

12.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

The development of this draft FMP Amendment involved input from many people within NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries contractors, and input from constituent groups including the HMS Advisory Panel. Major contributors, in alphabetical order, include, but are not limited to:

Karyl Brewster-Geisz
Jose Castro
John Carlson
Enric Cortes

Joe Desfosse
Greg Fairclough
Peter Fricke
Nancy Kohler
Cami McCandless

Chris Rilling
Margo Schulze-Haugen
Heather Stirratt
Christopher Rogers

The development of this draft FMP Amendment also involved considerable input from other staff members and Offices throughout NOAA including the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, the Office of Habitat Conservation, the Office of Protected Resources, Caroline Park, Stacey Nathanson, Nancy Thompson, Gerry Scott, and John Hansel.

13.0 LIST OF AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS CONSULTED AND TO WHOM COPIES OF THE EIS WILL BE SENT

Under 304(g)(1)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and under the regulatory process for managing HMS, NOAA Fisheries is required to consult with affected Fishery Management Councils, ICCAT commissioners and advisory groups, and the Advisory Panels established under the Magnuson-Stevens Act regarding amendments to the HMS FMP. As such, NOAA Fisheries sent the Issues and Options paper and a pre-draft document to all consulting parties and to the Atlantic States and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions. NOAA Fisheries also requested time to present the issues in this document to the Fishery Management Councils. At the time of drafting, NOAA Fisheries was allotted time to discuss this Amendment at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting in Naples, Florida; the New England Fishery Management Council Meeting in Portland, Maine; and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

During the scoping process for this document, NOAA Fisheries held seven scoping meetings along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts to accept numerous written comments. One of the scoping meetings was held at the February 2002 HMS Advisory Panel meeting. NOAA Fisheries summarized the comments received in Appendix 2 of this document.

During the public comment period for this document and associated proposed rule, NOAA Fisheries held six public hearings (e.g. New Orleans, LA; Madeira Beach, FL; Montauk, NY; Pawleys Island, SC; Manteo, NC; Atlantic Beach, FL), attended three Council meetings (e.g. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; New England Fishery Management Council; Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council), and convened the HMS Advisory Panel to obtain comments. NOAA Fisheries also sent copies of the DEIS and associated proposed rule to all consulting parties, members of the HMS Advisory Panel, the Atlantic States and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions, the Offices of Protected Resources, Habitat Conservation, Law Enforcement, and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center within NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency and its regions, as well as to any interested members of the public. Comments on the draft document and associated proposed rule were accepted from August 1, 2003 through October 3, 2003. NOAA Fisheries received 36 written comments, which are summarized in Appendix 5 of this document.

