

Joint Meeting of the Atlantic & Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions

October 15-19, 2000 Adam's Mark Clearwater Beach Clearwater Beach, Florida

FINAL SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 15, 2000

Begins Noon Ninth Annual Laura Leach Fishing Tournament

Awards presented on Wednesday, October 18, 2000

1:00 PM Annual Golf Tournament

Belleview Biltmore Resort in Belleair, Florida

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM REGISTRATION

Monday, October 16, 2000

7:30 AM – 3:00 PM REGISTRATION

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM ASMFC Advisory Committee

- Review Advisory Panel and Public Input Process
- Review and approve Advisory Primer
- Discuss coordination issues with Legislators and Governors' Appointees
- Discuss future meeting schedule of Advisory Committee

8:30 AM - Noon GSMFC TCC Habitat Subcommittee

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM GSMFC Joint Commercial/Recreational Advisory Committee

10:00 AM – Noon ASMFC Legislative Committee

- Review 106th Congress' legislative record regarding CARA, Appropriations, ACFCMA/Striped Bass Reauthorization, and Wallop/Breaux Reform
- Discuss process for preparing for 107th Congress

he Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species. The fifteen member states of the Commission are: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Susan Shipman (GA), Vice-Chair
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Dieter N. Busch, Director, Interstate Fisheries
Management Program
Dr. Lisa L. Kline, Director of Research & Statistics
Laura C. Leach, Director of Finance and Administration

Tina L. Berger, Editor tberger@asmfc.org

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Upcoming Meetings

10/10 -12:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Duck, North Carolina.

10/15 - 19:

Joint ASMFC & GSMFC Meeting, Adam's Mark Clearwater Beach, 430 South Gulfview Boulevard, Clearwater Beach, Florida; (727)443-5714.

10/23 (9:30 AM - 5:00 PM):

ASMFC Northern Shrimp Advisory Panel, Portland, Maine.

10/30 (10:00 AM - 5:00 PM):

ASMFC Northern Shrimp Section, King's Grant Inn, Danvers, Massachusetts.

10/30 - 11/3:

The Third Annual Wetlands Regulatory Workshop, Holiday Inn on the Boardwalk, Atlantic City, New Jersey. For more information, please contact either Ralph Spagnolo at (215)814-2718 or Frank Reilly at (540)286-0072.

11/7:

ACCSP For-hire Subcommittee, Radisson New Orleans, 1500 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana; (800)333-3333 or 504/522-4500.

11/14 - 16:

New England Fishery Management Council, Sheraton Colonial, Wakefield, Massachusetts.

11/27 - 12/1:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Sheraton Atlantic Beach, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

11/28 - 30:

NMFS Mid-Atlantic Take Reduction Team, Sheraton Ocean-front, Virginia Beach, Virginia. For more information, please contact Winnie Chan at (978)281-9111 or Winnie.Chan@Noaa.gov

11/29:

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board & Striped Bass Management Board, Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel, 1850 Post Road, Warwick, Rhode Island: (401)738-4000.

11/30:

ASMFC American Lobster Management Board, Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel, 1850 Post Road, Warwick, Rhode Island; (401)738-4000.

It is that time of year again. A bit of crispness is in the fall air to sleep by at night. Congress is still in session, for a few more days perhaps; and most of the real meat of the presidential election is in front of us. But unmistakably it is "winding down time." Over the next few months, we will all begin to take stock of the first year of the new millennium. It is a time for assessing, for gauging our satisfaction with where we are and the progress we are making.

With the Commission's 59th Annual Meeting upon us, Commissioners and those of us with an interest in cooperative interstate marine fisheries programs ought to take this time to begin to do some assessing of our own. We are now concluding the second year of the Commission's five-year strategic plan. How do we believe that we are doing?

It is important always to keep focusing on what is important. The Commission's mission, according to the Compact, is "to promote the better utilization of the fisheries... of the Atlantic seaboard by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries, and by the prevention of the physical waste of the fisheries..." Two years ago, the states articulated their shared vision of what this means in our time: "healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species, or successful restoration in progress, by the year 2015." So if this is our mission and our vision for the future, how are we doing?

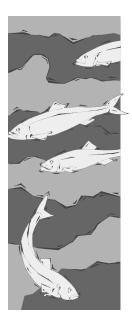
Although there certainly appear to be bumps and potholes looming ahead, the road to success is fairly plain to see; and we are clearly on it and headed in the direction of success. One would have to conclude that the vision is continuing to take on the trappings of reality. Each year, the states and fishermen are seeing more evidence of self-sustainability in coastal fisheries. The striped bass recovery is being reconfirmed, and the benefits of an increased and increasing population are broadening out to more areas and sectors of the fishery. Weakfish and summer flounder show signs of continued recovery. For these and a number of other species, the difficult question is becoming, "How do we manage a fishery that is not in deep trouble?" We have

conserved and managed in the face of overfishing for so long that deciding how to deal with restored populations is a challenge. And, the Commission is taking on more of those overfishing challenges. In the past two years, we have completed recovery programs for shad and river herring, American lobster, Atlantic sturgeon, American eel, horseshoe crab and more. Other species will present problems in the future. But for now, the states can be proud of their record of mutual accomplishment in fisheries conservation and management through the Commission.

Major strides have been made in the area of science and research. State fisheries staffs have upgraded their stock assessment capabilities; and the states are working more closely together than ever on stock assessments, and peer reviews, as well as tagging programs, discard analysis and a whole range of technical programs that are necessary to bringing the vision to reality. Law enforcement personnel are communicating regularly. The states have taken the lead in developing and implementing habitat policy to protect submerged aquatic vegetation. And the states have strongly stood in favor of the partnership that makes up the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistic Program, with the Commission playing a central facilitating role for the program partners.

The states have continued their traditional strong role in developing the fisheries policy that is needed to support healthy, self-sustaining fisheries populations. This includes strong support for the Atlantic coastal fisheries legislation, for sensibility in the federal fisheries management process, for appropriations that reflect the importance of coastal fisheries, and for taking advantage of the capabilities of the states in meeting conservation and management goals.

So things are going well. Do we have problems? Sure. Challenges? Many. Need for improvement? Of course. We need to remain committed and not rest on laurels. Let's be sure to recognize the strong base that the states have established collectively for moving ahead to secure their shared vision.



Federal Herring FMP Near Final Implementation

The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) is close to becoming a reality. Although the final rule implementing the FMP has not been published yet, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced on September 18, 2000, that it is accepting permit applications for the 2000 fishing year. Initial applications are being accepted for the commercial vessel, dealer and processor permits. Applications can be obtained from the NMFS Northeast Regional Permit Office, One Blackburn Drive,

Gloucester, Massachusetts, 01930-2298, or by calling (978) 281-9370.

There are two categories of vessel permits based on the amount of herring caught during the previous season (1999) and the anticipated level of catch for the current season (2000). If a vessel caught more than 500 metric tons (mt) of Atlantic herring in the 1999 calendar year, or the vessel intends to catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring during the 2000 calendar year, a "Category 1" permit is required. Vessels in the Category 1 permit class are required to install a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) onboard. A copy of a vendor installation receipt from a NMFS-approved VMS vendor (as described in Section 648.9 of the regulations for the Fisher-

ies of the Northeastern United States) must be attached to the permit application for it to be considered complete. If a vessel did not catch 500 mt or more Atlantic herring in 1999, or does not intend to catch more than 500 mt in 2000, a "Category 2" Atlantic herring permit is required. Vessels in this category are not required to install a VMS.

In addition to the vessel permit requirement, NMFS also approved a Vessel Operator Permit (VOP) for the Atlantic herring fishery as part of the federal plan. If a fishermen has already obtained an operator permit for another federally managed fishery, it will also be valid for the Atlantic herring fishery. Applications for the VOP can be obtained from the NMFS Permit Office by calling (978)281-9262.

The Council's Atlantic Herring FMP was developed in conjunction with the Commission's Amendment 1 to the Sea Herring FMP, and contains a number of complementary or identical measures, including the establishment of management areas and annual total allowable catch (TACs) levels by area. Implementation of the federal FMP will help to ensure that these catch levels are not exceeded and reduce the chance of overfishing the Atlantic herring stock complex.

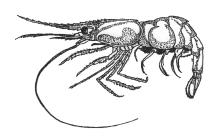
For more information regarding the Council's Atlantic Herring FMP, please contact Phil Haring at (978)465-0492. For more information regarding Amendment 1 to the Commission's Sea Herring FMP, please contact Dr. Joseph Desfosse, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400.

Northern Shrimp Fall Meeting Scheduled

Each fall, the Commission's Northern Shrimp Section develops regulations for the upcoming season. This year, the Section meeting will be held on October 30, 2000 from 10 AM - 5 PM, at the King's Grant Inn on Route 128 in Danvers, Massachusetts. In preparation for this meeting, the Technical Committee will prepare a stock assessment report, which should be available in mid-October for distribution. The Advisory Panel will meet on October 23, 2000 in Portland, Maine to develop recommendations to the Section on the upcoming season.

The Section meeting will begin with a presentation of the stock assessment followed by recommendations from the industry advisors. The public hearing will begin at 1PM, followed by the Section's determination of the 2000-2001 fishing season.

In addition to setting regulations for the 2000-2001 season, the Section will also be presented with the public comment received via state public meetings and written correspondence on the Public Information Document for Amendment 1 to the Northern Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. For more information, please contact Amy Schick, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400, ext. 317.



International Lobster Conference and Workshop Held

The Sixth International Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology and Management was held in Key West, Florida September 10-15, 2000. The conference was a great success with 204 registrants from 25 countries. The presentations covered not only American lobsters, which are found in the Northeastern United States, but also other lobster species from around the world, such as spiny lobster, rock lobster, European lobster, and slipper lobster.

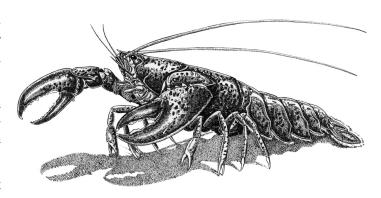
The conference was organized into several sessions, based on subject matter. The sessions were:

- > Emerging areas in lobster biology and management
- > Behavior and ecology
- > Aquaculture and enhancement
- > Ecology for management
- > Marine protected areas
- > Physiology
- Oceanic processes
- > Stock assessment
- ➤ Sustainable fisheries management for the 21st Century

The American lobster had good coverage at the conference, with over 25 presentations focused on the species. The talks ranged from the current management program, to factors influencing recruitment. Comparisons were drawn between the Canadian and United States lobster fisheries, along with updates on recent mortality and disease events. Many of the people involved in the Commission's lobster management program presented information on current research and management. The following list of presentations may be of interest:

- "Use of the classic fishery production function to analyze and explain the implications of lobster fishery management proposals," by Richard Allen
- ➤ "A potential binational larval source-sink relationship for the American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) in the Gulf of Maine," by Eric Annis and Robert Steneck
- "Homarus americanus and Homarus gammarus. A comparison of their fisheries, ecology, and management," by Colin Bannister, Robert Steneck, Richard Wahle, and Michael Bell
- "Appearance and progression of a shell disease episode in American lobster, *Homarus americanus*, from Rhode Island waters and the Offshore Canyons," by Kathleen Castro and Thomas Angell
- "The effects of habitat addition and stock enhancement on distribution and abundance of American lobster, Homarus americanus, in Rhode Island," by Kathleen Castro, Stanley Cobb, Richard Wahle, and John Catena

- "Restoring American lobster resource lost as a result of the North Cape oil spill in Block Island Sound," by Joseph DeAlteris and John Catena
- "Relative contribution to total population egg production of different conservation measures introduced in a local lobster management zone in Eastern Newfoundland," by Gerry Ennis
- ➤ "A review of Long Island Sound morbidity and mortality," by Richard French, Sylvain DeGuise, Salvatore Frasca, Spencer Russell, Tom Burrage, and Richard Robohm
- "Comparing management strategies for American lobster, Homarus americanus, in the Gulf of Maine with specific emphasis on yield and egg production," by Josef Idoine, Douglas Pezzack, Paul Rago, Cheryl Frail and Izabella Gutt
- ➤ "Lobster trap video: field observations of the behavioral responses of *Homarus americanus* to traps," by Steve Jury, Hunt Howell, Dan O'Grady, David Kooritis, and Win Watson
- ➤ "Changes in female lobster (*Homarus americanus*) size at maturity and implications on the lobster resource in Long Island Sound, Connecticut," by Donald Landers, Milan Keser, and Saul Saila.
- ➤ "Egg-per-recruit as a management target for American lobster fisheries," by R. Miller, K. Drinkwater, and M. Mallet
- "Evaluation of v-notch protection of American lobster, Homarus americanus, in Maine coastal waters," by Amy Schick, Patrice Farrey, and Carl Wilson
- ➤ "A review of American lobster fishery management in the United States," by Amy Schick



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Joint ASMFC/GSMFC Meeting Schedule (continued from page 1)

Monday, October 16, 2000 (continued)

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

ASMFC Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Management Board

- · Review public meeting comments regarding Emergency Action
- Review state implementation of Emergency Action
- Discuss development of Spiny Dogfish Public Information Document

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee

- Update on striped bass enforcement activities and report (March 2000-February 2000)
- Update and discuss tasks assigned during Spring Meeting
- Review funding under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act
- · Update on law enforcement representation on fisheries management boards and member reports
- Discuss U. S. Food and Drug Administration shellfish issues
- National Marine Fisheries Service Report
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Report
- U. S. Coast Guard Report
- Update Law Enforcement Committee roster and emergency contact list

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

ASMFC Management and Science Committee

- Discuss modifications to the Commission's Peer Review Process
- Review recommended priorities for 2000 Peer Reviews
- Reports of the Power Plant and Aquaculture Subcommittees
- Evaluation of scientific/display permit issues
- Discuss protected species issues
- Reports of the Multi-species and Regulatory Discards Subcommittees
- Update on ASMFC Habitat Program; discuss state habitat issues
- Updates on ASMFC activities, including NEAMAP, data source compilation, fisheries characterization, ACCSP, Stock Assessment User's Manual and Workshops

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

ASMFC Habitat Committee

- Discuss SAV and Fishing Gear Impacts Report Implementation Survey Results
- Discuss Habitat Committee's role in project and permit review
- Approve 2001 Habitat Program Work Plan
- Discuss Marine Protected Areas
- Update on habitat source documents
- Update on aquaculture and power plant projects at the Commission

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

GSMFC TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

ASMFC Atlantic Sturgeon Management Board

Finalize Draft Addendum and supporting documents for public hearing

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Welcome Reception

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM

REGISTRATION

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

ASMFC Legislators and Governors' Appointees

Review changes to the ISFMP Charter



continued on page 7

Joint ASMFC/GSMFC Meeting Schedule (continued from page 6)

<u>Tuesday, October 17, 2000</u> 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	ASMFC Legislators and Governors' Appointees (continued) • Brainstorm topics for next Technical Workshop • Election of Legislators Officers • Elective of Governors' Appointee Officers	
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee (continued)	
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	ASMFC Management and Science Committee (continued)	
8:30 AM - Noon	GSMFC Joint Blue Crab Technical Task Force and TCC Crab Subcommittee	
8:30 AM - Noon	GSMFC TCC Data Management Subcommittee	
10:00 AM - Noon	Joint General Session: Fisheries at the Crossroads: Budget and Program Priorities for a New Century • Honorable Jamie Clarke Director, United States Fish and Wildlife Service	
	 Honorable Penelope D. Dalton Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 	l
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	 ASMFC Horseshoe Crab Management Board Review Technical Report on: proposed framework for horseshoe crab stock assessment; stock assessment surveys needing implementation; evaluation of provisions for state quota transfers establishment of ad hoc group to address biomedical use of horseshoe crabs Update on National Marine Fisheries Service horseshoe crab management activities, including Virginia noncompliance, establishment of horseshoe crab preserve, prohibition of at-sea transfers of horseshoe crabs in federal waters Update by US Fish and Wildlife Service on formation of Shorebird Technical Committee 	s; g
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	ASMFC Management and Science Committee (continued)	
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Joint ASMFC/GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee	
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	GSMFC TCC Anadromous Fish Subcommittee	
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	GSMFC S-FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee	
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	 Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council Approval of 2001 ACCSP funding recommendations and modifications to the 2001 Operations Plan Approval of timeline for Technical Source Document V Status of Operations Committee recision impact analysis 	n
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	ASMFC Multi-species Subcommittee • Proposal selection for funding the development of a multi-species assessment	
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	ASMFC Advisory Committee (continued)	
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Joint ASMFC & GSMFC Dinner	
Wednesday, October 18, 200 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM	00 REGISTRATION	
8:00 AM - Noon	GSMFC Technical Coordinating Committee	
8:30 AM – 11:30 AM	ASMFC Meetings Management Seminar continued on page	9

Mike Street Moves On...

The upcoming Commission Annual Meeting marks a significant event for the Commission. The Commission will be losing, in part, the participation of a dedicated state representative – Mike Street. For the past 25 years, Mike has played a lead role in the activities of the Commission's Management and Science Committee (MSC), Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Committee, and Atlantic Menhaden Advisory Committee. It is particularly significant because Mike has been a member of these committees since their inception and helped to establish the foundation for the development and growth of these programs. Mike will continue to participate in the Habitat Committee, bringing his knowledge and expertise to this important Commission program. His dedication to the MSC throughout the years had many of us thinking of renaming the committee the Mike Street Committee. While that probably won't happen, we would like to thank Mike for all his hard work and commitment.

Following is a copy of a letter received from Mike, reminiscing about the early days of the Commission.

25 August 2000

David Borden, Chairman Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 1444 Eye Street, N.W., 6th Floor Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear David:

After 25 years on the ASMFC Management and Science Committee (MSC) in its various forms, it is time for me to leave the Committee following the Annual Meeting this year in Florida. The requirements for developing the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Program here in North Carolina are too great for me to continue participating in so many ASMFC programs. I must focus on habitat work, and I will remain on the ASMFC Habitat Committee. I must also leave the SEAMAP Committee, as well. Once Amendment 1 to the ASMFC Menhaden FMP is approved, I will also leave that program.

The last 25 years have seen tremendous growth in the Commission and its fisheries management programs along the Atlantic coast. I am grateful for the opportunities presented by the Commission for me to participate in most of those programs. I remember spending most of a week in the ASMFC office with Irwin Alperin, Paul Hamer, and others drafting the original ISFMP proposal to NMFS, as well as attending the hearing before Congressman Jones' Committee concerning the ACFCMA. My 25 years on the MSC have been very important to me personally, and I value the many experiences and friendships related to the Committee.

Pres Pate will nominate Division of Marine Fisheries personnel to replace me on the MSC and SEAMAP Committees.

Sincerely, Michael W. Street Chief. Habitat Protection Section

Joint ASMFC/GSMFC Meeting Schedule (continued from page 7)

Wednesday, October 18, 2000 (continued)

8:30 AM - Noon GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee

Noon – 1:30 PM Joint Awards Luncheon

• ASMFC Captain David H. Hart Award

GSMFC Charles M. Lyles Award

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM GSMFC State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM GSMFC GMFMC Law Advisory Pane

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ASMFC Shad and River Herring Management Board

Review state compliance

• Discuss microchemistry otolith approach regarding ocean intercept fishery phase out

• Review South Carolina compliance status (creel limits)

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM ASMFC Bluefish Management Board

• Finalize the compliance criteria for Amendment 1

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM ASMFMC Weakfish Management Board

Review Draft Amendment and state compliance status

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Joint Reception

Thursday, October 19, 2000

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM GSMFC Commissioner Breakfast

8:00 AM – Noon ASMFC ISFMP Policy Board

Review recommendation from American Lobster Board regarding Rhode Island noncompliance

Committeee Reports

8:30 AM - Noon GSMFC Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ASMFC Executive Committee

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ASMFC Business Session

International Lobster Conference and Workshop Held (continued from page 5)

- ➤ "Who should manage the fishery? A look at co-management of the American lobster in Rhode Island," by John Sorlien, Kathleen Castro, Barbara Stickley, and Thomas Angell
- Long-term and large scale spatial and temporal patterns in demography and landings of the American lobster, *Homarus americanus*, in Maine," by Robert Steneck and Carl Wilson
- > "Lobster (*Homarus americanus*) catchability in different habitats in late spring to early fall," by John Tremblay and Stephen Smith
- ➤ "First projections of American lobster catch trends from a postlarval settlement index," by Richard Wahle, Lewis Incze, and Michael Fogarty

The proceedings of the conference will be published in Marine and Freshwater Research. For more information on the conference you can visit the its website at http://web.odu.edu/sci/biology/lobsters/index.html or contact Amy Schick, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or aschick@asmfc.org.

ASMFC Comings & Goings

Matt Mitro -- Matt Mitro has left the Commission's employment as Stock Assessment Biologist to accept a post-doctoral research position with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Narragansett, Rhode Island. Over the past year, Matt has worked on several Commission stock assessments, including taking the lead in the development of the scup assessment and presentation of assessment results at the spring 2000 Stock Assessment Review Committee. Matt has been an asset to the Commission in assisting with several other research and assessment activities, including the Commission's technical workshop series. We wish Matt all the best in his new position with the U.S. EPA!

Darren Benjamin -- The Commission has recently hired Darren Benjamin as a Fisheries Research Specialist. Darren will coordinate the Commission's activities involving social and economic issues, including development of data collection components for the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) and assisting in drafting social and economic sections for Commission fishery management plans. Darren has several years of experience in angler survey design and both biological and socioeconomic analyses. Darren will start with the Commission on October 11, 2000, and we hope you will all join us in welcoming him to the Commission!

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 1444 Eye Street, N.W., 6th Floor Washington D.C. 20005

Return Service Requested