



# Fisheries Files

A vibrant source of fisheries data information for Atlantic coast fisheries decision makers, managers, and industry professionals

## State Conduct of APAIS is under way!

To ensure the sustainability of recreational fishing, fisheries scientists and managers require several key pieces of information: the number of fish saltwater anglers catch, details such as the size and species, how many are kept, and how many are discarded. On the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, recreational catch data are collected through the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) using trained samplers to interview anglers at the end of their fishing trips. The data are then combined with a separate effort survey to generate the estimated catch.



Effective January 2016, the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) transferred responsibility for APAIS management from federal contractors to the ACCSP and ASMFC. This change is the latest phase in an ongoing collaborative effort being undertaken by NOAA Fisheries and the states to improve recreational fishing surveys and the data they collect through MRIP.

**NEW APAIS ROLES:** While the survey design remains consistent from 2015 to 2016, the role of the ACCSP and the states has been expanded. MRIP continues to lead survey design and produce catch estimates. The ACCSP now coordinates survey activities and performs data processing

for the Atlantic states from Maine to Georgia. The states are now responsible for conducting the survey and the ASMFC provides administrative services. For many states, managing the survey is not new; for others, an entirely new infrastructure had to be created. Increased state involvement brings local knowledge to survey operations and strengthens fishery agency relationships with anglers.

**2016 PROGRESS:** The transition to state conduct occurred in the Gulf of Mexico in 1999 and has been in the planning phase for the Atlantic since 2014. Funded through a cooperative agreement with NOAA Fisheries, ASMFC provides the administrative support for the program while ACCSP

manages the survey itself and provides the data management services needed to validate and process the data. During 2015, preparations were made for state data collection by putting the administrative and logistical infrastructure in place. The cooperative agreement between the ACCSP, ASMFC, and NOAA Fisheries was completed and individual contracts with each state were established. Field training materials were updated, three regional training sessions held, and systems needed to perform data entry and processing were purchased and installed. In addition, ACCSP hired four additional staff members to handle the increased workload.

*“The efforts of ACCSP and MRIP have made the process of changing from a contractor based APAIS to ACCSP APAIS virtually seamless for the states.”*  
*-Doug Mumford, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries*

Beginning in January 2016, Wave 1 data (January-February) were collected in North Carolina, then successfully processed and submitted by ACCSP staff to NOAA Fisheries. In February, the states

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# Who We Are & What We Do

## STAFF

**Program** staff is dedicated to maintaining ACCSP standards and handling administrative and funding tasks of the Program, including outreach.

- Michael S. Cahall, *Director*
- Elizabeth Wyatt, *Program Coordinator*
- Ali Schwaab, *Outreach Coordinator*

The **Data Team** works with partners to identify, transform, and audit data so they can be included in the Data Warehouse. They also provide data services by designing custom data requests and participating in stock assessments.

- Julie Defilippi, *Data Team Leader*
- Heather Konell & Joe Myers, *Data Coordinators*
- Jennifer Ni, *Information Systems Specialist*

The **Software Team** designs and builds the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS), as well as internal systems that the Program manages or that support program activities.

- Karen Holmes, *Software Team Leader*
- Nico Mwai, *Programmer*

The **Recreational Data Program** staff provides central coordination and data processing for the MRIP APAIS. They support the states in the conduct of the APAIS and the development of the ACCSP recreational data standards.

- Geoff White, *Recreational Program Manager*
- Coleby Wilt, *Recreational Data Coordinator*
- Alex DiJohnson, *Recreational Data Coordinator*
- Sarah Rains, *Scan Technician*

Shared with the ASMFC is Ed Martino, *Information Systems Manager*.

## COMMITTEES

Since its inception, the ACCSP has been a committee-based organization. Committees are responsible for setting program policies and standards, deciding annual funding allocations, and planning and coordinating data collection and data management programs.

Committees, composed primarily of representatives from the partners (listed on page 10), provide the framework for the collaborative processes that create and manage the standards and govern the Program. Technical committees create and manage the program standards with guidance from the Operations and Advisory Committees. The Coordinating Council provides general oversight to the Program and sets overall policies.

### Coordinating Council

*Chair: Robert Boyles, SC DNR*

### Operations Committee

*Chair: Pat Campfield, ASMFC*

### Advisory Committee

*Chair: Jerry Morgan, CT-Rec*

### Biological Review Panel

*Chair: Nicole Lengyel, RI DFW*

### Bycatch Prioritization Committee

*Chair: Nicole Lengyel, RI DFW*

### Commercial Technical Committee

*Chair: Stephanie Iverson, VMRC*

### Information Systems Committee

*Chair: Holly McBride, NOAA Fisheries*

### Recreational Technical Committee

*Chair: Tom Sminkey, NOAA Fisheries*

### Outreach Committees

- Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Communications Group:

*Chair: Tina Berger, ASMFC*

- Data Warehouse Outreach Group:  
*Vacant*

- SAFIS Outreach Group:  
*Chair: Anna Webb, MA DMF*

## PHILOSOPHY

**Vision:** To be the principal source of fisheries-dependent information on the Atlantic coast through the cooperation of all program partners.

**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.

### Values:

- Accurate data are required for good fisheries management decisions.
- Coordination and collaboration amongst the program partners are essential for success.
- The Program must be responsive to the changing needs for fisheries data.
- Processes must be open and transparent but confidential data must be protected.
- Data shall be accessible and easy to use.
- Responsibilities should be matched with available resources.

### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For more information on the ACCSP, please visit <http://www.accsp.org>

## Letter from the Director



**Mike Cahall, ACCSP Director**

For many years, a goal of fisheries-dependent data collection has been to be able to collect and provide dealer and catch/effort data in real time. Since 2003, ACCSP has been striving to improve both the speed and quality of data collection through the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS). Originally developed as an on-line dealer reporting system for Rhode Island, SAFIS now provides dealer and trip data collection for many of our Program Partners. In recent years, there has been a great deal of interest in creating systems that will run on portable devices capable of operating independently of a full time internet connection. This would allow harvesters to work on and complete reports while still at sea, making the data more accurate and fulfilling the regulatory need to complete the report prior to returning to the dock.

“For a while now, the charter/party industry has been asking for one tool to complete all the reporting that is required by various agencies, and now we have it. Designed by fishermen and utilizing the latest technology, eTrips/M dramatically reduces our reporting burden while providing more accurate and timely industry data to the states, the ACCSP, and now GARFO. For those who wish to use e-Trips/M, having the option of replacing the current paper Vessel Trip Report system is very much welcomed and I envision complete industry support once more captains learn about the tool. As we think about moving away from a survey and to a census for the charter/party industry, e-Trips/M can easily be used to facilitate that transition.”

*-Capt. Rick Bellavance, President  
RI Party and Charter Boat Association*

In response to this need, ACCSP has created eTrips/Mobile (eTrips/M). Using the ACCSP data collection standards and working directly with vessel captains and alongside state and federal partners, we have created a powerful, flexible tablet based trip reporting tool, eTrips/M. I am pleased to report that eTrips/M has been approved for electronic trip reporting in the Greater Atlantic Region (Maine - North Carolina). The tool is designed to work in both commercial and charter/headboat fisheries and is free for anyone who wishes to use it in jurisdictions that have adopted electronic trip reporting through SAFIS.

Although the tool is designed to be universal, each Partner must take active steps to integrate electronic reporting before paper based reporting can be replaced. We look forward to working with our partners in the coming months and years to implement eTrips/M.

**If you are a fisheries manager that currently uses SAFIS, please provide your user feedback via the survey below by March 31, 2016.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SAFISManagers>

**If you currently use any of the SAFIS applications, please provide your user feedback via the surveys below by March 31, 2016.**

eTRIPS: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SAFISeTRIPS>

eDR: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SAFISeTRIPS>

e-1Ticket: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SAFISe-1Ticket>



*Thank you for your input in this critical review process! Your valuable feedback will be kept anonymous. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@accsp.org](mailto:info@accsp.org) with any questions or concerns.*



The Data Warehouse is an online database populated with fisheries-dependent data supplied by the Program Partners of ACCSP.

You can access the data either publicly or with a login. Both provide access to valuable fisheries-dependent data from all of our partners along the Atlantic coast.

## Status of Available Data

### LATEST DATA REFRESH

Data Set	Oldest Year	Newest Year	Refresh Date
Confidential Commercial Landings	1950	2014	June 7, 2015
Non-Confidential Commercial Landings	1950	2014	June 7, 2015
Non-Confidential Recreational Catch	1981	2015	Dec. 17, 2015
Non-Confidential Recreational Effort	1981	2015	Dec. 17, 2015

Please visit <http://www.accsp.org/data-warehouse> for the most up-to-date status of available data.

## Types of Data Available



Commercial landings data represent the best compilation of state and federal landings submitted by both dealers and fishermen. Total pounds and dollar value are complete, but some effort information (area/gear) may be lacking.



ACCSP has recreational catch and effort data starting in 1981 available via the Data Warehouse. The data since 2004 have been updated in conjunction with the MRIP estimation methodology released in February 2012. This includes both the public estimates and the advanced queries for bag limit analysis and directed trips.



Users have access to available biological data via custom data request. These biological data include information on American lobster from 1981 - 2014 and Atlantic herring from 2002 - 2014. Socioeconomic data are available as well via custom data request.

All biological data, as well as commercial and recreational if needed, are accessible via a custom data request. When you submit a custom data request form, please be able to define your fishery and know what species, geographic range, temporal span, gears, etc. are relevant to your query. Find a custom data request form at <http://www.accsp.org/data-warehouse>



# ACCSP Launches New Website

This winter, the ACCSP released its redesigned website at [www.accsp.org](http://www.accsp.org). With a completely new look, improved navigation and functionality, and expanded content, the website provides our partners, fishery managers, scientists, fishermen, and the public with clear, straightforward access to information on fisheries data collection and dissemination on the Atlantic coast. The new website is a launching pad for future Program projects in 2016 including a redesigned Data Warehouse and a new vision for the SAFIS system.

“We are very excited about our new site. It provides live data from our warehouse and makes it so much easier to give access to our users and information to the public.”

-Mike Cahall, ACCSP  
Director

## New website features include:

- Straightforward access to information on SAFIS, the Data Warehouse, and partner projects
- Link buttons to the Public Data Warehouse, Login Data Warehouse, and SAFIS at the top of every page
- Expanded pages on the Program Partners that include feature on-the-ground projects funded through ACCSP, partner related queries, and the current partner SAFIS implementation status
- Streamlined Data Warehouse pages that present information on the status of available data, data caveats, FAQs, the data load process, confidentiality, and custom data requests
- Restructured SAFIS pages provide simplified login to and information on the suite of SAFIS applications in addition to requirements and contacts
- Live charts and graphs that pull from the Data Warehouse and SAFIS
- A resource section that provides access to data collection standards, guiding documents, funding information, outreach material and other news.



Visit us at [www.accsp.org](http://www.accsp.org), “Like” us on Facebook, and Follow us on Twitter!



# Out & About:

## ACCSP at the New England Saltwater Fishing Show

### ACCSP Conducts Outreach at the New England Saltwater Fishing Show

Elizabeth Wyatt, Program Coordinator, attended the New England Saltwater Fishing Show on February 26-28, 2016 in Providence, RI. This trade show is the largest in New England, boasting an attendance of more than 16,000 anglers from Maine to New York. While the majority of attendees at this show were recreational anglers, commercial fishermen, for-hire captains, educators, and general fishing enthusiasts were also present.



Through interaction with attendees, Elizabeth educated the public on the role the ACCSP plays in fisheries data collection, processing, and dissemination. She emphasized the importance of reporting recreational data through a state eLOGBOOK. By reporting recreational data through a state eLOGBOOK, anglers increase both the quality and quantity of fisheries data collected, providing a more complete picture of the status of fisheries.

The ACCSP display's take-home message for trade show attendees was that the better the data reported by anglers, the better the management decisions that can be made. Whether you are an angler or in management, everyone can agree on the idea of **Good Data, Good Decisions!**

### Irish Fisheries Data Management Visits ACCSP

Dr. David Currie, researcher in Coastal and Marine Research at the Environmental Research Institute, University College Cork, Ireland, visited the ACCSP in early December. He was on a fact-finding mission as part of the Joined-Up Thinking Joined-Up Data (JUTJUD) project. While in North America, he also visited NOAA Fisheries and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The aim of Dr. Currie's visit was to study how commercial fisheries data and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data are used and shared on the Atlantic coast of the U.S. and Canada in order to provide recommendations for a project on the centralization of Irish fisheries data.

The ACCSP was excited to spend the day with Dr. Currie and share thoughts and ideas on managing fisheries data. He was able to use much of what he learned from us when developing his recommendations. ACCSP wishes our Irish colleagues the best of luck in their fisheries data management!

"My visit to the ACCSP was a great opportunity to see how well cooperation can work when collecting and managing fisheries data, particularly in a complicated legal landscape. There are a number of ideas which I have taken away which I believe will have a positive impact on the way that Ireland uses fisheries data."

-Dr. David Currie

### ACCSP Staff Participates in SAMFC Citizen Science Workshop

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) held a Citizen Science Program Design Workshop January 19-21, 2016 in Charleston, SC. Data Team Leader, Julie Defilippi, attended the workshop as a member of the Data Management expert group.

The meeting included a number of invited speakers, including a keynote presentation by Dr. Rick Bonney of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology who spoke on the eBIRD application. There were also breakout sessions that focused on project design and the individual areas of each expert groups (Governance, Science Standards, Data Management, Researchers, Communication, and 2 groups of Fishermen/Citizen Science Participants).

Each expert group produced presentations with specific recommendations and a Draft Citizen Science Program Blueprint was developed. This workshop report was reviewed by the SAFMC at its meeting in Jekyll Island, GA, the week of March 7, 2016.

To view the expert group presentations, the Draft Citizen Science Program Blueprint, other workshop information, and additional citizen science resources, visit the SAFMC site: <http://safmc.net/citizen-science-initiative/citizen-science-workshop>.



# New Fish in the Sea: ACCSP Welcomes New Employees...



*Alex DiJohnson, Recreational Data Coordinator*

Alex's primary responsibilities include ensuring consistent data entry and interpretation through APAIS. He also trains ACCSP and Atlantic state employees on the procedures of the survey. Alex is responsible for coordinating data submission for the states of Delaware to Georgia and is the point of contact for any issues that arise

in these states. Alex earned a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Conservation from Juniata College. He is currently finishing his Master's degree in Natural Resources from Delaware State University.



*Coleby Wilt, Recreational Data Coordinator*

Coleby works to support the implementation of APAIS and ensure daily aspects of the survey run properly. He is in charge of data submission for the states of Maine through New Jersey and the primary point of contact for any issues that arise within these states. Coleby earned his Master's degree in Biology from the University of Nebraska and

a Bachelor's degree from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo.



*Sarah Rains, Scan Technician*

Sarah is in charge of capturing, processing, and validating fisheries survey data for APAIS from Maine to Georgia. Sarah has previous experience as the ACCSP Maryland State Coordinator and as an Analyst for Environmental Science and Policy at Cadmus Group, Inc.

She earned her Master's degree in Marine Estuarine and Environmental Science from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor's degree in Art Education from Penn State University.



*Ali Schwaab, Outreach Coordinator*

Ali coordinates the ACCSP's outreach activities. She produces the ACCSP annual reports and *Fisheries Files* quarterly newsletter, provides outreach for all of our partner applications, manages website content, and implements the ACCSP social media strategy. Ali earned her Master's degree in Coastal and Marine Resource Management from the University of Portsmouth in the UK and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from the University of Maryland, College Park.

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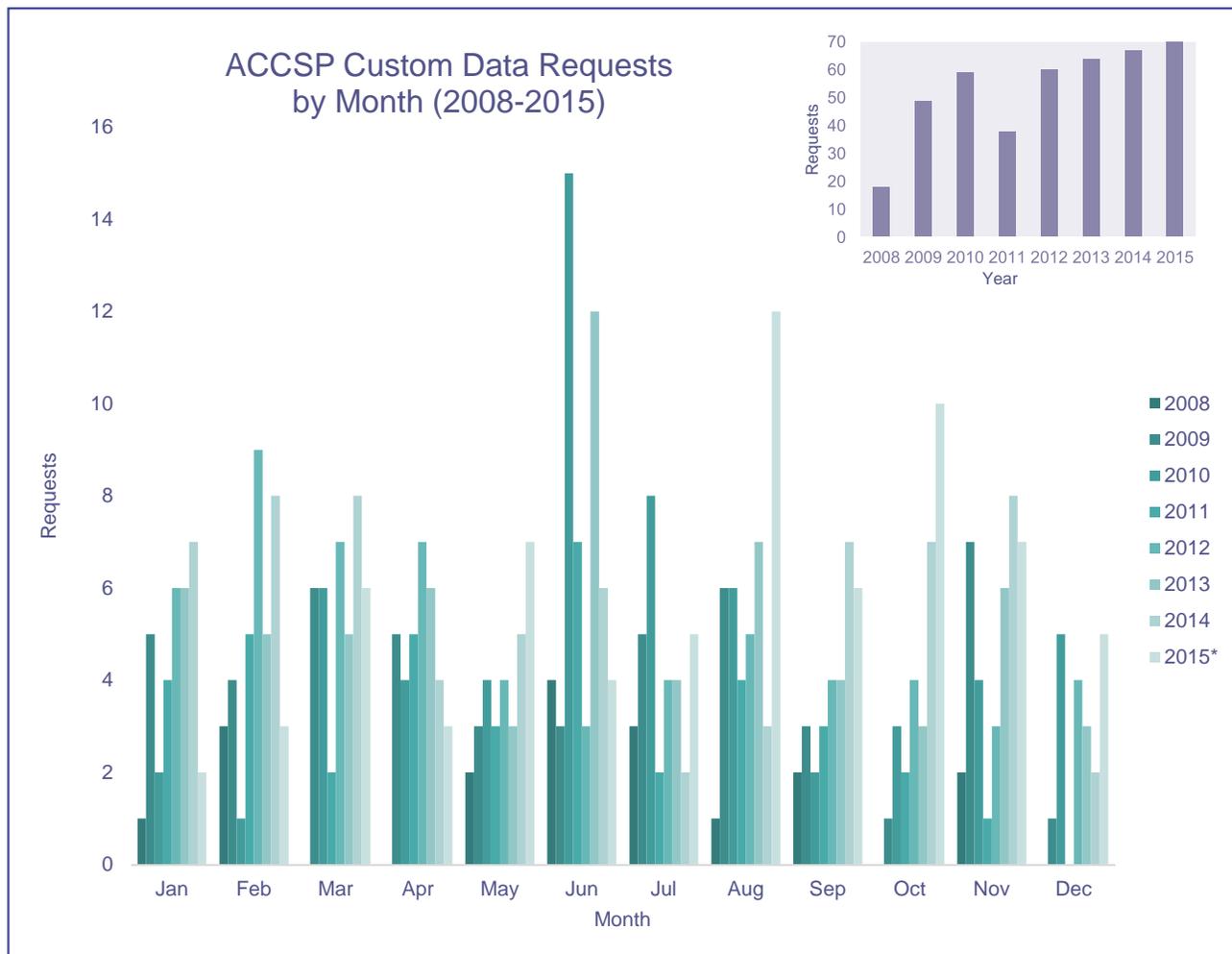
## ...and Says Farewell to our Program Manager

Getting reacquainted with her with background in Environmental Education, Ann McElhatton accepted a position as a high school biology teacher at a local Virginia school this past October. Ann was with ACCSP for over seven years, serving first as the Outreach Coordinator and then as Program Manager for the last three and a half years. While at ACCSP, she was instrumental in producing ACCSP's Outreach Strategic Plan, providing outreach for all of our partner applications, producing *Fisheries Files* and annual reports, and developing the new ACCSP website. Additionally, Ann was able to extend ACCSP's outreach by launching our Twitter and Facebook accounts reaching a whole new audience of individuals. Ann's cheery presence, drive, and ability to communicate with any audience will be very much missed but will serve her well in forming young minds in her new position. We wish Ann the very best of luck in her future endeavors!



# Fast Facts: ACCSP Custom Data Requests

These non-confidential statistics were downloaded in February 2016. Additional non-confidential data are available in the Data Warehouse and are updated regularly. Please visit <http://www.accsp.org> for the most up-to-date set of statistics.



## State Conduct of APAIS

...from page 1

from Rhode Island to Virginia performed training sampling assignments. Wave 2 (March-April) data collection began on March 1 for Massachusetts through Georgia and has gone smoothly thus far.

Overall, APAIS implementation via ACCSP is on track and exceeding expectations. Initial data collection has gone exceptionally well, and the partnership approach is already showing benefits along the coast. Experience shows that greater state involvement improves angler response rates, subsequently improving data precision over time. If you see a state APAIS interviewer at the dock, please participate in the catch survey and contribute to the fisheries data collection process. Your information will support good data and good decisions!

For further information, please contact Geoff White, ACCSP Recreational Program Manager, at [Geoff.White@accsp.org](mailto:Geoff.White@accsp.org).



# Calendar: ACCSP Meeting and Funding Cycle

Please note all meetings are subject to change and additional meetings of each ACCSP committee may be scheduled throughout the year as tasks are assigned. For the most up-to-date information on all committee meetings, please visit <http://www.accsp.org/>. For a general timeline of our annual funding cycle, please visit <http://www.accsp.org/funding.htm>. To be added to that distribution list, please email [info@accsp.org](mailto:info@accsp.org). If you have any questions or comments on this calendar, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Wyatt, Program Coordinator, at 703-842-0790.

March 29	ACCSP Executive Committee	Conference call, 10am
April 7	ACCSP Operations Committee and Advisory	Webinar, 10am
April 19	ACCSP Commercial Technical Committee	Webinar
April 20	ACCSP Information Systems	Webinar
May 2-5	ASMFC Meeting/ ACCSP Executive Committee Meeting and Coordinating Council Meeting; ACCSP issues request for proposals	Alexandria, VA
Week of May 16	ACCSP Recreational Technical Committee	Webinar, 10am
June 6	ACCSP Executive Committee	Conference call, 10am
June 13	Initial proposals are due	
June 20	Initial proposals are distributed to Operations and Advisory Committees	
July 14	Review of initial proposals for Operations and Advisory Committees	Webinar, 10am
Week of July 25	Feedback submitted to principal investigators	
Aug. 2-4	ASMFC Meeting/ACCSP Executive Committee Meeting and Coordinating Council Meeting	Alexandria, VA
Aug. 15	Revised proposals due	
Aug. 22	Revised proposals distributed to Operations and Advisory Committees	
Week of Aug. 29	Preliminary ranking exercise for Advisors	
Sept. 7	ACCSP Executive Committee	Conference call, 10am
Sept. 8	FY2015 Proposal Review- Maintenance and New	Webinar, 10 am
Sept. 21-22	Annual Advisors and Operations Committee Joint Committee Meeting	In-person, TBD
Oct. 24-27	ASMFC Annual Meeting/ ACCSP Executive Committee Meeting and Coordinating Council Meeting	Bar Harbor, ME
Nov. 30	ACCSP Executive Committee	Conference Call

## Did you know ...?

ACCSP and the ASMFC have been pulling together the latest fisheries news stories from our state and federal partners in a weekly online newsletter, the *Atlantic Coast Fisheries News*.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



# Program Partners

In 1995, representatives from 23 coastal resource agencies along the Atlantic coast signed a Memorandum of Understanding to become partners in the ACCSP. The program partners are implementing the ACCSP standards within their respective areas.

- NOAA Fisheries Service (NOAA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS)
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC)
- New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)
- Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC)
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)
- Maine Department of Marine Resources (ME DMR)
- New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NH FGD)
- Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF)
- Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife (RI DFW)
- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)
- New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (NJ DFW)
- Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife (DE DFW)
- Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC)
- District of Columbia Fisheries and Wildlife Division (DC FWD)
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR)
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)
- North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NC DMF)
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR)
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR)
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FL FWCC)



## EDITOR'S NOTE

*Fisheries Files* is published by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program. Its purpose is to report developments on ACCSP partner projects, the Data Warehouse, and SAFIS. This document is also used to communicate updates on ACCSP committees and staff. Please credit the Program when reprinting articles used in this newsletter. Anyone wishing to submit relevant information or articles is invited and encouraged to do so. Submissions may be sent to Ali Schwaab at [alexandra.schwaab@accsp.org](mailto:alexandra.schwaab@accsp.org).