

# Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

ACCSP is a cooperative state-federal program that designs, implements, and conducts marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and integrates those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen.



The ACCSP was established in 1995 through a Memorandum of Understanding to address data deficiencies constraining the management of fisheries along the Atlantic coast. These deficiencies included incompatibilities between state and federal data systems, a lack of standardized trip-level catch and effort reporting, a lack of universal permit and vessel registration data, and a general need for more and better data to support emerging fisheries management initiatives.

The Program established four basic principles to ensure that fishery-dependent commercial/recreational catch and effort data are complete, accurate, consistent, and compatible (see box on right).

In keeping with these principles, the ACCSP has made significant strides in the collection and storage of the fishery-dependent data since 1995. In 2002, the ACCSP announced the opening of the online Data Warehouse, which provides users with catch and effort data supplied by program partners. Over 625 users currently have confidential or non-confidential accounts to the Data Warehouse and over 200 custom data requests have been completed by staff. In 2013, the Data Warehouse was expanded to allow non-confidential queries without a non-confidential account. Please see reverse side for more on ACCSP.

## Mission

Produce dependable and timely marine fishery statistics for Atlantic coast fisheries that are collected, processed, and disseminated according to common standards agreed upon by all program partners.

## Vision

To be the principal source of fishery-dependent information on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners in the collection and processing of common fisheries data, and dissemination of the information for purposes of fisheries science and management.

## Guiding Principles

- Cooperative development & implementation across jurisdictional lines
- Coastwide data collection standards & a single, integrated data management system
- Data on all fishing activities (e.g., commercial, recreational, & for-hire fisheries)
- Modular design for data collection & data management projects

## Program Partners



In 2003, the program partners created the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) to meet the increasing need for real-time commercial landings data. While SAFIS allows for centralized data collection, those data are collected under the authority of the associated program partners. Moreover, those partners check and approve their data before it is transferred, ensuring that the information found in the Data Warehouse are the best available data on the Atlantic coast. Since 2003, SAFIS has grown to include five distinct applications - and not just for commercial landings, but also recreational.

The Data Warehouse and SAFIS are not all the ACCSP does to ensure complete, consistent, and compatible fishery-dependent statistics. Each year, the ACCSP awards approximately \$2 million for data collection projects imple-

mented by the program partners. These data collection projects have various objectives, all in line with the goals of the ACCSP. Some of these include incorporating data into SAFIS, obtaining data for fishery management plans, increase sampling of the NOAA Fisheries' Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), as well as promoting compliance for fishermen and dealer reporting (See the table below for the projects awarded in fiscal year 2013).

For more information about the Data Warehouse please visit <http://www.accsp.org/dataware.htm>.

For more information about SAFIS please visit <http://www.accsp.org/safis.htm>.

For more information about the data collection projects please visit <http://www.accsp.org/funding.htm>.

## 2013 Funded Projects

Program Partner	Project Title
ME DMR	1) Managing Mandatory Dealer Reporting in Maine and 2) Continue Portside Commercial Catch Sampling and Comparative Bycatch Sampling for Atlantic Herring, Atlantic Mackerel, and Atlantic Menhaden
MA DMF	Maintenance of Trip-Level Reporting for All Massachusetts Commercial Permit Holders
RI DFW	Maintenance and Coordination of Fishery-Dependent Data Feeds to ACCSP from the State of Rhode Island
NJ DFW	Maintenance of Dealer Reporting, Trip-Level Reporting, and Biological Sampling for Commercial Fisheries in New Jersey
MD DNR	Improve Timeliness and Reporting Accuracy in Maryland and to Expand Online Reporting for Maryland Commercial Fisheries
SC DNR	Data Reporting from South Carolina's Commercial Fisheries, 100% Trip-Level Catch and Effort Data Collection and Biological Sampling for Hard Part/Ageing of Offshore Species
ASMFC & MAFMC	Observer Program for Mid-Atlantic (New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia) and Rhode Island Small Mesh Otter Trawls
NOAA Fisheries – Southeast Fisheries Science Center	Processing and Ageing Biological Samples Collected from U.S. South Atlantic Commercial and Recreational Fisheries in Response to ACCSP Bio-sample Targets
ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee	Increase At-sea Sampling Levels for the For-hire Survey Headboat Fishery on the Atlantic Coast (New Hampshire through Florida)

## Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200A-N  
 Arlington, VA 22201  
 (p) 703.842.0780 | (f) 703.842.0779  
 (e) [info@accsp.org](mailto:info@accsp.org)  
[www.accsp.org](http://www.accsp.org)