

**Highlights from the 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial  
NOAA Fisheries Economics & Social Science Workshop  
April 18-20, 2006**

**Best Paper Awards**

This award acknowledges NOAA Fisheries economists, anthropologists, and sociologists for their contributions to the agency and to NOAA Fisheries' economics and social sciences program. The following employees were recognized for their outstanding economic or sociocultural research papers and policy analyses. This was the second year that the Best Paper Awards were given at this Workshop.

**Policy Analysis**

1<sup>st</sup> place      Economic analysis of alternative harvest strategies for Eastern Georges Bank haddock

**Eric M. Thunberg**, Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
Doreen, S.K. Liew, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Charles M. Fulcher, Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
Jon K.T. Brodziak, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

2<sup>nd</sup> place      Monitoring environmental justice impacts: Vietnamese-American longline fishermen adapt to the Hawaii swordfish fishery closure

**Stewart D. Allen**, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center  
Amy Gough, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research

**Scientific Research**

1<sup>st</sup> place      Learning and the adaptive management of fisheries resources

**David Tomberlin**, Southwest Fisheries Science Center  
Teresa Ish, University of California, Santa Cruz

2<sup>nd</sup> place      Effort response, harvest, climate, and the economy in the Gulf of Mexico recreational red snapper fishery

**David W. Carter**, Southeast Fisheries Science Center  
David Letson, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science

3<sup>rd</sup> place      Estimating vessel efficiency using a bootstrapped Data Envelopment Analysis model

**John B. Walden**, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

### **Other Awards**

The following NOAA Fisheries social scientists were acknowledged for awards they received during 2005-2006:

#### **2005 Department of Commerce Silver Medal Award recipient**

**Mark Plummer** (and others), Northwest Fisheries Science Center  
For developing a new approach to designating critical habitat for imperiled species that balances species conservation and economic development.

#### **2005 NOAA Bronze Medal Award recipients**

**Joseph Terry** (and others), Southwest Fisheries Science Center  
For contributions in designing a national approach to bycatch reporting methodologies to assist the Department of Commerce in fulfilling its statutory obligations.

**Dale Squires** (and Peter Dutton), Southwest Fisheries Science Center

For pioneering a holistic approach to sea turtle conservation that enables population recovery without harming economic viability of fishing industries.

**Samuel Pooley** (and others), Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center  
For developing innovative fishing regulations to reduce sea turtle interactions and reopen the Hawaii Swordfish fishery, avoiding harvest losses of \$33.0 million.

**Ronald Felthoven** (and others), Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
For adeptly executing Congressional mandates for the design and implementation of a comprehensive restructuring of the Alaskan crab fisheries.

#### **2005 NOAA Fisheries Employee of the Year Award recipient**

**Ben Muse**, Alaska Fisheries Science Center

#### **2005 NOAA General Council Award recipient**

**Lew Queirolo**, Alaska Regional Office  
Each year, the NOAA Office of the General Counsel recognizes attorneys, support staff, line and staff office personnel, and other Federal Agency employees for their exceptional performance and contribution to the NOAA Office of the General Counsel.

### **New Employees**

The following new employees have joined our ranks since our last workshop in 2004 and were also acknowledged.

Brian Garber-Yonts, Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
Phil Watson, Northwest Fisheries Science Center  
Corinne Pinkerton, Southwest Regional Office  
Steve Stohs, Southwest Fisheries Science Center  
Christopher Liese, Southeast Regional Office  
Michelle McGregor, Office of Protected Resources, Headquarters

### **Session and Discussion Topics**

In addition to the Best Paper presentations, NOAA Fisheries social scientists presented research and participated in discussions in a range of topics including:

- Dedicated Access Privileges (DAPs) – a panel discussion moderated and organized by Dan Holland of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute
- Bioeconomics – a joint session with the National Stock Assessment Workshop moderated and organized by Alan Haynie (Alaska Fisheries Science Center), Kristy Wallmo (Office of Science & Technology, Headquarters), and Rick Methot (Office of Science & Technology, Headquarters)
- GIS applications for human dimensions research
- General capacity issues including NOAA Fisheries' Capacity Project and an industry-funded buyback program in New England
- Methodological work related to modeling recreational fisheries data and marine protected area valuation
- National level issues including Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization, the federal peer-review process, and communicating economics and social science research to marine policymakers
- Findings from regional ecosystem management workshops in New England and the Western Pacific
- An informal protected species discussion

### **Program Planning**

As in previous years, this year's Workshop provided an opportunity for employees and contractors in our three thematic areas to meet and discuss current and future program needs and directions. These thematic areas are: commercial fisheries economics, recreational fisheries economics, and sociocultural research. In addition, the protected species and capacity working groups also had an opportunity to meet.