

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act, MSA), amended on January 12, 2007 by Public Law 109-479, provides for the conservation and management of fishery resources within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). It also provides for fishery management authority over continental shelf resources and anadromous species beyond the EEZ, except when they are found within a foreign nation's territorial sea or fishery conservation zone (or equivalent), to the extent that such sea or zone is recognized by the United States.

The EEZ extends from the seaward boundary of each of the coastal States (generally 3 nautical miles from shore) to 200 nautical miles from shore. The seaward boundaries of Texas, Puerto Rico, and the Gulf coast of Florida are 3 marine leagues (9 nautical miles). The EEZ encompasses approximately 3.36 million square nautical miles.

GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENT

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce, negotiates Governing International Fishery Agreements (GIFAs) with foreign nations requesting to fish within the EEZ. After a GIFA is signed, it is transmitted by the President to the Congress for ratification.

FOREIGN FISHING PERMITS

Title II of the Magnuson-Stevens Act governs foreign fishing in U.S. waters. The process applied to foreign fishing has been described in prior issues of this publication. As U.S. fishing capacity grew, foreign participation diminished in directed fisheries, as well as in foreign joint ventures in which U.S. vessels delivered U.S. harvested fish to permitted foreign vessels in the EEZ. Until 2001, the last directed fishing by foreign vessels occurred in 1991. However, in 2001, a small quantity of Atlantic herring was harvested by foreign vessels. The displacement of directed foreign fishing effort in the EEZ marked the achievement of one of the objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Act: the development of the U.S. fishing industry to take what were in 1976 underutilized species.

NMFS continues to maintain certain regulations pertaining to foreign fishing should there be a situation in the future in which allowing limited foreign fishing in an underutilized fishery would be advantageous to the U.S. fishing industry.

FMPS AND PMPS

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, eight Regional Fishery Management Councils are charged with preparing Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for the fisheries needing management within their areas of authority. After the Councils prepare FMPs that cover domestic and foreign fishing efforts, the FMPs are submitted to the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) for approval and implementation. The Department, through NMFS Office of Law Enforcement and the U.S. Coast Guard, is responsible for enforcing the law and regulations.

The Secretary, when notified by the Secretary of State that any foreign nation has submitted an application under section 204(b) of the MSA, which only covers foreign fishing efforts, shall prepare a preliminary fishery management plan (PMP) for any fishery covered by such application if the Secretary determines that no fishery management plan for that fishery will be prepared and implemented. Under Section 304(c) of the MSA the Secretary may also prepare an FMP if a Council fails to develop one. In this latter case, the Secretary's FMP covers domestic and foreign fishing.

The Secretary shall prepare FMPs for highly migratory species that are within the geographical area of authority of more than one of the following Councils: New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf, and Caribbean Councils. The Atlantic HMS fisheries are managed by the Secretary under the dual authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). Atlantic tunas, Atlantic billfish, and North Atlantic swordfish are managed under the authority of both ATCA and the Magnuson-Stevens Act. South Atlantic swordfish are managed under the sole authority of ATCA. Atlantic sharks in the HMS management unit are managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Under section 304 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, all Council-prepared FMPs must be reviewed for approval by the Secretary of Commerce. Approved FMPs are implemented by Federal regulations under section 305 of the Act. As of December 31, 2014, there are 46 FMPs in effect. Of these, one is a Secretarial FMP for Atlantic highly migratory species. The FMPs are listed below, under the responsible Council. FMPs may be amended by the Council and the amendments are submitted for approval under the same Secretarial review process as new FMPs. Most of the FMPs have been amended since initial implementation.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)

1. Northeast Multispecies FMP
2. Northeastern Skate FMP
3. Deep Sea Red Crab FMP
4. Atlantic Herring FMP
5. Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP
6. Monkfish FMP (joint with MAFMC)
7. Atlantic Salmon FMP

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

1. Spiny Dogfish FMP (joint with NEFMC)
2. Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP
3. Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog FMP
4. Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP
5. Atlantic Bluefish FMP
6. Tilefish FMP

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)

1. Pelagic Sargassum Habitat FMP
2. Snapper-Grouper FMP
3. Dolphin and Wahoo FMP
4. Shrimp FMP
5. Golden Crab FMP
6. Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region FMP

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)

1. Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP (joint with SAFMC)
2. Coral and Coral Reefs FMP
3. Red Drum FMP
4. Shrimp FMP
5. Spiny Lobster FMP (joint w/ SAFMC)
6. Reef Fish FMP
7. Aquaculture FMP

Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)

1. Spiny Lobster FMP
2. Corals and Reef-Associated Plants and Invertebrates FMP
3. Queen Conch FMP
4. Shallow Water Reef Fish FMP

Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

1. Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP
2. Pacific Coast Salmon FMP
3. Coastal Pelagic Species FMP
4. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species FMP

North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

1. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP
2. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP
3. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab FMP
4. Alaska Salmon FMP
5. Alaska Scallop FMP
6. Arctic Fish Resources FMP

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC)

1. American Samoa Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)
2. Pacific Pelagic FEP
3. Hawaii Archipelago FEP
4. Mariana FEP
5. Pacific Remote Island Area FEP

Highly Migratory Species Plans (HMS)

1. Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

Council	Constituent States	Telephone Number	Executive Directors and Addresses
NEW ENGLAND	(Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut)	978-465-0492 FAX: 978-465-3116	Thomas A. Nies 50 Water St., Mill 2 Newburyport, MA 01950
MID-ATLANTIC	(New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina)	302-674-2331 FAX: 302-674-5399 Toll Free: 877-446-2362	Christopher M. Moore 800 North State Street Suite 201 Dover, DE 19901-3910
SOUTH ATLANTIC	(North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida)	843-571-4366 FAX: 843-769-4520 Toll Free: 866-723-6210	Robert K. Mahood 4055 Faber Place Dr., Suite 201 N. Charleston, SC 29405
GULF OF MEXICO	(Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida)	813-348-1630 FAX: 813-348-1711 Toll Free: 888-833-1844	Doug Gregory 2203 North Lois Ave., Suite 1100 Tampa, FL 33607
CARIBBEAN	(U.S. Virgin Islands and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico)	787-766-5926 FAX: 787-766-6239	Miguel A. Rolón 270 Muñoz Rivera Ave. Suite 401 San Juan, PR 00918
PACIFIC	(California, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho)	503-820-2280 FAX: 503-820-2299 Toll Free: 866-806-7204	Donald O. McIsaac 7700 NE Ambassador Place Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220
NORTH PACIFIC	(Alaska, Washington, and Oregon)	907-271-2809 FAX: 907-271-2817	Chris W. Oliver 605 West 4th Ave., Suite 306 Anchorage, AK 99501
WESTERN PACIFIC	(Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)	808-522-8220 FAX: 808-522-8226	Kitty M. Simonds 1164 Bishop St. Suite 1400 Honolulu, HI 96813



NOAA FISHERIES

NOAA Fisheries Locations and Regional Fishery Management Councils

West Coast Region

- Regional Offices:
 - Long Beach, CA
 - Sacramento, CA
 - Seattle, WA
- Science Center Headquarters:
 - La Jolla, CA - Southwest
 - Seattle, WA - Northwest
- Science Center Laboratories:
 - Pacific Grove, CA
 - Santa Cruz, CA
 - Newport, OR
 - Pt. Hammond, OR
 - Manchester, WA
 - Mukilteo, WA
 - Pasco, WA

Alaska Region

- Regional Office: Juneau, AK
- Science Center Headquarters:
 - Seattle, WA (Sand Point)
- Science Center Laboratories:
 - Auke Bay, AK
 - Kodiak, AK
 - Lena Point, AK

North Pacific Council

Note: Alaska's actual proportion is much larger in comparison to the lower 48 states.

Pacific Islands Region

- Regional Office: Honolulu, HI
- Science Center Headquarters:
 - Honolulu, HI

(Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands)

Greater Atlantic Region

- Regional Office: Gloucester, MA
- Science Center Headquarters:
 - Woods Hole, MA
- Science Center Laboratories:
 - Milford, CT
 - Washington, DC
 - Orono, ME
 - Highlands, NJ
 - Sandy Hook, NJ
 - Narragansett, RI

New England Council

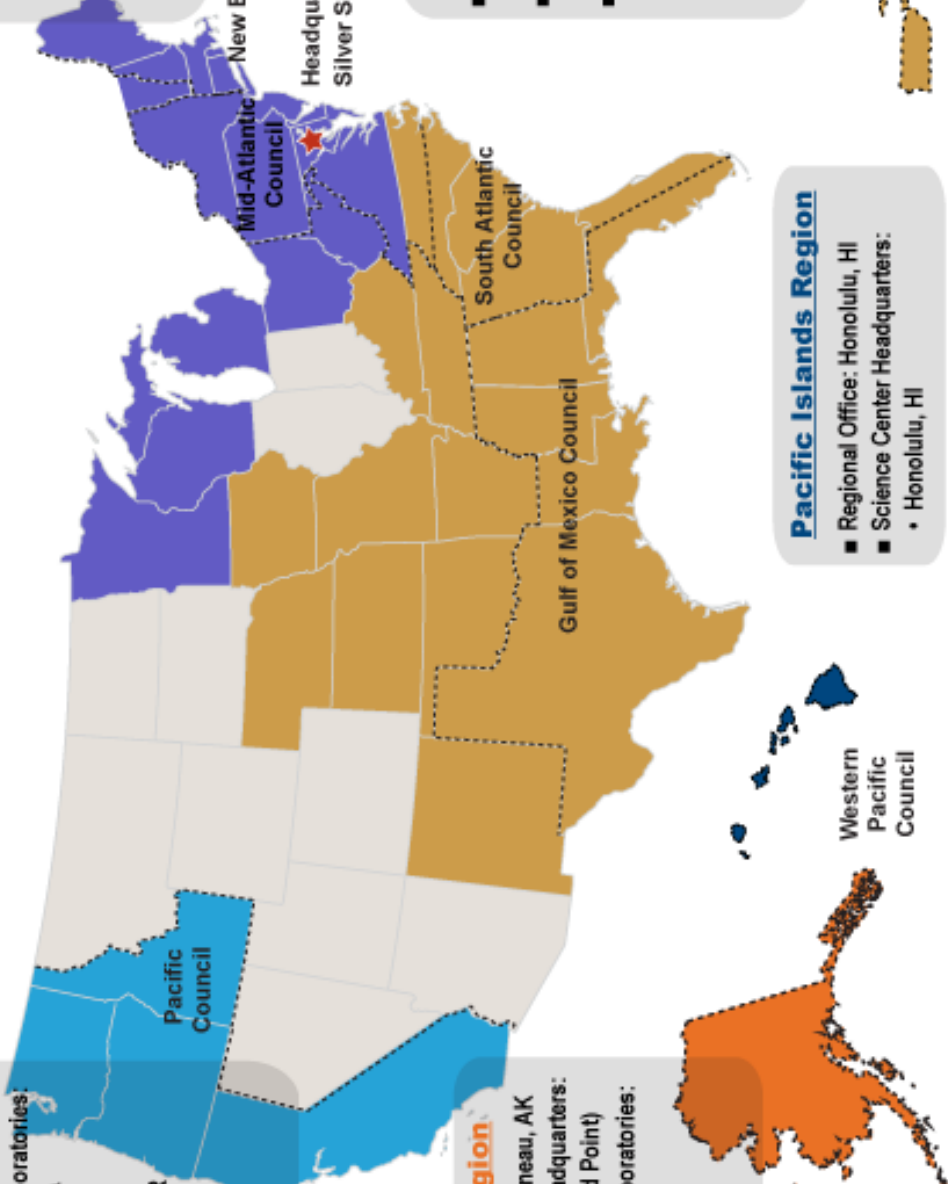
Headquarters: Silver Spring, MD

Southeast Region

- Regional Office: St. Petersburg, FL
- Science Center Headquarters:
 - Miami, FL
- Science Center Laboratories:
 - Panama City, FL
 - Pascagoula, MS
 - Beaufort, NC (shared with NOS)
 - Galveston, TX

Carribean Council

--- Fishery Management Council coastal water jurisdictions



General Administrative Information

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

14th and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

MAIL ROUTING CODE		TELEPHONE NUMBER
SEC	Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker	202-482-2112
A	Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D.	202-482-3436
	NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring Metro Center #3 (SSMC #3) Silver Spring, MD 20910	
F	Assistant Administrator for Fisheries -- Eileen Sobeck Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs -- Samuel D. Rauch, III Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations -- Paul Doremus, Ph.D. Director, Scientific Programs & Chief Science Advisor -- Richard Merrick, Ph.D. Director, Office of Policy -- Jennifer Lukens Director, NOAA Aquaculture Program -- Michael Rubino, Ph.D. Chief Information Officer -- Larry Tyminski Director, Office of Communications-- Kate Naughten Equal Employment Opportunity -- Natalie Huff	301-427-8000 301-427-8000 301-427-8000 301-427-8000 301-427-8004 301-427-8325 301-427-8800 301-427-8011 301-427-8025
F/SI	International Fisheries and Seafood Inspection John Henderschedt	301-427-8368
F/IA1	International Fisheries Affairs Division	301-427-8350
F/IA2	Trade and Stewardship Division	301-427-8350
F/EN	Office of Law Enforcement -- Jim Landon	301-427-2300
F/EN1	Enforcement Operations Division	301-427-2300
F/HC	Office of Habitat Conservation -- Pat Montanio	301-427-8600
F/HC1	Chesapeake Bay Program Office	410-267-5660
F/HC2	Habitat Protection Division	301-427-8601
F/HC3	Habitat Restoration Division	301-427-8602

General Administrative Information

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Silver Spring, MD 20910

MAIL ROUTING CODE		TELEPHONE NUMBER
F/MB	Office of Management and Budget --	
	Brian Pawlak	301-427-8727
F/MB1	Budget Execution Division	301-427-8721
F/MB2	Management and Administration Division	301-427-8742
F/MB3	Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation	301-427-8000
F/MB4	Budget Formulation and Planning Division	301-427-8760
F/MB5	Financial Services Division	301-427-8771
F/MB6	Facilities, Safety and Logistics Division	301-427-8789
F/MB7	Appeals Division	301-427-8729
F/PR	Office of Protected Resources --	
	Donna Wieting	301-427-8400
F/PR1	Permits and Conservation Division	301-427-8401
F/PR2	Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division	301-427-8402
F/PR3	Endangered Species Conservation Division	301-427-8403
F/PR4	Planning and Program Coordination Division	301-427-8404
F/PR5	Endangered Species Act Interagency Cooperation Division	301-427-8495
F/SF	Office of Sustainable Fisheries --	
	Alan D. Risenhoover	301-427-8500
F/SF1	Highly Migratory Species Division	301-427-8503
F/SF3	Domestic Fisheries Division	301-427-8504
F/SF5	Regulatory Services Division	301-427-8505
F/SF7	Seafood Inspection Laboratory	228-769-8964
F/SF8	Partnerships and Communications Division	301-427-8502
F/ST	Office of Science and Technology --	
	Ned Cyr, Ph.D.	301-427-8100
F/ST1	Fisheries Statistics Division	301-427-8103
F/ST3	Operations, Management and Information Division	301-427-8100
F/ST4	Assessment and Monitoring Division	301-427-8102
F/ST5	Economics and Social Analysis Division	301-427-8101
F/ST6	Science Information Division	301-427-8101
F/ST7	Marine Ecosystems Division	301-427-8102
LA11	Office of Congressional Affairs - Fisheries --	
	Robert Moller	202-482-5597
PAF	Office of Public Affairs - Fisheries --	
	Connie Barclay	301-427-8029
GCF	Office of General Counsel - Fisheries and Protected Resource Section	
	Adam Issenberg	301-713-9670

General Administrative Information

National Marine Fisheries Service

Regional Facilities

MAIL ROUTING CODE	OFFICE	TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBER	LOCATION
F/GAR	Greater Atlantic Region 55 Great Republic Drive Gloucester, MA 01930	978-281-9300 Fax: 978- 281-9333	Gloucester, MA
F/NEC	Northeast Fisheries Science Center 166 Water St. - Rm. 312 Woods Hole, MA 02543	508-495-2000 Fax: 508-495-2258	Woods Hole, MA
	Woods Hole Laboratory 166 Water St. Woods Hole, MA 02543	508-495-2000 Fax: 508-495-2258	Woods Hole, MA
	Narragansett Laboratory 28 Tarzwell Drive Narragansett, RI 02882	401-782-3200 Fax: 401-782-3201	Narragansett, RI
	Milford Laboratory 212 Rogers Ave. Milford, CT 06460	203-882-6500 Fax: 203-882-6517	Milford, CT
	James J. Howard Marine Science Laboratory 74 Magruder Road, Sandy Hook Highlands, NJ 07732	732-872-3000 Fax: 732-872-3088	Highlands, NJ
	Natl. Systematics Laboratory, MRC0153 10th & Constitution Ave., NW, P.O. Box 37012 Washington, DC 20013-7012	202-633-1290 Fax: 202-633-8848	Washington, DC
	Orono Maine Field Station 17 Godfey Drive-Suite 1 Orono, ME 04473	207-866-7322 Fax: 207-866-7342	Orono, ME
F/SER	Southeast Region 263 13th Avenue, South St. Petersburg, FL 33701	727-824-5301 Fax: 727-824-5320	St. Petersburg, FL
F/SEC	Southeast Fisheries Science Center 75 Virginia Beach Dr. Miami, FL 33149	305-361-4200 Fax: 305-361-4219	Miami, FL
F/SEC4	Miami Laboratory 75 Virginia Beach Dr. Miami, FL 33149	305-361-4225 Fax: 305-361-4499	Miami, FL
F/SEC5	Mississippi Laboratory 3209 Frederick St., P.O. Drawer 1207 Pascagoula, MS 39567	228-762-4591 Fax: 228-769-9200	Pascagoula, MS
F/SEC6	Panama City Laboratory 3500 Delwood Beach Rd. Panama City, FL 32408	850-234-6541 Fax: 850-235-3559	Panama City, FL
F/SEC7	Galveston Laboratory 4700 Avenue U Galveston, TX 77551	409-766-3500 Fax: 409-766-3508	Galveston, TX

General Administrative Information

National Marine Fisheries Service

Regional Facilities

MAIL ROUTING CODE	OFFICE	TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBER	LOCATION
F/SEC9	Beaufort Laboratory 101 Pivers Island Rd Beaufort, NC 28516	252-728-3595 Fax: 252-728-8784	Beaufort, NC
F/WCR	West Coast Region 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E., Bldg. 1 Seattle, WA 98115	206-526-6150 Fax: 206-526-6426	Seattle, WA
F/NWC	Northwest Fisheries Science Center West Bldg. - Rm. 363 2725 Montlake Boulevard, East Seattle, WA 98112	206-860-3200 Fax: 206-860-3217	Seattle, WA
F/WCR1	West Coast Region (Long Beach) 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200 Long Beach, CA 90802	562-980-4000 Fax: 562-980-4047	Long Beach, CA
F/SWC	Southwest Fisheries Science Center 8901 La Jolla Shores Dr. La Jolla, CA 92037	858-546-7000 Fax: 858-546-7003	La Jolla, CA
F/SWC3	Fisheries Ecology Division 110 Shaffer Rd. Santa Cruz, CA 95060	831-420-3900 Fax: 831-420-3980	Santa Cruz, CA
F/SWC4	Environmental Research Division 1352 Lighthouse Ave. Pacific Grove, CA 93950	831-648-8515 Fax: 831-648-8440	Pacific Grove, CA
F/AKR	Alaska Region 709 West 9th Street, Room 420 P.O. Box 21668 Juneau, AK 99802	907-586-7221 Fax: 907-586-7249	Juneau, AK
F/AKC	Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E. Building 4 P.O. Box 15700 Seattle, WA 98115	206-526-4000 Fax: 206-526-4004	Seattle, WA
	Kodiak Laboratory 301 Research Court Kodiak, AK 99615	907-481-1700 Fax: 907-481-1701	Kodiak, AK
F/AKC4	Auke Bay Laboratory 17109 Lena Point Loop Road Juneau, AK 99801	907-789-6000 Fax: 907-789-6094	Juneau, AK
F/PIR	Pacific Islands Region 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm. 1110 Honolulu, HI 96814	808-944-2200 Fax: 808-973-2941	Honolulu, HI
F/PIC	Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center 2570 Dole Street, Rm. 114 Honolulu, HI 96822	808-983-5300 Fax: 808-983-2902	Honolulu, HI

General Administrative Information

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

NATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS OFFICES

CITY	TELEPHONE NUMBER	NAME AND ADDRESS
NEW ENGLAND:		
Portland (2)	207-780-3322 FAX:207-780-3340	Pamela Thames 312 Fore Street, Portland, ME 04101
Gloucester (1)	978-281-9304 FAX:978-281-9161	Gregory R. Power, Fishery Information Section 55 Great Republic Dr., Gloucester, MA 01930-2276
Gloucester	978-281-9363 978-675-2177 FAX:978-281-9372	Don Mason, Caleb Gilbert Jack French, Boston Market News 55 Great Republic Dr., Gloucester, MA 01930-2276
New Bedford	508-717-0210 FAX:508-717-0301	William Duffy, 53 North Sixth St., Suite 211 New Bedford, MA 02740-6110
Point Judith (2)	401-783-7797 FAX:401-782-2113	Walter Anoushian, 83 State St., 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 3356, Narragansett, RI 02882-0547
MIDDLE ATLANTIC AND CHESAPEAKE:		
New York	631-289-2114 FAX:631-289-2115	Robert Santangelo, New York Market News, Social Security Building 50 Maple Avenue, Patchogue. L.I. NY 11772
E. Hampton, NY (2)	631-324-3569 FAX:631-324-3314	Victor Vecchio, 62 Newtown Ln #203 East Hampton, NY 11937
Patchogue	631-475-6988 FAX:631-289-8361	David McKernan Social Security Bldg., 50 Maple Ave, Patchogue, L.I., NY 11772
Toms River (2)	732-818-1311 FAX:732-349-4319	Joanne Pellegrino, Josh O'Connor, 26 Main St. Suite O, Toms River, NJ 08753
Cape May	609-884-2113 FAX:609-884-4908	Josh O'Connor, 1382 Lafayette St. Cape May, NJ 08204
Hampton (2)	757-723-3369 FAX:757-728-3947	Steve Ellis, 1006 N Settlers Landing Rd., P.O. Box 69172, Hampton, VA 23669
SOUTH ATLANTIC AND GULF:		
Miami (1)	305-361-4257 FAX:305-361-4460	David Gloeckner, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149
Manteo	252-473-5734 x 233	David Hoke, 1021 Driftwood Dr. Manteo, NC 27954
Wilmington	910-796-7247 FAX: 910-350-2018	Scott Van Sant, NCSMF 127 Cardinal Dr. Wilmington, NC 28405
South Daytona, FL	386-310-7954 FAX: SAME	Claudia Dennis,1635 South Ridgewood Avenue, Suite 203 South Daytona,FL 32119-8425
Tequesta	561-575-4461	Michelle Gamby, 19100 S.E. Federal Highway, Tequesta, FL 33469
Miami (1)	305-361-4290 x 290 FAX: 305-361-4562 305-361-4565 FAX: 305-361-4460	Larry Beerkircher, 75 Virginia Beach Dr., Room 201 Miami, FL 33149 Pam Brown-Eyo, 75 Virginia Beach Dr., Miami, FL 33149-1003
Key West	305-294-1921 FAX: 305-294-1921	Eddie Pulido, 301 Simonton St. Rm. 208, (P.O. Box 269) Key West, FL 33040
Naples	239-514-3474 FAX: 239-514-3474	Tom Herbert, 5659 Strand Ct., Suite 107 Naples, FL 34110

General Administrative Information

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

NATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS OFFICES

CITY	TELEPHONE NUMBER	NAME AND ADDRESS
SOUTH ATLANTIC AND GULF:		
St. Petersburg	727-551-5793 (Roman) 727-551-5792 (Hourihan) FAX:727-824-5349	Renee Roman/ Michael Hourihan, 263 13th Avenue, South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Panama City	850-234-6541 850-234-6541, ext 224 FAX:850-234-3559	John Brusher / Albert Corey Gabel, 3500 Delwood Beach Rd., Albert Corey Gabel Panama City, FL 32401
Pascagoula	228-569-1611 FAX:228-769-9200	Charles Armstrong, 3209 Frederic St., Pascagoula, MS 39567 (For Mobile, AL contact Charles Armstrong)
New Orleans	504-875-4029 (Anderson) 985-791-8200 (Jensen) FAX: 504-242-0740	Debbie Anderson /Jill Jensen, 401 Whitney Avenue, Suite 203, Gretna, LA 70056
Houma	985-872-3321 FAX: 985-872-3321	Al LeFort, 425 Lafayette St., Rm. 128, Houma, LA 70360 (For Golden Meadow contact Al LeFort)
Lafayette	337-291-2117 FAX:337-291-2118	Beth Bourgeois, NOAA Fisheries Lab., 646 Cajundome Blvd., Room 220 Lafayette, LA 70506
Galveston	409-766-3515 FAX:409-766-3543	Keith Roberts, 4700 Avenue U, Bldg. 302, Room 217 Galveston, TX 77551
Freeport	979-233-4551 FAX: 979-233-4551	Michelle Padgett, 200 W. Second Street, Suite 213, P.O.Box 2533 Freeport, TX 77542
Brownsville/ Port Isabel	956-548-2516 FAX: 956-838-1478	James Patterson, 2001 Foust Rd. Brownsville, TX 78521
WEST COAST:		
Seattle (1)	206-526-6113 FAX:206-526-6736	Stephen Freese, Bldg. 1, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle, WA 98115-6349
ALASKA :		
Juneau (1)	907-586-7010 FAX:907-586-7465	Jennifer Mondragon, Federal Building, 4th Floor, 709 West 9th St., Room 401 P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99801
PACIFIC ISLANDS:		
Honolulu (1)	808-725-5660 FAX:808-725-5558	Kimberly Lowe, NMFS/PIFSC/FRMD/FMB, 1845 Wasp Blvd., Building: 176, Rm. 2239 Honolulu, HI 96818

(1) Regional or area headquarters for statistics offices.

(2) State partner coordinator.

The **NOAA Library and Information Network (NLIN)** provides information and research support to NOAA staff and the public through the NOAA Central Library located in Silver Spring MD, regional libraries in Miami and Seattle, and a number of field libraries located throughout the United States. The NLIN libraries have collections that cover the research topics of interest to NOAA—weather and atmospheric sciences, marine fisheries, oceanography, ocean engineering, nautical charting, marine ecology, marine resources, ecosystems, coastal studies, aeronomy, geodesy, cartography, mathematics, and statistics.

The **NOAA Library and Information Network Catalog (NOAALINC)** shows the physical and digital holdings of the NOAA Library System. Currently, NOAALINC contains records for more than 400,000 items with 5,000-10,000 added each year. Users can access the catalog at: <http://www.lib.noaa.gov/uhtbin/webcat>.

In addition to NOAALINC, the Library and Information Services Division retains digital copies of many NOAA and related agency publications in the **NOAA Institutional Repository**. Users may search the Repository at: <http://noaa.ntis.gov>. The Repository currently contains over 2000 records with links to nearly 5000 documents. The Repository recently moved from a pilot stage into an operational

product and will add many more records in the coming years.

NOAA personnel may contact their nearest NOAA Library or the NOAA Central Library and arrange to borrow materials not available online. Members of the general public should contact their local library to arrange for an interlibrary loan of physical materials. Restrictions apply on circulation of certain materials. Digital resources are for the most part, freely available without restriction.

NOAA and the public can contact reference staff of the NOAA Central Library via email, phone, fax, or chat.

Email: Library.Reference@noaa.gov.

Phone: 301-713-2600 x157 (between 9:00am and 4:00pm Monday through Friday)

Fax: 301-713-4599

Chat: NOAA staff and the public may also chat with a librarian between the hours of 1:00pm and 4:00pm EST Monday through Friday. Access this service at: <http://www.questionpoint.org/crs/servlet/org.oclc.admin>.

Fisheries Information System

OVERVIEW

The Fisheries Information System (FIS) program fosters partnerships among Fisheries Information Networks (FINs); NOAA Regional Offices, Science Centers, and Headquarters Offices; state agencies; and other fisheries organizations. These collaborations are helping to bridge knowledge gaps, improve information flow, and bring disparate parties together in communities of practice to address common fisheries data needs. FIS is based in the Office of Science and Technology.

Marine fisheries data collection, reporting, analysis and management are inherently regional functions. All regions and states, along with their respective fisheries, have unique data needs and management challenges. However, fishermen often participate in more than one regional fishery, such as off Alaska and the Pacific Coast. NMFS also often needs to assess the state of the national fisheries on behalf of Congress, the public, and others. In addition to meeting NMFS, fisheries management council, and state needs, there is a growing demand from other users for information that is more timely, accurate, interconnected, easily accessible and regionally comparable. This breeds the need for cross-regional strategies to capture and share best practices, spark innovation, integrate information and facilitate coordinated priority-setting.

The FIS program's cross-functional teams coordinate and support projects and initiatives that:

- Improve data collection processes and promote efficient data integration.
- Develop relationships among data providers, managers and users to explore, test and share ideas to address common issues and challenges.
- Demonstrate proof of concept and create on-the-ground realities to better collect, manage and disseminate data.

FIS-supported work identifies and promotes best practices and innovative approaches to managing each step in the data lifecycle – from evaluating how data is collected at its source, to ensuring QA/QC throughout aggregation and analysis, to enhancing the way information is managed and shared, to maximizing its value for marine

stewardship through broader, more efficient and more accessible dissemination.

The FIS program supports Professional Specialty Groups (PSGs) that are made up of subject matter experts drawn from NOAA fisheries and partner agencies. Their roles are to provide technical expertise and help guide priority-setting in each area. Currently, the PSGs cover Electronic Reporting, Quality Management, and Data Access and Dissemination.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Because each region of the country manages different types of fisheries in terms of species, fishing gear, participation, site access, habitat, and much more, each region's data collection and reporting program has evolved in distinct ways. While this regional customization is vital to effective management of fisheries, it can also make the process of conducting cross-regional queries and national comparisons of fisheries dependent data challenging. To balance national access with regional integrity, FIS is tasked with aggregating data from each regional system into a single portal. Following extensive, collaborative work with the Fisheries Information Networks (FINs) to overcome the many challenges inherent in this process, the next phase of the fisheries landings data reporting tool is nearing completion. It will allow public, searchable access to all national-level commercial and recreational landings data through a single query tool.

FIS and the FINs are now exploring opportunities to provide more detailed and granular information. Depending on the needs of users and the availability of the information, future versions of the reporting tool may contain other data beyond landings. Perhaps most important, however, is the fact that the model of FIS-FIN collaboration on the fisheries landings data reporting tool project opens the door for deeper working relationships and more extensive collaborations on other initiatives ranging from electronic technologies, to quality management, to data dissemination.

For more information about the FIS Program visit <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/fis/>

SEA GRANT EXTENSION PROGRAM

The Office of Sea Grant is a major program element of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The National Sea Grant College Program is funded jointly by the Federal Government and colleges or universities. Sea Grant's Extension Service offers a broad range of information concerning the Nation's fisheries to recreational and commercial fishermen, fish processors, and others. The following program leaders, listed alphabetically by State, can provide information on Sea Grant activities:

Dr. Nikola Garber (Acting)
**National Sea Grant Extension
National Sea Grant Office/NOAA**
1315 East-West Highway, Room 11716
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282
(301) 734-1088 FAX:(301) 713-1031
nikola.garber@noaa.gov

Karl Havens
**Florida Sea Grant
University of Florida**
Bldg 803 McCarty Drive
Box 110400
Gainesville, FL 32611-0400
(352) 392-5870 FAX:(352) 392-5113
khavens@ufl.edu

Fredrika Moser, Ph.D.
**Maryland Sea Grant
University of Maryland**
4321 Hartwick Road
College Park, MD 20740
(301) 405-7500 FAX: (301) 314-5780
moser@mdsg.umd.edu

Paula Cullenberg
Alaska Sea Grant
903 Koyukuk Drive, Suite 201
PO Box 755040 Fairbanks, AK 99775-5040
(907) 274-9692 FAX:(907) 474-7086
paula.cullenberg@alaska.edu

Mark Risse, Ph.D.
**Georgia Sea Grant
School of Marine Programs**
220 Marine Sciences Building
Athens, GA 30602-3636
(706) 542-5956
mrisse@uga.edu

Chryssostomos Chryssostomidis-Ph.D.
**MIT Sea Grant
Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
292 Main Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-9910
(617) 253-7131 FAX: (617) 258-5730
chrys@mit.edu

Dr. James E. Eckman, Director
**California Sea Grant
University of California, San Diego**
Scripps Institute-9500 Gilman Drive 0232
La Jolla, CA 92093-0232
(858) 534-4440 FAX: (858) 534-2231
jeckman@ucsd.edu

Darren Lerner, Ph.D.
**Hawaii Sea Grant
University of Hawaii**
2525 Correa Road, HIG 238
Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 956-7031 FAX: (808) 956-3014
lerner@hawaii.edu

Judith E. McDowell
**Woods Hole Sea Grant
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**
193 Oyster Pond Road, MS #2
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1525
(508) 289-2557 FAX: (508) 457-2172
jmcdowell@whoi.edu

Linda E. Duguay
Southern California Sea Grant Program
3454 Trousdale Parkway - CAS 200
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0153
(213) 821-1335 FAX: (213) 740-5936
duguay@usc.edu

Dr. Lee Yudin
**Univ. of Guam Sea Grant Program
UOG Station**
Mangilao, Guam 96923-1871
(671) 735-2146 FAX: (671) 734-4660
lyudin@uguam.uog.edu

James Diana
**Michigan Sea Grant
University of Michigan**
520 E. Liberty St., Suite 310
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-2210
(734) 763-5834 FAX: (734) 647-0768
jjmd@umich.edu

Sylvain De Guise, Director
**Connecticut Sea Grant
University of Connecticut**
1080 Shennecossett Road
Groton, CT 06340-6097
(860) 405-9138 FAX: (860) 405-9109
sylvain.deguise@uconn.edu

Brian K. Miller
**Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
University of Illinois**
1101 W. Peabody Drive
376 National Soybean
Research Center, MC-635
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-6444 FAX: (217) 333-8046
millerbk@uiuc.edu

Jesse Schomberg (Interim), Valerie Brady (Interim)
**Minnesota Sea Grant
University of Minnesota**
144 Chester Park
31 West College Street
Duluth, MN 55812-1445
(218) 726-8715 FAX: (218) 726-6556
jschombe@umn.edu
vbrady@umn.edu

Jim Falk, Acting
**Delaware Sea Grant
University of Delaware**
111 Robinson Hall
Newark, DE 19716-3501
(302) 645-4235 FAX: (302) 831-4389
jfalck@udel.edu

Robert R. Twilley, Ph.D.
**Louisiana Sea Grant Director
LA State University**
239 Sea Grant Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7507
(225) 578-6710 FAX: (225) 578-6331
rtwilley@lsu.edu

LaDon Swann, Ph.D.
Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium
703 East Beach Drive
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(228) 818-8843 FAX: (228) 818-8841
swanndl@auburn.edu

SEA GRANT EXTENSION PROGRAM

Jonathan Pennock, Ph.D.
New Hampshire Sea Grant
University of New Hampshire
24 Colovos Road
Durham, NH 03824-3505
(603) 862-2921 FAX: (603) 862-0241
jonathan.pennock@unh.edu

Paul Anderson
Maine Sea Grant
University of Maine
5784 York Complex
Orono, ME 04469-5784
(207) 581-1435 FAX: (207) 581-1426
panderson@maine.edu

Pamela Plotkin, Ph.D.
Texas Sea Grant
Texas A&M University
730 Lamar Street
4115 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-4115
(979) 845-3854 FAX: (979) 845-7525
plotkin@tamu.edu

Claire Antonucci
New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium
22 Magruder Road
Fort Hancock, NJ 07732
(732) 872-1300 ext. 22 FAX: (732) 872-9573
cantonucci@njseagrants.org

Shelby Walker, Ph.D.
Oregon Sea Grant Director
1600 SW Western Blvd. Suite 350
Corvallis, OR 97333
(541) 737-2714 FAX: (541) 737-7958
shelby.walker@oregonstate.edu

William "Breck" Bowden, Ph.D.
Lake Champlain Sea Grant Director
The University of Vermont
81 Carrigan Drive
Burlington, VT 05405-0088
(802) 656-4057 FAX: (802) 656-8683
Breck.Bowden@uvm.edu

William Wise, (Interim)
New York Sea Grant
State University of New York
121 Discovery Hall
Stony Brook, NY 11794-5001
(631) 632-6905 FAX: (631) 632-6917
william.wise@stonybrook.edu

Robert W. Light, Ph.D.
Pennsylvania Sea Grant
Pennsylvania State University
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 3
Erie, PA 16505
(814) 217-9018 FAX: (814) 217-9021
rwl2@psu.edu

Troy Hartley, Ph.D.
Virginia Sea Grant
Marine Advisory Services
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Gloucester Pt., VA 23062-1346
(804) 684-7248 FAX: (804) 684-7161
thartley@vims.edu

Susan White, Ph.D.
North Carolina Sea Grant, NC State Univ.
North Carolina State University
1575 Varsity Drive
Raleigh, NC 27695-8605
(919) 515-2455 FAX: (919) 515-7095
snwhite3@ncsu.edu

Ruperto Chapparo
Puerto Rico Sea Grant Director
University Puerto Rico
Mayaguez, PR 00681
(787) 832-3585 FAX: (787) 265-2880
ruperto.chaparro@upr.edu

Penelope D. Dalton
Washington Sea Grant Director
University of Washington
3716 Brooklyn Avenue, N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105-6716
(206) 543-6600 FAX: (206) 685-0380
pdalton@u.washington.edu

Christopher Winslow, Ph.D. (Interim)
Ohio Sea Grant Director
Ohio State University
1314 Kinnear Road, Room 100
Columbus, OH 43212-1194
(614) 292-8949 FAX: (614) 292-4364
winslow.33@osu.edu

Dennis Nixon
Rhode Island Sea Grant Director
University of Rhode Island
Coastal Institute Room 34
Graduate School of Oceanography
Narragansett, RI 02882
(401) 874-6802 FAX: N/A
dnixon@uri.edu

Jim Hurley, Ph.D.
Wisconsin Sea Grant Director
University of Wisconsin, Madison
1975 Willow Drive
Madison, WI 53706-1177
(608) 262-0905 FAX: (608) 262-0591
hurley@aquawisc.edu

M. Richard DeVoe
South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium
287 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 727-2078 FAX: (843) 727-2080
Rick.Devoe@scseagrants.org

NATIONAL SEA GRANT LIBRARY

Clearinghouse for all Sea Grant Publications
Pell Marine Science Library, University of Rhode Island - Bay Campus
Narragansett, RI 02882
PHONE: 401-874-6114 -- nsgl@gso.uri.edu

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Federal Inspection Marks for Fishery Products

SEAFOOD INSPECTION PROGRAM. NOAA oversees fisheries management in the United States. Under authority of the 1946 Agricultural Marketing Act, the NOAA Seafood Inspection Program provides inspection services for fish, shellfish, and fishery products to the industry. The NOAA Seafood Inspection Program is often referred to as the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDC) Seafood Inspection Program and uses marks and documents bearing the USDC moniker. The NOAA Seafood Inspection Program offers a variety of services which assure compliance with all applicable food regulations. The Program offers sanitation inspection as well as system and process auditing in facilities, on vessels, or other processing establishments in order to be designated as official establishments. Product quality evaluation, grading and certification services are available on a product lot basis. Certain products may be eligible to bear official marks, such as the U.S. Grade A, Processed Under Federal Inspection (PUFI) and Lot Inspection. All edible product forms ranging from whole fish to formulated products, as well as fish meal products used for animal foods, are eligible for inspection and certification. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends that USDC inspected fishery products be purchased for its food feeding programs. The **USDC APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS** provides a listing of products and participants who contract with USDC.

USERS OF INSPECTION SERVICES. The users of the voluntary seafood inspection service include vessel owners, processors, distributors, brokers, retailers, food service operators, exporters, importers, and those who have a financial interest in buying and selling seafood products. These services can be provided nationwide, in U.S. territories, and in foreign countries. The program is a competent authority within the U.S. Government for issuance of health certificates for export of fish and fishery products to foreign countries. The official government forms and certificates issued by USDC inspectors are legal documents recognized in any U.S. court.

USDC INSPECTION MARKS. These marks designate the level and the type of inspection performed by the federal inspector. The marks can be used in advertising and labeling under the guidelines provided by the Seafood Inspection Program and in accordance with federal and state regulations regarding advertising and labeling. Products bearing the USDC official marks have been certified as being safe, wholesome, and properly labeled.

US GRADE A MARK. The U.S. GRADE A mark signifies that a product has been processed under federal inspection in a sanitarily approved facility and meets the established level of quality of an existing U.S. grade standard. The U.S. Grade A mark indicates that the product is of high quality, uniform in size, practically free from blemishes and defects, in excellent condition and possessing good flavor and odor.

PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION MARK. The PUFI mark or statement signifies that the product is certified to be safe, wholesome and properly labeled, conforms to quality and other criteria in the approved specification, and has been officially inspected in a participating establishment under Federal inspection.

LOT INSPECTED MARK. The USDC Lot Inspected mark identifies products that were officially sampled and inspected to conform to an approved specification or criteria. This mark may be used on retail packages and packaging provided the label and specification are approved.



RETAIL MARK. Participants qualify to utilize the Retail Mark by contracting for sanitation services and associated product evaluation. Use of the retail mark gives retail firms the opportunity to advertise on banners, logos, and/or menus that their facility is recognized by the USDC for proper sanitation and handling of fishery products.

USDC HACCP MARK. The USDC HACCP-based service is available to all interested parties on a fee-for-service basis. Label approval, record keeping and analytical testing are program requirements. An industry USDC-certified employee trained in HACCP principles is also required for each facility/site in the program. Compliance ratings determine frequency of official visits. Benefits to participants include increased controls through a more scientific approach, use of established marks, increased efficiency of federal inspection personnel, and enhanced consumer confidence. The USDC has made available a HACCP mark and a "banner" to distinguish products that have been produced under the HACCP-based program. The HACCP mark may be used alone or in conjunction with existing grade marks to distinguish that the product was produced under the HACCP Quality Management Program. Participants receive the marketing benefits of using the HACCP mark on brochures, banners, and company labels.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA/NMFS
Seafood Inspection Program - F/SI
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 427-8300 (FAX: 713-1081)
Email: nmfs.seafood.services@noaa.gov
Website: www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov