



# *Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program*

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **ACCSP Approves 2014-2018 Strategic Plan**

Arlington, VA (May 21, 2014) - The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) unanimously approved its 2014-2018 Strategic Plan at the 2014 Spring Meeting. The Plan revises the Program's vision to "To be the principal source of fisheries-dependent information on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners" and establishes seven goals and related strategies to pursue this vision. The ACCSP's 2014-2018 Strategic Plan will guide this highly interactive and collaborative fisheries data management program through new challenges and opportunities during the next five years.

"The document, initiated by the ACCSP Operations Committee and approved by the ACCSP Coordinating Council, reminds and informs the 23 program partners and staff of the purpose of the Program, the significant accomplishments, the priorities, and the critical success factors that are integral to keeping the Program contemporary - while also preparing for the future needs of fisheries data management," states the ACCSP Coordinating Council Chair Cheri Patterson of New Hampshire. "Many of the goals and strategies of the Plan are reflective of the 2012 Independent Program Review's recommendations towards improving the Program. This Plan will challenge the program partners and staff to assure the Program will continue to meet the commercial and recreational fisheries data management needs in a transparent, timely, and accurate manner while also being fiscally responsible in light of declining budgets. The ACCSP has conquered many challenges since its inception in 1995 and with the new Strategic Plan, the interactive collaboration, and the hard work all the partners, committees, advisors, and staff put in I believe it will continue to be a role model for other fisheries data management programs."

The Plan's seven goals are:

1. Manage and expand a fully integrated data set that represents the best available fisheries data;
2. Continue working with the program partners to improve fisheries data collection and management in accordance with the evolving ACCSP standards within the confines of limited funds;
3. Explore the allocation of existing Program funds and work with partners to pursue additional funding;
4. Maintain strong executive leadership and collaborative involvement among partners at all committee levels;
5. Monitor and improve the usefulness of products and services provided by the ACCSP;
6. Collaborate with program partners in their funding processes by providing outreach materials and other support to demonstrate the value of ACCSP products and the importance of maintaining base support for fishery-dependent data collection programs to state partners and their executive and legislative branches as well as to all other partner agencies; and
7. Support nationwide systems as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

The 2014-2018 Strategic Plan is available on the ACCSP website at [http://www.accsp.org/documents/ACCSP\\_2014-2018FinalStrategicPlan.pdf](http://www.accsp.org/documents/ACCSP_2014-2018FinalStrategicPlan.pdf).

#### **About ACCSP**

ACCSP is a cooperative state-federal program to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. It is composed of representatives from natural resource management agencies coastwide, including the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the three Atlantic fishery management councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NOAA Fisheries, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For further information please visit [www.accsp.org](http://www.accsp.org).