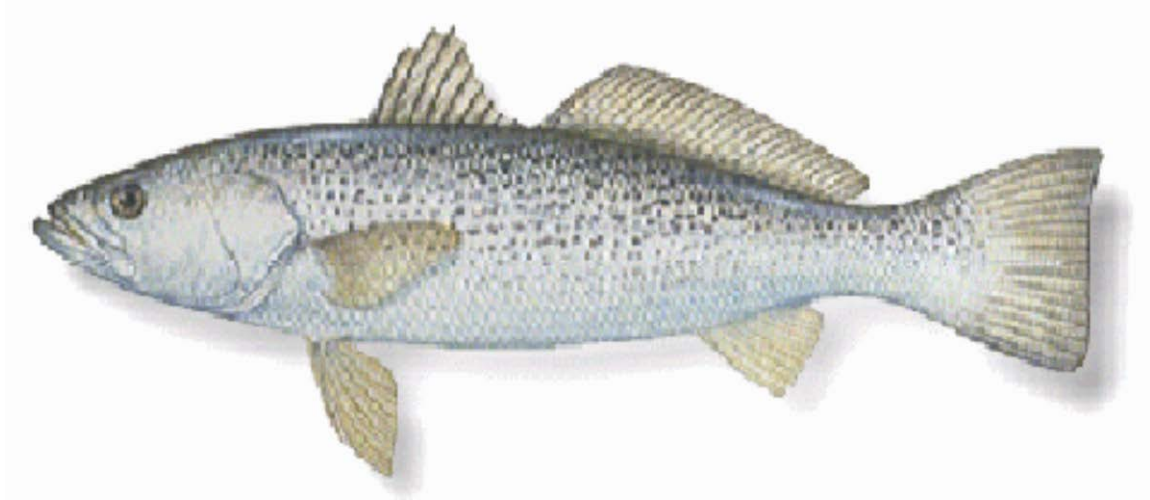


**ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES COOPERATIVE
MANAGEMENT ACT**



FEDERAL ASSISTANCE REPORT

2003 -

2004



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service**

U.S.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Donald L. Evans, *Secretary*

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

*Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr,
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere*

National Marine Fisheries Service

*William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries*

**ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE REPORT 2001-2002**

March 2005

*This report was prepared by the
Federal Assistance Staff
of the National Marine Fisheries Service*

*Stephen Meyers, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Silver Spring, MD
Susan Olsen, Northeast Regional Office, Gloucester, MA
Cynthia Binkley, Southeast Regional Office, St. Petersburg, FL*

AUTHORIZATION

This report is submitted in compliance with the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act of 1993, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
FUNDING PROCESS	1
FORMULA FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO STATES	2
DISTRIBUTION OF ACCSP FUNDS.....	2
PROJECT SELECTION.....	2
TOTAL FUNDING APPROPRIATED	3
AVAILABLE FUNDS, DISTRIBUTION, USAGE.....	3
FUNDS AVAILABLE.....	3
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.....	4
FUNDS TO ASMFC.....	4
FUNDS TO ELIGIBLE ATLANTIC COAST STATES.....	4
FUNDS TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.....	4
FUNDS TO NMFS.....	4
FUNDS TO FWS.....	5
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS AMONG RECIPIENTS BY PROJECT PRIORITIES.....	6
PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS AMONG PROJECT PRIORITIES.....	6
OVERALL EVALUATION OF SUCCESSES	6
FY 2001 SUCCESSES.....	7
ASMFC'S ISFMP	7
ACCSP.....	8
FY 2002 SUCCESSES.....	8
ASMFC'S ISFMP	8
ACCSP.....	10
FUNDING ALLOCATION TABLES.....	11
TABLE 1: APPORTIONMENT OF FUNDS FOR FY 2001	12
TABLE 2: APPORTIONMENT OF FUNDS FOR FY 2002	14
TABLE 3: OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS.....	16
TABLE 4: FY 2001 FUNDING BY PROJECT PRIORITIES.....	17
TABLE 5: FY 2002 FUNDING BY PROJECT PRIORITIES.....	18
TABLE 6: OVERALL FUNDING BY PROJECT PRIORITIES.....	19
APPENDIX - PROJECT ABSTRACTS.....	20
ASMFC	21
CONNECTICUT.....	23
DELAWARE.....	24
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.....	25
MAINE	25
MARYLAND.....	27
MASSACHUSETTS.....	30
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	31
NEW JERSEY.....	32
NEW YORK.....	33
PENNSYLVANIA.....	34
POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION	35
RHODE ISLAND	35
VIRGINIA.....	37
FLORIDA	41
GEORGIA.....	42
NORTH CAROLINA.....	44
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	46

ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES COOPERATIVE

MANAGEMENT ACT

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2001 AND 2002

Introduction

With the passage of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Atlantic Coastal Act) in December 1993, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), was charged with the responsibility of supporting the interstate fisheries management efforts of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). This is the fourth in a series of biennial reports and the first biennial report required by Congress under the Atlantic Coastal Act. The Atlantic Coastal Act requires the Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a biennial report, starting with fiscal years 2001 and 2002, on the use of Federal assistance provided to ASMFC and the Atlantic Coast States under the Atlantic Coastal Act. Each biennial report shall also evaluate the success of funded activities in implementing the Atlantic Coastal Act. In addition, this report describes funding provided to NMFS and FWS to conduct activities in support of the Atlantic Coastal Act.

This report primarily reviews the ninth and tenth year (FY 2003 and 2004) of funding for the Atlantic Coastal Act. The review was conducted by the NMFS' Headquarter Office of Sustainable Fisheries, State-Federal Fisheries Division; NMFS' Northeast and Southeast Regional Offices; and ASMFC. The report contains:

- (1) Funding process;
- (2) Project selection;
- (3) Total funding appropriated by Congress to implement the Atlantic Coastal Act since passage of the Act;
- (4) Available funds, distribution, and usage;
 - (5) Overall evaluation of the successes of such funding in the implementation of the Atlantic Coastal Act; and
- (6) Abstracts of projects funded and conducted by ASMFC and Atlantic Coast States in support of the Atlantic Coastal Act.

Funding process

At the beginning of each fiscal year, NMFS determines the total available funds. After receiving recommendations from ASMFC and eligible Atlantic Coast States (eligible "States" under the Atlantic Coastal Act include all ASMFC member States, the District of Columbia, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission), the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council, NMFS headquarters and Atlantic Coast Regions, and FWS Atlantic Coast Regions, NMFS determines the distribution of available funds among recipients.

Formula for Distribution of Funds to Eligible States

Total available funds for the eligible States, and the percentage of these funds that go to each State are determined. The percentages are based on a formula that includes a 1/3 equal distribution, a 1/3 distribution weighted by the value of each State's commercial and recreational fisheries, and a 1/3 distribution weighted by the number of ASMFC fisheries management plans (FMPs) in which each State participated.

Distribution of ACCSP Funds

ACCSP is a State-Federal cooperative initiative to improve recreational and commercial fisheries data collection and data management on the Atlantic coast. The ACCSP Coordinating Council (Coordinating Council), which is an oversight group comprised of ASMFC, eligible States, NMFS, FWS, and the three Atlantic coast Federal fishery management councils, serves as a centralized budgeting and coordinating body for Atlantic Coastal Act funds for the implementation of the ACCSP. The ACCSP funds are allocated to recipients periodically during the year, based on the recommendations of the Coordinating Council's Operating Committee. In contrast to general State projects, which are based on each individual State's discretion and are comprised of diverse projects that support the Atlantic Coastal Act, ACCSP funding is more centralized and coordinated on a coast-wide basis. In addition to funds available for ACCSP projects from the Atlantic Coastal Act, NMFS received under a separate budget line item \$1.5M in FY 2001 and \$2.0M in FY 2002, for ACCSP projects. The Coordinating Council is also involved in making recommendation on the allocation of these ACCSP funds.

Project selection

Section 803 of the Atlantic Coastal Act directs the Secretary of Commerce, in cooperation with the Secretary of Interior, to develop and implement a program to support the interstate fishery management efforts of ASMFC. The program shall include activities to support and enhance State cooperation in:

- (1) The collection, management, and analysis of fishery data (statistics);
- (2) Fisheries management planning;
- (3) Fisheries research, including stock assessment, and biological and economic research;
- (4) Fisheries law enforcement; and
- (5) Habitat conservation.

The selection process for specific activities to be carried out under the Atlantic Coastal Act Program has been left to the discretion of ASMFC and the States, with the stipulation that submitted projects must support one of the five project priorities listed above. This process has resulted in enhancing individual State agency capabilities to perform activities that support ASMFC's Interstate Fisheries Management Program, which includes the development of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) and addenda and amendments to these FMPs. Projects

were designed to strengthen individual agencies in areas where the recipients had the greatest internal needs. For instance, Maine uses some of its Atlantic Coastal Act funding to provide better marine recreational fisheries statistics, while Virginia uses Atlantic Coastal Act funding for increased fisheries law enforcement activities. In this respect, the agencies with the most insight of local needs have applied a considerable amount of effort toward developing a stronger State/Federal system to support their responsibilities under the Atlantic Coastal Act.

Total funding appropriated by Congress since passage of the Atlantic Coastal Act

A review of the total funding appropriated by Congress to implement the Atlantic Coastal Act since passage of the Act in December 1993, shows that funding was first made available to the Department of Commerce, NOAA/NMFS budget (budget) in FY 1995, and has been maintained in the budget in each subsequent fiscal year.

Congressional apportionment was \$3,500,000 in FY 1995 and 1996, \$4,300,000 in FY 1997, \$6,000,000 in FY 1998, \$7,000,000 in FY 1999 and 2000, and \$7,250,000 in FY 2001 and 2002. Congressional funding increased 2 fold from FY 1995 through FY 2000, and remained steady since. However, total available funding was reduced by a Presidential budget recision of \$526,300 in FY 1999, and by Presidential budget recision and deobligation of (\$18,000 and \$50,600, respectively) in FY 2001. The increase funding levels reflect the growing importance of the Atlantic Coastal Act and the support it provides for successful Atlantic coastal marine fisheries management and statistics programs.

Available funds, distribution, and usage

Funds available

In FY 2001, the Congress appropriated \$7,250,000 for the Atlantic Coastal Act. To this amount, \$230,800 was added as carryover from FY 2000, and the following amounts were deducted: \$317,000 for NMFS grant administrative support, \$18,000 for Presidential recision, and \$50,600 for deobligation. This resulted in a total of \$7,095,200 available for distribution under the Atlantic Coastal Act to ASMFC, eligible States, NMFS, and FWS.

In FY 2002, Congress appropriated \$7,250,000 for the Atlantic Coastal Act. To this amount, \$91,000 was added as carryover from FY 2001, and \$309,000 was deducted for NMFS grant administrative support. This resulted in a total of \$7,032,000 available for distribution under the Atlantic Coastal Act to the same recipients as in FY 2001. An additional \$140,000 of carryover from FY 2001, was provided to the NMFS Northeast Region for projects to improved commercial harvest data collection and for an interactive voice response system (IVR) pilot program.

Distribution of funds

Atlantic Coastal Act funding made available by NMFS for distribution during FY 2003 (\$7,095,200) and (\$7,032,000) during FY 2004 are allocated as presented in Table 1 and 2, respectively. The amount of funds appropriated for FY 2003 and FY 2004 was the same, but the amount available for distribution varies because of carryovers, Presidential recision, and deobligation resulting in a decrease between the years of \$63.2K. Table 3 shows the overall distribution of available funds for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 to allow for easier comparisons between years and between recipients.

Funds to ASMFC:

In FY 2001 funding included \$1,912K for general usage and \$1,082.2K for ACCSP. In FY 2002 \$1,912K was provided for general usage and \$1,178.7K for ACCSP. This funding has allowed ASMFC to add fisheries management coordination, research and statistics and law enforcement coordination staff; to improve its citizen outreach activities; to strengthen fisheries research and monitoring programs; and to institute a more comprehensive fisheries management planning process. Furthermore, Atlantic Coastal Act funding was used to establish and provide base funding for the planning and implementation of the ACCSP. Through the operation of the ACCSP, the collection of data needed for ASMFC to develop FMPs and NMFS to develop compatible regulations has greatly improved. See abstracts of projects funded for more details in appendix.

Funds to Eligible Atlantic Coast States:

In both FY 2003 and 2004, \$3,080K was available. This funding has allowed the Atlantic Coast States to improve their individual State programs to meet the increasing management activities, research, monitoring, and legal requirements of ASMFC FMPs. See abstracts of projects funded for more details in appendix.

Funds for Federal Agencies

The NMFS and the FWS utilized limited Atlantic Coastal Act funding to maintain State/Federal fishery management coordination, and for activities that support the development and implementation of ASMFC FMPs as described below:

Funds to NMFS

In FY 2003, NMFS retained \$946,000 of Atlantic Coastal Act funds to provide for Atlantic Coastal Act programmatic projects and travel, and the ACCSP. From these funds, and in consultation with the ACCSP Coordinating Council, NMFS provided \$541,000 for the implementation of the ACCSP. The remaining \$405,000 was applied to Atlantic Coastal Act related travel, and NMFS management, habitat, protected resources, and research programs that

support ASMFC FMPs. NMFS activities included the development of compatible EEZ regulations in support of Addendum I to the ASMFC American Lobster FMP, including a definition of black sea bass pots; the development of documents to support the finding of non-compliance for Rhode Island on American lobster and for South Carolina on American shad; the development of documents in support of an exempted fishing permit (collection of horseshoe crab data and for biomedical purposes) and scientific research activity (horseshoe crab benthic trawl survey to collect horseshoe crab data); support for a workshop to identify methods to reduce regulatory discards in the Atlantic coast fisheries focusing on the summer flounder fishery; purchased and provided horseshoe crab bait bags to fishermen to assist with the recovery of the resource; and NMFS staff travel costs to participate in ASMFC Habitat Committee activities, and ASMFC Fisheries Management Boards, and their supporting activities.

In FY 2004, NMFS retained \$761,320 of Atlantic Coastal Act funds to provide for Atlantic Coastal Act programmatic projects and travel, and the ACCSP. From these funds, and in consultation with the ACCSP Coordinating Council, NMFS provided \$321,320 for the implementation of the ACCSP. The remaining \$440,000 was applied to NMFS Atlantic Coastal Act related travel, and NMFS management, habitat, protected resources, research programs and law enforcement activities that support ASMFC FMPs. NMFS activities included the development of compatible EEZ regulations in support of Addenda I, II, and III to the ASMFC American Lobster FMP; the development of documents for a second year in support of an Exempted Fishing Permit (collection of horseshoe crab data and for biomedical purposes) and a Scientific Research Activity (horseshoe crab benthic trawl survey to collect horseshoe crab data); processing of documents to partially fund horseshoe crab benthic trawl survey in the EEZ; purchased and provided horseshoe crab bait bags to fishermen to assist with the recovery of the resource for a second year; provided support for a workshop to educate fishermen and the public on the science of marine protected areas; developed contract allowing ASMFC to hire a law enforcement coordinator; and NMFS staff travel cost to participate in ASMFC Habitat Committee activities, and ASMFC Fisheries Management Boards, and their supporting activities.

Funds to FWS

In FY 2002, NMFS transferred \$75,000 of Atlantic Coastal Act funds to the FWS to support implementation of the ASMFC interstate fishery management efforts. FWS activities included hook and release and by-catch mortality studies, habitat improvement projects, management plan development activities, population assessments, and law enforcement needs. All projects were coordinated with ASMFC Technical Committees and partner States. Also, funds were used to provide plan writers, and FWS staff travel costs to participate in ASMFC Habitat Committee activities, and on ASMFC Fisheries Management Boards, and their supporting activities.

In FY 2003, NMFS transferred \$100,000 of Atlantic Coastal Act funds to the FWS to support implementation of the ASMFC interstate fishery management efforts. FWS activities included : travel to meetings, technical committees, and subcommittees, and supplying plan writers; fish wheel monitoring of diadromous fish study; the management and assessment of American shad

in the Merrimack River, Massachusetts; work on the tagging database for striped bass and Atlantic sturgeon recaptures; American shad stock assessment in the Potomac River; submerged aquatic vegetation restoration in the James River, Virginia; Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise; and spawning frequency and beach fidelity of horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay.

Distribution of funds among recipients by project priorities for FY 2003 and 2004

Tables 4 and 5 show the funding for each recipient listed by fiscal years 2003 and 2004 under the five project priorities. As in all previous years, the majority of funding was allocated to the States and ASMFC, with less funding going to NMFS and the FWS, respectively. A comparison of how recipients allocated their funds by project priorities between FY 2003 and FY 2004 shows: (1) ASMFC increased funding for fishery management, statistics, law enforcement, and habitat projects, and reduced funding for fishery research projects; (2) States increased funding for statistics, law enforcement, and habitat projects, and reduced funding for fishery management and fishery research projects; (3) NMFS increased funding for law enforcement projects; and (4) FWS increased funding for fishery research and habitat projects, and reduced funding for law enforcement projects. Overall, there was a slight increase in funding for law enforcement and habitat projects, and a decrease in funding for fishery management and fishery research projects. It is more difficult to compare projects for statistics between year since there are two components; statistics and ACCSP. Under the Atlantic Coastal Act, funding was allocated to both statistics and ACCSP projects, but funding for ACCSP also came from a separate ACCSP budget line item in NMFS' budget. We can compare the total funds allocated to statistics and ACCSP of \$3,123.2K for FY 2003, and \$3,500K for FY 2004, but that is misleading since there was an increase in NMFS' ACCSP budget line item between years from \$1,500K to \$2,000K. Therefore, overall, there was an increase of \$376.8K available for ACCSP between years.

Percentage of funds among project priorities for all years

Table 6 shows the overall percentage breakdown among project priorities by year, and for all years combined. A review of the funding since 1995 shows that the majority of funds were allocation for fishery management and statistics activities, with these 2 priorities receiving 71% of the total funding for all years combined. Fishery management activities ranged from 35% to 48% of total funding with an average of 42%. The percent of fishery management projects for FY 2001 and 2002 was above the 9 year average. Statistics activities ranged from 27% to 32% of total funding with an average of 29%. The percentage of statistics projects for FY 2001 and 2002 was above the 9 year average. The remaining categories; fishery research, law enforcement, and habitat for FY 2003 and 2004 were below their 9 year average. In comparing FY 1999 and 2000 percentages to FY 2003 and 2004, we see increases in fishery management and statistics with decreases in fishery research, law enforcement and habitat. The largest increases came in fishery management.

Overall evaluation of successes

During fiscal years 2003 and 2004, \$7,095,200 and \$7,032,000, respectively, were provided by NMFS to implement the Atlantic Coastal Act. These funds were utilized by the ASMFC, eligible Atlantic Coast States, NMFS, and FWS. The majority of funding was allocated to the ASMFC and its member States, and most of it was used to improve fisheries management planning (development of addenda and amendments to FMPs and FMPs), fisheries research, and fisheries statistics (collection of fisheries statistics and development of the ACCSP). Also, some smaller portions of funds were used to improve fisheries law enforcement and habitat protection activities. In addition to funds available for ACCSP projects from the Atlantic Coastal Act, NMFS received under a separate budget line item \$1.5M in FY 2003 and \$2.0M in FY 2004, for ACCSP projects. These funds helped strengthened ASMFC's Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) as described below.

FY 2003 successes

ASMFC's ISFMP

American Eel

The American Eel Stock Assessment Subcommittee initiated the development of an updated stock assessment.

American Lobster

The American Lobster Management Board (Board) approved Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the American Lobster FMP, which established a schedule for egg production rebuilding, minimum size increases, and trap reductions. The Board also developed and conducted public hearings on Amendment 4. Amendment 4 addressed options for the use of conservation equivalency for the non-trap gear limits and v-notching provisions. Amendment 4 was not approved by the Board.

Atlantic Menhaden

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board approved Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Menhaden FMP, which changed the management structure, established new biological reference points and established a stock rebuilding schedule (if necessary).

Atlantic Sea Herring

The Atlantic Herring Section developed Draft Addendum II for public hearing.

Black Sea Bass

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board (Board) approved an Emergency Rule to establish commercial possession limits and management triggers. The Board also initiated the development of Amendment 13 to the FMP to address the allocation of the commercial quota.

Horseshoe Crab

The Horseshoe Crab Management Board approved Addendum II to the FMP, which established a process for the voluntary transfer of harvest quotas between States.

ACCSP

ACCSP shifted from development of data collection and data management standards to implementation of those standards at the partner level and in its headquarters. ACCSP utilized nearly \$3 million to begin and continue ACCSP-quality data collection programs and conduct pilot tests, and begin beta testing of the program's integrated data management system.

Partners in various stages of implementing the ACCSP's commercial fisheries data collection standards utilized \$1,554,087 for specific requirements. New York, New Jersey, and South Carolina required seed money to begin implementation of their trip-level reporting programs. NMFS' Northeast Regional Office (NERO), Massachusetts and Maine utilized funds for biological sampling of finfish at seafood docks. NERO and Georgia pilot tested the ACCSP's socioeconomic data collection standards. North Carolina pilot tested data collection for recreational use of commercial gear and metadata.

This was the first year the ACCSP provided funds to the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) for increased sampling in the northeast region. The grant of \$481,649 brought the northeast up to the same level of sampling as the southeast and improved the precision of MRFSS estimates for striped bass, fluke, weakfish, and other important recreational species.

The ACCSP's information systems staff received data feeds from some partners with existing ACCSP-quality data collection systems. Maryland, Florida and Georgia were the first partners to provide the ACCSP with monthly data feeds for commercial catch and effort. The MRFSS staff also provided a data feed in the summer of 2001 for recreational catch and effort data. Beta testing of the ACCSP's new coastwide data management system began as those data were received, and the newly hired ACCSP Outreach Coordinator prepared for the official launch of the system.

FY 2002 successes

ASMFC's ISFMP

American Lobster

The American Lobster Management Board approved Addendum III to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan. The Addendum established the management programs for the lobster management areas.

Atlantic Sea Herring

The Atlantic Herring Section approved Addendum II which established a process for submitting and reviewing IWP proposals. The addendum also altered the boundaries for the management areas.

Black Sea Bass

The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved Addendum VI to the Black Sea Bass FMP. As approved, Addendum VI for Black Sea Bass established initial possession limits, triggers and adjusted possession limits for Quarters II, III and IV.

The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved Amendment 13 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Black Sea Bass. The Amendment established a state-by-state quota management system for the commercial fishery.

Northern Shrimp

The Northern Shrimp Section continued to work on Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Northern Shrimp. Public hearings were conducted to solicit public comment on the draft amendment.

Red Drum

The South Atlantic Board approved the final draft of Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Red Drum. The Amendment included biological reference points and commercial and recreational management programs.

Scup

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved Addendum III to the FMP, which established the 2001 recreational fisheries management measures. The Board also approved an Emergency Rule to adjust the commercial management measures for the Winter II fishing period. The Board also approved Addenda V and VII to the Scup FMP. Addendum V to the Scup FMP establishes permanent State-shares for the commercial fishery during the summer period (May 1 – October 31). Addendum VII for the Scup FMP establishes the management program for use in the 2002 recreational fishery.

Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks

The Spiny Dogfish Management Board (Board) extended the Emergency Rule to close State waters to the commercial harvest, landing and possession of spiny dogfish when there is a closure in Federal waters. The Board and the ASMFC approved the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish. The plan includes biological reference points, a commercial management program, a rebuilding schedule, and a process for establishing annual specifications.

Striped Bass

The Striped Bass Management Board continued to work on Amendment 6, conducting public hearing and reviewing public comment.

Summer Flounder

The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board (Board) approved Addendum III, which established the 2001 recreational fishery management program. The Board also approved Addendum IV, which adjusted the annual specification setting process. The specifications for the 2002 fishery were established.

Tautog

The Tautog Management Board approved Addendum III to the FMP, which established requirements for reductions in the recreational fishery to achieve the target fishing mortality rate in the FMP.

Weakfish

The Weakfish Management Board approved Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Weakfish. The Amendment included updated biological reference points, a recreational management program, biological monitoring requirements, and bycatch provisions.

ACCSP

ACCSP's budget and staff increased and the core data management system was implemented. The ACCSP Coordinating Council hired an ACCSP Director to provide leadership and overall guidance. The information systems staff expanded to include a Data Analyst and a Programmer. During a February 2002 reception at the Watergate Hotel, the program opened its online data management system to the public. With a budget of \$3.5 million, the program was able to support the increased infrastructure and continue to support data collection and data management efforts coastwide. The ACCSP staff developed the new online data collection system in use in Rhode Island, and presented it at the August 2002 American Fisheries Society annual meeting in Baltimore. This system provides a low-cost, high-quality, and timely way to collect commercial

statistics, and is expected to be implemented by at least four more States in the next year and a half.

FUNDING ALLOCATION TABLES
FOR THE ATLANTIC COASTAL ACT
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2001 - 2002

Table 1. Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 5108), Apportionment and Distribution for FY 2001 (\$1000)

TOTAL APPROPRIATED FOR FY 2001		\$7,250.00 K
Carryover from FY 2000	\$230.80 K	(+\$230.80 K)
NMFS Grant Administration		
F/NER	\$275.00 K	
F/SER	<u>\$42.00 K</u>	
	\$317.00 K	(-\$317.00 K)
Presidential Recision	\$18.00 K	(-\$18.00 K)
Deobligation	\$50.60 K	(-\$50.60 K)
TOTAL ALLOCATION AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION		\$7,095.20 K

Distribution by the Northeast Regional Office

ASMFC		
General	\$1,912.00 K	
ACCSP	<u>1,082.20 K*</u>	
Total	\$2,994.20 K	(\$2,994.20 K)

STATES

ME	\$201.61 K
NH	155.30 K
MA	233.99 K
RI	188.69 K
CT	183.11 K
NY	212.65 K
NJ	233.82 K
PA	120.73 K
DE	183.92 K
MD	208.49 K
VA	225.35 K
PRFC**	103.00 K
DC * *	<u>40.00 K</u>
Total	\$2,290.66 K**

* Funding for ACCSP projects from the Atlantic Coastal Act, as listed in this table, was supplemented by \$1.5M in FY 2001 from a separate NMFS budget line item for a total \$3,123.2K for ACCSP. The ACCSP funds were distributed based on recommendations from the ACCSP Coordinating Council.

* **PRFC (Potomac River Fisheries Commission) and DC (District of Columbia) are considered "States" under the Act.

Table 1. Continued (FY 2001)

Distribution by the Southeast Regional Office

STATES		
NC	\$225.35 K	
SC	171.53 K	
GA	164.97 K	
FL	<u>237.39 K</u>	
Total	\$799.24 K	
TOTAL FOR ALL STATES		(\$3,089.90 K)

Distribution by NMFS Headquarter

NMFS FOR ACCSP		
F/ST	\$152.50 K	
F/NER	<u>388.50 K</u>	
Total	\$541.00 K*	(\$541.00 K)

NMFS FOR PROGRAMMATIC/TRAVEL		
Fx2	\$52.00 K	
F/ST	22.00 K	
F/HC	13.00 K	
F/PR	8.00 K	
F/NER***	200.00 K	
F/SER	106.00 K	
CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM	<u>4.00 K</u>	
Total	\$405.00 K	(\$405.00 K)

FWS FOR PROGRAMMATIC/TRAVEL	\$75.00 K	(\$75.00 K)
-----------------------------	-----------	-------------

TOTAL ALLOCATION DISTRIBUTED **\$7,105.10 K*****

***The total allotted was \$7,095.2K from Atlantic Coastal Act moneys, with an additional \$9.9K allocated to the northeast region States for related activities, from the NMFS' budget. Therefore, \$7,105.1K was actually distributed.

***includes \$30K for northern shrimp research, and \$100K for development of American Lobster regulations.

Table 2. Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 5108), Apportionment and Distribution for FY 2002 (\$1000)

TOTAL APPROPRIATED FOR FY 2002		\$7,250.00 K
Carryover from FY 2001		(+\$91.00 K)
NMFS Grant Administration		
F/NER	\$269.00 K	
F/SER	<u>40.00 K</u>	
Total	\$309.00 K	(-\$309.00 K)

TOTAL ALLOCATION AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION **\$7,032.00 K**

Distribution by the Northeast Regional Office

ASMFC		
General	\$1,912.00 K	
ACCSP	<u>1,178.68 K*</u>	
Total	\$3,090.68 K	(\$3,090.68 K)

STATES

ME	\$199.96 K
NH	151.70 K
MA	236.43 K
RI	189.25 K
CT	183.27 K
NY	212.05 K
NJ	234.05 K
PA	116.91 K
DE	188.43 K
MD	213.49 K
VA	216.54 K
PRFC**	103.00 K
DC * *	<u>40.00 K</u>
Total	\$2,285.08 K

* Funding for ACCSP projects from the Atlantic Coastal Act, as listed in this table, was supplemented by \$2.0M in FY 2002 from a separate NMFS budget line item for a total \$3,500K for ACCSP. The ACCSP funds were distributed based on recommendations from the ACCSP Coordinating Council.

**PRFC (Potomac River Fisheries Commission) and DC (District of Columbia) are considered "States" under the Act.

Table 2. Continued (FY 2002)

Distribution by the Southeast Regional Office

STATES

NC	\$229.36 K
SC	171.06 K
GA	164.41 K
FL	<u>230.09 K</u>
Total	\$794.92 K

TOTAL FOR ALL STATES (\$3,080.00 K)

Distribution by NMFS Headquarter

NMFS FOR ACCSP

F/ST	\$ 21.32 K	
F/NER	<u>300.00 K</u>	
Total	\$321.32 K*	(\$321.32 K)

NMFS FOR PROGRAMMATIC/TRAVEL

F/SF	\$20.00 K	
F/ST	26.00 K	
F/HC	13.00 K	
F/PR	8.00 K	
F/NER***	220.00 K	
F/SER	119.00 K	
CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM	4.00 K	
F/EN	<u>30.00 K</u>	
Total	\$440.00 K	(\$440.00 K)

FWS FOR PROGRAMMATIC/TRAVEL \$100.00 K (\$100.00 K)

TOTAL ALLOCATION DISTRIBUTED \$7,032.00 K

***includes 30K for northern shrimp research, and \$100K for development of American Lobster regulations..

Note: An additional \$140K was added as carryover from FY 2001. This carryover does not appear in the above numbers since the money was previously provided in FY 2001 to the NMFS Northeast Region's for projects to improved commercial harvest data collection and for an interactive voice response system (IVR) pilot program

Table 3. Overall distribution of available funds for fiscal years 2001 and 2002 (\$1000).

Recipient	General		ACCSP		Total		% of Total	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
ASMFC	1,912	1,912	1,082.2	1,178.7	2,944.2	3,090.7	41.5	44.0
STATES	3,080	3,080	-	-	3,080	3,080	43.4	43.8
NMFS	405	440	541	321.3	946	761.3	13.3	10.8
FWS	75	100	-	-	75	100	1.1	1.4
TOTAL	5,472	5,532	1,623.2	1,500	7,095.2	7,032		

Table 4. FY 2001 Atlantic Coastal Act Funding by Project Priorities in Thousands of Dollars

ACA 2001	FISHERY	STATISTICS	FISHERY	LAW		UN-OB	
STATE	MANAGEMENT		RESEARCH	ENFORCEMENT	HABITAT	LIGATED	TOTAL K
Maine			201.6				201.6
New Hampshire	84.1		50.0	21.1			155.3
Massachusetts	234.0						234.0
Rhode Island	116.1			72.4		.19	188.5
Connecticut	62.1	61.0		60.0			183.1
New York	212.6						212.6
New Jersey	133.8		100.0				233.8
Pennsylvania			120.7				120.7
Delaware	43.0		42.0	85.0		13.9	183.9
Maryland	208.5						208.5
Virginia	110.0			115.3			225.3
PRFC	34.0		69.0				103.0
Wash.,D.C.			40.0				40.0
Total NE	1238.2	61.0	623.3	353.9	0	14.1	2290.3
% NE	36.3	2.7	61.1	94.1		100.0	
North Carolina		85.6	139.8				225.4
South Carolina	13.4	158.1					171.5
Georgia	52.8	83.4	18.8	10.0			165.0
Florida		237.4					237.4
Total SE	66.2	564.5	158.6	10.0	0		799.3
% SE	1.9	25.0	15.5	2.7			
Total States	1304.4	625.5	781.9	363.9	0	14.1	3089.6
% States	38.2	27.7	76.6	96.8		100.0	
NMFS	358.0	541.0	30.0		17.0		946.0
FWS	35.0	10.0	20.0	5.0	5.0		75.0
Total FEDS	393.0	551.0	50.0	5.0	22.0		
% of Total	11.5	24.4	4.9	1.3	100.0		
ASMFC	1716.0	1082.2	189.0	7.0			2994.2
% of Total	50.3	47.9	18.9	1.9			
States Total	1304.4	625.5	781.9	363.9	0	14.1	3089.6
Grand Total	3413.4	2258.7	1020.9	375.9	22.0	14.1	7104.8
% of Grand Total	48.0	31.0	14.4	5.3	0.31	0.2	

Table 5. FY 2002 Atlantic Coastal Act Funding by Project Priorities in Thousands of Dollars

ACA 2002 STATE	FISHERY MANAGEMENT	STATISTICS	FISHERY RESEARCH	LAW ENFORCEMENT	HABITAT	UN-OB LIGATED	TOTAL K
Maine	199.9						199.9
New Hampshire	37.5	37.0	37.0	40.2			151.7
Massachusetts	48.0	93.9	92.0			2.5	236.4
Rhode Island	116.6			72.6			189.2
Connecticut	129.3	27.0		27.0			183.3
New York	212.0						212.0
New Jersey	73.0		73.0	88.0			234.0
Pennsylvania			101.9		15.0		116.9
Delaware	37.4		107.0	44.0			188.4
Maryland	152.2		61.0			.3	213.5
Virginia				216.5			216.5
PRFC	7.0	15.0	81.0				103.0
Wash.,D.C.			40.0				40.0
Total NE	1012.9	172.9	592.9	488.3	15.0	2.8	2284.8
% NE	30.4	7.6	72.2	89.1	23.4	100.0	
North Carolina		87.2	142.2				229.4
South Carolina	13.2	157.9					171.1
Georgia	52.8	103.0	8.6				164.4
Florida		230.1					230.1
Total SE	66.0	578.2	150.8				795.0
% SE	2.0	25.6	18.4				
Total States	1078.9	751.1	743.7	488.3	15.0	2.8	3079.8
% States	32.4	33.2	90.5	89.1	23.4	100.0	
NMFS	363.0	321.3	30.0	30.0	17.0		761.3
FWS	35.0	10.0	48.0		7.0		100.0
Total FEDS	398.0	331.3	78.0	30.0	24.0		861.3
% of Total	11.9	14.7	9.5	5.5	37.5		
ASMFC	1857.0	1178.7		30.0	25.0		3090.7
% of Total	55.7	52.1		5.5	39.1		
States Total	1078.9	751.1	743.7	488.3		2.8	3079.8
Grand Total	3333.9	2261.1	821.7	548.3	64.0	2.8	7031.8
% of Grand Total	47.4	32.2	11.7	7.8	0.91	0.04	

Table 6. Overall Atlantic Coastal Act Funding Percent by Project Priorities

Year	Fisheries Management	Fisheries Statistics	Fisheries Research	Law Enforcement	Habitat Conservation
1995	42.0	27.0	20.9	10.0	0.1
1996	42.5	27.4	18.3	11.3	0.5
1997	36.6	27.8	21.2	11.5	3.7
1998	34.8	32.1	20.0	9.7	3.4
1999	41.3	29.7	18.3	9.7	1.0
2000	43.1	28.3	19.7	7.6	0.5
2001	48.0	31.0	14.4	5.3	0.3
2002	47.4	32.2	11.7	7.8	0.9
Average	42.0	29.4	18.1	9.1	1.3

Appendix

ABSTRACTS OF PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2001 - 2002

Summary: During FY 2001/2002, ASMFC and its member States used their Atlantic Coastal Act apportionments to fund a total of 40 projects addressing one or more of the 5 project priorities. Detailed descriptions of projects by State can be found on pages 22 through 48 of this report.

Grant Number

All projects funded under the Atlantic Coastal Act are assigned a grant number by the NOAA Grant Office for tracking purposes. Grant numbers start out with the letters "NA" which stand for NOAA. The first number is the fiscal year with "1" being fiscal year 2001, while the second number is either an "6" for a Grant or a "7" for a cooperative agreement. The next set of letters is "FG" for Atlantic Coastal Act funding. The remaining numbers represent the number of projects that have been approved and funded under Atlantic Coastal Act. The award number does not indicate the region, since it is a NOAA Grant Office generated number.

<<<<<>>>>

PROJECTS ADMINISTERED BY NMFS NORTHEAST REGION

Atlantic Coastal Act Projects

Ongoing or completed during Fiscal Years 2001 and 2002

Highlights of the Northeast Region - Atlantic Coastal Act and ACCSP Grant Activities

ASMFC received \$2,994,200 (\$1,912,000 for general use and \$1,082,200 for ACCSP) for FY 2001 and \$3,090,680 (\$1,912,000 for general use and \$1,178,680 for ACCSP) for FY 2002. Thirteen States within the Northeast Region received \$2,290,660 in FY 2001 and \$2,285,080 in FY 2002 under the Atlantic Coastal Act.

ASMFC used its funds to provide for coordinated, cooperative management of the interjurisdictional, territorial seas fisheries of the Atlantic coast over the long-term, including fisheries management and habitat planning, law enforcement, statistics, and research; for ACCSP; and the development of central database for American lobster stock assessment work. The States have used a large percentage of the funding to improve fishery management; to collect commercial and recreational statistical data which is provided to ASMFC for use in the development of fishery management plans, and for evaluation of the efficacy of regulations; to develop and implement strategies for ACCSP; and for enforcement of ASMFC managed species.

In addition to funds available for ACCSP listed above from the Atlantic Coastal Act, NMFS received under a separate budget line item \$1.5K in FY 2001 and \$2.0K in FY 2002 for ACCSP projects. Projects listed below that have **(ACCSP)** listed under the grant number are those funded under the separate budget line item for ACCSP. Five northeast States received a total of \$415,600 in FY 2001 (Maine - \$107.0K, Maryland - \$45K, Massachusetts - \$108.7K, New Jersey - \$134K, and Rhode Island - \$20K) and \$528,410 in FY 2002 (Maine - \$199.9K, Maryland - \$108K, Massachusetts - \$36.7K, Rhode Island \$133.0K, and Virginia - \$50.8K). The ACCSP is a State-Federal cooperative initiative to improve recreational and commercial fisheries data collection and data management on the Atlantic coast. ACCSP funding has been used for recreational and commercial surveys, marine resource information system, expansion of a pilot trip ticket system for commercial fisheries, electronic data collection, development of strategies for the implementation of ACCSP, and biological sampling of ASMFC managed species.

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Project Title: A cooperative program for the conservation of Atlantic coast fisheries

Grant Numbers: NA17FG1050 - FY 2001
NA17FG2205 - FY 2002

Purpose: The goal of the cooperative, state-federal program for conservation of Atlantic coastal fisheries is to manage, enhance, restore, and maintain the shared fisheries of the Atlantic coast, with principal emphasis on the conservation and restoration of migratory marine and diadromous fishery resources and their habitat, as well as the maintenance, enhancement, and improvement of public uses and benefits from these resources, including seafood production, recreation, and commerce. The program provides for coordinated, cooperative management of the interjurisdictional, territorial seas fisheries of the Atlantic coast over the long-term, including fisheries management and habitat planning, law enforcement, statistics, and research. It supports better utilization of fisheries resources for the benefit of the states and the nation.

Contact: Robert Beal
Agency: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$1,925,948
Cost: FY 2002 - \$1,942,000
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$11,992,206

Publications: See ASMFC 1a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h; 2a; 3a, b, c

Project Title: Implementation of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

Grant Numbers: NA17FG1103 - FY 2001 - (ACCSP)
NA17FG2281 - FY 2002 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: The goal of this project is to design and implement a cooperative marine and coastal fisheries statistics program that adequately meets the needs of state and federal fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. Study participants will work to establish and maintain an integrated, cooperative, coast-wide, fisheries data management system among all Atlantic coastal states from Maine to Florida, the regional fishery management councils, the NMFS, the FWS, and other state and federal agencies involved in the collection, compilation, and management of marine, estuarine, anadromous, and catadromous fisheries statistics. One of the four objectives pertains to recreational fisheries, with a focus on creating a unified, state-federal data collection system for marine and coastal fisheries for the entire Atlantic coast, including both commercial and recreational sectors, in order to provide the best scientific data for effective fisheries management.

Contact: Lisa L. Kline
Agency: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1997
Cost: FY 2001 - \$1,082,200
Cost: FY 2002 - \$1,178,635

Total Cost for Project to Date: \$3,982,152

Publications: none

Project Title: Development of a comprehensive repository for American Lobster stock assessment data

Grant Number: NA17FG2359 - FY 2002

Purpose: To develop a central database for summary fisheries-dependent and independent data to support conducting the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's American lobster stock assessment.

Contact: Lisa L. Kline

Agency: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Status: Ongoing

Fiscal Year Initiated: 2002

Cost: FY 2002 - \$254,760

Total Cost for Project to Date: \$254,760

Publications: None

CONNECTICUT

Project Title: Interstate marine fisheries management

Grant Number: NA16FG1169 - FY 2001/2002

Purpose: The goal of the project is to improve the fishery statistics capabilities (data management, quota monitoring, verification of statistics) of the state. These improved capabilities are needed to monitor and implement Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) fishery management plans (FMPs) for species such as bluefish, summer flounder, and scup. Statistics activities will also include a port sampling program to collect biological samples. The project will also facilitate public input and involvement in, and knowledge of, fisheries management issues through the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Fisheries Advisory Council and *ad hoc* brochures and publications. Law enforcement staff will identify critical law enforcement activities required for effective marine fisheries management.

Contact: Eric M. Smith

Agency: Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Status: Ongoing

Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995

Cost: FY 2001 - \$183,110
Cost: FY 2002 - \$183,270
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$1,248,590

Publications: none

DELAWARE

Project Title: Coastal fisheries management assistance

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1214 - FY 2001
NA16FG2420 - FY 2002

Purpose: This project consists of three elements which support Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission fishery management plans: (1) Research to support management of blue crab and weakfish in the Delaware Bay Estuary. Delaware will evaluate and refine its blue crab stock assessment in terms of sex-specific population models, evaluate additional blue crab research surveys, establish a bi-state (Delaware and New Jersey) blue crab task force, and examine terrapin turtle by-catch in crab pots. It will also collect information to evaluate weakfish reproductive biology. (2) The enforcement of ASMFC FMP criteria will continue through support of overtime for enforcement agents and special agents of the Division of Fish and Wildlife who work within the tidal waters of the State. Increased enforcement visibility and presence will be accomplished through routine checks of anglers and boaters for size and creel-limit compliance, as well as undercover operations. (3) The horseshoe crab fishery management plan will create statistically robust, fishery-independent research surveys to monitor trends in horseshoe crab abundance, as well as to characterize the commercial harvest in order to monitor changes and evaluate harvest restrictions. This will be done through spawning surveys, egg surveys, and characterization of commercial horseshoe crab landings.

Contact: Lynn H. Herman
Agency: Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$169,880
Cost: FY 2002 - \$188,430
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$1,222,770

Publications: Delaware 1, 2, 3, 4

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Project Title: Radio telemetry monitoring of 18-Inch and larger striped bass within the District of Columbia and push-net survey for American shad

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1269 - FY 2001
NA16FG2704 - FY 2002

Purpose: To investigate the movements of striped bass during the Spring spawning season through conduct of a radio telemetry study. Each year, fifty fish between 18-24 inches in length will be implanted with a radio tag and their movements monitored to determine habitat preference and length of stay within the District's jurisdictional borders of the Potomac River. Information collected will assist fishery managers in determining the District's striped bass fishing season, and size limit. Investigators will also conduct a push-net survey to determine the relative abundance of YOY American shad.

Contact: M. Jon Siemien
Agency: District of Columbia, Fisheries and Wildlife Division
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$40,000
Cost: FY 2002 - \$40,000
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$232,456

Publications: none
* * * * *

MAINE

Project Title: Recreational and commercial surveys of Maine fisheries

Grant Number: NA16FG1217 - FY 2001 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: This project continues collection of Maine headboat and charterboat data, independent of each other, to support the National Marine Fisheries Service Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (NMFS MRFSS). Recreational fisheries statistics of the charterboat fleet will be collected through design and implementation of a charterboat captain volunteer reporting log. NMFS MRFSS will also be supplemented with a volunteer angler survey logbook, and an anglers' reporting system will be developed. New intercept procedures will be tested to evaluate charter captain interviews versus angler interviews, and other sampling methods will be examined and tested. Northern shrimp and other commercial and recreational fisheries will also be monitored. Investigators will sample headboat and charter boat modes independently because, in Maine, the two modes do not sample the same resource, and this difference in resources targeted increases in the variances of estimates of the combined mode traditionally used for MRFSS. New intercept procedures will be further tested to evaluate

charter captain interviews versus angler interviews, and other methods of sampling recreational anglers will be examined and tested.

Contact: Bruce J. Joule
Agency: Maine Department of Marine Resources
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$107,011
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$624,066

Publications: none

Project Title: Commercial catch sampling of Atlantic herring

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1155 - FY 2001
NA16FG2393 - FY 2002

Purpose: The project will provide a more consistent schedule for the collection and processing of Atlantic herring (Clupea harengus) samples. Two seasonal positions will collect and transport samples and assist in the processing of samples.

Contact: David A. Libby
Agency: Maine Department of Marine Resources
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001
Cost: FY 2001 - \$52,299
Cost: FY 2002 - \$67,168
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$119,467

Publication: None

Project Title: Federal study of electronic data collection in the Maine shellfish industry

Grant Number: NA16FG1218 - FY 2001

Purpose: The objective of this proposal is to develop and test an electronic data collection method of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program commercial module in the Maine shellfish industry.

Contact: David A. Libby
Agency: Maine Department of Marine Resources
Status: Ongoing

Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001
Cost: FY 2001 - \$56,604
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$56,604

Publications: None

Project Title: Marine resource information system

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1216 - FY 2001 - (ACCSP)
NA16FG2463 - FY 2002

Purpose: This is Phase II of an ongoing project – development of a Marine Resource Information Management System (database). Phase I analyzed user needs, completed design of the database model, and development of the physical structure of the database was identified to meet user needs. Phase II includes data conversion, application development, GIS integration, report development, and integrated help system, and training documentation to be developed on a project-by-project basis. Study activities include 1) conduct a recreational fisheries statistics survey of the charterboat fleet to obtain accurate catch/effort information on this fleet; 2) maintain a charterboat captain volunteer reporting log to complement catch/effort estimates from task 1; 3) maintain the volunteer angler survey logbook program; 4) monitor the northern shrimp and lobster fisheries, and other commercial fisheries, as needed; and 5) expand the development of the Marine Resource Information System (database).

Contact: Linda L. Mercer
Agency: Maine Department of Marine Resources
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001
Cost: FY 2001 - \$94,599
Cost: FY 2002 - \$199,960
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$294,559

Publications: None

MARYLAND

Project Title: Maryland eel population study

Grant Number: NA16FG1200 - FY 2001
NA16FG2423 - FY 2002

Purpose: In response to ASMFC’s development of a fishery management plan for American eels and horseshoe crabs, Maryland will continue to characterize its eel population and the

current fishery. Information to be collected includes size, catch-per-unit-effort, sex, composition, age, and an analysis of the market for eels.

Contact: Harley Speir
Agency: Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1996
Cost: FY 2001 - \$86,890
Cost: FY 2002 - \$91,601
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$554,285

Publications: Maryland 1.

Project Title: Maryland limited entry for fisheries management

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1199 - FY 2001
NA16FG2422 - FY 2002

Purpose: A limited-entry management system will be continued for the Maryland striped bass commercial and charterboat fisheries. This project will refine and manage the harvest sector limited-entry concept via harvester declaration and reporting mechanisms, for temporal and area harvest allocations, utilizing the most efficient methods. Harvest will be recorded and tracked for compliance with the interstate fishery management plan. Enforcement activities will also provide an enhanced deterrent to conservation violations. The project is intended to be dynamic and adaptive to the requirements of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Contact: Martin L. Gary
Agency: Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$121,600
Cost: FY 2002 - \$121,600
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$817,016

Publications: none

Project Title: An expansion of a pilot trip ticket system for Maryland commercial fisheries

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1165 - FY 2001 - (ACCSP)
NA16FG2375 - FY 2002 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: This project will expand a pilot trip level reporting system for non-federally permitted commercial fishing vessels initiated in Maryland in June 2000. This project will result in a system for gathering trip level commercial data that meets ACCSP standards and can be expanded to include the rest of Maryland's commercial fisheries. Benefits would include more comprehensive fishing effort information and an increase in the accuracy of the collected data.

Contact: Connie L. Lewis
Agency: Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001
Cost: FY 2001 - \$45,000
Cost: FY 2002 - \$46,500
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$91,500

Publications: none

Project Title: Requirements assessment for electronic data collection in the Maryland commercial striped bass fishery

Grant Number: NA16FG2363 - FY 2002 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: The requirement assessments of this project will provide the Maryland Department of Natural Resources with a well-laid plan for the monitoring and reporting systems, as well as software, hardware and internet solutions, to implement an electronic reporting system for Maryland's commercial striped bass fishery.

Contact: Gina Hunt
Agency: Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2002
Cost: FY 2002 - \$61,500
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$61,500

Publications: none

MASSACHUSETTS

Project Title: Interstate fisheries management support program

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1481 - FY 2001
NA16FG2688 - FY 2002

Purpose: The project will develop and conduct efficient quota monitoring systems and evaluate economic and population dynamics data as it relates to fisheries management plans developed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the regional fisheries management councils. Activities will also involve implementation and operation of data entry elements under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Statistics Program with on-going marine fisheries programs. Investigators will enhance staff capabilities in the areas of information technology, statistics and resource assessment, and fisheries dependent investigations. These enhanced capabilities will allow the MDMF to thoroughly analyze and disseminate fisheries statistics using state of the art technology such as newly designed internet and intranet websites.

Contact: Thomas B. Hoopes
Agency: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$233,956
Cost: FY 2002 - \$233,956
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$1,735,442

Publications: Massachusetts 1.
* * * * *

Project Title: Biological characterization of Massachusetts' scup fisheries

Grant Number: NA16FG1156 - FY 2001 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: Investigators will collect biological information for scup catches through sea sampling and port sampling from both the recreational and commercial fisheries on the southeastern Massachusetts coast. This data will be collected using the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) protocols. The results will provide estimates of variability in parameters derived from the sea sampling, and thus serve as a basis for estimating future sampling intensity in these fisheries.

Contact: Daniel J. McKiernan
Agency: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Status: Completed
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001
Cost: FY 2001 - \$71,082
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$71,082

Publications: none
* * * * *

Project Title: Develop strategies for implementation of ACCSP in Massachusetts

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1468 - FY 2001 - (ACCSP)
NA16FG2702 - FY 2002 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: Study investigators will develop a strategic plan for implementation of Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistic Program (ACCSP) compliant data collection methodologies for Massachusetts. Three major areas will be addressed: 1) commercial fisheries catch, effort, and landings; 2) marine recreational fisheries statistical survey (MRFSS); and 3) biological sampling.

Contact: Thomas B. Hoopes
Agency: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001
Cost: FY 2001 - \$36,691
Cost: FY 2002 - \$36,691
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$73,382

Publications: none

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Project Title: Law enforcement of ASMFC-managed species in New Hampshire

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1211 - FY 2001
NA16FG2545 - FY 2002

Purpose: This project will increase the effectiveness of law enforcement activities directed at enforcement of rules and statutes promulgated for compliance with ASMFC fisheries management plans. It will also provide law enforcement technical and policy level input and expertise to various interjurisdictional fisheries management programs.

Contact: Ronald P. Alie
Agency: New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1997
Cost: FY 2001 - \$41,242
Cost: FY 2002 - \$40,226
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$251,956

Publications: none

Project Title: Programs improving management of ASMFC-managed species in New Hampshire

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1205 - FY 2001
NA16FG2546 - FY 2002

Purpose: The objectives of this project are: (1) To collect marine recreational fishing statistics in New Hampshire that are comparable with other state, regional, and coastwide estimates, (2) monitor the relative abundance of juvenile finfish using New Hampshire estuaries for nursery habitat, (3) enhance the fisheries-dependent data collected for New Hampshire's commercial fisheries, and (4) collect catch and effort information from New Hampshire's lobster fishery in order to monitor the coastal resource.

Contact: Douglas E. Grout
Agency: New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$114,058
Cost: FY 2002 - \$111,474
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$767,938

Publications: none

NEW JERSEY

Project Title: Atlantic coastal fisheries cooperative management program

Grant Numbers: NA96FG0274 - FY 2001
NA16FG2421 - FY 2002

Purpose: New Jersey will implement fishery management planning activities to support the interstate fisheries management efforts of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Project activities will include conducting a glass eel monitoring program during winter 1998-2000, initiating a sea sampling program to monitor catch and population parameters of the American lobster resource off the New Jersey coast, and participating in coast-wide tagging programs for American shad and Atlantic sturgeon. Will also implement new activities to support and enhance State cooperation in the collection, management, and analysis of fisheries data, as well as enhance the enforcement of adopted regulations.

Contact: Peter Himchak
Agency: New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995

Cost: FY 2001 - \$233,820
Cost: FY 2002 - \$234,050
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$1,645,030

Publications: none

Project Title: Integration of commercial harvest data into the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)

Grant Number: NA16FG1387 - FY 2001 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: Study activities will focus on establishing within the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, a local area network and acquisition of data management software to enable integration of the State's commercial fisheries harvest data within the ACCSP data collection program.

Contact: Thomas A. Baum
Agency: New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001
Cost: FY 2001 - \$133,988
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$133,988

Publications: none

NEW YORK

Project Title: Interstate management of marine fishery resources in New York

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1328 - FY 2001
NA16FG2385 - FY 2002

Purpose: Study personnel will support the administration, coordination, and dissemination of information about regulations for fisheries under the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission fishery management plans. Staff will also augment collection and assessment of biological data on striped bass, American lobster, winter flounder, summer flounder, and American eel collected from commercial and recreational fisheries. Finally, the visibility and effectiveness of New York's law enforcement activities relative to ASMFC managed species will be enhanced through the purchase of supplies and materials to check compliance with various ASMFC FMPs.

Contact: Victor Vecchio

Agency: New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$212,650
Cost: FY 2002 - \$212,050
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$1,386,900

Publications: New York 1.

PENNSYLVANIA

Project Title: Bio-monitoring and assessment project for American shad and river herring – Phase VII-VIII

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1326 - FY 2001
NA16FG2544 - FY 2002

Purpose: Phase VIII of this project continues bio-monitoring work performed in the preceding phases designed to assess efforts to restore American shad and river herring to native runs in the Susquehanna River basin. The restoration goal of this long-term project is to produce a self-sustaining population of 3 million American shad and 15 million herring in the Susquehanna River and its tributaries in Pennsylvania. The restoration approach involves egg collection, hatchery production, trap and transfer of pre-spawn adults, monitoring of adult populations below Conowingo Dam, monitoring of adult and juvenile populations above Conowingo Dam and species studies, such as the American shad pheromone study (Phase III) and American shad otolith analysis.

Contact: R. Scott Carney
Agency: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$120,730
Cost: FY 2002 - \$116,910
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$774,690

Publications: none

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION

Project Title: Compliance with Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1442 - FY 2001

NA16FG2692 - FY 2002

Purpose: Public hearings, notices, and outreach on the various regulatory changes necessary for compliance with Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission fishery management plans will be conducted. Public outreach through information dissemination will be improved through the development of a “blue sheet” containing FMP species season, size, and creel limits. Recreational and commercial fisheries data will be collected and analyzed in relation to regulatory provisions. Also, American eel migrations along the Potomac River to the eastern seaboard will be monitored in response to identified research needs.

Contact: Kirby A. Carpenter
Agency: Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$103,000
Cost: FY 2002 - \$103,000
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$710,530

Publications: Potomac 1, 2

RHODE ISLAND

Project Title: Administrative support to the ASMFC fishery management process

Grant Number: NA16FG1285 - FY 2001/2002

Purpose: Rhode Island will hire two, new, permanent Principal Marine Biologists with management experience. They will provide administrative support for implementation of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s fishery management plans by providing technical input to plan development. The project will continue to 1) facilitate involvement of fisheries users, conservationists, and the general public in review of interstate fishery management proposals and alternatives and 2) develop and process policy and regulatory provisions needed to implement ASMFC and regional council fishery management plans applicable to Rhode Island to ensure compliance with the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act.

Contact: Mark Gibson
Agency: Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$116,102
Cost: FY 2002 - \$116,564
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$735,410

Publications: none

Project Title: Interjurisdictional fisheries management program support

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1331 - FY 2001
NA16FG2557 - FY 2002

Purpose: To provide transportation for environmental police officers assigned to enforce state fisheries regulations pursuant to the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, and to foster more effective state program support of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Interstate Fishery Management Programs.

Contact: Thomas A. Greene
Agency: Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$72,471
Cost: FY 2002 - \$72,686
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$542,224

Publications: none

Project Title: Implementation of the Atlantic Cooperative Statistics Program in the State of Rhode Island – Phase I

Grant Number: NA06FG0245 - FY 2001/2002 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program in Rhode Island is a state-federal marine fisheries data collection program which coordinates present and future 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. Prototype testing of a statistics collection system in Rhode Island represents a significant increase in the scope of current fisheries data collection activities. Approximately 2,000 licensed harvesters and 67 dealers will be reporting under the proposed system. Records reported will increase an estimated 200-fold from the current operating system.

Contact: Najih Lazar
Agency: Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2000
Cost: FY 2001 - \$20,000

Cost: FY 2002 - \$133,000
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$383,938

Publications: none

VIRGINIA

Project Title: Virginia enforcement of Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission fishery management plans

Grant Numbers: NA16FG1206 - FY 2001
NA16FG2424 - FY 2002

Purpose: Law enforcement personnel costs will be supported to enhance the level of regulatory enforcement in Virginia to ensure compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's fishery management plans. This project will allow the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) to maintain and enhance its enforcement of regulations promulgated to implement those fishery management plans of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Contact: Steve Bowman
Agency: Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1995
Cost: FY 2001 - \$225,350
Cost: FY 2002 - \$216,540
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$1,508,480

Publications: none

Project Title: Biological sampling – targeted species (spanish mackerel and horseshoe crabs)

Grant Number: NA16FG2313 - FY 2002 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: Study objectives are to representatively sample horseshoe crab and spanish mackerel landings in Virginia for data on harvest composition, including size, weight, and sex ratio.

Contact: Troy R. Thompson
Agency: Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2002
Cost: FY 2002 - \$50,759
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$50,759

Publications: none

Publications

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1. Fishery Management Reports (FMRs)
 - a. ASMFC FMR #32a. April, 2000. Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Horseshoe. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C. 9 pages.
 - b. ASMFC FMR #32b. May, 2001. Addendum II to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Horseshoe Crab. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C. 7 pages.
 - c. ASMFC FMR #33a. July, 2000. Addendum I to Amendment 1 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sea Herring. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C. 4 pages.
 - d. ASMFC FMR #33a1. October, 2001. Technical Addendum 1a to Amendment 1 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sea Herring. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C. 6 pages.
 - e. ASMFC FMR #33b. February, 2002. Addendum II to the Atlantic Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C. 8 pages.
 - f. ASMFC FMR #35a. February, 2000. Technical Addendum I to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad & River Herring. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C. 6 pages.
 - g. ASMFC FMR #37. July, 2001. Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C. 146 pages.
 - h. ASMFC FMR #38. June, 2002. Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Red Drum. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C. 159 pages.
2. Habitat Management Series (HMSs)

- a. ASMFC HMS #6. December, 2000. Habitat Managers Database Summary. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C. 110 pages.
- 3. Special Reports (Srs)
 - a. ASMFC SR #70. August, 2000. Prioritized Research Needs in Support of Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C., 250 pages.
 - b. ASMFC SR #72. December, 2001. Proceedings of the Workshop on Aging & Sexing American Eel. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C. 25 pages.
 - c. ASMFC SR #73. December, 2001. Proceedings of the Cooperative State/Federal Workshop on Regulatory Discards. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Washington, D.C. 123 pages.

Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife

- 1. Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife. 1999. 1999 Delaware Bay Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan. Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, Dover, DE. 77 pp.
- 2. Helser, Thomas E., and Desmond M. Kahn. 1999. Stock Assessment of the Delaware Bay Blue Crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) for 1999. Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, Dover, DE. 100 pp.
- 3. Helser, Thomas E. 2000. Stock Assessment of Delaware Bay Blue Crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) for 2000. Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, Dover, DE. 108 pp.
- 4. Helser, T. E., A. Sharov, and D. M. Kahn. *In Press*. A Stochastic Decision-based Approach to Assessing the Delaware Bay Blue Crab Stock. In: Proceedings of the Workshop on Scientific Uncertainty in Stock Assessments, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 35 pp.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

- 1. Weeder, J. A. and J. H. Uphoff, Jr. 2002. *In Press*. Effect of changes in growth and eel pot mesh size on American eel yield per recruit in upper Chesapeake Bay. AFS Symposium.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

1. Armstrong, M.P., and S.X. Cadrin. 2001. Morphometric variation among spawning groups of the Gulf of Maine-Georges Bank herring complex. Proceedings of the International Herring Symposium, Alaska Sea Grant Publication AK-SG-01-04, pp. 575-590.

New York Department of Environmental Conservation

1. Buckel, J. A. and K. A. McKown. 2002. Competition between juvenile striped bass and bluefish: resource partitioning and growth rate. Mar Ecol Prog Ser. 234:191- 204.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission

1. Potomac River Fisheries Commission. 2002. Sport Fishing in the Tidal Potomac River – Legal Sizes, Limits, and Other Restrictions. 2 pp.
2. Greer, Patrick J.. 2001. Estimating Relative Abundance of Young of the Year American Eel, *Anguilla rostrata*, in the Potomac River. Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point VA.

PROJECTS ADMINISTERED BY NMFS SOUTHEAST REGION

Atlantic Coastal Act Projects

Ongoing or completed during Fiscal Years 2001 and 2002

Highlights of the Southeast Region - Atlantic Coastal Act and ACCSP Grant Activities

Four states within the southeast region received \$799,240 in FY 2001 and \$794,920 in FY 2002 under the Atlantic Coastal Act. The states have used a large percentage of the funding to improve commercial and recreational statistical data which is provided to ASMFC for use in the development of fishery management plans, and for evaluation of the efficacy of regulations. Projects during this period have focused on improving the quantity and quality of fishery dependent data for stock assessments of species with FMPs; development of fish aging standards; survey of recreational use of commercial gears; assessments of commercial fishery bycatch; data analysis and request systems; and continued implementation of fisheries conservation programs and management plans.

In addition to funds available for ACCSP from the Atlantic Coastal Act above, NMFS received under a separate budget line item \$1.5K in FY 2001 and \$2.0K in FY 2002 for ACCSP projects. Projects listed below that have **(ACCSP)** listed under the grant number are those funded under the separate budget line item for ACCSP. Three southeast states received \$290,569 in FY 2001 (Georgia - \$26.2K, North Carolina - \$132.2K, and South Carolina \$132.2K) and \$226,551 in FY 2002 (Florida - \$8K, Georgia - \$107.2K, and North Carolina - \$111.4K). The South Atlantic states were relatively compliant with the commercial module through another southeast statistics grants program, and by the end of 2002, all will meet the ACCSP standard for the commercial trip ticket reporting. The southeast states now meet or exceed the ACCSP's recreational sampling and some states have begun the socio-economic pilot studies. Other projects funded during this period include the recreational use of commercial gear pilot survey, and development of finfish aging standards.

FLORIDA

Project Title: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission - Florida Atlantic Coast Assessments

Grant Number: NA16FG1221 - FY 2001/2002

Purpose: To improve the quantity and quality of fishery dependent data such as sizes and ages of fish harvested by fishery, gear and user group available for stock assessments of species with interstate fishery management plans; incorporate these data into stock assessments; and to evaluate the efficacy of regulations on Atlantic exploited. These stock assessments will allow ASMFC to quantify compliance with regulations.

Contact: Mr. Michael Murphy

Agency: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida Marine Fisheries Institute

Status: Ongoing

Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001

Cost: FY 2001 - \$237,390

Cost: FY 2002 - \$230,090

Total Cost for Project to Date: \$467,480

Publications: none

Project Title: Development of finfish aging standards

Grant Number: NA16FG2691 - FY 2002 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: To develop standards for marine fish age determination methods pursuant to the recommendation of the ACCSP Biological Review Panel, which includes defining the preferred structure for age determination, procedures for acquisition of aging structures, defining processes used in structure preparation, identifying the morphological features of aging structures, and completion of a manual and digital image library.

Contact: Dr. Luiz Barbieri

Agency: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida Marine Fisheries Institute

Status: Ongoing

Fiscal Year Initiated: 2002

Cost: FY 2002 - \$8,000

Total Cost for Project to Date: \$8,000

Publications: none

GEORGIA

Project Title: Interstate fisheries management planning and implementation

Grant Number: NA16FG1219 - FY 2001/2002

Purpose: In support of the ASMFC's Fishery Management Plans, Georgia performs several projects, including assessments of commercial fishery bycatch; onboard bycatch observer program (fishery dependent survey); experimental fisheries bycatch observations; bycatch reduction gear testing; collection of biostatistical and associated trip data for use by SEFSC; collection of young of year data on American eels in GA rivers; NMFS Shark drift net Fishery observer program; law enforcement; and data analysis.

Contact: Mr. James L. Music
Agency: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001
Cost: FY 2001 - \$164,970
Cost: FY 2002 - \$164,410
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$329,380

Publications: none

Project Title: ACFCMA support project

Grant Number: NA97FG0106 - FY 2001 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: To implement a trip ticket system in Georgia in accordance with ACCSP guidelines, and to implement the ACCSP commercial harvester socio-economic data collection pilot study in the Georgia blue crab fishery.

Contact: Ms. Susan Shipman
Agency: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division
Status: Completed
Fiscal Year Initiated: 1999
Cost: FY 2001 - \$26,153
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$209,059

Publications: none

Project Title: Development of fish aging standards

Grant Number: NA17FG2362 - FY 2002 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: To formalize procedures and standards for marine fish age determination, a manual and reference library of digital images of scales and/or otoliths will be developed. These deliverables will be the first step in developing a true regional approach to marine fish age determination in the southeast United States.

Contact: Mr. Arnold Woodward
Agency: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division

Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2002
Cost: FY 2002 - \$30,445
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$30,445

Publications: none

Project Title: ACFCMA Support Project

Grant Number: NA17FG2609 - FY 2002 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: To evaluate the utility of data collected for the ACCSP Commercial Harvester Socioeconomic Pilot Study (Georgia Segment), to include data editing, linkage to landings data and analysis.

Contact: Mr. Doug Haymans
Agency: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division

Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2002
Cost: FY 2002 - \$76,755
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$76,755

Publications: none

NORTH CAROLINA

Project Title: Interstate fisheries management planning and implementation for North Carolina

Grant Number: NA16FG1220 - FY 2001/2002

Purpose: To provide commercial harvest summaries and analyses by ASMFC committees and stock assessment teams, North Carolina will design and implement a data analysis and request systems, and begin development of a new website containing updated statistics on the commercial fisheries.

Contact: Mr. Maury Wolff
Agency: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Marine Fisheries

Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001

Cost: FY 2001 - \$225,350
Cost: FY 2002 - \$229,360
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$454,710

Publications: none

Project Title: Survey of recreational use of commercial gear in North Carolina

Grant Number: NA17FG1358 - FY 2001/2002 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: Convert North Carolina's commercial landings statistics into standardized formats and provide routine data feeds to support the State's collection, management and reporting of fisheries data.

Contact: Mr. Maury Wolff
Agency: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Marine Fisheries
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001
Cost: FY 2001 - \$112,250
Cost: FY 2002 - \$96,250
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$208,500

Publications: none

Project Title: North Carolina metadata collection and management

Grant Number: NA17FG1359 - FY 2001/2002 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: To establish and implement procedures for the collection, storage and dissemination of metadata pertaining to the fisheries in North Carolina.

Contact: Mr. Maury Wolff
Agency: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Marine Fisheries
Status: Ongoing
Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001
Cost: FY 2001 - \$19,938
Cost: FY 2002 - \$15,101
Total Cost for Project to Date: \$35,039

Publications: none

SOUTH CAROLINA

Project Title: Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act implementation in South Carolina

Grant Number: NA16FG1108 - FY 2001/2002

Purpose: To provide needed information, expertise, and support that will allow South Carolina to implement fisheries conservation programs and management plans and remain in compliance with the terms of those plans as prescribed in the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act of 1993 (ACFCMA).

Contact: Dr. Paul Sandifer and Mr. David Cupka
Agency: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Marine Resources Division

Status: Ongoing

Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001

Cost: FY 2001 - \$171,530

Cost: FY 2002 - \$171,060

Total Cost for Project to Date: \$513,060

Publications: none

Project Title: Implementation of the ACCSP commercial module in South Carolina

Grant Number: NA17FG1234 - FY 2001 - (ACCSP)

Purpose: To support and enhance state cooperation in the collection, management and reporting of fisheries data, South Carolina will provide outreach to the commercial fishing community, develop trip report tickets, modify their licensing database and data entry programs, collect commercial fisheries data and convert data to ACCSP codes.

Contact: Mr. Wayne Waltz
Agency: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Marine Resources Division

Status: Ongoing

Fiscal Year Initiated: 2001

Cost: FY 2001 - \$132,228

Total Cost for Project to Date: \$132,228

Publications: none
