

# LINKAGES

## Coordination Highlights of the NORTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER

*July 1986*

### Estuarine Programs

1. Documentation of NEFC projects for the EPA-funded National Estuarine Program was provided to the NOAA Estuarine Programs Office (EPO) to amend the Interagency Agreement between NOAA and EPA. The documentation included budget summaries, proposals, and quality-assurance plans for projects in Long Island Sound and Narragansett Bay. NEFC documentation was combined with information from other NOAA components for delivery to EPA on 22 July.
2. In a related matter, NMFS has designated NOAA representatives to the EPA-funded National Estuarine Program:

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<u>Estuary</u>	<u>Management Committee</u>	<u>Technical Advisory Committee</u>
Buzzards Bay	Thomas Bigford (NER) Bruce Higgins (NER/NEFC) (alternate)	Marvin Grosslein (NEFC) Robert Murchelano (NEFC) (alternate)
Narragansett Bay	Thomas Bigford (NER) Carolyn Griswold (NEFC) (alternate)	Kenneth Sherman (NEFC) Lawrence Buckley (NEFC) (alternate)
Long Island Sound	Robert Lippson (NER) Michael Ludwig (NER) (alternate)	Anthony Calabrese (NEFC) Frederick Thurberg (NEFC) (alternate)
Chesapeake Bay	James Thomas (EPO) Robert Lippson (NER) (alternate)	Aaron Rosenfield (NEFC) Robert Lippson (NER) (alternate)

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The Management Committee representative will serve as the official NOAA spokesperson for the designated estuary and will be responsible for summaries of major issues of importance to NOAA, and periodic progress reports to the EPO.

For further information contact Helen Mustafa (617/548-5123, x244).

Fisheries Management

1. 8-9 July. Mid-Atlantic Council meeting in Baltimore MD. Main issues discussed related to development of a strategy for Amendment #7 to the Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and coordination of Center/Council staff efforts regarding development of the Summer Flounder FMP.
2. 17 July. The Secretary partially approved the New England Council's Northeast Multispecies FMP.
3. 29-30 July. New England Council meeting at Alton Jones Campus, University of Rhode Island. Primary topics discussed concerned the partial approval of Northeast Multispecies FMP and sea scallops.
4. Considerable time was spent during the month attempting to define the types and flow of scientific information between the Center and Mid-Atlantic Council for development of the Summer Flounder FMP.

For further information contact Ed Bowman (617/548-5123, x249).

Marine Recreational Fisheries

1. A marine recreational fisheries (MRF) mailing list has been revised and coded, and is expected to be entered on the computer in September. This list will permit the distribution of material to selected locations (township) and to individuals and groups with a particular interest or involvement in MRF. Of the more than 1,000 names on the list, the approximate numbers presently identified by interest are:

Party/charter boat operator	179
Fisherman organization	112
Local leader/spokesman	78
Sportswriter/columnist	39
Education/extension	26
Major sports center	22

Others presently on the list may fall into one of the above categories and will be so coded as they become known.

2. The MRF Coordinator participated for two days aboard the R/V GLORIA MICHELLE in a cruise to Stellwagen Bank relative to the study of ghost gill nets. Although the controversy relative to gill nets has quieted with the current reduced level of effort, the essentially unrestricted use of this gear continues to be a major issue among recreational fishing interests at both the regional and national levels.
3. In mid-July, the tuna seiner WHITE DOVE landed 340,000 pounds of bluefish at Gloucester. The entire catch reportedly was taken in one set and during a routine passage from south to north in preparation for the bluefin season. The operation reportedly was highly profitable to the

vessel and all of the fish have been processed for shipment to the Orient. There has been almost no reaction from recreational fishing interests. The mood apparently is one of waiting to see whether the product is well received at the market, which could result in additional orders and increased effort, or whether this is another isolated incident.

4. The MRF Coordinator provided F/NER5 a review of industry interest in and application of the results of a 1984 Saltonstall/Kennedy MRF project to assist party and charter boat operators to develop marketing and promotion programs. The information has been forwarded to F/PP as an example of a highly successful application of S/K funds. Between 375-400 requests have been received for copies of the project report and the project has been the basis of several articles in leading trade magazines and seminars conducted by Sea Grant Advisory Service agents at a number of ports.
5. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is establishing an Interstate Artificial Reef Committee (unfunded) to promote information exchange and technology transfer among the states. This is in response to increasing interest and activity by the states in artificial reef programs. There also is increasing interest among recreational fishermen, including those in the northern states, in expanding the use of artificial reefs to enhance fishing opportunities. The MRF Coordinator has been named as the Northeast representative to the Committee.
6. The catch of giant bluefin tuna in the general category is running approximately 130 tons behind the catch at this time in 1984 and 1985. This is generating hopes among rod and reel fishermen that the quota will hold up through October. Bluefin are more easily taken on lures during late September and October, and bring a higher price due to their increased fat content. However, one week of hot fishing in August easily could wipe out the current lag in the catch rate.

For further information contact Tom Morrissey (617/548-5123, x236).

#### Remote Sensing

The Northeast Area Remote Sensing System (NEARSS) Association, of which NEFC is a member, was recently endorsed by the New England Governors' Conference, Inc., which concluded that "the NEARSS Association provides a valuable and constructive service to the New England region by promoting and conducting remote sensing research and education. New England is very much in need of an efficient and coordinated system for collecting, disseminating, and utilizing remotely sensed data and products..... NEARSS is helping the region to achieve these goals."

For further information contact Helen Mustafa (617/548-5123, x244).

#### Sea Grant

A tentative agenda for the NMFS/Sea Grant Retreat in the Northeast was developed and provided to Sea Grant Directors and NMFS (NEC and NER) staff for information and comment. The agenda was discussed at the recent meeting of Sea Grant Directors in South Carolina.

For further information contact Helen Mustafa (617/548-5123, x244).

### US/USSR Cooperative Research

A meeting took place in Moscow, 18-24 June 1986, to discuss and finalize details in regard to the publication of a volume based on 20 years of US/USSR fisheries research in the Northwest Atlantic. NEFC participants at the meeting were Richard Hennemuth, Frank Almeida, Edward Cohen, David Mountain, and Helen Mustafa. The volume will contain five chapters: (1) Physical Oceanography, (2) Nutrient Dynamics and Phytoplankton, (3) Zooplankton, (4) Fisheries Ecology, and (5) The Use of Scientific Information in the Practice of Conservation and Management. There will also be an Introduction, and an Appendix including lists of cruises, collected data, and published papers based on joint cruises. Edward Cohen was designated to serve as the US editor of the volume, in place of Robert L. Edwards who has retired from federal service.

For further information contact Helen Mustafa (617/548-5123, x244).

### Vessel Operations

1. The R/V DELAWARE II successfully completed Part II of the Clam-Ocean Quahog Survey.
2. Meetings were held with Center and Polish representatives to discuss possible research projects between NEFC, GRYF, and MIR in 1987.
3. The Polish R/V WIECZNO arrived at Woods Hole to conduct the Apex Predator Survey. The area of study will be the shelf and slope waters along the US east coast from Georges Bank to Miami, Florida, and the Gulf Stream from Miami to an area approximately 300 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

For further information contact H.C. Boyar (617/548-5123, x235).

# LINKAGES

## Coordination Highlights of the NORTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER

*August 1986*

### Aquaculture

The future of Connecticut's oyster industry is dependent upon the availability of seed oysters. In an effort to increase oyster production, a state-industry pilot project was initiated in July to begin restoration of the Bridgeport-Stratford State natural oyster beds.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture Division, purchased 20,000 bushels of clean oyster shell (clutch) from Tallmadge Brothers, Inc., of South Norwalk, CT. This shell was planted with industry assistance, providing boat time and manpower. An additional 8,500 bushels of shell were donated and planted by Tallmadge Brothers for the State restoration program. The Aquaculture Division workboat YANKEE OYSTER moved additional loads of shell from offshore areas onto the nearshore natural beds.

Using techniques developed at the Milford Laboratory in the 1950s to monitor the annual set of oyster spat, State personnel have determined that setting started during the period 31 July - 6 August, at seven stations in the Bridgeport-Milford-New Haven area, with counts between 20-300 spat per single oyster shell. Depending on survival rates into this fall, counts on that order could result in a commercial level of recruitment for 1986 that would reach market size in about three years.

For further information contact Jim Hanks (203/783-4200)

### Estuarine Programs

1. Cooperative agreements for the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Program have been amended to continue research activities for an additional year. These agreements are between NEFC and Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Penn State University. As of the end of August, all but the NEFC/DC agreement have cleared EASC.

- 1.1. The NEFC/Maryland agreement includes improving the Maryland data base management system for fisheries-related information, determining the relative abundance and distribution of four species (white perch, yellow perch, weakfish, and blue crab) in Maryland waters of the Bay, collecting population parameter data for these species, and examining environmental variables that may be related to their year class strength. Migratory patterns of white and yellow perch will also be

examined. The Maryland blue crab fishery will be examined in detail, and will involve determining catch-per-unit-effort indices, analyzing removals by the fishery, estimation of biological variables that are important in the population dynamics process, and analyzing the extensive data base on blue crabs assembled by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

- 1.2. Activities under the NEFC/VA agreement include: (1) improving the data management system for Virginia's fishery statistics; (2) developing methodologies for estimation of white perch, summer flounder, and spot abundance, and for determining causes of fluctuations in their year class strength; (3) estimating the spawning stock size of blue crab in Virginia waters; (4) evaluating genetic strain differences in Virginia populations of striped bass, blue crab, and oyster; and (5) assuming the lead role in developing a status of stock knowledge report on important species of finfish and shellfish in the Chesapeake Bay.
- 1.3. The NEFC/DC agreement is for research activities related to the development of a comprehensive fisheries sampling program for the District. Included in the project will be estimation of the relative abundance of juvenile and adult white perch, alosids (river herring and shad), and striped bass. The seasonal occurrence, distribution, and age structure of the adult stage of these species will be examined, and efficiencies of various gear types for sampling juvenile stages will be compared.
- 1.4. The NEFC/PSU agreement is in two parts. The first part includes an evaluation of time series analysis techniques that are available or could be developed to statistically determine the influences of fishing, natural mortality, and pollution-related mortality on trends in population abundance. Recommendations will be forthcoming as to the technique or set of techniques that are most suitable for analyzing the Chesapeake data bases. The second part involves close cooperation among PSU, MD, and VA in the development of statistically sound programs for the collection of fishery catch and effort data in the two states.

For further information contact Helen Mustafa (617/548-5123, x244)

#### Fisheries Management

1. Items of interest from the 20-21 August meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Council:
  - 1.1. The rate of "on-deck" mortality of discarded summer flounder may be a question asked of NEFC scientists by Council staff relative to the selection of an appropriate mesh size for that species.
  - 1.2. The Council will be asking how the NEFC is addressing specific data needs as specified in Amendment #2 of the Squid-Mackerel-Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

- 1.3. Work on the Council's FMP for striped bass will be suspended for the time being.
- 1.4. Dr. Bill Hargis, Chairman of the "Blue Ribbon Panel" assembled by Administrator Calio to review the activities of the Councils and NMFS, urged the Council to take the Panel's NOAA Fishery Management Study seriously -- "it will be used!"
2. The major portion of August has been dominated by communication and coordination activities dealing with summer flounder, the WIECZNO apex predators cruise, fishery data collection, swordfish, river herring, and silver hake and the USSR joint venture.

For further information contact Ed Bowman (617/548-5123, x249)

#### Marine Recreational Fisheries

Bluefin tuna are reported to be abundant in the area from Cape Cod to Jeffries Ledge, and the price is rapidly climbing past \$8 per pound. This is leading to a great deal of frustration for people who fish for the tuna, since weather conditions have been poor this season. As of August 25, the catch of giant bluefin in the General category is about 165 short tons below the catch at the same time last year. Expectations are that a few days in a row of good weather will bring a bonanza, with a price of about \$10 per pound at the dock.

For further information contact Tom Morrissey (617/548-5123, x236)

#### Remote Sensing

1. The US Coast Guard International Ice Patrol, based at Avery Point, CT, is the 16th institution to become a member of the Northeast Area Remote Sensing System (NEARSS) Association.
2. A strategy for remote sensing of wetlands and estuaries was the topic of discussion at the 15 August meeting of the NEARSS Association. Members of the Association (including NEFC) are planning to develop a steering document for remote sensing activities in the Northeast US.

For further information contact Helen Mustafa (617/548-5123, x244)

#### Vessel Operations

1. The Polish research vessel WIECZNO made a port call at Morehead City, NC, 21-23 August, during the Atlantic coast survey of apex predators being conducted in cooperation with NEFC and the Southeast Fisheries Center (SEFC). The next port call will be in Miami, FL, on 5 September.
2. Meetings are being held between NEFC and NOS concerning the removal of the CAMAC system from the ALBATROSS IV, and NEFC's role in NOAA's SEAS system aboard the ALBATROSS IV and DELAWARE II. The CAMAC system was installed several years ago to enter data on hydrological conditions (temperature,

salinity, speed of ship, etc.) directly onto computer files. The SEAS system allows NOS to log weather conditions and water column temperature measurements on the computer. NOS has requested assistance from NEFC sea-going scientists in operating the SEAS system.

3. Options are being investigated to recover four sea days that were lost during the recent ALBATROSS IV scallop survey.
4. Cruise results are now available for ALIV 86-03, DEII 86-04, DEII 86-05, and the ADMIRAL ARCIZEWSKI and LUTJAN 86-01 (I-IV). Cruise instructions are now available for ALIV 86-06, DEII 86-06, DEII 86-07 (I-II), and DEII 87-01 (I-III).

For further information contact H.C. Boyar (617/548-5123, x235)

Distribution:

NEFC Staff  
R. Smolowitz (10)  
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J. Angelovic

# LINKAGES

## Coordination Highlights of the NORTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER

*September 1986*

### Estuarine Programs

1. The NOAA-EPA Interagency Agreement for joint research in connection with the National Estuarine Program has been extended for another year. NEFC research under the extension to the agreement includes: (1) continuation of research on the relationship of contamination to reproductive success of winter flounder and hard clam in Long Island Sound; (2) growth and biochemical characteristics of juvenile winter flounder from different areas of Narragansett Bay; and (3) stock assessment research in Long Island Sound and Narragansett Bay.
2. Recently, the Director of NOAA's Estuarine Programs Office held two meetings in the northeast with representatives of NOAA units conducting research in Long Island Sound, Narragansett Bay, and Buzzards Bay. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the responsibilities of the new NOAA representatives assigned to these estuaries (see July LINKAGES) and begin development of regional research initiatives. The meetings were attended by individuals from NEFC, the NMFS Regional Office, NOAA's Ocean Assessments Division, and the Estuarine Programs Office.

For further information contact Helen Mustafa (617/548-5123, x244)

### Fisheries Management

1. The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) held a one day meeting on 9 September. The report to the meeting from NEFC included the sea scallop survey, the winter flounder workshop planned for December, progress of the large pelagics cruise aboard the Polish vessel WIECZNO, and the third Stock Assessment Workshop being held in Woods Hole 8-12 September.
2. Dave Borden (RI) and Tony Verga (MA) were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, of the NEFMC for the 1986-1987 term of office.
3. On 29 September, the NEFMC's Demersal Finfish Committee will meet in Danvers, MA. The significance of this meeting is that the members of the "Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan Technical Monitoring Group" have been requested to attend. Dr. Tim Smith from NEFC has been appointed to the Group and will attend the meeting.
4. The NEFMC staff currently is preparing the Atlantic Salmon Fishery Management Plan and expects to have a draft document available for Council

consideration at the December NEFMC meeting.

5. The Mid-Atlantic Council will meet 30 September - 2 October in Islip, NY. High on the agenda will be: (1) discussions and action on the 1987 surf clam and ocean quahog quotas; (2) action on the Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish quotas for 1987; and, (3) discussion regarding summer flounder.

For further information contact Ed Bowman (617/548-5123, x249)

#### Sea Grant

1. The agenda for the first NMFS-Sea Grant retreat in the northeast, scheduled for 29-31 October, 1986, has been finalized and distributed. Items on the agenda include discussions of the NMFS mission and information needs in the northeast, NEFC's research direction and priorities, fisheries-related programs at the Sea Grant institutions from Virginia to Maine and the Great Lakes, research issues, technology issues, advisory and information transfer issues, and institutional issues. William Gordon, Special Assistant to the NOAA Administrator, and Dr. Ned Ostenso, Director of the Office of Sea Grant and Extramural Programs, are scheduled to speak in the opening session.
2. About 20 proposals on fisheries-related research were reviewed by NEFC scientists during September for three Sea Grant College Programs: Virginia, New Hampshire, and Washington.

For further information contact Helen Mustafa (617/548-5123, x244)

#### Vessel Operations

1. WIECZNO cruise 86-01 (I-III), Survey of Apex Predators - Sharks and Swordfish, was completed. The vessel fished the waters of the Northwest Atlantic from southern New England to central Florida from 31 July - 17 September. Port calls were made at Woods Hole, MA, Morehead City, NC, and Miami, FL. The depths in which the total of 120 longline sets were made ranged from 19-1,000 meters. A total of 678 fish (32 species) were obtained, 424 of which were tagged and released.
2. The DELAWARE II completed cruise 86-07 (I-II), MARMAP I - Ocean Pulse, Ichthyoplankton-Zooplankton, Oceanographic and Benthic Sampling Survey. Work was conducted in the waters from Cape Hatteras to coastal Nova Scotia. The majority of the pre-selected stations were completed despite three days "lost" because of adverse weather and mechanical problems.

For further information contact H.C. Boyar (617/548-5123, x235)

#### Distribution:

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# LINKAGES

## Coordination Highlights of the NORTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER

*October 1986*

### Aquaculture

In an attempt to restore the bay scallop fishery of eastern Long Island, some 800,000 hatchery produced seed scallops will be planted in Orient Harbor this month. If this experimental planting is successful for survival and growth, this stock will be mature enough to spawn next spring. Hopefully, the spawning will reseed the areas depleted of scallops from ecological conditions associated with the brown algal blooms that occurred in 1985 and 1986. While the scallop population might be expected to rebuild itself naturally over a period of time, it could take up to ten years to do so. The current transplant efforts, if successful, would provide a fishable stock by the fall of 1988 if no brown algal blooms occur in the next two years. Milford Laboratory provided the scallops for spawning to the shellfish hatchery in Maine, which produced the seed scallops and advised on techniques for live shipment to Long Island. Similar transplant programs scheduled by state and county groups will add about 1.6 million more seed scallops into eastern Long Island waters this fall. This applied aquaculture effort represents a large-scale field experiment that could revitalize a shellfishery currently defunct at a loss of about \$2 million annually to the baymen of Long Island.

Contact: Jim Hanks (203/783-4200)

### Estuarine Programs

On 21 October 1986, Virginia Tippie, Director of NOAA's Estuarine Programs Office (EPO), convened a regional meeting to further discuss and expand potential NOAA initiatives for northeast estuaries (see September issue of LINKAGES). In addition to individuals from the EPO, participants included representatives of the Center and NMFS Regional Office involved in the Long Island Sound, Narragansett Bay, and Buzzards Bay activities; a representative from the Southeast Fisheries Center, and a representative from NOAA/NESDIS.

Contact: Helen Mustafa (617/548-5123, x244)

## Fisheries Management

1. The Mid-Atlantic Council met in Ronkonkoma, NY, during 30 September - 2 October. Discussions of interest to the Center included: (1) the 1987 surf clam/ocean quahog quota, (2) the continuation of the "Shark Panel of Experts," (3) Atlantic mackerel/squid/butterfish catch specifications for 1987, (4) the status of joint ventures and their linkage to river herring bycatch, and (5) the need and necessity for the Region and Center to report to the Council on the status of river herring bycatch with regards to the 37° 30' north latitude line.

2. The New England Council met on Nantucket 21-22 October. Discussions of interest to the Center included: (1) 1987 catch specifications for Atlantic mackerel/squid/butterfish (different than the specifications recommended by the New England Council), (2) 1987 joint venture recommendations (different than the New England Council's), (3) the Acting Regional Director's decision to recommend staying with a 30 meat count average for sea scallops rather than going to a 35 count to accommodate industry's concerns over the meat weight loss during spawning (November - April), and (4) the Council's position that all tunas should come under the MFCMA.

Contact: Ed Bowman (617/548-5123, x249)

## Marine Recreational Fisheries

1. The Sport Fishing Institute (SFI) has received a Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) grant to conduct an analysis of the economic impact of the marine recreational fishery. The study essentially will update a similar analysis conducted by the SFI on the economic activity associated with marine recreational fishing in 1980. SFI would like to be made aware of any updated surveys or studies that document the participation, expenditures, or economic impact of marine recreational fishing.

2. Giant Atlantic bluefin tuna apparently were distributed well offshore during the height of the 1986 season, and were unavailable to anglers. During late August - early September, large schools of giants were reported to be located near the head of Veatch Canyon and about 60 miles east of Platts Bank. Experienced spotter pilots reported this offshore distribution to be highly unusual.

Contact: Tom Morrissey (617/548-5123, x236)

## Sea Grant

More than 60 people attended the first NMFS-Sea Grant Retreat in the Northeast, 29-31 October. Participants had an opportunity to become better informed of each other's activities and concerns. Participants agreed on six panels to carry out activities during the year and report at the next annual meeting.

1. Technology Transfer/Extension  
Co-Chairs: Andrew Manus, DE Sea Grant  
Jon Gibson, NEFC
2. Research Coordination and Data/Information Exchange  
Co-Chairs: Richard Jarman, MD Sea Grant  
John Boreman, NEFC
3. Habitat Evaluation and Conservation  
Co-Chairs: Charles E. Herdendorf, OH Sea Grant  
Bruce Higgins, NER/NEFC
4. Recreational Fisheries  
Co-Chairs: Brian Doyle, ME/NH Sea Grant  
Tom Morrissey, NER/NEFC
5. Fisheries Development and Seafood Utilization  
Co-Chairs: George Flick, VA Sea Grant  
Edward MacCleod, NER
6. Great Lakes Initiative  
Co-Chairs: Donald McNaught, MN Sea Grant  
Robert Lippson, NER

Frank Grice (NER) and William Rickards (VA Sea Grant) were given the responsibility to oversee the panels and develop the next annual meeting.

Contact: Helen Mustafa (617/548-5123, x244)

## Vessel Operations

The DELAWARE II completed the Mid-Atlantic - Southern New England portion of the Autumn Bottom Trawl Survey as a substitute for the ALBATROSS IV, which was undergoing dockside repair. Once back on line, the ALBATROSS IV completed the Georges Bank portion of the survey and currently is trawling in the waters of the Gulf of Maine and coastal Nova Scotia. The survey will be completed on 7 November. While the ALBATROSS IV trawled on Georges Bank, the DELAWARE II fished alongside for data on fishing power.

Contact: H.C. Boyar (617/548-5123, x235)

# LINKAGES

## Coordination Highlights of the NORTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER

*November 1986*

### Fisheries Management

The 18-19 November 1986 meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Council was held in Virginia Beach, VA. Issues discussed included: (1) results of the River Herring Workshop held in Woods Hole, MA, on 3-4 November; (2) review and approval (disapproval) of joint venture applications for Atlantic mackerel and squid; (3) reopening of the areas closed to surf clam fishing off Atlantic City, NJ, and Chincoteague, VA; (4) formation of the Council's Habitat Committee; and (5) approval of the Northeast Fisheries Center's proposal to conduct joint research with Poland on Atlantic mackerel (see VESSEL OPERATIONS), exchanging 5,000 mt of mackerel for 90 days of research vessel time using the R/V WIECZNO.

Contact: Ed Bowman (617/548-5123, x249)

### Marine Recreational Fisheries

The United Sport Fisherman (USF) is a new national organization that has been formed to provide a forum in which recreational fishing interest groups can develop a consensus and plan of action on issues of importance to the marine recreational fishing community. The purpose of USF is to promote communications and unified industry representation to the federal government. The first meeting of the USF, held this month in Florida, included an intensive workshop session devoted to the identification of major issues. Participants at the meeting included national industry leaders, representatives of major marine angling groups and media, and top personnel from NOAA and NMFS.

Contact: Tom Morrissey (617/548-5123, x236)

## Vessel Operations

1. The Northeast Fisheries Center hosted the 1986 NMFS National Vessel Committee Meeting, held during November in Woods Hole. Representatives from the other three fisheries centers and NMFS Headquarters attended the two-day session. Senior representatives from NOAA's Atlantic Marine Center and Office of Marine Operations also participated in some of the discussions. The major topic of the meeting was the proposed design for the new 180-ft research vessels to be constructed for all the centers. A secondary topic was the committee's recommendations for training of NOAA Corps Officers to "take over" fisheries vessels.
2. The ALBATROSS IV completed parts II and III of the Autumn Bottom Trawl Survey; the entire survey was completed as scheduled. The DELAWARE II completed parts I and II of the Autumn MARMAP I Survey.
3. The protocol for joint mackerel research among GRYF and MIR (Poland) and NEFC was completed and signed by the Center Director. The document was submitted to GRYF and MIR for review and signature.

Contact: H.C. Boyar (617/548-5123, x235)

# LINKAGES

## Coordination Highlights of the NORTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER

*December 1986*

### Estuarine Programs

1. A draft of the NOAA Estuarine Plan -- A Framework of Action has been recently distributed by the NOAA Estuarine Programs Office for comment. The draft addresses research needs, information/assessment needs, and management needs.

2. The most recent draft (15 Dec 86) of the Northeast Fisheries Center Inshore Research Plan -- Part I: General Framework has been distributed within NMFS, and to the major cooperators outside of NMFS, for comments before the Plan is finalized and published. The Plan includes an outline of major research tasks and products, a discussion of Center's role in inshore waters, a recommended approach to inshore research activities, a discussion of how the Center will cooperate with other researchers within and outside NOAA, and recommendations for Plan implementation. All Division, Staff, Branch, and Investigations Chiefs within the Center should have received a copy. Comments are due to RPAC by 6 February 1987.

Contact: Helen Mustafa (617/548-5123, x244)

### Fisheries Management

The 2-3 December 1986 meeting of the New England Fishery Management Council included discussions on the following topics of interest to the Center: (1) the proposed 1987 mackerel research with Poland; (2) proposed changes to the Lobster Fishery Management Plan; (3) the Center's Stock Assessment Workshops -- accomplishments, scheduling, and terms of reference; (4) management and enforcement for sea scallops; (5) results of the 3-year gillnet study conducted by the Center in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the University of Connecticut; and (6) a review of what needs to be done and when with the Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. A detailed report of the meeting is available to those having an interest in any of these topics.

Contact: Ed Bowman (617/548-5123, x249)

## Habitat Conservation

1. Texaco Canada Resources, Ltd. is proceeding with plans to drill a couple of exploratory wells on the Northeast Peak of Georges Bank in 1987. Nova Scotian fishermen voiced opposition to Texaco's plans in recent public hearings, despite assurances by Texaco that fishermen would be compensated should an accident occur. A fishermen's union has circulated a petition calling on Ottawa to declare Georges Bank a marine sanctuary and off limits to exploratory drilling. The Canadian Fisheries Minister has pledged that the Georges Bank fishery will remain top priority when any exploration proposal is reviewed. The US Department of State is chairing an inter-agency group concerned with these plans.

2. Meanwhile, the US Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service has issued a "Call for Information" for North Atlantic Lease Sale 96, an area including the US portion of Georges Bank and the adjacent continental shelf-slope area from Alvin Canyon eastward to Nygren Canyon. The States of Maine and Massachusetts, in cooperation with the New England Fisheries Management Council, have requested information from the Center regarding areas on Georges Bank and along the southern edge of the Bank that are heavily fished.

Contact: Bruce Higgins (617/548-5123, x340)

## Marine Recreational Fisheries

Plans are being made for the Northeast Fisheries Center and NMFS Northeast Region to jointly participate at the SPORTSMAN SHOW in Salisbury, Maryland, 13-15 March 1987. The Center/Region MRF Coordination Committee has prepared a 10-ft x 20-ft exhibit for use at such shows. Any contributions of T.V. tapes, reports, or other informative materials (especially for handing out) would be greatly appreciated by the Committee.

Contact: Tom Morrissey (617/548-5123, x236)

## Remote Sensing

The NEARSS Association met on 4 December 1986 at the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography. Among the items discussed were: (1) NEARSS Business Plan, (2) status of the system, (3) remote sensing of wetlands and estuaries in the northeast, and (4) activities of the Satellite Oceanographic Data Systems Scientific Working Group.

Contact: Helen Mustafa (617/548-5123, x244)

## Vessel Operations

1. The ALBATROSS IV completed a Gear Testing Cruise and the DELAWARE II completed the third (and final) leg of MARMAP I: Ichthyoplankton-Zooplankton and Oceanographic Survey.

2. The schedules for the ADMIRAL ARCISZEWSKI and KULBIN (two Polish vessels conducting joint Atlantic mackerel fishery research with the Center) are being finalized. A draft of the cruise instructions for both vessels was prepared for review by Branch and Investigation Chiefs of the Fishery Ecology Division.

Contact: H.C. Boyar (617/548-5123, x235)