold or bartered are considered a commercial product. All other fishermen and catches are considered recreational.
Commercial Dealer	A seafood dealer is defined as any person or entity other than the final consumer who purchases, ships, consigns, transfers, transports, barters, accepts (maintains) or packs any marine fishery products received from marine resource harvesters or marine aquaculturists. Any marine fishery

products landed in any state must be reported by a dealer or a marine resource harvester acting as dealer in that state. Any marine resource harvester or aquaculturist who sells, consigns, transfers, or barters marine fishery products to anyone other than a dealer would himself be acting as a dealer and would therefore be responsible for reporting as a dealer. This definition is provided for purposes of statistical gathering only.

Confidential Information — Information identifiable with any person or entity and prohibited by law from being disclosed to the public. It is data used as a basis for reasoning, discussion or calculation that a person may submit, either voluntarily or as required by Federal or State statute.

Docks — Structure built out over water and supported by pillars/anchors with long-term docking facilities for boats.

Entanglements — A condition in which any part of a protected species is tangled, wrapped and snared, hooked, or otherwise attached to fishing gear.

Fisheries-Dependent — Information collected directly from the commercial, for-hire, and recreational fisheries.

Fisheries-Independent — Information gathered independent of the fisheries through direct or indirect sampling of the stocks.

Fishing Trip — A period of time over which fishing occurs. The time spent fishing includes configuring, deploying, and retrieving gear, clearing animals from the gear, and storing, releasing or discarding catch. When watercraft are used, a fishing trip also includes the time spent traveling to and from fishing areas or locales and ends when the vessel offloads product at sea or returns to the shore. When fishing from shore or man-made structures, a fishing trip may include travel between different fishing sites within a 24-hour period.

Commercial Trip — Any trip where the retained catch is or would be sold or bartered. This includes trips with effort but no catch.

For-Hire Trip — Any shore or vessel trip whose participants are engaged in a marine resources recreational activity that is contracted for a fee.

Recreational Trip — Any trip for the purpose of recreation from which none of the catch is sold or bartered. This includes trips with effort but no catch.

Split Trip	A split trip is any angler trip in which a portion of the landings are sold commercially and a portion of the landings are retained for personal use.
Guided Beach Trip	Any shore-based trip where a guide is hired or provided.
Guided Fishing Trip	A fishing trip on which a fishing guide is hired to provide services directly related to fishing activities.
Recreational Trip Duration	A day of fishing measured in hours fished for the shore mode and dock to dock duration for the private/rental boat mode.
For-Hire Trip Duration	Dock to dock duration measured in hours.
Gear	Anything used to catch marine resources (See Tables xx and xx and Appendix X. for specific definitions)
Gear Configuration	Materials, construction, measure (i.e., mesh size, length of gear), and deployment of gear.
Intercept Survey	On-site interviews which gather data from fishermen during or upon completion of their fishing trip at access sites.
ITIS	Integrated Taxonomic Information System. A taxonomic database for terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals. The product of a partnership of federal agencies collaborating with systemists in the federal, state and private sectors to provide scientifically credible taxonomic information.
Metadata	Metadata are corollary or descriptive information, both numeric and non-numeric, which may qualify or explain primary data.
Mode of Fishing	The method by which a recreational fishing trip is taken, e.g. private/rental boat, shore, or for-hire.
Other Fishing Modes	Any other non-boat fishing.
Multi-Trip Fisheries	Multiple trip fisheries are characterized by a large number of relatively short duration trips employing the same type of gear, (e.g. lobster pots), and resulting in catch of the same species (e.g. lobster), or relatively few species.
Non-Consumptive Use	Any activity related to marine resources where no take of marine resources is attempted. Examples include photographing wildlife in natural or managed areas, SCUBA diving to view jewfish, whale watching, etc.

Observer	A trained agent (employee, contractor, grantee, etc.) of any FIN partner acting as an unbiased data collector observing fishing operations on fishing vessels at sea.
Port Agent/Sampler	A trained agent (employee, contractor, grantee, etc.) of any FIN partner acting as an unbiased data collector, collecting data afer the completion of a fishing trip.
Post-Stratification	Summarization of data into strata different from strata design used during data collection.
Price	The dollar amount per landed unit (e.g. pounds, bushels) of a given species (or species landing condition and market category).
Private Access Sites	Privately owned riparian land with dock/shoreline, waterfront residential developments, or marinas inaccessible to intercept sampling.
Protected Species	Any organism listed under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, or the Migratory Bird Treaty or any state protected species legislation. The term protected species can include protected finfish species (e.g., Atlantic salmon, shortnose sturgeon), invertebrates (e.g., Queen conch), sea birds, and plants (e.g ., sea oats).
Protected Species Interactions	Any interaction with a fishery which is incidental to such activity and results in the harassment, harm, or death of the species.
Strandings	A marine mammal or sea turtle where: 1) the specimen is dead and/or moribund on the beach or shore or in a coastal waterway, or the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters, or 2) the specimen is alive and is on the beach or shore and is unable to return to the water under its own power, or 3) the specimen is in the EEZ or a coastal waterway where the water is so shallow and/or inhospitable that the specimen is unable to return to its natural habitat under its ow n power.
Stratification	The process of dividing a population into two or more non-overlapping comprehensive subpopulations, called strata, for the purpose of conducting independent surveys of these subpopulations.
Stratum	An identifiable sub-population of a population that is being sampled.
Unique Identifier for Commercial Fisheries	The unique identifier for commercial fisheries trip data is the trip start, the vessel identifier, and trip number when a vessel is involved; the trip start, the individual identifier, and the tip

number when a vessel is not involved. Reporting of the unique identifier is required of both commercial fishermen and dealer on all submitted reports.

Unique Identifier for Recreational Fisheries	The unique identifier for recreational trip data is the date of return, the sampler number, the record number, and the individual.
Value	The total landed dollar amount of a given species (or species landing condition and market category). Example: 100 lbs of lobster at a PRICE of $3.50 per pound will have a VALUE of $350.
Vessel Directory Frame	A list of known vessels operating in a particular fishery which can be used to sample that fishery.
Waterbodies	Bodies of waters used for defining areas fished and identified by standard codes (See Table XX.x.).
Inland	Waterbodies less than zero miles from the shoreline - waterbodies found inside the boundaries for territorial waters.
Territorial waters	Inshore - 0-3 miles on Atlantic, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and U.S. Virgin Islands coast, 0-9 nautical miles on Florida and Texas Gulf, and Puerto Rico coast from the shoreline.
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone - Offshore waters 3-200 miles on Atlantic, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and U.S. Virgin Islands coast, 9-200 miles on Florida and Texas Gulf, and Puerto Rico coast from the shoreline.
International	Offshore waters greater than 200 miles from the shoreline.

Attachment I

FIN Outreach Work Group
Conference Call Summary
January 30, 2001

The call was brought to order at 9:00 a.m. and the following people were present:

Michael Bailey, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Quenton Dokken, TAMU-CC, Corpus Christi, TX
Graciela Garcia-Moliner, CFMC, San Juan, PR
Rick Wallace, AES, Mobile, AL
Marcia Taylor, UVI, St. Croix, USVI
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Purpose of the Meeting

D. Donaldson stated that the main purpose of the call was to review the draft RFP. The RFP was designed to solicit proposals for the development of an outreach program for the Fisheries Information Network (FIN). The group reviewed and made minor editorial changes to the RFP. After some discussion, **the group recommended that the RFP be presented to the FIN Committee for their consideration and approval at the June meeting**. If the RFP is approved, it will be distributed to the appropriate personnel and monies will be made available in 2002 to fund this project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Fisheries Information Network (FIN) is now requesting proposals to develop an outreach program for the FIN. Proposals should contain:

- a detailed description of the work proposed.
- information describing the respondent's qualifications for conducting the work.
- detailed budget information.

Proposals should reflect the respondent's knowledge and understanding of developing and implementing an outreach program.

Description of Project

Development of an outreach strategy that addresses methods for disseminating program information to the desired audiences as well as addressing and clarifying perceived problems with data collection activities.

Background

The Fisheries Information Network is a state-federal cooperative program to collect, manage, and disseminate statistical data and information on the marine commercial and recreational fisheries of the Southeast Region headquartered at Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC). The need for a comprehensive and cooperative data collection program has never been greater because of the magnitude of the commercial and recreational fisheries and the differing roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved. Many southeastern stocks targeted by anglers are now depleted, due primarily to excessive harvest, habitat loss, and degradation. The information needs of today's management regimes require data which are statistically sound, long-term in scope, timely, and comprehensive. A cooperative partnership between state and federal agencies is the most appropriate mechanism to accomplish these goals.

The mission of the FIN is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine commercial and recreational fishery data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Region and to support the development of a national program. The four goals of the FIN include to plan, manage, and evaluate commercial and recreational fishery data collection activities; to implement a marine commercial and recreational fishery data collection program; to establish and maintain a commercial and recreational fishery data management system; and to support the establishment of a national program.

Problem Statement

In the past, there has not been much attention given to outreach and because of that, the fishing industry and public have some negative perceptions about commercial and recreational data collection and management activities. One of the main objectives of the FIN outreach program is to address these perceptions and attempt to clarify some of the perceived problems with data collection as well as inform interested people about the activities of the FIN

Proposal

The proposed project should be designed to disseminate information about the FIN to the variety of commercial and recreational groups as well as the general public. This approach would not replace the existing dissemination methods, but would enhance the existing ways and improve the distribution of

program materials. The geographic scope of this projects includes the Gulf States as well as Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. This scope needs to be considered in the development of the materials as well as dissemination plan to ensure that regional differences and interests are addressed by the developed information . There are two components of the proposal: materials development and dissemination plan.

Materials Development

The first is development of program materials. These materials should include but not are be limited to:

- Program information - general FIN information. There is a lot of existing material that could be modified for distribution;
- Brochure - outlining the FIN structure, overall goals and general program information. FIN has already developed a brochure, however, it would be useful to examine it for potential improvements;
- Public service announcements - this is a fairly inexpensive way to provide information to a wide area. These announcements could be designed to include local information depending on where they are presented;
- Magazine articles - use of existing program information could be modified into an article format for inclusion into various fisheries group magazines;
- Presentation - develop a dynamic presentation for presentation to various target groups such as charter boat associations, CCA, commercial and recreational fishing groups, environmental groups, etc.
- Poster - develop an eye-catching poster about the program that could be distributed and displayed at marinas, fish houses, bait shops, etc.
- Other pertinent outreach materials.

Dissemination Plan

The other part of the proposal is the development of a dissemination plan. Once the materials have been developed, applicants need to identify how the materials will be presented to the targeted groups. A structured plan needs to be outlined to ensure that the outreach materials will be properly disseminate to the target audiences.

General Proposal Information

The format for proposals should clearly present the proposed project and its relationship to the specified scope of the work. Proposals should include a narrative description, statement of work, approach, qualifications and curriculum vitae of the applicant and any necessary budgetary information. Applicants should be willing to work closely with the FIN staff. Funds for this project are provided by NOAA Award No. NA97FT0116. The funding available for this project is between $50,000 to $75,000. If accepted for funding, this project must comply with all federal government audit principles/procedures and the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals:

- Qualifications of personnel assigned to project
- Range of similar activities performed by applicant
- Description of approach
- Cost of proposal

All proposals must be submitted by MM/DD/YY. Proposals should be in duplicate and addressed to:

David Donaldson, Data Program Manager
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39566-0726
Phone: (228)875-5912 FAX: (228)875-6604
e-mail: ddonaldson@gsmfc.org

Attachment J

FIN/ACCSP Registration Tracking Work Group
Meeting Summary
February 20, 2001
Tampa, FL

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. and the following people were present:

Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Jeff Marston, NHFG, Durham, NH
Cheri Patterson, NHFG, Durham, NH
John Poffenberger, NMFS, Miami, FL
Christine Johnson, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
John Hoey, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Tom Hoopes, MDMF, Gloucester, MA
Pat Scida, NMFS, Gloucester, MA
Beverly Lambert, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
John Nagle, NMFS, Gloucester, MA
Dee Lupton, NCMF, Morehead City, NC
Daniel Matos, PRDNER, Mayaguez, PR
Robert Sadler, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Carolyn Sramek, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Steve Koplin, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Larry Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Mike Sestak, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Joe Moran, ASMFC, Washington, DC
Mike Cahall, ASMFC, Washington, DC
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Overview of Meeting Objectives

D. Donaldson stated that the main purpose of the meeting was to continue the development of the permitting module which will provide a unique identifier for vessels, fishermen, and dealers involved in commercial fisheries that is trackable through geographic location and time.

Review of State Federal Licensing/Permitting Information

D. Donaldson stated that he and J. Moran developed a questionnaire regarding the licensing and permitting for the agencies in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf. This questionnaire was distributed to the appropriate personnel and completed. The purpose of the questionnaire was to characterize the current systems in place and identify which elements are currently being collected and what elements are not being collected. It was noted that NMFS is in the process of revising their federal permits system. J. Hoey stated that NMFS-HQ has been discussing this issue with the Southeast Region. They are first focusing on the Southeast Region to stabilize the system by converting the existing system to an Oracle-based system. Hopefully, this task will be accomplished by June. They are testing the system on as subset of dealers. They will work out the bugs and are looking to expand to all dealers by January 2002. L. Simpson stated that this issue has been examined in the past. A vessel enumeration system as well as a data FMP have been discussed but no real action ever occurred. Presently, there is heighten emphasis on this issue since the Council has recommended implementation of a shrimp vessel permitting system. Currently, NMFS has chosen to use the Coast Guard for their Vessel Registration System (VRS). However, this is problematic since the Coast Guard does not collected the necessary data to effectively operate a registration tracking

system. The Coast Guard provides a piece of the needed information but not all the information. They are just part of the big system.

The group discussed the necessity of all partners to begin collecting all of the minimum data elements. While the majority of the elements are being collected, **the group agreed that emphasis needs to be placed on beginning to collect the Hull Identification Number (HIN) and birth date of the appropriate contact person**. These elements are essential since they are used to develop the unique identifier. The group recommended that **the state directors (or other appropriate personnel) be notified about the need for collection of these elements**.

Further Development of ACCSP and FIN Permitting Modules

The group discussed the various components that needed to be addressed and decided that there were three parts to this module: dealers, fishermen, vessels. The group decided to address dealers first since there appears to be the most problematic. The group discussed the unique identifier. As agreed upon, **the unique identifier for dealer consists of: 1) month of date of birth; 2) first letter of last name; 3) first letter of first name; 4) last letter of last name; 5) year of date of birth; 6) day of date of birth; 7) sequential number. The group discussed the approach for businesses. After some discussion, the group agreed that for businesses, the unique identifier will be the federal tax id number**. The group discussed the existing data elements and determined if additional elements were needed. The group recommended that *LICENSE TYPE, ISSUE DATA* and *EXPIRATION DATE* be added to the list of minimum elements. The reason for these additions is to enable managers to identify which dealers have various licenses, permits, etc. **It was decided that staff compile a list of license types**. J. Hoey mentioned that he has a list of license types and will provide the list to staff. The group also decided **to break out name and address into separate fields. For name, the break out will be: *LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL,* and *SUFFIX*. For address, it will be: *ADDRESS1, ADDRESS2, CITY STATE, ZIP,* and *COUNTRY***. For COUNTRY, the group agreed that although the majority of the dealers will be from the U.S., it was important to allow for other countries to allow for all possibilities. The default will be the United States. The revised list of minimum data elements are attached.

The group discussed the issue of joint ownership. If a dealer is owner by several people, this presents a problem regarding which person to collect the minimum elements information. The group decided that **for dealers with more than one person in charge, the dealer needs to designate a key contact person**. The key contact person is primary person responsible for the dealer. D. Lupton will provide a definition to staff. All the pertinent elements will be collected for this key contact. The group still needs to decide on is how to deal with the unique IDs when key contacts change. There are confidentiality, as well as logistical issues. It needs to be decided on how to make sure the business records for Joe's Seafood can be traced back to Joe, even though there could have been several key contacts. **The group recommended that the system needs to maintain a history of changes to enable tracking of this information**. The group then discussed the issue of multiple locations for a dealer. There are two approaches to this issue. One approach would be to treat each location as a separate dealer regardless of the owner. Each location would have a key contact person and thus a unique identifier. The other approach would be to be to link all the locations of that dealer under one unique identifier. **The group believed the first approach would be easier to track but no decision was reached by the group. This issue needs to be further explored by the group**. And the group also discussed the issue of standard naming protocols. The group discussed developing some standard naming conventions for city, business names, etc. The group decided that **the protocol should be to spell out the name of the city, business, etc**. This will allow for consistency in the data base, allow for easier tracking of dealers, fishermen and vessels, and minimize the possibility of entry of duplicate records. D. Lupton stated that North Carolina has developed some rule for this issue and will provide that information to the group.

The group then discussed fishermen aspect of the module. The fishermen component is much simpler than the dealers since you usually dealing with an individual. Many of the issues (break out of name

and address, key contact person, standard naming protocols, etc.) discussed for the dealers apply to the fishermen as well. **The unique identifier for fishermen will be the same as it is for dealer which consists of: 1) month of date of birth; 2) first letter of last name; 3) first letter of first name; 4) last letter of last name; 5) year of date of birth; 6) day of date of birth; 7) sequential number. As for dealers, the unique identifier for businesses will be the federal tax id number.** The revised list of minimum data elements are attached.

And lastly, the group discussed the vessel aspect of the module. Again, many of the issues (break out of name and address, key contact person, standard naming protocols, etc.) discussed under the dealer component are applicable to the vessel component. **The unique identifier for vessels consists of the Hull Identification Number (HIN).** There were several asterisked elements. It was discussed and decided that **if the information was available for these elements, the data should be provided.** However, it was understood that due to the size of vessels, these elements would not always be available. The group also decided **to add *HORSEPOWER* to the asterisked group.** The group also recommended **adding business information (name, address, phone number(s), etc.) to the list of minimum elements.** These elements would provide more information about the vessel and allow for better matching and reduce the possibility of having duplicate vessels in the system. The group also discussed the data element, *HOLD CAPACITY*. It was decided that **this element should be reported in tons and if the capacity was not able to be converting into tons, that information could be included in metadata.** The revised list of minimum data elements are attached.

The group discussed the issue of renewing of licenses for dealers and fishermen. It would be beneficial if renewal notices of licenses were sent out to fishermen, dealers, and vessel owners. This would ensure that the same person would get the licenses and notify the appropriate agency if there had been changes to the key contact person, address, phone numbers, etc. If there were not any changes, it would provide some QA/QC to the existing information and assist in preventing duplicate information from being entered into the system. The group recommended that **the pertinent licensing agencies explore the possibilities of issuing renewal notices of licenses. The agencies need to consider the logistics of sending notices, if they have the authority to issue the notices, costs of sending notices, and other issues.** The group also discussed who would be responsible for maintaining the master data bases (which will contain the unique ID). D. Donaldson stated that for the FIN, the GSMFC will provide this service to the program. The partners would be responsible for maintaining the individual partner data files, updating this information, and periodically providing these update to the master data base. Both FIN and ACCSP need to ascertain the types of services the partners will require from the system. It was suggested that the appropriate committee(s) discuss this issue.

Discussion of Implications of Registration vs. Permitting Module

D. Donaldson stated that the group needs to consider the implications of the name of Permitting module. The word "permitting" implies that sanctions can been imposed if the vessel, dealer, or fisherman do not comply with the various regulations. The FIN and ACCSP are not in the business of imposing sanctions but just want to provide data to all interested parties. Therefore, the group needs to consider modifying the name of the work group and module. After some discussion, **the group recommended that the name be changed from Permitting to Registration Tracking.**

Other Business

D. Donaldson stated that it would be beneficial to include some Gulf states data during the testing of NMFS system. J. Hoey stated that he is planning on including as much data as possible to ensure an effective test of the system and the Gulf states will be included. He also mentioned that work will be conducted regarding vessels and he will keep the group posted about the status of that work.

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

VESSEL REGISTRATION TRACKING MINIMUM DATA ELEMENTS

Please note that for those elements with *, these elements may not be applicable due to the size of the vessel. If these elements are available, the data needs to be reported.

Data Element	Description/Criteria	Format
Vessel Identification	Coast Guard or state registration number.	11 digit character
HIN	Hull identification number (this will be used at the unique identifier) This identifier must be trackable through time and space	20 digit character
Business Name	Name of business, if applicable	30 digit character
Business Physical Address	Physical address of business (includes address1, address2, city, state, zip, country).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Business Mailing Address	Mailing address of business (includes address1, address2, city, state, zip, country).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Name	Name of owner (included separate elements for last name, first name, middle initial, suffix).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Physical Address	Physical address of owner (includes address1, address2, city, state, zip, country).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Mailing Address	Mailing address of owner (includes address1, address2, city, state, zip, country).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Business Telephone	Business telephone number of owner.	10 digit character
Home Telephone	Home telephone number of owner.	10 digit character
Date of Birth	Date of birth of owner. This is needed to create the unique identifier.	MM/DD/YYYY
State of Registration	State in which vessel is registered currently.	2 character postal code
Vessel Length	Overall length of vessel (feet), as provided in registration documentation.	3 digit numeric plus 1 decimal point
Year Built	Year the vessel was originally constructed.	4 digit numeric
Gross Tons*	Gross loaded weight of the vessel.	3 digit numeric plus 1 decimal point
Net Tons*	Net weight of the vessel.	3 digit numeric plus 1 decimal point
Hull Construction Material	Primary material used to construct vessel hull.	15 digit character
Hold Capacity*	Total hold capacity of the vessel (Needs to be either reported in tons or converted to tons. If not able to convert, this needs to be noted in metadata).	3 digit numeric plus 1 decimal point
Horsepower*	Total horsepower for all engines on the vessel.	4 digit numeric
License types	Types of licenses and/or permits held for the vessel.	10 digit character
Issue Date	Date licenses and/or permits were issued.	MM/DD/YYYY
Expiration Date	Date licenses and/or permits expire.	MM/DD/YYYY

FISHERMEN REGISTRATION TRACKING MINIMUM DATA ELEMENTS

Data Element	Description/Criteria	Format
Participant Identification	Unique identifier for individual fisherman (consists of: 1) month of date of birth; 2) first letter of last name; 3) first letter of first name; 4) last letter of last name; 5) year of date of birth; 6) day of date of birth; 7) sequential number. For businesses, it will be the federal tax id number. These identifiers must be trackable through time and space.	11 digit character
Name	Name of fisherman. If it is a business, this element would contain the key contact person for the business (included separate elements for last name, first name, middle initial, suffix).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Physical Address	Physical address of fisherman (includes address1, address2, city, state, zip, country).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Mailing Address	Mailing address of fisherman (includes address1, address2, city, state, zip, country).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Business Telephone	Business telephone number of fisherman.	10 digit character
Home Telephone	Home telephone number of fisherman.	10 digit character
Date of Birth	Date of birth of fisherman. For a business, this will be blank. This is needed to create the unique identifier.	MM/DD/YYYY
Federal Tax Id Number	The federal tax id number for the business. If there is an individual fisherman, this will be blank. This is needed to create the unique identifier.	11 digit character
Business Name	Name of business, if applicable (included separate elements for last name, first name, middle initial, suffix).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Business Physical Address	Physical address of business (includes address1, address2, city, state, zip, country).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Business Mailing Address	Mailing address of business (includes address1, address2, city, state, zip, country).	Use established format from commercial C/E
License types	Types of licenses and/or permits held by the fisherman.	10 digit character
Issue Date	Date licenses and/or permits were issued.	MM/DD/YYYY
Expiration Date	Date licenses and/or permits expire.	MM/DD/YYYY

DEALER REGISTRATION TRACKING MINIMUM DATA ELEMENTS

Data Element	Description/Criteria	Format
Participant Identification	Unique identifier for individual fisherman (consists of: 1) month of date of birth; 2) first letter of last name; 3) first letter of first name; 4) last letter of last name; 5) year of date of birth; 6) day of date of birth; 7) sequential number. For businesses, it will be the federal tax id number. These identifiers must be trackable through time and space.	11 digit character
Name	Name of dealer. If it is a business, this element would contain the key contact person for the business(included separate elements for last name, first name, middle initial, suffix).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Physical Address	Physical address of dealer (includes address1, address2, city, state, zip, country).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Mailing Address	Mailing address of dealer (includes address1, address2, city, state, zip, country).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Business Telephone	Business telephone number of dealer.	10 digit character
Home Telephone	Home telephone number of dealer.	10 digit character
Date of Birth	Date of birth of fisherman. For a business, this will be blank. This is needed to create the unique identifier.	MM/DD/YYYY
Federal Tax Id Number	The federal tax id number for the business. If there is an individual fisherman, this will be blank. This is needed to create the unique identifier.	11 digit character
Business Physical Address	Physical address of business (includes address1, address2, city, state, zip, country).	Use established format from commercial C/E
Business Mailing Address	Mailing address of business (includes address1, address2, city, state, zip, country).	Use established format from commercial C/E
License types	Types of licenses and/or permits held by the fisherman.	10 digit character
Issue Date	Date licenses and/or permits were issued.	MM/DD/YYYY
Expiration Date	Date licenses and/or permits expire.	MM/DD/YYYY

Attachment K

FIN Social/Economic Work Group
Meeting summary
May 8, 2001
Miami, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. and the following people were present:

Steve Holiman, NMFS, Tampa, FL
Brad Gentner, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Walter Keithly, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Luz Maria, PRDENR, San Juan, PR
Brian Bohnsack, TPWD, Austin, TX
Darren Benjamin, ASMFC, Washington DC
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Purpose of the Meeting/Overview of FIN

D. Donaldson stated that the main purpose of the meeting was to develop several social/economic data collection projects for funding consideration in 2002. Since there was some new membership on the group, he provided a brief overview of the Fisheries Information Network (FIN). The FIN consists of two major components: Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN) and Recreational Fisheries Information Network [RecFIN(SE)]. Each program has its own mission, goals and objectives and addresses specific issues related to the area of emphasis. The constituencies served by FIN include state and federal agencies responsible for management of fisheries in the region, federal fishery management councils, interstate marine fisheries commissions, and the commercial and recreational fishermen and the associated fishing industries. The mission of FIN is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine commercial, anadromous, and recreational fishery data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Region and to support the development of an inter-regional program. There are four goals of FIN: (1) Plan, manage, and evaluate commercial and recreational fishery data collection activities; (2) Implement a marine commercial and recreational fishery data collection program; (3) Establish and maintain a commercial and recreational fishery data management system; and (4) Support the establishment of a national program. D. Donaldson discussed the organizational structures for the program which outlined the different modules of data collection and management and outreach. He also described the process of how the committees operate, and address and resolve issues and problems. He discussed some of the benefits of the program which include compatibility of state and federal data bases; avoidance of duplication of effort; improvements in estimation of fishing effort and catch; providing more precise catch and effort estimates; improvement of the ability to access and analyze most commercial and recreational fishery survey data bases; and providing a common forum to plan, coordinate, and evaluate commercial and recreational data collection and management activities. He reviewed some of the current activities being addressed by FIN such as development of FIN data management system and prototype; the development and operation of trip ticket programs for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama; recreational data collection in the Gulf of Mexico; Gulf of Mexico charter boat telephone survey; and the night fishing pilot survey.

The group then discussed the process, deadlines, and available funding for these pilot studies. D. Donaldson noted that there will be approximately $500K available in 2002 for new activities. The total amount ($500K) will have to be allocated among several new activities including the social/economic pilot studies. The process for funding these activities will be as follows: 1) May 2001 - Social/Economic Work Group develops pilot study(s); 2) June 2001 - FIN Committee reviews list of potential activities for funding and makes recommendations for which activities to include; 3) August 2001 - State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee will review FIN Committee's list and make a final decision about which activities

to include in 2002 FIN cooperative agreement; and 4) September 2001 - 2002 FIN cooperative agreement is submitted to NMFS for funding.

Review of On-going Social/Economic Activities

S. Holiman provided an overview of on-going social/economic activities in the Southeast Region. There are several socioeconomic data initiatives in the Southeast Region. In 1997-1998, there was a MRFSS economic add-on valuation survey which entailed data collected via intercept, telephone follow-up and random digit dialing surveys. In 1999-2000, another MRFSS add-on survey regarding expenditures was conducted utilizing intercept, telephone follow-up and random digit dialing surveys. Also in 2000, a conjoint analysis study was conducted in the Northeast using intercept and mail follow-up surveys. B. Gentner mentioned that NMFS is currently in the process of determining the effectiveness of the model. **He noted that it would be beneficial to have the Social/Economic Work Group involved in the evaluation of the model and the group agreed to provide comments about the model.** Other studies conducted in the Gulf of Mexico included Southeast commercial mackerel vessel owner/operator survey; survey of the Gulf and South Atlantic for-hire fleet survey; Texas-Alabama for-hire fleet survey; angler preferences mail survey and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department angler mail surveys. He provided the survey instruments for each of these survey and assist the group in developing pilot survey for FIN. S. Holiman also mentioned several other studies that have been proposed. They included the implementation of a shrimp fishery logbook for the collection of social/economic data; a fishing community study using mail and intercept surveys; a study in the South Atlantic regarding the snapper/grouper fishery; and a trap fishery study in the Caribbean utilizing personal interviews. It was noted that these studies need to utilize the minimum standards developed by FIN and ACCSP. B. Gentner stated that NMFS-HQ has finished the analysis of the 1997-1998 social/economic data collected via the MRFSS. The plans are to produce NMFS Technical Memorandums and provide the data to users. D. Donaldson noted that it is critical to produce these documents to show users the utility of social/economic data. One of the main goals of the NMFS social/economic staff is to process the backlog of recreational social/economic data.

The group then discussed the collection of social/economic data in the Caribbean. Since the MRFSS is now being conducted in Caribbean, the issue of collection of social/economic data needs to be addressed. Initially, the collection of these data was not undertaken since Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands were just beginning and focusing on establishing the collection of the basis catch information. Now that activities have been somewhat smoothed out, the group believed that the collection of social/economic data should be addressed. After some discussion, **the group recommended that the economic flex questions be asked beginning in 2002 in Puerto Rico and Puerto Rico should be included in the next cycle for collection of social/economic data in the Southeast Region.**

D. Benjamin provided an overview of the ACCSP Commercial Harvesters Pilot Study. The study is designed to focus on three specific areas. One is to identify and address potential problems with the mechanisms of implementing the system. The second is to conduct a field test of the survey instrument and the last is to test the economic models. Data collection is being conducted in the Northeast Region commercial and blue crab (Georgia) fisheries. The objectives of the study are to determine if catch/effort data collected from a census of fishermen can be combined with cost and earnings and socio-cultural data collected using a random sample to result in meaningful estimates of fishermen behavior; Demonstrate how a state partner can conduct the socio-economic data collection portion of ACCSP and identify logistical and other issues related to state level implementation; identify appropriate sample sizes (implementation of the commercial harvesters survey program requires that we identify the minimum sample size that can be used to validly characterize the fisheries. This minimum sample size is a function of the variance of our variables of interest. The pilot study will begin to discover these variances); Field test questions used in the survey instrument; access the ability to evolve the sampling method from personal interviews to phone surveys inclusive of determining the impacts of pooling data gathered from varying methods and by different

partners; and verify the economic models. D. Benjamin discussed each of these objectives and explained how well the pilot survey has been address them, to date.

Development of Social/Economic Pilot Study in the Gulf of Mexico

D. Donaldson stated that based on the discussion regarding on-going activities, the group needs to develop some ideas about the types of social/economic data needed in the Southeast Region. B. Gentner discussed an economic survey that is currently being conducted on the West coast. This survey is asking charter and head boat owners/operators about the costs and returns associated with the charter and head boat activities. The survey is conducted in conjunction with the telephone effort survey and once the effort data has been collected, several additional questions are asked regarding the economics of the for-hire fishery. The economic questions are asked to either the same person asked the effort information or another designated person. These questions will be asked with all the telephone surveys so a 10% sample of all vessels will be accomplished. In addition, an annual cost survey will be asked once a year to get a picture of annually-occurring costs. The group believed the cost of this survey would be minimal since the telephone calls will be made for the effort information. It was pointed out that some cost may be incurred due to an increase in the amount of time needed to complete the telephone interview as well as additional call that may be necessary to contact the appropriate persons. After some discussion, **the group recommended that FIN consider funding the economic add-on to the charter boat telephone survey in 2002. The activity would be conducted for only 2002 to allow for analysis of data in the subsequent year. The cost of this project would be between $0 to $50,000.**

The group then discussed the development of a social/economic commercial pilot study. The group discussed several issues such as utilizing the methods that are being tested in the ACCSP pilot study, focusing on a specific species (i.e. red snapper), etc. From those deliberations, a discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the group's charge - is it to implement the methods identified in the program design or to determine which methods are most appropriate. After some discussion, it was agreed that the generally acceptable methods of data collection were known and/or discussed in the literature. However, the successful application of any method to a specific fishery probably varies with the fishery itself and that even well-accepted methods may encounter difficulties when applied to a specific fishery, requiring modification in the course of application. It would therefore be more prudent at this time for FIN to pursue actual data collection, using a specific known methodology, anticipating and allowing for modification as the need arises, rather than design pilots to specifically examine methodology. FIN needs to begin collecting the data and minor modification can be made as the need arises. B. Gentner suggested that since NMFS has been charged with collecting social/economic data, they should utilize existing programs (logbooks, national observer program, etc.) for federally-managed species. D. Donaldson noted that in order to collect the necessary information, modifications to the existing programs would need to be made which could be problematic since it is sometimes difficult to modify existing data collection vehicles due to the various federal requirements (OMB approval, etc.). It was also pointed out that these program should follow the data formats and standards developed by FIN. By having NMFS to take the lead on federally-managed species, this will allow FIN to focus on state-managed species. The data from the trip ticket systems would be used to identify the universe of fishermen. A sample (stratified by species) could be drawn from that universe and collection of the necessary social/economic data will be obtained from that sample. In order to begin sampling, the state would need an operating trip ticket program. Therefore, this pilot would need to be conducted in either Louisiana, Alabama, or Florida. The group discussed where to conduct the pilot and what fishery to examine but since the willingness to conduct the pilot could not be determ ined, **the group decided to let the FIN Committee decide where to conduct it**. The data would be collected by port samplers via personal interviews with commercial fishermen. If approved, the actual survey questionnaire and sample size would have to be developed by the group. The group could rely on the experience of the ACCSP pilot survey to assist in the develop of these materials. After some discussion, **the group recommended that FIN begin collecting social/economic data (based on the methods identified in FIN**

program design) in a specific region (Alabama was suggested) and for a specific species (red snapper was suggested). The reason for focusing on just one species is to minimize the number of strata that need to be sample thus reducing the complexity of the data collection. An alternative would be to sample all species within the specific region. Although this would increase the complexity of sampling, it would provide a better assessment of the sampling methods. The cost of this project will depend on the region where it was conducted but it was estimated to cost between $50,000 to $150,000. Another project for funding that was suggested consisted of converting the shrimp model, General Bioeconomic Fisheries Simulation Model (GBFSM, Griffin, Texas A&M), to a more user-friendly interactive software package (currently written in Fortran). The cost of this project very user-friendly and modifications can be made to make it easier to use. The cost of this project would be $40,000. After some discussion, the group decided that this type of project was not appropriate for FIN to consider funding.

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

Telephone Survey Instrument for Open Party and Charter Recreational Fishing Vessels Economic Data Collection

ECONOMIC QUESTIONS:

If different person is identified as the appropriate contact for the vessel's economic data, then GO TO FOLLOW UP. Otherwise, proceed with following screening question.

SCREENING QUESTION: We mailed a letter to inform you that we would be attempting to contact you for this interview. In that letter we asked you to keep track of costs and earnings information for trips that your vessel made on a particular day ***(provide assigned day/date)***. Can you provide costs and earnings information associated with the boat's trips?

1= yes **CONTINUE**

2= no **(Ask for name and telephone number of appropriate person to provide costs and earnings information, note that other person will have to be contacted for this vessel's economic data, and then continue by attempting to contact the appropriate person.)**

Q21. Check to see if respondent has reported any trips on the day/date designated in the pre-contact letter. If so, then record "trips on assigned day" and record assigned day/date. If not, then look for first day after that day/date when at least one trip was reported. If you find such a day, record "trips on subsequent date" and record day/date of those trips. If no trips were reported for the assigned day/date or any days after that, then record "no trips for economic data", thank respondent and terminate interview.

1= trips on assigned day (**also record assigned day**)

2= no trips on assigned day, but trips on subsequent day (**also record appropriate subsequent day**)

3= no trips on assigned day or subsequent days

If at least one trip reported on assigned day/date (Q21 is "1") or a subsequent day (Q21 is "2") in the week, then proceed as follows:

If only one trip was taken on the assigned or appropriate alternate day, then say: I would like to ask you some additional questions to collect costs and earnings information about your trip on ***(provide appropriate day/date)***.

If more than one trip was taken on the assigned or appropriate alternate day, then say: I would like to ask you some additional questions to collect costs and earnings information about each of your trips on ***(provide appropriate day/date)***.

For the first trip, say: I will start with the first trip on that day.

For each following trip, say: Now, I will ask you about the next trip on that day.

Ask questions 22-37 for each trip on the assigned or appropriate alternate day.

Q22. **If response to Q7 for this trip was "Party" then ask:** What was the average fare for one passenger on this party boat trip?
GO TO Q24.

Q23. **If response to Q7 for this trip was "Charter" then ask:** What was the total cost of the charter?
GO TO Q24.

Q24. Is this vessel owned by the landing?

1= yes
2= no

Q25. Was a commission paid to a landing office for this trip
1= yes
2= no

Q26. **If Q25 is "yes", ask:** In dollars or as a percentage of receipts, how much was that commission? **(Record units as either "dollars" or "percentage of receipts", then record commission in designated units.)**

Q27. Were fees for booking passengers, moorage, or other services included in the commission? **(Record all that apply.)**
Q27a. Passenger booking fees included?
1= yes
2= no
Q27b. Moorage fees included?
1= yes
2= no
Q27c. Fees for other services included?
1= yes (**Ask respondent to identify "other services" and record verbatim response)**
2= no

Q28. Were food and drink sold to passengers by the vessel?
1= yes **GO TO Q31 (?)**
2= no

Q29. Did the crew sell food and drink to passengers?
1= yes
2= no **GO TO Q31**

Q30. How much would you estimate were the net earnings by the crew for the food and drink that they sold?

Q31. Excluding fare or charter costs what were total vessel receipts for the trip? Please include tackle sales and vessel sales of food or drink.

Q32. How much fuel was used on this trip? **(Record fuel amount in gallons)**

Q33. What price per gallon was paid for the fuel? **(Record price in dollars)**

Q34. How much bait, measured in either scoops or pounds, was taken/used on this trip? **(Record unit of measure as either "scoops" or "pounds", then record bait quantity in designated units)**

Q35. In dollars or as a percentage of receipts, how much did you pay for bait taken/used on this trip? **(Record units as either "dollars" or "percentage of receipts", then record bait costs in designated units.)**

Q36. How many crew, including the skipper, were on board for this trip?

Q37. What was the total amount paid by the vessel to the crew for this trip?

Q38. How much would you estimate the crew received in total tips?

Q39. In dollars or as a percentage of receipts, how much was paid to the city or county in taxes for this trip? **(Record units as either "dollars" or "percentage of receipts", then record city/county taxes in designated units.)**

If no more trips were taken on the same day then proceed to FOLLOW UP, otherwise return to Q10 and ask questions 22-39 for next trip reported on same day.

FOLLOW-UP

Q40. Did you receive a letter from us indicating that we would try to contact you for this interview?
1= yes **GO TO Q41**
2= no **Ask for correct mailing address and briefly explain that notification will be sent prior to any later contacts and continue. GO TO Q43**

Q41. **If Q40 is "yes", then ask:** Did you use the optional trip-by-trip form provided with that letter to record any of the information that you just reported?
1= yes
2= no

Q42. **If Q40 is "yes" and respondent provided economic data (Q22-39), then ask:** Did you use the economic data form provided with that letter to record any of the costs and earnings information that you just reported?
1= yes
2= no

Q43. In case the name of vessel is ever selected again for this survey, at what time of day would you prefer to be called? **(Record preferred time as military time.)**

Thank respondent and conclude interview.

California Directory Telephone Survey Instrument for Separate Collection of Economic Data - 2001

Hello my name is name of interviewer. I'm calling for a survey being conducted for the National Marine Fisheries Service of the U. S. Department of Commerce and the California Department of Fish & Game. Am I speaking to name of contact? If "no", ask: Can I please speak with name of contact? **If person sought is not available, ask for convenient time to call back to talk to that person, thank respondent, and terminate interview.**

We are surveying owners and operators of party boats and charter boats to collect data on the costs and returns associated with charter and party boat activities so that fishery managers can better assess the economic impacts of proposed management regulations. The *name of vessel* has been selected at random from a directory of party boats and charter boats to be included in this w eek's survey.

I would like to ask you a few questions about trips made last week by the *name of vessel*. This data will remain confidential. This survey is being conducted in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, therefore you are not obligated to answer any question if you find it to be an intrusion of your privacy. (Continue with interview.)

ECONOMIC QUESTIONS:

SCREENING QUESTION: We mailed a letter to inform you that we would be attempting to contact you for this interview. In that letter we asked you to keep track of costs and earnings information for trips that your vessel made on a particular day. Can you provide costs and earnings information associated with the *name of vessel*'s trips?

1= yes **CONTINUE**
2= no **(Ask for name and telephone number of appropriate person to provide costs and earnings information, note that other person will have to be contacted for this vessel's economic data, and then continue by attempting to contact the appropriate person.)**

Q1. Did the ***name of vessel*** take any trips on ***assigned day/date***? If not, then ask: What was the first day after ***assigned day/date*** when the boat took a trip? **If first day with trip was not in same week (Monday - Sunday) or no trip was taken after assigned day/date then code as "3".**

1= trips on assigned day **(also record assigned day)**
2= no trips on assigned day, but trips on later day in same week **(also record appropriate subsequent day)**
3= no trips on assigned day or later days in same week

If at least one trip reported on assigned day/date (Q2 is "1") or a subsequent day (Q2 is "2") in the week, then proceed as follows:

If only one trip was taken on the assigned or appropriate alternate day, then say: I would like to ask you some additional questions to collect costs and earnings information about your trip on (***provide appropriate day/date)***.

If more than one trip was taken on the assigned or appropriate alternate day, then say: I would like to ask you some additional questions to collect costs and earnings information about each of your trips on (***provide appropriate day/date)***.

Ask questions 3-35 for each trip on the assigned or appropriate alternate day.

*Q3. **For the first trip, say**: I will start with the first trip on that day. **For each following trip, say**: Now, I will ask you about the next trip on that day. Was that a fishing trip?

1= yes (fishing trip) **GO TO Q4.**
2= no (non-fishing trip) **GO TO Q5.**

*Q4. **If Q3 is "fishing trip", ask**: Did that fishing trip primarily target shellfish, salmon, groundfish, or offshore pelagic species like tunas, billfishes, or dorado?
1= shellfish **GO TO Q4A**
2= salmon **GO TO Q5**
3= groundfish **GO TO Q5**
4= offshore pelagics (tunas, billfishes, or dorado) **GO TO Q5**

*Q4A. If Q4 is "shellfish fishing trip", ask: Were any finfish caught on that shellfish trip?
1= yes (shellfish/finfish trip) **GO TO Q5**
2= no (shellfish only trip) **GO TO Q6**

*Q6. **If Q3 is "non-fishing trip", ask**: Was that non-fishing trip primarily for whale watching, bird watching, scuba diving, a burial at sea, or some other purpose?
1= whale watching
2= bird watching
3= scuba diving
4= burial at sea
5= other purpose

Q7. Was that trip a ½ day trip, a ¾ day trip, a 1-day trip, or a multi-day trip ? **If "mulit-day", ask**: How many days? **(Record length of trip in partial or whole days)**

Q8. At what time of day (to the nearest half-hour) did your boat leave for that trip: **(Record return time as military time)**
0030-2400

Q9. At what time of day (to the nearest half-hour) did your boat return to port from that trip: **(Record return time as military time)**
0030-2400

Q10. From what state and county did the trip originate? **(Record state and county of trip)**

Q11. From what port did the trip originate? **(Record name of port)**

Q12. Was most of your recreational (fishing) activity on this trip in the ocean, a gulf, a river, a sound or a bay? **If "bay", ask**: Was that a closed or semi-enclosed bay? **(Record area.)**
1= ocean, gulf, or open bay **(Ask Q13 & Q14)**
2= sound
3= river
4= closed or semi-enclosed bay
5= other

Q13. **If Q12 is "1", ask**: Was most of your (fishing) activity less than three miles from shore, between 3 and 200 miles from shore, or greater than 200 miles from shore? **(Record Distance from Shore.)**
1= less than 3 miles
2= between 3 miles and 200 miles
3= greater than 200 miles
8= not applicable (Q12 is not "1").

Q14. **(If Q12 is "1" ask:)** Did the majority of your recreational (fishing) activity for this trip occur in U. S. or Canadian waters?

1= U. S.
2= Canadian
8= not applicable (Q12 is not "1")

Q15. How many paying passengers were on this trip (**Record number of people on trip**.)
1-150 (possible number of passengers)

Q16. **If "fishing trip" then ask**: Excluding captain and crew, how many people fished on the trip? (**Record number of people that fished**.)
1-150 (possible number of anglers)

Q17. Did passengers pay as a group to charter the boat or did passengers pay on a per-head basis for fishing space on the boat?
1 = passengers chartered boat as a group (charter mode) **GO TO Q19**
2 = passengers paid on per-head basis for fishing space (party boat mode) **GO TO Q18**

Definitions:

Charter trip: A trip with paying passengers who hired the vessel as a group.
Party trip: A trip with paying passengers who paid on a per-head basis for fishing space.

Q18. **If Q17 is "Party" then ask**: What was the average fare for one passenger? **GO TO Q20.**

Q19. **If Q17 is "Charter" then ask**: What was the total cost of the charter? **G O TO Q20.**

Q20. Is this vessel owned by the landing?
1= yes
2= no

Q21. Was a commission paid to a landing office for this trip
1= yes
2= no

Q22. **If Q21 is "yes", ask**: In dollars or as a percentage of receipts, how much was that commission? (**Record units as either "dollars" or "percentage of receipts", then record commission in designated units**.)

Q23. Were fees for booking passengers, moorage, or other services included in the commission? (**Record all that apply**.)
Q23a. Passenger booking fees included?
1= yes
2= no
Q23b. Moorage fees included?
1= yes
2= no
Q23c. Fees for other services included?
1= yes (**Ask respondent to identify "other services" and record verbatim response**)
2= no

Q24. Were food and drink sold to passengers by the vessel?
1= yes **GO TO Q27 (?)**
2= no

Q25. Did the crew sell food and drink to passengers?

1= yes
2= no **GO TO Q27**

Q26. How much would you estimate were the net earnings by the crew for the food and drink that they sold?

Q27. Excluding fare or charter costs what were total vessel receipts for the trip? Please include tackle sales and vessel sales of food or drink.

Q28. How much fuel was used on this trip? **(Record fuel amount in gallons)**

Q29. What price per gallon was paid for the fuel? **(Record price in dollars)**

Q30. How much bait, measured in either scoops or pounds, was taken/used on this trip? **(Record unit of measure as either "scoops" or "pounds", then record bait quantity in designated units)**

Q31. In dollars or as a percentage of receipts, how much did you pay for bait taken/used on this trip? **(Record units as either "dollars" or "percentage of receipts", then record bait costs in designated units.)**

Q32. How many crew, including the skipper, were on board for this trip?

Q33. What was the total amount paid by the vessel to the crew for this trip?

Q34. How much would you estimate the crew received in total tips?

Q35. In dollars or as a percentage of receipts, how much was paid to the city or county in taxes for this trip? **(Record units as either "dollars" or "percentage of receipts", then record city/county taxes in designated units.)**

If no more trips were taken on the same day then proceed to FOLLOW UP, otherwise return to Q3 and ask questions 3-35 for next trip reported on same day.

FOLLOW UP:

Q36. Did you receive a letter from us indicating that we would try to contact you for this interview?
1= yes
2= no **(Ask for correct mailing address and briefly explain that notification will be sent prior to any later contacts and continue.)**

Q37. **If Q38 is "yes", then ask**: Did you use the enclosed optional form to record any of the costs and earnings information that you just reported on your boat's trips?
1= yes
2= no

Q38. In case the name of vessel is ever selected again for this survey, at what time of day would you prefer to be called? **(Record preferred time as military time.)**

Thank respondent and conclude interview.

In-Person Survey Instrument for Open Party and Charter Recreational Fishing Vessels

1) Vessel Name and ID [we provide and confirm with interviewee] _____

Characteristics of Firm

2.1) Does the owner generally operate this vessel? Y / N

2.2) Does this firm own vehicles or buildings that are used primarily for the charter business? Y / N

2.2 a) If yes, what is the total estimated current market value of these assets combined? $ _____

Did the owner of this vessel own other charter or open party vessels in 1999? Y / N

If yes, please fill in the tables below for those 1999 costs shared by more than one vessel. If no, proceed to 2.4.

Characteristics of other Vessels

	Vessel Name	Vessel ID	Port	Length	Gross Tons
a)					
b)					
c)					
d)					

Multi-vessel costs in 1999

a) Advertising $_____

b) Professional services (legal, accounting, etc.) $_____

c) Association fees $_____

d) Telephones $_____

e) Other office expenses $_____

f) Labor for shorebased personnel $_____

g) Rent or payment for motor vehicles $_____

h) Other $_____

2.4) If only one vessel is owned, or if any of the costs listed above can be attributed only to the vessel identified at the beginning of this survey in Item 1, please fill in the following table.

Single vessel costs in 1999

a) Advertising $_____

b) Professional services (legal, accounting, etc.) $_____

c) Association fees $_____

d) Telephones $_____

e) Other office expenses $_____

f) Labor for shorebased personnel $_____

g) Rent or payment for motor vehicles $_____

h) Other $_____

2.5) In what State and County does the principal owner reside? _____

3) **Characteristics of Vessel** (we provide and confirm with interviewee)

a) Length overall (ft) _____ feet

b) Gross registered tons _____ tons

c) Year built (hull) _____

d) Horsepower of main engines _____ hp

e) Type of fuel _____

f) Cruising speed (knots) _____ knots

g) Passenger capacity _____

Estimated present market value of vessel:

h) with permits $_____

i) without permits $_____

j) Cost of vessel when purchased by present owner $_____

k) Year purchased _____

Annual Information for Vessel in 1999

4.1) In what Port did the boat conduct most of its activities in 1999? _____

4.2) Annual Expenditures

a) Haulout $ _____

b) Engine overhaul $ _____

c) All other vessel maintenance $ _____

d) Electronics maintenance $ _____

e) Moorage $ _____

f) Insurance $ _____

g) Fuel $ _____

h) Supplies $ _____

i) Fees paid to foreign or domestic governments $ _____

j) Landing taxes (if any) $ _____

k) Food and drink (for crew and passengers, if supplied by the vessel) $ _____

l) All payments to skipper and crew (wages, shares, salaries, bonuses, and benefits) $ _____

m) All commissions paid for booking trips $ _____

n) Payments for bait (including commissions where relevant) $ _____

o) Mortgage payments $ _____

Purchase of gear or equipment (include electronics, deck gear, engines, angling equipment, etc.):

p) Replacement $ _____

q) Upgrades $ _____

4.3) Annual revenue

a) Total receipts from all vessel activities in 1999 $ _____

b) % of vessel receipts from recreational angling trips, including receipts for gear rental, food, etc.) _____ %

c) % of vessel receipts from other charter activities such as whale watching, dive trips, burials at sea, etc. _____ %

d) % receipts from other sources (commercial fishing, tendering, etc.) _____ %

4.4) Other annual information

a) Number of full-time employees _____

b) Number of part-time or seasonal employees _____

c) Full-time equivalence of part-time and seasonal employees _____

Attachment L

Minutes of the ACCSP
Standard Codes Committee
April 17-18, 2001
Baltimore, MD

Attending:

Julie Califf	GA DNR
Steven Koplin	NMFS - HQ
David Ulmer	NMFS - NERO
Steve Brown	FL FWC
Don Hellesman	NC DMF
Mike Sestak	GSMFC
Connie Lewis	MD DNR
Tom Sminkey	NMFS - HQ
Dave Donaldson	GSMFC
Joe Moran	ACCSP

Meeting convened at 8:30. There was no public in attendance thus no public comment. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Mike Cahall gave a brief update of the current program status, giving current and short term data feed status, and giving an overview of projects under way in ACCSP partner agencies.

Changes to Market Category and Grade Category Codes:

Several changes to market and grade codes were recommended to accommodate American Eels, Blue Crabs, Stone Crabs, and to retain compatibility with the FIN system. There was also discussion of additional fish size codes, but the group felt that an attempt to cover every coding scheme would be unwieldy and that existing codes should be used.

Recommendations:
Coding Changes:

Change Program Design table A 7 as follows:

Remove 66,67,68 (recoded in table A6)
Add 26 Mixed Roe, 82 Shells – no meat

Change Program Design table A 6 as follows:

Add Section headings for general categories (finfish, shellfish etc)
Change existing definition of:
MX to just mixed
UN to Unknown/Not graded
MA Male
FE Female

BT Sold as Bait
GI add Stone Crab Claws
XL add Stone Crab Jumbo

Add Codes:
CN Count (For FIN)
LB Pounds (For FIN)

For Crabs:
M1 Number 1
M2 Number 2
M3 Number 3
PE Peelers
SS Softshell
SP Sponge

For Eels:
GL Glass Juvenile Eels
EL Silver Juvenile Eels
YL Yellow Adult Eels
SL Silver Adult Eels

For Clams:
CT Cherry/Tops
PA Sub 7/8"

There are still unanswered questions with regards to horseshoe crabs. The FMP coordinator will be contacted to check to see if any additional codes are needed.

Also the issue of subjectivity of various measures was discussed (when is a bushel a bushel? what is a jumbo?). The discussion showed that many measures vary from state to state, year to year and even season to season.

In order to clarify this, the committee recommends that detailed code descriptors be created that can identify these measures and track the meaning over time. Many partners have this standard available and would be able to supply this information.

Example: STATE: TIME FRAME: SPECIES: MARKET/SIZE: DESCRIPTION OF MEASUREMENT

The Committee then began to review the species naming and grouping issues.

The system currently has a hybrid common name scheme that combines AFS common names with family conventions and includes some NMFS specific nomenclatures. In addition, there are duplicates within the ITIS common names that could cause common name queries to report unexpected results. Mike Cahall has loaded a complete set of AFS common names and run a cross-reference, which was presented to the committee. The AFS set also includes the complete taxonomy.

After some discussion, the committee makes the following recommendations:

1. To provide for referential integrity the principal species reference table will hereupon encompass only animals identified by ACCSP partner agencies and FIN.

2. Adopt the AFS common naming convention where applicable. Run a procedure to change over the principal species list currently in use to the AFS species list. Plants and other animals that are not covered by AFS will use the commonly accepted name.

3. Where landings exist for ITIS codes not found in the AFS list, use the ITIS secondary table to load default values, and review these species and landings records. If new landings records come into the system that are not covered, load the records using the ITIS secondary table as the reference, but generate an exception report so that the landing and species records my be reviewed.

Unclassified Animals and Species Groupings

The AFS data contain the complete taxonomy and the committee discussed using this as the default to create species groupings based on taxon. In the discussion of unclassified animals, it is likely that these animals can be classified taxonomically at least in a genus or family.

The committee makes the following recommendations:

1. ACCSP partners classify animals to the highest taxonomic code possible.

Example: 164712 - Gadus morhua (Genus species)
164710 – Gadus (Genus)
164701 – Gadidae (Family)
164665 – GADIFORMES (Order)
161030 – OSTEICHTHYES (Class)

2. Taxonomic groupings should be provided to users in the database to be used as the default groupings enabling queries by taxonomic groups.

3. Lists of unclassified species codes now in use by the partner agencies should be provided to the committee, and that these will be used to create a 'master' mapping for unclassified codes and returned to the program partners with the appropriate ITIS codes.

The issue of uncoded species (by ITIS) also came up. The committee felt that is was possible that changes in the ITIS list might fall behind and that a mechanism to load these with a temporary code would be necessary.

The committee recommends that program partners with species that are not yet listed in ITIS contact the program. The program will issue a temporary ITIS code preceded by an X (X_ _ _ _ _) to the partner and notify the other partner agencies. Once the ITIS lists the species, ACCSP will update the database with the correct code, and notify the program partners.

Effort Descriptors and Gear Codes:

The Discard and Prioritization Committee requested that this committee review the Program Design table 22 to ensure that appropriate effort descriptors for all gears listed in appendix A4 exist. Discussion showed that there were some discrepancies between table 22 and appendix A4. The committee makes the following recommendations to bring the tables into agreement with one another

Changes:

Trawls – change quantity to number of nets towed
Gill Nets Entanglement – change quantity to Total Net Length, number of sets to number of hauls
Longlines – change time set/retrieved to set: start of set and retrieve to retrieval of set
Dredges – change time set/retrieved to retrieved: when winch starts
Nets – change fishing time to soak time
Rod and Reel Change to Hook and Line – change fishing time to soak time (not including transit time) set/retrieved to set:when first lines are lowered retrieved: when last lines are pulled up

Purse Seines change fishing time to soak time, set/retrived to set: when nets place in retrieved: nets removed
Hand Gear change to By Hand, quantity to n/a, fishing time to actively fishing, time set/retrieved to n/a
Harpoons change to Spear and Gig number of sets to n/a

Additions:

Haul Seines quantity: length of net, fishing time:soak time time set/retrieved set: sein in retrieved: sein out
Cast Nets quantity: # of nets, fishing time: hours in pursuit.
Rakes, Hoes and Tongs quantity: # of pieces, fishing time: actively fishing

The committee further recommends the following changes to the gear codes table (A4):

Change Rod and Reel to Hook and Line
Move Hand lines to Hook and Line recode to 300 series codes
Change Hand Lines, Auto Jig to Auto Jig.

Since ACCSP is not currently tracking it, remove Aquaculture (803)

The committee further recommends that these two tables be combined, placing the effort descriptors into the gear code tables as additional columns.

The NMFS NE region has some additional gear code requirements that were not available to the committee, they will be supplied shortly and reviewed by the committee via e-mail.

Live Rock and Live Sand

These are very difficult to classify because a variety of species may exist in/on the rock and sand. Steve K. will investigate the NMFS classifications to see if there is a applicable solution.

Port Codes

While not a required data element, various partners use port codes to better specify locations, and to provide ease when cross-referencing to federal areas (congressional districts, census areas, etc). MRFSS may be able to map existing angler intercept site locations to the port codes.

The committee recommends that partners supply the 5 character FIPS-55 place code wherever possible. The NMFS NE region will create and provide cross reference for those port codes currently in use and supply them to the ACCSP who will distribute them to the partner agencies.

There are two methods currently available to program partners to easily obtain these codes: FIN has created a web site (http://www.gsmfc.org/ZipCode/zipcode.php) that allows them to be easily looked up, and ACCSP has created a small Access application that also allows a look up. The latter was supplied to three of the partners at the meeting.

Water Body Codes

There was discussion of how states should handle overlapping reporting. This is a problem when a state lands product that was caught in another state's waters. It is important that consistent codes are used.

The committee recommends that the following procedures be followed to ensure that consistent reporting occurs

The creation of their inshore and onshore water body codes is the responsibility of the program partner, and that any other partner reporting catch should use these codes. The onshore and inshore codes will be communicated to all program partners as soon as they are available. Updates will be distributed as soon as they are made.

Additionally the committee would like to see the Florida GIS mapping project for water body codes have the higher level SE and NEMFIS areas completed by the end of the year in order to eliminate the patchwork mapping now being used. Mike C. will check on the progress of the project. If necessary, the ACCSP should fund this project.

MRFSS Mapping Issues

There was a discussion of mapping of MRFSS water body codes to the ACCSP standard. There is often little correlation between them, and doing a direct map is almost impossible. Currently, the system loads the MRFSS data using the MRFSS specific areas fished. This is primarily an issue with the raw intercept data. Tom Sminkey discussed a pilot project currently under way to see if anglers can accurately identify the areas that they fished. So far this seems to be going well. If these spots can be placed within the ACCSP areas, this might solve the problem. Tom indicated that it might even be possible to have the ACCSP conversion put into the MRFSS contract. Dave D. mentioned that there would be discussion during the upcoming FIN meeting of bringing the MRFSS into closer compliance with the FIN. At this time, there is no short term solution.

Other Business

The committee recommends revision of the codes appendices of the Program Design to reflect the codes currently in use. It was felt that the inclusion of many of the NMFS codes causes confusion as to what is the current standard.

The committee recommends that in cases where a partner agency requires new codes to fulfill an immediate mandate, the ACCSP and FIN managers take necessary measures to provide the codes.

NE Representation

With the notable exception of Maryland, there was no representation from any NE State partner. The committee felt that an effort should be made to recruit at least one representative from that region.

FIN Standard Codes

January 2001

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Table A.1. Standard code formats for required information to be provided on a trip basis by all Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean dealers and fishermen under the FIN commercial data collection program.

DATA ELEMENT	FORMAT	DATA ELEMENT	FORMAT
Form Type/Version Number	12 digit alphanumeric	State Landed	2 character postal alpha abbreviation (see Table A.8)
Reporting Form Series Number	12 digit alphanumeric	Dealer Identification	2 digit character postal alpha abbreviation plus 8 character code (see Table A.2)
Trip Start Date	MM/DD/YYYY Date Format 8 character	Unloading Date	MM/DD/YYYY Date format (8 character)
Vessel Identifier	11 digit character	Market Size	2 digit alpha-numeric code (see Table A.5)
Individual Identifier	11 digit character	Grade (Landing Condition)	2 digit numeric code (see Table A.6)
Trip Number	2 digit numeric	Gear(s)	3 digit numeric code (see Table A.3)
Species	ITIS 11 digit character code (see Table A.8)	Quantity of Gear (See Table 2)	6 digit numeric
Quantity	8 digit numeric plus two decimal points	Days/Hours at Sea	DD:HH
Units of Measurement	2 digit character code (see Table A.2)	Number of Crew (including Captain)	3 digit numeric
Disposition of Catch	3 digit character code (see Table A.4)	Fishing Time	Hours DD:HH:MM
Ex-Vessel Value or Price	5 digit numeric plus three decimal points	Area Fished	3 digit numeric plus 2 decimal places (see Table A.2 & A.10)
County or Port Landed	FIPS codes 3 digit character: county 5 digit character: port (see Table A.8)	Number of Sets	3 digit numeric

Table A.2. Summary of standard FIN codes and formats for units of measurement, length type, dealer identification, general fishing area, access site type, and tissue type.

DATA ELEMENT	CODING
Units of Measurement	BG: bags or sacks BR: barrels BU: bushels or baskets BX: boxes CM: centimeters DZ: dozens GL: gallons GM: grams HH: hogsheads (1225 pounds; used in sardine industry) KG: kilograms LB: pounds LT: liter MM: millimeters MP: meat pounds MT: metric tons NO: numbers OZ: ounces PS: pounds in shell QT: quarts TH: thousands of standard fish (670 pounds; used in menhaden industry) TN: short tons UK: Unknown unit
Length Type	CC curved carapace width (turtles) CF: curved fork length CL: carapace length CO: core length CU curved carapace length (turtles) CW: carapace width FL: fork length LT: lip thickness (for conch, VI) SD: shell diameter SG shell length (for conch, VI) SH shell thickness (clams, NC) SL: standard length TL: total length
Dealer Identification	ST1234567 ST: indicates state (or part of dealer ID number in LA) 1234567: indicates dealer ID number

DATA ELEMENT	CODING
Area Fished	NMFS area codes plus 4 decimal places For the purposes of data management., go with two fields. One for the larger area, and one for the smaller inshore area, i.e. statistical area, sub-area (water body code) .0000: 0-3 miles .0001-.9997: Inshore water body codes .9998: EEZ .9999: International waters * - The decimal points can also be used for more detailed area data such as 10' grids.
Distance From Shore (generated values for the database)	1 = inland < 0 2 =inshore (0-3 miles on Atlantic and Gulf coasts and U.S. Virgin Islands, 0-9 nautical miles on Florida, Puerto Rico, and Texas Gulf coast *(Territorial waters)* 3 = EEZ (3-200 miles on Atlantic and Gulf coasts and U.S. Virgin Islands, 9-200 miles on Florida Puerto Rico, and Texas Gulf coast. 4 = International (Greater than 200 miles)
Access Site Type	0 = NA **Public Access** 1 = launch ramp 2 = boat slip 3 = moored from dock 4 = other **Private Access** 5 = personal residence/dock 6 = private locked gate marina 7 = private property unlocked marina 8 = other
Tissue Type	This is a two digit numeric code that designates what type of tissue sample was taken: 01 = Muscle 02 = Eyes 03 = Stomach

Table A.3. Standard FIN gear types and codes.

CODE	GEAR TYPE
000	Not Coded
Haul Seines	**010-029**
010	Haul Seines
020	Other Seines
021	Stop Seines
022	Common Seine
023	Swipe Nets
Purse Seines	**030-049**
030	Purse Seine
031	Purse Seine, Tarp
040	Lampara / Ring Nets
Fixed Nets	**050-079**
050	Pound Nets
060	Fyke Nets
070	Other Fixed Nets
071	Weirs
072	Trap Nets
073	Floating Traps (Shallow)
074	Bag Nets
075	Channel Nets
076	Stop Net
077	Hoop Net
Trawls 080-129	
080	Beam Trawls
081	Beam Trawls, Fish
082	Beam Trawls, Other - Shrimp, chopsticks
090	Otter Trawls
091	Otter Trawl Bottom, Crab
092	Otter Trawl Bottom, Fish
093	Otter Trawl Bottom, Lobster
094	Otter Trawl Bottom, Scallop
095	Otter Trawl Bottom, Shrimp

CODE	GEAR TYPE
096	Otter Trawl Bottom, Other
097	Otter Trawl Mid water
110	Other Trawls
111	Trawl, Clam Kicking
112	Otter Trawl Mid water, Paired
113	Otter Trawl Bottom, Paired
114	Trawl, Roller
115	Trawl, Roller Frame
116	Trawl, Skimmer
117	Scottish Seine
118	Butterfly Nets
119	Danish Seine
120	Fly Net
Pots and Traps 130-199	
130	Pots and Traps
131	Pots & Traps, Conch
132	Pots & Traps, Blue Crab
136	Pots & Traps, Crab, Peeler
137	Pots & Traps, Crayfish
138	Pots & Traps, Eel
139	Pots & Traps, Fish
140	Pots & Traps, Spiny Lobster
141	Pots & Traps, Octopus
142	Pots & Traps, Periwinkle or Conkle
143	Pots & Traps, Shrimp
144	Pots & Traps, Turtle
145	Pots & Traps, Stone Crab
146	Pots & Traps, Scup
147	Pots & Traps, Black Sea Bass
148	Pots & Traps, Reef Fish
149	Pots & Traps, Hagfish
150	Pots & Traps, Golden Crab
151	Pots & Traps, Puffer

CODE	GEAR TYPE
160	Pots & Traps, Lobster
161	Pots & Traps, Lobster Inshore
162	Pots & Traps, Lobster Offshore
163	Pots & Traps, Lobster Double Parlor
180	Pots & Traps, Other
181	Pots, Unclassified
182	Box Traps
183	Wire Baskets
184	Slat Traps (Virginia)
Gill Nets	**200-299**
200	Gill Nets
201	Gill Nets, Floating Drift
202	Gill Nets, Sink Drift
203	Gill Nets, Floating Anchor
204	Gill Nets, Sink Anchor
205	Gill Nets, Runaround
206	Gill Nets, Stake
207	Gill Nets, Other
210	Trammel Nets
211	Trammel Nets, Floating Drift
212	Trammel Nets, Sink Drift
213	Trammel Nets, Floating Anchor
214	Trammel Nets, Sink Anchor
215	Trammel Nets, Runaround
216	Trammel Nets, Other
Hook & Line	**300-399**
300	Rod and Reel
301	Rod and Reel, Manual
302	Rod and Reel, Electric
303	Electric/Hydraulic, Bandit Reels
320	Troll Lines
321	Troll Line, Manual
322	Troll Line, Electric

CODE	GEAR TYPE
323	Troll Line, Hydraulic
330	Hand Line
331	Troll & Hand Line
340	Auto Jig
Long Lines	**400-499**
400	Long Lines
401	Long Lines, Vertical
402	Long Lines, Surface
403	Long Lines, Bottom
404	Long Lines, Surface, Mid water
405	Lines, Trot
406	Turtle Hooks
Dredge	**500-549**
500	Dredge
501	Dredge, Hydraulic, Clam
502	Dredge, Hydraulic Escalator, Clam
503	Dredge, Clam
511	Dredge, New Bedford
512	Dredge, Digby
Dip Nets & Cast Nets	**550-599**
550	Dip Nets
551	Cast Nets
552	Bully Nets
Rakes, Hoes, & Tongs	**600-649**
600	Tongs
601	Hand Tongs
602	Patent Tongs
620	Rakes
621	Rakes, Bull
622	Rakes, Oyster
623	Rakes, Hand
630	Hoes
631	Rakes/Shovels/Pitchforks

CODE	GEAR TYPE
632	Picks
633	Scrapes
Spears & Gigs	**650-699**
650	Harpoons
660	Spears
661	Spears, Diving
662	Gigs
663	Power heads
670	Handheld Hooks
671	Sponge Hooks
By Hand	**750-799**
750	By Hand, Diving Gear
760	By Hand, No Diving Gear
Other Gears	**800-849**
800	Other Gears
801	Unspecified Gear
802	Combined Gears
803	Aquiculture
804	Chemical, Other
805	Bush Net

Table A.4. Standard FIN disposition codes.

CODE	DISPOSITION
General Utilization Codes 000	**Used on fishermen and dealer reporting forms**
000	No Catch
001	Food
002	Personal Use
003	Placed in Car
004	Removed for Sale
005	Aquiculture
006	Canned Pet Food
007	Animal Food
008	Bait
009	Reduction/Meal
010	Aquarium
011	Kept, disposition unknown
100	Market reason not specified
101	No market
102	Too small
103	Too large
104	Upgraded
105	Will not keep to end of trip
106	Retained by vessel alternate program
107	Retained by observer / science
200	Regulation reason not specified
201	Too small
202	Too large
203	Quota filled
204	No quota in area
205	Closed season
225	V-notched, new
226	V-notched, previous
227	Soft-shelled
228	With eggs
229	No retention

CODE	DISPOSITION
300	Quality reason not specified
301	Sand flea damage
302	Seal damage
303	Shark damage
304	Cetacean damage
305	Finish damage
306	Shellfish damage
307	Parasite damage
308	Low quality roe
400	Reason not specified
401	Gear damage prevented capture
402	Fell out or off of gear
403	Dead discard
404	Released alive
500	Alive; condition unknown
501	Alive; not injured
502	Alive; injured
503	Alive; gear in or around mouth
504	Alive; gear in or around flipper
505	Alive; gear in or around another single body part
506	Alive; gear in or around several body parts
507	Alive; seen by captain or crew only
550	Dead; condition unknown
551	Dead; fresh
552	Dead; moderately decomposed
553	Dead; severely decomposed
554	Dead; seen by captain or crew only
600	Unknown
601	Vessel retain size for best price due to quota
602	Seized by Law Enforcement
603	Tagged and Released
604	Debris; incidental take
605	Debris

CODE	DISPOSITION
606	Empty shells
777	Refused to give reason
888	Other reasons

Table A.5. Standard FIN codes for market categories, based on market size.

CODE	MARKET /SIZE CATEGORY
BT	Sold as Bait
CC	Cherry / chowder mix
CH	Chowder
CN	Count
CR	Cherry
CT	Cherry & Tops
CX	Lobster Chix (1-1.25 lb)
FE	Female
FG	Factory Grade
GI	Giants, colossal, or lobster jumbo, stone crab claws, stone crabs Jumbo
LB	Pounds
LG	Large or lobster Large (2-3 lb), #1 crabs
LI	Lights
LN	Little neck
LT	Little neck / top neck mix
MA	Male
MD	Medium or lobster select (1.5-2 lbs), #2 crabs
MM	Millimeters
MN	Middle neck
MX	Mixed
MX	Mixed or unsized ("Straight" or "Crate Run" for lobsters)
PA	Sub 7/8 inch
PW	Pee wee (rats)
QT	Lobster quarters (1.25 lb)
SC	Seed clams
SE	7/8 inch clams
SM	small (schoolies), #3 crabs
TN	Top neck
TY	Tiny (young school)
UN	Unknown/Not graded
XL	Extra large (Double mark)
XX	Extra-extra large (Triple mark)

Table A.6. Standard FIN codes for grade categories (landing condition).

CODE	GRADE (LANDING CONDITION)
00	Ungraded
01	Round
02	Live
03	Wings
04	Heads
05	Pectoral girdles
06	Tongues / chins
07	Cheeks
08	Belly flaps
09	Tails
10	Fins
11	Fins fresh
12	Fins dried
13	Livers
14	Gizzards
15	Stomach / guts
16	Bones
17	With roe
18	Only roe
19	Milt (white roe)
20	Scales
21	Racks
22	Bled
23	Gutted - head on
24	Gutted - head off
25	Gutted - head off / tail off (cores)
26	Mixed Roe
30	Fillets
31	Fillets - with skin and ribs
32	Fillets - skin on, no ribs
33	Fillets - with ribs, no skin
34	Fillets - skinless / boneless

CODE	GRADE (LANDING CONDITION)
35	Fillets - deep skin
36	Fillets - blocks
40	Loins
41	Steaks
42	Chunks
43	Surimi
44	Minced
45	Sushi grade
46	Salted and split
47	Buck
48	Drawn
49	Dressed
50	Egger (Discard)
51	Elver
52	Fall
53	Fins Frozen
54	Glass
55	Gutted
56	Hard
57	Head On, Gutted
58	Heads off
59	Industrial
60	Heads on (Shrimp)
61	Heads off (Shrimp)
62	Culls (American Lobster)
63	New Shells (American Lobster)
64	Hard Shells (American Lobster)
65	Claws
70	Meats (Bivalve)
71	Tubes / Mantles
72	Tentacles
73	Notched (Discard)
74	Roe

CODE	GRADE (LANDING CONDITION)
75	Seed
76	Spawn (Roe)
77	Sperm
78	Spring
79	Tube
80	Meal
81	Oil
82	Shells, No Meat

Table A.7. Standard FIN species codes (ITIS codes), and comparison to existing coding systems.

NMF	NMFS_NE	NODC	ITIS	NAME	SCIENTIFIC_NAME	AFS_NAME
			000000	NO CATCH		
0010	0010	87470101	161701	ALEWIFE	Alosa	ALEWIFE
0011		8747010105	161706	ALEWIVES	Alosa pseudoharengus	ALEWIVES
0012	1120	8747010102	161703	HERRING,BLUEBACK	Alosa aestivalis	HERRING, BLUEBACK
0016		8810050102	166156	ALFONSIN	Beryx splendens	ALFONSIN
0030	0030	88352808	168688	AMBERJACK	Seriola	AMBERJACK
0060	0060	874702	161826	ANCHOVY	Engraulidae	ANCHOVIES
0061		8747020101	161828	ANCHOVY,NORTHERN	Engraulis mordax	ANCHOVY, NORTHERN
0062		8747020202	161839	ANCHOVY,BAY	Anchoa mitchilli	ANCHOVY, BAY
0063		8747020210	161847	ANCHOVY,DEEPBODY	Anchoa compressa	ANCHOVY, DEEPBODY
0064		8747020211	161848	ANCHOVY,SLOUGH	Anchoa delicatissima	ANCHOVY, SLOUGH
0090		883555	169554	ANGELFISHES	Chaetodontidae	BUTTERFLYFISHES
0119	0123	8786010101	164499	ANGLERFISH	Lophius americanus	GOOSEFISH
0126		8835570101	169699	ARMORHEAD	Pentaceros richardsoni	ARMORHEAD, PELAGIC
0130		8835280601	168677	BIGEYE SCAD	Selar crumenophthalmus	SCAD, BIGEYE
0140		8835170101	168178	BIGEYE	Priacanthus arenatus	BIGEYE
0145		8835170201	168190	SHORT BIGEYE	Pristigenys alta	SHORT BIGEYE
0150		8803010201	165460	BALLYHOO	Hemiramphus brasiliensis	BALLYHOO
0180	0180	883701	170424	BARRACUDA	Sphyraenidae	BARRACUDAS
0181		8837010101	170426	BARRACUDA,PACIFIC	Sphyraena argentea	BARRACUDA, PACIFIC
0190	0190	8803020201	165551	NEEDLEFISH,ATLANTIC	Strongylura marina	NEEDLEFISH, ATLANTIC
0192		8851010202	172513	BLACK DRIFTFISH	Hyperoglyphe bythites	BLACK DRIFTFISH
0193		8851010201	172512	BARRELFISH	Hyperoglyphe perciformis	BARRELFISH
0194		8776013601	163589	BLACKFISH,SACRAMENTO	Orthodon microlepidotus	SACRAMENTO
0195		8835620306	170085	BLACKSMITH	Chromis punctipinnis	BLACKSMITH
0230	0230	8835250101	168559	BLUEFISH	Pomatomus saltatrix	BLUEFISH
0240		883520040101	168507	BLUE PIKE (EXTINCT)	Stizostedion vitreum glaucum	PIKE, BLUE
0270		8835280306	168612	BLUE RUNNER	Caranx crysos	RUNNER, BLUE
0300		8739010101	161121	BONEFISH	Albula vulpes	BONEFISH
0330	0330	8850030202	172409	BONITO,ATLANTIC	Sarda sarda	BONITO, ATLANTIC
0331		8850030201	172408	BONITO,PACIFIC	Sarda chiliensis	BONITO, PACIFIC
0332		8850030203	172410	BONITO,STRIPED	Sarda orientalis	BONITO, STRIPED
0333		88500302	172407	BONITO,UNC	Sarda	BONITO
0340		883555	169554	BUTTERFLY FISH	Chaetodontidae	BUTTERFLYFISHES
0360		8734010101	161104	BOWFIN	Amia calva	BOWFIN
0370		886003	173235	BOXFISH	Ostraciidae	BOXFISHES
0390		8755010306	161997	BROWN TROUT	Salmo trutta	TROUT, BROWN
0420		87760407	163954	BUFFALOFISHES	Ictiobus	BUFFALOFISHES
0450	0450	87770201	163996	BULLHEADS	Ictalurus	CATFISHES & BULLHEADS
0480		8791030801	164725	BURBOT	Lota lota	BURBOT
0510	0510	88510301	172564	BUTTERFISH	Peprilus	BUTTERFISH
0525		8851030101	172565	BUTTERFISH,PACIFIC	Peprilus simillimus	POMPANO, PACIFIC
0530		88510202	172545	CIGARFISH GENUS	Cubiceps	CIGARFISH GENUS
0535		8851020205	172550	CAPE FATHEAD CIGARFISH	Cubiceps capensis	CAPE FLATHEAD
0540		8831023101	167353	CABEZON	Scorpaenichthys marmoratus	CABEZON

NMF	NMFS_NE	NODC	ITIS	NAME	SCIENTIFIC_NAME	AFS_NAME
0570	0570	8835260101	168566	COBIA	Rachycentron canadum	COBIA
0600		8835020403	167697	CABRILLA	Epinephelus analogus	SPOTTED CABRILLA
0630	0630	8776010101	163344	CARP	Cyprinus carpio	CARP, COMMON
0661		87770201	163996	CATFISHES & BULLHEADS	Ictalurus	CATFISHES & BULLHEADS
0662		8777020102	163997	CATFISH,BLUE	Ictalurus furcatus	CATFISH, BLUE
0663		8777020105	163998	CATFISH,CHANNEL	Ictalurus punctatus	CATFISH, CHANNEL
0664		8777020301	164029	CATFISH,FLATHEAD	Pylodictis olivaris	CATFISH, FLATHEAD
0665		8777020605	164043	CATFISHES (BULLHEAD,BROWN)	Ameiurus nebulosus	BULLHEAD, BROWN
0701		8755010402	162001	CHAR,ARCTIC	Salvelinus alpinus	ARCTIC CHAR
0720		87550101	161932	CHUBS	Coregonus	CHUBS
0750		88352812	168723	SCADS	Decapterus	SCADS
0780		8755010108	161942	CISCO (LAKE ERIE ONLY DUP 1681)	Coregonus artedii	HERRING, LAKE OR CISCO
0810	0810	8791030402	164712	COD,ATLANTIC	Gadus morhua	COD, ATLANTIC
0822		8791030401	164711	COD,PACIFIC,UNC	Gadus macrocephalus	COD, PACIFIC
0840	0840	88351607	168165	CRAPPIE	Pomoxis	CRAPPIE
0870	0870	8835280303	168609	CREVALLE	Caranx hippos	JACK, CREVALLE
0900	0901	8835440701	169283	CROAKER,ATLANTIC	Micropogonias undulatus	CROAKER, ATLANTIC
0926		8835440201	169257	CROAKER,PACIFIC,WHITE	Genyonemus lineatus	CROAKER, WHITE
0928		8835440607	169280	CORBINA,CALIFORNIA	Menticirrhus undulatus	CORBINA, CALIFORNIA
0930	0930	8839010201	170481	CUNNER	Tautogolabrus adspersus	CUNNER
0931		883544	169237	DRUMS	Sciaenidae	DRUMS
0932		8835440118	169255	TOTOABA	Cynoscion macdonaldi	TOTOABA
0933		8835440114	169251	CROAKER,SHORTFIN	Cynoscion parvipinnis	CORVINA, SHORTFIN
0934		8835441105	169303	CROAKER,YELLOWFIN	Umbrina roncador	CROAKER, YELLOWFIN
0935		8835442301	169358	CROAKER,BLACK	Cheilotrema saturnum	CROAKER, BLACK
0936		8835442401	169360	CROAKER,SPOTFIN	Roncador stearnsi	CROAKER, SPOTFIN
0960	0960	8791031101	164740	CUSK	Brosme brosme	CUSK
0985	0985	8815020102	166342	DEALFISH (RIBBONFISH)	Trachipterus arcticus	DEALFISH
0990		8850020201	172385	CUTLASSFISH,ATLANTIC	Trichiurus lepturus	CUTLASSFISH, ATLANTIC
1000		8755010208	161983	CUTTHROAT TROUT	Oncorhynchus clarki	TROUT, CUTTHROAT
1020		8755010401	162000	DOLLY VARDEN TROUT	Salvelinus malma	DOLLY VARDEN
1050	1050	88352901	168790	DOLPHINFISH	Coryphaena	DOLPHIN
1081	1060	8835440801	169288	DRUM,BLACK	Pogonias cromis	DRUM, BLACK
1082	1070	8835440901	169290	DRUM,RED	Sciaenops ocellatus	DRUM, RED
1135		8842122201	171618	PRICKELBACK,MONKEYFACE	Cebidichthys violaceus	PRICKLEBACK, MONKEYFACE
1136		874112	161324	EELS,CONGER	Congridae	CONGER EELS
1137		874113	161419	EELS,SNAKE	Ophichthidae	SNAKE EELS
1138		879201	164807	EELS,CUSK	Ophidiidae	CUSK-EELS
1139		8741050409	161194	EEL,MORAY,CALIFORNIA	Gymnothorax mordax	MORAY, CALIFORNIA
1140		8740	161123	EELS,UNC	Anguilliformes	EELS
1141	1150	8741010101	161127	EEL,AMERICAN	Anguilla rostrata	EEL, AMERICAN
1142	1160	8741120101	161326	EEL,CONGER	Conger oceanicus	CONGER EEL
1143		874105	161160	EEL,MORAYS	Muraenidae	MORAYS
1144		8792010401	164818	BEARDED BROTULA	Brotula barbata	BROTULA, BEARDED
1190		8855	172702	FLATFISH,UNC	Pleuronectiformes	FLATFISH,UNC
1199	1200	8857041504	172904	FLOUNDER,ATLANTIC,WINTER,	Pleuronectes americanus	FLOUNDER,WINTER

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1203	1241	8857040603	172877	FLOUNDER,ATLANTIC,PLAICE, AM. (DAB)	Hippoglossoides platessoides	PLAICE,AMERICAN
1208	1218	8857030301	172735	FLOUNDER,ATLANTIC,SUMMER, (FLUKE)	Paralichthys dentatus	FLOUNDER,SUMMER
1209		88570303	172734	FLOUNDER,ATLANTIC,FLUKE,UNC	Paralichthys	FLOUNDER,FLUKES
1215	1220	8857040502	172873	FLOUNDER,ATLANTIC,WITCH, UNC (Gr SOLE)	Glyptocephalus cynoglossus	FLOUNDER,WITCH
1223	1251	8857030401	172746	FLOUNDER,ATLANTIC,SAND, DAB	Scophthalmus aquosus	FLOUNDER,WINDOWPANE
1228	1231	8857041506	172908	FLOUNDER,ATLANTIC, YELLOWTAIL	Pleuronectes ferrugineus	FLOUNDER,YELLOWTAIL
1234	1270	8857030305	172739	FLOUNDER,FOURSPOT	Paralichthys oblongus	FLOUNDER, FOURSPOT
1250		8857040102	172862	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, ARROWTOOTH	Atheresthes stomias	FLOUNDER,ARROWTOOTH
1255		8857030309	172743	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, CAL.HALIBUT	Paralichthys californicus	HALIBUT, CALIFORNIA
1260		88570301	172715	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, SANDDAB UNC	Citharichthys	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC,SANDDAB UNC
1261		8857030101	172716	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, SANDDAB	Citharichthys sordidus	SANDDAB, PACIFIC
1262		8857030102	172717	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, SANDDAB,SPECKLE	Citharichthys stigmaeus	SANDDAB, SPECKLED
1263		8857030111	172726	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, SANDDAB,LONGFIN	Citharichthys xanthostigma	SANDDAB, LONGFIN
1265		8857041201	172887	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, DOVER SOLE	Microstomus pacificus	SOLE,DOVER
1270		8857041512	172920	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, ENGLISH SOLE	Pleuronectes vetulus	SOLE,ENGLISH
1272		8857040601	172875	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, FLATHEAD SOLE	Hippoglossoides elassodon	SOLE,FLATHEAD
1274		8857031501	172800	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, FANTAIL SOLE	Xystreurys liolepis	SOLE, FANTAIL
1275		8857040401	172868	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, PETRALE SOLE	Eopsetta jordani	SOLE, PETRALE
1280		8857043501	172977	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, REX SOLE	Errex zachirus	SOLE, REX
1282		8857041510	172916	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, ROCK SOLE	Pleuronectes bilineatus	SOLE,ROCK
1285		8857041701	172928	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, SAND SOLE	Psettichthys melanostictus	SOLE, SAND
1287		8857041505	172906	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, YELLOWFIN SOLE	Pleuronectes asper	SOLE,YELLOWFIN
1289		8857041401	172893	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, STARRY	Platichthys stellatus	FLOUNDER,STARRY
1290		885801	172980	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, UNC SOLE	Soleidae	SOLES

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1291		8857031102	172784	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, SOLE,BIGMOUTH	Hippoglossina stomata	SOLE, BIGMOUTH
1292		8857041511	172918	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, SOLE,BUTTER	Pleuronectes isolepis	SOLE,BUTTER
1293		8857040403	172870	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, SOLE,SLENDER	Eopsetta exilis	SOLE, SLENDER
1294		8857041601	172923	FLOUNDER,PACIFIC, SOLE,C-O	Pleuronichthys coenosus	SOLE,C-O
1296		8858020116	173077	TONGUEFISH,CALIFORNIA	Symphurus atricauda	TONGUEFISH, CALIFORNIA
1297		8857041602	172924	SOLE,CURLFIN	Pleuronichthys decurrens	SOLE,CURLFIN
1310		880301	165431	FLYINGFISHES	Exocoetidae	FLYINGFISHES
1320	1320	8850030702	172456	FRIGATE MACKEREL	Auxis thazard	MACKEREL, FRIGATE
1330	1330	873201	161092	GARFISHES	Lepisosteidae	GARS
1340	1340	8747010501	161737	GIZZARD SHAD	Dorosoma cepedianum	SHAD, GIZZARD
1350		883545	169406	GOATFISHES	Mullidae	GOATFISHES
1360		8776010301	163350	GOLDFISH	Carassius auratus	GOLDFISH
1380	1380	879401	165332	GRENADIERS	Macrouridae	GRENADIERS
1410	1410	883502	167674	GROUPERS	Serranidae	GROUPERS
1411		8835020404	167698	HIND,SPECKLED	Epinephelus drummondhayi	SPECKLED HIND
1412		8835020402	167696	HIND,ROCK	Epinephelus adscensionis	ROCK HIND
1413		8835020406	167700	HIND,RED	Epinephelus guttatus	RED HIND
1414		8835020411	167705	GROUPER,SNOWY	Epinephelus niveatus	GROUPER, SNOWY
1415		8835020405	167699	GROUPER,YELLOWEDGE	Epinephelus flavolimbatus	GROUPER, YELLOWEDGE
1417		8835020440	167743	GROUPER,MARBLED	Epinephelus inermis	GROUPER, MARBLED
1418		8835020508	167766	GROUPER,BROOMTAIL	Mycteroperca xenarcha	GROUPER, BROOMTAIL
1419		8835020509	167767	GROUPER, TIGER	Mycteroperca tigris	GROUPER, TIGER
1420		8835020409	167703	GROUPER,MISTY	Epinephelus mystacinus	GROUPER, MISTY
1422		8835020502	167760	GROUPER,BLACK	Mycteroperca bonaci	GROUPER, BLACK
1423		8835020501	167759	GROUPER,GAG	Mycteroperca microlepis	GAG
1424		8835020505	167763	SCAMP	Mycteroperca phenax	SCAMP
1425		8835020504	167762	GROUPER,YELLOWMOUTH	Mycteroperca interstitialis	GROUPER, YELLOWMOUTH
1426		8835020506	167764	GROUPER,YELLOWFIN	Mycteroperca venenosa	GROUPER, YELLOWFIN
1427		8835021701	167838	CREOLE-FISH	Paranthias furcifer	CREOLE-FISH
1428		8835020439	167741	GRAYSBY	Epinephelus cruentatus	GRAYSBY
1429		8835020438	167739	CONEY	Epinephelus fulvus	CONEY
1430		8835020412	167706	GROUPER,NASSAU	Epinephelus striatus	GROUPER, NASSAU
1440	1440	883540	169055	GRUNTS	Haemulidae	GRUNTS
1441		8835400102	169059	GRUNT,WHITE	Haemulon plumieri	GRUNT, WHITE
1442		8835400103	169060	MARGATE	Haemulon album	MARGATE
1443		8835400304	169084	MARGATE,BLACK	Anisotremus surinamensis	BLACK MARGATE
1444		8835400113	169069	GRUNT,BLUESTRIPED	Haemulon sciurus	GRUNT, BLUESTRIPED
1445		8835400108	169065	GRUNT,FRENCH	Haemulon flavolineatum	GRUNT, FRENCH
1446		8835400101	169058	GRUNT,TOMTATE	Haemulon aurolineatum	GRUNT, TOMTATE
1447		8835400111	169067	GRUNT, COTTONWICK	Haemulon melanurum	GRUNT, COTTONWICK
1448		8835400110	169066	GRUNT,SPANISH	Haemulon macrostomum	GRUNT, SPANISH
1449		8835400107	169064	GRUNT, SMALLMOUTH	Haemulon chrysargyreum	GRUNT, SMALLMOUTH
1452		8835400117	169074	GRUNT,SAILORS CHOICE	Haemulon parrai	GRUNT, SAILORS CHOICE

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1470	1470	8791031301	164744	HADDOCK	Melanogrammus aeglefinus	HADDOCK
1500	1500	860601	159753	HAGFISH	Myxinidae	HAGFISHES
1520	1520	8791031001	164730	HAKE,ATLANTIC,RED	Urophycis chuss	HAKE, RED
1531	1531	8791031003	164732	HAKE,ATLANTIC,WHITE	Urophycis tenuis	HAKE, WHITE
1542		8791040102	164792	HAKE,PACIFIC(WHITING)	Merluccius productus	HAKE, PACIFIC
1550	1550	87910310	164729	HAKE,ATLANTIC,RED & WHITE	Urophycis	HAKE,ATLANTIC,RED & WHITE
1560		8835510401	169522	HALFMOON	Medialuna californiensis	HALFMOON
1588	1590	8857041902	172933	HALIBUT,ATLANTIC	Hippoglossus hippoglossus	HALIBUT, ATLANTIC
1589		8857041901	172932	HALIBUT,PACIFIC	Hippoglossus stenolepis	HALIBUT, PACIFIC
1590		88570419	172931	HALIBUT,ATLANTIC & PACIFIC	Hippoglossus	HALIBUT,ATLANTIC & PACIFIC
1650	1650	8851030106	172570	HARVESTFISH	Peprilus alepidotus	HARVESTFISH
1670	1670	874701020102	161724	HERRING,ATLANTIC,SEA	Clupea harengus harengus	HERRING, ATLANTIC
1676		874701020101	161723	HERRING,PACIFIC,SEA	Clupea harengus pallasi	HERRING,PACIFIC
1681		8755010108	161942	HERRING,LAKE	Coregonus artedii	HERRING, LAKE OR CISCO
1683		8747010601	161743	HERRING,ROUND	Etrumeus teres	HERRING, ROUND
1685	1685	87470102	161721	HERRING,SEA (OBSOLETE CODE)	Clupea	HERRING,SEA
1687		8747010701	161748	HERRING,ATLANTIC THREAD	Opisthonema oglinum	HERRING, ATLANTIC THREAD
1689		874701	161700	HERRINGS,UNC	Clupeidae	HERRINGS
1710	1710	875601	162057	HERRING SMELT	Argentinidae	ARGENTINES
1730	1730	8747010103	161704	HICKORY SHAD	Alosa mediocris	SHAD, HICKORY
1760	1280	8858030101	172982	HOGCHOKER	Trinectes maculatus	HOGCHOKER
1790	1790	8839010901	170566	HOGFISH	Lachnolaimus maximus	HOGFISH
1799		883528	168584	JACKS	Carangidae	JACKS
1800		8835280304	168610	HORSE-EYE JACK	Caranx latus	JACK, HORSE-EYE
1803		8835280301	168606	JACK, YELLOW	Caranx bartholomaei	JACK, YELLOW
1805		8835280307	168613	BLACK JACK	Caranx lugubris	JACK, BLACK
1807		8835280202	168602	AFRICAN POMPANO	Alectis ciliaris	POMPANO, AFRICAN
1810		8835280803	168691	ALMACO JACK	Seriola rivoliana	JACK, ALMACO
1811		8835280308	168614	BAR JACK	Caranx ruber	JACK, BAR
1812		8835280801	168689	GREATER AMBERJACK	Seriola dumerili	AMBERJACK, GREATER
1814		8835281301	168738	RAINBOW RUNNER	Elagatis bipinnulata	RUNNER, RAINBOW
1815		8835280802	168690	LESSER AMBERJACK	Seriola fasciata	AMBERJACK, LESSER
1817		8835280804	168693	BANDED RUDDERFISH	Seriola zonata	RUDDERFISH, BANDED
1820		8835280101	168586	JACK MACKEREL	Trachurus symmetricus	JACK MACKEREL
1830		8835441202	169314	JACKNIFE FISH	Equetus lanceolatus	JACKKNIFE-FISH
1850		8835020401	167695	JEWFISH	Epinephelus itajara	JEWFISH
1880	1880	8811030201	166283	JOHN DORY	Zenopsis ocellata	DORY, AMERICAN JOHN
1938		8850030503	172437	MACKEREL,CERO	Scomberomorus regalis	MAVKEREL,CERO
1939		8850030501	172435	MACKEREL,KING	Scomberomorus cavalla	MACKEREL,KING
1940	1940	88500305	172434	MACKEREL,KING AND CERO	Scomberomorus	MACKEREL,KING AND CERO
1970	1970	88354406	169273	KING WHITING	Menticirrhus	KING WHITING
2000		8755010403	162002	LAKE TROUT	Salvelinus namaycush	TROUT, LAKE
2030		8603010301	159722	LAMPREY	Petromyzon marinus	LAMPREY, SEA
2031		8603010211	159713	LAMPREY,PACIFIC	Lampetra tridentata	LAMPREY, PACIFIC
2035		876209	162523	LANCETFISHES	Alepisauridae	LANCETFISHES
2060	2060	88450101	171671	LAUNCES	Ammodytes	LAUNCES

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2070		883541	169129	EMPERORS,UNC	Lethrindae	EMPERORS,UNC
2090	2090	8827010201	167116	LINGCOD	Ophiodon elongatus	LINGCOD
2095		8835280701	168680	LOOKDOWN	Selene vomer	LOOKDOWN
2100	2100	8831091501	167612	LUMPFISH	Cyclopterus lumpus	LUMPFISH
2116		8827010501	167120	MACKEREL,ATKA	Pleurogrammus monopterygius	ATKA MACKEREL
2120	2120	8850030302	172414	MACKEREL,ATLANTIC	Scomber scombrus	MACKEREL, ATLANTIC
2150	2150	8850030301	172412	MACKEREL,CHUB (THIMBLE-EYE, PACIFIC)	Scomber japonicus	MACKEREL, CHUB
2151		8850030701	172455	MACKEREL,BULLET	Auxis rochei	MACKEREL, BULLET
2160		8835281201	168724	SCAD,MACKEREL	Decapterus macarellus	SCAD, MACKEREL
2162		88500303	172411	MACKEREL,UNC. (SCOMBER)	Scomber	MACKEREL,UNC. (SCOMBER)
2174		8850060202	172492	MARLIN,BLACK	Makaira indica	MARLIN, BLACK
2176		8850060306	172504	MARLIN,STRIPED	Tetrapturus audax	MARLIN, STRIPED
2177	2161	8850060301	172499	MARLIN,WHITE	Tetrapturus albidus	MARLIN, WHITE
2179	2171	8850060201	172491	MARLIN,BLUE	Makaira nigricans	MARLIN, BLUE
2180	2181	885006	172486	MARLIN,UNC	Istiophoridae	BILLFISHES
2210	2210	87470104	161731	MENHADEN	Brevoortia	MENHADEN, ATLANTIC
2227		8776011802	163524	MINNOWS,SQUAWFISH, SACRAMENTO	Ptychocheilus grandis	SQUAWFISH, SACRAMENTO
2228		8776013001	163569	MINNOWS,HITCH	Lavinia exilicauda	HITCH
2229		8776013501	163587	MINNOWS,HARDHEAD	Mylopharodon conocephalus	HARDHEAD
2230		877601	163342	MINNOWS	Cyprinidae	CARPS AND MINNOWS
2250		883539	169013	MOJARRAS	Gerreidae	MOJARRAS
2280		875101	161903	MOONEYE	Hiodontidae	MOONEYES
2290		8847014701	171967	MUDSUCKER,LONGJAW	Gillichthys mirabilis	LONGJAW MUDSUCKER
2310		8835280705	168684	MOONFISH,ATLANTIC	Selene setapinnis	MOONFISH, ATLANTIC
2341	2341	8836010101	170335	MULLET,STRIPED	Mugil cephalus	MULLET, STRIPED
2346		8836010102	170336	MULLET,SILVER	Mugil curema	MULLET, WHITE
2347		883601	170333	MULLETS	Mugilidae	MULLETS
2348		8836010104	170338	MULLET, CARIBBEAN	Mugil liza	LIZA
2370		8804040203	165647	MUMMICHOG	Fundulus heteroclitus	MUMMICHOG
2400	2400	8826010139	166745	OCEAN PERCH,ATLANTIC (REDFISH)	Sebastes marinus	REDFISH OR OCEAN PERCH
2410		8826010102	166707	OCEAN PERCH,PACIFIC	Sebastes alutus	ROCKFISH, PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH
2420	2420	8826010301	166787	BLACK BELLIED ROSEFISH	Helicolenus dactylopterus	ROSEFISH, BLACKBELLY
2500	2500	8793011601	165318	OCEAN POUT	Macrozoarces americanus	POUT, OCEAN
2501	3850	8850010301	172362	ESCOLAR	Lepidocybium flavobrunneum	ESCOLAR
2502		8850010401	172364	OILFISH	Ruvettus pretiosus	OILFISH
2503	2490	8813010102	166326	OPAH	Lampris guttatus	OPAH
2504		8850010201	172360	SNAKE MACKEREL	Gempylus serpens	SNAKE MACKEREL
2505		8835510201	169515	OPALEYE	Girella nigricans	OPALEYE
2510		8729020101	161088	PADDLEFISH	Polyodon spathula	PADDLEFISH
2520		883903	170809	PARROTFISH	Scaridae	PARROTFISHES
2525		8835350403	168840	CRIMSON ROVER	Erythrocles monodi	CRIMSON ROVER
2530		883560	169735	SURFPERCH,PACIFIC	Embiotocidae	SURFPERCHES
2531		8835600201	169739	PERCH,SHINER	Cymatogaster aggregata	PERCH, SHINER
2532		8835600301	169744	SEAPERCH,STRIPED	Embiotoca lateralis	SEAPERCH, STRIPED

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2533		8835600302	169745	PERCH,BLACK	Embiotoca jacksoni	PERCH, BLACK
2534		8835600401	169747	SURFPERCH,WALLEYE	Hyperprosopon argenteum	SURFPERCH, WALLEYE
2535		8835600402	169748	SURFPERCH,SILVER	Hyperprosopon ellipticum	SURFPERCH, SILVER
2536		8835600501	169751	SEAPERCH,WHITE	Phanerodon furcatus	SEAPERCH, WHITE
2537		8835600601	169754	PERCH,NILE	Rhacochilus vacca	PERCH, PILE
2538		8835600602	169755	SEAPERCH,RUBBERLIP	Rhacochilus toxotes	SEAPERCH, RUBBERLIP
2539		8835600701	169757	SURFPERCH,REDTAIL	Amphistichus rhodoterus	SURFPERCH, REDTAIL
2540		8835600702	169758	SURFPERCH,BARRED	Amphistichus argenteus	SURFPERCH, BARRED
2541		8835600703	169759	SEAPERCH,CALICO	Amphistichus koelzi	SURFPERCH, CALICO
2542		8835600801	169761	SEAPERCH,RAINBOW	Hypsurus caryi	SEAPERCH, RAINBOW
2543		8835601002	169766	PERCH,DWARF	Micrometrus minimus	PERCH, DWARF
2544		8835601101	169769	SEAPERCH,PINK	Zalembius rosaceus	SEAPERCH, PINK
2550		8835280902	168709	PERMIT	Trachinotus falcatus	PERMIT
2580	2580	8835400201	169077	PIGFISH	Orthopristis chrysoptera	PIGFISH
2610		875801	162137	PIKES OR PICKERELS	Esocidae	PIKES
2640		8835281501	168742	PILOTFISH	Naucrates ductor	PILOTFISH
2670		8835430201	169187	PINFISH	Lagodon rhomboides	PINFISH
2690	2691	8791030901	164727	POLLOCK,ATLANTIC	Pollachius virens	POLLOCK
2692		8791030701	164722	POLLOCK,WALLEYE(ALASKA)	Theragra chalcogramma	POLLOCK, WALLEYE
2710		883571	170287	POMFRETS	Bramidae	POMFRETS
2720	2720	8835280901	168708	POMPANO	Trachinotus carolinus	POMPANO, FLORIDA
2721		8851030101	172565	POMPANO,PACIFIC	Peprilus simillimus	POMPANO, PACIFIC
2750		8835400306	169086	PORKFISH	Anisotremus virginicus	PORKFISH
2760		886101	173283	PUFFERS	Tetraodontidae	PUFFERS
2765		8839010709	170510	PUDDINGWIFE (WRASSE)	Halichoeres radiatus	PUDDINGWIFE (WRASSE)
2810		8776040201	163917	QUILLBACK	Carpiodes cyprinus	QUILLBACK
2820		8835442501	169362	QUEENFISH	Seriphus politus	QUEENFISH
2840		8716020101	161015	RATFISH	Hydrolagus colliei	RATFISH SPOTTED
2850		8755010211	161989	RAINBOW TROUT,FW	Oncorhynchus mykiss	TROUT, RAINBOW
2860		8713	160806	RAYS,UNC	RAJIFORMES	RAYS,UNC
2861		8713030101	160833	RAY,PACIFIC ELECTRIC	Torpedo californica	RAY, PACIFIC ELECTRIC
2862		871305	160946	STINGRAYS	Dasyatidae	STINGRAYS
2863		8713070202	160981	RAY,BAT	Myliobatis californica	RAY, BAT
2865		88352701	168568	REMORA	Remora	REMORA
2870		8776012801	163565	ROACH,CALIFORNIA	Hesperoleucus symmetricus	CALIFORNIA ROACH
2900		8835160201	168097	ROCK BASS,FW	Ambloplites rupestris	BASS, ROCK
2927		8835021602	167832	BASS,KELP	Paralabrax clathratus	BASS, KELP
2928		8835021603	167833	SAND BASS,SPOTTED	Paralabrax maculatofasciatus	SAND BASS, SPOTTED
2929		8835021604	167834	SAND BASS,BARRED	Paralabrax nebulifer	SAND BASS, BARRED
2930		88350216	167830	ROCK BASSES,PACIFIC	Paralabrax	ROCK BASSES,PACIFIC
2931		8826010121	166727	ROCKFISH,BLACK	Sebastes melanops	ROCKFISH, BLACK
2932		8826010127	166733	ROCKFISH,BOCACCIO	Sebastes paucispinis	ROCKFISH, BOCACCIO
2933		8826010103	166708	ROCKFISH,BROWN	Sebastes auriculatus	ROCKFISH, BROWN
2934		8826010125	166731	ROCKFISH,CHINA	Sebastes nebulosus	ROCKFISH, CHINA
2935		8826010117	166722	ROCKFISH,CHILLIPEPPER	Sebastes goodei	ROCKFISH, CHILIPEPPER
2936		8826010128	166734	ROCKFISH,CANARY	Sebastes pinniger	ROCKFISH, CANARY
2937		8826010149	166754	ROCKFISH,COWCOD	Sebastes levis	ROCKFISH, COWCOD

NMF	NMFS_NE	NODC	ITIS	NAME	SCIENTIFIC_NAME	AFS_NAME
2938		8826010122	166728	ROCKFISH,BLACKGILL	Sebastes melanostomus	ROCKFISH, BLACKGILL
2939		8826010124	166730	ROCKFISH,BLUE	Sebastes mystinus	ROCKFISH, BLUE
2940		8826010110	166715	ROCKFISH,DARKBLOTCHED	Sebastes crameri	ROCKFISH, DARKBLOTCHED
2941		8826010130	166736	ROCKFISH,REDSTRIPED	Sebastes proriger	ROCKFISH, REDSTRIPE
2942		8826010138	166744	ROCKFISH,SHARPCHIN	Sebastes zacentrus	ROCKFISH, SHARPCHIN
2943		8826010106	166711	ROCKFISH,SILVERGRAY	Sebastes brevispinis	ROCKFISH, SILVERGRAY
2944		8826010111	166716	ROCKFISH,SPLITNOSE	Sebastes diploproa	ROCKFISH, SPLITNOSE
2945		8826010119	166725	ROCKFISH,SHORTBELLY	Sebastes jordani	ROCKFISH, SHORTBELLY
2946		8826010134	166740	ROCKFISH,YELLOWEYE	Sebastes ruberrimus	ROCKFISH, YELLOWEYE
2947		8826010131	166737	ROCKFISH,YELLOWMOUTH	Sebastes reedi	ROCKFISH, YELLOWMOUTH
2948		8826010115	166720	ROCKFISH,YELLOWTAIL	Sebastes flavidus	ROCKFISH, YELLOWTAIL
2949		8826010114	166719	ROCKFISH,WIDOW	Sebastes entomelas	ROCKFISH, WIDOW
2958		8826010201	166783	THORNYHEAD,SHORTSPINE	Sebastolobus alascanus	THORNYHEAD, SHORTSPINE
2959		882601	166704	SCORPIONFISH-THORNYHEADS	Scorpaenidae	SCORPIONFISHES
2960		88260101	166705	ROCKFISHES	Sebastes	ROCKFISHES
2961		8826010104	166709	ROCKFISH,AURORA	Sebastes aurora	ROCKFISH, AURORA
2962		8826010105	166710	ROCKFISH,REDBANDED	Sebastes babcocki	ROCKFISH, REDBANDED
2963		8826010108	166713	ROCKFISH,COPPER	Sebastes caurinus	ROCKFISH, COPPER
2964		8826010112	166717	ROCKFISH,GREENSTRIPED	Sebastes elongatus	ROCKFISH, GREENSTRIPED
2965		8826010123	166729	ROCKFISH,VERMILION	Sebastes miniatus	ROCKFISH, VERMILION
2966		8826010132	166738	ROCKFISH,ROSY	Sebastes rosaceus	ROCKFISH, ROSY
2967		8826010135	166741	ROCKFISH,STRIPTAIL	Sebastes saxicola	ROCKFISH, STRIPETAIL
2968		8826010142	166747	ROCKFISH,KELP	Sebastes atrovirens	ROCKFISH, KELP
2969		8826010143	166748	ROCKFISH,GREENSPOTTED	Sebastes chlorostictus	ROCKFISH, GREENSPOTTED
2970		8826010144	166749	ROCKFISH,STARRY	Sebastes constellatus	ROCKFISH, STARRY
2971		8826010145	166750	ROCKFISH,CALICO	Sebastes dalli	ROCKFISH, CALICO
2972		8826010146	166751	ROCKFISH,PINK	Sebastes eos	ROCKFISH, PINK
2973		8826010147	166752	ROCKFISH,BRONZESPOTTED	Sebastes gilli	ROCKFISH, BRONZESPOTTED
2974		8826010148	166753	ROCKFISH,SQUARESPOT	Sebastes hopkinsi	ROCKFISH, SQUARESPOT
2975		8826010152	166757	ROCKFISH,SPECKLED	Sebastes ovalis	ROCKFISH, SPECKLED
2976		8826010153	166758	ROCKFISH,CHAMELEON	Sebastes phillipsi	ROCKFISH, CHAMELEON
2977		8826010154	166759	ROCKFISH,GRASS	Sebastes rastrelliger	ROCKFISH, GRASS
2978		8826010155	166760	ROCKFISH,FLAG	Sebastes rubrivinctus	ROCKFISH, FLAG
2979		8826010156	166761	ROCKFISH,BANK	Sebastes rufus	ROCKFISH, BANK
2980		8826010158	166763	ROCKFISH,OLIVE	Sebastes serranoides	ROCKFISH, OLIVE
2981		8826010159	166764	ROCKFISH,TREEFISH	Sebastes serriceps	TREEFISH
2982		8826010160	166765	ROCKFISH,HONEYCOMB	Sebastes umbrosus	ROCKFISH, HONEYCOMB
2983		8826010161	166766	ROCKFISH,WHITEBELLY	Sebastes vexillaris	ROCKFISH, WHITEBELLY
2984		8826010162	166767	ROCKFISH,GOPHER	Sebastes carnatus	ROCKFISH, GOPHER
2985		8826010163	166768	ROCKFISH,SWORDSPINE	Sebastes ensifer	ROCKFISH, SWORDSPINE
2986		8826010165	166770	ROCKFISH,PINKROSE	Sebastes simulator	ROCKFISH, PINKROSE
2987		8826010166	166771	ROCKFISH,GREENBLOTCHED	Sebastes rosenblatti	ROCKFISH, GREENBLOTCHED
2988		8826010168	166773	ROCKFISH,BLACK-AND-YELLOW	Sebastes chrysomelas	ROCKFISH, BLACK-AND-YELLOW
2990		883551	169503	RUDDERFISH (SEA CHUBS)	Kyphosidae	SEA CHUBS
2996		8835282201	168764	RUNNER	Scombroides sancti-petri	LEATHER-BACK
3019		8826010202	166784	THORNYHEAD,LONGSPINE	Sebastolobus altivelis	THORNYHEAD, LONGSPINE
3020		8827020101	167123	SABLEFISH	Anoplopoma fimbria	SABLEFISH

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3026		8850060101	172488	SAILFISH	Istiophorus platypterus	SAILFISH
3050	3050	8755010305	161996	SALMON,ATLANTIC	Salmo salar	SALMON, ATLANTIC
3080	3080	8755010206	161980	SALMON,PACIFIC,KING	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	SALMON, CHINOOK
3081		8755010202	161976	SALMON,PACIFIC,CHUM	Oncorhynchus keta	SALMON, CHUM
3082	3060	8755010201	161975	SALMON,PACIFIC,PINK	Oncorhynchus gorbuscha	SALMON, PINK
3083		8755010205	161979	SALMON,PACIFIC,SOCKEYE	Oncorhynchus nerka	SALMON, SOCKEYE
3084	3070	8755010203	161977	SALMON,PACIFIC,COHO	Oncorhynchus kisutch	SALMON, COHO
3085	3090	87550102	161974	SALMON,PACIFIC	Oncorhynchus	SALMON,PACIFIC,UNC
3110	3110	8835021002	167793	SAND PERCH	Diplectrum formosum	SAND PERCH
3111		8835021005	167796	SAND PERCH,DWARF	Diplectrum bivittatum	SAND PERCH, DWARF
3140		8747010301	161729	SARDINE,PACIFIC	Sardinops sagax	SARDINE, PACIFIC
3170		8835200402	168509	SAUGER	Stizostedion canadense	SAUGER
3196	3196	8803030201	165612	SAURY,ATLANTIC	Scomberesox saurus	SAURY, ATLANTIC
3198		8803030101	165609	SAURY,PACIFIC	Cololabis saira	SAURY, PACIFIC
3220		880303	165607	SAURY	Scomberesocidae	SAURIES
3230		8713010101	160809	SAWFISH	Pristis pectinata	SAWFISH, SMALLTOOTH
3236		88352812	168723	SCADS(EXCEPT BIGEYE)	Decapterus	SCADS
3237	3310	8835280102	168587	SCADS,ROUGH	Trachurus lathami	ROUGH SCAD
3260	3260	883102	167196	SCULPINS	Cottidae	SCULPINS
3261		882601	166704	SCORPIONFISHES	Scorpaenidae	SCORPIONFISHES
3262		8831021608	167298	SCULPIN,YELLOWFIN	Icelinus quadriseriatus	SCULPIN, YELLOWCHIN
3263		8826010402	166794	SPINYCHEEK SCORPIONFISH	Neomerinthe hemingwayi	SCORPIONFISH, SPINYCHEEK
3264		8831021801	167302	PACIFIC STAGHORN	Leptocottus armatus	SCULPIN, PACIFIC STAGHORN
3265		8826010614	166825	SPOTTED SCORPIONFISH	Scorpaena plumieri	SCORPIONFISH, SPOTTED
3270	3270	8831021503	167289	SEA RAVEN	Hemitripterus americanus	SEA RAVEN
3289	3296	883543	169180	SCUPS OR PORGIES	Sparidae	SCUPS OR PORGIES
3298		8835430101	169182	SCUP	Stenotomus chrysops	SCUP
3299		8835430102	169183	PORGY,LONGSPINE	Stenotomus caprinus	PORGY, LONGSPINE
3300		8835430601	169207	PORGY,RED	Pagrus pagrus	PORGY, RED
3304		8835430503	169198	PORGY,SAUCEREYE	Calamus calamus	PORGY, SAUCEREYE
3305		8835430501	169196	PORGY,GRASS	Calamus arctifrons	PORGY,GRASS
3306		8835430505	169200	PORGY,WHITEBONE	Calamus leucosteus	PORGY, WHITEBONE
3308		8835430506	169201	PORGY,KNOBBED	Calamus nodosus	PORGY, KNOBBED
3310		8835430508	169203	PORGY,LITTLEHEAD	Calamus proridens	PORGY, LITTLEHEAD
3312		8835430502	169197	PORGY,JOLTHEAD	Calamus bajonado	PORGY, JOLTHEAD
3314		8835430401	169192	PINFISH,SPOTTAIL	Diplodus holbrooki	PINFISH, SPOTTAIL
3351	3351	8835020301	167687	SEA BASSE,ATLANTIC,	Centropristis striata	SEA BASS, BLACK
3361		8835022901	167918	SEA BASS,PACIFIC,	Stereolepis gigas	SEA BASS, GIANT
3362		8835020305	167691	SEA BASS,ROCK	Centropristis philadelphica	SEA BASS, ROCK
3370		8835442901	169387	SEA BASS,PACIFIC,WHITE	Atractoscion nobilis	SEABASS, WHITE
3371		8835021101	167798	SPANISH FLAG	Gonioplectrus hispanus	SPANISH FLAG
3373		8835021202	167801	RED BARBIER	Hemanthias vivanus	BARBIER, RED
3374		8835021201	167800	LONGTAIL BASS	Hemanthias leptus	BASS, LONGTAIL
3375		8835020304	167690	SEA BASS,BANK	Centropristis ocyurus	SEA BASS, BANK
3380		877718	164157	SEA CATFISH	Ariidae	SEA CATFISHES
3410	3410	882602	166972	SEA ROBINS	Triglidae	SEAROBINS
3441	3441	8835440104	169241	SEA TROUT,GRAY	Cynoscion regalis	WEAKFISH

NMF	NMFS_NE	NODC	ITIS	NAME	SCIENTIFIC_NAME	AFS_NAME
3447	3450	8835440102	169239	SEA TROUT,SPOTTED	Cynoscion nebulosus	SEATROUT, SPOTTED
3455		8835440106	169243	SEA TROUT,WHITE	Cynoscion arenarius	SEATROUT, SAND
3470		8747010502	161738	SHAD,THREADFIN	Dorosoma petenense	SHAD, THREADFIN
3471	3471	8747010101	161702	SHAD,BUCK	Alosa sapidissima	SHAD, AMERICAN BUCK
3475	3488	8709	160602	SHARK,NURSE	Squaliformes	SHARK,UNC
3475	3548	8709	160602	SHARK,THRESHER BIGEYE,FINS	Squaliformes	SHARK,UNC
3475	3558	8709	160602	SHARK,Squaliformes, UNC.	Squaliformes	SHARK,UNC
3476	3512	8708020401	160230	SHARK,DOGFISH,SMOOTH	Mustelus canis	SHARK, SMOOTH DOGFISH
3478		8708020516	160346	SHARK,NARROWTOOTH	Carcharhinus brachyurus	SHARK, NARROWTHOOTH
3479		8708020512	160340	SHARK,SMALLTAIL	Carcharhinus porosus	SHARK, SMALLTAIL
3480	3481	8707100101	159977	SHARK,NURSE	Ginglymostoma cirratum	SHARK, NURSE
3481		8708020531	160409	SHARK,FINETOOTH	Carcharhinus isodon	SHARK, FINETOOTH
3482	3491	8707030101	159878	SHARK,SAND TIGER	Odontaspis taurus	SHARK, SAND TIGER
3483		8708030101	160502	SHARK,BONNETHEAD	Sphyrna tiburo	SHARK, BONNETHEAD
3484	4960	8707120101	159907	SHARK,BASKING	Cetorhinus maximus	SHARK, BASKING
3485		8708020504	160304	SHARK,BLACKNOSE	Carcharhinus acronotus	SHARK, BLACKNOSE
3486	3498	8707030101	159878	SHARK,SAND TIGER	Odontaspis taurus	SHARK,SAND TIGER FINS
3487	4828	8708020503	160289	SHARK,SANDBAR	Carcharhinus plumbeus	SHARK, SANDBAR
3488	4948	8708020301	160200	SHARK,ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE	Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	SHARK, ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE
3489	4848	8708020501	160268	SHARK,DUSKY FINS	Carcharhinus obscurus	SHARK, DUSKY
3490		8708020511	160336	SHARK,REEF	Carcharhinus perezi	SHARK, REEF
3491	4831	8708020505	160307	SHARK,BIGNOSE	Carcharhinus altimus	SHARK, BIGNOSE
3492		8708020515	160345	SHARK,GALAPAGOS	Carcharhinus galapagensis	SHARK, GALAPAGOS
3493	4851	8708020506	160310	SHARK,SILKY	Carcharhinus falciformis	SHARK, SILKY
3494	4861	8708020532	160413	SHARK,NIGHT	Carcharhinus signets	SHARK, NIGHT
3495	4871	8708020507	160318	SHARK,BLACKTIP	Carcharhinus limbatus	SHARK, BLACKTIP
3496	4881	8708020530	160401	SHARK,SPINNER	Carcharhinus brevipinna	SHARK, SPINNER
3497	4891	8708020502	160275	SHARK,BULL	Carcharhinus leucas	SHARK, BULL
3498	4901	8708020508	160330	SHARK,OCEANIC WHITETIP	Carcharhinus longimanus	SHARK, OCEANIC WHITETIP
3499	3538	8707040401	159916	SHARK,THRESHER	Alopius vulpinus	SHARK, THRESHER
3500		87070404	159915	SHARK,THRESHER UNC	Alopius	THRESHER SHARKS
3501	4811	8707040302	159911	SHARK,PORBEAGLE	Lamna nasus	SHARK, PORBEAGLE
3502	3581	8707040502	159926	SHARK,LONGFIN MAKO	Isurus paucus	SHARK, LONGFIN MAKO
3503	3501	871001	160604	SHARK,DOGFISH	Squalidae	SHARK, DOGFISH
3504	4931	8708020601	160424	SHARK,BLUE	Prionace glauca	SHARK, BLUE
3505	3551	8707040501	159924	SHARK,BONITO(SHORTFIN MAKO)	Isurus oxyrhincus	SHARK, SHORTFIN MAKO
3506		8708020103	160187	SHARK,SOUPFIN	Galeorhinus zyopterus	SHARK, SOUPFIN
3507		8708020902	160448	SHARK,LEOPARD	Traces semifasciata	SHARK, LEOPARD
3508	3591	8701	159785	SHARK,UNC	Chondrichthyes	SHARK,UNC
3509	3531	8707040401	159916	SHARK,THRESHER	Alopius vulpinus	SHARK, THRESHER
3510	3541	8707040402	159921	SHARK,BIGEYE THRESHER	Alopius supercilious	SHARK, BIGEYE THRESHER
3511	3511	8708020401	160230	SHARK,DOGFISH,SMOOTH	Mustelus canis	SHARK, SMOOTH DOGFISH
3512	4801	8707040101	159903	SHARK,WHITE	Carcharodon carcharias	SHARK, WHITE
3513	4821	8708020503	160289	SHARK,SANDBAR	Carcharhinus plumbeus	SHARK, SANDBAR
3514	4841	8708020501	160268	SHARK,DUSKY	Carcharhinus obscurus	SHARK, DUSKY
3515	4911	8708020201	160189	SHARK,TIGER	Galeocerdo cuvieri	SHARK, TIGER
3516	4951	870803	160497	SHARK,HAMMERHEAD	Sphyrnidae	SHARK,HAMMERHEAD

NMF	NMFS_NE	NODC	ITIS	NAME	SCIENTIFIC_NAME	AFS_NAME
3517	4921	8708020801	160433	SHARK,LEMON	Negaprion brevirostris	SHARK, LEMON
3518	4941	8708020301	160200	SHARK,ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE	Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	SHARK, ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE
3519		8711010101	160785	SHARK,PACIFIC ANGEL	Squatina californica	SHARK, PACIFIC ANGEL
3520		8755010501	162006	SELFISH	Stenotus leucichthys	ANCIEN
3521	3522	8710010201	160617	SHARK,DOGFISH,SPINY	Squalus acanthias	SHARK, SPINY DOGFISH
3522		8708030102	160505	SHARK,SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD	Sphyrna zygaena	SHARK, SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD
3523		8708030103	160508	SHARK,SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD	Sphyrna lewini	SHARK, SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD
3524		8708030104	160515	SHARK,GREAT HAMMERHEAD	Sphyrna mojarra	SHARK, GREAT HAMMERHEAD
3525	3508	871001	160604	SHARK,DOGFISH FINS	Squalidae	SHARK,DOGFISH
3526	4958	870803	160497	SHARK,HAMMERHEAD FINS	Sphyrnidae	SHARK,HAMMERHEAD
3527	4818	8707040302	159911	SHARK,PORBEAGLE FINS	Lamna nasus	SHARK, PORBEAGLE
3528		8705020101	159819	SHARK,SIXGILL	Hexanchus griseus	SHARK, SIXGILL
3529		8705020102	159826	SHARK,SIXGILL BIGEYE	Hexanchus vitulus	SHARK, SIXGILL BIGEYE
3530		8835442601	169364	SHEEPSHEAD,FW	Aplodinotus grunniens	DRUM, FRESHWATER
3531	3528	871001	160604	SHARK,DOGFISH SPINY FINS	Squalus acanthias	SHARK, SPINY DOGFISH
3560	3560	8835430301	169189	SHEEPSHEAD,ATLANTIC	Archosargus probatocephalus	SHEEPSHEAD
3570		8839013801	170744	SHEEPHEAD,CALIFORNIA	Semicossyphus pulcher	CALIFORNIA SHEEPSHEAD
3572		8710010601	160683	SHARK,DOGFISH COLLARED (COOKIE CUTTER)	Assists brasiliensis	SHARK, DOGFISH COLLARED
3574		8707040403	159922	SHARK,THRESHER PELAGIC	Alopius pelagicus	SHARK, PELAGIC THRESHER
3575		8708020404	160235	SHARK,GRAY SMOOTHHOUND	Mustelus californicus	SHARK, GRAY SMOOTHHOUND
3576		8708020405	160236	SHARK,BROWN SMOOTHHOUND	Mustelus Henley	SHARK, BROWN SMOOTHHOUND
3577		870502	159814	SHARK,COW	Hexanchidae	COW SHARKS
3578		8707030401	159897	SHARK,CROCODILE	Pseudo carcharias kamoharai	SHARK,CROCODILE
3580	3571	87070405	159923	SHARK,MAKO UNC	Isurus	SHARK,MAKO UNC
3581		8708020303	160206	SHARK,CARIBBEAN SHARPNOSE	Rhizoprionodon porosus	SHARK, CARIBBEAN SHARPNOSE
3582		8711010102	160787	SHARK,ATLANTIC ANGEL	Squatina dumerili	SHARK, ATLANTIC ANGEL
3583		8705020301	159844	SHARK,SEVENGILL BIGEYE	Heptranchias Perle	SHARK, SEVENGILL BIGEYE
3584		8707030103	159884	SHARK,BIGEYE SAND TIGER	Odontaspis noronhai	SHARK, TIGER BIGEYE SAND
3585		8707010101	159857	SHARK,WHALE	Rhincodon typus	SHARK, WHALE
3586		8704010101	159791	SHARK,HORN	Heterodontus Francesca	SHARK, HORN
3587		8705020202	159829	SHARK,SEVENGILL	Notoryctus cepedianum	SHARK, SEVENGILL
3588		8707040301	159910	SHARK,SALMON	Lamna dewdrops	SHARK, SALMON
3589		8708010501	160089	SHARK,SWELL	Cephaloscyllium ventricosum	SHARK, SWELL
3590		8850030506	172440	SIERRA	Scomberomorus sierra	PACIFIC SIERRA
3610	3610	8755030201	162035	CAPELIN	Mallotus villosum	CAPELIN
3620	3620	880502	165984	SILVERSIDES	Atherinidae	SILVERSIDES
3650	3650	871304	160845	SKATES	Rajidae	SKATES
3651		8713020201	160824	SKATE,THORNBACK	Platyrhinoidis triseriata	THROWBACK
3652	3670	8713040103	160848	SKATE,BIG	Raja biloculate	SKATE, BIG
3653		8713040104	160849	SKATE,CALIFORNIA	Raja in ornata	SKATE, CALIFORNIA
3654	3660	8713040114	160856	SKATE,LITTLE	Raja erinacea	SKATE, LITTLE
3655	3680	8713040115	160857	SKATE,BARNDOOR	Raja laevis	SKATE, BARNDOOR
3680		88030203	165570	SKIPPERS	Tylosurus	SKIPPERS
3710	3710	8755030302	162041	SMELT,RAINBOW (AT)	Osmerus mordax	SMELT, RAINBOW
3731		8755030501	162051	SMELT,EULACHON	Thaleichthys pacificus	EULACHON

NMF	NMFS_NE	NODC	ITIS	NAME	SCIENTIFIC_NAME	AFS_NAME
3732		875503	162028	SMELTS	Osmeridae	SMELTS
3733		8755030101	162030	SMELT,SURF	Hypomesus pretiosus	SMELT, SURF
3734		8755030401	162048	SMELT,NIGHT	Spirinchus stearnsi	SMELT, NIGHT
3735		8755030601	162053	SMELT,WHITEBAIT	Allomerous elongatus	SMELT, WHITEBAIT
3755		8835360201	168899	SNAPPER,BLACK	Apsilus dentatus	SNAPPER, BLACK
3756		8835360701	168913	HENCHMAN	Pristipomoides aquilonaris	HENCHMAN
3757		8835360106	168852	SNAPPER,BLACKFIN	Lutjanus bacchanalia	SNAPPER, BLACKING
3758		8835360113	168861	SNAPPER,SILK	Lutjanus vivanus	SNAPPER, SILK
3759		8835360101	168847	SNAPPER,CUBERA	Lutjanus Cynopterus	SNAPPER, CUBEBA
3760		8835360102	168848	SNAPPER,GRAY AT (MANGROVE)	Lutjanus griseus	SNAPPER, GRAY
3761		8835360112	168860	SNAPPER,LANE	Lutjanus synagris	SNAPPER, LANE
3763		8835360103	168849	SNAPPER,MUTTON	Lutjanus analis	SNAPPER, MUTTON
3764	3764	8835360107	168853	SNAPPER,RED	Lutjanus campechianum	SNAPPER, RED
3765		8835360501	168909	SNAPPER,VERMILION	Rhomboplites atrorubens	SNAPPER, VERMILION
3767		8835360401	168907	SNAPPER,YELLOWTAIL	Ocyurus chrysurus	SNAPPER, YELLOWTAIL
3768		883536	168845	SNAPPERS,UNC	Lutjanidae	SNAPPERS
3769		8835360801	168926	SNAPPER,JOBFISH or UK	Apron virescent	JOBFISH, GREEN (HAWAIIAN)
3770		8835360301	168902	SNAPPER,QUEEN	Stelis ocellatus	SNAPPER, QUEEN
3771		8835360104	168850	SNAPPER,SCHOOLMASTER	Lutjanus apodus	SCHOOLMASTER
3772		8835360110	168858	SNAPPER,MAHOGONY	Lutjanus mahogani	SNAPPER, MAHOGANY
3777		8835360501	168909	SNAPPER,VERMILION	Rhomboplites atrorubens	SNAPPER, VERMILION
3780		8835360111	168859	SNAPPER,CARIBBEAN RED	Lutjanus purpureus	SNAPPER CARIBBEAN RED
3790		8835010105	167648	SNOOK	Centropomus undecimalis	SNOOK
3810	3810	883552	169537	SPADEFISH	Ephippidae	SPADEFISHES
3840	3840	8850030502	172436	SPANISH MACKEREL	Scomberomorus maculatus	MACKEREL, SPANISH
3841		8850030504	172438	GULF SIERRA	Scomberomorus concolor	GULF SIERRA
3870		8747011001	161763	SPANISH SARDINE	Sardinella aurita	SARDINE, SPANISH
4000		88500603	172498	SPEAR FISHES	Tetrapturus	SPEAR FISHES
4009		8850060303	172501	SPEARFISH,ROUNDSCALE	Tetrapturus George	SPEARFISH, ROUND SCALE
4010		8850060304	172502	SPEARFISH,LONGBILL	Tetrapturus pfluegeri	SPEARFISH, LONG BILL
4030		8776013902	163603	SPRIGTAIL	Pogonichthys microlepidotus	SPRIGTAIL
4060	4060	8835440401	169267	SPOT	Leiostomus xanthurus	SPOT
4090		87760118	163522	SQUAWFISH ES	Ptychocheilus	SQUAWFISH ES
4120		881008	166170	SQUIRRELFISHES	Holocentridae	SQUIRRELFISHES
4180	4180	8835750202	167680	STRIPED BASS	Morone saxatilis	BASS, STRIPED
4211		872901	161064	STURGEONS,UNC	Acipenseridae	STURGEONS
4212		8729010202	161082	STURGEON,SHOVELNOSE	Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchos	STURGEON, SHOVELNOSE
4213		8729010102	161067	STURGEON,GREEN	Acipenser medirostris	STURGEON, GREEN
4214		8729010103	161068	STURGEON,WHITE	Acipenser transmontanus	STURGEON, WHITE
4215	4220	8729010104	161069	STURGEON,SHORTNOSE	Acipenser brevirostrum	STURGEON, SHORTNOSE
4216	4200	8729010105	161070	STURGEON,ATLANTIC	Acipenser oxyrhincus	STURGEON, ATLANTIC
4230	4230	877604	163892	SUCKERS	Catostomidae	SUCKERS
4260	4260	883516	168093	SUNFISHES	Centrarchidae	SUNFISHES
4263		8861040101	173414	SUNFISH,OCEAN	mola	OCEAN SUNFISH
4265		884901	172250	SURGEON FISHES	Acanthuridae	SURGEON FISHES
4290	4290	88610102	173289	PUFFERS	Spheroidea	PUFFERS
4320	4320	8850040101	172482	SWORDFISH	Xiphias gladius	SWORDFISH

NMF	NMFS_NE	NODC	ITIS	NAME	SCIENTIFIC_NAME	AFS_NAME
4350	4350	8738020201	161116	TARPON	MELANOPS atlanticus	TARPON
4380	4380	8839010101	170479	TAUTOG	Tautoga onitis	TAUTOG
4410		8738010101	161111	TENPOUNDER	Elops saurus	LADYFISH
4411		8738010103	161113	TENPOUNDER (TARPON,HAWAIIAN)	Elops Hawaii Ensis	TARPON, HAWAIIAN
4450		883801	170445	THREADFIN	Polynemidae	THREADFIN
4460		88356104	169809	TILAPIA	Tilapia	TILAPIA
4470	4470	8835220201	168546	TILEFISH	Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps	TILEFISH
4472		8835220105	168544	TILEFISH,GOLDFACE	Caulolatilus chrysops	TILEFISH, BOLDFACE
4474		8835220104	168543	TILEFISH,BLUELINE	Caulolatilus microns	TILEFISH, BLUELINE
4475	4472	8835220201	168546	TILEFISH,MEDIUM	Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps	TILEFISH
4476		8835220102	168541	TILEFISH,BLACKLINE	Caulolatilus canapes	TILEFISH, BACK-LINE
4478		8835220301	168548	TILEFISH,SAND	Malacanthus plumieri	TILEFISH, SAND
4479		8835220103	168542	TILEFISH, ANCHOR	Caulolatilus intermedium	TILEFISH, ANCHOR
4480		883522	168537	TILEFISH,UNCLASSIFIED	Malacanthidae	TILEFISHES
4500	4510	878301	164412	TOADYISH	Batrachoididae	TOADYISH
4530	4530	8791030602	164720	TOM COD,ATLANTIC	Microgauss tomcat	TOMCAT, ATLANTIC
4531		8791030601	164719	TOMCOD,PACIFIC	Microgauss proximus	TOMCAT, PACIFIC
4560	4560	886002	173128	TRIGGER FISHES	Balistidae	LEATHERJACKET
4561		8860020201	173138	TRIGGERFISH,GRAY	Balistes caprices	TRIGGERFISH, GRAY
4562		8860020502	173170	TRIGGERFISH,OCEAN	Canthidermis sufflamen	TRIGGERFISH, OCEAN
4563		8860020202	173139	TRIGGERFISH,QUEEN	Balistes vetula	TRIGGERFISH, QUEEN
4590	4590	8835380101	169007	TRIPLETAIL	Lobotes surinamensis	TRIPLETAIL
4651	4701	8850030401	172419	TUNA,ALBACORE	Thunnus alalunga	TUNA, ALBACORE
4652	4670	8850030402	172421	TUNA,BLUEFIN,UNC	Thunnus thynnus	TUNA, BLUEFIN
4653	4681	8850030102	172402	TUNA,LITTLE (TUNNY)	Euthynnus aliterates	LITTLE TUNNY
4654	4661	8850030101	172400	TUNA,SKIPJACK	Euthynnus pelamis	TUNA, SKIPJACK
4655	4711	8850030403	172423	TUNA,YELLOWFIN	Thunnus albacares	TUNA, YELLOWFIN
4656	4657	88500304	172418	TUNA,UNC	Thunnus	TUNA,UNC
4657	4691	8850030405	172428	TUNA,BIGEYE	Thunnus obesus	TUNA, BIGEYE
4658	4641	8850030404	172427	TUNA,BLACKFIN	Thunnus atlanticus	TUNA, BLACKING
4659		8850030103	172403	TUNA,KAWAKAWA	Euthynnus affinis	KAVAKAVA
4660		8850030104	172405	TUNA,BLACK SKIPJACK	Euthynnus lineatus	TUNA,BLACK SKIPJACK
4661		8850030406	172430	TUNA,LONGTAIL	Thunnus Tangail	TUNA, LONGTAIL
4671	4671	8850030402	172421	TUNA,BLUEFIN	Thunnus thynnus	TUNA, BLUEFIN
4679	1580	8857041801	172930	GREENLAND TURBOT	Reinhardtius Hippoglossoides	HALIBUT, GREENLAND
4681		885704	172859	TURBOTS,UNC	Pleuronectidae	RIGHTEYE FLOUNDERS
4682		8857041603	172925	TURBOT,SPOTTED	Pleuronichthys Ritter	TURBOT,SPOTTED
4683		8857041604	172926	TURBOT,HORNYHEAD	Pleuronichthys vertical is	TURBOT, THORNYHEAD
4684		8857042201	172945	TURBOT,DIAMOND	Hypsopsetta guttulata	TURBOT, DIAMOND
4710	4720	8850030601	172451	WAHOO	Acanthocybium solandri	WAHOO
4740		8835020410	167704	GROUPER,WARSAW	Epinephelus nitrites	GROUPER, WARSAW
4800		8776012301	163537	GRASS CARP	Ctenopharyngodon Della	CARP, GRASS
5000		8835750204	167682	WHITE BASS,FW	Morone chrysops	BASS, WHITE
5031		8755010106	161941	WHITEFISH,COMMON	Coregonus clupeaformis	WHITEFISH, LAKE
5035		8755010601	162008	WHITEFISH,MENOMINEE	Prosopium cylindraceum	WHITEFISH, ROUND
5040		8835220101	168540	WHITEFISH,OCEAN	Caulolatilus princeps	OCEAN WHITEFISH

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5060	5060	8835750201	167678	WHITE PERCH	Morone americana	PERCH, WHITE
5070	5070	87910401	164790	HAKE,SILVER/OFFSHORE MIXED	Merluccius	HAKE,SILVER/OFFSHORE MIXED
5080	5080	8791040103	164793	HAKE,OFFSHORE UNC (WHITING,BLACK)	Merluccius albidus	HAKE, OFFSHORE SILVER
5090	5090	8791040101	164791	HAKE,SILVER UNC (WHITING)	Merluccius bilinearis	HAKE, SILVER
5120	5120	8842020103	171341	WOLFFISH,ATLANTIC	Anarhichas lupus	WOLFFISH, ATLANTIC
5126		8842020201	171345	WOLFFISH,PACIFIC	Anarrhichthys ocellatus	WOLF-EEL
5131	5130	8835022801	167914	WRECKFISH	Polyprion americanus	WRECKFISH
5150		8835750205	167683	YELLOW BASS	Morone mississipiensis	BASS, YELLOW
5170	5170	8835200201	168469	YELLOW PERCH	Perca flavescens	PERCH, YELLOW
5190		883520040102	168508	YELLOW PIKE	Stizostedion vitreum	WALLEYE
5230		8835280806	168695	YELLOWTAIL,PACIFIC	Seriola Leland	YELLOWTAIL
5260	5260	8717	161030	FINFISH ES, MARLIN,UNC	Osteichthyes	FINFISHES,UNC FOR FOOD
5510		87770201	163996	CATFISH,AQUACULTURE	Ictalurus	CATFISHES & BULLHEADS
5530		8755010306	161997	TROUT,BROWN,AQUACULTURE	Salmo trutta	TROUT, BROWN
5531		8755010404	162003	TROUT,BROOK,AQUACULTURE	Salvelinus fontinalis	TROUT, BROOK
5532		8755010211	161989	TROUT,RAINBOW,AQUACULTURE	Oncorhynchus mykiss	TROUT, RAINBOW
5580		8755010206	161980	SALMON,KING,AQUACULTURE	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	SALMON, CHINOOK
5581		8755010202	161976	SALMON,CHUM,AQUACULTURE	Oncorhynchus keta	SALMON, CHUM
5582		8755010201	161975	SALMON,PINK,AQUACULTURE	Oncorhynchus gorbuscha	SALMON, PINK
5583		8755010205	161979	SALMON,SOCKEYE,AQUACULTURE	Oncorhynchus nerka	SALMON, SOCKEYE
5584		8755010203	161977	SALMON,COHO,AQUACULTURE	Oncorhynchus kisutch	SALMON, COHO
5585		8755010208	161983	TROUT,CUTTHROAT,AQUACULTURE	Oncorhynchus clarki	TROUT, CUTTHROAT
5586		8755010305	161996	SALMON,ATLANTIC,AQUACULTURE	Salmo salar	SALMON, ATLANTIC
5587		875501	161931	SALMON,UNC,AQUACULTURE	Salmonidae	TROUTS
6000		6104010101	083691	BRINE SHRIMP EGGS	Artemia salina	BRINE SHRIMP
7000	7000	6189010301	098696	CRABS,BLUE,HARD	Callinectes sapidus	CRAB, BLUE
7060		6188030104	098675	CRAB,DUNGENESS	Cancer magister	CRAB, DUNGENESS
7080	7080	6189010701	098734	CRAB,GREEN	caprinus maenad	CRAB, GREEN
7082		6188020201	098665	CRAB,HAIR	Erinaceus isenbeckii	CRAB, HAIR
7090		61830807	097934	CRAB,KING	Paralithodes	CRAB,KING
7091		6183080801	097941	CRAB,GOLDEN KING	Litotes aequispina	CRAB, GOLDEN KING
7100	7100	6189040101	098906	CRAB,RED AT	Gorin coincidence	CRAB, DEEP-SEA RED
7101		6189010801	098737	CRAB,RED PA	Podophthalmus vigil	CRAB,RED PA
7102		6189040104	098909	CRAB,GOLDEN	Gorin fawner	CRAB, DEEP-SEA GOLDEN
7110	7110	6188030107	098678	CRAB,JONAH	Cancer borealis	CRAB, JONAH
7120	7120	6188030108	098679	CRAB,ATLANTIC,ROCK	Cancer irroratus	CRAB, ATLANTIC ROCK
7140	7140	61880301	098671	CRAB,CANCER S.P. UNC	Cancer	CRAB,CANCER
7150		6188030101	098672	CRAB,PACIFIC,ROCK PA	Cancer productus	CRAB, RED ROCK
7176		6189021301	098811	CRAB,STONE	Menippe mercenaria	CRAB, FLORIDA STONE CLAWS
7183		6187010301	098428	CRAB,SNOW,OPILIO	Canachites opilio	CRAB, SNOW
7184		6187010302	098429	CRAB,SNOW,BAIRDI	Canachites Baird	CRAB, SOUTHERN TANNER
7185	7185	61870103	098427	CRAB,SNOW (TANNER)	Canachites	CRAB,SNOW (TANNER)
7187		618701	098417	CRAB,SPIDER	Majidae	SPIDER CRABS
7190	7130	6175	095599	CRAB,UNC	Decapoda	CRAB,UNC
7210	6181		097306	CRAWFISH,FW	Astacidae	CRAYFISHES OR CRAWFISHES
7240	7240	5802010101	082703	HORSESHOE CRAB	Limulus polyphemus	HORSESHOE CRAB

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7270	7270	6181010201	097314	LOBSTER,AMERICAN	Homarus americanus	LOBSTER, AMERICAN
7280		618202	097660	LOBSTER,SLIPPER(BULLDOZER)	Scyllaridae	LOBSTER, SLIPPER
7298		6182010107	199949	LOBSTER,PRONGHORN SPINY	Panulirus penicillatus	LOBSTER, PRONGHORN SPINY
7300		6182010101	097648	LOBSTER,SPINY	Panulirus argus	LOBSTER, CARIBBEAN SPINY
7302		6104010101	083691	SHRIMP,BRINE	Artemia salina	BRINE SHRIMP
7303		618304	097732	SHRIMP,GHOST (SAND)	Colonized	GHOST SHRIMP
7304		6183170101	098208	SHRIMP,SAND PACIFIC (BLUE MUD)	Upogebia pugettensis	SHRIMP, BLUE MUD
7305		61791102	096220	SHRIMP,FW	Macro brachium	SHRIMP,FW
7310	7380	6177010101	095605	SHRIMP,ATLANTIC & GULF,BROWN	Peneus Aztecs	SHRIMP, BROWN
7320		6177010102	095608	SHRIMP,ATLANTIC & GULF,PINK	Peneus duorarum	SHRIMP, PINK
7321		6177010104	095612	SHRIMP,ATLANTIC & GULF,PINKSPOT	Peneus brasiliensis	SHRIMP, PINKSPOT
7325		61770401	096027	SHRIMP,ROCK	Sechuana	ROCK SHRIMPS
7330		6177030301	095966	SHRIMP,ATLANTIC & GULF, ROYAL RED	Pleoticus robustus	SHRIMP, ROYAL RED
7338		6177010701	095750	SHRIMP,ATLANTIC & GULF, SEA BOBS	Xiphopenaeus Crary	SEABOB
7339		61770102	095647	SHRIMP,ATLANTIC & GULF, ROUGHNECK	Trachypenaeus	SHRIMP,ATLANTIC & GULF, ROUGHNECK
7340		6177010103	095610	SHRIMP,ATLANTIC & GULF,	Peneus setiferum	SHRIMP, WHITE
7350		6177010804	095759	SHRIMP,PINK-SPECKLED	Penaeopsis serrata	PINK-SPECKLED SHRIMP
7355	7355	6177050501	096071	SHRIMP,SCARLET	Plesiopenaeus edwardsianus	SCARLET SHRIMP
7360	7360	6179180101	096967	SHRIMP,ATLANTIC & GULF, MARLIN,UNC	Pandanus borealis	SHRIMP, NORTHERN
7370		617922	097106	SHRIMP,PACIFIC,BAY	Crangonidae	SHRIMP, BAY
7373		6179180106	096981	SHRIMP,COONSTRIPE	Pandanus hypsinotus	COONSTRIPE SHRIMP
7374		6179180204	096995	SHRIMP,SIDESTRIPE	Pandalopsis dispar	SIDE STRIPE SHRIMP
7375		6179180103	096970	SHRIMP,PACIFIC,OCEAN	Pandanus jordani	SHRIMP, OCEAN
7377		6177040109	096038	SHRIMP,RIDGEBACK	Sechuana indents	SHRIMP, PACIFIC ROCK
7378		6179180105	096979	SHRIMP,SPOT	Pandanus platy ceros	SHRIMP, SPOT
7381		6176	095600	SHRIMP,MARINE,OTHER	Decapoda, Dendrobranchiata	SHRIMP,MARINE,OTHER
7385	7370	6191	099140	MANTIS SHRIMPS	Stomatopoda	MANTIS SHRIMPS
7390		510203	069492	ABALONE,UNC	Haliotidae	ABALONE
7391		5102030113	069508	ABALONE,THREADED	Haliotis tuberculata	ABALONE,THREADED
7392		5102030101	069494	ABALONE,PINTO	Haliotis kamtschatkana	ABALONE,PINTO
7393		5102030102	069497	ABALONE,RED	Haliotis rufescens	ABALONE,RED
7394		5102030103	069498	ABALONE,BLACK	Haliotis cracherodii	ABALONE,BLACK
7395		5102030104	069499	ABALONE,PINK	Haliotis corrugate	ABALONE,PINK
7396		5102030105	069500	ABALONE,GREEN	Haliotis fulgens	ABALONE,GREEN
7397		5102030106	069501	ABALONE,FLAT	Haliotis walallensis	ABALONE,FLAT
7398		5102030107	069502	ABALONE,WHITE	Haliotis sorenseni	ABALONE,WHITE
7399		6182010103	097650	LOBSTER,CALIFORNIA SPINY	Panulirus interruptus	LOBSTER, CALIFORNIA SPINY
7420		5515220102	080873	CLAMS,PACIFIC,COCKLE	Clinocardium nuttallii	COCKLE, NUTTALL
7430	7430	5506010202	079342	CLAM,BLOOD ARC	Unitary ovalis	CLAM, ARC, BLOOD
7450		5515320103	081248	CLAM,COQUINA	Donax variabilis	CLAM, VARIABLE CHICANE

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7471		55154711	081495	CLAM,BUTTON	Mercenaria	CLAM,QUAHOG
7483		5515470201	081447	CLAM,PACIFIC,BUTTER	Saxidomus giganteus	CLAM, BUTTER
7484		55152502	080954	CLAM,PACIFIC,GAPER	Tress	CLAM,PACIFIC,GAPER
7486		5515470701	081464	CLAM,PACIFIC,LITTLENECK	Protothaca Sabinea	CLAM, PACIFIC LITTLENECK
7488	7488	5515471101	081496	CLAM,NORTHERN QUAHOG	mercenaria	CLAM, NORTHERN QUAHOG
7489		5515450201	081386	CLAM,PACIFIC,MANILA	Curricula manilensis	CLAM, MANILA
7500		5517060401	081777	CLAM,GEODUCK	Panopea generis	CLAM, PACIFIC GATWICK
7510	7481	55154711	081495	CLAM,HARD	Mercenaria	CLAM,QUAHOG
7520		5515471802	081579	CLAM,SUNRAY VENUS	Macrocallista nimbosa	CLAM, SUNRAY VENUS
7540	7540	5515390101	081343	CLAM,OCEAN QUAHOG	Arctica islandica	CLAM, OCEAN QUAHOG
7570		5515472002	081584	CLAM,PISMO	Tuvalu stultorum	CLAM, PISMO
7590		5515250401	080962	CLAM,RANGIA	Range cuneata	CLAM, ATLANTIC RANGE
7600	7600	5515290301	081022	CLAM,RAZOR,ATLANTIC	Ensis directs	CLAM, ATLANTIC JACKKNIFE
7605		5515290101	081008	CLAM,RAZOR,PACIFIC	Siliqua patula	CLAM, PACIFIC RAZOR
7610		5515290204	081019	CLAM,ROSY JACKKNIFE	Soled rosaceus	CLAM,ROSY JACKKNIFE
7630	7630	5517010201	081692	CLAM,SOFT	Mya arenaria	CLAM, SOFTSHELL
7650	7650	5515251001	080983	CHAR,ARCTIC SURF (SIMPSON)	Mactromeris polynyma	CHAR,ARCTIC SURF (SIMPSON)
7690	7690	5515250102	080944	CLAM,SURF	Spirula solidissima	CLAM, ATLANTIC SURF
7720	7640	55	079118	CLAM,UNC	Bivalvia	CLAMS OR BIVALVES
7721		5515290306	081027	CLAM,CALIFORNIA JACKNIFE	Ensis Myra	CALIFORNIA JACKNIFE
7750	7750	51035801	072555	SNAILS(CONCHS)	Strombus	SNAILS(CONCHS)
7751	7770	5105070101	074071	WHELK,KNOBBED	Busycon carica	WHELK, KNOBBED
7752	7780	5105070103	074075	WHELK,LIGHTNING	Busycon sinistrum	WHELK, LIGHTNING
7753	7760	5105070201	074096	WHELK,CHANNELED	Busycotypus canaliculatus	WHELK, CHANNELED
7780		510204	069510	LIMPETS	Fissurellidae	LIMPETS
7810	7810	5507010101	079454	MUSSEL,SEA	Mytilus edulis	MUSSEL, BLUE
7811		5507010102	079455	MUSSEL,CALIFORNIA	Mytilus californianus	MUSSEL, CALIFORNIA
7830		551202	079913	MUSSELS,MUSSELS SHELLS,FW	Unionidae	MUSSELS,FW
7860	7860	570801	082590	OCTOPUS	Octopodidae	OCTOPUS
7890	7890	5510020102	079872	OYSTER,EASTERN	Crass Ostrea virginica	OYSTER, EASTERN
7920		5510020101	079868	OYSTER,PACIFIC	Crass ostrea gigas	OYSTER, PACIFIC
7921	7921	5510020205	079885	OYSTER,EUROPEAN FLAT	Ostrea edulis	OYSTER, EUROPEAN FLAT
7950		5510020501	079895	OYSTER,OLYMPIA	Astrally conchaphila	OYSTER, OLYMPIA
7980	7980	510310	070394	PERIWINKLES,ATLANTIC	Littorinidae	PERIWINKLES
8001	7990	5509051202	079737	SCALLOP,BAY	Argopecten irradians	SCALLOP, BAY
8005	7970	5509051201	079734	SCALLOP,CALICO	Argopecten gibbous	SCALLOP, CALICO
8007	7950	5509050103	079619	SCALLOP,ICELANDIC SEA	Chlamys islandica	SCALLOP, ICELAND
8009	8009	5509050901	079718	SCALLOP,SEA	Placopecten magellanicus	SCALLOP, SEA
8011		5509051501	079757	SCALLOP,WEATHERVANE	Patinopecten caurinus	SCALLOP, WEATHERVANE
8013		5509050101	079613	SCALLOP,SPINY	Chlamys hastate	SCALLOP, SPINY
8015	7960	550905	079611	SCALLOP,UNC	Pectinidae	SCALLOPS
8030	8030	570601	082369	SQUIDS,UNC	Loliginidae	SQUID
8031	8020	5707150301	082521	SQUID,SHORT-FINNED	Ilex illecebrosus	SQUID, NORTHERN SHORTFIN
8032	8010	5706010102	082372	SQUID,LONG FINNED	Loligo pealeii	SQUID, LONGFIN
8033		5706010101	082371	SQUID,CALIFORNIA MARKET	Loligo opalescent	SQUID, CALIFORNIA MARKET
8034		5707150501	082538	SQUID,JUMBO MARKET	Dosidicus gigas	SQUID, JUMBO
8040	8040	5085	069458	MOLLUSKS,UNC	Mollusca	MOLLUSKS,UNC

NMF	NMFS_NE	NODC	ITIS	NAME	SCIENTIFIC_NAME	AFS_NAME
8050	8050	81490302	157968	SEA URCHINS	Strongylocentrotus	SEA URCHINS
8055	81	156857		ECHINODERM	Echinodermata	ECHINODERM
8081	8081	9002030301	173780	TERRAPIN	Malaclemys terrapin	TURTLE, TERRAPIN
8085	8060	8170	158140	SEA CUCUMBER	Holothuroidea	SEA CUCUMBER
8090	84	203347		TUNICATE	Urochordata	SEA SQUIRTS
8111		90020304	173782	TURTLES,BABY(YOUNG FRESH WATER	Chrysemys	TURTLES,BABY(YOUNG FRESH WATER
8112	8090	9002040201	173833	TURTLE,GREEN(SEA)	Chelonia mydas	TURTLE, GREEN SEA
8113		9002040301	173836	TURTLE,HAWKSBILL(SEA)	Eretmochelys imbricata	TURTLE, HAWKSBILL SEA
8114	8130	9002040101	173830	TURTLE,LOGGERHEAD(SEA)	caretta	TURTLE, LOGGERHEAD SEA
8115	8110	90020308	173803	TURTLES,SLIDERS	Pseudemys	TURTLES,SLIDERS
8116	8150	9002010101	173752	TURTLES,SNAPPING	Chelydra serpentina	TURTLES,SNAPPING
8117		90020601	173846	TURTLES,SOFT-SHELL	Trionyx	TURTLES,SOFT-SHELL
8118		9002050101	173843	TURTLES,LEATHERBACK	Dermochelys coriacea	TURTLE, LEATHERBACK
8119		9002040401	173839	TURTLES,KEMP'S RIDLEY	Lepidochelys kemp	TURTLE, KEMP'S RIDLEY
8120	8160	9001	173748	TURTLES,UNC	ANAPSIDA	TURTLES,UNC
8140		890302	173433	FROGS	Ranidae	FROGS
8160		3740	051938	CORALS	Anthozoa	CORALS
8171	8171	1608100101	012092	CETERACH MOSS	Chondrus crispus	SEAWEED, IRISH MOSS
8172		15080302	011272	SEAWEED,KELP	Macrocystis	SEAWEED,KELP
8173		1510010101	011331	SEAWEED,ROCKWEED	Ascophyllum nodosum	SEAWEED,ROCKWEED
8178		15	010685	SEAWEED,UNC	Phaeophyta	SEAWEED,UNC
8179		874701020101	161723	SEAWEED,KELP WITH HERRING ROE	Clupea harengus pallasi	HERRING, PACIFIC, ROE ON KELP
8200		36	046861	SPONGE,UNC	Porifera	SPONGE,UNC
8201		3661010107	196435	SPONGE,GLOVE	Spongia cheiri	SPONGE,GLOVE
8202		3661010108	196436	SPONGE,GRASS	Spongia grained	SPONGE,GRASS
8203		3661011902	196440	SPONGES,SHEEPSWOOL	Hippo spongia Lachine	SPONGES,SHEEPSWOOL
8204		3661010109	196437	SPONGE,WIRE	Spongia stereo	SPONGE,WIRE
8205		3661010106	196434	SPONGE,YELLOW	Spongia barbara	SPONGE,YELLOW
8230	8230	5001270105	066107	BLOODWORMS	Glyceria Dibranchiata	BLOODWORMS
8250	8250	50012404	065902	SANDWORMS	Nereid	SANDWORMS
8260	5001		064358	MARINE WORM	Polychaeta	MARINE WORM
8280	8280	811703	157212	STARFISH	Asteridae	STARFISH
9001		9217	180403	WHALE	Cetacea	WHALES,UNC
9007		9009020101	174367	ALLIGATOR	Alligator mississipiensis	ALLIGATOR, AMERICAN
9010		92	179913	MAMMALS,AQUATIC,UNC	Mammalia	MAMMALS,AQUATIC,UNC
9030		9221010601	180627	FUR SEAL	Callorhinus ursinus	SEAL, NORTHERN FUR
9106	9990	61	083677	SHELLFISH,SW,UNC	Crustacea	SHELLFISH,UNC
9560		617701	095602	SHRIMP AQUACULTURE	Peneidae	PAINED SHRIMP
9990	8990	61	083677	SHELLFISH,OTHER	Crustacea	SHELLFISH,UNC

Table A.8. Standard FIN state, county and port codes (FIPs). Please note that the port codes are not included in this list. The reason for this is because there are so many and it would increase the size of this document to an unmanageable size. If you need a port code, you can go to the GSMFC web page and click on the SEARCH option and enter the STATE and COUNTY information.

STATE: ALABAMA (AL) **STATE CODE: 01**

CODE	*COUNTY NAME*
001	AUTAUGA
003	BALDWIN
005	BARBOUR
007	BIBB
009	BLOUNT
011	BULLOCK
013	BUTLER
015	CALHOUN
017	CHAMBERS
019	CHEROKEE
021	CHILTON
023	CHOCTAW
025	CLARKE
027	CLAY
029	CLEBURNE
031	COFFEE
033	COLBERT
035	CONECUH
037	COOSA
039	COVINGTON
041	CRENSHAW
043	CULLMAN
045	DALE
047	DALLAS
049	DE KALB
051	ELMORE
053	ESCAMBIA
055	ETOWAH
057	FAYETTE
059	FRANKLIN
061	GENEVA
063	GREENE
065	HALE
067	HENRY
069	HOUSTON
071	JACKSON
073	JEFFERSON
075	LAMAR
077	LAUDERDALE
079	LAWRENCE
081	LEE
083	LIMESTONE
085	LOWNDES
087	MACON
089	MADISON
091	MARENGO
093	MARION
095	MARSHALL
097	MOBILE
099	MONROE
101	MONTGOMERY
103	MORGAN
105	PERRY
107	PICKENS
109	PIKE
111	RANDOLPH
113	RUSSELL
115	ST. CLAIR
117	SHELBY
119	SUMTER
121	TALLADEGA
123	TALLAPOOSA
125	TUSCALOOSA
127	WALKER
129	WASHINGTON
131	WILCOX
133	WINSTON

STATE: FLORIDA (FL) **STATE CODE: 12**

CODE	*COUNTY NAME*
001	ALACHUA
003	BAKER
005	BAY
007	BRADFORD
009	BREVARD
011	BROWARD
013	CALHOUN
015	CHARLOTTE
017	CITRUS
019	CLAY
021	COLLIER
023	COLUMBIA
025	DADE
027	DE SOTO
029	DIXIE
031	DUVAL
033	ESCAMBIA
035	FLAGLER
037	FRANKLIN
039	GADSDEN
041	GILCHRIST
043	GLADES
045	GULF
047	HAMILTON
049	HARDEE
051	HENDRY
053	HERNANDO
055	HIGHLANDS
057	HILLSBOROUGH
059	HOLMES
061	INDIAN RIVER
063	JACKSON
065	JEFFERSON
067	LAFAYETTE
069	LAKE
071	LEE
073	LEON
075	LEVY
077	LIBERTY
079	MADISON
081	MANATEE
083	MARION
085	MARTIN
087	MONROE
089	NASSAU
091	OKALOOSA
093	OKEECHOBEE
095	ORANGE
097	OSCEOLA
099	PALM BEACH
101	PASCO
103	PINELLAS
105	POLK
107	PUTNAM
109	ST. JOHNS
111	ST.LUCIE
113	SANTA ROSA
115	SARASOTA
117	SEMINOLE
119	SUMTER
121	SUWANNEE
123	TAYLOR
125	UNION
127	VOLUSIA
129	WAKULLA
131	WALTON
133	WASHINGTON

STATE: GEORGIA (GA) **STATE CODE: 13**

CODE	*COUNTY NAME*
001	APPLING
003	ATKINSON
005	BACON
007	BAKER
009	BALDWIN
011	BANKS
013	BARROW
015	BARTOW
017	BEN HILL
019	BERRIEN
021	BIBB
023	BLECKLEY
025	BRANTLEY
027	BROOKS
029	BRYAN
031	BULLOCH
033	BURKE
035	BUTTS
037	CALHOUN
039	CAMDEN
043	CANDLER
045	CARROLL
047	CATOOSA
049	CHARLTON
051	CHATHAM
053	CHATTAHOOCHEE
055	CHATTOOGA
057	CHEROKEE
059	CLARKE
061	CLAY
063	CLAYTON
065	CLINCH
067	COBB
069	COFFEE
071	COLQUITT
073	COLUMBIA
075	COOK
077	COWETA
079	CRAWFORD
081	CRISP
083	DADE
085	DAWSON
087	DECATUR
089	DE KALB
091	DODGE
093	DOOLY
095	DOUGHERTY
097	DOUGLAS
099	EARLY
101	ECHOLS
103	EFFINGHAM
105	ELBERT
107	EMANUEL
109	EVANS
111	FANNIN
113	FAYETTE
115	FLOYD
117	FORSYTH
119	FRANKLIN
121	FULTON
123	GILMER
125	GLASCOCK
127	GLYNN
129	GORDON
131	GRADY
133	GREENE
135	GWINNETT
137	HABERSHAM
139	HALL
141	HANCOCK
143	HARALSON
145	HARRIS
147	HART
149	HEARD
151	HENRY
153	HOUSTON
155	IRWIN
157	JACKSON
159	JASPER
161	JEFF DAVIS
163	JEFFERSON
165	JENKINS
167	JOHNSON
169	JONES
171	LAMAR
173	LANIER
175	LAURENS
177	LEE
179	LIBERTY
181	LINCOLN
183	LONG
185	LOWNDES
187	LUMPKIN
189	MCDUFFIE
191	MCINTOSH
193	MACON
195	MADISON
197	MARION
199	MERIWEATHER
201	MILLER
205	MITCHELL
207	MONROE
209	MONTGOMERY
211	MORGAN
213	MURRAY
215	MUSCOGEE
217	NEWTON
219	OCONEE
221	OGLETHORPE
223	PAULDING
225	PEACH
227	PICKENS
229	PIERCE
231	PIKE
233	POLK
235	PULASKI
237	PUTNAM
239	QUITMAN
241	RABUN
243	RANDOLPH
245	RICHMOND
247	ROCKDALE
249	SCHLEY
251	SCREVEN
253	SEMINOLE
255	SPALDING
257	STEPHENS
259	STEWART
261	SUMTER
263	TALBOT
265	TALIAFERRO
267	TATTNALL
269	TAYLOR
271	TELFAIR
273	TERRELL
275	THOMAS
277	TIFT
279	TOOMBS
281	TOWNS
283	TREUTLEN
285	TROUP
287	TURNER
289	TWIGGS
291	UNION
293	UPSON
295	WALKER
297	WALTON
299	WARE
301	WARREN
303	WASHINGTON
305	WAYNE
307	WEBSTER
309	WHEELER
311	WHITE
313	WHITFIELD
315	WILCOX
317	WILKES
319	WILKINSON
321	WORTH

STATE: LOUISIANA (LA) **STATE CODE: 22**

CODE	*COUNTY NAME*
001	ACADIA
003	ALLEN
005	ASCENSION
007	ASSUMPTION
009	AVOYELLES
011	BEAUREGARD
013	BIENVILLE
015	BOSSIER
017	CADDO
019	CALCASIEU
021	CALDWELL
023	CAMERON
025	CATAHOULA
027	CLAIBORNE
029	CONCORDIA
031	DE SOTO
033	EAST BATON ROUGE
035	EAST CARROLL
037	EAST FELICIANA
039	EVANGELINE
041	FRANKLIN
043	GRANT
045	IBERIA
047	IBERVILLE
049	JACKSON
051	JEFFERSON
053	JEFFERSON DAVIS
055	LAFAYETTE
057	LAFOURCHE
059	LA SALLE
061	LINCOLN
063	LIVINGSTON
065	MADISON
067	MOREHOUSE
069	NATCHITOCHES
071	ORLEANS
073	OUACHITA
075	PLAQUEMINES
077	POINTE COUPEE
079	RAPIDES
081	RED RIVER
083	RICHLAND
085	SABINE
087	ST. BERNARD
089	ST. CHARLES
091	ST. HELENA
093	ST. JAMES
095	ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
097	ST. LANDRY
099	ST. MARTIN
101	ST. MARY
103	ST. TAMMANY
105	TANGIPAHOA
107	TENSAS
109	TERREB0NNE
111	UNION
113	VERMILION
115	VERNON
117	WASHINGTON
119	WEBSTER
121	WEST BATON ROUGE
123	WEST CARROLL
125	WEST FELICIANA
127	WINN

STATE: MISSISSIPPI (MS) **STATE CODE: 28**

CODE	*COUNTY NAME*
001	ADAMS
003	ALCORN
005	AMITE
007	ATTALA
009	BENTON
011	BOLIVAR
013	CALHOUN
015	CARROLL
017	CHICKASAW
019	CHOCTAW
021	CLAIBORNE
023	CLARKE
025	CLAY
027	COAHOMA
029	COPIAH
031	COVINGTON
033	DE SOTO
035	FORREST
037	FRANKLIN
039	GEORGE
041	GREENE
043	GRENADA
045	HANCOCK
047	HARRISON
049	HINDS
051	HOLMES
053	HUMPHREYS
055	ISSAQUENA
057	ITAWAMBA
059	JACKSON
061	JASPER
063	JEFFERSON
065	JEFFERSON DAVIS
067	JONES
069	KEMPER
071	LAFAYETTE
073	LAMAR
075	LAUDERDALE
077	LAWRENCE
079	LEAKE
081	LEE
083	LEFLORE
085	LINCOLN
087	LOWNDES
089	MADISON
091	MARION
093	MARSHALL
095	MONROE
097	MONTGOMERY
099	NESHOBA
101	NEWTON
103	NOXUBEE
105	OKTIBBEHA
107	PANOLA
109	PEARL RIVER
111	PERRY
113	PIKE
115	PONTOTOC
117	PRENTISS
119	QUITMAN
121	RANKIN
123	SCOTT
125	SHARKEY
127	SIMPSON
129	SMITH
131	STONE
133	SUNFLOWER
135	TALLAHATCHIE
137	TATE
139	TIPPAH
141	TISHOMINGO
143	TUNICA
145	UNION
147	WALTHALL
149	WARREN
151	WASHINGTON
153	WAYNE
155	WEBSTER
157	WILKINSON
159	WINSTON
161	YALOBUSHA
163	YAZOO

STATE: NORTH CAROLINA (NC) **STATE CODE: 37**

CODE	*COUNTY NAME*
001	ALAMANCE
003	ALEXANDER
005	ALLEGHANY
007	ANSON
009	ASHE
011	AVERY
013	BEAUFORT
015	BERTIE
017	BLADEN
019	BRUNSWICK
021	BUNCOMBE
023	BURKE
025	CABARRUS
027	CALDWELL
029	CAMDEN
031	CARTERET
033	CASWELL
035	CATAWBA
037	CHATHAM
039	CHEROKEE
041	CHOWAN
043	CLAY
045	CLEVELAND
047	COLUMBUS
049	CRAVEN
051	CUMBERLAND
053	CURRITUCK
055	DARE
057	DAVIDSON
059	DAVIE
061	DUPLIN
063	DURHAM
065	EDGECOMBE
067	FORSYTH
069	FRANKLIN
071	GASTON
073	GATES
075	GRAHAM
077	GRANVILLE
079	GREENE
081	GUILFORD
083	HALIFAX
085	HARNETT
087	HAYWOOD
089	HENDERSON
091	HERTFORD
093	HOKE
095	HYDE
097	IREDELL
099	JACKSON
101	JOHNSTON
103	JONES
105	LEE
107	LENOIR
109	LINCOLN
111	MCDOWELL
113	MACON
115	MADISON
117	MARTIN
119	MECKLENBURG
121	MITCHELL
123	MONTGOMERY
125	MOORE
127	NASH
129	NEW HANOVER
131	NORTHAMPTON
133	ONSLOW
135	ORANGE
137	PAMLICO
139	PASQUOTANK
141	PENDER
143	PERQUIMANS
145	PERSON
147	PITT
149	POLK
151	RANDOLPH
153	RICHMOND
155	ROBESON
157	ROCKINGHAM
159	ROWAN
161	RUTHERFORD
163	SAMPSON
165	SCOTLAND
167	STANLY
169	STOKES
171	SURRY
173	SWAIN
175	TRANSYLVANIA
177	TYRRELL
179	UNION
181	VANCE
183	WAKE
185	WARREN
187	WASHINGTON
189	WATAUGA
191	WAYNE
193	WILKES
195	WILSON
197	YADKIN
199	YANCEY

STATE: PUERTO RICO (PR) **STATE CODE:**

CODE	*COUNTY NAME*
001	ADJUNTAS
003	AGUADA
005	AGUADILLA
007	AGUAS BUENAS
009	AIBONITO
011	ANASCO
013	ARECIBO
015	ARROYO
017	BARCELONETA
019	BARRANQUITAS
021	BAYAMON
023	CABO ROJO
025	CAGUAS
027	CAMUY
029	CANOVANAS
031	CAROLINA
033	CATANO
035	CAYEY
037	CEIBA
039	CIALES
041	CIDRA
043	COAMO
045	COMERIO
047	COROZAL
049	CULEBRA
051	DORADO
053	FAJARDO
054	FLORIDA
055	GUANICA
057	GUAYAMA
059	GUAYANILLA
061	GUAYNABO
063	GURABO
065	HATILLO
067	HORMIGUEROS
069	HUMACAO
071	ISABELA
073	JAYUYA
075	JUANA DIAZ
077	JUNCOS
079	LAJAS
081	LARES
083	LAS MARIAS
085	LAS PIEDRAS
087	LOIZA
089	LUQUILLO
091	MANATI
093	MARICAO
095	MAUNABO
097	MAYAGUEZ
099	MOCA
101	MOROVIS
103	NAGUABO
105	NARANJITO
107	OROCOVIS
109	PATILLAS
111	PENUELAS
113	PONCE
115	QUEBRADILLAS
117	RINCON
119	RIO GRANDE
121	SABANA GRANDE
123	SALINAS
125	SAN GERMAN
127	SAN JUAN
129	SAN LORENZO
131	SAN SEBASTIAN
133	SANTA ISABEL
135	TOA ALTA
137	TOA BAJA
139	TRUJILLO ALTO
141	UTUADO
143	VEGA ALTA
145	VEGA BAJA
147	VIEQUES
149	VILLALBA
151	YABUCOA
153	YAUCO

STATE: SOUTH CAROLINA (SC) **STATE CODE: 45**

CODE	*COUNTY NAME*
001	ABBEVILLE
003	AIKEN
005	ALLENDALE
007	ANDERSON
009	BAMBERG
011	BARNWELL
013	BEAUFORT
015	BERKELEY
017	CALHOUN
019	CHARLESTON
021	CHEROKEE
023	CHESTER
025	CHESTERFIELD
027	CLARENDON
029	COLLETON
031	DARLINGTON
033	DILLON
035	DORCHESTER
037	EDGEFIELD
039	FAIRFIELD
041	FLORENCE
043	GEORGETOWN
045	GREENVILLE
047	GREENWOOD
049	HAMPTON
051	HORRY
053	JASPER
055	KERSHAW
057	LANCASTER
059	LAURENS
061	LEE
063	LEXINGTON
065	MCCORMICK
067	MARION
069	MARLBORO
071	NEWBERRY
073	OCONEE
075	ORANGEBURG
077	PICKENS
079	RICHLAND
081	SALUDA
083	SPARTANBURG
085	SUMTER
087	UNION
089	WILLIAMSBURG
091	YORK

STATE: TEXAS (TX) **STATE CODE: 48**

CODE	*COUNTY NAME*
001	ANDERSON
003	ANDREWS
005	ANGELINA
007	ARANSAS
009	ARCHER
011	ARMSTRONG
013	ATASCOSA
015	AUSTIN
017	BAILEY
019	BANDERA
021	BASTROP
023	BAYLOR
025	BEE
027	BELL
029	BEXAR
031	BLANCO
033	BORDEN
035	BOSQUE
037	BOWIE
039	BRAZORIA
041	BRAZOS
043	BREWSTER
045	BRISCOE
047	BROOKS
049	BROWN
051	BURLESON
053	BURNET
055	CALDWELL
057	CALHOUN
059	CALLAHAN
061	CAMERON
063	CAMP
065	CARSON
067	CASS
069	CASTRO
071	CHAMBERS
073	CHEROKEE
075	CHILDRESS
077	CLAY
079	COCHRAN
081	COKE
083	COLEMAN
085	COLLIN
087	COLLINGSWORTH
089	COLORADO
091	COMAL
093	COMANCHE
095	CONCHO
097	COOKE
099	CORYELL
101	COTTLE
103	CRANE
105	CROCKETT
107	CROSBY
109	CULBERSON
111	DALLAM
113	DALLAS
115	DAWSON
117	DEAF SMITH
119	DELTA
121	DENTON
123	DE WITT
125	DICKENS
127	DIMMIT
129	DONLEY
131	DUVAL
133	EASTLAND
135	ECTOR
137	EDWARDS
139	ELLIS
141	EL PASO
143	ERATH
145	FALLS
147	FANNIN
149	FAYETTE
151	FISHER
153	FLOYD
155	FOARD
157	FORT BEND
159	FRANKLIN
161	FREESTONE
163	FRIO
165	GAINES
167	GALVESTON
169	GARZA
171	GILLESPIE
173	GLASSCOCK
175	GOLIAD
177	GONZALES
179	GRAY
181	GRAYSON
183	GREGG
185	GRIMES
187	GUADALUPE
189	HALE
191	HALL
193	HAMILTON
195	HANSFORD
197	HARDEMAN
199	HARDIN
201	HARRIS
203	HARRISON
205	HARTLEY
207	HASKELL
209	HAYS
211	HEMPHILL
213	HENDERSON
215	HIDALGO
217	HILL
219	HOCKLEY
221	HOOD
223	HOPKINS
225	HOUSTON
227	HOWARD
229	HUDSPETH
231	HUNT
233	HUTCHINSON
235	IRION
237	JACK
239	JACKSON
241	JASPER
243	JEFF DAVIS
245	JEFFERSON
247	JIM HOGG
249	JIM WELLS
251	JOHNSON
253	JONES
255	KARNES
257	KAUFMAN
259	KENDALL
261	KENEDY
263	KENT
265	KERR
267	KIMBLE
269	KING
271	KINNEY
273	KLEBERG
275	KNOX
277	LAMAR
279	LAMB
281	LAMPASAS
283	LA SALLE
285	LAVACA
287	LEE
289	LEON
291	LIBERTY
293	LIMESTONE
295	LIPSCOMB
297	LIVE OAK
299	LANO
301	LOVING
303	LUBBOCK
305	LYNN
307	MCCULLOCH
309	MCLENNAN
311	MCMULLEN
313	MADISON
315	MARION
317	MARTIN
319	MASON
321	MATAGORDA
323	MAVERICK
325	MEDINA
327	MENARD
329	MIDLAND
331	MILAM
333	MILLS
335	MITCHELL

CODE	*COUNTY NAME*
337	MONTAGUE
339	MONTGOMERY
341	MOORE
343	MORRIS
345	MOTLEY
347	NACOGDOCHES
349	NAVARRO
351	NEWTON
353	NOLAN
355	NUECES
357	OCHILTREE
359	OLDHAM
361	ORANGE
363	PALO PINTO
365	PANOLA
367	PARKER
369	PARMER
371	PECOS
373	POLK
375	POTTER
377	PRESIDIO
379	RAINS
381	RANDALL
383	REAGAN
385	REAL
387	RED RIVER
389	REEVES
391	REFUGIO
393	ROBERTS
395	ROBERTSON
397	ROCKWALL
399	RUNNELS
401	RUSK
403	SABINE
405	SAN AUGUSTINE
407	SAN JACINTO
409	SAN PATRICIO
411	SAN SABA
413	SCHLEICHER
415	SCURRY
417	SHACKELFORD
419	SHELBY
421	SHERMAN
423	SMITH
425	SOMERVELL
427	STARR
429	STEPHENS
431	STERLING
433	STONEWALL
435	SUTTON
437	SWISHER
439	TARRANT
441	TAYLOR
443	TERRELL
445	TERRY
447	THROCKMORTON
449	TITUS
451	TOM GREEN
453	TRAVIS
455	TRINITY
457	TYLER
459	UPSHUR
461	UPTON
463	UVALDE
465	VAL VERDE
467	VAN ZANDT
469	VICTORIA
471	WALKER
473	WALLER
475	WARD
477	WASHINGTON
479	WEBB
481	WHARTON
483	WHEELER
485	WICHITA
487	WILBARGER
489	WILLACY
491	WILLIAMSON
493	WILSON
495	WINKLER
497	WISE
499	WOOD
501	YOAKUM
503	YOUNG
505	ZAPATA
507	ZAVALA

STATE: U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (VI) **STATE CODE:**

CODE	*COUNTY NAME*
010	ST. CROIX
020	ST. JOHN
030	ST. THOMAS

Table A.9 Standard FIN sex codes.

SEX CODE	DESCRIPTION
M	Male
F	Female
U	Unknown

Table A.10 Standard FIN area fished codes.

AREA CODE	AREA NAME	REG	SUB AREA CODE	SUB AREA NAME
000	Unknown	Unk	8888	Unknown
001	Key West		0000	0-3 miles
001	Key West		0001	North of Us 1
001	Key West		8888	Unknown
001	Key West		9998	EEZ
001	Key West		9999	International waters
002	Tortugas		0000	0-3 miles
002	Tortugas		8888	Unknown
002	Tortugas		9998	EEZ
002	Tortugas		9999	International waters
003	Everglades		0000	0-3 miles
003	Everglades		0001	Rookery Bay
003	Everglades		0002	Whitewater Bay
003	Everglades		8888	Unknown
003	Everglades		9998	EEZ
003	Everglades		9999	International waters
004	Fort Myers		0000	0-3 miles
004	Fort Myers		0001	Charlotte Harbor
004	Fort Myers		0002	Lemon Bay/Gasparilla Sound
004	Fort Myers		0003	Pine Island Sound/San Carlos Bay
004	Fort Myers		0004	Estero Bay
004	Fort Myers		0005	Rookery Bay
004	Fort Myers		0006	Other Inland Waters
004	Fort Myers		0008	Lake Okeechobee
004	Fort Myers		8888	Unknown
004	Fort Myers		9998	EEZ
004	Fort Myers		9999	International waters
005	Tampa		0000	0-3 miles
005	Tampa		0001	Tampa Bay
005	Tampa		0002	St. Josephs Sound
005	Tampa		0003	Sarasota Bay
005	Tampa		0004	Anna Maria Sound
005	Tampa		8888	Unknown
005	Tampa		9998	EEZ
005	Tampa		9999	International waters
006	Crystal River-Tarpon Springs		0000	0-3 miles
006	Crystal River-Tarpon Springs		0001	St. Joseph Sound
006	Crystal River-Tarpon Springs		0002	Inland Waters
006	Crystal River-Tarpon Springs		8888	Unknown
006	Crystal River-Tarpon Springs		9998	EEZ
006	Crystal River-Tarpon Springs		9999	International waters
007	Apalachee Bay		0000	0-3 miles
007	Apalachee Bay		0001	St. Vin. Sound/Apala. Bay/E. Bay
007	Apalachee Bay		0002	St. George Sound

AREA CODE	AREA NAME	REG	SUB AREA CODE	SUB AREA NAME
007	Apalachee Bay		0003	Other Inland Waters
007	Apalachee Bay		8888	Unknown
007	Apalachee Bay		9998	EEZ
007	Apalachee Bay		9999	International waters
008	Panama City		0000	0-3 miles
008	Panama City		0001	St. Andrew Bay
008	Panama City		0002	St. Joseph Bay
008	Panama City		0003	West Bay/north Bay
008	Panama City		8888	Unknown
008	Panama City		9998	EEZ
008	Panama City		9999	International waters
009	Pensacola/Destin		0000	0-3 miles
009	Pensacola/Destin		0001	Choctawhatchee Bay
009	Pensacola/Destin		0002	Escambia Bay
009	Pensacola/Destin		8888	Unknown
009	Pensacola/Destin		9998	EEZ
009	Pensacola/Destin		9999	International waters
010	Pensacola - Alabama		0000	0-3 miles
010	Pensacola - Alabama		0001	Pensacola Bay/east Bay
010	Pensacola - Alabama		0002	Lower Mobile bay
010	Pensacola - Alabama		0003	Perdido Bay
010	Pensacola - Alabama		0004	Bon Secour Bay
010	Pensacola - Alabama		0005	Little Lagoon
010	Pensacola - Alabama		0006	Upper Mobile Bay
010	Pensacola - Alabama		8888	Unknown
010	Pensacola - Alabama		9998	EEZ
010	Pensacola - Alabama		9999	International waters
011	Alabama-Mississippi		0000	0-3 miles
011	Alabama-Mississippi		0001	MS Sound (Mobile Bay to Gulfport Ship Channel)
011	Alabama-Mississippi		0002	MS Sound - AL state waters
011	Alabama-Mississippi		0003	MS Sound - MS state waters
011	Alabama-Mississippi		8888	Unknown
011	Alabama-Mississippi		9998	EEZ
011	Alabama-Mississippi		9999	International waters
012	Lake Pontchartrain - Perl River Basin		0000	0-3 miles
012	Lake Pontchartrain - Perl River Basin		0406	Lake Maurepas
012	Lake Pontchartrain - Perl River Basin		0410	Lake Pontchartrain
012	Lake Pontchartrain - Perl River Basin		0418	Inshore area south of Lake Borgne - north
012	Lake Pontchartrain - Perl River Basin		0420	Lake Borgne
012	Lake Pontchartrain - Perl River Basin		0421	Inshore area between Lake Borgne - south
012	Lake Pontchartrain - Perl River Basin		0422	Breton and Chandeleur sounds and adjacent Marsh areas
012	Lake Pontchartrain - Perl River Basin		0902	Pearl River
012	Lake Pontchartrain - Perl River Basin		8888	Unknown
012	Lake Pontchartrain - Perl River Basin		9998	EEZ
012	Lake Pontchartrain - Perl River Basin		9999	International waters
013	Mississippi River - Bartaria Basin		0000	0-3 miles

AREA CODE	AREA NAME	REG	SUB AREA CODE	SUB AREA NAME
013	Mississippi River - Bartaria Basin		0703	Mississippi River
013	Mississippi River - Bartaria Basin		0704	Inside waters from Grand Bay to West Bay
013	Mississippi River - Bartaria Basin		0706	Inside water from the Mississippi River to Bayou Lafourche
013	Mississippi River - Bartaria Basin		0210	Bastian Bay and Adam Bay
013	Mississippi River - Bartaria Basin		0211	Barataria Bay
013	Mississippi River - Bartaria Basin		8888	Unknown
013	Mississippi River - Bartaria Basin		9998	EEZ
013	Mississippi River - Bartaria Basin		9999	International waters
014	Terrebonne - Bartaria - Atchafalaya Basin		0000	0-3 miles
014	Terrebonne - Bartaria - Atchafalaya Basin		0204	Inside waters from Bayou Lafourche to the Atchafalaya River
014	Terrebonne - Bartaria - Atchafalaya Basin		1205	Lake Boudreaux
014	Terrebonne - Bartaria - Atchafalaya Basin		1207	Upper marsh area above Lake Pelto
014	Terrebonne - Bartaria - Atchafalaya Basin		1208	Terrebonne and Timbalier Bays
014	Terrebonne - Bartaria - Atchafalaya Basin		8888	Unknown
014	Terrebonne - Bartaria - Atchafalaya Basin		9998	EEZ
014	Terrebonne - Bartaria - Atchafalaya Basin		9999	International waters
015	Atchafalaya - Vermilion-Teche River Basin		0000	0-3 miles
015	Atchafalaya - Vermilion-Teche River Basin		0106	W. Atchafalaya River
015	Atchafalaya - Vermilion-Teche River Basin		0108	E. Atchafalaya River
015	Atchafalaya - Vermilion-Teche River Basin		0109	Atchafalaya Bay
015	Atchafalaya - Vermilion-Teche River Basin		0610	Cote Blanche Bay
015	Atchafalaya - Vermilion-Teche River Basin		0611	Vermilion Bay
015	Atchafalaya - Vermilion-Teche River Basin		0612	Southwest Pass
001	Atchafalaya - Vermilion-Teche River Basin		8888	Unknown
015	Atchafalaya - Vermilion-Teche River Basin		9998	EEZ
015	Atchafalaya - Vermilion-Teche River Basin		9999	International waters
016	Mermentau River Basin		0000	0-3 miles, grid 16
016	Mermentau River Basin		0507	Grand and White Lakes
016	Mermentau River Basin		0508	Grand Chenier
016	Mermentau River Basin		0509	State waters within basin
016	Mermentau River Basin		8888	Unknown
016	Mermentau River Basin		9998	EEZ
016	Mermentau River Basin		9999	International waters
017	Calcasieu - Sabine River Basin		0000	0-3 miles
017	Calcasieu - Sabine River Basin		0303	Calcasieu River
017	Calcasieu - Sabine River Basin		0304	Calcasieu Lake
017	Calcasieu - Sabine River Basin		0311	Willow/Sweet Lakes
017	Calcasieu - Sabine River Basin		0312	State waters with basin
017	Calcasieu - Sabine River Basin		1103	Sabine Lake
017	Calcasieu - Sabine River Basin		1106	Starks Canals
017	Calcasieu - Sabine River Basin		1107	State waters with basin
017	Calcasieu - Sabine River Basin		8888	Unknown
017	Calcasieu - Sabine River Basin		9998	EEZ
017	Calcasieu - Sabine River Basin		9999	International waters

AREA CODE	AREA NAME	REG	SUB AREA CODE	SUB AREA NAME
018	Galveston		0000	0-9 miles
018	Galveston		0001	Galveston Bay System
018	Galveston		0101	Offats Bayou to South tip of North Deer Island
018	Galveston		0102	Jones Lake
018	Galveston		0103	Carancahua Reef to North Deer Island
018	Galveston		0104	Bay Harbor to Carancahua Reef
018	Galveston		0105	Mud Island to Bay Harbor
018	Galveston		0106	Chocolate Bay
018	Galveston		0107	Bastrop Bay
018	Galveston		0108	Christmas Bay
018	Galveston		0109	West Bay - Unclassified Waters
018	Galveston		0201	Cedar Point South to Smith Point: East to Lone Oak Bayou - North to Umbrella Point
018	Galveston		0202	Umbrella Point South to Lone Oak Bayou: East to Black Point - North to HL&P discharge canal
018	Galveston		0203	All waters east of a line from HL&P discharge canal south to Black Point
018	Galveston		0209	Trinity Bay - Unclassified waters
018	Galveston		0301	Clear Lake Channel - South to Eagle Point: East to Houston Ship Channel marker at southern tip of Redfish Island - North to Marker 65
018	Galveston		0302	Bayport Channel - South to Clear Lake Channel: East to Marker 65 - North to Bayport Channel
018	Galveston		0303	All waters north of a line from Bayport Channel east to Lost Reef: Northwest to Baytown
018	Galveston		0304	All waters south of a line from Bayport Channel to Lost Reef - South to Smith Point on the East to and including the Houston Ship Channel to a point at the south end of Redfish Island
018	Galveston		0309	Upper Galveston Bay - Unclassified waters
018	Galveston		0401	Smith Point southward to Intracoastal Canal at Robins Marina: Eastward to Sun Oil Channel at Long Point - North to Robinson Bayou Channel
018	Galveston		0402	Waters east of the line from Sun Oil Channel to the south to Robinson Bayou Channel to the north
018	Galveston		0409	East Bay - Unclassified waters
018	Galveston		0501	All waters lying between the Texas City Dike - South to US 75 Causeway on the west: Pelican Island to the Intracoastal Canal - Eastward to Port Bolivar
018	Galveston		0502	Dollar Point east to Houston Ship Channel Marker 39: South to a line between Port Bolivar and the Intracoastal Canal - Northwest to Texas City Dike
018	Galveston		0503	Eagle Point east to the southern tip of Redfish Island - South to Marker 39 - West to Dollar Point
018	Galveston		0504	Southeastern tip of Redfish Island East to Smith Point: South to Robins Marina, Southwest to and including Houston Ship Channel

AREA CODE	AREA NAME	REG	SUB AREA CODE	SUB AREA NAME
018	Galveston		0505	Intracoastal Canal, east of Pelican Island, south to Galveston Sulphur Docks, east including Galveston Channel, north to Fort Travis: west around western end of Port Bolivar to intersection
018	Galveston		0509	Lower Galveston bay - Unclassified waters
018	Galveston		8888	Unknown
018	Galveston		9998	EEZ
018	Galveston		9999	International waters
019	Freeport/Aransas		0000	0-9 miles
019	Freeport/Aransas		0001	Matagorda bay
019	Freeport/Aransas		0002	San Antonio Bay
019	Freeport/Aransas		0003	Aransas Bay
019	Freeport/Aransas		0009	Intracoastal Waterway
019	Freeport/Aransas		0101	East Matagorda Bay - All waters east of the Colorado River
019	Freeport/Aransas		0102	From and including the Colorado River west to a line from Palacios Point to Greens Bayou: Includes Tres Palacios and Turtle Bays
019	Freeport/Aransas		0103	From southern shoreline of Carancahua Pass outward to the north side of New Cut where it intersects Matagorda Island - includes Carancahua Bay
019	Freeport/Aransas		0104	From Sand Point westward to Indian Point (mouth of Lavaca Bay) to and including the New Cut Canal, and Pass Cavallo inside of Matagorda Island
019	Freeport/Aransas		0105	Lavaca and Keller Bays
019	Freeport/Aransas		0109	Matagorda Bay - Unclassified waters
019	Freeport/Aransas		0201	San Antonio Bay north of Intracoastal Canal
019	Freeport/Aransas		0202	San Antonio Bay south of Intracoastal Canal
019	Freeport/Aransas		0203	Espiritu Santo Bay
019	Freeport/Aransas		0204	Mesquite Bay
019	Freeport/Aransas		0209	San Antonio Bay - Unclassified waters
019	Freeport/Aransas		0301	Aransas Bay north of Intracoastal Canal includes St. Charles and Copano Bays
019	Freeport/Aransas		0302	Aransas Bay south of Intracoastal Canal to and including Lydia Ann Channel
019	Freeport/Aransas		0303	Redfish Bay east of Aransas Channel
019	Freeport/Aransas		0309	Aransas Bay - Unclassified waters
019	Freeport/Aransas		8888	Unknown
019	Freeport/Aransas		9998	EEZ
019	Freeport/Aransas		9999	International waters
020	Corpus Christi		0000	0-9 miles
020	Corpus Christi		0001	Corpus Christi Bay
020	Corpus Christi		0002	Upper Laguna Madre
020	Corpus Christi		8888	Unknown
019	Corpus Christi		9998	EEZ
019	Corpus Christi		9999	International waters
021	Brownsville		0000	0-9 miles
021	Brownsville		0001	Lower Laguna

AREA CODE	AREA NAME	REG	SUB AREA CODE	SUB AREA NAME
021	Brownsville		8888	Unknown
021	Brownsville		9998	EEZ
021	Brownsville		9999	International waters
022	Mexico		0000	0-3 miles
022	Mexico		8888	Unknown
022	Mexico		9998	EEZ
022	Mexico		9999	International waters
052	Honduras-Nicaragua		0000	0-3 miles
052	Honduras-Nicaragua		8888	Unknown
052	Honduras-Nicaragua		9998	EEZ
052	Honduras-Nicaragua		9999	International waters
136	Barbados		0000	0-3 miles
136	Barbados		8888	Unknown
136	Barbados		9998	EEZ
136	Barbados		9999	International waters
186	Caribbean		0200	Jamaica
186	Caribbean		0300	Haiti
186	Caribbean		0500	Virgin Islands
186	Caribbean		0100	Cuba
186	Caribbean		0000	Bahamas
186	Caribbean		0400	Dominican Republic
186	Caribbean		0600	Puerto Rico
186	Caribbean		8888	Unknown
186	Caribbean		9998	EEZ
186	Caribbean		9999	International waters

State Directors' Meeting
Indian Lodge
Fort Davis, Texas
Wednesday, June 13 - Friday, June 15, 2001

Participants:

Virginia Vail, FFWCC
Vernon Minton, ADCNR
Mike Ray, TPWD
John Roussel, LDWF
Corky Perret, MDMR
Larry Simpson, GSMFC
Ron Lukens, GSMFC
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC
Steve VanderKooy, GSMFC

Items for Discussion

1. Reauthorization of IJF

2. CARA and CARA light

3. Reauthorization of Mag-Stevens

4. State Directors at International

5. Mercury Standards in Fish

6. Marine Mammals Protection Act
   - Recreational Brochure Review

7. FIN Data Management
   - FIN Update
   - 2002 Funding
   - Increased hardpart sampling

8. State License Program Interactions

9. Reauthorization of Anadromous

10. Reauthorization of NISA

11. Other Federal Legislation

OTOLITH WORK GROUP
MEETING SUMMARY
July 23-24, 2001
Lake Jackson, Texas

Participants:

Ken Edds, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Erick Porche, Jr, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Tut Warren, USM/IMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Andy Fischer, LSU/CFI, Baton Rouge, LA
Daniel Merryman, FWC/FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Robert Allman, NMFS, Panama City, FL
Bob Colura, TPWD, Palacios, TX
Britt Bumguardner, TPWD, Palacios, TX
John Mareska, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Steve VanderKooy, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Cindy Yocom, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

The meeting was held in the staff conference room at Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson. GSMFC staff provided transportation between the airport, hotel, and the meeting sites. The group was provided an extensive tour of the aquarium and hatchery at Lake Jackson by Kevin Bowers. The group was also provided a tour of TPWD's Palacios facility by Britt Bumguardner and Bob Colura.

Action Items:

Authors will be provided with an E-copy of their species-specific section(s) for revision. The red drum section was finalized at this session. Modify your section to fit the red drum format.

Gray triggerfish section - everyone review and provide comments.

A hard copy will be provided for additional comments. The deadline for comments is **Friday, August 15.**

Comments will be incorporated and sent to the work group for their review on **Wednesday, September 5**.

Ken - add to discussion of otolith structure and function, literature search, aim toward lay person word smithing.

Credit Peebles for fish images (except southern flounder).

Species-specific sections - send images to Steve for placement & shadow.

Andy, Ken - remember to send in the images of good and bad cuts for comparison in the general section.

Ken - remember to send in images of deformed otoliths.

Note that there are a variety of saw lubricants - personal preference.

Note that there are a variety of embedding mediums - personal preference.

Send in/find x-ray images of ventral/dorsal otoliths.

Steve - go through the document and change terminology for consistency (ex: opaque band, opaque mark, light zone, dark zone).

Steve - change sections to reflect the changes made to the outline.

Steve - Define annuli, annual growth zone in front section and in glossary.

Everyone - send in graphics, photos, x-rays.

The meeting ended at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, 2001. Members of the work group were shuttled to the airport beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2001.

APPROVED BY:
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN 3-26-02

TCC ARTIFICIAL REEF SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday and Tuesday
July 23 - 24, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman Rick Kasprzak called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The following members and others were in attendance:

Members
Mel Bell, SCDNR/MRD, Charleston, SC
Mike Buchanan, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Jan Culbertson, TPWD, Houston, TX
Susan Childs, MMS, New Orleans, LA *(Proxy for Les Dauterive)*
Jon Dodrill, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL
Steve Heath, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Rick Kasprzak, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Carlos Diaz, USFWS/FA, Atlanta, GA

Staff
Ronald R. Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Todd Barber, Reef Ball Development Group, Ltd.
Don Brawley, Eternal Reefs, Inc.
Bob Zales, Charter Boat Industry(Owner/Captain), Panama City, FL
Bobbi Walker, Charter Boat Industry (Owner), Gulf Council Member, Orange Beach, AL
Robert Turpin, Escambia County Division of Marine Resources, Pensacola, FL

Call to Order

Chairman, Rick Kasprzak, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Adoption of Agenda

Lukens asked if the Subcommittee would take agenda item number 7 before item number 4. There was no objection to that change. M. Buchanan moved to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Approval of Minutes

J. Culbertson indicated that she had some changes to the minutes from the last meeting. She provided written comments to Lukens to include in the minutes. Lukens pointed out that Culbertson

and Dodrill had provided written state reports for inclusion in the minutes for the current meeting, since there was not time to put state/federal reports on the current agenda. He indicated that the remainder of the Subcommittee members could do the same if they so chose. S. Heath moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

State-Federal Reports

State-Federal Reports was not an agenda item at this meeting; however, J. Culbertson and J. Dodrill provided written comments from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Without objection, the written comments were approved for inclusion in the minutes.

Texas - J. Culbertson reported:

- Seven Donors (Unocal, Texaco. Exxon, Ocean Energy, Apache, Global Industries, and Kerr-McGee) and nine Rigs to Reef projects are currently in Progress. Five structures are being partially mechanically removed, one is being toppled in place after mechanically removing it from the sea floor, and four are being towed to cluster at other reef sites. Texas may actually receive over a $1 million dollar year with this extraordinary year for donations

- The program purchased a MARAD steel buoy from Port Arthur storage facility and paid for it to be cleaned up and cut into four sections. A contract to take it offshore is underway.

- The 154 concrete power poles donated last year remain stored in Corpus Christi, waiting for a final decision on what reef they are to be transferred. A certified side scan survey was done of the Boatmen's Reef in order to determine whether this is a viable site for these structures. A report is due to the state this week.

- Seventy-four natural quarry rocks are being stored in Sabine Pass until they can be taken offshore and placed at a near shore reef (Basco's Reef) by Offshore Marine Services, a company that wants to donate their services to the Program

- Nine concrete mooring dolphins are to be donated and transported offshore to a shallow water reef site by the Corps of Engineers next year. More details at next meeting.

- The Program hired Texas A&M University in Galveston for Dr. Andre' Landry to do a side scan survey and sediment characterization of Basco's Reef and SALT Reefs, with additional fisheries evaluation this summer. So far visibility conditions have hindered diving efforts, and weather has delayed the side scan survey effort.

- NMFS' Ian Workman joined staff and Dr. Andre' Landry on a June Cruise to evaluate the Basco's and SALT Reefs for Essential Fish Habitat for juvenile red snapper. Bottom conditions were determined to not be suitable at SALT Reef, which has relieved concerns over whether artificial reef material should be placed on this site. However, some shell

concretions found at Basco's Reef were suspect for being primary juvenile red snapper habitat. Reef material has already been placed at this reef, but plans are being made to avoid destroying any further potential juvenile red snapper habitat in this area with the rocks that are to be deployed this summer.

- Work continues on the tunicate reef. Culbertson has been conducting a growth study on it since the tunicate took over. It has continued to spread, and is now on 7 platforms in the area, 3 other reef sites and has been reported along the Texas and Louisiana Coastal Rigs. Weather delays prevented NOAA from using their ROV this past spring to assist in studying the tunicate.

- Staff have been collecting all fish observation data and tabulating it into a Trends Management Data Series. Fish monitoring efforts for both pre and post construction efforts were conducted in May, June, and July. More monitoring efforts are scheduled in August and this fall.

Florida - Jon Dodrill reported:

- **State and Federal Grant Funded Activities 2000-2001.** There were total of 22 artificial reef activities undertaken under contract with local coastal governments or 501(c)(3) non profit corporations. These included six state funded local government reef construction projects, 10 federally funded (USFWS Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration) reef construction projects. Construction projects included two steel hulled vessels, designed concrete modules (5 projects) and precast secondary use concrete (9 projects). Nearly all of these reefs were deployed April-June 2001. All construction projects were successfully completed. There was a continuation of a four county socio-economic study (SE Florida) examining the benefits of both natural and artificial reefs (federal grant), one local government federal grant monitoring project (comparing two fished and two un-fished reefs of same material at same depth off Indian River County (Central FL east coast); three state funded local government reef monitoring grants, and one nonprofit reef monitoring project. Total allocated funds were $300,000 State Fishing License Revenue; $300,000 Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Funds. Several state funded monitoring projects will carry over until December 1, 2001. Two other state funded monitoring projects, a sidescan sonar monitoring project of four permitted sites off Indian River County and a project to compare culverts and Reef Balls, carried over from the previous fiscal year (1999-2000). We are currently in the process of receiving closeout documentation for reimbursement of completed projects. A new round of applications received in March 2001 have been competitively ranked, and successful candidates selected. Contract agreements have begun to be drafted.

- **Permit Database.** Tom Maher completed a listing of currently active permitted artificial reef sites in Florida. Out of over 650 areas which have at one time or another been permitted in Florida, approximately 119 remain active, with valid state and/or federal permits. Permit area sizes range from 73, 207 acres (one of Okaloosa County' large areas) to .1 acre

(mitigation reef site Dade County). NOAA charts from as recently as 1998 do not show many Army Corps of Engineers permitted Fish Haven/obstruction sites for Florida.

- **Public Reef Deployment Database.** Bill Horn is continuing to update the state public artificial reef database with over 1700 entries and is coordinating with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Web Master to get the most updated version on the web which can be accessed at *http://www.state.fl.us/fwc/marine*. Inaccuracies inherent in the conversion of LORAN-C to latitude and longitude will continue to be addressed by working with local coastal governments to ground truth with GPS those reefs originally recorded in LORAN.

- **Artificial Reef Rule Making.** At its May, 2001 meeting the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission held the final public hearing for and approved a FWC rule that guides the grants administration program portion of the FWC state artificial reef program. Copies of the rule which went into place on July 1, 2001 are available upon request.

- **Legislative Activity:** The Florida Legislature approved a one time line item budget request for $550,000 to construct and deploy a series of low profile unpublished patch reefs off Northwest Florida in existing large permitted areas in federal waters. The objective of the project is to provide habitat to enhance productivity and survivorship of recreationally targeted fish species at a level that would be greater than on published reefs. Follow up evaluation to determine if placement of unpublished reefs in large areas open and accessible to fishing produces results different than placing such structures and advertising them as public reefs from the outset. The project is currently in a phase I planning stage looking at various deployment and materials options, in conjunction with a design that would allow a later follow up evaluation to determine if the project's objectives had been met.

- **U.S.S. Spiegel Grove (LSD-32)** After 6.5 years, the U.S. Maritime Administration finally executed a certificate of Title Transfer to the State of Florida with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission representing the state. A written Decision from the State Attorney General concluded that the FWC did have the authority to accept a federal donation of a large Naval vessel. A Memorandum of Agreement was entered into with Monroe County, Florida who received title to the vessel immediately following transfer to FWC. The 510 foot long *Spiegel Grove* was towed down the James River from the Reserve Fleet at Fort Eustis, Virginia on June 13, 2001 and is currently undergoing cleaning in preparation for sinking as an Artificial Reef off Key Largo, Florida in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Expected arrival time in South Florida is anticipated to be sometime in late October or November, 2001.

- **U.S.S. Hoyt Vandenberg.** Three years into this project this 520 foot former satellite tracking ship (and prop for the movie "Virus") has a permitted site held by the City of Key West. The vessel will be the third and final large vessel to be sunk in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary pending the outcome of studies to determine whether or not the placement of large vessels in proximity to natural coral reef systems takes diving pressure off of natural reefs. Both NMFS and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will support a

monitoring program to review diving operation log book records as well as field assessments of before and after sinking use of area natural reefs by fishermen and divers to attempt to answer this question. A formal request for donation has not yet been submitted by the nonprofit sponsor, Artificial Reefs of the Keys to the FWC who will in turn review, edit, and send on to the Maritime Administration. The nonprofit is looking for an appropriate ship cleaning yard (focusing in the Philadelphia area).

- **Governor Jeb Bush's Operation River Walk- Seized Drug Boats on the Miami River to Artificial Reefs.** During January and February of 2001 enforcement agencies seized a number of small coastal freighters and cargo vessels of foreign registry. Some of these vessels had previously been seized before by Customs, were auctioned off and were back in the drug trade, sometimes with the vessel name being the only change (**Iguana** became **Miguana,** for example). Governor Bush stated his interest in getting intergovernmental assistance to remove these seized vessels from drug trade permanently. Since Customs was racking up hundreds of dollars a day in dock space rental costs and the Coast Guard was in general trying to deal with pollution and other violation problems on the river, these agencies were in strong support of moving the vessels out. On July 13, 2001, Governor Bush attended the sinking ceremonies of three drug seized vessels (80-135 feet long) about three miles off Key Biscayne (Miami-Dade County, SE FL). The vessels were given to Dade County who transferred titles to a private non profit foundation, Atlantic Gamefish Foundation who, working with a local ship yard, will use proceeds from the salvage a fourth larger vessel (**Tacoma,** 175 feet) to pay for the cleanup of the three smaller vessels who had lesser salvage value. The sinking of the three vessels was attended by Governor Bush, U.S. Customs heads and personnel, the new USCG admiral, Adm. Carmichael of the Seventh Coast Guard District, about sixty anti drug program youths, FWC executive director, Allan Egbert, and other FWC staff and law enforcement. Governor Bush's project goals were 1) to put forth the message that drug trafficking would not be tolerated, and that vessels so involved would be permanently removed from the system; 2) to promote youth involvement in buying into the anti-drug message, 3) to assist the Coast Guard in the cleanup of the Miami River, and 4) to provide additional public fishing opportunities.

- **Begin work on Ship use policy.** Based upon items 6-8, the need for Florida to have a ships use policy has become evident. There are multiple potential sources of ships, yet the economic cost, the programmatic needs of other agencies vs what the state agencies perceived artificial reef program are, environmental requirements, availability and proper timing of funding require a policy and a means of prioritizing the type of physical, administrative and monetary involvement required to deal with each potential source. Early efforts working in conjunction with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection have begun. Federal level issues hopefully also coordinated through the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions artificial reef programs.

- **Northwest Florida Large Area Permit Re-authorizations.** Three counties in Northwest Florida have in federal waters off their coasts a total of seven large permitted areas which accommodate both public and private deployments of artificial reef. The initial five year

permits on all seven sites had expired and permits were being extended at six month intervals. Re-authorization requests for all seven sites were made this past year (FWC holding the permit for Escambia County's two sites, Okaloosa county with three large areas, and Bay County with two large areas). The chief change in permit language over prior permits in Okaloosa and Escambia sites was to allow for lighter weight metal materials of a minimum thickness of 1/8" to increase ease of handling by private fishermen, as well as increase availability of cheaper material. Five year permit authorizations for Okaloosa and Bay County are in place. FWC (Escambia) permit five year re-authorization is still pending as of July 22, 2001 but a response from the Corps is expected any day.

- **Artificial Reef Summit '01:** The FWC reef program plans to hold a state artificial reef summit in cooperation with Broward County, Florida Sea Grant, and the National Coral Reef Institute at Nova University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, October 17-October 20, 2001. Bill Horn (FWC) can be contacted at 850-922-4340 for details. Pam Fletcher with Broward County is also a point of contact (954-519-1218). These summits are held about every three years. Other state coordinators as well as anyone using or involved in artificial reef construction, management, or research is encouraged to attend.

- **Update and Profile of state reef programs.** Tom Maher has assembled a comparative 2001 profile of the active state artificial reef programs in a database format. The profile compares staffing, amount and type of program funding, equipment, extent of shoreline, number and size of permitted sites, number of public reefs, etc.

- **Enforcement of illegal dumping in the Florida Keys.** Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary enforcement staff caught two individuals dumping materials at night without a permit for purposes of lobster habitat to facilitate commercial harvest. The men were prosecuted under Florida's litter law (a felony) but the judge dismissed the charge when the defense claimed they were building artificial reefs so it couldn't be littering. Following a second night apprehension of two other individuals dumping material, Federal attorneys are proceeding in the latter case with civil fines of $3,000 for each of 25 habitats built without any permit or authorization ($75,000 fine).

Update on Artificial Reef Database

Lukens provided the Subcommittee with an update on progress with the artificial reef database. He informed the Subcommittee that he had deleted duplicate records, primarily from the Florida entries, but that due to a problem with Visual dBase, the database program, several other records had become corrupted as a result of the deletions. Returning to the original database, Mike Sestak, database manager on staff at the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, converted the records to Oracle format, and Lukens was able to delete the duplicate records without incident.

Lukens then showed the Subcommittee a web-based data entry program that has been developed, again by Sestak. The intent of the program is to allow the state artificial reef program managers to

access the database over the GSMFC web site and enter their own data. Each program manager would be given an access code that would allow them to access the data entry form. The data would go into a temporary file to be error checked at the GSMFC office, after which it would be permanently archived. Lukens pointed out that no records would be changed by GSMFC staff in the edit review process, but possible errors would be brought to the attention of the state program manager for review and correction. In addition, state program managers would be able to edit existing records if, for instance, permit numbers or some other data element changed. The program would note the date and originator of the change and archive the old record for later retrieval, if needed. He also pointed out that each record would be assigned a unique identification number that would follow that record through time. For instance, Florida records would be assigned FL0001, FL0002, etc. This numbering system would allow for up to 9,999 records for each state, a record constituting data associated with a site permit. When a record is changed and archived, the unique identification number is maintained on both the old and the new record. In this way, changes to permitted sites can be tracked through time. He informed the Subcommittee that once the database is active, the general public would have access to most of the records through the GSMFC web site using Business Objects, which is a web-based query program. Lukens stepped the Subcommittee through the layout of the data entry form and asked if the Subcommittee supported the direction that he and Sestak are moving. The Subcommittee unanimously approved of the direction and encourage Lukens to continue the development of the database tools. B. Zales asked how the large area permitted sites would be handled. Lukens explained that the permitted site would be issued a unique identification number and the permit number would be entered. Latitude/longitude coordinates for the permitted site would be entered and associated with the identification number. There will also be the capability to enter latitude/longitude coordinates for individual deployments within a permitted site. Those coordinates would be entered at the discretion of the state program managers. In some cases, such as the large areas off Florida, specific deployment coordinates may not be available; however, even if they are available, it will not be mandatory to enter them.

Update on Commission Action

Lukens reminded the Subcommittee that at their last meeting action was taken to revise the *Position Statement on the Use of Automobile Tires as Artificial Reef Material*, adopted in October 1992, and the *Resolution on the Use of Selected Materials of Opportunity as Artificial Reef Material*, adopted in March 1997. The Subcommittee action is contained in the minutes of the meeting dated February 21, 2001. Lukens informed the Subcommittee that the two documents were presented to the GSMFC Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), parent committee of the Subcommittee, in March 2001. The TCC made modifications to the actions taken by the Subcommittee. The most important modification was with the Tire Position Statement. The TCC added the phrase "they should be individually ballasted so that if a tire becomes separated from a modular unit, it will not be unstable in the environment." The two documents were then referred to the Commissioners during the Commission Business Meeting. Following discussion, the Commissioners elected to table action on the two documents until the October 2001 meeting, and instructed staff to seek public input and response to the proposed changes. Lukens indicated that he would inform the Subcommittee members of any action the Commissioners take in October.

B. Zales commented that he and others still disagree with the recommendation that individual tires must be ballasted when used as artificial reef material. He felt that tires could be used in units that are properly constructed without having to individually ballast them. He added that individual ballasting would make using the tires prohibitive.

B. Walker asked about the distribution of the notice of availability of the tire position statement and the materials resolution. Lukens indicated that they had made them available on the GSMFC web page, sent them to selected newspapers around the Gulf of Mexico, and distributed them to Sea Grant offices for redistribution to their constituency. In addition, the GSMFC Commercial/Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee received the documents with the request that they inform their constituency of the availability. Lukens indicated that the GSMFC generates Gulf-wide documents of both a technical and policy nature, but that the GSMFC itself does not make public policy. The recommendations of the GSMFC are transmitted to the states and appropriate federal agencies who in turn accept or reject the recommendations, thus establishing public policy. Because of that fact, the GSMFC had never created a system to gather public input in the process of establishing recommendations. The discussion surrounding the tire position statement and materials resolution initiated the recommendation that the GSMFC should seek public input as a part of its normal routine of establishing recommendations.

B. Zales indicated that he felt that having the GSMFC consider adopting the tire position statement and the materials resolution at the October 2001 Commission Business meeting is premature in light of the fact that the *Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials* is under revision.

Ship Report

Lukens reminded the Subcommittee that Denis Rushworth gave a report to the Subcommittee regarding the analysis being conducted by Rand for the U.S. Navy to assist in determining the disposition of retired Navy ships and vessels. He indicated that the report, in their folder, is completed. It is entitled Disposal Options for Ships, and provides an analysis of several different options for ship disposal, including making them available for artificial reef work. In fact, Lukens reported, of the options, which include indefinite long-term storage, domestic recycling, overseas recycling, and artificial reef development, artificial reef development is by far the least costly to the Navy. Lukens indicated that his interpretation of the report is that the costs for preparation and transportation of ships to desired artificial reef locations were considered in the economic analysis and, therefore, costs to the states would be minimal. He stated that there were still a number of things that would have to take place before Navy ships would be made available to states for artificial reef development. For instance, there would have to be some kind of document that deals with the environmental aspects of ship disposal at sea. M. Bell pointed out that the completion of the PCB study, headed up by Frank Stone, is an important component in the decision-making process. Current projections are that that report will be completed in November 2001. Additionally, a plan would have to be developed that addresses equitable distribution of ships, criteria for transfer of ownership, who is responsible for different aspects of the process, etc. The Subcommittee agreed at the last meeting, held in February 2001 in Jacksonville, Florida, that the Gulf and Atlantic

Artificial Reef Subcommittees should be the coordinating bodies for developing such a plan. A discussion ensued regarding the Navy processes, standards for preparation, and activities involving the *Speigel Grove*, a ship being sunk off the Florida coast. It was generally agreed that the PCB study will be the most important component in determining whether ships will be made available for artificial reef development.

Status of Draft National Artificial Reef Plan

Lukens indicated that M. Bailey, National Marine Fisheries Service, was supposed to provide the Subcommittee with a status report; however, due to a family emergency, he was unable to attend the meeting. Lukens informed the Subcommittee that he had a phone conversation with Bailey and was informed that NOAA General Counsel still has the draft plan and is supposed to be reviewing it to make a recommendation to the agency whether or not to adopt it as national policy. Bailey told Lukens that the reason it had not been released yet is because the change from the Clinton administration to the Bush administration automatically triggers in-depth reviews of any documents that may affect federal agency policies. Lukens asked Bailey to provide a point of contact within NOAA General Counsel so he could call an individual and get a comment regarding the time frame for release of the document.

Lukens pointed out that the *Coastal Artificial Reef Planning Guide*, adopted by the three interstate marine fisheries commissions, serves as an effective national plan in lieu of formal adoption of a plan by the National Marine Fisheries Service. In the absence of action by that agency, the states could continue to use the planning guide as its overarching policy. He followed that by saying that it would be much better to get the National Marine Fisheries Service to act on the draft and formally establish it as national policy, and he would continue to follow up on that issue. A discussion ensued regarding the public input opportunities in developing the *Coastal Artificial Reef Planning Guide*, recognizing that it could become national policy. Lukens pointed out again that the establishment of the planning guide as policy by the three interstate marine fisheries commissions did not in itself establish public policy. Assuming NOAA General Counsel gives a favorable recommendation to accept the document, it will still have to go through the *Federal Register* process to get public input before it can be established as national policy.

A recommendation was made by a Subcommittee member that the Artificial Reef Subcommittee could function like the GSMFC Technical Task Forces, meaning that specific individuals, including members of the affected pubic, are added to the Task Force for the purpose of completing a draft interstate fishery management plan. After much discussion, Lukens pointed out some complications associated with that approach. First, additional individuals would have to be budgeted and their participation paid for by the GSMFC. Second, the sole purpose for a Technical Task Force is to develop the draft of a fishery management plan. Once that plan is completed, the Technical Task Force is dissolved. In some cases, as with the Crab Subcommittee, the core of the task force is retained as a subcommittee, but the additional membership on the task force are not included. Third, are additional people being proposed for addition to the Subcommittee for the purpose of revising the materials guidelines or for broader purposes. He indicated that the Subcommittee also

occasionally develops policy and other technical recommendations to the full Commission, and should the public be a part of the Subcommittee for those purposes. If that is the case, the membership of the Subcommittee would be permanently altered. Fourth, how do we decide who should be added and for what purpose. Would the same individuals from the general public be the appropriate representatives for revising the guidelines, developing policy statements, and other Subcommittee activities? Recognizing the complications involved in the recommendation offered earlier, Lukens recommended that the Subcommittee take no action. The Subcommittee agree that no action was necessary. Lukens indicated that at a minimum the Subcommittee report to the Technical Coordinating Committee in October 2001 should stress the fact that the Subcommittee discussed at length the issue of public input into the processes of the GSMFC when developing documents, technical or policy, and recommendations.

Artificial Reefs and Marine Protected Areas

M. Bell provided the Subcommittee with an update of activities regarding artificial reefs and marine protected areas (MPAs) on the Atlantic coast. He indicated that he serves on the MPA Advisory Panel of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. In addition, there is an MPA Committee of the Council. Bell pointed out that those two bodies have discussed, at length, the concept of implementing an MPA using artificial reefs. The Council expressed concern over the noticeable lack of data regarding the performance of MPAs, primarily because there are very few MPAs in the U.S., and studies to evaluate their effectiveness even more lacking. Using artificial reefs would enhance the ability of researchers to conduct controlled studies to determine the effect of no-take areas. South Carolina is currently conducting an evaluation of an experimental MPA using artificial reefs, contrasting the fish populations on two fished and two unfished artificial reefs constructed identically and in similar locations. The question was asked how Bell keeps the experimental sites secret. He indicated that it is a concern, but the reefs are placed in an area that is largely unoccupied by recreational anglers and divers. To date, Bell believes that the experimental reefs are not fished. He expects to get four to five years of data before opening up the reefs for public use. He also said that they would likely request Special Management Zone status for the unfished experimental artificial reef, likely making it a legally established MPA.

Bell reminded the Subcommittee that he reported at an earlier meeting that the South Atlantic Council is moving toward establishing a marine reserve (MPA) as a Council project, using artificial reefs. He indicated that they have held scoping meetings to begin discussing possible locations for the MPA. In August 2001, the Council is sponsoring an MPA meeting, including the MPA Advisory Panel, Snapper/Grouper Advisory Panel, the Habitat Advisory Panel, the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel, and others to discuss the direction the Council should take regarding MPAs. Following this meeting and a series of public hearings, the Council is likely to take some action. The most frequently given supportive statement for using artificial reefs as an MPA is that it would take no traditional fishing locations away from the fishing public. This aspect has made some people more supportive of implementing MPAs in general. The most recognizable problem with using artificial reefs in this application is that the scale (size) of the reef area might be difficult to achieve.

A frequently cited problem with MPAs is enforcing the no-take provisions. Bell indicated that the 29 Special Management Zones held by South Carolina represent the same enforcement concerns as with a fully implement MPA. He indicated that the South Carolina Enforcement Division is currently conducting enforcement exercises identical to those that would be required with an MPA. Evaluation of those activities will assist in responding to the enforcement concern.

B. Zales asked what materials are on the experimental reefs. Bell indicated that they are all designed structures using concrete. Zales pointed out that some people have said that by implementing MPAs, the management agencies may be able to relax other regulations. The general consensus of the Subcommittee was that that was not the case. MPAs represent another tool to use to manage fisheries, but will not likely replace such things as bag and size limits, among others.

Survey of State Artificial Reef Programs

J. Dodrill provided a report on a survey of the state artificial reef programs in the U.S. The survey was developed and distributed by Tom Maher of Dodrill's staff. He indicated that his office had been getting a number of questions from a variety of sources regarding how other state programs are conducted. The survey was designed to provide the FFWCC staff with information to answer such questions. Lukens pointed out that there is another database besides the site database discussed earlier. He indicated that he has a program database that describes each Gulf program and contains many of the same data elements as contained in Maher's survey. He said that if the Subcommittee thinks it would be helpful, the GSMFC could reinitiate that programmatic database using Maher's survey to update it. There was some agreement from the Subcommittee that reinitiating the programmatic database would be helpful. Culbertson asked questions regarding the targeted time frame for the survey. Dodrill pointed out that it was designed to be the current status as of filling out the survey instrument, which would be for 2001. C. Diaz indicated that he would be willing to get similar data from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Dodrill said that he would provide the survey questionnaire for the Caribbean. Dodrill handed out copies of a summary of the survey (available from the GSMFC office).

Discussion of Revision of Materials Guidelines

Lukens opened the discussion informing the Subcommittee about the material guidelines revision process and progress to date. He added that they will then begin the process of a line-by-line review of comments and suggestions that were sent in regarding the draft revision. Lukens drafted a new disclaimer section and asked the Subcommittee to provide comments. He pointed out that most of the comments received have been scoping and process in nature.

Lukens pointed out that he understood that the teams that were identified at the last joint meeting were to work on scoping comments and draft language. The Subcommittee agreed. He noted that there were not scoping comments on every section. He suggested that the document disclaimer, currently titled "Conclusion," should be put into a preface or forward in the front of the document. The Subcommittee felt that it is vital that the language be clear about what is intended from the

document. He stressed that the document is intended to provide guidance, to give people/agencies a decision making format through the delineation of benefits and drawbacks, and staying away from recommending against or for any particular material. He followed up saying that recommendations for or against particular materials is more appropriately accomplished through policy documents, such as resolutions and position statements. Lukens then asked for comments on the draft disclaimer.

Bell asked the group to clarify if the document is intended to be regulatory in nature. Lukens responded, saying that it is not meant to be regulatory. Kasprzak emphasized that the original intent of the document was to relay the experiences about the use of different types of materials and not meant to condemn or condone any material. The Subcommittee agreed. Lukens further explained that the information in the document would speak for itself. In other words, if the experiences relayed are negative about a specific material and there are more significant drawbacks than benefits, a decision-maker would likely opt to avoid using that material. It is intended to provide people with a decision making tool. Kasprzak concluded, saying the document doesn't state that you can't use this material, it simply points out that if you use a material certain positive or negative aspects can be expected. The Subcommittee agreed.

It was pointed out that the last paragraph of the disclaimer contains reference to "short term" and "long lived." The question was asked whether there are definitions for what those two terms mean. Lukens responded that a definition for durability and what is meant by long lived artificial habitat should be the topic of another work activity for the Subcommittee, probably in conjunction with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Artificial Reef Subcommittee. The implication to date has been that the longer term material the better because the primary target species long lived fish.

Heath suggested putting the second paragraph first and deleting the last sentence of the first paragraph because it seemed awkward.

Zales asked why the sections contain a section called recommendations when it has been stated that there will be no endorsements for or against materials. Lukens responded saying that the recommendations are not for or against the use of a material, but if a material is to be used, there are recommendations about what to do to avoid known problems. For instance, if vehicle tires must be used, it is recommended that they be properly ballasted.

Bell pointed out that the recommendations are really practical considerations for using selected materials. Lukens suggested that perhaps "recommendations" should be changed to "practical considerations." Heath suggested that "practical considerations" should replace "benefits", "drawbacks", and "recommendations." His suggestion would allow the reader to form his/her own conclusion whether the item is a benefit or drawback. Lukens disagreed saying that the document is intended to provide the collective benefit of the opinion and knowledge of the authors. The Subcommittee did not make a decision regarding this issue.

Lukens noticed that there were questions about format, and asked the Subcommittee if they thought the current format should be maintained. Dodrill responded that he liked the format, but that he was hearing two different things. One is that the document should not make recommendations, but yet materials are included that clearly have not been on permitted in the Jacksonville Army Corps of Engineers District for some years, e.g. white goods. His concern was that if a material whose use has been discontinued is included in the document, it may make people think that it is a useable material. Lukens responded, saying that comments like the Corps District disallowing its use could be added to the chapter to indicate that most programs have moved away from using a specific material, e.g. tires. Such a statement is not a value judgement, but rather a comment about the current status of the material.

Lukens moved from the disclaimer section to discuss the Introduction. Lukens did a scoping exercise for the Introduction and had several editorial recommendations, for example include some Atlantic species, since it is to be a joint document. On page 2 and 3, to be consistent with our Coastal Artificial Reef Planning Guide, he suggested changing "materials of opportunity" to "secondary use materials." Dodrill added that he would like a statement that says the document doesn't include all materials along with an explanation of why some materials were included and others were not. Lukens pointed out that the materials selected were those with which artificial reef managers had some experience at the time of the writing. Certain materials were not necessarily purposefully left out.

Bell pointed out that the first paragraph in the Background section makes reference to the fact that reefs are basically habitat. He suggested that a reference to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's conclusion that artificial reefs constitute essential fish habitat in their Essential Fish Habitat Management Plan should be made. There was general agreement to include such a reference. Lukens said he would see if other federal Councils had made similar determinations.

Lukens noted that section 1.4.3 Durability and Stability is not in keeping with the Coastal Artificial Reef Guide, which separates durability and stability into separate categories and deleted availability as a criterion. He asked if there was any objection to changing the section as mentioned. The Subcommittee agreed. There were no further comments on the Introduction section.

Lukens then indicated that he did a scoping exercise on the section 2.4 Vehicle Tires. He added that there were comments from Jeff Tinsman and Steve Heath. Tinsman suggested including a reference to the Maryland leachate study.

Lukens pointed out that there are more recent experiences with tires, and suggested that it will be important to include recent information. Dodrill provided information on tires dredged up by the Corps off Florida. He indicated that it would also be useful to include references to states that have regulations against using specific materials.

Culbertson asked why tire leaching is still listed as a concern. Dodrill responded that he had talked with Tinsman of Delaware to find out why tires weren't used in estuarine conditions. Tinsman said they do not use them in less than 15 ppt salinity conditions because of potential leaching. Culbertson

asked if there was any documentation about tires leaching in water less that 15 ppt. Dodrill indicated that he thought it was based on the Maryland study, and supported including information from that study.

Lukens moved to comments provided by Bob Zales and Bobbi Walker regarding all sections of the document. They pointed to the parenthetical language on Page 1, stating that habitat creation and increasing fish biomass should be included as examples of why people historically built artificial reefs. The group then discussed the need for the parenthetical language at all. They finally agreed to delete the parenthetical language.

Zales and Walker commented on a reference in the Background section, second paragraph. They disagree with the comment that it is important to know the species that normally inhabit an area, because that will, to a large extent dictate what will occur around an artificial reef if created there. They cited a study conducted by Dr. Bob Shipp in the 1970s which indicated that trawls offshore Alabama before artificial reef development revealed a different composition of fish species than after artificial reef development. Lukens agreed with that finding and statement, but pointed out that it was not relevant to the statement, which he indicated may need rewording. He indicated that the intent of the statement is to know the environmental requirements of species that you want to attract to specific artificial reefs, because those requirements will determine what species will be able to inhabit the area. For example, one would not want to build an artificial reef in an estuary if they wanted to attract red snapper. The group agreed to leave the comment in with some clarifying language.

The next comment from Zales/Walker was to ask for an explanation of the similarity index used in paragraph 5 on page 2. Lukens pointed out that the index is designed to assess the degree of similarity between two data sets. Data that are exactly the same have a value of 1.0. Data that are completely dissimilar have a value of 0. A value of 0.32, as in the text, indicates data that are relatively dissimilar. The group agreed that an explanation of the index should be included in the text. Heath suggested adding in parentheses after the 0.32 that 1.0 equals totally alike and 0.0 equals totally dissimilar.

On page 2 - 1.3 under History Zales/Walker questioned the reference to experimentation with reefs began in the 1970s, saying that experimentation with reefs began as early as 1954 off Alabama. Lukens pointed out that the reference is specific to designed structures, and is an accurate statement. It was then pointed out that a reference to when serious efforts to develop artificial reefs in the Gulf of Mexico should be included. The group agreed, opting to include Zales/Walker information that such activities began in earnest in the Gulf of Mexico in 1954. Heath added that the reference to designed structures should be changed to "specifically designed artificial reef modules." The group agreed.

On page 3, section 1.4.2 Lukens suggested inserting the word "documented" in the second sentence before environmental risks. The group agreed. Heath suggested saying "when" there are documented environmental risks associated with using a specific material, those risks should be known.

On page 3, section 1.4.3 Lukens reiterated that he would split "stability" and "durability" and take "availability out. Zales/Walker disagreed that the marine environment is "hostile" to man-made materials, saying that organisms would not grow on them if that were true. The group explained that the reference is to the fact that most man-made materials deteriorate in the marine environment, not that growth of organisms won't occur. The group made no recommendation. Lukens also clarified that language dealing with availability of materials will be kept in the document, but it would not appear with a heading under criteria for selecting materials. Heath suggested saying "after considering the above criteria, cost and availability will be also be a factor."

On page 8, 2.1.2, Zales/Walker asked about the use of treated wood, and why it is considered bad, in light of the fact that there are new boats being built of wood all the time. Lukens responded that the specific reference was to wood treated with preservatives, like that used in the building industry. Dodrill agreed to check with Florida DEP and see if there are references to the use of treated wood in the marine environment.

On page 23, 2.3. Automobiles, the second paragraph states that the weight of attachment and crusting organisms on plastics and fiberglass tends to break the organism from the surface. Zales/Walker asked if there was documentation to that effect. Following a great deal of discussion, it was determined that the whole paragraph should be removed, since there is no documentation of the phenomenon and no one could determine who offered the original language. During the discussion, references to MARPOL and its effect on plastics associated with artificial reefs and materials used were made. After discussion, Lukens indicated that he would contact EPA Region 4 again to discuss EPA policy on using plastics as artificial reef material and incidental plastic occurring in materials like car bodies.

On page 23, the document quotes Martinez (1964) saying that after Hurricane Carla off the Texas coast, automobile bodies placed as artificial reefs broke loose and were washed away. Zales/Walker had several questions regarding that citation. The Subcommittee could not answer those questions, and Culbertson was asked to find the article and see if it addresses any of their questions. Culbertson agreed. Culbertson indicated that the car bodies were trawled up by shrimp boats in areas where they were not deployed, and the boats did not trawl over the original locations. She said that she thinks they all ended up in the navigation channel. One reef was located off Port Aransas, one off Freeport, and one off Port Isabel. Her recollection is that the ones off Port Aransas broke up and were scattered. Zales indicated that that area has a very soft bottom, and that materials sink into the bottom regularly. Culbertson agreed, indicating that three barges have been lost under the sediment. Culbertson indicated that there are actually two sources of documentation, including reports from shrimpers and the Rockport Field Station of TPWD.

Walker questioned the statement by several individuals that car bodies have a useful life expectancy of 1-3 years. She stated that it conflicts with other documentation in the guidelines off of Florida that says they last 7 years. Lukens responded saying that one would expect a range of life cycle, not that all car bodies are going to be gone in 3 years. This was something that was in the National Artificial Reef Plan and the 3 years reference here is observations from these reef coordinators that are documented as personal communication. In addition it is important to note that they say the

useful life expectancy. In other words, evidence of car bodies may remain on site for many years, but its usefulness as habitat is significantly reduced.

Turpin provided information from his Masters thesis research that after a 13 year period of time, of 10 car bodies placed in 100 feet of water off Pensacola only the remnants of 3 of those cars remained. It is not known at what point those car bodies ceased usefulness as habitat. Dodrill referred to page 24, second paragraph, that a monitoring study with automobile bodies sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection revealed mixed results. In August 1995, video footage showed the remains of 4 automobile bodies in place for 7 years. He indicated that the material was not immediately discernable as car bodies, and not much was left of them.

Walker asked the Subcommittee how they defined significant movement. Culbertson indicated that if a material moves outside of a permitted site, that is significant. Lukens added that there is an expectation on the part of mariners, whether they be a commercial shrimper or any other vessel, that items that are intentionally placed in the water are going to stay where they are put and will not cause a hazard to navigation. Lukens further pointed out that even if materials move around within a permitted site, from a program managers standpoint that is not good. Materials that are subject to moving around the sea floor will not likely make effective habitat for demersal species. Heath agreed that Alabama is concerned about things that migrate because there is no way to get around the fact that they might move out of the permitted area.

A discussion ensued regarding the Florida video of car bodies, referenced earlier in these minutes. The video shows pieces of plastic from the deteriorated car bodies drifting around on the bottom. The question raised is whether or not free plastics from a deteriorated reef structure are subject to MARPOL. Lukens reiterated that he would check with EPA Region 4 regarding this issue.

THE TAPE SIDE FOR THE DISCUSSION WAS BAD, AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION COULD NOT BE DISCERNED. THE TEXT HERE IS BASED ON NOTES AND RECOLLECTIONS OF THE DISCUSSION.

On page 26, there is a statement that says residue of heavy metal may remain in the sand after the metal from a car body corrodes. After much discussion, the Subcommittee recommended to delete this statement.

On page 29, Vehicle Tires, Zales/Walker indicate that EPA (1974) states no evidence of toxic substances leaching from tires. In addition they are durable and not subject to boring organisms. There was general agreement that used tires are durable; however, there is still some concern regarding potential leaching, particularly in low salinity water. Zales/Walker also questioned the Hurricane Opal reference, asking for documentation of the tires on the beach. Dodrill indicated that he would try to track down the reports from DEP. They were also under the impression that New Jersey still used tires. It was pointed out that they discontinued the use of tires several years ago. Currently, the only state other than Alabama allowing tires to be deployed in association with artificial reef structures is Delaware.

Page 47, Zales/Walker pointed out an editorial error. It was duly noted and will be changed. In addition, they suggested changing the word "evidence" to "hypothesis" regarding railroad cars in water currents. The Subcommittee agreed.

Page 56, paragraph 2, Zales/Walker misinterpreted the statements taken from Ditton, et al. (1979) that steel-hulled vessel artificial reefs extended the charter boat season off Texas. They thought it meant that the Council extended the season because there were artificial reefs to use. Ditton was actually using the word season to refer to the normal length of time the charter boats are able to continue working because of environmental conditions and customer satisfaction, not related to a regulated season.

Based on discussions regarding the movement of steel-hulled vessels during hurricanes, the Subcommittee agreed to develop a table that cites the hurricanes that have occurred in the Gulf of Mexico and their category status. This could be used to evaluate the level of risk associated with having a hurricane impact artificial reefs in specific areas in the Gulf.

THE TAPE BEGAN TO WORK AGAIN AT THIS POINT

Regarding the benefits/drawbacks subsection of Section 2.7, Zales/Walker indicated that it appears that a great deal of time has been spent on drawbacks and negative aspects, and that creating more drawbacks than benefits creates a bias against the use of steel-hulled vessels. For instance, a drawback is the possibility that a vessel will sink offsite before reaching the planned destination, because it is not in seaworthy condition. This is mistaken to mean that vessels used for artificial reefs should be in good operating order. What it means is that an added aspect of using vessels is that they have to be towed to the site, and if in poor condition could sink before arriving. The fact that any section may have more drawback bullets than benefit bullets is in no way a bias, but rather a litany of the issues associated with using that material.

On page 61, second paragraph, Zales/Walker indicated that they think the references to explosives are inflammatory. The document makes reference to the use of explosives to get public attention and media publicity. The Subcommittee indicated that the intention was not to be inflammatory, but to state what has happened. Bell indicated that their program has avoided what he calls the Hollywood Shot. Dodrill indicated that that section could be rewritten. The Subcommittee agreed to try to rewrite the language regarding explosives.

Zales/Walker disputed the statement "All things being equal, anglers exhibit a preference for fishing on natural habitat." After some discussion, they pointed out that a study by Bell and others (1998) indicated the opposite for the Florida panhandle. The group agreed to include information from that study.

Zales/Walker also disputed the statement from Polovina that artificial reefs redistribute exploitable biomass, saying that Lindburg and others conducted a study that states the opposite. The group agreed to include information from that study.

Zales/Walker commented on the statement in the text on page 63 which indicates that the structural complexity of barges is typically less than that of other vessels and, because of that, barges may be of less habitat value to some commercially and recreationally important species. They indicated that their experience is that barges have good populations of fish associated with them. It was pointed out that the statement, attributed to Ecklund (1994) is not saying that fish don't use barges as habitat, but that barges may be less attractive because of reduced structural complexity. Culbertson pointed out that some barges can be very complex, much more than the typical flat-top or hopper barge. She indicated that she may add some language about various types of barges. It was determined, however, that Ecklund's comments are a valid result of her study and should not be changed.

Zales/Walker noted that there are about a page and a half of drawbacks and one half a page of benefits in the steel-hulled vessel chapter. There ensued a discussion regarding how to interpret that phenomenon. Lukens indicated that the substance of each benefit or drawback is more important that how many there are. Further, a single benefit of deep substance may far outweigh several stated drawbacks. Heath also pointed out that steel-hulled vessels do have a lot of drawbacks because of their size and complexity. He further stated that noting the drawbacks would not necessarily keep someone from using a steel-hulled vessel, but they would know more about what to expect if they did use one.

Heath suggested that the group could add a statement that steel hulled vessels make excellent artificial reefs, however, all of benefits and drawbacks must be considered on a case by case basis. The group agreed. Lukens suggested the following language, "The authors believe that steel-hulled vessels make excellent artificial reef material; however, consideration of the complexity of issues associated with using steel-hulled vessels is important in the decision whether or not to accept or pursue a steel-hulled vessel." The group agreed to include that language for review.

Lukens indicated that the meeting time had expired, but the Subcommittee hadn't completed the Zales/Walker comments or the additional scoping comments from others. He indicated that he would complete the review of the Zales/Walker comments and send his thoughts to the Subcommittee, Zales, and Walker for their information and comment.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

APPROVED BY:
10/30/01
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

SEAMAP Subcommittee Meeting
MINUTES
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands
Wednesday, August 8, 2001

Call to Order

Chairman Jim Hanifen called the meeting to order at 8:55 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members:
Richard Waller, USM/CMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Kim Williams (representing Mark Leiby), FWC/FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Joanne Lyczkowski-Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Steve Heath, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL

Others:
Perry Thompson, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS

Staff:
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Cheryl Noble, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

Under Other Business, D. Donaldson will discuss coordination of fishery-independent activities; the Subcommittee will discuss the funding allocations document distributed by the South Atlantic; and J. Shultz will discuss her trip to Poland this summer. With these additions, the agenda was adopted.

Approval of Minutes

J. Shultz moved to approve the March 12, 2001 minutes as submitted. S. Heath seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Report

J. Rester said the status of some of the Subcommittee members has changed. R. Waller is no longer an official employee of GCRL and T. Cody will be retiring soon. T. Cody said there may not be an official replacement but a representative should be at future meetings when he officially retires. R. Waller said that at this time and as long as funds are available, he will continue to be the Mississippi

representative but if he is replaced it will probably be with someone from the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

The Environmental Data Work Group is still working on a proposal to the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS). The work group has compiled CTD data for each state. The work group would like NESDIS to analyze past CTD casts and provide funds for CTD and benchtop fluorometer purchases for member states. When the RFP is announced, the work group will meet to finalize the proposal.

The SEAMAP Spring Plankton Survey took place from April 17 through May 31. One hundred eighty-nine stations were sampled from the west Florida shelf to the Louisiana/Texas border. This was the twentieth year for the survey.

The SEAMAP Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey took place from June 1 through July 24. This was the twentieth year for this survey, also. Efforts were affected by Tropical Storm Allison and the OREGON II breaking down twice. P. Thompson thanked J. Hanifen and D. Waller for the use of their vessels so they could continue with their surveys. P. Thompson also informed the Subcommittee that NMFS hopes to replace the OREGON II within 5-6 years. Real-time shrimp data were produced from this survey. Catches of shrimp and finfish were reported weekly from the survey and plots and catch rates were distributed to interested individuals and were available on the Commission web site.

The 1999 Environmental and Biological Atlas of the Gulf of Mexico has been completed and is at the printer.

The Management Plan was completed and is at the printer. J. Rester stated he had copies if the Subcommittee wants one before the printing is complete.

J. Rester took photos and videos from the Alabama and Louisiana Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Surveys to be used on the CD-ROM version of the Atlas. The CD-ROM features the Atlas as an Adobe Acrobat file with interactive photos and video clips and it also includes an Atlas PowerPoint presentation. He then demonstrated the draft Atlas CD-ROM to the Subcommittee, distributed copies, and asked for input to improve or add to the CD-ROM.

T. Cody asked P. Thompson the status of the reef fish cruise. P. Thompson said they started a reef fish cruise but it was not completed due to mechanical failures of the vessel.

Summary of 2001 Distribution of Shrimp Real-Time

J. Rester said the real time data was distributed for the second year this summer. It was distributed to approximately 200 people via mail and it was also available on the internet. He said no negative comments were received from TSA or anyone else and several people called the week the OREGON II was down asking for the data.

T. Cody asked if the red snapper data will be distributed this fall and J. Rester said the summary will

be available on the Internet (per the Subcommittee decision at the last meeting). J. Shultz suggested calling the data the end of season snapper report and the Subcommittee agreed. J. Rester will also make photos available with the summary.

Status of FY2002 Budget

J. Shultz reported that SEAMAP should expect level funding at $1.4 million for FY2002. J. Rester stated that everyone should have received the signed modified cooperative agreement for the 2001 increase but if they have not they will soon.

Activities and Budget Needs for FY2002

a. Florida - K. Williams said Florida is asking for level funding with the increase which totals $141,340.00. She also reported Florida will do one cruise in the fall and cooperate with the federal cruises. With the increase in funding for 2001, another person was hired full time at the archiving center.

b. Alabama - S. Heath said Alabama is asking for level funding, $68,000, but they did not receive an increase in 2001 when the new funds came through. Due to cost of living increases, they may need additional funds in 2002. He said all of the 2000 reeffish videos are in and the first read has been done. The 2000 data was formatted and sent to NMFS and one trip was completed in 2001. The Summer Groundfish cruise was done on June 18 & 25. The finfish and shrimp catches were low but there was low DO in the water off Alabama this year. The fall red drum and king mackerel cruise is scheduled for September 18, the Fall Groundfish cruise is set for October 15 and 18, and all of the inshore trawl sampling has been usual.

c. Mississippi - R. Waller stated that the Spring Plankton cruise was successful but the first leg of the trawl cruise was interrupted by Tropical Storm Allison two days before completion. The second and third leg off Louisiana was a little different. It was a short cruise but most stations were completed. Mississippi is asking for level funding with the extra $24,000 for a total of $118,495.

d. Louisiana - J. Hanifen said Louisiana will continue doing the three seasonal shrimp groundfish and plankton surveys and are asking for level funding which is $135,200.

e. Texas - T. Cody reported Texas has accomplished everything planned. The fall cruise went well and all of the data are in the system. The summer cruise went well, all samples were collected and the data will be in the system soon. He said that depending on his replacement, the video and longlining cruises may be affected. It depends on his replacement's enthusiasm. Texas plans to continue all cruises for level funding which is $58,804.

f. GSMFC - J. Rester stated that the Commission received a $10,000 increase this past year and it will cover increased overhead expenses and additional work group meetings. They plan to continue at level funding which is $90,564.

g. NMFS - S. Nichols said NMFS plans to continue the same work for level funding.

SEAMAP Video Conferencing

J. Rester reported that at the last meeting the Subcommittee asked him to research video conferencing options. He discussed several options and after discussion, the Subcommittee decided it was beneficial for the Subcommittee to meet in person, but if someone is not able to attend a future meeting and the technology is available at the meeting hotel, this is an option for them to participate in the meeting.

Use of all SEAMAP Data in Stock Assessments

J. Shultz reported that S. Nichols has edited all the state data and has made it available to the stock assessment team in Miami. The Subcommittee asked if the data is being used in stock assessments. J. Shultz said she does not know, but will ask S. Nichols to find out and let the Subcommittee know.

SEAMAP Database Public View

J. Rester reported the SEAMAP database can now be accessed via the Commission website. He said there is a list a variables in the folders and asked the Subcommittee to review the variables and delete those that the average public user would not need or be interested in. The Subcommittee then reviewed the list and took off the variables that they felt should not be included in the public view. J. Rester will send the revised variable list to the Subcommittee for final review. The Subcommittee asked him to also develop a key and disclaimer page to state if the user needs more detailed information, to contact the GSMFC office.

Mirroring the SEAMAP Database

J. Rester reported that they originally thought they would be able to mirror the database at GSMFC with the database at NMFS. Basically, whenever a change was made on the NMFS database it will automatically be updated on the GSMFC website. Due to configuration problems, this will be impossible. Mike Sestak from the GSMFC office has proposed to compare the databases monthly to insure both are updated. It will also be noted on the disclaimer page that this data is accurate as of a specific date.

SEAMAP Administration

Cynthia Pierce will give her presentation at the Joint Meeting.

Preparation of Cooperative Agreements

The Subcommittee will review the Operations Plan and the NMFS portion of the Cooperative Agreement and send changes to J. Rester before August 17, 2001. The changes will be incorporated and distributed to the Subcommittee.

Other Business

D. Donaldson said he will be discussing SEAMAP coordinating fishery-independent data at the joint meeting, but wanted to inform the Subcommittee before the meeting. He said that in March of 1999 the Commission charged staff with developing coordinated fishery independent data activities. Obviously, SEAMAP is a major contributor to that, but there are other fishery independent data activities going on in the Gulf, South Atlantic and Caribbean. The FIN discussed this at their meeting and decided that goals and objectives need to be developed to do this. The problem with having SEAMAP do this is that SEAMAP is very specific to the activities that they are involved in. They do not coordinate with the other activities but there are ways to go about this. One would be to have SEAMAP expand the program and include these other activities. Another would be to have SEAMAP involved in the process of developing this overall guiding document for fishery-independent activities. There is travel funding available for planning these activities, but no funds are available for operational costs. He then asked the Subcommittee to think about this and be ready to discuss it at the joint meeting.

J. Rester directed the Subcommittee's attention to the funding allocation document developed by the South Atlantic that will be discussed at the joint meeting. He said the South Atlantic is leaning toward Option 4 and asked if the Subcommittee wants to decide which option they want or develop a new one. After discussion, the Subcommittee agreed that they are not interested in using formulas or set percentages to distribute future funding. They decided to listen to the presentation at the joint meeting and if nothing is resolved they will discuss it at the next Gulf meeting.

J. Shultz said she went to Poland in June for advisory committee meetings and all was well. She said the Polish Sorting Center is now able to send their data electronically.

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

APPROVED BY:
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

SEAMAP - GULF, SOUTH ATLANTIC
AND CARIBBEAN SUBCOMMITTEES
JOINT MINUTES
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands
August 8, 2001

A. Rosario and V. Christian welcomed everyone to the Virgin Islands. J. Rester announced that the original SEAMAP coordinator was present. He asked everyone to please welcome P. Thompson.

Chairman H. Ansley called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Henry Ansley, GADNR, Brunswick, GA
James Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Steve Heath, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Kim Williams, FWC/FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Perry Thompson, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Richard Waller, USM/IMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Darlene Haverkamp, FWC/FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Katy West, NC-PMF,
Ellie F. Roche, NMFS/SER, St. Petersburg, FL
Cynthia Pierce, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Barbara Kojis, DFW, DPNR, St. Thomas, VI
Edgardo Ojeda, UPR Sea Grant, Mayaguez, PR
Aida Rosario, FRL/PR-ONER, Mayaguez, PR
Larry DeLancey, SCDNR, Charleston, SC
Jeanne Boylan, SCDNR, Charleston, SC
Bob Van Dolah, SCDNR, Charleston, SC
John Merriner, NMFS-SEFSC, Beaufort, NC
Lisa Kline, ASMFC, Washington, DC
Geoffrey White, ASMFC, Washington, DC
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Dale Theiling, SCDNR, Charleston, SC
Roger Pugliese, SAFMC, Charleston, SC
Carlos A. Ramos, CFMC, San Juan, PR
Ana M. Román, USFWS, St. Croix, USVI
Roger Uwate, USVI DFW, St. ThomasVI
José A. Rivera, NMFS, Boguerón, PR
Richard S. Appeldoorn, UPR, Mayaguez, PR
Joanne Lyczkowski-Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Kim Williams, FWC/FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Jeff Rester, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Cheryl Noble, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

Agenda Item VII was moved before Item VI. With this change, the agenda was adopted.

Approval of Minutes

The August 3-4, 2000 minutes were approved as submitted.

Overview of SEAMAP-Caribbean

B. Kojis reported that the Caribbean component had a number of projects that were ongoing. The fishery-independent trap sampling project was completed in Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and St. John this fiscal year. The St. Croix component did not complete the project due to boat repairs and installation of a trap hauler on the vessel used for this project. The repairs have been made and the project is continuing. They will ask for an extension to complete the project within the next eight months.

The conch project is ongoing in St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix. Sampling sites have been increased to include more potential juvenile conch habitat. She said that only nine of twenty-four sites sampled actually had juvenile conch. Most of those sites had adult conch and most of those adult conch were old. Because they are concerned with conch age structure and population, seagrass beds not previously sampled were sampled for juvenile conch. St. Croix is in the process of collecting conch data this week.

She said they are planning to have all of the data they have collected through the years analyzed when funding is received. They also plan to have a review of all sampling stations and project methodologies and start another Lobster sampling project this coming year.

Overview of SEAMAP-Gulf

J. Hanifen reported the 17th Annual Fall Plankton Survey was completed last October. Florida and NMFS sampled 125 stations on the west Florida shelf and across the northern Gulf and the objective of the survey was to collect ichthyoplankton samples to estimate the abundance and define distribution of King mackerel and other species' eggs and larvae in the Gulf of Mexico. The 16th Annual Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey took place October 14 through December 1, 2000. Samples were collected from Mobile to the U.S./Mexican border. Objectives of the survey were to determine abundance and distribution of demersal organisms from inshore waters to 60 fathoms, collect length frequency measurements for finfish and shrimp, look at population size structure, collect environmental data, look at relationships with abundance and distribution of organisms, and collect ichthyoplankton samples. Data from this survey were used to produce red snapper real time plots and a survey summary report. This was the third year the plots and summaries were produced.

He reported several conference calls were held to discuss the additional $200,000 that SEAMAP received this year. L. Simpson spent time in Washington, D.C. meeting with Congressmen to discuss additional funding for SEAMAP.

The 20th Annual Spring Plankton Survey took place from April 17 through May 31 and 189 samples were collected along the west Florida shelf to the Texas/Louisiana border. Objectives of the survey were to collect ichthyoplankton samples to estimate abundance and distribution of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna larvae and environmental data. The 20th Annual Summer/Shrimp Groundfish Survey took place June 1 through July 21. There were some mechanical problems with the OREGON II and other problems occurred due to Tropical Storm Allison, but the survey was completed. The objectives of the survey were to monitor the size and distribution of penaeid shrimp during or prior to migration of brown shrimp from bays to the open Gulf, aid and evaluate the Texas Closure, and to provide information on shrimp and groundfish stocks from inshore waters out to 50 fathoms. The real time shrimp data reports and plots were produced again during this survey.

The Environmental Data Work Group has been working on a proposal to submit to NESDIS to compile archived CTD cast data and to provide funding for purchasing benchtop fluormeters and CTDs for the states so they can standardize their data acquisitions for environmental data.

Overview of SEAMAP-South Atlantic

H. Ansley reported a 10-year Trawl Report was produced in December 2000 from the ongoing Shallow Water Trawl Survey. The Shallow Water Trawl Work Group also had an external review of their sampling methodology and data.

The Bottom Mapping Committee produced a revised CD-ROM and hard copy of the bottom mapping areas and live hard bottoms in the southeast Atlantic and the revised CD-ROM is more user friendly. This information will be extremely useful for their committees, the council, libraries and other organizations interested in this information.

The 2001-2005 SEAMAP Management Plan has been completed and will be distributed soon. H. Ansley thanked everybody for their input on this project. He stated all of their work groups were able to meet this past year.

Overview of NMFS

S. Nichols reported this past year was unusual for NMFS because they had an increase in budget and were able to restart some of the activities that were put on hold such as the trap video and reef fish surveys. He then reported the OREGON II was out of commission for a while and this interrupted the summer trawl surveys. He thanked the Gulf components for helping them salvage a major portion of the surveys by sampling a number of their stations. Work is ongoing on the next version of the database, mainly data entry.

Status of FY2002 Funds

S. Nichols reported the President's budget is requesting 1.4 million (minus tax and fees) and both houses are in agreement

Funding Allocation Protocol Development

H. Ansley gave a brief background on the Funding Allocation Goals Document (Attachment I) developed by H. Ansley and G. White. He said the document was developed to be used as

guidance for the SEAMAP components in distributing any new funds SEAMAP may receive in the future. The South Atlantic Committee feels option number four is the best option.

The document was discussed and several members felt that this would take away the flexibility the SEAMAP program has in deciding how to allocate additional funding. Goals, objectives and funding needs are outlined in the management plan and can be used as guidance for distributing additional funding. It was suggested that the document could be used as a starting point for negotiating new funding allocations.

B. Kojis moved to recommend using option four as a guideline for future discussion of allocation of new funding. K. West seconded it.

J. Merriner moved to table the motion and discuss the issue at a future meeting as the other components have not presented this to their governing boards. B. Kojis withdrew her motion.

The coordinators will discuss this issue with their governing boards for their input. Final decision on the document will then be discussed at the next joint meeting.

Proposed Activities and Budget Needs for FY2002

A. Caribbean - B. Kojis stated that the Caribbean plans to start the new lobster survey in 2002 but they will continue ongoing surveys and the new project at level funding which is $145,000.

B. Gulf - J. Hanifen stated the Gulf will try to maintain all current programs with the same amount of funding which is $612,403. He said the additional $100,000 will be used for increased vessel costs and reinstating the surveys that have been stopped.

C. South Atlantic - H. Ansley stated the south Atlantic will maintain current programs with the same amount of funding which is $365,387.

D. NMFS - S. Nichols stated NMFS will continue current programs for the same amount of funding which is $220, 510.

E. Joint Discussion of SEAMAP Budget for FY2002 - After discussion, all components agreed to stay at level funding and to try to continue operating at their current level. If more or less funding is received, the chairpersons will meet with the program manager to decide how the funding will be distributed. The breakdown is as follows:

Caribbean	$ 145,000
Gulf	612,403
South Atlantic	365,387
NMFS	220,510
Total	$ 1,343,300

Grant Reporting Requirements/Timing

C. Pierce said NOAA grants are running behind but everything should be signed by the end of August. She reminded the Committee that the grants are on a three year cycle and there is no reason to ever lose funds from year one and two. She said to identify the funds that need to be carried over on the budget form and mention it in the cover letter. She asked that everyone submit their paper work and establish all of the direct costs categories up front or it will have to go through NOAA grants for approval and that could take a while. She said all grant documents must be in their office 90 days before the start date and all forms are available on the NOAA grants web site.

2001 - 2005 SEAMAP Management Plan

G. White stated the management plan is at the printers and thanked everyone for their input. The plan will be distributed as soon as they are received.

SEAMAP Web Page

G. White reported the SEAMAP.ORG domain name for a central web site for the three components has been purchased for $55.00/year. The web site is being developed and it will include general information and links to each component, a SEAMAP publications list, data access instructions, photographs, and anything else pertaining to SEAMAP. The three coordinators will have the ability to access and make changes to the web site.

Discussion of Coordinated Fishery Independent Activities

D. Donaldson reported that in March of 1999 the GSMFC's commissioners charged staff with developing coordinated fishery independent data activities in the Gulf. He said SEAMAP is a major contributor to that, but there are other fishery independent data activities going on in the Gulf, South Atlantic and Caribbean. The FIN discussed this at their last meeting and suggested developing a program similar to FIN/ACCSP with the purpose being to provide fishery-independent data in compatible formats, develop goals and objectives, develop necessary minimum data elements, develop a data management system, and identify issues and problems and then develop solutions. He asked if the Committee would be interested in this and if so asked what role would they want SEAMAP to take. The Subcommittee stated this is a good idea but would be a major undertaking. It was suggested that SEAMAP be the umbrella agency instead of just a participant. D. Donaldson said funds are available for the initial meeting to develop the goals and objectives. Concerns were expressed about funding because SEAMAP needs more funds to keep their current projects going. D. Donaldson said they do not want to jeopardize any ongoing SEAMAP activities to further this new initiative. T. Cody stated another consideration is some states are very cautious about distributing their data. All requests must be documented and some fees may have to be paid. S. Nichols stated it will take a tremendous amount of money to make progress and if the Committee is interested in participating they must decide if they want to be a partner or a leader. J. Hanifen suggested that because the Gulf component was charged to do this, they will focus on developing an outline or a plan and then bring that back to the joint committee for discussion at the next meeting. The committee agreed the Gulf should take the lead to start drafting a plan but several of the South Atlantic participants will also be involved in the initial draft developments.

SEAMAP Database Public View

J. Rester reported the SEAMAP database can now be accessed by the public via the GSMFC website. He said there is an extensive list of variables to be used for queries. The Gulf reviewed this list at this morning's meeting and narrowed it to what they thought the general public user would be interested in. He gave the list to the other coordinators to distribute to their Subcommittees for their input. A disclaimer page stating if the user needs more detailed information to contact the GSMFC office will also be developed to accompany the variable list.

Planning for the 2002 Joint Annual Meeting

The Gulf component will host the next joint meeting. After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to have the next meeting the first week of August 2002, preferably on Wednesday and Thursday. J. Rester will check rates in New Orleans and San Antonio and contact the other coordinators when he receives the information.

Other Business

The Committee thanked the Caribbean component for hosting the meeting and B. Kojis thanked everybody for coming.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STATE/FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, August 14, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

Moderator Larry Simpson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members
Ginny Vail, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL
Vernon Minton, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Corky Perret, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Mike Ray, TPWD, Austin, TX
Alex Chester, NMFS, Miami, FL (proxy for Joseph Powers)
Columbus Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Larry Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Martin Bourgeois, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Georgia Cranmore, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Diane Borggaard, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Mark Holliday, (via telephone), NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Maury Osborn, (via telephone), NMFS, Silver Spring, MD

Staff
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
David Donaldson, Data Program Manager
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Coordinator

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

Status of Funding

L. Simpson provided a brief overview regarding the status of 2002 funding for data collection and management activities. He stated that there is currently a $3.5M mark for GulfFIN in both the House and Senate mark up. Also, there is approximately $855K available to the Gulf through the Recreational Fisheries Harvesting line item. Therefore, currently there should be about $4.3M available for FIN activities in 2002. It was suggested that this is the level that should be submitted for through the cooperative agreement.

Discussion of Funding Activities for 2001

D. Donaldson provided a summary of the activities for potential funding in 2002. This list was developed by the FIN Committee at their June meeting. The list is attached (Attachment A). It was noted that the detailed effort task is not included in the cooperative agreement since this activity will be conducted (in 2002) using existing funds. It was also pointed out that the for-hire social-economic survey has been incorporated into Job 2. The group then discussed the various jobs identified in the draft statement of work. Job 1 consists of coordination and administration of FIN activities and will provide for the coordination, planning, and administration of FIN activities throughout the year as well as provide recreational and commercial information to the FIN participants and other interested personnel. It will also include funding for an additional data entry clerk to assist in the entry of recreational data. J. Roussel noted that it would be easier to follow the flow of personnel if they were not split among jobs. It was suggested that the Program Manager position be placed in Job 1 only. D. Donaldson stated that that change can be incorporated into the 2002 cooperative agreement. Job 2 pertains to the collection, management and dissemination of marine recreational fisheries data. This job will provide for the conduct of the MRFSS survey in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida for shore, for-hire, and private modes and for-hire field intercepts in Texas. This task will provide for coordination of the survey, a field intercept survey of shore, for-hire and private boat anglers to estimate angler catch using the existing MRFSS methodology, and entry of the data. The states will also conduct weekly telephone calls to a 10% random sample of the Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida charter boat captains to obtain estimates of charter boat fishing effort as well as social-economic data. Job 3 refers to head boat port sampling in Texas, Louisiana, and Florida and will provide for the sampling of catches, collection of catch reports from head boat personnel, and gathering effort data on head boats along the coasts of Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. Job 4 consists of Gulf menhaden port sampling and provide for sampling of gulf menhaden catches from menhaden purse-seine vessels which operate at in Louisiana. It was noted that last year this job also included the collection of commercial fisheries data by 5 port agents. It was the understanding of the Committee that these agents would be rehired by NMFS in 2002. A. Chester confirmed that these people will be rehired by NMFS and there is no need to fund their activities through the cooperative agreement. Job 5 refers to the development and implementation of FIN Data Management System (DMS) which will provide for further implementation of the data management system for the FIN including routine loading of Louisiana, Mississippi (oyster only) Alabama, and Florida commercial catch effort data, Gulf biological data, Gulf recreational data; and maintenance of DMS. Job 6 consists of the development and operation of trip ticket program in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. That concluded all of the on-going activities.

The group then discussed new activities. Job 7 refers to the collection of biological data. This job will provide funding for collection of biological data from the recreational and commercial fisheries. Due to funding constraints, the FIN Committee recommended focusing on collection of data from red snapper, king mackerel and southern flounder. There was some concern expressed regarding the large number otoliths and lengths that were proposed to be collected. V. Minton was concerned about the discrepancy between the number of otoliths outlined in the Data Collection Plan and what Alabama observed in the field. It was noted that the numbers in the Data Collection Plan are both recreational and commercial needs, not just recreational so although they may seem overly ambitious, they are from both sectors of the fishery. Also, the number are just targets and not quotas. If the targets are not reached, there is no "penalty" for missing them. The FIN is attempting to implement a process and it may take several attempts to refine it in order to get more realistic goals. This is FIN's first attempt. And lastly, the numbers were

developed from historical landings to provide some objectivity to the process instead of arbitrarily picking numbers. The other new activity was an addition task under Job 2 - collection of social and economic data from the for-hire fishery. These data are become more important in the management of fisheries resources and are needed to assure sound scientific decisions are being made. There was concerned expressed that these additional social and economic questions may jeopardize the base survey and somehow damage all the hard work that has been accomplished. M. Holliday stated that this survey is being conducted on the west coast and has been fairly successful. It does not add that much additional time to the survey time and it is providing critical data. The group believed that there needs to be more input from the industry before the start of the survey. It was noted that outreach meetings to get feedback from the industry have been planned for later 2001 and early 2002. Everyone understood that for the survey to be successful, there needs to be buy-in and acceptance from the for-hire industry. It was suggested that data collection could be postponed in order to ensure adequate input for the industry. However, it should not be delayed too long since the need for these data is important. These data can be used by the industry to demonstrate the worth and value of the for-hire fishery to the economy. After a lengthy discussion, **C. Perret moved that the Gulf States initiate the charter boat social-economic survey in 2002 after adequate outreach and input from the for-hire industry**. Once input from the industry was obtained and a final questionnaire is developed, the questionnaire will be provided to the S/FFMC for their review and approval (possibly at the March GSMFC meeting). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The group discussed the jobs that should be included in the 2002 FIN cooperative agreement. **G. Vail moved that the S/FFMC approve jobs 1-7 for funding in the 2002 FIN cooperative agreement**. The motion was seconded. J. Roussel noted that with the current motion, the charter boat social-economic survey would begin in January 2002. Based on the previous motion regarding adequate input from the industry, he believed a January start date for this activity would be premature. Therefore, **he made a substitute motion that the S/FFMC adopt the outlined jobs with the following modifications:**

1) **extend the Texas Charter Boat Telephone Survey from August 2002 to December 2002;**
2) **modify the start date for the Charter Boat Social-economic Survey from January 2002 to later in the year until adequate input from the for-hire industry can be obtained;**
3) **extend the Night Fishing Pilot Survey in Mississippi through December 2002; and**
4) **remaining balance of funds be used to collect additional lengths and otoliths under Job 7 (Biological Sampling).**

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The final allocation of funds for the 2002 FIN cooperative agreement is attached (Attachment B).

The group then discussed the FIN Program Review report. D. Donaldson stated that as outlined by the FIN Goals and Objectives, FIN conducts an external program review. The presented report was the product from the latest review. In addition to the review, the FIN Committee formulated responses to the various recommendations. It was noted that there was some concern by the FIN Committee that the review team did not focus on the appropriate areas for the review. The review team appeared to be directing its attention on reviewing data collection methodologies instead of how well FIN is doing regarding reaching its stated goals and objectives. Because of this, the FIN Committee decided to examine the

program review process and revamp it for the next review. D. Donaldson stated that the S/FFMC did not need to take any action on this item. He provided it to the group for informational purposes.

And finally, L. Simpson presented a letter to the group regarding support for the FIN. The letter is intended to be sent to Congress. The group began reviewing the letter and it was suggested that members provide comments to L. Simpson by the end of the week. Once a final draft of the letter was developed, it will be distributed to the group for their review and then sent to the appropriate congressional delegation.

Review and Approval of Crab FMP

S. VanderKooy stated that a copy of the Crab FMP was distributed to the group for their review. The group briefly discussed the FMP and **C. Perret moved to accept the Crab FMP and forward the plan to the Commission for their review and approval at the upcoming October GSMFC Annual meeting**. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Marine Mammals Interactions with Blue Crabs

D. Borggaard gave a presentation regarding dolphin interactions with the blue crab fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. She provided some background about the Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA) The goal of the MMPA is to maintain the optimum sustainable population (OSP) and ecosystem function of marine mammal stocks. One of the objectives of the Act is, in commercial fisheries, to reduce incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals to insignificant levels approaching a zero mortality and serious injury rate. She presented a schematic which outlined the process for determining the level of interaction a fishery has with marine mammals. Based on this level determines how the fishery is categorized: Category III - rare interaction; Category II - occasional interaction; and Category I - frequent interaction. If a fishery is categorized as either category I or II, there are a variety of actions that must be undertaken such as registration and authorization to incidentally take marine mammals and development of take reduction plans. She described potential biological removal (PBR) which is the maximum number of animals, excluding natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population. She presented data would was used to classify the blue crab fishery in the Gulf of Mexico as a category II fishery. There was concern among the group that the information used to determine that the blue crab fishery has enough interactions with bottlenosed dolphin. The group expressed an interest in continuing to work with NMFS-Southeast Region on this issue and be kept informed about the status of the various fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. It was suggested that D. Borggaard provide a presentation to the Technical Coordinating Committee's Crab Subcommittee at the upcoming meeting in October.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Attachment A

ITEMS FOR FUNDING CONSIDERATION IN 2002

ACTIVITY

High Priority

Coordination and Administration of FIN Activities
Data Entry Clerk

Collecting, Managing and Disseminating Marine Recreational Fisheries Data (Including Charter Boat Telephone Survey)

Trip Ticket Program Implementation and Operations in Mississippi

Trip Ticket Program Implementation in Texas

Trip Ticket Program Operations in Alabama

Trip Ticket Program Operations Louisiana

Head Boat Port Sampling in Texas, Louisiana, and Florida

Gulf Menhaden Port Sampling

Development and Implementation of FIN Data Management System

Recreational/Commercial Biological Sampling

Detailed Effort Pilot Study

For-Hire Social/Economic Pilot Study

Low priority

Commercial Social/Economic Pilot Study

Attachment B

ACTIVITY		COST
Administration and coordination of FIN (Job1)		$362,773
Recreational data collection (Job 2)		
Texas	$86,627	
Louisiana	$273,949	
Mississippi	$159,800	
Alabama	$159,027	
Florida	$1,361,160	
GSMFC	$205,888	
Rec survey subtotal		$2,246,451
Head boat sampling (Job 3)		
Louisiana	$25,684	
Florida	$77,930	
GSMFC/TX sampler	$37,148	
Head boat subtotal		$140,762
Commercial Fisheries Data Collection (Job 4)		
Menhaden - Louisiana	$7,080	
Menhaden - GSMFC	$18,766	
Commercial sampling subtotal		$25,846
Development of FIN DMS (Job 5)		$169,800
Development of trip ticket programs (Job 6)		
Louisiana	$499,176	
Mississippi	$62,823	
Alabama	$95,312	
Trip ticket subtotal		$657,311
Biological sampling collection (Job 7)		
GSMFC/Texas	$107,866	
Louisiana	$99,100	
Mississippi	$31,999	
Alabama	$100,780	
Florida	$172,567	
Biol sampling subtotal		$512,312
Night Fishing Survey (Job 8)		$60,000
GRAND TOTAL		**$4,175,255**

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION SUMMARY
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
August 17, 2001

The work session began at 8:30 a.m. The following were present:

Donald Armes, Jr., MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Bruce Buckson, FWC, Tallahassee, FL
Ron Dearmin, NOAA OLE, Carriere, MS
Dave Fiedler, USCG, New Orleans, LA
Dale Jones, NOAA OLE, Silver Spring, MD
Beverly Lambert, NOAA OLE, Silver Spring, MD
Jeff Mayne, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Gene Proulx, NOAA OLE, St. Petersburg, FL
Karen Raine, NOAA GCEL/SE, St. Petersburg, FL
David Rose, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Jerry Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Cindy Yocom, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Larry Young, TPWD, Austin, TX

Standard Reporting. The group discussed standard reporting for joint enforcement agreements. The reports should account for those items purchased through JEAs and provide vital enforcement statistics. B. Lambert distributed CDs containing a program that is used by South Carolina to compile agreement reports. Data will be exported onto NOAA OLE's web site. The states that are using other programs will not be a problem. Their data can be converted and exported to the web site, as well.

Deputy Pins. J. Mayne and D. Jones will work together to provide federal deputy pins to state officers. These will help state officers identify themselves to mariners who may believe the officers to be out of their jurisdiction.

Case Prosecution. To assist in case prosecution, G. Proulx noted that digital camera usage expedites case assembly. The NOAA OLE has a Kodak printer and encouraged the states to send in digital images.

The GPS verification form must be done on a trip-by-trip basis since it must be proven in court that equipment is working reliably. This helps to alleviate problems of jurisdiction.

D. Fiedler offered to help the states train in case package preparation. NOAA General Counsel is available for questions as well. B. Lambert, NOAA OLE, is available for on-site assistance.

Case packages should be submitted to the nearest SAC office – Texas cases to Steve Coker, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida panhandle to Ron Dearmin. Flag original signatures. NOAA OLE expects to hire an enforcement technician to oversee state prepared cases for federal prosecution.

Venue Laws. Louisiana provided examples of recent statute changes to address venue. All states are encouraged to check with their state attorneys to clarify their laws. Florida and Louisiana's statutes are the clearest. The Magnuson Act addresses the authority of states over their citizens and vessels. See also Nixon 1949. **Further discussion needed.**

Summary Settlements. State officers can now issue summary settlements on TED cases. Officers will need training. **Further discussion needed.**

Regulation Books. Since regulations are constantly changing, all agreed that the day of printed matter is over. CDs are the long-term answer. All should subscribe to FishNews electronic bulletins. This provides the latest Federal Register notices.

2002 JEA Submissions. D. Jones encouraged the Gulf States to work collectively as they did for 2001 JEAs. The Congressional mark is currently at $15 million. States should submit their proposals in *January 2002.* **Further discussion needed.**

GMFMC September Meeting. Chairman Mayne, J. Waller, and J.T. Jenkins plan to attend the September 12 meeting of the Council's Law Enforcement Committee meeting. J. Mayne will give a presentation on JEA progress along with special enforcement events from July 1 through present day. NOAA OLE will help compile vital statistics for the progress report. **Permission for C. Yocom to attend?**

1-800 Number. The violation reporting number has been decided: 1-866-WE ENFORCE, 1-866-933-3672. When a call is placed it will dispatched to the nearest state or federal agency's 800-number. **J. Mayne work with CCA on a news release.**

Special Events. [necessarily vague] A special enforcement event was discussed and data will be reported on after the fact along with news releases. **A conference call will be convened via GSMFC to discuss details.**

Derelict Crab Trap. A joint session of the C-RFAP, Habitat Subcommittee, Crab Subcommittee, and LEC will be held Monday, October 29 to discuss the problem of derelict crab traps. **Cindy - mail white paper and executive summary to LEC.**

Administrative Funding. The group agreed that it has become clear that the LEC needs an administrative funding mechanism to support enforcement activities. Four meetings per year have become necessary along with monthly and special event conference calls. Funds are needed to offset travel expenses, conference calls, copying, printing, and staffing. The LEC requested C. Yocom

provide an estimate of needed funds for yearly activities of the LEC. **Further discussion & GSMFC action needed.**

GMFMC December Meeting. Chairman of the Council LEAP, J. Waller, agreed to request funding for all LEAP members to attend the December meeting. Amendment 18 of the Reef Fish Plan will be up for action. **Further discussion needed - Council LEAP agenda item October?**
Operations Plan 2001. The group reviewed progress to date, and activities are on track. Information is needed from several states for the LEC's secure web post. Needed:

List of MOUs and Training for Alabama and Mississippi
List of Equipment for Mississippi

Law Summary. All state portions have been received except **Mississippi.**

D. Rose requested an E-mail be sent to remind him of needed items from Mississippi.

Add D. Rose to conference E-mail call list.

Enforceability Document. The group reviewed the ASMFC enforceability document and agreed to survey field personnel to determine if a similar document should be compiled for the Gulf. **Follow-up action needed.**

The meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.

OTOLITH WORK GROUP
MEETING SUMMARY
October 2-4, 2001
Gulf Shores, Alabama

Participants:

Ken Edds, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Erick Porche, Jr, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Tut Warren, USM/IMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Jan Welker, USM/IMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Daniel Merryman, FWC/FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Ann Petersen, FWC/FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Britt Bumguardner, TPWD, Palacios, TX
John Mareska, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Steve VanderKooy, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Cindy Yocom, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

The final Otolith Work Group meeting was held in the staff conference room at AMRD's Gulf Shores office. GSMFC staff provided some transportation between the airport, hotel, and the meeting site. The group was provided an extensive tour of the department's red snapper aquaculture facilities by David Maus.

Summary:

- Authors will be provided with an E-copy of their species accounts for revision. The red drum section was finalized at this session. Modify your sections to fit the red drum format.

- Steve will mail out a hard copy for additional comments ASAP. **All comments and species accounts should be back to the GSMFC office no later than Friday, November 2.** All comments and species accounts received will be incorporated and sent back to the work group as a hard copy by **Friday, November 9**.

- Provide additional graphics (jpg) and illustrations to GSMFC office for inclusion. Please provide captions with graphics where necessary.

- Please comment on all sections, graphics, species accounts, and appendices as well. No comments indicate complete and total satisfaction!

- Steve has edited and arranged subsections as determined at last meeting. Steve will add text were applicable. Sentences and paragraphs which are highlighted have been written by Steve and need review. Words, sentences, and paragraphs which are **bolded** have been fixed as directed. Comments and reminders to authors will be in *italics.*

Specific Tasks and Assignments:

Ken

Front Materials: Evaluate and edit abbreviations page and table of contents. Provide any comments on preface.

Section 1: Provide any comments on introduction.

Section 2: Add information on purpose of otoliths for fish (orientation, speed, and direction sensor, etc.). Edit use otolith data for stock assessment, age and growth, etc. Validation section was moved from back to here.

Species Accounts: Provide Dan with spawning period and ring formation for all species for time lines.

Appendices: Review glossary and provide definitions and strike unnecessary terms. Provide suggested reading materials. Provide length-weight conversions if available. Provide image analysis setup details including specs where available on resolution, compatibility, and cost. Include camera, frame grabber, TWAIN board, monitor, software, macros, etc.

Tut

Front Materials: Evaluate and edit abbreviations page and table of contents. Provide any comments on preface.

Section 1: Provide any comments on introduction.

Section 3: Additional whole otolith section needs drafting - work with John and Dan.

Section 4: Describe and define bio-year vs. cohort year. List minimal items for stock assessment purposes. Describe marginal increment and standard codes from now on. Include general time line and work with Dan on data to plot.

Species Accounts: Provide Dan with spawning period and ring formation for all species for time lines.

Appendices: Review glossary and provide definitions and strike unnecessary terms. Provide suggested reading materials. Provide length-weight conversions if available. Provide image analysis setup details including specs where available on resolution, compatibility, and cost. Include camera, frame grabber, TWAIN board, monitor, software, macros, etc.

Dan and Ann

Provide citations were appropriate throughout document. Bibliography may be included if finished in time.

Front Materials: Evaluate and edit abbreviations page and table of contents. Provide any comments on preface.

Section 1: Provide any comments on introduction.

Section 3: Evaluate Spurr section under embedding. Write a transitional paragraph for 3.4.2 on pro's and con's of low-speed saw. Examine 3.3.1, 3.3.2, and 3.3.3 for additional word smithing. Additional whole otolith section needs drafting - provide input to Tut.

Section 4: Check with Tut on what data to provide regarding cohort age and biological age. Coordinate with Tut on generic time line for this section.

Species Accounts: Provide Dan with spawning period and ring formation for all species for time lines. Any additional word smithing of red drum. Comment on graphics and captions for red drum.

Appendices: Review glossary and provide definitions and strike unnecessary terms. Provide suggested reading materials. Provide length-weight conversions if available. Provide image analysis setup details including specs where available on resolution, compatibility, and cost. Include camera, frame grabber, TWAIN board, monitor, software, macros, etc.

John

Front Materials: Evaluate and edit abbreviations page and table of contents. Provide any comments on preface.

Section 1: Provide any comments on introduction.

Section 3: Add any text to section 3.3 regarding the use of pure Loctite for embedding small otoliths. Send pictures of spine on Hilquist and any comments on text Section 3.5. Additional whole otolith section needs drafting - provide input to Tut.

Species Accounts: Provide Dan with spawning period and ring formation for all species for time lines. Do final format revisions to striped mullet section.

Appendices: Review glossary and provide definitions and strike unnecessary terms. Provide suggested reading materials. Provide length-weight conversions if available. Provide image analysis setup details including specs where available on resolution, compatibility, and cost. Include camera, frame grabber, TWAIN board, monitor, software, macros, etc.

Britt and Bob

Front Materials: Evaluate and edit abbreviations page and table of contents. Provide any comments on preface.

Section 1: Provide any comments on introduction.

Section 3: Write "meat-saw" otolith removal technique. Provide basic images that Steve can try to convert into generic illustrations. Add introductory paragraph to section 3.3.1.2 on embedding with Aralidite. Give specifics on mixing and ratios/proportions required.

Species Accounts: Provide Dan with spawning period and ring formation for all species for time lines. Final revision to black drum and spotted seatrout and any additional comments on graphics and captions.

Appendices: Review glossary and provide definitions and strike unnecessary terms. Provide suggested reading materials. Provide length-weight conversions if available. Provide image analysis setup details including specs where available on resolution, compatibility, and cost. Include camera, frame grabber, TWAIN board, monitor, software, macros, etc.

Andy and Panama City Folks

Front Materials: Evaluate and edit abbreviations page and table of contents. Provide any comments on preface.

Section 1: Provide any comments on introduction.

Section 3: Introductory paragraph needed for Section 3.4.3 Hilquist section.

Section 4: Check with Tut on what data to provide regarding cohort age and biological age. Coordinate with Tut on generic time line for this section.

Species Accounts: Provide Dan with spawning period and ring formation for all species for time lines. Final revision to flounder based on red drum section and any additional comments on graphics and captions for images.

Appendices: Review glossary and provide definitions and strike unnecessary terms. Provide suggested reading materials. Provide length-weight conversions if available. Provide image analysis setup details including specs where available on resolution, compatibility, and cost. Include camera, frame grabber, TWAIN board, monitor, software, macros, etc.

Steve

Talk to Walter Ingram regarding the gray triggerfish section - everyone review and provide comments.

Make illustrations as necessary.

Once last sections are drafted, go through the document and change terminology for consistency (ex: opaque band, opaque mark, light zone, dark zone, rings not annuli).

Delete all reference to Histomount anywhere in the document.

Build the image analysis appendix once state information is received.

All future revision to the document will be completed via phone, fax, postal service, or E-mail. The meeting ended at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 4, 2001. After a group lunch in Gulf Shores, GSMFC staff provided transportation for one participant from Gulf Shores to the Gulfport airport.

APPROVED BY:
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

COMMERCIAL/RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY PANEL
MINUTES
Monday, October 29, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

P. Murray called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Members
David Dexter, CCA, Mobile, AL
Bob Zales, Panama City Boatman's Association, Panama City, FL
Pete Barber, Alabama Seafood Association, Bayou La Batre, AL
Bob Fairbank, MS Power, Gulfport, MS
Pat Murray, CCA, Houston, TX

Others
Michael Bailey, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Bobbi M. Walker, GMFMC, Orange Beach, AL
John T. Jenkins, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Gary Graham, Texas A&M Marine Advisory Service, Palacios, TX
William Ward, *GSMFC Commissioner*, Tampa, FL
Virginia Vail, *GSMFC Commissioner*, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL
Harriet Perry, USM/CMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Tom Wagner, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Traci Floyd, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Leslie Hartman, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Anne Jackson, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL
Charlie Moss, Lake Jackson, TX
Karen Wang, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Georgia Cranmore, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Larry Young, TPWD, Austin, TX
Jerry Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Robin Reichers, TPWD, Austin, TX
Frank Courtney, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL
Gil McRae, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL
Leslie Turney, ADEM, Mobile, AL
Dale Shively, TPWD, Austin, TX
Glenn Thomas, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Paul Cook, LDWF, New Iberia, LA
Jan Boyd, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Mark LaSalle, MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi, MS
Dale Hall, USFWS, Atlanta, FL
Rich Novak, FL Sea Grant, Port Charlotte, FL
Chris Dorsett, Gulf Restoration Network, New Orleans, LA
David Fiedler, U.S. Coast Guard, New Orleans, LA

Staff
Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
David Donaldson, Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Cindy Yocom, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, Habitat/SEAMAP Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

P. Barber requested that some discussion on the methylmercury situation in the recent press be included under "Other Business". The revised agenda was adopted as amended. The Panel was invited to attend the designated session on methylmercury the on Wednesday afternoon.

Approval of Minutes (March 12, 2001)

B. Fairbank moved to accept the minutes as written; P. Barber seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Introductions

P. Murray began the introductions of the Panel and audience for the benefit of those attending.

Mailing Contact List

The Panel was asked to put together a list of key individuals to receive additional mailouts and notices regarding events and meetings. Some concern was raised regarding the effectiveness of public outreach and the Commissioners had requested that the Panel help us update the mailing list for information. It was suggested that the charterboat list is the place to start, perhaps providing a brief description of the Commission and that we can provide information regarding issues that may affect them. A box to check on a return envelope or phone number would be a good way to evaluate if captains want to receive notices.

FIN Data Program Update

D. Donaldson updated the Panel on ongoing FIN activities specifically addressing biological sampling. Samplers from the five state agencies would collect length and weight data; identify species, trip, and gear characteristics; and collect and process hard parts (otoliths). Otolith sampling would include both the commercial and recreational catches for red snapper, king mackerel, southern flounder, Gulf flounder, and amberjack. The Commission would provide coordination and administration of the survey.

Artificial Reef Materials Resolutions

B. Zales revisited the proposed revisions to both the tire and the artificial reef materials resolutions which were approved by the Commission in 1993 and 1997, respectively. Concern was raised again by Zales that there was not enough public input on the materials guidelines and planning documents. Numerous letters were submitted to the Commission by members of the Panama City Boatmen Association and by Zales, among others. R. Lukens attempted to address some of the issues raised by Zales and provided some of the literature supporting the documents. **The Panel agreed that there was not consensus on the issue and clearly more information was needed before the Panel could take any action at this time.** Lukens was asked to provide more information to the Panel at the spring meeting if action had not yet been taken by the Commission.

Texas Shrimp Regulatory Changes

Two presentations were made regarding the recent changes to the Texas shrimp regulations. R. Reichers of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provided the regulations and changes that are being implemented. TPWD data indicates that effort in the shrimp fishery has increased from 1972-1992 while abundance overall has declined 40% for the same period. Relative abundance declined 30% in adult spawning shrimp, and the average size simultaneously declined in the bays. Therefore, TPWD has attempted to reduce effort using a license buy back program. So far Texas has seen a 16% total reduction and with an increase of $3.00 on the recreational fishing stamp, they plan to buy back additional licenses. Reichers presentation is available through the Commission office.

G. Graham, Texas Sea Grant Advisory Service, offered insights into the industry's perspective on these changes and how they will affect the way they are able to conduct business. Graham pointed out that Texas actually has three shrimp fisheries; 1) Offshore - brown shrimp, 2) Nearshore - white shrimp, and 3) Inshore - table and bait shrimp. Several public hearings were scheduled regarding the proposed rules last year and once the media got involved in the issue, a doomsday scenario was created regarding the Texas shrimp stocks. Graham argued that in fact, things were not as bad as portrayed. Landings and effort trends do not really tell much when looking at an annual crop like shrimp. However, the small overall size of the shrimp which are going to market does concern Graham. He believes that the escapement of those shrimp from the bays is critical to keep shrimping profitable and sustainable.

Protection of Egg Bearing Crabs

Due to a time constraint and the absence of the Panel member who requested a presentation on egg crabs, H. Perry agreed to make her presentation to the Panel at the March meeting in Biloxi.

Derelict Crab Trap Panel Discussion

As directed by the Commission at the Spring meeting, a joint session with the C/RFAP, Habitat Subcommittee, Law Enforcement Committee, and Crab Subcommittee was convened to discuss the derelict crab trap problem in the Gulf. J. Rester presented the combined group with the problem in a PowerPoint presentation and the floor was opened for comment. Everyone agreed that the biggest problem is that there are too many actively fished traps in the water and the magnitude of lost or

abandoned traps was increased as a result. However, the group also agreed that determining what a derelict trap was and how could it be removed from the water was a larger question than they could answer at a single meeting. In addition, Texas is currently in the process of beginning a closed season for crabbing during which time all traps left in the water become classified as marine debris, allowing for their removal. The group felt they need to see how Texas proceeds and perhaps look to their program for direction. It was also agreed that in the mean time, a task force should be established within the Commission to work on this problem.

Therefore it is the consensus from the Joint Session of the Commercial/Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel, Law Enforcement Committee, Crab Subcommittee, and Habitat Subcommittee to continue efforts to address the problem of derelict crab traps in the Gulf of Mexico. A task force should be formed to further define state issues relevant to the derelict crab trap problem. The Panel recommended that the task force be comprised of a representative from the Habitat Subcommittee, the Commercial/Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee, the Law Enforcement Committee, G. Graham from the Texas Sea Grant Advisory Program, with the Crab Subcommittee as the core.

Marine Mammals

K. Wang, from the Marine Mammals office in St. Petersburg, Florida, presented a basic overview of the Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA) and how the Gulf fisheries are classified under the MMPA. Considerable discussion was generated specifically regarding the proposed reclassification of the blue crab trap fishery as a result of several "interactions" with dolphins. One of the contentions raised by the Commission is that only three deaths were directly attributed to entanglement in crab traps in five years, the remaining four strandings were dolphins that had some sort of rope marks on them. Although this data is suspect to the members of the Panel as well as the Crab Subcommittee, the NMFS plans to relist the trap fishery this winter or early spring for reclassification next year.

Election of Chairs

The Panel again chose to continue with the same chairs, Pat Murray on the Recreational Panel, and Philip Horn on the Commercial.

Other Business

The Panel and audience were reminded of the Methylmercury Session on Wednesday.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVED BY:
Joe O'Hop
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC DATA MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, October 29, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman Joe O'Hop called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members
Kevin Anson, AMRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Joe O'Hop, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Guy Davenport, NMFS, Miami, FL
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Tom Van Devender, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Rick Leard, GMFMC, Tampa, FL (*Proxy for S. Atran*)

Staff
David Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS
Madeleine Travis, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Jason Duet, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Betty Hutcherson, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Michelle Kasprzak, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Paul Choucair, TPWD, Corpus Christi, TX
Columbus Brown, FWS, Atlanta, GA
Chris Dorsett, GRN, New Orleans, LA
Claude Petersen, SCB, Gonzales, LA
Chester, Diez, SCB, Gonzales, LA
Dale Hall, FWS, Atlanta, GA
Joe Smith, NMFS, Beaufort, NC

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on March 13, 2001 in Brownsville, Texas were approved as written.

State/Federal Reports

Florida - J. O'Hop reported that several controversial issues are now coming to closure in Florida. The first is a proposed new rule that prohibits predator feeding by divers to attract predators. If approved, this rule would be promulgated in January 2002. A new rule was passed by the Florida Commission that would allow gillnets onboard vessels that are in transit to federal waters to participate in the pompano fishery. The operator of vessel must have a large gillnet, a large boat, and a pompano endorsement. The Florida Commission is in the process of reviewing sinking ships as artificial reefs. Florida has clarified the oyster minimum size limit issue. They have decided on where the size limit for oysters would be enforced. A size limit of three inches has been adopted with tolerance limits for undersized oysters on Florida waters. The enforcement of the oyster minimum size limit will be conducted on the water only. In May, Florida finalized rules for the trap certificate program where 1.5 million tag certificates were allocated for the program. The rule to require traps to have a trap tag was delayed until October 2002. Florida will be considering extending the moratorium on marine life and blue crab endorsements. Florida will also be examining the special two day recreational spiny lobster season because it is causing user conflicts in the Keys.

Alabama - K. Anson reported that the brown shrimp season started well, but Tropical Storm Allison reduced the catch a few days into the season. Blue crab catches are down, and as a result of this, fishermen are increasing the number of traps they fish. A new regulation was passed that prohibits traps within 300 feet of a navigational channel or public pier. S. Heath stated that Alabama is moving towards trap limitation. A major shrimp bycatch incident occurred this summer. Dead fish washed up on Dauphin Island beaches. Regulations require shrimpers to discard at least 3 miles offshore from beaches, but regulations do not apply to one area on Dauphin Island (Pelican Bay). This was where the incident occurred. Alabama conducted two oyster shell plantings this summer. One was around Heron Bay and the other was on the east side of the Dauphin Island bridge. Approximately 7,900 cubic yards of material were deposited. Alabama is working closely with Gulfstream pipeline in the siting of their pipeline in Alabama waters. The pipeline will transport natural gas between Mobile Bay and Tampa Bay. The trip ticket program is working well with 9,296 trip tickets completed.

Mississippi - T. Van Devender stated Mississippi hosted the Gulf and South Atlantic Shellfish Sanitation Conference this past spring. The MRFSS recreational night fishing survey is ongoing. Six automatic rain gauges have been installed across south Mississippi to help determine rainfall amounts for closing oyster reefs. The 2000-2001 oyster season was the fifth best ever. The 2001-2002 season opened October 1 and 28,692 sacks have been harvested so far. The derelict crab trap program has picked up an additional 400 crab traps since March. Approximately 2,000 traps have been removed since the start of this program. The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory is studying *Sargassum* as habitat for juvenile fish. Researchers are using meter and two meter neuston nets to surround the *Sargassum* rafts and have been amazed so far at the numbers of juvenile fish collected. Foreign jellyfish were not seen in Mississippi waters this past summer like last year. C. Perret stated that 8 new Mississippi fishing records were broken this past year. A lane snapper is being submitted as a possible world record.

Louisiana - J. Shepard reported that three more platforms have been added to the artificial reef program since March. This brings the total to 103 structures in 32 reef sites along with 9 shell pad sites. One of the shell sites is located in Lake Ponchatrain. The donated shell was deposited in 12 feet of water. Several organizations and companies came together to donate their time and energy to make the reef a success. Preliminary 2001 heads off shrimp landings through August 31, 2001 are 47.8 million pounds. J. Shepard reported that one interesting aspect of the trip ticket program is that it allows researchers to analyze gear types used in different fisheries. He reported that in the brown shrimp fishery 48% of the shrimp were caught in trawls, 48% in skimmer nets, and 4% with butterfly nets. This contrasts with the white shrimp fishery where 52% of the shrimp were caught in trawls, 44% in skimmer nets, and 4% in butterfly nets. Louisiana is examining the feasibility of collecting shell from oyster shucking houses for placement on oyster reefs. Six new oyster seed grounds were established in the Barataria/Terrebonne Bay system.

Texas - P. Campbell reported that Texas is studying the stock structure of tarpon. Texas is also identifying spotted seatrout spawning habitat using a hydrophone monitoring system. One hundred percent compliance was achieved with aquaculture water discharge procedures. No viral diseases have been found in Texas farm raised shrimp so far this year. Production of farm raised shrimp is expected to increase this year due to good survival and more acreage in production. The Texas Artificial Reef Program enhanced 6 artificial reef sites along the Texas coast this year. An additional 77 bay and bait shrimp licenses were purchased during round 8 of the shrimp license buyback program at the cost of approximately $6,000 each. The number of licenses bought back now totals 553. The first crab license buyback purchased 7 crab licenses at an average cost of $4,300 each. The oyster lease management program is in redevelopment. Leases will now renew after 15 years, and costs for leases increased from $3 per acre per year to $6 per acre per year. Coastal Fisheries stocked 26 million red drum and 2.8 million spotted seatrout fingerlings. Senate Bill 1410 will be implemented next spring. This Bill develops an abandoned crab trap removal program. A coastwide closure to crabbing will be implemented February 16 through March 3, 2002. During the first 7 days, only game wardens are allowed to remove traps, but during the last 9 days traps are defined as litter and anyone can remove them from the water. Under a new law, floating cabins are now required to register with TPWD. The new law requires cabins to be lighted at night and contain an approved toilet.

GMFMC - R. Leard reported that the Council has received some funds to conduct an economic study. A small working group will develop a questionnaire and distribute it to fishermen and analyze the data from the survey. The Council would like to utilize either the GSMFC or the individual states as contractors to distribute the questionnaire to the pertinent people. The Council is working with the South Atlantic and Caribbean Councils to develop the Dolphin/Wahoo FMP and EIS. The EIS is complete and will be considered for approval at the upcoming Gulf Council meeting. The Council received some stock assessment data on mackerel and it appears that the Gulf portion of the king mackerel stocks will no longer be considered overfished. The Council is also in the process of completing a stock assessment report on cobia The Council is looking to take final action in March 2002 on Amendment 18 to the Reef Fish FMP. There is variety of issues and alternatives in that FMP. NMFS approved Shrimp Amendment 11 which requires permits on all shrimp vessels fishing in the EEZ as well as the amendment which will close two additional areas in the Tortugas. The Council will be taking final action of Shrimp amendment 10 which requires bycatch reduction devices in the area from Sand Blast, Florida to the Keys. The stock assessment team has recently

met to discuss assessments on gag, vermilion snapper and gray triggerfish. An operations plan has been developed for 2002 and the Council will be focusing on red grouper and greater amberjack stock assessments.

NMFS - G. Davenport reported that Bill Hogarth was approved as the head of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Nancy Thompson was approved as the Center Director for the Southeast Region. Joe Powers is still the Acting Regional Administrator of the Southeast Region. NMFS is currently rewriting the TIP data entry program. The program will be a web-based version. There may also be a PC-based version as well. The completion date for the program is January 1, 2002. All the FIN biological sampling data elements have been incorporated into the new program so the states should be able to use this program for entry of the biological information. NMFS is in the process of accessing the FIN DMS to access Louisiana trip ticket data. The data will be distributed to the federal port agents for review and comment. These comments will be provided back to Louisiana for their consideration. NMFS would also like to undertake a similar process for Alabama. The five port agent positions currently employed by GSMFC have been advertised and will be closing in the near future. This will allow for NMFS to fill these positions and have people in place January 1, 2002. Some MARFIN funds were received to hire some samplers to conduct biological sampling in Florida which are targeting fisheries other than commercial fishing. Through the CSP cooperative agreement, NMFS has been collecting commercial data in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Data through 1999 have been received by NMFS. The 2000 data should be received by the end of this year. A Gulf of Mexico port agent meeting is scheduled for November 2001 and it should be interesting to see how the meeting functions since there will be state and federal agents from all Gulf states.

GSMFC - D. Donaldson stated that on the recreational side, operations are running smoothly. The states are still exceeding quota on routine basis. In 2002, we will be involved in a conjoint survey and should be starting in early 2002. The social/economic add-on to charter boat telephone survey is targeting to begin in Wave 3. There have been some problems with getting NMFS-SE personnel to review and modify the questionnaire but staff will continue to work with NMFS. The GSMFC is in the process of hiring an additional data entry clerk to assist in entry of the recreational data, Texas charter boat data and other pertinent information. On the commercial side, the state trip ticket programs are running smoothly. Biological sampling is slated to begin in January 2002. Samplers will be targeting both commercial and recreational sampling. The data collection effort will be targeting red snapper, king mackerel, Gulf and southern flounder, and amberjack. The NMFS is currently modifying the TIP data entry program to handle the entry of commercial and recreational data. Regarding the FIN Data Management System (DMS), there is currently trip ticket data from Louisiana, Mississippi (oyster only), and Florida in the system. M. Sestak is currently working with Alabama to get their data in as well. The recreational data is also in the system but the reference tables need to be developed. Also the SEAMAP and menhaden data are in the system. Staff is still working on Data MOA and confidentiality issue and it will be discussed later in the meeting. Concerning artificial reefs, it has been recommended by the TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee that a flex question be added to MRFSS telephone survey regarding artificial reef and oil/gas structure use during fishing. The add-on would be conducted throughout the Gulf of Mexico and begin sometime in 2002. The Artificial Reef Subcommittee asked the Data Management Subcommittee to develop a similar recommendation. J. Shepard pointed out that this information has been collected for a number of years and the artificial reef group should analyze the existing data before

collecting more. After some discussion, the Data Management Subcommittee decided not to pass a similar recommendation and believed the Artificial Reef Subcommittee should first analyze the existing data before proceeding.

Louisiana Electronic Trip Ticket Presentation

J. Shepard stated that one of the options Louisiana dealers wanted for their trip ticket was the ability to report the data electronically. Louisiana contracted a group to develop an electronic report system for the trip ticket program. C. Peterson presented the electronic reporting system of the Louisiana trip ticket program. This application will allow seafood dealers to: enter, store, and edit current trip ticket information required by Louisiana and assign a unique invoice number for each transaction; send trip ticket data to Louisiana electronically; review and retrieve historical trip ticket information; enter, store, and edit information about their business as it relates to trip ticket data; enter, store, and edit a list of commercial fishermen who do business with that dealer as well as having the means to enter, store and edit a list of vessels linked to a commercial fisherman; automatically calculate the amount of transactions based upon unit price, quantity and dealer deductions; enter, store and edit the method of payment to the fishermen (cash or check) and provide the option to enter the check number; search for trip tickets and view of summary list; track payments to a fisherman; deactivate fishermen; backup and archive trip ticket data; and generate various printed reports.

Discussion of Revised Data Confidentiality MOA

D. Donaldson stated that the FIN has asked for a legal interpretation on the Data Confidentiality MOA from NOAA General Counsel. Unfortunately, General Counsel has not be able to provide anything on the interpretation. However, FIN has received a letter from General Counsel that stated a new MOA should be executed since language in the old MOA refers to out-of-date statutes. He also distributed a revised MOA which included Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands since they will be providing data to the system and will need to be protected by the MOA. R. Lukens stated that he believed there was not a need to execute a new MOA just because the rules and regulations concerning confidentiality have changed. He felt that the existing MOA could be modified to reflect these changes in statute but these changes would not effect the intent of the MOA and therefore, there is not a need for a new MOA. The group discussed this issue for a lengthy period of time. J. Shepard pointed out that there really is no longer a need for the MOA. Since each state enters into a subcontract with the GSMFC on a yearly basis, the confidentiality policies of the GSMFC should be included in the FIN cooperative agreement and each of the states' subcontracts. These subcontracts are legally-binding documents and if there is language regarding the protection of confidentiality in these contracts, that language will be sufficient to protect the data. D. Donaldson noted that there is specific language in the FIN cooperative agreement regarding confidentiality although there is only general language regarding confidentiality in the existing subcontracts. However, the language in the subcontract is not included in all subcontracts and does not refer to the specific state and federal statutes. For 2002, it was decided that each state subcontract will include reference to the specific state and federal statutes concerning the protection of confidential data. The addition of this language will protect the confidential data that will be in the FIN DMS. The group also discussed writing a letter to NMFS-Southeast Region notifying them that there is no longer a need for a legal interpretation of the Data Confidentiality MOA. **After a lengthy discussion, J. Shepard moved that the a new Data Confidentiality MOA was not needed and that specific**

confidentiality language be added to the states' subcontracts with the GSMFC. The motion passed with NMFS and Florida abstaining.

Discussion of Flounder Speciation Issue

D. Donaldson noted that the Flounder Technical Task Force has asked that FIN consider methods for differentiating flounder by species. The reason this issue is in front of the group again is to continue the discussion regarding ways for separating flounder catches by species. It was noted that most dealers will continue to lump flounders into a generic "flounder" category. It was suggested that information about the different flounder species could be provided to dealers to assist them in identifying the species. Probably a better approach would be to develop frequency occurrences of each of the flounder species of concern through the biological sampling efforts that will be conducted.

Discussion of Area Fished Coding System

J. Shepard stated that there is a problem with the existing area fished codes in the FIN DMS. Since the Louisiana trip ticket program covers all fishing activities (both freshwater and saltwater), there are no area fished codes for inland regions. There are sub area codes for inland regions based on the system used by Louisiana, however, area codes cannot be assigned under the current system. This is problematic since in order to load the data, an area and sub area code need to be assigned. After some discussion, the group decided that for inland areas, a code of 'LA' would be used in the area fished variable.

Discussion of Effects of Hypoxia Zone on Shrimping Activities

R. Lukens noted that the issue of effect of the hypoxia zone on fishing activities has been raised and he was wondering if there has been any assessment of these effects. If nothing is being done, the FIN may want to address this issue. M. Kasprzak noted that there are several organizations (LUMCON, LSU, etc.) who have been monitoring the hypoxic zone over the years. As part of this monitoring effort, an assessment of the effects on fishing has been undertaken. Since there are organizations looking at this issue, there is really no need for FIN to become involved.

Election of Officers

After some discussion, Joe O'Hop was re-elected Chairman and Kevin Anson was re-elected Vice-Chairman.

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

TCC HABITAT SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Monday, October 29, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

APPROVED BY:
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Dale Shively called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and asked the members and guests to introduce themselves The following members and others were present:

Members
Frank Courtney, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL
Gil McRae, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL
Leslie Turney, ADEM, Mobile, AL
Leslie Hartman, ADCMR, Dauphin Island, AL
Dale Shively, TPWD, Austin, TX
Glenn Thomas, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Paul Cook, LDWF, New Iberia, LA
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS (*Proxy for Larry Goldman*)
Jan Boyd, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Mark LaSalle, MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi, MS

Staff
Jeff Rester, Habitat/SEAMAP Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
William Ward, *GSMFC Commissioner*, Tampa, FL
Dale Hall, USFWS, Atlanta, FL
Rich Novak, FL Sea Grant, Port Charlotte, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of March 14, 2001 were adopted as written.

Administrative Report

J. Rester stated that he has been working on an outreach project using the habitat poster as a place mat at local seafood restaurants. He stated that he has discussed the idea with a few seafood restaurants along the Mississippi coast and one has agreed to use the place mat. J. Rester stated that diners should be using the place mat by the end of the year. J. Rester stated that freshwater issues are a growing concern for the Commission and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

The Commission sent a letter to the governors of the Gulf states in March stressing the importance of freshwater to estuaries and fisheries production. At the July Council meeting, a presentation was made on the current state of water planning in Texas. Sixteen regional water plans have been developed. A single state plan is currently being drafted that will be finalized in early 2002. The Council also sent a letter to the governors of the Gulf states and Georgia stressing the importance of freshwater to estuaries and fisheries production. Also at this meeting, the Council discussed the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public scoping meetings that were held in June across the Gulf. As part of the EFH lawsuit settlement, the Council is developing an EIS for the EFH amendment. Scoping meetings were held to gather public input for the NEPA process. Attendance was not high at the seven meetings held throughout the Gulf. NMFS received seven letters commenting on the scope of the EIS. Tentative dates for completion of the EIS are that the Council would hire a contractor to begin the EIS in January, 2002 with a draft EIS being completed in late 2002. J. Rester stated that the *Annotated Bibliography of Fishing Impacts on Habitat* has been updated and published. Fifty-five new papers were added to the bibliography since last year. J. Rester stated that the bibliography now contains 672 entries and is available on the web as a ProCite searchable database. This bibliography will be used extensively in the preparation of the EFH EIS. J. Rester reported that the Crab Subcommittee has produced a derelict crab trap report. The report details the derelict crab trap problem and possible solutions. The report is available on the Commission's web site and in hard copy. J. Rester stated that the Habitat Program is now responsible for Commission outreach projects. He stated that the Commission participated in three community outreach programs since March. The first was the April Earth Day Festival at Gulf Islands National Seashore. Approximately 300 kids and adults stopped by the Commission's booth to learn about the Commission and the importance of fish habitat. Commission employees also participated in the June Gulf Islands National Seashore's Pathways to Fishing Program. This program teaches kids about where to find fish, different fishing techniques, differences among fish, and ethical angling. The program is designed for young children and approximately 50 kids attended. In September, the Commission participated in the DMR sponsored Celebrate the Gulf Festival. Approximately 2,500 people attended this event and Commission employees discussed the importance of fish habitat and the role of the Commission in fisheries management.

New Habitat Outreach Project

J. Rester stated that he has been contacting seafood restaurants in Mississippi and discussing the possibility of the using the habitat poster as a place mat. Currently one seafood restaurant in Biloxi has agreed to the idea and diners should soon be able to read about the importance of fish habitat while enjoying their meal. He stated that he tried to work with a restaurant supply company, but it did not work out. J. Rester then discussed the idea with a paper supply company that sold place mats to restaurants. Initially, he thought this was the best way to contact restaurants. He stated that since then, he wished he had contacted the restaurants individually. J. Rester stated that he would like to see the place mat idea move into other states. He asked the Subcommittee about possible ways to contact seafood restaurants in the Gulf of Mexico area. D. Frugé stated that state agency outreach personnel might be able to help in this task. The Subcommittee agreed to provide state agency outreach personnel contact information to him, so that he could discuss the place mat idea with them and possible ways to distribute it to restaurants. D. Shively stated that J. Rester should explore the possibility of developing guidelines for the use of the poster as a place mat. The guidelines would

specify what restaurants could do with the place mat as far as putting their name on the place mat or changing it.

The Subcommittee also discussed using the habitat poster as a coloring sheet. J. Rester stated that the coloring sheet met with great success at two Commission outreaches this year. J. Rester stated that a copy of the coloring sheet is available on the Commission's web site. The Subcommittee stated that they would spread the word about the coloring sheet when they get back to their offices.

J. Rester asked about the habitat poster and if the members had any copies of the poster left. Everyone stated that their supply of posters was low. J. Rester asked about the possibility of reprinting the poster. He stated that approximately 20,000 posters were produced last time for around $11,500. D. Frugé suggested checking with the Gulf of Mexico Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation as possible funding sources. J. Rester stated that he would check on possible funding sources and report back at the next meeting.

J. Rester stated that the Subcommittee discussed developing a fifteen minute habitat video at their last meeting in Brownsville. J. Rester reported that in discussions with D. Shively, he thought that the habitat video might be too expensive to produce. D. Shively stated he discussed production costs with personnel from TPWD who do this type of work. He stated that costs depend on footage used, whether it is new footage or stock footage. He stated that he was given an estimate of $30,000 for a fifteen minute video that used entirely new footage. M. LaSalle stated that the national estuary programs might be able to provide footage. He suggested that we explore the possibility of using existing footage before shooting any new footage. D. Frugé suggested developing a script for the video and then seek outside funding to pay for the video. J. Boyd stated that there is a person within DMR that does this type of work. He suggested developing a script and then talking to an expert about production costs. J. Rester stated that he would develop a script and send it out to the Subcommittee for their review. He would then try to locate funding sources.

Review of the Council's Freshwater Inflow Policy

The Subcommittee next reviewed the draft Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's freshwater inflow policy. J. Rester stated that this was the second opportunity that the Subcommittee would have at reviewing the policy. J. Rester stated that he would like the Subcommittee to finalize the policy for submission to the Council for their review and approval at their December meeting. He also stated that he would like to make minor revisions and then present it to the Commission for adoption as a Commission policy. D. Shively stated that he had some revisions from TPWD personnel. He suggested that the word should be replaced with the word shall in all of the objectives. He also suggested that the policy should contain a definition for an estuary. D. Frugé asked if the EFH Amendment contained a definition of an estuary and if it did, that definition should be used in the policy. D. Frugé stated that he received comments from FWS that stated that the policy did not state the importance of estuaries to the fishery resources of the Gulf of Mexico. W. Ward stated that the policy should contain a statement on the value of estuaries. He stated that Tony Lamberte at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council could provide monetary values for commercial fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. G. McRae agreed that a sentence explaining the monetary value or a percentage of the commercial and recreational important species that depend on estuaries in the Gulf of Mexico should be included. The Subcommittee instructed J. Rester to

check on including a sentence stating the monetary value for estuaries or at least a sentence detailing the percentage of commercial and recreational important species that depend on estuaries at some stage in their life cycle.

Joint Derelict Crab Trap Discussion with C/RFAP

The Habitat Subcommittee met jointly with the Crab Subcommittee, Law Enforcement Committee, and the Joint Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel to discuss the derelict crab trap problem. Discussion from this session is recorded in the Joint Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel minutes.

Habitat Issues of Interest From Each State

D. Shively stated that freshwater inflow issues are big in Texas as they develop their state water plan. Texas is also forming a habitat team to address how the shrimp fishery has affected habitat. Texas is using existing documents from the Commission's *Annotated Bibliography on Fishing Impacts* to develop their recommendations. P. Cook stated that the brown marsh die off in Louisiana in 2000 affected approximately 260,000 acres of mainly smooth cordgrass. Some revegation has taken place, although around 70,000 acres remain unvegetated. G. Thomas stated that the Davis Pond freshwater diversion is scheduled to finally go online December 23. J. Boyd stated that Mississippi is developing a beneficial use of dredged material plan with CIAP funds. Mississippi is also developing a GIS land development model to look at development along the coast. Mississippi has also formed a mitigation compliance program to monitor mitigation projects. L. Hartman stated that Alabama is trying to reduce the number of crab traps to reduce the number of derelict traps and gear conflict. A bad crabbing season has lead to an increased number of traps. G. McRae stated that Florida is looking at an aquifer recharge and storage program. This would pump excess freshwater flows into aquifers for storage. F. Courtney stated that Florida is also testing a new mechanical seagrass planting vessel. The vessel is faster than hand planting and the results are promising. D. Frugé stated that the FWS is now under a court order to define critical habitat for Gulf sturgeon. D. Frugé also reported that no meetings of the Hypoxia Task Force have taken place since earlier this year.

Election of Chairman

D. Shively was again elected chairman.

Other Business

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

APPROVED BY:
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
3/19/02

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 30, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman Corky Perret called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members
Steve Heath, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Tom Van Devender, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Jerry Mambretti, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
Virginia Vail, *GSMFC Commissioner*, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL
Corky Perret, *GSMFC Commissioner*, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
John Roussel, *GSMFC Commissioner*, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Joseph Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Tom McIlwain, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Columbus Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

Staff
Jeff Rester, Habitat/SEAMAP Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Madeleine Travis, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Larry Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Dave Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Glen Carpenter, *GSMFC Commissioner*, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Anne McMillen-Jackson, FWC, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Mike Ray, *GSMFC Commissioner*, TPWD, Austin, TX
Joe Smith, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Michael Bailey, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Dale Shively, TPWD, Austin, TX
Joe O'Hop, FWC, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Chris Dorsett, Gulf Restoration Network, New Orleans, LA
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Jason Duet, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Betty Hutchinson, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Michelle Kasprzak, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Martin Bourgeois, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Bobbi Walker, Orange Beach Fishing Association, Orange Beach, AL

Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Bob Zales, Panama City, FL
Paul Choucair, TPWD, Corpus Christi, TX
Bob Cooke, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

Adoption of Agenda

C. Perret stated that the red tide bioassay agenda item would be cancelled. With that change, the agenda was adopted as written.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on March 14, 2001 in Brownsville, Texas were approved with minor changes.

State/Federal Reports

Florida - V. Vail reported that several controversial issues are now coming to closure in Florida. The first is a proposed new rule that prohibits predator feeding by divers to attract predators. If approved, this rule would be effective promulgated in January 2002. A new rule was passed by the Florida Commission that would allow gillnets onboard vessels that are in transit to federal waters to participate in the pompano fishery. The operator of a vessel must have a large gillnet, a large boat, and a pompano endorsement. The Florida Commission is in the process of reviewing sinking ships as artificial reefs. Florida has clarified the oyster minimum size limit issue. They have decided on where the size limit for oysters would be enforced. A size limit of three inches has been adopted with tolerance limits for undersized oysters on Florida waters. The enforcement of the oyster minimum size limit will be conducted on the water only. In May, Florida finalized rules for the trap certificate program where 1.5 million tag certificates were allocated for the program. The rule to require traps to have a trap tag was delayed until October 2002. Florida will be considering extending the moratorium on marine life and blue crab endorsements. Florida will also be examining the special two day recreational spiny lobster season because it is causing user conflicts in the Keys.

Alabama - S. Heath stated that the brown shrimp season started well, but Tropical Storm Allison reduced the catch a few days into the season. Blue crab catches are down, and as a result of this, fishermen are increasing the number of traps they fish. A new regulation was passed that prohibits traps within 300 feet of a navigational channel or public pier. S. Heath stated that Alabama is moving towards trap limitation. A major shrimp bycatch incident occurred this summer. Dead fish washed up on Dauphin Island beaches. Regulations require shrimpers to discard at least 3 miles offshore from beaches, but regulations do not apply to one area on Dauphin Island (Pelican Bay). This was where the incident occurred. Alabama conducted two oyster shell plantings this summer. One was around Heron Bay and the other was on the east side of the Dauphin Island bridge. Approximately 7,900 cubic yards of material were deposited. Alabama is working closely with Gulfstream pipeline in the siting of their pipeline in Alabama waters. The pipeline will transport natural gas between Mobile Bay and Tampa Bay. The trip ticket program is working well with 9,296 trip tickets completed.

Mississippi - T. Van Devender reported that Mississippi hosted the Gulf and South Atlantic Shellfish Sanitation Conference this past spring. The MRFSS recreational night fishing survey is ongoing. Six automatic rain gauges have been installed across south Mississippi to help determine rainfall amounts for closing oyster reefs. The 2000-2001 oyster season was the fifth best ever. The 2001-2002 season opened October 1 and 28,692 sacks have been harvested so far. The derelict crab trap program has picked up an additional 400 crab traps since March. Approximately 2,000 traps have been removed since the start of this program. The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory is studying *Sargassum* as habitat for juvenile fish. Researchers are using a purse seine to surround the *Sargassum* rafts and have been amazed so far at the numbers of juvenile fish collected. Foreign jellyfish were not seen in Mississippi waters this past summer like last year. C. Perret stated that 8 new Mississippi fishing records were broken this past year. A lane snapper is being submitted as a possible world record.

Louisiana - J. Shepard reported that three more platforms have been added to the artificial reef program since March. This brings the total to 103 structures in 32 reef sites along with 9 shell pad sites. One of the shell sites is located in Lake Ponchatrain. The donated shell was deposited in 12 feet of water. Several organizations and companies came together to donate their time and energy to make the reef a success. Preliminary 2001 heads off shrimp landings through August 31, 2001 are 47.8 million pounds. J. Shepard reported that one interesting aspect of the trip ticket program is that it allows researchers to analyze gear types used in different fisheries. He reported that in the brown shrimp fishery 48% of the shrimp were caught in trawls, 48% in skimmer nets, and 4% with butterfly nets. This contrasts with the white shrimp fishery where 52% of the shrimp were caught in trawls, 44% in skimmer nets, and 4% in butterfly nets. Louisiana is examining the feasibility of collecting shell from oyster shucking houses for placement on oyster reefs. Six new oyster seed grounds were established in the Barataria/Terrebonne Bay system.

Texas - J. Mambretti reported that Texas is studying the stock structure of tarpon. Texas is also identifying spotted seatrout spawning habitat using a hydrophone monitoring system. One hundred percent compliance was achieved with aquaculture water discharge procedures. No viral diseases have been found in Texas farm raised shrimp so far this year. Production of farm raised shrimp is expected to increase this year due to good survival and more acreage in production. The Texas Artificial Reef Program enhanced 6 artificial reef sites along the Texas coast this year. An additional 77 bay and bait shrimp licenses were purchased during round 8 of the shrimp license buyback program at the cost of approximately $6,000 each. The number of licenses bought back now totals 553. The first crab license buyback purchased 7 crab licenses at an average cost of $4,300 each. The oyster lease management program is in redevelopment. Leases will now renew after 15 years, and costs for leases increased from $3 per acre per year to $6 per acre per year. Coastal Fisheries stocked 26 million red drum and 2.8 million spotted seatrout fingerlings. Senate Bill 1410 will be implemented next spring. This Bill develops an abandoned crab trap removal program. A coastwide closure to crabbing will be implemented February 16 through March 3, 2002. During the first 7 days, only game wardens are allowed to remove traps, but during the last 9 days traps are defined as litter and anyone can remove them from the water. Under a new law, floating cabins are now required to register with TPWD. The new law requires cabins to be lighted at night and contain an approved toilet.

NMFS - T. McIlwain reported that Bill Hogarth was approved as the head of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Nancy Thompson was approved as the Center Director for the Southeast Region. A second NMFS sponsored shrimp virus workshop will be held November 28-29, 2001. T. McIlwain reported that shrimp prices are low. He also reported that a new strain of *Taura* virus has impacted shrimp aquaculture in Belize. The European Economic Union has outlawed shrimp imports from China, Indonesia, and Vietnam due to fear of antibiotic use in shrimp farms there.

USFWS - C. Brown reported that Steve Williams was nominated as the new director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His nomination has received favorable reaction, but he has not been confirmed yet. The draft 2002 budget for the USFWS is approximately $1.3 billion. This is more than what was requested. Many of the increases are earmarked for other areas of the country. Processes that could determine the future direction of the fisheries section of the USFWS are moving along two tracks, national and regional. These two groups are working toward development of a national fisheries strategic plan that will outline priorities for the next few years. On October 15, a manatee was spotted approximately 90 miles south of Mobile Bay in the vicinity of a pipeline barge. FWS and FMRI considered a rescue effort, but determined that it would be difficult to locate the manatee since it was only spotted sporadically. A manatee was spotted on October 29 near Pascagoula, Mississippi, but officials are not sure if this is the manatee that was spotted offshore or another manatee.

Freshwater Introductions

J. Roussel stated that after several delays, the Davis Pond freshwater diversion is scheduled to go online December 23, 2001. This project will divert Mississippi River water into the Barataria Bay system. The Myrtle Grove diversion has been scaled down substantially. This diversion would divert Mississippi River water also into the Barataria Bay system. The Lake Maurepas diversion is still in the planning stages. This diversion would divert water into the Lake Maurepas swamps on the south side of the lake. J. Roussel also stated that there has been some renewed interest in using Bayou Lafourche as a possible diversion.

Gulf of Mexico Derelict Crab Trap Problem

J. Rester stated that he was unable to attend the Crab Subcommittee meeting this morning where the Subcommittee discussed the results of the joint meeting with the Law Enforcement Committee, Joint Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel, and Habitat and Crab Subcommittees yesterday. He stated that H. Perry would cover the results of this meeting in her Crab Subcommittee report.

Subcommittee Reports

Crab - H. Perry reported that the Crab Subcommittee met jointly with the Habitat Subcommittee, Law Enforcement Committee, and Joint Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel to discuss the derelict crab trap problem in the Gulf of Mexico. The Crab Subcommittee requested that a task force be formed to further define state issues relevant to the derelict crab trap problem. They recommended that the task force be composed of a representative from the Habitat, Rec/Com Advisory Panel, Law Enforcement Committee, Gary Graham from Texas Sea Grant, and the Crab Subcommittee. The TCC agreed with this recommendation. The Crab Subcommittee also

recommended that the Commission write a letter requesting that NMFS review current relevant data on crab trap/Atlantic bottlenose dolphins interactions. Because NMFS considers bottlenose dolphins in 33 Gulf of Mexico estuaries to be distinct populations, the potential biological removal should be calculated for each estuary. The Subcommittee requests that NMFS work closely with the Commission and states to define issues as they relate to the commercial and recreational blue crab fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Again, the TCC agreed with this recommendation. Tom Wagner was elected Chairman.

SEAMAP - J. Hanifen reported that the SEAMAP Spring Plankton Survey took place from April 17 through May 31. The SEAMAP Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey took place from June 1 through July 24. This was the twentieth year for both surveys. Real-time shrimp data were again produced from the survey. Catches of shrimp and finfish were reported weekly from the survey and plots and catch rates were distributed to interested individuals. J. Hanifen reported that the Subcommittee met jointly with the South Atlantic and Caribbean in August to discuss respective program needs and priorities for FY2002. The SEAMAP 2001-2005 Management Plan was finalized this past summer and published. The Management Plan details the goals and objectives for the three SEAMAP components over the next 4 years. The 1999 Environmental and Biological Data Atlas was produced in August. The Atlas is available on the Commission web site, as a hard copy, and as an interactive CD-ROM that contains video clips and photos of SEAMAP operations. The Fall Plankton Survey took place in September and October with Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and the National Marine Fisheries Service all participating. The Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey is currently underway. The Subcommittee is researching coordinating fishery independent data collection in the Gulf of Mexico. Members will be drafting goals and objectives soon. J. Hanifen was again elected Chairman with S. Heath being elected Vice Chairman.

Data Management - J. O'Hop reported that all data management activities are functioning normally for commercial and recreational data collection. Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida are exceeding their recreational angler interview sampling targets. Each state detailed ongoing data management activities in their state. Louisiana discussed their trip ticket software. Mississippi discussed the preliminary results from a study looking at *Sargassum* as juvenile fish habitat. Florida is evaluating the release of hatchery reared red drum on angler catch rates in Tampa Bay. The Data Management Subcommittee discussed the Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission, states, and NMFS. Changes in the Magnuson/Stevens Act and Florida's management agency have taken place since the initial agreement was signed. The language and intent of the agreement has not changed. The Data Management Subcommittee was seeking guidance on having the MOA resigned. Since this is a policy issue, the TCC referred the Subcommittee to the State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee for their input and guidance. J. O'Hop was again elected Chairman.

Artificial Reef - R. Lukens stated that the Artificial Reef Subcommittee met July 23-24, 2001. The Subcommittee discussed the National Artificial Reef Plan Revision. R. Lukens reported that the draft revision is soon to be released for *Federal Register* notification for public review. Following that public review, NMFS will consider all comments, revise the document appropriately, and consider final action. No known time table exists for when this will take place. The Subcommittee also discussed the use of ships as artificial reefs. The Rand Corporation, a contractor to the U.S. Navy, recently released a report dealing with options for the disposition of retired Navy vessels.

That report examines the economics associated with 1) indefinite storage, 2) domestic recycling, 3) overseas recycling, and 4) artificial reef deployment. The creation of artificial reefs is considered to be the most cost-effective option. Other factors will have to be taken into account before Navy vessels will be available. It was determined last year that the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions should provide coordination between the Department of Defense and the states for acquisition and distribution of ships for state artificial reef programs. R. Lukens stated that a web-based data entry program is being developed so that the states can enter selected data elements on line, directly into the regional artificial reef database. A beta version of that program should be complete by the end of the year. The Subcommittee spent half of the meeting reviewing scoping and other comments regarding revising the *Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials*. It is hoped to have most of the comments incorporated into the draft by the end of the year, and have a complete final draft by the end of 2002. The Subcommittee has recommended that the new document be done in loose-leaf binder format and include pictures of the materials in each chapter. The Subcommittee will have only one meeting during 2002, and the preference is to hold a joint meeting with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Artificial Reef Subcommittee. The majority of that meeting will be devoted to revising the *Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials*.

Habitat - D. Shively reported that the Subcommittee discussed several habitat outreach projects. He stated that J. Rester had contacted seafood restaurants in Mississippi and discussed the possibility of using the habitat poster as a place mat. Currently one seafood restaurant in Biloxi has agreed to the idea and diners should soon be able to read about the importance of fish habitat while enjoying their meal. The Subcommittee would like to see the place mat idea move into other states. The Subcommittee also discussed using the habitat poster as a coloring sheet. The coloring sheet met with great success at two Commission outreaches this year. The Subcommittee also discussed reprinting the habitat poster and developing a fifteen minute habitat video. The Subcommittee reviewed the draft Council freshwater inflow policy. The Subcommittee will submit the policy to the Council for their approval at their December meeting. The Subcommittee will also make minor changes to the policy for submission to the Commission in the spring as a Commission policy. Finally, the Subcommittee discussed habitat issues of interest from each state. Freshwater inflow issues are big in Texas as they develop their state water plan. Texas is also forming a habitat team to address how the shrimp fishery has affected habitat. Texas is using existing documents from the Commission's Annotated Bibliography on Fishing Impacts to develop their recommendations. The brown marsh die off that affected Louisiana in 2000 was discussed. Approximately 260,000 acres of mainly smooth cordgrass were affected. Some revegation has taken place, although around 70,000 acres remain unvegetated. The Davis Pond freshwater diversion is scheduled to finally go online December 23. Mississippi is developing a beneficial use of dredged material plan with CIAP funds. They are also developing a GIS land development model to look at development along the coast. Mississippi has also formed a mitigation compliance program to monitor mitigation projects. Alabama is trying to reduce the number of crab traps to reduce the number of derelict traps and gear conflict. A bad crabbing season has lead to an increased number of traps. Florida is looking at an aquifer recharge and storage program. This would pump excess freshwater flows into aquifers for storage. Florida is also testing a new mechanical seagrass planting vessel. The vessel is faster than hand planting and the results are promising. The FWS is now under a court order to define critical habitat for Gulf sturgeon. It was also reported that no meetings of the Hypoxia Task Force have taken place since earlier this year. D. Shively was again elected Chairman.

Other Business

J. Roussel stated that in the future he would like to see all Subcommittee action items on a screen so everyone can review them.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVED BY:
3/19/02
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 30, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman Jim Hanifen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members
Kirsten Larsen, USM/CMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS (*Representing Richard Waller*)
Mark Leiby, FWC/FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Joanne Lyczkowski-Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Steve Heath, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Rick Leard, GMFMC, Tampa, FL

Others
Vernon Minton, *GSMFC Commissioner*, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Mark McDuff, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Kevin Rademacher, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Page Campbell, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Dale Hall, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
William "Corky" Perret, *GSMFC Commissioner*, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Marty Bourgeois, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Paul Choucair, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Mike Spranger, FLSG, Gainesville, FL
Michelle Kasprzak, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Betty Hutcherson, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Terry Romaire, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Marsha Strong, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Jason Duet, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Jan Bowman, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Edward Belden, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Lisa Bare, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Isis Longo, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Staff
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Dave Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, SEAMAP/Habitat Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

T. Cody moved to adopt the agenda as submitted. J. Shultz seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

J. Shultz moved to approve the August 8, 2001 minutes as submitted. M. Leiby seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Administrative Report

J. Rester reported the annual SEAMAP report to the TCC was completed and distributed. The SEAMAP Management Plan for 2001-2005 has been received from the printer. The Environmental Data Work Group is still waiting for the National Coastal Data Development Center to issue their request for proposals. The RFP was to have been issued October 1, but because of the terrorist attacks on September 11, this date has been delayed until November. The SEAMAP database public view was completed. Public users of the SEAMAP database now see a limited list of variables when querying the database. Rester has also been working on the help section for the SEAMAP database. The help section will guide users through the intricacies of using Business Objects to query the database. The help section will be completed in the near future. The Fall Plankton Survey started on August 28.

Fishery Independent Sampling in Louisiana

M. Bourgeois made a presentation on the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Fishery-Independent Monitoring Program. He reviewed the objectives, species, areas, and gears used in the monitoring program. A copy of the presentation is available from the GSMFC office.

NMFS Reef Fish Survey

K. Rademacher reported that in 1995 the SEAMAP Reef Fish Work Group sponsored a workshop to formulate recommendations and guidance for both SEAMAP and NMFS in developing a survey design for sampling reef fish, particularly red snapper, on the oil and gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. He reviewed the objectives, methodology, and results of the study with the Subcommittee. A copy of the presentation is available from the GSMFC office.

K. Radenmacher then gave an update on the NMFS reef fish program. He said they have been conducting a reef fish survey utilizing a trap video methodology from 1992 until 1997. He said because of lack of funding and/or ship time they did not conduct the survey in 1998-2000. The survey started again in 2001. He said they switched from 8 millimeter cameras to digital video cameras and improved the camera array to a full mesh covering to help prevent it from getting hung up on the bottom. Other improvements have also been made to the camera array to make it more accessible to the ROV and the tape reading methodology also underwent changes.

Coordinated Fishery Independent Activities

D. Donaldson reported that in March of 1999 the Commission charged staff with developing coordinated fishery independent data activities. Obviously, SEAMAP is a major contributor to that, but there are other fishery independent data activities going on in the Gulf, South Atlantic and Caribbean. The FIN discussed this at their last meeting and decided that a program needs to be developed similar to FIN/ACCSP and the purpose should be to provide fishery-independent data in compatible formats, develop goals and objectives, develop necessary minimum data elements, develop a data management system, and identify issues and problems and then develop solutions. He said SEAMAP should be a major component of the coordinated program and needs to convene a meeting of all partners involved in fishery-independent activities. He said at this meeting the Subcommittee should develop goals and objectives and work with the Atlantic and Caribbean components. He said ASMFC agrees with this approach and wants SEAMAP to take the lead

After discussion of D. Donaldson's presentation, M. Leiby moved that the chairmen and vice chairmen of the three SEAMAP components meet and use the NEAMAP outline as a starting point to explore what is available and what is needed to start this program. T. Cody seconded it and it passed unanimously. D. Donaldson stated that funds are available to hold this meeting.

2000 SEAMAP Data Atlas

J. Rester asked the Subcommittee for comments on the 1999 SEAMAP data atlas that was in CD-ROM format. The Subcommittee agreed the CD-ROM worked fine. J. Rester then reviewed cost comparisons of the CD-ROM and the printed version. The CD-ROM costs significantly less to produce. **After discussion, J. Shultz moved to produce future atlases exclusively in digital format. M. Leiby seconded the motion and it passed unanimously**. The Subcommittee decided the CD-ROM should be mailed with an Executive Summary in a folder or with a special cover/holder in 8½ x 11 format. The color of the holder should change every year as with previous atlases. In addition to the Executive Summary, an instruction sheet should also be included and it should be made clear how to print the atlas if someone wants a printed version. J. Rester then asked the Subcommittee to please take photographs and videos on all of the cruises and he will incorporate them into future atlases and presentations. He will also participate in as many cruises as possible to take photographs and videos as well.

Changes to the SEAMAP Database

J. Rester reported that he and Mike Sestak with GSMFC have been working on the database with M. McDuff and S. Nichols. He said M. Sestak is trying to translate the database into Business Objects software so the database may be viewed via the web. He has made several changes over the past few months and wants to know if NMFS has plans for other changes to the database. M. McDuff stated that the database will never be final it will always have changes as new programs are started. He said immediate changes will be made to the ichthyoplankton and environmental sections and they will continue to work with M. Sestak on future changes. They are also working on standardizing all of the cruise information. He also noted that SAS and ORACLE works well together so they have not had any major problems with that.

Election of Chairman

T. Cody moved to nominate J. Hanifen for Chairman and S. Heath for Vice Chairman and asked the nominations be accepted and elected by acclamation. M. Leiby seconded and it passed unanimously.

Other Business

J. Shultz informed the Subcommittee that the Plankton Work Group and other key field people need to meet to discuss data problems. It was also suggested that the Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group meet before going to sea. The Subcommittee asked J. Rester to see if funding is available and to inform the Subcommittee so arrangements can be made for the meetings.

T. Cody asked M. McDuff if there is a need for an updated version of the SEAMAP codes and protocols. M. McDuff said the data entry system will change in that they are moving towards multiple ways of entering data. He will keep the Subcommittee informed as these changes are made. S. Nichols informed the Subcommittee that both state and federal data were used in the last stock assessments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

APPROVED BY:
73073
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 30, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman Jeff Mayne called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members
Bruce Buckson, FWC/DLE, Tallahassee, FL
David Fiedler, USCG 8th District, New Orleans, LA
Jeff Mayne, *Chairman*, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Dave McKinney, NOAA OLE, Austin, TX (*Proxy for Eugene Proulx*)
David Rose, MDMR, Biloxi, MS (*Proxy for Terry Bakker*)
Jerald Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Larry Young, TPWD, Austin, TX

Staff
Cindy Yocom, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Donald Armes, Sr., MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Glenn Carpenter, *GSMFC Commissioner*, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Otha Easley, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Bill Ferguson, USFWS LE, Lake Charles, LA
Dale Hall, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
John T. Jenkins, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Rick Leard, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Bill Mellor, USFWS LE, Slidell, LA
Robert Oliveri, USFWS LE, Jackson, MS
William Ward, *GSMFC Commissioner*, Tampa, FL

Adoption of Agenda

State/federal reports were moved to the end of the agenda, and an oyster tagging report from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was added under "Other Business".

Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday, March 14, 2001, in Brownsville, Texas. D. Fielder noted a correction in the Texas report, and J. Waller was inadvertently left off the list of participants. With these changes, the minutes were adopted by consensus.

IJF Program Update

B. Buckson reported that the Crab FMP will be acted upon by the full Commission on Thursday, November 1. It is expected to be approved for publication. J. Jenkins reported that the Striped Bass Technical Task Force has met once formally; the second meeting is scheduled for December 2001. C. Yocom reported that the Seatrout FMP was received from the printer the Thursday before this meeting; full distribution will occur upon her return to the office.

Derelict Crab Traps, Joint Session Results

The Committee concurs with the initiation of a Crab Task Force to address the problem of derelict crab traps Gulf wide. L. Young volunteered to represent the Committee on the task force. He stipulated participation will depend upon travel funds from the GSMFC. J. Jenkins volunteered to be first alternate (also dependent upon funding through GSMFC).

1-866-WE ENFORCE

The Gulf wide toll free number for public input on fisheries violations is up and running in all Gulf states. The Coastal Conservation Association will publish a news release nationally within the next few weeks.

Enforceability Document, Survey Results

B. Buckson is finalizing results from Texas, Mississippi, and Florida. Alabama provided their results at the meeting, and Louisiana will send their input as soon as possible. J. Waller voiced concern that specific areas may not be applicable to the states or federal arena and vice versa. However, all concurred that as a group, they should be able to come to a consensus on management recommendations. All were concerned that the document may preclude their future input on a face-to-face basis. If they decide to go ahead with the document, that caveat will be clearly stated at the beginning of the document. The Committee agreed to draft the document and then decide how or when to release it to the Commission or Council. Consistency in regulations was brought up, and J. Waller provided insight into the history of that issue which has been debated for years.

Progress Report to Commission, Strategic/Operations Plan Activities

The group reviewed the 2001 Operations Plan and Time Line of Activities. Activities were noted as complete or ongoing. J. Mayne will provide a report of accomplishments to the Commission on Wednesday, October 31, if it is possible to move the LEC report earlier on the Commission Business Session agenda. C. Yocom agreed to inquire and report back to the Chairman.

2002 Operations Plan

Upcoming activities were reviewed. A new item slated for the upcoming year includes the prioritization of FMPs to review specific management recommendations. All agreed work sessions are necessary to complete this type of work outside of the regular March and October meetings.

Administrative Funding for GSMFC Law Enforcement Activities

J. Mayne explained that the GSMFC had funded their activities out of discretionary funds. These costs had not been budgeted and are no longer available for administrative enforcement activities. Several ways to seek funding were discussed including a Council request for additional funds and a joint enforcement agreement with the GSMFC. The states could possibly use a percentage of their JEAs to fund administrative activity. B. Buckson noted that their Atlantic States counterpart committee is taking the JEA route to receive administrative funding.

J. Waller moved to request that the GSMFC seek a continuous means of funding for Law Enforcement Committee activities as outlined in the Gulf of Mexico Cooperative Law Enforcement Strategic Plan and as proposed in the FY2002 Estimated Cost for Support (Attachment 1). D. McKinney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Joint Enforcement Agreements

J. Mayne thanked Gene Proulx and his agency for all their hard work in the Joint Enforcement Agreement process. **L. Young moved to formally commend G. Proulx for his efforts on their behalf; D. Fiedler seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Venue Laws - Florida (B. Buckson) reported they were not having any problems thus far. Alabama (J. Waller) has not had any federal prosecutions as yet and referred the group to the Magnuson Act for clarification. Mississippi (D. Rose) reported that they had met favorably on the issue with their Attorney General; however, they met with a problem at the local prosecutors' level and must go through a legislative change that will allow local prosecutors to litigate cases outside their normal county jurisdiction. Louisiana (J. Mayne) noted their state had changed statutes to allow for federal prosecution. Texas (L. Young) noted similar, local prosecutorial authority problems but noted that their officers are only patrolling state waters at this time.

Summary Settlements - This item was deferred until the March 2002 meeting.

2002 JEA Submissions - D. McKinney reported that as of July 15, Congress had every intention of passing $15 million for JEAs. J. Mayne has been working with Congressional liaisons to increase funding. The bill is in conference, and in light of the current national security issues, enforcement should be at the forefront of Congressional consideration. All agreed that a standard report for the Gulf area would be a useful tool to supply both state and federal representatives. D. McKinney volunteered to discuss the idea with G. Proulx.

Law Summary

C. Yocom reported that the Law Summary is complete and contains residency requirements for each state. Bids will close at the end of the month, and printing is expected by November's end or in early December.

Other Business

Committee Representation - **J. Waller moved that the Committee request representation from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Law Enforcement Office and The Office of NOAA General Counsel be formally added to the Law Enforcement Committee membership in a manner consistent with the make-up of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Law Enforcement Advisory Panel. D. Fiedler seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Maximum Penalty Resolution - **D. McKinney moved to recommend that a Maximum Penalty Resolution against those who may take advantage of the current burden on all law enforcement in support of heightened national security since the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 (Attachment 2). L. Young seconded the motion which passed by acclamation.**

Shellfish Regulations - B. Ferguson reported that USFWS Law Enforcement was having glaring problems with shellfish tags being used improperly (e.g., one tag being used on multiple sacks of oysters, tags not being kept for the required 90 day period, erroneous license numbers being used, etc.). Officers need correct tag data to maintain the proper chain of information in the event of a outbreak of shellfish-related sickness.

J. Waller moved to request that in light of the upcoming holiday season and ongoing problems to enforce tag regulations, the Commission write a letter to shellfish dealers which would reiterate the importance of adhering to shellfish regulations. D. McKinney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Recognition of Retiring Alabama Representation - J. Mayne expressed the appreciation of the entire Committee to Jerry Waller, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and wished him well in his future endeavors.

State/Federal Reports

Alabama - J. Waller reported they had not had many legislative changes. Their agency has used 58% of the allocated JEA man hours and has ordered a new 31' patrol vessel. Numerous additional contacts are being made, and nine cases have been forwarded to NOAA General Counsel. They have seen a shortage in manpower due to the September 11 attack, since some of their men are reservists and are being called to national duty.

Mississippi - D. Rose apologized to the group for his tardiness in getting tasks completed for the group. There have been no unusual legislative changes for the agency; however, the CCA is gearing up to mandate TEDs/BRDs in state waters. Their JEA started late, but the "high contact" weekend in August went well. They have ordered a 28' patrol vessel. They, too, have seen repercussion from the September 11 attack; over 300 man hours have been spent patrolling the water border of the local military installation in Biloxi, Keesler Air Force Base.

Florida - B. Buckson reported that Florida is dealing with budget issues. A special session was ordered to deal with an estimated $1.3 billion shortfall. No state agency will be exempt from budget revisions. Last year, 25 positions were allocated and slated for manatee and other focuses. These

positions could easily be cut in budget negotiations. Pompano permits are being denied because applicants are being screened thoroughly. An oyster size limit which applies while on the water has gone into effect. A stone crab trap tag program will go into effect in about a year. They have also seen men pulled from regular duties to deal with events since September 11. Buckson sadly reported the accidental death of two officers while on duty last week.

Texas - L. Young reported their JEA began in July, and 25% of man hours have been fulfilled. No equipment has been purchased yet. TED/BRD installation issues have been cleaned up and will be proposed within the next week to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission for approval. Turtle strandings are down 19%. Jim Steinbaugh has been selected as the new director of Law Enforcement. They intend to hire 35 new cadets; however, in September 1, 2002, the loss is expected to be approximately 100 officers. Their agency has been called to support home-land defense along the Texas/Mexico coast.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

FY2002 Estimated Cost for Support of GSMFC Law Enforcement Subcommittee

1)	**Personnel Cost**				
	Staff Assistant (25%)	6,739			
	Contractual (5%)	2,326			
	Accounting (5%)	1,260			
		10,325		Total Personnel	10,325
	Health Insurance (actual)	2,207			
	Retirement (7%)	723			
	Taxes (7.65%)	790			
		3,720		Total Fringe	3,720
2)	**Office Usage**				
	Includes facilities, janitorial services, utilities, insurance, taxes and routine office maintenance				400
3)	**Telephone**				
	All calls are coded and actual expenses are charged to this account		300		
	15 Conference Calls X $100 =		1,500		
	Internet Access		150		1,950
4)	**Printing/Copy Expense**				
	routine expenses		300		
	Licenses & Fees (15pgs/200 copies)		300		
	Law Summary (50pgs/450 copies)		1,200		
	Operations Plan (20pgs/25 copies)		200		2,000
5)	**Supplies**				
	Includes copy paper & miscellaneous supplies)				200
6)	**Postage**				200
7)	**Professional Services**				
	Auditing Services as required				250
8)	**Maintenance (office equipment)**				
	Actual cost for computer maintenance, copy equipment, postage equipment, telephones, software upgrades, etc.)				300
9)	**GSMFC LEC Meetings**				
	a. 1.5 day X $275 per day				
	X 6 members	2,475			
	X 2 meetings	4,950			
	b. 2.5 days X $275 per day				
	X 6 members	4,125			
	X 2 meetings	8,250			
				Total Travel	13,200
10)	**Meeting Cost**				
	Includes meeting room charges, rental for audio visual or other required equipment and light refreshements				
	$400 per meeting X 4 meeting =	1,600			1,600
				TOTAL FY2002 ESTIMATE	**34,145**

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

P.O. Box 726 Ocean Springs MS 39566-0726
(228) 875-5912 • (228) 875-6604 Fax
www.gsmfc.org

Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

RESOLUTION

Assessment of Maximum Penalties During the Current National Crisis

WHEREAS the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 resulted in a diversion of some law enforcement resources from the area of marine resource enforcement; and

WHEREAS enforcement of living marine resource regulations is a crucial component of effective marine resource management and is a requirement to carry out the public trust responsibility for the sustainability of common property resources; and

WHEREAS some individual may attempt to take advantage of the present focus by law enforcement on national security issues to violate marine resource management regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission recommends to the criminal and civil penalty authorities of the federal and state governments prosecutors, judicial and administrative, that any person who violates Federal and/or State Marine Resource Regulations in a manner that takes advantage of the present national crisis, be assessed the maximum penalties by law, such as fines, seizures, and lengthy permit sanctions; and strongly encourage its member states to take actions to effectuate these recommendations within their jurisdictions.

Given this, the Thirty-first day of our Lord, Two Thousand One.

Virginia Vail
Chairman

APPROVED BY:
J W Smith
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

S-FFMC MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 30, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

Barney White, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m., with the following in attendance:

Members
Barney White, Omega Protein, Inc., Houston, TX
Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Inc., Empire, LA
Corky Perret, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Joseph Smith, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Jerry Mambretti, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
Toby Gascon, Menhaden Advisory Council, Baton Rouge, LA

Staff
Larry Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Vera Olds, Menhaden Advisory Council, Baton Rouge, LA
Columbus Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Jerry Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
John Jenkins, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Kathy Wang, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Georgia Cranmore, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL

Introductions and Membership Review

B. White welcomed everyone and started the introductions.

Adoption of Agenda

The marine mammals talk was asked to be moved up on the agenda in front of the status of the 2001 season. **B. Wallace moved to approve the amended agenda and C. Perret seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes (3/13/2001)

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Minor corrections were made. **C. Perret moved to accept the minutes, B. Wallace seconded and the minutes were approved.**

Changes to Committee Member Roster

B. White reported that Neil Moore had agreed to be moved to Others status to help alleviate issues regarding a quorum because he was unable to regularly attend. He would like to reserve the right to be placed back on the Committee in the future.

Toby Gascon is the new Executive Director of the Menhaden Advisory Council of the Gulf of Mexico and will be replacing Manny Fernandez on the MAC.

Status of Menhaden Fishery and Marine Mammals

K. Wang, NMFS, answered questions the Committee had regarding the category II status of the menhaden purse seine fishery. Since this fishery was elevated in 1999, registration of vessels has been the most notable change to operations. The captains are still required to report all interactions within 48 hours and the fishery appears to be in compliance.

Status of the 2001 Gulf of Mexico Menhaden Fishing Season

J. Smith provided a summery of the 2001 season and made his prediction with one day left to fish. It is estimated that the landings will be around 518,000 mt, down slightly from the last two years. The 2001 season was the absolute opposite from the previous year marked with high rainfall and river flows, high oil yield, higher tropical activity, a record hypoxic zone, and 8-10 days of grounding of spotter planes due to the 9/11 events in New York. Unlike last year, jellyfish did not prevent fishing in Mississippi Sound and a higher than usual number of Age-2 fish were harvested. Forty-two boats fished with 1 run boat and 2 bait boats in the Gulf in 2001. The fish in 2001 were very oily and actually hampered production at one point due to the sheer volume of solubles the plants were getting. The preliminary forecast for 2002 based on current vessel effort should be around 503,000 mt.

Atlantic Coast Update

Smith updated the group as to the activities of the Atlantic Menhaden Committee. The industry has been removed from that group and placed in an advisory status. The Committee now includes only technical people. In the spring the Technical Committee revised the traditional benchmarks and included bait landings as well in their analyses. They will meet again in January 2002.

Catches in Summer 2001 and Gulf Hypoxia Update

Smith reported that the hypoxia zone in 2001 appears to have directly impacted the fishing from Morgan City to Empire in July. Essentially no landings were reported in that area and the data from LSU during that time clearly show the hypoxic zone pushing up onto the beaches around Grand Isle. He will continue to evaluate this interaction in the future.

Status of CDFR Data Entry Initiative

S. VanderKooy updated the MAC on the status of the historical CDFR data entry effort by the Commission. The Commission enters the CDFRs as time and budgets permit. In roughly 13 months of using temps to key enter the data, 4 years have been completed of 11. VanderKooy anticipates entering the remaining CDFRs over the next two years providing money is not limiting to effort.

Status of FMP Revision

VanderKooy expected that the S-FFMC would approve the FMP to go out for public comment later in the week. So far, all the comments on the plan have been positive. It anticipated that the full Commission could vote on the plan as early as next March.

Menhaden Facts Website Discussion

VanderKooy queried the MAC regarding a Gulf Menhaden home page. Considering all the press the industry has gotten over the last year it was thought that a web page including current facts and statistics regarding the fishery might help to alleviate some of the misinformation that was being published about the fishery. The MAC encouraged staff to pursue the idea and a draft of the page would be presented in March.

Election of Chair

B. Wallace, as the official record keeper, indicated that the chair again fell to NMFS. **C. Perret moved to nominate J. Smith, J. Mambretti seconded and Smith was unanimously elected as chair for 2002.**

Other Business

J. Smith addressed the Commercial Fisheries Statistics page operated by the NMFS in Silver Spring, Maryland. Menhaden landings are not available prior to 1997 other than for bait because of the confidential data issue. The perception of low landings prior to 1997 (bait landings only) versus more recent total landings (both bait and reduction landings) are making the public have some questions. Smith wanted to know what it would take for the industry to allow publication of these earlier reduction landings. He pointed out that some of the companies were no longer in business. Both B. White and B. Wallace indicated that there should not be any problem in their minds. This is historical data, after 5 years it shouldn't even be a confidentiality issue. Smith will contact the statistics people and work to include the reduction landings prior to 1997 on the commercial fisheries statistics homepage.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

APPROVED BY:
Da Wagon
OMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 30, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chair Harriet Perry called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m. A quorum was declared, and introductions were made. The following were in attendance:

Members Present
Harriet Perry, *Chair*, USM/CMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Traci Floyd, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Leslie Hartman, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Anne McMillen-Jackson, FWC/FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom Wagner, TPWD, Rockport, TX

Staff
Cindy Yocom, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Chuck Adams, UF Sea Grant, Gainesville, FL
Glenn Carpenter, *GSMFC Commissioner*, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Frank Courtney, FWC Stock Enhancement, Port Manatee, FL
Georgia Cranmore, NMFS SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Gary Graham, Texas A&M Marine Advisory, Palacios, TX
John Jenkins, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Kirsten Larsen, USM/CMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Charles Moss, TAMUS Sea Grant (Ret), Lake Jackson, TX
Gilmore "Butch" Pellegrin, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Mike Ray, *GSMFC Commissioner*, TPWD, Austin, TX
Tony Reisinger, TX A&M Marine Advisory Service, San Benito, TX
John Stevely, FL Sea Grant, Palmetto, FL
Don Sweat, FL Sea Grant, St. Petersburg, FL
Virginia Vail, *GSMFC Commissioner*, FWC Division of Marine Fisheries, Tallahassee, FL
Kathy Wang, NMFS SERO, St. Petersburg, FL

Agenda

A discussion on horseshoe crabs will be added during Florida's state report. With this addition, the agenda was approved by consensus.

Minutes

V. Guillory moved to adopt of the minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday, March 13, 2001, in Brownsville, Texas, as written. T. Wagner seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Re-evaluation of the Crab Trap Fishery

K. Wang, NMFS, presented "Management of Marine Mammal Stocks under the Marine Mammal Protection Act." This presentation is in response to the interaction of bottlenose dolphin with the crab fishery and the potential change of the crab fishery to a Category II fishery. Fishery classification criteria are based on two tiers:

> Tier 1 - the total annual mortality and serious injury across all fisheries that interact with a stock less than 10% of the PBR (potential biological removal) level for that stock?
> or
> Tier 2 - the relationship between the annual serious injury and mortality of a stock in a given fishery to that stock's PBR level?

If the answer to Tier 1 question is "yes," that fishery is categorized as a Category III fishery. If the answer to Tier 2 question is no, the fishery is categorized as either a Category III, II, or I fishery based on the following:

> Category III - ≤1% PBR
> Category II - >1% PBR & <50% PBR
> Category I - ≥50% PBR

In the absence of reliable data on the frequency of incidental mortality and serious injury, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) specifies that the NMFS may evaluate other factors, including: 1) fishing techniques, 2) gear used, 3) methods used to deter marine mammals, 4) target species, 5) seasons, 6) areas fished, 7) qualitative data from logbooks or fisher reports, 8) stranding data, and 9) the species and distribution of marine mammals in the area. Stranding data used for the Proposed 2001 List of Fisheries (Attachment 1) is one criteria that is being used to determine the blue crab fishery category. Other category determinations include the need for further investigation to ascertain the associated fishery, PBRs for these stocks are very low (1.0-13). If no other fisheries are known to impact these stocks, Tier 1 applies.

The NMFS considers bottlenose dolphins within the Gulf of Mexico to be distinct populations based on estuary location. PBRs for Gulf of Mexico coastal bottlenose stocks are as follows:

> Western Gulf of Mexico Coastal Stock = 29
> Northern Gulf of Mexico Coastal Stock = 35
> Eastern Gulf of Mexico Coastal Stock = 90

After discussion, the Subcommittee agreed to recommend that the Commission write a letter requesting the NMFS review current relevant data on crab trap/Atlantic bottlenose dolphins

interactions. Because the NMFS considers bottlenose dolphins in 33 Gulf of Mexico estuaries to be distinct populations, the potential biological removal should be calculated for each estuary. Further, the Subcommittee requested that the NMFS work closely with the Commission and states to define issues as they relate to the commercial and recreational blue crab fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico.

Texas Crab Fishery Closure Update

T. Wagner reported that Texas has been legislatively mandated to provide a closed season in the crab trap fishery. This time will be used to facilitate a major cleanup effort. Under the provisions of Senate Bill 1410, the TPWD may use volunteers to help pick up lost traps during certain periods of the closure. During the first seven days, only game wardens and crab fishermen will be collecting the abandoned traps. After that, the traps will be defined as litter and can be removed by anyone. All traps picked up as litter must be disposed of properly and cannot be reused.

Abandoned traps should be removed to reduce ghost fishing, reduce user group conflict, decrease bycatch mortality, reduce visual pollution, and protect sensitive habitat. The closure time was specified to lessen the impact on fishermen. The upcoming closure is scheduled for February 16 through March 3, 2002. Game wardens should also be more available during this period since deer season will be over. The closure will provide two full weekends of cleaning, and Saturday, February 23 will be publicized like the annual beach clean ups.

The magnitude of the problem is obvious –

a. approximately 30,000 traps are lost each year
b. an average of 26 crabs are killed per trap per year in Louisiana
c. multiple species have been found in these traps
d. the traps are a threat to diamondback terrapins

The program needs volunteers (recruited from all user groups), vessels, disposal facilities, data collection, a program summary, and a program review to identify results, short and long-term benefits, and whether the closure should be mandatory each year. Potential volunteers have been identified from fishing organizations, university organizations, government agencies, environmental agencies, and seismic companies. Volunteers should expect shallow water and boat access difficulties; dirty, wet, and cold work; and equipment to lessen potential dangerous situations (heavy gloves and water-proof boots).

T. Wagner asked for Subcommittee volunteers to assist on the day of February 23 – it will be a good opportunity to observe and participate in the program. **V. Guillory and H. Perry indicated that a group from the northcentral Gulf would travel west to assist.**

Joint Session Results, Derelict Crab Trap Problem

In a joint session of the Habitat and Crab Subcommittees at the Commercial-Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel Meeting, J. Rester provided background information on the magnitude of the problem in the Gulf of Mexico. The final outcome was to propose that a Commission task force be formed to further define state issues relevant to the derelict crab problem. This task force will be composed of the core Crab Subcommittee and representation each from the Habitat Subcommittee, Recreational/Commercial Fisheries Advisory Panel, Law Enforcement Committee, and Gary Graham, who represents Texas Sea Grant.

Presentation to the C/RFAP on Egg Bearing Crabs

H. Perry reported that the item was deferred until the March meeting since the information was requested from a panel member that was unexpectedly unable to attend.

Blue Crab FMP

The Commission will consider the Blue Crab FMP for publication at their Thursday, November 1, 2001 meeting.

Review of the Stock Assessment Paper

B. Pellegrin reported that valid comments were received from some reviewers. Minor rewriting will be done to combine the Gulf of Mexico approach rather than a state-by-state approach that was used in the management plan.

State Reports

Florida - A. Jackson reported that 2000 landings are down in the state. Landings are down 32% this year as compared to the same time period in 2000. Seines are used to collect the data from the state's fishery-independent monitoring program. The number of licenses is down; this is due to the 1998-2002 moratorium. Derelict crab traps continue to be a problem in the state. The Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program has been approved and will include a survey of crab fishers (to determine the number of traps), preliminary monitoring of trapping, and regional sex ratio and size/weight relationships. Jackson asked if there were any horseshoe crab fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico that the committee knew of. All replied no. She indicated the demand for horseshoe crab blood will be increasing as it has been found to be an excellent medium for prescription drugs to combat HIV.

Alabama - L. Hartman reported that landings are down. Trip ticket information is coming in but is still very preliminary. The Southeast Asian fishers appear to be running an average of 415 traps. Alabama Commissioners are very concerned about the derelict trap problems, and a suite of regulations are being discussed.

Mississippi - T. Floyd reported landings at 900,000 in 2000; however, 2001 landings are down (but average over the last ten years). Commercial license sales are dropping – 250 in 2001 and 163 in 2001. A recreational license was approved in May 2000; 700 were sold at $5 each. The recreational

trap limit is six traps. The biggest problem in the fishery is theft of traps (not enough enforcement). Derelict crab traps are being collected – 2,000 have been collected and recycled during this year.

Louisiana - V. Guillory reported that on November 29, the LSU Ag Center's Marine Extension Program, in cooperation with the National Fisherman Magazine, are sponsoring a series of free commercial fishing seminars at the International Work Boat Show at the Ernest M. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The seminar is entitled, "Blue Crabs: Are They Overfished?" V. Guillory will provide an explanation of the likelihood of blue crabs in the Gulf states being overfished. J. van Montfrans will explain how the Chesapeake crab populations got into trouble and how long they may stay that way.

V. Guillory re-analyzed Louisiana crab production using an additional three-five years data. Significant trends are shown – since 1991, there has been a downward trend in CPUE. **He suggested that each state bring updated information for the group to review at the March meeting.**

Guillory also discussed *Hematodinium* sp. in the American blue crab, *Callinectes sapidus*. This parasitic dinoflagellates infects and kills blue crabs at a high rate. Occurrence is 30% in Florida, 50% in Georgia, and 70% in Maryland. **Further discussion on this dinoflagellate is needed at the March meeting.**

Texas - T. Wagner reported preliminary Texas landings in 2000 were 4.3 million pounds, the lowest in the last 20 years. Limited entry buyback for the crab fishery will continue with a second round this fall. Proposed legislation this fall, in addition to the closed season, includes a proposal to remove the dating requirement from the gear tag which must be attached to all crab floats.

Saltbox Issues

V. Guillory distributed and discussed several new papers on *Hematodinium perezi*, one by Jeffrey Shields and Christopher Squyars and another by Gretchen Messick and Jeffrey Shields. After reading the reports, he was alarmed by the implications of this parasite. They studied 20 locations from New Jersey to Texas and found that *Hematodinium* was present in 54% of the locations. Only six Gulf of Mexico sites were surveyed, and the parasite was found in two of those sites. The parasite occurs in high salinity waters, is deadly, and results in a high mortality of blue crabs. A problem with diagnosis is that there are no external signs of the parasite. You must examine the hemolymph histologically to verify the presence of the parasite. The only external sign is a lethargic specimen. Naturally-infected crabs suffered 100% mortality over 35 days. In experimentally inoculated crabs, mortality is 100% after 55 days. The authors' conclusion is that *Hematodinium* represents a significant threat to blue crabs in high salinity estuaries along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. Guillory noted that further research is needed in the Gulf of Mexico on this parasite.

Sociology Manuscript

V. Guillory suggested that the raw data received from the blue crab survey should be compiled into a manuscript. A. Jackson and L. Hartman were volunteered to lead this effort.

Election of Chairman

V. Guillory nominated T. Wagner as Chairman; L. Hartman seconded. T. Wagner was voted Chairman by acclamation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Stranding Data Used for 2001 Proposed LOF

FIELD_NO	Common Name	State	County	City	Human Interaction Determinants	Occ_Date
SHCM236	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	AL	MOBILE	DAUPHIN ISLAND	ROPE, NET MARKS	19950409
SHCM267	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	AL	BALDWIN	FAIRHOPE	ROPE MARKS IN MOUTH	19970328
CMSC-96-05	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	FL	PINELLAS	ST PETERSBURG	GILLNET AROUND ANIMAL	19960125
G-9801-TT	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	FL	GULF	PT ST JOE	CONFIRMED COMMERCIAL BLUE CRAB RELEASED ALIVE	19980804
MML-9911	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	FL	SARASOTA	LONGBOAT KEY	ROPE MARKS ROSTRUM/BODY	19990822
CMA-99-16	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	FL	PINELLAS	ST PETERSBURG	CARCASS IN CRAB TRAP	19990828
LA-010-94	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	LA	JEFFERSON	GRAND ISLE	GILLNET AROUND BODY	19940209
LA081-94	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	LA	JEFFERSON	GRAND ISLE	ROPE TIED AROUND TAIL STOCK	19940715
LA025-95	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	LA	ST TAMMANY	SLIDELL	ENTANGLED IN GILL NET	19950131
LA013-95	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	LA	LAFOURCHE		GILLNET WITH CATFISH	19950502
LA022-95	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	LA	CAMERON		MUMMIFIED CARCASS WITH ROPE TIED AROUND TAIL STOCK- QUESTIONABLE	19950807
LA017-97	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	LA	ST BERNARD		GILL NET ON DORSAL FIN	19970309
LA-99-013	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	LA	ST MARY		PHOTO GILLNET ON FLUKE	19990227
MS031-94	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	MS	HARRISON	GULFPORT	CAUGHT IN CRAB POT	19940916
MS019-95	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	MS	HARRISON	BILOXI	ROPE AROUND TAILSTOCK QUESTIONABLE	19950510
MS028-96	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	MS	HARRISON		NET WOUNDS	19960925
MS038-97	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	MS	JACKSON	PASCAGOULA	NET MARKINGS IN SKIN	19971118
MS040-97	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	MS	JACKSON	GAUTIER	NET REMAINS ON CARCASS	19971201
GA626	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	TX	GALVESTON	PORT BOLIVAR	NET CUTS IN MOUTH	19940410
PI65	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	TX	CAMERON		GILLNET AROUND NECK (ALIVE)	19940510
GA713	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	TX	GALVESTON	SAN LEON	LARGE SIDE CUT,TAIL ROPE	19951114
GA747	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN	TX	GALVESTON		ROPE AROUND HEAD, PECS	19960228

APPROVED BY:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, October 31, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

Facilitator Larry Simpson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members
Columbus Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Tom McIlwain, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Vernon Minton, *GSMFC Commissioner*, AMRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Corky Perret, *GSMFC Commissioner*, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Mike Ray, *GSMFC Commissioner*, TPWD, Austin, TX
John Roussel, *GSMFC Commissioner*, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Larry Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Virginia Vail, *GSMFC Commissioner*, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL

Staff
Dave Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, SEAMAP/Habitat Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Madeleine Travis, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Michael Bailey, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Bob Cooke, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Chris Dorsett, Gulf Restoration Network, New Orleans, LA
Steve Heath, AMRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Tom Herrington, FDA, Stennis Space Center, MS
Walter Penry, *GSMFC Commissioner*, Daphne, AL
Joseph Smith, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Britt Ulinski, Gulf Restoration Network, New Orleans, LA
Tom VanDevender, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Bobbi Walker, OBFA, Orange Beach, AL
Rick Wallace, Alabama Sea Grant, Mobile, AL
William Ward, *GSMFC Commissioner*, FL
Bob Zales II, Panama City, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on March 14, 2001 in Brownsville, Texas and on August 14, 2001 in New Orleans, Louisiana were approved as presented.

Menhaden Advisory Committee Report

S. VanderKooy reported on the Menhaden Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Marine Mammal group attended the meeting to answer questions regarding the change in status of the menhaden purse seine fishery to a Category II. Registration of vessels has been the most notable change to operations and vessel captains are required to report all marine mammal interactions within 48 hours.

J. Smith of NMFS Beaufort Laboratory estimated that landings for 2001 will be approximately 518,000 metric tons. The 2001 menhaden season saw high rainfall and river flows, high oil yield, tropical activity, a record hypoxic zone, and grounding of spotter planes due to the events of September 11. Jellyfish did not prevent fishing in the Mississippi Sound as they did the previous year. In the Gulf of Mexico 42 menhaden boats fished with one run boat and two bait boats in 2001. Smith also reported that representatives from the menhaden industry have been removed from the Atlantic Menhaden Committee which now is comprised of only technical members. Smith reported that no landings were reported by boats fishing in the hypoxic zone of the Gulf. Data from Louisiana State University (LSU) show the hypoxic zone has reached the shores around Grand Isle.

VanderKooy reported on the menhaden Captain's Daily Fishing Report (CDFR) data entry effort. Four years of data have been entered during the past 13 months and the remaining seven years of data should be completed within the next two years. The MAC discussed development of a web page to alleviate misinformation being published on the fishery. Staff will present a draft of the web page to the MAC at the March meeting.

Joe Smith was elected Chairman.

C. Perret moved to accept the Menhaden Advisory Committee report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

CARA Discussion

Gary Taylor, Legislative Director of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) gave a presentation on the legislative history of the proposed Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). Initially the CARA bill was introduced in 1998 to provide a foundation for the long-term commitment to conservation through assured funding, however it did not pass at that time. The three major points of CARA were, to secure dedicated funding for state fish and wildlife agencies; to secure some of the revenue derived from the leases of offshore oil and gas for the coastal states for coastal conservation and impact assistance; and an effort to make permanent the Land and Water Conservation Fund. During the 106th Congress, CARA passed the House of Representatives (HR701); however on the Senate side the full bill was not brought up on the Senate floor due to concerns over the property rights provisions, and the lack of opportunity for Congress

to deliberate over and exercise discretionary appropriations authority on an annual basis for federal spending. Congress provided less than half of the requested funding for some elements of CARA through the Department of Interior and the Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill. This is known as the Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement (LCPII) program. This program utilizes the appropriations process with state programs competing each year with federal programs for funding.

Taylor indicated that there was considerable political concern over the original CARA, primarily related to federal acquisition of state lands and the permanent appropriations provisions. The funding that was provided was earmarked for federal programs, not state programs as proposed by CARA. Taylor also indicated that there continues to be Congressional interest in CARA; however it is expected little will happen until the House of Representatives acts on the new version of the CARA bill. Events of September 11 will also affect the outcome.

Taylor noted that in fiscal year 2002, the Interior appropriations bill, which is awaiting the President's signature, makes funds available for state and wildlife programs, enhanced grants under the Endangered Species Act, funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, etc.

Taylor reported that J. Dunnigan of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) agreed to coordinate with the Gulf and Pacific states and Commissions on issues concerning CARA. There was Committee discussion on methods to assist the IAFWA with coordination, and better ways to share information, on all marine related issues. Taylor agreed to keep the Commission apprised of progress on the legislative process.

FWS Proposed Legislation and Joint Venture

Doug Frugé reported that at the national level the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is currently working on a strategic plan for their fisheries program. The plan for their hatchery system was completed earlier this year. This plan is being developed by an internal FWS working group composed of Assistant Regional Directors for Fisheries from seven regions and some staff. Concurrently working with that work group is an external steering committee comprised of 20 members including R. Lukens and F. Miller. Target date for a completed plan is May 2001.

Frugé then reported that an effort to develop organic legislation for the FWS fisheries program is underway, as well as a proposal to form a state-federal-private partnership for fisheries in the Southeast. This program was initiated by inland state fisheries agencies to address the problem of stocking reservoirs. Several meetings have been held this year to discuss this legislation, however it has yet to be introduced in Congress. The areas addressed in this legislation include, administration of the program, resources, areas of recreational fisheries, mitigation stocking, imperiled fish and aquatic species, interjurisdictional fisheries, and habitat conservation.

A state-federal private partnership is also being proposed which is patterned after the waterfowl joint ventures which were established to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The joint venture concept involves establishing a formalized web of interrelationships among state, federal, and private entities concerned with resource conservation. Two examples of joint venture offices are the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and the Gulf Coast

Joint Venture in Houston. Their activities are overseen by a committee composed of representatives from each partner involved in the joint venture. At this time the joint venture proposal is being focused on inland resources. The Committee then discussed various methods to have coastal states involved as well. D. Frugé will keep the Committee informed as to the progress of this venture.

Status of FMP's and Other IJF Activities

S. VanderKooy reported that the Flounder Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and the Seatrout FMP have been completed and are available online at the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) website as well as hard copy from the GSMFC office. The Blue Crab FMP went out for public comment and has been approved by this Committee to go forward to the Commission for approval. The derelict crab trap paper has been completed and is available on the GSMFC website and from the GSMFC office. The blue crab mortality symposium paper will be available within the next few weeks. VanderKooy noted that the Gulf Menhaden FMP is ready to go out for public comment and requested that the S-FFMC give approval for this action. **V. Minton moved to make the Gulf Menhaden FMP available for public comment for a period of 60 days. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** L. Simpson noted that after the public comment period, it is anticipated that final approval of the FMP will take place at the March meeting. VanderKooy stated that a summary of the public comments will be compiled and sent to Committee members for their consideration and a mail ballot will be issued. VanderKooy reported that the revision of the Striped Bass FMP is underway. The second task force meeting will be held in December and editing will begin at that time. This FMP revision should be completed in the next 1 ½ years.

VanderKooy reported that the Otolith Work Group recently had their final meeting on the Gulf of Mexico age and growth handbook. Final editing will be completed via mail and it is anticipated that it will be printed in early 2002. This manual will also be available as an interactive web based publication and on CD ROM.

FMP Compliance Report Card

A summary of the changes to the IJF report card were distributed to Committee members for their review. It was suggested that basic recommendations, regardless of species, be considered for future fishery management plans. VanderKooy reported that since the completion of the flounder and spotted seatrout plans there has been some confusion concerning recommendations for data needs and the review of fishery independent sampling. This issue is currently being addressed by the Fisheries Information Network (FIN). Therefore, in an effort to standardize, it will be addressed at the next meeting.

FIN Data Program Update

D. Donaldson distributed handouts which included information on the activities in the FIN Cooperative Agreement for 2002. Biological sampling is a new activity and will involve both recreational and commercial catches. Red snapper, king mackerel, Gulf and southern flounder, and greater amberjack are the species that will be sampled based on recommendations by the Data Collection Work Group.

Donaldson gave the Committee some history on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for data confidentiality. This MOA was signed in September 1993 by the five Gulf states, the GSMFC, and NMFS. If confidential data is requested by parties outside of the partnership, that request is referred back to the state of origin that collected the information. The FIN Committee wanted to be assured that data confidentiality would be protected under the MOA and asked NOAA General Counsel for a ruling on the legal authority of the MOA. Donaldson also noted that the MOA is currently being updated to include the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The response from NOAA General Counsel did not specifically address the issue of legal authority of the MOA, but it suggested, because of various changes that have taken place since the time of the original MOA, that a new MOA be executed. Donaldson explained that the Data Management Subcommittee and the FIN discussed this and felt that although some statutes have changed, the intent of the statutes have not and there no need to draft a new MOA for signature by the original partners. The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) decided to forward this matter to the S-FFMC since it is a policy issue. The Committee discussed the issue and J. Roussel noted that at the time the original MOA was signed, the FIN program was being developed and the MOA was used to express the intent of the partners. Now each partner signs an individual contract which includes confidentiality protection. Donaldson noted that confidentiality language is also included in the Cooperative Agreement. After lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt the following statement as a recommendation to the Commission: **The Memorandum of Agreement on Confidentiality, executed in September of 1993, shall be the policy of the Commission, which expresses our intent to cooperate in the collection, management, and protection of fisheries data. All requests for confidential data shall be referred to the agency of data origin. All necessary confidentiality provisions shall be included in the FIN cooperative agreement and the individual contracts executed between the GSMFC and each governmental agency. Other agencies that are partners in FIN may enter into a similar agreement (MOA) with the GSMFC to protect confidential data upon the approval of the GSMFC. C. Brown made a motion that the above statement be forwarded to the Commission for approval. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Habitat Program Report

J. Rester reported to the Committee on recent activities of the Habitat Program. As part of an outreach project a placemat has been developed using the habitat poster as a model. These placemats will be used in several area restaurants on the Mississippi Gulf coast. The habitat poster has also been re-formatted for use as a coloring sheet for children and has been well received by area teachers.

Rester reported that freshwater issues are a growing concern for the GSMFC as well as the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC). The GSMFC sent letters to the governors of the Gulf states and the GMFMC sent letters to those governors as well as the governor of Georgia stressing the importance of freshwater to estuaries and fisheries production.

Rester noted that at the July meeting the GMFMC discussed the matter of the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As a result of a lawsuit, the GMFMC is developing an EIS for the EFH amendment. A contractor will be hired to begin the EIS in January 2002 with a draft EIS being completed in late 2002.

The Annotated Bibliography of Fishing Impacts on Habitat has been updated and published. The bibliography is also available on the web as a ProCite searchable database and will be used extensively in the preparation of the EFH EIS.

Rester reported on three community outreach projects that GSMFC employees have participated in including the Earth Day Festival at Gulf Islands National Seashore, Pathways to Fishing Program at Gulf Islands National Seashore, and Celebrate the Gulf Festival sponsored in part by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel Report

S. VanderKooy reported that D. Donaldson updated the Panel on ongoing FIN activities which include biological sampling and the objectives of hard part sampling. Revisions to the artificial reef materials resolution were discussed and the Advisory Panel agreed that since there was not a consensus on the issue, more information was needed before any action could be taken.

VanderKooy reported that two presentations were made on the recent changes to the Texas shrimp regulations. R. Reichers of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department addressed the changes being implemented, and G. Graham of Texas Sea Grant spoke on the affect these changes will have on the shrimp industry.

A joint session of the Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel (CRFAP), Habitat Subcommittee, Law Enforcement Committee (LEC), and the Crab Subcommittee was convened to discuss derelict crab traps in the Gulf. The group agreed on the magnitude of the problem of abandoned traps, however defining a derelict trap and how to remove them was a larger problem than could be addressed at one meeting. Since Texas is beginning a closed season for crabbing during which time all traps left in the water become classified as marine debris and can be removed, the group agreed to wait for the results of that program before proceeding. The consensus of the joint session of the Commercial/Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel, Law Enforcement Committee, Crab Subcommittee, and Habitat Subcommittee was to continue efforts to address the problem of derelict crab traps in the Gulf of Mexico. A task force should be formed to further define state issues relevant to the derelict crab trap problem. The task force should be comprised of a representative from the Habitat Subcommittee, the Commercial Fishery Advisory Panel, the Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel, the Law Enforcement Committee, Gary Graham of Texas Sea Grant Advisory Program, and the Crab Subcommittee as the core group. **C. Perret moved to accept the recommendation of the joint session to form a task force to study the issue of derelict crab traps. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** L. Simpson noted that working sessions can be held in conjunction with the GSMFC meetings held twice a year.

VanderKooy reported that K. Wang of the Marine Mammal Protection group gave a presentation on the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Discussion followed regarding the proposed reclassification of the blue crab fishery as a result of interactions with dolphins. The Crab Subcommittee requested that the Technical Coordinating Committee bring this issue to the attention of the Commission.

Election of Chairman

L. Simpson was elected facilitator of the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES
Wednesday, October 31, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman Virginia Vail called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m and invited the Commissioners and audience to introduced themselves. L. Simpson noted that a quorum was present and reviewed pertinent rules and regulations regarding meeting procedures.

The following Commissioners and/or proxies were present:

Commissioners
Riley Boykin Smith, ADCNR, Montgomery, AL
Vernon Minton, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL (*Proxy for Riley Boykin Smith)*
Walter Penry, Alabama Legislature, Daphne, AL
Mike Ray, TPWD, Austin, TX (*Proxy for Andrew Sansom*)
L. Don Perkins, GSMFC, Houston, TX
Billy Hewes, Mississippi Legislature, Gulfport, MS
Walter J. Blessey, IV, GSMFC, Biloxi, MS
Corky Perret, MDMR, Biloxi, MS (*Proxy for Glen H. Carpenter*)
John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA (*Proxy for James H. Jenkins*)
Jeff Mayne, GSMFC, Baton Rouge, LA *(Proxy for Frederic L. Miller*)
Virginia Vail, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL (*Proxy for Allan L. Egbert*)
William Ward, GSMFC, Tampa, FL

Staff
Larry Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Nancy Marcellus, Administrative Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Dave Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, SEAMAP/Habitat Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Cynthia Yocom, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Tom McIlwain, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Columbus Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Michael Bailey, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom Van Devender, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Chris Dorsett, GRN, New Orleans, LA
Cynthia Sarthou, GRN, New Orleans, LA
Fred Kopfler, USEPA/G MP, Stennis Space Center, MS
Jim Giattina, USEPA/GMP, Stennis Space Center, MS

Rita Schoeny, USEPA/Office of Water, Washington, D.C.
Joe O'Hop, FFWCC/FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Larry E. Young, TPWD, Austin, TX
David S Fiedler, USCG/District 8, New Orleans, LA
John T. Jenkins, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
David R. Rose, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Donald Armes, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Tom Herrington, USFDA/GMP, Stennis Space Center, MS
Philip Spiller, USFDA
Joseph W. Smith, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Randy Pausina, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Henry Folmar, MDEQ, Pearl, MS
Dale Hall, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Jerry Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Bruce Buckson, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL
Tim Ried, MS-AL/SGC, Ocean Springs, MS
LaDon Swann, MS-AL/SGC, Ocean Springs, MS
Bob Shipp, USA/Marine Science Dept., Mobile, AL
Steve Heath, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Tony Lowery, NMFS/National Seafood Inspection Lab, Pascagoula, MS
Kiichiro Sato, *Mobile Register*, Mobile, AL
Ben Raines, *Mobile Register*, Mobile, AL
Bobbi Walker, Orange Beach Fishing Assn., Orange Beach, AL
Bob Zales II, Panama City Charter Boat Assn., Panama City, FL

Adoption of Agenda

V. Vail called for approval of the agenda as presented. L. Simpson requested the addition of an item to recognize the achievements of Jerry K. Waller, ADCNR/MRI, Dauphin Island, Alabama, immediately preceding the General Session.

V. Minton moved to defer agenda Item 12, Artificial Reef Materials. C Perret seconded. J. Roussel suggested that this item be discussed since it had already been deferred at the March14, 2001 meeting of the Commission. If we feel that we do not yet have enough public input, let's have public hearings. L. Simpson pointed out that there was a hand-out in front of the Commissioners that included letters and summaries of 47 comments received by the Commission staff regarding the Commission's Position Statement and Resolution on artificial reef materials. C. Perret stated that unless this issue was time sensitive let's give the public more time if they feel that it is necessary. **V. Minton suggested that if there is this much public interest, perhaps it should go out for public hearings. He restated his motion to defer action on Item 12 until public hearings are held in geographic areas where comments of concern were originated.** It was suggested that public hearings be held in Orange Beach, Alabama; Panama City, Florida; Tampa, Florida; Biloxi, Mississippi; and in Louisiana. **C. Perret seconded the new motion. The motion was approved.** The staff was directed to inform the Commissioners of dates and locations of public hearings.

C. Perret moved to approve the Agenda as modified. J. Roussel seconded. The Agenda was approved without objections.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held October19, 2000, were reviewed and the following changes (shown in **bold**) were recommended:

> Page 93, under the USFWS Region 4 Office Report, first paragraph, second-line, insert: **Deputy** before the word Secretary.
>
> Page 94, second line, replace the words "a solicitor" with **the Solicitor.**
>
> Page 70, under the Alabama State Report to the TCC, add the following to the sentence that starts "Spotted seatrout now have a 10 fish daily bag limit with a 14 inch minimum size, **with no provision for undersized fish."**

W. Ward moved to approve the minutes with the recommended changes. C. Perret seconded. The minutes were approved.

Recognition of Major Jerald K. Waller

L. Simpson requested that Major Waller come forward. He stated that this meeting would be the last session that Jerry would be attending as the Chief Enforcement Officer for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division since his retirement is pending. L. Simpson stated the Jerry was a very special part of the Commission. He has served on the Commission's Law Enforcement Committee since 1970. At that time, the position of Chairman was rotated based on meeting location. But during his first term of Chairman it became evidently clear that he was their leader. That was 25 years ago and it is a matter of record that since that time he has been determined to make the Law Enforcement Committee an actively involved and organized part of the Commission. His determination did not waver and his fellow committee members recognized his dedication and continued to elect him Chairman for fifteen consecutive years, 1985-2000. For thirty years he has been a dedicated and most respected member. On behalf of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, L. Simpson recognized Major Jerald K. Waller for his service to the Commission and to the marine resources of the Gulf of Mexico. He presented Jerry with a plaque of recognition and appreciation. Major Waller received a round of applause from the Commissioners and audience.

On a personal note, L. Simpson stated that Jerry had a hobby - he often felt that he would like to be a freelance photographer for *Life Magazine*. It is for that reason the Commission staff presented him with a digital camera so that he could pursue his hobby upon his retirement.

GSMFC Standing Committee Reports

Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) - J. Mayne, Chairman for the LEC reported that the LEC met Tuesday, October 30, 2001. The Committee received reports on derelict crab traps and the LEC

appointed Larry Young to represent them in the Joint Task Force dealing with that issue. He stated that the Gulf-wide 1-866-WE ENFORCE telephone number is now fully operational. He reported that all Gulf states have entered into Joint Enforcement Agreements (JEA) with the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement. The Gulf states have received approximately $6 million for these JEAs. The LEC recognized Special Agent Gene Proulx for his efforts in pushing the Joint Enforcement Agreements forward.

The LEC received reports from the various states, NOAA, and, USCG. The committee has begun working on an Enforceability Document and will keep the Commissioners updated. He updated the Commissioners on the 2001 and 2002 Operations Plan, and the Law Enforcement Strategic Plan.

J. Mayne presented several requests on behalf of the LEC:

- First he requested that the Commission seek a continuous means of funding for activities of the LEC. He passed out an estimated cost for this effort which itemized the total cost of $34,145.
- The LEC further requested that the make-up of the LEC be formally changed to include representation for the USFWS's Law Enforcement Office and the Office of NOAA General Counsel. This would be consistent with the Gulf Council's Law Enforcement Advisory Panel.
- The third request from the LEC was to ask the Commission to endorse a resolution (Attachment A) that recommends to the criminal and civil authorities of the federal and state governments that any person who violates Federal and/or State Marine Resource Regulations in a manner that takes advantage of the present national crisis, be assessed the maximum penalties by law, such as fines, seizures, and lengthy permit sanctions.
- The final requests, in light of the upcoming holiday season and ongoing problems to enforce tag regulations, the LEC requested that the Commission write a letter to shellfish dealers which would reiterate the importance of adhering to shellfish regulations.

V. Minton asked J. Mayne if anyone had looked into utilizing a portion of the JEA's funding to provide continuous means of funding for the LEC activities. If each state provided a portion of these funds it would amount to a very small percentage per state. This would be a very good source of funding for the coordinated efforts of the LEC. J. Mayne responded that they did discuss it in the LEC but felt that the Commission should include LEC efforts into their funding sources. They did not feel it appropriate to put the Commission in their funding sources. V. Minton said he did not mean to suggest that the Commission get any of the JEA funding, but that the states use a small portion of their allotted JEA funds to support coordinated efforts such as the Commission's LEC. J. Mayne suggested the Commission use administrative funds provided by the Sport Fish Program. L. Simpson responded that the Commission did not receive administrative funds through this program. These funds are identified for Commission activities in support of Sport Fish Program activities. C. Brown stated that these funds could not be used for law enforcement activities. The only funding available to the Commission for this type of activity would be the $250,000 the Commission receives in support of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries (IJF) Program. It seems that it would be more appropriate to split the estimated cost of $34,145 between the states JEA grants that

total $6 million rather than taking it out of the $250,000 the Commission currently utilizes to support the IJF programs. If it is the desire of the Commission to do so, it could be done but would work a hardship on the Commission's IJF program activities.

C. Perret stated that the Commission supports the LEC requests to seek continuous funding for the LEC activities. It does not necessarily mean to impact other programs but to look for funding when and if available. L. Simpson stated that he would investigate means available.

C. Perret asked J. Mayne if by adding USFWS and NOAA law enforcement, would this not duplicate the Gulf Council's Committee and perhaps duplicate effort. J. Mayne stated that this is more of a streamlining process, since many issues are the same, this would allow both committees more time to handle more issues.

C. Perret asked J. Mayne if there were any particular areas that there is a problem with enforcing oyster tag regulations. J. Waller responded on behalf of the LEC. There are currently two cases that law enforcement is working on that have revealed discrepancies in the recording keeping on tags. Both cases fall under the Lacy Act. The LEC feel that a letter from the Commission to seafood dealers requesting that they comply with the tag guidelines required by the National Shellfish Sanitation Commission. L. Simpson suggested that this was more of a state responsibility since the Commission is not a regulatory agency. We could draft a letter and send it to the states for distribution. This issue was discussed and it was decided that the various states would get a list of certified shellfish dealers to the Commission office and that the Commission would distribute this letter as soon as possible.

C. Perret moved to support the LEC recommendations as discussed. J. Roussel seconded. The motion was approved.

GENERAL SESSION - *METHYLMERCURY SESSION*

V. Vail reported that the Commission would break from regular session and begin the General Session. She recognized several people in the audience who had been invited to share information with the Commissioners they were: Fred Kopfler, USEPA/G MP, Jim Giattina, USEPA/GMP, Rita Schoeny, USEPA/Office of Water, Tom Herrington, USFDA/GMP, Philip Spiller, USFDA, Henry Folmar, MDEQ, Bob Shipp, USA/Marine Science Department., Bob Collette, National Fisheries Institute, and Tony Lowery, NMFS/National Seafood Inspection Lab.

V. Minton introduced Riley Boykin Smith, Commissioner, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). He was appointed by Governor Siegelman over two years ago. He is an avid fishermen and hunter and is well aware of issues of importance to the GSMFC.

Introduction

R. Smith thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to discuss issues of importance to everyone in the Gulf states. He reported that in July 2001, the *Mobile Register* began a series of stories exploring methylmercury contamination in fish caught in Alabama's coastal waters and the possible

effects of consumption to local residents. These articles have raised great concern in the general public, ADCNR, and the Governor's office. This has been reflected in phone calls to ADCNR and a decrease in orders to local seafood dealers and restaurants as well.

R. Smith requested that the Alabama Marine Resources Division convene a panel to discuss the problem. The first meeting was held in August 2001, and was attended by representatives from the ADCNR, Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Auburn University/Marine Resources Extension Center, University of South Alabama and persons involved in the seafood industry. Among topics discussed were the disagreement between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as to what methylmercury concentration to use as the action level for the issuance of a consumption advisory. EPA uses 0.5 parts per million and the FDA uses 1.0 parts per million. These differences need to be dealt with. Additionally, what concentrations of methylmercury are truly detrimental to various segments of the population? Unfortunately, there are very few facts available about this. Most fish off of the Alabama coastal waters are migratory and could be in adjoining states in subsequent days. For this reason the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is the ideal vehicle to study and hopefully initiate a resolution to this problem.

R. Smith proposed that the states work together in a coordinated effort to develop a tissue monitoring study, to identify target goals for more popular species, and not only study the fish, but study fish consumption habits by species and size of species. The presence of methylmercury in marine and estuarine fish could have serious effects on both commercial and recreational fisheries. We must work together to find viable ways to correct this problem and reduce the level of methylmercury to the greatest degree possible. In the meantime, we need to inform the public about what they can do to reduce the risk as much as possible without giving up seafood altogether. Working together we can determine how to adequately safeguard the public while keeping this issue in perspective.

R. Smith asked the Commission to adopt a resolution, requesting the various state and federal agencies to join with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to investigate this problem and possible solutions. He stated "This is not just our job, it is our duty."

Background and Concern/Impacts on Sale and Consumption of Fish

Collette indicated that he would be providing background information on the issue of methylmercury (MeHg) in marine fish. In addition his information would be from the perspective of the commercial fisheries and seafood consumption. Collette then provided a short description of the National Fisheries Institute (NFI).

Collette pointed out that mercury is found naturally in the environment, being released from rocks soils through volcanic activity. He added that mercury is also added to the environment through human activities, including incineration of solid waste, combustion of fossil fuels, and other industrial activities. Elemental inorganic mercury in the environment is converted into MeHg by bacteria in the water. Through feeding on aquatic organisms, fish absorb the MeHg. The higher on the food chain and the older the fish are, the higher the concentration of MeHg in the tissues. He stressed that MeHg in marine fish is not a new issue. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) established in the 1970s a standard of 0.5 ppm for the substance in part as a result of

industrial poisonings in Japan in the 1950s. That standard was overturned by the courts in the late 1970s, and an action level of 1.0 ppm was established. This level was based on new data, partly contributed by the National Marine Fisheries Service that indicated that exposure levels would not increase significantly by consumption of seafood at the 1.0 ppm level.

Collette reported that FDA has an import alert for sharks and swordfish. Importers are responsible for testing the fish prior to entry into the country. Additionally, FDA issued a fish consumption advisory for MeHg in 1995, which was revised in 2001. The revised advisory states that pregnant women and women who may become pregnant should not eat shark, swordfish, king mackerel, and tilefish. Also, the advisory states that the consumption of all other fish should average no more than about 12 ounces per week.

Collette indicated that other countries have dealt with the issue of MeHg in fish. The European Community and Canada have established 0.5 ppm as their action level, and Japan has established a level of 0.35. However, all of these areas have exempted large predatory fish from their standards, because 1) predatory fish are expected to contain higher levels of MeHg, and 2) higher MeHg levels are not the result of any identified contaminated harvest area. In 1979, Canada exempted swordfish from its action level on the basis that swordfish is considered to be a gourmet food product that is not consumed in substantial quantities in Canada. As a result, MeHg in swordfish does not pose a significant health hazard for Canadian consumers. Canada no longer tests for mercury in fish, unless they are being exported. The general advisory states that because swordfish, shark, and fresh-frozen tuna may contain more than 0.5 ppm of MeHg, consumption should be limited to one meal per person per week. Additionally, for young children and women of child-bearing age, consumption of these products should be limited to one meal per person per month.

Collette pointed out that there are areas of agreement and disagreement among the various agencies and industry groups regarding roles and processes to deal with MeHg in marine fish. He indicated that there is agreement on the role of federal and state agencies. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides guidelines for states to determine when a fish consumption advisory may be needed for non-commercially caught fish. Then the states issue advisories for non-commercially caught fish with the assistance of EPA. Collette indicated that NFI believes that the states should consult with FDA regarding fish consumption advisories for commercially caught fish. Most people agree that high levels of exposure can cause neurological damage. Most of the examples of such damage come from areas where mercury is known to exist in large amounts, for example in Minamata Bay and Niigata, Japan. In these examples, consumers ate a large amount of fish from the contaminated areas, and were found to have high levels of MeHg in their system. As noted, neurological damage was found, with some people consuming around 300 g/day of fish contaminated at levels of MeHg far above the 1.0 ppm threshold. In contrast, in the U.S., per capita consumption of fish is less than 20 g/day (based on consumption of commercially available fish, not including recreationally harvested fish). The top ten species consumed in the U.S. average about 0.12 ppm MeHg, which is eight times lower than the FDA action level of 1.0 ppm. The general conclusion regarding fish consumption in the U.S. is that consumers are not likely to approach the exposure levels documented in the Japanese cases.

While the public health effects of exposure to high levels of MeHg have been documented, the public health implications of exposure to lower levels of mercury are much less understood. Collette

provided information on two large scale epidemiological studies, one in the Faroe Islands and one from the Seychelles Islands. Both island populations are known to consume large amounts of fish regularly. There is general agreement that both studies were well designed; however, the studies reached different conclusions. The Faroe study found subtle effects on some test results, while the Seychelles study found no adverse neurological or developmental effects, however, more recent data are available on children in the Seychelles study after eight years. In the Seychelles study, exposure to MeHg was solely from consumption of fish. In the Faroe study, exposure to mercury was from fish, but also included whale meat, which is consumed episodically but in large amounts. There are limitations of the studies noted by technical reviewers. For example, the Seychelles study has been criticized, because the test methods were not as sensitive as they should have been. The Faroe study may have been confounded by persistent organic pollutants consumed through the whale meat. The effect of these confounding factors is not known. The National Academy of Science (NAS) was charged with determining if EPA's reference dose was scientifically justified. They concluded, as had others, that both studies were well designed; however, they chose the Faroe Island study as the most representative, because it found a point at which adverse effects could be determined. The NAS review concluded that the EPA reference dose of 0.1 micrograms/kilogram of body weight per person per day was justified scientifically based on the Faroe Island study. However, importantly, the NAS recognized the importance of fish in the diet and cautioned against the substitution of other proteins for fish, recommending a balanced approach.

Collette then provided some concerns from the perspective of the fishing industry. He indicated that the concept of the reference dose is not well understood and has been mis-communicated by the media. The reference dose is not a well defined line between safety and toxicity, a fact stated by the EPA Office of Water in their Mercury Update Fact Sheet. They are also concerned that the Seychelles Island study has been largely ignored, because it showed no adverse effects and could not readily be used to estimate an acceptable exposure level (RfD). In addition, sensational headlines in the media abound regarding the risk from methylmercury in fish. These realities have resulted in a lack of understanding of the issue by the public. The EPA reference dose has a ten-fold safety factor built into it. NFI believes that the calculated reference dose based on the Faroe Island study estimated to raise the possibility of an adverse test result is ten times higher than the exposure dose that actually resulted in adverse effects. In other words, when an individual reached the reference dose, that person would have to eat a lot more fish to reach the level at which adverse effects were detected in the Faroe Islands study.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently (1999) published the National Health and Nutritional Survey. That survey concluded that mean (geometric) MeHg levels in women of child-bearing age are well below the EPA reference dose. The study showed that women of child-bearing age in the 90th percentile are slightly above the reference dose, but they are still about 8.5 times below levels associated with possible adverse effects evidenced in the Faroe Islands study. The industry is concerned that despite the fact that the CDC found no one at levels where adverse effects were noted in the Faroe Islands study, and despite the fact that women of child-bearing age in the 90th percentile were about 8.5 times lower than that level, the media still reported that 10% of women of child-bearing age in the U.S. are at risk of having babies with learning deficits.

Collette reiterated that the Seychelles Island study has been largely ignored, but it is still ongoing. He pointed out that new data on children after eight years will be published in a few months. He also

reiterated that the Seychelles study found no adverse effects of mercury exposure, even at levels 15 times higher than those found in the U.S. He indicated that there are lingering questions about which study best represents U.S. consumers. The World Health Organization (WHO) concluded that the confounding factors of organic pollutants in the Faroe study should be further assessed. A recent paper published by Grandjean and others appears to reinforce the WHO recommendation, because he found that MeHg had a notable effect on his study of PCBs in the Faroe Island population. This conclusion points to an interaction between MeHg and PCBs. Collette suggested the possibility that the opposite could also be true, that the PCBs in the diet affected the analysis of MeHg in the diet but added that qualified toxicologists need to review this study to determine the significance of this relationship.

Collette indicated that the FDA is currently reviewing its MeHg policy. NFI suggests that they must weigh all the scientific data available, and they should be sure to include an analysis of the latest data from the Seychelles Island study and the CDC data on exposure. FDA should not focus *solely* on those studies which showed an adverse effect (as the NAS study did). He added that they should also weigh existing information about the consumption patterns of U.S. consumers of commercial fish, the scientific information from the major epidemiological studies, and the positive health benefits from eating fish.

Collette reiterated that media coverage of MeHg issues has been explosive, and many times consumers don't get past the headlines. He related a personal story in which a neighbor who was pregnant had seen a 20/20 television program on MeHg in fish. She told Collette that she was going to have to give up salmon during her pregnancy. Collette indicated that the message that his neighbor got was not a complete message, because MeHg levels in salmon are very low, and there would be no need for her to completely give up salmon in her diet during her pregnancy. He stated that this story exemplifies the confusing message sent to the consuming public. He called upon the relevant agencies to provide the public with clear and accurate information, and he called upon the media to discontinue the sensational headlines and provide the public with accurate information that allows continued consumption of seafood within safe limits.

Recreational Fisheries Concerns

Dr. Bob Shipp, Chairman of the Department of Marine Science, University of South Alabama, and Alabama Coastal Conservation Association made reference to an inflammatory newspaper article that was published in the *Mobile Register*, and read some selected paragraphs to illustrate his concerns. He indicated that the title of the article is "Hair Tests Indicate High Mercury Levels," by Ben Raines. Pursuant to the article, many people began to express concern about mercury levels in fish available for public consumption. The first paragraph quoted indicated that levels of mercury in human hair samples taken from the Mobile area were as high as levels found in remote island populations that almost exclusively consume mercury contaminated seafood. Hair samples were collected by the *Mobile Register* and sent to a government accredited testing laboratory in North Carolina for analysis. The results showed that some residents had mercury levels of 7.24 ppm, more than seven times the EPA level considered safe. B. Shipp indicated that several individuals met with Raines after the article ran and donated their hair for analysis. B. Shipp's mercury level was 2.5 ppm and Raines' was 2.8 ppm, both more than two times the safe level. B. Shipp indicated that McGill High School in Mobile, Alabama tests the students hair for other reasons than mercury

contamination, and he suggested that if agreement could be reached, those 1,200 kids would be a good source of samples for testing. Ten of the 18 people tested by the *Mobile Register* were found to be within the safe range, but 7 ranked among the 5 % of the U.S. population with the most severe exposure to MeHg. All 18 of the people tested stated that they ate seafood once a week.

The article stated that the test results bring the possibility of mercury exposure into the realm of diseases that need to be monitored in Mobile County. The article alleged that FDA data are flawed, and stated that the *Mobile Register* has demonstrated that many commercially and recreationally important species contain much higher levels of MeHg that has been reported by the FDA. One concern is that the flawed data is used by states as the basis for issuing seafood consumption advisories. The articles alleged that the FDA knowingly allows the sale of millions of pounds of seafood in the U.S. that exceed the legal limits for MeHg. Some scientists say that millions of Americans are at risk for MeHg exposure, because the FDA guidelines are established for average seafood consumption levels and don't account for people who eat a lot of fish, such as those tested by the *Mobile Register*.

The article stated that, based on their hair tests, many Gulf coast residents likely have MeHg levels similar to the fish-dependent Inuit people in the Arctic, who are some of the most highly exposed populations in the region with some of the highest concentrations of mercury recorded. B. Shipp stressed that he cited the article and its specific passages to give the audience a feel for the level of anxiety that the article prompted. He stated that while he was asked to give a recreational fisheries point of view on MeHg, he did not know how to separate recreational concerns from the overall concerns about mercury contaminated seafood. He stated that it is likely that recreational fishermen eat more fish, but he added that many fishermen share their catch, and a lot of non-recreational fishermen also eat a lot of fish. He related a story about his experiences associated with 20 years of judging the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, the largest and oldest fishing tournament in the U.S. It has 30 categories of fish, so most species are brought through the weigh station at some point. The rodeo is headquartered on Dauphin Island, about 30 miles from Mobile, Alabama. In recent years, the rodeo has evolved to incorporate more conservation measures, increased the prize values, and has catered to some special species target groups. In the past few years, king mackerel has become one of the special categories, having some valuable prizes associated with winning the category. In order to keep people from being able to enter a fish more than once, at the close of each day's competition, the king mackerel over 30 pounds are kept and doled out to needy individuals. One man took a 40 pound king mackerel and left. The following afternoon, the same man came back for another fish. He was told that they want to allow other needy individuals the opportunity to get a fish, and since he already got one, he should not get another. He indicated that he was driving back to Mobile on his Moped, holding the fish with one hand and driving the Moped with the other, when he was stopped a law officer who apparently took his fish, citing reckless driving. The story exemplifies the high demand for good fresh fish. They gave the man another fish, and B. Shipp believes he made it back home that time. It also illustrates the concern expressed by the rodeo officials, when it became evident that king mackerel were one of the species known for high mercury levels. They debated whether or not to give the fish out, believing that this was likely the only time of the year when some of the people had access to fresh fish, and likely their mercury exposure is low because their overall fish consumption is low. Even so, rodeo officials determined that they should not continue to distribute the fish in the face of the consumption advisory that had been issued. Now, many hundreds of pounds of fish are wasted, and this should be and is a concern of

the recreational fishing community. More data should give us better information regarding safe consumption limits, and will likely result in a reduction in waste of good, fresh seafood.

He cited two fundamental problems that he has noted in the many meetings that have taken place since the publication of the *Mobile Register* mercury articles. The first is the uncertainty about the real danger associated with consumption levels and the variability in different segments of the population, some with chronic, high level exposure and some with much less frequent and lower exposure. Studies of acute exposure to toxic materials are fairly straight forward. There are many problems associated with determining the effects of long-term, low level exposure to contaminants, as in the case of mercury in fish. He called upon the FDA and EPA officials to address these problems in an effort to minimize the uncertainty. Second, is the lack of data on mercury levels in various finfish species, at various stages in their life cycles, and from various localities. Sampling should be done systematically, Gulf wide, and from juveniles, sub-adults, young adults, and late-stage adults. Since recreationally caught species will likely be more varied than species available in fish markets, a broader variety of species must be sampled and analyzed. B. Shipp pointed out that from a technical perspective the task is very easy. Analytical capability is available at the University of South Alabama and many other state labs, and sampling methodologies abound for developing a sampling survey. He expressed his concern that, in the face of the potential health risks to the U.S. population and the expenditure of millions of dollars in other studies, such a comprehensive look at fish contamination has not been done.

B. Shipp stated that most recreational fishermen eat their catch or share it with friends and neighbors; consequently, recreational fishermen should be as concerned about potential mercury consumption as other seafood consumers. He indicated that much has been discussed about the concerns associated with the sale of seafood and the impact of mercury issues on the commercial market; however, the issue of MeHg is one of consumption of fish and is not confined to one sector or another. He pointed out that there is an increasing trend toward catch and release of marine and estuarine fish, especially with highly migratory species such as billfish. Even so, there is still a lot of fish consumption by recreational anglers. Cobia, or lemonfish, is one example of a very popular recreationally targeted species that is also popular table fare which has been shown to have high levels of MeHg. Wahoo and tunas also continue to be popular food fish for recreational fishermen. B. Shipp used yellowfin tuna as an example of how more data are needed to properly characterize the problem with regard to different sizes/ages of species. Yellowfin is a very popular recreational species in the Gulf of Mexico, and is also a favorite food fish. Up to about 50 or 60 pounds, the level of MeHg in yellowfin tuna is relatively low. That level suddenly escalates when the fish reach 90 to 120 pounds. This significant difference in MeHg levels in such a relatively small difference in size is important and likely manifests in other species. This is the kind of data that will help us understand the issue better.

Finally, B. Shipp pointed out that increased data on MeHg levels in species will likely have management implications. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, through the National Marine Fisheries Service, implements measures to maintain certain stock levels. These management measures have never considered the health implications of age distribution within a stock of fish. For example, if it is known that a large size of a certain species routinely carries a high level of MeHg, slot limits may be reasonable to enact, such that the species could safely be harvested and eaten up to a certain size. B. Shipp closed by restating that MeHg in marine fish is not just a

commercial fisheries issue. Recreational fishermen consume a lot of fish, and are equally likely to be exposed to fish with significant levels of MeHg. In this regard, he admonished all agencies, both state and federal, to consider this fact when addressing future actions with regard to MeHg in marine fish.

Discussion

V. Vail thanked the presenters and asked V. Minton the status of the resolution proposed by R. Smith. He stated that it would be presented to the Commissioners in the morning for their review. He agreed with R. Smith's comments that an opportunity exists for the Commission to pool their information and resources with other agencies to try to answer these questions and to get good data. This will assist the FDA and the EPA in establishing a proper action level of methylmercury. By working together we can make better decisions. V. Vail invited the Commissioners to ask questions of the presenters and other invited guests.

W. Ward requested additional information from B. Collette regarding importers' responsibilities to test their own products. He wanted to know what they were testing for and what species they tested. B. Collette responded that the testing was in response to an FDA alert that requires shark and swordfish to be tested for methylmercury. W. Ward asked why tuna were not included in the alert. P. Spiller, FDA responded that tuna were not considered a risk since the average methylmercury level in tuna is .3%, and only 0.1% in canned tuna.

In regards to methylmercury levels, W. Ward asked if there were any hazard requirements, and if so what were they. B. Collette responded that the FDA did not consider methylmercury a hazard; therefore, there was no plan or requirements. He stated that importers do have a plan that requires a product specification for safety standards. If they import a product that might exceed the methylmercury level, they must provide this information to their suppliers. If they are found in violation, their products will be continually tested until they (the importer) are considered in compliance. W. Ward asked if methylmercury levels have changed significantly over the last twenty years. P. Spiller stated that they have not, especially commercial species landed in open oceans, these levels have remained constant. R. Schoeny, EPA, reported that she was aware of only one study conducted in the Florida Everglades that showed a slight decrease in methylmercury levels in freshwater species over the last five years. Those results were unexpected.

W. Ward stated that, as a commercial seafood dealer, it is important to have definitive studies and results. Consumers need the total picture so that they do not react to just a small part of this issue. R. Schoeny stated that the EPA does collect data submitted to them by states that relate to methylmercury levels or consumer advisories. This information is available on their website.

V. Minton referred to previously mentioned archived fish samples which had high levels of methylmercury many years ago. He asked P. Spiller if this data had been published and was it available. He stated that he thought it was published and he would try to find out if it is available and inform the Commissioners.

C. Perret asked if there were any studies done other than Seychelles and Faroe Islands, for instance, in the U.S. R. Schoeny stated that there were other studies conducted. The National Academy of

Sciences conducted an earlier study in New Zealand, and there was a smaller study in the Great Lakes area of the U.S. There are currently over 50 studies available online on the EPA mercury website, *www.epa.gov/mercury*. P. Spiller informed the Commissioners that he has never seen a study of methylmercury that was not controversial. R. Schoeny agreed and stated that a definitive study was needed. She discussed current interagency efforts by the EPA, FDA, NOAA and others. This study is referred to as *Fish Advice*. Information on these efforts are also available online. She also pointed out that although the EPA and FDA have disagreements, they also have significant agreements in regards to this very important issue. Each agency has it's own area of concern and expertise. She discussed several studies and pointed out the impacts of these studies as far as the consumption of fish. There are instances where people eat species, such as whale, where there are factors other than methylmercury that are of concern and may impact the studies.

W. Ward asked if chicken, pork and beef are effected by methylmercury levels. R. Schoeny stated that mercury is not a concern in that type of protein. There have been limited studies that have looking at other types of food. Wild mushrooms show a high level of methylmercury, but nothing that compares to the levels of seafood.

C. Perret asked if someone could comment on B. Shipp's suggestion to have a structured Gulf-wide monitoring program, that would have the states providing samples. He wanted to know how others view this possibility and if it was currently being done anywhere in the U. S. R. Schoeny stated that EPA would support a systematic collection of data for study and evaluation. She is not aware of any large scale studies being done at this time. She pointed out that this type of study is a priority research need within her agency. P. Spiller agreed but pointed out the high cost of evaluation per samples provided by the states. V. Minton pointed out that a per sample cost could be considerably lower. P. Spiller stated that the cost of analysis is based on total mercury evaluation. H. Folmar, MDEQ, GOMP stated that a total mercury evaluation results in good data as it relates to methylmercury levels, because most of the total mercury found in fish flesh is made up of methylmercury (90%-98% in many species). F. Kopfler, USEPA/GOMP, reported this is also high priority in the GOMP, which has a website that provides information from the various states doing methylmercury evaluation. For the most part the state labs do a good job, but they see a need for a standardized monitoring program. He reported that Spencer Garrett, NMFS has served on the GOMP's Public Health Focus Team since 1989. S. Garrett has suggested that NMFS would be willing to coordinate with the states and other interested federal agencies to design a synoptic survey that makes use of NMFS various long-line cruises to collect samples and to analyze the methylmercury.

J. Giattina, USEPA/GOMP stated that their Management Committee had considered several objectives for studies of methylmercury levels, specifically establishing and implementing a standardized monitoring program and to facilitate discussions among the states. Action on these objectives was delayed until after this session was held. He indicated that if the Commission decided to take the lead the GOMP would reconsider their approach and role that would be more appropriate for the GOMP to take. V. Minton asked if the GOMP had funds available to assist with this program. J. Giattina stated that limited funds were available in FY2002, the majority of funds available would not be in place until FY2003.

P. Spiller stated that the FDA fully supported a standardized monitoring program. He further stated that the FDA is running a nationwide survey this winter. Due to the cost involved, the survey will be relatively small, only 250 samples. This will be added to an existing database. The FDA would like to be able to integrate other data into their database if available. He would recommend that future programs coordinate with the FDA to assure that methodology is compatible. He also urged the Commission to consider doing hair studies in addition to looking at the amount of methylmercury in fish. This will provide a clearer sense of the exposure rate in the Gulf. He reported that there is currently a national study going on, and stated that it would be good to be able to compare Gulf exposure to the national exposure rate.

V. Minton asked P. Spiller if the FDA had any funds available for the Gulf states to pursue these types of coordinated studies. He was not sure what the FDA budget was and what the priorities were for unobligated funds. He did however, say that he would be a strong advocate of the FDA funding such studies.

L. Swann, MS-AL/SGC, stated that when the methylmercury articles started appearing in the *Mobile Register*, he contacted Sea Grant Directors in the Gulf of Mexico to discuss methylmercury levels in their states. Based on what he was hearing at the Commission meeting, he stated that coordinated funding may be available through Sea Grant Programs.

L. Simpson asked P. Spiller about the national survey he had previously discussed. He wanted to know if the survey was to collect 250 fish samples, or to analyze the fish samples. P. Spiller responded that it was to analyze. The database relates to the average level of methylmercury within a species, also the range - high and low. They are basically targeting those species which are more likely to be in the mid range to low. The samples come from ports of entry, and retail and wholesale dealers.

J. Roussel stated the Commission could be of assistance in this coordinated effort, but he felt that within his state, he does not think his agency, LDWF, should be the lead. There are other agencies in Louisiana that would be better suited for this task. He felt the Louisiana Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Quality would be better qualified and already have funding identified for these types of studies. As fisheries managers he felt the Commissioners could serve a complementary role such as providing fish samples, etc. He is not comfortable deciding how many samples and what method of standardized monitoring to use.

J. Giattina stated that any effort should be coordinated and not done within one agency or group of people. He agrees that public health and environmental specialists should be involved, as well as state and federal government and others as needed. He further stated that if the Commission did not want to take the lead, the GOMP Management Committee could with the assistance of the Commission and others.

V. Minton stated that his agency has already taken the steps to coordinate with their public health and environmental departments. He further stated that directives from the Governor of Alabama and the Alabama Commissioner have urged a coordinated effort that will result in a systematic collection of samples that will give the state a good profile. The analysis will not be done by the ADCNR, and

consumer advisories will not be done by the ADCNR. Advisories will be done by the public health officials. What the ADCNR will do, is coordinate the collection of samples.

W. Ward recommended that George Henderson, Florida Marine Research Institute be a point of contact in Florida since he works with methylmercury issues in that state. He recommended that the other Commissioners seek experts on this issue within their respective states.

R. Schoeny stated that the EPA provides information to states and others regarding fish advisories. This information is available online and also by telephone: (202) 260-1305.

J. Giattina stated that this seemed like an ideal opportunity for the Commission and the GOMP to work together as partners. He hoped the Commission will move forward with this effort.

V. Minton stated that it is obvious that what is needed is a coordinated approach. The extent of the problem needs to be identified and the public needs to be informed of what they can do to safeguard their health in a realistic manner. The proper action level of methylmercury should be defined, and the information should be given to the EPA and FDA to resolve the issues.

F. Kopler reported that all Gulf-wide data available since 1990 will be online at the EPA/GOMP server through their Internet Map Service very shortly. He invited interested persons to visit the site. He will contact the Commission office when this information is available.

B. Zales asked to what degree is methylmercury a problem for the consumer. He asked how many documented cases of methylmercury poison or injury from eating a methylmercury tainted fish have been reported in the U.S. How many consumers have been adversely affected. R. Schoeny referred these questions to Katy Mahaney (202) 260-2086. R. Schoeny briefed the Commissioners of the effects on consumers. She stated that symptoms, even for high consumption of methylmercury, are subtle and difficult to discern. It affects an individual's ability to learn and think clearly. The symptoms are identifiable but not overt.

R. Lukens stated that he had a copy of the GOMP's report that is also available at their website. He referred to a section that lists recommendations that the GOMP has developed that outlines needs and studies that should be done. These recommendations would be a good starting point for what this group may want to do next. He will make copies of these recommendations available to all Commissioners.

J. Roussel stated that there are two things the Commission can do to address this issue. The first is to provide specimens for analysis. The second is communicating the true risk to constituents - fishermen and consumers. The Commission will still need the assistance of public health and environmental officials to help craft the message to constituents. He stated that any resolution approved by the Commission should address these areas.

V. Vail thanked those present for their assistance and expertise.

GSMFC Standing Committee Reports

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Report - C. Perret reported that the TCC met on Tuesday, October 30, 2001. The Committee received status reports from the various states, NMFS and FWS.

The TCC received reports from the Crab Subcommittee, SEAMAP Subcommittee, Data Management Subcommittee, Artificial Reef Subcommittee, and the Habitat Subcommittee. The Crab Subcommittee requested that a task force be formed to further define state issues relevant to the derelict crab trap problem. C. Perret stated that since the task force was also discussed in S-FFMC, he would defer action on this request until they report on their meeting. The Crab Subcommittee also recommended that NMFS review current data on crab trap/Atlantic bottlenose dolphin interactions. The Subcommittee would like NMFS to work closely with the Commission and states to define issues relating to the commercial and recreational blue crab fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Among topics discussed in the SEAMAP Subcommittee was the availability of the *1999 Environmental and Biological Data Atlas* from the Commission's web site, in hard copy, or as an interactive CD-ROM that also contains video clips and photos of SEAMAP operations.

C. Perret was re-elected Chairman for 2001-2002, J. Roussel was re-elected Vice Chairman.

J. Roussel moved to accept report and recommendations. V. Minton seconded. The motion was approved.

State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee (S-FFMC) Report - L. Simpson stated that the S-FFMC met Wednesday, October 31, 2001. The Committee received reports from the Menhaden Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Commercial/Recreational Fishery Advisory Panel (CRFAP).

He reported that the estimate for menhaden landings for 2001 will be 518,000 metric tons, which is down slightly over the last two years. Forty- two boats fished during the season with 1 run boat and 2 bait boats in the Gulf. The MAC requested that the staff develop a web page to include current facts and statistics regarding the fishery that would alleviate misinformation. A draft will be presented for discussion at their March 2002.

The MAC received a report from Gary Taylor, Legislative Director for IAFWA on the proposed Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). He indicated that funding is less than half of what the original Act proposed, and although Congressional interests continues, little action will be taken until the House of Representatives acts on this bill.

D. Frugé reported on behalf of USFWS regarding discussions about drafting organic legislation to establish and clarify authorities for the Fisheries Program of the USFWS. He will continue to update this committee.

The S-FFMC also received reports on the status of IJF fishery management plans and other IJF activities as well as the status of the GSMFC FIN Data Program and the Habitat Program.

The CRFAP held a joint session with the Habitat Subcommittee, Law Enforcement Committee, and Crab Subcommittee to discuss the derelict crab trap problem in the Gulf of Mexico. **On behalf of**

this joint group, L. Simpson presented a request that a task force be formed to further define state issues relevant to the derelict crab trap problem. They recommended that the task force be comprised of a representative from the Habitat Subcommittee, the Law Enforcement Committee, two members from the Commercial/Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee, and Gary Graham from the Texas Sea Grant Advisory Program, with the Crab Subcommittee as the core. C. Perret moved to approve the request. V. Minton seconded. W. Ward stated that it would be advisable to include a person from the crab industry to this task force. V. Minton stated that P. Barber was a member of the CRFAP and would be a good representative for the crab industry. The Commissioners agreed that they could make recommendations to these various committees as to who should be appointed. L. Simpson pointed out that all meetings of the Commission are open to the public and that anyone who is interested in this issue could attend meetings of the task force. The Commissioners agreed to send any recommendations to L. Simpson for presentation to the various subcommittees and advisory panels to act on. **The request was approved as discussed.** J. Roussel asked when this Task Force would get back to the Commissioners. He felt that six months should be long enough since this issue was addressed in the soon to be approved Crab FMP. C. Perret stated that the Commission staff should watch attendance of the various meetings of these subcommittees and advisory panels that are financial supported by the Commission. If members do not attend, they should be replaced.

Other topics discussed included background information on the issue of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for data confidentiality. The S-FFMC recommends that the following statement be approved by the Commission.

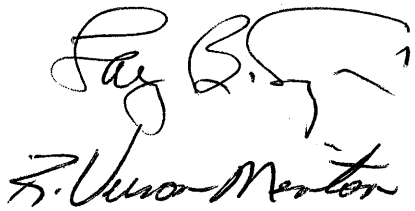
> **The Memorandum of Agreement on Confidentiality, executed in September of 1993, shall be the policy of the Commission, which expresses our intent to cooperate in the collection, management, and protection of fisheries data. All requests for confidential data shall be referred to the agency of data origin. All necessary confidentiality provisions shall be included in the FIN cooperative agreement and the individual contracts executed between the GSMFC and each governmental agency. Other agencies that are partners in FIN may enter into a similar agreement (MOA) with the GSMFC to protect confidential data upon the approval of the GSMFC.**

C. Perret moved to approve the statement. V. Minton seconded. The motion was approved without objection.

S. VanderKooy stated that the Crab FMP was sent out for final review 30 days ago. Very few comments were received during the public comment period, all were addressed. S-FFMC has approved the FMP to come forward to the Commission for final approval. **C. Perret moved to approve the Crab FMP. M. Ray seconded. The Crab FMP was approved for publication.**

The meeting recessed at 5:06 pm.

COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, November 1, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana



Chairman Virginia Vail reconvened the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

The following Commissioners and/or proxies were present:

Commissioners
Vernon Minton, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL (*Proxy for Riley Boykin Smith)*
Walter Penry, Alabama Legislature, Daphne, AL
Chris Nelson, GSMFC, Bon Secour, AL
Mike Ray, TPWD, Austin, TX (*Proxy for Andrew Sansom*)
L. Don Perkins, GSMFC, Houston, TX
Billy Hewes, Mississippi Legislature, Gulfport, MS
Walter J. Blessey, IV, GSMFC, Biloxi, MS
Corky Perret, MDMF, Biloxi, MS (*Proxy for Glen H. Carpenter*)
John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA (*Proxy for James H. Jenkins*)
Virginia Vail, FFWCC, Tallahassee, FL (*Proxy for Allan L. Egbert*)
William Ward, GSMFC, Tampa, FL

Staff
Larry Simpson, Executive Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Nancy Marcellus, Administrative Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Dave Donaldson, Data Program Manager, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, IJF Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Jeff Rester, SEAMAP/Habitat Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Cynthia Yocom, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Madeleine Travis, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS
Gayle Jones, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS

Others
Tom McIlwain, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Columbus Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Michael Bailey, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom Herrington, USFDA/GMP, Stennis Space Center, MS
Ben Raines, *Mobile Register*, Mobile, AL
Buck Sutter, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS

Follow-up to *Methylmercury Session*

V. Vail referred to the draft resolution provided by V. Minton to the Commissioners for their consideration. The resolution entitled *Resolution of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Concerning The Investigation of Methylmercury in Fishes* (Attachment B), provides for the development of a steering committee coordinated by the Commission to include representatives from the Gulf of Mexico Program and appropriate state and federal agencies. The committee will provide recommendations on the need to develop a Gulf wide plan for the coordinated collection of data and public outreach needs concerning mercury. The Commissioners reviewed and made several editorial revisions. **V. Minton moved to approve the resolution as revised. W. Penry seconded. The motion to approve the resolution passed.**

Update on Freshwater Issues

J. Rester reported that following the March 2001 Commission meeting, letters were sent to the governors of the five Gulf states stressing the importance of freshwater to downstream estuaries and fisheries production. The Gulf Council followed suit in July 2001. J. Rester presented interactive dry monitor maps depicting the various status of freshwater in the states during the last seven months. He described weather conditions that impacted the maps in various regions. Current conditions are pretty good, except in South Texas and in an area around Tallahassee to Orlando, Florida.

He gave brief activity reports for each state. In Texas there currently exists 16 regional water plans to identify water demand/needs and ways to maintain water quality and quantity. Region H, which is Houston is the only plan to consider the need for environmental flows, however the plan did not contain a recommendation on how to meet the environmental flow demand. These plans are updated every 5 years and the next update will include ways to meet water demand/needs. Texas has drafted a "Water for Texas 2002" plan that is out for public comment. This plan includes a section on environmental protection and flow maintenance and recognizes the environmental need for freshwater. Approval of this plan is scheduled for January 2002. Other legislation in the state includes Senate Bill 2, which was passed in the summer of 2001. This Bill addresses implementation and financing of water strategies and created the Texas Water Policy Council. This Council will heighten the level of dialogue regarding significant water policy issues and provides guidelines on state water policy initiatives.

In Louisiana, Senate Bill 965 established the Ground Water Management Commission and created regional councils that permit groundwater pumping. This Commission will develop a long term plan for the implementation of a comprehensive water management system that will address both the ground and surface water resources in Louisiana. J. Rester updated the Commissioners on the freshwater diversion projects in Louisiana. The Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion will be online shortly. This project will divert freshwater from the Mississippi River into the Barataria Basin to reduce saltwater intrusion and combat land loss. About 33,000 acres of wetlands will be preserved and 777,000 acres of marshes and bays will benefit from this project. Lake Maurepas Freshwater Diversion would divert Mississippi River water into the Hope Canal where it will be directed into the swamps and maintain a flow that will allow the swamp to naturally filter out nutrients. The proposed Myrtle Grove diversion would divert 1,000 to 30,000 cubic feet per second of Mississippi

River water into Barataria Bay. J. Rester reviewed the brown marsh situation in Louisiana. Approximately 110,000 acres in the Barataria and Terrebonne estuary were classified as severely impacted. Some brown marsh areas have recovered in 2001 while others have not, other areas have turned to water.

Mississippi does not currently have plans in place to deal with water issues.

In Alabama, the ACT River Basin compact involves the Alabama River, Coosa River, Tallapoosa River and all of their associated tributaries as well as the Cahaba River. Negotiations to develop a surface water allocation formula have been underway by the States of Alabama and Georgia. These negotiations will not significantly affect freshwater flow into the Mobile Bay. The ACF River Basin Compact involves the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river systems. These negotiations to develop a surface water allocation formula are being conducted by the States of Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Florida's primary concern is ensuring a clean, adequate water supply for the Apalachicola Bay, which produces 70 percent of the state's oysters. A deadline of November 12th will determine the fate of these compacts. Right now, Alabama is ready to agree with the ACT River Basin Compact but Georgia is undecided. Action of these compacts have been postponed several times in the past few years and results are uncertain at this time.

The State of Florida has a Florida Water Plan which is the Department of Environmental Protection's principal planning tool for long-term protection of Florida's resources. It is divided into six chapters and addresses the watershed approach to water resource management, water supply, water quality, natural systems, flood protection management, and management support, coordination and evaluation. This plan too, is now out for public review. The Florida Water Management Districts are now in the process of establishing minimum flows and levels for surface waters and aquifers within their jurisdiction.

W. Ward thanked J. Rester for his presentation and requested that the Commission stay informed and involved with these very important issues.

NMFS Southeast Regional Office Reports (SERO)

T. McIlwain reported on behalf of NMFS/SERO. He reported that the President has nominated Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr. to Under Secretary for NOAA. Admiral Lautenbacher is an oceanographer bringing vast experience to this job. It is anticipated that he will be confirmed soon. The Commissioners were aware of Dr. Bill Hogarth's appointment as Assistant Administrator for NMFS. Dr. Hogarth recently named Dr. Rebecca Lent as Deputy Assistant Administrator and Dr. Nancy Thompson was named Center Director for the Southeast Fisheries Science Center. NMFS has begun to place permanent personnel into all acting positions. NMFS continues to operate under a continuing resolution, the final budget has not yet be agreed upon. Although NMFS budget is slightly decreased for FY2002, the proposed budget for the southeast region is good. There is an additional $7.5 million to continue intensive work on red snapper in the Gulf. There is also an additional $750,000 in the MARFIN Program, also directed at red snapper research. Overall the budget is very good in the southeast region.

T. McIlwain announced that there will be a Shrimp Virus Workshop in New Orleans, November 28-29, 2001. This is a continuing effort of NMFS, USDOA, EPA, and GSMFC that began in 1996. At that time there was a severe problem in the states with shrimp viruses, primarily in Texas and South Carolina. Since then, shrimp landings and shrimp aquaculture has increased. Last year Texas farmers had their best year. At the same time, shrimp prices have bottomed out. The market just is not there. Shrimp imports from China, Indonesia, and Vietnam have now been banned because they are finding shrimp that have been contaminated with antibiotics. These factors add to the fact that the shrimp market is not at its best.

In regards to the TED Rules, T. McIlwain reported that a new rule for TEDs, with a larger implementation for use with the larger TEDs has been published in the *Federal Register*. The comment period ends November 16, 2001. A significant number of comments have already been received relative primarily to the use of the larger TED in the inshore waters of the Gulf. There will be public hearings held over the next week and a half across the Gulf.

Overview of NMFS Permit Actions

Buck Sutter, Acting Team Leader, Southeast Regional Office (SERO) Permits, St. Petersburg, FL presented changes in federal permits for the Southeast Region. Since 1986, when federal permits first started for king mackerel and swordfish, procedures were updated but there was little operational changes. This will quickly change over the next 1 ½ years, mainly due to the volume of permits. Anticipated new federal permits in the southeast region will occur due to the Shrimp Amendment 11, Coastal Migratory Pelagic/Reef fish charter/headboat moratorium, Gulf Reef Fish Amendment 18 (gear endorsements), and Dolphin-Wahoo permits. There are currently about 5,600 vessels in the southeast region with some kind of federal permit. It is anticipated that open access permits will double in volume from 8,000 to 16,000 due in part to new permits required in the shrimp industry. There are currently 5,900 permits in closed access and they anticipate additional permits in this fishery due to rock fish in the South Atlantic will become a closed fishery as well as aspects of the charter/headboat industry. Dealer permits will also show a slight increase due to dolphin-wahoo permits.

B. Sutter reported that the increased workload would be a challenge and ongoing programmatic changes will take place in the SERO. He stated that of interest to him, was the shift of who is using this information. To deal with this shift, major changes will occur. Additional staffing, training, equipment upgrades and data base conversion from Rbase to Oracle. B. Sutter feels that his expertise would be to enhance data interchange with internal partners and external partners, especially as it relates to the states and Interstate Commissions (FIN and ACCSP Programs). The SERO has not been as involved as it wants to be in this interchange. The conversion to Oracle will allow B. Sutter to enhance web based linkages.

The SERO is about 2 months away from testing the database. By next spring it should be online to start using it to award permits. Awarding permits is a small portion of the value of this integrated information system. A major issue this system will provide is what is the regulatory impact of proposed regulations, who is being impacted. This database will provide that information. They should be able to link a particular permit and vessel to the logbook data that is being collected in Miami. In some instances, it will be possible to apply for a permit online.

This integrated U.S. Fisheries Information System will provide individual state and NMFS sources providing research and harvest data without duplication. Regional state and NMFS data repositories which are harmonized and linked online provide a system that interfaces with state/federal agencies, Commissions, Councils, industry and the public. It will become a virtual system of distributed databases and a regional data warehouse. Coordination will be the key to making this system work and B. Sutter looks forward to working with the Commission and Gulf states in making this effort successful and beneficial to all.

C. Perret stated that he hopes funding for this system is forthcoming, because he feels that this will be a great tool with far reaching benefits, especially for the fishermen who will be applying for these permits.

USFWS Region 4 Office Report

C. Brown reported on behalf of USFWS Region 4. He reported that Dr. Steve Williams was nominated to be the new director of FWS. The nomination has not yet been confirmed, but that action is expected soon. Dr. Williams is a known advocate of hunters and anglers and it is anticipated that his appointment will improve relationships between states and the FWS. The nomination of Judge Hansen to Assistant Secretary for the Division of Wildlife and Parks is also underway. The Senate confirmation process has been slowed by the events of September 11.

C. Brown updated the Commissioners on the long-term directions of the FWS's Fisheries Program. On a national level the FWS is working with a Work Group made up of Fisheries Assistant Regional Directors and a Steering Committee. Ron Lukens and Fred Miller are on the Steering Committee. These groups are working towards developing a National Fisheries Strategic Plan that will outline priorities for the program over the next several years. Regionally, a group of Fish Chiefs from southeastern inland states are developing proposed "organic" legislation for the Fisheries Program as well as the development of a state/federal/private fisheries partnership patterned in concept after the highly successful migratory bird joint ventures.

C. Brown reported several manatee sightings. On October 15, the Gulf Coast Fisheries Office received a report that a manatee was seen in the vicinity of a pipeline barge about 90 miles south of Mobile Bay. On October 29th a manatee was sighted in the vicinity of Pascagoula, Mississippi. It is unsure if this was the same animal.

C. Brown reported on the status of FY2002 appropriations for DOI. The conference committee bill passed on October 17 and now awaits the President's signature. The FWS budget was $1.3 billion, which is $185 million more than the administration requested and $76 million more the FY2001. Currently the DOI agencies are operating under a continuing resolution through November 16 or until the appropriations bill is signed.

C. Brown distributed charts to the Commissioners outlining funding of the FWS. As previously discussed, proposed funding for FY2002 is $76 million more than FY2001. This increase is due to additional activities in ecological services; refuges and wildlife; law enforcement; and, fisheries. He pointed out that although these growths are in four distinct areas, they all benefit the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico. While refuges and wildlife is clearly the largest portion of FWS budget, it

represents over 36 National Wildlife Refuges on the Gulf of Mexico, which provide fishing opportunities, but more importantly, they provide a nursery habitat for such species as red fish.

In regards to the FWS fisheries programs, his hand-out showed the components of that program in the Southeast Region. They are hatcheries (operations and maintenance), and fishery resources and coordination offices. These offices in Ocean Springs and Panama City are the ones that work side by side with the states in the Gulf of Mexico in dealing with various fisheries issues.

C. Brown stated that although the total fisheries budget continues to grow, the amount allocated to the Southeast Region represents a very small portion of the overall budget. W. Ward requested that the Commission encourage the Congressional delegation for the Gulf to seek more funding for FWS efforts in the Southeast Region. C. Perret stated that this is always an ongoing effort. B. Hewes requested that the Executive Director provide a list of the Gulf delegation and the committees on which they serve so that individual Commissioners can assist the staff with seeking additional funding for these important Southeast Region programs.

FY 2002 NMFS Budget

L. Simpson reviewed the House and Senate version of the NMFS FY2002 budget. As of October 19, both versions had passed but it had not gone to conference yet. He pointed out that as with FWS, an inequity exists with funding to the southeast region with NMFS also. Current year proposals reflect an upward trend, hopefully the current tragedy of September 11, will not impact this trend. He will continue to work with Commissioners to bring issues of importance in the Gulf to those persons making appropriation decisions. L. Simpson and W. Ward are planning to meet with Congressman Young when the opportunity arises. He discussed the importance of each Commissioner and others efforts to bring funding requests for the southeast to the attention of Congressional delegates. He recently went with C. Nelson and a group of very organized oystermen to Washington, D.C. and was impressed with their efforts to bring their issues to the people who make funding decisions. He explained that if differences do not appear between the House and Senate version, it does not need to go to conference. Both the House and Senate version have GulfFIN funded at $3.5 million and therefore will not go to conference. These funds will come directly to the Commission to fund the various FIN programs in the Gulf of Mexico. Although SEAMAP realized a small increase, it continues to be of concern. He reviewed other areas of interest to the Commissioners and the southeast region.

L. Simpson once again pointed out that the statistics collection program that is a coordinated effort of the Commission and Gulf states, was designed as a $7 million program. Current level is $4 million plus. He reminded the Commissioners that there is some new and anticipated work that needs to be done that will require the entire $7 million if we are to do this program right.

Federal Legislation

Freedom to Fish Act - S.1314 - L. Simpson reported that this Bill was introduced by Senator Breaux and others to protect the public's ability to fish for sport and other purposes. The Bill cites that more than 45 million people participate in recreational fishing which results in $108 million annually into the national economy. An important element of recreational fishing is open access to places to fish.

This Bill will ensure that federal regulations promote open access to the maximum extent possible and that recreational fishers be actively involved in the process. Restricted areas should be as small as scientifically possible. It further states that areas not be closed unless there is a clear indication that recreational fishers are the cause of a specific conservation problem and that regulations include specific criteria. The status of this Bill is uncertain at this time.

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IJF) Reauthorization - L. Simpson reported that this Bill reauthorizes various fishery conservation management programs, including IJF Act of 1986; Anadromous Fish Conservation Act; Atlantic Coastal Fisheries; NOAA Marine Fish Information and Analysis Activities; Atlantic Tunas Convention of 1975; and, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Conservation Act of 1995. This Bill does not appropriate funds, it simply reauthorizes these programs through the year 2006.

IFQ Act of 2001 - L. Simpson reported that this Bill was introduced in late March 2001 by Senator Snowe to authorize the establishment of individual fishery quota systems. He highlighted some of the major points of the Bill. It would require that a fishery management plan which establishes an individual quota system for a fishery after September 30, 2002, shall provide for each Council having authority over the fishery for review, revision and terms of the plan; provide for fair and equitable allocation of individual quotas; minimize negative social and economic impact; ensure adequate enforcement; take into account present participation; and, prevent any person or entity from acquiring an excessive share of individual quotas issued for a fishery. It further states that any individual quota plan may be revoked or limited by the Secretary; shall not confer any right of compensation; and, shall expire not later than 5 years after the date it is issued. It provides for approval of fishery management plans establishing individual quota systems. Some major points require that a referenda be conducted and that a plan can only be approved by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by eligible permit holders. It establishes that a ~~plan~~ quota shall not be sold, transferred or leased. The Bill provides for a lien registry system for identification of vessels.

Magnuson Act Reauthorization - L. Simpson stated that the only activity under this reauthorization is a bill introduced by Congressman Farr. This Bill is to recover depleted fish stocks. Basically, it requires actions on by-catch and conservation measures. Some of the requirements provide for observers; the definitions of over fished and over fishing; and, some ecosystem considerations. There has been no action, but it has been referred to the Subcommittee.

Congressman Gilchrest presented a Bill in May 2001, that amended the Magnuson Act. It extends the authority of the appropriations through FY2006.

Reauthorization of the National Invasive Species Act (NISA) - R. Lukens referred the Commissioners to information provided in their briefing book that included draft legislative language for reauthorization of the NISA; an addendum to NISA reauthorization; and, a proposal to amend NISA.

The draft legislation authorizes the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) to establish a regional program to address aquatic invasive species. This regional program will be implemented at the discretion of each interstate commission upon a decision of their respective members. The regional program would be developed in

coordination and cooperation with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) and with Regional Panels which correspond with the geographic area in which a regional interstate program is developed. It will utilize products and recommendations of th ANSTF and appropriate Regional Panels to formulate regional program action plans. R. Lukens stated that these provisions will ensure that all activities within a region are consistent and compatible, and that there is no duplication of effort.

The draft legislation further provides for plan development. A regional plan will be compatible with and not be in conflict with any other plan developed by a state. The three Marine Fisheries Commissions and the GLC are authorized to establish programs to provide coordination and administration to implement regional plans. R. Lukens pointed out that if a state had a plan, the regional plan would incorporate those provisions of the state plan that are appropriate. If a state does not have a plan, then the provisions in the regional plan could serve as a guide for development of a plan.

Funding to carry out the activities of coastal freshwater, estuarine, and marine invasive species prevention and control will be administered through DOC/NOAA/NMFS through cooperative agreements. These funds in no way impact funds available to the states.

R. Lukens pointed out that regional programs developed under the proposed amendment would not be in conflict with any existing organizational structure established under the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA) or NISA. The Commissions have the authority to establish a program at the discretion of the Commissioners and that the reason for this type of language is to ensure that the Commissions maintain consistency with the Act, and to ensure that the Commissions work in cooperation with ANSTF and the Regional Panel.

C. Perret moved to request that the Commission staff actively pursue funding for coordination and administration to implement regional plans to develop coastal invasive species programs which will coordinate with the ANSTF and Regional Panel. C. Nelson seconded. The motion was approved.

Executive Committee Report

V. Vail reported that the Executive Committee met on Wednesday, October 31. The Committee made several recommendations:

- That the entire staff receive a 3% increase with the exception of the IJF Coordinator, SM/Habitat Coordinator, Systems Administrator, RecFin Program Analyst, Data Entry Clerk, who will receive a 4% increase.
- Approval of FY2002 budget totaling $4,980,940 (Attachment C).
- Ratification of FY2000 Audit, which was approved by mail ballot.
- Requests the Executive Director to prepare written options regarding post retirement and/or sick leave plans to be mailed to the Executive Committee for review and/or approval.

C. Perret moved to approve the recommendations. M. Ray seconded. The recommendations were approved.

State Director's Reports

Florida - V. Vail reported on behalf of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC). She reported on several controversial issues. One dealing with a lawsuit involving manatee that is now being settled. Last May, the FFWCC approved a rule that established a pompano endorsement and set specified gear criteria for transit with that endorsement. The intent was to allow the transit of a gill net across state waters, where that gear is illegal, to Federal waters, where that gear is legal for purposes of participating in the pompano fishery. There are confirmed areas in Florida where pompano fisheries do exist. The FFWCC also established a pompano special activity license that allows for possession and transit of gill net gear to Federal waters where a pompano fishery has not been confirmed for purposes of establishing one. This special activity license also provides for observers to be present to confirm a new pompano fishery. This is the only exceptions within State waters. There is a vessel limit of 250 pompano per day.

Another issue that FFWCC has been working on is marine life or predator feeding. This was in response to concerns regarding a growing industry that takes divers out for the purpose of being present when sharks are fed. This has long been an issue, but the recent shark attacks have heighten concerns, both pro and con. The FFWCC will be reviewing a new rule that will prohibit the feeding of predators by a diver, and the carrying of passengers for pay to any sight for purposes of fish feeding. If approved, this will go into affect in January 2002.

The FFWCC has passed a rule that reduces the weekend closures that were applied to the mullet fishery. This increases the time available to the mullet fishermen. The fishery was previously closed at 4:00 pm on Friday, and re-opened at 8:00 am on Monday. The fishery will now be closed at 12:01Saturday morning and re-opened at 12:01 Monday morning. This was in response to improvements in the mullet stocks.

V. Vail stated that in regards to the possibility of changing the minimum size limit of oysters to address tolerance limits, the FFWCC left the minimum size limit at 3 inches, and they still have a tolerance level that applies only on the water. In the stone crab program, the Commission has implemented the operational and administrative rules last Spring, they have allocated trap certificates to eligible participants and the appeals board is meeting with those who have complaints or appeals about the allocation. This program is working well, unfortunately tags will not be required until October 2002, due to a delay in getting the tags.

Other issues that the FFWCC is looking into include extending the moratorium on the issuance of new endorsements for marine life and in the blue crab fisheries. They will be extended through June 2005 to allow time to review options for effort management and/or effort reduction in those fisheries. In response to concerns of fishermen the FFWCC is considering closing the snook fishery during the month of May as well as the June through August and mid December through January closure that is already in place. They may also reduce the bag limit on the Gulf side only, from 2 fish to 1 fish per day and excluding the Captain and crew from participating in that bag limit.

Alabama - V. Minton reported on behalf of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division (ADCNR/MRD). In regards to their trip ticket program, he reported that since January 2001, MRD has validated 36,091 tickets coming in. The data that has been sent to GSMFC has been accepted as meeting compatibility requirements. They are moving towards having port agents collecting more trip interview information instead of landings data, and hope to start this in January 2002. Additionally, they are planning to implement Alabama's portion of the collection of otoliths data.

He updated to Commissioners on the MRD activities in regards to the marine recreational fisheries surveys. As of September 2001, the MRD has measured 11,151 fish, representing 72 species. The top species in count, are the red snapper, vermilion snapper, southern kingfish, gray triggerfish and Spanish mackerel.

The MRD recently completed planting 7,900 cubic yards of shell. This was paid for with funds collected from oyster sack tags.

The MRD is currently in an oversight position with a Gulf stream pipeline, that runs from Mississippi through the inshore and territorial waters of Alabama down to Tampa. It has so far done well, and there are safeguards of resources in sensitive areas. They are beginning to jet part of the lines and initiate the borings this week.

He reported the SEAMAP cruises have been completed in a timely fashion. Of note is that none of the exotic jellyfish have been seen this year. This time last year all four species had been collected off of Alabama coast.

The Alabama brown shrimp season had a good start, but Tropical Storm Allison caused lower Mobile Bay to close and V. Minton anticipates that the overall harvest of brown shrimp this year will be reduced. White shrimp harvest is currently below average. The MRD has experienced some problems with bycatch washing up on front beach, especially in Dauphin Island. They acted to amend regulations to address this problem and hopefully this will get the problem under control.

The blue crab harvest is slightly below average. They experienced some very low numbers in January and February, approximately one-third of the historical levels. They have run into problems with traps/user conflicts. Various regulatory and legislative solutions are being considered, focusing on limitation of the number of fishermen and then limitation and reduction of the number of traps.

Mississippi - C. Perret reported on behalf of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR). He reported that Mississippi opened their shrimp season at the same time as Alabama, which worked well for spreading out the effort. The fishery did have to close due to heavy rainfall, but through August 2001, landings are up by 700,000 pounds and he anticipates that this increase will continue.

He reported that there had been two cultch plants this year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall just prior to the October 1 opening of the oyster season. Approximately 50 acres of material were planted in this Fall, slightly more in the Spring. Additional work on the reefs included relaying oysters to reefs where shells had been planted in order to boost spawning. As of October 18, fishermen have

harvested 28,691 sacks. C. Perret stated that this was a very good start, considering the market situation.

C. Perret stated that license purchases for charter boat fishing and salt water recreational fishing have increased. All other license purchases have decreased. The annual total for residential salt water fishing licenses this year was 73,763. The total number sold in 1994, when this license was instituted, was 44,000, and this number has increased each year.

MDCNR's derelict crab trap program has removed approximately 2,000 derelict crab traps. This program will continue through the winter, when derelict traps are easier to remove. The traps are recycled through a federal recycle program and this project generates a little revenue.

C. Perret reported that Mississippi hosted the Gulf and South Atlantic Shellfish Meeting this year. The MDCNR ,GSMFC and GOMP were sponsors. It was a well attended meeting with discussion of several relevant topics, including vibrio in oysters.

W. Ward requested that C. Perret provide information regarding the magnitude of the number of derelict traps in Mississippi, the cost to remove each trap, who pays the cost, etc. He was unsure regarding the number removed but reported that the cost of removal came from the departments operating fund. He stated that it was a good program of benefit to the citizens of Mississippi.

Louisiana - J. Roussel, reported on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). He stated that the Louisiana Legislature passed several pieces of legislation since the last Commission session, and he updated the Commissioners on actions of interest to fisheries. He reminded the Commissioners of recent license negotiations between Louisiana and Mississippi. These issues required legislative resolution in Louisiana. Legislation affecting licenses in Louisiana included the creation of a one day non-resident license and a license for charter boat operators with provisions for small fishing skiffs attached to the main vessel. The charter boat license will accommodate Mississippi charter boats currently operating off of Chandelier Island. Additional legislation affecting licenses was a provision that will allow non-resident students attending a Louisiana university to purchase a recreational license at a fee equal to a resident fee if the State that the student is from has similar provisions. In regards to commercial licenses, H.B. 65, authorizes the LDWF to sell commercial licenses in all District Offices located South of Interstate 10, including the Bourg and New Iberia offices. Previously, these license were only available from the Baton Rouge office.

There were two bill passed that adjusted the saltwater line in Louisiana (the line which determines license requirements, between freshwater or saltwater fishing, as well as the types of commercial gear used). These adjustment were due to controversy in the mullet fishery and by certain saltwater fish (black drum) being landed in freshwater with gear that is legal in freshwater but not in saltwater.

J. Roussel reported that in regards to the oyster fisheries, oyster lease holders are now required to submit production information to the LDWF on an annually basis. Other legislative action involved a statute creating a Crab Task Force, Mullet Task Force and a Seafood Advisory Board.

J. Roussel reported that the LDWF has established six new public oyster seed grounds, totaling almost 5,000 acres. The state has successfully implemented the Oyster Relocation Program for Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project. Approximately 70 leaseholders have been compensated for relocating their leases out of areas that may be adversely impacted by this project. This was funded by the Coastal Restoration Project.

A Water Commission has been established by legislation in Louisiana. J. Roussel has been appointed by Governor Foster to be one of the 12 Commissioners. The Commission is authorized to designate critical groundwater areas and to control water use. In addition to the 12 member Commission, there is an Advisory Task Force. If the Commission sees a need for Regional Councils they have the authority to set them up. The Commission is charged with developing a Water Management Plan for the State of Louisiana.

Other action by Governor Foster included the establishment of a Committee on the Future of Coastal Louisiana. The committee is made up on non-government people, mostly business leaders. It is chaired by the President of Whitney Bank. The Committee is charged with looking at all issues that address land losses in Coastal Louisiana.

Texas - M. Ray, reporting on behalf of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). He updated the Commissioners on TPWD's Shrimp License Management Program. Applications for Round 9 closed in July. We are expecting to purchase 144 licenses for $900,685 (average of $6,250 each). A total of 698 bay and bait licenses have been purchased to date, which represents 22.7% of the original licenses.

In regards to their Crab License Management Program, applications for Round 2 closed this month. The TPWD expect to purchase 8 more crab licenses at an average cost of $4,250 each. A total of 15 licenses have been purchases to date, approximately 6 % of the total number of crab licenses issued.

The Commercial Finfish License Management Program just finished the first round and the department expects to purchase 13 licenses averaging about $4,000 apiece. This represents about 2.6% of the total number of finfish licenses sold.

M. Ray reported that the Oyster Lease Management Program, terms, conditions, and fees are currently in the process of being modified, as directed by legislation and a state audit report. Duration of leases will be 15 years. Fees will increased from $3 to $6/acre/year.

The TPWD's Crab Trap Removal Program will be implemented from February 16 through March 3, 2002. That is when a coast-wide closure to crab traps in public waters for all uses will occur. Only game wardens can remove traps during the first 7 days of the closure. During the last 9 days of the closure, traps will be defined as litter and can be removed by anyone. The agency is organizing a massive, statewide volunteer cleanup effort at selected sites in each major bay system for the last two weekends of the closure.

M. Ray updated the Commissioners on the TPWD Spotted Sea Trout Management. A series of scoping meetings pertaining to spotted sea trout management are currently underway in response to

a growing recreational constituency that desire greater abundance and distribution of large trout in the fishery.

The Department's hatchery programs have been successful. Sportfish fingerlings production goals were met again this year. Over 30 million red drum and 4 million spotted seatrout fingerlings were released into Texas bays.

M. Ray reported to the Commissioners that Larry McEachron, Science Director for Coastal Fisheries and a 30-year TPWD veteran, passed away earlier this month after a courageous 18-month battle with colon cancer. Without question his work significantly improved marine resource management in Texas and the Gulf of Mexico. His passion for marine fisheries will continue through a memorial scholarship fund that will be awarded to a deserving marine fisheries student in Texas annually.

Future Meetings

G. Herring reported that the next meeting will be held March 18-21, 2001 at the Casino Magic Hotel in Biloxi, Mississippi. The October 14-17, 2002 will be held in Alabama, no contracts have been signed with hotels at this time.

Election of Chairman

C. Perret nominated V. Minton for Chairman for FY2001-2002. W. Ward seconded. Without objection, the nomination was approved.

C. Perret nominated M. Ray for 1st Vice Chairman. W. Ward seconded. Without objection, the nomination was approved.

C. Perret nominated B. Hewes for 2nd Vice Chairman. J. Roussel seconded. Without objection, the nomination was approved.

V. Vail will continue to serve on the Executive Committee as immediate past Chairman. V. Minton will appoint a member from Louisiana to the Executive Committee at a later date.

V. Minton presented V. Vail with a token of the Commissioners appreciation for her service as Chairman for the past year. She was presented with a framed Walter Anderson print of a heron.

Resolution in Recognition and Appreciation to Major Jerald K. Waller

As his first official act as Chairman, V. Minton presented a resolution (Attachment D) honoring Major Jerald K. Waller for his 31 years of service to the State of Alabama, the Gulf Council and the Commission. **J. Roussel moved to approve the resolution. W. Ward seconded. Without objection, the resolution was approved.**

Publication List

L. Simpson stated the Publication List has been updated and is provided for informational purposes. Contact the office if you need copies of any publication.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
P.O. Box 726 Ocean Springs MS 39566-0726
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www.gsmfc.org

Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

RESOLUTION

Assessment of Maximum Penalties During the Current National Crisis

WHEREAS the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 resulted in a diversion of some law enforcement resources from the area of marine resource enforcement; and

WHEREAS enforcement of living marine resource regulations is a crucial component of effective marine resource management and is a requirement to carry out the public trust responsibility for the sustainability of common property resources; and

WHEREAS some individual may attempt to take advantage of the present focus by law enforcement on national security issues to violate marine resource management regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission recommends to the criminal and civil penalty authorities of the federal and state governments prosecutors, judicial and administrative, that any person who violates Federal and/or State Marine Resource Regulations in a manner that takes advantage of the present national crisis, be assessed the maximum penalties by law, such as fines, seizures, and lengthy permit sanctions; and strongly encourage its member states to take actions to effectuate these recommendations within their jurisdictions.

Given this, the Thirty-first day of our Lord, Two Thousand One.

Virginia Vail
Chairman

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Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

RESOLUTION

OF THE GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION OF METHYLMERCURY IN FISHES

WHEREAS the consumption of methylmercury is considered a risk to certain individuals, and

WHEREAS there are differences among regulatory agencies as to the proper action level of methylmercury that should require a consumption advisory, and

WHEREAS a limited number of samples have indicated methylmercury in certain fish samples collected from Gulf of Mexico waters, and

WHEREAS reports of these data have raised concerns as to the extent of this problem within the Gulf of Mexico region, and

WHEREAS there is a need to determine the true extent of the problem and to inform the public of what they can do to safeguard their health in a realistic manner,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission will coordinate the development of a steering committee with the Gulf of Mexico Program and appropriate state and federal agencies, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the steering committee will provide recommendations on the need to develop a Gulf wide plan for the coordinated collection of data and public outreach needs concerning mercury.

Given this the first day of November in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand One.

Virginia Vail

Virginia Vail, Chairman
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
January 1, 2002 - December 31, 2002

	FY2002 Operating Funds	FY2002 Total Grants	FY2002 Total Budget
SALARIES			
Personnel (designated)	60,149	595,034	655,183
Personnel (not designated)	9,623	22,226	31,849
Contract Labor	0	117,416	117,416
Health Insurance	6,650	113,540	120,190
Retirement	4,757	42,882	47,639
Payroll Taxes	5,499	47,365	52,864
MAINTENANCE/OPERATIONS			
Facilities	17,856	5,400	23,256
Office Supplies	3,800	20,862	24,662
Postage	1,000	14,650	15,650
Professional Services	1,000	12,833	13,833
Travel (Staff)	9,000	43,311	52,311
Telephone	2,500	29,390	31,890
Office Equipment	0	32,940	32,940
Copying Expenses	1,500	24,704	26,204
Printing	1,000	18,700	19,700
Meeting Costs	13,000	12,400	25,400
Subscriptions/Dues	500	400	900
Auto Expenses	2,500	3,900	6,400
Insurance	4,000	10,026	14,026
Maintenance	2,000	114,080	116,080
Automobile Purchase/Lease	0	5,940	5,940
Taxes (property)	950	2,510	3,460
Committee Travel	0	181,307	181,307
Contractual	0	3,347,260	3,347,260
Utilities	3,005	6,888	9,893
Janitorial (service/supplies)	1,230	3,465	4,695
TOTAL	$151,519	$4,829,429	$4,980,948
INCOME			
STATE CONTRIBUTIONS			
Alabama	22,500		
Florida	22,500		
Louisiana	22,500		
Mississippi	22,500		
Texas	22,500		
TOTAL DUES			112,500
INTEREST	14,000		14,000
REGISTRATION FEES	9,000		9,000
FUNDS FROM RESERVES	1,379		1,379
RENT	14,640		14,640
GRANTS			
SEAMAP		90,564	
Interjurisdictional Fisheries		250,000	
Sport Fish Restoration		200,000	
Council		30,000	
Habitat		41,831	
FWS		41,779	
RecFIN/ComFIN		4,175,255	
TOTAL GRANTS			4,829,429
TOTAL	$151,519	$4,829,429	$4,980,948

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Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

RESOLUTION

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION TO MAJOR JERALD K. WALLER

WHEREAS, Major Jerald K. Waller has completed over 31 years of dedicated service with the State of Alabama, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division; and

WHEREAS, he has actively served the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for 30 years – 15 of which were spent consecutively as Chairman of the Law Enforcement Committee; and

WHEREAS, he has served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Law Enforcement Advisory Panel for 20 years – 4 years as Chairman; and

WHEREAS, his vast knowledge of marine resource law enforcement has proven invaluable to the State of Alabama, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, causing him acclaim as an outstanding law enforcement administrator by all peers; and

WHEREAS, Major Jerald K. Waller, held in the highest esteem by all those known to him and characterized as having the utmost loyalty, integrity, and caliber;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission duly awards this citation of recognition and appreciation to Major Jerald K. Waller for his service to the management of the marine resources in the Gulf and in recognition of his contributions to the Gulf of Mexico as a whole.

Given this the first day of November in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand One.

R. Vernon Minton, Chairman
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Given this, the Thirty-first day of our Lord, Two Thousand One.

Virginia Vail
Chairman

Port Samplers Meeting
Meeting Summary
Wednesday, November 14, 2001
St. Petersburg, Florida

David Donaldson of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following were present:

Chuck Armstrong, GSMFC, Pascagoula, MS
Laura Baird, FFWCC, Melbourne, FL
Debbie Batiste, NMFS, New Orleans, LA
Britt Bumguardner, TPWD, Palacios, TX
Rick Beaver, FFWCC, Marathon, FL
Josh Bennet, NMFS, Miami, FL
Jay Boulet, NMFS, Chalmette, LA
Beth Bourgeois, GSMFC, New Iberia, LA
Maggie Bourgeois, NMFS, Chalmette, LA
Pamela Brown Eyo, NMFS, Miami, FL
Steve Brown, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL
Lew Bullock, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL
Guy Davenport, NMFS, Miami, FL
Suzy Delaune, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Claudia Dennis, NMFS, New Smyrna Beach, FL
Kit Doncaster, NMFS, Brownsville, TX
Jason Duet, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Wendy Dyer, FFWCC, Marathon, FL
Justin Esslinger, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Noel Estes, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Debbie Fable, NMFS, Panama City, FL
Greg Fairclough, GSMFC, St. Petersburg, FL
Ted Flowers, NMFS, Mobile, AL
Michelle Gamby, NMFS, Tequesta, FL
Linda Guidry, NMFS, New Iberia, LA
Gary Haddle, FFWCC, Jacksonville, FL
Lisa Hallock, FFWCC, Port Charlotte, FL
Brett Hano, LDWF, New Orleans, LA
Kathleen Hebert, NMFS, Houma, LA
Tom Herbert, NMFS, Fort Myers, FL
Kristine Johnston, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL
Rene Labadens, Jr., NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Laura Lambremont, FFWCC, Tequesta, FL
Jude LeDoux, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Albert Lefort, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Ed Little, NMFS, Key West, FL
Edie Lopez, NMFS, Brownsville, TX

Anthony MacWhinnie, FFWCC, Pensacola, FL
Terri Menzel, FFWCC, Navarre, FL
Joe O'Hop, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL
Michelle Padgett, GSMFC, Freeport, TX
Barry Roberts, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Keith Roberts, NMFS, Galveston, TX
Renee Roman, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Gary Rousse, NMFS, Golden Meadow, LA
Jeff Sauer, FFWCC, Melbourne, FL
Charles Schaefer, NMFS, Tequesta, FL
Howard Shirley, NMFS, Miami, FL
Jan Simpson, NMFS, Marrero, LA
Roy Spears, NMFS, Aransas Pass, TX
Bryan Summerlin, FFWCC, Cedar Key, FL
Linda Trahan, NMFS, Port Arthur, TX
Michael Travis, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Bill Tucker, NMFS, Houma, LA
June Weeks, GSMFC, Panama City Beach, FL

Staff
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Madeleine Travis, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Status of Commercial Fisheries Information Network

D. Donaldson gave a slide presentation on the Fisheries Information Network (FIN), focusing on the commercial side of the program. Donaldson explained that the constituency served by FIN are the state and federal agencies responsible for the management of fisheries, Fishery Management Councils, Marine Fisheries Commissions, as well as commercial and recreational fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. The mission is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine information and to develop a national program. The main goals are planning, managing, and evaluating the fisheries to develop the program. In 1998 Congressional funding became available through a line item which allowed implementation of the program which includes the establishment of the data management system. The FIN Committee is comprised of the members of the ComFIN and RecFIN Committees, Geographic Subcommittees, and various subcommittees and work groups. The backbone of the ComFIN is the trip ticket program. The trip ticket program provides

information on who is involved in the fisheries, detailed effort information, biological information for stock assessments, social/economic data, and discards.

Donaldson noted that in January 2002 biological sampling would be focused on red snapper, king mackerel, gulf and southern flounder, and greater amberjack. A detailed effort pilot study will begin in 2002 collecting data on area fished and gear combinations. This pilot study will be done in Louisiana and possibly Alabama. Work will begin as well on the collection of social/economic data for the charter boat fishery in 2002.

Discussion of Law Enforcement and Confidentiality Issues

G. Davenport reported that in the past a subpoena was required to secure confidential data, however this is no longer the case. If a law enforcement officer requests confidential data from a federal or state port sampler, they are required to turn it over. Davenport suggested that when this occurs, samplers should contact their supervisor immediately. The group discussed the problems associated with doing biological sampling and the potential for having this information reviewed by law enforcement officers, particularly the trust between fishermen and samplers. The group also discussed the confusion in identifying species for law enforcement purposes. D. Donaldson noted that the policy on confidential data under FIN states that it can be used to corroborate a charge but cannot be used to develop a charge.

Presentation on Collection of Social/Economic Data

M Travis of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) St. Petersburg office gave a presentation on the collection of social and economic data and distributed handouts to meeting participants. Travis reported that the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) has been conducting social and economic pilot studies on the east coast. Travis reported that social and economic data is collected on the commercial and the for hire sector and includes captains, owners, crews, vessel operating expenses, etc. using telephone interviews. Travis noted that two pilot studies were developed by the ACCSP and are being conducted for three years. The primary objectives of the pilot studies were data collection, data entry, data storage, linking, survey instrument, and sampling method.

Travis reported that the first pilot study was implemented in the state of Georgia with blue

crab fishermen. The other pilot survey was conducted from Maine to North Carolina and studied fishermen with summer flounder permits and followed the same fishermen throughout the survey. This is a voluntary program. The pilot study has three sections: trip cost, captain and crew, and fixed cost. There were approximately 1,100 vessels involved in the survey with an estimated 2,800 interviews. Travis noted that when this was submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) they required an 80% response rate. Since this rate was exceptionally high, a 60% response rate was agreed upon. After investigating several alternatives, it was decided to use federal port agents for this pilot survey since they have continuous contact with and have developed a rapport with the fishermen.

Travis reported that the biggest issue for the pilot studies has been outreach to the industry and he stressed the importance of continuing to promote the survey. Travis then discussed the questions asked on the survey and the length of time required for each participant. During discussion following the presentation Travis again stressed the importance of outreach. The group discussed the port agents role and responsibilities in this type survey and the various problems associated with asking questions of a personal nature.

D. Donaldson noted that the Fisheries Information Network (FIN) had been tasked with developing a program for collection of social/economic data on commercial fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico. It had been suggested that port samplers assist in collecting this information, however additional port samplers would be hired by the states. The question of confidentiality was again raised and Travis noted that this issue has been addressed on the east coast and to date there have not been any problems. Donaldson noted that the ACCSP and FIN both have confidentiality policies.

Travis reported that two projects are planned for Spring 2002. One is aimed at the Gulf shrimp fishermen and the other at Gulf reef fish and mackerel fishermen. Workshops will be conducted to get input from these fishermen on what would be the preferred data collection methods. Travis also noted that an annual report will be generated on the summer flounder survey and will be distributed to fishermen.

Trip Ticket Program Presentations

Louisiana - J. Duet of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) reported that the Louisiana trip ticket program began in January 1999. Approximately 250,000 trip tickets

are scanned per year. There are four ticket types: oyster, weekly and daily shellfish tickets, and generic tickets. Tickets from dealers are due in the Baton Rouge office on the 10th of the month for the preceding month and are checked for inaccuracies. The tickets are then scanned and verified. Edits and checks are run on this data, then it is forwarded to the GSMFC data repository. Duet noted that electronic trip tickets are now available at no charge in both computer and web based versions. The PC version was developed with the input of dealers and at their request it contains additional bookkeeping features.

Mississippi - J. LeDoux of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) gave a presentation on the trip ticket program in Mississippi. LeDoux reported that Mississippi has trip tickets for oyster, live bait, and fisheries single trip and multi trip. Mississippi has recently changed to a scannable oyster trip ticket which can be used with licenses to expedite the data entry process. Oyster trip tickets are turned in each Monday for the previous week. LeDoux explained some problems encountered with the state legislature and also explained that the MDMR requested input from dealers during development of fisheries trip tickets. Live bait fishermen had been using written forms and now use scannable trip tickets.

Alabama - B. Roberts of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) reported that the Alabama trip ticket program is underway. Most dealers participating in the program have made an effort to comply, however there are some dealers who have not been as cooperative and in these cases the courts have backed the ADCNR. D. Donaldson noted that the GSMFC is working with ADCNR staff on getting the Alabama trip ticket data into the data management system.

Other Business

J. Bennet of NMFS gave the group an update on the new Trip Interview Program (TIP) data entry system. The new system is a web based application and it will reside on the NMFS equipment in Miami. The program is now in development and should be more flexible allowing agencies to use their own codes, FIN codes, ACCSP codes, or TIP codes. Federal Information Processing system codes will be used for state, county, and port codes. All FIN and ACCSP critical data elements have been included in the new program. There is also a new optional effort section which will collect more detailed effort than in the past. The agencies will be able to retrieve their own data

in the same form as it was entered. Bennet noted that support from the contractor and from NOAA Fisheries will be available when the new system is operational, possibly by the end of 2001. Bennet also noted that online support for TIP is currently available at the NOAA website, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Sustainable Fisheries, Trip Interview Program.

D. Donaldson asked the meeting participants for input on the format of this meeting and also requested that they give consideration to agenda items for the next Port Samplers meeting. The group agreed that November was a good time to hold this meeting. One possibility discussed by the group was training for the upcoming social/economic survey. Any suggestions for agenda items or workshop ideas can be given to supervisors or to Donaldson.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

State Directors' Meeting
Zwolle, Louisiana
November 26 - 28, 2001

Participants:

Virginia Vail, FFWCC
Vernon Minton, ADCNR
Mike Ray, TPWD
John Roussel, LDWF
Corky Perret, MDMR
Larry Simpson, GSMFC
Ron Lukens, GSMFC
Dave Donaldson, GSMFC
Steve VanderKooy, GSMFC

Items for Discussion

1. Reauthorization of IJF, Magnuson Act, Anadromous, and NISA
2. FIN Data Management Update
3. State Bycatch Reduction Requirements
4. State Derelict Crab Trap Removal Programs
5. Recommendations on Methylmercury Steering Committee
6. Future of Fisheries in the Southeast
7. Standardization of Fishery-Independent Sampling Protocols
8. Flounder, Seatrout, and Blue Crab FMP Recommendations

DRAFT

MINUTES

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

LOUISIANA/MISSISSIPPI HABITAT PROTECTION ADVISORY PANEL

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2001

ATTENDANCE:

Members:	
Andy Mager	National Marine Fisheries Service
Bethlyn McCloskey	
Ronny Paille	USFWS (proxy for David Frugé)
David Richard	Stream Property Management, Inc.
Cynthia Sarthou	Gulf Restoration Network
Mark Schexnayder	LSU Sea Grant Extension (proxy for Jack Van Lopik)
Staff:	
Jeffrey Rester	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Cheryl Noble	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Others:	
Greg Laiche	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Jack Coburn Isaacs	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Brian Fairchild	SWCA, Inc.
Linda Brown	US Army Corps of Engineers
Bud Brodtmann	EPL, Inc.
Larry Lewis	Brown and Mitchell, Inc.
Diane Altsman	Gulf of Mexico Program
Ron Krizman	US Army Corps of Engineers
Susan Rees	US Army Corps of Engineers
Doug Frugé	USFWS, Council Representative

The meeting of the Louisiana/Mississippi Habitat Protection Advisory Panel (AP) was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by C. Sarthou on Tuesday, November 27, 2001 at the New Orleans Airport Hilton in New

Gulf of Mexico policy and not intended to deter coastal restoration efforts in Louisiana. M. Schexnayder stated that the word diversion in the policy could hinder or stop restoration efforts in Louisiana. C. Sarthou stated that a footnote that defines diversion should be added to the policy.

D. Richard suggested deleting the word diversion altogether. He also stated the impacts of constructing and maintaining navigation channels has affected freshwater inflow in downstream areas. He suggested adding language that addressed this issue. A. Mager suggested against deleting the word diversion. He agreed that it would be a good idea to add language concerning navigation channels. C. Sarthou also agreed, and she suggested language for a footnote that was added to the policy.

D. Richard also suggested that (3) in the first paragraph should read "carry and distribute sediment into estuaries to maintain their shallow-water characteristics and diverse vegetated ecosystem". He stated that freshwater and sediment were needed in estuaries to maintain the vegetated ecosystem, and this diversity should be maintained.

M. Schexnayder brought up the issue of water quality. C. Sarthou stated that that issue might be too broad for this policy. J. Rester asked if the first sentence of the first paragraph covered water quality. M. Schexnayder agreed that it did to an extent.

D. Richard thought the words "and maintain" should be added to objective 5, because it would strengthen the objective. He then gave specific examples in Louisiana where freshwater inflows needed to be maintained.

R. Paille felt that objective 6 was inappropriate for the policy. J. Rester stated that in Texas, the water management plans did not always consider the loss of water from evaporation from reservoirs. Evaporation from a reservoir could be a significant source of water loss, and it should be considered.

C. Sarthou asked how the AP wanted to present their changes to the Council. J. Rester stated that if the AP agreed on the suggested changes, he would present them to the Council as the AP's recommendations at the Council meeting on December 10. The AP unanimously agreed to the changes to the freshwater inflow policy.

Update on the Progress of the Coastal Mississippi Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

S. Rees stated that the Corps of Engineers (COE) will use the EIS to evaluate the cumulative effects of large scale development in coastal Mississippi. She stated that the EIS will not be used to zone areas for development or restrict land use. S. Rees stated that due to the rapid economic and environmental change in south Mississippi, it has been difficult to evaluate activities that were not interrelated or were geographically distant. S. Rees reported that the EIS will be a hybrid document that will contain a comprehensive analysis of recent and foreseeable development in the next twenty years. A trends analysis will utilize data collected under the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Coastal Resource Management Plan (CRMP). The CRMP evaluated the long-term regional cumulative effects of past, present, and potential future growth. S. Rees stated that the results of the trends analysis will be used to

M. Schexnayder asked if the borrow area was the same borrow area that was used for previous beach nourishment activities north of the project area. L. Lewis stated that this was not the same borrow area. L. Lewis stated that the site was chosen because of the quality of sand located there.

A. Mager asked if there was any information on the long-term fate of borrow areas that have been used in the past. He was concerned about water quality issues and the types of sediment that settle in the area. L. Lewis stated that he did not know of any information that existed examining the long-term fate of the borrow areas. L. Lewis stated that a significant portion of the Mississippi Sound was sixteen feet deep, so there should not be any problems associated with this borrow area.

J. Rester asked if there were any evidence that a previous beach existed there. He asked if there were any photos provided. L. Lewis stated that he has talked to several people who remember a beach. He stated that someone also checked land records that did show a beach existed at some point in the past. C. Sarthou asked how far you can go back in time for a renourishment project. She wanted to know that if a beach existed in the early 1900s, if it was all right to call a beach creation project renourishment.

J. Rester stated that as proposed the purpose of the project was to provide recreational opportunities. He asked if any studies had been done that showed there was a lack of recreational opportunities for citizens of Hancock County. He wanted to know if there was a need for the beach. R. Krizman stated that the COE presumes that if an applicant wants to spend the money and time to complete a project that a need exists. L. Lewis stated that the Hancock County Board of Supervisors would like to have a sand beach from Bay St. Louis all the way down to Bayou Caddy.

R. Krizman stated the COE would keep the Council informed on this issue. The AP requested that J. Rester schedule an update on this project at the next AP meeting. A recommendation was passed by the AP that stated that the AP has concerns over the Hancock County beach nourishment project, the AP supports the Council's letter of concern to the COE on October 31, 2001 over this project, and that the Council continue to monitor this project.

Islander Casino and Resort Project

R. Krizman stated that the developer for the project was withdrawing his application for the casino portion of the project. The developer still wanted to realign the marina basin, but the developer would not be pursuing the casino development until after the coastal EIS was completed. Therefore, R. Krizman stated he could not discuss the project at this time.

Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Impacts on Fisheries

G. Laiche stated that since Caernarvon went online ten years ago, the number of oysters has increased in Breton Sound. There has been steady oyster production on the public reefs in this area. He also reported that the Caernarvon area has not been a historically productive shrimp area. He stated that he has not seen any adverse impacts from the diversion on shrimp. In addition, production of finfish have not been adversely impacted. Waterfowl have increased in the area due to an increase in aquatic vegetation. There

have a large impact on wetlands in southwest Louisiana. He stated the proposed work would affect freshwater inflow and could impact around 10,000 acres of wetlands. The deepening process that is happening to most of the major navigation channels within the Gulf of Mexico is causing increased tidal amplitude, affecting wetlands. D. Richard stated that the public has been left out of the planning process. D. Richard stated that he would like to see the Council take a more active role in the planning process.

C. Sarthou agreed that the Council should become involved and also stated that this was not an isolated problem. She stated it was a Gulf wide problem that somehow needed to be addressed. A. Mager stated one way for the Council to be involved was the NEPA process. Once an EIS comes out, the Council could review it and make their interests known to the federal permitting agency.

The AP made a strong recommendation that the Council become involved in the Sabine-Neches Channel deepening project and other similar projects and make sure that all relevant fisheries and wetland issues were raised and addressed.

D. Richard **moved that the Louisiana/Mississippi and Texas Habitat Protection Advisory Panels meet jointly next year to discuss issues of mutual concern, specifically freshwater issues, ports, and navigation channels. A. Mager seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Meeting: MS/LA Habitat Advisory Panel **Date:** 11/27/01

Name	Agency/Address	Telephone	E-mail
*Mack Schexnayder	LSU SeaGrant Extension 6640 Riverside Dr., Metairie, LA 70003	504/838-1170	mschexnayder@agctr.lsu.edu
Ronny Paille	USFWS, 646 Cajundome Blvd., Suite 400, Lafayette LA 70506	337-291-3117	Ronald_Paille@fws.gov
Andy Mager	NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Dr. N. St. Petersburg, FL 33702	727 3431328	andy.mager@noaa.gov
David Richard	Stream Property Mgmt. Inc, P.O. Box 40, Lake Charles La 70602	337-433-1055	drichard@stream-company.com
Bethly McClurkan	former Council member also of Jeff Parish Fisheries Ad	504 455 2887	FAX 456 092
Cynthia Sarthou	Gulf Restoration Network		
GREG LAICHE	LA Wildlife & Fisheries 1600 CANAL St., New Orleans LA 70112	504-568-5690	LAICHE_GS@WLF.STATE.LA.US
Jack Coburn Isaacs	LA Dept. Wildlife Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge LA 70898	(225) 763 3562	isaacs_jc@WLF.STATE.LA.US
Brian Fairchild	SWCA, Inc. 480 N. San Houston Parkway Houston, Tx 77060	(281) 260-9234	bfairchild@swca.com
Linda Brown	US Corps of Engineers; PO Box 2288 Mobile, AL 36628	(251) 694-3786	linda.t.brown@sam.usace.army.mil
N. Bud Brodtmann	EPL, Inc 4813 W. Napoleon Ave, Metairie, LA 70001	(504) 456-9032	eplinc@bellsouth.net
Larry Lewis	Brown & Mitchell, Inc 521 34th Street, Gulfport MS	228-864-7612	llewis@brownandmitchell.com
Diane Altsman	Gulf of Mexico Program, Bldg 1103, Rm 202 SSC, MS. 39529-6000	228-688-7015	altsman.diane@epa.gov
Ron Krizman	U.S. Army Corps of Engrs; P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628	228-690-2658	Ronald.a.krizman@sam.usace.army.mil
Doug Fruge'			
Susan Rees	USACE	228-694-4141	susan.i.rees@sam.usace.army.mil
Jeff Rester			
Cheryl Noble			

DRAFT

MINUTES

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

TEXAS HABITAT PROTECTION ADVISORY PANEL

HOUSTON, TEXAS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2001

ATTENDANCE:

Members:	
Bill Baker	Reliant Energy
Bill Jackson	NMFS proxy for Andy Mager
Dana Larson	Rigs to Reefs Company
Russell Miget	Texas Sea Grant College Program
Burt Moritz	
Bob Spain	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Robert Stickney	Texas Sea Grant
Staff:	
Jeffrey Rester	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Cheryl Noble	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Others:	
Pete Aparicio	Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Ed Seidensticker	USDA-NRCS
Phil Glass	USFWS
John Huffman	USFWS
Rusty Swafford	NMFS
Cherie O'Brien	TPWD
Alisha Goldberg	Galveston Bay Foundation
Robin Jamail	Texas General Land Office
Don Aurand	Ecosystem Management and Assessments, Inc.
Gary Valentine	USDA-NRCS
Brian Fairchild	SWCA, Inc.

The meeting of the Texas Habitat Protection Advisory Panel (AP) was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman Bill Baker on Tuesday, December 4, 2001 at the Hobby Airport Hilton in Houston, Texas.

R. Swafford stated that a recent NMFS study reported that terrace fields worked well and were more productive than adjacent open water areas. Swafford added that terrace fields were still not as productive as natural vegetated areas.

Jumbile Cove Habitat Restoration Project

C. O'Brien stated that in 1930, 184 acres of Jumbile Cove was comprised of 75 acres of intertidal marshes, 56 acres of tidal flats, 29 acres of lagoon/open water, and more than 24 acres of high marsh. Today, this area has been reduced and converted, as a result of subsidence and erosion, to 35 acres of intertidal marshes, 18 acres of tidal flats, 116 acres of shallow open water, and 15 acres of high marsh. C. O'Brien stated that the restoration goals of the Jumbile Cove Project were to restore elevations necessary for intertidal marsh, to create a wave barrier, to create bird nesting habitat, and to protect the remaining 35 acres of intertidal marsh and 18 acres of tidal flat. She reported that they wanted to copy the nearby GISP project, but modifications had to be made. The project engineers agreed that a different technique was needed. A breakwater was not proposed for the project, but a 2,800 foot long, 3-foot diameter geotube was installed as a breakwater to protect the existing marsh and restored marsh habitats. Marsh mounds were used instead of terraces. Construction started in March 2001, with a hydraulic dredge obtaining material from a nearby borrow site to build 38 marsh mounds approximately 3.5 feet above the water. The marsh mounds were placed to allow unrestricted ebb and flow of tidal waters and ingress and egress of aquatic organisms. Two sand splays were hydraulically dredged behind the geotube to provide nesting habitat for colonial nesting birds. The edges of the sand splays were planted with *Spartina alterniflora*. The mounds were also planted with gallon pots of *S. alterniflora* in August 2001. C. O'Brien stated that initial success of the project is very high.

B. Moritz asked about the cost of the project. C. O'Brien replied that the cost of the project was $569,000. She stated that almost half of the project cost was for the 2,800 foot geotube. C. O'Brien reported that the initial plans did not call for a breakwater, but the engineer agreed that a breakwater was needed. She also stated that two mounds were placed outside the geotube to document how winds and waves would affect unprotected mounds.

B. Moritz asked about the size of the project. C. O'Brien stated that 10 acres of marsh mounds were constructed in a 53 acre site.

Galveston Bay Foundation Terracing Project in Galveston Bay

A. Goldberg stated that the Galveston Bay Foundation Pierce Marsh habitat restoration site was located on the north shore of West Bay in Galveston Bay. She reported that the site consisted of 2,346 acres of salt marsh and open water, and added that the area is high value habitat for birds and fish. Hydrologic modifications along with subsidence are believed to have caused degradation of the area. The restoration goals of the project are to create intertidal habitat, protect the existing habitat, and increase awareness of habitat and restoration issues in the area. The initial project was 62 acres in size with 153 terraces built in an open checkerboard arrangement. The terraces had elevations of 2.5 feet and were planted with 49,000 sprigs of *S. alterniflora* by 185 volunteers. Seagrass was also planted in a .67 acre area, but the *Ruppia*

also working to obtain responsible party agreements beforehand. D. Aurand envisioned the teams being operational in February 2002 and staying active until 2003. D. Aurand stated a risk analysis has been preformed that analyzed when to disperse and when not to disperse an oil spill in shallow water. The risk analysis examined the volume of oil and the water depth to determine the oil concentration. D. Aurand reported that if the volume is greater than 100 barrels, between three and forty-eight hours the risk is high. If the size is between 100 and 250 barrels, then the Texas General Land Office makes a decision of whether to treat the spill with dispersant. If the spill is between 250 and 500 barrels, a rapid consultation should ensue. If the spill is larger than 500 barrels, a consultation should ensue with a possible partial treatment with dispersant. D. Aurand stated that the project is limited in location. A one kilometer buffer is needed around the shoreline or any seagrass. The oil needs to be moving offshore and not inshore. The spill must also take place between sunrise and six hours before sunset. This will allow the teams to deploy and track the oil before dark.

R. Stickney asked if the consultations would be done before or during the spill. R. Jamail replied that they would occur beforehand, and that researchers are now trying to conduct outreach activities to help in the process.

B. Moritz asked about the probability of the right spill occurring during the one year time period. R. Jamail stated that the probability was not high, but they still wanted to try. D. Aurand stated that in the three years of data examined, only one spill occurred that would have suited the criteria. R. Jamail stated that the data collected could be invaluable in the treatment of shallow water oils spills, and that Louisiana is interested in the information obtained.

D. Larson asked if the project's objective was to find out the effectiveness of dispersants. D. Aurand stated that yes that was the project's objective. B. Jackson stated that was not the project's objective. He stated that the project's objective was to find out the fate of dispersed oil in a shallow water environment.

D. Aurand stated that the project will be reviewed by the regional response team for EPA Region 6. It will then be distributed for review by the public.

Review of the Council's Freshwater Inflow Policy

J. Rester stated that the Texas Habitat Protection AP initiated the drafting of this policy at their meeting last year. The Council agreed that a policy was needed, and again asked the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Habitat Subcommittee to draft the policy. J. Rester stated that the Habitat Subcommittee reviewed the policy at their March and October meetings and that the Council is now seeking comments from the Advisory Panels before the Council reviews the policy in December.

R. Miget asked if studies had been done that examined the timing and volume of freshwater that was needed in estuaries. B. Spain replied that studies had been done. B. Jackson confirmed this, and R. Swafford stated that TPWD had done a series of studies examining freshwater needs of the estuaries.

R. Miget stated that the economic benefits derived from the Florida study probably were not applicable to Texas because the reefs would have to be placed farther offshore than they were in Florida. This would limit access to larger boats that were designed to go farther offshore. He asked if any of the reefs could be placed in inshore areas, so more people could access the reefs. D. Larson stated that he would like to see the material used in any reefs possible. He did not want to limit use of the Galveston Causeway. R. Swafford agreed that inshore reefs are needed in Texas.

D. Larson stated that the Council should act. He also stated that the Council does not create or enhance habitat. B. Jackson **moved to have the Council write a letter to the Governor of Texas in support of using the remains of the Galveston Causeway as inshore and offshore artificial reefs. B. Spain seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

B. Jackson wanted to further discuss the oil dispersant issue. He reported that NMFS wrote a letter in support of the demonstration project, but NMFS wanted the researchers to change the project design and analysis in order to make the project more scientific. B. Jackson stated that NMFS does not have a representative on the science and technology team that has been planning the project. He indicated that NMFS wants to see more modeling done before the project takes place and that too many questions still have not been addressed. B. Jackson **moved to have the Council request an EFH consultation on the proposed oil dispersant use on a shallow water spill of opportunity project with EPA Region 6 as soon as possible. R. Miget seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

B. Jackson stated that he would like to see a discussion of invasive species at the next meeting. J. Rester stated that this could be a possible future agenda item.

B. Baker stated that he was concerned about the attendance at the meeting. J. Rester stated that seven of the eleven AP members attended the meeting. B. Baker also asked about the possibility of a joint meeting with the other APs. J. Rester stated that the Louisiana/Mississippi AP voted last week to hold a joint meeting next year with the Texas AP to discuss water issues and other issues of mutual interest.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

TENDEES

Meeting: Texas Habitat Protection AP

Date: 12-4-01

Name	Agency/Address	Telephone	E-mail
Jeff Rester	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, P.O. Box 726, Ocean Springs, MS 39566	228-875-5912	jrester@gsmfc.org
Bill Jackson	NOAA/NMFS 4700 Ave U Galv TX 77551	409-766 3699	william.jackson@noaa.gov
Bob Spain	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd, Austin, Tx 78744	512-389-4635	bob.spain@tpwd.state.tx.us
Bill Baker	Reliant Energy, P.O. Box 1700 Houston, TX 77251	(713)945-8209	wbaker@reliant.com
Robert Stickney	Texas Sea Grant, 2700 Earl Rudder Freeway S. Suite 1800 College Station TX	(979)845-3854	stickney@tamu.edu
Pete Aparicio	Gulf of Mexico Fishery Mgmt Council	(361)578-6989	APARICIOPVA@AOL.C
Burt Monroe	Lake Jackson, TX 77566 C.C.A	979-292-5998	BurtMonroe3@
Dana Larson	182 Lilac Ridge, Conroe, TX 77384	9362730984	RIGS2EGGS@AOL
John Huffman	US Fish + Wildlife 17629 El Camino Real #211 Hou, Tx 77058	281 286-8282	John_huffman@fws.g
Phil Glass	" " " " "	" " "	phil_glass@fws.gov
Rusty Swafford	NMFS 4700 Av. U, Galveston, Tx 77551	409-766-3699	Rusty.Swafford@noaa.g
Cherie O'Brien	TPWD / 1322 Space Park Dr. Suite B-180, Houston, Tx 77058	281-335-0758 x26	cherie.obrien@tpwd.state.tx.us
Alisha Goldberg	GBF 17324-A Hwy 3 Webster, TX 77598	281-332-3381	agoldberg@galveston
Robin Jamail	TGLO 1700 N. Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78703	512 475-1593	Robin.Jamail@glo.state.tx.us

ATTENDEES

Meeting: TX HAP

Date: 12/4/01

Name	Agency/Address	Telephone	E-mail
DON AURAND	Ecosystem Mgmt. & Assoc., Inc. P.O. Box 1199 Purcellville, VA 20134 (consultant)	703-771-8899	AurandEMA@aol.com
Robin Jamail			
GARY VALENTINE	USDA-NRCS, 101 South Main, Temple, TX 76501	254-742-9883	gary.valentine@tx.usda.gov
Eddie Seidensticker	USDA-NRCS, 7705 W. Bay Rd. Baytown, Tex 77520	281-383-4285	Eddie.Seidensticker@tx.usda
Brian Fairchild	SWCA, Inc. Environmental Consultants 4180 N. Sam Houston Pkwy East ste 100 Houston 77060	281-260-9234	bfairchild@swca.com
Alisha Goldberg GBF			
Russel Might			

01/29/2003

STRIPED BASS TECHNICAL TASK FORCE
MINUTES
December 5-6, 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairman Doug Frugé called the meeting to order Wednesday, December 5, 2001, at 1:42 p.m. in the Bienville Room of the Holiday Inn Chateau de Moyne. The following were in attendance:

Members Attending
C. Michael Bailey, NMFS/IRF, St. Petersburg, FL
Jim Barkuloo, USFWS Ret., Panama City, FL
Pete Cooper, Jr., Saltwater Sportsman, Buras, LA
Douglas J. Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Rick Long, FGFF, Midway, FL, *proxy for Charles Mesing*
John Mareska, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Larry C. Nicholson, USM/IMS/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve Owens, GDNR, Albany, GA, *proxy for Russ Ober*
Howard E. Rogillio, LDWF, Lacombe, LA
Isaac Wirgin, NYUSM, Tuxedo, NY

Members Absent
Norman Boyd, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX
J. Alan Huff, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Ron Garavelli, MDWFP, Jackson, MS
J.T. Jenkins, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL

Guests
Allan Brown, USFWS, Welaka, FL
Laura Jenkins, USFWS, Panama City, FL

Staff
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director, Ocean Springs, MS
Steve VanderKooy, Program Coordinator, Ocean Springs, MS
Cindy Yocom, Staff Assistant, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

Two items, *4) Selection of Priority River Systems Discussion* and *5) Goals and Objectives by River System* were moved until after items *6) Update of FMP Drafts by Section* and *7) Next Meeting – assignments, deadlines, and timetable for completion*. With this change the agenda was adopted by consensus.

Approval of the Minutes

P. Cooper moved to adopt the minutes from the meeting held January 30-31, 2001, in New Orleans. H. Rogillio seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as written.

Update of FMP Drafts by Section

S. VanderKooy reviewed assignments and progress to date. Several membership changes have occurred since the last meeting, and assignments need to be adjusted appropriately. J. Mareksa has replaced J. Duffy from Alabama; J. Alan Huff's proxy (M. Tupper) has left their agency. J. Mareska agreed to complete those tasks assigned to J. Duffy.

D. Frugé inquired whether it is allowable for someone outside the task force to work on the plan. S. VanderKooy advised that it is acceptable as long as the individual realizes that only the task force can claim authorship. However, individuals who assist task force members in writing sections will, of course, be acknowledged. That being said, D. Frugé will request assistance from several co-workers (Glenn or Greg) to work up those portions of Section 3 assigned to M. Tupper. D. Frugé agreed to complete 4.5, 4.6, and 4.7 that were also assigned the Tupper.

J. Barkuloo asked the group for comments on his draft for Section 4. The draft was pulled up via computer projection and changes made directly to the file. Information that does not apply to the fishery will be taken out (Loop Current, Sediment). Vegetation will be addressed as it applies to canopy affects. A general paragraph on the importance of the river systems to the fishery will be added. More bay detail will also be added. Documentation is needed on substrate preferences. Barkuloo noted that there may be some redundancy with cold water refugia and temperature descriptions. The group agreed that some redundancy is necessary since both topics are equally important. A description of bays is available from the old plan. Add an Ochlockonee River description. All agreed to leave out the lower priority river systems. Barkuloo will do a literature search on total hardness and its impact on striped bass. Algal blooms and red tide will be discussed. I. Wirgin agreed to work with J. Barkuloo on the contaminants portion of the section and will include a piece on endocrine disruption. Other non-native species that should be added include: grass carp, tilapia, and Rio Grande perch. Under the Sea Level Rise section discuss global warming and climate changes. S. VanderKooy will add El Nino and La Nina information to Section 4.

S. VanderKooy has received several updates to Section 5 from the Texas and Florida representatives on the GSMFC's Law Enforcement Committee. VanderKooy will continue to work with J.T. Jenkins to obtain the necessary updates to this section. All agreed that the historical three-state agreement between Florida, Alabama, and Georgia be added to Section 5.

M. Bailey noted that he has requested historical information for Section 6, description of the fishery. He will share this information with D. Frugé who will complete items 6.4 and 6.5.

Section 7 was reviewed and S. VanderKooy asked for guidance from the group. R. Long noted that AFS puts out values/creel data that may give estimated for local economic impact. The group agreed that first reservoir information is adequate. A listing of all the reservoirs that support striped bass

may be added. Several members stated there is gray literature that will help in the drafting of this section. The magazine *Florida Sportsman* should be a good source. VanderKooy will put together civil restitution values, cost of hatchery production, and cost per fish information. The group will then review and evaluate.

H. Rogillio will send historical stocking data to D. Frugé; J. Barkuloo will send early Lake Talquin stocking information, as well.

S. VanderKooy will send *An Indexed Bibliography of Striped Bass Literature* to A. Brown, L. Jenkins, S. Owens, J. Barkuloo, and H. Rogillio.

The agreed format for literature cited is that of the American Fisheries Society, *Transactions*. A guide to authors will be sent to the task force by Commission staff.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for the week of February 25, 2002 in the north central gulf area (Waveland to Pensacola).

The deadline for revised and new section drafts is **Wednesday, February 13, 2002.** All drafts should be sent to the GSMFC office for group distribution prior to the February meeting.

Selection of Priority River Systems/Goals and Objectives by River System

D. Frugé offered the group two options: 1) continue their discussion from the work shop sessions, or 2) allow him to take the information back, synthesize, and distribute a white paper for discussion at the next task force meeting. By a show of hands, the group chose the second option.

Other Business

R. Lukens inquired whether the group felt they would make a determination on a recommendation regarding Atlantic versus Gulf genotypes for stock enhancement. I. Wirgin thought that discussion should occur when the section is written. Subspecies research should be placed within the research and data section. Classification and morphology may be the best place to discuss subspecies information.

A discussion ensued whether the FMP will "advertise" locations of striped bass populations. Continued discussion may warrant the development of a management recommendation for catch and release during a certain time of year.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned Thursday, December 6, 2001, at 9:54 a.m.