

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



January 1992

Research Planning and Coordination Staff

Dr. George D. Grice is new Chief of RPAC. Dr. Grice comes to the NEFSC from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution where he recently served as associate director for scientific operations and senior scientist.

Fisheries Management

1. The Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council met in Philadelphia, 7-9 January, 1992. At the meeting, the Council voted to request NMFS to make certain changes in the wording of the emergency regulations on mesh size for summer flounder to correct elements of the regulations which, a) prevent vessels from carrying small mesh needed for making repairs to their nets and b) prevent vessels with the small mesh exemption from transiting the summer flounder protection area with their catch. The Council voted also to support extension of the current emergency regulations for summer flounder an additional 90 days, pending implementation of amendment 2 to the FMP.

In other actions, the Council:

- voted to work jointly with the New England Council to review the status of the monkfish fishery and to jointly develop an FMP if one is needed;
- voted to recommend to NMFS that the fishery for Stimpson clam in New England be managed under the Mid-Atlantic Council's Surf Clam & Ocean Quahog FMP;
- voted to form an Advisory Panel to review and keep the Council informed of the fishery for surf clam and ocean quahog in relation to provisions of Amendment 8 to the FMP; and,
- discussed possible formation of species committees to advise the Chairman on matters relating to ICCAT

(International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas).

Contact: Tom Morrissey
(508) 548-5123, x236

2. The New England Fishery Management Council met in a one-day session on 15 January 1992 in Danvers, Massachusetts.

Sea Scallops -- NMFS Regional Director, Richard B. Roe considered NEFMC recommendation to increase the scallop meat count from 30 to 33 counts per pound with a 10 percent tolerance. Industry leaders expressed their support of this measure.

Mr. Roe, with the consent of the NEFMC, may adjust the meat count up to 5 meats per pound if more than 50 percent of the stock is below the average meat count. According to the latest NMFS Atlantic sea scallop estimates, 60 percent of the total stock is smaller than 30 meats per pound.

The NEFMC and industry have been advised subsequently that between 1 February 1992 and 30 June 1992, the meat count standard will be increased to 33 meats per pound. On 1 July 1992, the count will revert back to 30 meats per pound, along with a minimum shell height of 3-1/2 inches.

Groundfish Management Alternatives -- The NEFMC continues to consider measures to address overfishing of mixed-trawl stocks. The proposed content of Amendment #5 to the Northeast Multispecies Plan, which is nearing completion, will be further considered at Groundfish Committee Meetings scheduled for 18 and 24 February. The public hearing document is expected to receive final approval prior to the public hearing scheduled for the next full meeting of the NEFMC on 26-27 February 1992.

Contact: Arthur Neill
(508) 548-5123, x350

3. The Thirteenth Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW-13) Plenary was held 14-15 January 1992. A major objective of the Plenary session was the production of the Advisory Report on Stock Status based on the

Consensus Summary of Assessments report from the Stock Assessment Review Committee session held in December. Special topics of the Plenary included: consideration of biological reference points as targets for fishery management; report of the adequacy of Biological Sampling Working Group; and the report of the Recreational Fisheries Statistics Workshop.

The Plenary formed three new working groups:

- Working Group on Marine Mammal By-Catch to develop a long-term strategy to improve data on levels of fishing activity for use in expanding marine mammal by-catch rates to estimate total amount of by-catch, especially for the Gulf of Maine gillnet fleet.
- Atlantic Herring Working Group to examine Gulf of Maine (including Georges Bank and south) Atlantic herring science and assessment issues.
- Winter Flounder Working Group to perform an age structure analytical assessment for at least some stock components or regions, including Georges Bank.

The Report of the Thirteenth Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (13th SAW) is available for distribution.

Contact: Helen Mustafa

will send unbound copy for us to duplicate (508) 548-5123, x244

Vessel Operations

1. The *Albatross IV* worked for the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center during January in the South Atlantic Bight. Program areas were SABRE (South Atlantic Bight Recruitment Experiment) and striped bass tagging. For further information call Shelby Drummond, NMFS Pascagoula Laboratory, (601)762-4591.

2. *Delaware II* completed cruise 92-01, continuation of the Larval Herring/Sand Lance Study. John Sibunka, Sandy Hook Laboratory (908-872-3064) was the chief scientist.

Contact: Herbert Stern, Jr.
(508) 548-5123, x230

ICES

1. The 80th Statutory Meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea will be held in Rostock-Warnemunde, Germany. The ICES General Secretary invites authors of contributing papers or posters for presentation at this meeting to submit their titles, together with brief outlines of contents, to the ICES Secretariat by no later than 30 April 1992.

NEFSC Divisions and Staffs are requested to submit titles with outlines to the ICES Coordinator by 10 April for transmission by the Science and Research Director.

2. Dr. Michael Fogarty of the Conservation and Utilization Division, NEFSC, Woods Hole was selected Chairman of the Statistics Committee at the ICES Statutory Meeting last October.

NEFSC Research Planning

An overview of ongoing Center research and monitoring activities in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank area was provided to Drs. Robert Wall (University of Maine Sea Grant) and David Townsend (Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences), who are affiliated with the Board of Research on the Gulf of Maine. Information is being gathered for Programmatic Inventory of Research on the Gulf of Maine for the 1992-1996 period. The Center research/monitoring synopsis lists the project leader and title, FY92 funding level, and a brief description of the ongoing work. The majority of the pertinent Center projects are ongoing in the Conservation and Utilization Division with some activities in the National Systematic Laboratory and in the Environmental Processes Division.

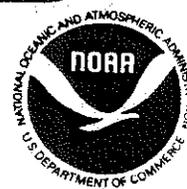
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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



March 1992

Research Planning and Coordination Staff

1. **Dr. Ron Schlitz** has been detailed to the **RPAC Research Planning and Evaluation Section** for one year to assist NEFSC in evaluating potential sources of research funds for which staff scientists can submit proposals. The overall intent of the detail is to increase access to and competitiveness for extramural grants and contracts. Dr. Schlitz was with the Oceanography Branch of the Environmental Processes Division.

2. **Dr. Michael Pennington** is now with the **RPAC Research Planning and Evaluation Section** where he will aid with planning and evaluation and provide statistical advice to Center personnel. He will continue to assist Center scientists with their sampling designs and statistical treatment of data. Dr. Pennington comes from the Ecosystems Dynamics Branch of the Conservation and Utilization Division.

3. **Dr. Lawrence Buckley** has been selected **Director of the University of Rhode Island/NOAA Cooperative Marine Education and Research Program (URI/NOAA CMER)**. He comes to RPAC from the Ecosystem Dynamics Branch of the Conservation and Utilization Division and will remain at Narragansett RI.

Vessel Operations

1. The *Delaware II* completed cruise 92-03 (II), **Winter Bottom Trawl Survey**, on 6 March. Jay Burnett, of the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x286), was the chief scientist for this cruise.

2. The four-day cruise by *Delaware II* on **Mesh Selectivity** (cruise 92-04), scheduled to begin

10 March, was canceled due to weather and mechanical problems.

3. The *Albatross IV* RTE (repair to end of life) **Committee** met at Woods Hole on 24 March to review requirements submitted by the Atlantic Marine Center and the NEFSC. Mr. Charles Byrne, of the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x224) is the Center representative on the RTE Committee.

4. The *Delaware II* will be in the shipyard at Charleston from 8 April to 8 May 1992 for **scheduled maintenance**.

Contact: Herbert Stern, Jr
(508) 548-5123, x230

ICES

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has recently announced two symposia to be held in 1993. Both are open to all interested scientists who announce their participation in advance.

1. The **Symposium on Mass Rearing of Juvenile Fish** will be held in Bergen, Norway, 21-23 May 1993. Contributions are invited on recent advances in nutrition, physiology, behavior, microbiology, or environmental and ecological aspects relevant to mass rearing with particular reference to:

- brood stock management and gamete/egg quality;
- quality and application of live and inert food;
- multiple roles of algae and microflora;
- growth and survival in relation to environmental conditions, food, and feeding;
- physiology and biochemistry of nutrition;
- ontogenetic events and critical stages in early life history;

- role of behavioral ecology in larviculture;
- use and abuse of chemicals.

Titles of papers and posters, with a short summary, are due to the General Secretary by 1 November 1992 and abstracts by 1 April 1993. Intent to participate must be announced to the General Secretary by 1 April 1993.

2. The **Symposium on Cod and Climate Change** will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland, 23-27 August 1993. The purpose of the symposium is to provide an overall review of the climate and fisheries problems; heighten the need to better understand the role of environment as it affects fish stocks; and to analyze whether the relationship between cod and climate can be applied to develop a general understanding of the fisheries and climate problem.

Titles of papers and posters, with abstracts, are due to the Convener, Mr. Jakob Jakobsson, by 1 November 1992.

Intent to participate must be announced to the General Secretary by 1 July 1993.

Contact: Helen Mustafa
(508) 548-5123, x244

Sea Grant

1. The preliminary **1992 -1994 Institutional Sea Grant Proposal** of the **Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution** is now available. Research projects include:

Fisheries Biology and Management - Toxic Red Tides in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays; Economic Impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms; Nutritional and Ecological Importance of Protozoans in the Diet of first-Feeding Winter Flounder Larvae, *Pseudopleuronectes americanus*.

Human Impact on the Environment - Benthic Processing of Sewage Additions; Role in Anoxia and Nitrogen Cycling; Vertical Mixing Processes in Massachusetts Bay; Improved Monitoring of Fecal Coliform Bacteria in Coastal Waters; The Role of Colloids in Metal Transport in Coastal Waters; A Novel Cell Culture Assay to Detect Contamination of Marine Resources.

Coastal Processes - Citizen's Monitoring Effort for Falmouth's Coastal Ponds; Ecologically-Based Environmental Management; Physical Processes for Developing Ecologically-Based

Management Plans; Autonomous Instrumental Technique for the Self-Calibrating, Time Series Measurement of Oxygen in Coastal Aquatic Ecosystems.

2. **Sea Grant Abstracts**, Publications from the Nations's Sea Grant Programs, Vol.7 No.1 1992 is now available.

Contact: Helen Mustafa
(508) 548-5123, x244

Remote Sensing

The First Thematic Conference on Remote Sensing for Marine and Coastal Environments will be held 15-17 June 1992 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Co-sponsors are the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC) and the Environmental Research Institute of Michigan (ERIM). Plenary and poster sessions will address the following topics:

- Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution
- Water Quality
- Coastal Processes
- Coastal Habitats
- Emerging Technologies and Systems

Conference contact is Robert H. Rogers, Chairman, Thematic Conferences, ERIM (313) 994-1200, ext. 3234.

Contact: Helen Mustafa
(508) 548-5123, x244

NEFSC Research Planning

1. RPAC staff was briefed by Dr. David Mountain (Oceanography Branch, Environmental Processes Division) and Drs. Kenneth Sherman and R. Gregory Lough (Ecosystems Dynamics Branch, Conservation and Utilization Division) on the **new NOAA/NSF (National Science Foundation) GLOBEC Initiative**. The initiative will have \$5 to \$7.5 million available for funding projects in FY 1993. The call for proposals is expected to be issued in mid-April 1992 with 15 August 1992 as the due date for completed proposals. One component of GLOBEC will focus on cod and haddock interactions with their prey on Georges Bank, a follow-on to the presently funded proposal which includes a cruise and pilot studies on Georges Bank this May.

Contact: George Grice
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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



April 1992

Fisheries Management

1. The **New England Fishery Management Council** met in Danvers, 8-9 April 1992. The Council postponed until the July meeting a decision on whether shrimp fishermen will be required to use the Nordmore Grate throughout the 1992-1993 season. With regards to Amendment 4 to the Multispecies FMP, Council discussed and clarified its intent in the public hearing document provisions regarding appeals of the allocation of fishing time and how to make allocations of fishing time to vessels having no historical landings/days at sea records but otherwise qualifying for a fishing permit under the moratorium.

The Council discussed extensively the matters of transferability and consolidation of permits and fishing time allocations under Amendment 4 to the Multispecies FMP. A motion to allow transfer of a vessels days-at-sea allocation was defeated. The Council voted to allow transferability of a permit to a new vessel with a stipulation limiting any increase of horsepower and hold capacity to 10 percent and to include this in the public hearing document as an alternative to the preferred alternative, which allows transfer of a permit only in the event a vessel is lost, scrapped, or sold out of the fishery.

The Council also was presented a report on the preliminary economic analysis of the proposed effort reduction. It was agreed without a motion that a meeting will be scheduled with the contributing economists to thoroughly review the analysis.

Contact: Tom Morrissey
(508) 548-5123, x236

2. The **SAW-14 Stock Assessment Review Committee Meeting** will be held at NEFSC Woods Hole, 15 - 19 June 1992. The SARC will review analyses on:

Lobster	Tilefish
Sea scallops	Monkfish
Squids	American plaice

Illex and Loligo

Contact: Helen Mustafa
(508) 548-5123, x244

Recreational Fisheries

The **Northeast Marine Recreational Fisheries Steering Committee** met in Baltimore, 24 April 1992. A major portion of meeting time was devoted to discussion of NMFS' new responsibilities for management of highly migratory species, especially in relation to management of tunas.

Other topics discussed during the meeting include the method of collecting data on bluefin catches in the Angling Category, reporting of observed violations of fishery regulations to federal enforcement offices, system for establishing Internal Waters Processing (IWP) agreements, impacts of mackerel IWPs on the recreational fisheries, problems of management of inter-jurisdictional fisheries and current efforts to develop legislation to assure state compliance with ASMFC management plans, and the status of management plans currently under development (sharks, summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, weakfish, and groundfish).

Contact: Tom Morrissey
(508) 548-5123, x236

Vessel Operations

1. A **Marine Mammal Survey** was conducted with *Delaware II* (cruise DE 92-05) from 16 March to 3 April 1992. Gordon Waring, of the Woods Hole Staff (508-548-5123 x311), was the Chief Scientist.

2. The **Spring Bottom Trawl Survey** was conducted in three parts with *Albatross IV* beginning 2 March and ending 17 April 1992. The Chief Scientists, all from the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123), were: Part I, Charles Byrne (x224); Part II, Linda Despres-Patanjo (x346); Part III, William Michaels (x277).

Contact: Herbert Stern, Jr.
(508) 548-5123, x230

Peer Program Reviews

The **NEFSC Contaminant, Environmental, and Seafood Quality Chemistry Peer Review** was held at the Gloucester Laboratory, 14 - 16 April 1992. Reviewed were the Analytical Chemistry Unit at Milford; Environmental Chemistry Investigation at Sandy Hook; and Contaminant Chemistry, Quality and Safety Analysis, and Protein Chemistry/Biotechnology Investigations at Gloucester. Review Panel members highlighted their observations and recommendations and submitted a preliminary report for the Science and Research Director.

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(508) 548-5123, x244

Research Council

Current members of the NEFSC Research Council are: Jay Burnett, Barbara Pollard, and George Boltz (CUD, Woods Hole); Michael Pennington (RPAC, Woods Hole); James Bisagne and Charles Stillwell (CUD, Narragansett); Frank Steimle and Vincent Zdanowicz (EPD, Sandy Hook); and Austin Farley (EPD, Oxford). John Boreman (UMA/CMER and Larry Buckley (URI/CMER) are adjunct members. Frederick Thurberg (EPD, Milford) will be Acting Chair until a selection is made.

Contact: James Hughes
(203) 783-4220

ICES

1. **NEFSC submitted seven titles of papers**, with descriptions, to the General Secretary of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea for presentation at the 80th Statutory Meeting which will be held in Rostock-Warnemunde, Germany, 24 September - 2 October 1992.

2. The ICES General Secretary announced this month that an **ICES/NAFO Workshop on Survey Methodology for Harp and Hooded Seals** will be held in Archangelsk, Russia, 5-12 October 1992. The recommendation for this workshop came from the meeting of the Joint ICES/NAFO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals held last October.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide an international forum for the discussion of current survey methods in order to identify techniques applicable for estimating the abundance of harp and hooded seals. Co-Conveners are Dr. G.B. Stenson of Canada and Dr. Y.K. Timoshenko of Russia. Attendance may have to be limited.

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Research Planning

1. The **announcement of opportunity requesting proposals for the joint NOAA/NSF GLOBEC Program** will be released in May. This first U.S. GLOBEC field study will take place on and around Georges Bank. The deadline for submission of proposals will be 1 August 1992. Copies of the announcement and NEFSC pre-proposal procedure are available from RPAC. Early preparation of pre-proposals for the Science and Research Director is encouraged to leave ample time for completion of the full proposal.

Contact: Ron Schlitz
(508) 548-5123, x395

2. RPAC coordinated a response for the Science and Research Director from an ad hoc committee of Center scientists on the **indications of global climate change effects on the distribution and abundance of biota on the Northeast Continental Shelf**. Many of the data examined were collected during NEFSC resource surveys and past ecosystem monitoring endeavors. Al-

though the data are marked by inter-annual and decadal variability and changes in species distribution during warming and cooling periods, none of the trends could be linked to changes that might be associated with effects from global warming.

**Contact: George Grice
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Other RPAC Activities

1. Michael Glazer presented a seminar at the NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory entitled **Using AHP and Linear Programming for NEFSC Budget Allocations**. The seminar was well attended and raised much discussion. Emphasized was the fact that the Analytical Hierarch Process is a decision support system that could have a number of applications within the Center, in addition to budget allocations.

**Contact: Michael Glazer
(508) 548-5123, x235**

2. Dr. David Dow gave a seminar at the NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory on the **NEFSC Ecosystem Monitoring Program**. Presented was an overview of the inshore-offshore proposed ecosystem monitoring plan developed by the committee. Individuals were invited to submit comments to the summary table of the elements from the plan, which was distributed.

**Contact: David Dow
(508) 548-5123, x249**

3. RPAC staff attended the **Health of Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) Workshop**, held in Narragan-

sett, RI on 23 April 1992. The workshop was jointly sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Research Laboratory at Narragansett and the NEFSC Narragansett Laboratory.

The meeting brought together experts from academia and applied scientists from EPA and NMFS to explore the topic of developing indices to characterize the health of LMEs. General agreement was found in that the way forward would involve combining public values/goals with a scientific description of the system. Since such systems are organized in a hierarchical fashion, multiple indices would have to be developed in order to characterize different components of the system with distinct temporal/spatial scales. Multiple indices could then be converted to judgements regarding ecosystem health by utilizing "expert judgement". The major stumbling block appears to be a lack of knowledge regarding the emergent properties of LMEs at different spatial and temporal scales, coupled with the rapidly varying physical environment in the ocean which causes the parameters that force the system to change in space and time. One approach to dealing with this problem might be to monitor variables over time and relate them to changing states of the oceanic ecosystem, and then develop empirical relationships between the indicator variables and their endpoints. The long term goal is to develop an ecological equivalent of the leading economic indicators.

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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



May 1992

Fisheries Management

The **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council** met in Newport News, VA on 6-7 May 1992. Dr. Vaughn Anthony, NEFSC, made a presentation to the Council regarding assessment of mackerel stock and what is known about mackerel distribution in relation to water temperature. Fishing industry representatives reported to the Council that they experience serious problems in locating mackerel. The fishermen also noted the potential for rapid increase in participation in the mackerel fishery and suggested that the Council consider development of a program to control mackerel fishing effort.

The Council voted to take the following actions:

- request that NEFSC address the inconsistency between the very high biomass of mackerel shown in assessment results and the lack of success of fishermen in locating mackerel,
- recommend that the Regional Director implement the requirement that surf clam and ocean quahog vessels call in prior to departure from port when there is a state fishery to address the problem of misreporting of clams and quahogs taken in federal waters,
- schedule public hearings to develop an acceptable alternative for inclusion in Draft Amendment 2 to the Summer Flounder FMP, which is currently under Secretarial Review, to prevent a state not in compliance with the FMP from continuing to participate in the fishery (the Council was informed the alternative originally included in the Draft is disapproved),
- request the New England Council consider establishing poundage limits for bycatch

allowance in the groundfish fishery, rather than setting bycatch allowance as a percentage of the catch,

- request the New England Council consider exempting Mid-Atlantic party and charter boats from the groundfish moratorium requirements,
- request the New England Council review the percentages of the catch of groundfish taken in the Mid-Atlantic area (that is, to review the M-A contribution to groundfish fishing mortality),
- support the Council staff initiative to improve, by mapping, the delineation of essential habitat areas to support and document the recommendations of the Council's FMPs, and to establish an ad hoc committee to determine how best to do the mapping,
- send to NMFS 12 comments relative to the proposed rule for the bluefin tuna fishery,
- send a letter to President Bush and to NOAA Administrator Knauss in support of the Administration policy to seek a 50% reduction of the ICCAT quota for bluefin tuna and in support of scientific management, and
- endorse formation of a Inter-Council committee for management of the monkfish resource.

Contact: Tom Morrissey
(508) 548-5123, x236

Vessel Operations

1. *Delaware II* was non-operational between 4 April and 31 May because of shipyard and dockside repairs.

2. *Albatross IV* completed two cruises for the Marine Ecosystem Response Study (cruises 92-04 and 92-05):

- **Sampling for Larval Cod** was conducted 27 April-8 May with Gregory Lough of the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123x290) as Chief Scientist.
- **The Ocean Stratification Study** was conducted 18-29 May with David Mountain of the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123x271) as Chief Scientist.

Contact: Herbert Stern, Jr.
(508) 548-5123, x230

Research Planning

1. The joint **NOAA-NSF Announcement of Opportunity for the GLOBEC Northwest Atlantic Field Studies** was released on 26 May 1992. The deadline for proposals is 15 August. Copies of the announcement were sent to all laboratories and each member of the Research Council for further distribution. Additional copies are available from RPAC.

Contact: Ron Schlitz
(508) 548-5123, x395

2. **NEFSC Ecosystem Monitoring Implementation Committee** submitted its recommendations for an offshore and inshore ecosystem monitoring program to Dr. George Grice, RPAC Chief. The recommended Center monitoring program addresses:

- the traditional resource surveys for fish and shellfish, plus new efforts to explore toxic chemical contaminant levels and their bio-effects;
- a switch from the traditional net sampling program for plankton to an effort utilizing the undulating oceanographic recorder (UOR) operated across 6 to 8 transects on the Northeast Continental Shelf;
- and, in the future, making greater use of remote sensing technology and moored, instrumented buoys at different locations on the Northeast Continental Shelf.

Other RPAC Activities

David Dow attended the **NOAA Information Workshop** held in Rockville, MD, 26-27 May 1992. The meeting focused on the need for a NOAA Earth Systems Information Center which would convert the Agency's long-term environmental trend data into useful information and produce assessments of this information for a variety of user groups (scientists, managers, media, policy makers, educators, private sector, etc.). NOAA's long-term environmental databases are in areas such as global climate change, natural hazards, coastal zone management, and living marine resources. The information center may be implemented as a central unit which would allow users to access a wide variety of databases in a one stop shopping mode or it may have a centralized data directory to the NOAA laboratory/information centers where the data reside.

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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE



June 1992

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Fisheries Management

1. Following coast-wide public hearings on Amendment #5 of the Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, the **New England Fishery Management Council's** Groundfish Committee is reviewing comments submitted on the initial proposal.

As currently presented, Amendment #5 proposes to (1) reduce fishing mortality on cod, yellowtail flounder, and haddock over five years to allow species to maintain long-term average levels; (2) rebuild haddock stocks; (3) protect concentrations of young fish of these species; and (4) improve administration and enforcement of fishery management regulations.

The NEFMC plans to hold a second round of public hearings later this summer to consider suggested changes. Although the consent decree holds the NEFMC to a 1 September deadline to submit proposals, Congressman Gerry Studds has initiated legislation to extend the submission deadline to 15 December to develop measures to reduce mortality and eliminate overfishing of cod and yellowtail stocks over seven years. The status of the consent decree remains uncertain.

The Scallop Committee continues to work on the Amendment #4 public hearing document which emphasizes days at sea allocation and moratorium on entry into the fishery as the major elements in the committee's preferred alternatives. Vessel fishing power under effort control is still scheduled for further committee discussion.

Contact: Arthur Neill
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Sandy Hook Library

2. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met in Philadelphia, 24-25 June 1992. The Council heard a report by Dr. Jon Sutinen, University of Rhode Island, on a NMFS-funded study of Individual Transferrable Quota (ITQ) systems. The results of the study are being published in five volumes and include in-depth analysis of practical considerations for possible development of ITQ systems for four specific U.S. fisheries. The Council also heard a report by the Regional Director (NMFS) regarding developments in the surf clam and ocean quahog fisheries since implementation of an ITQ system under Amendment #8 to Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog FMP.

At the meeting, the Council took the following actions:

- Revised the proposed Amendment #2 to the Summer Flounder FMP to add the provision that vessels with the required Federal permit may not land summer flounder in a state whose quota has been reached.
- Accepted the Scup and Black Sea Bass Scoping Document dated 6/17/92 and containing a statement of potential management measures. The scoping hearings were held preliminary to development of an FMP for the two species.
- Directed the staff to conduct a needs assessment and to identify options for obtaining information in support of habitat recommendations included in Fishery Management Plans.
- Recommended a procedure of constituting the Council's Habitat Committee to include an advisory member from NMFS, Coast Guard, Fish & Wildlife Service, ASMFC, Corps of Engineers, and EPA.
- Reaffirmed the Council's intention to have zero total allowable level of foreign fisheries (TALFF) for Atlantic mackerel.

- Approved preparation of an Amendment to the Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish FMP to require a mandatory logbook program for commercial and charter/party boat fishermen.
- Approved development of a control date to be established for participation by commercial and charter/party vessels in the squid, mackerel, and butterfish fisheries.
- Accepted the Bluefish Monitoring Committee recommendation that no action be taken to implement commercial fishing controls for 1993.

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3. The 14th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW), Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) was held at Woods Hole, 15-19 June 1992. Analyses for seven species/stocks were reviewed: lobster, tilefish, monkfish (goosefish), American plaice, short-and long-finned squids, and sea scallops. Fifteen papers were presented.

The ten-member SARC, which included experts from NEFSC, New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, and academia, was chaired by Dr. Michael Parrack (SEFSC, NMFS). In addition to the SARC, about 40 other individuals attended the session. The **SARC Consensus Summary of Assessments** will be presented at the Plenary, the second SAW session, scheduled to take place during 15-17 July.

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North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

The ninth annual meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) was held at the Department of State, Washington, DC, 9-12 June 1992.

NASCO, an inter-governmental Commission of nine nations was established with the objective of contributing to the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and rational management of Atlantic salmon stocks.

In recent years, NASCO has been advised of re-flagged vessels fishing for Atlantic salmon in international waters north of the Faroe Islands. At its ninth annual meeting, the Council of NASCO adopted a protocol for signature by non-contracting Parties that would extend NASCO prohibitions on fishing for salmon on the high seas to these nations. The Council also adopted a resolution calling for NASCO Parties to encourage non-contracting Parties to comply with the protocol and for the collection and compilation on the scale and extent of the fishery.

The North-East Atlantic Commission successfully reached an agreement on a regulatory measure for the Faroe Islands. The measure maintained the quota at a level of 550 mt for the calendar year. The North American Commission agreed to protocols pertaining to the introduction and transfer of salmonids in order to protect wild salmon stocks from genetic, ecological, and disease interactions. No agreement was reached in the West Greenland Commission on regulatory measures for the 1992 season.

The President of NASCO, Allen E. Peterson, Jr. (Science and Research Director of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NMFS) retired from office at the conclusion of the ninth annual meeting. Mr. Peterson served two consecutive two-year terms as NASCO President.

Contact: Arthur Neill
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Vessel Operations

1. *Albatross IV* completed cruise 92-06, "MARMAP", on 12 June. Jerry Prezioso, of the Narragansett Laboratory (401-782-3277) was the Chief Scientist for this cruise.
2. *Albatross IV* cruise 92-07, **Fish Feeding Ecology**, scheduled for 15-26 June was canceled because of mechanical problems.
3. The *Delaware II* was working the **Clam Survey** during the month of June, with completion scheduled for 17 July.

Contact: Herbert Stern, Jr.
(508) 548-5123 x230

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

Nearly forty scientists from 10 countries participated in an **ICES Workshop on the Analysis of Trawl Survey Data**, during 4-9 June at NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory. Topics addressed by the participants included the application of spatial (geostatistical) methods, inter-calibration of vessels when multi-vessel surveys are conducted (for example, the International Young Fish Survey of the North Sea), the use of general linear models to evaluate factors influencing trawl survey catches, and the effects of environmental variability on the distributions of fish stocks. Specific recommendations were developed on the use of trawl survey data for fishery population assessment. Dr. Steven Murawski, Chief Population Dynamics Branch (508-548-5123, x303) is the workshop contact in the region.

**Contact: Helen Mustafa
(508) 548-5123, x244**

NEFSC Research Planning

1. Dr. Ron Schlitz attended a meeting of the **Nutrient Enhanced Productivity Theme** on 4 June in Silver Spring, Maryland. This element of the Coastal Ocean Program has four projects in different stages of development: Nutrient Enhanced Produc-

tivity - Mississippi/Atchafalaya Rivers (NECOP-MAR) is fully functioning, Atmospheric Input to Coastal Areas (ATICA) has a modest start in Chesapeake Bay, National Assessment of Nutrient Overenrichment (NANO) is in the planning stage, and Causes and Effects of Harmful Algal Blooms (CEHAB) is in the planning stage. Announcements for research are expected during next fiscal year for both NANO and CEHAB depending on the final resolution of the budget.

2. **Reminder:** Deadline for GLOBEC proposals on the Georges Bank Experiment is 15 August.

3. RPAC staff prepared a **response** for the Science & Research Director to a memo from Dr. William Fox, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, listing possible NOAA research projects in support of the Clean Water Act. The NEFSC response included studies of the impact of eutrophication on living marine resources, development of sediment quality criteria based upon their impact on the health and survival of LMRs, and development of models that portray the impact of contaminants of populations of fish/shellfish (i.e. Winter Flounder Population Model).

**Contact: George Grice
(508) 548-5123, x239**

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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



July 1992

Fisheries Management

1. The **New England Fishery Council (NEFMC)** gave its approval to a draft public hearing document on Amendment #4 of the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) when it met in Danvers, 1-2 July 1992.

The NEFMC Scallop Committee's preferred alternative, which allocated initially a specific number of fishing days based on a vessels' previous landings to 22 different vessel categories, was rejected by the NEFMC in favor of two classes of boats: 1) those that fish full-time and 2) those that fish part-time.

Those that fish full-time would receive a starting allocation of 201 fishing days per vessel and part-timer vessels 53 fishing days. This allowance would then be reduced by a yet-to-be-determined amount over the next seven years. There were obvious objections by both NEFMC members and fishermen because of the hardship being proposed on part-time scallopers. The NEFMC members stressed the need for a FMP which is not based on scallop meat count.

Of further interest, the draft proposal also includes a nine-person crew limit, restriction on maximum dredge width of 30 ft, 3-in. rings (with potential further increases in the future), and restriction devices that would obstruct the top of the dredge gear (*i.e.*, chafing gear). Additional recommendations include continuation of the 3-1/2 in. shell height standard, along with new and more complete data collection and monitoring, and more stringent penalties for violators.

In the northern shrimp fishery, the NEFMC voted to forward a recommendation to NMFS, Northeast Regional Director which, if approved, could require the use of Nordmore grate in the upcoming shrimp season. It specifies a rigid or

semi-rigid bar-spacing of not more than 1 in. to protect juvenile groundfish. The Council also agreed to exclude state waters if it can be documented that little or no bycatch exists.

**Contact: Arthur Neill
(508) 548-5123, x350**

2. The **Plenary Session** of the **Fourteenth Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop** (14th SAW) was held in Woods Hole, 15 - 16 July 1992. More than 60 persons from federal, state, private, and academic organizations attended the meeting.

In his opening remarks, Allen E. Peterson, Jr. (Science and Research Director, NEFSC) thanked Dr. Michael Parrack (Southeast Fisheries Science Center) for chairing this SAW (both SARC and Plenary sessions). Mr. Peterson discussed the importance of the "whole" SAW process, emphasizing the fact that conclusion cannot be drawn on anything until the entire SAW process is complete.

The Plenary prepared the **Advisory Report on Stock Status** based on SARC's technical review of analyses for American lobster, tilefish, monkfish (goosefish), American plaice, short- and long-finned squids, and sea scallops. A Sea Scallop Workshop was established to convene the week after the Plenary to resolve the issues that were not brought to consensus within the time-frame of the SARC session.

Presentations under Special Topics included: Overview of Multi-Species Assessment Methods; Multi-Species Fish Dynamics on Georges Bank; and Standardization of SAW Documentation.

Recommended for SAW Steering Committee consideration was: technical review of analyses for four species at the SAW-15 SARC session, as well

as analyses for a number of species in the near future; presentation of two special topics at the SAW-15 Plenary; formation of a Biological Reference Points Working Group and a SAW Procedures Study Group; and to schedule a Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) session in December 1992 with a Plenary session in January 1993. The Steering Committee will meet in August.

Contact: Helen Mustafa
(508) 548-5123, x244

Vessel Operations

1. *Albatross IV* completed a "MARMAP" cruise, #92-08, on 17 July 1992. Julien Goulet, of the Narragansett Laboratory [(401)782-3263], was the Chief Scientist for this cruise.

2. A **Fish Feeding Ecology** cruise, *Albatross IV* 92-09, was completed 31 July 1992. The Chief Scientist for the cruise was William Michaels, of the Woods Hole Laboratory [(508)548-5123 x228].

3. The **Clam Survey**, conducted every three years, was completed 13 July 1992. The cruise was conducted in three parts using *Delaware II* (Cruise: 92-06). The Chief Scientist for Part I was Charles Byrne, Woods Hole Laboratory [(508)548-5123 x224]; Roger Clifford, also of the Woods Hole Laboratory [(508)548-5123 x234], was the Chief Scientist for Parts II and III.

4. *Delaware II* completed a **Mesh Selectivity** cruise on 25 July 1992. H. Arnold Carr, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Sandwich [(508)888-1155], was the Chief Scientist.

Contact: Herbert Stern, Jr.
(508-548-5123 x230)

Research Planning

1. The **annual RPAC Planning Meeting** was held on 14 July at the Carriage House on Quissett Campus. NEFSC Division and Staff Chiefs (with support from their Branch Heads) described

their project accomplishments in FY92 and planned activities for FY93 and beyond. Material presented at this meeting will form the basis for RPAC's recommendations to the Science and Research Director on the future direction of the Center research program.

Contact: Ambrose Jearld, Jr.
(508) 548-5123 x318

2. RPAC Staff reviewed the **Gulf of Maine Research Plan**, which focuses on the environmental transport and fate of toxic chemicals and the impacts and effects of coastal eutrophication. The proposal was developed by a consortium of state and academic researchers in response to the Mitchell Bill to establish regional research thrusts for addressing coastal water quality issues.

3. RPAC Staff reviewed for the Science and Research Director the **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy**. The program will develop sediment toxic chemical standards for aquatic systems and then produce the accompanying regulatory standards/monitoring efforts. The Water-Quality Monitoring Intergovernmental Task Force should include NOAA, USGS (U.S. Geological Survey), and EPA.

4. RPAC Staff commented on the document: "**A Vision of NOAA in the Year 2020**". These comments were incorporated into the Science and Research Director's response to NMFS Headquarters.

Contact: George Grice
(508) 548-5123 x239

5. **David Dow** was nominated by the Science and Research Director to **coordinate NEFSC response to the NMFS and NOS (National Ocean Service) memorandum of agreement regarding the National Marine Sanctuaries Program**. He will provide support for the Site Evaluation List work (new locations) and provide Center information in support of management of existing sanctuaries in the northeastern U.S.

Contact: David Dow
(508) 548-5123 x249

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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



August 1992

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Fisheries Management

1. The **SAW Steering Committee** met this month to review SAW-14 and to set the dates and agenda for the 15th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop.

Dr. Steven Murawski presented highlights of SAW-14 and thoroughly reviewed the **Advisory Report on Stock Status** contained in the *Report of the Fourteenth Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop*. He then presented the **Report of the Workshop on Consensus Assessments for Atlantic Sea Scallops**.

The Committee concurred with the Plenary to form a Biological Reference Points Working Group and invited Dr. Andrew Rosenberg (NMFS/Office of Research and Environmental Information) to chair it. Regarding the Plenary recommendation to improve SAW procedures, Dr. Frederic Serchuk presented for the consideration by the Steering Committee **A Proposal for Restructuring the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop**, developed as a "springboard" to begin this process. Restructuring was suggested to be fully implemented by SAW-16, autumn 1993.

The **SAW-15 Stock Assessment Review Committee Session** was set for 7-11 December 1992. The agenda will include cod (Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank stocks), sea herring (including the New Brunswick fishery), surfclam and ocean quahog (Mid-Atlantic and Gulf of Maine), gear research (NER/NMFS), and redfish (update indices if time allows).

The **SAW-15 Plenary Session** was set for 26-28 January 1993. Special topics will include Overview of the National Stock Assessment Workshop, Report of the Biological Reference Points Working Group, and Restructuring the SAW.

Contact: Helen Mustafa
(508) 548-5123, x244

2. The **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council** met in Atlantic City, NJ on 4-6 August 1992. At the meeting, the Council took the following actions:

- Adopted the 1993 Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish specifications as set forth in a staff report dated August 1992.
- Requested the S & S Committee to conduct a continuing study of the effects of the mackerel trawl fishery on the recreational fishery.
- Directed the staff to continue to investigate the reason(s) for low levels of butterfish landings under a favorable level of stock abundance situation. The staff reported to the Council the results of a limited analysis of sea sampling data in relation to butterfish discards. The staff was directed to report back to the Council the results of additional analyses as soon as practical.
- Expressed support for efforts of the Large Pelagic Species Committee to develop a policy and position that reflects the Council's ongoing concern regarding conservation and management of the highly migratory species.
- Voted to send a letter to the Department of State expressing the Council's interest in ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) and requesting that the Council be provided an opportunity to comment on the draft position of the Department regarding proposed changes to ICCAT funding.

Contact: Tom Morrissey
(508-548-5123, x236)

3. The **New England Fishery Management Council** met in Danvers, MA on 10-11 August

1992. At the meeting, Joe Brancaleone was elected Chairman and Arthur Odlin was elected Vice-Chairman. Other actions taken by the Council are as follows:

- Approved sending a letter to the Mid-Atlantic Council requesting that the Council outline their concerns regarding whiting (*i.e.*, the experimental whiting fishery on Cultivator) for attention of the New England Council following implementation of Amendment 5 to the Multispecies FMP.
- Referred a fishing industry proposal of an additional experimental fishery for whiting in the southern Georges Bank area to the Groundfish Committee with the charge to make recommendations on the proposal to the Regional Director.

The Council also discussed whether it would be appropriate at this time to develop a statement of a control date for the herring fishery. A motion to adopt a statement for use in the event the Council decided to establish a control date was not seconded. Other topics discussed included the status of a second public hearing draft of Amendment 5 to the Multispecies FMP and final changes being made to a public hearing draft of Amendment 4 to the Sea Scallop FMP. Completed drafts of both amendments are expected to be presented to the Council at its September meeting.

**Contact: Tom Morrissey
(508-548-5123, x236)**

Vessel Operations

1. *Albatross IV* completed a MARMAP cruise (92-10) on 21 August. Tom Potthoff of the Narragansett Laboratory (401-782-3253) was the chief scientist.
2. *Delaware II* completed the **Gulf of Maine Bottom Trawl Survey** on 11 August. Charles Byrne, Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123 x224), was the chief scientist.
3. The **Fish Feeding Ecology** program completed *Delaware II* cruise 92-08 on 27 August. Ed Bowman, Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123 x324), served as chief scientist.

4. The *Oregon II* completed the **annual Scallop Survey** on 22 August. The survey was accomplished in two parts. Chief scientists, both from the Woods Hole Laboratory, were: Part (I), Susan Wigley (508-548-5123 x359); Part II, Don Flescher (508-548-5123 x293).

**Contact: Herbert Stern, Jr.
(508-548-5123, x230)**

Other RPAC Activities

David Dow represented the Center at a **meeting of the Marine Science & Technology Committee of the Environmental Business Council (EBC)**. The EBC is attempting to promote business opportunities abroad (Latin America and Eastern Europe) for regional industries that produce marine science equipment or provide consulting services. The intent is to forge a link between industry and the academic/government science sector to promote technology transfer that will aid our country's competitive position abroad. This technology needs to be appropriate for financial resources available in the foreign countries for the purchase of equipment/services, as well as being doable by the trained personnel available in these countries.

**Contact David Dow
(508-548-5123, x249)**

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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



September 1992

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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

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1. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met in Philadelphia, PA, 15-17 September 1992. Swearing in ceremonies were held for new members Gilbert Radonski and James Gilford, and Lee Anderson who was reappointed. Lee Anderson and William Wells were re-elected to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively. At the meeting, the Council took the following actions:

- o Voted that the Council chairman should submit comments expressing the Council's concerns regarding the practicability of the recently published Proposed Rule for approaching marine mammals, and to request that public hearings be held to provide opportunity for input from the proposed regulated community.
- o Voted to send a letter to the Science and Research Director of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center recommending certain procedural changes for conducting the Stock Assessments Workshop (SAW).
- o Set the 1993 surf clam quota and ocean quahog quota at 2.85 million bushels and 5.4 million bushels, respectively, and charged the surf clam and ocean quahog committee to look into procedures and criteria for the Council to follow in the future in setting the ocean quahog quota above or below 5.4 million bushels.
- o Voted to suspend the minimum size limit for surf clam for 1993.
- o Voted to take no action at this time regarding the Experimental Fishery for ocean quahogs off the coast of Maine.
- o Voted to prepare an amendment (Amendment #3) to the Summer Flounder FMP to change the

location of the small mesh exempted fishery demarcation line to longitude 72 30' and to request NMFS to implement the new line by Emergency Regulation in time for the 1992-1993 winter fishery.

- o Directed Council staff to consult with NMFS, ASMFC, and the fishing industry on how cooperative gear research might be conducted to determine mesh size selectivity relative to summer flounder.
- o Voted to recommend that the 1993 summer flounder commercial quota be set at 12.35 million pounds and the recreational quota at 4.36 million fish.

Contact: Tom Morrissey
(508) 548-5123, x236

2. The New England Fishery Management Council met in Kennebunkport ME, 16 - 17 September 1992. The Council heard reports from the Lobster, Herring, Monkfish, and Groundfish Oversight Committees as well as an update on the status of sea scallops and a report from the Interspecies Committee. Actions taken by the Council include:

- o Requested that NMFS investigate and inform the Council of available administrative means to delay the 1993 recommencement date for lobster gauge increases outside of a plan amendment. As there still were uncertainties in the recent lobster stock assessment and new scientific information would not be available until spring, it may not be possible to complete a comprehensive amendment by December 1993.
- o Voted to document in a letter to the MAFMC, concerns regarding the 13 August 1992 control date for the Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfly fishery published by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

- o Endorsed a resolution developed by the Monkfish Advisory Committee to avoid deep water gear conflicts in Southern New England.
- o Accepted the Groundfish Committee's schedule for the completion and implementation of Amendment #5.

Richard Stone, Chief of Highly Migratory Species Management in the NMFS Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, discussed the responsibilities of this newly established unit. Mr. Stone outlined the steps for the preparation of documentation and continuous monitoring of implemented actions as well as the status of plans and regulations.

Contact: Helen Mustafa
(508) 548-5123, x244

VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. Albatross IV is currently performing the Autumn Bottom Trawl Survey between Cape Hatteras and Nova Scotia. Donald Flescher served as Chief Scientist on Leg I, 8-18 September, and Linda Patanjo on Leg II, 21 September to 2 October. Both are at the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123).

2. Delaware II completed cruise, 92-08A, Sonar Test Cruise, on 4 September. A deep towed side-scan SONAR was evaluated south of Long Island by USGS. Thomas O'Brien, USGS Woods Hole (508-548-8700), was Chief Scientist.

3. Trawl Door Testing, Delaware II cruise 92-09, took place from 9-18 September off the Virginia coast in relatively shallow water. Charles Byrne of the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123) was Chief Scientist.

4. Leg I of Delaware II cruise 92-10, Seafloor Mapping, was carried out by USGS within the Hudson Shelf Valley from 22-26 September with John Schlee as Chief Scientist. Leg II left on 28 September for Georges Bank with Page Valentine, also at USGS Woods Hole, as Chief Scientist.

Contact: Ron Schlitz
(508) 548-5123, x395

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. RPAC staff have utilized the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) to evaluate the contribution of the NEFSC Investigations and inter-Investigation program to the NMFS

strategic research goals. The strategic goals included: rebuild depleted stocks; maintain currently productive stocks; forecast models and capabilities; conservation of marine mammals and endangered species; seafood health issues; habitat conservation and research; and involvement in aquaculture.

2. RPAC staff helped support the Marine Ecological Data System (MEDS) Workshop which was held in Woods Hole, 10 September 1992. This workshop was run by the Data Management Support Staff and was designed to identify Center databases which could be incorporated in an agency-wide distributed database based upon the hardware purchased under the IT-95 procurement and a generic, open software system. MEDS is a NMFS-wide initiative that will establish a fifth NOAA data center that will allow other NOAA line offices, external information users, and the public to have access to long-term agency databases that have potential wide scale applicability. Eventually, this system will include the availability of data analysis products and synthesis documents. These would be accessible by a dial up system with a data dictionary which would direct users to the locale where the database exists and a contact person at that site for answering any questions regarding the database of interest.

Contact: Ambrose Jearld, Jr.
(508) 548-5123, x318

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

Dr. Walter Blogoslawski represented the Center at the 2nd meeting of the NMFS Aquaculture Task Force, 24-28 August 1992, Seattle WA. The purpose of the Task Force is to develop a NMFS aquaculture-related budget initiative for 1995. One important thrust of this work is interagency and interstate coordination of the growth of aquaculture. Since aquaculture responsibilities are often not clear between states or the Federal Government, the Task Force's goal is to show ways that NMFS can reduce impediments to aquaculture by assisting the states and private enterprise with technical, managerial, fishery enhancement or financial aid.

Contact: Walter Blogoslawski
(203) 783-4235

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



October 1992

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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met at Danvers MA on 21-22 October 1992. The Council heard reports from Sea Scallop, Large Pelagics, Monkfish, Marine Mammals and Endangered Species, and Groundfish Committees. Reports included the following documents:

- o Draft Amendment #4 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan Incorporating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement -- It is expected to complete this document before the next Council meeting.
- o Summary List of A5 Measures for Groundfish -- The current summary will be revised for the Council meeting in December. The document includes an outline of a third, substantially different, alternative for effort reduction. This non-preferred alternative relies on an aggregate quota, mesh size increases, and tie up periods. The outline will be expanded and reviewed by the Groundfish Committee before it is incorporated into the document for Council action in December. The gillnet effort measure in the same package, it was agreed, would stand at a default position and be addressed at a joint meeting of the Groundfish and Marine Mammal Committees.

Two persons were sworn in to sit on the Council: Bruce Smith as Designee for Dr. Donald Normandeau, State Representative (New Hampshire) and Leiland Stevens as Appointed Obligatory Member.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
(508-548-5123, x244)

2. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met at Port Jefferson NY on 28 October 1992. At the one day

meeting the Council took the following actions:

- o Agreed to begin work on the development of a Tilefish FMP and to request assistance of fishermen in keeping voluntary log books to provide catch/effort data for use in plan development.
- o Adopted a draft Amendment 3 to the Summer Flounder FMP for public hearing purposes.

CONTACT: Tom Morrissey
(508-548-5123, x236)

VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. Albatross IV completed cruise 92-11, Autumn Bottom Trawl Survey between Cape Hatteras and Nova Scotia. Betsy Broughton of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x 300) served as Chief Scientist on this Leg conducted during 19-28 October.
2. Delaware II completed cruise, 92-10, Seafloor Mapping (28 September - 6 October). The area surveyed on this, the second, Leg was the northern edge of Georges Bank. Page Valentine, USGS Woods Hole (508-548-8700) was Chief Scientist to examine sediment types and fisheries habitat.
3. Delaware II cruise 92-11, Fishing Power (Trawl Door Testing) was conducted in deep water within the eastern part of the Gulf of Maine during 10-23 October. The Chief Scientist was Tom Azarovitz of the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x283).
4. Delaware II cruise 92-12, Larval Herring Survey in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and Southern New England waters was started on 26 October. The Chief Scientist is John Sibunka from the Sandy Hook Laboratory (908-872-3064).

CONTACT: Ron Schlitz
(508-548-5123, x395)

NEFSC RESEARCH COUNCIL

The first meeting of the new membership of the NEFSC Research Council was held on 29 September at the Narragansett Laboratory. After a general discussion of the "state of the Center", a series of new initiatives was outlined. The Center is at an important stage of change and transition which will afford the present Council an exceptional opportunity to help shape the future direction of Center research.

CONTACT: Fred Thurberg
(203-783-4244)

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

RPAC staff provided input and helped to collate inputs from other Divisions on a Center response memorandum regarding the Restoration Center, Habitat Restoration Research Program (HRRP) Draft. The HRRP memo went from the Science and Research Director to Dr. James Thomas at NMFS Headquarters. NMFS established the Restoration Center to serve as the trustee for funds made available under the Superfund and Oil Pollution Acts to mitigate the impact of toxic contamination or oil spills in the marine environment. These funds emanate from the responsible parties that caused the anthropogenic insults in question. The Restoration Center will coordinate and fund the agency's research program in the area of habitat restoration from toxic contamination, physical habitat loss, oil spills, alterations in water flow, impacts of dredging, ocean outfall effects, and coastal nutrient enrichment.

CONTACT: Ambrose Jearld, Jr.
(508-548-5123, x318)

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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



November 1992

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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

NOAA has published the new regulations implementing **Amendment 2 to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan**. Subsequent to the approval of the provisions of the Amendment on 6 August, NMFS withdrew approval of the provision requiring mandatory vessel reporting. This was done with the understanding of NMFS that the requirement will be re-initiated by regulatory amendment in the latter half of 1993 in concert with planned implementation of a single coast-wide mandatory vessel reporting system on 1 January 1994.

CONTACT: Tom Morrissey
508-548-5123, x236

VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. Albatross IV remained in Woods Hole during the month for dockside repairs.
2. Delaware II completed cruise 92-12, **Larval Herring Survey**, on 4 November, returning to port five days early due to exceptionally calm weather. The survey area included eastern Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and southern New England waters. John Sibunka, Sandy Hook Laboratory (908-872-3064), was Chief Scientist.
3. Delaware II conducted cruise 92-13, **Geology of Fishing Habitats - Seafloor Mapping**, during 14 - 21 November. The survey area included relevant section of Georges Bank. Page Valentine, USGS Woods Hole (500-548-8700), was Chief Scientist.

CONTACT: Ron Schlitz
508-548-5123, x395

AQUACULTURE

A preliminary agenda for the 13th Milford Aquaculture Seminar was distributed this month by Dr. Walter L. Blogoslawski, Seminar Chairman. The emphasis of the two day program will be on juvenile oyster mortalities and algal toxin effects on cultured species. The seminar will be held on 22 - 24 February 1993 at the Howard Johnson's Lodge, Milford CT.

CONTACT: Walter Blogoslawski
203-783-4235

ICES

1. Several meetings of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea will be chaired by NEFSC personnel:

- o Dr. Frederic Serchuk will chair meetings of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) in May (Copenhagen), September (Dublin), and October/November (Copenhagen).
- o Dr. Kevin Friedland will chair the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon in March (Copenhagen); and the Study Group on Stock Identification Protocols for Finfish and Shellfish Stocks in August (Copenhagen).
- o Dr. Tim Smith will chair the Study Group on Long Finned Pilot Whales in August/September (Copenhagen).

2. Dr. Kevin Friedland will also be one of the presenters at the Ninth Dialogue Meeting. This meeting will be held jointly with the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) in June in Edinburgh, Scotland.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

The next deadline for "Quick Reaction" grants from the Pioneer Fund is Monday, 11 January 1993. Program details can be found in the previously circulated announcement.

CONTACT: Ron Schlitz
508-548-5123, x395

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

On November 18, Dr. David Dow represented the NEFSC at a meeting on the Stellwagen Bank National Sanctuary held in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Sherrard Foster of the Marine and Environmental Management Division, NOS organized the meeting to inform state and federal regulators on the status of the marine sanctuary and the schedule of events to bring the sanctuary on line as a functioning entity. A draft Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) with an accompanying management plan and sanctuary regulations will be issued for public comment in mid-February 1993. The sanctuary statutory regulations should be in effect by mid-June 1993, if they are approved by Congress and meet public approval. Sherrard Foster hopes to hire a sanctuary manager by March-April 1993 and to open the Plymouth office by May 1993. A satellite office will eventually be established in Gloucester, Hull, or Provincetown. Mineral extraction and gravel mining are prohibited in the Stellwagen National Marine Sanctuary as a result of the enabling legislation. Fisheries management will reside with the National Marine Fisheries Service, while the sanctuary management can regulate activities either outside or within the sanctuary that adversely impact its resources (other than recreational and commercial fishing). A 15 member advisory committee composed of user groups, state/federal regulators, and the New England Fishery Management Council will provide input to the sanctuary manager in research and monitoring needs, public education/outreach program, and regulatory rules. The major NEFSC support role will be in research and monitoring.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



December 1992

RESEARCH PLANNING AND COORDINATION STAFF

Dr. Terrence P. Smith has joined RPAC this month as Chief of the Coordination Section. Dr. Smith has been Associate Professor, at the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska since 1990.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met 2 - 3 December 1992 in Danvers. Dr. William W. Fox, Jr., Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, attended the meeting. For approximately four hours, Dr. Fox discussed with the Council members fishery management policy, including proposed amendments for Magnuson Act Reauthorization.

The meeting agenda also included:

- o Progress report on the current draft of the "Goosefish Scoping Document". This document will be reviewed at a Joint NEFMC/MAFMC Monkfish Committee meeting in January.
- o Discussion of recommendations of the Enforcement Oversight Committee on the groundfish and scallop amendments;
- o Review of the draft "Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment 5 to the Northeast Multispecies Management Plan", which was tabled for action at the next meeting;
- o Report on the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) meeting held in Madrid in November 1992; and,

- o Public hearing to solicit comment on temporary adjustment of standard for Atlantic sea scallop (meats per pound and shell height), for the period February through September 1993.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

2. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met 9 - 10 December in New York and took the following actions.

- o Expressed support of the work of the New England Council's groundfish committee (in development of a draft Amendment 5) and, in particular the imposition of a moratorium in the multispecies fishery.
- o Urged NMFS to implement the 1993 summer flounder quota by interim rule or any other method that will ensure the quota is in place for the 1993 season.
- o Directed Council staff to examine ways and means to implement as soon as possible a summer flounder mesh selectivity study that recently was designed by the staff in cooperation with the states, NMFS, and the fishermen.
- o Discussed the recent NMFS withdrawal of approval of the mandatory reporting requirement in Amendment 2 of the Summer Flounder FMP, and approved a motion to resubmit the disapproved section with modification to institute the requirement in January 1994 at which time NMFS plans to implement a single coastwide mandatory reporting system.

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- o Directed Council staff to produce a report on the tautog fishery, including traditional fishery methods and locations, levels of fishing effort, value of the commercial and recreational fisheries, changes taking place in the fishery, and recent actions of the South Atlantic Council relative to regulation of roller gear.

CONTACT: Tom Morrissey
508-548-5123, 236

3. The Plenary Meeting of the 15th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (15th SAW) will be held on 26 - 27 January 1993 at the Carriage House, Quissett Campus, Woods Hole, MA.

On the first day of the meeting it is planned to present the report of the Stock Assessment Review Committee and the "Advisory Report on Stock Status" (including surf clam, ocean quahog, redfish, cod, and gear research), as well as future mesh selection studies. Presentations on the second day will include the sea sampling plan for 1993, reports of the Recreational Statistics Working Group and Biological Reference Points Working Group, overview of the National Stock Assessment Workshop, and Restructuring the SAW.

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VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. Albatross IV remained in Woods Hole during early December to complete repairs before heading to Morehead City, North Carolina for the SABRE Program. The vessel returned for the holidays and the remainder of the year.

2. Delaware II completed cruise, 92-14, Larval Herring Survey, between 1 - 18 December. The area surveyed included Nantucket Shoals, Great South Channel, Georges Bank, and western Gulf of Maine. John Sibunka, Sandy Hook Laboratory, was Chief Scientist (908-872-3064). The vessel was in port until the end of the year.

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NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

Dr. David Dow reviewed the **Regional Implementation Plan Guidance Protocol for the CoastWatch Change Analysis** project on behalf of RPAC. The CoastWatch Change Analysis is a remote-sensing based approach to measure changes in important in-shore habitats for

fisheries over time and to interpret their ecological significance. Aerial photography will be used to study changes in submerged seagrass beds/macrophytic algal forests, while satellite imagery will be used to study changes in intertidal wetlands and associated upland habitats. A geographic information system (GIS) approach will be utilized to examine changes in the critical land cover types over time (roughly every 5 years). Ecosystem models, spatial statistics, and indices of land cover changes and their impacts on fisheries will be developed to relate the remotely sensed information to its consequences on fisheries.

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RESEARCH DIRECTORY 1992

Distribution of the **Research Directory 1992** continues. The directory contains information on the organizational structure and research activities of the Northeast Region (Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Northeast Regional Office), National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA.

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