



Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program NEWS RELEASE

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ACCSP Creates Web Portal for ALSI Survey

Arlington, VA (May 29, 2014) - The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) is pleased to announce the release of a web portal for the American Lobster Settlement Index (ALSI). The ALSI web portal aims to make the region-wide data set more available to participants and stakeholders. ACCSP was ideal for this project due to our experience with the creation of centralized databases and applications for the submission and distribution of data.

Prior to the web portal, ALSI participant's submitted data annually via spreadsheets, data were collated, and reports were created manually. The web portal allows for both key entry and file upload submission of data to a centralized location. It includes dynamic reports of both raw data and calculated densities and standard error. Figures include length frequencies with dynamic binning and spatial and temporal density comparisons.

The ALSI is an annual survey of American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) nursery grounds in the coastal northeast US and Atlantic Canada. The survey is supported by University of Maine, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Rhode Island Division of Fish & Wildlife, New Hampshire Department of Fish & Wildlife and Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada. It gathers data on newly settled, young-of-year (YoY), lobsters as well as older juveniles and associated fauna such as fishes and crabs.

The time series has been sustained and expanded since 1989 and is the largest-scale assessment of lobster nursery habitat of its kind. It has also been the springboard for a variety of research projects, contributing to numerous peer-reviewed publications and technical reports. It has been used to forecast local trends in the abundance of adult lobsters in nearshore trawl surveys and provided valuable insights into both pre- and post-settlement processes influencing lobster population dynamics. To learn more about the American Lobster Settlement Index, please visit <http://www.umaine.edu/marine/people/sites/rwahle/ALSIPage.htm>.

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.