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"The better the data,

the better the decisions"

Aking decisions that affect thousands of individuals, families and businesses is serious business. Collecting data that support those decisions is FSO's business. With thousands of vessels and dealers from Maine to North Carolina, the responsibility is far reaching and highly challenging. Putting it together and making sense of it all is no easy task which requires vast resources and talented people.

That's FSO.

In the Field and In the Office helping NOAA and industry steer a steady course.

To learn more about **FSO** and **NOAA**, visit our website:

www.nero.noaa.gov/fso







Fisheries Statistics Office

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Fisheries Statistics Office

"Gateway To Decision Making"



Lori B. Gloucester, MA





Fisheries Statistics



Office



"Gateway to Decision Making"

The **Fisheries Statistics Office** is a key component of **NOAA Fisheries** in the Northeast. One of it primary functions is to collect fishery data and biological samples essential to the fishery management process.



Both in the field and in the office, **FSO** works to provide NOAA and the fishing industry with accurate, reliable and timely data. **FSO** operates 12 field offices covering nine states from Maine to North Carolina. Each office is staffed with knowledgeable personnel who serve as the agency's front line to the fishing industry.

Under the direction of John Witzig, Ph.D., FSO's central office is located in NOAA Fisheries' Regional Office in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

For more information visit our website:



In the Field



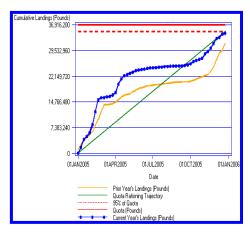
New York Field Agent, Tara Froehlich, measuring tile fish helping scientists determine age and growth patterns

Age & Growth

Learning about fish populations and collecting basic fisheries information is fundamental to managing the nation's living marine resources. When you see Field Agents dockside measuring fish or shellfish, they are collecting valuable biological information vital to this process.

Like all living things, different species grow at different rates depending on their habitat and many other factors. These differences and changes overtime are important to scientists. This is why **FSO** is in the field collecting biological samples. If you would like more information about age and growth studies, visit our website or contact a field agent listed on the back of this brochure.

In the Office



At Headquarters in Gloucester, FSO analysts use sophisticated modeling techniques to project harvests and quotas

Quota / TAC Monitoring

Learning about fish populations is only part of the equation in the management process. Monitoring harvests and projecting landings are also vital. **FSO** collects information which is used in statistical models to help determine when a quota would be met. The information collected and the analyses provided by **FSO** serves as a gateway to decision making. Without fundamental statistics and biological data, informed decisions cannot be made.

For additional information, please visit our website or contact a Field Agent listed on the back of this brochure.