

J. Frady

# LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER



May 1989

## Fisheries Management

1. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met on 17-18 May in East Brunswick NJ and took the following actions:

**Atlantic Mackerel:** (a) Adopted specifications for the 1990 Atlantic mackerel fishery. Allowable biological catch and initial optimum yield (IOY) are 368,000 and 83,000 metric tons (mt). Domestic annual harvesting is 59,000 mt, including 30,000 mt projected recreational catch, 20,000 mt domestic annual processing, and 9,000 mt joint venture processing. Total allowable level of foreign fishing (TALFF) will be no greater than 24,000 mt. (b) Recommended special conditions on: directed foreign fishing areas; river herring by-catch levels; acceptable ratios between foreign catches and foreign purchases of US catches or processed products; number of foreign permits; incidental take of marine mammals; maximum OY level; and foreign nation contract performance obligations.

**Bluefish:** Adopted the 4 May 1989 draft Bluefish FMP and decided to proceed with the public hearing process, pending comments by the New England and South Atlantic Councils.

**Sharks:** Recommended that NOAA Fisheries develop a Secretarial FMP.

**Gear Selectivity:** Approved a Saltonstall-Kennedy grant proposal to evaluate otter trawl mesh selectivity relative to summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and other species.

The Council's next meeting is 21-22 June 1989 in Annapolis MD.

2. The New England Council met on 24-25 May in Mystic Ct and took the following actions:

**Sea Scallops:** Requested that Amendment #3 to the Scallop FMP be withdrawn. Amendment #3's 12-hour

landing window requirement specifying enforcement implications for other fisheries requires further evaluation.

**Groundfish:** Recommended that the small mesh fishery, except for shrimp, be reclassified as an experimental fishery. Endorsed the Technical Monitoring Group's recommendations regarding the Flexible Area Action System, and remanded them to the Multispecies Committee for action. Adopted the Multispecies Committee's recommendations regarding area, season and gear restrictions, and monitoring requirements for the experimental whiting fishery.

**Mackerel:** Endorsed the Mid-Atlantic Council's recommended annual specifications and special conditions for the 1990 mackerel fishery.

**Lobster:** Agreed to request that appropriate parties initiate research on acceptable, approvable technology for biodegradable escape portals for lobster pots in support of Amendment #3 to the Lobster FMP.

**Surf Clams and Ocean Quahogs:** Decided to reiterate to the Mid-Atlantic Council its strong opposition to Amendment #8 of the Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog FMP.

The next meeting of the Council will be 28-29 June 1989 in Wakefield MA.

Contact: Bruce Higgins  
(508/548-5123, x340)

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## Recreational Fisheries

The Center contributed to a Northeast Region report to Washington on the current Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS). This report indicates that current MRFSS data are not adequate for economic value

assessments, MRF stock assessments, or allocation decisions involving MRF species. The report offers detailed recommendations for improving the system.

Contact: Bruce Higgins  
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## Sea Grant

ANNUAL REPORT FY 88 of NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program is now available. The volume is a collection of a series of reports discussing program areas, including: technology and commercial development, living resources, human resources, non-living resources, and environmental studies.

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

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## Inshore Programs

THE QUALITY OF SHELLFISH GROWING WATERS ON THE EAST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES is now available. The report examines 42 estuaries from Maine to Florida and is the second in a series of three reports to be developed by NOAA's Strategic Assessment Branch that examine the quality of shellfish growing waters in estuaries of the United States.

Contact: Helen Mustafa  
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## Remote Sensing

The Technical Program for the next NEARSS Association Meeting scheduled for 2 June 1989 at Hanscom Air Force Base includes the following presentations:

A Low Cost APT Receiving Station  
Rod Regan, Sinclair Communications

HRPT Receivers - Supply and Demand Side Considerations  
Brian Wannamaker, Sea Scan

A Discussion of GOES and NOAA Direct Readout Stations  
Thomas Kleespies, Air Force Geophysics Laboratory

Phytoplankton Bloom Production in the North Atlantic  
Janet Campbell, Bigelow Lab. for Ocean Sciences

AVHRR Investigations of Coccolithophore Blooms  
Steve Ackelson, Bigelow Lab. for Ocean Sciences

CZCS Imagery of the North Sea  
Thor Aarup, Bigelow Lab. for Ocean Sciences

Bigelow Laboratory's Remote Sensing Research: Future Plans  
Janet Campbell, Bigelow Lab. for Ocean Sciences

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## Vessel Operations

1. The DELAWARE II has completed all but a few inshore sets on Cruise 89-03 (I-III) Survey of Apex Predators-Sharks. The vessel will return to Woods Hole on 1 June 1989. As of 30 May, long line sets of 100 to 200 hooks have been made at 134 stations in the waters from off St. Petersburg to Southern New England. A total of 515 fish have been caught; the primary species were sandbar, blue, and hammerhead sharks. Approximately 80 percent of the catch has been tagged and released. The highest catch rates were off Cape Hatteras.

2. The ALBATROSS IV completed a two part Ichthyoplankton Survey for the Southeast Fisheries Center in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. A total of 178 stations were occupied in 28 days.

3. The ALBATROSS IV is scheduled to conduct the first part of the Sea Scallop Survey, 6 - 17 June 1989. The vessel will be used to replace days lost on the OREGON II and CHAPMAN due to unexpected shipyard repairs. The OREGON II and CHAPMAN, originally assigned to conduct the full survey, will continue the work in July and August. The ALBATROSS IV was scheduled to be deactivated as of 1 January 1989.

Contact: H. C. Boyar  
(508/548-5123, x235)

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## NEFC Research Council

The NEFC Research Council met May 10 - 11 in Narragansett, RI. Topics under review by the Council include research planning, the use and implementation of new technology in the Center, professional development, and information flow. Work on the latter two topics is nearly complete, and reports to the Center Executive Staff will

be issued shortly. In its study of research planning, the Research Council developed and circulated a survey questionnaire to a number of public, private, and academic scientific institutions, and has had an excellent rate of return. Recently the Council distributed a similar survey form to Center personnel at the Investigation, Branch, and Division levels, and is counting on a substantial return of these in order to strengthen the final analysis.

Research Council appointments for Peter Berrien, Carolyn Griswold, Phil Logan, and Frank Steimle recently ended. Four new appointments to the Council will be announced shortly. The next Research Council meeting will be held in July.

Contact: Ed Rhodes  
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## CMER Programs

In early 1989, the Northeast Fisheries Center, acting on behalf of NOAA, entered into cooperative agreements with the University of Rhode Island and the University of Massachusetts for active cooperation in the advancement, organization, and operation of marine research, education, in-service training, and demonstration projects. Under the aegis of the agreements, the Cooperative Marine Education and Research (CMER) Programs at each institution will sponsor projects in the marine science field, ranging from marine biology, statistics, economics, and computer science, to business management, political science, food science, and marketing. Each CMER Program will have a full-time NOAA employee as the on-site Program Director, and who will also serve on the graduate faculty and teach a graduate-level course. Efforts are now underway to develop cooperative projects for the first round of funding.

Contact: John Boreman  
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## NEFC Ecosystems Monitoring Strategy Committee

This group was established by the Science and Research Director to consider options for a long-term monitoring program that would quantify changes in finfish/shellfish productivity and distribution, and detect changes in the environmental parameters and food chains supporting commercial fisheries that can be utilized to explain long-term changes in fisheries on the Northeast Continental Shelf. The prospect of global warming is an additional long-term factor that may impact fish stocks in addition to

the current impacts of habitat degradation, fishing mortality, and natural mortality. The monitoring program will integrate portions of existing Center programs, such as the bottom trawl survey and MARMAP program, with possible newer technologies such as moored data buoys, remote sensing, hydroacoustics, and towed instruments, in order to detect long-term changes in the ecosystem supporting finfish/shellfish.

The initial meeting of the monitoring group was held on March 1, 1989 at the Woods Hole Laboratory and the most recent meeting was on May 31. Current plans call for a draft report to be submitted to the Chief of RPAC by the end of July, followed by a period of seeking comments from other interested parties, culminating in a list of recommendations from the RPAC Chief to the Science and Research Director regarding a Center-wide ecosystem monitoring program.

Contact: David Dow  
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## NEFC Planning

The Northeast Fisheries Center Planning Meeting to discuss research and technology activities planned for FY90 was held 17-18 May 1989 in Woods Hole. Presentations were made by the Chiefs of the three Divisions (Environmental Processes, Fisheries Ecology, and Conservation and Utilization), National Systematics Laboratory, and Data Management Support Staff, while the Chief of Program Support Staff presented a picture of the likely budgetary scenarios for FY90. A list of issues, prepared by the Research Planning and Coordination Staff, regarding ongoing or anticipated activities of the Divisions/Staffs was also discussed. This meeting is the start-up of the research planning process for FY90 which will culminate in August with the submission of the CYOPs/FOPs to NMFS Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

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

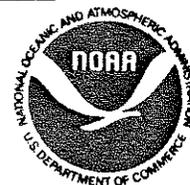
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Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER



October 1989

## Fisheries Management

1. At its 25-26 October meeting in Hampton, Virginia, the **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council** culminated many years of effort by (a) adopting Amendment #8 (limited entry) to the Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and (b) accepting the Bluefish FMP previously adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Council's next meeting is scheduled for 6-7 December in Ocean City, Maryland.

2. At its 31 October - 1 November meeting in Portland, Maine, the **New England Fishery Management Council** voted to recommend an increase in the meat count for sea scallops to 35 meats per pound with a 10 percent tolerance. A public hearing will be held at the next Council meeting (10-11 January 1990 in Wakefield, Massachusetts).

3. Amendment #3 to the Multispecies FMP (Flexible Area Action System) and Amendment #3 to the Scallop FMP (offloading windows) were published in the *Federal Register* on October 2. Comments are requested by 13 November.

4. A draft Secretarial Shark FMP (dated 20 October) is available for review during a 60-day comment period, ending 29 December. Public hearings in the Northeast will be held in 16 November -28 December.

**Contact: Bruce Higgins**  
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## Remote Sensing

Presentations on remote sensing applications proposed for **NOAA COASTWATCH** are featured on the agenda for the next **NEARSS Association Meeting** scheduled for 17 November at Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts. Kent Hughes (NOAA/NODC) will discuss water applications and James Thomas (NOAA/NMFS) land applications.

**Contact: Helen Mustafa**  
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## Vessel Operations

1. The NOAA Ship *Delaware II* completed Parts I-IV of the **Autumn Bottom Trawl Survey** (Cruise 89-06). Three hundred and forty two tows were made in the waters off Cape Hatteras, Mid-Atlantic Bight, Southern New England and Georges Bank. The dominant species obtained during Part I were scup, butterfly, croakers, rays, weakfish and squid. During Part II, silver hake and skates were dominant; during Part III silver, red and white hake were dominant, and during Part IV white hake and cod were dominant.

2. NEC reviewed a second revision of drawings submitted by OMO and NMFS Headquarters of a replacement for the NOAA Ship *Albatross IV*. The latest submission will be presented by Headquarters at AMC's Command Seminar to be held in December at Virginia Beach, Virginia.

**Contact: H. C. Boyar**  
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## NEFC Research Planning

1. RPAC presented its report titled **Guidance on the NEFC Research Program for FY90** to the NEFC Executive Staff on 25 October at a meeting convened to discuss budget allocations for FY90. RPAC's report will be one of the sources of information that the Science and Research Director will use as a basis of budget allocation decisions.

2. RPAC produced the first Center copy for NOAA's **Monthly Operating Review (MOR)**. The MORs will be tied into an Annual Operating Plan which will be linked to a Five Year NOAA Strategic Plan.

**Contact: Ambrose Jearld  
(508/548-5123, x318)**

## Other RPAC Activities

Dr. Michael P. Sissenwine convened an **ICES Symposium on Multispecies Models** at the Hague, Netherlands. Approximately 50 papers were presented on the Multispecies Virtual Population Analysis, Biological Interactions, Technological Interactions, Economics and Management, and Case Studies. A volume will be prepared for publication in the *Rapports et Proces-Verbaux* series

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