

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



January 1994

RECEIVED

FEB 23 1994

RESEARCH PLANNING AND COORDINATION STAFF

Sandy Hook Library

Dr. Sybil Seitzinger has been appointed Program Director of the Cooperative Marine Education and Research (CMER) Program at Rutgers University. The appointment is effective on 7 February 1994. She will be located at the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0231 (Telephone: 908-932-6555).

Prior to this appointment, Dr. Seitzinger was an Associate Curator at the Patrick Center for Environmental Research, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Her research interests are in coastal eutrophication, pelagic and benthic processes, and estuarine habitats.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met at the King's Grant Inn in Danvers, Massachusetts, the afternoon of the 12th and all day on the 13th January 1994. The meeting was devoted to updating the status of various recently approved or submitted amendments to the Council's fishery management plans.

Specific actions and recommendations include:

- o Directions to the Marine Mammal Committee to continue development of harbor porpoise protection measures (time/area closures) in the sink gillnet fishery to replace the 4 day blocks out of

the fishery contained in Amendment 5 to the Multispecies plan (groundfish).

- o Recommended that management authority for the New England ocean quahog fishery (the Maine "mahogany" quahog fishery) be given to the NEFMC (instead of the MAFMC where it currently resides).
- o Alert the scallop industry that the Council will be using the abbreviated rule making procedures (allowed under the frameworked Amendment 4 to the Sea Scallop FMP) to deal with the harvest of undersized scallops, double- and triple-linking of the dredge bags, 5 1/2" twine in the top of the bag, and the freezing of scallops at sea.
- o Adoption of 5 3/4" escape vents in lobster traps under Amendment 5 to the lobster FMP (submitted but not approved), and a change in the boundary line separating management areas 2 (RI and South Cape inshore) and 4 (Long Island Sound) in the vicinity of Block Island to Loran 14610.

2. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland, on the 26th and 27th of January 1994 (immediately following the 17th SAW Plenary Meeting, see below).

The Council took the following actions:

- o Urged that the NMFS reject a petition by the National Fishing Association which would close five offshore areas to commercial net fishing during the spring-summer months.

- o Called for a joint meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) summer flounder board and the Council's summer flounder monitoring committee to establish regulations for the recreational fishery for the 1994 fishing year (given the availability of data from the NMFS's Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey on the 1993 fishing year).
- o Recommended that in Amendment 6 to the summer flounder FMP (under review), language be added that would allow the NMFS Regional Director discretionary authority to make certain information collected on trip report forms (landing records) voluntary, rather than mandatory.
- o With regard to the NEFMC's Amendment 5 to the Lobster FMP, endorsed the moratorium, frameworking of effort controls, data reporting and record keeping, but objected to the definition of overfishing, lack of first year controls, lack of fairness in allocation, the fact that economics, rather than biology, is driving the system, and the non-specificity of the frameworked amendment. The MAFMC further recommended that the ASMFC take a more active role in the development of lobster management.
- o Made a series of recommendations on the management of large pelagic species (managed by NMFS in Silver Spring, MD) which included: support for a pilot program which would donate undersized swordfish to food banks; for sharks, rescision of the 4,000 pound trip limit, adoption of geographical subquotas and limited entry, and, if the subquotas are not adopted, subtraction of any landings in excess of the overall quota from the following year's quota.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

3. The Plenary Meeting of the 17th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW-17) was held during 24-25 January 1994 in Ocean City,

MD, in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) meeting. Meeting participants included members and staff of the MAFMC, individuals from state fishery organizations and the fishing industry, as well as NEFSC staff.

Dr. Vaughn Anthony (NEFSC), SAW Chairman, presented the Advisory Report on Stock Status for the northern and southern stocks of silver hake, Southern New England yellowtail flounder, bluefish, butterfish, and long- and short-finned squid. The advice was prepared by the Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) based on the analyses reviewed at the SAW-17 SARC Meeting, held in December 1993.

The Advisory Report on Stock Status will be part of the Report of the 17th SAW, The Plenary (NEFSC Reference Document 94-07). The report will be available for distribution after the SAW-17/18 Steering Committee Meeting scheduled for February.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. R/V DELAWARE II conducted a Larval Herring Survey during 5 - 18 January 1994. The area of operations was Georges Bank, southwestern Gulf of Maine, Great South Channel and Nantucket Shoals. This survey is one in a series designed to measure the recovery of Atlantic Herring in the Georges Bank area. Persistent bad weather during this cruise, however, contributed to less coverage of the eastern end of Georges Bank than planned. Chief Scientist was John Sibunka from the James J. Howard Laboratory at Sandy Hook, NJ (908-872-3064).

2. Work is proceeding on the repair-to-extnd for the R/V ALBATROSS IV. A three week delay is anticipated due to the discovery of additional work that must be done while the ship is in the yard. The scheduled departure date from the shipyard is now March 10, 1994.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. In his role as the Center point of contact for sea turtle issues, Dr. David Dow sent data on incidental take of sea turtles collected by the Sea Sampling Investigation to Colleen Coogan, Habitat Protection Resources Division of the NMFS Northeast Regional Office. Ms. Coogan, who is the lead person on endangered species issues at that Office, has recently commented on proposed changes in the Endangered Species Act. The Act will require the states to prepare recovery plans for both threatened and endangered sea turtles, as well as require bottom trawl fishing operations in the Mid-Atlantic region to employ turtle exclusion devices (TEDs) for areas in which sea turtles occur.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

2. Dr. David Dow represented the Center at a meeting on the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Nutrient Effects Monitoring Workshop that was held in Duxbury, MA on 20 January 1994. Batelle Ocean Sciences is the lead contractor on the pre-discharge monitoring program from the MWRA outfall pipe to be located in Massachusetts Bay. The first year and a half of the monitoring program which looks at water column chemical, biological, and physical parameters, and sediment and nitrogen flux was discussed for both the near-field zone around the proposed outfall site and the far field stations at the mouth of Boston Harbor, as well as in selected sites in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays. The scientists in attendance felt that the near-field region was under-sampled; that the far-field region could be more effectively sampled with transects running parallel and perpendicular to the near-field sampling region; and that some effort should be made to sample seafood safety concerns and red tide algal blooms in the nearshore areas. Dr. Dow sent off some recommendations for possible revisions of the MWRA Nutrient Effects Monitoring Program to Dr. Carlton Hunt, Director of the project at Batelle Ocean Sciences.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



February 1994

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council meeting was held at the Kings Grant Inn in Danvers, MA on 16 and 17 February 1994. Most of the meeting was devoted to discussion of implementation issues associated with the recently enacted amendments to the fishery management plans for Sea Scallops and Northeast Multispecies (groundfish), and the submitted amendment to the lobster management plan.

- o Amendment 5 to the Lobster FMP has been submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval. The amendment would impose a moratorium on new entry, establish four management areas (Gulf of Maine inshore; Southern New England inshore; offshore; Middle Atlantic inshore) and regional effort controls. Future effort reductions would be recommended by regional Effort Management Teams (EMT), a group of scientists, managers and fishing industry advisors. A specific action taken at the meeting was to recommend that crewmen on commercial lobster vessels could possess six lobsters per person provided they were not sold.

- o On scallops, the Council voted to recommend that maximum crew size be reduced from 9 to 7 to limit the ability to shuck scallops and also voted to reconstitute the industry advisory committee to look at the advisability of fishery closures. Both actions are designed to protect juvenile scallops.

- o On groundfish, the Council adopted for final action a set of primary time/area closures for sink gillnetters designed to reduce the take of harbor porpoise and suspended the 4 day blocks-out of the fishery included under Amendment 5. Additionally, the Council discussed a number of Amendment 5 implementation issues, dealt with the disapproved portion of the Amendment by recommending a 750 pound possession limit for haddock, and recommended an extension of the current emergency rule on haddock which establishes a possession limit of 500 pounds.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

2. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is directed by the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (passed by Congress 11/93) to prepare and adopt coastal fishery management plans and to identify the States that are required to implement and enforce a plan adopted by the Commission. Under the Act, the Secretary of Commerce would impose a moratorium on the relevant fishery in the waters of any state found not to be in compliance with a coastal fishery management plan adopted by the Commission.

The Commission is in the process of developing standards and procedures to govern the preparation of management plans under the Act and presently is preparing a schedule of time frames for implementation and enforcement of such measures

RECEIVED

MAR 2 1994

contained in existing coastal fishery management plans. The weakfish, bluefish, winter flounder, and striped bass boards of the Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Program are scheduled to meet February 22-24, to develop recommendations of priorities for how the management plans for the four fisheries should be included in the implementation plan.

On a related front, the Commission recently formed a policy level Statistics Committee comprised of members of the Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board. The first meeting of the committee was held in Washington in late February. The Committee is scheduled to meet over March 20-22, with all of the Commission's existing statistics committees (i.e., Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Committee, Northeast Fisheries Statistics Committee, and South Atlantic Statistics Committee) to become apprised of the major issues concerning both commercial and recreational statistics and to formulate the Statistics Committee's (Policy Board level) role.

CONTACT: Tom Morrissey
508-548-5123, x236

3. The SAW-17/18 Steering Committee Meeting was held in East Boston on 15 February 1994. The Committee discussed the SAW-17 process and documentation, and set the dates and the agenda for SAW-18.

- o The SAW-18 Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Meeting will be held at NEFSC, Woods Hole, MA during 20 - 24 June 1994. The SARC will review analyses prepared by Subcommittees for the following species/stocks:

- Bluefish
- Witch Flounder
- Summer Flounder
- Dogfish
- Georges Bank Cod
- Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder

The SARC agenda will also include a presentation by the Assessment Methods Subcommittee which is scheduled to meet in April.

- o The SAW-18 Plenary Meeting will be held in conjunction with the New England Fishery Council meeting in Danvers, MA during 9-10 August 1994. The Advisory Report for the species reviewed by the SARC will be presented at this meeting.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. The R/V DELAWARE II completed Parts I and II of the Winter Bottom Trawl Survey. The purpose of the survey was to determine the winter distribution and relative abundance of fish and selected invertebrate species, and to collect biological specimens and data.

- o Part I was conducted during 31 January - 10 February 1994. The area of operations was Cape Hatteras to southern New England. Chief Scientist was Donald Flescher of the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x293).

Part II was conducted during 15 - 23 February 1994. The area of operations was southern New England and the southern half of Georges Bank. Chief Scientist was Thomas Azarovitz of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x283).

2. Work is proceeding on the R/V ALBATROSS IV. The scheduled departure date from the shipyard is 10 March 1994. The ALBAROSS IV is expected to arrive in Woods Hole on, or about 17 March and depart from Woods Hole the following week to conduct the second part of the Spring Bottom Survey.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

AQUACULTURE

Dr. Walter Blogoslawski chaired the 14th Milford Aquaculture Seminar held in Milford, CT, 22 - 24 February 1994. The Seminar series is a forum where persons interested in aquaculture may discuss

advances and ideas in the field and seek answers to common problems.

Major themes of the fourteenth seminar included hatchery management techniques, shellfish habitat ecology and diseases, shellfish and selected finfish culture methods by locale, effects of dinoflagellate blooms, recruitment and restoration efforts, and a review of regulations affecting the aquaculture industry. More than 140 participants from ten states provided expertise in both shellfish and finfish aquaculture.

Abstracts of presented papers will be published in the June/July issue of the Journal of Shellfish Research.

CONTACT: Walter Blogoslawski
203-783-4235

ICES

The 82nd Statutory Meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) will be held in St. John's Newfoundland, Canada, 22-30 September 1994. Titles and abstracts of papers or posters for presentation at this meeting must be in the hands of the ICES Secretariat by 30 April 1994. Copies of U.S. submissions should be provided to the appropriate U.S. Committee members and to the U.S. Delegates (Dr. Michael P. Sissenwine, NMFS and Dr. John H. Steele, WHOI).

Theme Sessions:

- o Non-Target Species
- o Multispecies Interactions of Importance to the Groundfish Abundance Fluctuations
- o Impact of the 1993 Major Inflow to the Baltic Sea
- o Pelagic Fish and Plankton Interactions in Marine Ecosystems
- o Large-Scale Circulation Changes in the North Atlantic on Time Scales of Climatic Changes

- o Improving the Link Between Fisheries Science and Management: Biological, Social, and Economic Considerations

Joint Committee Sessions:

- o Marine Mammals and Marine Environmental Quality Committees - Occurrence and Effects of Contaminants in Marine Mammals
- o Marine Environmental Quality, Biological Oceanography, and Hydrography Committees - Quality Assurance of Marine Measurements
- o Fish Capture, Statistics, Demersal Fish, and Pelagic Fish Committees - Estimating Abundance from Fishing Surveys and Acoustic Measurements: Survey Design, Analysis, and Error Estimation

Special Committee Topics:

- o Shellfish Committee - Recruitment Dynamics in Shellfish Populations
- o Mariculture Committee - Mariculture and Coastal Zone Management; Parasites in Mariculture

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

Dr. George Grice has the lead on behalf of the NEFSC in reviewing NMFS Headquarters proposals for changes in the Endangered Species Act which is up for Congressional reauthorization this year.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



March 1994

RECEIVED

APR 1 1994

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met at Gurney's Inn in Montauk, NY on March 8-10, 1994 and took the following actions:

- O Reconstituted the Science and Statistical Committee with nominees: Bonnie McKay, Rutgers anthropologist; Rick Agnello, economist; Mark Holliday, NMFS-HQ; Ivar Strand, University of Maryland economist; Mort Miller, NMFS-HQ economist, our own Steve Murawski; and biologists Dave Conover, SUNY-Stony Brook; Ed Hood; Rom Lipcus, William & Mary; Cynthia Jones, VIMS; and Lou Rugolo, state of Maryland.
- O With regard to summer flounder, the Council recommended adoption of 1994 recreational fishing regulations with a 14" minimum landing size, 8 fish bag limit and open season of April 15-October 15.
- O With regard to scup, asked the states for adoption of a 9" minimum size for commercial landings of scup.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

2. The New England Fishery Management Council met at the Holiday Inn in Peabody for a special one-day session on March 17, 1994 and took the following actions:

- O Recommended a 365 day "fishing year" be implemented commencing May 1.

- Sandy Hook Library*
- O Recommended amending the groundfish possession limit (from 500 pounds in possession or landed) to allow a possession limit of 10% of the total weight of nonregulated species of fish on board or 500 pounds of groundfish, whichever is less.
 - O Decided to resubmit a Fast Action Area System (FAAS) closure request in the vicinity of Area I.
 - O Recommended incorporation of the proposed time/area closures as recommended by the Marine Mammal Committee to reduce bycatch mortality of harbor porpoise in the Gulf of Maine sink gillnet fishery as part of Amendment 5 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP with the proviso that the changes in the Mass Bay area be analyzed prior to the next Council meeting.
 - O With regard to scallops, approved framework adjustment #1 to the Sea Scallop FMP which would include: adjustment of maximum crew size from nine to seven; the fishing year would be from March 1 through February 28 (29 in leap years); rings may be attached via links to no more than four adjacent rings; no more than double linking between rings, except triple linking is allowed on the bottom half of the dredge bag and diamonds; and allowance for one spare dredge onboard, provided it is properly stowed.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

3. The reports of the 17th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop, "SARC Consensus Summary of Assessments" (NEFSC Ref. Doc. 94-06) and "The Plenary" (NEFSC Ref. Doc. 94-07), are available for distribution.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. The R/V DELAWARE II completed Part I of the Spring Bottom Trawl Survey and returned to Woods Hole on March 17, 1994. The research cruise was conducted between Cape Hatteras and southern New England, with Malcolm Silverman serving as Chief Scientist.

2. During March 21 - April 1, 1994, the R/V DELAWARE II underwent scheduled dockside repairs.

3. The ALBATROSS IV departed the shipyard at Jacksonville, FL, on March 11, 1994, and proceeded to Norfolk, VA, where additional work on the ship's electronics equipment was performed. The ALBATROSS IV arrived in Woods Hole on March 17 and is tentatively scheduled to depart Woods Hole on April 5 to conduct the Benthic Habitat/GLOBEC cruise.

Required modifications to the ship's hydraulic systems have delayed the ALBATROSS' departure date for the Spring Bottom Trawl Survey. The balance of the Spring Bottom Trawl Survey will be conducted aboard the DELAWARE II, with Part II of the Survey scheduled to begin April 4.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

Dr. David Dow facilitated the visit of Abt Associates, Inc. to the Center in order to discuss the potential role of Federal laboratories in helping to promote scientific mathematics education at the primary and secondary school levels. The Abt

Associates representatives are under contract to develop an instrument (questionnaire) to help define current efforts at Federal facilities and to elucidate future potential activities in support of President Clinton's initiative in this area.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

1. Dr. Terry Smith attended a March 29th meeting of a Steering Committee charged with organizing a trawl survey data workshop at the Waddell Mariculture Center in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The workshop would be jointly sponsored by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and NMFS's SEAMAP program, take place in Charleston, SC on August 15-16 and extend the results of a similar NMFS/ASMFC sponsored workshop held in Woods Hole in 1988.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

2. Dr. David Dow attended Research Day at the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR) on March 21, at which time a variety of researchers at WBNERR presented the results of their research. The following day the EPA-lead Waquoit Bay ecological Risk Assessment Team met at the reserve to finalize the assignments for producing the Problem Formulation draft by mid-April.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

2. Drs. Walter Blogoslawski and David Dow attended a workshop on the practical constraints to aquaculture on Cape Cod at the Cape Cod Community College in West Barnstable, MA. The workshop was organized by the Sea Grant Program at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

CONTACT: Walter Blogoslawski
203-783-4235

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



April 1994

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met at the Kings Grant Inn in Danvers, MA on April 6-7, 1994 and took the following major actions with regard to groundfish:

For the purpose of protecting harbor porpoise, approved a time-area closure for the sink gillnet fishery in Massachusetts Bay of March 1 - March 30. This closure completes Council recommendations on a set of time-area closures for the northeast gillnet fishery. [See last month's Linkages.]

- o Reviewed the \$30 million economic assistance package approved by the Secretary of Commerce. Vessel buyouts are not part of the package, but buyout programs are still under discussion. The \$30 million is in two parts; \$18 million will be administered by the Economic Development Administration and used to aid families via loan assistance for the purposes of debt consolidation. There will be 8 regional organizations in New England to facilitate this process. The remaining \$12 million will be distributed by NOAA: \$1 million for the FVOG program to process refinancing applications; \$9 million via Saltonstall-Kennedy grants; and the residual for administration. The Council indicated their interest in being involved in the development of the assistance package.
- o Took final action to amend the groundfish possession limit [from 500 pounds in

possession or landed] to allow a possession limit of 10% of the total weight of non-regulated species of fish onboard or 500 pounds of groundfish whichever is less .

- o Decided to not submit a Fast Action Area System (FAAS) closure request in the vicinity of Area I.
- o Adopted a 365 day fishing year commencing May 1, 1994.

Contact: Terry Smith
508-548-5123,x230

2. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met at the Grand Hotel in Cape May, NJ on April 13-14, 1994 and took the following major actions:

- o Reconstituted the Science and Statistical Committee (as reported in the last Linkages) with Wendy Gabriel representing the Northeast Fisheries Science Center.
- o With regard to the economic assistance package mentioned above, recommended that the MAFMC be involved in an advisory fashion and that no funds be given to convert, refit, or equip to enter or redirect effort into any fishery in which a Council has established a control date [a control date constitutes a warning that if a moratorium on entry is established vessels entering the fishery after the date may not qualify].

RECEIVED

JUN 1994

- o Recommended that the responsibility for management of highly migratory species remain with the NMFS central office.
- o Adopted for public review plan amendments for scup and black sea bass [and adopted a set of preferred alternatives].

Contact: Terry Smith
508-548-5123,x230

The last in the initial series of "Town Meetings" held by **John Bullard, NOAA's Office of Sustainable Development**, to explore the need for economic assistance in northeast groundfish and scallop fisheries was held in Cape May on April 15. About 40 people attended. Of these the majority represented various Mid-Atlantic fishery industry interests; however, several local and state political representatives were also in attendance. A second round of meetings is anticipated for the second week of May in ports from Ellsworth, ME to Cape May.

Contact: Terry Smith
508-548-5123,x230

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. The R/V **DELAWARE II** completed **Parts II and III of the Spring Bottom Trawl Survey** during the month. The vessel departed Woods Hole on April 4, to conduct Part II and returned to Woods Hole, April 15, 1994. This leg of the Survey was conducted in the southern New England, Georges Bank and the southern Gulf of Maine areas with John Burnett serving as Chief Scientist. The **DELAWARE** departed Woods Hole, April 20 and returned on April 27, 1994, after completing Part III of the Survey. The area of operations was the Gulf of Maine and Ray Bowman served as Chief Scientist on the research cruise.
2. During early April, **repairs of the R/V ALBATROSS IV** were completed. A final shake down cruise was conducted during April 5 - 6.
3. The **ALBATROSS IV** engaged in a **Benthic Habitat Studies/GLOBEC** cruise that departed Woods Hole, April 6 and returned to Woods Hole, April 15, 1994. Page Valentine of the U.S.

Geological Survey (Woods Hole) was Chief Scientist on the cruise which was conducted in the area of Georges and Stellwagen Banks. The purpose of the cruise was to characterize the benthic habitat and biological communities at study sites that will be utilized during related GLOBEC studies, and to begin monitoring the effects of towed fishing gear in relation to these benthic parameters.

In addition, the **ALBATROSS IV** conducted a **cruise relative to the Gulf of Maine Systematics Study** which departed Woods Hole, April 19 and returned to Woods Hole, April 27, 1994. Michael Vecchione of the National Systematic Laboratory in Washington, DC, was Chief Scientist on the cruise and the area of operations was the deep areas of the Gulf of Maine and the Fundian Channel. The objectives of this cruise were to collect midwater and deep water fishes for the revision of Fishes of the Gulf of Maine (by Bigelow and Schroeder); and, to collect squids and octopus for DNA analysis.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123,x224

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. A group of six NEFSC scientists participated in the **Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Research and Monitoring Planning Meeting** on April 6, at Plymouth, MA. This workshop was designed to identify research and monitoring concerns that should be addressed over the next five years. Center scientists participated in working groups relative to sediment and water quality, marine mammals, benthos, physical oceanography, and fisheries biology.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123,x249

2. **The Coordinating Committee for the UMass/NOAA CMER Program** has agreed to fund four cooperative research projects in the coming year. One of the projects is a continuation of a study started last year (Biology of the Longhorn Sculpin, Dr. Michael Ross, PI), and three projects are new:

- o Detection of Irradiated Seafood, Dr. Wassef Nawar, Dept. of Food Sciences.

- o Prey-size and Type Selectivity and Predator Dynamics of Marine Fish on the Northeast Continental Shelf, Dr. Francis Juanes, Dept. of Forestry and Wildlife Management.
- o Contemporary Use of Marine Resources for Subsistence: An Exploratory Study in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Dr. Robert Muth, Dept. of Forestry and Wildlife Management.

In addition, CMER is supporting Allison Aiello, an undergraduate student intern from the Interdisciplinary Environmental Sciences Program who is working at the NEFSC Milford Laboratory this summer.

CONTACT: John Boreman
413-545-2842

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

1. Helen Mustafa has been temporarily assigned to serve as NOAA Coordinator at the **New Bedford Family Assistance Center (FAC)**. The New Bedford FAC is one of three centers (the other two are in Portland, ME and Gloucester, MA) and two mobile units planned as part of the \$30 million DOC emergency funding package to provide assistance to the fishing industry in the Northeast (as mentioned above under Fisheries Management).

The FACs are operated in cooperation with federal and state Departments of Labor and the Small Business Administration. They are intended to be "one-stop shops" for financial services and job retraining services, as well as guidance to federal, state, and local government resources.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-979-1750

2. The **NMFS Headquarters CITES Criteria Designation Task Force** submitted comments on the IUCN listing criteria for Appendices I and II to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS). The F&WS will have the lead for the U.S. in the August Cites meeting in Miami, Florida. The CITES listings concern international trade of endangered or threatened species. Trade of species listed under Appendix I is prohibited while a listing under Appendix II provides for close monitoring of international trade of the listed species among CITES Parties. Dr. David Dow served as Center point of contact on this task force.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123,x249

3. The **Waquoit Bay Watershed Ecological Risk Assessment Team**, which was organized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, submitted the final Problem Formulation document to the agency's risk assessment review committee. The document will undergo external review and be presented to EPA managers on May 25-26, 1994, at Crystal City, VA. The Waquoit Bay Watershed Ecological Risk Assessment project is one of five efforts nationwide that are designed to develop a methodology for ecological risk assessment from multiple stressors using existing sources of information.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123,x249

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



8/20/94

May 1994

RECEIVED

JUL 1994

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Sandy Hook Library

1. The New England Fishery Management Council met at the Sea Crest Resort in North Falmouth, MA on May 11-12, 1994 and took the following major actions:

- o The Secretary of Commerce partially approved Amendment 5. Approved were a minimum carapace length of 3 1/4"; a five year moratorium on new permits; permit requirements for operators and dealers; development of a stock rebuilding program via area specific Effort Management Teams (EMTs); establishment of a uniform escape vent size of 5 3/4"; and the framework provisions. Disapproved were division of the fleet into vessel permit categories; limits on lobster landings according to a vessel's permit category and the quota for vessels in the non-pot fishery; and mandatory reporting.
- o The Council will have six months from implementation of the Amendment to submit recommendations, and one year from the effective date of the final rule to submit management measures that will achieve the FMPs objective to reduce fishing mortality. Should the Council fail to meet this schedule, the NMFS intends to initiate proceedings to withdraw the lobster FMP.
- o The Council has begun development of Amendment 5 (which tentatively would include closed areas, a vessel buy-back program, and an ITQ management option).
- o Framework Amendment #1 to the Scallop FMP (crew limits, DAS implementation, linking regulations) has been submitted to NMFS but no

decision by the agency has yet been made. The committee is also recommending that permit tendering be allowed for vessels fishing in states-waters fisheries only.

- o Endorsed a rule change via framework adjustment 5 (to Amendment 5 of the Multispecies FMP) which would require in the Stellwagen and Jeffries fisheries (which under Amendment 5 requires square mesh of minimum 6" mesh) a minimum of 50 bars (essentially rows of mesh) of such mesh for vessels 45 feet and under and 100 bars for vessels greater than 45 feet in the cod end and lengthening pieces.
- o Decided to develop framework adjustment 6 (to Amendment 5 of the Multispecies FMP) which would increase, in the Cultivator Shoals whiting fishery, the minimum mesh size to 3", and establish a 10-inch minimum size with a 20 percent tolerance.

Contact: TERRY SMITH
508-548-5123,x230

2. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met at the Holiday Inn in Essington, PA on May 31-June 2, 1994 and took the following major actions:

- o Rescinded the current control date for mackerel (a date after which qualification may be restricted should the Council adopt a limited access management system) and adopted a control date which would be automatically triggered when U.S. landings of mackerel constitute 50% of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC).

- o More generally, approved for public hearing an amendment package (Amendment 5) for the squid, mackerel and butterfish FMP which would include, potentially, moratoria on entry in the squid and butterfish fisheries, landings quotas, and minimum fish or mesh sizes.

CONTACT: TERRY SMITH
508-548-5123,x230

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. The R/V ALBATROSS IV conducted a two-part cruise in the area of Georges Bank relative to the **GLOBEC Stratification Study**. The objectives of the cruises were: (1) determine the distribution and abundance of larval and pelagic juvenile cod and haddock and their copepod prey and invertebrate predators on the southern half of Georges Bank in relation to water column conditions; and (2) conduct site studies to determine their vertical distribution and the diurnal variability of predators and prey. Larry Madin served as Chief Scientist on Part I, which was conducted over the period 03-13 April 1994. Part II was conducted 18-28 April, with Gregory Lough serving as Chief Scientist.

2. The ALBATROSS IV departed Woods Hole on 31 April 1994 to conduct a scheduled 10-day cruise in the Georges Bank area relative to the **GLOBEC Broad Scale Study**. The objectives of the cruise were: (1) conduct a broad-scale survey in the Georges Bank area to determine the distribution of larval cod and haddock and their predators and prey; (2) conduct acoustic mapping of the plankton along the tracklines between stations using a high frequency echo sounder deployed in a towed body; and (3) conduct a hydrographic survey of the Bank.

3. The R/V DELAWARE II was at sea most of the month conducting a two-part cruise on Georges Bank relative to **Predator-Prey** research. The primary objective of the cruise was to examine the effect of predation by pelagic fish (particularly Atlantic mackerel and Atlantic herring) on survival of age-zero fish (particularly Atlantic cod, haddock and sand lance). A second objective is the collection of biological samples for use in development of immunoassays and DNA probes for identification of well digested fish larvae in stomach contents. Part I was conducted 02-13

May, with William Michaels as Chief Scientist, while Part II was conducted 16-27 May 1994, with Ray Bowman as Chief Scientist.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123,x224

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

The **URI/NOAA CMER Program** will fund the following projects in 1994:

- o Effect of Harvesting Gear Type and Level of Fishing on the Yield and the Spawning Stock Biomass Per Recruit for the Commercially Important, Demersal Species in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean; Dr. J. DeAlteris, Dept. of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science.
- o Engineering Design of a Programmable, Temperature Monitoring Tag for Smolt Atlantic Salmon; Dr. C. Recksiek, Dept. of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science.
- o Estimating Harbor Porpoise Abundance Using an Adaptive Sampling Scheme; Dr. J. Heltshe, Dept. of Computer Science and Statistics.
- o Student Research Training Program; Dr. H. Winn, Graduate School of Oceanography.
- o Stomach Evacuation Rates in Fishes; Dr. E. Durbin, Graduate School Of Oceanography.
- o Support for the Oceanographic Remote Sensing Laboratory; Dr. P. Cornillon, Graduate School of Oceanography.
- o Recruitment Strategies in Marine Decapods: A Comparative Approach; Dr. S. Cobb, Dept. of Zoology.
- o Maintenance of the Computer Database for the Right Whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) in Waters of the Western North Atlantic; Dr. H. Winn, Graduate School of Oceanography.

o Zooplankton Counting Technical Group; Dr. E. Durbin, Graduate School of Oceanography.

o Preferences and Values of Non-Commercial Fisherman for Harvest Regulations and Size; Dr. S. Swallow, Dept. of Resource Economics.

o Quality Evaluation of Scallops; Dr. Pivarnik, Dept. of Food Science and Nutrition.

o Effects of Scallop Dredging on Benthic Communities; Dr. J. Collie, Graduate School of Oceanography.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123,x239

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

1. Dr. David Dow has been appointed to represent the NEFSC on the NMFS Headquarters Marine Mammal/Fisheries Interaction Task Force which is developing implementation plans to carry out the mandates of the Marine Mammal Protection Act reauthorization. Dr. Dow has the lead also on organizing a Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Health Workshop which will be held next fall, with a report to Congress due by December 1995.

CONTACT: David Dow
5088-548-5123,x249

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



July and August 1994

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The **18th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW), Plenary Meeting** was held 9 - 10 August 1994 in Danvers, MA, in conjunction with the New England Fishery Management Council meeting. Nearly 80 persons attended the meeting, including almost all the members of the NEFMC. Dr. Vaughn Anthony (NEFSC), SAW Chairman, presented the scientific advice for managers on bluefish, summer flounder, Gulf of Maine-Georges Bank witch flounder, Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and Georges Bank cod. The advice on spiny dogfish was presented by Dr. Emory Anderson (NEFSC), Chairman of the SARC Pelagic/Coastal Subcommittee. The advice on these species was prepared by the Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) which met in Woods Hole during 20 - 24 June 1994. It will be contained in the "Advisory Report on Stock Status" section of the Plenary Report.

Dr. Anthony also presented the "Special Advisory on Groundfish Status on Georges Bank." The SARC prepared this advisory

on Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, cod and haddock because these stocks were in similar poor condition. The special advisory will also be featured in the Plenary Report.

On behalf of the New England Fishery Management Council, Douglas Marshall thanked Dr. Vaughn Anthony for his contributions to the assessment process as SAW Chairman (SAWs 15 - 17) and as the long time Chief of the NEFSC Conservation and Utilization Division (CUD). "Losing Vaughn," he indicated, "is an end to an era." Dr. Anthony will retire from the National Marine Fisheries Service in October.

Dr. Fred Serchuk was introduced as the new CUD Chief.

2. The **SAW-18/19 Steering Committee Meeting** was held on 18 August in Philadelphia PA, in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting. Dr. Terry Smith (NEFSC), editor of the Advisory Report, was Acting SAW Chairman at this meeting. After reviewing the SAW-18 meeting highlights, procedure, and

documentation, including research recommendations, the Committee suggested species to review in the future and set the dates and agenda for the SAW-19 meetings.

- o **The SAW-19 Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Meeting** will be held during 28 November (1:00 pm) - 2 December (6:00 pm) 1994 at NEFSC, Woods Hole, MA.
- o **The SAW-19 Plenary Meeting** will be held during 30 (afternoon) - 31 (morning) January 1995, in conjunction with the January meeting of the MAFMC.
- o Five species/Stocks will be assessed and reviewed during SAW-19:

Gulf of Maine Cod	Surf Clam
White Hake	Ocean Quahog
Scup	
- o Scallop survey results and implications will be presented at the Plenary Meeting in addition to the presentation of advice on the species reviewed by the SARC (see Research Vessel Operations).

A summary of the Steering Committee meeting will be contained in the "Conclusions of the SAW Steering Committee" section of the Plenary Report.

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

3. The New England Fishery Management Council met at the King's Grant Inn in

Danvers, MA on 10-11 August 1994, immediately following the Plenary for the 18th Stock Assessment Workshop (reported above). In overview, Georges Bank cod and yellowtail flounder as well as haddock have collapsed. Catches in the next few years are probably not sufficient to sustain the fishery. The Council began debate on how to allow these stocks to recover and how to provide for the fishery during a rebuilding period.

Rodney Avila and Barbara Stevenson were sworn in as new Council members (replacing Frank Mirarchi and Loyall Sewall). Joe Brancalone and Eric Smith were reelected as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively. With regard to scallops, Framework Adjustment #1 to the Sea Scallop FMP has been approved and will go into effect on August 17. The measure establishes a maximum crew size of 7; begins the fishing year on March 1; allows one spare dredge to be carried; and prohibits the linking of rings which defeats the purpose of the 3 1/4" minimum ring size provision of Amendment 4.

4. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met in Wilmington, DE on 13-17 July 1994. The Council discussed holding a workshop on multispecies management with a consensus that a steering committee be constituted to get the process underway and that an agenda be drafted and a timetable identified as soon as possible. With regard to Magnuson Act reauthorization, the Council recommended that language be included in the MFCMA reauthorization which would permit a Council to initiate a moratorium on entry of additional commercial vessels on a regional basis prior to the development of a fishery management plan.

5. The **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council** met in Philadelphia on 17-18 August 1994. New Council appointees are Joy Wilson from VA, a consultant; Bob Hamilton, a commercial fisherman from Greenport, Long Island; Gary Caputi, a freelance outdoor writer from New Jersey; and Nancy Targett, professor of biology at the University of Delaware, specializing in chemical ecology.

The Council adopted quota recommendations for 1995 for Loligo, Illex, butterfish and Atlantic mackerel of 36,000 mt, 30,000 mt, 16,000 mt and 100,000 mt, respectively. The mackerel recommended quota of 100,000 mt would allow a recreational harvest of 15,000 mt and a joint venture catch of 35,000 mt.

The Council also adopted a public hearing draft of Amendment 5 to the Squid, Mackerel and Butterfish FMP which would modify the management unit to "all Atlantic mackerel, *Loligo pealei*, *Illex illecebrosus*, and butterfish under U.S. jurisdiction" and add a requirement that vessels must take observers if requested to do so.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. **R/V ALBATROSS IV** conducted a **Sea Scallop Survey** to (1) determine the distribution and relative abundance of the sea scallop *Placopecten magellanicus* and *Chlamys islandica*; (2) collect biological samples and data relative to assessment needs; (3) monitor hydrographic and meteorological conditions; and, (4) make collections for interested scientists at other institutions and laboratories.

o Part I of the survey was conducted in the Cape Hatteras - Southern New England area during 22 June - 1 July 1994. Chief Scientist was Malcolm Silverman of the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x202).

o Part II of the survey was conducted in the Southern New England - Georges Bank area during 5 - 18 July 1994. Chief Scientist was Donald Flescher of the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x293).

2. **R/V ALBATROSS IV** conducted a **Gulf of Maine Bottom Trawl Survey** during 25 July - 5 August 1994. Objectives of the survey were to (1) determine the seasonal distribution and relative abundance of fish and invertebrate species; (2) collect biological samples for studies of age and growth relationships, fecundity, maturity and food habits; (3) continue an evaluation of the feasibility of conducting a routine bottom trawl survey time series in nearshore waters of the Gulf of Maine; (4) collect hydrographic and meteorological samples and data; (5) make data and sample collections for cooperative researchers and programs; and, (6) sample groundfish nursery areas in order to develop pre-recruit indices. Chief Scientist was Linda Despres-Patanjo of the Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x346).

3. **R/V DELAWARE II** conducted a **Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog Survey** in three parts. The objectives of the survey were to (1) investigate the distribution and relative abundance of the surf clam *Spisula solidissima*, ocean quahog *Arctica islandica*, and other mollusks; (2) collect biological samples and data relative to assessment needs; (3) monitor hydrographic and meteorological

conditions; (4) make collections for interested scientists from other institutions and NMFS laboratories; and (5) (on part III only) determine the abundance and range of the ocean quahog fishery along the eastern Maine coast. Roger Clifford of Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x234) was Chief Scientist on all three cruises.

- o Part I was conducted in the area of Cape Hatteras-Southern New England during 18 - 29 July 1994.
- o Part II was conducted in the Georges Bank area during 1 - 12 August 1994.
- o Part III was conducted in the Cape Cod-Gulf of Maine area during 15 - 24 August 1994.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

Dr. David Dow presented a paper titled "**Use of Satellite Remote sensing to Estimate Aboveground Marsh Biomass at Grand Bayou, LA**" at the Ecological Society of America meeting held in Knoxville, TN, 7-11 August 1994. The paper was delivered in the Contributed Papers Session for Applied Ecology and Remote Sensing. In addition, Dr. Dow participated in a meeting of the ESA's Research Needs Committee which discussed future white papers that could be generated by the Society.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



October 1994

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The New England Fishery Management Council met at the Kings Grant Inn in Danvers, MA on 26-27 October 1994. Most of the meeting was devoted to developing a response to the Northeast groundfish resource crisis mentioned in earlier *Linkages*.

The Council reiterated its support for a longer term solution to the crisis by outlining the provisions of a proposed Amendment 7 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. The amendment would (1) institute time and area closures to reduce fishing mortality rates for Georges Bank cod, Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, Southern New England yellowtail, and haddock to as close to zero as practicable; and, (2) establish a Total Allowable Catch (TAC or quota) for the remaining groundfish stocks outside of the closure areas. Development of this Amendment is proceeding and the Council hopes to be able to submit an amendment package to the Secretary of Commerce within the next several months.

Early Hook Library

On a faster track, the Council recommended that the Secretary take emergency action to (1) prohibit possession of regulated species while fishing with mesh smaller than the regulated minimum size (generally 6"), and that any small mesh fishery that has not been demonstrated to have a discard rate of regulated species of less than five percent (by weight) be prohibited; (2) require that in areas currently restricted to 6" square mesh at certain times of the year (Stellwagen Bank and Jeffries Ledge; March through July) the requirement be extended year round and apply to mobile gear (mid-water trawling would remain exempt); (3) the closure of Area I (an old haddock conservation area on the western part of Georges Bank), an area known as the Nantucket Lightship Area (an area southwest of Georges defined to protect juvenile yellowtail flounder) and Area II (another haddock conservation area on the eastern part of Georges currently closed January-June) for the duration of the emergency action (90 days with a possible extension for another 90 days); (4) a prohibition on scallop dredging in these closed areas; and (5) adoption of 6"

minimum mesh size east of 72° 30' (in the southern New England Area where 5 1/2" mesh would have been allowed in 1995).

In other Council business, the NEFMC approved a framework adjustment to the Scallop FMP which would allow an exemption from gear restrictions for federally permitted scallopers fishing in state-waters-only scallop fisheries. The Council also recommended that a control date be established in the monkfish (goosefish, angler fish) fishery as soon as practicable. A control date is used to serve notice to industry that the Council is considering limiting access in a fishery and that landings after that date may not qualify the fisherman for a limited access permit.

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. **ALBATROSS IV** continued **Parts III and IV of the Autumn Bottom Trawl Survey** with the objective to determine the seasonal distribution and relative abundance of fish and invertebrate species found on the continental shelf.

- o Part III was conducted in the Georges Bank area during 3 - 14 October 1994. Chief Scientist was Jay Burnett, NEFSC, Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x286).
- o Part IV was conducted in the Gulf of Maine area during 18 - 27 October 1994. Chief Scientist was J. Brian O'Gorman, NEFSC, Woods Hole Laboratory (508-548-5123, x358).

2. **DELAWARE II** conducted a **MARMAP - EMAP** cruise in the area

from Cape Hatteras to the Gulf of Maine during 18 - 29 October 1994. The cruise was part of the joint NOAA - EPA, Northeast Shelf Ecosystems Survey (MARMAP-EMAP). The objective of the survey was to assess the impact of changing biological and physical properties of the Northeast Continental Shelf ecosystem which influences the sustainable productivity of the living marine resources. Key parameters measured were: water column temperatures, salinities, chlorophyll and nutrient concentrations; photosynthetic rates; ichthyo- and zooplankton composition, abundance, and distribution; marine mammal and bird abundances and distributions; and standard weather observations. Chief Scientist was Jerome Prezioso, NEFSC Narragansett Laboratory (401-782-3277).

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

AQUACULTURE

Dr. Walter Blogoslawski is Chairman of the **15th Milford Aquaculture Seminar** which will be held 21-23 February 1995 at the Howard Johnson Lodge, 1052 Boston Post Road, Milford, CT. Thirty-five titles of papers on shellfish and finfish culture have been received to date. Abstracts of papers received by 5 January 1995 will be included in the seminar brochure which will be available at the time of on-site registration beginning at 8:30 AM on 22 February. A tour of the Milford Laboratory has been scheduled on 24 February for those who can stay another day.

CONTACT: Walter Blogoslawski
203-783-4235

CMER

The University of Rhode Island/NOAA CMER (Cooperative Marine Education and Research) Program will fund twelve projects in 1994:

- o Effect of Harvesting Gear Type and Level of Fishing on the Yield and the Spawning Stock Biomass Per Recruit for the Commercially Important, Demersal Species in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean (DeAlteris and Grogan - Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science, URI)
- o Engineering Design of a Programmable, Temperature Monitoring Tag for Smolt Atlantic Salmon (Recksiek, Daly, and Fischer - Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science, URI)
- o Estimating Harbor Porpoise Abundance Using an Adoptive Sampling Scheme (Heltshe - Computer Science and Statistics, URI)
- o Student Research Training Program (Winn and Smith - Graduate School of Oceanography, URI)
- o Stomach Evacuation Rates in Fishes (Durbin, Durbin, and Fogarty - Graduate School of Oceanography, URI)
- o Support for the Oceanographic Remote Sensing Laboratory (Cornillon and Armstrong - Graduate School of Oceanography, URI)
- o Recruitment Strategies in Marine Decapods: A Comparative Approach (Cobb - Zoology, URI)
- o Maintenance of the Computer Database for the Right Whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) in Waters of the Western North Atlantic (Winn and Kenney - Graduate School of Oceanography, URI)
- o Zooplankton Counting Technical Group (Durbin, Durbin, and Bush - Graduate School of Oceanography, URI)
- o Preferences and Values of Non-Commercial Fisherman for Harvest Regulations and size of Bluefin Tuna (Swallow, Edwards, Smith, Gates - Resource Economics, URI)
- o Quality Evaluation of Scallops (Pivarnik, Rand, Letcher, and Wilhelm - Food Science and Nutrition, URI)
- o Effects of Scallop Dredging on Benthic Communities -- Two year project continued from 1993 (Collie - Graduate School of Oceanography, URI)

CONTACT: Larry Buckley
401-782-3215

NEFSC RESEARCH PLANNING

1. RPAC staff coordinated the **Third Quarter Progress Report** from Division and Staff submissions.

2. RPAC staff coordinated the collection of **FY94 program information for the new Management Information System (MIS)** developed by NMFS Headquarters. The data were similar to the budget, executive summary, and personnel information from past Current Year Operating Plans (CYOP) forms. Sections were, however, added to the narratives to cover justifications and linkages for each project. The date of 1 September 1994 was set for reporting budget and personnel information. This information was imported into various tables from the Financial Reporting System (FRS) Oracle data bases.

CONTACT: Yvonne Hiltz
508-548-5123, x363

3. Drs. George Grice and Ambrose Jearld (RPAC) visited the **University of Maryland Eastern Shore** and discussed with University personnel a **possible Cooperative Agreement**.

CONTACT: George Grice
508-548-5123, x239

Happy Holidays!

LINKAGES



Notes of the Research Planning and Coordination Staff

NORTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER



November December 1994

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met at the Norfolk Airport Hilton in Norfolk, VA on 9-10 November 1994. Issues of note include:

- o A Virginia federal judge, in a jury trial, ruled that NMFS was arbitrary and capricious in establishing the 1994 summer flounder quota based on recruitment estimates of one standard deviation below the geometric mean recruitment. NOAA-GC/Dept. of Justice will appeal the ruling.
- o Amendment 1 to the Bluefish FMP is being prepared. Currently the Council is circulating a scoping document which contains a suite of possible recreational and commercial fishery management measures.
- o Amendment 5 to the FMP for Squid, Mackerel and Butterfish is being distributed for public hearing. Final Council action may take place at the January, 1995 meeting.
- o The Council supported the publication of a control date in the monkfish fishery. A control date serves to warn industry that should limited access be imposed, participation in the fishery after the control date may not qualify the

participant. Monkfish are managed jointly by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils.

2. The New England Fishery Management Council met during 7-8 December 1994 at Danvers, MA. Issues of note include:

- o An emergency rule on groundfish recommended by the Council at its last meeting was approved. The measures under this rule became effective 12 December 1994 and will expire 12 March 1995. Essentially, the emergency measures close parts of Georges Bank and an area south of Cape Cod to all gear except lobster pots. Council initiated action to continue the measures of the emergency action indefinitely.
- o For the consideration of the Council, the Groundfish Committee was charged to develop not more than two additional options to Amendment 7 that do not compromise the conservation objectives already adopted by the Council while at the same time minimizing economic impacts or maximizing economic benefits.
- o The Council voted to finalize and submit for approval framework adjustment #8 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP which would exempt vessels acquired before

1 March 1994 from the provision that prohibits a vessel's permit or fishing history to be used to qualify another vessel for another federal fishery; requested that the Interspecies Committee and Council staff develop protocols for use in special management areas in federal waters; approved the concept of developing new aquaculture initiatives such as the Westport Scallop Corporation; and voted to adopt the principle that the burdens and costs of conservation in a specific fishery or segment of a fishery should be borne, to the greatest extent possible by that fishery.

- o The Council approved a proposed rule for a monkfish fishery control date (see November MAFMC meeting notes).
- o For scallops, the Council approved the extension of the 7-man crew limit and initiated a framework adjustment to prohibit fishing with nets unless the vessel had not used a dredge since 1987.
- o A scoping document to consider four principle alternatives in the scallop fishery, including private buyback, government buyback, transferable days at sea, and individual transferable quotas will be prepared.

3. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met during 20-22 December 1994 at Long Branch, NJ. Issues of note include:

- o The Council was briefed on the provisions of the New England groundfish emergency action reported above. A correction to the rule, which would add certain non-regulated species to the list of species that could be retained by exempted small mesh fisheries, was recommended.

- o After hearing a review of the current status of weakfish, the Council voted to ask NMFS to take action to significantly reduce exploitation rates on weakfish in the EEZ.

- o The Council requested that NOAA General Counsel appeal the recent Federal Court ruling on summer flounder (see above).

CONTACT: Terry Smith
508-548-5123, x230

4. The 19th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (19th SAW) Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Meeting was held at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center during 28 November -2 December 1994. SARC Chairman was Dr. Terry Smith (RPAC). Other members of the SARC were: Han-Lin Lai, Paul Rago, Wally Morse, and Mark Terceiro (NMFS, NEFSC); Andy Rosenberg (NMFS/NERO); Andy Applegate (NEFMC); Tom Hoff (MAFMC), Najih Lazar (ASMFC); Steve Cadrin (MA DMF); Kees Zwanenburg (DFO Dartmouth, Nova Scotia); Judy Grassle (Rutgers State University); and Glen Jamieson (DFO, Nanaimo, British Columbia).

Reviewed were analyses for Gulf of Maine cod, Gulf of Maine-Georges Bank white hake, scup (in waters between Cape Cod and Cape Hatteras), surf clam (along the Atlantic seaboard, Maine through North Carolina), and ocean quahog (offshore waters from Long Island through Delmarva). An overview of current assessment models implemented at the NEFSC with special focus on Modified DeLury and Surplus Production models was presented by Dr. Ray Conser as technical background for the species analyses.

As a result of this meeting, the following documents will be published in the NEFSC Reference documents series:

CRD 95-02, Assessment of the Gulf of Maine Cod Stock for 1994, by R.K. Mayo

CRD 95-03, A Preliminary Analytical Assessment of White Hake in the Gulf of Maine - Georges Bank Region, by K.A. Sosebee, L. O'Brien, and L.C. Hendrickson

CRD 95-04, Assessment of Scup (*Stenotomus chrysops*), 1994, Report of the Pelagic/Coastal Subcommittee

CRD 95-05, Analytical Assessment of Surfclam Populations in the Middle Atlantic Region of the United States in 1994, by R.J. Weinberg, S.A. Murawski, R. Conser, J. Brodziak, L. Hendrickson, H.-L. Lai, and P. Rago

CRD 95-06, Bayesian Framework for the Modified DeLury Model, by R. Conser

CRD 95-07, Ocean Quahog Populations from the Middle Atlantic to the Gulf of Maine in 1994, by S. Murawski, J. Weinberg, P. Rago, J. Brodziak, L. Hendrickson, R. Conser, H.-L. Lai.

CRD 95-08, Report of the 19th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (19th SAW), Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Consensus Summary of Assessments

A draft "SARC Consensus Summary of Assessments" and draft "Advisory Report on Stock Status" will be distributed at the 19th SAW Plenary Meeting scheduled for 30-31 January 1994, in conjunction with the January meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery

Management Council. The Advisory report will be published as part of the 19th SAW Plenary report (CRD 95-09).

CONTACT: Helen Mustafa
508-548-5123, x244

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. R/V ALBATROSS IV conducted GLOBEC Studies in the Georges Bank area during 8-18 November 1994. Cruise objectives were: (1) to conduct a broad-scale survey of U.S. GLOBEC Georges Bank Program target species (cod and haddock larval forms, and *Calanus finmarchicus*, and *Pseudocalanus sp*) and their predators and prey to determine their distribution and abundance; (2) to conduct acoustic mapping of the plankton along the tracklines between stations using high frequency echo sounder deployed in a towed body; (3) to conduct a hydrographic survey of the Bank; and (4) to train personnel in broad scale survey operations. Chief Scientist was Dr. Peter H. Wiebe of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (508-289-2313).

2. R/V DELAWARE II conducted Georges Bank Habitat Studies/GLOBEC during 8-18 November 1994. Cruise objectives were: (1) to document the character and distribution of fisheries habitats along the northern edge of Georges Bank in U.S. and Canadian waters between 41°15' N and 42° 10' N latitude;. (2) to determine the impact of scallop dredging and groundfish trawling on the seabed habitat and the benthic biological community, including a quantitative comparison of epibenthic megafaunal composition in fished and unfished areas of the gravel habitat on the northern edge of the bank; (3) to conduct trawls in dredged and undredged habitat so as

to document the distribution of juvenile fish in relation to habitat type; and (4) to re-survey former sidescan sonar tracklines in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary that previously showed impact of fishing gear and major storms (northeasters) on the seabed habitat. Chief Scientist was Dr. Page Valentine of the USGS Woods Hole Laboratory (508-457-32-77).

3. R/V **DELAWARE II** conducted **Cod Spawning Study** in the Gulf of Maine-Georges Bank area during 29 November-13 December 1994. The objective was to study the reproductive biology of Atlantic cod in the study area, including determination of maturity stages utilizing macroscopic examination of gonads and collection of tissue and blood samples for laboratory based maturity and fecundity analyses.

CONTACT: Chuck Byrne
508-548-5123, x224

RESEARCH PLANNING

Dr. David Dow, attended the **Marine Mammals Commission Meeting** held in Falmouth, MA during 16-18 November 1994. Dr. Dow is NEFSC's representative on the Marine Mammal Protection Act Reauthorization Task Force.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249

OTHER RPAC ACTIVITIES

Dr. David Dow (RPAC) presented a seminar entitled "Use of satellite remote sensing to estimate aboveground marsh biomass." The presentation took place on 9 November 1994 as part of the NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory seminar series.

CONTACT: David Dow
508-548-5123, x249