

Walter G. [Signature]

TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 13-14, 1992
Gulf Shores, Alabama

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
January 13-14, 1992
Gulf Shores, Alabama

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Joseph Kimmel, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Terry Cody (proxy for G. Matlock), TPWD, Rockport, TX

Staff

David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant

Others

Ken Savastano, NMFS, Stennis Space Center
Skip Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Steve Heath, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Mark Van Hoose, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Mike Russell, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Warren Stuntz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- * NOAA vessel requests for 1993 & 1994
- * Possible future funding problems in Texas

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on October 14, 1991 in New Orleans, Louisiana were approved with minor changes.

Administrative Report

D. Donaldson reported that the Fall Shrimp/Groundfish survey was conducted from October to December 1991, with vessels from NMFS, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas participating. He distributed the 1990 Joint Annual Report to the Subcommittee members and stated that the 1989 SEAMAP Atlas had been delivered to the printers and should be distributed by February. He stated that

the 1990 SEAMAP Atlas is currently being processed and should be completed within the award period.

Status of FY1992 Funds

D. Donaldson reported that the status of additional funding was still uncertain. S. Nichols stated that this may cause a problem for the Spring Reefish survey and that NMFS might be able to delay the cruise several weeks to facilitate the amendment process. D. Donaldson stated that the cooperative agreements for level funding should be in Washington, D.C. awaiting approval and cause no problem for the February start dates of the states.

Discussion of Difference of Catch Efficiency between NMFS and State Vessels

D. Donaldson reported that there is a potential problem with the SEAMAP database. This problem is, presently, the entire database cannot be utilized due to discrepancies between state and federal vessels. He stated that this subject should be discussed by the Subcommittee to reach some resolution. S. Nichols reported this is not a new problem and unfortunately, there is no additional money to fund a comparative trawl survey. He reported the states and federal vessels are currently working on correcting the problem by conducting comparative tows during SEAMAP surveys.

Discussion of Reefish Protocol and Sampling Methodology

M. Russell presented some video tapes of the NMFS reefish survey. He stated the video was taken with a regular 8 mm camera but they now use a Super 8 mm camera for better resolution. He outlined the costs as follows:

Camera	\$1,100 - 1,300
Housing	\$1,100 - 1,600
Video player	\$1,500 - 1,600
Monitor	\$ 600 - 1,200
Total	\$4,300 - 5,700

He stated the survey protocol was to identify all the species of fish on the entire tape and verify counts. He stated that if there were too many fish to count, a random sampling pattern, probably viewing the tape every 30 seconds,

would be implemented. He reported that all fish would be counted that came into the view of the camera and that the soak time for the trap was one hour. He reported that the sampling site for the trap would be randomly selected from known reef sites in the study area. He stated that one site was approximately 10,000 m². He also reported that information collected from this survey would allow a person to calculate the relative index of species at the reef site.

Work Groups

Environmental

W. Stuntz reported that Perry Thompson traveled to the various states to calibrate the environmental instruments used during SEAMAP surveys. He stated there were no problems with the instruments used by the states. He reported that a number of experiments concerning not recording the environmental information from samples immediately after they were collected were conducted. He reported there was no significant difference in readings of dissolved oxygen between collecting the information immediately and recording the information after some time. He stated that the calibration of environmental instruments will be conducted again during the summer of 1992 and hopefully on a yearly basis.

Plankton

S. Nichols reported for Work Group Leader Joanne Shultz that the work group discovered a problem with the actual number of samples being sent to the Polish Sorting Center (PSC). He reported that the contract with PSC states that 500 samples/year will be sorted, however, it is possible that more than 500 samples/year have been sent to the PSC for sorting. He reported that the work group recommended that the Subcommittee hold action pertaining to the sorting centers until the differences in number of samples sorted was resolved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. and will reconvene at 8:00 a.m. on January 14, 1992.

January 14, 1992

* Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. The discussion pertaining to the Plankton Work Group continued. After a lengthy debate, J. Kimmel moved that the Subcommittee take no action on any request from the Plankton Work Group until a full account of the samples sent to and received from the PSC was obtained by the work group. The motion passed unanimously.

Adult Finfish

S. Nichols reported that the work group has not met since the last SEAMAP meeting. He stated that NMFS is attempting to implement the NMFS Spring Reefish Cruise for 1992 and involve SEAMAP participants in this cruise to show them the technical aspects of the survey. He stated that the work group would probably meet after the pre-cruise was finished and may delay the cruise to facilitate the amendment process for the states' documents. He reported that the NMFS Reefish Survey is scheduled from April to June for approximately 40 days.

Data Management

K. Savastano distributed and reviewed the SEAMAP Data Management Report (attached). Items noted included:

- data entry, edit and verification of the 1989 data is complete. The work on 1990 data is continuing.
- The 1989 SEAMAP Atlas was completed on 11-27-91. Processing of the 1990 SEAMAP Atlas has been initiated.
- 110 of 111 requests for SEAMAP data have been completed and work is being done on the remaining request.
- SEAMAP data management efforts will continue to focus on reformatting and editing data and building up the online data base as rapidly as possible. Several cruises have been added to the data base since the last meeting.

* The issue of data requests was addressed. K. Savastano noted that many of the states are filling data requests directly from their offices. The Subcommittee decided that the states should begin documenting data requests by utilizing the protocol established in the SEAMAP Management Plan: 1990-1995. These requests would be forwarded to K. Savastano on a regular basis and

incorporated into the data request documentation. The Subcommittee moved to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

S. Nichols stated that NMFS needs vessel requests for 1993-1994. He stated that the SEAMAP Reefish Cruise would be included in this request and that the next high-priority cruise would probably be a Winter Plankton survey.

T. Cody reported that Texas may have some funding problems in the future. He stated the NMFS has become more critical concerning spending of the grants. Historically, Texas has overspent on SEAMAP. He stated that it costs more than the SEAMAP grant to process 160 samples. He reported that the Texas Federal Aid Coordinator stated that the state can no longer legally overspend. Thus, the State of Texas may have to reduce the number of samples collected to comply with the regulations.

The subcommittee discussed the location of the April meeting. The site for the Annual Spring Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting is Biloxi, Mississippi. The subcommittee is tentatively scheduled to meet on April 7, 1992 at 1:00 p.m.

Election of Officers

The subcommittee unanimously reelected Walter Tatum as Chairman and Richard Waller as Vice Chairman for the coming year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

01/08/92

SEAMAP DATA MANAGEMENT

- A. Status reports for the 1989, 1990 and 1991 SEAMAP data are shown in attachments 1,2 and 3.
- B. The 1989 SEAMAP ATLAS was completed on 11/27/91.
- C. One hundred and eleven SEAMAP requests have been received to date. One hundred and ten have been completed and work is being done on the remaining request.
- D. SEAMAP data management efforts continue to be focused on reformatting, editing data and building up the online data base as rapidly as possible. This involves getting all of the Gulf and South Atlantic data into the system from 1982 - 1991. Since the October 1991 SEAMAP Meeting, four new cruises were added to the online data base including the first South Atlantic cruise 51892 (shown in attachment 2). Four additional cruises were reprocessed through version 2.0 of the SEAMAP system and have replaced the older 1.0 versions of the data. A software capability to delete any cruise from the online data base has been completed and is operational on the main frame computer. Approximately 83.1% (\$519,104) of the total SEAMAP data management's estimated cost to date of \$624,732 has been committed to contracts. Approximately 88.8% (\$460,714) of the committed contract money has been utilized to date. Attachment 4 provides graphic information on the status of each system module.


Kenneth J. Savastano

08-Jan-92

SEAMAP 1989

DATA SOURCE	VESSEL	CRUISE	STATUS	INVENTORY	BIOLOGICAL STATION	SPECIES	ENVIRONMENTAL	GENERAL L/F	SHRIMP L/F STATION	L/F	ICHTHYOPLANKTON STATION	SAMPLE	SPECIES	L/F	DATE DBASED	TOTAL	SEAMAP VERSION(S)
AL	23	891	3	7	7	103	7	363	3	96	*1	*1	*1	*1	14-Mar-90	586	1.0
AL	23	892	3	10	10	200	10	991	7	166	*1	*1	*1	*1	09-May-90	1394	1.0
AL	23	893	3	10	*1	*1	10	*1	*1	*1	10	10			18-Jun-90	30	1.0
AL	23	894	3	12	11	259	12	1452	11	164	*1	*1	*1	*1	21-Jun-90	1921	1.0
FL	36	891	3	25	*1	*1	25	*1	*1	*1	25	75			26-Sep-90	125	1.0
FL	36	892	3	36	*1	*1	36	*1	*1	*1					15-Nov-90	72	1.0
LA	35	891	3	24	24	614	24	7921	21	140					19-Feb-91	8768	1.0
LA	35	892	3	22	22	439	22	4002	17	290					20-Feb-91	4814	1.0
LA	25	893	3	21	21	163	21	1106	11	118					01-Mar-91	1461	1.0
LA	35	894	3	24	24	572	24	4385	24	499					04-Mar-91	5552	1.0
LA	25	895	3	21	21	228	21	1940	11	225					15-Mar-91	2467	1.0
LA	35	896	3	10	10	286	10	2718	9	185	*1	*1	*1	*1	18-Mar-91	3228	1.0
LA	35	897	3	16	16	493	16	3636	16	571					18-Mar-91	4764	1.0
MS	17	891	3	41	34	989	41	7581	20	261	7	21			30-Oct-90	8988	1.0, 2.0
MS	17	892	3	65	*1	*1	65	*1	*1	*1	65	75			30-Oct-90	205	1.0, 2.0
MS	17	893	3	20	17	568	20	4631	*1	*1	3	9			28-Oct-90	5265	1.0, 2.0
TX	31	891	3	16	16	174	16	575	9	115	*1	*1	*1	*1	22-Aug-90	921	1.0
TX	32	891	3	16	16	323	16	1992	13	709	*1	*1	*1	*1	22-Aug-90	3085	1.0
TX	33	891	3	16	16	354	16	1967	16	546	*1	*1	*1	*1	22-Aug-90	2931	1.0
TX	34	891	3	16	16	268	16	1481	16	651	*1	*1	*1	*1	22-Aug-90	2464	1.0
TX	40	891	3	16	16	205	16	1035	15	382	*1	*1	*1	*1	22-Aug-90	1685	1.0
TX	31	892	3	16	16	199	16	582	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	22-Aug-90	829	1.0
TX	32	892	3	16	16	307	16	1826	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	22-Aug-90	2181	1.0
TX	33	892	3	16	16	312	16	1421	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	22-Aug-90	1781	1.0
TX	34	892	3	16	16	204	16	1112	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	22-Aug-90	1364	1.0
TX	40	892	3	16	16	263	16	1462	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	22-Aug-90	1773	1.0
US	4	179	3	571	438	847	37	2177	*1	*1					27-Oct-90	4070	1.0
US	4	180	3	244	243	4052	188	26051	141	4815	21	63			18-Jun-90	35797	1.0
US	4	183	3	114	*1	*1	114	*1	*1	*1	75	153			27-Sep-90	381	1.0
US	4	184	3	512	490	11999	251	66971	*1	*1	38	120			18-Nov-90	80343	1.0
US	49	892	3	141	*1	*1	138	*1	*1	*1					14-Nov-90	279	1.0
SC	51	892	3	106	106	2693	106	5930	48	808	*1	*1			11-Dec-91	9797	2.0
TOTAL				2212	1654	27114	1358	155308	408	10741	244	526	0	0		199321	

Attachment 1 (continued).

08-Jan-92

STATUS CODES:

*1 NOT TAKEN

2 ENTERED IN P.C.

3 ENTERED ON BURROUGHS 7900 (VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)

08-Jan-92

SEAMAP 1990

DATA SOURCE	VESSEL	CRUISE	STATUS	INVENTORY	BIOLOGICAL	ENVIRONMENTAL	GENERAL L/F	SHRIMP L/F	ICHTHYOPLANKTON	DATE DBASED	TOTAL SEAMAP VERSION(S)		
				STATION	SPECIES			STATION L/F	STATION SAMPLE SPECIES L/F				
FL	36	901	3	21	*1	*1	21	*1		30-Oct-90	42 1.0		
LA	25	903	3	21	21	142	21	1436	9 202	02-Apr-91	1852 1.0		
MS	17	901	3	44	40	1086	44	8868	10 395	01-Nov-91	10499 1.0, 2.0		
MS	17	902	3	107	*1	*1	107	*1	*1 *1	07-Jan-92	327 1.0, 2.0		
MS	17	903	3	24	24	727	20	4470	*1 *1	*1 *1	01-Nov-91	5265 1.0, 2.0	
TX	31	901	3	16	16	128	16	456	9 69	*1 *1	*1 *1	15-Mar-91	710 1.0
TX	32	901	3	16	16	267	16	1571	11 431	*1 *1	*1 *1	15-Mar-91	2328 1.0
TX	33	901	3	16	16	289	16	1606	14 205	*1 *1	*1 *1	15-Mar-91	2162 1.0
TX	34	901	3	16	16	125	16	608	5 101	*1 *1	*1 *1	15-Mar-91	887 1.0
TX	40	901	3	16	16	120	16	786	7 218	*1 *1	*1 *1	15-Mar-91	1179 1.0
US	4	187	3	151	*1	*1	139	*1	*1 *1	139 408		07-Jan-92	698 1.0, 2.0
US	4	189	3	290	267	5620	230	34308	219 6083	19 57		27-Sep-91	47074 2.0
US	4	190	3	133	*1	*1	131	*1	*1 *1	108 320		20-Sep-91	584 2.0
US	4	191	3	293	290	6725	218	39457	*1 *1	39 117		23-Sep-91	47100 2.0
US	28	901	3	136	80	73	62	*1	*1 *1			24-Apr-91	351 1.0
TOTAL				1300	802	15302	1073	93566	284 7704	416 1027	0 0		121058

STATUS CODES:

- *1 NOT TAKEN
- 2 ENTERED IN P.C.
- 3 ENTERED ON BURROUGHS 7900 (VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)

08-Jan-92

SEAMAP 1991

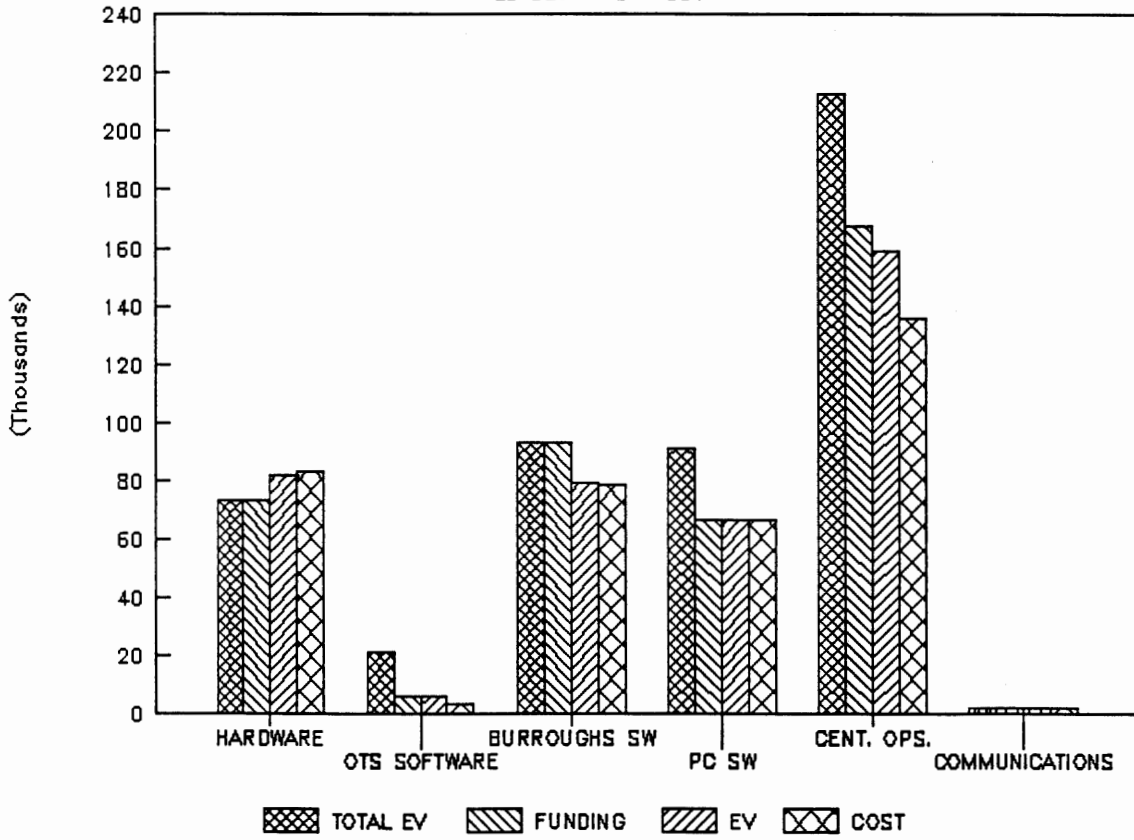
DATA SOURCE	VESSEL	CRUISE	STATUS	INVENTORY	BIOLOGICAL STATION	BIOLOGICAL SPECIES	ENVIRONMENTAL	GENERAL L/F	SHRIMP L/F STATION	SHRIMP L/F L/F	ICHTHYOPLANKTON STATION	ICHTHYOPLANKTON SAMPLE	ICHTHYOPLANKTON SPECIES	ICHTHYOPLANKTON L/F	DATE DBASED	TOTAL SEAMAP VERSION(S)
US	4	192	3	314	208	*1	107	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	30-Oct-91	629 2.0
US	4	195	3	288	267	6546	223	40667	186	7976	37	111			12-Dec-91	56264 2.0
MS	17	911	3	41	39	856	38	6402	27	989	2	6			16-Dec-91	8398 2.0
TOTAL				643	514	7402	368	47069	213	8965	39	117	0	0		65291

STATUS CODES:

- *1 NOT TAKEN
- 2 ENTERED IN P.C.
- 3 ENTERED ON BURROUGHS 7900 (VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)

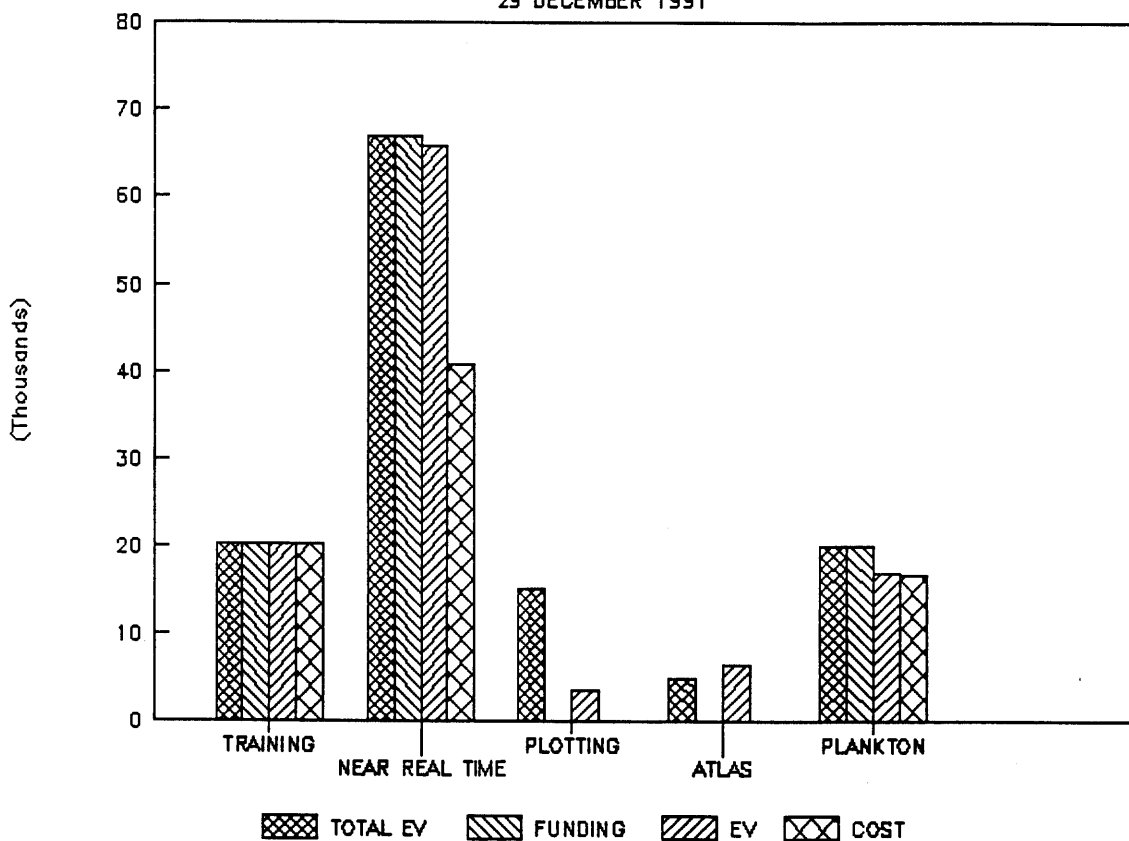
EARNED VALUE SUMMARY REPORT

29 DECEMBER 1991



EARNED VALUE SUMMARY REPORT

29 DECEMBER 1991



Walters. Pat

TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE

CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

February 5, 1992

*W
Approved
Set*

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
CONFERENCE CALL
MINUTES
February 5, 1992

Roll was called at 10:00 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Joe Kimmel, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Billy Fuls (proxy for G. Matlock), TPWD, Rockport, TX
Joanne Shultz (proxy for S. Nichols), NMFS, Pascagoula, MS

Staff

David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS

* S. Nichols reported that the additional funding for SEAMAP has been received. He stated that a conference call between the Gulf and South Atlantic branches was conducted and the portion of the increase allocated to the Gulf totaled \$147,219. The difference between the amount received and the amount budgeted was \$1,781. W. Tatum suggested that since Louisiana will receive the largest amount from the increase, Louisiana should absorb the \$1,781 shortfall. J. Hanifen moved that Louisiana absorb the \$1,781 shortfall. The motion passed unanimously.

* S. Nichols pointed out that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) received a surplus of \$1,646 in their contact. R. Waller moved that the \$1,646 appropriated to GSMFC in FY1992 via SEAMAP be removed from the Commission's SEAMAP budget in FY1993. The motion passed unanimously.

After a lengthy discussion, the final FY1992 funding allocation for the Gulf-SEAMAP is as follows:

	Increase	Level	Total
Florida	\$42,000	\$ 73,336	\$115,336
Alabama	\$19,013	\$ 65,780	\$ 84,793
Mississippi	\$22,000	\$ 94,139	\$116,139
Louisiana	\$38,219	\$114,799	\$153,018
Texas	\$20,000	\$ 45,058	\$ 65,058
GSMFC	\$ 5,000	\$ 93,720	\$ 98,720

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page -2-

S. Nichols reported that NMFS has purchased cameras and accessories for the States of Mississippi and Alabama for the upcoming Reefish Survey. The cost of the cameras (2), batteries (2), chargers (2) and housings (2) is \$4,700. So the States of Mississippi and Alabama should reduce their increase to \$17,300 and \$14,313 respectively.

The conference call was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

R.E. Matheson
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

BLACK DRUM TECHNICAL TASK FORCE
Minutes
February 26-27, 1992
Mobile, Alabama

Ed Matheson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

Chris Dyer, USA, Mobile, AL (2-26-92)
Scott Gordon, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS (2-26-92)
Walter Keithly, LSU/CFI, Baton Rouge, LA (2-27-92)
Clarence Luquet, LDWF, New Orleans, LA
Ed Matheson, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Karen Meador, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Jim Robertson, TPWD, Austin, TX
Mark Van Hoose, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL

Others

James Geaghan, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA (2-26-92)

Staff

Rick Leard, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Cindy Bosworth, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from the June 17-18, 1991, meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana, were adopted as presented.

Review of Section Drafts

The task force reviewed, discussed and edited current section drafts. Specific comments are noted in Attachment 1. Updated section drafts will be completed and sent to the GSMFC office by April 1.

Review of Black Drum Stock Assessment

James Geaghan reviewed the black drum stock assessment. Copies of Mike Murphy's comments were distributed to the task force and discussed. The TTF agreed to have any additional comments to Geaghan by March 5. Geaghan will incorporate comments and present the final stock assessment for incorporation into the FMP. The TTF agreed to include the executive summary of the stock assessment into the FMP in section 10 as item 10.3. The stock assessment itself

will be placed in the Appendix. As recommended by the Stock Assessment Team, the TTF agreed to incorporate the following stock assessment data needs into the FMP: (1) separation of data on catch by large mesh gill nets from small mesh nets; (2) catch and effort data; and (3) age frequency data, not length frequency.

Timetable for Completed Draft FMP

The task force agreed on the following timetable. Research and Data Needs will be sent to the GSMFC office by mid-March. Updated section drafts with complete references will be sent to the GSMFC office by April 1. Without any unforeseen delay, the GSMFC staff will compile the complete draft in April.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Title Page

- list entire task force on title page

Acknowledgements

- each member send in any acknowledgements
- add Mike Murphy
- add Steve Marwitz
- add James Geaghan
- add Stock Assessment Team
- add Data Management Subcommittee

Section 2

- add authorship section as in Oyster FMP with author and assigned section

Section 3

- add figures of black drum (E. Matheson will provide several originals and others which permission will need to be obtained)
- o.k. to leave in east coast material
- genetic differences/split stock - look into J. Gold's info on DNA/electro studies and summarize
- check conflicting Osburn & Matlock info on movement (pgs. 3-23/3-24)
- pg. 3-11, change to gonadal, fecundity, spawning
- pg. 3-16, parasite section rather short, reference Overstreet's "Worms, Germs, and Other Maladies"
- Table 3.3 - software burp, move DE down to line with MD and VA, add J for July
- although very little info is available, add general statement on other species preying on black drum
- antidotal info - black drum prey on oysters
- Alma Kate study on shell particles in stomach of drum
- Caves M.S. thesis on feeding
- Dugas contact

Section 4

- cold kill discussion - '83 freeze in Texas documented, 1st paragraph, 3rd sentence clean up to "rapid and extreme fluctuations in temperature may cause mortalities..."

Section 5

- send changes directly to Rick (changing constantly until date of publication)
- change title of section to read "Fishery Management Jurisdiction, Laws and Policies Affecting the Stocks and the Fishery"
- 5.1.2.3 Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

Section 6

- Table 6.2 (confidential?)
- Mexico information to be added by Rick
- 6-11 ARE
- generate bar graphs (Rick)

Sections 7 and 8

- Sections 7 and 8 to be combined by Luquet and Keithly
- 7.1 add another category "gutted and gilled"
- take out less than 10 lbs in Texas
- delete marine advisory affiliations
- each state representative look at organizations and add/delete as necessary
- 7.3.3 add "private"
- 7.3.1 "National" rather than "Federal"

Section 9

- general review given by Chris Dyer, draft to follow

Section 10

- reflect that catches have declined from a previous, rapid growth
- add stock assessment executive summary as 10.3
- user group conflicts
- 10.3.3 last sentence change to ...fecundity, etc hamper an accurate stock assessment and...
- 10.3.4 "leveeing?," 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence change "vegetated wetlands" to "nursery area"

Section 11

- 11.1 take out fishing year
- 11.2.1.1 delete last sentence
- 11.2.2.1 delete last sentence
- 11.5.1 direct sentence toward black drum specifically
- 11.6 recommend type of reporting (credit card?)

Section 13

- TTF send in research and data needs
- add Stock Assessment Team recommendations
- identification of juvenile population in Gulf States

Section 15

- send in complete set of references for assigned sections, please don't abbreviate

Section 16

- add Stock Assessment



TCC DATA MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 29, 1992
Silver Spring, Maryland

TCC DATA MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Saturday, February 29, 1992
Silver Spring, Maryland

Chairman, Skip Lazauski, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The following members were present:

Members

Skip Lazauski, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,
Marine Resources Division
Joe O'Hop, Florida Department of Natural Resources, Marine Research
Institute
Rick Kasprzak, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Peter Rubec, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Staff

Ron Lukens, Assistant Director

Adoption of Agenda

Upon a review of the agenda, two changes were offered by Ron Lukens. First was a discussion of the Subcommittee's attendance of MRFSS Wave Meetings during 1992; second was a summary of a meeting between Lukens and NMFS regarding RecFIN. The agenda was adopted with both changes without objection.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes from the last meeting was postponed until the April meeting in Biloxi, MS.

Subcommittee Attendance at MRFSS Wave Meetings

Lukens introduced the discussion by providing some background on the issue. At the October 1991 meeting in New Orleans, the Subcommittee determined that it would be a good idea for the state members of the Subcommittee to attend all 1992 MRFSS Wave Meetings in an effort to become educated as to how they are conducted and what information is discussed. Since the members had attended the first Wave Meeting just prior to the current Subcommittee meeting, Lukens asked if the members felt that it was beneficial and if they thought they should continue the activity.

Following a short discussion, the Subcommittee determined by consensus that they should continue to attend 1992 MRFSS Wave Meetings. Not only will it be

good preparation for implementation of RecFIN, but it also affords the Subcommittee a chance to meet during that time frame. Lukens indicated that he would continue to coordinate the Subcommittee's attendance at those meetings.

Priority List of Species for Data Collection

As a part of the effort to prepare for implementation of RecFIN, the Subcommittee discussed how to assess the degree to which intercept samples would have to be increased in order to reach an acceptable level of error associated with estimates resulting from recreational fishery surveys. A suggestion was made that an analysis be conducted on a list of species for which data are available from the MRFSS. That analysis would evaluate past intercept (including phone survey calls) and error levels and determine, through computer analysis, the needed intercept level to achieve a 15-20% coefficient of variation (level of error associated with an estimate). The analysis will provide information by state and by species. Joe O'Hop, FDNR-MRI, agreed to conduct the analysis with cooperation from the MRFSS office in Silver Spring, MD.

The first order was to identify a list of species to use in the analysis. The list is not all inclusive, but rather provides a good sampling of species for which state agencies feel that regulations are or will be important. The following is the list, in no particular order of importance, adopted by the Subcommittee:

- Spotted Seatrout
- Red Drum
- Mullet
- Spanish Mackerel
- King Mackerel
- Flounder
- Black Drum
- Sharks (several species)
- White (sand) Seatrout
- Red Snapper
- Vermillion Snapper
- Amberjack
- Grey Triggerfish

Discussion of State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program

Lukens informed the Subcommittee that Dr. Bill Fox, chief administrator for NMFS, was interested in a full review of the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program to determine how effectively that program has worked over the last decade. The information from such a review will be used to help NMFS decide how to set up and administer the proposed RecFIN program. Larry Simpson and Lukens indicated to Dr. Fox that the Data Management Subcommittee would conduct a review from the States' perspective so that the NMFS program review would have benefit of that information. It was also pointed out that NMFS had scheduled a panel review of the program in Miami, FL on March 17 and 18, 1992, and that Chairman Lazauski would be attending to provide input.

Lukens suggested that a discussion by the Subcommittee would assist Lazauski in his presentation. The following comments were offered by the Subcommittee as pertinent to the program review:

- Generally the program is perceived to run fairly smoothly, achieving stated goals
- Distribution of program funds is considered to be fair, but funding for the program is too low to do the job the way it should be done. Also, it was pointed out that since the inception of the program, funds to the states have been reduced two times
- Programmatic contacts at the Southeast Fisheries Center are interested, enthusiastic, and helpful, and care about maintaining a quality program
- Texas is interested in expanding their commercial statistics program
- There are problems with the TIP program software and also with getting data out. There is generally an agreement that there is a need for more TIP data
- There needs to be a clearer picture of who at the Southeast Fisheries Center is responsible for what aspects of the program
- The states, through the GSMFC, are working on a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the exchange of confidential data among states. This should streamline some aspects of the program

- There needs to be a greater degree of coordination and interaction among program partners, and there needs to be an enhanced spirit of cooperation toward program objectives and state-federal partnerships in general
- States would like to be able to add state port agents
- Computer hardware and software and other equipment need to be evaluated and upgraded. Field electronic equipment and portable phones need to be considered as a means to increase efficiency of port samplers

While this is in no way a detailed analysis of the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program, it was felt that the above suggestions would provide important input to the NMFS program review. It is the intent of the Subcommittee to conduct an indepth review of commercial fisheries data collection programs, including the Cooperative Statistics Program, beginning in 1993. This effort will mirror the initiative begun in 1990 to address recreational fishery data collection.

Summary of Recent Meeting With NMFS

On February 29, Lukens had a brief meeting which included Paul Perra, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; Nikki Bane, NMFS Headquarters; John Witzig, NMFS Headquarters; and Al Jones, NMFS Southeast Fisheries Center. Several aspects of RecFIN were covered during the meeting, but most importantly was the understanding that NMFS had moved rapidly forward toward planning for RecFIN. Dr. Brad Brown is expected to make a presentation to the GSMFC Technical Coordinating Committee during the April meeting during which he will provide a framework for beginning the planning phase for RecFIN, much like the planning effort for the implementation of SEAMAP. While the GSMFC, through the DMS, has done a great deal of work in preparation of RecFIN, the April presentation will provide both the states and NMFS with the impetus to make commitments toward fully developing RecFIN.

For-Hire Fishery Proceedings

Chairman Lazauski opened the discussion, providing the Subcommittee with the latest draft of the proceedings of the series of workshops sponsored by the Subcommittee to address data collection and management for the for-hire component of the recreational fishery. Following a review of the document, editorial suggestions were made, with the goal of finalizing the document at the upcoming April meeting. Lukens agreed to send out a memo to all Subcommittee members detailing their tasks and time frames.

State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Administrative Proposal

Lukens provided the Subcommittee with a draft proposal designed to formalize the relationship between the GSMFC TCC DMS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program. Lukens indicated that it was the intent from the inception of the program that designated groups in the Gulf and South Atlantic areas would provide input to the program in the form of problem identification and solution, reinforcement of strong program aspects, and recommendations for change. The proposal made provisions to support the DMS in their continuing deliberations regarding the program, with the agreement that the DMS would provide an annual status report of the program to NMFS, states, and other interested parties.

Discussion regarding the proposal ensued, resulting in several editorial suggestions. The Subcommittee was generally in favor of the intent of the proposal, suggesting that the editorial changes be prepared for the April meeting at which time the proposal could be finalized and adopted for transmittal to the Technical Coordinating Committee.

1993-1995 GSMFC Sport Fish Restoration Program Proposal

Lukens indicated that FY1992 marked the final year of the current three year project funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Administrative Program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposal for the next three year cycle is due June 1, 1992, and Lukens indicated that the Subcommittee needs to identify projects for that proposal. As per earlier meetings, the Subcommittee expressed their desire to go forward with a comprehensive review of

fisheries data collection and management programs in the same fashion as the recreational data initiative was conducted. Lukens indicated that he would make provisions in the proposal for a series of workshops to address that issue.

Implementation of RecFIN was discussed regarding the proposal. Lukens indicated that there were two areas which have been identified for potential funding. First, recent information points to the fact that initiation of the Southeast Regional component of RecFIN will occur at the April GSMFC meeting in Biloxi, MS. Funding provisions for organizational and planning meetings will be needed into 1993.

Second, the Subcommittee has expressed an interest in the utilization of electronic field data entry technology to increase efficiency and timeliness of availability of data. The RecFIN program will be ideal for the application of such technology. Lukens suggested a study that would highlight the benefits of using the field data entry devices, thereby establishing a basis for broad application of the technology. The Subcommittee approved of both efforts. Lukens will have a draft of the full proposal prepared for the April meeting.

State-Federal-Commission Roles and Responsibilities in RecFIN

At an earlier meeting of the Subcommittee in 1991, a list of tasks associated with the conduct of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) was compiled. The Subcommittee completed a discussion of the appropriate group or agency to be responsible for each task. Lukens asked the Subcommittee to review that list and reaffirm that the earlier product is still appropriate. The list is as follows:

- 1) Site Register Maintenance - States
- 2) Site Selection Process - States or Contractor
- 3) Intercept Activity - States
- 4) Initial Training - GSMFC & NMFS
- 5) Ongoing Training - States
- 6) Quality Control - States and Contractor
- 7) Data Entry - States
- 8) Transfer of Data to NMFS - States
- 9) Centralized (mainframe) Data Editing - NMFS or Contractor

- 10) Data Review - States, NMFS, and GSMFC
- 11) Data Expansion - NMFS or Contractor
- 12) Coordination of Wave Meetings (review of data) - GSMFC
- 13) Data Publishing and Dissemination - NMFS
- 14) Database Maintenance - NMFS and States
- 15) Telephone Survey - Contractor
- 16) Contract/Cooperative Agreement
 - a. One cooperative agreement through GSMFC
 - b. Individual cooperative agreements with each state
- 17) Others as Appropriate and Agreed Upon

Following discussion and review of the issue along with some minor changes, the Subcommittee agreed by consensus that the list as amended would serve as guidance during RecFIN planning.

April DMS Meeting Time and Agenda

Lukens informed the Subcommittee that the Commissioners, at the October 1991 meeting, had requested that staff reduce the April 1992 meeting from four and one half days to three days. In doing so the staff had to reduce some full day meetings to half-day meetings. One of those is the upcoming DMS meeting. With that in mind the Subcommittee made several suggestions for the upcoming agenda. Lukens indicated that he would send that preliminary agenda out to the members for further consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

MULLET TECHNICAL TASK FORCE
Minutes
March 24-25, 1992
Gulf Shores, Alabama

Bezhad Mahmoudi, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

Mike Buchanan, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS
Henry G. Lazauski, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Bezhad Mahmoudi, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Brandt Savoie, LDWF/MFD, New Orleans, LA
Kyle Spiller, TPWD, Corpus Christi, TX
George Wright, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS (proxy for P. Anglada)

Staff

Richard L. Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Cindy Bosworth, IJF Staff Assistant

Others

Jerry Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Bezhad Mahmoudi gave a brief overview of the previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting held June 27, 1991, in Mobile, Alabama, were approved as presented.

Discussion of the Status of Section Drafts

The task force reviewed, discussed and edited current section drafts. It was agreed that a literature search should be done to gather additional information for Section 3. Bezhad Mahmoudi agreed to coordinate the search through his agency library. He further agreed to design a table that would organize biological data, and R. Leard will distribute it to the TTF for completion.

R. Leard will also check with Joe Shepard (LDWF) on the status of the stock assessment he is doing for Louisiana's mullet FMP. R. Leard will use this information and other data to develop graphs on size and age at maturity. R. Leard will also attempt to obtain descriptions of eggs, larvae and juveniles

from Bruce Cymings (GCRL) and Joanne Shultz (NMFS). TTF members will send R. Leard any other information and comments on Section 3 as well as any stock assessment data by late April. R. Leard and B. Savoie will work to complete a revised draft of Section 3.0 by the end of May.

State representatives agreed to edit Section 4 as needed but noted that it was basically complete at the present time. This section will continue to change up until the time of publication as laws are changed by the states.

The sociological and economic sections (6.0, 7.0 and 8.0) will be drafted pending receipt of information gathered by a questionnaire that will be sent to mullet wholesale dealers and processors. W. Keithly and C. Dyer are coordinating this effort. All state representatives were asked to review a list of dealers and processors, add or delete from the list as appropriate and return it to R. Leard. The TTF requested that a copy of the questionnaire be sent out for their review.

The TTF discussed Section 5.0 (Description of the Fishery) and the possible problems associated with confidential data. S. Lazauski noted particular problems with getting landings in pounds and value, by state, by month, by year, by gear type. The TTF decided that each state representative would compile data on catch by state, by year, by gear type. S. Lazauski will advise members if other potentially confidential data are needed. R. Leard will pursue getting a ruling on obtaining and using such data from the NOAA General Counsel's Office. S. Lazauski also noted that he had compiled available data on the commercial fisheries in each state for incorporation into a draft of Section 5.0. It was noted the TTF members should complete general descriptions of these fisheries, and R. Leard and S. Lazauski will work to develop the draft section.

Discussion of the Stock Assessment

R. Leard will provide all relevant stock information to S. Lazauski as it is received. S. Lazauski will compile this data and return materials to R. Leard for distribution to the SAT. The Mullet TTF suggested that this be accomplished by the end of May, and the SAT should meet to consider the stock assessment in mid-June.

MULLET TECHNICAL TASK FORCE
Minutes
Page -3-

Discussion of Problems and Research Needs

R. Leard agreed to draft Section 9.5 (problems of the fishery) to the extent possible pending the outcome of the stock assessment. "Illegal Sale of Recreationally Caught Fish" and "Transient Fishing Effort" were added to the list of problems. All TTF members agreed to provide R. Leard with lists and/or descriptions of other problems as well as research needs that they can identify.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned Wednesday, March 25, 1992, at 12:00 p.m.

Walter M. Tatum

SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, April 7, 1992

Biloxi, Mississippi

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Joanne Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Terry Cody (proxy for G. Matlock), TPWD, Rockport, TX

Staff

David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant

Others

Ken Savastano, NMFS, Stennis Space Center
Jim Duffy, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Steve Heath, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Mark Van Hoose, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Mike Russell, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Butch Pellegrin, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Murray Brown, MMS, New Orleans, LA
Leroy Kiffe, GSMFC, Lockport, LA
Brian Underwood, NMFS, Foley, AL
Hugh Cole, GSMFC, Foley, AL
Ken Stuck, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following changes:

- * Removal of Environmental Work Group Report
- * Discussion of Quarterly Report Requirements
- * Discussion of Joint Meeting Site and Dates

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on January 13-14, 1992 in Gulf Shores and a conference call held on February 5, 1992 were approved with minor changes.

Administrative Report

D. Donaldson reported that the Spring Plankton survey will be conducted from April to May 1992, with vessels from NMFS and Florida participating. He also reported that the first SEAMAP Reefish survey will be conducted from May to July. He distributed the 1989 SEAMAP Atlas and the 1992 Marine

Directory to the Subcommittee members and stated that the 1990 SEAMAP Atlas is currently being processed by NMFS and editing should begin by May 1992.

Presentation of LATEX Program

* M. Brown reported that the LATEX Program is the largest coastal ocean and physical oceanographic program in the Gulf of Mexico. He stated that the Mineral Management Service (MMS) is funding several mooring projects which measure a variety of variables. From these variables, one will be able to get a picture of the dynamic processes in the Gulf of Mexico. He stated there are 30 to 40 other programs in the Gulf and the LATEX program takes advantage of these programs to coordinate research in the Gulf. He asked that the SEAMAP program tie in with LATEX by using the OMNET computer network to keep LATEX informed about SEAMAP research survey activities. He asked that information be provided concerning the when, where and what for the SEAMAP program. J. Shultz moved that the SEAMAP Program tie into the OMNET computer network to advertise the SEAMAP Program and the OMNET terminal be housed in the GSMFC. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on Status of Reefish Survey Design

M. Russell reported that NMFS has met with state personnel to catalog reefish habitat. He stated that due to the nature of Alabama's waters, Alabama will use artificial reef sites and select their own sites. He reported that the topics of cataloging reef sites, at sea site selection and collection of biological information were discussed. He stated that once the videos were recorded, NMFS would work with the states to aid in evaluating the tapes and a protocol for reading the tapes would be developed. He also mentioned that a pilot study was conducting to examine variation, size and number of fish recorded on the tapes and a measure of volume of area the camera was viewing was obtained.

Discussion of Blue Crab Recruitment Study

H. Perry reported that Mississippi has established a program to examine blue crab settlement in the Gulf of Mexico. She stated that the project uses a standardized sampling methodology and showed that blue crab larval recruitment increased throughout the year in the Gulf. She reported the average larval recruitment in the Gulf was 1,000's/collection compared with the Atlantic where the average was much less per collection. She stated that the conclusion from the project was that in the Gulf of Mexico, recruitment is not a limitation as it is in the Atlantic. She stated that there is a high mortality of post larval crabs and that habitat may be the limiting factor in the Gulf of Mexico.

Discussion of Future State Funding for SEAMAP

W. Tatum mentioned that funding in future years may not be as large as it was for this year and the states need to study their funding situation. As discussed at the last meeting, T. Cody stated that Texas may not be able to collect as many samples for SEAMAP due to funding constraints. Historically, Texas has overspent on SEAMAP and in the future the State of Texas may have to reduce the number of samples collected for SEAMAP.

Discussion of Comparative Tow Survey

D. Donaldson reported that due to differences in catch efficiencies between state and federal vessels, the database is split into state- and federally-collected data and cannot be fully utilized. This potential problem could be harmful to the SEAMAP program and thus the need for the comparative trawl survey. B. Pellegrin distributed and explained an estimate of the number of comparative tows which would need to be conducted to rectify the problem. R. Lukens stated that the preliminary proposal for Wallop-Breaux administrative funds needed to be submitted by May 1, 1992 and the final by June 1, 1992. He stated that the project would be divided into tow stages. The first would be to determine a calibration factor between state vessels and the second, using a proxy state vessel (probably TOMMY MUNRO), determining a calibration factor between state vessels and the OREGON II. He mentioned that the

precision of the fit was dependent on the application and noted that the SEAMAP subcommittee would have to determine the amount of precision needed and from that, the number of tows necessary could be determined.

* After a lengthy discussion concerning the amount of precision needed, it was stated that the survey should be started and the level of precision could be determined at a later time. R. Waller moved that the SEAMAP Subcommittee proceed with securing funding through W/B for a comparative tow survey. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of SEAMAP Zooplankton Invertebrate Work

K. Stuck reported that there were over 4,000 sorted and unsorted samples, recorded on dBase III Plus, at the SEAMAP Invertebrate Plankton Archiving Center (SIPAC). He stated that SIPAC has moved to the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL). He mentioned that as directed by the subcommittee, samples over 7 years old will be aliquoted and the samples from 1982, 1983 and 1984 have been processed. He reported that both sorted and unsorted samples are requested and a new assistant was hired to aid in managing and curating samples. He stated that there are 1,067 sorted samples with some identified down to species. He closed by reporting that the information at SIPAC is a good historical database for invertebrate larvae and is widely used.

Discussion of Plankton Sorting Centers for SEAMAP Data

* J. Shultz reported that the Plankton Work Group had come to a decision about the Polish Sorting Center (PSC). She distributed a chronology of letters which outlined the problems concerning the PSC. She stated that after many hours of work, it was determined that there were flaws in the SEAMAP Plankton system and the problems may not have been totally the PSC fault. She reported that the PSC has reduced the backlog of SEAMAP samples by 83% and that communication with Poland are improving. The work group believed that due to changes in the Southeast Fisheries Center, namely the addition of Joanne Shultz to the NMFS plankton sorting, the problems with the PSC will not continue. She asked the subcommittee to reverse its earlier decision to leave and stay with the PSC. J. Shultz moved that the Subcommittee reverse its decision to withdraw support from the PSC and continue to send plankton samples to Poland for at least one more fiscal year. The motion passed with Mississippi abstaining.

Work Groups

Shrimp/Groundfish

S. Heath reported that the work group met on March 26, 1992 to plan the Summer Shrimp/Groundfish survey. He stated that the OREGON II will conduct sampling from June 12-July 16 and again there will be no July leg east of the River; Alabama and Mississippi will conduct sampling in early June and will meet for some comparative tows on June 12; Louisiana will conduct sampling from July 6-10; and Texas will be out in mid to later June to coincide with the OREGON II. He stated that the work group believes that comparative tows are extremely important and recommended to the subcommittee that the GSMFC should continue to pursue alternative sources (e.g. W/B) to fund a comparative tow survey and that if additional or existing funding become available, the money should be dedicated to a comparative tow survey and this survey should be given top priority status for new projects by the Subcommittee.

Data Management

K. Savastano distributed and reviewed the SEAMAP Data Management Report (attached). Items noted included:

- data entry, edit and verification of the 1989 data is complete. The work on 1990 and 1991 data is continuing.

- Data editing of the 1990 SEAMAP Atlas is scheduled for completion by April 30, 1992. Processing of the data for the 1990 SEAMAP Atlas should begin by May 1, 1992.
- 112 of 115 requests for SEAMAP data have been completed and work is being done on the remaining request. Two requests were filled since the January meeting, one for Dr. Brown (NOAA/NOS) and the other for Dave Donaldson (GSMFC).
- SEAMAP data management efforts will continue to focus on reformatting and editing data and building up the online data base as rapidly as possible. Since the October meeting, 24 new cruises have been added to the on-line database. Sixteen additional cruises were reprocessed through version 2.0 of the SEAMAP system.

Other Business

D. Pritchard reported that there is a new format for quarterly reports for the cooperative agreements. W. Tatum asked what to do if the financial and narrative parts of the reports come from different offices in your organization. D. Pritchard stated that if you do not comply, Federal aid will ask you why you are not complying and then you have several options. He stated that you can fill in your anticipated costs or attach a copy of your financial statement.

* The subcommittee discussed that location and dates for the upcoming Joint SEAMAP meeting. After some discussion, the Subcommittee moved that the Joint SEAMAP Meeting be held in Savannah, Georgia during the week of August 17, 1992.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

04/06/92

SEAMAP DATA MANAGEMENT

- A. Status reports for the 1989, 1990 and 1991 SEAMAP data are shown in attachments 1, 2 and 3.
- B. Data editing of the 1990 SEAMAP data is scheduled for completion by 4/30/92. Processing of the data for the 1990 SEAMAP ATLAS should begin by May 1, 1992.
- C. One hundred and fifteen SEAMAP requests have been received to date. One hundred and twelve have been completed and work is being done on the remaining request. Two requests were filled since the January, 1992 Seamap meeting, one for Dr. Stephen K. Brown (NOAA/NOS) and the other for Dave Donaldson (GSMFC).
- D. SEAMAP data management efforts continue to be focused on reformatting, editing data and building up the on-line data base. Since the October, 1991 SEAMAP meeting, twenty four new cruises were added to the on-line data base (195,595 records) as shown in attachment 4. Sixteen additional cruises were reprocessed through version 2.0 of the SEAMAP system (42,479 records) and have replaced the older 1.0 versions of the data. The SEAMAP on-line data base, now contains seventy one cruises (530,833 records) for the 1989, 1990 and 1991 project years. Approximately 83.2% (\$521,861) of the total SEAMAP data management's estimated cost to date of (\$627,489) has been committed to contracts. Approximately 89.6% (\$467,588) of the committed contract money has been utilized to date. Attachment 5 provides graphic information on the status of each system module.


Kenneth J. Savastano

SEAMAP 1989

DATA SOURCE	STATUS INVENTORY		BIOLOGICAL		ENVIRONMENTAL	GENERAL L/F		SHRIMP L/F		ICHTHYOPLANKTON			DATE DBASED	TOTAL	SEAMAP VERSION(S)	
	VESSEL	CRUISE	STATION	SPECIES		STATION	L/F	STATION	SAMPLE	SPECIES	L/F					
AL	23	891	3	7	7	103	7	363	3	96	*1	*1	*1	*1 19-Mar-92	586	1.0, 2.0
AL	23	892	3	10	10	205	10	991	7	166	*1	*1	*1	*1 19-Mar-92	1399	1.0, 2.0
AL	23	893	3	10	*1	*1	10	*1	*1	*1	10	10		19-Mar-92	30	1.0, 2.0
AL	23	894	3	12	12	293	12	1452	11	164	*1	*1	*1	*1 19-Mar-92	1956	1.0, 2.0
FL	36	891	3	25	*1	*1	25	*1	*1	*1	25	75		26-Sep-90	125	1.0
FL	36	892	3	36	*1	*1	36	*1	*1	*1				15-Nov-90	72	1.0
LA	35	891	3	24	24	614	24	7921	21	140				19-Feb-91	8768	1.0
LA	35	892	3	22	22	439	22	4002	17	290				20-Feb-91	4814	1.0
LA	25	893	3	21	21	163	21	1106	11	118				01-Mar-91	1461	1.0
LA	35	894	3	24	24	572	24	4385	24	499				04-Mar-91	5552	1.0
LA	25	895	3	21	21	228	21	1940	11	225				15-Mar-91	2467	1.0
LA	35	896	3	10	10	286	10	2718	9	185	*1	*1	*1	*1 18-Mar-91	3228	1.0
LA	35	897	3	16	16	493	16	3636	16	571				18-Mar-91	4764	1.0
MS	17	891	3	41	34	989	41	7581	20	261	7	21		31-Oct-91	8988	1.0, 2.0
MS	17	892	3	65	*1	*1	65	*1	*1	*1	65	75		30-Oct-91	205	1.0, 2.0
MS	17	893	3	20	17	568	20	4631	*1	*1	3	9		01-Nov-91	5265	1.0, 2.0
SC	51	891	3	212	212	7690	212	12944	179	2299	*1	*1	*1	*1 04-Feb-92	23748	2.0
SC	51	892	3	106	106	2693	106	5930	48	808	*1	*1	*1	*1 28-Jan-92	9797	2.0
SC	51	893	3	212	212	5753	212	9372	116	1902	*1	*1	*1	*1 29-Jan-92	17779	2.0
TX	31	891	3	16	16	174	16	575	9	115	*1	*1	*1	*1 22-Aug-90	921	1.0
TX	32	891	3	16	16	323	16	1992	13	709	*1	*1	*1	*1 22-Aug-90	3085	1.0
TX	33	891	3	16	16	354	16	1967	16	546	*1	*1	*1	*1 22-Aug-90	2931	1.0
TX	34	891	3	16	16	268	16	1481	16	651	*1	*1	*1	*1 22-Aug-90	2464	1.0
TX	40	891	3	16	16	205	16	1035	15	382	*1	*1	*1	*1 22-Aug-90	1685	1.0
TX	31	892	3	16	16	199	16	582	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1 22-Aug-90	829	1.0
TX	32	892	3	16	16	307	16	1826	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1 22-Aug-90	2181	1.0
TX	33	892	3	16	16	312	16	1421	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1 22-Aug-90	1781	1.0
TX	34	892	3	16	16	204	16	1112	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1 22-Aug-90	1364	1.0
TX	40	892	3	16	16	263	16	1462	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1 22-Aug-90	1773	1.0
US	4	179	3	571	438	847	37	2177	*1	*1				27-Oct-90	4070	1.0
US	4	180	3	244	243	4052	188	26051	141	4815	21	63		18-Jun-90	35797	1.0
US	4	183	3	114	*1	*1	114	*1	*1	*1	75	153		27-Sep-90	381	1.0
US	4	184	3	512	490	11999	251	66971	*1	*1	38	120		18-Nov-90	80343	1.0
US	49	892	3	141	*1	*1	138	*1	*1	*1				14-Nov-90	279	1.0

TOTAL 2636 2079 40596 1782 177624 703 14942 244 526 0 0 240888

STATUS CODES:

- *1 NOT TAKEN
- 2 ENTERED IN P.C.
- 3 ENTERED ON BURROUGHS 7900 (VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)

SEAMAP 1990

DATA SOURCE	VESSEL CRUISE		STATUS	INVENTORY	BIOLOGICAL		ENVIRONMENTAL	GENERAL L/F		SHRIMP L/F		ICHTHYOPLANKTON			DATE DBASED	TOTAL SEAMAP		
					STATION	SPECIES		STATION	L/F	STATION	SAMPLE	SPECIES	L/F	VERSION(S)				
AL	23	901	3	14	14	159	14	684	5	74	*1	*1	*1	*1	26-Mar-92	964	2.0	
AL	23	902	3	1	1	15	1	36	1	3	*1	*1	*1	*1	26-Mar-92	58	2.0	
AL	23	903	3	10	*1	*1	10	*1	*1	10	10				26-Mar-92	30	2.0	
AL	23	904	3	13	13	203	9	775	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	26-Mar-92	1013	2.0	
FL	36	901	3	21	*1	*1	21	*1	*1	*1					30-Oct-90	42	1.0	
LA	25	903	3	21	21	142	21	1436	9	202					02-Apr-91	1852	1.0	
MS	17	901	3	44	40	1086	44	8868	10	395	4	12			01-Nov-91	10499	1.0, 2.0	
MS	17	902	3	107	*1	*1	107	*1	*1	*1	107	113			07-Jan-92	327	1.0, 2.0	
MS	17	903	3	24	24	727	20	4470	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	01-Nov-91	5265	1.0, 2.0	
SC	51	901	3	210	210	4529	208	15747	60	702	*1	*1	*1	*1	10-Feb-92	21666	2.0	
SC	51	902	3	156	156	4552	156	14060	91	1432	*1	*1	*1	*1	04-Feb-92	20603	2.0	
SC	51	903	3	182	182	6041	182	12663	128	2884	*1	*1	*1	*1	04-Feb-92	22262	2.0	
TX	31	901	3	16	16	128	16	456	9	69	*1	*1	*1	*1	27-Mar-92	710	1.0, 2.0	
TX	32	901	3	16	16	267	16	1569	11	431	*1	*1	*1	*1	27-Mar-92	2326	1.0, 2.0	
TX	33	901	3	16	16	289	16	1605	14	205	*1	*1	*1	*1	27-Mar-92	2161	1.0, 2.0	
TX	34	901	3	16	16	125	16	606	5	101	*1	*1	*1	*1	27-Mar-92	885	1.0, 2.0	
TX	40	901	3	16	16	120	16	786	7	218	*1	*1	*1	*1	27-Mar-92	1179	1.0, 2.0	
TX	31	902	3	16	16	127	16	288	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	30-Mar-92	463	2.0	
TX	32	902	3	16	16	244	16	894	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	30-Mar-92	1186	2.0	
TX	33	902	3	16	16	146	16	497	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	30-Mar-92	691	2.0	
TX	34	902	3	16	16	99	16	496	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	30-Mar-92	643	2.0	
TX	40	902	3	16	16	197	16	872	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	30-Mar-92	1117	2.0	
US	4	187	3	151	*1	*1	139	*1	*1	*1	139	408			07-Jan-92	698	1.0, 2.0	
US	4	189	3	290	267	5620	230	34308	219	6083	19	57			27-Sep-91	47074	2.0	
US	4	190	3	133	*1	*1	131	*1	*1	*1	108	320			20-Sep-91	584	2.0	
US	4	191	3	293	290	6725	218	39457	*1	*1	39	117			23-Sep-91	47100	2.0	
US	28	901	3	136	80	73	62	*1	*1	*1					24-Apr-91	351	1.0	
TOTAL				1966	1458	31614	1733	140573	569	12799	426	1037	0	0			191749	

STATUS CODES:

- *1 NOT TAKEN
- 2 ENTERED IN P.C.
- 3 ENTERED ON BURROUGHS 7900 (VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)

SEAMAP 1991

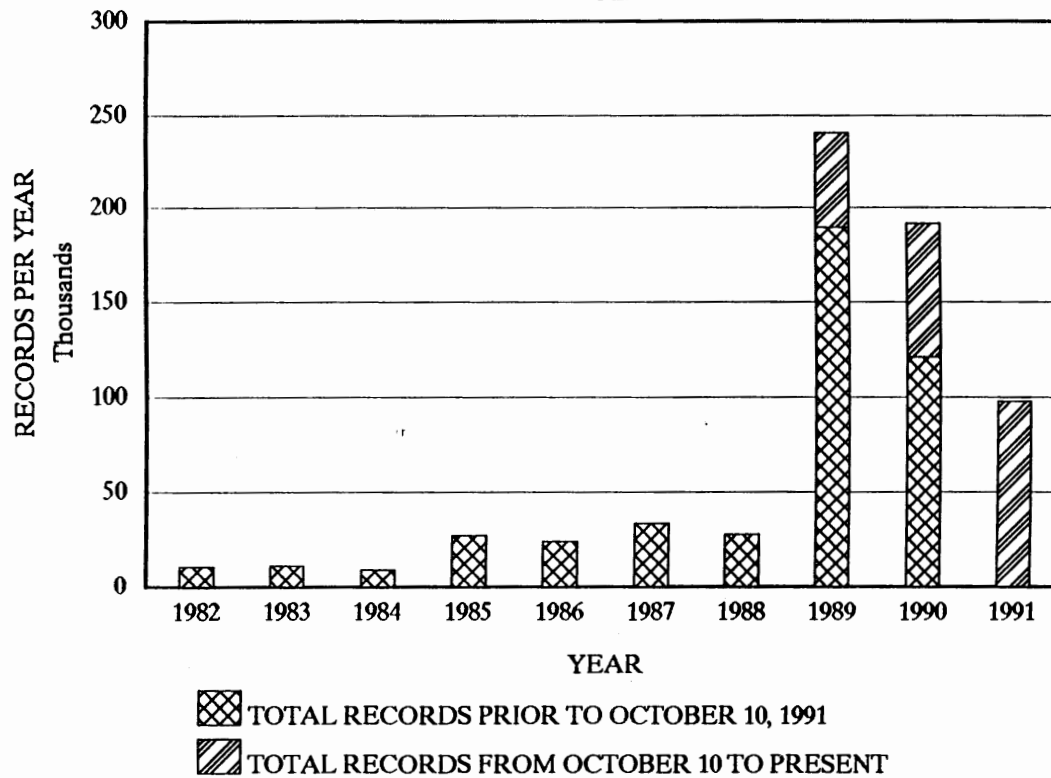
DATA	STATUS		INVENTORY	BIOLOGICAL		ENVIRONMENTAL	GENERAL	L/F	SHRIMP	L/F	ICHTHYOPLANKTON			DATE	TOTAL SEAMAP	
SOURCE	VESSEL	CRUISE		STATION	SPECIES				STATION	L/F	STATION	SAMPLE	SPECIES	L/F	DBASED	VERSION(S)
AL	23	911	3	10	10	159	10	450	7	155	*1	*1	*1	*1	26-Mar-92	801 2.0
AL	23	912	3	10	*1	*1	10	*1	*1	*1	10	10			26-Mar-92	30 2.0
AL	23	913	3	7	7	174	7	935	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	26-Mar-92	1130 2.0
MS	17	911	3	41	39	856	38	6402	27	989	2	6			16-Dec-91	8398 2.0
MS	17	912	3	118	*1	*1	118	*1	*1	*1	101	107			12-Feb-92	343 2.0
MS	17	913	3	27	27	657	27	4652	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	26-Feb-92	5390 2.0
SC	51	911	2	210	210	6022	210	15930	108	1931	*1	*1	*1	*1		24621 2.0
US	4	192	3	314	208	*1	107	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	30-Oct-91	629 2.0
US	4	195	3	288	267	6546	223	40667	186	7976	37	111			12-Dec-91	56264 2.0
US	28	914	3	166	*1	*1	138	*1	*1	*1	96	286			10-Mar-92	590 2.0
TOTAL				1191	768	14414	888	69036	328	11051	246	520	0	0	302759	98196

STATUS CODES:

- *1 NOT TAKEN
- 2 ENTERED IN P.C.
- 3 ENTERED ON BURROUGHS 7900 (VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)

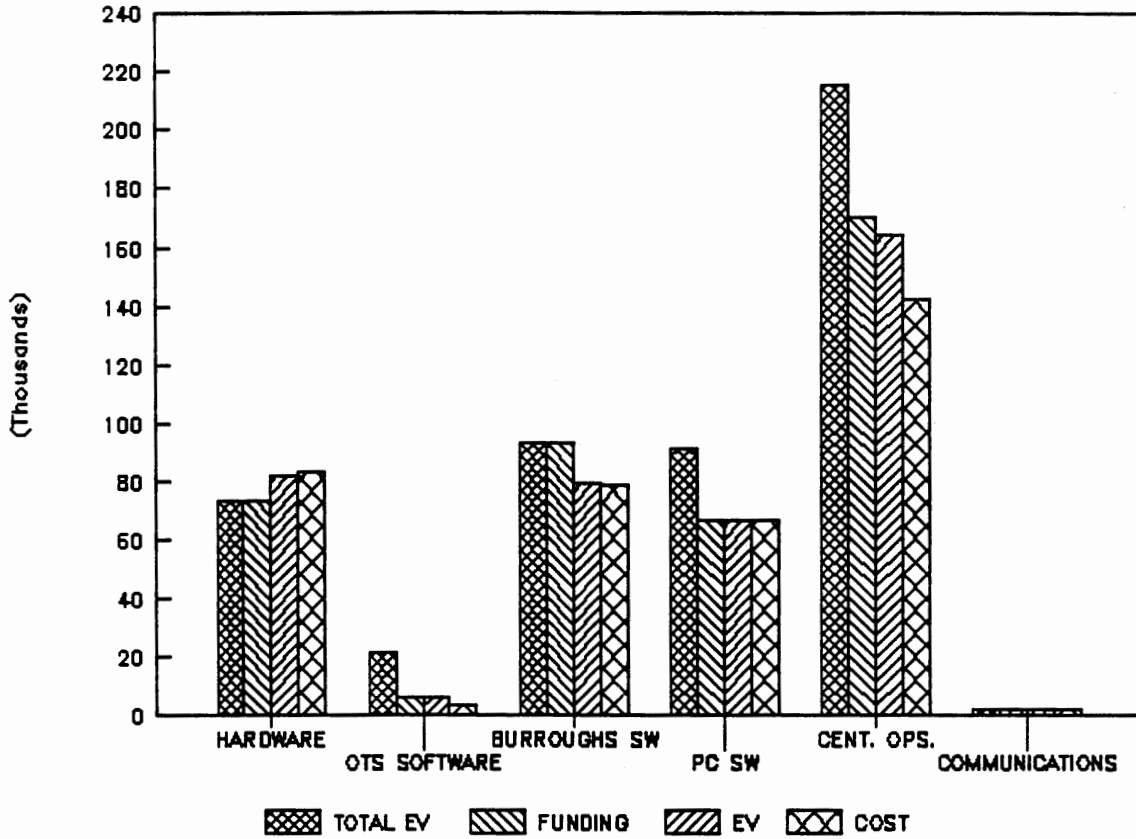
SEAMAP TOTAL RECORDS

BY YEAR



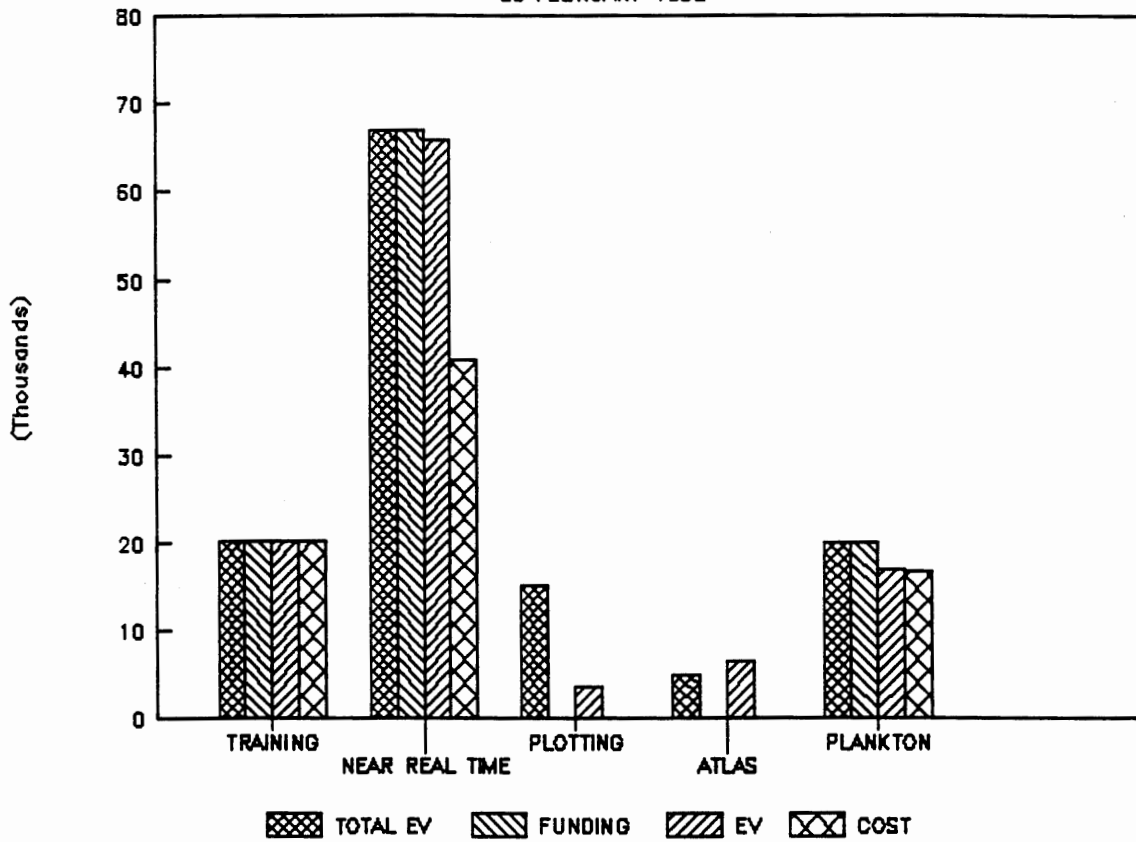
EARNED VALUE SUMMARY REPORT

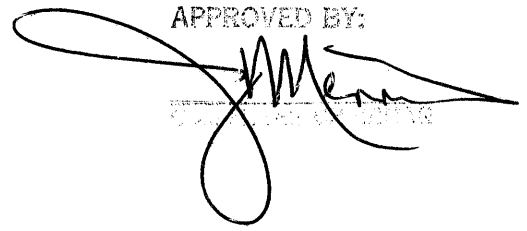
23 FEBRUARY 1992



EARNED VALUE SUMMARY REPORT

23 FEBRUARY 1992





S-FFMC MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 MINUTES
 April 7, 1992
 Biloxi, MS

Chairman J. Merriner called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

George Brumfield, Zapata Haynie Corp., Moss Point, MS
 Joe Chaszar, TPWD, Brownsville, TX
 Manny Fernandez, Menhaden Advisory Council, New Orleans, LA
 Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
 Rick Marks, NFMOA, Annandale, VA
 John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
 Bill Pendleton, Gulf Protein, Inc., Amelia, LA
 Jack Simpson, ABC Bait Co., Morgan City, LA
 W. Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Inc., Covington, LA

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
 Richard L. Leard, IJF Program Coordinator

Others

John C. Barnes, AMPRO Fisheries, Inc., Weems, VA
 Dalton Berry, Zapata Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA
 Richard Condrey, LSU/CFI, Baton Rouge, LA
 Eldon J. Levi, NMFS, Gulf Breeze, FL
 Charles Lyles, Ocean Springs, MS
 Joseph Smith, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
 Ed Swindell, Zapata Haynie Corp., Hammond, LA

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the consensus that item 7 (discussion of membership) would be discussed following the adoption of the minutes.

Adoption of Minutes

B. Wallace moved that the minutes of the October 15, 1991, meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana, be approved as written. G. Brumfield seconded, and they were unanimously adopted.

Discussion of Membership

In reviewing the operating procedures, it was noted that Wallace Menhaden Products, Inc. had recently merged with Daybrook Fisheries, Inc. and that AMPRO Fisheries, Inc. was no longer operating in the gulf. Consequently, the number of reduction companies was reduced to three. In accordance with the operating procedures it was further noted that the National Fish Meal and Oil Association had recently appointed Manny Fernandez and Rick Marks to the S-FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee to maintain a 5-5 ratio of reduction industry to state members. It was further noted that B. Wallace would represent Daybrook Fisheries, Inc. and Wilmer LaPointe would serve as his alternate.

Review of 1992 Fishing Season Forecast

J. Smith noted that in 1992 only 6 plants are expected to operate in the gulf. He further noted that only 51 vessels would operate versus 58 in 1991 and 75 in 1990. He also observed that a Dulac, Louisiana, plant would conduct experimental fishing operations with 55-foot vessels being used as catch boats and traditional "steamers" would transport fish to the plant. Based on these data, he expected effort to be about 405,000 vessel ton weeks.

Landings were predicted to be 493,000 metric tons (t) in 1992 with a four-out-of-five chance that landings would be between 362,000 and 624,000 t.

V. Guillory reviewed the 1992 forecast for Louisiana. He noted that calculations indicate below average to average (at best) numbers of age-1 (1991 year class) and age-2 (1990 year class) fish. Based on these year-class strengths and the anticipated 5.5% reduction in effort from 1991 (21.8% lower than 1990), he predicted a poor season with landings ranging between 350,000 and 400,000 t.

Bycatch Project Report

R. Condrey reported on present efforts to design and conduct a bycatch study of menhaden fishing operations using Saltonstall-Kennedy funding with a March 1, 1992, start date. He noted that the project would focus on at-sea sampling in the north central gulf without regard to differences in areas. He expected to use photographs and observations to identify bycatch in net sets and to periodically take samples from the "pumping streams" as the catch is loaded.

The committee noted problems with communications among observers, plants and vessels; getting observers on and off vessels; sampling the pumping stream; and liability. R. Condrey indicated that he would work up details of a liability agreement as well as the sampling design, names of observers and contacts with factories and circulate them to committee members as appropriate. It was further agreed that the S-FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee would meet in early June 1992 to discuss progress and problems with the study.

Furthermore, R. Condrey will give a progress report of findings from the study at the October 1992 meeting and a final report at the Spring 1993 meeting.

Captain's Daily Reports

J. Merriner reviewed previous discussions regarding replacement of report forms with equipment that would allow electronic entry of data on vessels. V. Guillory discussed a brochure on a "polycorder." It was noted that similar units were also available and that 64K storage was probably adequate.

J. Merriner noted that Small Business Innovative Research Grants from NOAA are a possible funding source in addition to MARFIN. The committee agreed to continue to look for funding sources and lower cost units to do the job. L. Simpson will pass the information on to Skip Lazauski, Chairman of the TCC Data Management Subcommittee for suggestions.

Menhaden FMP Update

J. Merriner noted that the Menhaden FMP has been updated at 5-year intervals (1978, 1983 and 1988). R. Leard described how the FMP has come under the IJF Program since the last update and the current activities and procedures for FMP development and review. L. Simpson noted the need for the update and suggested that the process could perhaps begin in January 1993. In discussion it was noted that the promulgation of an FMP update would likely be of low cost and would be quite different from other FMP developments because of the assistance that can be provided by the industry and the NMFS.


*G. Brumfield moved to recommend to the S-FFMC that we proceed with an FMP update beginning January 1, 1993. The S-FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee was recommended to serve as the technical task force, and once developed, the revised plan will be submitted to the TCC for review and approval. B. Wallace seconded the motion which carried unanimously. It was also agreed to add the discussion of the FMP to the October 1992 agenda to review data sources and other information and needs, if the recommendation is approved by the S-FFMC.

Other Business

E. Swindell gave a brief presentation on the status of the menhaden industry and changes which have occurred since 1983. He specifically noted the reductions in vessels and plants that have occurred as the industry has changed to remain competitive. He further stated that the industry continues to look at new products, new technologies, and other efforts to reduce costs and increase efficiency in order to remain profitable.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

TCC ANADROMOUS FISH SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, April 7, 1992
Biloxi, Mississippi



10/13/92

Chairman Alan Huff called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

Richard Applegate, FWS, San Marcos, TX
Alan Huff, FDNR/MRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Jim Duffy, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Douglas J. Fruge, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
David L. Pritchard, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Terry D. Stelly, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
Gary Tilyou, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Forrest Ware, FGFFC, Tallahassee, FL

Staff

Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Nancy Marcellus, Administrative Assistant
David Donaldson, SEAMAP Program Coordinator

Others

Charles Mering, FGFFC, Tallahassee, FL
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Leslie Holland-Bartels, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Susan Merrifield, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
John L. Bardwell, USFWS, Washington, DC
Austin R. Magill, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Pledger Moon, USFWS, Panama City, FL
Leroy Kiffe, GSMFC Commissioner, Lockport, LA
Wally Wahlquist, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Walter Parlor, MWFP, Gulfport, MS

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented without objection.

Approval of Minutes

* L. Nicholson made a motion to approve minutes from the October 14, 1991 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Update on Gulf Sturgeon Recovery Plan Development

A. Huff advised that three meetings have been held in Panama City, Florida to work on the sturgeon recovery plan. Originally work began on a sturgeon fishery management plan, but when sturgeon was listed as a threatened species on September 30 (effective October 30, 1991), the direction was changed to develop a recovery plan. Lorna Patrick from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is acting as the plan coordinator. At this point specific elements in the step-down plan are being written. The narrative

leading up to specific actions identified in the step-down plan has been agreed upon. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13-15, with three or four meetings to follow.

Lukens noted that when direction changed to a recovery plan, as opposed to an interstate fishery management plan, the only thing that really changed was format. Fishery management plans do not have the step down-plan format which are critical to recovery plans.

Update on Nuclear DNA Project

C. Mesing reported that Ike Wirgin is now involved in Phase III of the project which is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For the past year he has been working on striped bass probes to be used on preserved striped bass specimens. Results are expected in six months to one year.

Update on Lake Talquin Project

C. Mesing gave a slide presentation to the Subcommittee entitled "Performance Evaluation - Gulf vs. Atlantic Striped Bass - Lake Talquin". The objective of this project is to compare relative survival and growth of Gulf and Atlantic striped bass in Lake Talquin. Slides showed preliminary results at the end of four years of evaluation.

Report on 1992 Morone Workshop

C. Mesing reported on the Morone Workshop held in February. The Morone Workshop started approximately 8 years ago to coordinate all efforts for Morone species on the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river system. The workshop this year consisted of three categories: 1) stocking evaluations; 2) genetics (Ike Wirgin update on DNA project); and 3) performance evaluations. Generally each year higher numbers of fish have been stocked. Survival has been adequate enough to see increases in catch rate for young of the year and also increases in recreational harvest and brood fish collection. Work is currently being done on the 1986 and 1987 year classes.

Lower Mississippi River Initiative

D. Fruge reported on efforts to facilitate a formal organization of states which border the lower Mississippi River to coordinate the biological resources of the lower River. Representatives from state game and fish agencies and state water quality agencies from the states of Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi have been invited to attend a meeting April 21 and 22 in Vicksburg, Mississippi to discuss ongoing activities in relation to the River. It is hoped that at this meeting they can come to a decision whether or not they wish to go forward with formalizing this coordination group. Lukens, on behalf of the Subcommittee, will make a presentation at this meeting regarding the Striped Bass Strategic Plan and how it relates to the lower Mississippi River.

Update on Anadromous Fish Tag Development

P. Moon advised that field testing of the tag will begin the week of April 6, weather permitting. Originally the tag was to be an on/off tag to preserve battery life. However, with the latest technological development there will be no off cycle on the tag. Apparently there will be no change in the battery capability.

A quarterly report is being prepared and Lukens will distribute it to the Subcommittee when available.

Update on Striped Bass Amendment 1

Lukens reported that Amendment 1 to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan was sent out for broad public review. No comments were received from the public.

At this meeting the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee will review the Amendment 1 for their final approval. The primary thing they will be looking at is regulatory measures. Assuming the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee gives their approval, it will then be sent forward to the full Commission for their approval. Once approved by the Commission it becomes an adopted amendment to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan.

Leroy Kiffe, Commissioner from Louisiana, expressed some concern with the 18 inch size limit. Concern was also expressed by the Louisiana representative on the Subcommittee.

Discussion of 1993 Anadromous Fish Projects

During the development of the Strategic Plan there was discussion about conducting projects every year that contribute to achieving the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan. The Subcommittee agreed to discuss anadromous fish projects being proposed for the following year to determine how they fit into the overall plan and to see what gaps in the information base could be filled. Each state reviewed plans for the 1993 year time frame.

Lukens added that work on the budget situation to get the Interior side of 89-304 restored was ongoing. However, there are no preliminary indications at this time.

1993-1995 GSMFC Sport Fish Restoration Projects

Since this is the third year of the project, the next three year Sport Fish Restoration proposal is being prepared. There have been three major subject areas in the Sport Fish Administrative Program with the Commission: 1) fishery data programs, 2) artificial reef work, and 3) anadromous fish work. Based on the issues generated in the Strategic Plan, the following are areas which the Subcommittee can address.

a. Gulf-wide Striped Bass Nuclear DNA Analysis and Database

This task involves collecting samples of striped bass across the Gulf of Mexico and making them available for both mitochondrial and nuclear DNA analysis. Over a period of time a database would identify the distribution of striped bass genotypes across the Gulf of Mexico. This study will accomplish two things. First it will tell us what we have in the water and, based on the Talquin project, and an open system genetics performance test, we may be able to make some assumptions about what the distribution of genotypes means to us. The second thing is, assuming we begin stocking more and more of what we call gulf race fish, this would give us an opportunity to track the success of those gulf genotypes.

b. Riverine Striped Bass Genetics Performance Test

This task was dropped from the project proposal due to lack of time and available manpower.

c. Thermal Refuge Survey Using the TIMS

This will be the second thermal refuge survey using the TIMS technology. The project plan will be developed in 1993. During 1994 the actual survey will be conducted with the completion report scheduled for 1995.

d. Gulf-wide Striped Bass Tagging Study

This task was dropped due to lack of time and lack of an adequate plan stating the goals and objectives. The Subcommittee agreed to have an agenda item for the fall meeting to discuss development of a plan which would identify the goals and objectives of a gulf wide striped bass tagging study.

e. Other

An item under other included educational efforts in cooperation with existing state and federal education programs.

Other Business

P. Moon showed the Subcommittee flyers and posters regarding Gulf of Mexico sturgeon and other anadromous species. Moon asked the Subcommittee for their input on any information on Gulf sturgeon.

D. Fruge updated the Subcommittee on education and public outreach programs regarding striped bass. A new list, "Inventory and Profile of All Existing Information and Education Programs: Striped Bass", was distributed to the Subcommittee for their information.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

TCC Data Management Subcommittee
Biloxi, MS
Tuesday, April 7, 1992
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chairman Skip Lazauski. The following were in attendance:

Members

Henry "Skip" Lazauski, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Peter Rubec, TPWD, Austin, TX
Scott Gordon, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS
Joe O'Hop, FDNR/MRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Ausbon Brown, NMFS/SEFSC, Miami, FL
Steve Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL

Staff

Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant

Adoption of Agenda

Without objection, the agenda was adopted with the addition of a discussion of ComFIN, which is the initiative to analyze and make recommendations on commercial fisheries statistics programs.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the 10-15-91 meeting, held in New Orleans, LA, and the 2-29-92 meeting in Silver Spring, MD were approved without objection.

State and Federal Reports

Louisiana - Shepard indicated that the Trip Ticket Program, slated for implementation, had not started due to a funding shortfall. They are now looking to January 1993 for that program. He indicated that Louisiana is now entering fishery data directly into a SAS program, and it is now near real-time. They also have all MRFSS data on line in the state.

National Marine Fisheries Service - Ausbon Brown indicated that he is now the contact person in the NMFS/SEFSC for the Trip Information Program (TIP). A new version (3.1) of TIP is now available for field application. He encouraged members to proceed with loading the program, and to begin using it so that "bugs" can be identified and addressed. He indicated that regarding the new 3.1 version, PCXTs are not compatible, primarily due to slow machine speed.

Brown then gave a short summary of a TIP workshop which was recently held in South Carolina. The Subcommittee then discussed the need for a TIP workshop for the Gulf. It was agreed that a workshop is needed. Lukens will coordinate with Brown to hold such a workshop during the next GSMFC meeting.

Mississippi - Gordon indicated that the commercial quota on red drum had been reached. Documentation was provided by the LDWF through bills of lading regarding fish landed in Mississippi and shipped to Louisiana.

He reported that there had been an ordinance change to allow for the exchange of confidential data from Mississippi to other states. This was done in response to the GSMFC Memorandum of Agreement (draft), spearheaded by the Subcommittee, to allow for full exchange of confidential data among the states and NMFS. Gordon indicated that there had been some concern expressed on behalf of the commercial industry, primarily processors/wholesalers, that such an ordinance could negatively affect their businesses. The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife Fisheries and Parks then called for a public hearing on the issue and elected to readdress the ordinance following the hearing. He indicated that they will inform the Subcommittee when the issue is finally resolved.

Texas - Rubec indicated that the TPWD Coastal Fisheries Branch is undergoing reorganization, and does not know how that will affect the flow of data from Texas. He said that they have expressed some interest in converting to a Geographic Information System (GIS) for data management and integration. He then provided a short discussion of a change in trotline rules in the state.

Florida - O'Hop indicated that the state had added a new TIP sampler, which brings the total to four. They are soon to begin a fisheries independent monitoring program in the Ft. Walton area, which will be looking at size and abundance of finfish. The program will also collect TIP data and interview recreational fishermen. He then provided a discussion of the amendments to the lobster trap tagging program in Florida.

Alabama - Lazauski reported that Alabama has had a recreational charter boat survey underway for about 16 months. It represents a transfer of field data collection responsibility from the Panama City, FL NMFS Laboratory to the ADCNR/MRD; however, it is coordinated with the NMFS Lab. The state conducts a groundtruthing program to validate the data provided by log books from the charter boat operators. He reported that the program was working well until the Gulf Council decision to rescind the commercial red snapper closure and allow a 1000 pound per trip daily limit. That decision angered the charter boat operators, many of whom subsequently refused to provide their log books to Alabama.

He indicated that Alabama continues to collect TIP, shrimp, and landings data, and indicated that there had been an increase in the number of red snapper TIP trips in the past several months, albeit Alabama's contribution to total red snapper landings is relatively small. Lazauski indicated that he had acquired new computer hardware which should facilitate his statistics and data management work and his ability to interact with cooperative programs. Atran asked about the situation regarding why the charter boat operators are angry. A discussion ensued regarding their perception that the Council decision represented a breach of faith by allowing the commercial sector to exceed their quota while the restrictions on the recreational sector remained as established.

Black Drum Interstate FMP and Stock Assessment Update

Lukens provided the Subcommittee a handout which summarized the status of the development of the interstate FMP for black drum and the regional stock assessment. The FMP development process had been delayed due to the need for a regional stock assessment. Dr. James Geaghan, LSU, conducted the stock assessment and provided a draft to the Subcommittee and the GSMFC Stock Assessment Team for their review and input. As of the current meeting, the assessment is in revision. Once the stock assessment is completed, the Black Drum Technical Task Force, charged with FMP development, can provide appropriate regulatory recommendations to the TCC and State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee for their consideration. Following that step, the final stages of the FMP development and approval process will occur, and the FMP will be considered by the full Commission for adoption. Lukens indicated that the staff is hoping to have the process completed for Commission adoption by the October 1992 meeting.

Databases on Gulf Sturgeon and Other Anadromous Species

Gail Carmody, USFWS Panama City, FL, reported that her office had the lead in the development of the recovery plan for the Gulf of Mexico sturgeon which had recently been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Carmody requested that the Subcommittee provide information to her office regarding the existing databases on Gulf sturgeon and other anadromous species, such as striped bass and shad. She handed out a memo and a questionnaire regarding databases and computer compatibility (software and hardware) so that her office can access appropriate databases to address management needs. The Subcommittee agreed to assist her office in identifying what databases are currently available.

Update on MOA on Confidentiality

Lukens provided the Subcommittee with a status report of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Confidentiality which the Subcommittee initiated in June 1991. He pointed out that the 1990 amendments to the Magnuson Act provided an avenue for states to enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Commerce (NMFS) to have access to all confidential data within the NMFS data management system for species under Magnuson Act management only. That development sparked the interest for having the ability to acquire all confidential data, even on non-Magnuson species. Lukens indicated that as of the current meeting the States of Texas and Louisiana have legal clearance to sign the MOA, the State of Mississippi has tabled the issue for further consideration, the State of Florida will have to change Florida statute (which probably will not take place until 1993), and the State of Alabama has not yet received a legal ruling. He indicated that he will continue to work individually with the states who are not yet legally able to sign the MOA in an effort to facilitate that process.

NMFS Internal Cooperative Statistics Program Review

Lazauski reported that he had attended the NMFS internal review of the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program as a representative of the Gulf States. He described the format of the review, indicating that Stu Kennedy from FDNR sat as a review panelist. Also he pointed out that two members of the five member panel were NMFS employees, another was a representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, while Dr. Don Hayne, a statistical theorist, rounded out the panel. He indicated that everyone who was asked to present before the panel conveyed the importance of the Program, and in general that the Program had produced a great deal of useful data and information; however, there are areas of the Program that could be improved.

Lukens, who also attended the program review, indicated that there was a discussion at the meeting regarding coordination and how that task was accomplished. He indicated that this issue would be discussed in more detail in a later agenda item; however, it was felt by some attendees that sufficient coordination of the Program was lacking.

Agenda Items for June Cooperative Statistics Workshop

Lazauski introduced the discussion to develop a series of items to provide to John Poffenberger, NMFS/SEFSC, for inclusion on the agenda for the June Cooperative Statistics Workshop. A discussion ensued, which resulted in a consensus for recommending the following agenda items:

- 1) A discussion of confidentiality
- 2) TIP data entry and access
- 3) Shrimp data entry
- 4) High-tech field data entry devices
- 5) Grants documentation and time frames
- 6) Mainframe computer data access
- 7) Coding

Lazauski indicated that he would convey the agenda recommendations by letter to Poffenberger.

Discussion of the For-Hire Fishery Proceedings

Lukens informed the Subcommittee that little progress had been made toward a completed draft of the proceedings of the workshops regarding data collection for the for-hire (charter and head boat) fishery. Each state member of the Subcommittee is supposed to supply Lukens with a short description of the for-hire fishery in their state. Upon receiving that information, Lukens will proceed toward completion of the document.

GSMFC Administrative Proposal Regarding the Cooperative Statistics Program

During the February 1992 meeting of the Subcommittee in Silver Spring, MD, Lukens introduced a proposal to the Subcommittee for their consideration and endorsement. He explained that the primary reason for initial formulation of the Subcommittee in 1982, then known as the Statistics Subcommittee, was to serve as a review and recommendatory body for the Cooperative Statistics Program. Lukens proposal was designed to formalize that relationship by seeking funding to support meetings of the Subcommittee for that purpose. The proposal also included provisions for the development of an annual status report of the program to be submitted to NMFS.

During the February meeting, the Subcommittee made several content and editorial suggestions to Lukens, who indicated that he would incorporate the changes and resubmit the proposal during the April (current) meeting. The Subcommittee unanimously endorsed the proposal as amended by Lukens and voted to send the proposal to the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) for their consideration. The proposal is intended to function as an interim arrangement to ensure sufficient coordination of the Cooperative Statistics Program. In the mean time, the Subcommittee intends to conduct an in-depth analysis of commercial statistics programs and formulate recommendations for a single, coordinated program which will meet state and federal management needs. Lukens indicated that initiative would be discussed in a later agenda item.

RecFIN Update

Lazauski informed the Subcommittee of the intent of the NMFS to present a proposal to the TCC regarding the development of a state-federal cooperative recreational fishery data collection and management program for the Southeast Region (NMFS). A draft copy of the NMFS proposal was distributed to the Subcommittee and a discussion held on the issue. The Subcommittee indicated that this is the action that they had been requesting from NMFS since the beginning of the initiative to analyze recreational fishery data collection and management programs in 1989. Lukens indicated that NMFS was planning a very fast time frame for the development of an operational plan for RecFIN, which if successful would result in a plan by mid October 1992.

In an earlier action by the Subcommittee, it was agreed that the membership should attend all 1992 NMFS MRFSS Wave Meetings in anticipation of becoming involved in the intercept portion of the survey through RecFIN. With the new proposal to be made by NMFS, the Subcommittee rescinded that earlier recommendation, and recommended that the Subcommittee attend all RecFIN planning meetings through October. Lukens indicated that he would make the necessary arrangements, assuming that the Commission elected to endorse the NMFS proposal and assuming that the Subcommittee members were recommended to participate in the planning process.

Proposed Joint Meeting Between the GSMFC and ASMFC Statistics Committees

Lazauski recommended to the Subcommittee that since many of the issues being handled by the Subcommittee, such as RecFIN, ComFIN, confidentiality, etc., are broad in scope and could influence the

entire region, they should plan a joint meeting with the ASMFC Statistics Committee during the upcoming June Cooperative Statistics Workshop. He indicated that an earlier discussion with Paul Phalen, ASMFC Statistics Committee Chairman, indicated an interest on their behalf for such a meeting.

The Subcommittee expressed their agreement that a joint meeting would be beneficial to all concerned, and Lukens said that he would set the meeting up and prepare a draft agenda. It was pointed out that this action should be helpful in the upcoming RecFIN planning process and the ComFIN initiative which is planned to start in early 1993.

Discussion of ComFIN

Lazauski provided a brief recap of the expectations of the ComFIN initiative, stating that the effort would be patterned after the highly successful recreational initiative begun in 1989. Issues such as data requirements, computer hardware and software requirements, survey design, and others will be discussed, and recommendations for addressing needs forthcoming. Lukens indicated that he would not know for sure if funding for the ComFIN initiative would be secure until after September 1992. He indicated that the October 1992 meeting would be a good opportunity to formulate specific plans for the initial workshop that would take place early in 1993. There was general agreement from the Subcommittee that they should proceed as planned for initiation of the ComFIN initiative in early 1993.

Election of Vice-Chairman

Lazauski reported that when Maury Osborn, then Vice-Chairwoman, left TPWD, Peng Chai, TPWD, was elected as Vice-Chairman. Since that time Chai left TPWD for a position in pharmaceutical sales, which left the Vice-Chair unoccupied. Lazauski asked for nominations for the seat. Joe O'Hop was nominated, and was elected unanimously to serve the Subcommittee as Vice-Chairman.

There being no further business, Chairman Lazauski adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

TCC HABITAT SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, April 7, 1992
Biloxi, Mississippi

Larry Simpson called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. The following persons were in attendance:

Members

Gail Carmody, USFWS, Panama City, FL
Steven Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL (proxy for Richard Hoogland)
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL (proxy for Vernon Minton)
James Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Peter Rubec, TPWD, Austin, TX (proxy for C.E. Bryan)

Staff

Larry Simpson, Executive Director

Others

Conrad Fjetland, USFWS, Austin, TX
Fran Recht, PSMFC, Depoe Bay, OR

Opening Comments

Larry Simpson informed the Subcommittee that Chairman Larry Lewis' father had emergency surgery and could not be present. The Subcommittee requested that staff relay their concern and best wishes for Mr. Lewis' father's speedy recovery.

Since Chairman Lewis is no longer with the MDWFP, the Subcommittee held an election for a new Chairman. Jim Hanifen was elected Chairman by unanimous acclamation.

Adoption of Agenda

* W. Tatum moved and S. Atran seconded that the agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes

* W. Tatum moved and G. Carmody seconded that the minutes of October 15, 1991 be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

State Reports

Florida - S. Atran reported that FMFC passed a ban on intentional discard of monofilament fish line into the waters of Florida.

Alabama - W. Tatum reported that the presence of Cholera in Mobile Bay was noted in August of 1991 from Central American Ships. The State, Coast Guard, and FDA have recommended flushing of ballast water at least three times at sea before entering State waters. No further incidents have been noted.

Tatum noted an issue with the Corp of Engineers concerning the definition of submerged lands. This affects how the State addresses permit applications for erosion repair.

Louisiana - J. Hanifen reported a fish kill from crop dusting. DEQ brought a case against one company. The case was dropped and the public is concerned with this. Efforts are being taken to have all agencies involved in permitting oil and gas activities get together under a uniform code and common permit. He briefly discussed oil spill coordination and fresh water diversion efforts in the State.

Texas - P. Rubec reported that 1500 pounds of Penaeus vannamei was released from an aquaculture operation in the Brownsville area and some reached the Gulf. The TPWD has taken action against the company and took corrective actions to capture the lost animals. Texas has revised its regulations to allow only Triploid grass carp in the State. He noted their efforts utilizing obsolete oil and gas platforms for artificial reefs. Six platforms have been recently obtained for that purpose. P. Rubec reported on efforts to evaluate fresh water inflows relating to optimal salinity for fish and shellfish.

USFWS - C. Fjetland reported he is now the Assistant Regional Director for fisheries at the Austin, Texas office. His duties will be to coordinate interagency activities and new programs in Texas and other Gulf States. Programs involved are the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program, Coastal America, Bays and Estuary and Councils and Commissions.

G. Carmody reported that under the Bays and Estuaries Program there are new starts in Alabama and northwest Florida. She reported there are seven projects under way for 1992 in the Gulf as a result of the Breaux Bill.

Ballast Water

L. Simpson reported on the staff assignment from the last meeting to contact the State of California regarding exotics transfer as a result of foreign ship's ballast flushing. Director Bontadelli responded to our inquiry; however, the State has not passed any regulation at this time on this activity. The State has by Resolution No. 88 of the legislature requested the U.S. Coast Guard to adopt regulations prohibiting foreign ballast dumping in U.S. ports. Director Bontadelli went on to note the State has reported these introductions as beginning to have major detrimental impacts on populations of existing aquatic organisms, including striped bass and their food supplies.

C. Fjetland noted that the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 P.L. 101-646 may now require foreign tankers to flush their ballast water outside U.S. territorial waters. He will send the GSMFC a copy of the Act for distribution to the subcommittee.

F.I.S.H. Habitat Education Program

Fran Recht of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission is the F.I.S.H. habitat education program project manager. While the Pacific has been involved in a coordinated program for some years, the Atlantic is joining the effort this year. The Gulf was approached to determine if we wanted to officially be involved in a three coast Interstate Marine Fisheries Commission effort of habitat education. L. Simpson noted the time frame for the subcommittee to plan and discuss their involvement is this year prior to the October GSMFC meeting at which time the subcommittee needs to make a recommendation to officially participate or not to the Commission. Funding can be obtained along with the other two Interstate Commissions for use in the Gulf on habitat education projects.

The subcommittee wondered how such a program should interface with other similar programs in the Gulf like the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program and existing State activities.

F. Recht noted the initial efforts of F.I.S.H. were to focus on the goals of wetlands, water quality, dams, water diversion and habitat. The target audience is both commercial and recreational fishermen on the west coast. Much of the information exists from a multitude of sources. A mechanism was needed to get it out to the fishermen. They estimate some 8,000 individuals were contacted with habitat education materials in the first year of the program. Funding for the first year came from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in the form of a challenge grant. This is a grant which requires a match from private sources. The 50k from the Foundation was matched with 50k from sources like Moosehead beer, the Packard Foundation, the State of Oregon, etc. F.I.S.H. is a coalition which came into being in 1988 and it simply provides national focus to existing programs. The Aquatic Education Program of the Interstate Commissions is just placed for administrative purposes under F.I.S.H. and came into being last year. 1992 is the second year of the program and the Foundation challenge grant is the core funding although they now require a 2 to 1 match for their 50k. Wallop/Breaux and the Packard Foundation are both providing 30k and proposals have been submitted to NFI, EPA, and others.

The subcommittee felt it needs to digest this material interface with their States and each other before beginning their next step.

* W. Tatum moved and P. Rubec seconded that the subcommittee discuss this issue among themselves and their agencies then have a conference call of the subcommittee in about a month. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Chairman

* W. Tatum moved and P. Rubec seconded that Jim Hanifen be elected Chairman. The subcommittee elected Mr. Hanifen by unanimous acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned and the habitat videos were shown at 11:50 am.

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, April 8, 1992
Biloxi, Mississippi

Edwin A. Joyce
10-14-92

Chairman Ed Joyce called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Tom Van Devender, BMR, Biloxi, MS
Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Alan Huff (proxy for K. Steidinger), FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Corky Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Karen Foote, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Skip Lazauski (proxy for V. Minton), ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Hal Osburn, TPWD, Austin, TX
Terry Cody (proxy for C.E. Bryan), TPWD, Austin, TX
John Brown (proxy for J. Pulliam), USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Brad Brown, NMFS, Miami, FL

Staff

Larry Simpson, Executive Director
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator

Others

Ralph Rayburn, TPWD, Austin, TX
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Wally Wahlquist, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Donna Turgeon, NOAA, Rockville, MD
Virginia Vail, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Richard Christian, ASMFC, Washington, D.C.
Dan Furlong, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
David Pritchard, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Austin Magill, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Joanne Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Susan Merrifield, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Richard Applegate, USFWS, San Marcos, TX
Conrad Fjetland, USFWS, Albuquerque, NM
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Pledger Moon, USFWS, Panama City, FL
John Bardwell, USFWS, Washington, D.C.
Dalton Berry, Zapata Haynie, Hammond, LA
Joseph Chaszar, TPWD, Brownsville, TX
Peter Rubec, TPWD, Austin, TX
John Witzig, NMFS, Washington, D.C.
Nikki Bane, NMFS, Washington, D.C.
Chris Lagarde, Cong. Gene Taylor, Pascagoula, MS
James Warren, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Joe O'Hop, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Doug Fruge, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Leslie Holland-Bartels, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Gail Carmody, USFWS, Panama City, FL
Joe Gill, BMR, Biloxi, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of the Recreational Fisheries Management report.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held October 16, 1991 in New Orleans, Louisiana were approved.

Update on Release of *Penaeus vannamei* in Texas

H. Osburn reported that in late October 1991, there was an accidentally release of the species *Penaeus vannamei* in the Brownsville area. He stated the release was traced back to a shrimp farm in the area. He noted that there was a large number released and the TPWD attempted to capture as many as possible. A total of approximately 1,500 pounds were collected. He stated that Texas has implemented new rules which provide stricter regulations on the aquaculture industry and the TPWD will be attempting to detect the effects on the environment through their creel surveys.

Status Report on Controlled Freshwater Introduction into Louisiana and Mississippi Marshes

D. Etzold reported on the status of several freshwater diversion projects. He reported that the Bonne Carre project is still on hold. He stated that there has been much communication about the project such as letters, meetings and calls with Governor Edwards. He reported that Mississippi and the Federal agencies still support the project but Louisiana is still reviewing the project. He stated that something may be known in the next three months. He stated the project was designed to prevent flooding in New Orleans. He stated the spillway would be opened every other year and if there was no need for freshwater, it would not be opened. He reported there are many safeguards in place to prevent unnecessary release of water. He reported that the Caernaron project is operational and stated that this project shows the positive effects of freshwater diversion and displays the need for the Bonne Carre project.

Discussion of Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Agreement (MICRA)

J. Rasmussen reported MICRA is really a state program and USFWS is involved in a coordinating capacity. He stated that the Mississippi River drains portions of 28 states which covers 1.25 million square acres and plays a major role in the processes in the Gulf of Mexico. He reported MICRA takes a regional perspective and allows for the opening of communication lines with a variety of agencies that are involved with the management of the Mississippi River. He stated the goals of MICRA were to establish a formal framework and develop a network to secure funding for the program; to develop a public education and information program; develop an information management program to standardize data collection; develop a measure of the social and economic evaluation of the recreational fishery on the Mississippi River; improve coordination and communication between entities; identify current issues of concerns; develop compatibility of regulations and policies on the Mississippi River; and develop protocol, regulations and policies for disease control. He stated MICRA will provide the tools to accomplish these goals while the agencies involved with MICRA would do the actual implementing of these goals. He stated that if MICRA is successful, it will provide a 28-state lobbying tool which could be extremely powerful. He reported that H.R. 4169 provides the funding for MICRA and this is seed money.

Discussion of NOAA's Status and Trends Program

D. Turgeon reported the NOAA's Status and Trends program began in 1984 and have been level funded for the past 4 or 5 years. She stated that the information is reported only to scientists and unfortunately it is not getting to the managers. She reported the program conducts nationwide

contaminant monitoring which looks at 70 chemical contaminants and studies the biological effects and the regional and historical assessments. She stated there are seven elements to the program which are: (1) mussel watch which monitors 240 sites throughout the country and sampling is conducted by private companies; (2) benthic surveillance which monitors 90 sites covering U.S. coastal areas and focuses on mainly fish species. She stated three samples (tissue, sediment and biological parameters) from each site are collected ; (3) bioeffect survey and research which provides intensive studies of selected estuaries; (4) historical trends which makes assessment from historical data; (5) coastal quality assurance projects which provides analysis of on-going work by anonymous labs to determine the quality of work being done; and (7) specimen banking which provides long-term archiving of collected specimens. She reported that 10% of all samples are archived. She concluded by stating that the program has produced over 400 publications which are available from her office.

Discussion of Recreational Fishing Projects Conducted on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Land

C. Fjetland reported the USFWS developed a recreational policy in 1988 which uses under-utilized resources on refuge lands. He stated the 1992 budget included money to enhance the National Wildlife Refuge lands and over 50% of these lands are in the Gulf states. He reported the money is being used to construct boat ramps, fishing piers and to begin programs promoting recreational fishing and habitat revitalization throughout the Gulf states.

Discussion of RecFin Program

J. Witzig reported funding for the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey (MRFSS) in 1992 was increased to improve the collection of fishery data. He stated this increased funding will be used to increase both MRFSS telephone and intercept sampling as well as adding spiny lobster fishing effort estimation, bluefin tuna survey, survey design and estimation and various other programs. He stated NMFS reviewed MRFSS sampling in the Gulf of Mexico and it was decided that the proportional standard error (PSE) needed to be reduced. He stated that with the increase of sampling in 1992, the PSE would be reduced by 32 percent.

* B. Brown reported about the cooperative marine recreational fishery statistics program. He stated the NMFS has produced a strategic plan which develops an efficient regional fisheries data collection program with state/federal coordination. He stated the some of the recreational data issues were inadequate information on length/frequency, some incompatibility between state and federal databases, some catch per effort estimates are inadequate and there are no common forums for planning and evaluating region-wide activities. He outlined the planning development for the program which was to establish a planning framework; determine tasks associated with developing the operations plan and determine planning schedule. He reviewed the participants who will be involved in the process which includes NMFS, USFWS, USNPS, state agencies, the councils and the commissions. He stated a completion date of the operations plan is October 1992 and will be presented to the ASMFC, GSMFC and CFMC at that time.

* B. Brown moved to ask the TCC to support the "Strategy to develop a pilot state/federal cooperative marine recreational fishery statistics program for the southeastern United States. The motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

(1) Recreational Fisheries Management - Virginia Vail, Chairperson

V. Vail reported the artificial work group met in November 1991 in conjunction with the ASMFC. She stated the work group discussed identifying and preparing materials for use on artificial reefs. She stated this discussion may result in a document which provides guidelines for material to be used on reefs.

She stated the work group may develop a position paper on the management, development and research information needs for effective reef development. She reported the work group has identified the concerns regarding the use of incinerator ash in artificial reefs and plan to meet for a workshop to define these concerns, facilitate communication and attempt to resolve some of the concerns. She reported the Atlas of Gulf reefs should be published this year.

(2) SEAMAP Subcommittee - Walter Tatum, Chairman

* W. Tatum reported the subcommittee had several items for the TCC to take action on. W. Tatum moved on behalf of the subcommittee that the SEAMAP Program tie into the OMNET computer network to advertise the SEAMAP Program and the OMNET terminal be housed in the GSMFC. The motion passed unanimously. W. Tatum moved on behalf of the subcommittee that the SEAMAP Subcommittee proceed with securing funding through W/B administrative funds for a comparative tow survey. The motion passed unanimously. W. Tatum moved on behalf of the subcommittee that the TCC reverse its decision to withdraw support from the PSC and continue to send plankton samples to Poland for at least one more fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously.

(3) Anadromous Subcommittee - Alan Huff, Chairman

A. Huff reported the Sturgeon Recovery Plan is being developed under the Endangered Species Act. He reported the subcommittee is developing a library of genotypes for striped bass in the Gulf of Mexico. He stated that both a Gulf and Atlantic strain have been identified and they will test the survivability of each strain. He noted the remote thermal sensing activities are continuing to identify thermal refuges for striped bass. And he stated the subcommittee is developing a coast-wide tagging plan for striped bass.

(4) Data Management Subcommittee - Skip Lazauski, Chairman

* S. Lazauski reported the subcommittee met in Silver Spring, Maryland to examine the MRFSS program. He stated the subcommittee is looking into integrated databases for the states and they reviewed the black drum and mullet FMPs. He stated a document which requests \$5,000 to fund activities for the subcommittee is being drafted. S. Lazauski moved on behalf of the subcommittee that TCC endorse the GSMFC/NMFS State/Federal statistics program administration document which supplies funding to the subcommittee for their two annual meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

(5) Crab Subcommittee - Harriet Perry, Chairperson

R. Leard, reporting for H. Perry, the subcommittee review research efforts for megalopal larvae and catch/effort data in Florida. He stated a repository for blue crab publications is continuing to be housed at GSMFC. He noted the subcommittee commented and reviewed the Stone Crab Plan for the Western Gulf of Mexico. And he mentioned there are concerns regarding imported crab meat such as affecting blue crab landing in the Gulf and making sure imported meat is subjected to the same requirements for sanitation. He noted a speaker addressing this topic will be asked to talk to the subcommittee at the next meeting.

(6) Habitat Subcommittee - Jim Hanifen, Chairman

J. Hanifen reported he was elected chairman and the subcommittee discussed several issues. He stated a discussion concerning ballast water introduction was addressed and more information was needed. He noted Fran Recht of the PSMFC talked to the subcommittee about the fishermen involved with saving habitat program. He stated it is an outreach program which targets fishermen but it could be expanded to other interested parties. He noted the F. Recht asked for participation from the Gulf and he noted more

information was coming and once it was studies, the subcommittee will have a conference call concerning the issue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Say B. J.

STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 8, 1992
Biloxi, MS

L. Simpson, moderator, called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

John Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA (proxy for James Pulliam, Jr.)
Dan Furlong, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL (proxy for Andrew Kemmerer)
Joe Gill, Jr., MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS (proxy for Jack Herring)
William S. "Corky" Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA (proxy for Joe Herring)
Hal Osburn, TPWD, Austin, TX (proxy for Andrew Sansom)
Larry B. Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS (nonvoting)
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL (proxy for James Martin)
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL (proxy for Don Duden)

Staff

Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Rick Leard, IJF Program Coordinator

Others

Karen Foote, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Skip Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Austin Magill, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Joe O'Hop, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Frank Patti, GSMFC, Belle Chasse, LA
David Pritchard, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom Van Devender, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS
James Warren, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
John Witzig, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

*W. Tatum moved and J. Gill seconded that the minutes of the October 16, 1991, meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously. The S-FFMC also endorsed the minutes of the Tri-State Meeting held December 10, 1991.

S-FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee Report

J. Merriner reported that two (2) new members of the Menhaden Advisory Committee had been appointed by the National Fish Meal and Oil Association (NFMOA) in accordance with committee operational procedures. They are Mr. Richard Marks (NFMOA) and Mr. Manny Fernandez (Menhaden Advisory Council of the Gulf of Mexico).

J. Merriner also reported that the 1992 forecast for the menhaden season is below average partly because of additional reductions in vessels fishing and a plant closure, but also because of poor year classes in 1990 and 1991 as observed by LDWF. He noted that 51 vessels were expected to operate with an effort level of 405,000 vessel ton weeks yielding a forecasted harvest of 493,000 metric tons (mt). Projections for Louisiana landings by Vince Guillory were between 350,000 and 400,000 mt.

J. Merriner also noted lengthy discussions of a by-catch study to be conducted by Dr. Richard Condrey (LSU) and ongoing efforts to use and computerize data from Captain's Daily Reports. An additional meeting was tentatively set for early June 1992 to review progress and problems with the by-catch study.

J. Merriner reported that there was an action item regarding the menhaden FMP update. *C. Perret moved and J. Gill seconded the approval of the report minus the action item. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Merriner recommended on behalf of the committee that a menhaden FMP update be initiated in January 1993. He observed that this was five years from the last update (1988) and consistent with the previous update in 1983 following plan development in 1978.

*J. Gill moved to proceed with the FMP update as requested. E. Joyce seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

J. Merriner also requested on behalf of the committee, that they serve as the Technical Task Force (TTF) for development of the update and follow the same approval procedure as with other FMPs.

*D. Furlong moved that the request be approved. W. Tatum seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Amendment 1, Striped Bass FMP

R. Lukens noted that Amendment 1 had previously been approved by the TCC and by the S-FFMC for public review in October 1991. He observed that the public review had not provided any additional comments and that modifications to the original plan were contained in Section 8 wherein a 6 fish/person/day bag limit with an 18" minimum size limit was recommended.

*C. Perret moved for adoption of Amendment 1 with the recommendation that "each state is encouraged to adopt regulations most appropriate to their waters." The motion died for lack of a second.

*W. Tatum moved that Amendment 1 be approved with recommendations of Option 1 (6 fish bag limit, 18" minimum size limit). H. Osburn seconded, and the motion carried with C. Perret voting no.

Stock Assessment Workshop

R. Lukens reviewed the history of the development of the stock assessment team (SAT) and the need for a training workshop. He noted that a workshop was held March 10, 11 and 12, 1992, and was organized by the USFWS, NMFS, GADNR and the GSMFC. J. Merriner observed that response to the workshop was great, and that it was very successful. It was noted that a second, phase 2 workshop was being planned with a more hands-on approach, possibly picking a specific fishery and actually doing an assessment.

SAT Membership

R. Leard stated that two members of the SAT, Peng Chai (TPWD) and Steve Atran (FMFC) were no longer employed by Texas and Florida, respectively. He also noted that as a result of the stock assessment workshop, others may be qualified for membership.

*After discussion, W. Tatum moved approval of each state agency appointing representatives to the SAT, but that representation be limited to state representatives only. J. Gill seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Tri-State Meeting Report

R. Leard referred the committee to the minutes of the December 10, 1991, Tri-State Meeting. He noted that discussions centered on discrepancies in regulations on spotted seatrout and red drum among Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana although cobia, Spanish mackerel and king mackerel were also discussed. Although no specific recommendations were approved, the states agreed to continue to review the basis for regulations and to continue discussions of the issue in the future.

Status Report of Black Drum FMP

R. Leard noted that a completed draft of the black drum FMP should be available in the near future. He stated that all major sections of the document, including the stock assessment, had been drafted with the exceptions of sociology/anthropology, economics and recommendations, and that work was proceeding on these sections as well as clean-up revisions to other sections. He noted that a completed draft was expected by late May to early June and that at such time the TTF would meet to consider recommendations; afterwards the FMP would proceed through the approval process.

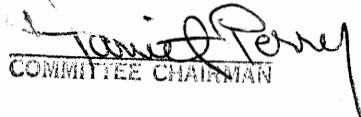
Status Report of Mullet FMP

R. Leard described progress on developing the mullet FMP. He noted that major sections on biology and laws/regulations had been developed although the TTF had only met twice since the initiation of the plan. He also stated that a great deal of information on the fishery and the stocks had been assembled and would be used to develop the stock assessment and other sections.

Other Business

R. Lukens described problems with the states' inability to access and utilize confidential data especially in the IJF planning program. He noted that recent amendments to the Magnuson Act allow state confidential agents to retrieve data from other states regarding species under federal management. He further stated that the DMSC of the TCC was working on a MOA that would allow a similar exchange of data regarding state managed fisheries. He observed that there were no legal impediments to such a MOA in Texas or Louisiana. However, Mississippi and Alabama were awaiting interpretations of existing laws, and Florida would require a law change in order to sign a MOA.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE
Minutes
April 8, 1992
Biloxi, Mississippi

Harriet Perry, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Steve Heath, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Phil Steele, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom Wagner, TPWD, Port O'Connor, TX

Staff

Rick Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Cindy Bosworth, IJF Staff Assistant

Others

Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held Monday, October 14, 1991, in New Orleans, Louisiana, were adopted as corrected.

State Reports

Texas - Tom Wagner handed out the draft Texas fishery management plan (FMP) for blue crab. The plan was adopted in January. He noted the GSMFC FMP was used as a boilerplate for their state plan. He noted landings were down in Texas and distributed a trends report and crab trap tag data by county.

Louisiana - Vince Guillory noted the fishery in Louisiana has peaked and is now stabilized. He reported landings of 48,000,000 lbs for 1988; 33,000,000 lbs for 1989; and 38,000,000 lbs for 1990. Guillory noted that 1991 data is not available yet. In management efforts, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission passed a regulation requiring the tagging of traps. The Louisiana Crab Task Force recommended a 1/2" stainless steel tag. Their recommendation was adopted and will be implemented in July 1, 1992. Guillory reported that Louisiana is also in the process of writing a crab FMP for their state.

Alabama - Steve Heath distributed landings data which show a basically downward trend. He noted processing is ongoing in Bayou La Batre. Heath reported that there are no directed research projects specifically at blue crab; however T.I.P. and landings data are ongoing.

Florida - Phil Steele distributed a status report of the Florida blue crab fishery for 1991. State-wide landings for 1991 totaled 9,919,725 pounds, a 32% decrease from 1990 and the lowest reported landings since 1957. The number of fishermen decreased, and pounds landed per fisherman decreased 15.2% on

the west coast and 30% on the east coast. A total of 40,940 trips were reported in 1991, a 16% decrease from 1990. Steele further reported on the production of soft-shell crabs that totalled 150,000 pounds in 1991, a 26% increase from 1990.

Steele stated that landings gulf-wide were generally down due to an economically depressed market and the impact of imported crab meat across the gulf. Charles Moss interjected that imports are impacting the market hard and noted that meat products from foreign countries do not have to meet the standards that U.S. products are required comply with. It was noted that 1/10 of 1% of imported products are inspected; however, FDA inspects the processing programs of foreign countries before they are licensed to import.

The Crab Subcommittee agreed to a roundtable discussion of the import issue and to invite speakers on the impact of imported crab products to the next TCC Crab Subcommittee meeting in October.

Steele reported on the status of the blue crab genetics program. Genetic variations of the blue crab throughout its range are being researched. One thousand samples for MT DNA and electrophoresis were acquired from Amityville, New York, to Brownsville, Texas, from 12-13 states and 16 locations. Results show that blue crabs in Chesapeake Bay are genetically similar to those in the Gulf of Mexico. The paper for this program is being worked up now.

Phil Steele reminded committee members to send all indices (pounds landed, effort information, juvenile abundance information, etc.) from 1986-present into the GSMFC office so landings data can be updated for the October meeting.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Crustacean Work

P. Steele informed the subcommittee of the ASMFC's crustacean newsletter which is published each year and includes information on landings, current research, predictions and problems. P. Steele agreed to send a copy to each subcommittee member.

Blue Crab Recruitment

Harriet Perry reported that the Mississippi/Alabama Settlement Project showed highest densities at the Dauphin Island and Point O'Pines sampling stations. In comparing settlement from the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic settlement is substantially lower. In addition to settlement studies, the Dauphin Island Lab is performing suction dredge sampling that shows early crab densities average 100 juveniles per square meter. Predation was found to be very high whether or not there was "cover." Perry encouraged participation of the other states in settlement programs.

Phil Steele presented preliminary blue crab recruitment data. Size frequency and density by zone, size frequency and density by habitat, size frequency and density by season, and size frequency and density by gear type were shown for Tampa Bay and the Indian River Lagoon in 1991. This data will eventually be used as a predictor.

Menippe adina Profile

An updated draft of the profile was distributed. Each subcommittee member was asked to review and send comments and research needs to Harriet Perry by August 1, 1992. It was agreed not to have any outside reviewers at this time. Comments will be incorporated and a revised draft sent to the subcommittee by September 1, 1992. A draft of Section 6 will be composed by H. Perry and V. Guillory. The subcommittee agreed that Vince Guillory will be listed as first author.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE (LEC)
MINUTES
April 8, 1992
Biloxi, Mississippi

Gerald K. Walker

Jerry Waller, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. The following were in attendance:

Members

Jim Robertson, TPWD, Austin, TX
Jerald K. Walker, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Lewis Shelfer, FMP, Tallahassee, FL
Tommy Candies, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
George Wright (designee for P. Anglada), BMR, Biloxi, MS
Suzanne Montero, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL

Staff

Rick Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Lucia Hourihan, Publication Specialist

Others

Morris Pallozzi, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
Tom Shuler, NMFS, Carriere, MS
Jack King, TPWD, Corpus Christi, TX
John L. Jenkins, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Steven Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
J.M. McMurrian, BMR, Biloxi, MS
Dan Searcy, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Ralph Rayburn, TPWD, Austin, TX
Joe Gill, BMR, Biloxi, MS
Hugh Cole, Foley, AL
Leroy Kiffe, Lockport, LA

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held October 16, 1991 in New Orleans, Louisiana were adopted as written.

Report on TCC Mullet Subcommittee

G. Wright stated that sections for the FMP were assigned to various technical task force (TTF) members at its second meeting and that much discussion was centered on stock assessment. R. Leard reported that the section concerning laws, regulations and policies was completed and circulated for comment. Leard asked the Committee to provide any input for the FMP to him for incorporation into the draft FMP.

Report on TCC Black Drum Subcommittee

J. Robertson reported that the Black Drum FMP was nearly completed and would soon be circulated for review. Robertson said that those in an enforcement position on FMP task forces should seek consistency of regulations between the states (if there is no biological reason for different regulations) and should fight tolerance as enforcement and compliance with those regulations allowing tolerance is diminished. Leard stated that the stock assessment portion of the FMP was being edited and that once completed the TTF would meet once more to discuss management considerations to be included in the management recommendations section. Robertson stated that this final TTF meeting and those final meetings of future task forces were the critical times for the enforcement representatives to stress uniformity as a management option.

Discussion ensued regarding no action being taken on enforcement recommendations toward uniformity of regulations among the states. Leard informed the LEC about the State-Federal Fishery Management Committee's yearly review (in October) of states' efforts to implement recommendations from FMPs. A copy of the implementation matrices is attached to the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee's minutes included in the October draft minute book of the GSMFC. Anyone not receiving the draft minute book should contact the GSMFC.

ISSC Shellfish Patrol Evaluation Form

Waller informed the group that he had spoken with the Atlantic States Law Enforcement Committee and that they were interested in the process the Gulf States LEC takes in discussing ISSC problems at its committee meetings. The Atlantic States Committee will try to take the same approach this year.

The LEC reviewed and discussed Jack Gaines' report on the standardized patrol evaluation checklist (Attachment 1). The LEC agreed by consensus to recommend two additions to the ISSC Shellfish Patrol Evaluation Form: 1. At the top of the page adding a question, "Has the FDA inspector read and become familiar with the state's patrol document?" and 2. Under item 3 adding "(e) Does officer have access to other specialized equipment to assist him? (1) boats (2) surveillance."

J. Gill told the LEC that he and Rich Thompson will voluntarily serve on the ISSC Enforcement Committee this year to try to expedite procedures between the Committee and the Executive Board.

Progress on Seafood Transport Regulation as Recommended by LEC

Robertson reported that Texas has passed legislation covering every issue as recommended by the LEC and resolution of the GSMFC. He noted a problem with requiring the invoice number to be on the container label which will be dealt with.

T. Candies stated that Louisiana had some regulations on the books already but they do not require vehicles to be marked. Wright said that Mississippi does not require vehicle marking but they do require an invoice. Florida and Alabama do not yet have regulations requiring vehicle marking.

There was discussion regarding rules for common and contract carriers. S. Montero will provide members a copy of the rules for common and contract carriers for ICC. Robertson will provide a copy of the legislation passed by Texas to GSMFC for circulation to the LEC. The LEC will respectfully request the GSMFC to reiterate its resolution on aquatic transportation and to urge the remaining states to pass legislation.

State Law/Regulation Summary

Changes to the latest edition of the summary were provided by members of the LEC to GSMFC. GSMFC will provide 50 copies of the revised summary to LEC members by June. Members will be able to provide further changes to GSMFC until September 1, 1992 for incorporation into the summary to be published by Blackford Company. It was agreed by consensus that a disclaimer would be included for each state in the publication by Blackford Company.

NMFS Report

M. Pallozzi reported an increase in the enforcement budget which would provide 26 new agents throughout the country of which Montero would get 5 or 6 for her region. Pallozzi anticipates hosting a meeting in July or August (2-3 days in Washington, DC) to inform state representatives of procedures to follow to share in MFCMA forfeitures/fines. One or two representatives from each state will be invited to the meeting. Pallozzi informed the LEC that Suzanne Montero had been recognized by NMFS as one of the Top Ten in the Service and by women in federal law enforcement as the Outstanding Female in Federal Law Enforcement.

Montero stated that the peer group from Pallozzi's office had asked her to develop a questionnaire which will be sent to the states and the Coast Guard to help with enforcement. She asked members to provide any input for the questionnaire to her. Montero told the LEC of a species identification training manual developed by T. Shuler. Shuler will make sure that each state leader of enforcement has a copy of the manual.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Environmental Management
DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT
83 Park Street
Providence, R.I. 02903
277-2284

March 30, 1992

Major Jerald K. Waller
Chief Enforcement Officer
Marine Resources Division
State of Alabama
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 189
Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528

Dear Jerry;

Enclosed is Jack Gaines' report on the standardized patrol evaluation checklist. I think we need to look very closely at the name of this form, you know how the F & DA (and all other federal agencies) like acronyms, see Jack's cover sheet.

His comments on the time notation would fit in with law enforcement practices, however, I think we were not sure that the evaluator would be familiar with the 24 hour clock.

I agree the type of harvest section should be expanded.

Jack's recommendation on training is well received by me, the only thing I will say is the reverse of this is what precipitates the standardized patrol evaluation concept. I stop here in compliance with your request in paragraph two. (Letter dated 12/30/91)

I feel that adequacy of patrol is a nebulous question, as there are too many other variables to be considered, ie. shell-stock availability in closed areas, public visibility in closed areas, peer pressure on violators based on mores and attitude of other fishermen, judicial attitude in this area toward violators.

Our discussion in committee on this subject was quite lengthy, as you may remember someone said that all boats should have radar. Maybe we should have a list and check the appropriate equipment needed.

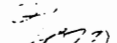
Telecommunication Device for the Deaf 277-6800

Actually, I am pleased with Jack's report. If each state has a person evaluate the form that is as subjective about it as Jack, we should be able to make the necessary changes and finalize it in Chicago this summer.

I should also add that Jack and I discussed this on the phone, and that perhaps we should put together a standardized evaluation package so that the same criteria would be looked at during the headquarters visit in each state.

In closing, let me apologize for taking so long to reply to your request, and wish you an enjoyable and successful conference. Please say hello to all the fine southern fish cops for this poor yankee boy at the conference.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Greene
Deputy Chief
Division of Enforcement

Enc. Jack's report
cc

**

**
**
**



FROM: NORTHEAST TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT, HFH 410
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
RHODE ISLAND

BY: Jack Gainer

PHONE: FTS 838-5279
401 294-2561
FAX: FTS 838-5278
401-528-5278

**
**
**
**

Tom Green

PHONE: ~~Fax # 377-6873~~
ROOM: 277-6873

NUMBER OF SHEETS + COVER: 3

COMMENTS:

*Here are my comments on the HAFE form,
If you need anymore, call J.G.*

01-17-22 10:16 AM FROM FDA / WTSU - E.L.
FBI

Harvest Area Patrol Evaluation Form

The purpose of this form is to design a method to uniformly evaluate the several states shellfish harvesting area patrol activities. This uniformity is needed to insure that each state is applying enough resources to provide adequate its patrol activities to prevent illegal harvest in closed or prohibited shellfish growing areas to protect public health and the shellfish resource.

Listed below under each section are suggested changes that may eliminate some confusion and facilitate uniformity.

Background Information:

Time could be reported on a 24 hour basis, this being a universally used and accepted method which eliminates the need for am or pm designations.

Under Type of Harvest section, I would suggest a Method of Harvest subheading. This subheading should probably differentiate between commercial and recreational harvesting and what methods are allowable in each category.

Area Information:

A question could be added about the type of training the evaluated officer has received in shellfish management and public health

aspects of shellfish harvesting. This information could be used to determine the need for training for patrol officers and could facilitate the documentation of the training needs of each state.

Coverage of Patrol Area

A question should be added referring to the size of each states area of responsibility and the number of officers needed to adequately patrol these areas.

Equipment:

This section is much too brief considering the importance of equipment in patrol activities. A list of minimum required equipment should be developed. This is a difficult situation, given the differences in patrol requirements. What works for Rhode Island would be inadequate in Louisiana. This section also could be used to document a states need for additional equipment.

With a few changes this evaluation form will help standardize the patrol activities of the various states involved in shellfish growing area surveillance. One change suggested would be to encourage positive comments as well as negative comment.

HARVEST PATROL EVALUATION

Field Observation Checklist

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Date: Month 2 Day 12 Year 92
 Time Patrol Began 0800 m
 Time Patrol Ended 1500 m

Officer(s) Accompanied:

	First	M.I.	Last	Title	Experience/ Yrs
1	TOM		Abbott	Com. Officer	3
2					
3					

Patrol Area:

Name (SSPA Designation) _____
 Geographic Boundaries attem Harbor to Point Judith then to Charlestown

Patrol Conditions:

Weather Clear & very cold
 Tide Low
 Other Pertinent Information severe cold & wind limited harvest area

Type of Harvest:

Recreational Commercial

AREA INFORMATION

1. Officer's Knowledge of Area

YES NO NA

a. Was officer able to describe closed area?

Comments: Officer pointed out closure lines and posted signs

b. Did officer have knowledge of shellfish resources in area?

Comments: Described areas and types of shellfish present

c. Did officer have knowledge of areas of concern where illegal harvest may occur?

Comments: Officer pointed out areas likely to have illegal harvest

d. Did officer have knowledge of relay, or aquaculture operations in area?

Comments: Described several aquaculture projects and named private individuals involved

2. Coverage of Patrol Area

a. Does officer work days, nights, weekends, and holidays when necessary? [] [] []

Comments: Officer willing to work when necessary with extra

b. Does officer respond to complaints after scheduled patrol hours within patrol agency guidelines? [] [] []

Comments: Officer appeared interested in job and expressed a willingness to respond to crisis.

3. Equipment

a. Does officer's transportation equipment allow access to patrol area? [] [] []

Comments: Equipment well suited, but needs to be fully graded (all)

b. Is officer's equipment suitable to apprehend violators? [] [] []

Comments: Equipment certainly adequate

c. Does officer's radio equipment allow communication when assistance is necessary? [] [] []

Comments: Radio equipment superior, able to readily communicate with HQ.

d. Does officer's surveillance equipment allow observation of closed area? [] [] []

Comments: Equipment adequate, could use night vision

Any question answered NO must be justified or explained by the FDA evaluator in comment area supplied for that question.

General Comments by FDA Evaluator: Officer generally good but needs a little work. Should provide a good evaluation with small changes.

Signature of FDA Evaluator Jack L. Lauer Date 2/1/92

Signature of Senior Patrol Officer _____ Date _____

Officer's Comments: (optional) _____

NOTE: Field Observation Checklist form should have at least 3 copies.

- 1) For FDA evaluation
- 2) For Patrol Officer signing the form
- 3) For Patrol Agency's Chief of Enforcement

COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, April 9, 1992
Biloxi, Mississippi



The meeting was called to order at 8:55 am by Chairman Leroy Kiffe. He requested the Executive Director to call roll and review pertinent rules and regulations regarding the appropriate meeting procedures.

L. Simpson established a quorum. The following Commissioners and/or proxies were present:

Members

Ralph Rayburn	TX
Charlie Belaire	TX
Joe Gill, Jr.	MS
George Sekul	MS
Ed Joyce	FL
Hans Tanzler	FL
Corky Perret	LA
Leroy Kiffe	LA
Frank J. Patti	LA
Walter M. Tatum	AL
Chris Nelson	AL

Other persons attending were:

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant
Richard Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Dave Donaldson, SEAMAP Program Coordinator
Lucia Hourihan, Publication Specialist
Nancy K. Marcellus, Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant
Cindy Bosworth, Staff Assistant

Other

Hugh Cole, GSMFC/CFAC, Foley, AL
David Pritchard, NMFS/SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Dan Furlong, NMFS/SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
John Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Doug Fruge, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Pepper Scheffler, GSMFC/RFAC, Gretna, LA
Karen Foote, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Chris LeGarde, Aide to Congressman Taylor, Pascagoula, MS
George Higginbotham, GSMFC/CFAC, Biloxi, MS

L. Simpson reviewed voting procedure. Voting is by individual Commissioner. If there is a question about the vote each state delegation shall cast one vote. If three Commissioners are present, two out of three will carry the State vote. If only two Commissioners are present from a state, they must agree

or their votes will offset each other. If only one Commissioner from a state is present their vote shall represent the state.

L. Simpson briefed the Commissioners on procedures for closed meetings and changes to rules and regulations. Changes to the Commissions Rules and Regulations may be made at any meeting provided due notice has been given in the call for the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following changes:
Items 8, 10, and 6.d. followed Item 3.
Item 13 followed Item 5.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes for the October 17, 1991 meeting held in New Orleans, LA were approved as presented.

Report on LA/MS Territorial/Federal Jurisdiction

J. Gill reported that Mississippi had referred a case to NOAA Counsel regarding problems determining state or federal jurisdiction over Chandeleur Sound after C. Perret brought their attention to two or three past Supreme Court cases different than the General Counsel's initial position. The Office of the General Counsel has ruled in favor of the states and has vacated the civil action referred to them by the State of Mississippi. C. Perret was pleased with the ruling.

Selection of Charles H. Lyles Award Recipient

C. Perret nominated J. Burton Angelle for the 1992 recipient of the Charles H. Lyles Award. F. Patti seconded. Mr. Patti spoke on behalf of Mr. Angelle noting his efforts on behalf of marine fisheries and his work with the Commission. R. Rayburn moved to close the nominations. J. Burton Angelle was selected by acclamation.

Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee (RFAC) Report

P. Scheffler spoke on behalf of the RFAC. She reported that the committee had been established two years ago and that the primary purpose was to provide the Commission with issues of importance to recreational fishing and its associated industry and possible solutions. Membership consisted of two members from each state. Although several meetings have been scheduled no quorum had yet to be established and the RFAC was unable to fulfill its primary purpose. A telephone conference was held to elect a temporary chairman to find out why the committee was having problems with attendance. It was P. Scheffler's opinion that the lack of financial support was the major problem. She requested that the Commissioners advise the RFAC on what they should do and how they can establish a good committee.

Several solutions and options were discussed. Returning to the original recreational committee forum was suggested. The committee members were originally state/manager representatives not individual users. It was pointed out that the industry group was also experiencing poor member participation due to lack of financial support. Another suggestion was to closely review membership, revise if necessary and fund at a minimal level. C. Nelson suggested that agendas be developed that would challenge and spark interest using a symposium format that would get recreational and industry person involved. All present agreed that constituent complacency was a serious problem and that it was worth the effort to get more people involved due to the serious state of fisheries today. Financial support

by the states would be extremely difficult and would not guarantee the results necessary to continue the RFAC.

Other discussion included comments regarding the Commission's authority to assist recreational groups. It was pointed out that the Commission did not make regulatory decisions and that this problem may be better handled within the individual states. It was pointed out that the Commission was not meant to be regulatory but a tool to be used by the various states to develop regulatory recommendations. The Commission's role has proved to be a valuable tool in assisting the states with interjurisdictional issues affecting regulations and continues to do so.

J. Gill motioned to re-evaluate membership, change appointments if necessary and provide a forum for a symposium to address issues of relevance. R. Rayburn made a substitute motion to re-establish the committee by combining the RFAC and the Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee (CFAC). Membership would consist of one commercial and one recreational member from each state. Failure to attend a meeting would leave one side or the other without equal representation. In addition a minimal amount of travel expenses would be reimbursed. W. Tatum seconded. H. Tanzler amended the substitute motion to add one member or staff person to act as facilitator to force controversial topics of discussion; not to provide reimbursement for travel expenses; and, to give the committee one year to re-organize. G. Higginbotham spoke on behalf of the CFAC. He did not feel that recreational and industry persons would be able to solve problems in one committee. He felt that separate committees would be better. The amended substitute motion failed. Commissioners voted by state as follows: TX - yes; LA - no; MS - no; AL - cancel; and, FL - yes.

C. Nelson amended J. Gill's original motion to have chairman of RFAC and CFAC arrange to meet for a portion (one hour) of their meeting to interact on issues of importance to both groups. W. Tatum seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NMFS Southeast Regional Office Report

Dan Furlong, Deputy Regional Director, NMFS Southeast Regional Office reported on NMFS efforts in fishery resource conservation and management. Topics discussed included modified boundaries of the Tortugas Shrimp Sanctuary for 1992; reviewed commercial quotas for shallow-water grouper and red snapper; updated wreckfish ITQ program and discussed plans for ITQ system for deep and shallow water grouper and snapper; discussed ongoing projects dealing with lobster traps, shallow water reef fish, Atlantic sharks, swordfish and bluefin tuna; and reported that a coordinated plan for bycatch research in the southeast region was near completion. He also reported on NMFS involvement with sea turtle management and legislation and habitat protection projects.

NMFS has completed a final draft for an integrated MARFIN program in the Gulf and South Atlantic. D. Furlong reported that the SERO is working with GSA to finalize a lease for new office space.

USFWS Region 4 Report

John Brown reported on behalf of USFWS Region 4. He reported that no funds were appropriated for Anadromous Fish Programs in FY92 and that the FY93 budget that is in Washington did not request these very important funds that are used by all of the Gulf States with the exception of Florida. The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has supported the GSMFC's efforts to reinstate anadromous funding by requesting a \$4.5 million add on for Anadromous Fish Programs. Also of importance to the Gulf States is the striped bass restoration proposal. This proposal would provide \$750,000 funding and is aggressively supported by FWS and needs state support as well.

J. Brown briefed the Commissioners on the activity of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Agreement (MICRA). The agreement has been signed by 28 states and some federal agencies.

MICRA is a coordinated effort to address interstate habitat problems. He stressed the importance for the Gulf to be involved since we are at the base of the impact area.

D. Fruge reported that a jointly sponsored MICRA meeting would be held in Vicksburg, MS to bring state and federal agencies together to form an entity in the lower Gulf to address issues dealt with by MICRA. He stated that advocates for the lower Gulf needed to position themselves to deal with decision making and to be aware of funding that may become available to deal with specific problems in the lower Gulf. Approximately \$3 million may become available if pending legislation is approved. Alabama and Florida have not been included in the initial discussions but J. Brown will provide information to all of the Gulf States for their consideration.

Executive Committee Report

L. Kiffe reported that the Executive Committee had met on Wednesday, April 8. The audit for FY 91 was reviewed and the committee recommended that it be approved as presented. E. Joyce motioned to approved FY 91 audit. R. Rayburn seconded. Motion carried.

Other recommendations from the committee included changes to the Manual of General Administration of the GSMFC. The committee discussed the annual leave policy of the Commission. It was found that there was no upper limit on annual leave retention. Members expressed concern that this could be a liability to the Commission, since upon termination of an employee (voluntary or otherwise) the Commission provides cash payment equivalent to the annual leave balance. A recommendation from the Committee was forwarded to the Commission that no employee retain more than 300 hours of annual leave. An employee can accrue more than 300 hours in a given year; however, on January 1 of each year annual leave will be adjusted such that the beginning balance for that year does not exceed 300 hours. In addition, they recommended that upon severance, annual leave will be paid at the average rate of the highest 36 months of employment and will not exceed 300 hours. E. Joyce motioned to approved the recommended changes. R. Rayburn seconded. The motion carried.

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Report

E. Joyce reported that the TCC met on Wednesday, April 8, 1992. Items discussed included the status of controlled freshwater diversion structures, a report on MICRA, NOAA Status and Trends Program, RecFin Program and various subcommittee reports.

Other items discussed involved TCC recommendation. On behalf of the TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee E. Joyce requested that the SEAMAP Program tie into the OMNET computer network to advertise the SEAMAP Program and the OMNET terminal be housed in the GSMFC office; that the SEAMAP Subcommittee be allowed to proceed with efforts to secure W/B administrative funds for a comparative tow survey; and, that the Polish Sorting Center be allowed to continue to handle plankton samples for at least one more fiscal year. The recommendations were approved unanimously.

On behalf of the Data Management Subcommittee (DMS), E. Joyce requested that the Commission support and endorse the GSMFC/NMFS State/Federal Cooperative Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Program for the Southeastern United States. This document will insure DMS representation in the program. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) Report

W. Tatum reported that the LEC met on Wednesday, April 8, 1992. On behalf of the LEC, W. Tatum recommended that the Commission approve the LEC recommendation regarding amendments/changes to the ISSC Shellfish Patrol Evaluation Form; and, requested that the Commission

reiterate its resolution regarding transportation of aquatic products and that it urge the individual states to pass appropriate legislation. The recommendations were approved unanimously.

R. Rayburn reported that a joint meeting of the GSMFC LEC and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) LEC was held in the afternoon of Wednesday, April 8. The GMFMC LEC has been restructured to be more like the GSMFC LEC. He stated that the committees work well together and recommended that they continue to meet jointly. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee (CFAC)

C. Nelson reported that the CFAC met on Wednesday, April 8, 1992. Those present received reports from various experts in the Gulf on topics of interest and relevance to the CFAC. C. Nelson requested the staff of the GSMFC write and thank all speakers on behalf of the CFAC. Informal discussions resulted in the following recommendations on behalf of the CFAC:

C. Nelson motioned that the GSMFC support the bycatch research being done by the Gulf and South Atlantic Research Foundation, Inc., but suggested that gear testing be done with naked nets and unrestricted tow times, limiting this aspect of the research to no more than four boats. This would obtain more defensible data and any impact to sea turtles would be minimal since only four boats would be involved. C. Belaire seconded. The motion carried.

C. Nelson motioned that the GSMFC request the Shrimp and Habitat Committees of the GMFMC to address the issue of super tankers and other ship anchoring in productive shrimping areas. The anchoring causes trenches which result in loss or damage to shrimpers nets. Of particular concern is an area SSW of the mouth of the Mobile Bay. C. Belaire seconded. The motion carried.

C. Nelson presented the CFAC final recommendation. He motioned that the GSMFC strike that portion of the Striped Bass Amendment stating "the sale and/or purchase of Striped Bass be prohibited". The CFAC felt that this part of the amendment, as written, would make Striped Bass a game fish. C. Belaire seconded. After discussion the motion failed.

State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee (S-FFMC)

R. Leard reported that the S-FFMC met on Wednesday, April 8, 1992. The Committee received a report from the Menhaden Advisory Committee (MAC). The MAC will serve as the Technical Task Force for the development of a Menhaden FMP update, which will begin in January 1993. R. Leard briefed Commissioners on a Tri-State Meeting dealing with regulations of spotted seatrout and red drum as well as other species in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Discussions are ongoing. He reported that a completed draft of the black drum FMP will be available by late May or early June. The mullet FMP is also being developed. Major sections for the mullet FMP have already been completed and the TTF has only met twice since the plan initiation. J. Gill motioned to approve R. Leard's portion of the report. The motion carried.

R. Lukens reviewed the history of the development of the stock assessment team (SAT) and comments stressing the need for a stock assessment training workshop. He described the favorable responses and the notable success of the first workshop held March 10-12, 1992, organized by the USFWS, NMFS, GADNR and GSMFC. A Phase 2 workshop was being planned with a more hands on approach.

R. Lukens briefed the Commissioners regarding Amendment 1 to the striped bass FMP. It had previously been approved by the TCC and the S-FFMC to be distributed for public review. No additional comments or modifications had been received. Section 8 contains a recommendation of 6 fish/person/day bag limit with an 18" minimum size limit. W. Tatum motioned to approve Amendment 1. K. Foote spoke on behalf of Louisiana and stated that her only objection was bag/size limit was not needed. The motion

was seconded. The vote was by state: TX - yes; LA - no; MS - yes; AL - cancel; FL - yes. The motion carried.

Discussion of NMFS FY 1993 Fisheries Budget

L. Simpson reported that the Bush administration and OMB is getting more realistic in its funding for fisheries programs but funding is still not adequate. He stated that 50% of the entire federal budget goes to entitlements. This is a major concern.

He discussed the joint testimony of the GSMFC, ASMFC and PSMFC presented before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary. He stated that this type of joint effort by the three compact Commissions was not only cost effective but provided a stronger and broader support foundation. The Executive Director will be accompanied by a Commissioner on his next congressional trip for added support.

Report on H. R. 3842 - Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone Extension and Enforcement Act of 1992

L. Simpson reported that just prior to leaving office, President Reagan issued a proclamation which declared a 12 nautical mile territorial sea for the U. S.. The Justice Department ruled the proclamation open to question. Congressman Walter Jones has introduced legislation (H.R. 3842) to legally extend the U.S. territorial sea to 12 miles. He reported that the bill provides that the changes to the territorial sea and contiguous zone boundaries do not affect existing state boundaries.

Discussion of GSMFC Video

L. Simpson presented a proposal from the Media Production Coordinator for the Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources. The proposal is for the production of a 10-15 minute video presentation on the GSMFC. Cost of production will be \$5,000, plus cost of authorized travel. C. Belaire motioned to accept proposal. E. Joyce seconded. Mississippi abstained from vote. Motion carried.

Administrative Report

G. Herring and L. Simpson reported that GSMFC finances were in good shape. The Commission's new accounting program is functioning, all transactions are being handled on the computer but reports are still being done manually. Manual books are still being maintained.

Future Meetings

G. Herring reported that the October 13-15, 1992 meeting will be held in Alabama. Perdido Hilton was unable to handle our dates or to give us a good rate. The Quality Inn could do it the week prior to our dates. A definite hotel or city has not yet been selected. She will contact Alabama Commissioners to firm up a site.

Several hotels and locations were discussed for the March/April 1993 meeting. No decision was made. Commissioners want G. Herring to seek more proposals.

It is becoming more difficult to book this meeting within our required time-frames due to Easter vacation and spring break. Commissioners instructed G. Herring to adjust meeting dates as necessary.

It was discussed and those present agreed to keep scheduled meetings to three days but provide time as necessary for informal meetings one day prior to scheduled meetings. Several topics for general sessions were discussed. R. Lukens will develop a general session or informal panel discussion for the October meeting. Although most present agreed that general sessions are beneficial, format and time

allocation were factors that needed to be addressed. Round table discussions of relevant topics were easily addressed during meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

MARFIN PROGRAM MANAGEMENT BOARD (PMB)
CONFERENCE CALL
MINUTES
April 23, 1992

*Approved
R. Shipp
5/28/92*

Roll was called for the conference call at 9:02 am. Those present on the call were:

Members

Bob Shipp, Recreational Industry, Mobile, AL
Larry Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Wayne Swingle, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Bob Jones, Commercial Industry, Tallahassee, FL
Jack Van Lopik, Sea Grant, Baton Rouge, LA
Peter Hoar, GASAFDFI, Tampa, FL
Ralph Rayburn, Gulf States, Austin, TX
Jean West, NOAA Grants, Silver Spring, MD

Staff

Don Ekberg, Program Manager, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Lucia Hourihan, Secretary, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Others

Andy Kemmerer, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Dave Pritchard, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL

Status of Federal Register Notice

A. Kemmerer reported that the Federal Register notice, combined for Gulf and South Atlantic, had gone forward from NMFS in December and is being held up in either the Department of Commerce or OMB due to the President's moratorium. Kemmerer said they are expecting a release of the notice soon and the process will go forward. Due to the delayed publication it does not appear that award of funds for new projects can be made before October; therefore NMFS is seeking carry over status for FY92 monies. Kemmerer said the delay should not affect multi-year project funding or continuation of out-year work planned.

Confirmation of NMFS FY92 Projects Recommended for Funding by MARFIN Board 9/12/91 (San Antonio, Texas)

Kemmerer reported that NMFS had not had confirmation but they are spending funds and going forward with the work on all recommended projects. Although the PMB did not recommend continuation of Project 92NMFS08 "Small Pelagics in the Gulf of Mexico," it was recommended by the Southeast Regional Office to NMFS, Washington and work is progressing on the project. Kemmerer will provide a report on the bycatch work at the May 28 meeting of the PMB.

Potential Meeting Dates

It was the consensus of the PMB to go forward with the **May 28, 1992** meeting to discuss priorities for FY93, review the Operations Plan, and discuss Gulf and South Atlantic program interface. Copies of the Plan will be circulated for review prior to the meeting. The meeting will be held at Howard Johnson Resort at Walt Disney World Village, 1805 Hotel Plaza Boulevard, Lake Buena Vista, FL (1-800-223-9930 or 407-828-8888). Representatives for the South Atlantic will be participants at the meeting. Kemmerer said Gulf representatives will set priorities for the Gulf and South Atlantic representatives will set priorities for the South Atlantic but he hopes to combine as much as possible.

L. Simpson reported plans had begun for the Principal Investigator's Conference to be held **October 28-29, 1992** in Corpus Christi, Texas. Following the Conference the PMB will meet to consider NMFS projects for FY93.

Administrative Issues

Kemmerer reported that Don Ekberg will be retiring on May 1, 1992. Dave Pritchard will be serving in the interim and NMFS will be advertising for the position.

Discussion ensued regarding membership terms. NMFS has received criticism from the IG's office and is now considering non-consecutive two-year terms. The only fixed seats would then be held by the Commission, the Council, and NMFS. Due to a legal and policy decision, under the new organization the Foundation would not have a seat on the Board because much of its funds are obtained from MARFIN. B. Jones stated that the IG should sit in on a PMB

meeting and witness the process as it is a good and honest one. P. Hoar, speaking on behalf of industry from Virginia to Texas, said the Foundation's seat was lost without any input from those affected. Kemmerer stated that at the present time, the PMB remains unchanged. There will be further discussion at the May meeting.

There being no further business, the conference call ended at 9:45 am.

*Approved by
Committee*

SUMMARY

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM (PDT)
for the
RECREATIONAL FISHERY INFORMATION NETWORK
SOUTHEAST REGION
RecFIN (SE)

SOUTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
MIAMI, FLORIDA
MAY 14-15, 1992

INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSION

A. Jones of SEFSC opened the meeting with a statement of purpose for the RecFIN (SE) program: To join the capabilities of agencies to provide better statistical information to manage the recreational fishery resources in the Southeast region. To accomplish this, agencies need to cooperatively prepare a plan for development of a program that will address the statistical data needed to handle the problems of the recreational fisheries. **The charge to the PDT was established as: To prepare a 3-year Operations Plan for RecFIN (SE) to recommend to participating agencies by October 1992.** The agenda for this first meeting of the RecFIN PDT (Attachment 1), an attendance list (Attachment 2), and an updated list of the PDT members (Attachment 3) are attached.

R. Lukens of the GSMFC discussed the history and background of the project, including events leading to this meeting and earlier documents that have been produced by working groups and committees. He recommended that the States become closely involved in the RecFIN program, which should be emphasized as a regional cooperative program.

R. Schmied, representing the NMFS Southeast Regional Director and the SERO Fishery Management Division, reiterated that the goal of the project is to develop a Southeast region marine recreational fishery statistics program and emphasized that the only way to obtain the data is through a cooperative program with the States and Federal agencies. After briefly reviewing some of the issues presented in the NMFS strategy document, he suggested that the objectives of this meeting should be: 1) for attendees to become acquainted and organized as the PDT, 2) to agree on a working outline for the Operations Plan, 3) to agree on a working list of data issues, 4) to agree on provisional goal and objective statements, and 5) to agree on arrangements for the next meeting of the PDT.

AGENDA

Discussion took place on two additions to the agenda proposed by J. DiCosimo to give background for developing the recreational

program: 1) Availability of funds: Comments centered on the idea that it should first be decided what is needed for the program and then work to get the funds for those needs. There will be a better chance to get funding if a program structure is already in place. N. Bane stated that NMFS is committed to RecFIN as a permanent program but will consider it a pilot program for the first 3-5 years of operation, during which it will be evaluated. 2) The pros and cons of how other cooperative programs for fishery data collection have been run: Comments centered on using SEAMAP as a model for RecFIN (SE) structure and management, not Cooperative Statistics. Cooperative Statistics is not a true State/Federal cooperative management program, as compared to SEAMAP.

There was vigorous discussion about dividing into small work groups, as proposed in the agenda. A vote (by show of hands) decided that the team would work in joint session and not divide into work groups.

The agenda (Attachment 1), as modified with joint sessions substituted for work group sessions, was approved by consensus.

A motion was made and approved without objection that A. Jones remain as chairman of the meeting.

SUPPORTING ROLES

Representatives of the councils and commissions discussed their agencies' roles in RecFIN (SE). R. Lukens suggested the role of the GSMFC can be coordination, including logistics support (for meetings, etc.) and sending out information. J. DiCosimo affirmed the support of the SAFMC for the program and offered assistance in tasks such as reviewing documents and providing meeting space for a small group. S. Meyers said the CFMC supports the program because there is no way to collect recreational fishery data in the Caribbean at present. T. Lamberti stated the support of the GMFMC and offered administrative support and meeting space for small groups.

The issue of travel support for the States was discussed. The GSMFC is presently using Wallop-Breaux administrative funds for travel support. The ASMFC is currently submitting an application for W-B funds for travel; however, even if received, this money will be too late for PDT travel. The NMFS could try to provide travel money, on a case by case emergency basis.

OUTLINE OF OPERATIONS PLAN

The draft outline was approved by consensus as a working outline for the plan. Minor changes were suggested later in the meeting and are incorporated into the revised draft shown in Attachment 4.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

On 5/14, a first draft of goals and objectives for RecFIN (SE) was developed in joint session for each of the main program components identified in the agenda. Discussion chairmen for each session were approved by the group and recorders were selected, as follows:

- 1) Data collection:
chair, Lazauski; recorder, Lukens
- 2) Information management/dissemination:
chair, Meyers; recorder, Tobias
- 3) Program planning/management/evaluation:
chair, Lukens; recorder, Shepard

On 5/15, the draft goals and objectives were reviewed by the group and revised. N. Bane suggested the PDT might want to include in the Operations Plan a rationale for each objective, as in the NMFS Strategic Plan. **The revised list (Draft 2, Attachment 5) was approved as the provisional goals and objectives of RecFIN (SE).**

A mission statement for the program was also developed and approved as follows: The mission of the State/Federal RecFIN (SE) is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine recreational fishery statistical data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Southeast region.

TASKS FOR THE PDT

The PDT defined the tasks to be accomplished in order to develop the Operations Plan. These tasks are listed below, along with specific assignments to team members to be completed by the next meeting:

Data Collection

1. Provide a glossary of terms.

NMFS will provide material for mailout and discussion at the next meeting.

2. Identify marine recreational fishery components.

NMFS (R. Schmied) will provide material for mailout and discussion at the next meeting.

3. Identify data elements.

R. Lukens will provide a list of data elements for mailout and discussion at the next meeting.

4. Identify existing QA/QC standards for data collection.

NMFS will provide material for mailout and discussion at the next meeting.

5. Identify existing data collection programs.

Members of the PDT will complete project summary forms (distributed on diskette at the meeting) for their agencies that will describe fishery-dependent data collection projects (since approximately 1970) for marine and anadromous recreational fisheries. Deadline for return of the forms to SEFSC on diskette is June 22.

6. Identify major gaps and duplications in existing surveys and make recommendations on need for further study.

To be done at a later date. This is an appropriate task for the first year of RecFIN (SE) operations.

Information Management

1. Recommend location and administrative responsibility for the centralized data management system.

J. Witzig stated that the NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division would be willing to accept the responsibility for the data management system. This was approved by the PDT because of the advantages of a national system and because the MRFSS will be a major portion of the RecFIN program.

2. Make initial plans for a systems design study.

K. Savastano will supply for mailout copies of the system requirements and design documents for the SEAMAP data management system.

3. Recommend goals for QA/QC and steps where this should occur in the data management process.

By June 15, M. Osborn will distribute directly to the list of PDT members the FY93-95 RFP for the MRFSS, which will include the new procedures manual. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Program Management

1. Recommend an organization structure and necessary work groups.

The difficulty of this task was reflected in discussions on the responsibilities of a Steering Committee (advisory vs. operational); role of work groups; role of the national MRFSS in management; role of the commissions; possible division of the RecFIN (SE) program into regional Gulf, Atlantic, and Caribbean components; various levels of delegation of authority by the States; and how uncertain funding will affect organizational structure.

A subcommittee was appointed to develop a set of scenarios for the management structure of RecFIN (SE) and what would be decided at each management level. Subcommittee members are N. Bane, R. Christian, R. Lukens, S. Meyers, R. Schmied (leader), M. Street, and J. Witzig. Results will be circulated to the PDT prior to its next meeting and will be discussed at the next meeting.

2. Identify and develop work schedules for tasks to be included in the first year's RecFIN (SE) Implementation Plan.

To be done at a later date, after the 3-year Operations Plan is adopted.

3. Recommend program policies and protocols.

The GSMFC will extract policy statements from the SEAMAP Plan to serve as examples and will provide for mailout and discussion at the next meeting.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT PDT MEETING

The next RecFIN (SE) PDT meeting was tentatively scheduled for July 9-10 in New Orleans. The GSMFC will coordinate the arrangements.

To facilitate coordination between regional programs, the GSMFC (R. Lukens) will invite a representative of Pacific RecFIN to this next meeting. Lukens will also represent RecFIN (SE) at the next meeting of the Pacific RecFIN committee in Portland, Oregon, on June 18-19. K. Savastano was recommended as the PDT liaison for information management to Pacific RecFIN because of his data management experience.

AGENDA

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM (PDT)

for the

RECREATIONAL FISHERY INFORMATION NETWORK
SOUTHEAST REGION
RecFIN (SE)

SOUTHEAST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
MIAMI, FLORIDA
MAY 14-15, 1992

THURSDAY, MAY 14

8:30 - 10:30, Plenary Session

1. Introduction and background (Albert Jones, SEFSC).
 - a. Purpose of this meeting: Initiate preparation of RecFIN (SE) Operations Plan
 - b. Introduction of members of the PDT and observers
 - c. Events leading to this meeting
 - d. Charge to the PDT: Prepare Operations Plan for RecFIN (SE)
 - e. Approval of agenda
 - Morning plenary session
 - Mid-day work group sessions
 - Afternoon plenary session
2. Discussion of NMFS program strategy document (Ron Schmied, SERO).
 - a. Data needs
 - b. Proposed program
3. Supporting roles: Intent and interest, logistics support.
 - a. Commissions (Ron Lukens, GSMFC; Richard Christian, ASMFC)
 - b. Councils (Jane DiCosimo, SAFMC; Steve Meyers, CFMC)
4. Discussion of "strawman" outline to reach consensus about what information the plan should contain.
5. Identification of work groups.
 - a. Work group 1 - data collection
 - b. Work group 2 - information management/dissemination
 - c. Work group 3 - program planning/management/evaluation

10:30 - 2:00, Work Group Sessions

6. Work group assignments: Develop preliminary goals and objectives statements for the three subject areas.

2:00 - 4:30, Plenary Session

7. Presentation of goals/objectives by work group leaders.
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Development of provisional goals/objectives statements for RecFIN Operations Plan

FRIDAY, MAY 15

8:30 - 9:00, Plenary Session

1. Recapitulation of goals/objectives.
2. General information and instructions for defining and planning program elements.

9:00 - 1:00, Work Group Sessions

3. Work group assignments: Proceeding from the goals/objectives adopted Thursday, each work group will define elements and subelements of the RecFIN program for its subject area.
 - a. The work that will be done
 - b. How the work will be accomplished (who will do it, etc.)
 - c. Timeframe (year 1 - presumably 1993, year 2, etc.)
 - d. Resources required

1:00 - 4:30, Plenary Session

4. Work group reports on preliminary program elements.
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Consensus
5. Arrangements for next meeting.
 - a. Date, time, place, logistics
 - b. Agenda items
 - c. Assignments and deliverables
6. Adjourn.

ATTENDANCE LIST

Meeting of the RecFIN (SE) Plan Development Team
May 14 - 15, 1992

Nikki Bane - NMFS/Budget & Planning Office
Jane DiCosimo - South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Carole Goodyear - NMFS/SEFSC
Su Jewell - NPS/Everglades National Park
Albert Jones - NMFS/SEFSC
Tony Lamberti - Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Wilson Laney - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Skip Lazauski - Alabama Marine Resources Division
Ron Lukens - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Steve Meyers - Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Paul Ocker - NPS/Biscayne National Park
Joe O'Hop - Florida Department of Natural Resources
Maury Osborn - NMFS/Fisheries Statistics Division
Walter Padilla - Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
Paul Phalen - North Carolina Division of Marine Resources
John Poffenberger - NMFS/SEFSC
Ken Savastano - NMFS/SEFSC
Tom Schmidt - NPS/Everglades National Park
Ron Schmied - NMFS/SERO
Joey Shepard - Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
DeWitt Smith - NPS/Everglades National Park
Ted Storck - Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Toby Tobias - Virgin Islands Division of Fish & Wildlife
Wayne Waltz - South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Department
John Witzig - NMFS/Fisheries Statistics Division

RecFIN (Southeast) Plan Development Team

Mr. Michael Street
Mr. Paul Phalen (alternate) N.C. Division of Marine Resources
P.O. Box 769
Morehead City, NC 28557-0769
(Street address: 3441 Arendell Street)
(919) 726-7021
FAX (919) 726-0254

Mr. David Cupka
Mr. Wayne Waltz (alternate) S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department
P.O. Box 12559
Charleston, SC 29422-2559
(Street address: 217 Fort Johnson Road)
(803) 795-6350 (Cupka); 762-5094 (Waltz)
FAX (803) 762-5001

Ms. Susan Shipman Georgia Coastal Resources Division
1 Conservation Way
Brunswick, GA 31523-8600
(912) 264-7218
FAX (912) 262-2350

Mr. Frank "Stu" Kennedy
Mr. Joseph O'Hop (alternate) Florida Department of Natural Resources
Marine Research Institute
100 Eighth Avenue, SE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5020
(813) 896-8626
FAX (813) 823-0166

Dr. Henry "Skip" Lazauski Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources, Marine Resources Division
P.O. Drawer 458
Gulf Shores, AL 36547-0458
(Street address: 21055 Mildred Casey Drive)
(205) 968-7576
FAX (205) 968-7307

Mr. Tom Van Devender Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources
2620 Beach Boulevard
Biloxi, MS 39531-4501
(601) 385-5860
FAX (601) 385-5864

Mr. Joseph Shepard Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(Street address: 2000 Quail Drive)
(504) 765-2371
FAX (504) 765-2489

Mr. Ted Storck Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
100 Navigation Circle
Rockport, TX 78382
(512) 729-2328
FAX (512) 729-2328 (same as phone)

Mr. William "Toby" Tobias Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife
Lagoon Street Complex, Room 203
Frederikstead, VI 00840
(809) 772-1955
FAX (809) 772-3227

Mr. Walter Padilla Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 36650, Marina Station
Mayaguez, PR 00681
(Street address: Road 102, Kilometer 8.6 Interior,
Cabo Rojo, PR 00623)
(809) 833-2025
FAX (809) 833-2410

Mr. Richard Christian Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1400 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-2217
(202) 387-5330
FAX (202) 387-3830

Mr. Ronald Lukens Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, MS 39564-0726
(Street address: 3404 Government Street)
(601) 875-5912
FAX (601) 875-6604

Mr. Gregg Waugh South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Ms. Jane DiCosimo 1 Southpark Circle, #306
Charleston, SC 29407-4699
(803) 571-4366
FAX (803) 769-4520

Mr. Steve Atran Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
5401 W. Kennedy Blvd., #881
Tampa, FL 33609-2486
(813) 228-2815
FAX (813) 225-7015

Mr. Stephen Meyers Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Suite 1108, Banco de Ponce Building
Hato Rey, PR 00918-2577
(809) 753-6910
FAX (809) 766-6239

Mr. R. Wilson Laney U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
South Atlantic Fisheries Coordination Office
P.O. Box 33683
Raleigh, NC 27636-3683
(Street address: ???)
(919) 515-5287
FAX (919) 515-7802

Mr. Bruce Rogers National Park Service
Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-3309
(404) 331-4916
FAX ???

Dr. Michael Soukup Research Center
Mr. Dewitt Smith Everglades National Park
P.O. Box 279
Homestead, FL 33030
(Street address: 12 mi SW of Homestead, via S.R.
9336)
(305) 242-7800
FAX (305) 242-7836

Mr. Richard Curry
Mr. Paul Ocker

Biscayne National Park
P.O. Box 1369
Homestead, FL 33090
(Street address: 9700 S.W. 328th Street)
(305) 247-2044
FAX (305) 247-2045

Cdr. William Harrigan
Mr. Edward Lindelof

Sanctuaries and Reserves Division
NOAA/NOS, N/ORM2, Rm. 714
1825 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20235
(202) 606-4122
FAX ???

Lcdr. Alan Bunn

Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary
Mile Marker 100, Ocean Highway
Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 451-1644
FAX ???

Mr. Ronald Schmied

National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432
(813) 893-3144
FAX (813) 893-3111

Dr. Albert Jones
Ms. Carole Goodyear
Mr. John Poffenberger

National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149-1003
(305) 361-4259 (Jones); 361-4410 (Goodyear)
361-4263 (Poffenberger)
FAX (305) 361-4219

Mr. Ken Savastano

National Marine Fisheries Service
Stennis Space Center
Building 1103, Room 218
SSC, MS 39529-6000
(601) 688-3650
FAX (601) 688-1151

Dr. John Witzig
Ms. Maury Osborn

National Marine Fisheries Service
1335 East West Highway, F/RE1
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225
(301) 713-2328
FAX (301) 588-4967

Ms. Nikki Bane

National Marine Fisheries Service
1335 East West Highway, F/BP
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3235
(301) 713-2239
FAX (301) 713-2299

RECFIN (SE) OPERATIONS PLAN

DRAFT OUTLINE

(Revised per Discussion at Meeting 5/14/92)

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Purpose of Operations Plan
- B. Need for RecFIN (SE) and Its Evolution
- C. Scope and Constituency
- D. Authority

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

III. HISTORY AND STATUS OF MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES DATA COLLECTION IN THE SOUTHEAST

- A. Federal Data Collection Programs
 - 1. NMFS
 - 2. FWS
 - 3. NPS
 - 4. NOAA Sanctuaries
 - 5. MMS
 - 6. COE
 - 7. EPA
 - 8. Sea Grant
- B. State Data Collection Programs
 - 1. NC
 - 2. SC
 - 3. GA
 - 4. FL
 - 5. AL
 - 6. MS
 - 7. LA
 - 8. TX
 - 9. PR
 - 10. VI
- C. Other

IV. DATA NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

- A. Data Required for Effective Management
- B. Data Presently Lacking
- C. Statistical Goals
- D. Technological Innovations

V. PROGRAM OPERATIONS

- A. Approach to Sampling Strategies
- B. Data Collection Activities
 - 1. MRFSS
 - 2. Other Surveys
 - 3. Special Studies
 - 4. Coordination
- C. Data Management
 - 1. Input and Processing
 - 2. Retrieval
- D. Information Dissemination
 - 1. Data
 - 2. Reports
- E. Schedule for Program Implementation

VI. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

- A. Administration
- B. Planning
 - 1. Budget
 - 2. Sampling Activities
- C. Funding Procedures
- D. Implementation
- E. Coordination and Communication
- F. Evaluation

VII. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Personnel
- B. Facilities and Equipment
- C. Funding

VIII. REFERENCES

APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A. MEMBERS OF THE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM
- APPENDIX B. MRF DATA COLLECTION PROJECT SUMMARIES
- APPENDIX C. LIST OF MRF DATA COLLECTION REPORTS

RECFIN (SE) GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

DRAFT 2 - MAY 15, 1992

DATA COLLECTION

Goal: To implement a coordinated State/Federal marine recreational fishery data collection program for the Southeast Region.

Objective 1: To identify the components of the fishery (modes, areas, etc.) and the required data priorities for each component.

Objective 2: To identify data elements (environmental, biological, sociological, economic) required for each component.

Objective 3: To identify and determine standards for data collection (statistical, training, QA/QC, etc.).

Objective 4: To identify and evaluate the adequacy of current programs for meeting RecFIN established requirements.

Objective 5: To coordinate, integrate, and augment, as appropriate, data collection efforts to meet RecFIN established requirements.

Objective 6: To evaluate and recommend innovative data collection technologies.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Goal: To establish and maintain an integrated, centralized marine recreational fisheries data management system for the Southeast Region.

Objective 1: To identify the location and administrative responsibility for the centralized data management system.

Objective 2: To evaluate the current hardware, software, and communication capabilities of program partners and make recommendations for support and upgrades when feasible.

Objective 3: To design, implement, and maintain a marine recreational fisheries data management system to accommodate fishery management/research and other needs (e.g., trade and tourism).

- Objective 4: To develop standard protocols and documentation for data formats, input, editing (QA/QC, etc.), storage, access, transfer, dissemination, and application.
- Objective 5: To identify and prioritize existing/historical databases for integration into the centralized database.
- Objective 6: To evaluate and recommend innovative, cost-effective information management technologies.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

- Goal: To plan, manage, and evaluate a coordinated State/Federal marine recreational fishery data collection program for the Southeast Region.
- Objective 1: To provide an organizational structure, including a Steering Committee and necessary work groups, for program management and evaluation.
- Objective 2: To establish and carry out program policies and protocols.
- Objective 3: To develop annual operations plans, including identification of available resources, to implement the three-year strategic plan for RecFIN, Southeast Region.
- Objective 4: To distribute program information to cooperators and interested parties.
- Objective 5: To coordinate RecFIN (Southeast) with other RecFIN programs.
- Objective 6: To conduct a program review after two years of operation to evaluate the program's success in meeting State/Federal needs in the Southeast Region.

MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 28, 1992
Kissimmee, Florida

*Approved
Bob Shipp
9 Sept 92*

Chairman Bob Shipp called the meeting held in the Howard Johnson Hotel to order at 8:31 am. The following were in attendance:

Members

Larry B. Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Bob Shipp, Recreational Industry - Gulf, Mobile, AL
Bob Jones, Commercial Industry - Gulf, Tallahassee, FL
Jim Cato, Sea Grant - Gulf, Gainesville, FL
William S. "Corky" Perret, Gulf States, Baton Rouge, LA
Peter Hoar, G&SAFDI, Tampa, FL
Wayne Swingle, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Mac Rawson, Sea Grant - South Atlantic, Brunswick, GA
Jack Dunnigan, ASMFC, Washington, DC
Ed Joseph, South Atlantic States, Charleston, SC
Bob Mahood, SAFMC, Charleston, SC
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Jean West, NOAA Grants Office, Silver Spring, MD (ex-officio)

Staff

David Pritchard, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Ellie Roche, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Ginny Herring, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Lucia B. Hourihan, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Others

Andy Kemmerer, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL

Purpose of Meeting

A. Kemmerer stated the purpose of the meeting was to bring in members from the South Atlantic and Gulf to review the MARFIN Operations Plan and begin the functioning of the new MARFIN Steering Committee; to avoid delay with next year's RFP notice in the Federal Register by going through the guidelines NMFS has developed and get comments and suggestions on those; and to review the status of the MARFIN Program.

MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page 2

Adoption of MARFIN PMB Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held December 5, 1991 in Atlanta, Georgia and the minutes of the conference call held April 23, 1992 were adopted as written.

Selection of Chairpersons

Kemmerer told those present that the MARFIN Steering Committee would be co-chaired by a Gulf and a South Atlantic representative. Bob Shipp, Gulf, and Ed Joseph, South Atlantic, were elected co-chairmen by acclamation.

Adoption of Agenda

C. Perret requested to hear more regarding IG criticisms and subsequent non-consecutive 2-year terms for Steering Committee members as he had been unable to participate in the April 23, 1992 conference call. With no further discussion, the agenda was adopted as presented.

FY92 Federal Register Notice

Kemmerer announced that the notice (Attachment 1) had been published on May 22, 1992 and because of the delay in publication, FY92 funds would have to be carried over to FY93 simply because there will not be enough time to get funds awarded. Projects for FY92 funds would have had to be in to the NOAA Grants Office by July 1. J. Cato and B. Jones questioned the certainty of the funds being carried over and asked if there was anything that could be done to ensure carryover status. Discussion ensued over the delay in the Federal Register notice publication. Kemmerer said he felt the notice had been submitted in a timely manner and that NMFS had done everything possible to try to push it through the system but it just did not move. Kemmerer expects no problem in receiving carryover status and does not believe the funds are in jeopardy.

Review of Operations Plan

Kemmerer provided a "Review of the MARFIN Operations Plan" (Attachment 2) to brief the Steering Committee and obtain advice on the proposed changes in operation and any other changes which may be necessary and on how to handle current and future committee memberships. He felt it would be easier to go through the review and then to proceed to the full document (Draft MARFIN Operating Procedures) for detail on various aspects as needed.

While reviewing the purpose of the Steering Committee, a discussion ensued on FACA. It was stated that if the Committee were to seek and receive FACA status then the Secretary could select membership. Selection of Steering Committee members and member terms were listed as specific points for further discussion.

Regarding peer-review of proposals, it was pointed out that a federal agency can not compete for funds but external review of federal proposals was discussed. Members expressed a desire for NMFS proposals to go through the same process as outside proposals. M. Rawson stated that the perception is that proposals are not being treated equally and that the process itself is flawed. B. Mahood pointed out that the document states that proposals will go through the same process as non-NOAA proposals. It was decided to discuss peer review in more detail later.

Composition of the technical review panel was discussed. Cato commended Kemmerer for the addition of external scientists to the review panel.

Kemmerer stated that NMFS is trying to reduce the requirement of quarterly reports to semi-annual reports.

Items listed for avoidance of potential conflicts of interest were discussed. The statement that NOAA employees may not jointly apply with non-NOAA investigators for competitive funding seemed to be contradictory to the cooperative nature of the program but is a legal rule.

Cato complimented Kemmerer on what had been proposed for MARFIN operations as he felt the advice of the members over the past three years has been considered and

MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page 4

the program is being moved forward to a good, strong competitive program, especially in regard to the review process.

The Committee began a review of the Draft MARFIN Operating Procedures document. It was decided that minor editorial comments should be sent to D. Pritchard and only items requiring discussion be brought up. The review progressed by section and major points of discussion follow.

In Section I.B. it was recommended that the funding priorities be broadened to include development as development has always been a priority of MARFIN but it is not included in the NMFS Strategic Plan. There was also question regarding NMFS Strategic Plan Goals 5, 7 and 8 as not being priorities for MARFIN. Jones stated that development was a high priority in the background, authorization and establishment of MARFIN; and now there is a problem with that Congressional mandate looking at development as a priority being in conflict with the Strategic Plan which needs to be resolved. Kemmerer will look into it.

In Section II.A. discussion ensued regarding selection of Steering Committee members being made by the Regional Director. It was considered more appropriate for individual entities to select their own best representative. It was decided that members, other than Commissions, Councils, NOAA Grants, and NMFS will serve 3-year non-consecutive terms. It was determined that alternates should not be excluded from succeeding the member.

Simpson questioned the need for written advice regarding selection of projects and Kemmerer will look into it. Cato requested that a statement be added to the Operating Procedures such as, "It is in the intent of the MARFIN Program to maintain cooperation or participation among the four partners."

There was discussion regarding the Science Director recommending the reviewers for the technical review panel and selecting NMFS scientists for the panel. Kemmerer will seek advice from the chairpersons on additional reviewers names.

Kemmerer stated that no formal position will be taken on the document which will go no further than SERO.

P. Hoar requested that the Foundation receive formal notice in writing from NMFS that they are no longer on the Board (Steering Committee). Kemmerer said he would see that this was done and copy the Steering Committee for their information and records. Kemmerer informed Hoar that he is seeking a legal opinion regarding Jerry Schill, president of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, serving as the commercial industry representation for the South Atlantic. Kemmerer had no personal problem with Schill serving.

FY93 Priorities

Potential priorities for FY93 developed by Kemmerer were distributed (Attachment 3). J. West informed members that for the MARFIN Program, she can recommend awarding of projects for up to 3 years; that projects would be awarded one year at a time based on satisfactory performance and availability of funds. Simpson moved the Steering Committee seek to have multi-year FARB clearance for the entire MARFIN Program. The motion was seconded. J. Dunnigan stated that S-K had adopted the policy and that it narrows the monies available for funding. The motion carried without objection.

B. Jones had a few parting words for the Steering Committee. He stated that he had been involved with MARFIN since development and inception and that when MARFIN was put together, the Task Force considered research, development, underutilization, export opportunities and conservation and maintenance of all the resources. He thinks that what drove the system and the interest in it was trying to bring new money into the Southeast. Jones said the Board has been a dynamic group because all interests have been represented and an atmosphere of cooperation has been maintained. He said it has been a very pleasant and good process. Jones stated that he was glad the South Atlantic representatives were now part of the group and that it was

MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page 6

starting on a good basis, maintaining a body that looks toward problems in the two areas and tries to keep the funds separated. He wished everyone well.

Kemmerer commended Bob Jones for his support of and his role in the MARFIN Program as a very good Program Management Board member.

Kemmerer reviewed the priorities for FY93 and Steering Committee comments were noted by Pritchard.

Suggested additions to the Reef Fish category were: research to determine the effect of quotas and closures on alternative fisheries; social studies related to the commercial sector; specify deepwater snapper/grouper species in the South Atlantic; red snapper behavioral studies; amberjack and vermilion snapper age and growth studies; habitat as a limiting factor to reef fish abundance; socio-culture profile of snapper/group fisheries; and #6 from the 92 Federal Register notice.

It was recommended to split the Coastal Herrings and Groundfish category into two categories, coastal herrings and groundfish and estuarine species. The first bullet would fall under groundfish and estuarine species along with croaker, spot, weakfish, seatrout, red drum, etc. and studies on emigration and escapement from state waters to spawning stock. The second bullet would fall under coastal herrings. J. Dunnigan will put together a list of research needs as outlined in ASMFC nearshore sciaenid FMPs and send to Kemmerer for inclusion of some in the priority listing.

Under the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Species category it was recommended to delete "improved definition and quantification of mixing between Gulf and South Atlantic stocks of king mackerel, and between eastern and western groups in the Gulf." There was discussion regarding deleting "improved catch statistics and life history data for all species in Mexican waters, with emphasis on king mackerel" as a priority because MARFIN funds have been used for this data collection work for many years. Several members felt that NMFS should be collecting the data. Kemmerer will look into the matter. Suggested additions included collection of biostatistics for age and growth keys and maturation schedules (cobia and dolphin); and development of demand and supply

MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page 7

functions for recreational and commercial king mackerel (Gulf) and Spanish mackerel (South Atlantic) fisheries.

A statement will go into the RFP to emphasize that applicants should be aware of on-going work by the Councils, with reference to specific activities.

FY92 Budget Summary

Kemmerer reviewed the budget summary (Attachment 4) showing the initial allocation, assessments, add-on, in-house projects, contractual and cooperative agreement commitments. Approximately 1249.9 K remains available for funding of new projects -- 889.9 K for the Gulf and 360.0 K for the South Atlantic. Also discussed was a breakdown of NMFS in-house projects showing expenditures for Gulf, South Atlantic and bycatch.

NMFS Bycatch Budget

Kemmerer discussed the bycatch budget for 1992 (Attachment 5) showing expenditures of 1240.0 K plus the NOAA tax of 60.0 K for a total of 1300.0 K. A list of NMFS bycatch grants for 1992 (Attachment 6) showing MARFIN and S-K funding in the Gulf and South Atlantic totaling \$1,870,060 was also distributed.

Other Business

Cato asked what the recommended appropriations for 1993 for MARFIN might be. Simpson stated the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee again recommended \$4.0 million, but neither the House or Senate have given a mark as yet. Simpson also informed members that it is the GSMFC's intent to submit a proposal to continue administrative support of the MARFIN Steering Committee and even though the program is expanding to include the South Atlantic, GSMFC will request little or no increase for administration.

E. Joseph took the chair as Shipp and others (Cato, Perret, Simpson, Hoar) had to depart.

MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page 8

Two proposals from the NMFS Beaufort Lab were distributed [Recruitment of Gag (Mycteroperca microlepis) from estuaries to offshore reef habitats, requesting \$19,150; and Southeastern United States deepwater reef fish assemblages and habitat characteristics, requesting \$27,750]. Kemmerer said these were specific for the South Atlantic and as funds were going to be carried over, there was no immediate need for action on them but that he was seeking advice.

Rawson questioned if funding for these proposals would come out of the 360 K available for South Atlantic projects. Nichols said that was correct and went on to describe the peer-review process the proposals had gone through. He explained reviewer scores and summary comments provided by SEFC. The first proposal received conflicting reviews (scores of 75, 98, 74 and 86), receiving one favorable and one unfavorable from both internal and external reviewers. Funding was recommended from a reduced level of \$15,000 to the full amount. Following discussion of the reviewer comments, Rawson recommended that the PIs be asked to revise the proposal responsive to reviewer comments and to resubmit at a later time for full consideration. Other South Atlantic members expressed similar individual advice.

The second proposal received scores of 71, 75, 69 and 85. Funding was recommended ranging between \$10,000-\$25,000. Rawson questioned the appropriateness of MARFIN funding for work of this type, basic to the regulatory management of the fishery. He stated he sees MARFIN as a research program which should concentrate on areas of priority research. Kemmerer stated that MARFIN has a broader scope and the program can and does fund projects that, from a research perspective, do not amount to much however from a practical management standpoint are extremely necessary. Individual advice from Joseph was to encourage the work, but the funding appeared too high. Dunnigan thought the priority of the work was better evaluated by the SAFMC than the ASMFC but also felt the budget was too high. Mahood did not want to discourage this type of work but recommended a more specific proposal and interaction

MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Page 9

on stock assessments and/or some other phase of the snapper/grouper work they're responsible for.

Another NMFS proposal dealing with the Gulf was mentioned by Nichols who said it would be handled by mail.

The need for a September meeting to review competitive proposals was discussed. NMFS will develop a schedule and get back to the Steering Committee for comment to determine the best meeting date.

Mahood stated for the record that the Council does not necessarily agree with a previous statement made during the day by Kemmerer that the Councils are advisory groups to the Secretary. Joseph asked to let the record show that several people take exception to that statement.

Kemmerer thanked the group for their advice and counsel.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 929253-2053]

Financial Assistance for Research and Development Projects To Provide Information for the Full and Wise Use and Enhancement of Fishery Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Off the U.S. South Atlantic Coastal States

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of financial assistance.

SUMMARY: For fiscal year (FY) 1992, Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) funds are available to assist persons in carrying out research and development projects that optimize the use of U.S. Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (North Carolina to Florida) fisheries involving the U.S. fishing industry (recreational and commercial), including, but not limited to, harvesting methods, economic analyses, processing, fish stock assessment, and

fish stock enhancement, recovery and maintenance. NMFS issues this notice describing the conditions under which applications will be accepted and how NMFS will determine which applications will be funded.

DATES: Applications for funding under this program will be accepted between May 22, 1992 and 6 p.m. e.s.t. on July 6, 1992. Applications received after that time will not be considered for funding.

Applications may be inspected at the NMFS Southeast Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**) from July 6, 1992 to July 13, 1992.

Successful applicants generally will be selected by October 9, 1992.

ADDRESSES: Send applications to: Regional Director, Attn: D. Pritchard, Southeast Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, 9450 Koger Boulevard, St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

Questions of an administrative nature should be referred to: Grants Management Division, Attn: Jean West, Chief, Grants Operations Branch, NOAA, SSMC2, OA321, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0928.

Send comments on the collection of information to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Pritchard, 813-893-3720.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, at 16 U.S.C. 753a, authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to conduct research to enhance U.S. fisheries. The Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act of 1992 makes funds available to the Secretary for FY 1992. This solicitation makes available approximately \$1.8 million (including \$404,000 for continuing projects) for financial assistance under the MARFIN program to manage and enhance the use of fishery resources in the Gulf of Mexico and off the South Atlantic states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all approved projects. U.S. fisheries¹

¹ For purposes of this notice, a fishery is defined as one or more stocks of fish, including tuna, and shellfish that are identified as a unit based on geographic, scientific, technical, recreational and economic characteristics, and any and all phases of fishing for such stocks. Examples of a fishery are Gulf of Mexico shrimp, groundfish, menhaden, South Atlantic snapper-grouper, etc.

include any fishery that is or may be engaged in by U.S. citizens. The phrase "fishing industry" includes both the commercial and recreational sectors of U.S. fisheries. This program is described in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under program number 11.433 Marine Fisheries Initiative.

II. Funding Priorities

A. Proposals for FY 1992 should exhibit familiarity with related work that is completed or ongoing. Where appropriate, proposals should be multidisciplinary. Coordinated efforts involving multiple institutions or persons are encouraged. While the areas for priority consideration are listed below, proposals in other areas will be considered on a funds available basis.

In addition to reference to the priorities listed below, proposals should state whether the research will apply to the Gulf of Mexico only, the South Atlantic only, or a combination of both areas. Successful applicants may be required to collect and manage data in accordance with standardized procedures and formats approved by NMFS.

High priority research requirements identified in fishery management plans and amendments prepared by the Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions (Commissions) are included by reference.

1. Shrimp Trawler Bycatch

a. Proposals should address how the proposed studies will be coordinated with and contribute to the regional shrimp trawler bycatch program being conducted by NMFS in cooperation with state fishery management agencies, commercial and recreational fishing organizations and interests, environmental organizations, universities, the Councils, and the Commissions.

In particular, the studies should address: (1) Data collections and analyses to expand and update current bycatch estimates temporally and spatially, including offshore, nearshore, and inshore waters. Emphasis should be on inshore and nearshore waters (less than 10 fathoms (18.3 m)).

(2) Assessments of the status and condition of fish stocks significantly impacted by shrimp trawler bycatch, with emphasis given to overfished species under the jurisdiction of the Councils.

(3) Identification, development, and evaluation of gear, non-gear, and tactical fishing options to reduce bycatch.

(4) Social and economic assessments of the impact of bycatch and of bycatch reduction options on coastal communities and industries.

(5) Improved methods for communicating with and improving technology and information transfer to the shrimp industry.

b. For all studies related to shrimp trawler bycatch, applicants must agree to collect and manage data in accordance with guidelines provided by NMFS. These guidelines are being developed as part of the regional cooperative bycatch research program. Additionally, successful applicants may be required to provide their edited, raw and processed data to NMFS in accordance with certain format requirements to become part of a regional bycatch data base (see V.5).

2. Highly Migratory Pelagic Fisheries

a. Longline Fishery, Including Bycatch

A number of pelagic longline fisheries exist in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Most target highly migratory species such as tunas, billfish, some sharks, and swordfish. These fisheries have evolved rapidly over the last decade, with increases in fishing effort and changes in fishing gear and tactics. These changes need to be characterized and their effects quantified. High priority areas include:

(1) Characterization of specific longline fisheries, including targeted species and bycatch catch per unit effort by gear type, area, and season.

(2) Evaluation of vessel log data for monitoring the fisheries.

(3) Development and evaluation of gear and fishing tactics to minimize the bycatch of undersized and unwanted species, including sea turtles and marine mammals.

(4) Assessment of the impact of longline bycatch on related fisheries including biological and economic factors and effects.

b. Sharks

Little is known about shark resources in the Gulf and South Atlantic. A Secretarial Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for sharks has been developed that identifies a number of research needs. In general, these needs can be grouped as:

(1) Characterization of the directed and bycatch commercial and recreational fisheries from existing and new data. Emphasis should be on species, size, and sex composition and catch per unit effort by season, area, and gear type.

(2) Collection and analysis of basic biological data on movements, habitats,

growth rates, mortality rates, age composition, and reproduction.

(3) Determination of baseline cost and returns for commercial fisheries that take and retain sharks, and estimation of demand curves for shark products and recreational shark fisheries. Also, research on social values and economic impacts of the shark fisheries.

(4) Development of species profiles and stock assessments for sharks taken in significant quantities by the commercial and recreational directed and bycatch fisheries. Assessments can be species-specific or for species groups, as long as the latter does not differ substantially from the groups identified in the Secretarial Shark FMP.

(5) Identification of coastal sharks using laboratory (tissue analysis) methods.

3. Reef Fish

a. Many species within the reef-fish complex are showing signs of being overfished, either by directed or bycatch fisheries. The ecology of reef fish makes them especially vulnerable to overfishing because they tend to be concentrated over specific types of habitats that are patchily distributed. The patchy distribution of the resource can make traditional fishery statistics misleading, because catch per unit effort can remain relatively high as fishermen move from one area to another, yet overall abundance of the resource can be declining sharply. Proposed studies should concentrate on research areas related to fishery management, including:

(1) Collection of basic biological data for species in virtually all commercially and recreationally important fisheries, with emphasis on stock and species identification, age and growth, early life history, especially source of recruits, and reproductive biology. Especially important is the effect of reproductive mode and sex change (protogynous hermaphroditism) on population size and characteristics, with reference to sizes of fish exploited in the fisheries and the significance to proper management.

(2) Identification and quantification of natural and human-induced mortality (such as the loss of undersize fishes caught in deep water), including the bycatch fisheries.

(3) Mapping and quantification of reef-fish habitat, primarily from existing biological and physical data to determine the effects of habitat alteration or degradation of fish stocks.

(4) Identification and characterization of spawning aggregations by species, areas, and seasons.

(5) Stock assessments to establish the status of major recreational and commercial species. Especially needed are innovative methods for stock assessments on aggregate species.

(6) Research in direct support for management techniques, including catch and release mortality, marine fishery reserves, gear and fishing tactic modifications to minimize bycatch, balancing traditional fisheries use with alternate uses (ecotourism, sport diving), and economic and social studies to evaluate impacts of management options.

(7) Examine and evaluate the use of reef-fish marine reserves as an alternative or supplement to current fishery management measures and practices.

(8) Research on recreational fishermen social-economic behavior in the Gulf of Mexico utilizing available data.

b. Additional explanation of research needs for Gulf reef fish is available from a MARFIN supported plan for cooperative reef-fish research in the Gulf of Mexico.

4. Coastal Herrings and Groundfish

Preliminary studies indicate that substantial stocks of coastal herrings and groundfish occur in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Most of the available data come from fishery-independent surveys conducted by NMFS and state fishery management agencies. Because of the size of these stocks, their importance as prey, and in some instances as predator species, and their potential for development as commercial and recreational fisheries need to be understood. General research needs include:

a. Collection, collation, and analysis of available fishery-independent data from state and Federal surveys, with emphasis on species and size composition, seasonal distribution patterns, biomass, and environmental relationships. Emphasis should be given to controversial species such as Spanish sardines.

b. Description and quantification of predator-prey relationships between coastal herring and groundfish species and those such as the mackerels, tunas, swordfish, billfish, sharks, and others in high demand by commercial and recreational fisheries.

5. Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fisheries

The demand for many of the species in this complex by commercial and recreational fisheries has led to overfishing for some, such as Gulf king and Spanish mackerel and Atlantic Spanish mackerel. Additionally, some are transboundary with Mexico and

other countries and ultimately will demand international management attention. Current high priorities include:

a. Development of recruitment indices for king and Spanish mackerel, cobia, and dolphin, primarily from fishery-independent data sources.

b. Improved definition and quantification of the mixing of king mackerel between the Gulf and South Atlantic stocks, and between the western and eastern groups in the Gulf. More precise information on the boundaries between the king mackerel groups is needed.

c. Improved catch statistics for all species in Mexican waters, with special emphasis on king mackerel. This also includes length frequency and life history information.

d. Magnitude of bycatch of coastal migratory pelagics in fisheries for coastal herrings (e.g., menhaden purse-seine fishery and coastal herring purse-seine and beach-seine fisheries).

6. General

There are many areas of research that need to be addressed for improved understanding and management of fishery resources. These include methods for data collection, management, and analysis; and for better conservation management. Examples of high-priority research topics includes:

a. Development and refinement of social and economic models of fisheries. Models should focus on effects of management alternatives such as quotas, moratoria, fishery reserves, bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions, and limited area and seasonal closures.

b. Assessment of the changes in recreational and commercial values that have resulted from past management actions for red drum, mackerels, and reef fish.

c. Development and evaluation of controlled-access approaches (e.g., limited entry) for species under Federal management. Of special interest are studies that would address fisheries where both state and Federal jurisdictions are involved, such as the shrimp fishery. Proposed studies should consider existing management strategies and how these strategies might be benefited or adversely impacted by controlling access. Additionally, they should address how a controlled access program should be introduced into the affected fisheries.

d. Development of improved methods and procedures for technology transfer and education of constituency groups concerning fishery management and conservation programs. Of special importance are programs concerned

with controlled access and introductions of conservation gear and fishing practice modifications.

B. MARFIN financial assistance started in FY 1986. For FYs 1986 through 1991, financial assistance awards totaled \$10.61 million.

C. Priority in program emphasis will be placed upon funding projects that have the greatest probability of recovering, maintaining, improving, or developing fisheries; improving understanding of factors affecting recruitment success; and/or generating increased values and recreational opportunities from fisheries. Projects will be evaluated as to the likelihood of achieving these benefits through both short-term and long-term research projects, with consideration of the magnitude of the eventual economic benefit that may be realized. Both short-term projects that may yield more immediate benefits and projects yielding longer-term benefits will receive equal consideration.

D. Further information on current Federal programs that address the above-listed priorities may be obtained from the NMFS Southeast Regional Office (see ADDRESSES).

III. How to Apply

A. Eligible Applicants

1. Applications for grants or cooperative agreements for MARFIN projects may be made, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this notice, by:

a. Any individual who is a citizen or national of the United States;

b. Any corporation, partnership, or other entity, non-profit or otherwise, if such entity is a citizen of the United States within the meaning of section 2 of the Shipping Act, 1916, as amended (46 app. U.S.C. 802).²

² To qualify as a citizen of the United States within the meaning of this statute, citizens or nationals of the United States or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) must own not less than 75 percent of the interest in the entity or, in the case of a non-profit entity, exercise control of the entity that is determined by the Secretary to be equivalent to such ownership; and in the case of a corporation, the president or other chief executive officer and the chairman of the board of directors must be citizens of the United States. No more of its board of directors than a minority of the number necessary to constitute a quorum may be non-citizens; and the corporation itself must be organized under the laws of the United States, or of a State, including the District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, the NMI or any other Commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States. Seventy-five percent of the interest in a corporation shall not be deemed to be owned by citizens of the NMI, if: (1) The title to 75 percent of its stock is not vested in

2. NOAA reserves the right to withhold the awarding of a grant or cooperative agreement to any individual or organization delinquent on a debt to the Federal Government until payment is made or satisfactory arrangements are made with the agency to whom the debt is owed. Any first-time applicant for Federal grant funds is subject to a preaward accounting survey prior to execution of the award. Women and minority individuals and groups are encouraged to submit applications. NOAA employees, including full-time, part-time, and intermittent personnel (or their immediate families), and NOAA offices or centers are not eligible to submit an application under this solicitation, or aid in the preparation of an application, except to provide information about the MARFIN program and the priorities and procedures included in this solicitation. However, NOAA employees are permitted to provide information about ongoing and planned NOAA programs and activities that may have implication for an application. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact NOAA organizations engaged in fisheries research in the Gulf of Mexico and off the U.S. South Atlantic, or Dr. Donald R. Ekberg at the NMFS Southeast Regional Office (see ADDRESSES) for information on NOAA programs. Documents available from this office that may be useful to the applicant include:

- a. A Cooperative Reef Fish Research Program for the Gulf of Mexico.
- b. A Cooperative Bycatch Research Plan for the Southeast Region.
- c. Strategic Plan of the National Marine Fisheries Service.
- d. National Status of Stocks Report.
- e. Various fishery management plans and plan amendments produced by the Councils and the Commissions.

B. Amount and Duration of Funds

Under this solicitation for FY 1992, an estimated \$1.8 million will be available to fund fishery research and development projects (\$1.40 million for new projects and \$404,000 for continuing

such citizens or nationals of the United States or citizens of the NMI free from any trust or fiduciary obligation in favor of any person not a citizen or national of the United States or citizens of the NMI; (2) 75 percent of the voting power in such corporation is not vested in citizens or nationals of the United States or citizens of the NMI; (3) through any contract or understanding it is arranged that more than 25 percent of the voting power in such corporation may be exercised, directly or indirectly in behalf of any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States or a citizen of the NMI; or (4) by any means whatsoever, control of any interest in the corporation is conferred upon or permitted to be exercised by any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

projects). Grants or cooperative agreements may be awarded for a period of up to 3 years. Once awarded, multi-year projects will not compete for funding in subsequent years. Funding for multi-year projects beyond the first year is contingent upon the availability of program funds in subsequent fiscal years, and the extent to which project objectives and reporting requirements are met during the prior year. Publication of this notice does not obligate NMFS to award any specific grant or to obligate NMFS to award any specific grant or to obligate all or any part of the available funds. Awards generally will be made no later than 90 days after the funding selection is determined and negotiations are completed. Under no circumstances should an applicant proceed with the proposed project until such time that he/she has received a signed award from the Grants Officer. Notwithstanding any verbal assurance that the applicant may have received, there is no obligation on the part of the Department of Commerce to cover any costs. An applicant that incurs costs prior to an award being made proceeds solely at its own risk.

C. Cost-Sharing Requirements

Applications must reflect the total budget necessary to accomplish the project, including contributions and/or donations. Cost-sharing is not required for the MARFIN program. However, cost-sharing is encouraged, and in case of a tie in considering proposals for funding, cost-sharing may affect the final decision. The appropriateness of all cost-sharing will be determined on the basis of guidance provided in OMB circulars. Appropriate documentation must exist to support in-kind services or property used to fulfill cost-sharing requirements.

D. Format

1. Applications for project funding must be complete. They must identify the principal participants and include copies of any agreements describing the specific tasks to be performed by participants. Project applications should give a clear presentation of the proposed work, the methods for carrying out the project, its relevance to managing and enhancing the use of Gulf of Mexico and/or South Atlantic fishery resources, and cost estimates as they relate to specific aspects of the project. Budgets must include a detailed breakdown by category of expenditure with appropriate justification for both the Federal and non-Federal shares. Applicants should not assume prior knowledge on the part of NMFS as to

the relative merits of the project described in the application.

2. Applications must be submitted in the following format:

a. *Cover Sheet:* An applicant must use OMB Standard Form 424 (revised 4/88) as the cover sheet for each project. Applicants may obtain copies of the form from the NMFS Southeast Regional Office, or Department of Commerce's Grant Management Division (see ADDRESSES).

b. *Project Summary:* Each project must contain a summary of not more than one page that provides the following information:

- (1) Project title.
- (2) Project status (new or continuing). If continuing, show previous financial assistance award number and beginning/ending date.
- (3) Project duration (beginning and ending dates).
- (4) Name, address, and telephone number of applicant.
- (5) Principal Investigator(s).
- (6) Project objectives.
- (7) Summary of work to be performed. For continuing projects, the applicant must briefly describe progress to date, in addition to any changes to the statement of work previously submitted.
- (8) Total Federal funds requested (for multi-year projects, identify each year's requested funding).
- (9) Cost-sharing to be provided from non-Federal sources (for multi-year projects, identify each year's cost-sharing). Specify whether contributions are project related cash or in-kind.
- (10) Total project cost.

c. *Project Description:* Each project must be completely and accurately described. Each project description may be up to 15 pages in length. NMFS will make all portions of the project description available to the public and members of the fishing industry for review and comment; therefore, NMFS cannot guarantee the confidentiality of any information submitted as part of any project, nor will NMFS accept for consideration any project requesting confidentiality of any part of the project.

Each project must be described as follows: (1) *Identification of Problem(s):* Describe how existing conditions prevent the full use of Gulf of Mexico and/or South Atlantic fishery resources. In this description, identify:

- (a) The fisheries involved;
- (b) The specific problem(s) that the fishing industry, management agencies or environmental organizations have encountered;
- (c) The sectors of the fisheries that are affected; and

(d) How the problem(s) prevent the fishing industry or management agencies from using or managing the fishery resources.

(2) *Project Goals and Objectives:* State what the proposed project will accomplish and describe how this will eliminate or reduce the problem(s) described above. For multi-year projects, describe the ultimate objective of the project and how the individual task contribute to reaching the objective. Describe the timeframe in which task's would be conducted.

(3) *Need for Government Financial Assistance:* Explain why other fund sources cannot fund all the proposed work. List all other sources of funding that are or have been sought for the project.

(4) *Participation by Persons or Groups Other Than the Applicant:* Describe the level of participation required in the project(s) by NOAA or other government and non-government entities. Specific NOAA employees should not be named in the proposal, even though the applicant may wish to acknowledge government expertise in an allied area.

(5) *Federal, State, and Local Government Activities:* List any programs (Federal, state, or local government or activities, including State Coastal Zone Management Programs, Sea Grant, Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program, Public Law 99-659 and Cooperative Statistics) this project would affect and describe the relationship between the project and those plans or activities.

(6) *Project Outline:* Describe the work to be performed during the project, starting with the first month's work and continuing to the last month. Identify specific milestones that can be used to track project progress. For multi-year projects, major project tasks and milestones for future years must also be identified. If the work described in this section does not contain sufficient detail to allow for proper technical evaluation, NMFS will not consider the application for funding and will return it to the applicant.

(7) *Project Management:* Describe how the project will be organized and managed. Include resumes of principal investigators. List all persons directly employed by the applicant who will be involved in the project, their qualifications, and their level of involvement in the project.

(8) *Monitoring of Project Performance:* Identify who will participate in monitoring the project.

(9) *Project Impacts:* Describe the impact of the project in terms of anticipated increased production, sales,

exports, product quality and safety, improved management, social values or any other that will be produced by this project. Describe how these products or services will be made available to the fishery and management communities.

(10) *Evaluation of Project:* The applicant is required to provide an evaluation of project accomplishments in the final report. The application must describe the methodology or procedures to be followed to determine technical or economic feasibility, to evaluate user acceptability, or to quantify the results of the project in promoting increased production, sales, exports, product quality and safety, social values, management effectiveness or other measurable factors.

(11) *Total Project Costs:* Total project costs is the amount of funds required to accomplish the proposed statement of work (SOW), and includes contributions and donations. All costs must be shown in a detailed budget. Cost-sharing must not come from another Federal source. Costs must be allocated to the Federal share and non-Federal share provided by the applicant or other sources. Non-Federal costs are to be divided into cash and in-kind contributions. A standard budget form (ED-357 NG; Rev. 3-80) is available from the offices listed (see **ADDRESSES**). A separate budget must be submitted for each project. An applicant submitting a multi-year project must submit two budgets—one covering total project costs (including individual costs per year) and one covering the initial funding request for the project. The initial funding request must cover funds required during the first 12-month period. NMFS will not consider fees or profits as allowable costs for grantees. To support its budget, the applicant must describe briefly the basis for estimating the value of the non-Federal funds derived from in-kind contributions. Costs for the following categories must be detailed in the budget as follows:

(i) *Personnel.* (a) *Salaries:* Identify salaries by position and percentage of time and annual/hourly salary of each individual dedicated to the project.

(b) *Fringe Benefits:* Indicate benefits associated with personnel working on the project. This entry should be the proportionate cost of fringe benefits paid for the amount of time spent in the project. For example, if an employee spends 20 percent of his/her time on the project, 20 percent of his/her fringe benefits should be charged to the project.

(ii) *Consultants and Contract Services:* Identify all consultant and/or contractual service costs by specific task in relation to the project. If a

commitment has been made prior to application to contract with a particular organization, explain how the organization was selected. Describe the type of contract, budget, deliveries, expected, and timeframe. A detailed budget must be submitted (with supporting documentation) for the total amount of funding requested for a subcontractor/consultant. All contracts must meet the standards established in OMB circulars.

(iii) *Travel and Transportation:* Identify number of trips to be taken, purpose, and number of people to travel. Itemize estimated costs to include approximate cost of transportation, per diem, and miscellaneous expenses.

(iv) *Equipment, Space or Rental Costs:* Identify equipment purchases or rental costs with the intended use. Equipment purchases greater than \$500 are discouraged, since experienced investigators are expected to have sufficient capital equipment on hand. Use of lease to purchase (LTOP) or similar leases are prohibited. Identify space or rental costs with specific uses.

(v) *Other Costs.* (a) *Supplies:* Identify specific supplies necessary for the accomplishment of the project. Consumable office supplies must be included under Indirect Costs unless purchased in a large quantity to be used specifically for the project.

(b) *Postage and Shipping:* Include postage for correspondence and other project related material, as well as air freight, truck or rail shipping of bulk materials.

(c) *Printing Costs:* Include costs associated with producing materials in connection with the project.

(d) *Long Distance Telephone and Telegraph:* Identify estimated monthly bills.

(e) *Utilities:* These costs should be included under Indirect Costs unless purchased in a large quantity to be specifically identified to the project. Identify costs of utilities and percentage of use in conjunction with performance of project.

(f) *Indirect Costs:* This entry should be based on the applicants established indirect cost agreement rate with the Federal Government. A copy of the current, approved, negotiated Indirect Cost Agreement must be included. It is the policy of the Department of Commerce that indirect costs shall not exceed direct costs.

(g) *Additional Costs:* Indicate any additional costs associated with the project that are allowable under OMB Circulars A-21, A-87, and A-122.

(d) *Supporting Documentation:* This section should include any required

documents and any additional information necessary or useful to the description of the project. The amount of information given in this section will depend on the type of project proposed, but should be no more than 20 pages. The applicant should present any information that would emphasize the value of the project in terms of the significance of the problems addressed. Without such information, the merits of the project may not be fully understood, or the value of the project may be underestimated. The absence of adequate supporting documentation may cause reviewers to question assertions made in describing the project and may result in a lower ranking of the project. Information presented in this section should be clearly referenced in the project description.

E. Application Submission and Deadline

1. Deadline: (see DATES)

2. Submission of Applications to NMFS: Applications are not to be bound in any manner and should be one-sided. All incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant. Applicants must submit one signed original and two (2) copies of the complete application to the NMFS Southeast Regional Office (see ADDRESSES). Questions of an administrative nature should be referred to the Grants Management Division, OA321 (see ADDRESSES).

IV. Review Process and Criteria

A. Evaluation and Ranking of Proposed Projects

1. Unless otherwise specified by statute, in reviewing applications for grants and cooperative agreements that include consultants and contracts, NOAA will make a determination regarding the following:

a. Is the involvement of the applicant necessary to the conduct of the project and the accomplishment of its goals and objectives?

b. Is the proposed allocation of the applicant's time reasonable and commensurate with the applicant's involvement in the project?

c. Are the proposed costs for the applicant's involvement in the project reasonable and commensurate with the benefits to be derived from applicant's participation?

2. For applications meeting the requirements of this solicitation, NMFS will conduct a technical evaluation of each project prior to any other review. This review normally will involve experts from non-NOAA as well as NOAA organizations. All comments submitted to NMFS will be taken into

consideration in the technical evaluation of projects. NMFS will provide point scores on proposals based on the following evaluation criteria:

a. Adequacy of research/development/demonstration for managing or enhancing Southeast marine fishery resources, addressing especially the possibilities of securing productive results (30 points).

b. Soundness of design/technical approach for enhancing or managing the use of Southeast marine fishery resources (25 points).

c. Organization and management of the project, including qualifications and previous related experience of the applicant's management team and other project personnel involved (20 points).

d. Effectiveness of proposed methods for monitoring and evaluating the project (15 points).

e. Justification and allocation of the budget in terms of the work to be performed (10 points).

3. Applications will be ranked by NMFS into three groups: (a) Highly recommended, (b) recommended, and (c) not recommended. These rankings will be presented to a panel of fishery experts convened by NMFS. The panel members will also individually consider the significance of the problem addressed in the project, along with the technical evaluation and need for funding. The panel members' individual recommendations will aid NMFS in determining the appropriate level of funding for each project.

B. Consultation With Others

NMFS will make project descriptions available for review as follows:

1. *Public Review and Comment:* Applications may be inspected at the NMFS Southeast Regional Office (see ADDRESSES and DATES).

2. *Consultation with Members of the Fishing Industry, Management Agencies, Environmental Organizations, and Academic Institutions.* NMFS shall, at its discretion, request comments from members of the fishing and associated industries, groups, organizations and institutions who have knowledge in the subject matter of a project or who would be affected by a project.

3. *Consultation with Government Agencies:* Applications will be reviewed in consultation with the NMFS Southeast Science and Research Director and appropriate laboratory personnel, NOAA Grants Officer and, as appropriate, Department of Commerce bureaus and other Federal agencies, for elimination of duplicate funding. The Councils may be asked to review projects and advise of any real or

potential conflicts with Council activities.

C. Funding Decision

After projects have been evaluated, the Southeast Regional Director, in consultation with the NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, will ascertain which projects do not substantially duplicate other projects that are currently funded by NOAA or are approved for funding by other Federal offices, determine the projects to be funded, and determine the amount of funds available for the program. The exact amount of funds awarded to each project will be determined in preaward negotiations between the applicant, the Grants Office, and the NMFS program staff. The Department of Commerce will review all projects recommended for funding before an award is executed by the Grant Officer. The funding instrument will be determined by the Grants Officer. Projects must not be initiated by a recipient until a signed award is received from the Grants Officer. For multi-year projects, funds will be provided when specified tasks are satisfactorily completed and after NMFS has received MARFIN funds for subsequent fiscal years.

V. Administrative Requirements

A. Applicant Responsibility

An applicant must: 1. Meet all application requirements and provide all information necessary for the evaluation of the project.

2. Be available, upon request, in person or by designated representative, to respond to questions during the review and evaluation of the project(s).

3. If a project is awarded, manage the day-to-day operations of the project, be responsible for the performance of all activities for which funds are awarded, and be responsible for the satisfactory completion of all administrative and managerial conditions required by the award. This includes adherence to procurement standards set forth in the award and referenced OMB Circulars and Department of Commerce regulations.

4. If a project is awarded, keep records sufficient to document any costs incurred under the award, and allow access to records for audit and examination by the Secretary, the Comptroller of the United States, or their authorized representatives.

5. Fishery data collected during the course of a project that could be pertinent to fishery management needs must be available to NMFS on request.

subject to pertinent confidentiality requirements.

6. If a project is awarded, quarterly project status reports on the use of funds and progress of the project must be submitted to NMFS within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter. The content of these reports will include, at a minimum:

a. A summary of work conducted, which includes a description of specific accomplishments and milestones achieved;

b. The degree to which goals or objectives were achieved as originally projected;

c. Where necessary, the reasons why goals or objectives are not being met;

d. Any proposed changes in plans or redirection of resources or activities and the reason therefore; and

e. Expenses incurred during the reporting period.

7. If a project is funded, submit an original and two copies of a final report to NMFS within 90 days after completion of the project. The report must describe the accomplishments of the project and include an evaluation of the work performed and the results and benefits of the work in sufficient detail to enable NMFS to assess the success of the completed project. Results must be described in relation to the project objectives of resolving specific impediments to managing or using fisheries, and be quantified to the extent possible. Potential uses of project results by private industry or fishery management agencies should be specified. Any conditions or requirements necessary to make productive use of projects results should be identified.

8. Present completed project results at the annual MARFIN conference and submit an abstract 15 days prior to the conference (September 1992). Travel funds for the Principal Investigator to attend this meeting will be provided by NMFS.

9. Each recipient of MARFIN funding must comply with applicable OMB circulars, Department of Commerce policies and regulations, and NOAA policies and guidelines. The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 requires that all grantees receiving Federal financial assistance must maintain a drug-free workplace. Each award contains DOC standard terms and conditions and NOAA special award conditions that must be met by the recipient.

10. For each project funded, three copies of all publications or reports printed with grant funds must be submitted to the Program Officer. Any publication printed with grant funds must identify the NOAA MARFIN

program as the funding source along with the grant award number. Grant recipients are also requested to submit to the Program Officer three copies of all publications resulting wholly or in part from MARFIN funded projects, to indicate in such publications the role of the MARFIN program in accomplishing the research and, where another Federally funded program provides data sources used in the research, to so indicate.

B. National Marine Fisheries Service Responsibility

The NMFS Southeast Region will: 1. Provide programmatic information necessary for the proper submission of applications.

2. Provide advice to inform applicants of NMFS fishery management and development policies and goals.

3. Monitor all projects after award to ascertain their effectiveness in achieving project objectives and in producing measurable results. Actual accomplishments of a project will be compared with stated objectives.

4. Refer questions regarding grant management policy and administration from applicants/recipients to the Grants Officer.

C. NOAA Grants Management Officer Responsibility

The NOAA Grants Management Officer is responsible for the execution of NOAA Federal Assistance Awards. The Grants Officer is responsible for the business management aspects of awards, and serves as the counterpart to the business officer of the recipient. The Grants Officer works closely with the Program Officer, who is responsible for the scientific, technical, and programmatic aspects of the project. The official grant file will be maintained by the Grant Officer.

IV. Legal Requirements

The applicant will be required to satisfy the requirements of applicable local, state, and Federal laws.

Recipients are subject to the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352 entitled "Limitations on use of appropriated funds on certain Federal contracting and financial transaction," more commonly known as the "lobbying disclosure" rule.

Section 319 of Public Law 101-121 generally prohibits recipients of Federal contracts, grants, and loans from using appropriated funds for lobbying the Executive or Legislative branches of the Federal Government in connection with a specific contract, grant, or loan. Certifications regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace

Requirements and Lobbying (Form CD-511) are required to be submitted with the application.

Potential recipients may be required to submit an "Identification-Application for Funding Assistance" form (Form CD-346), which is used to ascertain background information on key individuals associated with the potential recipient. The CD-346 form requests information to reveal if any key individuals in the organization have been convicted of, or are presently facing, criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters pertinent to management honesty or financial integrity. Potential recipients may also be subject to reviews of Dun and Bradstreet data or other similar credit checks.

A false statement on the application may be grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment.

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

If an application for an award is selected for funding, the Department of Commerce has no obligation to provide any additional prospective funding in connection with that award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of the Department of Commerce.

Grants awarded pursuant to pertinent statutes shall be in accordance with the Fisheries Research Plan (comprehensive program of fisheries research) in effect on the date of the award.

Classification

NMFS reviewed this solicitation in accordance with Executive Order (E.O.) 12291 and the Department of Commerce guidelines implementing that Order. This solicitation is not "major" because it is not likely to result in (1) an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more; (2) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, state, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or (3) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of U.S.-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic or export markets. This notice does not contain policies with sufficient federalism implications to warrant preparation of a federalism assessment under Executive Order 12612. Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not

required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and contracts. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Information collection requirements contained in this notice have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB Clearance No. 0648-0175) under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The CD-346 form also referenced in the Notice is approved by OMB Clearance Number 0605-0001. Public reporting burden for Agency-specific collection-of-information elements, exclusive of requirements specified under applicable OMB circulars, is estimated to average 4 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Regional Director and to OMB (see ADDRESSES).

This program is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 753a.

Dated: May 18, 1992.

Samuel W. McKeen,

Program Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 92-12023 Filed 5-21-92; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-M

REVIEW OF THE MARFIN OPERATIONS PLAN

OBJECTIVES:

- 0 BRIEF STEERING COMMITTEE.
- 0 OBTAIN ADVICE ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES, AND ON OTHER CHANGES AS APPROPRIATE.
- 0 OBTAIN ADVICE ON HOW TO HANDLE CURRENT AND FUTURE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS.



MARFIN BACKGROUND

- 0 1983---LOTT/MCILWAIN DISCUSSION PAPER.**
- 0 1985---MARINE FISHERIES INITIATIVE
PUBLICATION.**
- 0 1985---FUNDING APPROPRIATED FOR MARFIN.**
- 0 1985 - PRESENT---MARFIN PROGRAM.**

MARFIN PURPOSE

MARFIN PROMOTES AND ENDORSES PROGRAMS WHICH SEEK TO OPTIMIZE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS FROM MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES THROUGH COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WHICH COORDINATE AND EVOKE THE BEST RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT TALENTS OF THE SOUTHEAST REGION.

- 0 EMPHASIS ON COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH 3-5 YEAR TIME HORIZONS.**

- 0 DESIGNED TO SUPPLEMENT AND ENHANCE EXISTING RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.**

MARFIN PROGRAM COMPONENTS

EXTERNAL

0 MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE

- ADVICE ON PRIORITIES.
- ADVICE ON PROPOSALS.
- ADVICE ON EVALUATIONS.
- PLANNING ASSISTANCE.
- OVERSIGHT/ADVICE ON CONFERENCE.
- INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.

0 TECHNICAL REVIEWERS

- ADVICE ON INDIVIDUAL PROPOSALS.

0 TECHNICAL REVIEW SCIENTISTS

- PARTICIPATE ON TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL.
- ADVICE AND RANKING OF PROPOSALS.

0 MARFIN COORDINATOR

- CONTRACTOR TO COORDINATE AND SUPPORT STEERING COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS.
- PRODUCE ANNUAL REPORTS AND SUMMARIES.
- CONDUCT ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

MARFIN PROGRAM COMPONENTS (CONTINUED)

INTERNAL

0 NOAA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

- APPROVE PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND FUNDS.
- APPROVE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING.

0 NOAA GRANTS MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER

- ADVICE ON GRANT ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES.
- OVERSIGHT OF GRANT PROCESSING AND MANAGEMENT.

0 NMFS REGIONAL DIRECTOR

- PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.
- SELECTION OF PROGRAM PRIORITIES.
- SELECTION OF PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING.

0 NMFS SCIENCE DIRECTOR

- RECOMMEND REVIEWERS FOR PROPOSALS.
- CONDUCT TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL.
- PROVIDE SCIENTISTS TO BRIEF STEERING COMMITTEE.
- RECOMMEND PRIORITIES.
- INTERNAL RESEARCH PROPOSALS.

MARFIN PROGRAM COMPONENTS (CONTINUED)

INTERNAL

0 NMFS REGIONAL TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE

- REPRESENTS NMFS ON STEERING COMMITTEE.
- PROVIDES TECHNICAL BRIEFINGS FOR STEERING COMMITTEE.

0 NMFS PROGRAM OFFICER

- PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.
- FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.
- COORDINATE TECHNICAL REVIEWS.
- COORDINATES GRANT APPLICATIONS AND INTERFACES WITH GRANTS OFFICE.
- MONITORS PROJECT PERFORMANCE (WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM TECHNICAL MONITORS).
- INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.
- ANNUAL REPORTS AND SUMMARIES.
- COTR FOR COORDINATOR CONTRACTS.

0 NMFS TECHNICAL MONITORS

- REVIEW INITIAL AWARD WITH RECIPIENT.
- MONITOR PROJECT PERFORMANCE.
- ADVISE PROGRAM OFFICER.

THE MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED ADVICE TO THE NMFS REGIONAL DIRECTOR ON PROGRAM AREAS OF EMPHASIS, PRIORITIES, AND RESPONSIVENESS OF PROJECTS TO THESE PRIORITIES. MEMBERS ALSO PROVIDE ADVICE ON PROGRAM EFFICIENCY AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.

REPRESENTATION: THE MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE IS A PUBLIC COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM WITH EQUAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC.

MEMBERSHIP:

- 2 STATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.**
- 2 NOAA SEA GRANT ORGANIZATIONS.**
- 2 COMMERCIAL FISHING ORGANIZATIONS.**
- 2 RECREATIONAL FISHING ASSOCIATIONS.**
- 2 GULF OF MEXICO AND SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS.**
- 2 GULF AND ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSIONS.**
- 1 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE.**
- 1 NOAA GRANTS MANAGEMENT ADVISOR.**

THE MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

SELECTION: FROM NOMINATIONS SOLICITED BY NMFS REGIONAL DIRECTOR FROM STATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES, NOAA SEA GRANT ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHING ASSOCIATIONS.

TERMS:

STATE FISHERY AGENCIES, SEA GRANT, AND COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVE TWO-YEAR, NON-CONSECUTIVE TERMS.

COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS, NOAA GRANTS, AND SOUTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER SERVE INDEFINITE TERMS.

ORGANIZATION: CO-CHAIRERD BY GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC.

CONSTRAINTS: ADVICE MUST BE INDIVIDUALIZED ON PRIORITIES AND PROJECT SELECTION. ALSO, ALL MEETINGS MUST BE PUBLIC.

THE MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

ANNUAL MEETINGS: TWO FORMAL MEETINGS

- 0 REVIEW AND OFFER ADVICE ON COMPETITIVE PROJECTS.**
- 0 DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND PROGRAM PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT YEAR.**

SPECIAL MEETINGS: FOR PROGRAM PLANNING OR REVIEW; CALLED BY CHAIRMEN OR REGIONAL DIRECTOR.

- 0 ANNUAL MARFIN CONFERENCE.**

SUPPORT: MARFIN COORDINATOR

PEER-REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

EXTERNAL PROPOSALS

- 0 ALL PROPOSALS REVIEWED.
- 0 TARGET 3-4 EXTERNAL REVIEWS.
- 0 OBTAIN 1-2 INTERNAL REVIEWS.
- 0 REVIEWS ARE CONFIDENTIAL IF REVIEWER CAN BE IDENTIFIED.
- 0 REVIEWS COORDINATED BY SERO PROGRAM OFFICER.

PEER-REVIEW OF PROPOSALS (CONTINUED)

INTERNAL PROPOSALS

- 0 INITIAL SCREENING OF PROPOSALS BY REGIONAL AND SCIENCE DIRECTORS. STEERING COMMITTEE MAY BE ASKED TO ASSIST WITH THIS SCREENING.

- 0 TARGET 3-4 EXTERNAL REVIEWS; INTERNAL REVIEW IS THROUGH NORMAL MANAGEMENT CHANNELS.

- 0 REVIEWS HANDLED BY REGIONAL OR SCIENCE DIRECTOR, DEPENDING ON SOURCE OF PROPOSALS.

- 0 REVIEWS ARE SUMMARIZED BY REGIONAL OR SCIENCE DIRECTOR PRIOR TO BEING RELEASED TO STEERING COMMITTEE.

MARFIN TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL

PURPOSE: FINAL TECHNICAL RANKING OF EXTERNAL, PEER-REVIEWED PROPOSALS.

RESPONSIBILITY: SCIENCE DIRECTOR

COMPOSITION: SENIOR NMFS SCIENTISTS SELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MARFIN PROGRAM AREAS RECEIVING PROPOSALS. ALSO, UP TO THREE EXTERNAL SCIENTISTS MAY BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE ON THE PANEL. EXPENSES OF EXTERNAL SCIENTISTS WILL BE PAID BY MARFIN.

MARFIN TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (CONTINUED)

OPERATION:

- 0 PROPOSALS WITH PEER-REVIEWS AND SCORES REVIEWED BY REVIEW PANEL.**

- 0 INAPPROPRIATE SCORES OMITTED OR OTHERWISE WEIGHTED, AND SUMMARIES OF THE REVIEW COMMENTS PREPARED.**

- 0 EACH PROPOSAL CATEGORIZED AS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (HIGH PRIORITY NEED AND EXCELLENT TECHNICAL QUALITY), RECOMMENDED (EITHER NOT A HIGH PRIORITY OR TECHNICAL QUALITY IS ONLY FAIR TO GOOD), NOT RECOMMENDED FOR TECHNICAL REASONS (TECHNICAL QUALITY IS POOR), OR NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PROGRAMMATIC REASONS (LOW OR NO PRIORITY)**

**INTERFACE WITH STEERING COMMITTEE:
BRIEFING BY PANEL SCIENTISTS ON EACH
PROPOSAL.**

MARFIN CONFERENCE

PURPOSE: TO ALLOW THE STEERING COMMITTEE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EVALUATE PROGRAM AND PROJECT RESULTS, AND TO HELP DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT MARFIN.

LOCATION AND TIME: IN LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL IN COMBINATION WITH SOME OTHER MARINE SCIENCE OR FISHERIES MEETING WHEN POSSIBLE.

FORMAT: CONDUCTED BY STEERING COMMITTEE. SPEAKERS NORMALLY ARE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS WHO HAVE SIGNIFICANT RESULTS OR ARE NEAR COMPLETION OF THEIR MARFIN-FUNDED PROJECTS.

MARFIN ANNUAL REPORT: BASED ON SUMMARIES PROVIDED BY THE INVESTIGATORS AT THE CONFERENCE.

MARFIN REPORTS

0 MARFIN ANNUAL REPORT

0 MARFIN ANNUAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

0 FINAL PROJECT REPORTS

0 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORTS

0 QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORTS

0 QUARTERLY PROJECT FINANCIAL REPORTS

MAJOR MARFIN EVENTS

1. STEERING COMMITTEE ADVICE ON PROGRAM PRIORITIES (MAY).
2. FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE (SEPTEMBER).
3. STEERING COMMITTEE ADVICE ON NMFS PROPOSALS (SEPTEMBER).
4. TECHNICAL REVIEW OF COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS (NOVEMBER/DECEMBER).
5. TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL RANKING OF PROPOSALS (JANUARY).
6. STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROPOSALS (JANUARY).
7. GRANT AWARDS TO NON-NOAA APPLICANTS (JUNE).
8. MARFIN CONFERENCE (SEPTEMBER).

AVOIDANCE OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 1. NO PROPOSAL WILL BE ACCEPTED WHICH IDENTIFIES A STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER AS AN INVESTIGATOR OR CONTRACTOR.**
- 2. NO PROPOSAL WILL BE ACCEPTED WHICH FINANCIALLY BENEFITS A STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER EITHER DIRECTLY AS AN INVESTIGATOR OR INDIRECTLY AS A CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR.**
- 3. STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS MUST RECUSE THEMSELVES FROM ANY DISCUSSION OR FROM PROVIDING ANY ADVICE ON PROPOSALS THAT WOULD DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FINANCIALLY BENEFIT THEIR ORGANIZATION. AN ORGANIZATION IS DEFINED AS A UNIVERSITY, STATE AGENCY (E.G., TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE), ASSOCIATION, FOUNDATION, OR COMPANY.**
- 4. NOAA EMPLOYEES MAY NOT JOINTLY APPLY WITH NON-NOAA INVESTIGATORS FOR COMPETITIVE FUNDING. FURTHERMORE, NOAA EMPLOYEES MAY NOT CONSULT ON COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS.**

AVOIDANCE OF FACA PROBLEMS

- 1. ALL ADVICE PROVIDED TO THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE CONCERNING PRIORITIES AND PROPOSAL RANKINGS OR SELECTIONS MUST BE INDIVIDUALIZED. THAT IS, NO VOTE OR CONSENSUS IS PERMITTED. EACH COMMITTEE MEMBER'S POSITION ON THE PRIORITY OR PROPOSAL SHOULD BE OBTAINED BY A POLL, OR IN SOME INSTANCES, BY SECRET BALLOT.**
- 3. OTHER MATTERS NOT PERTAINING TO PRIORITIES AND PROPOSAL SELECTIONS, SUCH AS PROGRAM OPERATIONS, ACTIVITIES, AND PLANS CAN BE VOTED ON.**

1993 PRIORITIES

II. Funding Priorities.

A. Proposals for FY 1993 should exhibit familiarity with related work that is completed or ongoing. Where appropriate, proposals should be multidisciplinary. Coordinated efforts involving multiple institutions or persons are encouraged. While the areas for priority consideration are listed below, proposals in other areas will be considered on a funds available basis.

In addition to reference to the priorities listed below, proposals should state whether the research will apply to the Gulf of Mexico only, the South Atlantic only, or a combination of both areas. Successful applicants may be required to collect and manage data in accordance with standardized procedures and formats approved by NMFS.

High priority research requirements identified in fishery management plans and amendments prepared by the Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions (Commissions) are included by reference.

1. Shrimp Trawler Bycatch.

a. Proposals should address how the proposed studies will be coordinated with and contribute to the regional shrimp trawler bycatch program being conducted by NMFS in cooperation with state fishery management agencies, commercial and recreational fishing organizations and interests, environmental organizations, universities, the Councils, and the Commissions.

In particular, the studies should address:

(1) Data collections and analyses to expand and update current bycatch estimates temporally and spatially, including offshore, nearshore, and inshore waters. Emphasis should be on inshore and nearshore waters (less than 10 fathoms (18.3 m)).

(2) Assessments of the status and condition of fish stocks significantly impacted by shrimp trawler bycatch, with emphasis given to overfished species under the jurisdiction of the Councils.

(3) Identification, development, and evaluation of gear, (non-gear), and tactical fishing options to reduce bycatch.

(4) Social and economic assessments of the impact of bycatch and of bycatch reduction options on coastal communities and industries.

(4a) Economic studies of the dynamic effects of bycatch on the bycatch fisheries, e.g., mackerel and reef fish. Projects should involve the relation between effort and increases in the fishable stocks if bycatch is significantly reduced.

(5) Improved methods for communicating with and improving technology and information transfer to the shrimp industry.

b. For all studies related to shrimp trawler bycatch, applicants must agree to collect and manage data in accordance with guidelines provided by NMFS. These guidelines are being developed as part of the regional cooperative bycatch research program. Additionally, successful applicants will be required to provide their edited, raw and processed data to NMFS in accordance with certain format requirements to become part of a regional bycatch data base (see V.5).

2. Highly Migratory Pelagic Fisheries.

a. Longline Fishery, Including Bycatch.

A number of pelagic longline fisheries exist in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Most target highly migratory species such as tunas, billfish, some sharks, and swordfish. These fisheries have evolved rapidly over the last decade, with increases in fishing effort and changes in fishing gear and tactics. These changes need to be characterized and their effects quantified. High priority areas include:

(1) Characterization of specific longline fisheries, including targeted species and bycatch catch per unit effort and biological parameters (e.g., sex, reproductive state) by gear type, area, and season.

(2) Evaluation of vessel log data for monitoring the fisheries.

(3) Development and evaluation of gear and fishing tactics to minimize the bycatch of undersized and unwanted species, including sea turtles and marine mammals.

(4) Assessment of the impact of longline bycatch on related fisheries including biological, social, and economic factors and effects.

b. Sharks.

Little is known about shark resources in the Gulf and South Atlantic. A Secretarial Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for sharks has been developed that identifies a number of research needs. In general, these needs can be grouped as:

(1) Characterization of the directed and bycatch commercial and recreational fisheries from existing and new data. Emphasis should be on species, size, and sex composition and catch per unit effort by season, area, and gear type.

(2) Collection and analysis of basic biological data on movements, habitats, growth rates, mortality rates, age composition, and reproduction.

(3) Determination of baseline cost and returns for commercial fisheries that take and retain sharks, and estimations of demand curves for shark products and recreational shark fisheries. Also, research on social values and economic impacts of the shark fisheries.

(4) Development of species profiles and stock assessments for sharks taken in significant quantities by the commercial and recreational directed and bycatch fisheries. Assessments can be species-specific or for species groups, as long as the latter does not differ substantially from the groups identified in the Secretarial Shark FMP.

(5) Identification of coastal sharks using laboratory (tissue analysis) methods and preservation of tissue samples for mercury analysis.

3. Reef Fish.

a. Many species within the reef-fish complex are showing signs of being overfished, either by directed or bycatch fisheries. The ecology of reef fish makes them especially vulnerable to overfishing because they tend to be concentrated over specific types of habitats that are patchily distributed. The patchy

distribution of the resource can make traditional fishery statistics misleading, because catch per unit effort can remain relatively high as fishermen move from one area to another, yet overall abundance of the resource can be declining sharply. Proposed studies should concentrate on research areas related to fishery management, including:

(1) Collection of basic biological data for species in virtually all commercially and recreationally important fisheries, with emphasis on stock and species identification, age and growth, early life history, especially source of recruits, and reproductive biology. Especially important is the effect of reproductive mode and sex change (protogynous hermaphroditism) on population size and characteristics, with reference to sizes of fish exploited in the fisheries and the significance to proper management.

(2) Identification and quantification of natural and human-induced mortality (such as the loss of undersize fishes caught in deep water), including the bycatch fisheries.

(3) Mapping and quantification of reef-fish habitat, primarily from existing biological and physical data to determine the effects of habitat alteration or degradation on fish stocks.

(4) Identification and characterization of spawning aggregations by species, areas, and seasons.

(5) Stock assessments to establish the status of major recreational and commercial species. Especially needed are innovative methods for stock assessments on aggregate species, including the impact of fishing on genetic structure.

(6) Research in direct support of management techniques, including catch and release mortality, marine fishery reserves, gear and fishing tactic modifications to minimize bycatch, balancing traditional fisheries use with alternate uses (ecotourism, sport diving), and economic and social studies to evaluate impacts of management options.

(7) Examine and evaluate the use of reef-fish marine reserves as an alternative or supplement to current fishery management measures and practices.

(8) Utilize available data to describe the social-economic behavior of recreational fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (e.g., effects of switching species; effects of bag limits on recreational trips).

b. Additional explanation of research needs for Gulf reef fish is available from a MARFIN supported plan for cooperative reef-fish research in the Gulf of Mexico.

4. Coastal Herrings and Groundfish.

Preliminary studies indicate that substantial stocks of coastal herrings and groundfish occur in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Most of the available data come from fishery-independent surveys conducted by NMFS and state fishery management agencies. Because of the size of these stocks, their importance as prey, and in some instances as predator species, and their potential for development as commercial and recreational fisheries need to be understood. General research needs include:

a. Collection, collation, and analysis of available fishery-independent and fishery-dependent data from state and Federal surveys, with emphasis on species and size composition, seasonal distribution patterns, biomass, and environmental relationships. Emphasis should be given to controversial species such as Spanish sardines.

b. Description and quantification of predator-prey relationships between coastal herring and groundfish species and those such as the mackerels, tunas, swordfish, billfish, sharks, bluefish, and others in high demand by commercial and recreational fisheries.

5. Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fisheries.

The demand for many of the species in this complex by commercial and recreational fisheries has led to overfishing for some, such as Gulf king and Spanish mackerel and Atlantic Spanish mackerel. Additionally, some are transboundary with Mexico and other countries and ultimately will demand international management attention. Current high priorities include:

a. Development of recruitment indices for king and Spanish mackerel, cobia, and dolphin, and bluefish, primarily from fishery-independent data sources. Also, development of indices of year-class success using occurrence in bycatch.

b. Improved definition and quantification of the mixing of king mackerel between the Gulf and South Atlantic stocks, and between the western and eastern groups in the Gulf. More precise information on the boundaries between the king mackerel groups is needed.

c. Improved catch statistics for all species in Mexican waters, with special emphasis on king mackerel. This also includes length frequency and life history information.

d. Magnitude of bycatch of coastal migratory pelagics in fisheries for coastal herrings (e.g., menhaden purse-seine fishery and coastal herring purse-seine and beach-seine fisheries).

e. Information on populations of coastal pelagics overwintering off North Carolina, especially population size, age/size, food, and movements.

f. Collection of basic biostatistics for coastal pelagic species (e.g., cobia and dolphin) to develop age-length keys and maturation schedules for stock assessments, where significant gaps in the database exist.

Develop demand and supply functions for recreational and commercial fisheries for king mackerel as applicable. Emphasis can be on changes in marginal values of producer and surplus since the studies would be used in an allocation framework and total values are not necessarily required.

6. General.

There are many areas of research that need to be addressed for improved understanding and management of fishery resources. These include methods for data collection, management, and analysis; and for better conservation management. Examples of high-priority research topics include:

a. Development and refinement of social and economic models of fisheries. Models should focus on effects of management alternatives such as quotas, moratoria, fishery reserves, bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions, and limited area and seasonal closures.

b. Assessment of the changes in recreational and commercial values that have resulted from past management actions for red drum, shrimp, mackerels, and reef fish.

c. Development and evaluation of controlled-access approaches (e.g., limited entry) for species under Federal management. Of special interest are studies that would address fisheries where both state and Federal jurisdictions are involved, such as the shrimp fishery. Proposed studies of ITQ on similar systems for mackerel and reef fish will have the greatest priority. Proposed studies should consider existing management strategies and how these strategies might be benefitted or adversely impacted by controlling access. Additionally, they should address how a controlled access program should be introduced into the affected fisheries.

d. Development of improved methods and procedures for technology transfer and education of constituency groups concerning fishery management and conservative programs. Of special importance are programs concerned with controlled access and introductions of conservation gear and fishing practice modifications.

e. Develop new modeling and analytical approaches to understanding basic processes in fishery productivity and energy transfer that can be applied to specific fishery resource problems.

f. (Red drum) Estimate the effect of economic, biological, general levels of sport fishing and other appropriate factors on the total retained, and released catch of red drum.

g. Development of baseline socio-demographic information on federally-managed South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fisheries.

12/13/91
01/31/92 REV.
05/22/92 REV.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION
FY92 MARFIN ALLOCATION

INITIAL ALLOCATION:		2966.0
REDUCED BY:		
CONGRESSIONAL REDUCTION - \$14.0K		
DATA MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE ASSESSMENT - \$20.0K		
NOAA'S FY92 ASSESSMENT		-48.5
FY92 CONGRESSIONAL ADD-ON		1029.0
-AA'S 8% ASSESSMENT		-82.0
SUBTOTAL		3864.5
IN-HOUSE PROJECTS		
SOUTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER		-1944.2
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE		-200.0
ECONOMICS \$101.0K		
REC. FISH. 11.0K		
ADMINISTRATION 88.0K		
SUBTOTAL		1720.3
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS: (COMMITMENTS)		
MULTI-YEAR AWARDS	404.2	
SUBTOTAL		-404.2
CONTRACT(S): (THIRD YEAR COMMITMENT)		
GSMFC (ADMIN.)	46.2	
TRAVEL	20.0	
SUBTOTAL		-66.2
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS:		
GULF OF MEXICO	889.9	1249.9
SOUTH ATLANTIC	360.0	

FY92 MARFIN INHOUSE PROJECTS

	<u>GULF</u>	<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC</u>	<u>BY- CATCH</u>	<u>SUB- TOTAL</u>
<u>SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE</u>				
MARFIN PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	75.0	13.0		
EDUCATIONAL TOOLS FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN	11.0			
ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF FINFISH BYCATCH IN THE GOM SHRIMP FISHERY			101.0	
SUBTOTAL-SERO	86.0	13.0	101.0	200.0
 <u>SOUTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER</u>				
REEF FISH SPAWNING PERIODICITY . . .	102.7			
AGE & GROWTH OF GAG, RED GROUPER, & VERMILION SNAPPER	48.4			
MIGRATORY GROUP COMPOSITION OF KING MACKEREL IN THE FL KEYS	58.1			
FISHERY INDEPENDENT TECHNIQUES FOR REEF FISH	135.9			
TED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	63.0			
SMALL PELAGICS IN THE GOM	397.1			
SOUTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER - BYCATCH			1139.0	
SUBTOTAL-SEFC	805.2	0.0	1139.0	1944.2
 TOTAL INHOUSE MARFIN	 891.2	 13.0	 1240.0	 2144.2

	INITIAL TARGET	8% ASSESS.	1.9% ASSESS.	SUBTOTAL AFTER ASSESSMENT	SEFC	SERO	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	TOTAL ALLOCATION
SOUTH ATLANTIC MARFIN								
INITIAL TARGET	500.0							
NMFS ASSESSMENT (8% ON NEW MONEY) ADMINISTRATION (SERO)		40.0				13.0		13.0
NMFS BYCATCH (\$87.0K)					87.0			87.0
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS							360.0	360.0
GULF OF MEXICO MARFIN								
INITIAL TARGET	3495.0							
NOAA ASSESSMENT (1.9% ON OLD MONEY) NMFS ASSESSMENT (8.0% ON NEW MONEY)		42.0	48.5					
SERO INHOUSE (EXCLUDING BYCATCH)						86.0		86.0
SEFC INHOUSE (EXCLUDING BYCATCH)					805.2			805.2
SE BYCATCH								
SERO						101.0		
SEFC					1052.0			
MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS							404.2	404.2
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS							889.9	889.9
GSMFC CONTRACT FOR ADMINISTRATION							66.2	
GRAND TOTAL	3995.0	82.0	48.5	3864.5	1944.2	200.0	1720.3	3864.5

SUMMARY OF NMFS BYCATCH BUDGET FOR 1992 (\$1000)

Characterization

Project Management

Salaries and Benefits	112.0
Observer Training	28.0
Data Entry Equipment	6.1

Field Work

Electronic Fish Boards (10)	83.1
1251 Observer Sea Days	312.7
Equipment and Supplies	55.6

Port Agent Data Collection	35.0
----------------------------	------

Subtotal	632.5
----------	-------

Bycatch Reduction Devices

Gear Research

Salaries and Benefits	275.0
Travel	16.0
NOAA Vessel Studies	21.0
Equipment and Supplies	40.0

Evaluation of Devices

Testing of 8 Designs	123.5
Observers for Phase 3	14.0
Vessel Supplies and Support	17.0

Subtotal	506.5
----------	-------

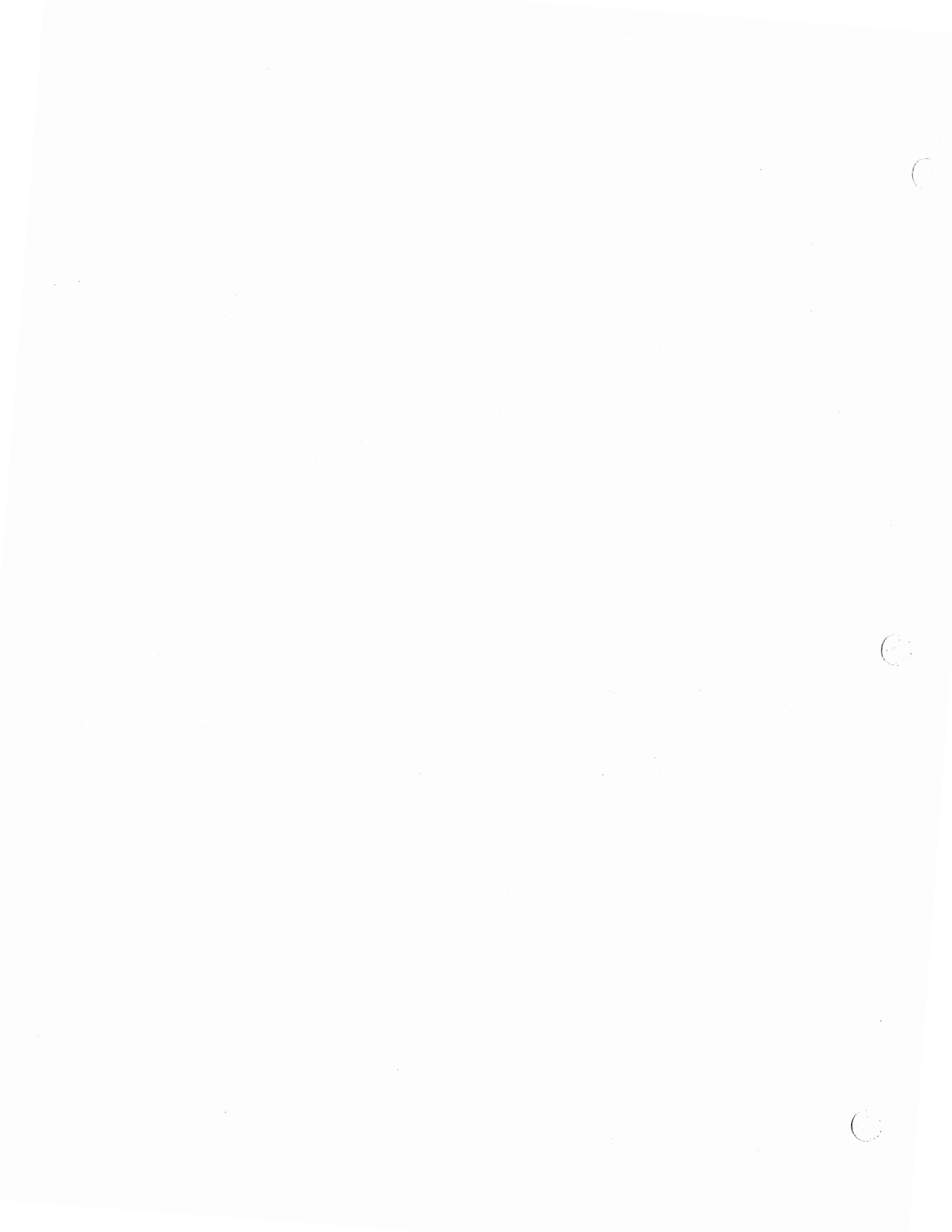
Economic Studies

Contract Survey	101.0
-----------------	-------

Total	1240.0
-------	--------

NOAA Tax	60.0
----------	------

Grand Total	1300.0
-------------	--------



NMFS BYCATCH GRANTS FOR 1992

GULF OF MEXICO

STRATEGIC PLANNING, DATA COLLECTION, AND GEAR EVALUATION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BYCATCH IN THE DIRECTED COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OF THE GOM (MF)	\$109,660.00
PATTERNS IN THE DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF FISHES AND MACROINVERTEBRATES IN A LA MARSH: SHRIMP BYCATCH IN INSHORE, FISHERY-INDEPENDENT TRAWL SAMPLES (MF)	\$ 32,162.00
FEASIBILITY STUDY: FINFISH EXCLUDING GEAR IN SHRIMP TRAWLS IN THE WGOM-BYCATCH (MF)	\$ 95,000.00
EVALUATION OF SHRIMP TRAWLS DESIGNED TO REDUCE BYCATCH IN INSHORE WATERS OF LA (MF)	\$ 46,917.00
FEASIBILITY STUDY: FINFISH EXCLUDING GEAR IN SHRIMP TRAWLS IN THE WGOM-BYCATCH (MF)	\$ 47,135.00
EVALUATION OF TRAWL BYCATCH IMPACT ON HIGH LEVEL CARNIVORES IN THE PELAGIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE WGOM (MF)	\$ 23,550.00
POTENTIAL FOR REDUCTION OF SHRIMP TRAWL BYCATCH OF SELECTED FINFISH SPECIES IN THE GOM (S-K)	\$ 56,139.00
INVESTIGATION OF THE BASIC BIOECONOMIC DYNAMICS OF BYCATCH PROBLEMS IN GOM FISHERY MANAGEMENT (S-K)	<u>\$ 10,601.00</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$426,164.00

NMFS BYCATCH GRANTS FOR 1992

SOUTH ATLANTIC

GEAR DEVELOPMENT TO REDUCE BYCATCH IN THE NORTH CAROLINA TRAWL FISHERIES (S-K) \$113,054.00

DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF FINFISH SEPARATOR DEVICE AND TED COMBINATIONS TO REDUCE BYCATCH IN THE SHRIMP FISHERY (S-K) \$ 40,653.00

INTRODUCTION OF THE SKIMMER TRAWL TO REDUCE BYCATCH AND INCIDENTAL CAPTURE OF SEA TURTLES IN INSHORE WATERS (S-K) \$ 57,909.00

BIOSOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERIZATION OF THE COMMERCIAL SHRIMP TRAWLER BYCATCH LANDED IN SC AND THE EFFECT OF JUVENILE MACKEREL MORTALITY CAUSED BY THE TRAWLS IN THE STOCK OF ADULT MACKEREL STOCKS (S-K) \$ 62,129.00

REDUCTION OF FINFISH CAPTURE IN SOUTH ATLANTIC SHRIMP TRAWLS - BYCATCH (S-K) \$ 76,445.00

SUBTOTAL \$350,190.00

NMFS BYCATCH GRANTS FOR 1992

BOTH

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE REDUCTION
OF BYCATCH IN SHRIMP TRAWLING OPERATIONS
AND ALTERNATIVE HARVESTING METHODS FOR THE
SHRIMP FISHERY (MF) \$ 99,650.00

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF A GOM AND
SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN FISHERY BYCATCH MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM (YEAR 1) (S-K) \$357,604.00

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF GOM AND
SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN FISHERY BYCATCH MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM (YEAR 2) (S-K) \$600,000.00

DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICAL METHODS TO
INCORPORATE UNCERTAINTY OF BYCATCH IN
STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS OF DIRECTED
FINFISH FISHERIES (S-K) \$ 36,452.00

SUBTOTAL \$1,093,706.00

GRAND TOTAL \$1,870,060.00



*Approved by
Committee*

SUMMARY
RecFIN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING on ORGANIZATION

June 1, 1992
Miami, Florida

The meeting convened at 10:30 am at the NMFS Miami Laboratory with the following individuals in attendance:

NMFS: Ron Schmied, Chairman
John Witzig
NC: Mike Street
ASMFC: Dianne Stephan
GSMFC: Ron Lukens (joined meeting at noon)
CFMC: Steve Meyers

Ron Schmied welcomed the group and emphasized that the purpose of the meeting was to formulate and recommend an organizational structure(s) for the RecFIN program. These recommendations will be discussed by the Plan Development Team at the upcoming July meeting in New Orleans.

After discussing various national and regional aspects of the RecFIN program, the subcommittee agreed to make the following recommendations to the PDT:

1. National RecFIN Goal

Assuming RecFIN will evolve into a national program, the Southeast and West Coast programs should cooperatively develop and adopt "national" goals and objectives to encourage and assist in this evolution. The following draft national goal and objectives are suggested for consideration. If acceptable, these should be conveyed to the West Coast RecFIN program for consideration.

GOAL: Development and operation of a national program to collect, manage, and disseminate marine recreational fishery information for use by States, Councils, Federal marine fishery management agencies and interstate commissions.

Objective 1: To provide for long-term national program planning.

Objective 2: To coordinate Program operations among Regions.

Objective 3: To ensure consistency and comparability among Regional Programs over time.

2. Southeast RecFIN Implementation Process

Given the complex nature of the program and the large geographic area to be addressed, the Southeast RecFIN Program should be implemented through the following process:

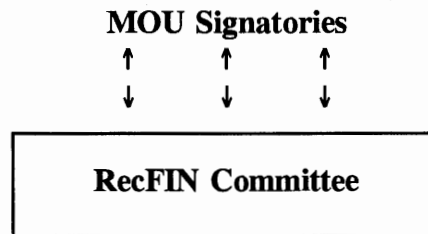
RecFIN Strategic Plan —————▶ MOU signed by Commissions, States, NMFS, FWS, etc.

When adopted, the Southeast RecFIN Strategic Plan will be the fundamental document establishing program goals and objectives, policies, procedures, and an organizational structure needed for program implementation. The Southeast RecFIN Strategic Plan should be formally adopted by all principal parties through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which establishes the intent of the signatories to participate in the Program for a three year period. The MOU should also include an evaluation requirement which must be addressed prior to any MOU extension or renewal. This will help ensure acceptable program implementation and performance.

To facilitate program implementation and accommodate the interests of principal program partners, a meeting of principals should be held in advance of the fall Commission meetings to allow them the opportunity to fully discuss these items and make any needed adjustments. It may be appropriate to use the Commission meetings to facilitate signing of the MOU.

3. Southeast RecFIN Organization Structure

A Southeast Region RecFIN Committee should be established as the primary vehicle for implementation of the Strategic Plan. While the Committee may be supported by several different agencies or organizations (eg. NMFS, Interstate Commissions, states), it would operate outside of their organizational structure. As the following diagram suggests, MOU signatories would be represented as voting members on the Committee with other non-voting members added as appropriate.



Membership:**Voting Directors and/or Designees:**

- States (10: NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, TX, PR, VI)
- NMFS (2: Headquarters and Southeast Region)
- FWS (2)
- NPS (1)
- Commissions (2: ASMFC, GSMFC)
- Councils (3: CFMC, GMFMC, SAFMC)

Non-Voting Cooperators:

- Others (Marine Sanctuaries, Sea Grant Programs, etc.)

Since voting Committee members would include MOU signatories or their designees from all areas of the Southeast, the Committee would be well positioned to deal with most program matters. Notably, Committee decisions should be made by consensus using a simple majority vote to resolve issues when consensus can't be reached.

The Committee should be empowered to establish standing or ad hoc working groups as needed to address technical or geographic issues. At the outset, three geographical working groups should be established, one each for the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean. These working groups will help facilitate planning, implementation, and coordination of RecFIN activities within their respective areas. Other standing or ad hoc working groups could be established, as needed, to address regionwide technical issues such as survey design, data management, social/economic data needs, rare event fishery surveys, and information dissemination.

4. Logistical Support for the RecFIN Committee

In keeping with ongoing or planned Interstate Commission functions, logistical and other needed support for the RecFIN Committee and its geographical or technical working groups may be provided by the ASMFC for South Atlantic members/groups, the GSMFC for Gulf of Mexico members/groups, and perhaps by the Caribbean Council for Caribbean members/groups. For example, the GSMFC is currently using funds from a Wallop-Breaux Administrative Grant to assist in the initial RecFIN planning effort. Both the ASMFC and GSMFC are seeking funds to support continued planning and 1993 start-up activities. In the event that the Caribbean Council can't support Caribbean members/working groups, the ASMFC or GSMFC could possibly provide such support subject to the consent of all involved agencies. If this is not feasible, travel support for Caribbean participants may have to be handled through invitational travel orders from NMFS. Federal agency members would be supported by their respective agencies.

Long-term funding strategies for Recfin program activities must be explored early on and should include existing or new state and federal funds, Sport Fish Restoration Program Funds (state and administrative grants), private sector sources, and others.

Virginia Vail 17 Nov 92

TCC RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Thursday and Friday, June 11 and 12, 1992
New Orleans, Louisiana

Chairwoman, Virginia Vail, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The following were in attendance:

Members

Virginia Vail, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Tina Berger, SFI, Washington, D.C.
Mike Buchanan, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS
Rick Kasprzak, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Hal Osburn, TPWD, Austin, TX

Staff

Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Others

Jim Hart, Aquarium of the Americas, New Orleans, LA
Les Dautrive, MMS, New Orleans, LA
Norm Froomer, MMS, New Orleans, LA
Burt Mullin, MMS, New Orleans, LA

Adoption of Agenda

Chairwoman Vail suggested adding to the agenda a summary report of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Artificial Reef Advisory Committee meeting which she and Tina Berger just attended. Lukens suggested that if there were time the members may want to give state/organizational updates. The agenda was adopted without objection with both suggested changes.

Approval of Minutes

Following a review and discussion of the minutes from the last meeting, they were approved without objection.

Summary of Recent Meeting of Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Artificial Reef Advisory Committee

The Artificial Reef Advisory Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) met on June 9 and 10, 1992 in Norfolk, Virginia. The primary focus was on pollutants or contaminants which may be associated with artificial reef material. Two main materials discussed were automobile tires and PCBs on ships. The Navy has stopped the use of derelict ships for target

TCC RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -2-

practice due to the presence of PCBs; consequently, this has caused some concern regarding their use as artificial reefs, and what it might mean to a state program if a ship in their possession is declared contaminated. Testing, clean-up, and disposal of the contaminants would likely far exceed the program's funding capability. Vail then gave a detailed discussion of the occurrence and diversity of PCBs. Apparently PCBs on ships is primarily a military ship issue.

Currently, a proposal is before Congress which would make 15 ships available to states for artificial reef application from a surplus fleet of 115. Also the Secretary of Commerce would have the authority to select which ships would go to which states. There are no provisions for state artificial reef programs to have input into the criteria for ship selection. This is an issue on which the ASMFC Artificial Reef Advisory Committee is working. The ships which will be available are from a time when PCB use was widespread; consequently, the probability is high that a program will have to spend funds to inspect, clean-up, and dispose of those contaminants. A naval shipyard engineer indicated that one tenth-of-a-part per billion detection of PCBs is enough to trigger an inspection and clean-up. This could easily cause the use of surplus ships to be prohibitive.

H. Osburn indicated that Bill Figley, New Jersey member of the ASMFC Committee, had agreed to look into developing a set of guidelines for use in selecting ships and how to determine whether it required contaminant inspection, clean-up, and disposal. He queried whether that was being done or not. Vail replied that the discussion at the recent meeting was the first step in addressing that issue.

Tires are a particular concern due to increasing pressure from state solid waste management departments to dispose of tires on artificial reefs rather than on landfills. A scientific advisor from the Rubber Manufacturer's Association (RMA) attended the ASMFC meeting. He provided much detailed information regarding tires. Chairwoman Vail indicated that she will summarize her notes from the presentation and provide them to the Subcommittee. The RMA sees incineration of tires for fuel as being the main form of disposal; however, that is for new tires in production now. There is still the problem of existing waste tires.

TCC RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -3-

Bill Muir from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) followed with a discussion, with the EPA's main concern of leachate from tires. Apparently, most contaminants which could leach out of tires has already done so through normal use on roads before ever reaching an artificial reef site. Such leaching, however, does potentially contaminate the ground and water through run-off. Further testing should elucidate that situation.

The ASMFC Committee then heard from an environmental toxicologist who provided a lengthy, detailed discussion of the biological effects of a variety of toxicants, and the implication of their presence in the environment.

* Berger indicated that the ASMFC Committee is working on the issue of assessment of commercial versus recreational use of artificial reefs. As a part of that activity, an economic assessment of artificial reef use is planned. New Jersey has developed a document (draft) on artificial reef users and value; however, it is not available yet for distribution or citation. Berger also mentioned the ASMFC's Committee actions on special management zones (SMZ) in the Mid and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils fishery management plans. The Committee may move toward a position on artificial reef use as a management tool. SMZs can function that way. Lukens indicated that, for the Gulf of Mexico, the most appropriate vehicle through which to enact SMZs would be through the reef fish management plan of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Currently there are no SMZ provisions in the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico. Further, he stated that the Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, Inc., the only artificial reef permit holder in Mississippi, had written a letter to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council encouraging them to include SMZ provisions in their next amendment to the reef fish management plan. **A discussion of SMZs ensued, culminating in a motion by H. Osburn that the GSMFC send a letter to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council requesting that an amendment process be initiated to provide for SMZs in the reef fish management plan. The motion was seconded.** Discussion indicated that the ASMFC Committee had drafted some language for SMZ action on the Atlantic coast which may be useful in offering language to the Gulf Council. **The motion passed without objection.** Further discussion of the gamut of options regarding SMZ restrictions took place. It was indicated that options range from completely unrestricted to total gear restrictions. Lukens pointed out that SMZ applications are considered by

councils on a case-by-case basis, each one being considered on its own merit and justification. Lukens also pointed out that SMZs through the regional fishery management councils are for areas in the federal zone only. A state already has the authority to create SMZs and regulate activities on artificial reefs as they see fit. It was also pointed out that enforcement of SMZ restrictions is a big problem. In the EEZ, Coast Guard, NMFS, and cross-deputized state enforcement officers can enforce provisions; however, little on-site enforcement ever takes place, and direct observation of violations of SMZ restrictions is necessary to make a case.

Artificial Reef Data Base Publication

Lukens indicated that the Gulf of Mexico artificial reef data base is now on line at the Sport Fishing Institute's Artificial Reef Development Center in Washington, D.C. He indicated that the next step was to develop a publication containing information from the data base, and that the Subcommittee should determine what the contents of that publication should be. Lukens suggested that the publication could contain state program descriptions, federal program descriptions, and selected elements of the data base as a minimum. Along with the program descriptions he provided a form which would contain the vital elements of the program, such as program coordinator, funding base, research to date, etc., which would serve as a quick reference guide. The Subcommittee asked Lukens to prepare a discussion of the federal agencies which have been involved in artificial reefs and a summary of their activities and spheres of influence, including the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Minerals Management Service, and others.

The Subcommittee entered into a discussion of the data base itself. T. Berger indicated that the data base should be updated before the data are extracted for inclusion in the publication. Lukens then distributed two forms, one of which will contain data specific to artificial reef sites, and the other of which will contain programmatic information. A discussion ensued regarding the table elements. Lukens asked if both latitude/longitude and loran coordinates are used in the data base? Berger indicated that some entries are latitude/longitude and some are loran. Lukens indicated that the GSMFC has a

TCC RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -5-

software package that will convert one to the other in case there is a need to do that. Some discussion then ensued regarding latitude/longitude and loran coordinates.

Berger indicated that before the Subcommittee discussed the elements in the proposed tables, they should first decide who the audience for the publication is. Following some discussion on the matter, it was determined that the publication should not specifically be an angler guide but rather should be for general management information. Regarding the tables handed out and other sections for the publication, the following suggestions were made for information to be included:

- 1) area of permitted site
- 2) distinguish between area and volume (introductory comments)
- 3) ratio of total water area offshore to total artificial reef area
- 4) reef site dimensions and description and other site specific information (comments section)
- 5) standardize permitted areas (units appropriate to each site)
- 6) water depth as minimum and maximum
- 7) date as date of first deployment rather than date permitted
- 8) section describing federal agency programs and activities
- 9) map of reef sites for each state

T. Berger agreed to mail current data base files to each state by August 1 so that they can be updated. Included will be a copy of the state program narrative. Each state representative will send updated and corrected information back to Berger by September 15. Following the update, Berger will provide templates for data elements to be included in the publication.

Mapping Program - Minerals Management Service

Minerals Management Service (MMS) provided the Subcommittee with a detailed discussion of a mapping initiative in which they are involved. They have accessed the current artificial reef data base through T. Berger for inclusion of those artificial reef sites in their mapping efforts. Some discussion ensued regarding the possibility of the MMS cooperating with the Subcommittee in the production of maps for the upcoming publication. Indications were that they

probably can assist; however, a decision on that issue will be made later. L. Dautrive will inform Lukens as to their ability to produce the needed maps. It was agreed that the mapping capabilities displayed by the MMS were impressive and could certainly be important in future activities.

Scope, Content, and Format of Ash Utilization Workshop

Lukens opened the discussion regarding the proposed workshop to investigate standards and guidelines for the use of incineration ash in artificial reef materials. Lukens proposed that the workshop be scheduled for two full days, with the first day being dedicated to information and position presentations and the second day being dedicated to full discussion of issues identified and presented on the first day. He indicated that the full concerns of the two artificial reef committees of the GSMFC and ASMFC should be presented first, and that the speakers invited to make presentations should respond to those concerns. V. Vail presented some comments on concerns provided by Steve Heinz from the State of New York. Those are as follows:

- 1) current plans in New York do not include use the volume of material which could be made available
- 2) do not want solid waste disposal issues to be driving force behind artificial reef construction goals and objectives
- 3) need a quality assurance/quality control program

* Following some discussion regarding the workshop format, it was agreed that we could not expect to attain specific, technical standards and guidelines (eg. levels of a specific toxicant) at the proposed workshop. We should expect to narrow the area of unknowns and concerns, which will lead the participants to a series of broad policy guidelines. Also we should expect to identify those areas that are in need of more detailed attention. **T. Berger made a motion that the GSMFC and ASMFC hold a joint meeting following the workshop. The motion was seconded.** A lengthy discussion ensued as to specifically how the workshop will be formatted and how decisions during the workshop will be made. Lukens explained how he had envisioned the process, but indicated that his suggestions were only to be a starting point, and that the Subcommittee should make the final decisions as to how the workshop proceeded. Lukens explained that by establishing a set of questions and concerns that we expect the presenters to

address, then those questions and concerns can be answered either in total or in part. Remaining, unanswered questions would then be the subject of further work. Resulting from the second day of discussions, certain broad policy guidance could be established. The joint committee meeting following the workshop could allow the groups to establish the next step in the process. **The Subcommittee decided to delay action on the motion and to table further discussion on the workshop until later in the meeting.**

Discussion of the Use of Automobile Tires as Artificial Reef Materials

* Lukens indicated that Vernon Minton, ADCNR, had asked for the agenda to include a discussion on the use of automobile tires as artificial reef materials. Specifically, Minton asked the Subcommittee to consider adopting a position that automobile tires are not an artificial reef material of choice by artificial reef managers in the Gulf of Mexico region; however, if tires are to be used they should be used ballasted modules like those developed by the New Jersey artificial reef program. His reasoning is that it would limit the ability of the general public to use tires, thus set a level of quality control over tire use. **R. Kasprzak made a motion that the Subcommittee establish the position that if automobile tires must be used as artificial reef material, they should be properly ballasted to ensure their stability on the bottom (reference the New Jersey modules). The motion was seconded and passed without objection.**

Continuation of Ash Reef Workshop Item

Chairwoman Vail reopened the discussion on the utilization of incineration ash in artificial reef materials. **Berger's earlier motion which was tabled was readdressed and passed without objection.** Following a lengthy discussion, the Subcommittee agreed to the following list of issues and concerns regarding items to discuss at the workshop:

- 1) Quality assurance/quality control (standard mix, standard ash content, etc.)
- 2) Solid waste disposal objectives should not be the driving force behind artificial reef construction
- 3) Demand for ash material in artificial reefs is far less than the supply

- 4) How does incineration ash vary (bottom, fly, municipal solid waste, oil, and coal)
- 5) What is the cost/benefit potential for artificial reef managers
- 6) Use of concrete materials is labor intensive
- 7) What is the long term (50 years +) structural integrity of ash/concrete materials
- 8) What are the potential public perceptions regarding the possible environmental problems (institutional approval may help)
- 9) What is the potential liability for artificial reef programs

Lukens then reviewed a handout provided to the Subcommittee regarding potential presentations for the workshop. The general consensus was that the information resulting from the current meeting will lay an adequate base for the workshop.

Discussion of Future Subcommittee Activities

Lukens discussed the upcoming proposal for the 1993-1995 Sport Fish Restoration Administrative Program. Lukens indicated that for those three years, one major activity had been identified for completion. That activity is to develop a set of guidelines for the inspection of artificial reef materials for preparation and deployment and a materials list with specific concerns regarding the use of those materials along with recommendations for addressing identified concerns. Lukens indicated that the activity should not be a list that either recommends or fails to recommend any specific material, but rather a complete discussion of the pros and cons/benefits and drawbacks of various materials. Also included should be recommendations on information, research, and data needs regarding the use of certain materials, and recommendations on optimum ways to use certain materials (eg. tires ballasted in concrete). R. Kasprzak suggested that the document should discuss what the ideal qualities are for artificial reef materials. Vail clarified that the report should focus on the materials and their use over time, and not on individual state experiences with certain materials. In other words, report chapters will focus on the materials with supportive information from state experiences, not state programs and their experiences. There followed a discussion regarding the possibility of developing a report on artificial reef development and management issues. Some issues

TCC RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

Page -9-

suggested included optimum reef size, when have we built enough reefs, buoys, production versus aggregation, etc. Other potential activities were also discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM
MINUTES
Wednesday, July 8, 1992
New Orleans, Louisiana

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. The following people were present:

Skip Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Joe Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Steve Meyers, CFMC, San Juan, PR
Albert Jones, NMFS, Miami, FL
Ted Storck, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Steve Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Walter Padilla, VIDNR, St. Thomas, VI
Jane Dicosimo, SAFMC, Charleston, SC
David Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Introductory Comments

Ron Lukens opened the meeting by explaining that the current meeting was called as a result of the group discussion toward the end of the June 1992 Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP) Workshop. It was pointed out that a number of the CSP participants would be in New Orleans, in July in conjunction with the second RecFIN planning meeting, and that we could capitalize on the opportunity to continue our discussions of the CSP and the new directions which have been discussed. It was pointed out and agreed to that the current meeting was not an official meeting of the Southeast Cooperative Statistics Committee (SCSC), but rather a work session in preparation for the next official meeting. Any results from the current meeting will be recommendations to the full SCSC. Steve Meyers agreed with Lukens' explanation and suggested that the group ask Skip Lazauski to serve as Ad Hoc Chairman for the meeting. The group agreed unanimously. Al Jones then indicated that he thought John Poffenberger was tentatively planning the next official SCSC meeting for sometime in August.

Jones indicated that upon further reflection of the situation regarding the CSP, he felt that the major contributing factor to the identified problems was the lack of NMFS data management support to the states. That situation was not by choice, but rather a result of limited resources and time. Because of that

situation, each state began to develop their own systems, thus fragmentation of the CSP resulted. Jones also indicated that funding reductions to the CSP exacerbated the fragmentation.

Discussion of Annual Workshop Summary Reports

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's (GSMFC) and National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Cooperative Statistics Workshop reports were discussed. Lukens pointed out GSMFC's report was intended to be a GSMFC document and in no way should be construed as an official record of the 1992 CSP June Workshop. Jones indicated that he and Poffenberger felt that the GSMFC's report was unnecessary and overly critical of NMFS; however, if it was intended as a GSMFC internal report that he would have no objection to it. Lukens indicated that his intent in bringing up the report was to get input from as many of the workshop participants as possible as to the accuracy of the report. S. Meyers suggested that, since the report is intended to be a GSMFC document, a detailed review of the GSMFC's report should be tabled until a later time or that people could provide their comments to Lukens individually by mail. The group then discussed the document provided by Poffenberger as highlights of the 1992 CSP June Workshop. Lukens indicated that he had no negative comments concerning NMFS's report but believed the report did not contain enough detail to establish a proper administrative record. Some discussion of that issue ensued with general agreement that more detailed reports would be desirable.

CSP Goals and Objectives

Jane Dicosimo opened the discussion of the CSP goals and objectives, indicating that the second iteration offered by Poffenberger was significantly different from the first. The other meeting participants agreed with that assessment. Dicosimo indicated that Poffenberger's cover memo was easily misread to mean that the second iteration of goals and objectives resulted from suggestions by Poffenberger, Paul Phalen (NC), and Gina Gore (GA). Phalen and Gore both wanted the record to show that the new document was not a reflection of their input, and that they did not endorse the new language. Lukens pointed out that he had talked with Phalen and Gore prior to the meeting and they indicated that they would rather return to the original goals and objectives with

some minor editorial changes, and that the preamble which was added should be deleted. It was pointed out that in addition to the preamble being added, the mission statement was deleted. The group agreed the mission statement should be retained. Several states had a problem with the second paragraph in the preamble. That paragraph stated that since NMFS has responsibilities under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA), the priorities of the CSP would of necessity have to be greater for those species under MFCMA jurisdiction if NMFS was to be a partner in the CSP. Lukens pointed out that the other partners had authorizations and responsibilities in their respective states, and that their role as partners should place an equal emphasis on their need for data on species not under MFCMA management. Lukens also indicated that he felt that the Preamble should be deleted in lieu of a more detailed document which would provide background, need, and direction to the "new" CSP. The goals and objectives, in and of themselves, do not constitute enough direction for a program as complex as the CSP. The group decided a strategic plan should be developed and that this issue should be an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting. Also, a full discussion of the goals and objectives should be postponed until the next meeting where they should be finalized. One final recommendation of the group was that the goals and objectives should contain language that clearly establishes that NMFS is responsible for program management and administration of the CSP.

Discussion of CSP Organizational Structure and Cooperative Agreements

Lukens indicated that he did not expect a great deal of discussion on these issues, but felt that it would be useful to reiterate some points which had been covered during the CSP Workshop. In response to the CSP Review Report, Lukens stressed the importance of making the ASMFC, GSMFC, and CFMC statistics committees formal operating components of the CSP. It is felt that the potential of the concept becoming lost over time again would be too great to take it for granted. Jones indicated that it would be illegal for NMFS to enter into an agreement that gave any groups outside of the NMFS decision-making power over programs which are the responsibility of the NMFS. Lukens responded that it was understood that the three groups would have no legal authority, but would rather provide recommendations to NMFS regarding operations and policies of the CSP.

Lukens then stressed the need to retain language that stipulates the appropriateness and need for using cooperative agreements as the funding vehicle for the CSP. It was pointed out that Poffenberger's second iteration of the goals and objectives had dropped the cooperative agreement language. A discussion ensued regarding the effort within the Department of Commerce to make all programs competitive through the use of contracts. This vehicle would preclude a true cooperative program and would allow for contractors nation-wide to bid for the contract to collect and manage the data for the CSP. It is imperative that the CSCS stand unified on the use of cooperative agreements.

Discussion of Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN)

S. Lazauski provided an overview of the proposed Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN). He indicated that presently, ComFIN is an initiative which hopefully will evolve into a program similar to RecFIN. A discussion ensued regarding the February 1989 workshop which analyzed existing recreational data programs and provided recommendations for a comprehensive recreational fishery data collection and management program. That effort in conjunction with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission was the genesis of the Southeast Recreational Fishery Information Network (RecFIN). He stated that a workshop is tentatively scheduled for early 1993 to initiate the development process. The group agreed that a full discussion of ComFIN at the next CSP meeting would be helpful.

Other Business

The group discussed the possibility of coordinating the next CSP meeting with the RecFIN meeting. The group believed this would cut down on travel costs and other expenses since many of the members on the CSP and also involved in RecFIN.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

*Approved
by Committee*

SUMMARY

SECOND MEETING OF THE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM (PDT)
for the
RECREATIONAL FISHERIES INFORMATION NETWORK
SOUTHEAST REGION
RecFIN (SE)

OMNI ROYAL ORLEANS HOTEL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
JULY 9-10, 1992

The second meeting of the RecFIN(SE) PDT was held to review progress on the RecFIN plan and to develop sections on program management and operations. A. Jones presided over the meeting. All states and territories, except Georgia, were represented, in addition to all three fishery management councils, both interstate fisheries commissions, NMFS Headquarters, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service. An attendance list is attached (Attachment 1).

AGENDA

A report by J. Witzig on his attendance at a meeting of the Pacific Coast RecFIN program was added as agenda item 1(a). While acknowledging some overlap in the discussion topics as presented, the agenda (Attachment 2), as modified by the addition of item 1(a), was approved by consensus.

REPORT OF ORGANIZATIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

R. Schmied summarized the results of the meeting of the RecFIN(SE) Subcommittee on Organization, held June 1 (Attachment 3). Discussion among the PDT members centered on several topics concerning management of RecFIN(SE):

Determination of voting members:

- **NMFS:** The possibility of two votes on the RecFIN(SE) Committee was discussed - one for Headquarters (MRFSS), one for the Southeast Region - because of differences between the national and regional scopes
- **Commissions:** The question of the commissions' votes was discussed. It is anticipated that the commissions will provide major logistics support, resources, and staff that will help tie the program together. The commissions also produce management plans analogous to the council management plans. Even though the commissions will be represented on the RecFIN(SE) Committee through their member states, the above were considered sufficient reasons to justify a separate vote.

- **Councils:** The councils will certainly be major users of the RecFIN data and need the best management information available; therefore they need to have voting representation on the RecFIN(SE) Committee. In addition, the Caribbean Council will provide support similar to the commissions.
- **FWS:** Two votes may be warranted (regional Fishery Management plus regional Federal Aid) depending on how Wallop/Breaux Sport Fish Restoration money, a potential source of RecFIN funding, is involved. Both management authority and fiduciary responsibility for the money will have to be represented.
- **NPS:** The National Park Service representative expressed the desire of his agency to be included in the MOU.
- **NOAA Sanctuaries:** There has been no response to RecFIN from the contacts in NOAA Sanctuaries. Their involvement may be affected by how much regulatory authority has been delegated to NMFS compared to how much is retained by NOS.

Most discussion favored including the councils and commissions as voting members. It was also suggested, because the first 3 years will be a pilot program, that all agencies involved in RecFIN(SE) should vote; this would ensure full cooperation from everyone. The MOU can always be amended, and the RecFIN Committee can expand its membership as desired. Any agency that signs the MOU should be a voting member and share in the responsibilities and rewards. The signatories, however, should be limited to regulatory and planning agencies; i.e., states and territories, NMFS, councils, commissions, FWS, and NPS. No non-state/federal groups (e.g., GCCA, Billfish Foundation) will be represented.

It was agreed by consensus that the signatories to the MOU will be:

- The eight states, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands - 1 vote each.
- NMFS - 2 votes.
- FWS - 2 votes.
- NPS - 1 vote.
- The two commissions and three councils - 1 vote each.

These signatories or their designees, for a total of 20 votes, will comprise the membership of the RecFIN(SE) Committee and will have the authority from their agencies to carry out the regional program. Other agencies with a geographic interest in the program, such as NOAA Sanctuaries and Sea Grant, may be invited to participate as observers but will not be signatories to the MOU.

Decisions by RecFIN Committee

The PDT agreed, with no objection, that decisions of the RecFIN(SE) Committee should be reached by consensus, rather than a majority vote, as described on p. 3 of Attachment 3. Should a vote be needed, the majority vote (one-half plus one) of a quorum will determine the preferred action.

Working groups

The PDT agreed, with no objection, that the RecFIN(SE) Committee can establish standing or ad hoc working groups. These should always be formed with a specific written charge.

Logistical support

The Subcommittee's recommendations on logistical support as presented on p. 3 of Attachment 3 were approved by the PDT.

Long-term funding

The PDT modified the Subcommittee's statement on long-term funding strategies (p. 3 of Attachment 3) to read: Long-term funding strategies for RecFIN program activities must be explored early on and should include existing or new state or federal funds, Sport Fish Restoration Program Funds (state and administrative grants), private sector sources, and others.

National RecFIN goal

The Organizational Subcommittee also recommended a national goal for the RecFIN program that would be added to the goals of both RecFIN(SE) and RecFIN(Pacific). J. Witzig will make an informal request that RecFIN(Pacific) discuss this at its next meeting. **The goal as stated on p. 1 of Attachment 3 was slightly modified to read:** "To support the development and operation of a national program to collect, manage, and disseminate marine recreational fishery information for use by states, councils, interstate commissions, and federal marine fishery management agencies." This tentative goal and its objectives, as presented in Attachment 3, were approved as RecFIN(SE) Goal 4.

PREPARATION OF MOU

Points of discussion on preparation of the RecFIN(SE) MOU were:

- The MOU is a limited document that signals the parties' full intent to cooperate in the program. It does not have to list all the rules, and the parties do not commit to funding or resources before the strategic and annual operations plans are approved.
- An early signing of the MOU may help make travel and other funds available.
- The state directors would like to see a RecFIN strategic plan by fall; the MOU can be included in the package.
- The South Atlantic agencies may sign the MOU with the intent to develop the program but are very skeptical of its implementation. They recognize the need for recreational data but are dissatisfied with the funding level and operation of the commercial statistics program.

The PDT agreed by consensus to develop a draft RecFIN(SE) MOU, modeled on the Pacific RecFIN MOU, for review before the next PDT meeting in mid-August. The MOU will be edited by the PDT at the August meeting. A revised MOU will be sent to the PDT, who will make it available to their directors. Comments from directors will be received by early September (a meeting, conference call, or phone ballot may be appropriate). The final MOU will be completed in time for NMFS legal review and will be presented formally at the ASMFC meeting the week of September 20 and the GSMFC meeting the week of October 12.

It was also agreed to proceed with work on the RecFIN(SE) Plan and to have a second draft prepared for review at the August PDT meeting. Depending on the amount of work accomplished on the document, the final plan may be presented at the fall ASMFC and GSMFC meetings or it may be possible to present only a progress report on the plan's development.

PACIFIC COAST RECFIN MEETING

J. Witzig reported on the Pacific RecFIN meeting he attended in Portland on June 18 and distributed a summary report of that meeting (Attachment 4). The purpose of the meeting was to set up subcommittees; the subcommittees designated were on statistics, socioeconomics, data collection, and data bases.

FISH CONSUMPTION PROJECT

A. Jones reported on a proposed project of the SEFSC Charleston Laboratory for a statistical survey on consumption of recreational fish. The first meeting of a planning group for this purpose was held this week. It may be appropriate to include this survey, if and when it is conducted, in the RecFIN(SE) program. PDT comments were that this project or similar projects may be an avenue for industry to get involved in the RecFIN(SE) program.

WORK ON COMPLETION OF RECFIN(SE) PLAN

The PDT agreed that the plan presented to agency directors in the fall will not be a detailed operations plan but a strategic plan. **The name will be changed to RecFIN(SE) Strategic Plan.** Preparation of a full operations plan will be one of the first tasks of the RecFIN(SE) Committee. **The PDT modified the Table of Contents of the draft plan to accommodate the changed scope (Attachment 5).**

Definition of RecFIN(SE)

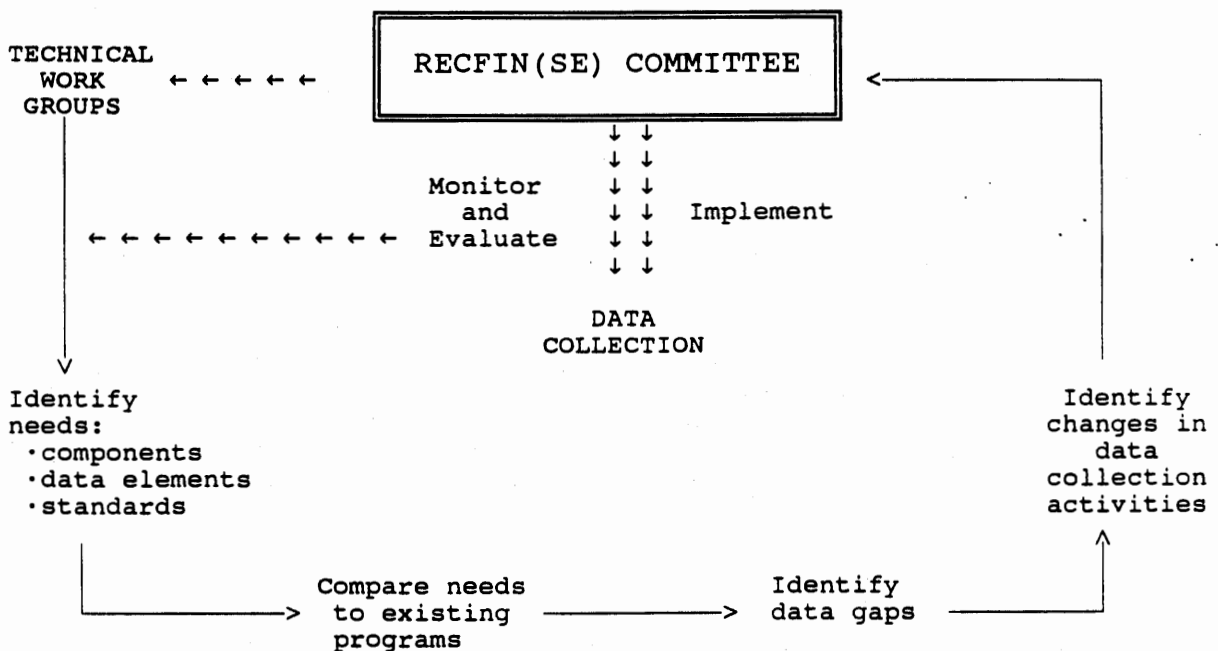
A. Jones developed a definition of the RecFIN(SE) program: RecFIN(SE) is a cooperative effort among agencies that collect marine recreational fishery statistics and other parties that have an interest in marine recreational statistical data to plan and

effect a program of data collection, data management, and information dissemination for the Southeast Region of the U.S.

Decisions on data collection (Section V.A., revised TOC)

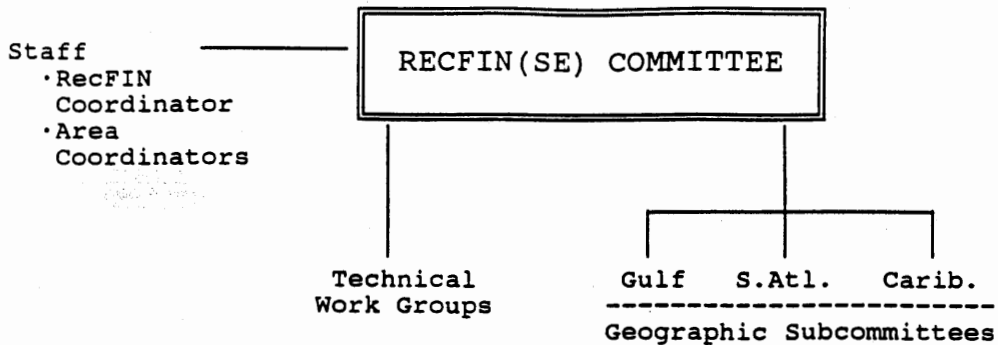
The data collection activities conducted by RecFIN(SE) will be determined according to the following scheme:

The RecFIN(SE) Committee will charge Technical Work Groups in writing with specific tasks (e.g., identify data elements, priorities, and standards) to determine data needs, based on accepted criteria. These needs will be compared to existing programs and capabilities (also determined by a work group) to identify data gaps. The activities necessary to fill these gaps will be determined (e.g., changes in MRFSS, addition of special surveys, coordination of existing surveys). The RecFIN(SE) Committee will implement, monitor, and evaluate these activities. On an annual basis, the Committee will determine if changes are needed to the current activities to accomplish the program goals.



Decisions on organizational structure (Section VI.A., revised TOC)

The organizational structure developed by the PDT is summarized in the following diagram:



- **RecFIN(SE) Committee**

Purpose: To plan, manage, and evaluate the cooperative and coordinated regional RecFIN(SE) program. The Committee's duties are to: Establish and implement program policy, establish program priorities, establish and disband work groups, prepare detailed operations (work) plans, approve the annual work plan and reports, evaluate the 3-year pilot RecFIN(SE) program, support development of a national RecFIN program, and sponsor appropriate forums.

Membership: It is anticipated that senior agency officials will be the signatories to the MOU and will designate technical representatives to represent them as regular members on the Committee. At the time of the first meeting of the Committee, the PDT will disband (if the Strategic Plan is completed) and responsibility for the program will pass to the Committee.

Procedures: Decisions of the Committee will normally be reached by consensus, rather than by vote. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be reached by a simple majority vote of a quorum (one over half). The Committee will need to define the procedure by which members are notified, role of alternates, etc.

- **Geographic Subcommittees**

Purpose: To make recommendations to the full Committee on needs of the three geographic subregions - Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean.

Membership: The subcommittees will be comprised of members of the RecFIN Committee.

- **Technical Work Groups**

Purpose: Established as needed by the RecFIN Committee to carry out specific technical charges. Work groups will be appropriate for accomplishing many of the specific RecFIN(SE) objectives.

Membership: Each group will be comprised of persons selected by the Committee for their expertise in the specific subject to be addressed by a particular work group.

- **RecFIN(SE) Coordinator**

Purpose: To provide overall technical coordination and support for the RecFIN(SE) Committee and the work groups; e.g., to design and coordinate survey programs, to call and arrange meetings of the Committee and work groups, to disseminate reports and other information, to prepare the annual operations plan, to prepare the annual report.

Position: This position will ideally be filled by a NMFS employee.

- **Area Coordinators**

Purpose: To provide staff support and perform functions at the geographic area level similar to those of the RecFIN(SE) Coordinator.

Positions: A coordinator (probably part-time) will be provided by each of the GSMFC, ASMFC, and the CFMC for the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Subcommittees respectively.

Decisions on resource requirements (Section VI.B., revised TOC)

The resources required for operation of RecFIN(SE) can be divided into administrative support and programmatic functions. In-kind contributions by each participating agency for staff salaries, facilities, and equipment are anticipated to be extensive.

- **Requirements for Support Functions**

RecFIN Committee: It is anticipated that the Committee will hold two or three meetings during the first year. Funds will be needed for travel, meeting, and administrative expenses in addition to in-kind contributions. The estimated cost of three 2-day meetings for 20 people is \$25K. State agencies cannot be assured of having travel funds. The GSMFC intends to support travel by the Gulf states. NMFS may have to support travel by the Caribbean representatives and North Carolina. NMFS has some discretionary funds but won't be able to designate them because the budget won't be known until January-April 1993. SEFSC may have some year-end funds that could be used. The commissions should know by mid-September about the W/B funds. The preferred method to pay for travel is through the commissions or the CFMC. Even Federal Aid funds given to the states are subject to state travel restrictions.

Geographic Subcommittees: Funds will be needed for travel, meeting, and administrative expenses in addition to in-kind contributions.

Technical Work Groups: Funds will be needed for travel, meeting, and administrative expenses in addition to in-kind contributions. A large expense may be consulting costs for statisticians, etc.

Coordinators: Administrative/support funds are needed.

• **Requirements for Programmatic Functions**

MRFSS Base: The base program is currently funded by NMFS and by state add-ons. The FY92 funding level is now considered the base level.

MRFSS Supplements: W/B cooperative grants should be explored during the first year of RecFIN(SE) for funding of supplements related to finfish.

Special Surveys: Funding will be required.

Other Surveys: Funding will be required.

D. Beaumariage of FWS discussed the resources available through the Federal Aid Program (W/B Sport Fish Restoration). Two types of projects are funded: 1) Supplements to MRFSS and 2) other work. Funding is of two types:

Administrative Funds are for a maximum of 3 years. There is not much funding available for new projects. A project cannot be funded to just develop infrastructure; it must show progress and benefits. Chances are very limited for new money for RecFIN through the commissions. The commissions could refocus some of their current funding on RecFIN.

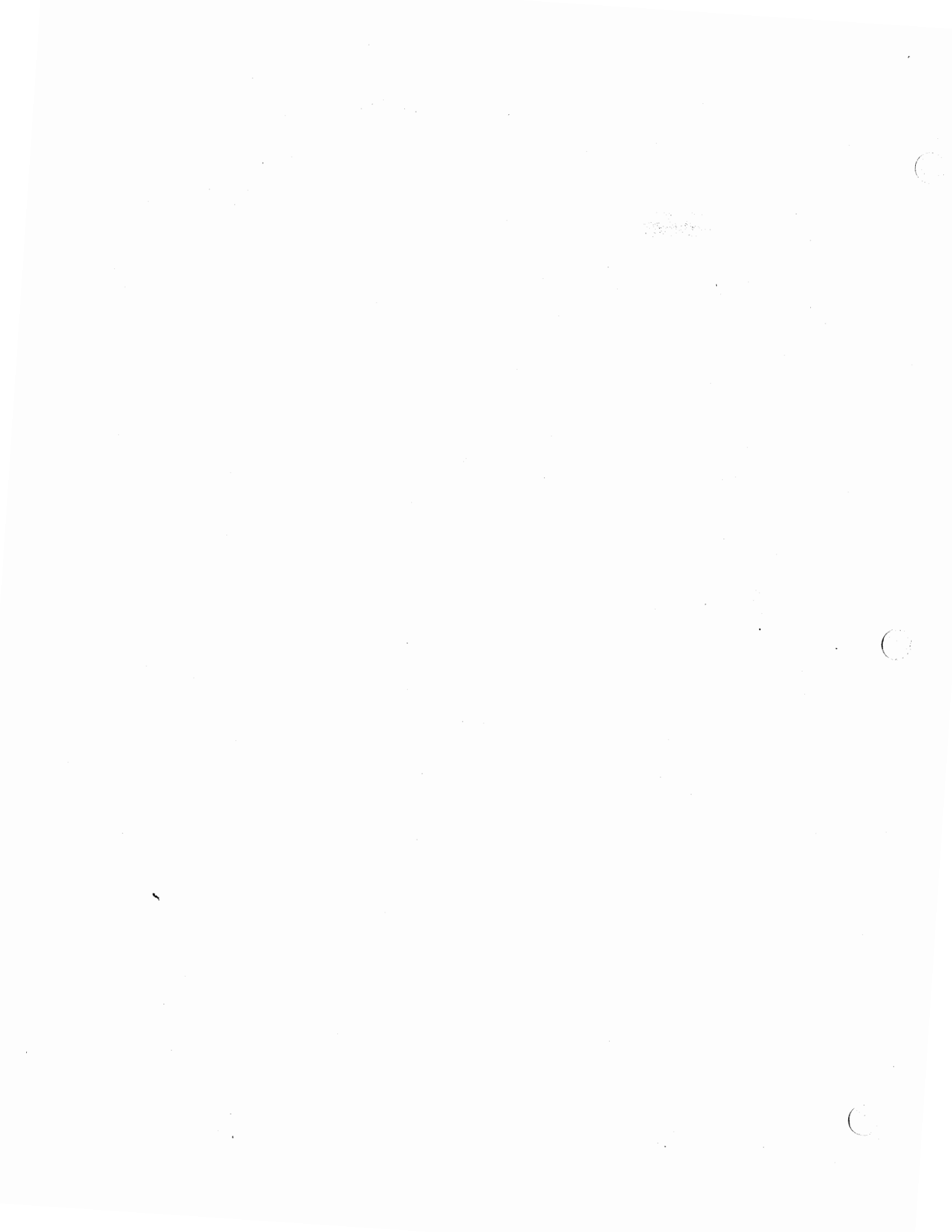
Cooperative Grants are more flexible and can be for a 3- to 5-year cycle. Each state can participate at its chosen level with specific work but must provide a match, which is a problem (except in Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, which do not have to match). Projects can also include contracts with universities, etc. Funds are for finfish only; invertebrate data collection would have to be apportioned out of a grant.

SCHEDULE FOR TASK COMPLETION AND NEXT PDT MEETING

The third (and expected final) meeting of the PDT will be held in Savannah, Georgia, on August 14, immediately after the SEAMAP Annual Meeting. At this meeting, the PDT will provide comments on and edit the draft MOU and the second draft of the Strategic Plan.

The schedule for completion of the remaining PDT tasks is:

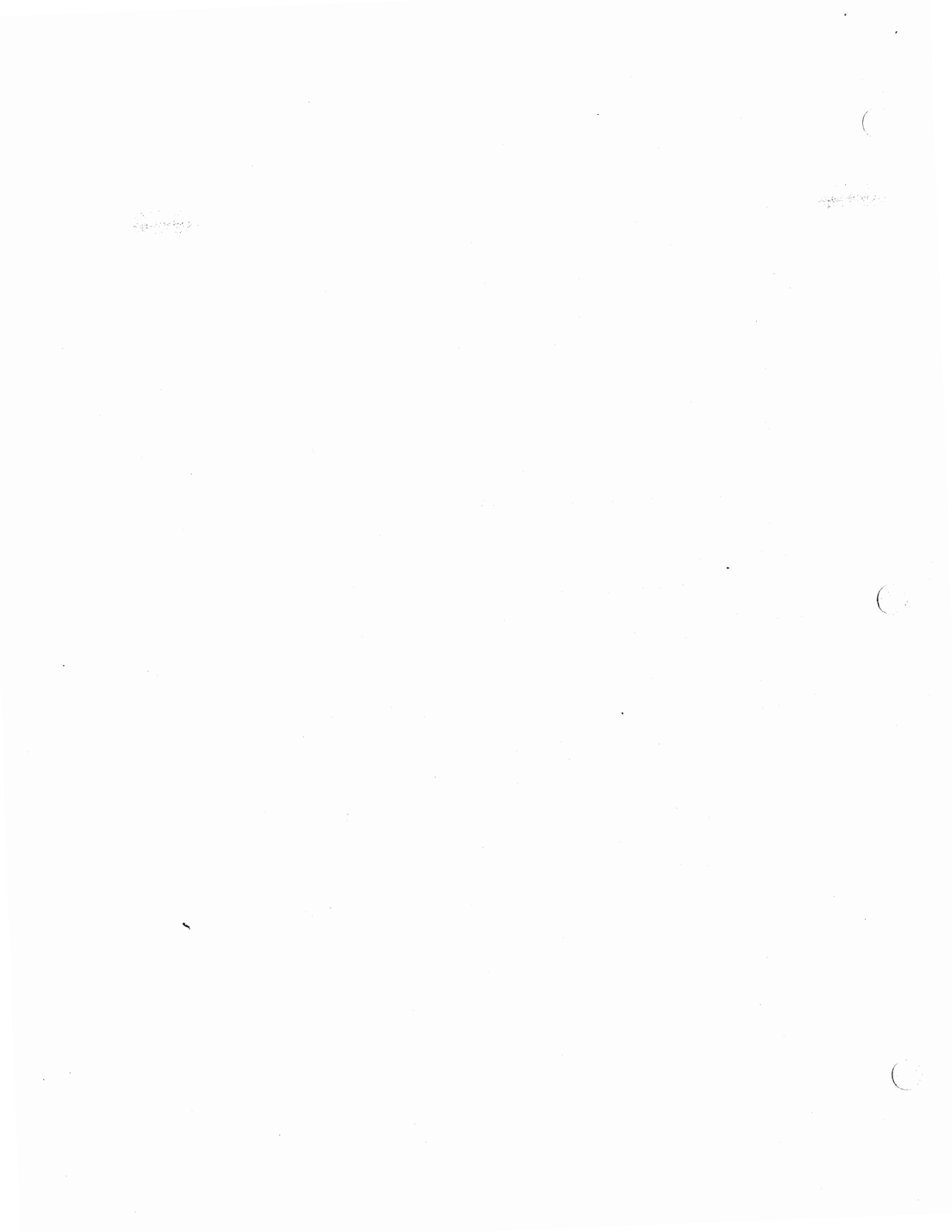
- July 17 - Prepare draft MOU (Jones, Schmied, Goodyear).
- July 22 - Submit additional comments on draft plan and remaining recreational project summaries to A. Jones.
- July 24 - Review draft MOU (Street, Seiler, Lukens, Bane; conference call with Jones, Schmied, Goodyear).
- August 7 - Complete draft MOU and draft 2 of Strategic Plan; mail to PDT.
- August 14 (10 am) - PDT Meeting, Savannah, Georgia.
- August 24 - SAFMC meeting, possible forum for MOU discussion with state directors.
- September 4 - Directors (signatories) comment on revised MOU (meeting, conference call, or phone ballot).
- September 14 - GMFMC meeting, possible forum for MOU discussion with state directors.
- September 20 (ASMFC)/October 13 (GSMFC) - Final review and signatory meetings.



ATTENDANCE LIST

Second Meeting of the RecFIN (SE) Plan Development Team
July 9 - 10, 1992

Steven Atran - Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Nikki Bane - NMFS/Budget & Planning Office
Dale Beaumariage - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/Federal Aid
Jane DiCosimo - South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
David Donaldson - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Carole Goodyear - NMFS/SEFSC
Albert Jones - NMFS/SEFSC
Wilson Laney - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/S. Atlantic Fish. Coord. Office
Skip Lazauski - Alabama Marine Resources Division
Ron Lukens - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Stephen Meyers - Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Joe O'Hop - Florida Department of Natural Resources
Maury Osborn - NMFS/Fisheries Statistics Division
Walter Padilla - Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
Kenneth Savastano - NMFS/SEFSC
Tom Schmidt - NPS/Everglades National Park
Ron Schmied - NMFS/SERO
Ann Seiler - Virgin Islands Division of Fish & Wildlife
Joseph Shepard - Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Larry Simpson - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Dianne Stephan - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Ted Storck - Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Michael Street - North Carolina Division of Marine Resources
Tom Van Devender - Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks
Wayne Waltz - South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Department
John Witzig - NMFS/Fisheries Statistics Division



AGENDA

SECOND MEETING OF THE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM (PDT)

for the

RECREATIONAL FISHERY INFORMATION NETWORK
SOUTHEAST REGION
RecFIN (SE)

OMNI ROYAL ORLEANS HOTEL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
JULY 9-10, 1992

THURSDAY, JULY 9

8:30 am

- Added* → 1. Organizational Committee Report - Ron Schmied
1(a). *Pacific RecFIN Report - John Witzig*
2. Discussion Topics

A. Program Staffing Options

1. RecFIN Committee
2. Technical Coordinating Committee
3. Work Groups
 - a. Geographical
 - b. Technical
4. Staff Support
 - a. NMFS
 - b. Commissions

B. Program Activity Options

1. Data Collection Tasks
2. Data Management Tasks
3. Information Dissemination Tasks

C. Program Management Options

1. Administrative Structure
2. Funding Structure
3. Operations Schedule/Calendar of Events
4. Communication and Coordination
5. Evaluation

3. Review of draft sections of Operations Plan

4. Selection of time and place of next meeting

FRIDAY, JULY 10

5:00 pm

5. Adjourn

SUMMARY
RecFIN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING on ORGANIZATION

June 1, 1992
 Miami, Florida

The meeting convened at 10:30 am at the NMFS Miami Laboratory with the following individuals in attendance:

NMFS: Ron Schmied, Chairman
 John Witzig
 NC: Mike Street
 ASMFC: Dianne Stephan
 GSMFC: Ron Lukens (joined meeting at noon).
 CFMC: Steve Meyers

Ron Schmied welcomed the group and emphasized that the purpose of the meeting was to formulate and recommend an organizational structure(s) for the RecFIN program. These recommendations will be discussed by the Plan Development Team at the upcoming July meeting in New Orleans.

After discussing various national and regional aspects of the RecFIN program, the subcommittee agreed to make the following recommendations to the PDT:

1. National RecFIN Goal.

Assuming RecFIN will evolve into a national program, the Southeast and West Coast programs should cooperatively develop and adopt "national" goals and objectives to encourage and assist in this evolution. The following draft national goal and objectives are suggested for consideration. If acceptable, these should be conveyed to the West Coast RecFIN program for consideration.

GOAL: ^{To support the development and operation of} ~~A develop and operate~~ a national program to collect, manage, and disseminate marine recreational fishery information for use by States, Councils, and Federal marine fishery management agencies. *Interstate Commissions,*

Objective 1: To provide for long-term national program planning.

Objective 2: To coordinate Program operations among Regions.

Objective 3: To ensure consistency and comparability among Regional Programs over time.

2. Southeast RecFIN Implementation Process.

Given the complex nature of the program and the large geographic area to be addressed, the Southeast RecFIN Program should be implemented through the following process.

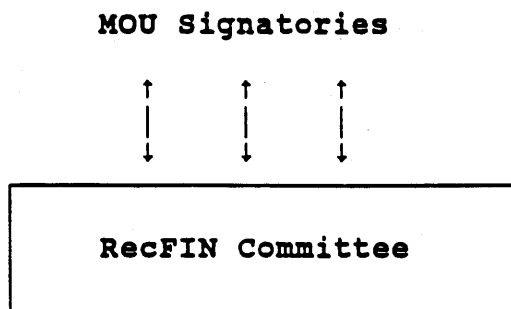
RecFIN Strategic Plan ———> MOU signed by Commissions, States, NMFS, FWS, ...

When adopted, the Southeast RecFIN Strategic Plan will be the fundamental document establishing program goals and objectives, policies, procedures, and an organizational structure needed for program implementation. The Southeast RecFIN Strategic Plan should be formally adopted by all principal parties through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which establishes the intent of the signatories to participate in the Program for a three year period. The MOU should also include an evaluation requirement which must be addressed prior to any MOU extension or renewal. This will help ensure acceptable program implementation and performance.

To facilitate program implementation and accommodate the interests of principal program partners, a meeting of principals should be held in advance of the fall Commission meetings to allow them the opportunity to fully discuss these items and make any needed adjustments. It may be appropriate to use the Commission meetings to facilitate signing of the MOU.

3. Southeast RecFIN Organization Structure.

A Southeast Region RecFIN Committee should be established as the primary vehicle for implementation of the Strategic Plan. While the Committee may be supported by several different agencies or organizations (eg. NMFS, Interstate Commissions, states), it would operate outside of their organizational structure. As the following diagram suggests, MOU signatories would be represented as voting members on the Committee with other non-voting members added as appropriate.



Membership:

Voting Directors and/or Designees

- States (10: NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, TX, PR, VI)
- NMFS (2: Headquarters and Southeast Region)
- FWS (1)
- Commissions (2: ASMFC, GSMFC)

Non-Voting Cooperators

- Councils (3: CFMC, ~~GSMFC~~^{GAFMC}, SAFMC)
- Others (NPS, Marine Sanctuaries, etc.)

Since voting Committee members would include MOU signatories or their designees from all areas of the Southeast, the Committee would be well positioned to deal with most program matters. Notably, Committee decisions should be made by consensus using a simple majority vote to resolve issues when consensus can't be reached.

The Committee should be empowered to establish standing or ad hoc working groups as needed to address technical or geographic issues. At the outset, three geographical working groups should be established, one each for the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean. These working groups will help facilitate planning, implementation, and coordination of RecFIN activities within their respective areas. Other standing or ad hoc working groups could be established, as needed, to address regionwide technical issues such as survey design, data management, social/economic data needs, rare event fishery surveys, and information dissemination.

4. Logistical Support for the RecFIN Committee.

In keeping with ongoing or planned Interstate Commission functions, logistical and other needed support for the RecFIN Committee and its geographical or technical working groups may be provided by the ASMFC for South Atlantic members/groups, the GSMFC for Gulf of Mexico members/groups, and perhaps by the Caribbean Council for Caribbean members/groups. For example, the GSMFC is currently using funds from a Wallop-Breaux Administrative Grant to assist in the initial RecFIN planning effort. Both the ASMFC and GSMFC are seeking funds to support continued planning and 1993 start-up activities. In the event that the Caribbean Council can't support Caribbean members/working groups, the ASMFC or GSMFC could possibly provide such support subject to the consent of all involved agencies. If this is not feasible, travel support for Caribbean participants may have to be handled through invitational travel orders from NMFS. Federal agency members would be supported by their respective agencies.

Long-term funding strategies for Recfin program activities must be explored early on and should include existing or new ^{state or Federal funds} ~~Congressional~~ ~~appropriations~~, Sport Fish Restoration Program Funds (state and administrative grants), private sector sources, and others.

10/10/10

10/10/10



DRAFT

ATTACHMENT 4

**PACIFIC COAST
RecFIN PROGRAM**

**SUBCOMMITTEES
OBJECTIVES AND MEMBERSHIP**

July 1, 1992

DRAFT

RecFIN SUBCOMMITTEES

STATISTICS SUBCOMMITTEE

Objective 1: Review statistical aspects of Pacific coast sampling programs and identify issues for examination and recommend priorities to the RecFIN Committee.

Objective 2: Coordinate work on statistical issues between subcommittee members and outside resources based on priorities established by the RecFIN Committee.

Proposed Members:

- John F. Witzig, Ph.D., (Chairman)
Program Manager, Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Program
National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, MD.
- James R. Bence, Ph.D., Mathematical Statistician
National Marine Fisheries Service
Tiburon Laboratory, Tiburon, CA.
- Han-Lin Lai, Ph.D., Statistician
Washington Department of Fisheries
Seattle, WA.
- David Van Voorhees, Ph.D., Statistician
Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Program
National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, MD.
Ground Fish Management Team Member

Below are topics which may be considered by the Subcommittee.

1. Estimation of optimum sample sizes for recreational fishery surveys based on a dual sample frame for estimating total marine recreational catch and effort (e.g., the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey).

Precision of catch and effort estimates is directly related to the number of samples collected and is usually easily determined. In complex surveys, such as those using the MRFSS sampling protocol, estimation of the appropriate sample sizes needed to meet fishery management objectives requires selecting the optimum mix among the survey components and is more difficult. Generally there is no single solution to determining optimum sample sizes in these complex situations and simulation techniques such as bootstrap resampling and iterative solution of simultaneous equations may be needed. Additional complexities are introduced when a single survey must be used to provide information for the management of many species. The cost of collecting information may also be considered in the development of a "cost-benefit" model. Development of appropriate techniques for estimating sampling sample sizes would enable the RecFIN Committee to make informed decisions on the allocation of the available sampling resources.

estimating sampling sample sizes would enable the RecFIN Committee to make informed decisions on the allocation of the available sampling resources.

2. **Alternate Sampling Methodologies:** Most surveys of marine recreational fisheries depend on direct access sampling of anglers to obtain information on the catches and species composition of the recreational catch. Information on the amount of fishing effort has been gathered using a variety of sampling methodologies such as total exit counts at inlets, trailer counts at boat ramps, telephone surveys and mail surveys. Below are two examples of the type of work which could be addressed.

Surveys based on the MRFSS methodologies are dependent on a telephone household survey which gathers information from randomly selected coastal county households. Historically between 90 and 98 percent of all households contacted do not participate in marine recreational fishing. Thus a large portion of the budget of surveys employing the MRFSS protocol is devoted to collecting information on non-fishing activity. It is of interest, economically and statistically, to develop a discretely defined sample frame of anglers which would be representative of the recreational fishing population and could replace the current sample frame of all coastal households in the telephone dialing area. The cost savings and the increase in the amount of data collected by limiting the telephone interviewing process to a smaller well defined population are expected to be substantial. However, before making major changes in the sampling methodology well designed pilot studies are needed to identify appropriate sample frames which could be substituted for the current sample frame and to make statistical comparisons of the data collected from both sample populations. Pilot surveys will be designed to make use of existing State marine fishing license frames which contain telephone numbers of anglers. Appropriate estimation techniques and additional data elements needed to produce total effort estimates will be identified.

Some components of the recreational fishery are not amenable to traditional sampling approaches. Thus new statistically sound sampling methodologies must be developed which can collect the information needed to estimate total catch and effort. One recent development is a technique called the bus-route estimator. This technique employs previously defined, timed, sampling routes and collects information on the number of anglers at each fishing site along the route. These data are used to estimate total fishing effort along each route and when combined with catch information are used to estimate total catch. This technique has been successfully used to estimate effort along Lake Ontario, the Chesapeake Bay, and numerous smaller rivers and lakes and is currently being used by WDF in a pilot survey to estimate shore based fishing effort along the ocean coast in Washington. Its applicability to large scale surveys and some of the statistical properties of the estimates, however, are unknown. Additional pilot studies and analytical work are needed to determine the suitability of this technique for use on broad coast-wide surveys.

3. **Selection of Sample Locations:** A basic assumption in sampling theory is that the units sampled are randomly selected within some predefined sampling stratum. However,

recreational anglers are generally clustered at fishing sites and are thus not randomly distributed along the coast. Fishing sites also have varying numbers of anglers. Thus, there is an unequal sampling probability for each site within a defined sampling frame. Surveys based on the MRFSS protocol have developed procedures for estimating the fishing pressure at each identified fishing site and for statistically selecting the sites to be sampled based on the distribution of expected fishing pressure among the sites. A problem arises in dynamic fisheries such as those in Oregon and Washington where fishing pressure at sites changes within a sampling period due to closures, openings, new regulations, etc. and the probability distribution of fishing pressure among sites used to distribute the sampling effort is no longer valid. When this occurs it is necessary to reassign the remaining sample to access sites based on the new probability distribution defined by new fishing pressures. Work to be accomplished would include development of the appropriate analytical tools for redistributing the sampling effort when major changes occur within the recreational fishery. The Subcommittee will recommend rules for determining when changes are sufficient to warrant redistributing the sampling effort.

4. Stratification methods for field sampling of the recreational fishery (e.g., weekend/weekend allocations)
5. Estimating total catch for rare species and/or pulsed fisheries. (e.g., use of bootstrap estimates, pooling data, average catch rates, empirical Bayesian procedures...)
6. Outlier analyses (e.g., Winsorized distribution, non-normal distributions, truncated distributions, etc.)
7. Comparison of different sampling methodologies (e.g., MRFSS vs Punch Card system)
8. Estimation of non-response bias on MRFSS telephone survey (e.g., hotdeck resampling)
9. Verifying reported catches and effort
10. Estimating effort for components of the recreational fishery with a low prevalence rate (e.g., charter boat fishery)
11. Correction for bias in historical estimates of catch and effort and associated variance estimates
12. Un-equal sampling probabilities (intercept surveys)
13. Multi-stage cluster variance estimation
14. Use of marine fishing license information to estimate fishing effort

DRAFT

Addresses & Telephone Numbers

Dr. James R. Bence
F/SWC3
Tiburon Laboratory
National Marine Fisheries Service
3150 Paradise Dr.
Tiburon, CA 94920

(415) 435-3149
(415) 435-3675 FAX

Dr. David Van Voorhees
F/RE1
Fisheries Statistics Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
1335 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

(301) 713-2328
(301) 589-8930 FAX

Dr. Han-Lin Lai
Washington Department of Fisheries
Building 4, Room 2129
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.
Bin C15700
Seattle, WA 98115

(206) 545-6573
(206) 545-6589 FAX

Dr. John F. Witzig
F/RE1
Fisheries Statistics Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
1335 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

(301) 713-2328
(301) 589-8930 FAX

SOCIOECONOMIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Objective 1: Identify data needed for management decisions.

Objective 2: Examine existing data collection programs to determine if needed data can be gathered using ongoing programs.

Objective 3: Design survey to be conducted in 1994 to gather needed information which is not currently being collected.

Proposed Members:

Steve Crooke, CFG (Chairman)
Cindy Thomson, NMFS
Jim Seger, PFMC
Chris Carter, ODFW
Jim Hastie, NMFS
John Loomis, UC Davis
Cathy Kling, UC Davis
Doug Larson, UC Davis
(last three will serve on a rotating basis)

DATA COLLECTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Objective: Prepare and inventory of State, Federal and university data, and collection programs on the Pacific coast on all aspects of the recreational fishery.

Proposed Members:

Jerry Butler, ODFW (Chairman)
Maury Osborn, NMFS
Cyreis Schmitt, WDF
Peter Hahn, WDW
Konstatin Karpov, CFG
Kahler Martinson, FWS

DATA BASE SUBCOMMITTEE

Schedule meeting with database design experts to discuss aspects related to setting up new access and retrieval systems. Demonstrations of various systems could be provided. Scheduled for next RecFIN meeting on July 30-31, 1992.

Suggested Experts: Will Daspit, PacFIN Database Design
Martin David, U.S. Bureau of Census Database System
Decision Support Systems (DSS), PC based system for accessing MRFSS data.

Objective: Identify user needs for accessing and retrieval of recreational fisheries information.

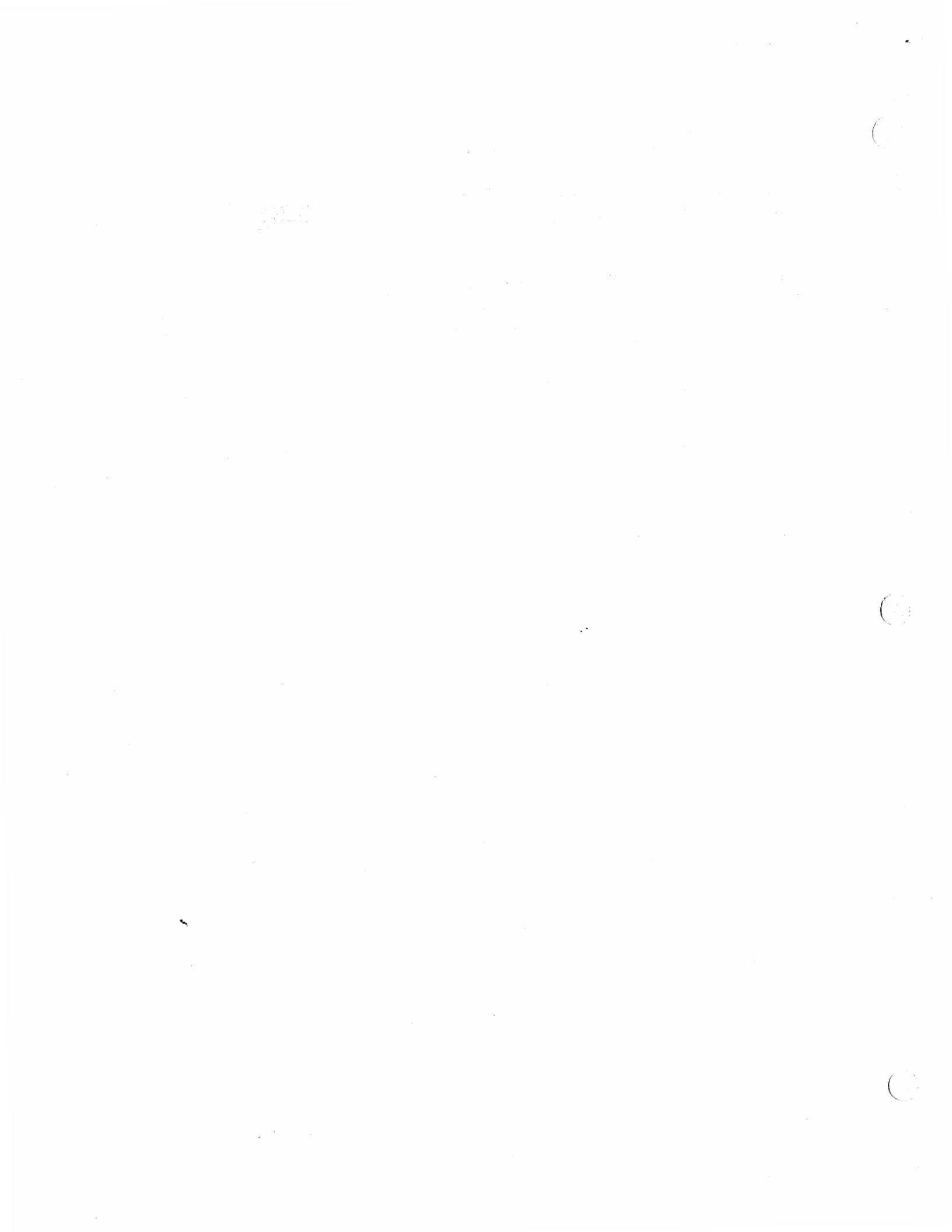


TABLE OF CONTENTS (Revised)

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Purpose of Strategic Plan
- B. Need for RecFIN(SE) and Its Evolution
- C. Scope and Constituency
- D. Authority

II. PROGRAM MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

- A. RecFIN(SE) Mission Statement
- B. RecFIN(SE) Goals and Objectives

III. HISTORY AND STATUS OF MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES DATA COLLECTION IN THE SOUTHEAST

- A. Federal Data Collection Programs
 - 1. NMFS
 - 2. FWS
 - 3. NPS
 - 4. NOAA Sanctuaries
 - 5. MMS
 - 6. COE
 - 7. EPA
 - 8. Sea Grant
- B. State Data Collection Programs
 - 1. NC
 - 2. SC
 - 3. GA
 - 4. FL
 - 5. AL
 - 6. MS
 - 7. LA
 - 8. TX
 - 9. PR
 - 10. VI
- C. Cooperative Programs
- D. Current Deficiencies

IV. CURRENT INITIATIVES

V. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- A. Data Collection Activities
- B. Data Management
- C. Information Dissemination
- D. Schedule for Program Implementation

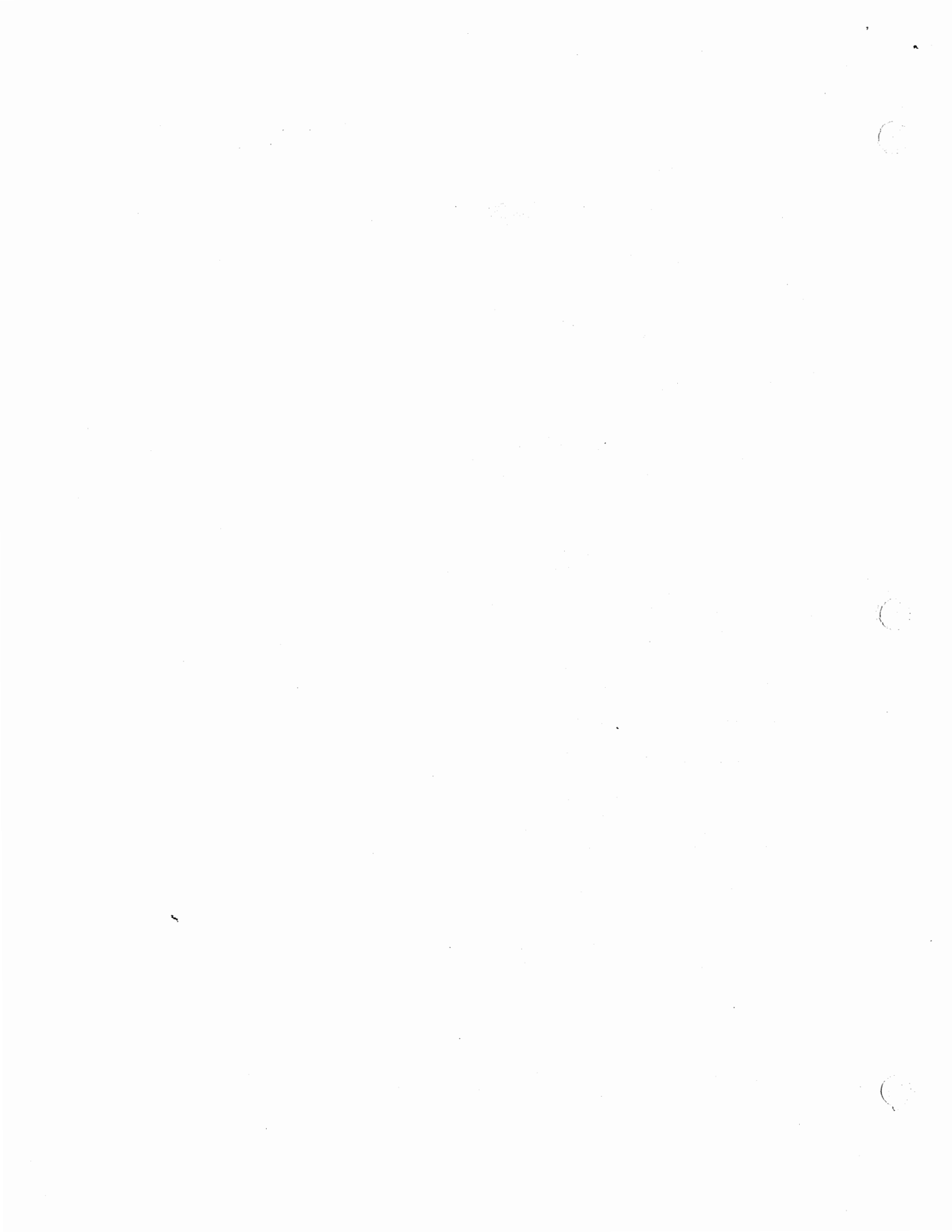
VI. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

- A. Organizational Structure and Administration
- B. Resource Support/Requirements
- C. Planning and Evaluation

VII. REFERENCES

APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A. MEMBERS OF THE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM
- APPENDIX B. MRF DATA COLLECTION PROJECT SUMMARIES



TCC SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, August 12, 1992
and Thursday, August 13, 1992
Savannah, Georgia



Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Jack Gartner (proxy for J. Kimmel), FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Joanne Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS

Staff

David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant

Others

Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Ken Savastano, NMFS, Stennis Space Center, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following changes:

* The Data Management Work Group Report will be after Approval of the Minutes. A discussion of the Reef Fish Survey with the video camera will be added after the Data Management Work Group Report.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on April 7, 1992 in Biloxi, Mississippi were approved as submitted.

Work Group Reports

Data Management Work Group

K. Savastano distributed and reviewed the SEAMAP Data Management Report (attached). Items noted included:

- upon completion of the Texas and Louisiana 1991 cruise data, all of the SEAMAP 1989, 1990 and 1991 data will be in the SEAMAP system.
- the 1992 SEAMAP Near-Real-Time data processing was completed.
- processing of the data for the 1990 SEAMAP atlas is approximately 10% complete.

- 123 SEAMAP requests have been received to date and 119 have been completed.
- a new SEAMAP System Version 2.02 was released. A new editing system entitled "Bridge Log to Cruise Comparison System" is being used in conjunction with the P.C. Batch editing software.
- a significant effort has been focused on entering/editing cruise data at state and NMFS data processing sites.

Discussion of Reefish Survey

* W. Tatum informed the Subcommittee that a Reef Fish Work Group has not been formed. The Subcommittee originally planned to use the Adult Finfish Work Group but because this work group has many tasks at the present time and the reef fish survey will require a lot of participation from its members, he felt it would be wise to establish a separate work group. After discussion on the reef fish survey, J. Hanifen moved that a Reef Fish Work Group be established. J. Gartner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Donaldson informed the subcommittee that development of a new work group would require more money. The subcommittee decided not to have an Adult Finfish work group meeting and use those funds for a Reef Fish work group meeting. If needed, the Adult Finfish work group will meet via conference call. D. Donaldson asked each member to send him a formal letter stating who their member will be on the new work group.

Administrative Report

D. Donaldson reported several surveys were completed since the last meeting. The 1992 Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey was conducted from June 4 - July 13, 1992. The agencies that participated were NMFS, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. A total of 326 stations were sampled. Also, six real-time mailings were distributed to approximately 275 interested persons and organizations.

The fall Ichthyoplankton Survey is scheduled for September 8 - 29, 1992. The agencies that will participate are NMFS, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

The processing of the 1990 Atlas is continuing. All data has been received and data editing has started. The preliminary editing by P. Thompson, N. Sanders and D. Donaldson should start this month or in September.

D. Donaldson informed the states that they need to get their 1991 and 1992 data in as soon as possible so it can be edited and published. If the 1991 data is in before N. Sanders and P. Thompson starts the summer, editing may be done by March and there will be a possibility of having the Atlas by the 1993 GSMFC October meeting. Cruise logs and reports for 1992 surveys including reef fish cruise logs need to be turned in as well.

The last thing D. Donaldson reported on was the ~~Latex~~ ^{LATEX} Program. At the last meeting it was decided that SEAMAP should become involved with this program and get hooked up with OMNET and that facility should be housed at the Commission. He has acquired an OMNET number (mailbox) and will be notifying other OMNET participants of SEAMAP activities through the OMNET bulletin board. Also, he can check the bulletin board for notices that may be of interest to SEAMAP or check for any requests for SEAMAP information.

Discussion of Comparative Tow Survey

D. Donaldson distributed statistical information that B. Pelligrin ran from information given to him by R. Waller, J. Shultz and J. Hanifen. D. Donaldson explained the sample size is the number of comparative tow samples that need to be completed to detect a significant difference in catch. After reviewing the information, the Subcommittee felt they did not give B. Pelligrin enough direction for him to give them what they actually wanted. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that at the next meeting quality time needs to be spent on developing a different or better approach so B. Pelligrin can run the data needed. It was decided the focus should be on assemblage of species for different seasons and areas as opposed to specific species.

The Subcommittee also decided to proceed with obtaining Wallop Breaux funding for comparative tows on the R/V PELICAN, R/V TOMMY and R/V VERRILL. The SEAMAP part in the proposal is for \$30,000 and would pay for forty to sixty comparative tows.

Activities and Budget Needs

S. Nichols informed the Subcommittee to expect a 7% decrease in SEAMAP from last year. The House mark is 1.32 million and the Senate mark is 1.362. It was decided to use the house mark for planning. He distributed a sheet reflecting the 7% decrease for all SEAMAP components. The breakdown for the Gulf is:

GSMFC	-	91,345
TX	-	62,275
LA	-	146,471
MS	-	111,170
AL	-	81,165
FL	-	110,401
Total	-	602,827

* After discussion, all agreed to take a 7% across the board decrease. To help cover the Commission's loss, W. Tatum accepted a motion that the January meeting will not be held. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. J. Gartner moved to add any business normally handled at the January meeting on the agenda for the October meeting or cover it via conference call. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

* S. Nichols suggested the Subcommittee discuss what they would do if SEAMAP receives the Senate mark funding or any additional funding above the House mark. After discussion, J. Gartner moved that any additional money be used for a winter ichthyoplankton survey. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

* After further discussion, W. Tatum felt the motion was not clear by what additional money meant. A substitute motion was given by J. Hanifen stating if SEAMAP receives more money than the House mark, anything up to the Senate mark will go to restoring the 7% base funding level for each component for 1992 and anything above the Senate mark would go to a winter ichthyoplankton survey. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

* J. Shultz moved that any extra available funds over and above the Senate cap be utilized for a 1993 winter ichthyoplankton survey for collecting samples as well as sorting samples and this should not exceed \$40,000. R. Waller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

If SEAMAP receives extra money over the \$40,000 to be used for the winter ichthyoplankton survey, the three SEAMAP Chairmen and S. Nichols will discuss how the money should be divided between the components.

Cooperative Agreements

D. Donaldson distributed a draft 1993 Operations Plan and the NMFS portion of the cooperative agreement. After reviewing the Operations Plan several changes were made. The Subcommittee decided to add the Reef Fish Work Group to the Operations Plan. After all changes are made on the Operations Plan a copy will be sent to each member.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Thursday, August 14, 1992

SEAMAP-Gulf reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

W. Tatum congratulated everyone on how they handled the budget negotiating. D. Donaldson informed the Subcommittee that SEAMAP-Gulf will meet again at the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's October meeting in Mobile, Alabama. He was not sure of the exact date and time but will send a memo as soon as the arrangements are made. J. Hanifen suggested that a presentation on the trap video should be given at the GSMFC October meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

**SEAMAP-Gulf Meeting
Agenda
Savannah, Georgia**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Adoption of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Minutes (April, 1992)**
- 4. Administrative Report (Donaldson)**
- 5. Discussion of Comparative Tow Survey (Donaldson)**
- 6. Activities and Budget Needs**
- 7. Work Group Reports**
 - Data Management (Savastano)**
- 8. Preparation of Cooperative Agreements**
- 9. Other Business**


08/10/92

SEAMAP DATA MANAGEMENT

- A. Status reports for the 1989, 1990, and 1991 SEAMAP data are shown in attachments 1, 2, and 3. Five NMFS cruises from 1989 are currently being processed through SEAMAP version 2. All of the 1991 cruises to date have been processed through version 2.0. Upon completion of the Texas and Louisiana 1991, cruise data, all of the SEAMAP 1989, 1990, 1991 data will be if the SEAMAP system (with the exception of ichthyoplankton species and length data).
- B. Completed the 1992 SEAMAP Near-Real-Time data processing in support of the Gulf Shrimp/Groundfish Survey. Processed data was incorporated in the weekly data summary reports from June 16, 1992 to July 20, 1992.
- C. Processing of the data for the 1990 SEAMAP ATLAS is approximately 10% complete.
- D. One hundred and twenty-three SEAMAP requests have been received to date. One hundred and nineteen have been completed and work is being done on the remaining requests. Five requests were filled since the April 1992 SEAMAP Meeting, one each for Richard Waller (GCRL), James P. Clugston (USFWS), Dr. Phil Goodyear (NMFS - Miami), Dave Donaldson (GSMFC), and Dr. Steve Turner (NMFS Miami).
- E. A new SEAMAP System Version 2.02 was released on July 15, 1992 (attachment 4). The distribution list is shown in attachment 5. Copies of several SEAMAP data acquisition field sheets were provided to Steve Meyers (Caribbean Council) for possible use in the Caribbean Trap/Longline surveys. Over the past year, NMFS has developed and checked out a new computer editing system entitled "BRIDGE LOG TO CRUISE COMPARISON SYSTEM" which performs a much more extensive edit than the Seamap P.C. Batch Edit. This new package is used in conjunction with the P.C. Batch editing software to enhance the editing and produce Seamap data with less errors. The features of the new edit system are described in the system handout.
- F. In addition to the new SEAMAP system release, a significant effort has been focused on entering/editing cruise data at state and NMFS data processing sites. All of this effort is being directed at building up the on-line data base which will allow broader availability and utilization of the SEAMAP data.

08/10/92

Since October 10, 1991, thirty-six new cruises were added to the on-line data base (154,980 records) as shown in attachment 6. Forty-eight additional cruises were reprocessed through version 2.0 or higher of the SEAMAP system and the NMFS BRIDGE Log Edit system (214,981 records). The reprocessed cruises have replaced the older 1.0 versions as shown in attachment 7. The SEAMAP on-line data base now contains eighty-three cruises (641,833 records) for the 1989, 1990, and 1991 project years.


Kenneth J. Savastano

SEAM/P 1989

DATA SOURCE	VESSEL	CRUISE	CRUISE REPORT TITLE	INVENTORY STATUS	BIOLOGICAL STATION	BIOLOGICAL SPECIES	ENVIRONMENTAL	GENERAL L/F	SHRIMP STATION	L/F L/F	ICHTHYOPLANKTON STATIONS	SAMPLE	SPECIES	L/F	TOTAL	SEAMAP VERSION	DATE DBASED	SEAMAP VERSION	DATE DBASED	
AL	23	891	SEAMAP CRUISE AL 891	3	7	7	103	7	363	3	96	*1	*1	*1	*1	586	1.0	14-Mar-90	2.0	19-Mar-92
AL	23	892	SEAMAP CRUISE AL 892	3	10	10	205	10	991	7	166	*1	*1	*1	*1	1399	1.0	09-May-90	2.0	19-Mar-92
AL	23	893	RED DRUM-KING MACKEREL CRUISE	3	10	*1	*1	10	*1	*1	*1	10	10		30	1.0	18-Jun-90	2.0	19-Mar-92	
AL	23	894	SEAMAP FALL GROUND FISH CRUISE	3	12	12	293	12	1452	11	164	*1	*1	*1	*1	1956	1.0	21-Jun-90	2.0	19-Mar-92
FL	36	891	SPRING 1989 ICHTHYOPLANKTON	3	25	*1	*1	25	*1	*1	*1	25	75		125	1.0	26-Sep-90	2.0	22-Jul-92	
FL	36	892	FALL 1989 ICHTHYOPLANKTON	3	36	*1	*1	36	*1	*1	*1	36	108		180	1.0	15-Nov-90	2.0	22-Jul-92	
LA	35	891	LA 1989 SPRING SEAMAP	3	24	24	614	24	7914	21	140	8	21		8782	1.0	19-Feb-91	2.0	28-Jul-92	
LA	35	892	LA 1989 SUMMER SEAMAP	3	22	22	439	22	3984	17	292	12	36		4834	1.0	20-Feb-91	2.0	28-Jul-92	
LA	25	893	LA 1989 AREA SUMMER SEAMAP	3	21	21	163	21	1106	11	118	21	24		1485	1.0	01-Mar-91	2.0	28-Jul-92	
LA	35	894	LA 1989 FALL SEAMAP	3	24	24	572	24	4390	24	499	12	36		5593	1.0	04-Mar-91	2.0	28-Jul-92	
LA	25	895	LA 1989 AREA FALL SEAMAP	3	21	21	228	21	1943	11	224	21	42		2511	1.0	15-Mar-91	2.0	28-Jul-92	
LA	35	896	LA OREGON 2 PELICAN COMPARISON	3	10	10	286	10	2719	9	185	*1	*1	*1	*1	3229	1.0	18-Mar-91	2.0	28-Jul-92
LA	35	897	LA 1989 WINTER SEAMAP	3	16	16	493	16	3635	16	567	7	21		4780	1.0	18-Mar-91	2.0	28-Jul-92	
MS	17	891	FALL SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	41	34	989	41	7581	20	261	7	21		8988	1.0	09-May-90	2.0	31-Oct-91	
MS	17	892	FALL ICHTHYOPLANKTON SURVEY	3	65	*1	*1	65	*1	*1	*1	65	75		205	1.0	09-May-90	2.0	30-Oct-91	
MS	17	893	FALL SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	20	17	568	20	4631	*1	*1	3	9		5265	1.0	14-Jun-90	2.0	01-Nov-91	
SC	51	891	SUMMER 89 SOUTH ATLANTIC	3	212	212	7690	212	12944	179	2299	*1	*1	*1	*1	23748	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	08-Jul-92
SC	51	892	SUMMER 89 SOUTH ATLANTIC	3	106	106	2693	106	5930	48	808	*1	*1	*1	*1	9797	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	08-Jul-92
SC	51	893	FALL SEAMAP 89 SOUTH ATLANTIC	3	212	212	5753	212	9372	116	1902	*1	*1	*1	*1	17779	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	08-Jul-92
TX	31	891	CRUISE 891 GULF OF MEXICO	3	16	16	174	16	575	9	115	*1	*1	*1	*1	921	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	18-May-92
TX	32	891	CRUISE 891 GULF OF MEXICO	3	16	16	323	16	1991	13	709	*1	*1	*1	*1	3084	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	18-May-92
TX	33	891	CRUISE 891 GULF OF MEXICO	3	16	16	354	16	1965	16	546	*1	*1	*1	*1	2929	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	18-May-92
TX	34	891	CRUISE 891 GULF OF MEXICO	3	16	16	268	16	1481	16	651	*1	*1	*1	*1	2464	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	18-May-92
TX	40	891	CRUISE 891 GULF OF MEXICO	3	16	16	205	16	1035	15	382	*1	*1	*1	*1	1685	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	18-May-92
TX	31	892	TX CRUISE 892	3	16	16	199	16	582	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	829	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	18-May-92
TX	32	892	TX CRUISE 892	3	16	16	307	16	1826	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	2181	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	18-May-92
TX	33	892	TX CRUISE 892	3	16	16	312	16	1421	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1781	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	18-May-92
TX	34	892	TX CRUISE 892	3	16	16	204	16	1112	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1364	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	18-May-92
TX	40	892	TX CRUISE 892	3	16	16	263	16	1462	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1773	1.0	22-Aug-90	2.0	18-May-92
US	4	179	SA-SEAMAP/BEAUFORT ECOSYSTEM	3	571	438	847	37	2177	*1	*1				4070	1.0	27-Oct-90	2.0		
US	4	180	OREGON II SUMMER SEAMAP	3	244	243	4052	188	26051	141	4815	21	63		35797	1.0	18-Jun-90	2.0		
US	4	183	SEAMAP ICHTHYOPLANKTON/PLUME	3	114	*1	*1	114	*1	*1	*1	75	153		381	1.0	27-Sep-90	2.0		
US	4	184	SEAMAP SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	512	490	11999	251	66971	*1	*1	38	120		80343	1.0	18-Nov-90	2.0		
US	49	892	SEAMAP ICHTHYOPLANKTON/THERMAL	3	141	*1	*1	138	*1	*1	*1				279	1.0	14-Nov-90	2.0		
TOTAL					2636	2079	40596	1782	177604	703	14939	361	814	0	0	241153				

STATUS CODES:

*1 NOT TAKEN
2 ENTERED IN P.C.
3 ENTERED ON MIAMI UNISYS A10 SYSTEM(VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)

Attachment 2.

05-Aug-92

SEAMAP 1990

DATA SOURCE	VESSEL	CRUISE	CRUISE REPORT TITLE	INVENTORY STATUS	BIOLOGICAL STATION	SPECIES	ENVIRONMENTAL	GENERAL L/F	SHRIMP STATION	L/F	ICHTHYOPLANKTON STATION	SAMPLE	SPECIES	L/F	TOTAL	SEAMAP VERSION	DATE DBASED	SEAMAP VERSION	DATE DBASED	
AL	23	901	SPRING SHRIMP GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	14	14	159	14	684	5	74	*1	*1	*1	*1	964	1.0		2.0	26-Mar-92
AL	23	902	AL JULY SHRIMP-GROUND FISH	3	1	1	15	1	36	1	3	*1	*1	*1	*1	58	1.0		2.0	26-Mar-92
AL	23	903	FALL KING MACKEREL/REDDRUM/PLAN	3	10	*1	*1	10	*1	*1	*1	10	10		30	1.0		2.0	26-Mar-92	
AL	23	904	FALL SHRIMP GROUND FISH	3	13	13	203	9	775	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1013	1.0		2.0	26-Mar-92	
FL	36	901	SPRING 1990 ICHTHYOPLANKTON	3	21	*1	*1	21	*1	*1	*1	21	61		103	1.0	30-Oct-90	2.0	22-Jul-92	
FL	36	902	FALL 1990 ICHTHYOPLANKTON	3	30	*1	*1	30	*1	*1	*1	30	90		150	1.0		2.0	22-Jul-92	
LA	35	901	LA WINTER SEAMAP	3	24	18	457	23	3581	15	128	6	15		4261	1.0		2.0	28-Jul-92	
LA	35	902	LA SUMMER SEAMAP	3	31	24	444	31	3151	15	171	7	21		3888	1.0		2.0	28-Jul-92	
LA	25	903	LA AREA SEAMAP CRUISE 903	3	21	21	142	21	1436	9	202	21	42		1894	1.0	02-Apr-91	2.0	28-Jul-92	
LA	35	904	LA FALL SEAMAP	3	31	24	381	25	2954	18	174	7	20		3627	1.0		2.0	28-Jul-92	
LA	25	905	LA FALL SEAMAP	3	21	21	125	21	833	7	121	21	24		1173	1.0		2.0	28-Jul-92	
LA	35	906	LA WINTER SEAMAP	3	25	21	554	24	5978	20	952	4	12		7586	1.0		2.0	28-Jul-92	
MS	17	901	SUMMER SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	44	40	1086	44	8868	10	395	4	12		10499	1.0	01-Jan-91	2.0	01-Nov-91	
MS	17	902	FALL SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	107	*1	*1	107	*1	*1	*1	107	113		327	1.0	02-May-91	2.0	07-Jan-92	
MS	17	903	FALL SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	24	24	727	20	4470	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	5265	1.0	01-Feb-91	2.0	01-Nov-91	
SC	51	901	SPRING SEAMAP SURVEY SOUTH ATL	3	210	210	4529	208	15747	60	702	*1	*1	*1	21666	1.0	10-Feb-92	2.0	08-Jul-92	
SC	51	902	SUMMER SEAMAP S. ATLANTIC 90	3	156	156	4552	156	14060	91	1432	*1	*1	*1	20603	1.0	04-Feb-92	2.0	08-Jul-92	
SC	51	903	FALL SEAMAP SURVEY SOUTH ATL	3	182	182	6041	182	12663	128	2884	*1	*1	*1	22262	1.0	04-Feb-92	2.0	08-Jul-92	
TX	31	901	SUMMER SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	16	16	128	16	456	9	69	*1	*1	*1	710	1.0	15-Mar-91	2.0	27-Mar-92	
TX	32	901	SUMMER SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	16	16	267	16	1569	11	431	*1	*1	*1	2326	1.0	15-Mar-91	2.0	27-Mar-92	
TX	33	901	SUMMER SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	16	16	289	16	1605	14	205	*1	*1	*1	2161	1.0	15-Mar-91	2.0	27-Mar-92	
TX	34	901	SUMMER SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	16	16	125	16	606	5	101	*1	*1	*1	885	1.0	15-Mar-91	2.0	27-Mar-92	
TX	40	901	SUMMER SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	16	16	120	16	786	7	218	*1	*1	*1	1179	1.0	15-Mar-91	2.0	27-Mar-92	
TX	31	902	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	16	16	127	16	288	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	463	1.0	15-Mar-91	2.0	30-Mar-92	
TX	32	902	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	16	16	244	16	894	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1186	1.0	15-Mar-91	2.0	30-Mar-92	
TX	33	902	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	16	16	146	16	497	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	691	1.0	15-Mar-91	2.0	30-Mar-92	
TX	34	902	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	16	16	99	16	496	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	643	1.0	15-Mar-91	2.0	30-Mar-92	
TX	40	902	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	16	16	197	16	872	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1117	1.0	15-Mar-91	2.0	30-Mar-92	
US	4	187	SEAMAP ICHTHYOPLANKTON	3	151	*1	*1	139	*1	*1	*1	139	408		698	1.0	10-Oct-90	2.0	07-Jan-92	
US	4	189	SPRING SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	290	267	5620	230	34308	219	6083	19	57		47074	1.0	26-Aug-91	2.0	27-Sep-91	
US	4	190	PLANKTON SURVEY GULF OF MEXICO	3	133	*1	*1	131	*1	*1	*1	108	320		584	1.0	22-Aug-91	2.0	20-Sep-91	
US	4	191	SEAMAP/GROUND FISH SURVEY GOM	3	293	290	6725	218	39457	*1	*1	39	117		47100	1.0	29-Sep-91	2.0	23-Sep-91	
US	28	901	SEAMAP ECOSYSTEM S ATLANTIC	3	136	80	70	62	*1	*1	*1	40	*2	*2	348	1.0	24-Apr-91	2.0	10-Jun-92	
TOTAL					2128	1566	33572	1887	157070	644	14345	583	1322			212534				

STATUS CODES:

*1 NOT TAKEN
 *2 NOT ENTERED
 2 ENTERED IN P.C.
 3 ENTERED ON MIAMI UNISYS A10 SYSTEM(VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)

Attachment 3.
05-Aug-92

SEAMAP 1991

DATA SOURCE	VESSEL	CRUISE	CRUISE REPORT TITLE	INVENTORY STATUS	BIOLOGICAL STATION	BIOLOGICAL SPECIES	ENVIRONMENTAL	GENERAL L/F	SHRIMP STATION	L/F	ICHTHYOPLANKTON STATION	SAMPLE SPECIES	L/F	TOTAL	SEAMAP VERSION	DATE DBASED	SEAMAP VERSION	DATE DBASED	
AL	23	911	SUMMER SHRIMP GROUND FISH GOM	3	10	10	159	10	450	7	155	*1	*1	*1	*1	801	1.0	2.0	26-Mar-92
AL	23	912	KING MACKEREL RED DRUM PLANKTON	3	10	*1	*1	10	*1	*1	*1	10	10		30	1.0	2.0	26-Mar-92	
AL	23	913	GROUND FISH SURVEY GOM	3	7	7	174	7	935	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1130	1.0	2.0	26-Mar-92	
FL	36	911	SPRING 1991 ICHTHYOPLANKTON	3	13	*1	*1	13	*1	*1	*1	13	39		65	1.0	2.0	22-Jul-92	
FL	36	912	FALL 1991 ICHTHYOPLANKTON	3	23	*1	*1	23	*1	*1	*1	23	68		114	1.0	2.0	22-Jul-92	
MS	17	911	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	41	39	856	38	6402	27	989	2	6		8398	1.0	2.0	16-Dec-91	
MS	17	912	FALL ICHTHYOPLANKTON SUR GOM	3	118	*1	*1	118	*1	*1	*1	101	107		343	1.0	2.0	12-Feb-92	
MS	17	913	SEAMAP CRUISE MS 913	3	27	27	657	27	4652	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	5390	1.0	2.0	26-Feb-92	
SC	51	911	SPRING SOUTH ATLANTIC SURVEY	3	210	210	6022	210	15930	108	1931	*1	*1	*1	24621	1.0	2.0	15-Apr-92	
SC	51	912	SUMMER SOUTH ATLANTIC SEAMAP SUR	3	156	156	3979	156	12688	75	1155	*1	*1	*1	18365	1.0	2.0	05-May-92	
SC	51	913	FALL SEAMAP SOUTH ATLANTIC	3	172	172	4732	172	12249	99	2061	*1	*1	*1	19657	1.0	2.0	12-May-92	
US	4	192	ATLANTIC SEAMAP	3	314	208	*1	107	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	629	1.0	2.0	30-Oct-91	
US	4	194	SEAMAP GULF PLANKTON SUR	3	159	*1	*1	139	*1	*1	*1	159	442		740	1.0	2.0	15-Apr-92	
US	4	195	SEAMAP SPRING GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	288	267	6546	223	40667	186	7976	37	111		56264	1.0	2.0	12-Dec-91	
US	4	197	FALL BOTTOM FISH SURVEY	3	327	293	7389	241	42639	*1	*1	40	120		51009	1.0	2.0	20-Jul-92	
US	28	914	FALL SEAMAP ICHTHYOPLANKTON SUR	3	166	*1	*1	138	*1	*1	*1	96	286		590	1.0	2.0	10-Mar-92	
TOTAL					2041	1389	30514	1632	136612	502	14267	481	1189	0	0	188146			

STATUS CODES:

- *1 NOT TAKEN
- 2 ENTERED IN P.C.
- 3 ENTERED ON MIAMI UNISYS A10 SYSTEM (VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)



Sverdrup Technology, Inc.
SSC Group
Stennis Space Center, Mississippi 39529

601 688-3505

July 15, 1992
92-4730-433

TO: SEAMAP Users

FROM: SEAMAP Central Operations
Sverdrup Technology, Inc.
Building 2105
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529

SUBJECT: Version 2.02 Release

The enclosed diskettes contain the SEAMAP Version 2.02 software. Please read the following information carefully before using the SEAMAP DMS Version 2.02 system.

SEAMAP Version 2.02 includes the following changes:

- The entry screens listing default Type II South Atlantic and Type III Gulf of Mexico biological genus/species were updated.
- Batch verification was updated to include cross-checking between the biological inventory genus/species counts and the general length and shrimp length stations.
- An option to perform an inclusive or exclusive query was added to the download querying criteria. Please see attached memo for further information.
- The algorithm computing water density from temperature and salinity was changed to the International Equation of State of Sea Water, 1980 (IES 80). Additionally, the IES 80 will be invoked only when temperature and salinity are entered for at least two depths.
- If a user attempts to edit a biological genus/species which is no longer valid due to an upgrade of the genus/species table, the user must either correct the taxonomic name or validate it with their initials.
- Vessel 53, CSS Hudson; Area Project 05, South Atlantic/SEAMAP; Project Institution 12, South Carolina; Gear Type AC, Biosonics Acoustic System; and 12 Biocodes were added to the validation files.
- A problem with incorrect formatting of faunal zone range in the download query was corrected.

To install this update from 3 1/2" floppy disks, perform the following steps:

1. Insert disk #1 into the floppy disk drive.
2. Change the default drive to the floppy disk drive.
3. Enter "Install A: C:", where <A> is the floppy disk drive and <C> is the fixed disk drive on which SEAMAP resides.

SEAMAP Version 2.02 on 5 1/4" floppy disks will be mailed separately with installation instructions to those users who have requested this service.

If you have any problems or questions, please call Charlene Burns at (601) 688-3511.

Charlene Burns
Charlene Burns

Enclosures

cc: L. Wilson (SvT, Bldg. 2105)
H. Holley (SvT, Bldg. 2105)
R. Jones (SvT, Bldg. 2105)
R. Ladner (SvT, Bldg. 2105)
S. Gottfried (SvT, Bldg. 2105)
Ken Savastano (NMFS, Bldg. 1103)
File/CB (MF00-4A60)

SUBJECT: Inclusive/Exclusive BIOCODE Download Option

When specifying a biocode for a download query, the SEAMAP user must now indicate whether an *inclusive* or *exclusive* search is desired.

Regardless of the choice, only those genus/species, shrimp length, general length, ichthyoplankton sample and ichthyoplankton length records which involve the specified biocode and which meet all other specified criteria will be downloaded.

If the exclusive option is chosen, only those station card, environmental, biological inventory, shrimp and ichthyoplankton station records which are associated with the genus/species, shrimp length, general length, or ichthyoplankton sample records where the specified biocode was found will be downloaded.

If the inclusive option is chosen, station card, environmental, biological inventory, shrimp and ichthyoplankton station records which meet all other query criteria will be downloaded regardless of whether or not the specified biocode was found at that station.

Furthermore, only those data types which were requested will be downloaded.

Attachment 5.

Mary Jo Clise
SC Wildlife and Marine Resources Dept.
Office of Conservation and Management
217 Fort Johnson
Charleston, SC 29412

Jack Gartner
Florida Department of Natural Resources
100 8TH Avenue, SE
St. Petersburg, MS 33701

Sharon Kelly
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

Rick Minkler
NOAA, NMFS
Pascagoula Laboratory
3209 Frederic Street
Pascagoula, MS 39567

Ken Savastano
National Marine Fisheries Service
Building 1103, Room 218
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529

Terry Cody
Texas Parks and Wildlife
100 Navigation Circle
Rockport, TX 78382

Steven Atran
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
881 Lincoln Center
5401 W Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33609

Skip Lazauski
Alabama Marine Resources
21055 Mildred Casey Drive
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

Paul Phalen
NC Department of Natural Resources and
Community Development
3411 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Steve Meyers
Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Suite 1108, Banco De Ponce Bldg.
Puerto Rico, Hato Rey 00918-2577

Jan Dicosimo
S. Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Southpark Building
Suite 306
Charleston, SC 29407

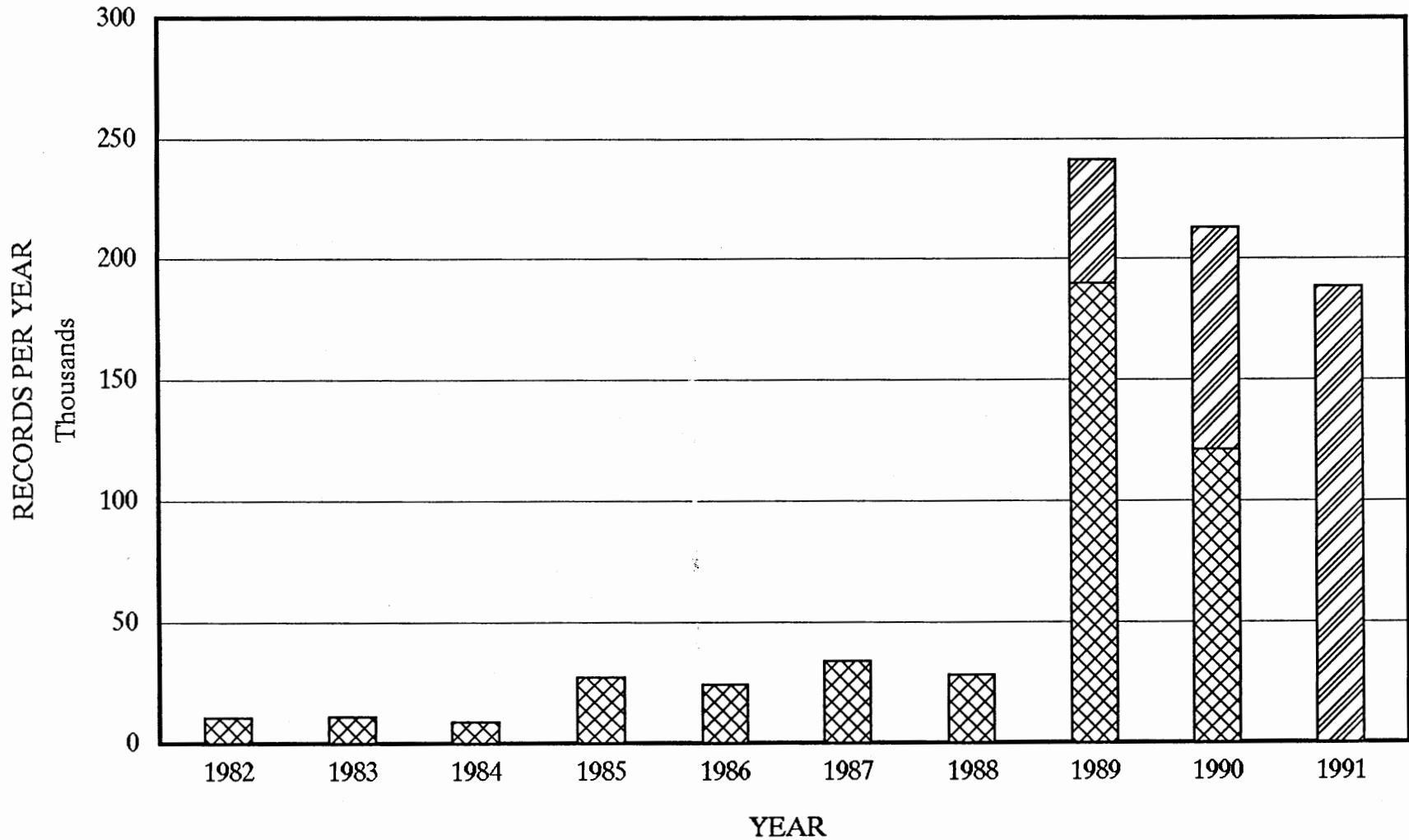
Jim Hanifen
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Quail Drive off of Perkins Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70898



Terry McBee
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
703 East Beach Drive
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Jim Richardson
Georgia D.N.R.
Coastal Resource Division
1200 Glynn Avenue
Brunswick, GA 31523-9990

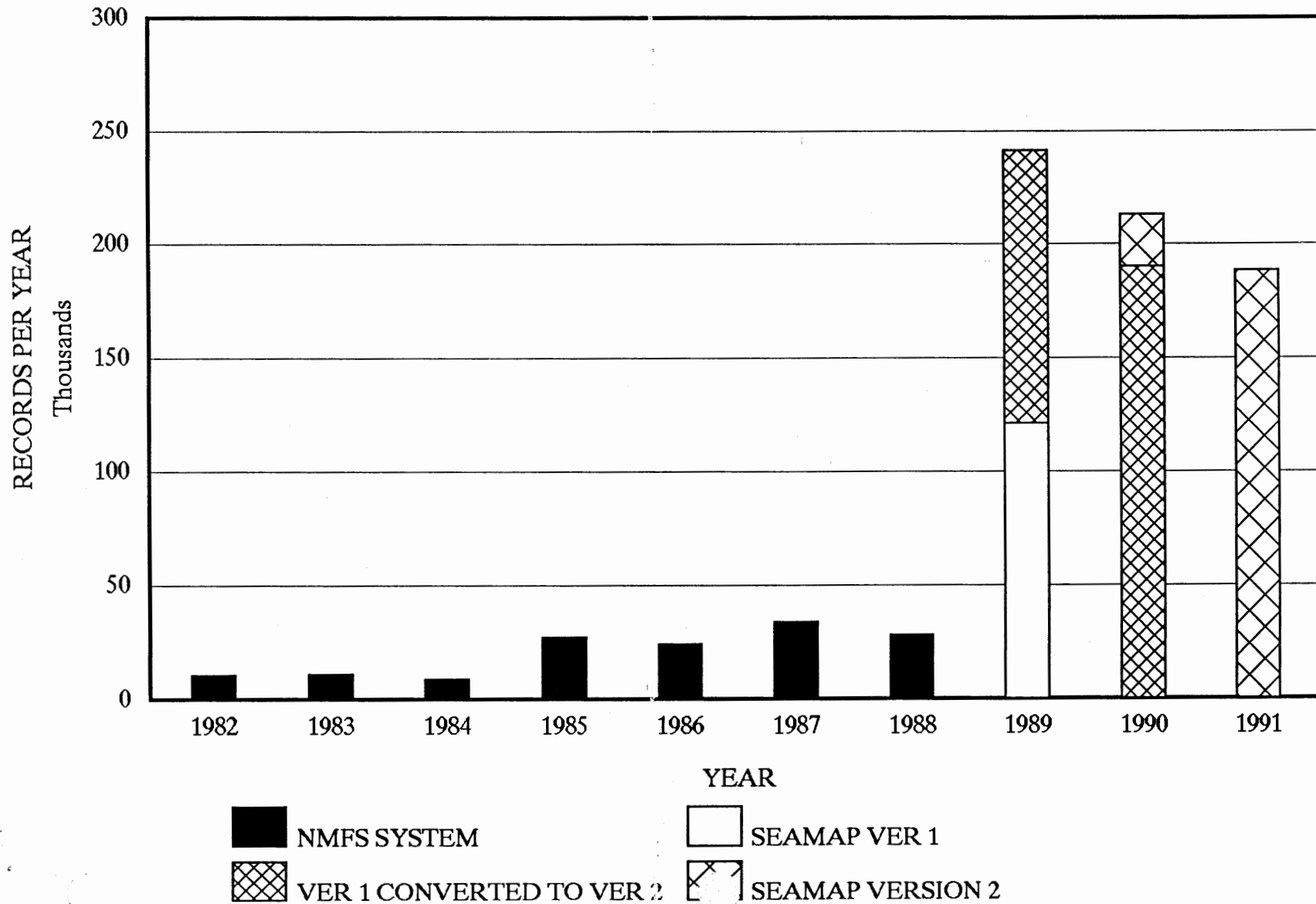
Dianne Stephan
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1400 Sixteenth St, NW, Suite 310
Washington, DC 20036

SEAMAP TOTAL RECORDS BY YEAR



 TOTAL RECORDS PRIOR TO OCTOBER 10, 1991
 TOTAL RECORDS FROM OCTOBER 10 TO PRESENT

SEAMAP TOTAL RECORDS BY YEAR



SEAMAP
DATA
MANAGEMENT

August, 1992

SEAMAP Data Management (SDM) Funding

- SDM has been funded at about a \$80K level per year from 1986-1992.
- Over that time period, the contracting buying power has decreased approximately 40%.

FY92 TASKS

- SEAMAP Data Management System moved from the Burroughs 7900 in Seattle to the Unisys A10 in Miami.
- Concentrated on data input/editing to build data base for 1989, 1990, and 1991 Gulf and South Atlantic data.
- Maintained system software - one update of software and documentation in July, 1992.
- Completed Gulf Near - Real - Time shrimp/groundfish project.
- Will complete Gulf 1990 SEAMAP Atlas .
- NO WORK ON REEFISH MODULE .

FY93 Projected A TASKS

- A1● Complete 1989, 1991, 1992 input/edit and data basing data to SEAMAP online system. This includes Gulf and South Atlantic, but not the 1992 Caribbean survey data.

- A2● Process Gulf 1993 Near-Real-Time shrimp/groundfish survey data.

- A3● Process Gulf 1991 SEAMAP Atlas.

- A4● Maintain SEAMAP System software - one system update/release.

FY93 Projected B TASKS

- B1●** Design/develop/implement module to handle data from trap/video cameras. (Ex. no weights on genus/species record - multiple lengths, weight, etc. on detailed length/frequency record. This module needs to accommodate trap/longline data taken by SEAMAP Caribbean and handle historic Gulf data with 0 weights.

- B2●** Develop protocol for converting 1982-1988 Gulf data to new SEAMAP system format.

- B3●** Start converting and adding Gulf (1982-1988) data to SEAMAP data base.

- B4●** Start adding South Atlantic 1985-1988 data to SEAMAP data base.

- B5●** Start developing protocol to convert data from SEAMAP data base management system to a relational data base management system.

- B6●** Start looking at moving from the NMFS Unisys A10 system to the NMFS IT - 95 computer system which will have a relational data base management software system (scheduled to be in place within 12 - 18 months).

FY93 Funding Level

- \$80K funding level will allow Tasks A functions to be accomplished.
- \$120K funding level will be required to handle Tasks A function and Tasks B functions.

BRIDGE LOG TO CRUISE COMPARISON SYSTEM

BRIDGE LOG TO CRUISE COMPARISON SYSTEM

INPUT

- Bridge Log Entry Forms
- Cruise Data
 - Station
 - Environment
 - Inventory/Genus Species
 - General Length Frequency
 - Shrimp Station/Length Frequency
 - Ichthyoplankton

OUTPUT

- Error/Warnings File and Report by Vessel/Cruise
- Finalized Bridge Log File and Report
- Update uploaded Ichthyoplankton Sample File

BRIDGE LOG TO CRUISE COMPARISON SYSTEM

MENU DRIVEN OPTIONS

- **BRIDGE LOG MAINTENANCE**
- **BRIDGE LOG VERIFICATION**
- **CRUISE DATA VERIFICATION**
- **BRIDGE TO CRUISE VERIFICATION**
- **BRIDGE FINALIZATION**
- **REPORTS**
- **ON-LINE HELP KEY**

BRIDGE LOG TO CRIUSE COMPARISON SYSTEM

BRIDGE LOG MAINTENANCE

- ADD
- EDIT
- DELETE

ENTRY EDITS

- Date validation
- Time validation
- Gear validation
- Duplicate gears
- Validation of gears keyed and gear type flags checked
- Validation of distance/time between start/end tow

BRIDGE LOG TO CRIUSE COMPARISON SYSTEM

BRIDGE LOG VERIFICATION

- Verify bridge data

BRIDGE VERIFICATION CHECKS

- Duplicate bridge log record
- Bridge log record missing
- Date/Time validation
- Date/Time between records
- Rate of tow based on minimum speed of vessel
- Rate between stations based on maximum vessel speed
- Gear validation
- Validation of gears keyed and gear type flags checked

BRIDGE LOG TO CRUISE COMPARISON SYSTEM

CRUISE DATA VERIFICATION

- Station
 - Duplicate station records
 - Time zone change generates warning
 - Validate vessel speed while towing on station
 - Validate vessel speed between stations
 - Date/Time checks for stations
 - Date/Time checks between stations
 - Validate centigrade field
 - Validate barometric pressure
 - Validate statistical zone

CRUISE DATA VERIFICATION

- Environment
 - Duplicate environmental record
 - Validate gears in statcard with values within environmental record
 - Salinity
 - Chlorophyll
 - Temperature
 - Station location
 - Validate RHO factor
 - Validate density
 - Validate environmental salinity equals shrimp salinity
 - Validate Secchi disk
 - Calculate if bottom is maximum depth
 - Validate temperatures between statcard and environmental

BRIDGE LOG TO CRIUSE COMPARISON SYSTEM

CRUISE DATA VERIFCATION

- Inventory/Genus Species
 - Dupliacate inventory stations
 - Validate keyed weights with calculated weights
 - Total live
 - Total crustations
 - Total other
 - Total finfish
 - Total sample
 - Calculated total live with keyed total live
 - Validate start/end of statcard = minutes fished
 - Validate biocode/genus species
 - Validate YOY exists only when parent exists
 - Validate mesh size is not blank and is consistent with gear type and size throughout criuse
 - Validate minutes fished when statcard start/end time, if blank warning is generated

CRUISE DATA VERIFICATION

- General Length Frequency
 - Validate with biocode number
 - Validate GLF count less than or equal to BGS count

CRUISE DATA VERIFCATION

- Shrimp Station/Length Frequency
 - Shrimp station is not duplicate
 - Shrimp salinity values may not be zero
 - Validate SLF exists for each shrimp station
 - Validate total shrimp weight and shrimp number may not be zero
 - Validate shrimp number and weight with the BGS weight and count

BRIDGE LOG TO CRIUSE COMPARISON SYSTEM

CRUISE DATA VERIFICATION

- Ichthyoplankton
 - Validate number of ichthyoplankton samples keyed based on ichthyoplankton gear keyed
 - Validate Sample Numbers
 - Not duplicate
 - Sample numbers not consecutive
 - Sample number already assigned
 - Station within cruise
 - Station within uploaded cruise
 - Validation for all Gear Types
 - Min/Max depth may not be zero
 - SIPC code may not be blank
 - Min depth may not be greater max depth
 - Validate Neuston Gear/Bongo/Tucker Trawl
 - Start/End flow may not be zero
 - Volume filtered may not be -9
 - Rotor constant may not be -9
 - Validate Bongo Gear/Tucker Trawl
 - Volumes filtered within a station may not be greater 10
 - Difference start/end flow > 50
 - Validate Mocness
 - Volume filtered may not be -9
 - Volumes filtered within a station may not be greater 10
 - Start/End times of ichthyoplankton must be within the range of the start/end time of the station

BRIDGE LOG TO CRUISE COMPARISON SYSTEM

BRIDGE to CRUISE DATA VERIFICATION

- Compare exact fields within bridge to cruise
 - Validate corresponding fields are identical
 - Pascagoula station numbers
 - Record counts
 - Start/End times
 - Start/End positions
 - Start/End depths
 - Gears
 - Vessel speeds
 - Validate gears with data keyed
 - Environmental
 - Turbidity
 - Dissolved oxygen
 - Chlorophyll
 - Salinity
 - Temperature
- Validate primary gear
- Mesh/Gear sizes and types
- General length frequency
- Shrimp length frequency
- Ichthyoplankton
- Start/End times

BRIDGE LOG TO CRIUSE COMPARISON SYSTEM

BRIDGE FINALIZATION

- Bridge log finalization
 - Statcard seemap station number is written to the bridge log file
 - Inventory record flag within the bridge is set, Y or N, and the op code field is updated
 - Record counts by station are updated to the bridge log record
 - Genus/Species
 - General length frequency
 - Shrimp station and length frequency
 - Ichthyoplankton gears, stations, samples, and length frequency
 - Gears and number of samples are updated to the Bridge Log Record
 - Turbidity
 - Dissolved oxygen
 - Chlorophyll
 - Salinity
 - Temperature
 - Generated flag is set and the date of the generation

BRIDGE LOG TO CRIUSE COMPARISON SYSTEM

REPORTS

- Bridge Log Working Report
- Bridge Log Finalized Report
- Verification Report
- Miscellaneous Reports
- Documentation

W. M. J. J. J.

SEAMAP - GULF, SOUTH ATLANTIC
AND CARIBBEAN SUBCOMMITTEES
JOINT MINUTES
Thursday, August 13
and Friday, August 14, 1992
Savannah, Georgia

SEAMAP-South Atlantic Chairman David Cupka called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Henry Ansley, GDNR, Brunswick, GA
Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
David Cupka, SCWMRD, Charleston, SC
Jane DiCosimo (proxy for R. Pugliese), SAFMC, Charleston SC
Jack Gartner (proxy for J. Kimmel), FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Felix Grana, PRDNR, San Juan, PR
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Miguel Rolon, CFMC, Hato Rey, PR
Ivan Sanchez Ayendez, PRDNR, San Juan, PR
Ann Seiler, USVIDFW, St. Thomas, VI
Joanne Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Mike Street, NCDMF, Morehead City, NC
Walter Tatum, ADNCR, Gulf Shores, AL
Nancy Thompson, NMFS, Miami, FL
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Staff

David Donaldson, SEAMAP-Gulf Coordinator
Aida Rosario, SEAMAP-Caribbean Coordinator
Dianne Stephan, SEAMAP-South Atlantic Coordinator
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant

Others

Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
David Pritchard, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Ken Savastano, NMFS, Stennis Space Center, MS
Bob Van Dolah, SCMRRI, Charleston, SC
Elizabeth Wenner, SCMRRI, Charleston, SC

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the joint SEAMAP meeting held on July 15, 1991 in La Parguera, Puerto Rico were approved as submitted.

Overview of SEAMAP-South Atlantic

D. Cupka reported on the activities of the SEAMAP-South Atlantic Subcommittee as follows:

- * The SEAMAP-South Atlantic has not met since the last joint meeting in Puerto Rico
- * Main activity of the SEAMAP-South Atlantic has been the Shallow Water Trawl Survey
- * The Crustacean Work Group met in February 1992 to discuss research in the area and to produce a newsletter
- * B. Van Dolah presented a report concerning the Bottom Mapping Survey:
 - The objective of the survey is to evaluate all existing data records in the South Atlantic Bight to characterize the bottom type.
 - The area surveyed is from the beach out to 200 meters.
 - The types of records examined include visual observations, trap, trawl, dredge and geological data.
 - The data is entered into a master data file which contains all the pertinent information. The data file will be referenced by a master grid which will break up the survey area into 1x1 minute degrees latitude and longitude coordinates.
 - The database will be in a dBase format to be compatible with the SEAMAP data systems. Also, the database will be compatible with the GIS system.
 - The first phase of the project is to build data sets for South Carolina and Georgia and then move onto North Carolina and Florida.
 - Major activities to date have been to hire personnel, purchase necessary hardware and software and develop the block coordinate system.
- * E. Wenner presented a report concerning the Shallow Water Trawl Survey:
 - The goal of the survey is to provide data on the distribution and abundance of important species in the South Atlantic region.
 - The survey began in 1986 which was the pilot phase of the survey. The states of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina sampled their waters using a stratified random sampling design.
 - From 1987 to 1988, the day/night phase was conducted where samples were collected from fixed station sites using monthly cruises.

JOINT SEAMAP MINUTES

August 13-14, 1992

Page -3-

- From 1989 to present, the full survey is conducted by returning to a stratified random sampling design selection and seasonal cruises (spring, summer and fall).
- * The Winter Tagging Cruise has been conducted since 1988 from Cape Hatteras to Chesapeake Bay. The main purpose is to tag striped bass and other important species. Approximately 6,000 striped bass have been tagged since the inception of the survey.
- * North Carolina is sampling bays and inside waters in their state and this data is being included in the SEAMAP data base system.
- * The continuation of the benthic characterization study in Florida which identifies and characterizes the benthic communities off the Florida coast.

Overview of SEAMAP-Gulf of Mexico

W. Tatum reported on the activities of the SEAMAP-Gulf of Mexico subcommittee as follows:

- * Publications produced since the last Joint meeting include the 1989 Biological and Environmental Atlas, 1991 Annual Report (October 1990-September 1991), 1991 SEAMAP Report to the GSMFC Technical Coordinating Committee (Oct. 1990-Sept. 1991) and 1992 Marine Directory.
- * The 1991 Fall Plankton Survey was conducted from August 21 - October 4, 1991. The purpose of the survey is to assess the abundance and distribution of king mackerel eggs and larvae. The agencies that participated were NMFS, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.
- * The 1991 Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey was conducted from October 11 - November 22, 1991. The purpose of the survey is to determine the abundance and distribution of demersal organisms from inshore waters to 60 fm. The agencies that participated were NMFS, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas.
- * The Louisiana Seasonal Surveys were conducted in the fall and winter of 1991 and spring and summer of 1992. These surveys provide comparative information concerning the abundance and distribution of major Gulf species, especially shrimp, in Louisiana waters.
- * 1992 Spring Ichthyoplankton Survey was conducted from April 15 - May 25, 1992. The primary purpose is to assess the abundance and distribution of bluefin tuna eggs and larvae. The agencies that participated were NMFS and Florida.

- * 1992 Reefish survey started on May 11 and is continuing to date. The purpose of the survey is to assess the relative abundance and compute population estimates of reefish. The participating agencies are NMFS, Alabama and Mississippi.
- * 1992 Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey was conducted from June 4 - July 13, 1992. The purpose of the survey is to determine the abundance and distribution of demersal organisms from inshore waters to 50 fm. The agencies that participated were NMFS, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. Also, six real-time mailings were distributed to approximately 275 interested persons and organizations.
- * The SEAMAP Subcommittee has met in October 1991, January 1992 and April 1992. The Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group met in March 1992. The Plankton Work Group met in October 1991 (via conference call) and November 1991. The Adult Finfish Work Group met in August 1991.

Technical Presentation: Reefish Survey

S. Nichols reported that NMFS has looked at other methods to index spawning stocks and that the trap/video methodology was developed to index these stocks. He stated there are several methodologies but they are limited by placement of gear on hard bottom areas and long station durations. The trap/video methodology was selected because it addresses these limitations.

W. Tatum stated SEAMAP-Gulf recognized the need for a reefish survey but due to limited funding, was not able to conduct such a survey. However, with last year's increase, the SEAMAP-Gulf was able to begin the Gulf wide Reefish Survey. He then presented some videos recorded by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Overview of SEAMAP-Caribbean

I. Sanchez Ayendez reported on the activities of the SEAMAP-Caribbean subcommittee as follows:

- * The Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources now houses the SEAMAP Program in the Caribbean. Aida Rosario is the new SEAMAP-Caribbean Coordinator.
- * A. Rosario reported SEAMAP-Caribbean was ready to begin the reefish survey in the St. Thomas area in April but due to funding problems was not able to begin until mid June. She also reported the Puerto Rico area started its sampling in April.

- * The sampling regimen for both the St. Thomas and Puerto Rico areas are using a standardized methodology for the reefish survey. The same traps and hooks and baits used in these gears are utilized by both areas.
- * The reefish work group determined the best stratification for site selection would be based on depth but the number of stations needed has yet to be determined. The SEAMAP-Caribbean is currently working on solving this problem.
- * A draft of the database format has been completed.

Status of FY1993 Funds

S. Nichols stated the status of funds is uncertain at this time. He reported the House and Senate have released budget marks and there is approximately \$40K difference between the marks. He recommends using the lower mark (\$1.32K) to determine this year's funding needs and allocations. That level of funding represents about a 4% decrease from last year's level.

Proposed Activities and Budget Needs

S. Nichols distributed a sheet which decreased each component's funding level by approximately 4 percent. Each component then stated its funding needs. S. Nichols and W. Tatum stated NMFS and the Gulf could operate at the levels on the handout (\$274K and \$602K, respectively). D. Cupka stated the South Atlantic needed an additional \$32K to continue ongoing activities and offset increasing personnel costs. I. Sanchez Ayendez stated the Caribbean needed an additional \$35K to include the area of St. Croix in the survey. He stated the inclusion of this area will give the region a representative sampling program. He stated that with the current level of funding, only the Puerto Rico and St. Thomas areas will be sampled.

The meeting recessed so the components could discuss recommendations on activities and funding needs.

After the recess, the South Atlantic and Caribbean components stated they could operate at the levels outlined on the handout. The funding levels agreed upon for each component of SEAMAP for FY1993 are as follows:

South Atlantic	\$315,749
Gulf	\$602,827
NMFS	\$274,545
Caribbean	\$126,879

* The difference between the House and Senate marks (\$42K) was discussed. D. Cupka suggested that if the Senate mark comes through, the first \$35,000 will go to the Caribbean so they may include St. Croix in their sampling. W. Tatum moved that if there is an excess over the House mark and it is greater than \$35,000, the first \$35,000 will go to the Caribbean for reefish sampling in the St. Croix area and the distribution of the remainder of the money will be determined by a meeting of the three chairman and program manager. If the excess is less than \$35,000, the distribution of the money will be determined by a meeting of the three chairman and program manager. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. and will reconvene at 8:00 a.m. on August 14, 1992.

August 14, 1992

The meeting reconvened at 8:07 a.m.

Grants Administration - Document Preparation

D. Pritchard presented several important handouts to the group (attached). He provided a list of FY1992 funding levels and a schedule for submission of applications for financial assistance for FY1993. He stated that entities with a January 1, 1993 start date must have their cooperative agreements to the NMFS program office by October 1, 1992 and entities with a February 1, 1993 start date must have their cooperative agreements to the NMFS program office by November 1, 1992. He also provided a checklist for the necessary items to be included in the cooperative agreement package. He also stated that he has recommended SEAMAP participants complete the necessary reports on a semi-annual basis instead of a quarterly-basis.

JOINT SEAMAP MINUTES
August 13-14, 1992
Page -7-

Planning for 1993 Annual Joint Meeting

All members agreed the month of August was a good time to meet. The coordinators should attempt to schedule the next meeting for the first week in August. Several sites for the next meeting were then discussed. Three sites, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, St. Petersburg, Florida and Key West, Florida will be examined for meeting site feasibility. The coordinators will price out these locations and present their findings to their respective subcommittees.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**STATUS OF FY1992 SEAMAP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
SOUTHEAST REGION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
APRIL, 1992**

RECIPIENT	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR	PROJECT STATEMENT DURATION	BUDGET PERIOD DURATION	AMOUNT OF FUNDING THIS BUDGET PERIOD
ALABAMA	M. TATUM	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	\$80,895
ASMFC	L. LEACH	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	\$44,416
CFMC	S. LAUREANO	1/1/1992- 12/31/1994	1/1/1992- 12/31/1992	\$29,950
FLORIDA	A. HUFF	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	\$137,808
GSNFC	B. DONALDSON	1/1/1992- 12/31/1994	1/1/1992- 12/31/1992	\$98,476
LOUISIANA	J. MANIFEN	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	\$153,818
MISSISSIPPI	R. WALLER	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	\$126,828
NORTH CAROLINA	N. TANGEDAL	7/1/1992- 6/30/1993	7/1/1992- 6/30/1993	\$5,888
PUERTO RICO	A. ROSARIO	4/1/1992- 3/31/1995	4/1/1992- 3/31/1995	\$51,858
SOUTH CAROLINA	D. CLIPKA	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	\$258,442
TEXAS	T. CODY	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	2/1/1992- 1/31/1995	\$65,858
USVI	A. SEILER	4/1/1992- 3/31/1995	4/1/1992- 3/31/1995	\$51,858

FY 1993 SEAMAP SCHEDULE*

- **DECISIONS OF FY 1993 WORK COMPLETED BY NMFS PROGRAM MANAGER AND COOPERATORS BY:
SEPTEMBER 1, 1992.**

- **APPLICATION PACKAGES SUBMITTED BY STATE COOPERATORS TO THE NMFS PROGRAM OFFICE ON THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES:**
 - **FOR JANUARY 1, 1993 START: SEND APPLICATIONS TO THE NMFS PROGRAM OFFICE BY OCTOBER 1, 1992.**
 - **FOR FEBRUARY 1, 1993 START: SEND APPLICATIONS TO THE NMFS PROGRAM OFFICE BY NOVEMBER 1, 1992.**
 - **FOR APRIL 1, 1993 START: SEND APPLICATIONS TO THE NMFS PROGRAM OFFICE BY JANUARY 1, 1993.**
 - **FOR OTHER START DATES: SEND APPLICATIONS TO THE NMFS PROGRAM OFFICE AT LEAST 90 DAYS BEFORE START.**

- **APPLICATION PACKAGES SUBMITTED BY THE NMFS PROGRAM OFFICE TO NOAA GRANTS:
AT LEAST 60 DAYS BEFORE THE REQUESTED START.**

- **GRANTS AWARDED BY THE NOAA GRANTS OFFICE BY:
THE REQUESTED START DATE.**

***FUNDING DEPENDENT UPON RECEIPT OF A FY1993 ALLOCATION FOR THIS PROGRAM.**

FY 1993 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PLANNING CHECKLIST
SEAMAP

1. PROJECT STATEMENT (PROGRAM NARRATIVE + SCHEDULE AND BUDGET):
NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS YEAR'S SEAMAP UNLESS A NEW PROJECT IS NEEDED
OR CHANGES ARE MADE TO THE PROGRAM NARRATIVE'S SCOPE OF
ACTIVITIES.

2. APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE:

A. SF424

- ALL SECTIONS COMPLETED (SEE EXAMPLE).
- STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REQUIREMENTS.
- FUNDING FOR FY1993 (BUDGET PERIOD 2 FOR MOST).
- 3 ORIGINAL SIGNATURES.

B. SF424A

- SECTION A FOR THIS BUDGET PERIOD.
- SECTION B FOR THIS BUDGET PERIOD.
- SECTION D FOR THIS BUDGET PERIOD.
- SECTION E: COMPLETE FOR FUTURE BP'S.

C. SF424B (ASSURANCES): ORIGINAL SIGNATURE.

D. STATEMENT OF WORK

- APPLICANT NAME.
- STUDY TITLE.
- BUDGET PERIOD.
- STUDY TITLE.
- PS OBJECTIVE.
- JOB TITLE(IF ANY).
- SEGMENT OBJECTIVES.
- SEGMENT PROCEDURES.
 - *NMFS ACTIVITIES.
 - *COOPERATOR ACTIVITIES.
 - *NMFS/COOPERATOR ACTIVITIES.
- LOCATION OF WORK.
- PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS.
- MILESTONE SCHEDULE FOR EACH JOB.

(MORE)

E. COST BREAKDOWN/JUSTIFICATION

- CATEGORIES.
- MATHEMATICS.
- PERCENTAGES.
- EXPLANATIONS.
- PRIOR APPROVALS.
- INDIRECT COST PLAN.

F. EQUIPMENT LOAN AGREEMENT (IF ANY).

G. CONTRACTURAL AGREEMENTS.

H. LOBBYING CERTIFICATION (>\$100,000).

I. DRUG FREE WORKPLACE.

J. AUTHORITY.

K. CONFIDENTIALITY, IF REQUIRED.

L. OTHER REQUIREMENTS.

SEE THE ATTACHED EXAMPLE FOR AN ILLUSTRATION OF A PROPERLY COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGE.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS NEEDS AND ISSUES

- **NEGOTIATIONS OF COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES**
- **STATEMENT OF WORK ACCURATELY REFLECTS ACTIVITIES**
- **PARTNERS PROVIDE DELIVERABLES ON SCHEDULE**
- **ALL FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REPORTS SUBMITTED ON TIME**
- **TIMELY NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO SCOPE, FUNDING, DURATION, PERSONNEL**
- **TIMELY SUBMISSION OF PROJECT DOCUMENTS**
- **PROVIDE ALL SUPPORTING INFORMATION/DOCUMENTATION WITH APPLICATIONS**
- **THE OVERMATCH ISSUE:**

* \$800,000 STATE WITH \$100,000 FED. = 100% MATCH
[FOR EVERY \$100 SPENT, \$100.00 FED. CONTRIBUTION]

* \$800,000 STATE WITH \$100,000 FED. = 12.5% MATCH
[FOR EVERY \$100 SPENT, \$12.50 FED. CONTRIBUTION]

*Approved by
Committee*

SUMMARY

THIRD MEETING OF THE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM (PDT)
for the
RECREATIONAL FISHERIES INFORMATION NETWORK
SOUTHEAST REGION
RecFIN(SE)

DE SOTO HILTON HOTEL
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
AUGUST 14, 1992

The third meeting of the RecFIN(SE) PDT was held to review and edit the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the second draft of the Strategic Plan. A. Jones presided over the meeting. All states and territories were represented, in addition to all three fishery management councils; both interstate fisheries commissions; NMFS Headquarters, Southeast Regional Office, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center; National Park Service; and Fish and Wildlife Service. An attendance list is attached (Attachment 1).

A. Jones presented a brief update of the status of the MOU and Strategic Plan. The primary emphasis of the PDT will be on completing a final version of the MOU for presentation at the autumn ASMFC and GSMFC meetings. Secondary emphasis will be on continuing work on the Strategic Plan.

AGENDA

A period of time was allotted at the beginning of the agenda to identify and discuss corrections to the summary of the New Orleans meeting. The agenda (Attachment 2), as modified by the addition of item 1(a), was approved by consensus.

CORRECTIONS TO SUMMARY OF NEW ORLEANS MEETING

Discussion emphasized actual correction of errors or omissions in the summary, rather than changes in thought since the meeting. The following corrections will be made to the summary:

- p. 1, line 7 from bottom of page. Change sentence to read:
It is anticipated that the commissions will provide major . . .
- p. 2, line 8. Change "... the largest potential source..." to
". . . a potential source . . ."

- p. 2, last line. Add sentence: *Should a vote be needed, the majority vote (one-half plus one) of a quorum will determine the preferred action.*
- p. 3, line 10 from bottom of page. Change to read: . . . before the *strategic and annual operations plans* are approved.
- p. 3, line 7 from bottom of page. Change to read: . . . RecFIN *strategic plan* . . .
- p. 3, line 2 from bottom of page. Change to read: . . . funding level and operation of . . .
- p. 7, line 14. Change to read: Purpose: To provide *staff support and perform functions at the geographic area level similar to those of the RecFIN(SE) Coordinator.*
- p. 7, line 24. Change sentence to read: . . . and equipment are *anticipated* to be extensive.
- p. 8, line 8. Add sentence: *The FY92 funding level is now considered the base level.*
- p. 8, line 9. Delete sentence: The FY92 . . .
- p. 8, line 12. Add phrase "*related to finfish*" to end of sentence.
- p. 8, lines 23-24. Delete phrase "*they already get about 30% of the funds.*"
- p. 8, line 28. Delete "*1/3.*"

A corrected copy of the summary will be distributed to the PDT.

REVIEW OF DRAFT MOU

Many editorial changes were made to the draft MOU; the computer file was edited as changes were decided upon by the PDT in joint session. The revised MOU, as printed at the meeting, is attached (Attachment 3). Attachment 3 does not include additional changes to be made for editorial consistency; corrections for spelling, etc.; or additional statutory authorities to be incorporated. These revisions will be made to the draft produced at the meeting, and a clean draft will be distributed for review by the PDT and their agencies.

Some of the major points addressed by the PDT in editing the draft MOU are listed below. Several of these changes will also be made concomitantly in the Strategic Plan.

- The term "Southeast Region" will be defined in the MOU Preamble; the term "Region" can then be used consistently throughout the text.
- Wherever the word "state(s)" is used, the word "territory (territories)" will also be used.
- A new second paragraph was added to the Preamble: *The signatures of senior agency officials on this MOU in no way obligate the signatory agencies to provide personnel or funds for planning and implementation of the RecFIN(SE) program.*
- An additional data deficiency was added on p. 3: *More precise catch and effort estimates are needed for various geographic levels.*
- In the Authority section, the issue of confidentiality of data will not be addressed.
- An introductory sentence was added preceding the mission statement (p. 6) to emphasize the preliminary nature of the goals and objectives.
- Objective 5 of Goal 1 (p. 8) was deleted, and a related phrase was added to the end of the mission statement (p. 7): *. . . and to support the development and operations of a national program.*
- The mission, goals, and objectives as revised by consensus for the MOU will be used verbatim in the Strategic Plan.
- The last paragraph on p. 9 (Should disagreement arise . . .) should be either clarified or deleted. This paragraph was inserted by NMFS Headquarters for legal reasons. The PDT does not understand why it needs to be in this MOU when it is not in the Pacific Coast MOU. It is also unclear what "respective higher administrative levels" are. SEFSC will contact N. Bane to see if the language can be clarified.
- The issue of voting status of RecFIN(SE) Committee members, which determines the number of MOU signatories, was discussed. State members of the PDT proposed a "one agency - one vote" policy in contrast to the "one member - one vote" policy recommended at the New Orleans meeting. The NMFS and FWS would each get one vote instead of the two votes previously recommended; each agency could have more than one representative on the Committee but would still have only one vote. The NMFS and FWS positions need to be decided before the final MOU is prepared. **A deadline of August 21 was set for all PDT members to submit the names and titles of their agencies' MOU signatories to Carole Goodyear at SEFSC.**

REVIEW OF DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

To review and discuss the Strategic Plan, the PDT chose to remain in joint session (Option 3 on the agenda). The review of the plan was devoted primarily to discussing issues of substance and changes in content, rather than editorial changes. A deadline of August 28 was set for all PDT members to submit editorial comments in writing to Carole Goodyear.

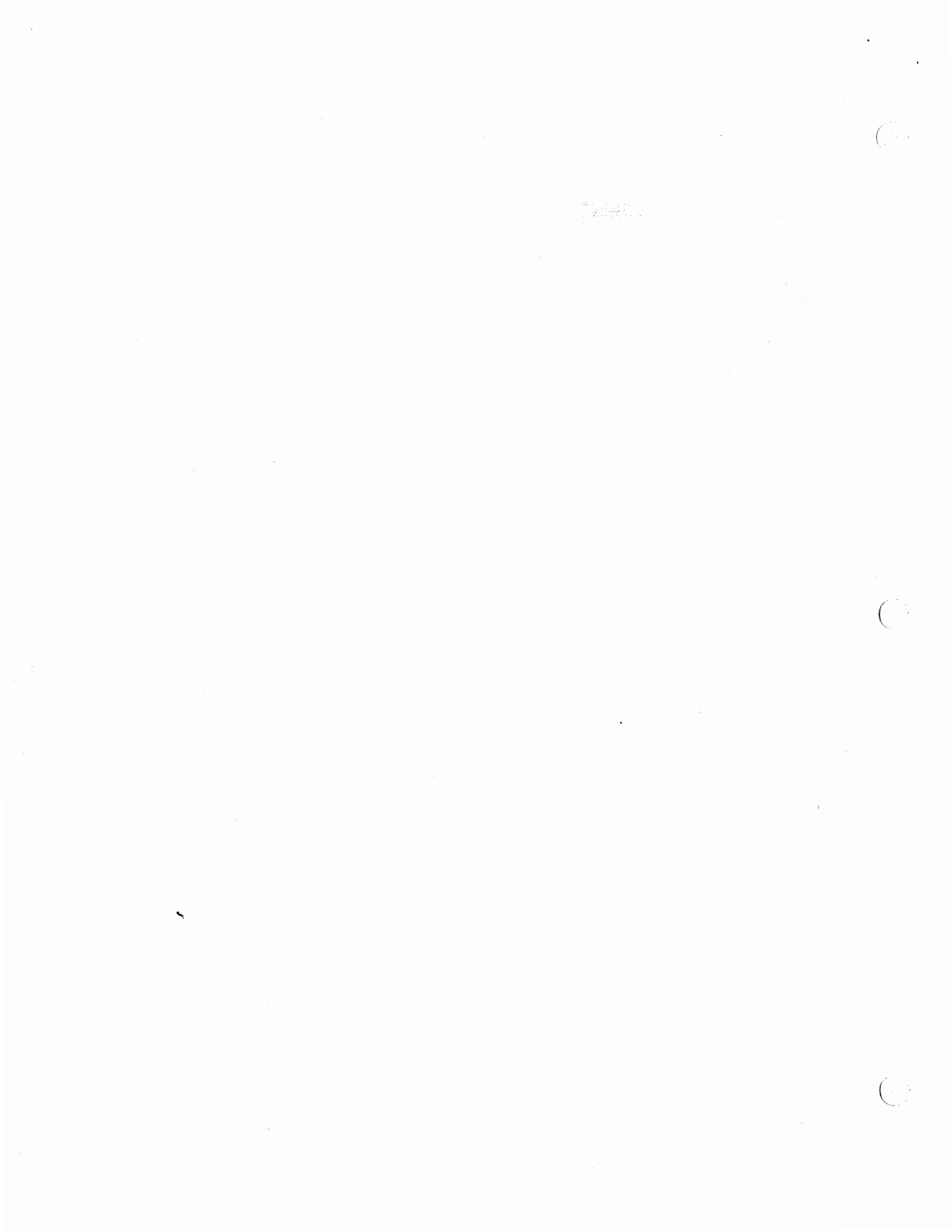
A new draft of the Strategic Plan will be prepared and distributed to the PDT.

The major issues addressed by the PDT in editing the draft Strategic Plan were:

- **Duties of coordinators:** The issue of an overall NMFS Coordinator for RecFIN(SE), as recommended at the New Orleans meeting, was discussed. The state members of the PDT decided in favor of having the area coordinators perform the day-to-day administrative tasks for the program, instead of only acting as support for a NMFS Coordinator. Both the GSMFC and NMFS offered alternative text for the "Staff" section of the draft Strategic Plan (pp. 27-28), but neither of these positions was accepted. A subcommittee (R. Lukens, chair; A. Seiler; D. Stephan; W. Laney; J. Witzig/M. Osborn) was designated to rewrite the section on staffing. This will probably take the form of a list of proposed tasks; the RecFIN(SE) Committee will have the responsibility for apportioning these tasks.
- **Funding for staff support:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council declined to provide support for an area coordinator, similar to what the commissions may provide. The Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife may have a very small amount of funding available to perform coordination tasks during the first year, but the Division cannot take on the coordinator's full duties unless other funding is available. Support of coordinators' positions by the GSMFC and ASMFC is also dependent on future funding. The new Wallop/Breaux funding, if received, will provide a small amount of funding for planning but will not support the coordinators.
- **Data collection activities:** The PDT decided to delete from the Strategic Plan the discussion of the three types of data collection activities (pp. 19-20). The RecFIN(SE) Committee should decide what activities will be part of the data collection program.
- **Subcommittees and work groups.** The tasks performed by these two types of groups were clarified. Subcommittees will be subsets of the RecFIN(SE) Committee and will address general administrative issues, policies, etc. The geographic

subcommittees will be standing subcommittees. The RecFIN(SE) Committee may establish other ad hoc subcommittees. Technical work groups will address technical issues, will be ad hoc, and may include persons who are not members of the RecFIN(SE) Committee.

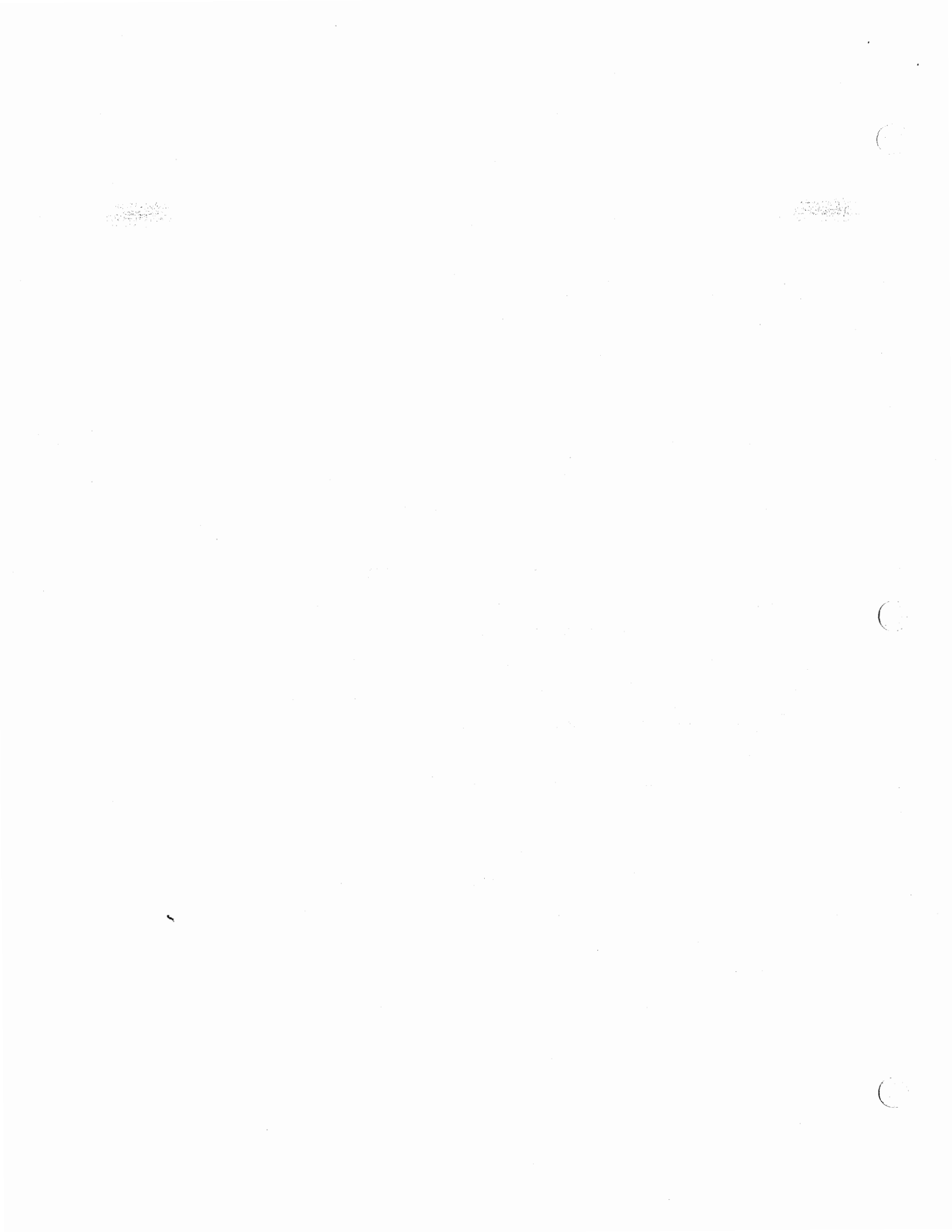
- Order of major sections of text. Section II (Program Mission, Goals, and Objectives) will be moved to become Section IV. Reversing the order of Sections V (Program Development) and VI (Program Management) will be considered. Section I.E (Authority) will be moved to an appendix.
- Program evaluation (p. 25, p. 29). The recommendations of the external peer review team will be made to the RecFIN(SE) signatory agencies, not to the NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries.



ATTENDANCE LIST

Third Meeting of the RecFIN (SE) Plan Development Team
August 14, 1992

Henry Ansley - Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Terry Cody - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
David Cupka - South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Department
Jane DiCosimo - South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
David Donaldson - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Carole Goodyear - NMFS/SEFSC
Albert Jones - NMFS/SEFSC
Wilson Laney - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/S. Atlantic Fish. Coord. Office
Skip Lazauski - Alabama Marine Resources Division
Ron Lukens - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
John Merriner - NMFS/SEFSC
Stephen Meyers - Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Joe O'Hop - Florida Department of Natural Resources
Maury Osborn - NMFS/Fisheries Statistics Division
Walter Padilla - Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
Miguel A. Rolon - Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Ivan Sanchez - Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
Kenneth Savastano - NMFS/SEFSC
Tom Schmidt - NPS/Everglades National Park
Ron Schmied - NMFS/SERO
Ann Seiler - Virgin Islands Division of Fish & Wildlife
Joseph Shepard - Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Dianne Stephan - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Michael Street - North Carolina Division of Marine Resources
Tom Van Devender - Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks
Wayne Waltz - South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Department



**THIRD MEETING OF THE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM (PDT)
for the
RECREATIONAL FISHERIES INFORMATION NETWORK
SOUTHEAST REGION
RecFIN (SE)**

**De Soto Hilton Hotel
Savannah, Georgia
August 14-15, 1992**

Draft Agenda

- Aug 14**
- 10:00 a.m. 1. Consideration of Agenda
1a. *Discussion of corrections to New Orleans meeting summary*
- 10:15 a.m. 2. Review and Discussion of Draft Memorandum of Understanding
- 12:00 p.m. 3. Lunch
4. Review and Discussion of Draft Strategic Plan - Three Options for Consideration
- Option 1. Procedure for Review of Strategic Plan-PDT subdivides by geographic area.
- 1:00-3:00 p.m. 1. Individual Area Groups first meet separately to review Plan:
South Atlantic Group
Caribbean Group
Gulf Group
- 3:00-6:00 p.m. 2. PDT then meets as a whole to hear reports of individual groups, discuss comments in joint session, and make recommendations.
- Option 2. Procedure for Review of Strategic Plan-PDT subdivides by other criteria, e.g., subject matter interest.
- 1:00-3:00 p.m. 1. Individual Subject Matter Groups first meet separately to review Plan.
- 3:00-6:00 p.m. 2. PDT then meets as a whole to hear reports of individual groups, discuss comments in joint session, and make recommendations.
- 1:00-6:00 p.m. Option 3. Procedure for Review of Strategic Plan-PDT meets as single group.
PDT meets as a single group for the entire time, develops comments and recommendations in joint session.

Aug. 15

8:00a.m.-12 noon

Facilities will be available for work of special drafting groups if necessary. If you can be available Saturday and wish to participate, let Albert Jones or Carole Goodyear know.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, AND NATURAL RESOURCES
PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

FOR

ESTABLISHMENT OF A
RECREATIONAL FISHERIES INFORMATION NETWORK
FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES
RecFIN (SE)

JULY 1992

Rev. 8/14/92

PREAMBLE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirms the intent of the National Marine Fisheries Service; the Fish and Wildlife Service; the National Park Service; the marine fishery management agencies of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; the Atlantic States and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions; and the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils to develop and implement a cooperative program to collect and manage marine recreational fishery statistics for the southeastern region of the United States. This MOU recognizes the long-standing cooperation and partnership existing among these organizations in management of and research on the region's living marine resources and their habitat.

The signatures of senior agency officials on this MOU in no way obligates the signatory agencies to provide personnel or funds for planning and implementation of the RecFIN (SE) program.

Statistical data and information are necessary to achieve optimal benefits from the use of fishery resources and to reduce the risk of overharvesting. Development of a cooperative marine recreational fishery statistics program among state and federal partners can avoid duplication of effort, reduce overall costs, promote education of resource users, and provide a more complete base of information for formulating management policies, strategies, and tactics.

BACKGROUND

Need for Information

Catch and effort statistics are fundamental for assessing the effects of fishing on stocks of living marine resources. Information on total catch, fishing effort, and seasonal and geographical distribution of the catch and effort is required to develop rational management policies and plans. Accurate and timely catch statistics, along with associated biological and socio-economic data, are required to provide management agencies with the information necessary to plan for the wise use of fishery resources. Statistics are needed by management agencies for assessing the status of stocks and developing and monitoring fishery management plans.

State fishery management agencies and federal agencies with local authority (e.g., the National Park Service) have long managed the fishery resources within their respective jurisdictions. Recreational and commercial catch and effort statistics have been of fundamental importance to these agencies in assessing the

influence of fishing and making decisions on appropriate management measures to maintain and enhance fishery resources. In 1976 the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) created regional fishery management councils and greatly increased the involvement of both state and federal agencies in the conservation and management of fishery resources. The MFCMA mandates a national fishery management program and directs that fishery management plans (FMPs) be prepared by regional councils or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for resources that are in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Through their member states, congressionally established interstate fisheries commissions, prepare FMPs for interjurisdictional fishery resources which occur either partially or entirely in territorial waters. States and territories also prepare FMPs for fishery resources within their jurisdictions. Consideration of both commercial and recreational harvests is a significant component of all these FMPs.

The major fishery resources of the southeastern United States require interjurisdictional management because of their transboundary distributions. Stocks of fish routinely cross interjurisdictional boundaries, and anglers and other harvesters cross these same boundaries in pursuit of their prey. Because of these movements, information on fisheries in one state's waters is useful to adjacent states. Adequate information about fishing and other resource uses is also needed by state and local government agencies to determine the biological and economic impacts of land and water use decisions.

Inseason regulatory changes and catch quotas have become common fishery management strategies. Timely, accurate and precise harvest information for both recreational and commercial fisheries is required to determine the need for and effects of these management measures.

Historic Programs

Individual management agencies have conducted numerous statistical surveys over the years to provide information for the management of fisheries within their jurisdictions. Programs to collect statistical information on marine recreational fisheries began in the 1950s with local creel surveys and were followed by saltwater angling surveys conducted every five years (1960 to the present) by the U.S. Department of the Interior through its National Survey of Hunting, Fishing, and Associated Outdoor Recreational Activities. Since 1979 the NMFS has conducted a Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey (MRFSS), which produces annual estimates of total fishing effort and catch by species. State and federal agencies have conducted numerous other surveys, either as enhancements to the MRFSS or as independent surveys.

Data Deficiencies

In response to the recent increase in fishery management information requirements, management agencies in the Southeast have recognized the need to improve their marine recreational fishery data collection programs. Cooperative efforts to identify specific problems have revealed the following major deficiencies:

1. State and federal data bases are not always compatible or continuous over time or area;
2. Some duplication and field sampling conflicts may still be occurring among different surveys;
3. Improvements in the estimation of fishing effort and catch for some sectors of the recreational fishery are needed;
4. More precise catch and effort estimates are needed at various geographical levels;
5. Significant recreational fisheries for molluscan shellfish and crustaceans are not covered regularly by most surveys;
6. Information on highly migratory species and "rare-event" catches is not sufficient to determine the impact of recreational fisheries on the resources;
7. Better information on length frequencies and catch-at-age by time/area strata is needed for the level of statistical confidence required by decision makers and the precision required by stock assessment scientists;
8. Information about discarded catch and the disposition of landed catch, including consumption, has not been verified or routinely collected;
9. The nature and extent of tournament catches is poorly known;
10. Social and economic data on recreational fisheries are very limited and, in many cases, nonexistent;
11. The ability to access and analyze most recreational fishery survey data bases is severely limited; and
12. There is no common forum for concerned agencies in the Southeast to plan, coordinate and evaluate MRF data collection and management activities.

PURPOSE

Having determined that there is an urgent and compelling need for statistical data on the marine recreational fisheries of the southeastern United States, and recognizing that the NMFS, the states of California, Oregon, and Washington, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission have already entered into a similar cooperative effort, the signatories to this MOU confirm their intent to establish a cooperative state-federal southeastern Recreational Fisheries Information Network - **RecFIN (SE)**. The **RecFIN (SE)** program is intended to coordinate present and future MRF data collection and data management activities through cooperative planning, innovative uses of statistical theory and design, and consolidation of appropriate data into a useful data base system.

AUTHORITY

Authorization of the parties to this MOU to collect data for use in marine fishery resource management includes the following statutes:

National Marine Fisheries Service:

- Under the MFCMA (16 USC 1801 et seq.), NMFS is required to consider the effects of commercial and recreational fishing activities on marine fishery resources in the development of FMPs. Development and implementation of FMPs require NMFS to use the best scientific information available.
- Section 5(a)(4) of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1956 (16 USC 742) provides for the collection and dissemination of statistics on commercial and sport fisheries.
- The National Environmental and Policy Act (NEPA) and other laws and directives (Regulatory Flexibility Act and E.O. 12291) delineate federal analytical responsibilities for assessing the impact of fishing activities.
- The NMFS Strategic Plan (1992-96) details specific goals and objectives referring to the need for collection of marine recreational fishery statistics.

Fish and Wildlife Service: (to be added)

National Park Service:

- National Park Service Organic Act 1916 (PL Chapter 408) to conserve the scenery and natural and historic objects and wild life for the enjoyment and leave them unimpaired for enjoyment of future generations.

- Under General Authorities Act fo 1970 (PL 91-383) NPS Organic Act and other protective mandates applied equally to all units of the system.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

- The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact (P.L. 77-539) provides for a regional approach to improve utilization and prevent waste of the marine and estuarine fisheries resources of the Atlantic Coast.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission:

- The Interstate Compact Authorization provides for a regional approach to management, monitoring, and utilization of marine fisheries resources.
- The Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act provides authorization for the interstate compacts to develop interstate fishery management plans (P.L. 81-66 and P.L. 99-659).

Caribbean, Gulf, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils:

- The MFCMA (16 USC 1801 et seq.) requires the fishery management councils to develop FMPs according to national standards, including use of the best available scientific information.

Alabama:

- Code of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Title 9, Subsection 2-4, Subheading (a), provides the Department with full jurisdiction and control of all resources existing or living in the waters of Alabama.

Florida:

- Florida Statute 370.02 directs the Department to secure and maintain statistical records of the catch of marine species by various gear, by areas and other appropriate classifications.
- Florida Statute 370.0607 directs the Department to establish a marine information system in conjunction with the licensing program to gather marine fisheries data.

Georgia: (to be added)

Louisiana:

- Louisiana Revised Statute 56:6(6) confers upon the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the authority to collect,

classify, and preserve such data and information as will tend to conserve and protect marine resources.

Mississippi:

- Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Ordinance 9.002, Sections 3 and 8, directs the Department to obtain statistical information on recreational fisheries landed or processed in the State of Mississippi.

North Carolina:

North Carolina General Statute (GS) 113-131 charges the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources with stewardship over the state's marine and estuarine fishery resources.

- Research and collection of statistics are authorized by GS 113-181.

Puerto Rico: (to be added)

South Carolina:

- South Carolina Code Section 50-5-20 gives the Division of Marine Resources jurisdiction over all salt-water fish, fishing and fisheries, all fish, fishing and fisheries in all tidal waters of the state and all fish, fishing and fisheries in all water of the state where upon a tax or license is levied for use for commercial purposes.
- Section 50-17-280 requires license and permit holders (including the recreational shrimp baiting fishery) to keep records and provide information. Such information is confidential.
- Section 50-20-40 (effective July 1, 1992) requires charter boats, rental boats, and commercial piers to provide catch, effort, and participation data.

Texas:

- Code of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Section 66.019, directs the Department to gather statistical information on the harvest of edible forms of marine life.

U.S. Virgin Islands:

- U.S.V.I. Code, Title 12, Section 90-94, authorizes the Department of Planning and Natural Resources with jurisdiction and control of all marine resources.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

The mission, goals and objectives are preliminary and may be refined as the strategic plan and operation plans completed.

Mission

The mission of the **RecFIN (SE)** program is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine recreational fishery statistical data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Southeast region, and to support the development of the operations of a national program.

Goals and Objectives

- GOAL 1: To plan, manage, and evaluate a coordinated state-federal marine recreational fishery data collection program for the Southeast Region.
- OBJECTIVE 1: To establish a **RecFIN (SE)** Committee consisting of MOU signatories or their designees to develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate the program.
 - OBJECTIVE 2: To complete during the first year a three-year Strategic Plan that outlines policies and protocols of the program.
 - OBJECTIVE 3: To develop annual operations plans, including identification of available resources, that implement the Strategic Plan.
 - OBJECTIVE 4: To distribute program information to cooperators and interested parties.
 - OBJECTIVE 5: To conduct a program review after two years of operation to evaluate the program's success in meeting needs in the Southeast Region.
- GOAL 2: To implement a coordinated state-federal marine recreational fishery data collection program for the Southeast Region.
- OBJECTIVE 1: To identify the components of the fishery (modes, areas, etc.) and the required data priorities for each component.

OBJECTIVE 2: To identify data elements (environmental, biological, sociological, economic) required for each fishery component.

OBJECTIVE 3: To identify and determine standards for data collection, including statistical, training, and quality assurance and quality control standards.

OBJECTIVE 4: To identify and evaluate the adequacy of current programs for meeting RecFIN (SE) requirements.

OBJECTIVE 5: To coordinate, integrate, and augment, as appropriate, data collection efforts to meet RecFIN (SE) requirements.

OBJECTIVE 6: To evaluate and recommend innovative data collection technologies.

GOAL 3: To establish and maintain an integrated, centralized marine recreational fishery data management system for the Southeast Region.

OBJECTIVE 1: To identify the location and administrative responsibility for a centralized RecFIN (SE) data management system.

OBJECTIVE 2: To evaluate the current hardware, software, and communication capabilities of program partners and make recommendations for support and upgrades.

OBJECTIVE 3: To design, implement, and maintain a marine recreational fisheries data management system to accommodate fishery management/research and other needs (e.g., trade and tourism).

OBJECTIVE 4: To develop standard protocols and documentation for data formats, input, editing, quality control, storage, access, transfer, dissemination, and application.

OBJECTIVE 5: To identify and prioritize existing historical databases for integration into the centralized database.

OBJECTIVE 6: To evaluate and recommend innovative, cost-effective information management technologies.

GOAL 4: To support the development and operation of a national program to collect, manage, and disseminate marine recreational fishery information for use by states, territories, councils, interstate commissions, and federal marine fishery management agencies.

OBJECTIVE 1: To provide for long-term national program planning.

OBJECTIVE 2: To coordinate **RecFIN (SE)** with other regional RecFIN programs.

OBJECTIVE 3. To encourage consistency and comparability among regional programs over time.

IMPLEMENTATION

Participants in this MOU recognize the critical need for a comprehensive program to collect and manage MRF data in the Southeast Region. Participants acknowledge that existing resources to achieve program goals are inadequate. Participants also agree on the appropriateness of cooperative agreements and grants (Financial Assistance Awards) and/or contracts to fund approved projects, subject to the availability of funds and in accordance with applicable agency administrative policies and procedures.

It is hereby agreed that the undersigned will establish and implement the **RecFIN (SE)** program in accordance with its mission, goals, and objectives, contingent upon available resources. This agreement will become effective with an agency immediately upon signature of an authorized official of that agency. As a pilot program, this MOU is effective through December 31, 1995, unless extended by agreement of the participants.

The terms of the agreement may be modified at any time by mutual agreement of the participants, including the provision for the **RecFIN (SE)** Committee to extend invitations to other agencies with fishery management or research authority to become participants in the program. Further, it is agreed that any MOU participants may terminate its involvement upon 90 days written notice to the other participants.

Other Provisions

Nothing herein is intended to conflict with current state, territories, council, commission, Department of the Interior, or Department of Commerce regulations, policies or directives. If the

terms of this MOU are inconsistent with existing practices of a participant entering into this MOU, then those portions of this MOU which are determined to be inconsistent shall be invalid; however, the remaining terms and conditions of this MOU shall remain in full force and in effect. Such changes as are deemed necessary will be accomplished by either an amendment to this MOU or by entering into a new MOU, as determined by the pertinent participants.

Should disagreement arise between any participants regarding the interpretation of provisions of this MOU that cannot be resolved at the operating level, the area(s) of disagreement shall be reduced to writing by said participant and presented to the other participants for consideration at least 30 days prior to forwarding to the respective higher administrative levels for appropriate resolution.

Signature Pages

XXX
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

Date

XXX, Director
Southeast Region
National Marine Fisheries Service

Date

XXX, Director
Southeast Region,
Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Date

XXX
Office of Federal Aid
Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Date

XXX, Director
Southeast Region, National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Date

XXX , Executive Director
Caribbean Fishery Management Council

Date

XXX , Executive Director
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Date

XXX , Executive Director
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Date

XXX , Executive Director
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Date

XXX , Executive Director
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Date

XXX
Alabama Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division

Date

XXX

Florida Department of Natural Resources,
Marine Resources Division

Date

Joe D. Tanner, Commisioner

Georgia Department of Natural Resources,
Division of Marine Resources

Date

XXX

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries, Office of Fisheries

Date

XXX

Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
Fisheries, and Parks, Bureau of Marine
Resources

Date

XXX

North Carolina Department of Environment
Health, and Natural Resources, Division of
Marine Fisheries

Date

XXX
Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources

Date

XXX
South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources
Department, Marine Resources Division

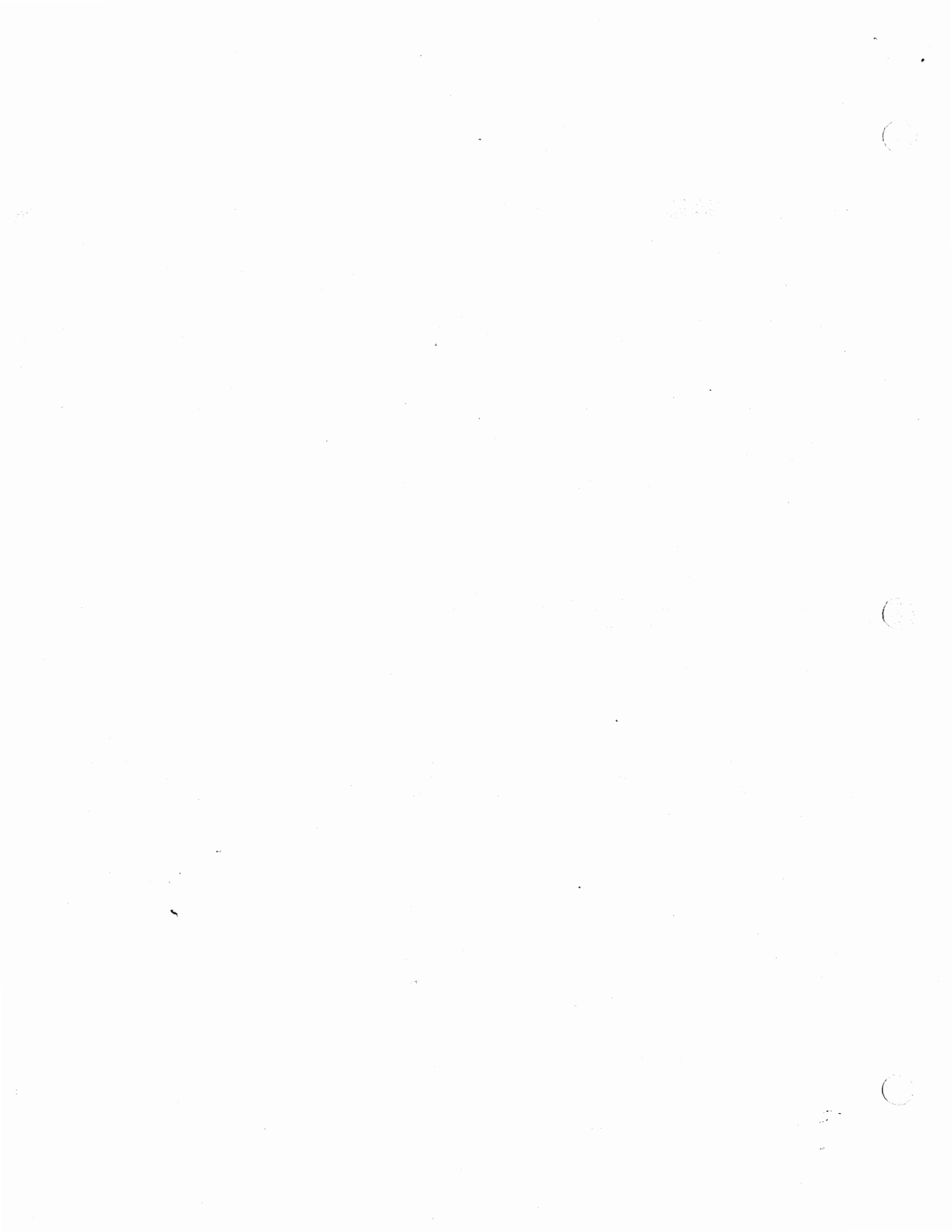
Date

XXX
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department,
Coastal Fisheries Branch

Date

Roy E. Adams, Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Planning
and Natural Resources, Division of
Fish and Wildlife

Date



MARFIN STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 9-10, 1992

The meeting held in the conference room of the NMFS Southeast Regional Office was called to order on Wednesday, September 9, by Chairman Bob Shipp at 8:38 am. The following were in attendance:

Members

Larry B. Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Jerry Schill, Commercial Industry - South Atlantic, New Bern, NC
B. J. Copeland, Sea Grant - South Atlantic, Raleigh, NC
Scott Nichols, NMFS SEFC, Pascagoula, MS
Jean B. West, NOAA Grants Office, Silver Spring, MD
Jack Van Lopik, Sea Grant - Gulf, Baton Rouge, LA
Bill Hogarth, South Atlantic States, Morehead City, NC
William S. "Corky" Perret, Gulf States, Baton Rouge, LA
Bob Mahood, SAFMC, Charleston, SC
Terrance R. Leary, GMFMC designee, Tampa, FL
Bob Shipp, Recreational Industry - Gulf, Mobile, AL
Jack Dunnigan, ASMFC, Washington, DC
Jane Black*, Commercial Industry - Gulf, Galliano, LA

Staff

Dave Pritchard, NMFS SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Ellie Roche, NMFS SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Linda Stevens, NMFS SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Sally Long, NMFS SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Lucia Hourihan, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Others

Andy Kemmerer, NMFS Southeast Regional Director, St. Petersburg, FL
Richard Raulerson, NMFS SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Gladys Reese, NMFS SEFC, St. Petersburg, FL

*In attendance on 9/10/92 only.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Election of Co-Chairman

Discussion ensued regarding how the Steering Committee would function. A. Kemmerer said it would function as a single committee (Gulf and South Atlantic) and members would provide individual advice to the Regional Director. Election of co-chair was deferred 5 minutes to allow the South Atlantic representatives to caucus. J. Schill nominated Bob Mahood to serve as co-chair representing the South Atlantic. Bob Mahood was elected co-chair by acclamation. There was a question regarding Ed Joseph who had been elected South Atlantic co-chair at the May Steering Committee meeting. Dr. Joseph has retired.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held May 28, 1992 in Kissimmee, Florida were brought up for approval. L. Simpson questioned (re: page 5) whether a letter had been sent to the Foundation. Kemmerer confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Foundation and stated that he had gotten an affirmative legal opinion on the appointment of J. Schill to the Steering Committee. The minutes were approved as written.

MARFIN Operating Procedures

Kemmerer stated the Program is cooperative by definition (universities-states-NMFS-recreational and commercial industry) developed to increase the benefits of fisheries to the region and the nation as a whole. The Program has three main areas of direction: maintenance, recovery and development; and seeks to contribute to management. Kemmerer said that Phase I, the Gulf, has been very successful and that Phase II, the South Atlantic, was patterned after Phase I. B. J. Copeland stated that Sea Grant had not been a part of Phase II's development but had had the opportunity on two occasions to critique the document. Kemmerer said that all Steering Committee members had been carefully selected and that he was looking for individual advice from

member, on the meeting as soon as possible.

E. Roche congratulated D. Pritchard for his first year on the job as MARFIN Program Manager and a job well done.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm, Thursday, September 10, 1992.

R. E. Matheson

BLACK DRUM TECHNICAL TASK FORCE
Minutes
September 10-11, 1992
Gulf Shores, Alabama

Ed Matheson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

Chris Dyer, USA, Mobile, AL (9-10-92)
Scott Gordon, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS
Walter Keithly, LSU/CFI, Baton Rouge, LA
Clarence Luquet, LDWF, New Orleans, LA
Ed Matheson, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Karen Meador, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Mark Van Hoose, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL

Staff

Rick Leard, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
Cindy Bosworth, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from the February 26-27, 1992, meeting held in Mobile, Alabama, were adopted as presented.

Review and Approval of FMP

The task force reviewed, discussed and edited the draft FMP. Changes will be made at the GSMFC office, and the updated FMP will be sent to the TTF by September 18 for a final review along with a ballot to approve or disapprove the updated FMP. Once approval is received, the FMP will be sent to the TCC for their review and action.

Discussion of Management Recommendations - Section 11.0

Management options were thoroughly discussed and considered. The TTF drafted and agreed upon the completed Management Recommendations Section (Attachment 1).

Black Drum Technical Task Force
Minutes
Page -2-

Discussion of Research and Data Needs - Section 12

Biological, environmental, industrial/technical, economic and social, and resource management needs were reviewed and discussed. The TTF edited and agreed upon the completed Research and Data Needs Section (Attachment 2).

There being no further business the meeting adjourned, Friday, September 11, 1992, at 2:30 p.m.

**DATA MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 13, 1992
Mobile, Alabama**

Chairman Henry Lazauski called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Henry Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Tom Van Devender, BMR, Biloxi, MS
Joseph Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Joe O'Hop (proxy for F. Kennedy), FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
John Poffenberger, NMFS, Miami, FL
Peter Rubec, TPWD, Austin, TX
Steve Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL

Staff

Larry Simpson, Executive Director
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held April 7, 1992 in Biloxi, Mississippi and the CSP meeting held July 8, 1992 in New Orleans, Louisiana were approved as written.

State/Federal Reports

Louisiana

J. Shepard stated there is still no funding for Louisiana's trip ticket program and not sure when Louisiana will be able to begin the program. He stated Louisiana is planning to develop a fishery-dependent program which would be similar to RecFIN. He reported Louisiana is taking over the Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP) this year. Although Louisiana has received the funding before, they have always contracted LSU to do the work. He stated the Department was able to hire three new people and they will be collecting TIP data. He stated Louisiana is attempting to get the most from their effort and he described how they will allocate the samples. The first step is to stratify the landing by quarters to determine the amount of sampling needed for each quarter. Also, Louisiana is looking at 10 species or groups of species which they are trying to collect information for. Also, the number of samples are weighted by dealer. He stated Louisiana is striving for 100 interviews per species or species group per year. He reported that due to Hurricane Andrew, the state of Louisiana has been allocated money and the department is attempting to use some of that money for fishery-dependent work.

Texas

P. Rubec reported that Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is undergoing some reorganization. He stated that Gene McCarty is the new head of Coastal Fisheries. He stated the main objective is to manage each bay system as a separate ecosystem and to decentralize to the field stations so the sampling and operations is under the direction of a chief biologist. He remarked that although

there is restructuring, there is no real change in TPWD's sampling programs. He stated the department is examining the prospect of merging the different databases in the TPWD into one large, geo-referenced database.

Mississippi

T. Van Devender reported that Mississippi has had some problems with their authority to collect confidential data. He stated there were minor changes made in the ordinance which allows for collection of data and currently Mississippi is able to participate in a data swap between states. However, some coast processors became concerned about this change and became a heated debate during the Mississippi legislature. He stated that after the legislature recessed, the state commission passed the changes but it will probably become an issue again when the legislature reconvenes. He reported that Mississippi collects data for the CSP with one port agent almost completely dedicated to commercial landings of shrimp, crabs and finfish. He stated there are two biologists involved in the TIP program whom work in all three coastal counties. He stated Mississippi is in its fifth year of collecting recreational finfish landings using W-B monies which means no invertebrate information is collected. Also he reported Mississippi collects bait shrimp data on a monthly basis. He stated the only data Mississippi is not collecting is recreational shrimp and crabs. He also reported that due to dockside gaming on the Mississippi coast, the seafood processing industry is quickly being affected by gambling.

Florida

J. O'Hop reported there are several programs involved in fisheries which include commercial trip tickets, TIP, juvenile fish fishery-independent sampling program, fish biology and adult monitoring, coastal production group with ichthyoplankton tows and modeling stock assessment group. He stated there is interest in recreational fisheries with angler interviews being taken to obtain this information. He reported the interviews are not like the MRFSS but look at choices of fish, types of baits and pressure at different sites. He remarked there has been a spotted sea trout stock assessment which was prepared for the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission. He stated that some of the TIP samplers were involved in the evaluation of TIP version 3.2 software and manual. He reported the state of Florida is sampling five areas in addition to what the federal port agents are sampling. He stated Florida is trying to communicate and coordinate their activities with federal and contracted port samplers. He stated a key area to look is increasing the frequency of contact with other samplers. He reported that mullet are extremely contentious issue. He stated Florida went through a public hearing process and a lot more work is needed on this species.

NMFS

J. Poffenberger reported that with the anticipation of a new computer machine and system, a work group has been established to look at what the main frame relational database for TIP ought entail. He stated the work group wants to develop something prior to delivery of the new machines. He stated one of the purposes is to upgrade the software. He stated there has not been much time devoted to the development of guidelines for a data collection strategy for the Gulf and South Atlantic. He reported NMFS is continuing to expand and utilize log book programs and he noted that most of the federal fisheries have log book programs. He reported that there is now an extensive permit system which also provides an important source of information about the fisheries. He remarked that with the coming of the new machine, management is becoming concerned about standardization of data elements. He reported NMFS has yet to receive the budget targets from Washington, D.C. but it appears that NMFS will take a 4% cut for FY1993 and they will attempt to eliminate any cuts from the CSP.

Alabama

H. Lazauski reported Alabama is continuing to collect TIP data although since the red snapper and mackerel seasons are closed there is no information being gleaned for those species. He stated Alabama is collecting crab TIP data which will be used to develop a crab management plan. He remarked Alabama continues to collect, in concert with federal port agents, shrimp and finfish landings and

processed products and this data is being entered into the system. He reported Alabama is in its second year of a MARFIN Charter Boat Survey. He stated NMFS has conducted a charterboat survey and Alabama, through MARFIN, has taken over the field data collection portion. It is a log book survey and Alabama captains report length frequencies and number of hooks used. A ground truthing survey by AMRD, which random selects vessels involved in the survey and recollects the data to ensure good data is being recorded. He stated the state of Alabama now has a new marine recreational resident fishing license. He stated non-residents still have to buy a Alabama freshwater license to fish in the state. There is no non-resident recreational saltwater fishing license.

Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP) Reports and Activities

a. Status of State-Federal Activities/Funding Under the CSP - Lukens reminded the Subcommittee that he had requested information from the states on the activities and funding associated with the cooperative agreements for the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program from its inception. This would include the state and federal share of funding and the activities accomplished by the states and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The report is in response to a similar report completed by the Statistics Committee of the South Atlantic Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), except that it will be more detailed. Lukens indicated that the time frame for completion of the report is not critical, but that its completion will give the states and NMFS some historical perspective on the CSP, its activities, and its funding levels. P. Rubec indicated that Lukens should contact Nick Carter in the Federal Aid Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Others indicated that they would be able to compile the information in question.

b. Define the Scope and Function of the GSMFC in the CSP - As a result of the June 1992 CSP Workshop, the Subcommittee adopted a resolution which calls for the formal inclusion of the GSMFC and ASMFC statistics committees in the CSP. Also resulting from previous Subcommittee action, an administrative proposal had been submitted to the NMFS for \$5000 annually to support the activities of the Subcommittee relative to the CSP. These actions were both aimed at the goal of increasing the degree and quality of coordination among states and between the NMFS and the state partners relative to the ongoing CSP activities. This goal was supported by the 1992 report of a programmatic review of the CSP. It is anticipated that as efforts to redefine the CSP proceed, roles and responsibilities of the states, the GSMFC, and the NMFS will be more clearly distinguished.

c. Identify and Evaluate Data Elements Being Collected by the CSP - Lukens indicated that the Subcommittee had discussed, during the 1992 June Workshop, the need to review and evaluate data elements being collected by the CSP, and make necessary recommendations for future action. It was discussed that an exercise like the one undertaken during the recreational fisheries data workshop should be arranged to identify a complete set of data elements, including social and economic parameters, needed to manage commercial fisheries. Then, based on the realities of programmatic funding and personnel constraints, states and the NMFS could prioritize activities to be accomplished in any given year. Lukens indicated that such an exercise could result from the 1993 Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN) workshop. J. Shepard indicated that he felt that the CSP data elements issue should be handled outside of ComFIN, because the data elements collected under the CSP had already been established. J. Poffenberger indicated that the NMFS is currently developing data dictionaries for its regions. A discussion then ensued regarding the development of data dictionaries, which would be designed to provide standard definitions for common data elements. That issue is important, but is somewhat different than the identification of the necessary data elements to be collected. For any state-federal cooperative data collection program, both activities are vital. He indicated that he would keep the Subcommittee involved in that internal NMFS activity.

Data Confidentiality MOA

As a result of past Subcommittee action, a draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on data confidentiality was developed. The MOA accomplishes two primary objectives, one is to serve as the agreement between the states and the Secretary of Commerce for exchange of confidential data as provided by the 1990 MFCMA amendments. The other is to provide a mechanism for the states to exchange confidential data among themselves outside the NMFS system. Lukens provided a handout of the draft for the Subcommittee's use. It was indicated that all states had had an opportunity to review the draft both from a technical and legal perspective, and presently all states could and would be willing to sign the document, with the exception of Florida who is at present statutorily barred from such an agreement. Florida is planning to amend existing legislation so that they will be able to sign the MOA.

Lukens indicated that since four of the five states could sign the document, the Subcommittee should recommend that the document be submitted to the NMFS for their technical and legal review. Upon satisfying the NMFS and acquiring their signature on the MOA, the four state signatures could then be acquired and the terms of the document would be in effect for those signatories. Upon accomplishing the necessary legislative amendment, then Florida could sign and the MOA would be complete.

* Lukens indicated that the Subcommittee would have to take action to recommend through the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee that the GSMFC send the draft MOA to the NMFS for their formal review. S. Lazauski made the motion to recommend that the MOA be submitted to the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Adoption of June 1992 CSP Workshop Report (Resolution)

As a result of the Subcommittee's participation in the June 1992 CSP Workshop, a report of those proceedings was developed. As part of that activity, the Subcommittee adopted the attached resolution which establishes the intent to have the Subcommittee participate as a full partner in the CSP. Lukens indicated that since the resolution had already been adopted, it was not under consideration, but would be presented to the TCC at its upcoming meeting for their consideration. However, adoption of the workshop report required action by the Subcommittee. J. Poffenberger expressed some disagreement about having a GSMFC report and a NMFS report on the same workshop. A discussion then ensued regarding the concerns and justifications for the GSMFC report and the respective roles of the states, the GSMFC, and the NMFS in the CSP. Lukens clarified that the GSMFC report was not intended to supplant the official NMFS report, but was rather an official record of the Subcommittee's participation in the workshop. The Subcommittee directed staff to develop a paper which would distinguish the respective roles of the program partners, including the role of the GSMFC. Poffenberger expressed his desire to work together on future workshop reports so that there would not be two separate reports. The Subcommittee agreed that that would be a good approach. Chairman Lazauski asked for objections to adopting the report. There being no objections, the report was adopted by unanimous consent.

Recreational Fishery Data Completion Report

Lukens provided some discussion regarding the draft completion report of the Subcommittee's activities regarding analyses and recommendations on recreational fisheries data programs since the February 1989 workshop which produced the initial "white paper" report. It was pointed out that the report is structured in three main sections, the first being those issues which were resolved at the initial workshop, the second being those issues which were later resolved, and third being those issues which are not yet resolved. The suggestion was made that upon approval the report should be made available to the RecFIN Committee as recommendations for inclusion in the RecFIN program and for suggestions for future action. Lukens pointed out that the two tables contained in the report are identical to the single table found in the for-hire fishery report except that the first table are those data elements which cut

across for-hire and other recreational fishery components and the second table are those data elements that are particular to the for-hire fishery only. S. Lazauski made a motion that the Subcommittee adopt the report pending some editorial comments to be provided to Lukens later. That motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion of October 1992 CSP Meeting

Lazauski indicated that the October 1992 CSP meeting planned for Charleston, S.C. is in conflict with another meeting at which several Subcommittee members will have to be in attendance. With that in mind, he indicated the importance of discussing some of the agenda items in an effort to gain consensus so that the members who will be able to attend will know the thoughts and opinions of the others. Following some discussion of the situation, it was suggested and agreed upon that each Subcommittee member who will not attend the CSP meeting should call Lukens just prior to the CSP meeting and convey any specific thoughts or opinions regarding the agenda items. No further discussion occurred on this topic.

RecFIN Discussion

Lazauski updated the Subcommittee on the status of RecFIN as of the current meeting. Al Jones and his staff are continuing to work on the next iteration of the Strategic Plan. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been completed and will be presented, by Dr. Brad Brown (SEFSC, Miami) to the Commissioners for their action during the Business Meeting on October 15. Following that presentation, the State Directors will be asked to sign the signatory sheets provided and to name state representatives to the RecFIN Committee. It was pointed out that the South Atlantic states, during the ASMFC Annual Meeting in September, elected to sign the MOU. Lukens indicated that no action was required by the Subcommittee.

ComFIN Discussion

Lukens provided background on the administrative process under which the Subcommittee has been operating for the past six years. He then indicated that the Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN) initiative will be accomplished under the same process, assuming that funding is approved for the 1993 project year. It was explained that ComFIN will proceed in a similar manner as the February 1989 recreational data workshop in that existing commercial data programs will be asked to provide presentations to the workshop participants and then issues will be identified and resolutions suggested. At present, programs identified include the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program including TIP (CSP), the Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN), a number of NMFS internal commercial data programs, the Northeast Weigh-out Program, the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP), the Florida Trip Ticket Program, data programs in the Caribbean, and possibly others. J. Poffenberger suggested that the ComFIN workshop should include an exercise to identify data elements which are needed for management. All agreed, indicating that such an exercise took place during the RecFIN formulation. It was suggested that either a presentation on stock assessment needs be made or that stock assessment scientists be invited to participate in the discussions. Lazauski pointed out that the ComFIN process should establish the ideal, most complete identification of data elements needed for management. While recognizing that funding will probably be inadequate to encompass the entire list, the list will provide guidance for the highest priority data elements to be collected and managed given manpower and funding constraints. Poffenberger indicated that it would be appropriate for the South Atlantic States to be included in the ComFIN workshop. The Subcommittee agreed; however, Lukens pointed out that the budget would likely not support travel for the South Atlantic States. It was pointed out that the South Atlantic States were invited to the initial RecFIN workshop in 1989. Poffenberger also suggested that the NMFS Headquarters Statistics Office should be involved in the workshop. Some discussion took place regarding the expectations of ComFIN and how

it can serve future management needs. The Subcommittee decided to hold the ComFIN workshop in February 1993.

Cooperative Tagging System and Striped Bass

J. Duffy, MRD Alabama, informed the Subcommittee that the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee is making plans for a Gulf-wide tagging program for striped bass. He became aware of the Cooperative Tagging System (CTS) administered by the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and wanted to ask the Subcommittee to provide the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee with recommendations on the appropriateness and applicability of the CATS. Lazauski indicated that the Subcommittee should "test drive" the program and see if it would be usable. Lukens indicated that the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee will be developing a study design for a Gulf-wide tagging program during 1993 - 1995. He suggested that when that study design is completed, the applicability of the CATS could then be evaluated, because the data management requirements would have been identified. The Subcommittee indicated its willingness to provide recommendations to the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee on the CATS and other systems.

GSMFC Geographic Information System General Session

The Subcommittee suggested that they should sponsor a general information session (symposium) on geographic information systems (GIS) during the 1993 Annual Spring Meeting. Lazauski appointed J. O'Hop and P. Rubec to research the idea and develop a program agenda. The charge is to keep the program broad in scope and the focus on fisheries application. Lukens pointed out that because the audience is the Commissioners and other fishery management personnel the program content should not be highly technical but rather what GIS is and how can it be used in fishery management. He also indicated that there would be a time constraint, probably two to four hours, since the presentation would be during the general meeting proceedings.

Second Stock Assessment Training Workshop

Lazauski gave a brief summary of the first workshop held in conjunction with the South Atlantic States and provided some preliminary discussion regarding the next session. Lukens provided background on the GSMFC's earlier action in setting up the GSMFC Stock Assessment Team and endorsing the idea of training workshops to establish a cadre of state stock assessment scientists who are capable of conducting state-of-the-art stock assessments. The link with the GSMFC Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management Program was also discussed. Lukens then asked the Subcommittee to provide him with guidance regarding what topics and activities should be for the next workshop. Following a discussion of ideas, Lazauski indicated that the GSMFC Stock Assessment Team will be meeting in about a week and they could better provide guidance for the next workshop. The Subcommittee then decided to postpone further discussion on the subject until after the GSMFC Stock Assessment meeting.

Election of Officers

Skip Lazauski was nominated for Chairman and Joe O'Hop was nominated for Vice-Chairman. The nominations were then closed and the two were elected by acclamation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned a 4:45 pm.

P. O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(601) 875-5912
(FAX) 875-6604



Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

RESOLUTION
ON THE INTERACTION OF THE STATES
AND THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
REGARDING THE STATE-FEDERAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, no formal review, evaluation, examination, or critique of the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program (Program) was conducted until 1992, eight years following full implementation, and

WHEREAS, upon internal review of the Program in 1992, constituents indicated that a great deal of fragmentation of the Program existed, and

WHEREAS, one of the causative factors identified is inadequate program coordination and communication, and

WHEREAS, specifically, it was found that the annual workshop was not adequate, in and of itself, to provide the mechanism to fully review the program and address programmatic and technical needs of the Southeast region, and

WHEREAS, a recommendation was made in the Program review report to utilize technical groups which meet throughout the year to provide a forum for problem solving and programmatic enhancement, and

WHEREAS, the original intent of the designers of the Program was to utilize technical committees formulated under the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions to serve that function, and

WHEREAS, that relationship was never formalized by making those groups a structural part of the Program and providing funding for them to fulfill the purpose envisioned by the Program designers, and

WHEREAS, a new awareness and interest on the part of the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions' statistics committees has resulted in a desire to become more integrally involved in the Program,

RESOLUTION
Page -2-

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission establishes the position that the National Marine Fisheries Service should utilize the interstate commissions' organizational structures and their respective statistics committees to provide review and recommendations for problem solving and programmatic enhancement to the Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such responsibility should go beyond identification of issues and encompass full participation in resolution of identified issues as appropriate, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cooperative relationship of said committees with the Program should be formalized through programmatic documentation and support for activities.

Given this the 15th day of October in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand, Nine Hundred, Ninety-two.



Leroy Kiffe, Chairman

P. O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(601) 875-5912
(FAX) 875-6604

**Gulf States Marine
Fisheries Commission**

Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

WHEREAS, Hurricane Andrew was the costliest natural disaster to hit the United States in its history; and

WHEREAS, in addition to damage and destruction of homes, businesses, property and other human commodities, Hurricane Andrew caused massive destruction of fish, wildlife and their habitat; and

WHEREAS, the destruction of marine habitat and renewable natural resources will continue to be reflected in loss of wealth, loss of jobs, loss of recreational opportunities, and other impacts for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, losses of marine fishery resources in Louisiana have been estimated at over \$11.3 million; and the loss of estuarine marshes in Louisiana, mangrove forests, artificial reefs and coral reefs in Florida, impacts that may be caused by the spread of exotic species, and other impacts are too costly to be translated into dollars; and

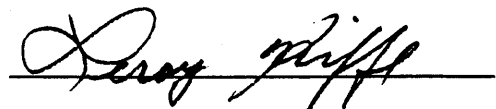
WHEREAS, Congress has passed legislation, H.R. 5620, to authorize emergency relief that will, at least in part, ameliorate the effects of the disaster through funding of restoration and recovery efforts for marine resources and their habitats; and

WHEREAS, in order for efforts to begin funding must be appropriated through the budget process with the support of the President and members of Congress;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) strongly encourages the President and members of Congress to move swiftly to provide funding for H.R. 5620 to help restoration and recovery efforts of marine resources and their habitats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GSMFC encourages and supports individual efforts by Florida and Louisiana to gain the necessary support for continued restoration, monitoring and recovery projects in an effort to overcome the disastrous effects of this storm.

Given this the fifteenth day of October in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand, Nine Hundred, ninety-two.



- Member States -

Texas

Louisiana

Mississippi

Alabama

Florida

P. O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(601) 875-5912
(FAX) 875-6604



**Gulf States Marine
Fisheries Commission**

Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

RESOLUTION

ON THE INTERACTION OF THE STATES

AND THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

REGARDING THE STATE-FEDERAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, no formal review, evaluation, examination, or critique of the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program (Program) was conducted until 1992, eight years following full implementation, and

WHEREAS, upon internal review of the Program in 1992, constituents indicated that a great deal of fragmentation of the Program existed, and

WHEREAS, one of the causative factors identified is inadequate program coordination and communication, and

WHEREAS, specifically, it was found that the annual workshop was not adequate, in and of itself, to provide the mechanism to fully review the program and address programmatic and technical needs of the Southeast region, and

WHEREAS, a recommendation was made in the Program review report to utilize technical groups which meet throughout the year to provide a forum for problem solving and programmatic enhancement, and

WHEREAS, the original intent of the designers of the Program was to utilize technical committees formulated under the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions to serve that function, and

WHEREAS, that relationship was never formalized by making those groups a structural part of the Program and providing funding for them to fulfill the purpose envisioned by the Program designers, and

WHEREAS, a new awareness and interest on the part of the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions' statistics committees has resulted in a desire to become more integrally involved in the Program,

- Member States -

Texas

Louisiana

Mississippi

Alabama

Florida

RESOLUTION

Page -2-

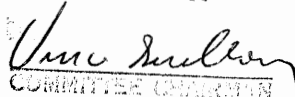
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission establishes the position that the National Marine Fisheries Service should utilize the interstate commissions' organizational structures and their respective statistics committees to provide review and recommendations for problem solving and programmatic enhancement to the Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such responsibility should go beyond identification of issues and encompass full participation in resolution of identified issues as appropriate, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cooperative relationship of said committees with the Program should be formalized through programmatic documentation and support for activities.

Given this the 15th day of October in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand, Nine Hundred, Ninety-two.


Leroy Kiffe, Chairman


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

S-FFMC MENHADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 13, 1992
Mobile, Alabama

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chairman J. Merriner. A quorum was noted and the following persons were in attendance:

Members

George Brumfield, Zapata Haynie Corp., Moss Point, MS
Joe Gill, MDWFP, Biloxi, MS
Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Vernon Minton, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Terry Stelly, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
W. Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Inc., Covington, LA

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Richard L. Leard, IJF Program Coordinator

Others

Pryor G. Bailey, Zapata Haynie Corp., Moss Point, MS
Richard Condrey, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
William S. "Corky" Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Adoption of Agenda

Without objection, the agenda was adopted as written.

Adoption of Minutes

B. Wallace moved and G. Brumfield seconded that the minutes of the meeting held April 7, 1992, in Biloxi, Mississippi, be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Bycatch Study

J. Merriner briefed the committee on how the study was initiated and noted that R. Condrey would present a status report on findings. He suggested that the final report be circulated to the committee prior to the April meeting so that it can be reviewed prior to discussions at that meeting. R. Condrey agreed to do so.

R. Condrey described the project and sampling procedure and noted that approximately twice as many days at sea will be recorded from the 30 days originally contracted.

R. Condrey presented the preliminary findings of the study and cautioned against citing the information because it had not been statistically tested and

verified. He noted that published estimates of bycatch from previous studies probably overestimate the magnitude of the bycatch. He further stated that he was requesting additional funds to cover overages in travel and that as soon as sampling is completed, all data will be computerized; the distributions will be verified and the report will be written and circulated to the committee.

Fishery Management Plan Update

*R. Leard reviewed a suggested Table of Contents that parallels other IJF FMPs. Without objection, the Table of Contents was adopted as an outline for the Menhaden FMP update. Also, R. Leard will restructure the 1988 revision to match this outline and distribute it to the committee, and it will become the initial working draft. J. Merriner noted that NMFS, Beaufort Lab, would be developing a stock assessment for the gulf during the winter and a draft would be sent to the committee before the spring 1993 meeting. He asked what was the time schedule for completing the revision. R. Leard stated that tentatively the revision would be completed in calendar year 1993. Meetings to review progress were scheduled for March, midsummer and October.

J. Merriner reviewed data needs and noted that the stock assessment update was perhaps the most extensive addition. He proposed that a subcommittee be used to update and gather additional information and that it be made up of one representative each from industry, states, and NMFS.

*A subcommittee for FMP revision was approved with the following members: J. Merriner (NMFS), V. Guillory (LDWF), and B. Wallace (industry).

R. Leard noted that a sociological description of the fishermen and processors was lacking in the present revision and that Dr. Chris Dyer would probably be interested in working with industry members to write this section. L. Simpson suggested that a survey might be used to collect this data.

Review of 1992 Season

J. Merriner reviewed the current status of the 1992 gulf menhaden season. He noted that through September, landings from 51 vessels and 6 plants/ports were 388,600 mt, down 25% from the 1991 season, through September (516,000 mt). He expected the final season total to be approximately 417,000 mt.

J. Merriner observed that the reduction in plants and boats, poor weather in the spring and Hurricane Andrew were the primary factors in reduced harvest.

He also noted that recruitment is probably lower than 10 years ago and that this will be looked at in the stock assessment to be done in the winter.

Election of Chairman

With the rotation of chairmanship to state members, V. Guillory was unanimously elected chairman.

Adjustments to the Fishery Season

B. Wallace noted problems and disruptions in fishing operations, particularly the recent disruption that resulted from Hurricane Andrew. He suggested that the committee develop a process or framework for emergency extensions to the season when future disruptions warrant it. He stated that he would like to see the process in effect for the 1993 season.

J. Merriner noted that the new stock assessment (to be completed this winter) would address ramifications and would be necessary to development of the process.

*B. Wallace moved that the committee develop options and recommendations to address in-season adjustment mechanisms for review at the spring 1993 meeting with the idea of passing them to the S-FFMC for approval.

G. Brumfield seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. It was further noted that staff would work with the committee to initiate the development of options and/or recommendations.

Other Business

B. Wallace reported that Jesse Wheeler wished to apologize for missing the meeting; however, he was extremely busy with the season. L. Simpson noted that Rick Marks had called and expressed similar problems with being able to attend. T. Stelly reported that Joe Chaszar had left the TFWD staff and a future appointment will be made.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.



**SEAMAP SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 13, 1992
Mobile, Alabama**

Chairman Walter Tatum called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Jim Hanifen, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Joe Kimmel, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Joanne Shultz, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Staff

David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant

Others

Richard Applegate, USFWS, San Marcos, TX
Jim Duffy, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Steve Heath, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
Alan Huff, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
James Jones, MS/AL Sea Grant, Ocean Springs, MS
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
David Pritchard, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Ken Savastano, NMFS, Stennis Space Center
Mark Van Hoose, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL

Adoption of Agenda

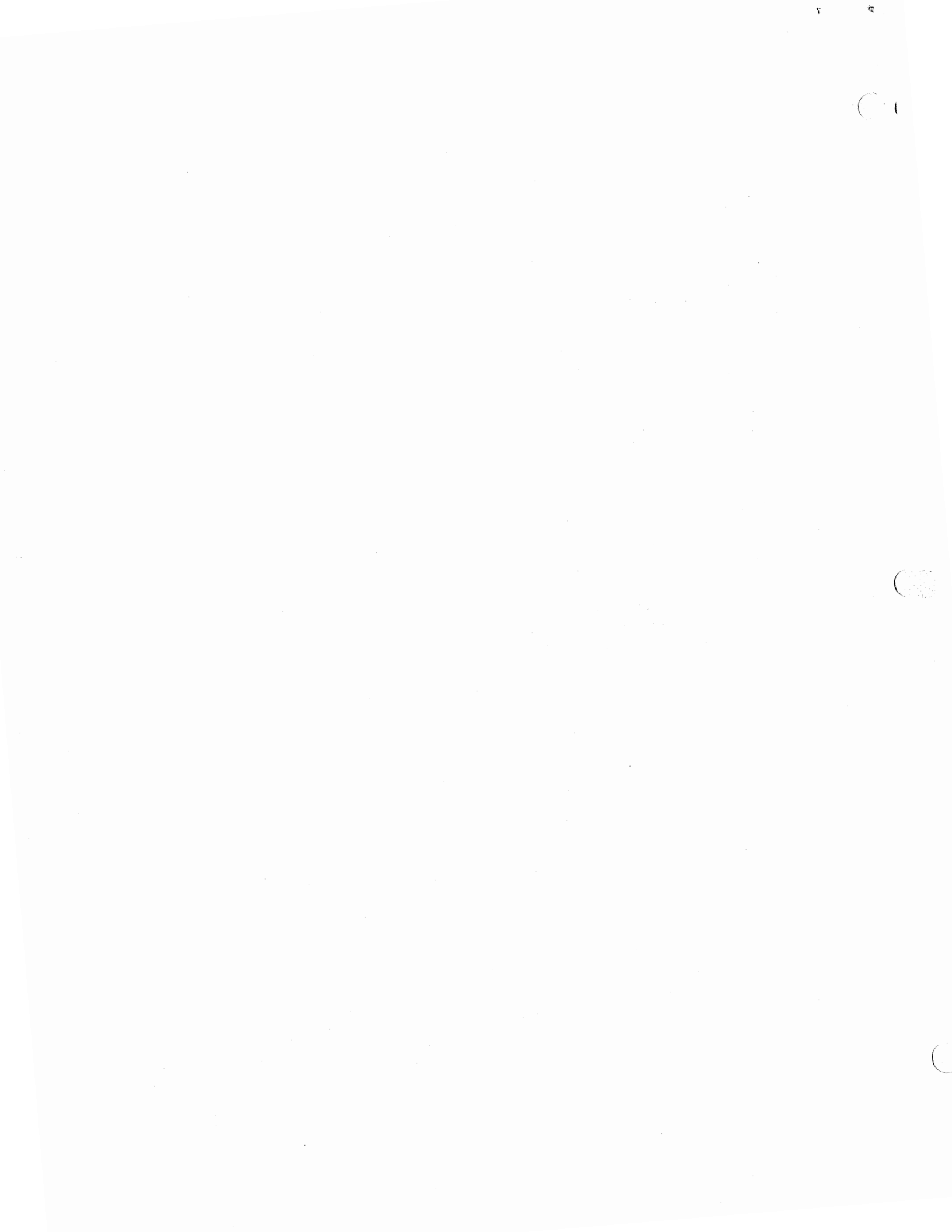
The agenda was approved with the following additions:
* Discussion of allocation of additional monies for FY1993
* Discussion of next Joint Meeting

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on August 12 and 13, 1992 in Savannah, Georgia were approved with minor editorial changes.

Administrative Report

D. Donaldson reported the Fall Ichthoplankton survey was conducted from Sept. 8-Oct 2, 1992. He stated NMFS, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana participated in the survey. He reported the goal of the survey is to assess the distribution and abundance of king mackerel and red drum eggs/larvae in the Gulf of Mexico. He reported the Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey would be beginning later this week and would continue into December. He stated vessels from NMFS, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas would participate. He reported the 1990 Atlas is currently being processed and all



data has been received. He noted that preliminary editing should start later this month. He distributed the TCC Report which outlines the activities for FY92 of the SEAMAP-Gulf and stated he is waiting on information from South Atlantic and Caribbean components for the Joint Annual Report. He reported he received information from Anne Seiler concerning the next Joint meeting and from the costs projections, it would not be feasible to have the meeting in the Caribbean. He recommended that the meeting be held in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Trap/Video and Acoustic Survey Presentation

J. Shultz reported she presented information concerning the trap/video survey at the MEXUS-Gulf meeting held in early October. She stated reef fish habitat pose a variety of problems for fishery managers due to the biological diversity and complexity of assemblages of reefs as well as the diversity and complexity of their habitat. She outlined the reef fish assessment requirements such as distinguishing reef habitat from non-reef habitat, use of a non-destructive methodology, large enough sample size to provide statistical reliability and provide wide areal coverage. She reported that traditional sampling methods are either impractical or do not collect the necessary information. She remarked the trap/video methodology does provide the needed information such as observing enough fish at a station for statistical reliability, making stations brief enough for broad-scale surveys and is a non-destructive and non-selective methodology. She stated the first SEAMAP Gulf-wide Reef Fish Survey was conducted and NMFS, Alabama and Mississippi participated. She stated there is a manual reef fish assessment methodology for SEAMAP surveys for hard bottoms which represents state-of-the-art synthesis of efforts to sample reef fish with video technology. She stated NMFS has developed a pictorial guide to the groupers in the Western Northern Gulf which is useful in identification of groupers on video tapes. She stated the survey area covered from Brownsville, Texas to the Dry Tortugas, Florida and sites were randomly selected. She reported that NMFS sampled 146 sites during the 1992 survey. She noted that at sites off Florida, NMFS used a hydroacoustic methodology as well as the trap/video system. She mentioned the video tapes from the survey are in the process of being analyzed and played some of the best tapes for the subcommittee. She stated that fish counts from the video records could provide a relative index of reef fish abundance. She stated there are several difficulties with the trap/video technique such as in the area sampled, the volume of water is undefined or variable, inability to estimate the fraction of reef not viewed and the attractive nature of the trap. She reported NMFS also applied acoustical mapping of reef sampling sites during the survey. She stated the results suggest that a combination of trap/video and hydroacoustic techniques may provide the best fisheries-independent estimates of reef fish abundance. She outlined the general components of the hydroacoustic system (FAS) and stated the gear provides relative fish density, absolute fish density, fish size and fish abundance. She stated the objectives of the acoustic technique was to determine the vertical distribution of target species over reef sites, measure target strengths in situ and estimate density of reef fish. She reviewed the data tables of the hydroacoustic technique. She presented a table which displayed the fish density at sampling sites by FAS, the video system and actual number of fish caught in trap. She stated there is not very much consistency between techniques and there is much work to be done before the numbers can be used to estimate reef fish abundance and all the information is still very preliminary. J. Shultz stated the recommendation is to pursue a combination of the trap/video and hydroacoustic techniques for quantitative measure of fish abundance. The subcommittee expressed some deficiencies with these techniques but stated that they are the best methods available.

R. Waller mentioned that some attempts have been made to address the problems encountered due to water clarity and identification and classification of fish and although the first attempts were not successful, more tries need to be attempted. J. Kimmel reported the state of Florida is attempting to address some of these problems.

S. Heath mentioned the data sheet for the collection of reef fish information contained measurements of fork, total and standard length. He wondered if it is necessary to collect standard length



since there is a high degree of error in obtaining this measure. R. Waller stated that total length is the least accurate measurement of the fish. After some discussion, the subcommittee decided to continue to collect all three measurements to the best of one's ability. W. Tatum asked the subcommittee to test the accuracy of standard length during their state's SEAMAP cruises.

Discussion of Consistency of Environmental Data Collection

S. Heath stated that environmental data such as water color, sea state, percent cloud cover, cloud type and turbidity can be subjective and thus not accurate. He stated that this data is being entered into the SEAMAP data base and he believes this can cause problems in the future. He wanted to know if there were more accurate means of collecting this data and if it cannot be collected accurately, should it be collected at all. W. Tatum stated a major problem with the collection of environmental data is that there is not much consistency in the way it is collected and the Environmental Work Group needs to meet to discuss these problems. S. Heath stated that when the Environmental Work Group established the sampling protocols, there was not an opportunity for feedback concerning these protocols. He stated the protocol was followed by each state as closely as possible depending on the types of equipment. R. Waller stated it was envisioned that the environmental data would eventually be collected by the appropriate equipment. After some discussion, W. Tatum suggested that the Environmental Work Group and the SEAMAP subcommittee meet the day before the GSMFC Annual Spring Meeting. D. Donaldson stated he would schedule this meeting to discuss environmental data collection issues.

Discussion of Comparative Tow Survey

D. Donaldson reported that Butch Pellegrin was not able to attend this meeting and he distributed some information concerning standardization of catch for different vessels for the subcommittee's review. J. Shultz stated there was a disagreement concerning the model being used to determine the number of tows necessary to calculate a calibration factor. J. Hanifen stated the subcommittee needs to look at the NMFS and state dataset to define the assemblages which need to be examined. He stated the basic assumption the subcommittee is attempting to prove is that the gear is the same regardless of the platform being used. J. Shultz stated NMFS will continue to work on selecting a model to provide the necessary information.

Work Group Reports

Data Management

K. Savastano distributed and reviewed the SEAMAP Data Management Report (attached). Items noted included:

- * data entry, edit and verification of SEAMAP data is continuing. Four cruises from 1989 are currently being processed through version 2.0 and once complete, all 1989 data will have been processed through the latest SEAMAP version. All of the 1990 and 1991 cruises, with the exception of two 1991 surveys, have been processed. In addition to the South Carolina cruise 51-921, several 1992 cruises are currently being processed.
- * processing of the data for the 1990 SEAMAP Atlas has been completed.
- * 121 of 125 requests for data have been completed and work is being performed on the remaining requests. Two requests have been filled since the August meeting - Peter Gonzales (Texas shrimp) and Dennis Lavoie (Naval Research Laboratory).

- * An update to the SEAMAP version 2.02 software was sent to users. Several new data sheets have been developed for the SEAMAP Reef Fish Survey and sent out for review and comments. The SEAMAP On-line data base contains 89 cruises with a total of 669,406 records.

Shrimp/Groundfish

S. Heath reported the Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey was conducted and there were no major problems with the collection of the data. He noted that several comparative tows were conducted in conjunction with the survey. He reported the Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey is underway and several vessels are already collecting information.

Other Business

* W. Tatum asked for direction from the subcommittee on how to proceed if the additional \$20,000 for the SEAMAP program comes through for FY1993. He outlined the actions taken by the Gulf-SEAMAP subcommittee and Joint committee at the August meeting pertaining to additional funding. J. Hanifen moved that the Gulf chairman be directed to negotiate a proportional split among the three components for any additional money and the Gulf's portion be given to the Commission to support necessary subcommittee and work group meetings such as a Joint SEAMAP meeting, environmental and reef fish work groups meetings and publication of an additional Atlas.

W. Tatum stated that in the event that the joint meeting cannot be held in the St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, the subcommittee concurred that the meeting will be held in St. Petersburg, Florida, as agreed at during the last Joint meeting.

Election of Officers

T. Cody was chairman of the nominating committee and he stated the committee submitted Walter Tatum and Joanne Shultz as candidates for chairman and Richard Waller as vice chairman. After a secret ballot, Walter Tatum was reelected chairman and Richard Waller was reelected vice chairman.

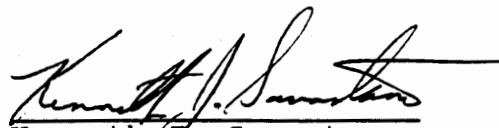
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



10/09/92

SEAMAP DATA MANAGEMENT

- A. Status reports for the 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1992 SEAMAP data are shown in attachments 1, 2, 3, and 4. Four NMFS cruises from 1989 are currently being processed through SEAMAP version 2. Upon completion of these four cruises, all cruises in the data base from 1989 forward will have been processed through the latest version of SEAMAP and version 1.0 of the SEAMAP data base will be removed from the A-10 system. All of the 1990 cruises have been processed and are in the data bases. With the completion of Texas 912 cruise and Louisiana cruises 911-916, all of the 1991 cruise will be in the data base. In addition to the South Carolina cruise 51-921, several 1992 cruises are currently being processed.
- B. Processing of the data for the 1990 SEAMAP ATLAS is approximately 95% complete.
- C. One hundred and twenty-five SEAMAP requests have been received to date. One hundred and twenty-one have been completed and work is being done on the remaining requests. Two requests were filled since the August 1992 SEAMAP meeting - one for Peter Gonzales (Texas shrimp) and the other for Dennis M. Lavoie, Naval Research Laboratory (Stennis Space Center).
- D. An update to the SEAMAP version 2.02 software was sent to users on September 30, 1992. Since the last SEAMAP meeting, a meristics form and format have been developed and transmitted to the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean for review and comments. Upon completion of the reviews, additional software will be developed and implemented to handle lengths, weight, etc. collected from individual samples. In addition, a type II station sheet is being developed for the Caribbean and will be implemented in the Seamap Entry/Edit software. Since October 10, 1991, 53 cruises have been reprocessed through version 2.0 or higher of the SEAMAP software and 32 new cruises were added to the online data base as shown in attachment 5. The SEAMAP on-line data base now contains 89 cruises with a total of 669,409 records.


Kenneth J. Savastano

08-Oct-92

SEAMAP 1989

DATA		INVENTORY		BIOLOGICAL		ENVIRONMENTAL		GENERAL L/F		SHRIMP L/F		ICHTHYOPLANKTON		TOTAL		SEAMAP	DATE	MAN	SEAMAP	DATE			
SOURCE	VESEL	CRUISE	CRUISE	REPORT	TITLE	STATUS	STATION	SPECIES		L/F	STATION	L/F	STATIONS	SAMPLE	SPECIES	L/F	VERSIO	DBASED	HOURS	VERSION	DBASED		
AL	23	891	SEAMAP	CRUISE	AL 891	3	7	7	103	7	363	3	96	*1	*1	*1	*1	586	1.0	14-Mar-90	9	2.0	19-Mar-92
AL	23	892	SEAMAP	CRUISE	AL 892	3	10	10	205	10	991	7	166	*1	*1	*1	*1	1399	1.0	09-May-90	9	2.0	19-Mar-92
AL	23	893	RED DRUM-KING	MACKEREL	CRUISE	3	10	*1	*1	10	*1	*1	*1	10	10			30	1.0	18-Jun-90		2.0	19-Mar-92
AL	23	894	SEAMAP	FALL	GROUND FISH	CRUISE	3	12	12	293	12	1452	11	164	*1	*1	*1	1956	1.0	21-Jun-90		2.0	19-Mar-92
FL	36	891	SPRING 1989	ICHTHYOPLANKTON		3	25	*1	*1	25	*1	*1	*1	25	75			125	1.0	26-Sep-90	13	2.0	22-Jul-92
FL	36	892	FALL 1989	ICHTHYOPLANKTON		3	36	*1	*1	36	*1	*1	*1	36	108			180	1.0	15-Nov-90	2	2.0	22-Jul-92
LA	35	891	LA 1989	SPRING	SEAMAP	3	24	24	614	24	7914	21	140	8	21			8782	1.0	19-Feb-91		2.0	28-Jul-92
LA	35	892	LA 1989	SUMMER	SEAMAP	3	22	22	439	22	3984	17	292	12	36			4834	1.0	20-Feb-91		2.0	28-Jul-92
LA	25	893	LA 1989	AREA	SUMMER	SEAMAP	3	21	21	163	21	1106	11	118	21	24		1485	1.0	01-Mar-91		2.0	28-Jul-92
LA	35	894	LA 1989	FALL	SEAMAP	3	24	24	572	24	4390	24	499	12	36			5593	1.0	04-Mar-91		2.0	28-Jul-92
LA	25	895	LA 1989	AREA	FALL	SEAMAP	3	21	21	228	21	1943	11	224	21	42		2511	1.0	15-Mar-91		2.0	28-Jul-92
LA	35	896	LA OREGON 2	PELICAN	COMPARISON	3	10	10	286	10	2719	9	185	*1	*1	*1	*1	3229	1.0	18-Mar-91		2.0	28-Jul-92
LA	35	897	LA 1989	WINTER	SEAMAP	3	16	16	493	16	3635	16	567	7	21			4780	1.0	18-Mar-91		2.0	28-Jul-92
MS	17	891	FALL	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	SURVEY	3	41	34	989	41	7581	20	261	7	21			8988	1.0	09-May-90	19	2.0	31-Oct-91
MS	17	892	FALL	ICHTHYOPLANKTON	SURVEY	3	65	*1	*1	65	*1	*1	*1	65	75			205	1.0	09-May-90		2.0	30-Oct-91
MS	17	893	FALL	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	SURVEY	3	20	17	568	20	4631	*1	*1	3	9			5265	1.0	14-Jun-90	10	2.0	01-Nov-91
SC	51	891	SUMMER 89	SOUTH ATLANTIC		3	212	212	7690	212	12944	179	2299	*1	*1	*1	*1	23748	1.0	22-Aug-90		2.0	08-Jul-92
SC	51	892	SUMMER 89	SOUTH ATLANTIC		3	106	106	2693	106	5930	48	808	*1	*1	*1	*1	9797	1.0	22-Aug-90	66	2.0	08-Jul-92
SC	51	893	FALL	SEAMAP 89	SOUTH ATLANTIC	3	212	212	5753	212	9372	116	1902	*1	*1	*1	*1	17779	1.0	22-Aug-90		2.0	08-Jul-92
TX	31	891	CRUISE 891	GULF OF MEXICO		3	16	16	174	16	575	9	115	*1	*1	*1	*1	921	1.0	22-Aug-90	2	2.0	18-May-92
TX	32	891	CRUISE 891	GULF OF MEXICO		3	16	16	323	16	1991	13	709	*1	*1	*1	*1	3084	1.0	22-Aug-90	2	2.0	18-May-92
TX	33	891	CRUISE 891	GULF OF MEXICO		3	16	16	354	16	1965	16	546	*1	*1	*1	*1	2929	1.0	22-Aug-90		2.0	18-May-92
TX	34	891	CRUISE 891	GULF OF MEXICO		3	16	16	268	16	1481	16	651	*1	*1	*1	*1	2464	1.0	22-Aug-90		2.0	18-May-92
TX	40	891	CRUISE 891	GULF OF MEXICO		3	16	16	205	16	1035	15	382	*1	*1	*1	*1	1685	1.0	22-Aug-90		2.0	18-May-92
TX	31	892	TX	CRUISE 892		3	16	16	199	16	582	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	829	1.0	22-Aug-90		2.0	18-May-92
TX	32	892	TX	CRUISE 892		3	16	16	307	16	1826	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	2181	1.0	22-Aug-90		2.0	18-May-92
TX	33	892	TX	CRUISE 892		3	16	16	312	16	1421	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1781	1.0	22-Aug-90		2.0	18-May-92
TX	34	892	TX	CRUISE 892		3	16	16	204	16	1112	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1364	1.0	22-Aug-90		2.0	18-May-92
TX	40	892	TX	CRUISE 892		3	16	16	263	16	1462	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1773	1.0	22-Aug-90		2.0	18-May-92
US	4	179	SA-SEAMAP/BEAUFORT	ECOSYSTEM		3	571	438	847	37	2177	*1	*1					4070	1.0	27-Oct-90	123	2.0	
US	4	180	OREGON II	SUMMER	SEAMAP	3	244	243	4052	188	26051	141	4815	21	63			35797	1.0	18-Jun-90	421	2.0	
US	4	183	SEAMAP	ICHTHYOPLANKTON/PLUME		3	114	*1	*1	114	*1	*1	75	153				381	1.0	27-Sep-90	132	2.0	
US	4	184	SEAMAP	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH		3	512	490	11997	229	66970	*1	*1	39	117			80315	1.0	18-Nov-90	281	2.0	06-Oct-92
US	49	892	SEAMAP	ICHTHYOPLANKTON/THERMAL		3	141	*1	*1	138	*1	*1	*1	*1				279	1.0	14-Nov-90	105	2.0	
TOTAL							2636	2079	40594	1760	177603	703	14939	362	811	0	0	241125		1194			

STATUS CODES:

*1 NOT TAKEN
 2 ENTERED IN P.C.
 3 ENTERED ON MIAMI UNISYS A10 SYSTEM(VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)

08-Oct-92

SEAMAP 1990

DATA				INVENTORY	BIOLOGICAL	ENVIRONMENTAL	GENERAL L/F	SHRIMP L/F	ICHTHYOPLANKTON			TOTAL	SEAMAP	DATE	MAN	SEAMAP	DATE				
SOURCE	VESSEL	CRUISE	CRUISE REPORT TITLE	STATUS	STATION	SPECIES		STATION	L/F	STATIONS	SAMPLE	SPECIES	L/F	VERSION	DBASED	HOURS	VERSION	DBASED			
AL	23	901	SPRING SHRIMP GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	14	14	159	14	684	5	74	*1	*1	*1	*1	964	2.0	26-Mar-92			
AL	23	902	AL JULY SHRIMP-GROUND FISH	3	1	1	15	1	36	1	3	*1	*1	*1	*1	58	2.0	26-Mar-92			
AL	23	903	FALL KING MACKEREL/REDDRUM/PLAN	3	10	*1	*1	10	*1	*1	*1	10	10			30	2.0	26-Mar-92			
AL	23	904	FALL SHRIMP GROUND FISH	3	13	13	203	9	775	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1013	2.0	26-Mar-92			
FL	36	901	SPRING 1990 ICHTHYOPLANKTON	3	21	*1	*1	21	*1	*1	*1	21	61	1.0	30-Oct-90		2.0	22-Jul-92			
FL	36	902	FALL 1990 ICHTHYOPLANKTON	3	30	*1	*1	30	*1	*1	*1	30	90			7	2.0	22-Jul-92			
LA	35	901	LA WINTER SEAMAP	3	24	18	457	23	3581	15	128	6	15			4261	2.0	28-Jul-92			
LA	35	902	LA SUMMER SEAMAP	3	31	24	444	31	3151	15	171	7	21			3888	2.0	28-Jul-92			
LA	25	903	LA AREA SEAMAP CRUISE 903	3	21	21	142	21	1436	9	202	21	42	1.0	02-Apr-91		2.0	28-Jul-92			
LA	35	904	LA FALL SEAMAP	3	31	24	381	25	2954	18	174	7	20			3627	2.0	28-Jul-92			
LA	25	905	LA FALL SEAMAP	3	21	21	125	21	833	7	121	21	24			1173	2.0	28-Jul-92			
LA	35	906	LA WINTER SEAMAP	3	25	21	554	24	5978	20	952	4	12			7586	2.0	28-Jul-92			
MS	17	901	SUMMER SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	44	40	1086	44	8868	10	395	4	12	1.0	01-Jan-91	6	2.0	01-Nov-91			
MS	17	902	FALL SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	107	*1	*1	107	*1	*1	*1	107	113	1.0	02-May-91	38	2.0	07-Jan-92			
MS	17	903	FALL SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	24	24	727	20	4470	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	5265	1.0	01-Feb-91	3	2.0	01-Nov-91
SC	51	901	SPRING SEAMAP SURVEY SOUTH ATL	3	210	210	4529	208	15747	60	702	*1	*1	*1	*1	21666	1.0	10-Feb-92		2.0	08-Jul-92
SC	51	902	SUMMER SEAMAP S. ATLANTIC 90	3	156	156	4552	156	14060	91	1432	*1	*1	*1	*1	20603	1.0	04-Feb-92		2.0	08-Jul-92
SC	51	903	FALL SEAMAP SURVEY SOUTH ATL	3	182	182	6041	182	12663	128	2884	*1	*1	*1	*1	22262	1.0	04-Feb-92		2.0	08-Jul-92
TX	31	901	SUMMER SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	16	16	128	16	456	9	69	*1	*1	*1	*1	710	1.0	15-Mar-91	2	2.0	27-Mar-92
TX	32	901	SUMMER SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	16	16	267	16	1569	11	431	*1	*1	*1	*1	2326	1.0	15-Mar-91	2	2.0	27-Mar-92
TX	33	901	SUMMER SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	16	16	289	16	1605	14	205	*1	*1	*1	*1	2161	1.0	15-Mar-91	2	2.0	27-Mar-92
TX	34	901	SUMMER SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	16	16	125	16	606	5	101	*1	*1	*1	*1	885	1.0	15-Mar-91	1	2.0	27-Mar-92
TX	40	901	SUMMER SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	16	16	120	16	786	7	218	*1	*1	*1	*1	1179	1.0	15-Mar-91	1	2.0	27-Mar-92
TX	31	902	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	16	16	127	16	288	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	463	1.0	15-Mar-91	2	2.0	30-Mar-92
TX	32	902	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	16	16	244	16	894	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1186	1.0	15-Mar-91	3	2.0	30-Mar-92
TX	33	902	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	16	16	146	16	497	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	691	1.0	15-Mar-91	3	2.0	30-Mar-92
TX	34	902	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	16	16	99	16	496	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	643	1.0	15-Mar-91	3	2.0	30-Mar-92
TX	40	902	SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	16	16	197	16	872	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	1117	1.0	15-Mar-91	1	2.0	30-Mar-92
US	4	187	SEAMAP ICHTHYOPLANKTON	3	151	*1	*1	139	*1	*1	*1	139	408	1.0	10-Oct-90	54	2.0	07-Jan-92			
US	4	189	SPRING SHRIMP/GROUND FISH	3	290	267	5620	230	34308	219	6083	19	57	1.0	26-Aug-91	452	2.0	27-Sep-91			
US	4	190	PLANKTON SURVEY GULF OF MEXICO	3	133	*1	*1	131	*1	*1	*1	108	320	1.0	22-Aug-91		2.0	20-Sep-91			
US	4	191	SEAMAP/GROUND FISH SURVEY GOM	3	293	290	6725	218	39457	*1	*1	39	117	1.0	29-Sep-91	266	2.0	23-Sep-91			
US	28	901	SEAMAP ECOSYSTEM S ATLANTIC	3	136	80	70	62	*1	*1	*1	40	*2	*2	*2	348	1.0	24-Apr-91	49	2.0	10-Jun-92
TOTAL					2128	1566	33572	1887	157070	644	14345	583	1322			212534		895			

STATUS CODES:

- *1 NOT TAKEN
- *2 NOT ENTERED
- 2 ENTERED IN P.C.
- 3 ENTERED ON MIAMI UNISYS A10 SYSTEM(VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)

8-Oct-92

SEAMAP 1991

ATA	INVENTORY	BIOLOGICAL	ENVIRONMENTAL	GENERAL L/F	SHRIMP L/F	ICHTHYOPLANKTON	TOTAL	SEAMAP	DATE	MAN	SEAMAP	DATE
SOURCE VESSEL CRUISE CRUISE REPORT TITLE	STATUS	STATION SPECIES	STATION SPECIES	STATION L/F	STATION L/F	STATION SAMPLE SPECIES L/F	VERSION	DBASED	HOURS	VERSION	DBASED	
L 23 911 SUMMER SHRIMP GROUND FISH GOM	3	10 10 159	10 10 159	10 450	7 155	*1 *1 *1 *1	801			2.0	26-Mar-92	
L 23 912 KING MACKEREL RED DRUM PLANKTON	3	10 *1 *1	10 *1 *1	10 *1	*1 *1	10 10	30			2.0	26-Mar-92	
L 23 913 GROUND FISH SURVEY GOM	3	7 7 174	7 7 174	7 935	*1 *1 *1 *1	1130			2.0	26-Mar-92		
L 36 911 SPRING 1991 ICHTHYOPLANKTON	3	13 *1 *1	13 *1 *1	13 *1	*1 *1	13 39	65			2.0	22-Jul-92	
L 36 912 FALL 1991 ICHTHYOPLANKTON	3	23 *1 *1	23 *1 *1	23 *1	*1 *1	23 68	114			2.0	22-Jul-92	
S 17 911 SHRIMP/GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	41 39 856	38 6402	27 989	2 6	8398			2.0	16-Dec-91		
S 17 912 FALL ICHTHYOPLANKTON SUR GOM	3	118 *1 *1	118 *1 *1	118 *1	*1 *1	101 107	343			2.0	12-Feb-92	
S 17 913 SEAMAP CRUISE MS 913	3	27 27 657	27 4652	*1 *1	*1 *1	*1 *1	5390			2.0	26-Feb-92	
C 51 911 SPRING SOUTH ATLANTIC SURVEY	3	210 210 6022	210 15930	108 1931	*1 *1	*1 *1	24621			2.0	15-Apr-92	
C 51 912 SUMMER SOUTH ATLANTIC SEAMAP SUR	3	156 156 3979	156 12688	75 1155	*1 *1	*1 *1	18365			2.0	05-May-92	
C 51 913 FALL SEAMAP SOUTH ATLANTIC	3	172 172 4732	172 12249	99 2061	*1 *1	*1 *1	19657			2.0	12-May-92	
C 31 911 SUMMER SEAMAP	3	16 16 250	16 1354	10 76	*1 *1	*1 *1	1738			2.0	28-Sep-92	
C 32 911 SUMMER SEAMAP	3	16 16 270	16 1406	13 156	*1 *1	*1 *1	1893			2.0	28-Sep-92	
C 33 911 SUMMER SEAMAP	3	16 16 182	16 596	10 99	*1 *1	*1 *1	935			2.0	28-Sep-92	
C 34 911 SUMMER SEAMAP	3	16 16 138	16 681	10 51	*1 *1	*1 *1	928			2.0	28-Sep-92	
C 40 911 SUMMER SEAMAP	3	16 16 187	16 891	12 182	*1 *1	*1 *1	1320			2.0	28-Sep-92	
C 4 192 ATLANTIC SEAMAP	3	314 208 *1	107 *1	*1 *1	*1 *1	*1 *1	629			2.0	30-Oct-91	
C 4 194 SEAMAP GULF PLANKTON SUR	3	159 *1 *1	139 *1	*1 *1	*1 *1	159 442	740			2.0	15-Apr-92	
C 4 195 SEAMAP SPRING GROUND FISH SURVEY	3	288 267 6546	223 40667	186 7976	37 111	56264			2.0	12-Dec-91		
C 4 197 FALL BOTTOM FISH SURVEY	3	327 293 7389	241 42639	*1 *1	40 120	51009			2.0	20-Jul-92		
C 28 914 FALL SEAMAP ICHTHYOPLANKTON SUR	3	166 *1 *1	138 *1	*1 *1	96 286	590			2.0	10-Mar-92		
TOTAL		2121 1469 31541	1712 141540	557 14831	481 1189	0 0 194960			0			

ATLAS CODES:

*1 NOT TAKEN
 2 ENTERED IN P.C.
 3 ENTERED ON MIAMI UNISYS A10 SYSTEM (VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)

24

Attachment 4.

8-Oct-92

SEAMAP 1992

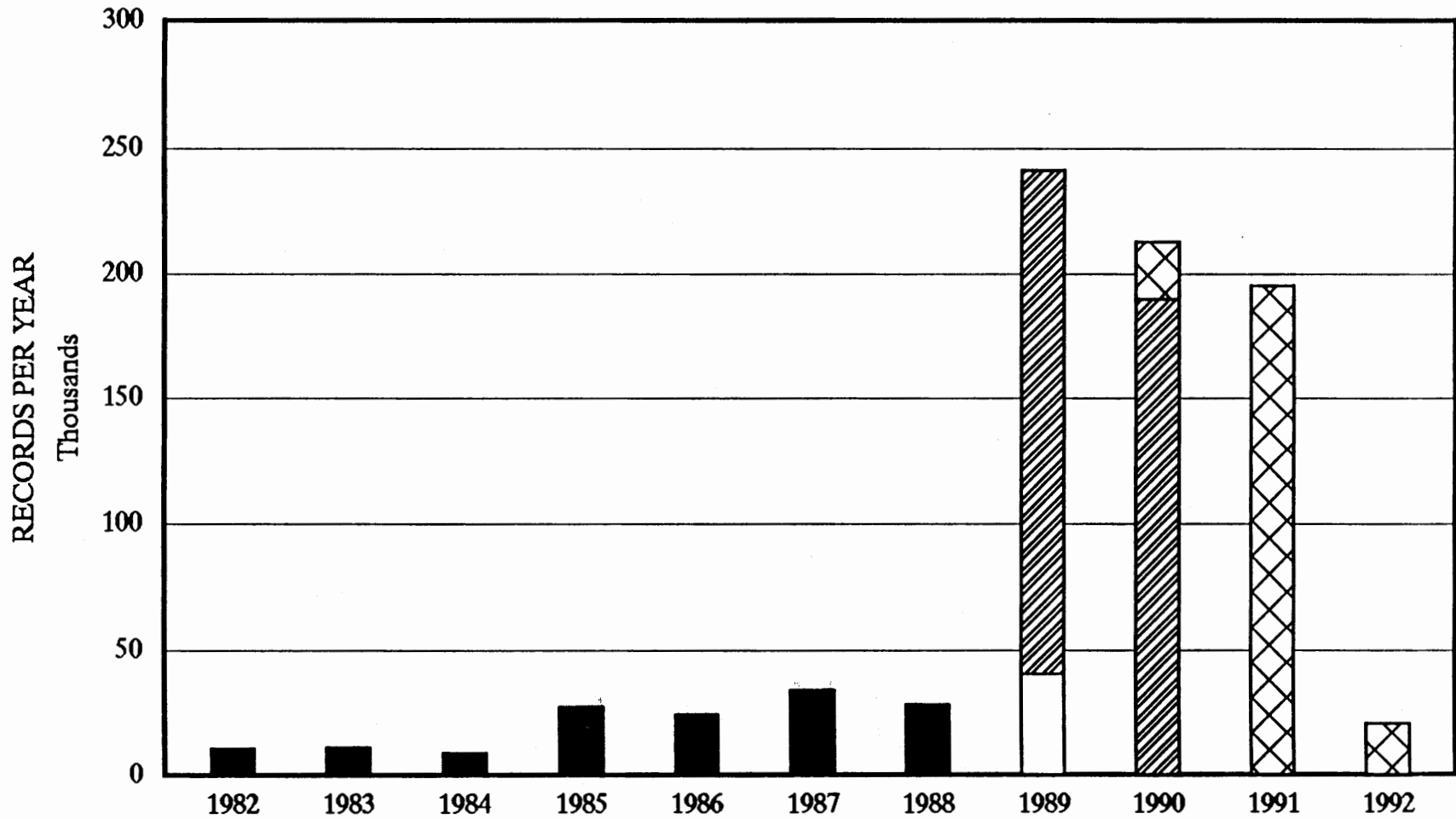
ATA	INVENTORY	BIOLOGICAL	ENVIRONMENTAL	GENERAL L/F	SHRIMP L/F	ICHTHYOPLANKTON	TOTAL	SEAMAP	DATE	MAN	SEAMAP	DATE
SOURCE VESSEL CRUISE CRUISE REPORT TITLE	STATUS	STATION SPECIES	STATION SPECIES	STATION L/F	STATION L/F	STATION SAMPLE SPECIES L/F	VERSION	DBASED	HOURS	VERSION	DBASED	
C 51 921 SPRING SOUTH ATLANTIC SURVEY	3	210 210 5045	210 13967	95 1053	*1 *1	*1 *1	20790			2.02	29-Sep-92	
TOTAL		210 210 5045	210 13967	95 1053	0 0	0 0 20790						

ATLAS CODES:





*1 NOT TAKEN
 2 ENTERED IN P.C.
 3 ENTERED ON MIAMI UNISYS A10 SYSTEM (VERIFIED AND DATA BASED)

08-Oct-92

SEAMAP TOTAL RECORDS BY YEAR



YEAR

 NMFS SYSTEM	 SEAMAP VERSION 1
 VER 1 CONVERTED TO VER 2	 SEAMAP VERSION 2.0



Gary D. Tilyou

**TCC ANADROMOUS FISH SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 13, 1992
Mobile, Alabama**

Chairman Alan Huff called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

Richard Applegate, FWS, San Marcos, TX
Jim Duffy, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Douglas J. Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
Ron Garavelli, MDWFP, Jackson, MS
Alan Huff, FDNR/MRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Charles Mesing, FGFFC, Tallahassee, FL
Larry Nicholson, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
David L. Pritchard, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Terry D. Stelly, TPWD, Port Arthur, TX
Gary Tilyou, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Staff

Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Nancy Marcellus, Administrative Assistant

Others

Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Gail Carmody, USFWS, Panama City, FL
John Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes

* T. Stelly made a motion to approve minutes from the April 7, 1992 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Update of Current Activities

Gulf Sturgeon Recovery Plan Development - A. Huff reported that the team has completed a near final version of the recovery plan. Lukens added that as soon as the final draft is completed, it will be submitted to the GSMFC Technical Coordinating Committee for their review and approval. Upon their approval it will go forward to the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee for review and approval. The next step is a broad distribution review. Once that review process is complete it returns to the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee for final approval. Upon their final approval it is sent to the full Commission for final adoption as a Commission interstate plan. This review process is totally separate from the FWS and NMFS review process for recovery plans. G. Carmody briefed the Subcommittee on the FWS review process. This contract expires December 31, 1992, with 90 days to submit any final reports or completion documents.

Update on Nuclear DNA Project - C. Mesing reported that Ike Wirgin is slowly progressing to the final stage of looking at preserved fish for the DNA project. The Subcommittee was requested to help locate any scales from striped bass specimens from the Gulf of Mexico prior to 1960. January 1 is the time frame for these preserved specimens. Mesing feels that it is just a matter of time before some information is available on the historic Gulf striped bass.

Update on Lake Talquin Project - Mesing advised that he had nothing new to report since the spring meeting as data have not been analyzed for 1992. He gave a brief overview of the report presented at the April Subcommittee meeting for those who were not present at that meeting.

Mesing further advised that results from this program will direct striped bass activities in Florida. Mesing discussed a proposed rule change to affect the Suwannee River west to the Perdido River. Criteria established by the Gulf States was used as justification for the proposal. Stricter regulations are being proposed with an 18 inch minimum size limit and a 3 fish bag limit. A closed season from June 1 - November 1 is also proposed, during which time it will be illegal to possess a striped bass. The closed season will be in designated thermal refuge areas only. If accepted, the proposal will be implemented in July 1993.

Update on Anadromous Fish Tag Development - G. Carmody reported that work is continuing on the tag development. A new receiver is being developed and the tag will no longer switch between sonic and radio, but will remain both sonic and radio at all times. Six tags are expected to be delivered to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service next fall.

Update on Lower Mississippi River Initiative - D. Frugé reported that the FWS and Corps of Engineers held a meeting April 21-22 in Vicksburg, MS to bring together representatives from states along the lower Mississippi River to talk about formation of a coordination group to better coordinate management of river resources of the lower Mississippi. About 50 people attended the meeting and the states voted to form the organization called the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee. Brainstorming exercises were held during the meeting to develop some ideas for formulating interstate goals and structure for the organization. Following the meeting a prioritization exercise was completed by mail to prioritize some of the ideas from the meeting. The next step in forming the organization is to convene a meeting of a working group consisting of 7 people, representatives from each of lower Mississippi River states, to draft mission statements, by-laws, and cooperative agreements between the states. Frugé is serving as a coordinator for the group at this time.

Sabine River Striped Bass Critical Habitat and Movement Study - D. Frugé reported that John Forrester, from Natchitoches, began a telemetry study in the Sabine River to look at striped bass movement and gather information on critical habitat in the Sabine River for striped bass. Between March and May eleven fish were implanted with radio transmitters. Five males and six females which ranged from 8.5 to 16.5 pounds were implanted. Tracking is continuing by boat and through aerial surveys. An initial draft progress report will be done this spring on the one year tracking results.

1993-1995 Sport Fish Restoration Administrative Program Activities

Lukens briefed the Subcommittee on some problems which were encountered during the review and approval process of the Sport Fish Restoration administrative project of the Commission. Assuming that funding is received, three basic activities are proposed for the next three years. Each of the activities has been identified in the Strategic Plan and the tasks and objectives were put into the Amendment 1 to the Striped Bass FMP.

The first activity is a second generation of the thermal refuge project. Several years ago a thermal refuge remote sensing project was conducted, but the results were not as conclusive as desired. However,

results indicated that the technology does work and can detect temperature differences in the river system. The purpose of the second generation of the thermal refuge project is to go back and fine tune the study plan to be better prepared technologically to detect these temperature differences. Plans are to focus again on the Apalachicola River system since there are documented thermal refuge areas that can be used to validate the technology. A study plan will be developed in 1993 with the actual flight taking place in 1994. From the time the flight is completed through the 1995 contract period, a completion report will be compiled.

The second activity is the establishment and maintenance of a regional mitochondrial and nuclear DNA database for the Gulf region. Plans call for a total of 300 samples to be analyzed gulf-wide each year. A protocol paper to collect these samples will be developed. Early in 1993 a workshop to develop a standardized nomenclature system for these genotypes will be held.

The final activity of the three year contract period is to establish a study design for a cooperative gulf-wide tagging project. The study design would include goals and objectives for tagging, information desired from tags, and tagging protocol.

These plans for 1993-95 are what the Subcommittee agreed to pursue to fill in some of the gaps in the Strategic Plan.

Implementation of Striped Bass Amendment 1 and Strategic Plan

Striped Bass Regulations in the Mississippi River Area - G. Tilyou opened the discussion with a summary of the actions of the Subcommittee at the last meeting regarding the length restrictions on striped bass as adopted in Amendment 1. He indicated that the Subcommittee agreed that the discussion regarding implementation of the 18 inch length limit could be readdressed at a later date. As a result of sampling ongoing in the Mississippi River area, striped bass larvae have been identified, indicating that natural reproduction is occurring. Tilyou suggested that the area in question is in need of management; however, it is felt that the management regime currently in place is effective and more closely addresses the stock situation found there. He requested that the Subcommittee adopt the position that the current regulations for striped bass harvest in Louisiana are consistent with the intent of the goals and objectives of the GSMFC interstate fishery management plan for striped bass.

Lukens reminded the Subcommittee of the implications regarding funding, stating that for states seeking federal aid for anadromous fish work, if an interstate fishery management plan is adhered to, the federal share will be 90% and the state share 10%. Otherwise the split is 50% federal 50% state. He also indicated that the concept of allowing for differential regulations which are based on data is incorporated in the interjurisdictional fisheries management program. A discussion ensued regarding the goals and objectives of the plan as they relate to Louisiana's current length and possession restrictions. It was the general consensus that since data suggests that spawning stock protection rather than recruitment is the most pressing need in the Mississippi River area, the current Louisiana regulations are consistent with the general intent. C. Mesing made a motion to accept Louisiana's statewide regulations for striped bass as consistent with the intent of the goals and objectives of the GSMFC interstate fishery management plan for striped bass, and as such the State of Louisiana is in compliance with the plan. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Identification of High Priority Activities - J. Duffy brought up the issue of proceeding with carrying out activities identified in the Strategic Plan and Amendment 1. He began a discussion regarding identification of several high priority activities including fishery independent surveys and a Gulf-wide tagging study. Regarding the tagging study, he indicated that the National Marine Fisheries Service has an ongoing cooperative tagging database at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center in Miami. He suggested that the Subcommittee should look into this as a possible location for data base management.

G. Carmody pointed out that the Strategic Plan calls for an annual workshop to discuss progress on activities and plans for future activities. A discussion ensued regarding holding an annual workshop outside the regular annual meeting timeframe to allow the group to focus on restoration topics. It was the consensus of the Subcommittee that a one day workshop be planned for the day before the opening day of the March GSMFC meeting in Palm Springs, Florida. Lukens indicated that he would make the necessary plans for the workshop. It was suggested that presentations could be made on the status of striped bass in each state's jurisdiction, including identification of data sources/programs or potential data sources/programs. As a result of the presentations, the Subcommittee should then identify the next step in terms of joint activities under the Strategic Plan which need to be implemented.

Apalachicola River Navigation Project and the Jim Woodruff Dam/Lake Seminole

Lukens distributed a briefing statement on the Apalachicola River system designed to seek support for a broad multi-disciplinary study to be done on the Apalachicola River system, including the navigation channels, maintenance activities, power production at the dam site, recreational activities in Lake Seminole, and the dam itself. The items outlined could be gathered from existing studies and put under one cover in an effort to make reasonable evaluations about the Apalachicola River system to enhance restoration of anadromous fish species. Lukens asked for the endorsement of the Subcommittee and to lend our gulf-wide support and become involved in the issue. It was the consensus of the Subcommittee to support the study with the addition of water allocations or withdrawals and the deletion of numbers 15, 16, and 17 from the list.

Election of Officers

Gary Tilyou of Louisiana was elected Chairman, with Terry Stelly serving as Vice-chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Tom Wagner
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TCC CRAB SUBCOMMITTEE
Minutes
October 13, 1992
Mobile, Alabama

Harriet Perry, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:44 a.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

Vince Guillory, LDWF, Bourg, LA
Steve Heath, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Harriet Perry, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Phil Steele, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom Wagner, TPWD, Rockport, TX

Staff

Rick Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Cindy Bosworth, IJF Staff Assistant

Others

Richard Condrey, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Joe Kimmel, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Charles Moss, Sea Grant, Angleton, TX
Mark Van Hoose, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Jerry Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, April 8, 1992, in Biloxi, Mississippi, were adopted with the addition of Charles Moss to the attendees list.

Discussion of Western Gulf Stone Crab Profile

H. Perry reported that she and Rick Leard spent approximately two weeks reorganizing and condensing the profile. After the bibliography is reworked and Section 6 (problems in the fishery, suggested management options) is developed, the draft will be sent to Vince Guillory for his review, and then she, Rick, and Vince will meet at GCRL to produce the final draft document which will then be distributed to the entire committee for review. In particular, Perry would like Terry Bert to review Section 6. The deadline for a complete final draft is January 1993.

State Reports

Florida - P. Steel distributed a 1991 landings report which was also used in an attempt to explain to the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission (FMFC) why landings appeared to be down. The report outlined the biological and economic factors which affected the fishery. Steele projected 1992 to be a good year for the state of Florida even though Hurricane Andrew affected the lower part of the state. Of note, Florida is developing a blue crab fishery management plan for the state of Florida. Over the past several months, workshops have been held with fishermen to get a better picture of what is actually happening with the fishery. Questions were asked such as are there too many traps in the fishery, should fishermen be limited to the number of traps, should there be closed seasons, etc. Opinions were mixed. Steele noted that fishermen say that crabs have predators, and the FMFC are protecting the manatees, dolphins, pelicans, and sharks. These creatures are eating their crabs. A serious complaint of the fishermen concerned bait. Several conservation groups are petitioning to ban nets in certain areas. One confirmation from the workshops is that underreporting is as big a problem as thought. Recommendations from the regional blue crab FMP are now better accepted in Florida. Florida has both a oceanic and riverine fishery, and escape rings are currently being used. A minimum size for peelers will also be established. Of other interest, Florida's genetics paper is being written up by Ann Jackson and will be submitted to Marine Biology within the next few months, and the stone crab fishery in Florida has had a good year.

Alabama - Steve Heath distributed a handout of harvest data for blue crab from 1986-1992. Underreporting in Alabama is a problem. He projected 1992 to be a good year with current prices at .42 per pound. A serious problem in Alabama is traps. They have had extreme protests from recreational fishermen, duck hunters, and shrimp fishermen. Complaints have also been received from waterfront homeowners and even jet skiers. These complaints have gone directly to the Corps of Engineers. The crab traps fall under a nationwide permit which allow fishermen to put traps out without an individual permit for each structure (trap) put into the water. If necessary, the Corps could pull the nationwide permit which would then mean that fishermen would have to have an individual

permit for each trap. Alabama Marine Resources discussions include marking traps and/or limiting traps to try help alleviate the problem.

Health reported the number of processors in Alabama has been extremely steady and fluctuated by one or two shops since the FMP was published. This year there are 24 shops. There were 7-8 shops this year that reported processing only from trucked-in stock. The remaining shops reported landings as well as processed product.

At this point, the Crab Subcommittee agreed to send a representative (P. Steele) to the Data Management Subcommittee to discuss the underreporting problem.

Mississippi - Harriet Perry reported on Mississippi's second year in the regional settlement program and noted that numbers in 1992 were down. She noted that this year was very different hydrographically; high salinities occurred almost all year. Fewer megalopae, but more early crab stages were collected this year. All meteorological and hydrological data have been sent to NASA to see if there is a relationship between that and megalopal settlement. Perry stated that lack of habitat alone cannot be tied to Mississippi's record low landings. Perry asked the group if there was any mechanism for an organized attempt at pulling together regional assessment and monitoring data for juvenile crabs across the gulf. She noted there is a 20 year database. Representatives noted that the Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida databases are in SAS data sets. Vince Guillory suggested this project come after the stone crab profile. For the spring meeting, subcommittee members agreed to list available monitoring data by gear type, estuary, and how many years are available to see what the database looks like.

Louisiana - Vince Guillory explained a research project in Louisiana which shows the influence of crab trap design on catches. He reported that phase I of the study was completed. This phase looked at the number of funnels versus catches. Basic catch per effort for a 1 funnel trap was 11.5 crabs per trap day, 2 funnel trap was 15 crabs per trap day, 3 funnel trap was 16.6 crabs per trap day, and 4 funnel trap was 14.1 crabs per trap day. Phase II of the project will focus on trap size and begin in the spring. Three funnel traps of four different

sizes will be used. The eventual goal of the project is to have an optimally designed trap.

Last fall a short term project on ghost fishing was conducted where vented and non-vented traps were compared. Within a two month period, an average of 13 crabs per trap died in the control traps. An average of 3.8 crabs per trap died in traps with vents. Trap ring size was 2 3/8. Percent escapement in the control traps was 30%; percent escapement in the vented traps was 57%.

Guillory handed out a draft of "A Descriptive Profile of the Louisiana Soft-shell Crab Industry," by Rex H. Caffey, Dudley D. Culley, and Kenneth J. Roberts which presents information regarding the status of the Louisiana soft-shell crab industry. Data were obtained from on-site interviews with 65 producers in 1991. Highlights include 1991 production of \$298 thousand, and landings of 200,000 lbs.

Another project in Louisiana is the state blue crab fishery management plan. A first draft copy has just been submitted to the Baton Rouge office for their review. Guillory handed out copies of the literature cited and fisheries sections. It was noted that this document will facilitate revision the regional fishery management plan. Guillory agreed to send the GSMFC office a copy as soon as possible.

Guillory briefly noted a megalopal study in Barataria Bay is being conducted by a doctoral student of Jim Powell.

Guillory gave a legislative update for the past year. During the 1992 legislative session, several bills were passed that concerned blue crabs. House Bill 912 repealed the 4 1/2" minimize soft shell crab size. Louisiana was the only state with a minimum size limit on soft shell crabs. Also, part of the same bill was a provision that stated that anyone keeping peeler crabs for shedding would have to keep the crabs in a separate container. This was done to tighten-up the 10% tolerance loop-hole.

Louisiana landings for 1991 were over 51 million pounds. A factor to contribute to the increase may be that the new landings system is now in its second year. Dealers are required to submit monthly reports to the LDWF. The compliance rate during the second year was better than the first.

Guillory noted the ongoing conflicts between shrimp fishermen and crab fishermen. This year seemed to be particularly bad. A copy of a news release which described an incident where an Abbeville man was charged with attempted second degree murder after shrimp boats were fired upon in Vermilion Bay. An ad hoc committee composed of industry representatives from each fishery was formed to help resolve the problems/crisis of conflicts before someone gets killed. Some options included limiting the number of traps and/or fishermen, eliminating night trawling, eliminating the inshore double-rig trawling, closing inshore the crab fishery on a seasonal basis, and spatially separating crab fishermen and shrimp fishermen when the inshore shrimp season opens.

Texas - Tom Wagner distributed a 1972-1992 commercial landings and value table to the subcommittee. Crab landings were down from a high of 11.6 million pounds in 1987 to 6.1 million pounds in 1991. One of the largest contributors to this is transporting product out-of-state without reporting landings. The average exvessel price per pound for the last 4-5 years had gone up to about .44 per pound in 1989. Before 1985, the highest mean price was .65 per pound. Recently, it has jumped up well over \$1.00. Wagner feels price is inflated by the reporting of soft shell and peeler crab products together with hard crab product.

Wagner distributed a study prepared for the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 6 on the declining trend in resources in the Galveston Bay System.

Texas did not pass any new major laws affecting crabs. A clarification of to the left claw law for stone crabs makes it not only illegal to remove the left claw, but it is also illegal to possess the left claw onboard a vessel. The float color for crab traps is all white. Total crab trap tags sold in FY1992 were over 51,000.

Heavy rains occurred from December 1991 to May 1992; Wagner expects 1992 to reflect low landings in the crab fishery. He noted the rains probably wiped out the oyster fishery in several bays.

Wagner reported that the Texas Parks and Wildlife has recently reorganized. Ralph Rayburn, Coastal Fisheries Branch Chief, was transferred to the Executive

Office working with legislators. His replacement is Gene McCarty who had previously worked with the hatcheries branch.

Other Business

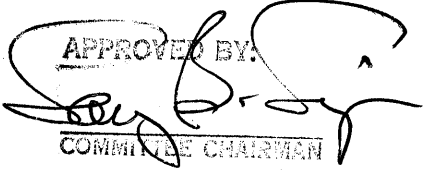
C. Moss spoke of the ongoing problems in the crab fishery. He referred to the discussion from the April meeting regarding crab imports and the impacts of imports to the domestic fishery. Moss reiterated objective number 2 of the blue crab FMP which states "fishery management throughout the range." One question being asked by crab processors is there any way a fisheries management program can be in place that would address the problems being experienced in all the states in the gulf region. He asked if there is a group within the GSMFC which addresses industry problems. Rick Leard noted the Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee and also explained the FMP implementation tracking which is ongoing. Leard noted the State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee is updated at each Commission meeting which recommendations from the FMP have still not been acted upon by the individual states. Leard informed the group that the main recommendation that has not been implemented for the crab fishery is escape panels. Moss noted the major problem of underreported landings. Moss asked the group, "Why not cook dead crabs?" One answer was because you don't know how long they've been dead before they've come into the processing plant. Moss stated that the answer in Texas is because of the way you handle them after they die. Every other seafood is processed after they are dead. Perry noted that other seafood doesn't degrade microbiologically as fast as blue crab. Moss noted that the question came from their 4-H Seafood Challenge. He feels the ramifications of the question go all the way down to "crabs on wheels." Saltboxes were briefly discussed and their effect and lack thereof on crab fatalities. The next item Moss noted which has been asked by industry was whether anyone has ever considered a closed season for crabs. From a processing point-of-view, January and February would be a good time so processors can remove excess product from their inventory. Moss noted that fishermen are commonly paid in cash and feels this is to circumvent management practices and the IRS. H. Perry stated that there is a lack of continuity within the fishery. She noted that fishermen are constantly coming in and out of the fishery. Processors and other more stable

members of the fishery should be sought for information. She stated that the industry needs to cooperate with state agencies and become part of the solution. The group agreed one forum could be with the GSMFC through its Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee. R. Leard noted that compiling problems within the fishery, both recreational and commercial, should be addressed within the next revision fishery management plan. Both a recreational and commercial representative would be on the task force and then those problems and subsequent recommendations would be passed on to the state agency directors for their implementation. The Crab Subcommittee concurred that one of the next projects of their group would be the five year update (1995) to the Crab FMP.

Election of Chairman

*Harriet Perry opened the floor for nominations to the office of Chairman of the Crab Subcommittee. Phil Steele nominated Tom Wagner, and Vince Guillory seconded the nomination. Tom Wagner was unanimously elected Chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

APPROVED BY:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

**STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 14, 1992
Mobile, Alabama**

The meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m. by L. Simpson. By consensus, L. Simpson continued to serve as moderator for the meeting. The following persons were in attendance:

Members

John Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA (proxy for J. Pulliam)
Dan Furlong, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL (proxy for A. Kemmerer)
Joe Gill, Jr., MDWFP, Biloxi, MS
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL (proxy for D. Duden & R. Nelson)
Vernon Minton, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
William S. "Corky" Perret, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Rudy Rosen, TPWD, Austin, TX
Larry B. Simpson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS (nonvoting)

Staff

Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Rick Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Cindy Bosworth, Staff Assistant

Others

George Brumfield, Zapata Haynie Corporation, Moss Point, MS
Hugh Cole, GSMFC-CFAC, Foley, AL
Jim Duffy, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Bob Fairbank, MWF & GCCA, Gulfport, MS
Benny Fontenot, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Karen Foote, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Joe Herring, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Henry G. "Skip" Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Charlie Lyles, GSMFC Executive Director/Retired, Ocean Springs, MS
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
Gene McCarty, TPWD, Austin, TX
Scott Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Hal Osburn, TPWD, Austin, TX
David L. Pritchard, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Patricia A. Rauch, DOC/NOAA, Grants Mgt. Div., Silver Springs, MD
Peter J. Rubec, TPWD, Austin, TX
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Tom Van Devender, MDWFP, Biloxi, MS
Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Inc., Mandeville, LA
James "Tut" Warren, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

L. Simpson noted that the Menhaden Advisory Committee report had inadvertently been left off the agenda and suggested that it be added after item #3. He further suggested moving item #7, "Discussion of Consistent Regulations Among States" to follow the Menhaden Advisory Committee Report.

It was further noted that a discussion of striped bass regulations in Louisiana would be discussed under other business. Without objection, the agenda was adopted as modified.

Approval of Minutes

Ed Joyce noted that his name was not on the attendance list. J. Gill moved and D. Furlong seconded that the minutes be approved with the addition of Ed Joyce to the attendance list. The motion carried without objection.

Menhaden Advisory Committee Report

J. Merriner reported that there were no actions requiring a vote of the S-FFMC; however, he noted that R. Condrey had given the committee a preliminary report of the Bycatch Study being conducted by LSU. A final report with findings and an oral presentation was scheduled for the March 1993 meeting.

J. Merriner also reported on committee actions to organize a revision of the gulf menhaden fishery management plan (FMP). He noted that a subcommittee of B. Wallace, V. Guillory, and J. Merriner would work with R. Leard to develop data for the revision, and it was anticipated that a complete working draft would be developed by mid-summer 1993 with a final draft completed by the end of 1993.

J. Merriner noted that landings of menhaden for the 1992 season through September were 388,600 mt, down approximately 25% from 1991. He attributed the decline to mainly reduced fishing effort as a result of fewer plants and vessels operating, and environmental factors including poor weather in April and Hurricane Andrew in the fall. He also stated that the committee was working to develop a procedure for adjusting the season to compensate for lost fishing time as a result of weather and other factors. He said that recruitment was also being measured and studied.

J. Merriner reported that V. Guillory was elected chairman for 1992.

Discussion of Consistent Regulations Among States

V. Minton noted previous discussions regarding development of consistent size regulations and the lack of action. He suggested that each state appoint a staff member to a task force that would consider biological data leading to size regulations. He further suggested that the task force report back to the S-FFMC any recommendations for size groups based on the data and that the S-FFMC pass recommendations to the GSMFC. It was suggested that the task force initially develop a list of species that they would like to consider.

*V. Minton moved to establish the task force to review size limits on various species and to look at areas where changes can be made. J. Gill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

J. Rousell suggested developing an outline for attacking the problem. L. Simpson stated that he and R. Leard would develop the charge of the task force and layout a list of species. A tentative meeting was scheduled for January 1993.

Discussion of Black Drum FMP

R. Leard stated that technical questions had been raised regarding the stock assessment during the TCC meeting. He noted that based on the need to address these questions, no action was requested of the S-FFMC.

Status of FMP Implementation by State

L. Simpson reviewed states' progress at implementing management recommendations from FMPs for menhaden, Spanish mackerel, blue crab and oyster. It was noted that since October 1991, Alabama has implemented Spanish mackerel recommendations for gill nets and has proposed a trap identification system for its blue crab fishery. Louisiana has recently implemented a trap identification system (Attachment A shows the current status by FMP).

Selection of Additional Fishery (Species) for IJF Planning

*J. Gill suggested that spotted seatrout should be the next species for IJF FMP development. After lengthy discussion, J. Gill moved to initiate an IJF FMP for spotted seatrout as the next priority. R. Rosen seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a negative vote from W. Tatum.

Report on Stock Assessment Training

R. Lukens reported on the previous workshop and noted that it was very successful; however, the content was also very basic. He stated that a second workshop was tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 1993 and that funding was now available. He further noted that this workshop would likely focus on the gulf. He advised that the SAT would meet October 22-23, 1992, and provide recommendations, along with the Data Management Subcommittee, on content, set up, course outline, and other aspects of the workshop. Afterwards, staff will work with NMFS to finalize plans.

Data Confidentiality MOA

R. Lukens reported on previous actions and review of the MOA by states. He noted that all states except Florida could legally sign the agreement with NMFS. He requested approval to release the MOA to the NMFS to determine their ability to sign the document. Afterwards, the four states could share confidential data.

*J. Gill moved approval to release the document to NMFS for review. W. Tatum seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution Supporting H.R. 5620

L. Simpson reviewed a proposed resolution to support appropriations for abatement of damages from Hurricane Andrew.

*J. Roussel moved to recommend the resolution for approval by the GSMFC. E. Joyce seconded, and the motion carried with D. Furlong and J. Brown abstaining.

Discussion of Striped Bass Regulations in Louisiana

R. Lukens reported that Louisiana had presented new data to the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee and the TCC supporting their contention that although Louisiana's regulations regarding striped bass were not consistent with Amendment 1 of the FMP, they were meeting the goals and objectives of the plan. In particular, he noted that the new data indicates that adequate spawning and recruitment are occurring; whereas recruitment problems were the primary basis for minimum size limits in the plan. He noted that the endorsement had been approved by the subcommittee, and the TCC concurred with Louisiana's contention.

R. Lukens recommended on behalf of the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee and the TCC that the S-FFMC endorse the contention that Louisiana's existing regulations are consistent with the goals and objectives of Amendment 1.

*J. Roussel moved the endorsement with J. Brown seconding. The motion carried with W. Tatum abstaining.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, October 14, 1992
Mobile, Alabama**

Chairman Ed Joyce called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. The following members and others were present:

Members

John Brown (proxy for J. Pulliam), USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Karen Foote, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Alan Huff (proxy for K. Steidinger), FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Ed Joyce, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Henry "Skip" Lazauski (proxy for V. Minton), ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Gene McCarty, TPWD, Austin, TX
Tom McIlwain, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Scott Nichols (proxy for B. Brown), NMFS, Pascagoula, MS
Hal Osburn, TPWD, Austin, TX
John Roussel, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Walter Tatum, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Tom Van Devender, BMR, Biloxi, MS

Staff

Larry Simpson, Executive Director
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
David Donaldson, SEAMAP Coordinator
Richard Leard, IJF Coordinator

Others

Richard Applegate, USFWS, San Marcos, TX
Terry Cody, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Jim Duffy, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
David Etzold, GSMFC, Bay St. Louis, MS
Doug Frugé, USFWS, Ocean Springs, MS
James Jones, MS-AL Sea Grant, Ocean Springs, MS
Joe Kimmel, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Herb Kumpf, NMFS, Panama City, FL
John Merriner, NMFS, Beaufort, NC
David Pritchard, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Patricia Rauch, NOAA-Grants, Washington, D.C.
Peter Rubec, TPWD, Austin, TX
Virginia Vail, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Borden Wallace, Daybrook Fisheries, Covington, LA
Richard Waller, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of discussion of the Black Drum FMP under Other Business.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held April 8, 1992 in Biloxi, Mississippi were approved as written.

Status Report on Controlled Freshwater Introduction into Louisiana and Mississippi Marshes

D. Etzold reported on the status of several freshwater diversion projects. He stated he received a quarterly report on the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project which noted the structure is being actively used and has provided benefits to the area. He also outlined the flow status of the project.

He also reported on the Bonnet Carré project. He stated there was a Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force and Technical Committee meeting. He stated the purpose was an information hearing on the status of the Bonnet Carré project and there were approximately 75 people in attendance. He reported that he was the representative from GSMFC and talked in support of the project. He stated the end result of the meeting is the Bonnet Carré project is again active and the responsible Louisiana agency has changed from Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) to Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). He reviewed the current schedule and stated the cooperative agreement language is being reordered and then will be reviewed again by Mississippi and Louisiana. He stated the groundbreaking ceremony should occur in the spring 1993, the contract for pre-load be in place by April 1993 and completed by November 1993. He remarked the actual building of the structure should begin in March 1994 and the structure should be operational by May 1997.

Status of Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Agreement (MICRA) and Update of the Lower Mississippi River Initiative

D. Frugé reviewed the purpose of MICRA which is to improve and enhance the coordination on managing interjurisdictional fisheries within the Mississippi River Basin. He stated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) continues to support MICRA through funding, MICRA has set up mechanisms to get funding from other sources and Illinois and the Tennessee Valley Authority have provided some funds for the program. He stated the major point of concern for MICRA is in regard to the Cooperative Interjurisdictional Rivers Fisheries Resources Act of 1992. He stated the act would provide test funding for MICRA but no action was taken by Congress this year and it would probably be reintroduced next year. He reported the funding would have allowed for the implementation of resource goals and objectives of MICRA.

D. Frugé also reported on the Lower Mississippi River Initiative. He stated the initiative is an effort to form a coordination body among the states bordering the lower Mississippi River. He stated USFWS and Corps of Engineers sponsored a meeting of lower Mississippi River agencies to discuss the formation of such a group. He stated the participants voted to go forward with establishing a committee (Lower Mississippi Conservation Committee). He reported several brain storming sessions were held to develop ideas for mission statements, goals, objectives and structure of the committee. He stated the next step is to convene a working group from each agency to develop mission statements, bylaws, goals and objectives and cooperative agreements for starting this organization. He reported USFWS is presently providing a coordinator for the group and will continue to do so.

State/Federal Reports

a. Florida

E. Joyce reported the state of Florida has implemented a new lobster trap reduction program. He stated there has been steady lobster landings for approximately the last 25 years in Florida. He reported that last year, the state of Florida sold approximately 1.4 million trap tags. He stated this year the price of the tags increased to \$0.50 per tag and to date, approximately 1 million tags have been sold. He

remarked the purpose of the new law was to reduce the number of traps to 750,000 for the first year. The law also called for the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission to further decrease the number of traps not to exceed 10 percent.

b. Alabama

W. Tatum reported Alabama is attempting to make some changes in the oyster management. He stated activities have started slowly and the state is trying to get better control of the resource and fishermen of the resource. He reported the Department has full support from the state and the present activities are attempting to sustain the industry into the future. He remarked that most of management programs can be accomplished through regulation and some will require legislation. He mentioned changes in the mullet industry were initiated in the past year. He stated the changes were needed and actually called for by the mullet industry. He stated the catch has shifted from a year around fishery to mostly during the fall for roe mullet season. He reported Alabama has worked out an agreement with the dealers and users to defer the majority of catch to the fall (roe season) but still allow for some catch before roe season which enables the fresh mullet market to continue. He reported the legislature has passed a saltwater fishing license for the state of Alabama but the license was nearly revoked during a special session due to the fact that, in certain cases, it was cheaper for non-residents to fish in Alabama than it was for residents to fish. He stated these problems were rectified but another special session is scheduled for early next year and the issue is likely to be discussed again.

c. Mississippi

T. Van Devender reported the brown shrimp season has opened in Mississippi. He stated Mississippi and Alabama opened the season at the same time in early June. He stated due to the dry spring the juvenile shrimp were quite some distance up the estuaries and post larval influx into Mississippi Sound was low thus the recruitment was poor. He reported the commercial harvest of red drum in Mississippi waters opened on October 1st and should last approximately 2 months. He stated that due to the stringent regulations on red drum (22 minimum size limit) and protecting these fish through the first two years of life, the number of red drum have increased in Mississippi. He stated Mississippi has increased the mesh size of gill and trammel nets used in catching mullet during the roe season. He stated this will allow for escapement of smaller fish. He noted Mississippi is in the process of drafting guidelines and devising a monitoring system for an offshore net pen aquaculture system. He stated this system has been proposed to be located south of Horn Island. T. McIlwain reported that Mississippi has approved dockside gambling and this activity is having a profound effect on the infrastructure of Mississippi's seafood industry. He stated that beach front property is extremely prime location for the casinos. He stated casinos are displacing seafood processing plants and if all of the proposed casinos are constructed, it could eliminate the seafood processing industry for Harrison County. He stated impacts on the industry due to gambling are yet to be seen but regardless, it will be dramatically changed.

d. Louisiana

J. Roussel reported that as a result of Hurricane Andrew, Louisiana suffered some significant resource damages. He stated Louisiana documented a marine fish kill of approximately 9 to 10 million fish. He stated the kill was related to hypoxia with the fish either being forced into the hypoxic area or movement of the hypoxic water into an area where the fish were located. He stated there were major losses of oyster resources and habitat due to the storm. He stated the damage was caused by sediment and vegetation overburden on the reefs. He reported there was also a freshwater fish kill in the area where the eye of the storm made landfall. He stated the storm killed approximately 182 million fish which is probably a low estimate due to size of the kill. He stated LDWF expended a large amount of effort in documenting the damages to the resources and infrastructure caused by the hurricane. He stated Louisiana has passed an emergency management measure for mullet which establishes a roe mullet season during which time there will be no limits on commercial take. He stated for the month preceding the

season, there would be a trip limit of 200 lbs/day and for the remainder of the year, there would be a trip limit of 1500 lbs/day. He stated this is in addition to prior regulations for mullet.

e. Texas

H. Osburn reported that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is undergoing some reorganization and has moved to an ecosystem approach. He stated the hatchery branch has been dissolved and absorbed in coastal fisheries. He introduced Gene McCarty as the new head of Coastal Fisheries. G. McCarty stated the main objective is to manage each bay system as a separate ecosystem and to decentralize to the field stations so the sampling and operations are under the direction of a chief biologist. He remarked that although there is restructuring, the department is protecting the core of fishery monitoring programs. He also noted the department is attempting to increase their constituency outreach programs. He reported the Texas legislature is scheduled to convene in the upcoming year and legislature years are extremely active. He stated one of the issues to be addressed by the legislature is a trophy tag for fisheries. He stated Texas is planning to reexamine its red drum stock assessment due to success of recovery of red drum stocks off Texas. He reported Texas has had a wet year which has had an adverse effect on the shrimping industry.

f. NMFS

S. Nichols reported about some of the bycatch work being conducted by NMFS. He stated there have been observers placed on shrimp vessels to estimate the level of bycatch occurring and the program has been successful. He stated NMFS-Pascagoula is developing some gear to reduce bycatch and devices have yielded up to 50 percent. The problem is that red snappers seem to be attracted to the trawls and do not appear to want to leave. He stated NMFS has discovered an extremely narrow range of flow speeds that get snapper out but leave shrimp in the trawl. NMFS is attempting to develop devices that produce these flow speeds and should have these devices by the end of NMFS's next fiscal year. He stated juvenile red snapper have become very sparse.

g. USFWS

J. Brown reported the FY1993 appropriation for the Fish and Wildlife Service was recently signed, however, there were no funds for anadromous grants. He stated under the Federal Aid program, administrative grants are provided and this type of grant is used by the GSMFC for operations of some of their activities. He stated the GSMFC grant should be funded. With the loss of anadromous funds, FWS is looking at other options. He stated FWS is exploring a challenge grant process through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, however, one problem is there is no allowance for in-kind contributions. FWS is monitoring the zebra mussel problem. He stated the mussel has been found as far south as Greenville, Mississippi. He stated that these mussels cannot take salinity, however, there is another species, also in the Great Lakes, which seems to be more tolerant of salinity.

Update of Gulf of Mexico Program

H. Kumpf reported the Gulf of Mexico Program (GOMP) was started in 1988. He stated the GOMP functioned via three component parts: Policy Review Board which consists of members from state and federal agencies; Technical Steering Committee which operates as the scientific advisory body; and Citizen Advisory Committee consisting of members from the private sector. He reviewed the nine subcommittees found under the Technical Steering Committee. He focused his discussion on the Living Aquatic Resources subcommittee. He stated this subcommittee has met three times and E. Joyce is the representative from the GSMFC. He stated the subcommittee identified issues concerning the resources. These issues were as follows: 1) status/trends of ecosystems which consists of levels of biota, economic and relative habitat value, compendium of land/habitat usage, evaluation of cumulative impact of alterations; 2) mass mortalities of aquatic resources consisting of event response, forensic pathology and solution/prevention; 3) human interaction/occupation consisting of increased visitation and human presence, contaminant exposure and poaching and incidental take; 4) aquaculture consisting of effluent,

escapement, genetic disturbances, location of facilities and predation; and 5) impact of fishing on the ecosystem which consists of operational and community impacts. He stated the subcommittee is in the process of developing an action plan which consists of problem statement, goal and quantifiable objectives and solution strategies which include action items and recommendations.

Discussion of RecFIN Program

R. Lukens reported that work is continuing on the Recreational Fisheries Information Network (RecFIN). He stated the planning development team (PDT) has developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and this document expresses the partners' intent to go forward with the implementation the RecFIN program. He emphasized that it does not commit an agency to personnel or funding. He stated B. Brown will present this document to the Commission and ask for signatures from the member states and other pertinent agencies. He stated the PDT is continuing work on a strategic plan for the RecFIN program. He noted, assuming the MOU is signed, a RecFIN committee will be established and their immediate charge would be to complete the strategic plan which should occur by the end of this year. He stated this is a Southeast regional program and as such the South Atlantic states are involved and the states have agreed to sign the MOU.

Subcommittee Reports

a. Anadromous - Alan Huff, Chairman

* A. Huff reported the subcommittee is continuing to work on a sturgeon recovery plan. He stated the working group has met several times since the last meeting and produced a near final draft of the plan. He stated once the plan is complete, it will be sent out for technical review. He stated the nuclear DNA project is proceeding and the contractor is attempting to identify unique stocks of striped bass in the Gulf of Mexico. He outlined some of the sport fish restoration administrative program activities. He stated the subcommittee is seeking funding for a thermal refuge study, establish a regional striped bass database and develop a study design for a striped bass tagging project. He stated the subcommittee discussed the management needs for striped bass presently and in the near future and the need for the establishment of Gulf-wide fishery-independent sampling program. He stated to accomplish this, there is a need for a striped bass stock assessment workshop. He reported the subcommittee agreed that although Louisiana's striped bass regulations (5 fish and no more than 2 over 30 inches) are different than the regulations in the Striped Bass FMP, the regulations are still consistent with the goals and objectives of the FMP. He stated that it has become apparent to the subcommittee that the Jim Woodruff/Lake Seminole project is an impediment to the recovery of striped bass and sturgeon but the issue needs to be addressed at a higher level than the subcommittee. A. Huff moved on behalf of the subcommittee to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

* R. Lukens reported that although the issue focused on the Apalachicola River, what happens in that river system affects all the Gulf States in regard to anadromous fish species. He reported the river system also has important stocks of striped bass and sturgeon. He noted that the TCC has received a handout concerning this issue and the handout outlines a number of areas that information and/or data exists but are not compiled into one large set to give a broad view of the Apalachicola River system. He stated that from this, hopefully a list of recommendations can be developed to enhance the situation in the Apalachicola River system. He stated the subcommittee is asking that this issue be elevated in the Commission to the point where the staff can become more involved in some of the issues presented. J. Brown outlined some of the problems involved in water allocation issues in the Apalachicola River system and the impacts on areas further down river. W. Tatum moved that the issue be carried to a higher level in the Commission and an attempt made to become more involved in the issues affecting the Apalachicola River as recommended by the Anadromous subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously. Gary Tilyou was elected chairman and Terry Stelly was elected vice chairman.

b. Crab - Harriet Perry, Chairperson

T. Wagner reported for H. Perry that the subcommittee reviewed the Western Gulf stone crab profile and it should be out for comment by January 1993. He stated the next project for the subcommittee will be an update of the Blue Crab FMP since there have been significant changes in the fisheries, filling data gaps and including more state fishery-independent monitoring data. He stated industry personnel from all five Gulf States asked the subcommittee to address the problem of non-reporting of blue crab products. He stated the problems this can cause include inaccurate harvest commercial landing statistics, public health problems and IRS reporting problems. T. Wagner was elected chairman.

c. Data Management - Henry "Skip" Lazauski, Chairman

* H. Lazauski reported that each member of the subcommittee provided a report on its agency's activities and a brief synopsis. He stated there were discussions concerning RecFIN and Commercial Fisheries Information Network (ComFIN). He noted that ComFIN is very similar to RecFIN and ComFIN will utilize the same programmatic approach. He stated a meeting to develop a white paper for ComFIN is tentatively being scheduled for early spring 1993. He stated the issue of the data confidentiality Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been deferred to the State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee. He presented the Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP) resolution which provides that NMFS utilize the interstate commissions' organizational structures and their respective statistics committees to provide review and recommendations for problem solving and programmatic enhancement to the CPS. H. Lazauski moved on behalf of the subcommittee that the TCC to adopt the CSP resolution. The motion passed unanimously. H. Lazauski reported the completion report concerning recreational fishery data was adopted by the subcommittee with minor editorial changes.

d. Habitat - Jim Hanifen, Chairman

L. Simpson reported for J. Hanifen that the subcommittee did not meet during the Fall Annual meeting. He stated the subcommittee is in a planning phase to ascertain if a Gulf-wide habitat education program is needed or wanted by the states. He stated the subcommittee is exploring initial planning funding sources and if this program is desired, it will modeled after the East and West coasts habitat programs.

e. Recreational Fisheries Management - Virginia Vail, Chairperson

* V. Vail reported the subcommittee met in June 1992. She stated several issues arose from the meeting. She stated the subcommittee discussed common concerns that increasing pressure to solve the problems of disposing of old tires will drive the increased use of tires in reefs. She stated the subcommittee agreed that if tires were used, they should be prepared in a way to maximize reef stability and integrity and if whole tires were used, standards developed by the State of New Jersey be followed. V. Vail asked on behalf of the subcommittee that the TCC adopt the position paper amended to also include chipped tires. She stated the subcommittee also supported the inclusion of provisions for special management zone (SMZ) designations in the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council's Reef Fish Plan. V. Vail asked on behalf of the subcommittee that the GSMFC send the Council a letter in support of SMZs and request the subcommittee have an opportunity for direct input into the SMZ language. She reported the subcommittee proposed to bring together the appropriate personnel in a round table discussion to facilitate communication, identify concerns, information needs and future action concerning the use of incineration ash as a component of artificial reef material. V. Vail moved on behalf of the subcommittee to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

f. SEAMAP - Walter Tatum, Chairman

* W. Tatum reported the Annual Report to the TCC was distributed to the members of the committee and the subcommittee had only one action item for consideration by the Technical Coordinating Committee. W. Tatum moved on behalf of the subcommittee that the SEAMAP-Gulf chairman be directed to negotiate a proportional split among the SEAMAP Gulf, South Atlantic and Caribbean components for

any additional money in FY1993 and the SEAMAP-Gulf's portion be given to the Commission to support necessary subcommittee and work group meetings such as a Joint SEAMAP meeting, environmental and reef fish work groups meetings and publication of an additional Atlas. The motion passed unanimously. W. Tatum was reelected chairman and R. Waller was reelected vice chairman.

Other Business

* R. Leard reported that the Black Drum FMP has been approved by the task force. He stated the next step in the process is that the FMP be sent to the TCC which has been accomplished. He stated the subsequent step would be to send it to the State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee for their review and consideration and then for public review. H. Osburn stated Texas has several problems with the Black Drum FMP. He stated the first problem is there are different black drum fisheries throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the fisheries in Texas are not reflected in the FMP and the other problem is that a number of Texas databases such as the resource monitoring data, were not included in the stock assessment. He outlined the status of the black drum stocks off Texas and stated that there are substantial declines in recreational catch. He believed that the model would produce different estimates if alternative parameters were loaded. He stated the recommendations from the stock assessment were too liberal for the paucity of data that exist for black drum. After some discussion, A. Huff moved that the stock assessment portion of the Black Drum FMP be referred back to the stock assessment team (SAT) and be discussed at the upcoming SAT meeting in New Orleans. V. Minton suggested when the approval is needed for the next iteration of the FMP, this be accomplished via a conference call.

Election of Officers

Ed Joyce was reelected chairman and Corky Perret was reelected vice chairman of the TCC.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

**COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY
Wednesday, October 14, 1992
Mobile, Alabama**

Moderator Larry Simpson called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. He explained that this meeting would be a round table discussion, a free exchange of ideas and input for action by the full commission. The Commission went to this format hopes this will increase participation.

The following members and others were present:

Leroy Kiffe, Tom Kiffe & Son, Lockport, LA
Hugh Cole, Foley, AL
George Brumfield, Zapata Haynie, Moss Point, MS
Dan Furlong, NMFS/SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Tom Herrington, FDA, Mobile AL
Joe Gill, MDWF, Biloxi, MS
Vernon Minton, ADCNR, Dauphin Island, AL
James Morris, SASA, Coden, AL
Jimmy Cannette, Biloxi, MS
Ed Smith, NMFS (retired), Mobile, AL
Rick Wallace, ALSG, Mobile, AL
Bill Hosking, ALSG, Mobile, AL
Chris Dyer, USA, Mobile, AL
Clarence Finkle, MCOC, Mobile, AL
Burton Angelle, Breaux Bridge, LA
Shirley Angelle, Breaux Bridge, LA
Tut Warren, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS
Gene Morando, MCOC, Mobile, AL

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Cheryl R. Noble, Staff Assistant

Approval of Agenda

L. Simpson informed participants that the Commission put this agenda together but anything can be added to it. The agenda was approved with Dr. Chris Dyer's presentation being moved to the last item.

Approval of Minutes

L. Simpson informed the members present that the previous four meeting minutes have not been approved because there was no quorum or chairman at any of the meetings. He explained that due to auditing reasons, the minutes need to be signed by the Chairman. L. Simpson said he would sign the 4/16/91, 5/13/91, 10/16/91 and the 4/8/92 minutes if all members present approved. He also informed the participants that in the future, and for the meeting today, a summary of the meeting will be submitted instead of minutes. By going to this format, the minutes will not need to be approved and signed.

Seafood Inspection/Shellfish Sanitation - FDA Perspective

Tom Herrington, Senior Shellfish Specialist for FDA/Southeast Region presented information on seafood inspection and shellfish sanitation. The FDA has thirteen shellfish specialists who are charged with evaluating state programs for their conformity on nationally agreed upon guidelines for the sanitation and harvest of molluscan shellfish. This evaluation is part of an overall National Shellfish Sanitation Program that is essentially administered by the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) which meets once a year.

One of the current issues that the FDA is working on is standardization, in which the evaluation of the state shellfish program is essentially management control of shellfish processing. Another goal and area of classification for the FDA is to evaluate the laws that are in a particular state. One of the concerns of the ISSC is equal application of the guidelines by both the shellfish specialist and by the state regulatory agencies. So the ISSC developed a standardization system by taking guidelines from the manuals of operation and evaluating them. Training courses were established for the shellfish specialists who would then evaluate the standardization officers in the state on the same basis.

The FDA established an Office of Seafood in February 1991. A copy of the speech made by the Director of the Office of Seafood, Mr. Thomas Billy, to NFI is attached (Attachment 1) and this is an update on FDA's Seafood Program. One of the initiatives the FDA undertook last year was to conduct a 100% inspection and evaluation of all Seafood Processing Plants. The main purpose was to update the inventory because there were a lot of plants that weren't listed. The FDA inspection found some items of objectionable conditions but 99% of these items were corrected on the spot before the inspector left the premisses.

The FDA publishes the Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers List on a monthly basis which is available free of charge. This publication lists all domestic and foreign shippers of seafood in the U.S. Shippers must be listed in this publication to be able to ship seafood in the U.S. The FDA has proposed to the Office of Seafood to make yearly evaluations of foreign shippers and to use the same guidelines that are used for the states.

The FDA is also sponsoring industry and retail seafood workshops. The industry workshops have been very well received and the workshops help to inform industry of changes and manual requirements for firms. The retail workshops are for officials in charge of inspecting restaurants and grocery stores. A listing of the different workshop topics is attached (Attachment 2) and complete information on any of the topics can be obtained free of charge by request to T. Herrington. Both of these initiatives are in the southeast region only.

Another important thing the Office of Seafood has initiated is the FDA Prime Connection Network. This is information that is available for regulatory officials and other officials that are interested in keeping updated on what is going on in the FDA. After filling out an application and registration, and receiving a pass word, this data can be accessed by computer. A listing of bulletin topics and other information that can be accessed through this network is attached (Attachment 3).

Mr. Herrington gave a brief history on the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. It is a Tri-Party Program meaning it consists of federal agencies, state regulatory agencies, and industry. It was formed as a result of a large typhoid outbreak in 1924. State health officials petitioned the public health service to tell them why these outbreaks were occurring and why consumption of molluscan shellfish causes this. The public health service did a study and then established guidelines so that state regulatory officials could monitor the harvesting and handling of molluscan shellfish. In 1982 this organization was formalized into the ISSC for the administration of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program and there was an MOU signed between the ISSC and FDA which essentially handed over it's regulatory powers of

inspection by discretion to the states for enforcement of interstate commerce and for all the states to meet those requirements. Each state has their own guidelines but there are minimum requirements they must follow.

Promotion of the Seafood Industry

V. Minton stressed the importance of positively promoting the seafood industry. Only negative publicity gets out about the seafood industry and it is up to the industry to change this. He introduced Mr. Clarence Finkle from the Mobile Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Seafood Advisory Task Force in Mobile.

Mr. Finkle informed the group that the Seafood Advisory Task Force was formed in 1977 and was designed for the welfare, benefit and promotion of the seafood industry as a whole. The seafood industry has always been taken for granted in Alabama's economy and people do not realize the impact economically that this industry has on the entire nation and the world. Mr. Finkle informed the group of the Task Force's efforts on what they do to positively promote the seafood industry. He said their task force is very dedicated to their effort and they are not afraid to take a stand.

Mr. Finkle stated that almost 80% of the seafood consumed in America is from imported products. The Seafood Industry is very concerned with the laws and regulations that has been passed by those who aren't very sensitive to the hardships this industry encompasses.

The following are some of the accomplishments and activities of the Task Force:

- 1) monitor and take position on all state legislation that effects the seafood industry;
- 2) set up a Seafood Calendar for 1992-1993 and distribute it at the many festivities that are held during the year;
- 3) designed a logo for the Alabama Seafood Industry (Attachment 4) in hopes that the state of Alabama will adopt it;
- 4) developed a slide presentation on the commercial seafood industry which has been shown to many civic and professional organizations;
- 5) coordinated a variety of projects;
- 6) participated heavily in the Year of the Gulf; and
- 7) developed a broad plan of action for October which is Fish and Seafood Month.

Gene Morando pointed out that the Task Force is working with other Chambers in the area and hopes it can get all the Chambers around and outside the area involved in this endeavor. James Morris said the Chamber is getting information to industry about legislation and bills that would affect them and he is thankful for the Task Force in helping them (industry) correct the bias that has been in the media for years about the seafood industry.

Gene Morando also pointed out that the beef, red meat and poultry industries have a lot of money for promoting their products but the seafood industry does not. He stated there are a lot of attributes to seafood and one of the biggest attributes is the people that make up the industry. The seafood industry is very fragmented and it is up to the people in the industry to promote seafood.

Leroy Kiffe informed the group that Louisiana created a Seafood Marketing Board with monies obtained from commercial licenses. Every segment sets aside a percentage from each license sold whether the license is for oysters, crayfish, shrimp, crab, fish, etc. Board members from the various segments usually meets once a month to decide how they want to promote the industry, i.e., television or radio commercials, brochures, etc. He also asked if NMFS could help in promoting the seafood industry but was informed that grants are for seafood development not promotion. All participants agreed that

Louisiana was doing an excellent job in promoting seafood and would like to see their area do the same thing but the other states do not sell nearly as many licenses as Louisiana so that could be a problem.

L. Simpson and the other participants thanked Mr. Finkle for a very interesting and informative presentation.

Proaction Versus Reaction in Marine Fisheries Management

L. Simpson introduced Chris Dyer from the University of South Alabama to discuss his work on proactive management strategies. C. Dyer gave a brief overview of some positive changes that are occurring in terms of fisheries management in the Gulf of Mexico. These changes recognize the importance of the integration of social and economic data, information on people and their incomes, into fisheries management. Unfortunately, because of the simple historical structure and the training of people at the management institutions, there has not been a social and economic input that has been substantial or viable in any way.

He stated the Gulf Council recognized, due to recent issues, that there are some serious problems that have been developing within the commercial sector in terms of lack of influence or lack of input into the management process. The Gulf Council formed a Socio-Economic Advisory Panel which is comprised of seven social scientists nominated from the states that are within the purview of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Gulf Council. The social scientists serve at the behest of the Gulf Council on a voluntary basis and can resign at any time. Their goal is to integrate social and economic data into stock assessment. This is difficult to do given the fact that the gulf states area is very diverse. It's a multi-species fishery. Many of the species are pelagic, they can move between jurisdictional areas so that makes it difficult to decide how to approach this problem. Also, recreational fisheries have different interests which may conflict with the commercial fisheries and this makes it even more difficult.

There's a huge amount of information on a variety of fisheries but in order to have a valid study we must develop fishery management models based on social impact assessments for particular fisheries. This requires money, time and personnel.

A major priority is to develop contacts with all the commercial and recreational groups presently in the Gulf of Mexico and somehow link them together in a communicative network with the social scientists. One of the myths or problems people perceive with data collected in this fashion is that fishermen are said to be self interested and they do not give correct information. This is a problem social scientists deal with all the time but they have devices, statistical measures and other ways to detect whether or not people are actually giving correct information. Our major goal is to bring the people who uses the resources into the process of obtaining information only, not to use the information to further regulate them.

C. Dyer then showed diagrams of the proactive and reactive models (Attachment 5) and briefly explained them. He pointed out that the reactive model is basically what has been in use for many years. He said this has not always been bad but as there are more interests and pressures in the fisheries, there are more problems. Unfortunately, in many cases this results in conflict because the people who are being regulated, the users, feel that they have not had a stake in the formation of the policy and quite often unintended social impacts occur. There is also enforcement difficulties because people will do things to get around regulations because the regulations are perceived to be unfair. They are perceived to be unfair because they did not have a voice in their formation. The public hearing process has been used but it seldom brings any change in policy.

He stated the proactive model is the model they're trying to enact. We need the data so the panel can review it. Some people will not be satisfied with this model but at least the user groups will have

input in the formation of the management of the resources therefore increasing the compliance of those regulations. It's also going to decrease enforcement costs because people are more likely to comply and a better relationship between those who are on the management side and those on the user side is more likely to exist.

C. Dyer then showed a table of barriers and strategies to the integration of social science into fisheries management (Attachment 6) and these resulted from a meeting on bycatch that he attended. He briefly explained each item.

The group liked C. Dyer's approach to this issue and thanked him for bringing this to their attention.

Other Business

J. Cannette asked C. Dyer if he did research on TEDs in reference to the impact this had on fishermen and their families. C. Dyer said yes and briefly explained the study and the results to the group. C. Dyer stated the TED issue is not a viable ecological issue that it is a political issue. He informed the group that Renée Marcus who is considered the "world expert" on the Kemps Ridley Sea Turtle by the United Nations and has written the FAO for marine turtles, was of the opinion that TEDs were ridiculous because one oil spill could do more damage to the marine turtles or the marine environment as a whole than what commercial fishermen ever could. C. Dyer stated the people who use the resources to make a living have to be taken in consideration also and it seems they have not been.

D. Furlong pointed out that NMFS did thousands of tows for thousands of hours with excluder devices to demonstrate the shrimp loss is somewhere less than 5%. C. Dyer and the fishermen disagreed stating that these studies were done under ideal conditions. Other studies done under working conditions in Mexico showed shrimp loss to be at least 17%. With shrimpers you have to look at down time, that means the time when the net is caught and tied up, the loss of rough bottom areas, the loss of the shrimp when the TED is torn, the gasoline you use, etc. All of that catch loss should be figured into that 5% but it was not. After a heated discussion on this issue, L. Simpson and the group thanked C. Dyer for his presentation and the other information he shared with the group.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

SEEDS OF CHANGE - An Update on FDA's Seafood Program

by

Thomas J. Billy, Director

Office of Seafood

Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

Food and Drug Administration

National Fisheries Institute

Palm Desert, California

October 12, 1992

Note: This text is the basis of Mr. Billy's oral remarks. It should be used with the understanding that some material may be added or omitted during presentation.

It is always a pleasure to meet with you. "Turning Points in Technology" is indeed an apt title for this seminar. However, I prefer to call my speech "Seeds of Change", since that is what Columbus wrought, and since that is what FDA is accomplishing through the Office of Seafood.

While reading up on Columbus and his impact on the civilized world of the 16th century, among other things, I discovered that at the time of his voyage, he was searching for a western, overwater route to the spices and riches of Asia and India. Not only did onion, garlic, cinnamon, clove, saffron, and cardamom dress up the bland foods of Europe, but they also did a great job of hiding unpleasant odors and tastes associated with rancid and spoiled meat, poultry and fish. In another vein, were it not for the fish that he and his crews consumed on their long voyage, there is some question whether they would have made it here at all. Additionally, at the time of his exploration, Native Americans were fishing for many different species along all U.S. coasts, including sturgeon in what became known as the Potomac River near Washington, D.C.

My, have times changed.

Today, I would like to address some of the agency's more recent activities as well as the specific issues raised in Roy Martin's letter of invitation. I will cover scallops and phosphates, color additives in aquaculture products, an inspectional survey of producers of certain high risk products, HACCP, blue crab labeling issues, biotoxins in Dungeness crab viscera, parasites, imports, chemical contaminants, nutritional labeling, listeria, decomposition, economic fraud, irradiation, legislation and finally, the new FDA Seafood Hotline. Quite a voyage, so hold on to your seats!

PHOSPHATES AND SCALLOPS

Available data indicate that scallops consist of about 75 - 79% water and once harvested and processed, depending upon the treatment, can lose a considerable amount of moisture rather quickly. STP, which is Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS), can be used, and legally so, to prevent moisture loss, or "drip loss" in scallops. Unfortunately, prolonged soaking in STP solutions results in scallops taking up excessive water, adding to the overall weight of the product. This water being sold at the price of scallops constitutes economic fraud. In extreme cases, scallops can be soaked for so long that the product becomes badly decomposed.

We indicated over a year ago our concerns regarding the misuse of phosphates and the illegal inclusion of added water in scallops. Follow-up activities, included meetings with the concerned industry, inspections, warning letters and appropriate follow-up regulatory efforts.

In August, the agency announced a new interim labeling policy for scallops. Let me emphasize at the outset that this was in response to a proposal from the industry.

INTERIM LABELING POLICY

We have agreed to the interim labeling policy for six months while additional research data is provided by industry. Scallops that have been treated with STP and have picked up water must be labeled with the identity statement of "X % Water Added Scallop Product". This labeling must be used with any scallop with 80 to 84 percent water. In addition, the statement "Processed with Sodium Tripolyphosphate" or any other polyphosphate that is used, must appear on the label. The ingredients statement, too, must indicate that water, STP or other phosphates have been added. No scallops containing

greater than 84% moisture will be permitted. In other words, untreated scallops consisting of 79% water or less are to be labeled scallops. Any product consisting of 80 to 84% moisture should be labeled as a scallop product and anything over 84% cannot be marketed.

We have instructed our field offices to actively pursue the examination, sampling and analysis of scallops, both imported and domestic. We are taking action against product found not to be in compliance with the interim policy and will continue to do so until a final policy is established.

In the meantime, academic scientists are developing data to determine the effects of various STP concentrations and soak times, and whether STP soaking has functional benefits to consumers beyond the prevention of drip loss. In addition, data are being developed to determine the effect of the various treatments on key nutrients.

COLOR ADDITIVES

This issue has been a bit of a sticky wicket. It has to do with the use of color additives in aquacultured fish.

Canthaxanthin use is approved for coloring food and for coloring chicken feed under FDA regulations. At the time that these regulations were passed, it was not the agency's intent to include permitting the use of this color additive in fish feed, although we did not explicitly prohibit it. This ambiguity has led to a lot of confusion in the industry AND in the agency. We are drafting a Federal Register notice which will clarify our position. Pending publication of the FR notice, industry may use canthaxanthin as long as the product is properly labeled as having this color added. The industry may submit a petition to obtain approval for such use at any time.

In addition, Hoffman LaRoche submitted sometime ago a petition for the use of synthetic astaxanthin in fish feed. Neither natural nor synthetic astaxanthin are approved for use in animal feed or human food at this time. We are still reviewing new data submitted by them a few weeks ago.

INSPECTIONS

As a follow-up to the limited GMP survey we did last year of the domestic processors, we planned and carried out more in depth inspections of producers of selected higher public health risk products. These included cooked-ready-to-eat products; products in modified atmosphere packaging; products from scombroid species, including tuna, mackerel, mahi mahi and bluefish; and certain specialty products such as stuffed and breaded items. We have begun compiling the extensive inspectional observations collected at each.

The information gleaned from these inspections will help us in targeting of future activities based upon a better understanding of the latest industry practices. Meanwhile, we have increased our inspection frequencies of the higher risk firms to at least annually.

HACCP

A longer term goal is to incorporate HACCP principles into all our seafood inspections, something that is near and dear to your organization. HACCP provides industry with an important quality control tool to prevent problems from ever reaching consumers. FDA benefits in that our inspectors can audit the pertinent processors' records made during the continuous monitoring of critical control points, and therefore have more than just a snapshot of the operation. The ultimate beneficiary will be the consumer.

FDA/NOAA VOLUNTARY SEAFOOD PROGRAM

The FDA/NOAA Voluntary Seafood Program has been a long time in coming. We have completed the pilots for domestic, foreign processor and retail. We are preparing one for foodservice and are putting the last touches on the Federal Register announcement, now targeted for publication in early 1993.

BLUE CRAB

As some of you are aware, FDA has a Compliance Policy Guide which states that product labeled as "crabmeat", with no qualification, must be derived from the blue crab, Callinectes sapidus. At a recent meeting with the blue crab industry, we received a formal complaint about imported crabmeat from other species which is being substituted for an labeled as crabmeat, with no regard for FDA's policy and requirements. Also being disregarded are the U. S. Customs Service's country of origin requirements. We have this under investigation and are working with the industry and other concerned agencies to solve the problem.

DUNGENESS CRAB

Last week, the Agency issued two notices to State regulatory agencies through our National Regional-State Telecommunications Exchange System (NRSTEN). Letters are being sent to the affected industry as well. The notices explain our regulatory position on the incidence of domoic acid which causes Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning; and saxitoxins, which cause Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning in the viscera of cooked Dungeness crab. FDA is taking regulatory action against Dungeness crab in interstate commerce that is found to have 20 ppm or more of domoic acid in the viscera, as well as

Dungeness crab that is found to have 80 μ g per 100 grams or more of saxitoxin in the viscera.

This action is in response to several events, and new information available to the agency, with respect to PSP. Canadian authorities have recently closed harvesting areas near Quatsino Sound of Vancouver Island. Alaska too has issued an advisory to consumers and to their industry, recommending evisceration of affected crab and tagging or warning labels. We support these efforts, as well as encouraging the affected states to put in place monitoring and closure systems modeled after the very successful PSP monitoring system for molluscan shellfish.

PARASITES

In June, we received NFI's interim report from the Industry Task Force on Parasites in Fish. While we appreciate the cooperation and effort, this report was disappointing. We hope the final report will be more conclusive. In the meantime, we have issued an assignment to our Districts to sample and analyze various finfish for parasites. This is an on-going project and will enable us to evaluate industry practices for the control of parasites in fish products.

The information gleaned from the NFI task force, both our own and NOAA's inspectional and analytical efforts, current international standards, as well as a thorough search of the literature, will all be used to develop GMP parasite tolerance levels on a species group basis. The first groups to be addressed will be the gadids and the flounders. Then other species groups will be considered.

IMPORTS

We have established a new import strategy. It includes closer cooperation with state and local agencies in order to identify imports that reach the retail market; the initiation of civil and criminal judicial actions against Importers who flagrantly violate FDA regulations; short term targeted inspection surveys of specific product categories; and education. At the same time, importers must do a better job - they must be more responsible to make sure the product they bring here meets our requirements.

In addition, we are pursuing a new strategy for Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with foreign countries. Instead of pursuing agreements only with countries that continually have problems, we intend to seek agreements with countries that historically have done a good job. I call these the "Good Guy MOUs". This new philosophy will facilitate the entry of product from the countries that consistently export safe, wholesome, properly labeled products, eventually permitting us to concentrate our resources on the bad guys. During this fiscal year, we intend to pursue MOUs with Iceland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Norway.

A relatively new issue has to do with our policy for handling imported perishable fish and seafood. Under our current, longstanding regulations (21 CFR 1.90), when we select a shipment of an imported product for sampling and analysis, the owner of the product must hold that product until notified of the results of the laboratory examination. Unfortunately, it can take up to 18 days to receive the laboratory reports on import samples and to clear the shipment. This is a real problem when the product is fresh, for obvious reasons. The only present exception to the rule is when the product is being tested for pesticide residues, in which case, the analysis can be completed in 24 hours. There is a vast difference between 18

days and 24 hours! We are receiving complaints from industry about the inexorable length of time it takes to receive the results, and questions about what they should do with perishable product in the meantime. We are exploring a number of options, including adjusting the policy to reflect all analyses on seafood products; establishing new parameters for expediting seafood analyses; and, in the longer term, identifying ports of entry near laboratories capable of analyzing seafood products which could specialize in seafood imports.

CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

We keep hearing about the public's concern about chemical contaminants in seafood. Certainly, FDA is always being asked to make a judgment on the public health significance of contaminants in both freshwater and marine species. We've taken a number of steps in an effort to provide such guidance and to gather new information.

We have completed development of guidance documents on five contaminants found in molluscan shellfish - cadmium, lead, nickel, arsenic and chromium. These are designed to provide relevant scientific information to state and local regulatory personnel, who can then evaluate the public health significance of local and regional contamination, and issue appropriate public advisories or initiate closures of effected harvesting waters. These documents are under review by an AFDO subcommittee on fish contaminants. I hope they will be available soon. We are developing more such documents on other contaminants in the meantime.

We are also hosting a two-day conference on chemical contaminants in seafood, in January, in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the conference is to explore the knowns and unknowns about chemical contaminants, and to assist FDA in determining the kind of monitoring and research that are still

needed. I hope you will plan to attend this meeting and assist us in determining where we need to go from here.

NUTRITION LABELING

In another month, the final rulemaking will be issued under the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act. At this point in time, it does not look as if this deadline will be extended. We have received NFI's comments, as well as others interested in seafood and have considered them. An issue related to this, and one with which we will all have to contend is that of labeling implications of aquaculture products vs. wild harvested due to different and often higher fat composition.

LISTERIA

Listeria in seafood is a difficult problem. Currently we have a policy in which if we detect it, we take action. The Canadians have a different strategy that seems to be working in which the firms must adhere to strict government GMPs which absolutely minimize the occurrence of listeria in ready-to-eat products. On this basis, it is not necessary for them to routinely monitor listeria in end products.

DECOMPOSITION

We have been putting a lot of effort into the area of decomposition, trying to improve the consistent detection of decomp that occurs through both microbiological and chemical indicators. On the one hand, microbiological indicators of decomposition have not worked so well. The chemical indicators, on the other hand, have proved to work well. There remain variations, though, and we are finding that the relative levels of chemical indicators and the rates of decomposition are highly variable and related to the different categories of seafood.

We are putting together a plan and schedule for this area to include the establishment by notice of a 50 ppm defect action level for histamine in all scombridae fish; a 1 ppm cadaverine defect action level for mahi mahi, tuna and other fishery products; and the implementation of a PASS/FAIL system for assessing statistically taken samples. Those are just some of the highlights.

ECONOMIC FRAUD

In his speech before you in 1991, Dr. Kessler stated, "There is no place in the seafood industry for those who substitute a less expensive or less desirable specie of fish for one that consumers value more. We will seek out those who perpetrate fraud - and we will bring them to justice". You gave him a standing ovation. Your enthusiastic response was not in vain. I am pleased that over the last year we have taken a much stronger stand against economic fraud. Our budget for this area has been doubled, so you should expect to see increasing compliance activity in the ensuing months.

From our office alone, we have sent over 1,000 letters warning the industry against overglazing. Our Field offices added to this by sending their own warning letters on overglazing and on other regional issues, such as soaking scallops in phosphate solutions. As described in the recent Marian Burros article in the New York Times, we have taken a number of actions against species substitution, including rockfish for red snapper; Pollock for cod; fresh water fish for salt water; and Oreo dory for Orange roughy. And we intend to continue to vigorously pursue action against this and other types of economic fraud described in the article.

IRRADIATION OF SEAFOOD

The possible irradiation of seafood to reduce pathogenic or decomposition organisms is, indeed, a primary seed of change. This is a safe, scientifically sound technology that is cleared for use in about 35 countries. If properly used, it can give the consumer a higher quality product, as well as a safer product in terms of harmful microorganisms. An editorial in the September/October issue of Public Health Reports says, "Food irradiation can be compared with pasteurization in its promise for the public health. Not only does the technology extend the shelf life of produce by inhibiting ripening or sprouting, it kills or renders noninfective many harmful food-borne organisms." The editorial goes on to cite the incidence of various *Vibrio* species of bacteria in seafood, making the point that irradiation would go a long way in solving these problems. In addition, the use of irradiation will give industry greater flexibility in terms of available species and distribution channels, and will help balance international supply and demand. Two petitions are currently under review in the Agency to permit the application of this technology to fishery products. It is interesting to note we are beginning to receive inquiries about the technology - from consumers, that is. It is clear there will need to be greater consumer education to achieve acceptance and understanding. For example, the poultry industry isn't exactly being overwhelmed with requests to provide the marketplace with irradiated product! Industry and government must work together to establish appropriate safeguards to prevent misuse of the technology and public understanding. In the meantime, if this seed of change is to go anywhere, the petition process is the key.

FDA SEAFOOD HOTLINE

Last, but certainly not least is the initiation of the FDA Seafood Hotline on October 1, 1992. This too has been long in coming,

but is an important part of our comprehensive educational program designed to enlighten the public about the safety of the seafood supply. The Hotline number is 1-800-FDA-4010, or in the Washington, DC area, 205-4314.

The Hotline is available 24 hours a day through a computerized information retrieval system that permits callers with touchtone phones to request FDA seafood publications, listen to pre-recorded seafood safety messages and access other information. Information can even be FLASHFAXED using this system. In addition, between 10 am and 2 pm, Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, FDA Consumer Affairs Specialists are available to answer questions directly and to return earlier calls requiring personal attention. Since the Hotline began officially, we are already averaging over 25 calls per day. The first six months will be considered a pilot. We will be receiving rather extensive reports that will include information on the numbers of questions asked, the topics and publications requested. This will help us immensely in targeting future consumer information activities and subjects.

To wrap things up, I was recently accused of following a policy of denial regarding problems with seafood safety, wholesomeness and labeling. I tell you, given what's on our plate and all the things we've been doing, I find that very suggestion to be repulsive and badly off the mark. Rather, I believe, we have looked our responsibility squarely in the face, shouldered it and are making good progress and decisions on how to deal with the problems. We recognize we can't do this alone and appreciate the support and cooperation of NFI. Together, we can take the actions to put things right - and earn the complete confidence of consumers.

RETAIL SEAFOOD SAFETY WORKSHOP
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS
OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
JEFFERSON PARISH HEALTH UNIT AUDITORIUM
111 CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD
METAIRIE, LOUISIANA 70001
TELEPHONE (504) 838-5140

AUGUST 18-20, 1992

Tuesday - August 18, 1992

Barry Blue, Moderator

9:30 - 9:45 am	Welcome	Frank Deffes
9:45 - 10:15 am	Welcome and Course Background	Robert Creasy
10:15 - 11:30 am	Health Hazards Associated with Seafood	Bill Hebert
11:30 - 12:30 pm	Lunch	
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Toxins Associated with Seafood	Tom Herrington Bill Hebert

Wednesday - August 19, 1992

Barry Blue, Moderator

8:00 - 8:45 am	The National Shellfish Sanitation Program	Tom Herrington
8:45 - 9:45 am	Handling and Evaluating Seafood FMI Video/Slides	Chet Morris Carroll Sellers
9:45 - 10:00 am	Break	
10:00 - 11:30 am	Food Service and Food Store Ordinances Applied to Seafood	Chet Morris Carroll Sellers
11:30 - 12:30 pm	Lunch	
12:30 - 1:45 pm	Continuation of Food Service etc.	Chet Morris Carroll Sellers

1:45 - 2:45 pm	HACCP Principles Applied to Seafood Inspections	Chet Morris
2:45 - 3:00 pm	Break	
3:00 - 4:00 pm	The FDA/NOAA Voluntary Retail Seafood HACCP Projects	Carroll Sellers

Thursday - August 20, 1992

Barry Blue, Moderator

8:00 - 8:45 am	Organoleptic Examination of Seafood at Retail - Slides	Jim Barnett
8:45 - 9:05 am	Break	

Class members to be divided into group I and group II with equal numbers in each group!

9:05 - 10:05 am	Practice Exercise on Organoleptic Examination of Seafood (see, feel, smell samples of fish in various stages of decomposition)	Group I Jim Barnett
	Aseptic Sampling of Seafood	Group II Bill Hebert
10:05 - 11:05 am	Practice Exercise (as above)	Group II Jim Barnett
	Aseptic Sampling of Seafood	Group I Bill Hebert
11:05 - 11:30 am	Critique and Closing	Barry Blue Chet Morris Carroll Sellers

RETAIL SEAFOOD SAFETY WORKSHOP
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ATLANTA, GA.

SEPTEMBER 22-24, 1992

Tuesday - Sept. 22, 1992

1:00 - 1:15 pm	Welcome by GDA	William Moore
1:15 - 1:20 pm	Welcome by FDA	Robert Creasy
1:20 - 2:00 pm	Background	Robert Creasy
2:00 - 2:30 pm	Health Hazards Associated with Seafood	Bill Hebert
2:30 - 2:45 pm	Break	
2:45 - 4:30 pm	Health Hazards and Toxins Associated with Seafood Continued	Bill Hebert Tom Herrington

Wednesday - Sept. 23, 1992

8:15 - 9:00 am	Health Hazards Continued	Tom Herrington Bill Hebert
9:00 - 9:45 am	National Shellfish Sanitation Program	Tom Herrington
9:45 - 10:00 am	Break	
10:00 - 11:30 am	Continuation of Above	Tom Herrington
11:30 - 12:45	Lunch	
12:45 - 1:15 pm	Organoleptic Examination of Seafood - Slides	Charles Carley

Class members to be divided into group I and group II with equal numbers in each group!

1:15 - 2:15 pm	Practice Exercise on Organoleptic Examination of Seafood (see, feel, smell samples of fish in various stages of decomposition)	Group I Charles Carley Jennifer Strozier
	Aseptic Sampling	Group II Bill Hebert
2:15 - 3:15 pm	Practice Exercise (as above)	Group II Charles Carley Jennifer Strozier
	Aseptic Sampling	Group I Bill Hebert
3:15 - 4:30 pm	Food Store Sanitation Applied to Seafood	Chet Morris Ray Niles

Thursday - Sept. 24, 1992

8:15 - 9:45AM	Food Store Sanitation Continued	Chet Morris Ray Niles
9:45 - 10:00AM	Break	
10:00- 11:30AM	Food Store Sanitation	Chet Morris Ray Niles
11:30- 12:45PM	Lunch	
12:45- 2:30PM	Food Store Sanitation	Chet Morris
2:30- 2:45PM	Break	
2:45- 3:45PM	HACCP Principles Applied to Seafood Inspection	Chet Morris
3:45- 4:00PM	Critique and Closing Remarks	Ray Niles Chet Morris

				F D A P R I M E C O N N E C T I O N																				
				F I S H N E T C O N F E R E N C E B U L L E T I N S																				

The following Bulletins cover information related to current Seafood Safety and Quality issues. The Interstate Shellfish Shippers List, FDA Fish List and other regulatory information may be reached through the FDA PRIME CONNECTION Main Board Seafood Safety Bulletins [SS].

Some of the FISH NET Conference Bulletins are available as Downloadable Files. ASCII/DOS text versions (-----.TXT) and WordPerfect 5.0 versions (-----.WP5) can be downloaded through the FISH NET Conference Main Menu [F]iles - List/Dwnld. command.

BULLETIN NUMBER	SUBJECT	DOWNLOADABLE FILE ----- .TXT / .WP5	DATE POSTED
FN-03-1	Joint FDA/NMFS Voluntary Seafood Program	VOLSFD.	03-15-91
FN-03-2	Joint CFP/ISSC Seafood Committee	SFDCOMM.	03-15-91
FN-03-3	New FDA Office of Seafood		03-11-91
FN-04-1	FDA'S New Seafood Inspection Program	SFDINSP.	04-12-91
FN-06-1	Get Hooked on Seafood Safety	HOOKSAFE.	06-07-91
FN-06-2	The Eyes Have It	EYESHAVE.	06-07-91
FN-06-3	The Nose Knows	NOSEKNOW.	06-07-91
FN-06-4	Seafood Office Selections	SEASELCT.	06-19-91
FN-07-1	Vibrio Cholerae-01 Found	VCFOUND.	07-19-91
FN-08-2	Thomas J. Billy Remarks at 1991 ISSC	ISSCRM RK.	08-20-91
FN-10-1	Retail Seafood Pilot Implementation	RETP ILOT.	10-18-91
FN-11-1	Ship Ballast, Holding Tanks	SHIPTEST.	11-20-91

to Be Checked for Cholera

FN92-01	FDA's Seafood Safety Program	FDASFDSF.	01-17-92
FN92-03	FDA's Findings on Canned Tuna	TUNACANF.	02-24-92
FN92-05	Seafood Story Inaccurate	SFDSTORY.	03-12-92
FN92-06	Commissioner Kessler's National Fisheries Institute Remarks	NFIRMRKS.	05-22-92
FN92-07	Life on A Fish Farm: Food Safety is A Priority	FISHFARM.	07-15-92
FN92-08	Mislabeled Canned Tuna	MSLBLTUN.	08-12-92
FN92-09	Kessler's Statement to Congress on Seafood	KESSCONG.	08-24-92

At the following "Read What Bulletin(s)?" prompt -
Type Bulletin Number Shown in Left Column Above

						F	D	A	P	R	I	M	E	C	O	N	N	E	C	T	I	O	N						

The following Technical Program Information Bulletins cover FDA regulatory information and policies related to seafood safety and quality. Current information on these subjects and related issues may be obtained through the FISH NET on-line FDA PRIME CONNECTION Conference / Sub board.

To access the Seafood Safety Bulletins, type the BULLETIN NO. at the "READ WHAT BULLETIN(S)?" prompt.

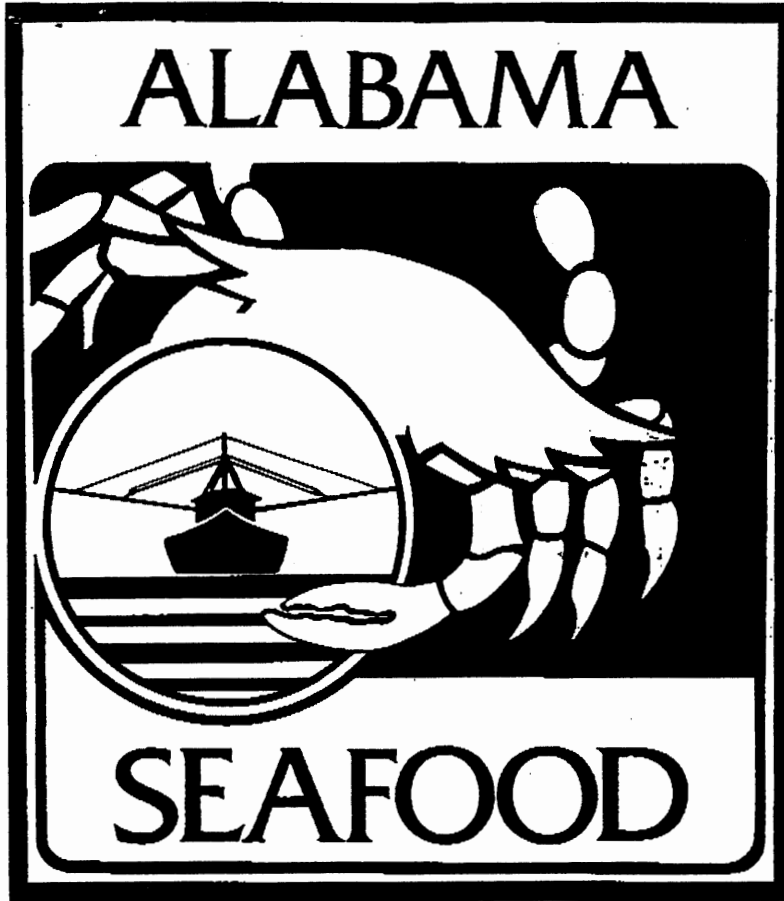
The prompt "MORE [Y]ES, N)O, C)ONT, A)BORT, J)UMP" indicates that more information follows and the default [Y]es will give users additional bulletins. N)o ends the display and allows the entry of a Bulletin No. or exit from the Technical Reference Bulletin System. J)ump provides a simple text search feature to determine if a particular subject is included on the list.

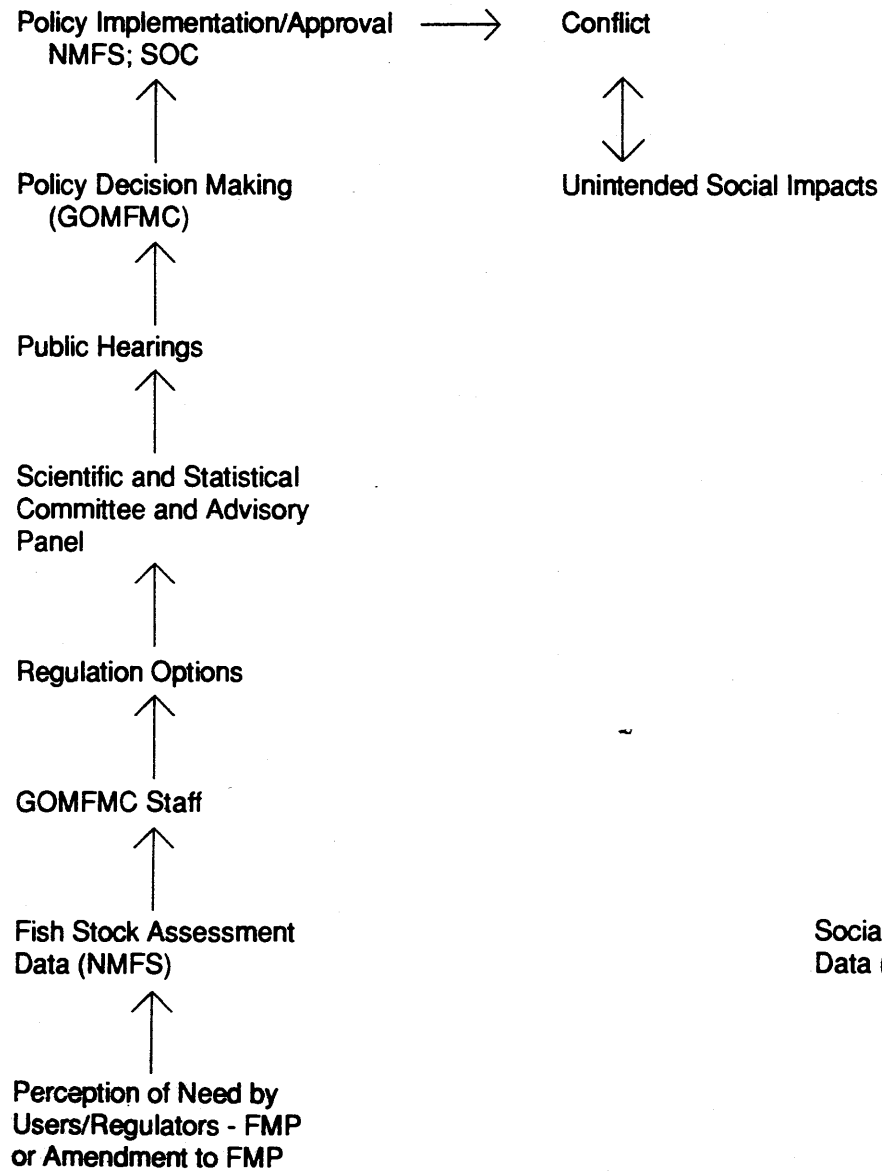
The on-line Seafood Safety Bulletins are also provided as downloadable files through the FDA PRIME CONNECTION File System. A DOS/ASCII text version and a WordPerfect 5.0 version are provided for each file. Select the filename shown below and add .TXT or .WP5 extension when entering the filename at the File System Menu download prompt.

BULLETIN NUMBER	SUBJECT	DOWNLOADABLE FILES ----- .TXT / .WP5	DATE POSTED
--------------------	---------	---	----------------

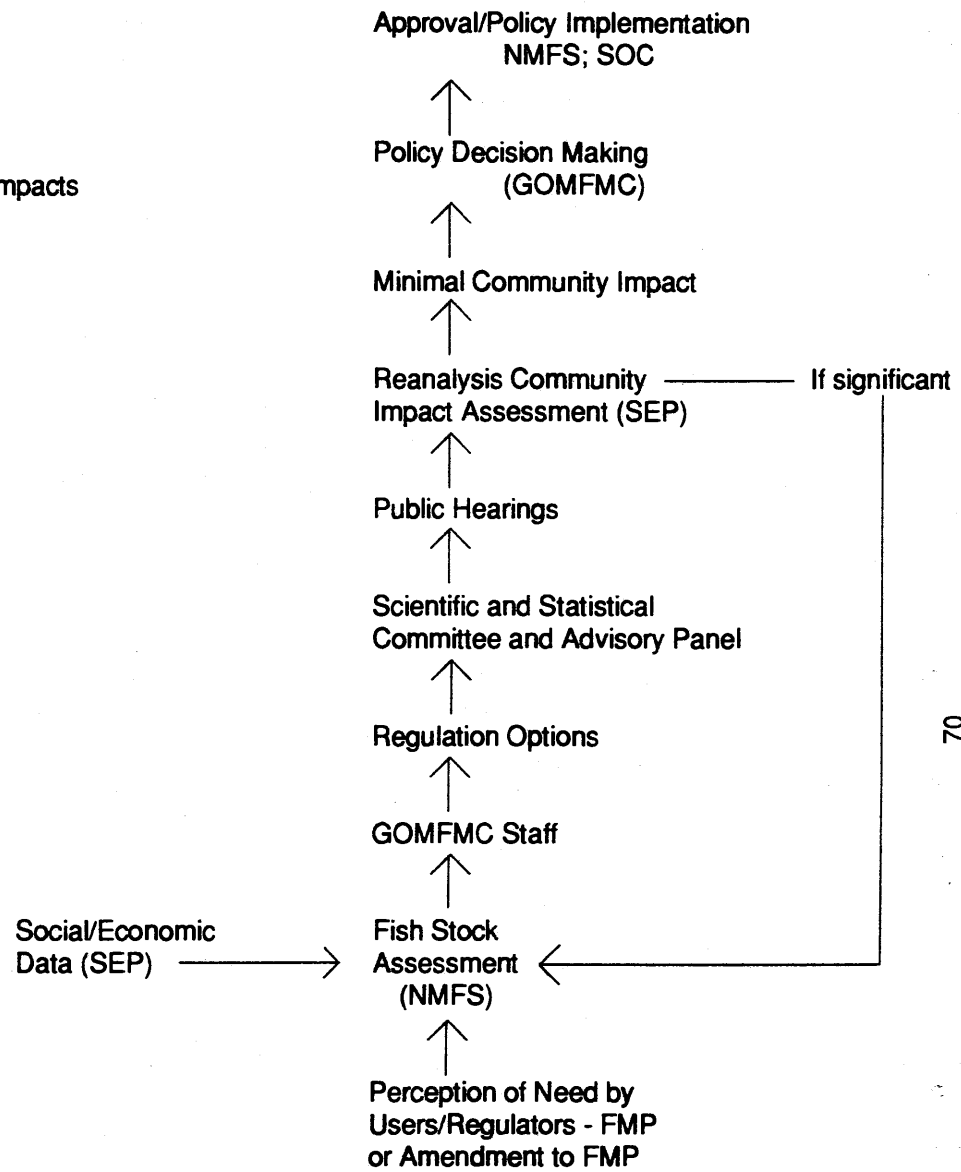
SLIST	Interstate Shellfish Shippers List	SLIST.	-Current-
SS-FL-1	FDA FISH LIST: Part I - Acceptable Market Name; Scientific Name; Common Name and Regional Name	FISHLST1.	05-29-91
SS-FL-2	FDA FISH LIST: Part II - Alphabetical by Scientific Name; Acceptable Market Name	FISHLST2.	05-29-91
SS-SH01	FDA Molluscan Shellfish Glossary	MOLLGLOS.	06-20-91
SS-SH02	NSSP Manual - Part I - Definitions	DEFPARTI.	06-20-91

At "Read What Bulletin(s)?" prompt - Type Bulletin Number Shown Above





I. Reactive Model



II. Proactive Model

Figure 1. Reactive and Proactive Fishery Management Models.

**Table 1. Barriers and Strategies to the
Integration of Social Science into Fisheries Management**

Barriers	Strategies
Not taking an ecosystem approach to management	User cooperation on gathering reliable fishery data
History of mistrust between users and regulators	Generate forums for conflict resolution
Lack of communication between user groups and between users and regulators	More balanced representation by user groups
Reaching agreement on what requires regulation and what does not	Early involvement of social scientists and users in regulation formulation
Difficulty in reconciling value systems of different user groups and regulators	Comprehensive identification of user groups
Time constraints on data collection and fishery regulation implementation	Reallocation of existing funds and personnel
Lack of mechanisms to effectively modify/eliminate obsolete or harmful regulations	Increase user-group support for cooperative research Increase federal funding for research
Differences in fishing practices across jurisdictional areas (industry heterogeneity)	Act soon enough to be meaningful Better communication and public relations
Lack of adequate socio-economic data necessary to make equitable and sustainable regulations	Implementation of limited access to resource through a property rights system.
Lack of social science models for the integration of data into fishery management	Co-management of fishery resources
Conflicting and overlapping jurisdictions	
A resistance to change by both regulators and users	
Lack of integrating natural history knowledge in fishery management	
Overcapitalization and overparticipation in fisheries	
Poor data base-unreliable catch data	
Lack of economic alternatives for fishermen	
Perception that there are 'winners' and 'losers' in fishery regulation implementation	

**LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 14, 1992
Mobile, Alabama**

Jerald K Waller

Chairman Jerry Waller called the meeting to order at 8:45 am. The following were in attendance:

Members

Jerald K. Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Suzanne Montero, NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL
Pat Anglada, BMR, Biloxi, MS
Lewis Shelfer, FMP, Tallahassee, FL
Tommy Candies, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Staff

Lucia B. Hourihan, Publication Specialist

Others

Tom Shuler, NMFS, Carriere, MS
Perry Joyner, FMP, Tallahassee, FL
Gordy Sharp, FMP, Marathon, FL
Steven Atran, GMFMC, Tampa, FL
Joe Gill, BMR, Biloxi, MS
Tom Herrington, FDA, Mobile, AL

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was amended to include a report on the Mullet technical task force (TTF) by Pat Anglada. It was noted that Tom Herrington of FDA was in attendance at the GSMFC meeting and may drop in to discuss oysters with the Law Enforcement Committee. The agenda was adopted as amended.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held April 8, 1992 in Biloxi, Mississippi were adopted as presented.

Report TCC Black Drum Technical Task Force (TTF)

Jim Robertson was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a letter to J. Waller. Waller read the letter which said that as a member of the TTF, Robertson stressed the need from the enforcement viewpoint for simple, clear and enforceable regulations that afford black drum stocks the protection necessary. Robertson had been vocal about the fact that uniform size regulations across the five Gulf States would increase enforceability. He had recommended that no tolerance for size restrictions be allowed. Draft Section 10 of the Black Drum FMP was distributed and highlighted sections were discussed by Committee members.

Speaking for the record, Waller commended Jim Robertson for his part on the TTF especially in regard to his stressing no tolerance for size restrictions.

Report TCC Mullet Technical Task Force

P. Anglada said that the recent focus of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program had been the completion of the black drum plan. The focus will now shift to mullet, beginning with a TTF meeting next Wednesday (October 21) in New Orleans. Anglada will have an up to date report of activities at the Spring meeting.

Recent State Legislation

Copies of a GSMFC publication entitled "State Legislation Affecting Marine Fisheries - Gulf of Mexico" (September 1992) were distributed. L. Shelfer, J. Waller, P. Anglada and T. Candies briefly discussed recent legislation enacted by their states. The Texas Legislature was not in session during 1992.

State Law/Regulation Summary

L. Hourihan told the Committee of recent phone conversations with Bill Ford of the Blackford Company. Blackford Company has not yet sold enough ads to cover the cost of the publication. A summary report showing the current status of ads and plans for the publication is being prepared and will be sent to GSMFC. Ford had advised Hourihan to seek outside funds to help cover the cost of publication. The project is currently on hold.

Discussion with Tom Herrington

T. Herrington informed the Committee that his proposal had been accepted to decentralize the Atlanta office. Where there had been four specialists in Atlanta covering the Southeast Region, the four have been relocated to four areas -- one in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, covering Louisiana and Mississippi; Herrington in Mobile, covering Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee; one in Tallahassee, covering Florida; and one in Charleston, covering the Carolinas. Herrington will make sure that they are standardized in their approach and how they deal with the states involved. Herrington believes things are working well and said they are now able to work more closely with patrol and they are also able to attend more meetings (public, with legislators, etc.) and functions. He is looking forward to working with Sea Grant to educate the industry. Herrington mentioned that they are also trying to initiate some undercover operations. Anyone having any problems with the program or comments on it were asked to contact Herrington.

Discussion ensued regarding problems with backyard shucking operations. Enforcement personnel have encountered operations where sacks of oysters are being harvested for supposed personal consumption but are in reality ending up on the public market.

NMFS Report

S. Montero reported that during the summer, Morris Pallozzi hosted the first annual meeting of all states to provide an overview of what NMFS enforcement is doing and to outline how to request reimbursement from the Asset Forfeiture Fund. Another meeting is planned for next summer. Montero said NMFS had its first request for reimbursement of money collected in making federal cases through deputization from the state of Alabama. The Alabama request was submitted last week and will be used as a model for future requests. The check for Alabama (and any other states) may be held for distribution at the next annual meeting in the summer. Another thing needed in the request, besides the information that was passed out at the meeting, is final disposition information. Montero will send T. Candies a list of cases that they have in their system which Louisiana initiated and NMFS prosecuted. The law went into effect on November 27, 1990 and any cases since that time should be submitted for possible reimbursement.

The States were encouraged to let Pallozzi (headquarters office) know if they were interested in any of the NMFS training. In December-January there will be two two-week in-service training courses (4 classes). In the past there has only been one session and therefore room for only one or two state attendees. This year there will be slots for 30 state representatives and limited travel funds are available. There will also be marine law enforcement training schools held January 3-29 and April 12-May 6. Requests for slots in these schools should be sent to Pallozzi.

Waller stated that the first annual meeting was very well run and informative.

Election of Chairman

* L. Shelfer moved that Jerry Waller be re-elected chairman of the Committee. T. Candies seconded the motion and moved that nominations be closed. Jerry Waller was re-elected by acclamation.

Other Business

Waller congratulated Colonel Shelfer and Chief Robertson on their promotions.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:40.



**COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, October 15, 1992
Mobile, Alabama**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Chairman Leroy Kiffe. He requested the Executive Director to call roll and review pertinent rules and regulations regarding the appropriate meeting procedures.

L. Simpson established a quorum. The following Commissioners and/or proxies were present:

Members

Taylor Harper	AL
Vernon Minton	AL
Joe Gill, Jr.	MS
George Sekul	MS
Ed Joyce	FL
Corky Perret	LA
Leroy Kiffe	LA
Frank J. Patti	LA
Rudy Rosen	TX
Charlie Belaire	TX

Other persons attending were:

Staff

Larry B. Simpson, Executive Director
Ron Lukens, Assistant Director
Ginny Herring, Executive Assistant
Richard Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Dave Donaldson, SEAMAP Program Coordinator
Lucia Hourihan, Publication Specialist
Nancy K. Marcellus, Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Noble, Staff Assistant

Other

John T. Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
Dan Furlong, NMFS/SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Andy Kemmerer, NMFS/SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
Jerald K. Waller, ADCNR/MRD, Dauphin Island, AL
Brad Brown, NMFS/SEFC, Miami, FL
George Brumfield, Zapata Haynie, Pascagoula, MS
Bob Shipp, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL
Herb Kumpf, NMFS, Panama City, FL

L. Simpson reviewed voting procedure. Voting is by individual Commissioner. If there is a question about the vote each state delegation shall cast one vote. If three Commissioners are present, two out of three will carry the State vote. If only two Commissioners are present from a state, they must agree or their votes will offset each other. If only one Commissioner from a state is present their vote shall represent the state.

L. Simpson briefed the Commissioners on procedures for closed meetings and changes to rules and regulations. Changes to the Commissions Rules and Regulations may be made at any meeting provided due notice has been given in the call for the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with an addition of the following under other business: Consideration of U. S. Coast Guard representative on the Law Enforcement Committee.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes for the April 9, 1992 meeting held in Biloxi, MS were approved as presented.

NMFS Southeast Regional Office Report

Dan Furlong, Deputy Regional Director, NMFS Southeast Regional Office reported on NMFS efforts in fishery resource conservation and management. He briefed the Commissioners on NMFS/SERO 1992 activities. Among topics discussed was a review of commercial quotas for red snapper which was reached on February 22 this year and resulted in a closure of that fishery; an increased allowable catch for Gulf king mackerel; modified red drum fishery management plan to allow for biannual review; efforts on a Recreational Fishery Plan; changes in the Gulf shrimp fishery; cooperative efforts with Mexico to improve the Gulf fishery; status of protected species including TED technology transfers; status of Habitat Program; and, status of bycatch research.

L. Kiffe asked D. Furlong who makes the decision regarding opening of the Texas shrimp fishery. D. Furlong stated that the decision was made based on recommendations from the State of Texas. R. Rosen described the Texas shrimp fishery for 1992.

USFWS Region 4 Report

John Brown reported on behalf of USFWS Region 4. He reported that no funds were appropriated for Anadromous Fish Programs in FY92 and that the FY93 budget that is in Washington did not request these very important funds that are used by all of the Gulf States with the exception of Florida.

J. Brown briefed the Commissioners on problems being encountered within the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) regarding administrative projects. He reported that the Commissions administrative project will be funded for 1993 only. Comments are being solicited and a resolution will be sought through the IAFWA.

He reported on USFWS staff changes. A new Regional Director will be appointed in Albuquerque, NM and Garland Perdue will replace Leslie Holland-Bartels who has been transferred to Alaska. Other issues discussed were activities being conducted in the Apalachicola River. He urged the Commission to look closely at the water studies and the demands on water supplies. The results of these studies and the demands on the water supplies will inevitably impact marine species.

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Report

E. Joyce reported that the TCC met on Wednesday, October 14, 1992. Items discussed included the status of controlled freshwater diversion structures; a report on MICRA and an update of the Lower Mississippi River Initiative; reports from state and federal agencies; discussion of the RecFin Program; and, various subcommittee reports.

Other items discussed involved TCC recommendation. On behalf of the TCC Anadromous Subcommittee E. Joyce motioned that the Commission staff become more directly involved in the deliberation of activities related to multiple use of the Apalachicola River system including navigation, water allocation and power production. C. Perret seconded. The motion passed.

On behalf of the Data Management Subcommittee (DMS), E. Joyce motioned that the Commission support the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program resolution (attached) which states the GSMFC will establish the position that the NMFS should utilize the interstate commission's organizational structure and their respective statistics committees to provide review and recommendations for problem solving and programmatic enhancement to the Program. C. Perret seconded. The motion passed.

E. Joyce motioned to support a position statement (attached) which in general did not support the use of automobile tires as artificial reef material at the request of the Recreational Fisheries Management Subcommittee (RFMS). The position statement does not encourage use of tires. It simply states that if tires must be used as artificial reef material they should be chipped and incorporated as aggregate in concrete units or properly ballasted in units of multiple tires following approved methods. C. Perret seconded. The motion passed.

Also presented on behalf of the RFMS, E. Joyce stated that the TCC recommended that the GSMFC petition the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) to develop an amendment to the Reefish Fishery Management Plan which would provide for a Special Management Zone (SMZ) around selected artificial reefs in the Gulf of Mexico. C. Perret motioned to defer taking action on this request until the Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee or some other user group has reviewed the recommendation. L. Kiffe seconded. Motion passed with Florida voting no.

The RFMS is currently working to bring together industry, government and environmental groups in a round table discussion to facilitate communication concerning the use of incineration ash as a component of artificial reefs.

E. Joyce reported that funds have become available for the SEAMAP program and that the funds will be split proportionally. E. Joyce motioned on behalf of the SEAMAP Subcommittee, that the Gulf's portion of these funds be used by the GSMFC for administrative cost such as work group meetings, a joint SEAMAP meeting and publication of a second Atlas in 1993. C. Perret seconded. The motion passed.

The TCC referred the stock assessment portion of the Black Drum FMP back to the Stock Assessment Team to be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) Report

J. Waller reported that the LEC met on Wednesday, October 14, 1992. Among items discussed was a report from the Black Drum TTF; ISSC Shellfish issues; recent state legislation; a NMFS report; and, status of the State Law/Regulation Summary. The LEC elected J. Waller chairman for 1992-93.

State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee (S-FFMC)

L. Simpson reported that the S-FFMC met on Wednesday, October 14, 1992. The Committee received a report from the Menhaden Advisory Committee (MAC). The MAC will serve as the Technical Task Force for the development of a Menhaden FMP update, which will begin in January 1993. The MAC also reported on a bycatch program being conducted by LSU. A final report will be available in the Spring of 1993.

Other business of the S-FFMC included the development of a ad hoc group to look at the issues of inconsistent management regulations in the five Gulf States. Biological differences of finfish will be looked at closely and where inconsistent regulations exist for little or no apparent biological reason, recommendations will be made. This group will report back to the full committee in January 1993.

The current status of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management Program was reviewed. Final work is being completed on black drum. A Technical Task Force continues to make progress on mullet and the MAC will start work on a menhaden update in January 1993. Spotted seatrout will be the next species address.

On behalf of the S-FFMC, L. Simpson recommended that the Commission support a resolution (attached) that urges the President and members of Congress to provide funding for H.R. 5620. This legislation will help restore and recover marine resources and habitats impacted by Hurricane Andrew. C. Perret motioned to support the resolution. R. Rosen seconded. The motion passed.

R. Lukens reported on a request from the Data Management Subcommittee (DMS) to the S-FFMC in regards to a data confidentiality memorandum of understanding (MOU). If approved and signed by the States and NMFS, the MOU will serve the States purpose of entering into an agreement with the Secretary of Commerce to get confidential data in addition to allowing the States to transfer data among the States within the confines of the MOU. On behalf of the DMS, the S-FFMC recommends that the MOU be sent to NMFS for review of content and legality, and that upon their signed approval it be returned to the States for their signed approval. C. Perret motioned to support the S-FFMC recommendation. V. Minton seconded. The motioned passed.

R. Lukens briefed the Commissioners regarding Amendment 1 to the striped bass FMP. The amendment deals with Section 8 and contains a recommendation of 6 fish/person/day bag limit with an 18" minimum size limit. A previous question raised by Louisiana was addressed and it was determined that their current management regime is consistent with the intent of the FMP and Amendment 1. C. Perret motioned to endorse the S-FFMC position on Amendment 1 to the striped bass FMP. J. Gill seconded. The motion passed.

R. Lukens reported that upon Gulf sturgeon being placed on the threatened list under the Endangered Species Act, the Anadromous Fish Subcommittee (AFS) has shifted their focus from a management plan to a recovery plan. An AFS Task Force has been working with the Recovery Team in developing a plan. The Recovery Plan is 90 % complete and a draft will be ready for technical and public review by the end of 1992. The Task Force is writing letters to the heads of NMFS and USFWS to resolve the issue of jurisdiction. They are suggesting a joint role because of the Gulf sturgeon's anadromous activities. Other issues addressed trade problems and encouraged USFWS to place Gulf sturgeon on a list that would restrict international trade. R. Lukens will report back to the committee when more information is available on the recovery plan.

T. Harper initiated a discussion regarding a letter written by A. Kemmerer, NMFS, Regional Director to the G. Nix, Chairman, GMFMC. The letter discussed NMFS efforts to improve fisheries management and to encourage uniform regulations throughout their range (state and federal jurisdiction). The letter asked the Council to consider and incorporate any existing and state regulations into Federal regulations. After considerable discussion, it was apparent that several Commissioners were concerned that one State could unreasonably influence regulations in the other states if Federal regulations adopted regulations only enforced in a minority of the Gulf States. Dr. Kemmerer stated that the intent of the letter was to encourage uniform regulations where appropriate and compatible. It was suggested that the letter be rewritten to be more specific.

Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee (CFAC)

L. Simpson reported that the CFAC met on Wednesday, October 14, 1992 for informal discussions. Those present received reports from various experts in the Gulf on topics of interest and relevance to the CFAC. Topics discussed were seafood/shellfish sanitation; proaction versus reaction in marine fisheries management; promotion of the seafood industry; and a report on the state of commercial fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. No action was required.

Selection of GSMFC Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) Steering Committee Representative

L. Simpson reported that the Steering Committee now included representatives from the South Atlantic and that the membership term had expired for the Commission representative and a new representative needed to be selected. J. Gill nominated C. Perret. C. Perret declined the nomination. J. Gill nominated L. Simpson. C. Perret seconded. The nomination was approved. E. Joyce nominated C. Perret as alternate. J. Gill seconded. The nomination was approved.

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management Program (IJF) Black Drum Report and Action

R. Leard reported that the TCC had referred the Black Drum stock assessment report back to the Stock Assessment Team and that no action was required at this time.

Recreational Fisheries Information (RecFin)

Prior to his report on RecFIN, B. Brown, Center Director, SEFC/NMFS, stated that he appreciated the Commission's support of the resolution on the interaction of the States and NMFS regarding the State-Federal Cooperative Statistic Program.

B. Brown briefed the Commissioners on RecFIN background. He was complementary of L. Simpson and R. Lukens for their efforts, support and assistance with obtaining funds. In a relatively short period of time the States and NMFS have put together a committee and have developed a plan and memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop and implement a cooperative program to collect and manage marine recreational fishery (MRF) statistics. The basic goals are: 1) To plan, manage, and evaluate; 2) To implement; 3) To establish and maintain an integrated, centralized system; and, 4) To support the development and operation of a national program. He stated that a draft strategic plan has been developed and he felt that these efforts represent a significant step forward in developing a fully coordinated national program with input and unity provided by separate regional committees.

L. Simpson stated that the sole purpose of this effort is to improve the recreational fishery data base and with the signing of the MOU we will have reached our first milestone. Efforts began two years ago to get to this point. The final milestone will be implementation. R. Lukens stated that RecFIN Committee members will be the various State Directors for the Gulf States or a person designated by them.

Legislative Update

State Directors' Report

V. Minton, ADCNR reported that two pieces of legislation affecting marine fisheries in the State of Alabama passed during the most recent legislative session. One created a license for party/charter boats that is based on the number of passengers per vessel. This license would allow all passengers to fish without the need to obtain individual fishing licenses. The other piece of legislation approved was for a salt water fishing license. This license is based on geographic lines, not species driven. Other legislation currently being looked at involves a 5-day trip license and restructuring on non-resident fees to make them more in line with other states.

E. Joyce, FDNR reported that Florida recently approved a Lobster trap reduction program. This is the first limited entry program in the State. A Lobster Trap appeal board has been established to oversee the fishery.

C. Perret, LDWF reported that 55 pieces of legislation affecting marine fisheries passed in the State of Louisiana. The only one he discussed was HCR 211. He stated that the Louisiana Commission reduced the commercial quota from 1.4 million pounds of speckled trout to 1 million pounds and closed the fishery to nets on the weekends. When this was sent through legislative oversight it was reversed but then Governor Roemer overrode the legislative oversight. In the 1992 legislative session, Rep. F. Patti presented a resolution which suspended the weekend closure. These changes were to take place in September 1992 and it was unclear which regulations the LDWF should enforce. Legal advice was sought and the Department was directed to follow legislative action.

C. Perret distributed copies of a damage assessment report that LDWF put together following Hurricane Andrew. He stated that Louisiana and Texas are the only States that currently have replacement values in place. Because the Gulf Coast will always be susceptible to natural disasters it would be beneficial to all the states to use the experience of others in dealing with them. The report deals with all hurricane expenses: personnel, structural damage, wildlife and fisheries loss, etc. A good system would provide information for replacement value as well as information regarding what agencies (state and/or federal) to turn to for assistance. All present thought it would be a good project for all the states to have some kind of system in place in the event of a natural disaster.

J. Gill, MDWF&P reported that 28 bills were filed in the House and 27 bills in the Senate that affected his Department. He discussed a bill that would have eliminated the gill net industry. His Department successfully encouraged the legislature to withdraw this bill and to let the Department govern the industry. Other bills included the removal of legislation that stated that no State regulations can be stronger than Federal regulations, and a bill that would relieve the Department of inspection responsibility in oyster processing plants if the plant hires a Federal Inspector. He was disappointed that a saltwater license was not approved.

R. Rosen, TPWD reported that the Texas State Legislature meets every two years and did not meet this year. They will meet in January 1993 and the major thrust will be funding. Although the full agenda is not set yet, one item the Department will request is legislative endorsement that would permit the State to charge for a trophy tag. This trophy tag would allow a fishermen to take a single trophy size fish. Other agenda items will include expanded authority over the aquaculture industry.

NMFS FY93 Budget

L. Simpson reported that NMFS budget was approved in the amount of \$217,929,000 for FY93. This is less than requested by the President and 3.4% less than FY92. He discussed this budget with Dr. Knauss, NOAA at a recent MAFAC meeting. Dr. Knauss stated that the reason the budget is poor is because of the Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. This act prevents cross over spending between the four major areas of the Federal Budget - Defense, Entitlements, Foreign Aid, and Discretionary Spending. Other items to be aware of is the authority NMFS has to transfer 5% or \$250k from one line item to another. A 10% transfer must be approved by Congress. L. Simpson reported on specific budget items of interest to the Gulf. Among these items he reported that the Council will receive a \$700,000 cut, Habitat Restoration Projects have been eliminated and Interjurisdictional Fisheries and Anadromous continue to be cut back. One concern to NMFS is the addition to the budget of the International Fisheries Commission which was the responsibility of NOAA and now will be supported by NMFS budget in the amount of \$1 million.

Status of New TED Regulations

A. Kemmerer reported that as of September 1, 1992 the DOC issued interim final TED regulations. They are interim in the sense that they may change and they are continuing to receive comments. A key

change is the extended TED regulation of 12 months in the Gulf and South Atlantic in inshore and offshore fisheries. This did not change the offshore TED rules in the Gulf of Mexico. It does change tow times. This change was in response to a specific recommendation by the National Academy of Science. Other key changes included the generic TED rule which permits hard TEDs and gives users the flexibility to build TEDs themselves; it holds manufacturers of TEDs responsible for what they build; it provides clear TED guidelines which helps eliminate enforcement confusion; it provides the Assistant Administrator the authority to respond to specific situations and problems; and, provides certain exemption for fishermen who do not need to pull a TED. NMFS will continue to seek comments and recommendations. The TED rules are constantly changing based on comments, experience, etc.

A. Kemmerer briefly discussed the recent Louisiana exemption in respect to Hurricane Andrew. The exemption went into effect on September 4, 1992. Less than 10% (35 boats) applied for the exemption. Observers and fly overs were used to maintain exempt status. Because of the small number of boats using the exemption and the reduction of debris the exemption was no longer necessary and allowed to expire on October 5, 1992. T. Harper suggested that perhaps the reason some did not apply for the exemption was that they had more important concerns following a major Hurricane. L. Kiffe suggested that since shrimp migrate they should observe other areas before the exemption was lifted. A. Kemmerer reported that two turtles were observed during the exemption. He was unable to give exact locations of the catches. The discussion on the turtles revealed that one turtle appeared to be dead prior to the catch and one turtle was a fresh kill. B. Brown's office is working on a more definitive report that will give greater detail and offer more information.

H.R. 5136 Carper Bill and ASMFC State Draft

L. Simpson reported on H.R. 5136, legislation to amend the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986. This legislation was modeled after H.R. 2588, which dealt solely with striped bass on the East Coast. The amendment is designed to enable the ASMFC to trigger a Federal moratorium on any species that is endangered by overfishing. The Federal moratorium would preempt State Management actions. This type of legislation proved successful on the East Coast when the ASMFC was not able to get all States to implement management actions acceptable to all of the East Coast States. They hope to resolve a similar problem they are currently having with weakfish. ASMFC will actively seek introduction early in the next Congress of some form of generic legislation that will give them the authority to trigger a federal moratorium for any overfished stock on the East Coast. While this method has worked on the East Coast the GSMFC Commissioners were concerned that legislation that is general and broad would allow Federal agencies unlimited authority in State jurisdiction. There is already indications that NOAA is seeking to introduce amendments to the MFCMA that would allow the Secretary of Commerce the authority to preempt State management on overfished stocks by using a temporary form of moratorium. This type of authority may impact State financial assistance until the States involved, institute regulations that are compatible with Federal management. The GSMFC Commissioners do not support this amendment or any amendment that would give the Federal government jurisdiction in State management.

The GSMFC Commissioners are supportive of the ASMFC efforts but are concerned about the introduction of any legislation that would have nationwide implications.

MFCMA Amendments- GMFMC Membership

L. Simpson distributed copies of GMFMC membership. He previously had mailed out copies of testimony from the oversight hearings dealing with MFCMA amendments. This was an initial step in addressing MFCMA amendments. Comments from the oversight hearing indicate that there is concern about how the Council process works. Questions were raised about whether or not the Council should be an advisory agency rather than policy agency. Other problems mentioned were conflict of interest, communication and public input. Several amendments are being considered.

In addition to amendments already discussed, L. Simpson reviewed some of the other amendments that are proposed. They included the establishment of permit fees; limited entry programs; research plans; an oversight commission; data collection; and, internal waters processing permits. Amendments dealing with the collection of permit fees, designate that funds collected be solely for fishery us.

L. Kiffe pointed out that there was an uneven balance of recreational representation on the council in comparison to commercial representation.

Endangered Species Act Reauthorization

L. Simpson reported that reauthorization for the ESA is required by the end of 1993. The reauthorization will spark interesting discussion by industry and conservation groups.

S.1715 EPA Gulf of Mexico Office

L. Simpson reported that the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program office is located nearby in Hancock County. E. Joyce currently represents the Commission on the Living Marine Aquatic Committee. Although funding levels are not currently stable for this program they do appear to be maintaining a constant source of revenue and L. Simpson anticipates that the office and the program will grow stronger. He intends to build a relationship with the office and program to assist us with projects that we have been unable to fund or unable to obtain outside funding for. C. Perret agrees with L. Simpson. The strong citizen based support the program is receiving will secure funding for this program.

NOAA Legislative Program for 103rd Congress - NMFS Submission

L. Simpson provided copies of NOAA's Legislative Program for the upcoming Congress. Several issues listed were discussed under MFCMA amendments. L. Simpson mentioned several changes in NOAA's position that are very positive for the States. They include NOAA support for the reauthorization and enhanced funding for the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program for the States, support of the Commissions administrative role in the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program, and support of the reauthorization of the Anadromous Act.

Other legislation discussed was the approval of H.R. 5617, which included a GIFA to the country of Estonia and the approval of S. 2152, driftnet legislation which not only prohibited driftnets on the high seas but fixed the Council appointment eligibility and started eliminating the USCG user fees on recreational boats.

Discussion of GSMFC Video

L. Simpson introduced Chris Snyder the Media Production Coordinator for the Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources. He has been working on some video cuts and graphics for a 10-15 minute video presentation on the GSMFC. They are updating some of the information from the old slide presentation. Commissioners and staff will review before video is finalized.

Apalachicola River Navigation Project and Jim Woodruff Dam Discussion

Although this topic was discussed under the TCC report, R. Lukens pointed out that the briefing material included some background on this project and a proposal for a study to evaluate the social, economic, biological, and environmental aspects of the Apalachicola River Navigation Project and the Jim Woodruff Dam/Lake Seminole. The proposal was a 13 point outline for the Commissioners information. There was discussion regarding the Commissions involvement in a project that impacts a minority of its member states. The Commission has been involved in similar activity (freshwater diversion project) and the main purpose of our involvement is to maintain information to deal with certain species of anadromous fish of interest to the Commission.

Administrative Report

Computerized Financial Program

G. Herring reported that Commission staff has been working all year to put the accounting program on line. As of September 30, 1992, all Commission accounting needs are being handled by the new program. She anticipates not problems.

Financial Statement

L. Simpson presented a financial statement as of September 30, 1992. All programs are operating on schedule and there are no major problems. C. Perret questioned the increasing health care cost. L. Simpson stated that insurance costs are always a major concern and the Commission is currently a member of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission health care plan in an effort to keep cost down and to continue to provide benefits to its employees. It is difficult to provide health insurance for a small group. He will continue to seek to reduce health care cost to the Commission and will provide the Commissioners with cost estimates and other options to consider at the next meeting.

GSMFC Manual of General Administration

L. Simpson provided the Commissioners with an updated copy of the Commission's Manual of General Administration. The updated copy included changes requested at the April 1992 meeting. The changes regarded a 300 hour cap on annual leave and payment of annual leave at severance.

Executive Committee Report

L. Kiffe reported that the Executive Committee had met on Wednesday, October 14. On behalf of the committee he requested that the Commission approve a 3 percent raise for all employees with one employee receiving 7 percent. C. Perret motioned to approve the request. E. Joyce seconded. The motion carried.

He also recommended the proposed FY93 budget in the amount of \$590,476 be approved. E. Joyce made the motion. C. Perret seconded. The motion carried.

Other business of the Executive Committee included their recommendation to allow the Executive Director to purchase a new vehicle for the Commission. This is an off budget item and should not exceed \$20,000. T. Harper motioned to approve the recommendation. J. Gill seconded. The motion carried.

Publication Update

L. Hourihan provided a recent update on Commission publications.

Future Meetings

G. Herring reported that the March 1993 meeting will be held in Palm Beach Florida at the Brazilian Court at the recommendation of Hans Tanzler, Commissioner for Florida.

A definite location has not been decided on for the October 1993 meeting. Texas Commissioners will be contacted for advice.

Other Business

J. Gill stated that the U.S. Coast Guard should be invited to participate in Law Enforcement Committee. He motioned to direct the Executive Director to write a letter to the Commander of the 8th District and invite them to send a representative to the meetings. C. Perret seconded. The motion carried.

Election of Officers

C. Perret nominated J. Gill as Second Vice Chairman. V. Minton seconded. The motion carried.

C. Perret motioned to move R. Rosen to Vice Chairman and T. Harper to Chairman. V. Minton seconded. The motion carried.

On behalf of all Commissioners T. Harper presented L. Kiffe with an original painting of Mr. Kiffe's shrimp boat in appreciation for his work as chairman for 1991-92.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm.

P. O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(601) 875-5912
(FAX) 875-6604

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

POSITION STATEMENT ON THE USE OF AUTOMOBILE TIRES AS ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIAL

Historically, construction of artificial reefs in the marine and estuarine environment in the United States has been accomplished using materials of opportunity, ranging from refrigerators to scuttled ships. A material that has been used rather consistently over time is automobile tires. Use of tires as artificial reef material has been variously motivated by the need for low cost, readily available materials to a mechanism to dispose of a significant source of landside solid waste. Methods of using tires have varied, ranging from the use of single, unballasted tires to the construction of sophisticated units with tires embedded in concrete.

Since most artificial reef programs in the United States still rely upon the use of materials of opportunity for continued construction of artificial reefs, the issue of tire use recurs periodically. Some programs are pressured by local and state governments to use tires toward fulfilling waste disposal goals. Regardless of the underlying motivations for use of tires in artificial reef construction, the practice continues.

Recognizing that automobile tires as artificial reef material in the Gulf of Mexico region are not generally accepted as an optimum material, either physically, environmentally, or biologically, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission establishes that if automobile tires must be used as artificial reef material in the Gulf of Mexico region, including both state territorial and federal jurisdictions, they should be chipped and incorporated as aggregate in concrete units or properly ballasted in units of multiple tires following the concept established by the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection and Energy, Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife. Specific standards for design and ballast may vary depending primarily on bottom sediments, bottom slope, and current velocities; however, artificial reef program should adhere to the basic concept of using established engineering principles to determine appropriate design and ballast weight to assure stability under predictable storm and other events.


Leroy Kiffe, Chairman

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
 FY93 Budget
 January 1, 1993 - December 31, 1993

	FY93 Operating Funds	FY93 Total Grants	FY93 Total Budget
EXPENSE			
SALARIES			
Personnel			
Executive Director	35,898	16,208	52,106
Assistant Director	2,000	33,053	35,053
IFJ Coordinator	0	27,163	27,163
SEAMAP Coordinator	3,000	25,960	28,960
Executive Assistant	13,847	17,543	31,390
Publications Specialist	6,859	14,300	21,159
Administrative Assistant	591	18,968	19,559
IJF Staff Assistant	0	16,980	16,980
Staff Assistant	4,268	10,349	14,617
Personnel (not designated)	0	0	0
Contract Labor	0	0	0
Health Insurance	9,905	33,146	43,051
Retirement	4,565	12,724	17,289
FICA Taxes	4,974	13,921	18,895
Unemployment Taxes	941	319	1,260
MAINTENANCE/OPERATIONS			
Office Rental	5,648	14,872	20,520
Office Supplies	2,500	4,229	6,729
Postage	1,000	6,200	7,200
Professional Services	2,000	3,546	5,546
Travel (Staff)	8,000	8,746	16,746
Telephone	1,000	7,183	8,183
Office Equipment	0	0	0
Copying Expenses	2,200	6,118	8,318
Printing	2,000	13,100	15,100
Meeting Costs	8,000	4,425	12,425
Subscriptions/Dues	1,600	0	1,600
Auto Expenses	1,500	0	1,500
Insurance	3,200	0	3,200
Maintenance	1,500	0	1,500
Petty Cash	400	0	400
Commission Courtesies	400	0	400
Committee Travel	0	49,188	49,188
Contractual	0	66,122	66,122
TOTAL	\$127,796	\$424,363	\$552,159
INCOME			
STATE CONTRIBUTIONS			
Alabama	11,250		
Florida	22,500		
Louisiana	22,500		
Mississippi	11,250		
Texas	22,500		
TOTAL DUES			90,000
INTEREST	6,000		6,000
REGISTRATION FEES	7,500		7,500
FUNDS FROM RESERVES	24,296		24,296
GRANTS			
SEAMAP		91,345	
Interjurisdictional Fisheries		93,500	
Sport Fish Restoration		181,947	
Council FY93		21,160	
Council FY94		6,250	
Striped Bass-DNA		17,855	
FWS-Amendment #3		9,306	
FWS-Amendment #4		3,000	
TOTAL GRANTS			424,363
TOTAL	\$127,796	\$424,363	\$552,159

P. O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(601) 875-5912
(FAX) 875-6604



Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

October 15, 1992

POSITION STATEMENT ON THE USE OF AUTOMOBILE TIRES AS ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIAL

Historically, construction of artificial reefs in the marine and estuarine environment in the United States has been accomplished using materials of opportunity, ranging from refrigerators to scuttled ships. A material that has been used rather consistently over time is automobile tires. Use of tires as artificial reef material has been variously motivated by the need for low cost, readily available materials to a mechanism to dispose of a significant source of landside solid waste. Methods of using tires have varied, ranging from the use of single, unballasted tires to the construction of sophisticated units with tires embedded in concrete.

Since most artificial reef programs in the United States still rely upon the use of materials of opportunity for continued construction of artificial reefs, the issue of tire use recurs periodically. Some programs are pressured by local and state governments to use tires toward fulfilling waste disposal goals. Regardless of the underlying motivations for use of tires in artificial reef construction, the practice continues.

Recognizing that automobile tires as artificial reef material in the Gulf of Mexico region are not generally accepted as an optimum material, either physically, environmentally, or biologically, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission establishes that if automobile tires must be used as artificial reef material in the Gulf of Mexico region, including both state territorial and federal jurisdictions, they should be chipped and incorporated as aggregate in concrete units or properly ballasted in units of multiple tires following the concept established by the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection and Energy, Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife. Specific standards for design and ballast may vary depending primarily on bottom sediments, bottom slope, and current velocities; however, artificial reef program should adhere to the basic concept of using established engineering principles to determine appropriate design and ballast weight to assure stability under predictable storm and other events.



Leroy Kiffe, Chairman

- Member States -

Texas

Louisiana

Mississippi

Alabama

Florida

P. O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(601) 875-5912
(FAX) 875-6604

**Gulf States Marine
Fisheries Commission**

Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

WHEREAS, Hurricane Andrew was the costliest natural disaster to hit the United States in its history; and

WHEREAS, in addition to damage and destruction of homes, businesses, property and other human commodities, Hurricane Andrew caused massive destruction of fish, wildlife and their habitat; and

WHEREAS, the destruction of marine habitat and renewable natural resources will continue to be reflected in loss of wealth, loss of jobs, loss of recreational opportunities, and other impacts for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, losses of marine fishery resources in Louisiana have been estimated at over \$11.3 million; and the loss of estuarine marshes in Louisiana, mangrove forests, artificial reefs and coral reefs in Florida, impacts that may be caused by the spread of exotic species, and other impacts are too costly to be translated into dollars; and

WHEREAS, Congress has passed legislation, H.R. 5620, to authorize emergency relief that will, at least in part, ameliorate the effects of the disaster through funding of restoration and recovery efforts for marine resources and their habitats; and

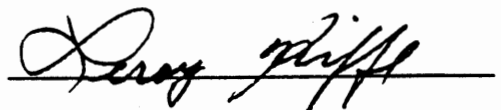
WHEREAS, in order for efforts to begin funding must be appropriated through the budget process with the support of the President and members of Congress;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) strongly encourages the President and members of Congress to move swiftly to provide funding for H.R. 5620 to help restoration and recovery efforts of marine resources and their habitats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GSMFC encourages and supports individual efforts by Florida and Louisiana to gain the necessary support for continued restoration, monitoring and recovery projects in an effort to overcome the disastrous effects of this storm.

Given this the fifteenth day of October in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand, Nine Hundred, ninety-two.

100



- Member States -

Texas

Louisiana

Mississippi

Alabama

Florida

P. O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(601) 875-5912
(FAX) 875-6604

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

RESOLUTION
ON THE INTERACTION OF THE STATES
AND THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
REGARDING THE STATE-FEDERAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, no formal review, evaluation, examination, or critique of the State-Federal Cooperative Statistics Program (Program) was conducted until 1992, eight years following full implementation, and

WHEREAS, upon internal review of the Program in 1992, constituents indicated that a great deal of fragmentation of the Program existed, and

WHEREAS, one of the causative factors identified is inadequate program coordination and communication, and

WHEREAS, specifically, it was found that the annual workshop was not adequate, in and of itself, to provide the mechanism to fully review the program and address programmatic and technical needs of the Southeast region, and

WHEREAS, a recommendation was made in the Program review report to utilize technical groups which meet throughout the year to provide a forum for problem solving and programmatic enhancement, and

WHEREAS, the original intent of the designers of the Program was to utilize technical committees formulated under the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions to serve that function, and

WHEREAS, that relationship was never formalized by making those groups a structural part of the Program and providing funding for them to fulfill the purpose envisioned by the Program designers, and

WHEREAS, a new awareness and interest on the part of the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions' statistics committees has resulted in a desire to become more integrally involved in the Program,

RESOLUTION


Page -2-

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission establishes the position that the National Marine Fisheries Service should utilize the interstate commissions' organizational structures and their respective statistics committees to provide review and recommendations for problem solving and programmatic enhancement to the Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such responsibility should go beyond identification of issues and encompass full participation in resolution of identified issues as appropriate, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cooperative relationship of said committees with the Program should be formalized through programmatic documentation and support for activities.

Given this the 15th day of October in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand, Nine Hundred, Ninety-two.



Leroy Kiffe, Chairman

*Approved by
Committee*

COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM
MEETING SUMMARY
October 20 and 21, 1992

A meeting of the Cooperative Statistics Program (CSP) Participants was held on October 20 and 21, 1992. Representatives of the three fishery management councils and the two inter-state commissions within the Southeast Region also attended the meeting. A list of the individuals that attended this meeting and their affiliations is attached to this report.

Although an agenda had been prepared prior to the meeting, it was requested that a new initiative, titled ComFIN, be discussed at this meeting. After some discussion by the meeting participants, it was decided that the meeting would be divided into two parts. Already established agenda topics relating to the CSP would be discussed during the first part of the meeting and the new ComFIN program would be discussed during the remainder of the meeting.

Funding was the first topic on the agenda. John Poffenberger explained that the NMFS budget had been reduced for FY93; however, it had not been determined how those cuts would effect the funding for the CSP. Because of the importance of this program, Brad Brown, Science and Research Director for the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, had stated to John that he would attempt to avoid any cuts to the CSP.

Paul Phalen pointed out that level funding would not provide the South Atlantic states with sufficient resources to maintain a data collection program that provides the minimum level of data required by the CSP. Paul provided a copy of a letter to Bill Fox that detailed the critical situation in the South Atlantic and requested an additional \$275,000 for baseline data collection in those three states. Paul also pointed out that it would be unlikely that Bill Hogarth, Director of North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, would agree to participation in ComFIN until it was clear that the CSP was going to be adequately supported by the NMFS. Joe Moran also stated that Paul Sandifer, Director of South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources would likely have a similar approach.

The second agenda topic was the discussion of a formal organization of the CSP. It was agreed that the state statisticians (or a designee), as identified in each State/Federal Cooperative Statistics grants, and the NMFS Technical Monitor would be the voting members of the Southeast Cooperative Statistics Committee (CSCS). It was also recognized that most situations would be determined by a general agreement between meeting participants and

formal voting would not be necessary. It was also agreed that while Council and Commission representatives would not be formal voting members, their participation in Committee meetings, discussions, working groups, etc. would be actively sought and always be part of the Committee's meetings and activities.

The discussion was then directed towards specific topics regarding the CSP. Jane DiCosimo outlined several problems that she encounters when she accesses the regional CSP data bases. As she noted, the CSCS cannot necessarily resolve these problems directly; however, she felt that specific, and usually detailed, problems should be brought to the Committee's attention and the appropriate person or agency would be tasked by the CSCS to address and/or resolve the problem/question. Everyone agreed that this type of accountability is necessary and should be part of the CSCS's responsibility.

Joe Moran described the need for a method to identify different size, or market, categories for recording pounds and value of the same species. As an interim solution, Joe requested different NMFS-assigned species codes for the same species, but separate codes would refer to different size classes. Although this solution meets Joe's immediate needs, and he expressed his gratitude for NMFS's assistance, he agreed with others' opinions that a specific field should be identified in the data base(s) to record size or market designations. Considerable discussion followed that focused on the need for this type of detail in the data base. Difficulties associated with this type of data collection were also discussed. It was suggested that a field which currently exists in the General Canvass record layout, originally used to identify whether the record was a "fish" or "shellfish" record and because it is no longer used, could be redefined to record size or market information. John Poffenberger will present this option to the appropriate personnel with the Southeast Fisheries Science Center for consideration and report to the CSCS.

In the course of discussing size designations in the General Canvass data base, a question was posed regarding the current status of the Trip Interview Program (TIP). John Poffenberger stated that the programming required to correct the errors that were found in the beta testing of version 3.2 had been completed and that aspect of TIP was nearly ready for transmittal to all data collection personnel. However, at the same time the data entry program was beta tested, field personnel were asked to review a draft of the operations manual. Significant comments were received on the manual and it's revisions are taking longer to make than the computer programming corrections. Because the SEFSC prefers to send both the data entry program and the manual to field personnel at the same time, there will be some delay on version 3.2 until the manual has been completed.

After the above two lengthy discussion, the group felt that it would be more efficient to have working groups address these specific topics rather than have the entire group involved in such detailed discussions. The CSP was divided into five major areas for the purpose of forming working groups - (1) funding, (2) data collection, (3) data management, (4) program management, and (5) future needs. Working groups on data collection, data management and future needs were established as follows:

<u>Data Collection</u>	<u>Data Management</u>	<u>Future Needs</u>
* John Poffenberger	Mary Anne Treadway	Steve Meyers
Paul Phalen	* Jane DiCosimo	Steve Atran
Page Campbell	Steve Meyers	Mary Anne Treadway
Joe Shepard	Steve Atran	John Poffenberger
Steve Meyers	Skip Lazauski	Skip Lazauski
<i>Dina Dore</i>	S.A. designee	Paul Phalen
<i>Skip Lazauski</i>	<i>Joe Noren</i>	

The Committee requested the ability to solicit assistance from personnel outside the CSP to participate on these working groups, with staff support provided by GSMFC and ASMFC, as deemed necessary.

A working group on program management was not considered necessary because the Committee completed the final editing of the goals and objectives for the CSP (a copy of the G&O is attached). In addition, the organization of the CSCS was formalized and no further action was considered necessary for the management of the program at this time.

A working group for future needs was discussed and the above members volunteered or were drafted.

The remaining meeting time was devoted to discussing the concept of ComFIN. Ron Lukens initiated the discussion by presenting background information on the ComFIN initiative as it has been developed by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Technical Coordinating Committee's Data Management Subcommittee. The concept parallels that of the Subcommittee's approach for recreational fishery statistics, which laid the ground work for the RecFIN initiative. The Subcommittee plans to have a 2 day workshop, tentatively scheduled for the week of February 8, 1993, in Miami, Florida, on commercial fishery statistics issues. The first part of the workshop will be presentations on various established data collection programs, e.g., PacFIN, Florida trip ticket program, the organizational aspects of SEAMAP (primarily because frequent references to this program are made with respect to RecFIN and now ComFIN), NMFS logbook and permit programs, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's weigh-out program, individual transferable quota programs, etc. The second part of the workshop will be used to identify major issues and/or recommendations

regarding commercial fishery statistics in the southeast. These issues should set the agenda for the next several years by establishing specific problems, improvements, etc. that will result in a commercial data collection program that meets the needs of fisheries management in the southeast.

Ron pointed out that the ComFIN initiative was intended for the Gulf, but that it could easily be extended to the entire southeast. Because funding for the workshop will be provided by the Gulf Commission, travel for state personnel from the South Atlantic would not be able to be provided.

Paul Phalen felt that a comprehensive approach to the statistics programs in the southeast was somewhat premature until all of the kinks could be worked out for the Cooperative Statistics Program. He reiterated that he did not think his Director would support ComFIN until the CSP was fully funded. In general the group felt that a conservative approach should be taken on ComFIN. Although they felt that the NMFS should be commended for picking up the Subcommittee's initiative, it was suggested that a plan development team be established to map out what the ComFIN program should be and how it should approach the development of a strategic plan. In addition, the group suggested that the formation of this PDT be undertaken at the initial ComFIN workshop that is planned for February 1993.

John Poffenberger briefly discussed a project that has been proposed by the Statistics Division, NMFS Headquarters that seeks to establish a formal process to increase the cooperation, standardization, and ease of data transfer between the NMFS Centers and Regional Offices. The catalyst for this project is the computer hardware, software and telecommunications upgrades that will be part of the NMFS' IT-95 project. Because the Cooperative Statistics Program is a critical part of the NMFS statistics program in the Southeast, it is essential that a complete flow of information from the NMFS' inter-regional data base design project be provided to whatever planning groups are established as part of ComFIN and feedback be provided to the NMFS by ComFIN.

Prepared by
John Poffenberger
CSP, Technical Monitor
November 18, 1992

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

<u>Participants</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Paul Phalen	North Carolina Dept. of Marine Fisheries
Paul Perra	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Joe O'Hop	Fla. Dept. of Natural Resources
Steve Brown	Fla. Dept. of Natural Resources
Dave Donaldson	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Ron Lukens	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Joe Moran	South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept.
Stephen Meyers	Caribbean Fisheries Management Council
Ken Harris	NMFS - Beaufort Laboratory
Jane DiCosimo	South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council
Page Campbell	Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
Steve Atran	Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council
Gina Gore	Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
John Poffenberger	NMFS - Research Management Division

STATE-FEDERAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
(As of October 21, 1992)

Mission: The Mission of the State/Federal Cooperative Fishery Statistics Program (CSP) is to cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate commercial fishery statistical information needed for management of marine and anadromous fisheries in the Southeast Region.

Goal 1: Manage and evaluate a coordinated State/Federal cooperative program for commercial fishery statistics in the Southeast Region.

OBJ 1: Establish a Southeast Cooperative Statistics Committee responsible for the development of strategic and operational plans for and providing direction, guidance and evaluation to the CSP.

OBJ 2: Utilize the South Atlantic Statistics Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Data Management Subcommittee of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Statistics Committee of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council and, as appropriate, representatives of Fishery Management Councils and other interested parties to accomplish work group tasks and provide advice to the CSP.

OBJ 3: Maximize effective utilization of available funds and personnel for data collection and processing.

OBJ 4: Establish and maintain cooperative agreements that are consistent with goals and objectives of the CSP.

OBJ 5: Distribute program information to the Program Participants and to interested parties.

OBJ 6: Conduct a program evaluation by an outside review team every 5 years.

Goal 2: Collect State/Federal marine commercial fishery information for the Southeast Region.

OBJ 1: Collect landings statistics and biostatistical data (size and age composition, etc.) that are needed to manage marine resources.

OBJ 2: Collect economic and social data that are needed to manage marine resources.

OBJ 3: Promote uniformity of data element definitions and comparability of data collection methods and procedures.

OBJ 4: Provide for regularly assessing the quality of the data collected through reviews, edits and verification procedures.

OBJ 5: Eliminate duplication between state and federal data collection activities.

Goal 3: Operate an integrated marine commercial fishery data management system for the Southeast Region.

OBJ 1: Process State/Federal marine commercial fishery data for computer storage.

OBJ 2: Supply, operate, and administer a regional data management system.

OBJ 3: Maintain all data in a computerized data base that is accessible by all CSP Program Participants.

OBJ 4: Develop and maintain standard data management protocols and documentation for data formats, inputs, editing, storage, access, transfer, dissemination and application.

OBJ 5: Protect the confidentiality of personal and business information that is submitted by the public, as required by state and/or federal law.

220
85
200
45
90
85

**MULLET TECHNICAL TASK FORCE
MINUTES
October 21-22, 1992
Kenner, Louisiana**

B. Mahmoudi
12-8-94

Skip Lazauski, acting as moderator until B. Mahmoudi's arrival, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Harry Blanchet was introduced as this meeting's Louisiana representative. Blanchet explained that Brandt Savoie was reassigned within the LDWF and was not able to participate at this meeting. The following were in attendance:

Members

Pat Anglada, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS
Harry Blanchet, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Mike Buchanan, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS
Henry G. Lazauski, ADCNR/DMR, Gulf Shores, AL
Ray Lenaz, GSMFC-RFAC, Biloxi, MS
Bezhad Mahmoudi, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL

Staff

Richard L. Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Cindy Bosworth, IJF Staff Assistant

Others

Joey Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

H. Blanchet noted an error referring to the meeting of June 1991 as June 1992. With this correction, S. Lazauski moved to approve the minutes, and H. Blanchet seconded. The minutes from the meeting held March 24-25, 1992, in Gulf Shores, Alabama, were then adopted with the correction.

Review of Progress on Draft Sections/Discussion of Stock Assessment

The task force recessed for approximately 1 hour to individually review completed drafts thus far. The task force reconvened and began discussion. It was suggested that the Table of Contents be typeset in the same style as the remainder of the document. It was noted that Section 4 will be continuously updated as state laws change. Lee Usie has been contacted to gather information needed for Section 5. Rick Leard distributed copies of the mullet processors and wholesalers questionnaires for the TTF to review. He noted Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana contacts have been received. Alabama and Florida processors and wholesalers are needed. He further noted that C. Dyer may be performing on-site interviews in the Apalachicola area. Problems of the fishery identified during this discussion were the trip ticket system in Florida (zero trips not reported, numerous trips on one ticket rather than each trip on a separate ticket) and the lack of accurate data on recreational catch.

After discussion of section drafts, stock assessment needs were discussed. The following outlines needed action for section drafts and the stock assessment:

- Complete the biological parameters chart (Attachment 1) provided by B. Mahmoudi. Provide any additional information as part of Step III of the Mullet Stock Assessment Program (Attachment 2) by January 1, 1993.
- Skip Lazauski is to add age and growth information from Alabama to Section 3.0. Skip will also develop Step I of the Stock Assessment Program (Examination of Catch, Effort and CPUE) by January 1, 1993.
- Mike Buchanan and Skip Lazauski will send in updated regulations (Section 4.0) for Mississippi and Alabama, respectively.
- Data on roe weights by size are needed for the discussion in Section 5.0.
- Production models are needed, age and size at first harvest and impacts to total harvest for food (flesh) fishery, bait fishery and roe fishery.
- The SAT will provide any information to help the TTF identify a conservation standard (SPR, MSY or other).
- The SAT should advise the TTF as to how and why the particular stock assessment analysis was chosen; was the design arbitrary or contentious; and if it was arbitrary or contentious other approaches and analyses should be undertaken.
- Texas and Mississippi should provide data on recruitment indices from independent gill net samplings if they have same or can develop it.
- Behzad Mahmoudi will send the Florida's economic study (Gaines and Brooks) to Rick Leard to pass on to W. Keithly.
- TTF will complete additions and corrections to Section 3.0 as well as fishery descriptions (by state) for Section 5.0 by January 1, 1993.
- All text additions may be provided by either hard copy or disk in Word Perfect 5.1.
- Graphics files may be provided on disk in Harvard Graphics.

Timetable

January 1, 1993, is the agreed deadline for assignments. Rick Leard is to provide a monthly update on what is needed to complete section drafts. Further deadlines depend upon completion of the stock assessment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m., Thursday, October 22, 1992.

STUDY	SEX	GROWTH PARAMETERS				MATURITY SCHEDULE			LENGTH WEIGHT EQUATION	LENGTH/AGE FECUNDITY EQUATION	FORK LENGTH TOTAL LENGTH STAND LENGTH CONVERSION EQ.	MORTALITY ESTIMATES			
		K	L	T	T	SIZE AGE	FIRST	50%				100%	F	M	Z
	MALE														
I	FEMALE														
	COMBINED SEX														
	MALE														
II	FEMALE														
	COMBINED SEX														
	MALE														
III	FEMALE														
	COMBINED SEX														
	MALE														
IV	FEMALE														
	COMBINED SEX														

STUDY-I Mahmoudi, et al 1990 for west coast of Florida population

STUDY-II -----for Louisiana population.

GULF STATE MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
MULLET STOCK ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

STEP-I

EXAMINATION OF CATCH, EFFORT, AND CATCH PER UNIT OF EFFORT:

1. PLOT THESE VARIABLES BY REGION
2. INTERPRETATION OF CATCH HISTORY BY REGION
 - a. TRENDS, LEVELS, CYCLES
 - b. POTENTIAL FACTORS AFFECTING FLUCTUATIONS

MARKET SUPPLY-DEMAND
FISHING PRESSURE
GEAR CHARACTERISTICS
HABITAT CONDITION
CLIMATOLOGICAL AND OCEANOGRAPHIC
VARIABILITIES

3. INTERPRETATION OF EFFORT DATA BY REGION
 - a. WHAT IS THE UNIT OF EFFORT
 - b. EFFORT RELATIONSHIPS TO

MARKET SUPPLY AND DEMAND
AVAILABILITY AND SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION
OF FISH
SEASONAL GEAR SELECTIVITY
4. INTERPRETATION OF CATCH PER UNIT OF EFFORT
 - a. BASED ON THE ABOVE INTERPRETATION,
IS CPUE A VALID INDICATOR OF RELATIVE
ABUNDANCE AND CHANGES IN POPULATION?

STEP-II

BIOLOGICAL-POPULATION DYNAMIC PARAMETERS ESTIMATES

1. EXAMINE AVAILABLE SIZE/AGE COMPOSITION DATA
BY REGION, BY SEASON, BY SEX, AND BY GEAR
2. EXAMINE GROWTH PARAMETERS
BY REGION, BY SEASON, AND BY SEX

3. EXAMINE LENGTH-WEIGHT RELATIONSHIPS
BY REGION, BY SEASON, AND BY SEX
4. EXAMINE REPRODUCTIVE AND SPAWNING
BY REGION, BY SEX
 - a. SIZE/AGE AT MATURITY, MATURITY OGIVES
FIRST, 50%, AND 100%
 - b. SEX RATIO, CORRECTED FOR GROWTH AND
GEAR SELECTIVITY DIFFERENCES
 - c. SPAWNING PERIODICITY
 - d. SIZE/AGE FECUNDITY RELATIONSHIPS
5. RECRUITMENT TO THE POPULATION
 - a. TRENDS ON JUVENILE ABUNDANCE INDICES
BY REGION
 - b. TIME OF RECRUITMENT, AGE AT FIRST
RECRUITMENT $t(r)$ BY REGION
 - c. PATTERN OF WITHIN AND AMONG YEAR
VARIABILITY IN RECRUITMENT
 - d. STOCK-RECRUITMENT RELATIONSHIPS AND MODELS
6. RECRUITMENT TO THE FISHERY
 - a. SIZE/AGE RECRUITMENT TO THE FISHERY
 $t(c)$ BY REGION, BY SEX
 - b. SEASONAL GEAR SELECTIVITY CURVES
BY REGION, BY SEX
7. MORTALITY ESTIMATES

BASED ON SIZE/AGE COMPOSITION AND/OR TAGGING
DATA
 - a. NATURAL MORTALITY RATES BY REGION, BY SEASON,
AND BY SEX
 - b. FISHING MORTALITY RATES BY REGION, BY SEASON,
AND BY SEX
 - c. TOTAL MORTALITY RATES BY REGION, BY SEASON,
AND BY SEX

8. STOCK STRUCTURE, UNIT STOCK INTERPRETATION
BASED ON:
 - a. AGE-GROWTH DATA
 - b. TAGGING DATA
 - c. GENETIC AND MORPHOMETERIC DATA

STEP-III

ASSESSMENT AND MODELING

1. USE OF CATCH AND EFFORT DATA
 - a. SURPLUS PRODUCTION FIT, i.e., FOX'S
PRODUCTION MODEL (PRODFIT) OR (GENPROD)

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS TO INPUT PARAMETERS
2. USE OF FISHERY AND BIOLOGICAL DATA
 - a. DETERMINISTIC-CONSTANT RECRUITMENT MODEL
YIELD PER RECRUIT ANALYSIS

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS TO INPUT PARAMETERS
 - b. SPAWNING STOCK BIOMASS MODELS,
DETERMINISTIC AND/OR STOCHASTIC (VARIABLE
RECRUITMENT) BASED ON AGE-BASED DATA SETS OR
LENGTH-BASED DATA SETS

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS TO INPUT PARAMETERS
3. TIME SERIES FORECASTING MODELS

STEP-IV

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

1. SELECTION OF INPUT PARAMETERS AND MODEL(S) FOR
BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
2. INTEGRATE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PARAMETERS
3. SIMULATION ANALYSIS BASED ON SERIES OF
MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Joseph L. Leard

STOCK ASSESSMENT TEAM MEETING
MINUTES
October 22-23, 1992
Kenner, Louisiana

Richard L. Leard, moderator, called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. The following were in attendance:

Members

Billy Fuls, TPWD, Rockport, TX
Skip Lazauski, ADCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
Behzad Mahmoudi, FDNR, St. Petersburg, FL
Bob Muller, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Mike Murphy, FMRI, St. Petersburg, FL
Joey Shepard, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
James "Tut" Warren, GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS

Others

James Geaghan, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA
Harry Blanchet, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA

Staff

Richard L. Leard, IJF Program Coordinator
Cindy Bosworth, IJF Staff Assistant

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes to the meeting held December 19, 1991, in Mobile, Alabama, were approved with a minor change.

Election of Chairman

The SAT agreed to have two officers, a Chairman and Vice Chairman. Rick Leard, moderator, opened the floor for nomination of officers. Bob Muller nominated Joey Shepard for Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Skip Lazauski, and Joey Shepard was unanimously elected chairman. Skip Lazauski nominated Bob Muller for Vice Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Behzad Mahmoudi, and Bob Muller was unanimously elected Vice Chairman.

STOCK ASSESSMENT TEAM MEETING

Minutes

Page -3-

- 9.3.3.1 Paragraph 1 - Does not describe Texas or other states. Total mortality is based only on Louisiana commercial gill net data. Paragraph 2 - Texas has consistent gill net and tagging data since 1975. Texas also has consistent recreational data. All of which can be used for mortality estimates. If Z is assumed to be 0.25 for fish over age 12, then the values the assessment uses for F and M for various age groups of fish over 12 years appear to be equal or greater than Z .

Dr. Geaghan noted that total commercial catch data from NMFS, MRFSS data and recreational data from Texas were also used. Consequently, his estimate could be viewed as a weighted average. Louisiana is weighted higher because of the higher catch, and Texas was second.

- 9.3.3.2 Only represents M for Louisiana and not Texas and other gulf states. It is generally known that Atlantic species live longer and to a larger size, due to cooler water, than do gulf species. The maximum age found in the gulf is 43 years (Bechman et al.). Therefore estimates of M at maximum age should be at 45 years old, not 55. This would make $M=0.2$ not 0.15. Again, only Louisiana commercial data was used for Bechman's estimates of M . This still may not be the best estimate of M for gulf black drum.

Dr. Geaghan explained that his charge in doing the assessment was to provide a single estimate for the gulf; thus he took a "middle-of-the-road" approach. He further noted that Beckman's 43 year old fish came from an exploited population and since the analysis attempted to gauge how old the fish could get (unexploited), he felt that the 55 year old estimate of maximum age was more accurate.

With regard to the " M " estimate, Dr. Geaghan stated that he thought the 0.15 estimate was a little high (probably an upper boundary); however, that was the figure calculated from the available data.

Black Drum FMP - Action from October 14, 1992 Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting

Rick Leard reported that at their October 14, 1992, meeting held in Mobile, Alabama, the TCC raised several questions regarding the stock assessment for black drum included in the FMP. The SAT then reviewed and addressed concerns dealing with Section 9.3 and Appendix I of the FMP. Dr. James Geaghan, who authored the stock assessment, addressed many of the questions and concerns in the Texas comments. The following summarizes SAT discussions and actions regarding the comments on the black drum stock assessment: (Texas comments are in bold; discussion and action follow.)

9.3.1 **TPWD gill net data should have also been used for length and age frequencies. TPWD also has verified scale aging for black drum.**

Dr. Geaghan noted that he would have liked to have had the gill net data to check the growth model; however, it was received late in the assessment process, and the most complete data for doing length frequencies and age frequencies came from Dr. Dan Beckman and Ms. Sandy Russell. He also noted that he would have been reluctant to use the scale aging since the data may not have been random based on the way scales were collected.

Paragraphs 5 and 6. This does not describe Texas or other states. Based only on Louisiana data. TPWD has tag recapture data on black drum, and beach seine data for black drum.

It was noted that the tag recapture data were a relatively small database, and there was no discussion as to what, specifically, these data would show. Dr. Geaghan noted that the recreational data were very useful in this discussion because inshore fishermen caught small fish, offshore fishermen caught large fish and there were intermediate catches.

STOCK ASSESSMENT TEAM MEETING

Minutes

Page -4-

Dr. Geaghan agreed to run calculations of terminal 'F' based on 'M' values ranging from 0.08 to 0.18 in 0.01 increments. He also agreed to calculate SSBR percentages based on these variations of 'M'. All calculations will be sent to the Stock Assessment Team for review and comment.

- 9.3.4 Since Texas recreational data and Louisiana commercial data are somewhat size restrictive, TPWD gill net data could have been used in the VPA. This would provide a broader range of sizes of fish. When "tuning" the VPA, was only Louisiana data used? How was "tuning" accomplished?

Dr. Geaghan described comparisons from Beckman's data and Russell's data. He noted that he would be very reluctant to apply the independent gill net data to commercial catch data in the VPA. Dr. Geaghan will provide a description of how "tuning" was accomplished.

- 9.3.5.1 Fishing mortality (F) does not pertain to Texas black drum age 8 and above, since Texas has a minimum size of 14 in. and maximum size of 30 in. Fishing mortality for other states may also be different than those in the assessment.

The SAT agreed that fishing mortalities may vary among states and even within some states; however, the purpose of the assessment and the IJF FMP was to estimate 'F' values for the entire U.S. Gulf of Mexico population.

- 9.3.5.2 The Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) off Texas and in Texas bays would not be the same as those found in the assessment since black drum in Texas may mature at a smaller size than in other areas of the gulf. Since SSB is estimated for "mean number in the sea," these data were again

Louisiana data and would not represent SSB in the gulf off Texas and other Gulf States. The same would hold for SSB/R.

It was again noted that the assessment was based on developing SSB and SSBR for black drum in the gulf as a unit stock but did not discount variations among areas or states.

- 9.3.6 It is questioned why samples with less than 15 individuals were not used for recruitment indices. This restriction unfairly limits the contribution possible from the Texas fishery independent monitoring programs.

Dr. Geaghan explained that the 15 individuals applied to a full year's samplings at a given station. He noted that stations generally had greater than 30 or less than 10 catches; thus 15 was used as a cut-off point to identify stations that had relatively good black drum habitat from those with relatively poor habitat. He further stated that in order to avoid averaging in a large number of zeros only stations that met the 15 individuals criteria were used in developing recruitment indices.

Although there were no linear increase or decrease in recruitment over the entire sampling period for Louisiana and Texas data, it appears from Table 9 (Appendix 1) that Texas recruitment in bag seines and trawls might show a decreasing linear trend from 1976 to 1986.

Dr. Geaghan noted that he would be reluctant to draw such conclusions based on a 10 year subset of data, especially when (as stated) the overall data sets show no increase or decrease.

- 9.3.7 Paragraph 1 - confusing. Are you talking about spawning stock ratio (SSR)? The paragraph infers that when you talk about 50% and 30% you

are talking strictly about SSB instead of SSB/R fished which equals SSB/R unfished SSR.

It was noted that SSB in the first line of this section should be changed to SSBR. This has been done.

Paragraph 3 - should say monitoring programs in Louisiana and Texas, not various monitoring programs. Assessment does not describe other states. Does Florida have bag seine data?

It was noted that this language had previously been corrected in the September 22, 1992, revision of this subsection.

As noted several times, the philosophy behind the stock assessment was the same as that for the IJF plan, namely addressing the stock and its management as a unit throughout the gulf. This assessment for the entire gulf would not, however, preclude the existence of areas within individual states or regions that may have higher or lower mortality rates, greater or less recruitment and other factors that might vary management decisions regarding regulations.

Joey Shepard agreed to draft a letter from the Stock Assessment Team to the Texas representatives. The letter will summarize discussion and action taken concerning the stock assessment. By a separate letter, Rick Leard will address the other concerns from Texas as he receives input from the Technical Task Force and the Technical Coordinating Committee.

Mullet Stock Assessment

The TTF continues to collect available data to perform the stock assessment. As agreed, Behzad Mahmoudi will develop the assessment. Modeling options discussed included yield per recruit and spawning stock biomass per recruit analysis. The SAT agreed that all data should be in ASCII files, column delimited.

The following outlines action needed from SAT members:

- Texas will provide data on gill net and bag seine catches from their independent monitoring program.
- Rick Leard will provide Skip Lazauski with updated landings and value data by state and gear type.
- Bob Muller will check with Joe Shepard on TIP and other effort data.
- Bob Muller and Skip Lazauski will develop the recreational data based from MRFSS.
- Tut Warren will send summarized data from Mississippi's juvenile samplings to Behzad Mahmoudi. He will also send tagging data to Rick Leard.

Timetable for Mullet Stock Assessment

All information for the stock assessment should be provided by January 1, 1993. R. Leard will provide monthly updates on progress and action to be completed. A technical working session of the SAT is tentatively scheduled for the end of February in St. Petersburg, Florida, to work on the mullet stock assessment.

Future Stock Assessment Workshops

A stock assessment training course was held in Georgia in March 1992. This course was a basic overview of stock assessments but did not provide a hands-on opportunity to perform a stock assessment. The SAT agreed that the next workshop should be geared toward performing an actual stock assessment from a given data set. Bob Muller suggested the use of state computer teaching facilities such as those in Tallahassee and will check on the availability of the equipment there for such a workshop. Further, Bob Muller agreed to develop a draft course outline for the workshop.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned Friday, October 23, 1992, at 10:35 a.m.

APPROVED BY:
Virginia Vail
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

GSMFC RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 11, 1992
Jekyll Island, Georgia

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Chairwoman Virginia Vail.
The following were in attendance:

ATTENDEES

Tina Berger, SFI, Washington, D.C.
Mike Buchanan, MDWFP/BMR, Biloxi, MS
Jan Culbertson, TPWD, Seabrook, TX
Bill Horn, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Rick Kasprzak, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
Hal Osburn, TPWD, Austin, TX
Walter M. Tatum, ADCNR/MRD, Gulf Shores, AL
Virginia Vail, FDNR, Tallahassee, FL
Wally Wahlquist, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

STAFF

Ronald R. Lukens, Assistant Director

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without objection.

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

Orientation to Joint Meeting

Chairwoman Vail pointed out to the group that the following morning would begin a joint session with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Artificial Reef Advisory Committee. A copy of the joint agenda was distributed. Vail indicated that she had asked that the topic related to Hurricane Andrew be put on the joint agenda. She explained that her concern is from a management perspective, asking the question "Where do we go from here?" The hurricane did extensive damage to ships sunk as artificial reefs off Dade County. Non-ship damage has not been assessed. There is a concern that the near future will hold increased numbers of hurricanes, and that will hold the potential for more damage to artificial reefs.

Related to hurricane damage, R. Lukens pointed out that in 1979 Hurricane Fredrick damaged two Liberty ship hulls offshore Mississippi and moved them short

distances. There was a general consensus that hurricanes and other large storms are potential problems for artificial reef programs.

State and Federal Updates

Alabama - W. Tatum indicated that the Alabama Marine Resources Division is working with the fishing community and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to further extend the western most general permit area. A study is being planned to evaluate modular tire units which stand approximately eight feet high. The units meet all the ballasting and other provisions set forth in the Subcommittees position statement on tire use. Tatum indicated that the Mobile Corps of Engineers District called and asked if the Marine Resources Division would be willing to accept approximately fifty loads of broken concrete from Hurricane Andrew damage to deploy in the general permit areas. Tatum said that they answered that they could accept the materials. There followed some discussion as to why Alabama was contacted about the concrete and if Florida had been contacted. At the time of the meeting, nothing had been decided about the disposition of the material.

Texas - H. Osburn introduced Jan Culbertson, who will be the Texas Artificial Reef Program Coordinator. Several new sites have been acquired and several others expanded. Osburn explained that they are in line to receive rig material, but they are also planning to deploy several "jungle jim" type units, about the size of a room, on several sites. They also initiated a contract with a university to develop a set of options for monitoring biological activity on artificial reefs. During October 1992, the contractors conducted a cruise during which several monitoring techniques were employed, including fish tagging, fish traps, video census, among others. The goal is to come up with an inexpensive, yet effective, method to monitor individual reefs over time and also be able to make valid comparisons between reefs.

Louisiana - R. Kasprzak indicated that they are continuing to work with the offshore oil and gas companies to acquire additional rig material for placement on existing planning areas. He indicated that Hurricane Andrew had provided them with a lot of potential material. Kasprzak presented a brochure developed by the Department which provides a map with artificial reef locations and information on what kinds of fish are found around the reefs. He indicated that the cover

of the brochure was done by a Louisiana artist, and that the artwork was donated to the Department for that use.

Florida - V. Vail reported that the Department continues to fund the usual types of construction projects from their Federal Aid funds. She indicated that they will soon be conducting or supporting a number of special projects. One such project is to compare the use of automobile bodies in single car units and multiple car units to determine their effectiveness and stability. Vail reported that the Department now has final draft versions of the state program management plan and a plan for monitoring and assessment of reefs. They will soon be available for public review. She also pointed out that the program had produced a number of posters to assist the public in fish identification.

V. Vail introduced Bill Horn who will function on the state artificial reef monitoring team. Horn indicated that they had acquired the necessary equipment and underwater training and had completed a few trial dives. He is currently setting up the schedule for the projects he will do during 1993. He intends to conduct visual and photographic surveys of reef sites. Regarding areas of research interest, Vail indicated that they are concerned about the use of automobile tires. She indicated that off Florida tires do not function well as habitat, and do not acquire extensive epiphytic growth. Conversely, tires used off the northeast coast have shown extensive epiphytic growth and fish attraction. Lukens indicated that Mississippi had a similar experience with that of Florida in using tires. No noticeable epiphytic growth had occurred over a period exceeding fifteen years. Vail suggested that it may be related to temperature such that in warmer waters the rubber remains loose and flexible and difficult to maintain attachment; whereas, in colder water the tires become rigid and allow a stable surface for attachment of organisms. Some discussion and question and answer continued regarding the Florida program.

Mississippi - **Problems with the tapes precluded transcribing of the Mississippi report.**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - W. Wahlquist reported that the Service had renewed the GSMFC Federal Aid administrative grant for 1993, briefly discussing the interjurisdictional nature of the work to be done. Wahlquist indicated that the Regional Office is attempting to do more public outreach activities with partners and constituents, participating in two major trade shows in Florida.

The Service handed out posters on artificial reefs (showed the poster), describing the general activities and highlighting selected state programs using Federal Aid funds to support their program.

Wahlquist indicated that the Regional Office is interested in having programs conduct more evaluations, particularly regarding program expansions, so that the benefits of artificial reefs to the environment and the tax paying public can be more clearly delineated. He mentioned that artificial reefs should be viewed as management tools, quantifying fishing effort, harvest, expenditures, and other items to facilitate the decision-making process and to increase accountability. There ensued a discussion regarding the use of underwater video equipment to assess the fish populations of artificial reefs. W. Tatum described the effort being coordinated by the SEAMAP. Lukens pointed out that a workshop comparing underwater fish assessment techniques, including video transects, was held in the Florida Keys in 1986, coordinated by Dr. Bill Alevizon. A report is available.

Data Base Publication Report

Lukens began the discussion, reporting that the report would contain state program narratives, a tabular summary of program particulars, a table of sites and selected data elements, and a state distribution map. The group then discussed other sections of the publication, including an introduction and descriptions of federal agency involvement. The pertinent federal agencies included the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Minerals Management Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

A discussion ensued regarding the particular data elements that would be included in the table of artificial reef sites. The Subcommittee agreed that the following data elements should be included: Reef name, latitude/longitude, distance (miles), depth (feet), relief (feet), year, total area (acres), materials, and comments. Lukens indicated that he would send each state program manager a computer disk containing all the existing information in the agreed-upon table format. Also he will include existing program narrative and a tabular summary template on the disk. Corrections and additions can be made on the disk and returned to his office for compiling into the draft.

Lukens asked the Subcommittee if it would be useful to update the data base (housed at the Sport Fishing Institute) on a regular basis, such as quarterly, biannually, or annually. There was a general consensus that it would be useful. Lukens indicated that he would contact everyone by memorandum regarding the details of this issue.

Report on GSMFC October 1992 Annual Meeting

Tire Utilization Position - Lukens reminded the Subcommittee that at the last meeting they established a position on the utilization of automobile tires as artificial reef material (see TCC minutes, October 1992). V. Vail attended the October 1992 GSMFC meeting and reported the position statement to the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), requesting that they consider adopting the position and sending it to the full Commission for consideration. Without objection, the position statement was endorsed by the TCC and the full Commission. Lukens indicated that one addition to the statement had been made to include provisions for chipped tires embedded in concrete to be used. Since the method is consistent with the intent of the statement, there was no objection to that inclusion. It was agreed that the position statement should be transmitted to the appropriate Corps of Engineers offices for their use when considering permits which include the use of tires.

SMZ Action - Lukens then discussed the TCC's consideration of the action which the Subcommittee took relative to establishment of special management zones (SMZ) in the Gulf of Mexico. Following V. Vail's presentation of the action, there was considerable concern expressed over the Subcommittee's recommendation that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council establish a framework provision for SMZs in the next amendment to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan. Primary among the comments was that commercial fishing interests had not had an opportunity to review and comment on the Subcommittee recommendation. This was deemed particularly important since the action could have an impact on commercial fishing operations. It was the decision of the TCC to table the recommendation until such time as the GSMFC Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee and other commercial fishing organizations have an opportunity to review the recommendation and provide comments. Lukens indicated that he would follow up on the issue.

1993 Subcommittee Activities

Ash Utilization Workshop - Lukens reported that since the last meeting he had been working with a representative of the Mississippi Power Company to secure funding from several of the utilities of the Southern Company; however, no work has been done since September 1992. Lukens stated that since the Subcommittee had done so much work on this issue at the last meeting, there was not a need to go over the details again. He indicated, however, that the issue would be on the joint agenda and that he wanted the Subcommittee to get input from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Artificial Reef Advisory Committee related to workshop content, format, time frame, and other issues. There followed a limited discussion of some of the details of the proposed workshop.

Materials Criteria Project - Lukens reminded the Subcommittee that they elected to work on a paper which will provide a listing and discussion of artificial reef materials, and recommendations regarding their use. He indicated that the paper should not be just a litany of experiences with materials; however, experiences should be a part of the discussions. He also indicated that the paper should be management oriented, providing reef managers or developers with information about materials usage, and influencing Corps of Engineers and other agency policies on materials usage.

Vail agreed with Lukens' observations, adding that there should be a description of the material in question, how it has been used, any special preparations, and a profile of any program which has particular expertise in deploying the material. Lukens then went through his suggestions for formatting the paper. He indicated that there should be an introduction, including some general history of materials usage in the United States and some discussion of the relationship between materials and fish (thigmotaxis, food, shelter, etc.). Next would be the section on the materials themselves, including benefits, drawbacks, use recommendations, inspection guidelines, and research recommendations (see Appendix). Lukens recommended that each Subcommittee member take homework assignments to work up the agreed-upon information for certain materials as a first draft. Then at a subsequent Subcommittee meeting, the entire group could discuss the information. There was general consensus from the Subcommittee that the content and format suggestions from Lukens are a good place

to start. General discussion and questions ensued about some of the particulars of the time schedule and requirements.

Next Meeting Time and Place

The Subcommittee selected May or June 1993 for the time of the next meeting. Specific time and other details will be considered at a later date.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

APPENDIX

MATERIALS CRITERIA DISCUSSION PAPER

General Comments

- 1) Focus on materials. Should not be a litany of experiences with materials; although, experiences should be a part of the discussion.
- 2) Should be management oriented. Should provide an artificial reef manager or developer with solid information about the use of certain materials.
- 3) Should have regulatory impact. Should influence state and USCOE regulatory policies regarding use of materials.

Format

I. Introduction

- A. Relationship between materials and biota - thigmotaxis and habitat enhancement/augmentation
- B. Short history of general materials usage in the United States

II. Specific materials

- A. General history of usage of material
- B. Benefits of material
- C. Drawbacks of material

III. Recommendations

- A. Inspection guidelines - what to look for
- B. General - usage criteria, research, configurations, unit construction, etc.

IV. Conclusions

SCENARIO OF SECTION III - SPECIFIC MATERIALS

III. Specific Materials

A. Automobile Tires

1. Introduction

Have been used since the 1960s. Places where used. Some experiences with use. Different use methodologies. Other.

2. Benefits

Readily available, numbers of tires retired annually, other uses (chipped in road beds, etc.); long lasting, do not break down in marine environment; have been shown to attract fish and other marine organisms; can design to provide optimum(?) surface/niche area; etc.

3. Drawbacks

May leach toxic materials into water column; are neutrally or positively buoyant, must be properly ballasted; are labor intensive to construct and deploy; may be viewed as or influenced to be a solid waste disposal option; etc.

4. Recommendations

a. Inspection guidelines

Must be free from grease or other petroleum products on surface of tires. Must display certain proportion of ballast per tire in a unit.

b. General

Conclusive research should be conducted to determine leaching potential. Comparative studies should be done to determine relative effectiveness in different areas and habitat types, and with other materials.



Adl Olsen
12-1-93

ARTIFICIAL REEF DEVELOPMENT CENTER

GULF STATES MARINE
FISHERIES COMMISSION

1010 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. (Suite 320), Washington, D.C. 20001 (202) 898-0770

OCT 15 1993

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members of the ASMFC's Artificial Reef Committee and the GSMFC's Recreational Fisheries Management Subcommittee

FROM: Tina Berger, Director of the Artificial Reef Development Center *TB*

DATE: July 27, 1993

SUBJECT: MINUTES from the Joint Meeting of the ASMFC's Artificial Reef Committee and the GSMFC's Recreational Fisheries Management Subcommittee, November 17 - 19, 1992, Jekyll Island, Georgia.

ATTENDEES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency/Organization</u>	<u>Telephone No.</u>
Ginny Vail	FL Dept. of Natural Resources	(904) 922-4340
Mel Bell	SC Wild. & Marine Resources	(803) 795-6350
Richard Christian	ASMFC	(202) 387-5330
Ron Lukens	GSMFC	(601) 875-6604
Mike Buchanon	MS Bureau of Marine Resources	(601) 385-5860
Walter Tatum	AL Marine Resources Division	(205) 968-7576
John Foster	MD Dept. of Nat. Resources	(410) 974-3664
DeWitt Myatt	MD Dept. of Nat. Resources	(410) 974-3664
Tina Berger	ARDC, Washington, DC	(202) 898-0770
Lisa Tripp	Southwick Associates, VA	(703) 237-0349
Richard Satchwill	RI Fish and Wildlife Dept.	(401) 294-9640
Rick Kasprzak	LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fish.	(504) 765-2488
Jan Culbertson	TX Parks and Wildlife Dept.	(713) 474-2811
Hal Osburn	TX Parks and Wildlife Dept.	(512) 389-4863
Jeff Tinsman	Delaware Fish & Wildlife	(302) 739-4782
Bill Figley	NJ Dept. of Environ. Prot.	(609) 748-2020
Steve Heins	NYS DEC	(516) 751-5422
Steve Murphey	NC Div. of Marine Fisheries	(919) 726-7021
Kurtis Gregg	NC Div. of Marine Fisheries	(919) 726-7021
Lynda Arter	Marine Reef Const. & Design	(904) 751-0820
Jim Eskridge	VRMC	(804) 247-2263
Henry Ansley	GA Dept. of Natural Resources	(912) 264-7218
Tony Blount	GA Dept. of Natural Resources	(912) 264-7218
Ben Mostkoff	Dade County Dept. Environmental Resource Management	(305) 375-3324
Bill Horn	FL Dept. of Natural Resources	(904) 922-4340
Celso Alaisa	FL Dept. of Natural Resources	(904) 922-4340
Wally Wahlquist	USFWS, Federal Aid	(404) 331-5446
Samuel Tyson	American Coal Ash Association	(202) 659-2303

MR
8/2

Wednesday, November 18, 1992 - 8:30 a.m.

- o The joint meeting was called to order by **Virginia Vail (FL)**, Chairman of the GSMFC's Recreational Fisheries Management Subcommittee, and **Mel Bell (SC)** sitting in for Chairman Mike Meier of the ASMFC's Artificial Reef Committee. This was the second joint meeting of these two artificial reef management bodies. A number of issues were discussed ranging from the use of tires and vessels as environmentally suitable materials to individual state artificial reef research, development and management updates. Following is a brief overview of that meeting.
- o **Ron Lukens (GSMFC)** began a discussion on the use of tires as environmentally suitable artificial reef material. Lengthy group discussion followed with particular emphasis placed on the GSMFC Tire Resolution and the draft ASMFC tire resolution.
- o **Richard Christian (ASMFC)** led a discussion on the use of vessels as environmentally suitable materials, particularly in light of recent developments and knowledge on toxic contaminants (i.e., PCB, lead, complex hydrocarbons, heavy metals).

Steve Murphey (NC) expressed the growing concern of artificial reef managers about the appropriate use of vessels. He referred to a 1990 letter from the Navy which formally discontinued the Navy's practice of using obsolete naval vessels for at-sea target exercises. The impetus behind this ban stemmed from findings that there were significantly high levels of PCBs on these vessels, and that their sinking constituted an unacceptable environmental hazard.

There was lengthy discussion about the development of a joint committee resolution on this issue, particularly with regard to requesting EPA to come out with policy statement regarding vessels/PCBs pros and cons. No formal action was taken.

- o **Lukens (GSMFC)** updated the committees on the proposed GSMFC Fly-Ash Workshop. The workshop is intended for both artificial reef managers and power and energy industry. The GSMFC hopes that the workshop will result in the development of guidelines for the use of this material as artificial reef substrate. The GSMFC Recreational Fisheries Management Subcommittee, through its coal/fly ash resolution, is in fact charged with this responsibility. In addition, the GSMFC hopes to develop a proceedings of the workshop.

At the time of the meeting, the Workshop was tentatively planned as a two-day event, with speaker presentations occurring on the first day and a facilitated discussion of issues on the second day. The Workshop is to focus solely on the use of coal and fly ash material as artificial reef material. The two artificial reef committees would put forth their concerns at beginning of workshop, basically setting the tone for the workshop. One of the most important points to be made up front is that solid waste disposal is **not** the driving force behind artificial development.

Specific issues to be addressed at the workshop include:

- o Quality control (i.e., structural integrity, what is in ash, source of ash, municipal incineration ash);
- o Waste disposal not driving force;
- o Demand vs. supply;
- o How do different ashes vary in content;
- o Lost/benefit potential (labor...);
- o Long-term structural integrity;
- o Potential public perception regarding environmental safety; and
- o Potential liability over long-run.

A representative of the coal/fly ash industry, **Samuel Tyson (American Coal Ash Association)** spoke to the committees about what he saw the benefits of using coal and fly ash as artificial reef material. He stated his industry's support of the workshop and its outcome.

- o **Christian (ASMFC)** and **Lukens (GSMFC)** jointly brought up an informational item regarding the Commissions' involvement with the coalition F.I.S.H. on habitat education. The ASMFC and the PSMFC received approval for habitat education proposals submitted for funding through the Wallop-Breaux administrative grant program. The GSMFC has plans for a similar program. More information about each Commission's specific programs will be provided in the future.

- o Artificial reef manager **Ben Mostkoff (Dade County, FL)** presented a preliminary report on the effects of Hurricane Andrew on the county's 23 permitted artificial reef sites. As a result of the hurricane's 35-foot sea and 17-foot storm surge, which resulted in the storm breaking in depths up to 50 feet, significant reef material movement was experienced. Material as far out as 240 feet in depth were effected by the storm.

For example, the Tenneco Oil Platform was damaged and moved. Although this movement appears to have resulted in an improved habitat system. The 215-foot "Belzona Barge," which had been deployed in 65 feet of water, was moved 700 yards to a depth of 38 feet, exceeding minimum clearance. The vessel was originally filled with 800 tons of concrete and a 500-600 lb. anchor attached to it. As a result of its movement the barge has become a diver hazard, increasing the county's concern about liability. These are just a few examples of what happened. Additional and more detailed accounts are available from Mostkoff.

- o Researchers **Jon Lucy and Aaron Adams (VIMS)** presented the results of a two-year diver census study, "Analysis of Fish Assembly Association with an Offshore Virginia Artificial Reef." The purpose of the study was to identify and document species presence, seasonality, and reproductive behavior year-round. Seabass, tautog and cunner were identified as the most abundant species on the reef year-round, and the only species present during the winter months. Seasonal reef species were identified as sheepshead, scup and barracuda.
- o **Christian (ASMFC), Lukens (GSMFC) and Wally Wahlquist (USFWS, Federal Aid)** discussed the importance of Wallop-Breaux outreach. It is particularly important for state fishery managers to inform the public and the angling community about how money is being spent, as well as the social and economic benefits that accrue from the program.

They informed the committees that there will be an oversight hearing on the Wallop-Breaux program sometime in the summer/fall of 1993. The request was made by John Breaux (LA) and was sent to GAO, where they will be investigating certain areas of the program (i.e., salt/fresh water split, habitat).

Christian (ASMFC) stated that the ASMFC had developed a monthly newsletter to inform constituents about the Commission's activities as well as profile Atlantic coastal

state Wallop-Breaux activities. Christian encouraged reef managers to use the newsletter to increase visibility of their state artificial reef programs.

State Updates

- o The remainder of the meeting was devoted to an overview of each state's current artificial reef program activities. **Mel Bell (SC)** reported that South Carolina's entire reef program is run-off Wallop-Breaux funds. Currently, they are conducting an economic survey of divers and anglers. They are also heavily into the development of designed reef material. Bell spoke of South Carolina's recently enacted saltwater fishing stamp and its popularity.

Bill Figley (NJ) reported that they permitted six new reef sites. Combined New Jersey's reef sites encompass 25 sq. miles. The primary materials used are materials of opportunity.

Steve Murphey (NC) reported about the deployment of 13,500 tons of concrete pipe, several small vessels and one Liberty ship. NC is interested in applying for three more vessels from Liberty fleet. **Kurtis Gregg (NC)** talked about the state's monitoring (catch and effort sampling) and evaluation studies (aerial surveys).

Jan Culbertson (TX) reported Texas' plans to apply for a general permit for High Islands area. Five Liberty ship sites were augmented with additional material. Five prototype, experimental fly ash reefs were also recently deployed off Texas.

Walter Tatum (AL) reported that the state's three general permit areas currently encompass 1,000 sq. miles. Materials such as a hopper barge filled with bridge rubble, a Coast Guard cutter, and an airplane are some examples of recently deployed materials. He also talked briefly about Alabama's sport fishing license.

Jim Eskridge (VA) reported that Virginia recently deployed 23,000 tons of concrete material. Prefabricated tetrahedrals were also deployed in Back River. The state is undertaking significant buoying activity.

Jeff Tinsman (DE) reported that Delaware has received five years of funding from Sport Fishery Research Program (Wallop-Breaux) to develop their state artificial reef plan.

Steve Heins (NY) reported that New York State's Artificial Reef Plan is still pending approval by their legislature. In the meantime, the Department has deployed 2,000 cubic yards of concrete and 150 cubic yards boats. New York is also in the process of conducting an aerial survey of boats and fishing activity (e.g., creel census) around two artificial reefs located in the Fire Island region.

Henry Ansley (GA) reported on Georgia's offshore reef activities, stating that over the last two years the state has significantly increased their use of materials of opportunity. Recently deployed materials include: 9 vessels; 50,000 tons of rubble; 3,000 tons of concrete culvert; and steel bridge rubble (deployed with the help of Navy helicopters). Georgia plans on applying for Special Management Zone (SMZ) status for several of their offshore reefs; some reefs already have SMZ status.

John Foster (MD) reported that Maryland recently deployed 60,000 cubic yards bridge deck. **Dewitt Myatt (MD)** emphasized that the focus of Maryland's artificial reef program is to enhance habitat, rather than recreational fishing. He also asked the committees to think about addressing the fishery reserve/sanctuary concept.

Dick Satchwill (RI) reported that Rhode Island is in the process of attempting to develop a state artificial reef plan. He anticipates that the primary materials used in their program will be materials of opportunity (e.g., bridge rubble from the Jamestown bridge).

Virginia Vail (FL) reported that the state contracted 20 projects through the Sport Fishery Research Program. She also reported that Florida's State Artificial Reef Monitoring and Assessment Report, and State Artificial Reef Plan were nearing completion. Vail discussed the results of car reef study measuring the stability and durability of car bodies as artificial reefs.

Ben Mostkoff (Dade County, FL) reported on the county's use of concrete and limerock boulders to restore dredge holes.

- o There being no further business, the joint meeting was called to a close by Chairman Vail and Bell.