



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **ACCSP Announces 2016 Funding Awards**

Arlington, VA - The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), a state and federal partnership for marine fisheries data collection and data management, has allocated more than \$1.6 million to its state and federal partners for 12 new and ongoing projects to improve data collection and processing for coastal fisheries in 2016. The following projects will be awarded funding:

- Maine Department of Marine Resources will receive \$161,400 to continue managing its mandatory dealer reporting and \$24,900 to conduct portside commercial catch sampling for Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, and Atlantic menhaden fisheries.
- Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries will receive \$88,100 to implement electronic trip-level reporting for its for-hire sector.
- Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife (RI DFW) will receive \$78,300 to fund maintenance and coordination of fishery-dependent data feeds to ACCSP and \$33,200 to finance the implementation of a barcode commercial fishing license within the state.
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will receive \$198,000 to improve trip-level reporting and quota monitoring of its commercial and for-hire fisheries.
- New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will receive \$165,100 to continue electronic reporting and biological characterization of its commercial fisheries.
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources will receive \$161,500 to continue data reporting from its commercial fisheries.
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources will receive \$70,700 to be used for piloting commercial data collection and developing a data sharing system in Georgia.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries' Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) will receive \$254,500 to continue processing and aging of biological samples collected from U.S. South Atlantic commercial and recreational fisheries in response to ACCSP bio-sample targets.
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will receive \$192,300 to implement a pilot project that will test the feasibility of charterboat electronic data collection.
- ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will receive \$179,100, to increase at-sea sampling levels for the recreational headboat fishery on the Atlantic coast (New Hampshire through Georgia).

### **About the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program**

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 Service, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For further information please visit [www.accsp.org](http://www.accsp.org).



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The ACCSP would like to thank NOAA Fisheries for its financial support of electronic reporting projects in the for-hire industry. This funding has enabled the ACCSP to fund two additional projects: RI DFW and the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation will receive funding to advance fishery-dependent data collection for black sea bass in the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic regions using modern technology and a vessel research fleet approach. SEFSC will receive funding to conduct a sampling strategy evaluation to determine which data and what sample sizes are needed to improve assessment accuracy in the South Atlantic.

For more information on any of these projects please contact Elizabeth Wyatt, ACCSP Program Coordinator, at [info@accsp.org](mailto:info@accsp.org) or 703.842.0780.

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