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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



January 1993

RESEARCH PLANNING AND COORDINATION STAFF

Charles Byrne was appointed as Vessel Coordinator this month. He was transferred to RPAC from the NEFSC Resource Surveys Investigation.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met in Danvers, 13 - 14 January 1993. The Council voted to:

- o Develop in 1993 an amendment to the Lobster plan jointly with ASMFC. The amendment will contain items from the Lobster Industry Working Group plan.
- o Approve the Goosefish Scoping Document for publication.
- o Include a non-preferred alternative to the moratorium section of Amendment #5 to the multispecies FMP, where issuance of new permits would be considered on an annual basis, three years after implementation.
- o Add a fourth, non-preferred, alternative to Amendment #5. This alternative would be the quota based alternative without a moratorium.
- o Include a non-preferred alternative to the one mesh on board provision of Amendment #5 to allow vessels with record of historical participation to carry small mesh on board under a small mesh exemption permit when fishing groundfish.
- o Take Amendment #5 (as amended above) to public hearing.

Drs. Steven Murawski and Philip Logan (NEFSC) made a presentation at this meeting. Their paper was titled

"Bioeconomic Evaluations of the Impacts of Amendment #5 Alternatives".

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

The Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council met in Ocean City, MD, 19-21 January 1993 and took the following actions:

- o Voted to resubmit the disapproved portion of Amendment #2 to the Summer Flounder FMP.
- o Voted to adopt a Draft Amendment #3 to the Summer Flounder FMP and to submit the Draft Amendment for Secretarial review. The Draft includes a framework to enable the Regional Director to adjust the exempted small mesh fishery, including permanent closure, if the level of discards is found to be excessive.
- o Voted to adopt a draft scoping document for development of an Amendment #5 to the Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish FMP.
- o Voted to adopt a scoping document for development of an Tilefish FMP and, following the holding of a scoping meeting, to publish a control date for participation in the tilefish fishery.
- o Voted to provide NMFS a list of 9 items for consideration during the scoping process for development of regulations for the bluefin tuna fishery.
- o Voted to recommend to NMFS that a control date be established for entry into the fishery for each of the three groups of sharks presently under management.

- o Voted to send to NMFS comments prepared by Council staff regarding the proposed NMFS policy on monitoring fishing vessels using satellites.
- o Established a comprehensive management coordination committee to look into interactions between FMPs as well as an ad hoc committee to consider management of the tautog fishery.

CONTACT: Tom Morrissey
508-548-5123, x236

3. The Plenary Meeting of the Fifteenth Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (15th SAW) was held in Woods Hole, 26 - 27 January 1993. SAW-15 Chairman was Dr. Vaughn Anthony (NEFSC). About 60 persons attended the meeting.

A major objective of the meeting was to finalize the Advisory Report on Stock Status for surf clam, ocean quahog, redfish, Georges Bank and Gulf of Maine cod, and gear research which was drafted at the Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) meeting in December. In discussion, it was recommended to form a working group to address precision of recruitment prediction for Atlantic cod.

Presentations under special topics included future mesh selection research, the NEFSC sea sampling plan for 1993, reports of the Recreational Statistics and Biological Reference Points Working Groups, and an overview of the National Stock Assessment Workshop held in La Jolla in March/April 1992. Recommended were several specific directions for future gear research, as well as terms of reference for the Biological Reference Points Working Group.

A new model for the SAW process was presented and discussed.

The Plenary identified nine species as possible candidates for review at the next Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) meeting and recommended dates for the next two SAW sessions. These, as well as other recommendations of the Plenary will be considered by members of the SAW Steering Committee who will set the agendas and dates for the SAW-16 SARC and Plenary meetings.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. Albatross IV headed to Morehead City, North Carolina after the holidays to complete a cruise for the SABRE Program. The first cruise of the new year for NEFSC, Ecosystem Monitoring, 19 - 28 January, began in Norfolk and ended in Woods Hole. Georges Bank and Gulf of Maine were the primary sampling areas. The Chief Scientist was Thomas Potthoff from the Narragansett Laboratory (401-782-3253).

2. Delaware II completed cruise, 93-01, Larval Herring/Sand Lance Survey, between 4 - 21 January. The area surveyed was from Sandy Hook eastward, including Nantucket Shoals, Great South Channel, Georges Bank, and western Gulf of Maine. John Sibunka from the Sandy Hook Laboratory was Chief Scientist (908)872-3000). The vessel is now in port preparing for major repairs until the end of March.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

AQUACULTURE

Dr. Walter Blogoslawski will chair the 13th Milford Aquaculture Seminar scheduled for 23 - 24 February 1993 at Milford Howard Johnson's (1052 Boston Post Road). This year's program will focus on juvenile oyster mortalities and algal toxin effects on cultured species.

CONTACT: Walter Blogoslawski
203-783-4235

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

A Cooperative Program of Joint Marine Research has been agreed to by NEFSC and Rutgers University and approved by the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. There are similar agreements at the University of Massachusetts and the University of Rhode Island.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. RPAC staff helped to prepare the Center response to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Questionnaire. The questionnaire sought responses on research priorities: marine mammals, habitat conservation, and marine biotoxins.

Additional questions ranged from work to quantify the bycatch rates to issues of concern in reauthorization of the Magnuson Act. A final concern was the high priority research areas that could not be undertaken with the Center's current level of base funds.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

2. RPAC staff facilitated a NMFS review of a permit request from Dr. David Owens of Texas A&M University to conduct research on the Olive Ridley sea turtle in Central America.

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

3. Dr. David Dow responded on behalf of NEFSC to the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer regarding the consortium's plan to utilize the Center for Technology Commercialization, a NASA Regional Technology Transfer Center, as a conduit for passing government-developed technologies onto the private sector. Existing or potential Center technology transfer possibilities were discussed in the memo to Al Lupinetti, Regional Coordinator for the consortium. Dr. Dow has assumed the Center technology transfer assignment from Dr. John Pearce, Deputy Center Director.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

Other RPAC Activities

RPAC staff, participated in Center activities for two visitors from the Russian Federation. Dr. V. Zilanov (Deputy Chairman, Committee of Russian Federation on Fisheries) and Dr. V. Koukharenko (Director AtlantNIRO) were in Woods Hole one day to re-establish communication links and explore possibilities for collaborative work. Dr. Zilanov gave a seminar on "Fisheries of Russia and Problems Concerning Marine Resources" during this short visit.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



February 1993

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met at Danvers MA, 25 - 26 February 1993. Much of the meeting was devoted to discussion of a Conservation Law Foundation request for emergency action to ban pair trawling, establish a 2500 pound trip limit for haddock, and extend the closure of haddock spawning area II; and to development of Council recommendations for amendments to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The Council voted to:

- o Recommend to the Regional Director that emergency regulations specifying a 2500 pound trip limit for haddock and extension of the Area II closure (in time and space as specified in Amendment #5) be adopted;
- o Ask the Regional Director to allow an experimental fishery for whiting (similar to the program adopted for Cultivator Shoals) and to process a regulatory amendment to extend the silver hake exempted fishery season to June.
- o Recommend to the Regional Director that an emergency rule banning pair trawling be implemented.

Dr. Vaughn Anthony gave a presentation on the draft "Advisory Report on Stock Status" developed during SAW-15.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

2. Dr. Terry Smith will chair a workshop (31 March - 1 April 1993) to discuss fisheries data needs in the Northeast Region. Workshop products will include a list of data needs relative to research, reporting, FMP development, and enforcement; as well as recommendations on how data items might be organized into a data reporting systems. The workshop has been scheduled in recognition of recent changes in fisheries management (quotas, effort controls, ITQs), contemplated changes (mandatory reporting), and the need for a more comprehensive system.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

3. Reports of the 15th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (15th SAW) will be in two volumes. The Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Consensus Summary of Assessments (NEFSC Reference Document 93-06), a product of the SARC meeting held during 7 - 11 December 1992, is now available for distribution. The Plenary volume should be available after the Steering Committee meeting on 25 March 1993.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

John Boreman was recently promoted to full Professor at the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Boreman has been Director of the NOAA/UMA Cooperative Marine Education and Research Program since its establishment in 1989. As part of the cooperative agreement, he has been teaching classes at the Amherst campus.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

AQUACULTURE

Dr. Walter Blogoslawski chaired the 13th Milford Aquaculture Seminar, held on 22 - 24 February 1993, in Milford CT. A total of 125 persons from eleven coastal states and the District of Columbia attended the seminar. Represented were seventeen universities, twelve shellfish hatcheries, nine marine laboratories, and three federal agencies (NOAA, USDA, AND USFDA). Seminar topics included:

- o Hypotheses about the cause(s) of recurring juvenile mortalities affecting hatchery-reared oyster spat.
- o Genetic manipulation by triploidy to avoid disease of adult oysters.
- o Pollution impacts and consequences to shellfish.
- o Toxic algal blooms and their impact on shellfish culture.
- o Virus transference in salmon culture.
- o Aquaculture methods for shrimp and clam culture.

The transmission of the condition resulting in the death of juvenile oysters was demonstrated by one presenter, suggesting that mortalities are a result of an infectious process. A causative disease agent was hypothesized.

Abstracts of presented papers were submitted to the Journal of Shellfish Research for publication in June 1993. Copies of the 34-page booklet of abstracts distributed at the seminar are available.

CONTACT: Walter Blogoslawski
203-783-4235

VESSEL OPERATIONS

Albatross IV completed cruise 93-03, Winter Bottom Trawl Survey.

Part I of the cruise was conducted in the Cape Hatteras - Mid-Atlantic Sector, 1 - 12 February

1993, with Tom Azarowitz of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-5485123, x283) as Chief Scientist. Part II was conducted in the Southern New England - Georges Bank Sector, 16 - 27 February 1993, with Donald Flescher of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x293) as Chief Scientist.

CONTACT: Charles Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

ICES

The 81st Statutory Meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) will be held in Dublin, Ireland, 23 September - 1 October 1993. Titles and abstracts (or informal outlines) of papers or posters for presentation at this meeting must be submitted to the ICES Secretariat by 30 April 1993 with the knowledge and consent of the ICES Delegates. U.S. Delegates are Dr. Michael P. Sissenwine, NMFS and Dr. John H. Steele, WHOI.

Special Committee Topics:

- o Marine Environmental Quality - "Dose-response data for biomarkers and common environmental contaminants", and "Environmental quality objectives";
- o Mariculture - "Strategic overviews on mariculture development";
- o Pelagic Fish - "Pelagic stocks and hydrography";
- o Shellfish - "Cephalopod life history and assessment", "*Crangon* life history and population process", and "Interactions between shellfish populations and oceanographic processes";
- o Anadromous and Catadromous Fish - "The effects of environmental and oceanographic factors on the production of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) and any observed links to productivity in the marine environment".

Theme Sessions:

- o Dynamics of Upwelling in the ICES Area,
- o Management Objectives and Fishery Management Targets: Risk Assessment in the Provision of Scientific Advice,
- o Factors Affecting the Exposure of Organisms to Contaminants at Interfaces in the Marine Environment,
- o Implications of Stock Enhancement of Marine Organisms,
- o Impact of Gelatinous Zooplankton Predators on Coastal and Shelf Ecosystems,
- o Computers in Fishery Research,
- o Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management/Advisory Committee on Marine Environment Joint Session.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. RPAC staff reviewed reports generated by the NOAA/University of Rhode Island Cooperative Marine Education and Research (NOAA/URI CMER) program. Two of the reports involved applications of satellite remote sensing technology to evaluate patterns of coastal land use change and use of oceanic satellite data to support Center research investigations. The presence of a CoastWatch node at the NEFSC Narragansett Laboratory has made it possible to receive some satellite data in "quasi"-real time and to process it on-site in order to support Center research and operational requirements. The URI/CMER program is a key player in supporting this endeavor.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

2. Dr. David Dow represented the Center at the NOAA Earth Watch Service (NEWS) Workshop

held in Silver Spring MD, 22 - 23 February 1993. The focus of the workshop was to come up with a replacement for the NOAA Environmental Digest which could be accessed either electronically or as a hard copy product. The NEWS publication is designed to provide information synthesis around specific cross-cutting issues within the domain of the different NOAA Line Offices. For example, under the generic issue of wetlands/coastal ocean health/living marine resources (LMRs) the specific issue areas to be addressed in the synthesis report might include coastal wetland/upland land use change patterns; impacts of estuarine eutrophication; health of the Coastal Ecosystem in the U.S.; or status of endangered/protected species. The synthesis reports would be 4 to 8 pages in length, including graphics, and would list a contact organization and person for those desiring additional information or those having questions regarding the material presented. The NEWS document is intended as a synthesis product to assist government policy makers, Congressional staff, and industry leaders.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x239

3. On behalf of NEFSC, Dr. David Dow reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Management Plan (MP) for Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary for NMFS Headquarters. The FEIS/MP must undergo a public comment period and receive congressional approval before the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary can become operational. The sanctuary designation was signed into law by President Bush in November 1992. A Memorandum of Agreement between NMFS and NOS, which contains the sanctuaries program, requires the NEFSC to support the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary with research and monitoring activities as resources permit. Traditional commercial and recreational fishing activity is permitted within the Sanctuary boundaries and the NMFS through the NER is responsible in regulating these fisheries within the context of the Magnuson Act.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x239

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

1. Dr. Ambrose Jearld, Jr. is Chairman of the Woods Hole Black History Committee responsible for the **15th Annual Woods Hole Black History Month Observances** during the month of February. The theme of this year's observances was "Afro-American Scholars: Leaders, Activists, and Writers". The program included a variety of events and exhibits throughout the month; Harambee, an ethnic potluck feast with entertainment; and several seminars.

Observances began with the presentation titled "Scientific Leadership in the U.S. and the Role of Minorities" by Dr. James H. Wyche, Associate Provost, Brown University. Dr. Wyche talked about the Leadership Alliance, a consortium of the Ivy League and colleges and universities with traditionally high enrollment of Blacks and Hispanics, whose goal is to design, fund, and institutionalize models of educational success to dramatically expand the number of under represented minorities in leadership positions in science by the turn of the Century.

"Opportunities for Afro-Americans in Aquatic Sciences: A Model Program" was the title of Benjamin E. Cuker's talk during the final week of observances. Dr. Cuker, Associate Professor of Marine and Environmental Studies at Hampton University in Virginia, outlined a successful nationwide model for increasing the number of minority students choosing careers in oceanography, fresh water ecology, and other aquatic sciences. The approach is built on a partnership between a scientific society (American Society of Limnology and Oceanography), a government agency (Ocean Sciences Directorate of the NSF), and a historically minority university or college (Hampton University).

Other presentations during the observances included: "The American Slavery Memorial" by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Harvard Foundation for Intercultural Relations, Harvard University; "Voices of Black Women" by Betty Burkes, The Montessori Paradise School; and "Great Leaders in Black American History" by Robert Tankard, West Tisbury Elementary School.

Woods Hole Black History Month observances are sponsored jointly by Northeast Fisheries Science Center; Marine Biological Laboratory; Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Coast Guard; and Woods Hole, Martha's Vinyard, and Nantucket Steamship Authority.

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

2. Dr. David Dow attended a workshop on "Saltmarshes and Rising Seas" sponsored by the Sea Grant and Coastal Research Center programs of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Focus of the workshop was on regulatory agency/institutional responses to rising sea level using Cape Cod and coastal Massachusetts as an example. Discussed was an embayment management strategy which identified potential upland areas subject to wetland penetration by providing a sediment source to match the rising sea level. From a management perspective, the rising sea level will move the 100 year coastal flood plain landward which will threaten existing development, while wetlands penetration could displace existing development in well developed coastal areas. The challenge is to protect existing development where practicable, while allowing buffer zones to accommodate the impacts of sea level rise.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

2. Dr. David Dow responded to a questionnaire from Normandeau Associates in Bedford NH who sought the **most effective way to delineate wetlands from remotely sensed data**. The questionnaire involved questions on the use of areal photography and digital data from airborne/space born scanners. Normandeau Associates has received a grant from the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) to identify the problem areas encountered in using remotely-sensed data to delineate wetlands.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

SAW RESEARCH DOCUMENTS

Papers from the SAW Research Document series are available upon request. The series includes the following:

SAW-12 RESEARCH DOCUMENTS (Appendix CRD-91-03)

- SAW12/1 Length Composition Analysis of Atlantic Sea Scallop Using the Multifan Method -- M. Terceiro
- SAW12/2 A DeLury Model for Scallops Incorporating Length-Based Selectivity of the Recruiting Year-Class to the Survey Gear and Partial Recruitment to the Commercial Fishery -- R. Conser
- SAW12/3 Current Resource Conditions in USA Georges Bank and Mid-Atlantic Sea Scallop Populations - Results of the 1990 NEFC Sea Scallop Research Vessel Survey -- S. Wigley, F. Serchuk
- SAW12/4 Stock Assessment of Atlantic Butterfish, *Peprilus triacanthus*, in the Northwest Atlantic -- J. Brodziak
- SAW12/5 Stock Assessment of the Northwest Atlantic Mackerel Stock -- W. Overholtz
- SAW12/6 Stock Assessment of Short-finned Squid, *Illex illecebrosus*, in the Northwest Atlantic -- J. Brodziak
- SAW12/7 Stock Assessment of Long-Finned Squid, *Loligo pealei*, in the Northwest Atlantic -- J. Brodziak
- SAW12/8 Bootstrap Estimators of Discard Rates Using Domestic Sea Sampling Data -- J. Brodziak

- SAW12/9 Cod Discards in the Gulf of Maine Shrimp Fishery - An Exploration of the Sea Sampling Database -- S. Wigley
- SAW12/10 By-catch and Discard Patterns in the Gulf of Maine Northern Shrimp Fishery -- S. Clark, G. Power
- SAW12/11 Exploratory Analysis of Four Methods for Estimating Discards from Sea Sampling Data -- D. Hayes
- SAW12/12 An Assessment of the Southern New England and Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder Stocks -- R. Conser L. O'Brien, W. Overholtz

SAW-13 RESEARCH DOCUMENTS (Appendix to CRD-92-02)

- SAW13/1 Assessment of the Georges Bank Haddock Stock, 1991 -- D. Hayes, N. Buxton
- SAW13/2 BIOREF - A Model to Estimate the Effects of Discard Mortality on Biological Reference Points -- S. Correia
- SAW13/3 Estimating Total Effort in the Gulf of Maine Sink Gillnet Fishery -- K. Bisack, G. DiNardo
- SAW13/4 Report of the Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) Summer Flounder Working Group (WG#21) -- Working Group

SAW-14 RESEARCH DOCUMENTS (Appendix to CRD-92-07)

- SAW14/1 Standardization of SAW Documentation -- F. Serchuk

- SAW14/2 Assessment of American Plaice in the Gulf of Maine-Georges Bank Region, 1992 -- L.O'Brien, R. Mayo, N. Buxton, M. Lambert
- SAW14/3 Discard Estimates of American Plaice, *Hippoglossoides platessoides*, in the Gulf of Maine Northern Shrimp Fishery and the Gulf of Maine-Georges Bank Large-Mesh Otter Trawl Fishery -- R. Mayo, L. O'Brien, N. Buxton
- SAW14/4 Evaluation of NEFSC Sampling of the Size Composition of Commercial Sea Scallop Landings -- D. Hayes, S. Wigley
- SAW14/5 Status of the Sea Scallop fisheries Off the Northern United States, 1991 -- S. Wigley, F. Serchuk
- SAW14/6 Standardized CPUE Estimates for Sea Scallops Using the General Linear Model (GLM) Procedure - S. Wigley, D. Hayes
- SAW14/7 A Modified DeLury Model for Estimating Mortality Rates and Stock Sizes of American Lobster Populations -- R. Conser, J. Idoine
- CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



March 1993

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met in Philadelphia, PA 2 - 4 March 1993. Various committee meetings were held on 2 and 3 March and scoping meetings for potential Goosefish and Tilefish FMPs were held the evenings of 2 and 3 March, respectively. The Council meeting consisted of various reports and several recommendations for quota adjustments (between states) in the summer flounder fishery. The Council took the following actions:

- o Voted to draft an open letter to fishermen explaining the S & S Committee's position on a study of the role of commercial trawling on the distribution and availability of mackerel to recreational fishermen;
- o Voted to amend the Summer Flounder FMP to reflect the amended quota table adopted by the ASMFC summer flounder committee, and to recommend to the Regional Director that emergency action be taken to implement an amendment adopting this table;
- o Voted to submit to the Summer Flounder Committee at the Council's May meeting the recommendation to amend the Summer Flounder FMP by emergency rule to allow two or more states, by mutual agreement, to transfer or combine their annual summer flounder quota.

- o Voted to extend the Emergency Action which amended the boundary of the exempted summer flounder area to April 30.
- o Voted to modify the scoping tilefish document to include two additional management measures: allocation by area and measures to control tilefish trawl fisheries.

The retirement of John Bryson as Executive Director, effective 31 December 1993, was announced. The Council's Executive Committee will act as the Search Committee for a replacement.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

2. The SAW Steering Committee met on 25 March. Members reviewed the functions of the Steering Committee, agreed on a revised SAW structure, considered SAW-15 documentation, set the terms of reference for SAW-16, and suggested timing of future SAWs. The Committee's conclusions will be summarized in the **Report of the 15th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop, The Plenary** (Northeast Fisheries Science Center Reference Document 93-07).

SAW-16 Timing:

- o Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Meeting
21 - 25 June 1993, Woods Hole, Massachusetts
- o Plenary Meeting
29 July 1993, meeting place to be announced

Species scheduled to be reviewed during SAW-16 (by Sub-Committee, in order of priority):

- o Northern Demersal Sub-Committee
Pollock, Silver Hake, Witch Flounder
- o Southern Demersal Sub-Committee
Summer Flounder, Tilefish, Goosefish
- o Pelagic/Coastal Sub-Committee
Herring, Butterfish
- o Invertebrate Sub-Committee
Lobster, Squids (Loligo and Illex)

The first assignment of the Assessment Methods Sub-Committee is to convene an ADAPT tutorial this summer.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. **Chuck Byrne** represented NEFSC on a delegation which **visited northern Europe** (February 18 - March 6) to **investigate the latest concepts in fishery research vessel design**. The delegation spoke with naval architects, builders, operators, and users in the Netherlands, Denmark, Britain, and Norway; and toured 7 research vessels (5 fisheries and 2 seismic), 1 factory-trawler, and 1 North Sea oil drilling support ship.

2. Albatross IV completed Parts I and II of the **Spring Bottom Trawl Survey**.

- o Part I of the survey occupied 62 stations

between Cape Hatteras and Ocean City, MD during 8 - 19 March 1993 with Donald Flescher of Woods Hole Laboratory as Chief Scientist (508-548-5123, x293).

- o Part II of the survey occupied 111 stations between Ocean City, MD and Nantucket Shoals during 22 March - 2 April 1992 with Linda Despres-Patanjo of Woods Hole Laboratory as Chief Scientist (508-548-5123, x346).

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. RPAC staff supports and works with the Director and staff of the **Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, University of Massachusetts - Boston Harbor Campus**. The Program is designed to encourage minorities and under-represented students from low-income and first generation college backgrounds to expand their educational opportunities by pursuing doctoral studies, particularly in the natural sciences. In March, Dr. Ambrose Jearld conducted a training/seminar session on "How to Prepare and Give an Oral Presentation in the Allotted Time" in support of the McNair program.

2. **Dr. Ambrose Jearld** serves as advisor to the **Minorities in Natural Resources Committee** under the auspices of the Southeast Section of the Wildlife Society, Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The goal of the program is to create a culturally diverse natural resources work force in the Southeast where all people can contribute to achieving common goals regardless of their race, gender, age, disability, educational background, or other differences. In March, he was invited to participate in a meeting on minority recruitment and retention in natural resources field held in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Washington, DC.

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

3. In March 1992, NEFSC began to develop a formal procedure for submission of proposals requesting extramural funding. Responses to announcements distributed by RPAC and other sources resulted in the submission of 65 preproposals from NEFSC Divisions (as of 10 March 1993), totaling approximately \$12.2 M. Forty-six of the preproposals were expanded and 44 submitted. The overall level of funding requested by staff at NEFSC was approximately \$9.6 M. NEFSC Divisions submitted proposals in the following proportions: EPD - 23, CUD - 17, NSL - 4. Presently there are 10 funded, 23 declined, and 11 pending.

CONTACT: Ron Schlitz
508-548-5123, x395

4. RPAC provided input to the Center response regarding the **improvement of areas in the Federal Superfund legislation**. The legislation is up for reauthorization in 1993. The Hazardous Waste Treatment Council requested that the Center provide information on Superfund sites in the Northeast which exhibited impacts on the flora and fauna; human health impacts from bio-accumulation of toxic chemicals; and examples of natural resource damages. The New Bedford Harbor Superfund site was chosen as an example of a site exhibiting natural resource damages and contamination of flora and fauna with PCBs and heavy metals.

5. RPAC evaluated the **Marine Biodiversity Action Plan** written by Dr. Bruce Collette of the National Systematics Laboratory. The plan would build upon and coordinate existing NMFS activities in defining the species richness in intact coastal ecosystems, estimating appropriate demographic information, and developing a database management system to catalog past and future observations on marine biodiversity. A phase of the action plan deals with ways in which marine biodiversity can support the conservation and management system.

6. Dr. David Dow responded to a request from the **Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer** to provide examples of how the NMFS, including the Saltenstall-Kennedy grants, supports **activities to aid small business**. In cooperation with Ken Beal (Northeast Regional Office), a description of the development of the experimental hagfish fishery in the Northwest Atlantic was provided to Dr. Beverly Berger (Washington DC) who is supporting a television effort being developed by Chambertech.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

Dr. Michael Pennington gave a seminar in Woods Hole on assessing the efficiency of marine surveys. A method for estimating the variance of a survey index of abundance was presented. The technique takes into account the possibility that the catchability (i.e. the proportion of the population caught during a survey) varies from year to year. It appears that 50% of the variability of abundance indices may be due to catchability changes. It was also pointed out that since fish caught together tend to be similar, estimates of population characteristics from survey data can be quite imprecise.

CONTACT: Michael Pennington
508-548-5123, x320

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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



April 1993

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MAY 1993

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met at the Danvers MA, 7 - 8 April 1993. The Council heard reports on the status of the sea scallop, groundfish, and lobster amendments; a status report on monkfish scoping hearings and amendment proposals; and a report from the State Department concerning U.S. intent to join NAFO.

The Council took the following actions:

- o Concerning appeals and documentation of the sea scallop fishery, the Council voted to request that the Regional Director accept, validate, and act accordingly to correct errors in the database of landings or days fished.
- o Regarding sea scallop meat count, Council voted to adopt at the next meeting an amendment package, including an emergency rule to implement the Council's preferred alternative noting that the package should consider banning or adjusting the meat count.
- o Concerning groundfish the Council voted to prohibit the use of twisted mesh net or "bar cod end" net, via emergency rule.
- o Council voted to table until the next meeting the motion to postpone, by one year, the current December 27, 1993 deadline for either increasing the gauge or approving an amendment to postpone the gauge increase for lobster (or adopt a more comprehensive amendment to the lobster FMP). The deadline would be waived via regulatory amendment.

o Council voted to endorse the concept of an experimental driftnet proposal by URI, provided that the research minimizes gear conflict and is subject to input from staff on experimental design and data generated.

2. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met at Cape May NJ, 14 - 15 April 1993. The Council reviewed a list of suggested changes relative to the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA); and heard reports on sea scallop, and demersal species.

The Council voted to go forth with 14 suggested changes to the MFCMA which Lee Anderson assembled and also to:

- o Adopt the following motions relative to Amendment 4 of the Sea Scallop FMP:
 - recommend adoption of the preferred alternative;
 - recommend placement of transponders for monitoring effort;
 - adopt 3 1/4" ring size in year 1 and 2;
 - express concern over substance of appeals process and begin appeals process immediately;
 - recommend retention of current meat count system until implementation of Amendment 4.
- o Approve Amendment 4 to the summer flounder FMP for submission to the Secretary.

- o Adopt a non-preferred alternative in Amendment 5 to the summer flounder FMP which would allow fishermen to land flounder in another state while having the landings credited to the state of the vessel's principal port of landing.

3. Dr. Terrence P. Smith chaired the **Northeast Region Fisheries Data Needs Workshop**, held in Gloucester MA, 31 March - 1 April 1993. The purpose of the workshop was to define the needs of organizations involved actively in research reporting and/or analysis; development and evaluation of Fishery Management Plans (FMPs); and regulatory development and enforcement which support fisheries and public policy activities related to the MFCMA, its fishery management councils, and resulting FMPs. Workshop participants represented NMFS/NEFSC, NERO, SEFSC, and Headquarters; New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils; and the States of ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, MD, NC. The Workshop Report will include a table of data needs developed by the participants.

The Workshop represents phase I of a suggested three phase study to replace the current voluntary system by which commercial fishermen and dealers report activity with a mandatory reporting system that would document fishing and fishing commerce activity not only for research and policy development purposes, but also for effort allocation measures or enforcement catch limits. System design is planned to be addressed in phase II and implementation in phase III of the effort.

CONTACT: Terrence P. Smith
508-548-5123, x230

4. **Report of the 15th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop, (15th SAW)** The Plenary (NEFSC Reference Document 93-07) is being distributed at this time. Sections of this report include the Advisory Report on Stock Status for surf clam, ocean quahog, redfish, cod, and gear research; and Conclusions of the SAW Steering Committee, outlining the new SAW structure.

Other SAW-15 NEFSC Reference Documents which may be obtained from the NMFS/NEFSC Information Service Unit, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1096, (508) 548-5123 are:

- 93-01 "Surf clam populations of the middle Atlantic, Southern New England, and Georges Bank for 1992" by J. Weinberg
- 93-02 "Ocean quahog populations of the Middle Atlantic, Southern New England, Georges Bank and Gulf of Maine for 1992" by J. Weinberg
- 93-03 "Historic and recent trends in the population dynamics of the redfish, Sebastes fasciatus Storer, in the Gulf of Maine-Georges Bank region" by R. Mayo
- 93-04 "Assessment of the Gulf of Maine cod stock for 1992" by R. Mayo, L. O'Brien, F. Serchuk
- 93-05 "Assessment of the Georges Bank cod stock for 1992" by F. Serchuk, R. Mayo, L. O'Brien, and S. Wigley
- 93-06 "Report of the 15th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (15th SAW), Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Consensus Summary of Assessments"

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. Chuck Byrne represented the NEFSC at a **NMFS Vessel Committee meeting** to begin developing scientific specifications for replacement of medium-endurance, Living Marine Resources Research Vessels. When built, two of these vessels will replace the ALBABROSS IV and DELAWARE II. The meeting was hosted by the SWFSC at LaJolla, CA, 27 - 29 April 1993.

2. ALBATROSS IV completed Parts III and IV of the **Spring Bottom Trawl Survey**.

- o Part III of the survey occupied 82 stations on Georges Bank and in the southern part of the Gulf of Maine during 5 - 16 April 1993. Malcom Silverman was Chief Scientist (508-548-5123, x202).

- o Part IV of the survey occupied 74 stations in the Gulf of Maine (including western Nova Scotian Shelf) during 20 - 30 April 1993. Linda Despres-Patanjo was Chief Scientist (508-548-5123, x346).
3. DELAWARE II completed two cruises:
- o **MARMAP Survey** was conducted during 29 March - 13 April. Survey area was between Cape Hatteras and the Scotian Shelf (including Georges Bank and the Gulf of Maine). Thomas Potthoff of the Narragansett Laboratory was Chief Scientist (401-782-3253)
 - o **Seafloor Mapping of Stellwagen Bank** was conducted during 19 - 28 April 1993. Video, bottom grabs, and sidescan sonar were implemented to acquire high-resolution data which will be used to characterize the southern part of the newly created Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Page Valentine of the U.S. Geological Survey, Woods Hole, was Chief Scientist (508) 548-8700).

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

ICES

NEFSC submitted 16 titles of papers for presentation at the 81st Statutory Meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) scheduled to be held in Dublin Ireland, 23 September - 1 October 1993: 4 - Anadromous and Catadromous Fish Committee; 3 - Pelagic Fish Committee; 1 - Demersal Fish Committee; 2 - Marine Mammals Committee; 1 - Biological Oceanography Committee; 1 - Mariculture Committee; 1 - Statistics Committee; 2 - Computers in Fisheries Research Theme Session; and 1 - Management Objectives and Fishery Management Targets: Risk Analysis in the Provision of Scientific Advice Theme Session.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. Dr. George Grice heads an NEFSC Scientific Advisory Group whose purpose is to identify research directions and programs for the new James J. Howard Laboratory at Sandy Hook.

As the Howard Laboratory is nearing completion, NEFSC expects to take occupancy this summer to permit renovation of adjacent Building 74 from which Sandy Hook Laboratory staff currently operate. When renovation is completed in Spring 1994, NEFSC will have the use of two new laboratory facilities with the combined space of 65,000 sq. ft., and an unprecedented opportunity to conduct diverse research programs.

The Howard Laboratory has the potential for being the most advanced experimental laboratory in NMFS. Among its unique attributes is its controllable temperature seawater system which dispenses water to 11 wet laboratories and a 32,000 gallon capacity fiber glass, mesocosm with temperature and photoperiod control as well as other manipulative attributes and video systems. There are state-of-the-art air handling systems for organic and metal chemistry laboratories, several environmentally controlled walk-in incubators and many other general purpose laboratories.

The Advisory Group met at Sandy Hook Laboratory this month. The Group toured the facility and were briefed by Laboratory staff. They agreed on major points of a Mission Statement for the new facility, identified four programmatic areas to describe, and developed a tentative outline for their report. To obtain wider participation in identifying research areas, the Group invites suggestions from Investigation Chiefs, Branch Chiefs, Division Chiefs and administrative staffs of the Center and the Regional Office.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

2. During the last year or so proposals for extramural support have increased much beyond previous numbers. Beginning with this report the successful proposals will be listed and updated

periodically. The principal investigators named below can provide details of the objectives as well as names of other individuals.

Joel Bodammer (USDA)

An In Vitro Study on the Interaction of Salmonid Phagocytes and Renibacterium salmoninarum

James Bisagni (GLOBEC)

Satellite-Derived Sea Surface Temperature and Ocean Color Variability on Southern Georges Bank

Carol Meise (GLOBEC)

Life History Patterns of Calanus finmarchicus and Pseudocalanus spp. in the Gulf of Maine: Effects of Temperature and Water Column Structure

Gregory Lough (GLOBEC)

Importance of Physical and Biological Processes to Population Regulation of Cod and Haddock on Georges Bank: A Model-Based Study

Michael Fogarty (COP)

Predation and the Structure of the Georges Bank Ecosystem

Kenneth Sherman (US-Polish Joint Commission)

Analyses and Modelling of Multispecies Resources in Two Large Marine Ecosystems

Reed Armstrong (COP)

Continued Operation and Development of CoastWatch Northeast Regional Site

Thomas Azarovitz (Pioneer Fund)

Groundfish Survey Data Using Pen-Based Computer Technology

Stuart Wilk (USACE)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Passaic River Flood Protection Project - Biological Characterization of the Newark Bay Complex

Judy Krzynowek (Pioneer Fund)

Solvent Recycler

Anne Studholme (Hudson River Foundation)

Habitat Quality in the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary: An Evaluation of Pier Effects on Fishes

Jose Pereira (New Haven Foundation)

Utilization of the Quinnipiac River and New Haven Harbor by Winter Flounder (Pleuronectes americanus) as a Spawning Area

Jose Pereira (New Haven Foundation)

Utilization of the Quinnipiac River and New Haven Harbor as a Nursery Area by Winter Flounder (Pleuronectes americanus)

Frederick Kern (NRAC)

The Study of a Protozoan Disease Agent(s) Associated with Mortalities of Hatchery-Reared Juvenile Oysters in the Northeastern United States

CONTACT: Ron Schlitz

508-548-5123, X395

3. Dr. David Dow attended the NOAA Data Quality and Continuity Workshop held in Rockville MD, 19 - 20 April 1993. The workshop focused on the agency's long term data sets which are compromised by problems of data quality or data continuity. The prime NMFS issues identified by Dr. Kenneth Sherman (NEFSC-Narragansett Laboratory) were the implementation of MEDS (Marine Ecological Data System) and the development of a coastal ecosystem monitoring program and a biannual report to Congress on the state of the Nation's coastal ocean (requirements of the National Coastal Monitoring Act being implemented by NOAA and EPA). Dr. Dow agreed to outline DQ&C problems with NMFS data sets in the habitat support value of living marine resources area.

4. Dr. David Dow represented the Center at a Defense Technology Conversion, Reinvestment, and Transition Assistance Program Workshop held in Westboro MA, 28 April 1993. The workshop was sponsored by the NASA-supported Center for Technology Commercialization (CTC) which attempts to facilitate technology transfer from the Federal sector into commercial applications in the

commercial sector. The workshop explored developing proposals in the environmental monitoring area that could seek funds from the Defence Reconversion Program administered by the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA). A proposal to develop an automated sensor environmental monitoring system with an intelligent

sensor processing/integration unit for use at Superfund cleanup locations in Massachusetts is being developed by a partnership headed by The Analytic Sciences Corporation of Reading MA and the MITRE Corporation of McLean VA.

5. In support of the **NEWS (NOAA Environmental Watch Service) Workshop**, Dr. David Dow prepared a short description highlighting problems in the areas of fish stocks, endangered species, seafood safety, and habitat degradation. The National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) under the direction of Mike Changery is preparing a list of issues to be addressed in the initial NEWS publications. NEWS is designed to provide overviews appropriate for governmental policy makers/managers of pertinent issues addressed by NOAA's long term data sets/research programs. It will be available electronically as well as in a hard copy form.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

Dr. David Dow attended the final **Coastal Science Seminar** conducted by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution which was held in Brewster MA, 30 April 1993. The seminar focused on the impact of sea level rise, natural coastal sedimentary transport processes, and human development on foredunes on coastal dunes. Massachusetts regulations to promote stability of dunes to prevent storm surge damage often conflict with management goals to protect state endangered/threatened species habitat. For example snow fences with plantings of beach grass are used to stabilize coastal dunes in order to prevent storm damage, but this conflicts with the goals of protecting piping plovers which exist in depressions in overwash areas and which have to migrate to the beach in order to feed (inhibited by fences and dune vegetation).

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



May 1993

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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met in Mystic CT, 12 - 13 May 1993. Most of the meeting was devoted to consideration of Amendment 4 to the Northeast Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan.

Council actions were:

- o Submit to the Secretary an amendment to the Northeast Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan which includes a moratorium on further entry into the fishery, effort controls via days at sea limits, and a number of other measures.
- o For monkfish, draft a letter to recommend adoption of a uniform set of landings regulations based on the 11" tail size and appropriate liver/tail weight ratio.
- o Concerning MFCMA Reauthorization, oppose any authority for NMFS to collect fishery management fees beyond the present and any additional fees not be collected except through specific FMPs.
- o Concerning MMPA Reauthorization, amend Section 311 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to enable funds collected via federal enforcement actions to be redistributed to state enforcement agencies to defray expenses relative to MFCMA enforcement.
- o Concerning Large Pelagics FMP, oppose Part A of the petition from the Center for Marine Conservation to undertake rule-

Sandy Hook Library on pair trawling which has been filed. (Part A does not allow use of non-approved gear.)

Other Business -

- o Draft a letter to the MAFMC legislative committee to apprise them of the Council's status on the role of mobile gear in the lobster fishery.
- o Draft a letter supporting a recommendation from Congressman Torikildsen on supporting utilization of under-utilized species in the U.S. Defense Department procurement program.

2. Dr. Terrence P. Smith attended public hearings in New England on Amendment 5 of the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Marine Recreational Fisheries Committee (MRFC) met in Richmond, VA on 4-6 May 1993. The meeting included a joint session with the Commission's Artificial Reef Committee to discuss, among other things, the creation of special management zones for the control of conflicts between user groups at artificial reef sites. In a single session, the MRFC discussed the several recreationally oriented ASMFC programs recently

approved to receive Wallop-Breaux funding, and developed recommendations relative to the conduct and completion dates of the following funded projects:

- o Design, publish and distribute an informational brochure on tag-and-release of striped bass. (1993 completion)
- o Develop a brochure to explain the process in development of Interstate FMPs for recreational fisheries. (1993 completion)
- o Conduct workshop on state saltwater fishing licenses, and publish and distribute proceedings. (1994 completion)
- o Develop, publish and distribute report on Atlantic coastal state marine sport fish restoration (i.e., Wallop-Breaux) programs. (1994 completion)

Other topics addressed at the meeting included formation of the ASMFC Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Committee, establishing a centralized listing for all charter/party boats in each state, and the trend of fish tagging for non-scientific purposes (e.g., to promote fishing derbies).

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

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. Albatross IV conducted Aquashuttle Trials, Larval Bluefish Survey, and Stratification Study during the month of May:

- o The Aquashuttle is a newly acquired piece of sampling equipment that is designed to continuously sample plankton and record environmental data while underway. During 3 - 5 May 1993 trials were conducted in deep Gulf of Maine waters. Jack Jossi of Narragansett Laboratory (401-782-3274) was Chief Scientist.
- o The Larval Bluefish Survey was conducted during 6 - 13 May in deep waters, off the Continental Shelf, between Cape Hatteras and southern New England. Fifty-four stations were completed. John Sibunka of

Sandy Hook Laboratory (908-872-3064) was Chief Scientist.

- o The Stratification Study was conducted in the southern half of Georges Bank during 17 - 28 May 1993. The purpose of the cruise was to study the abundance and distribution of larval fish and zooplankton in relation to physical characteristics of the water column. Dr. David Mountain of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x271) was Chief Scientist.

2. Delaware II conducted a MARMAP Survey and Geochemical Sampling this month:

- o The MARMAP survey was conducted during 5 - 13 May 1993 in the area between Cape Hatteras and the Scotian Shelf, including Georges Bank and the Gulf of Maine. Thomas Potthoff of Narragansett Laboratory (401-782-3253) was Chief Scientist.
- o Geochemical Sampling was carried out during 22 - 27 May in the Hudson Valley, between the 12 Mile Dumpsite off New York City to the edge of the Continental Shelf. Video, bottom grabs, and side-scan sonar were used to acquire high-resolution data which will be used to map the distribution of fine grain particulate matter in the sampling area. John Schlee of U.S. Geological Survey, Woods Hole (508-548-8700) was Chief Scientist.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

1. NMFS approved the Memorandum of Agreement Between NOAA/NMFS and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The purpose of the agreement is to provide for the shared use of each others facilities and to enhance cooperation and collaboration in fisheries and ocean sciences and other research programs of mutual interest.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

2. The Coordinating Committee for the UMass/NOAA Cooperative Marine Education and Research (CMER) Program has approved five projects for funding this year:

o 93-01 -- Seabird Entanglement by Commercial Fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean: Assessment of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center Bycatch Database (Curtis R. Griffin, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Principal Investigator)

o 93-02 -- Biology of the Longhorn Sculpin (Michael R. Ross, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Principal Investigator)

o 93-04 -- Quality Determination in Atlantic Mackerel (Herbert O. Hultin, Department of Food Science, and Judith Krzynowek, NMFS/NEFSC, Co-Principal Investigators)

o 93-06 -- Early Development and Metamorphosis of the American Goosefish (William E. Bemis, Department of Biology, Principal Investigator)

o 93-07 -- Establishment of NOAA-Supported Undergraduate Research Internship (Robert W. Walker, Environmental Sciences Program, and Robert E. Levin, Department of Food Science, Co-Principal Investigators)

CONTACT: John Boreman
413-545-2842

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

Dr. David Dow evaluated a report on **Global Climate Change and the Coastal Zone** for the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA). The OTA report was written by a team from the University of Virginia, led by Dr. G. Carleton Ray. The report focused on the potential impacts of climate change on coastal fisheries and the biodiversity of coastal ecosystems. Dr. Thomas Bigford of the NER (508) 281-9209 is the lead person in this review endeavor.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

On 17 May, Dr. Terrence P. Smith presented a seminar to members of the University of Massachusetts, Department of Forestry and Wildlife. The presentation was titled **Fisheries Simulation Models for Estimating Bycatch in the Fisheries Off Alaska**.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



June 1993

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met in Danvers, MA on 30 June 1993. The Groundfish Oversight Committee, augmented temporarily by all Council members, had met for four days prior to the Council meeting to formulate a preferred alternative for Amendment 5 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP (groundfish).

On 30 June, the Council approved a package of measures which it will submit as Amendment 5 to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan in August. The amendment package includes the following measures: a moratorium on the issuance of additional vessel permits; exceptions to the moratorium for boats fishing exclusively with fewer than 4,500 hooks and boats keeping less than 500 pounds of groundfish; an effort reduction program in which the days spent fishing for groundfish are limited; annual harvest targets for the principal groundfish stocks (cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder); an exemption from effort reduction requirements for boats 45 feet or smaller and all boats groundfishing exclusively with fewer than 4,500 hooks per day; and a number of mesh size limits and time/area closure regulations.

2. Comments on the draft Northeast Regional Fisheries Data Needs Workshop Report have been received from participants and invitees. The report has been finalized and is ready for distribution.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

3. The Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Meeting of the 16th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop was held in Woods Hole 21-25 June 1993. Reviewed were assessments for pollock, summer flounder, Atlantic herring, and American lobster. The SARC also discussed data possibilities for an overfishing definition and a surplus production model for tilefish.

Publications in the 16th SAW NEFSC Reference Documents series will include:

- 93-13 Assessment of Pollock, Pollachius virens (L.) in Division 4VWX and Subareas 5 and 6, 1993; by R.K. Mayo and B.F. Figuerido.
- 93-14 Assessment of Summer Flounder, Paralichthys dentatus, 1993: Report of the Stock Assessment Workshop, Summer Flounder Working Group; M. Terceiro (editor).
- 93-15 Analytical Assessment of the Atlantic Herring Coastal Stock Complex; by D. Stevenson, D. Libby, and K. Friedland.
- 93-16 Report of the Workshop on Atlantic Herring Science and Assessment in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Area.
- 93-17 Evaluation of Available Data for the Development of Overfishing Definition for Tilefish in the Middle Atlantic; by G. Shepherd

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- 93-20 Calculating Biological Reference Points for American Lobster Stock Status Off the Northeast USA; J. Idoine and M. Fogarty.
- 93-21 Assessment of American Lobster Stock Status Off the Northeast USA; by S. Murawski, et al.
- 93-18 Report of the Sixteenth Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (16th SAW), Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Consensus Summary of Assessments.

The Advisory Report which was drafted at the SARC meeting will be reviewed at the SAW Plenary Meeting at the Ramada (Airport) Hotel in Boston on 29 July 1993 and featured in the Report of the Sixteenth Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (16th SAW), The Plenary (NEFSC Ref. Doc. 93-19).

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. On 1 June 1993, R/V ALBATROSS IV was removed from active service to prepare for an extensive repair period beginning on 7 June. Some repairs will require drydocking. The vessel is scheduled to resume active service on 3 January 1994.
2. DELAWARE II conducted Parts I (1-18 June) and II (21 June - 2 July) of a Marine Mammal Survey. Surveyed were delphinid and beaked whales in continental shelf-slope and near oceanic waters between the Nova Scotian Shelf and southern New England (including the southern edge of Georges Bank). Gordon Waring was Chief Scientist during the survey.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

1. Approved URI/NOAA CMER (Cooperative Marine Education and Research) Program Proposals:

- 93-06 Assessment of Reproductive Success of Summer Flounder (Paralichthys dentatus) Collected from Clean vs. Contaminated Areas (David A. Bengtson, Department of Zoology and Jose J. Pereira, National Marine Fisheries Service, Milford Laboratory, Co-Principal Investigators)
- 93-07 Diarrheic Shellfish Poisoning in the U.S. Northeast Coastal Waters (Lucie Maranda, Department of Pharmacognosy and Environmental Health Sciences, Principal Investigator)
- 93-08 Stomach Evacuation Rates in Fishes (Ann G. Durbin, Michael J. Fogarty and Edward G. Durbin, Graduate School of Oceanography, Co-Principal Investigators)
- 93-09 Effects of Scallop Dredging on Benthic Communities (Jeremy S. Collie, Graduate School of Oceanography, Principal Investigator)
- 93-10 An in vitro Study of the Immune Responses of Winter Flounder (P. americanus) from Contaminated and Clean Sites in Long Island Sound (Joel E. Bodammer, Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Veterinary Science, Principal Investigator)
- 93-11 Comparative Approach to Recruitment in Marine Decapods (J. Stanley Cobb, Department of Zoology, Principal Investigator)
- 93-12 Student Research Training Program (Howard E. Winn, Graduate School of Oceanography and Timothy D. Smith, National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole Laboratory, Co-Principal Investigators)
- 93-13 Maintenance of the Computer Database for the Right Whale (Eubalaena glacialis) in Waters of the Western North Atlantic (Robert D. Kenney and Howard E. Winn, Graduate School of Oceanography, Co-Principal Investigators)

93-14 Applications of Satellite Remote Sensing Data in Marine Research (Peter Cornillon, Graduate School of Oceanography and Reed Armstrong, National Marine Fisheries Service, Narragansett Laboratory, Co-Principal Investigators)

2. Approved Rutgers/NOAA CMER Program Proposals:

R93-01 Life History and Ecology of Windowpane Flounder (*Scophthalmus aquosus*) in the Mid-Atlantic Bight (Kenneth W. Able, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences and Wallace W. Morse, National Marine Fisheries Service, James J. Howard Laboratory, Co-Principal Investigators)

R93-05 Studies on Surf Clam, *Spisula solidissima*, Recruitment (Judith P. Grassle, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Principal Investigator)

R93-06 Identification of Major Chemical Compounds Relating to Quality Determination of Mackerel and other Fatty Fish by a GC/MS Method: Development of a Novel Rapid and Nondestructive NIR Method to Determine these Compounds and their Application to Fish Quality Assessment and Processing Improvement (Tung-Ching Lee, Department of Food Science, Principal Investigator)

R93-08 Evaluation of Toxicity of Dioxins, Furans and PCBs on Commercially Important Species Inhabiting and Migrating Through the Newark Bay System (Keith R. Cooper, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Principal Investigator)

CONTACT: Larry Buckley
401-792-6671

3. Closing date for applications for Marine Science Administrator for the Cooperative Marine Education and Research (CMER) Program with Rutgers University has been extended to 6 August 1993.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. Dr. Melinda Davis, Associate Professor of Biology and two students (Roland Buford and Rita Powell) from Fort Valley State College, Georgia, are working with Dr. Ambrose Jearld, Jr. (NEFSC/RPAC) and Dr. Scott Gallagher (WHOI) this summer. The work is sponsored by NEFSC as part of the NMFS Human Resources Development Plan (HRDP)/Plan External Recruitment Program which serves two purposes: (1) to provide immediate support for research by faculty and students from historically black institutions; and, (2) to serve as an incentive for the Center to seek funding via the HRDP program to implement a long-term strategy for addressing local long-term human diversity resource staffing needs.

Dr. Davis will be examining larval winter flounder otolith development and behavioral changes through metamorphosis using various otolith preparation and etching techniques in combination with computer-video motion analysis and image enhancement. The current project is a continuation of earlier work that was recently published in *Fisheries Bulletin*. The work is being carried out at the WHOI Environmental Systems Laboratory where Dr. Davis has visiting scientist status.

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

2. In mid-June, Dr. Ronald Schlitz began a six-month detail with the Coastal Sciences Program of the Office of Naval Research in Washington. In Ron's absence, NEFSC's extramural proposal program will be coordinated by Dr. Alan White, in addition to his other duties.

Announcements regarding the availability of extramural research funds will continue to be circulated to OICs, Division Chiefs, CMER Program Directors, and Research Council members. The application process for NEFSC staff consists of submission of a short preproposal through the Division Chief, using forms that have been distributed. Upon approval of the preproposal by the Science and Research Director, a full proposal is then submitted through the same channels.

CONTACT: Alan White
508-548-5123, x301

3. Drs. Tim D. Smith and David Dow developed comments on behalf of the Center Science and Research Director on section 114 of the **Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)** which is up for Congressional reauthorization this year. Representatives of the Fishing Industry and Conservation Groups have developed proposed changes in section 114 of the MMPA which deals with conflicts between commercial fisheries catches and incidental catch mortality of marine mammals. Key outstanding issues for the MMPA reauthorization are developing operational criteria for defining OSP (optimum sustainable population) levels for marine mammal populations and the factors necessary to identify the manageable stock for a given species of marine mammal.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

4. Dr. David Dow represented the NEFSC at a reception on June 26, 1993 which marks the opening of the **Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary** in Plymouth, MA. Dr. Dow is the Center's point of contact with NOS (National Ocean Service) regarding the marine sanctuaries in the Northeast Region. His activities support the NMFS/NOS Memorandum of Agreement regarding the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



July 1993

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met in Wilmington DE, 14 - 15 July 1993. The Council heard a number of reports and took the following actions:

- o Voted to support joining NAFO, noting that the Council is concerned about its responsibilities under MFCMA and does not want NAFO membership to interfere with these responsibilities.
- o Voted to conceptually endorse the preferred alternative of Amendment 9 to the Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog FMP as a Secretarial Amendment and to ask the Regional Director to review all public hearing documents and Council comments to help make the document more palatable to the Council before it is brought back to the Committee and the Council. The preferred alternative would exempt the Maine "mahogany quahog" fishery from the ITQ controls of Amendment 8.
- o Voted to submit a letter to the Industry and Education Committee indicating support for proposed legislation to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act so as to provide for adequate testing programs, as protection from health risks, while allowing the states flexibility in determining beach closures or implementing stricter standards.
- o Voted to adopt the preferred alternative in Amendment 5 to the Summer Flounder FMP; that the provisions of this amendment be implemented by emergency rule; and to extend the emergency action enacting Amendment 4.
- o Given the required annual review of bluefish catch statistics, commercial share projections, and the most recent stock assessment information, the Council voted to accept (jointly with ASMFC) the numbers presented with the understanding that there would be a commercial quota system in 1994. The Council also voted to revise the FMP to implement a commercial quota system; and that the Council and ASMFC not recommend any new framework measures other than those contemplated under the current Plan.
- o Voted to accept the staff's document on federal weakfish management as a guideline in discussions with ASMFC; and that the staff draft a letter to the Assistant Administrator asking if a Council FMP could supplement the ASMFC FMP (in the EEZ) with a plan that would prohibit the take and possession of weakfish.
- o Voted to request that the NEFMC petition the Secretary to implement an emergency rule prohibiting the freezing of scallops at sea.

2. The final report of the **Northeast Region Fisheries Data Needs Workshop**, held in Gloucester MA during 31 March - 1 April 1993, has been distributed. The report will be published in the NEFSC Reference Document series.

Dr. Terry Smith reported on the Data Needs Workshop at a meeting of the ASMFC Management Science Committee held in Providence RI on 23 July.

3. A draft **Rebuilding Assistance Program for New England Groundfish** prepared by the New England Groundfish Planning Team (Terry Smith, chairman; Jack Terrill and Stan Wang, NERO; Steve Edwards, Phil Logan, Steve Murawski, and Bill Overholtz, NEFSC) was reviewed by the NMFS Steering Committee on Financing Fisheries Restoration in Silver Spring on 12 July. The Assistance Program was developed as an example of a financial assistance package which could be used to aid industry during stock rebuilding and would be used to motivate changes in the MFCMA to allow implementation of such plans.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

4. SAW Chairman, Dr. Vaughn Anthony, reviewed the Advisory Report on Stock Status for pollock, summer flounder, herring, lobster, and tilefish at the **Plenary Meeting of the 16th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (16th SAW)**, held on 29 July at the Airport Ramada in Boston. More than 60 persons attended the meeting.

The Advisory Report was drafted at the Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) meeting in June, in addition to the Report of the 16th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (16th SAW), SARC Consensus Summary of Assessments (NEFSC Reference Document 93-18).

Drs. V. Anthony, T.P. Smith, and S. Murawski will edit the draft Advisory Report according to the suggestions of the Plenary before it is released in

the Report of the 16th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (16th SAW), The Plenary (NEFSC Reference Document 93-19).

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. Docksides repairs on the R/V ALBATROSS IV continue at the Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, VA. During 21 - 22 July 1993, Charles Byrne travelled to the AMC to review progress as it related to mission capabilities.

2. R/V DELAWARE II conducted a **Fish Feeding Ecology** cruise during 6 - 17 July to study the daily feeding patterns of certain species to determine feeding interrelationships and predation upon young Atlantic cod and haddock. A total of 83 trawl stations were occupied at four study sites (48 hours each) on Georges Bank. Chief Scientist was Ray Bowman of the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x324).

3. R/V DELAWARE II began a **Bottom Trawl Survey** on 20 July 1993. The purpose of survey is to determine the summer distribution and relative abundance of fish and invertebrate species in the Gulf of Maine. Survey area includes the near shore waters of Maine and New Hampshire, central Gulf of Maine, and parts of Massachusetts Bay. Chief Scientist is Jay Burnett of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x286).

4. Charles Byrne represented the NEFSC at a meeting held in Washington during 28 - 29 July 1993, to review the **required specifications for the planned Repairs-To-Extend the R/V DELAWARE II**. The repair period is scheduled to begin during July 1994. The vessel will be out of service for approximately one year.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

Dr. David Dow participated in an Environmental Protection Agency Workshop on Dense Nonaqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPLS) at Hazardous Waste Sites. DNAPLS represent an organic phase in the groundwater or unsaturated zone which is heavier than water and only sparingly soluble in the aqueous phase. Because DNAPLS are tightly bound to the sediment matrix it is not possible to completely remove these from the interstices between the sediment particles. DNAPLS contain many of the volatile and semi-volatile organic pollutants in groundwater and since these pollutants gradually leach into the aqueous phase over time, they provide an ongoing mechanism for polluting the groundwater with such toxic chemicals as chlorinated solvents, PCBs, PAHs, pesticides, etc.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



August 1993

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met in Danvers MA, 10 - 11 August 1993. The Council elected Joe Brancalone to continue to serve as Chairman and Eric Smith, Vice Chairman. The three at-large members elected to the Council's Executive Committee were: Loyall Sewall, Phil Coates, and Barry Gibson.

The Council took the following actions:

Scallop

- o Considered a number of issues raised by Council and NMFS staff in the process of developing Amendment 4 and voted to adopt the revisions or clarify the language as suggested.
- o Voted that the Regional Director proceed as expeditiously as possible to develop a procedure for instituting a meat count for scallops frozen at sea.
- o Voted that the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences research program be exempted from the meat count provisions of the current amendment.

Groundfish

- o Voted to recommend continuation of the emergency action to continue the ban on pair trawling.
- o Voted to recommend to raise the trip limit to 5,000 lbs. for haddock for the duration of the emergency.
- o Reviewed a memorandum prepared by staff which listed a number of issues needing

clarification or resolution prior to the submission of Amendment 5 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP and voted on the package, concurring with the recommendations of the committee.

- o Relative to the issue of targeting on small whiting (<7"), the Council went on record as opposing development of the small whiting fishery and will use its auspices to convene a meeting of industry participants to discuss possible management measures to eliminate the practice.

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Shark Operations Team

- o Voted to submit a letter of comment supportive to a proactive role of the Operations Team and endorsing open meetings.

Ocean Quahog/Surf Clam

- o Voted to endorse Amendment 9 to the Ocean Quahog/Surf Clam FMP.

The Council also heard reports from the Lobster, Marine Mammals, and Habitat Committees. The first part of the Lobster Committee Meeting was held in conjunction with the 16th SAW Plenary (29 July), specifically the presentation of the Advisory Report on American Lobster.

2. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met in Baltimore MD, 18-19 August 1993. Dave Keifer was selected as Executive Director, effective 1 January 1994. Newly appointed members, John Horn and Brian Rothschild, and re-appointed members, Alan Weiss and Tony DiLernia, were sworn in.

The Council took the following actions:

Bluefish

- o The commercial quota will be based on recreational catch for the period of 1990-1992. The Council will review and comment on the state implementation plans and, together with the Coastal Migratory Committee, examine the full 1993 recreational and commercial landings in the spring of 1994 to consider adjusting the 1994 quota.

Because the commercial share of the bluefish catch has in 1992 exceeded 20% of the total landings, the provisions of the bluefish FMP require implementation of a commercial quota by state for bluefish using a mechanism similar to that specified for summer flounder.

Summer Flounder

- o Voted to recommend the use of the amendment process to resolve the one-mesh-onboard rule in the summer flounder management plan.

NMFS Statistics Strategic Plan

- o Voted to ask NMFS for an evaluation of the fisheries statistics program.

Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish

- o Voted to reaffirm the 1993 specifications for squid, mackerel, and butterfish as appropriate for 1994.

3. The Northeast Region Fisheries Data Needs Workshop (NEFSC Ref. Doc. 93-22) is now available. The document is a summary of a two-day workshop held in Gloucester MA, 31 March - 1 April 1993. The report includes the rationale for re-examining data needs relative to northeast fishery management, a summary of presentations and discussion, and tables representing the group's consensus on the collective fisheries data needs of the region.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. R/V DELAWARE II:

- o Completed **Gulf of Maine Bottom Trawl Survey** on 4 August 1993. The purpose of the survey was to determine the summer distribution and relative abundance of fish and invertebrate species. The area surveyed included the near shore waters of Maine and New Hampshire, central Gulf of Maine, and parts of Massachusetts Bay. Chief Scientist was Jay Burnett of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x286).
- o Conducted a **Fish Feeding Ecology Study** during 9 - 20 August 1993. The cruise objective was to observe daily feeding patterns of certain species so as to determine feeding interrelationships and predation upon young Atlantic cod and haddock. Four study sites (48 hours duration each), with a total of 96 trawl stations, were completed on Georges Bank. Chief Scientist was Elizabeth Broughton of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x300).
- o Conducted **Gear Comparison** during 23 - 31 August 1993 to study the relative fishing power of two types of trawl doors. One study site, with a total of 46 trawl stations, was completed in the Gulf of Maine. Although the cruise was originally scheduled to continue until 3 September, it ended early due to weather associated with Hurricane Emily.

2. R/V OREGON II:

- o Conducted **Sea Scallop Survey (Part I)** during 31 July - 9 August 1993 to begin the annual investigation of the distribution and relative abundance of sea scallops. Completed were 215 stations in Middle Atlantic and Southern New England waters. Chief Scientist was Susan Wigley of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x359).

- o Conducted Sea Scallop Survey (Part II) during 11 - 25 August 1993 to continue and complete the annual investigation of the distribution and relative abundance of sea scallops. Completed were 232 stations in the Great South Channel and on Georges Bank. Chief Scientist was Donald Flescher of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x293).

3. R/V ABEL-J (charter) conducted a Harbor Porpoise Survey in conjunction with an areal survey during 3 - 22 August 1993 in the Gulf of Maine - Bay of Fundy region. The cruise objective was to develop survey indices, conduct behavior studies, and to relate the efficiencies of aircraft vs. surface surveys. Chief Scientist was Debra Palka of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x387).

4. R/V ALBATROSS IV arrived at the North Florida Shipyard in Jacksonville on 17 August 1993 where she will undergo heavy and extensive repairs and equipment upgrades until 17 December 1993. The vessel is scheduled to return to service on 3 January 1994.

5. Charles Byrne represented the NEFSC at a requirement specifications review meeting for the upcoming repair and modernization ship yard period of DELAWARE II. The meeting was held on 16 - 27 August 1993 in Crystal City, VA at the office of the contracted naval architect. The yard period for Repair-to-Extend the DELAWARE II is currently scheduled to begin in July 1994. Once work begins, the ship will be out of service for 12 months. NOAA's System Project Office is responsible for the planning and oversight of this work.

6. During 16 - 27 August 1993, Charles Byrne traveled to Norway and participated in an International O-group Fish Survey aboard the Norwegian Fisheries Research Vessel JOHAN HJORT. The purpose of this trip was to investigate and evaluate arrangements and equipment of the JOHAN HJORT for possible inclusion in new NOAA LMR (Living Marine Resources) research vessels. ALBATROSS IV is scheduled to be the first NOAA medium endurance LMR research vessel to be replaced under NOAA's Fleet Replacement and Modernization Program.

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. Research Program of the National Marine Fisheries Service at the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory, Sandy Hook, N.J., a report prepared by a scientific advisory group chaired by Dr. George Grice, was submitted to the NEFSC Science and Research Director.

The Howard Laboratory is a new research facility that is shared by NMFS and the State of New Jersey. The complex consists of a new two-story structure (32,000 sq ft) with the majority of space devoted to experimental and analytical laboratories and their support systems and, when renovated, a building (35,000 sq ft), primarily devoted to office space. The facilities, leased under an agreement with the State of New Jersey, are well suited to address the most immediate and pressing needs for information leading to understanding the ecology of coastal and estuarine systems and the effects of human activities on them.

Under the NMFS goal to promote conservation and management of the nation's living marine resources, the primary mission of the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory is to:

- o Conduct research leading to an understanding of ecology of coastal and estuarine organisms and the effects of human activities on nearshore marine populations.

To achieve this mission, research at the laboratory should be in three program areas:

- o FISHERY ECOLOGY -- focusing on the resiliency of coastal and estuarine systems to fishing activities;
- o ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY -- to investigate the biological effects of contaminants in coastal and estuarine systems;
- o HABITAT PROCESSES -- to determine the role of coastal and estuarine habitats in sustaining marine populations.

Cooperative research programs involving NMFS,

other federal agencies, state agencies, and academic scientists is encouraged. It is expected that collaboration with other investigators will be both at the national and international levels.

2. Dr. George Grice coordinated the Center review of the NMFS Draft Biological Opinion on the impact of the proposed Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) outfall pipe on the endangered species/marine mammals in Massachusetts/Cape Cod Bays. The draft was prepared by the Northeast Regional Office following the release of a report by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that evaluated the impact of the MWRA outfall on the endangered species/marine mammals pursuant to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act consultation. A number of Center scientists, including Drs. Alan White and David Dow, participated in the review of the draft Biological Opinion. The document is scheduled to be released from NMFS Headquarters in September 1993.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

3. Since March 1992, NEFSC scientists have submitted 51 proposals for extramural research funding, with requested funds totaling about \$11 million over a period of several years. Nineteen of these proposals have been approved, at a current funding level of \$1.6 million.

Successful proposals were listed in the April 1993 issue of "Linkages." Since then, there have been five more successful proposals for extramural support. The NEFSC principal investigators, funding sources, and proposal titles follow:

Gregory Lough (GLOBEC)

Seasonal Development of Stratified Water on Georges Bank: Dynamics of Zooplankton and Larval Fish

Gary Wikfors (UCONN, Marine Science Institute)

Alteration of the Planktonic Food Web Structure of Long Island Sound: Possible Enhancement of the Microbial Loop Due to Eutrophication

Frank Steimle (NJ DEPE, Div. Fish, Game & Wildlife)

Stomach Contents of Fish Collected from New Jersey's Artificial Reefs

Anne Studholme (NOAA Coastal Ocean Program)

Fish Recruitment in the Northeastern United States: The Role of Estuarine Habitats

Andrew Draxler (EPA & U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

New York Bight Apex Recreational Fish Contaminant Survey

CONTACT: Alan White
508-548-5123, x301

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

Dr. David Dow participated in a workshop on ecological risk assessment and presented a paper on: "Two software tools to aid wetlands remote sensing" at a meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Madison, WI.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



September 1993

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met in Kennebunkport ME, 22 - 23 September 1993. Most of the meeting was dedicated to discussion of a public hearing draft for Amendment 5 to the Lobster FMP. Under current regulations, the minimum size for lobsters will increase at the end of the year. Amendment 5, developed jointly by an industry working group, the Lobster Oversight Committee, and Council and Plan Development Team staff, would enact management provisions which would obviate the need for the gauge increase. Measures under discussion include a moratorium on entry, an effort reduction schedule tailored to specific management areas, which could include trap limits and Individual Transferable Quotas, and a number of permitting and reporting requirements. The Council, meeting as a committee-of-the-whole (Lobster Oversight Committee, ASMFC Lobster Board, all other Council members), devoted most of the meeting to development of the package, but did not complete their review. The augmented committee will meet again on 14 October.

The Council took the following actions:

NAFO

- o Representative Studts (D-MA) has introduced legislature which would implement U.S. membership in NAFO and establish a consultative committee to develop procedures for managing U.S./Canada trans-boundary studies. The Council asked the State Department to communicate with Canada regarding a meeting to discuss these issues.

Large Pelagics

- o Voted to send a letter to Dick Shaeffer (NMFS) with a number of recommendations related to shark management.
- o Voted not to support return of management of highly migratory species to the Councils, although, in principle, the Council remains interested in attempting to develop a satisfactory Council-driven process which could manage highly migratory species.
- o Voted to support the position of the Coalition of United States Tuna User Groups: that no further reduction in U.S. bluefin quota should occur without reductions in quota from east Atlantic and Mediterranean fisheries.

Groundfish

- o Voted to schedule, as soon as possible, scoping meetings to discuss possible management in response to the recent increase in targeting on juvenile whiting.

2. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met in Philadelphia, 28-30 September 1993. Lee Anderson was reelected as Chairman and Tony DiLernia elected as Vice Chairman. The resignation of John Bryson, Executive Director, effective at 5:00 PM on 30 September, was announced. John Bryson will serve as a consultant to the Council on weakfish through the end of December. Dave Keifer will assume the duties of Executive Director on 1 October.

The Council took the following actions:

NAFO

- o Voted to request that Council representation be included in the consultative committee articulated in the NAFO agreement.

Summer Flounder

- o As the emergency rule which implements Amendment 5 to the summer flounder FMP and allows transfers of quotas between states expires on 24 November, and because there have yet been no transfers between states, the Council voted to request extension of the emergency rule to avoid a hiatus between the expiration of the rule and implementation of Amendment 5.
- o For 1994, adopted a coastwide harvest limit of 26.7 million pounds (commercial 16 million pounds; recreational 10.2 million pounds); established a minimum size of 14" in the recreational fishery and coastwide recreational possession limits and season to be developed with ASMFC and the states.
- o Voted to release Amendment 6 for public hearing pending concurrence of the ASMFC. The amendment would remove the one-mesh onboard rule and change the timing requirements for recreational management measures.

Tilefish

- o Voted to send out the tilefish scoping document for public review. Scoping hearings will be scheduled in late October.

Monkfish

- o Pending development of an FMP to protect monkfish, the Council voted to send a letter to state directors requesting implementation of several suggested

measures, emphasizing tail and whole fish minimum size as priority management tools.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

3. The SAW-16/17 Steering Committee Meeting was held in Saugus, MA on 21 September 1993. The 16th SAW documentation, the current SAW structure, and the 16th SAW process were discussed, and the research recommendations of the Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) and its Subcommittees were reviewed. The Steering Committee then set the terms of reference for species to be reviewed, and timing for SAW-17.

The SAW-17 timing:

- o Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Meeting
29 November - 3 (or 4) December 1993, NEFSC, Woods Hole, MA
- o SAW Plenary Meeting
24 January 1994, In conjunction with the MAFMC Meeting

Species to be reviewed (by Subcommittee and priority):

- o Northern Demersal Subcommittee
Silver Hake (2 stocks) - 1st Priority
Georges Bank Cod - 2nd Priority
- o Southern Demersal Subcommittee
So. New England Yellowtail Flounder - 1st Priority
Georges Bank Yellowtail Founder - 2nd Priority
- o Pelagic/Coastal Subcommittee
Bluefish - 1st Priority
Butterfish - 1st Priority
- o Invertebrate Subcommittee
Long-finned Squid - 1st Priority
Short-finned Squid - 1st Priority

Terms of reference for the species/stocks are contained in the Conclusions of the SAW Steering Committee section of the Report of the 16th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (16th SAW), The Plenary (NEFSC Reference Document 93-19) which will be available for distribution in October.

Time permitting, the terms of reference for the Assessment Methods Subcommittee (16th SAW, SARC Report -- NEFSC Ref. Doc. 93-18) as well as species biological reference points will be reviewed at the SARC Meeting.

4. In preparation for SAW-17, SARC Subcommittee Chairmen have scheduled the following meetings to address the terms of reference set by the SAW Steering Committee:

- o Pelagic/Coastal Subcommittee (W. Overholtz, Chair)
 - Bluefish Working Group Meeting
CT DEP, Marine Fisheries Office, Old Lyme CT, 25-26 October 1993
- o Invertebrate Subcommittee, (F. Serchuk, Chair)
 - Long-Finned Squid, Short-Finned Squid, Butterfish (same FMP)
MAFMC, Dover DE,
27-29 October 1993
- o Southern Demersal Subcommittee (W. Gabriel, Chair)
 - Southern New England Yellowtail Flounder, Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder
NEFSC, Woods Hole MA
2-5 November 1993
- o Northern Demersal Subcommittee (R. Mayo, Chair)
 - Silver Hake (2 Stocks)
Georges Bank Cod
NEFSC, Woods Hole MA
8-12 November 1993

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. R/V DELAWARE II conducted the Autumn Bottom Trawl Survey in two parts to determine the autumn distribution and relative abundance of fish and invertebrate species off the northeastern U.S. coast.

- o During Part I (7 - 18 September), 121 stations were completed on the continental shelf from south of Cape Hatteras, NC to Atlantic City, NJ. Chief Scientist was Jay Burnette of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x286)
- o During Part II (20 September - 1 October), 87 stations were completed on the continental shelf from Atlantic City, NJ to western Georges Bank. Chief Scientist was Linda Despres-Patanjo of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x346).

2. Shipyard work on R/V ALBATROSS IV continues at the North Florida Shipyard in Jacksonville, FL.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. Dr. Ambrose Jearld, Jr. (RPAC) has recently been appointed to serve as NMFS' representative on the NOAA Reinventing Government Working Group on People (People Committee). The group reports directly to Deputy Undersecretary, Diana Josephson. In their effort to streamline and improve personnel and administrative functions, the group will review and design strategies and methods to implement various recommendations from all parts of NOAA.

Additional suggestions on streamlining and improving personnel and administrative functions are welcome. You may write or contact Dr. Jearld by telephone, by E Mail on Internet (ajearld@whsun1.whoi.edu), or NMFS CC Mail.

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

2. RPAC staff participated in the development of the Center response to a draft report from the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The report was entitled "Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations of the Intentional Introductions Policy Review." This policy statement involves the introduction of exotic/nonindigenous species into aquatic ecosystems and terrestrial habitats (wetlands). The draft report is scheduled to be submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1207 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990. Many of the nonindigenous fish species introductions involved escaped aquaculture/aquarium specimens and intentional introductions of gamefish outside their natural range. The regulations provide grandfathering for the past introductions of gamefish and propose a state-based primacy in the permitting for nonimported, exotic species. The Federal government has primacy for permits regarding exotic, imported species. In both cases the permitting process will occur on a case-by-case basis.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



October 1993

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council's Lobster Oversight Committee met on 13-14 October 1993 to complete development of a public hearing document for Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. As reported in last month's *Linkages*, the amendment includes, as a preferred alternative: maintaining the current minimum carapace length (3 1/4"), mandatory vessel and dealer reporting, operator permits, a moratorium on further entry (with potential sunset provisions), and a stock rebuilding program which will entail effort reduction measures. Public hearings are scheduled for the first two weeks of November and final Council action for December.

2. The New England Fishery Management Council met in Danvers on 29 October 1993. Most of the Council meeting was concerned with developing a response to the recent disapproval of two parts of Amendment 5 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan: a framework for management of the winter flounder fishery that takes place entirely in state waters; and haddock trip limits.

With regard to Amendment 5, the Council voted to:

- o Give the Groundfish Committee the authority to produce a public hearing document which would develop the concept of state waters' winter flounder management, as articulated by the ASMFC Winter Flounder Board;
- o With regard to protection for haddock; recommend implementation of an expanded closure (in time) of Area II from January through June, drop the expansion

in space (as stated in the current amendment language) and include a 4,000 pound trip limit for haddock.

- o Recommend emergency action to adopt certain parts of Amendment 5 on January 1. Specific requests were to extend (in time) the Area II closure (January-June), to ban pair trawling, to remove the Area I closure (with an exception for gillnets), and to add a 4,000 pound trip limit for haddock.

At the request of the Council, concerned with recent landings of juvenile silver hake (whiting), Dr. Vaughn Anthony (NEFSC) gave a presentation on silver hake life history, stock identification and distribution, landings, abundance indices, growth rate, catch-at-age distributions, and sexual maturity schedule.

- o With regard to monkfish, the Council asked staff to prepare a draft fishery management plan and a public hearing document which would contain, as principal management measures, minimum tail and whole fish size restrictions.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. DELAWARE II conducted Parts III and IV of the Autumn Bottom Trawl Survey. The survey is designed to determine the autumn distribution and relative abundance of fish and invertebrate species off the northeastern U.S. coast.

- o Ninety-three stations were completed during Part III of the survey, 4 - 15

October 1993, in the waters of Georges Bank and southern Gulf of Maine. Chief Scientist was Malcolm Silverman of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x202).

- o The final thirty-seven stations of the survey were completed during Part IV, 19 - 27 October 1993, in the waters of the Gulf of Maine, including the western part of the Nova Scotian Shelf. Chief Scientist was Don Flescher of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x293).

2. Shipyard work on ALBATROSS IV continues at the North Florida Shipyard located in Jacksonville, FL. Due to unexpected additional necessary repairs, the ship's departure from Jacksonville will be delayed until 15 January 1994.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

NEFSC Divisions/Staffs were requested to provide statements of research topics that they would like to have considered for support by Cooperative Marine Education and Research (CMER) programs at the Universities of Massachusetts and Rhode Island and Rutgers University. Topics, with one paragraph descriptions, are due to RPAC on 1 December 1994.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. RPAC staff provided comments to the Center Director, evaluating the FY 1994 NOAA Implementation Plan for the initiatives to Build Sustainable Fisheries and to Recover Protected Species. These are the two major NMFS initiatives in the NOAA Strategic Plan and will be the subject of an agency-wide research review later in FY 1994. The NEFSC Planning Meeting (3 November 1993) will cross-walk the Northeast Regional Implementation Plan Goals to the NOAA Strategic Plan Initiatives/Elements.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

2. Dr. David Dow helped develop the Center response to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed policy on how to deal with hybrids under the auspices of the Endangered Species Act. Recent developments in molecular biology have shown that mitochondrial DNA of many species contains a mixture from different subspecies or sub-populations of a single species, even though these forms appear to be reproductively isolated (breed true). Formerly, the USFWS policy did not provide protection to such hybrid forms of endangered/threatened species. The proposed policy would provide protection as long as the species breed true and in those situations for which an approved recovery plan exists.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

3. Allen E. Peterson, Jr., NEFSC Science and Research Director; Dr. Robert Murchelano, Chief EPD; and Dr. George Grice, Chief RPAC, attended dedication ceremonies for the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory. The facility was financed by the state of New Jersey and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Scientists from NMFS, NJ Department of Environmental Protection and Energy, as well as those from other NJ institutions will share the space. Considerable new scientific equipment and instrumentation has been purchased for the research groups. NEFSC personnel should begin to move in this fall.

This "world-class" facility houses a 32,000 gallon, computer controlled, aquarium and a number of other high-tech wet-labs where experiments may be observed on a closed-circuit television system. It is well suited to address the information needs leading to a better understanding of the ecology of coastal and estuarine organisms and the effects of human activities on nearshore marine populations.

The facility and the proposed research program to be conducted there are described in the Research Program of the National Marine Fisheries Service at the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory, a report prepared by a special scientific advisory group to the NEFSC Science and Research Director, headed by Dr. Grice.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



November 1993

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council** met on 3-4 November 1993 in Port Jefferson, NY.

With regard to the management of large coastal sharks and pelagics, the Council offered several comments on the scoping document for future shark management: support for separate geographical quotas for pelagics and large coastal sharks; support of a control date; no further subdivision of quotas based on time; a recommendation that trip limits be considered for directed shark fishermen; support for spawning/nursery closures for the directed shark fishery; a prohibition on expansion of the fleet and commercial shark fishing by recreational anglers; and support for a universal reporting system for catch and effort in the directed shark fishery and total catch in the incidental fishery.

On swordfish, the Council encouraged NMFS to issue no new permits and to develop criteria for those permits such that issuance be limited to those who have a history of landing swordfish.

For bluefin tuna, the Council recommended requiring **minimum numbers** of days between vessel landings of bluefin tuna and development of special break-away gear.

The Council has serious reservations regarding membership in NAFO, in particular, concerns regarding the management regime set forth in section 8 of H.R. 3058 and cannot support H.R. 3058 in its present form. (H.R. 3058 is the

"Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Act" introduced by Representative Studds; Section 8 establishes a U.S.-Canada council to discuss collaborative management of trans-boundary stocks.)

In other business, the Council supported development of a joint fishery management plan for dogfish, with the NEFMC; the MAFMC will be the lead Council.

2. A series of **public hearings on Amendment 5 to the American lobster fishery management plan** were held in the beginning of November in ten ports from Maine to New Jersey. Amendment 5 would provide a frameworked management plan for lobster to include a moratorium on further entry, regional management, effort controls on both the pot and non-pot directed fisheries, and a number of other management measures. The New England Fishery Management Council is scheduled to consider the amendment at its December meeting and must submit the amendment prior to December 23 to avoid an automatic 1/32" increase in the minimum gauge.

3. The **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission** held its **annual meeting** on November 14-18 in Newport, RI and discussed the management of species of regional interest including striped bass, bluefish, lobster, weakfish and summer flounder.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. The R/V DELAWARE II completed three cruises in November:

- o A Larval Herring Survey was conducted during 2-10 November 1993. Area of operations was Georges Bank, Southwestern Gulf of Maine, Great South Channel, and Nantucket Shoals. The survey was one in a series of surveys designed to measure the recovery of Atlantic herring in the Georges Bank area. Chief Scientist was John Sibunka of the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory, Sandy Hook, NJ (908-872-3064).
- o A Seafloor Mapping cruise of Stellwagen Bank was conducted 13-17 November 1993. The purpose of the cruise was to collect sediment samples to compliment side-scan sonar data previously collected on Stellwagen Bank. Chief Scientist was Page Valentine of the U.S. Geological Survey, Woods Hole (508-548-8700).
- o A Predator-Prey Gear Testing cruise was conducted during 22-24 November 1993. The area of operations was Wilkinson Basin. The purposes of this cruise was to test an acoustic profiling system (TAPS), and obtain live zooplankton samples (including the copepod, Calanus finmarchicus) using an opening/closing plankton net. Chief Scientist was Jack Green of the Narragansett Laboratory (401-782-3240).

2. On November 5, while in the drydock, a fire broke out in the winch room of the R/V ALBATROSS IV. Although damage was significant, it was confined to the winch room and the deck overhead. Additional repairs, due to the fire, have delayed the departure of the vessel from the shipyard to 7 February 1994.

3. During November 29-30, Charles Byrne traveled to Silver Spring, MD to represent the NEFSC at a NMFS FRAM (Fleet Replacement and Modernization) Committee Meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to finalize NMFS' scientific

requirements for new Medium Endurance LMR (Living Marine Resources) research vessels. The R/V ALBATROSS IV is scheduled currently to be the first NOAA medium endurance LMR research vessel replaced under NOAA's FRAM Program.

AQUACULTURE

Dr. Walter Blogoslawski is Chairman of the 14th Milford Aquaculture Seminar which will be held 22-24 February 1994 at the Howard Johnson's Lodge, 1052 Boston Post Road, Milford CT. Twenty five titles of papers on a number of topics of interest have been received to date. Abstracts of papers received by 5 January 1994, will be included in the seminar brochure. The brochure will be available at the time of on-site registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. on 22 February. A tour of the Milford Laboratory has been scheduled on 25 February for those who can stay another day.

CONTACT: Walter Blogoslawski
203-793-4235

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. The annual Center Planning Meeting was held on 3 November 1993. The research accomplishments of the Divisions/Staffs in 1993 were reviewed and project activities for FY 94 were discussed at this meeting. This year, the focus was on reimbursable projects and non-base funded programs (PPAs), and their importance in providing ODC (other direct costs) to the Divisions/Staffs, as well as the personnel resources and fiscal funds devoted to these projects. Many base-funded Center programs are tightly constrained by limited ODC funds. New Federal personnel ceilings are likely to force the Center to operate more productively with less resources in the future and will require value judgements on which activities receive highest priority. The James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory at Sandy Hook, NJ and the CMER (Cooperative Marine Education and Research) programs at the Universities of Rhode Island and Massachusetts and Rutgers University are top Center priorities.

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

2. RPAC staff contributed to the coordination of input from NEFSC Divisions/Staffs to the **NOAA-Wide Science Research Review**. This research review will be conducted by teams of external scientists organized around initiatives in the NOAA Strategic Implementation Plan (Build Sustainable Fisheries, Recover Protected Species, and Coastal Ecosystems Health). The information was sent to Steve Swartz at NMFS Headquarters.

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

3. The NMFS Senior Scientist, Dr. Michael Sissenwine, who is responsible for the NMFS Quality Assurance for Science Program, has been informed that NEFSC has **slated two program areas to review in FY 1994**: Oceanography Branch of the Environmental Processes Division and Population Biology Branch of the Conservation and Utilization Division. RPAC has initiated organization of these reviews.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

4. RPAC and CUD staff contributed to the development of a response from the Science and Research Director on the fish distribution and potential habitat for living marine resources at three borrow pit areas in Massachusetts Bay that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering as **potential burial sites for dredge spoils from Boston Harbor**. This information was forwarded to John Catena of the NER (Northeast Regional Office) Habitat and Protected Resources Division which will evaluate the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that the USCOE is preparing on the Boston Harbor dredging project.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

5. Dr. David Dow has been participating on an EPA-lead team that is preparing an **ecological risk assessment for the Waquoit Bay watershed on Cape Cod**. The initial problem formulation report was completed in November 1993 by Charles Spooner and Patti Tyler of EPA. The problem formulation stage identifies the sources of anthropogenic or natural stresses in the watershed and then develops hypotheses to relate the stressors to their effects. David Dow dealt with harvest pressure (both for shellfish harvesting in the bay and the impact of external fishing mortality and habitat loss/degradation within the bay on juvenile LMRs) as a source of stress. The next phase of the project will attempt to gather information on each source of stress in order to develop an ecological risk assessment (analogous to the health effects risk assessments from hazardous chemical exposure).

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



December 1993

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met at the Kings Grant Inn in Danvers on 8 - 9 December 1993. Most of the meeting was devoted to the development of a final package for Amendment 5 to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan. The other main topic of debate was haddock protection measures under Amendment 5 to the groundfish management plan.

Lobster Amendment 5. The Council faced a 23 December deadline for submission of a comprehensive amendment to the Lobster FMP. In the absence of such an amendment, the lobster minimum size (gauge size) would increase by 1/32" on 27 December. The initial amendment package was developed in concert with the lobster industry as reported in earlier *Linkages* (September 1993). The December meeting was to provide the final version of the Amendment such that a package could be submitted for Secretarial review prior to the deadline. A large number of changes to the draft package were approved at the meeting which are too numerous and detailed to list here. Copies of the draft Amendment package are available from the Council and copies of meeting materials including detailed minutes are available from Terry Smith. After a day and a half of debate, the Council voted to submit the package to the Secretary of Commerce.

Groundfish. Following a public hearing on states' waters only winter flounder regulations (within the context of Amendment 5 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP), the Council approved provisions which allow states to establish management controls for blackback provided those measures are consistent with ASMFC management policy and provided the vessel participating in the internal-waters fishery is not allowed to operate in Federal waters during the same period.

Most of the Council discussion on groundfish, however, concerned the disapproved portion of Amendment 5 relating to haddock protection measures. Allen Peterson, Jr., NEFSC Science and Research Director, gave a presentation on the status of the haddock stock. The recommendation of the NMFS was that the stock was so depleted that a no-retention rule was appropriate. Council staff also gave a presentation related to the efficacy of the original proposal for a 5,000 or 4,000 pound trip limit. After considerable debate, the Council recommended a trip limit between 500 and 1,000 pounds. With regard to Area II, a haddock spawning protection closed area, the Council action also included an expansion of the area geographically as well as an extension of the closure in time, with an emergency closure of the expanded area recommended for 3 January 1994.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

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2. The **Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council** met in Virginia Beach, VA, 14-16 December 1993 and took the following actions:

- o Voted to approve Amendment 6 to the Summer Flounder FMP for submission to the Secretary for approval and voted to request emergency action by the Secretary to implement the measures contained in the Amendment (net mesh regulations and various housekeeping measures).
- o Voted to reject draft Amendment 9 to the Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog FMP (prepared by NMFS at the request of the Council as a proposed Secretarial Amendment) and to request continuation of the experimental fishery (off Maine) until the Council can develop its own amendment.
- o Voted to work with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to develop Amendment 2 to the ASMFC's Weakfish FMP, including management measures in the EEZ. The Council assumed that given passage of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act it would not be necessary to develop a Council FMP for regulation of weakfish in the EEZ.
- o Voted to send a letter to the New England Fishery Management Council expressing concern over the inability to regulate the landing of frozen scallops and requesting emergency action to address the problem.

CONTACT: Tom Morrissey
508-548-5123, x236

3. The **Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Meeting** of the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW-17), was held at NEFSC Woods Hole, 29 November - 4 December 1993. The SARC reviewed analyses for silver hake (2 stocks), So. New England yellowtail flounder, long- and short-finned squid, butterfish and bluefish; prepared a "Consensus Summary of Assessments" report (with research recommendations); and drafted the "Advisory Report on Stock Status".

As the Pelagic/Coastal Subcommittee did not have sufficient time to address all terms of reference for bluefish before the SARC meeting, it was agreed that the Subcommittee would meet again, as soon as possible, to address the remaining issues. The SARC itself would then meet in Special Session to review the new material before the Plenary meeting in January.

The SAW-17 Plenary Meeting will be held in conjunction with a Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council at the Dunes Manor Hotel, Ocean City Maryland, 24 - 25 January 1994. The main purpose of the meeting will be to present and discuss the "Advisory Report on Stock Status" and to review the highlights of the SARC session.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. The R/V **DELAWARE II** completed two cruises in December:

- o **Larval Herring Survey** was conducted during 30 November to 10 December 1993. The area of operations included

Georges Bank, southwestern Gulf of Maine, Great South Channel, and Nantucket Shoals. The survey is one in a series of surveys designed to measure the recovery of Atlantic herring in the Georges Bank area. Although the cruise ended earlier than planned, all primary objectives were achieved. Additional work scheduled for the balance of the cruise period was canceled due to inclement weather. Chief Scientist was John Sibunka of the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory, Sandy Hook, NJ (908-872-3064).

- o **Predator-Prey Gear Testing** was conducted during 20 - 21 December 1993 in the southern New England area. The purpose of this cruise was to test a pelagic trawl that may be used during experiments scheduled to be conducted during May and June. Chief Scientist was William Michaels of the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x259).

2. Repair work on the R/V ALBATROSS IV continues. The scheduled departure date from the shipyard is 7 February 1994.

3. The NOAA working group responsible for developing requirements and specifications for **Repairs-To-Extend the DELAWARE II** met in Norfolk, VA, on 2 December to review the final draft of the specifications. Charles Byrne represented the NEFSC on the working group.

Final comments on the draft of the Requirements Document for the Repairs-To-Extend the DELAWARE II were completed and forwarded to the Office of NOAA Corps Operations (ONCO) Fleet Replacement and Modernization Office in late December.

4. Charles Byrne represented the NEFSC at the **Program User's Workshop** sponsored by

ONCO's Atlantic Marine Center. The Workshop is held annually in Norfolk, VA. The purpose of the workshop is to enhance communications between research vessel operators and users, and to discuss and resolve issues of common interest.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

A list of 30 **research topics**, prepared by NEFSC staff, have been distributed to faculties of the Universities of Rhode Island (URI) and Massachusetts (UMass) and Rutgers University for the **development of CMER (Cooperative Marine Education and Research) proposals.** The due date for receipt of pre-proposals by CMER Program Directors is 28 January 1994.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. A meeting was held to consider **Dr. Michael Pennington's (RPAC) proposal to reduce survey tow duration** and its implication on survey precision, comparability, and biological samples. RPAC and CUD (Conservation and Utilization Division) staff as well as Dr. Andrew Rosenberg of NMFS Headquarters participated in the meeting.

CONTACT: Michael Pennington
508-548-5123, x320

2. Beginning in 1994, NEFSC is planning to participate in the **Minority Traineeships in Oceanography Program** of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The Center will provide support for up to three students.

Selections will be based on the quality of the applicants and the availability of appropriate mentors. NMFS will be represented in the trainee selection process. The trainees which the Center supports will be designated as "NEFSC trainees." At least one orientation meeting will be held during the summer for the trainees to meet fisheries scientists and to discuss major fisheries science problems.

NEFSC welcomes the challenge to contribute to the quality of the program, and the opportunity to encourage participation of minority students in marine science. Center scientists are encouraged to serve as mentors to these enthusiastic and motivated undergraduate students, the "NEFSC trainees."

CONTACT: Ambrose Jearld
508-548-5123, x318

3. Drs. George Grice and David Dow represented the Center at a meeting convened by Karen Steuer (staff member of the Merchant Marine Fisheries Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives) to discuss the **conservation recommendations put forward by NMFS in the biological opinion on the impact of the outfall in Massachusetts Bay on marine mammals and endangered species as proposed by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)**. The meeting was held at the MWRA Headquarters in Charleston, MA. Representatives of NMFS/NER (John Catena and Colleen Coogan), MWRA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Conservation Law Foundation (Peter Shelley) were in attendance. In as much as the NMFS biological opinion on the proposed MWRA outfall was a non-jeopardy assessment, the NMFS conservation recommendations are only of an advisory nature; the meeting was,

therefore, devoted to discussion of the merits of these recommendations. A follow-up meeting will be organized for representatives of MWRA, EPA, CLF and NMFS/NER to further explore these issues.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

4. Dr. David Dow was recently appointed to the **CITES Criteria Task Force** which is being organized by the NMFS Office of Protected Resources to develop appropriate listing criteria for marine fish, turtles, and marine mammals that are endangered at the international level. The CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) has two species lists, one of endangered species and one of species which will become endangered if trade continues. The Fish and Wildlife Service has the lead in the U.S. for establishing criteria for CITES listings, as a majority of the endangered species occur in terrestrial or freshwater habitats.

5. Dr. David Dow contributed to the Center response on **Rules 1 and 2 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)**. The Rules are being developed to address concerns regarding endangered or threatened sea turtles. Rule 1 would extend state incidental take regulations during commercial fishing operations to both endangered and threatened sea turtles; while Rule 2 would require observers aboard non-shrimp fishing bottom trawl operations in the region from the Mid-Atlantic coast to the Gulf of Mexico in order to evaluate the efficiency of the TEDs (turtle exclusion devices). These Rules will be released in the Federal Register in January 1994.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249