The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), amended on January 12, 2007 by Public Law 109-479, provides for the conservation and management of fishery resources within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). It also provides for fishery management authority over continental shelf resources and anadromous species beyond the EEZ, except when they are found within a foreign nation’s territorial sea or fishery conservation zone (or equivalent), to the extent that such sea or zone is recognized by the United States.

The EEZ extends from the seaward boundary of each of the coastal States (generally 3 nautical miles from shore) to 200 nautical miles from shore. The seaward boundaries of Texas, Puerto Rico, and the Gulf coast of Florida are 3 marine leagues (9 nautical miles). The EEZ encompasses approximately 3.36 million square nautical miles.

GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENT

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce, negotiates Governing International Fishery Agreements (GIFAs) with foreign nations requesting to fish within the EEZ. After a GIFA is signed, it is transmitted by the President to the Congress for ratification.

FOREIGN FISHING PERMITS

Title II of the Magnuson-Stevens Act governs foreign fishing in U.S. waters. As U.S. fishing capacity grew, foreign participation diminished in directed fisheries, as well as in foreign joint ventures in which U.S. vessels delivered U.S. harvested fish to permitted foreign vessels in the EEZ. Until 2001, the last directed fishing by foreign vessels occurred in 1991. However, in 2001, a small quantity of Atlantic herring was harvested by foreign vessels. The displacement of directed foreign fishing effort in the EEZ marked the achievement of one of the objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Act: the development of the U.S. fishing industry to take what were in 1976 underutilized species.

NMFS continues to maintain certain regulations pertaining to foreign fishing, should there be a situation in the future in which allowing limited foreign fishing in an underutilized fishery would be advantageous to the U.S. fishing industry.

FMPS AND PMPS

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, eight Regional Fishery Management Councils are charged with preparing Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for the fisheries needing management within their areas of authority. After the Councils prepare FMPs that cover domestic and foreign fishing efforts, the FMPs are submitted to the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) for approval and implementation. The Department, through NMFS Office of Law Enforcement and the U.S. Coast Guard, is responsible for enforcing the law and regulations.

Where no FMP exists, Preliminary Fishery Management Plans (PMPs), which only cover foreign fishing efforts, are prepared by the Secretary for each fishery for which a foreign nation requests a permit. The Secretary may also prepare an FMP if a Council fails to develop one. In this latter case, the Secretary’s FMP covers domestic and foreign fishing.

The Secretary may prepare FMPs in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico for highly migratory species (HMS). The Atlantic HMS fisheries are managed by the Secretary under the dual authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). Atlantic tunas, Atlantic billfish, and North Atlantic swordfish are managed under the authority of both ATCA and the Magnuson-Stevens Act. South Atlantic swordfish are managed under the sole authority of ATCA. Atlantic sharks in the HMS management unit are managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Under section 304 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, all Council-prepared FMPs must be reviewed for approval by the Secretary of Commerce. Approved FMPs are implemented by Federal regulations under section 305 of the Act. As of December 31, 2013, there are 46 FMPs in effect. Of these, one is a Secretarial FMP for Atlantic highly migratory species. The FMPs are listed below, under the responsible Council. FMPs may be amended by the Council and the amendments are submitted for approval under the same Secretarial review process as new FMPs. Most of the FMPs have been amended since initial implementation.
## New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)
1. Northeast Multispecies FMP
2. Northeastern Skate FMP
3. Deep Sea Red Crab FMP
4. Atlantic Herring FMP
5. Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP
6. Monkfish FMP (joint with MAFMC)
7. Atlantic Salmon FMP

## Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)
1. Spiny Dogfish FMP (joint with NEFMC)
2. Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP
3. Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog FMP
4. Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP
5. Atlantic Bluefish FMP
6. Tilefish FMP

## South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)
1. Pelagic Sargassum Habitat FMP
2. Snapper-Grouper FMP
3. Dolphin and Wahoo FMP
4. Shrimp FMP
5. Golden Crab FMP
6. Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region FMP

## Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)
1. Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP (joint with SAFMC)
2. Coral and Coral Reefs FMP
3. Red Drum FMP
4. Shrimp FMP
5. Spiny Lobster FMP (joint w/ SAFMC)
6. Reef Fish FMP
7. Aquaculture FMP

## Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)
1. Spiny Lobster FMP
2. Corals and Reef-Associated Plants and Invertebrates FMP
3. Queen Conch FMP
4. Shallow Water Reef Fish FMP

## Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)
1. Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP
2. Pacific Coast Salmon FMP
3. Coastal Pelagic Species FMP
4. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species FMP

## North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)
1. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP
2. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP
3. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab FMP
4. Alaska Salmon FMP
5. Alaska Scallop FMP
6. Arctic Fish Resources FMP

## Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC)
1. American Samoa Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)
2. Pacific Pelagic FEP
3. Hawaii Archipelago FEP
4. Mariana FEP
5. Pacific Remote Island Area FEP

## Highly Migratory Species Plans (HMS)
1. Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan
## REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Constituent States</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
<th>Executive Directors and Addresses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEW ENGLAND</td>
<td>(Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut)</td>
<td>978-465-0492</td>
<td>Thomas A. Nies, 50 Water St., Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: 978-465-3116</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MID-ATLANTIC</td>
<td>(New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina)</td>
<td>302-674-2331</td>
<td>Christopher M. Moore, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901-3910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: 302-674-5399</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Toll Free: 877-446-2362</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH ATLANTIC</td>
<td>(North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida)</td>
<td>843-571-4366</td>
<td>Robert K. Mahood, 4055 Faber Place Dr., Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>FAX: 843-769-4520</td>
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<td>Toll Free: 866-723-6210</td>
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<tr>
<td>GULF OF MEXICO</td>
<td>(Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida)</td>
<td>813-348-1630</td>
<td>Doug Gregory, 2203 North Lois Ave., Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>FAX: 813-348-1711</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Toll Free: 888-833-1844</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARIBBEAN</td>
<td>(U.S. Virgin Islands and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico)</td>
<td>787-766-5926</td>
<td>Miguel A. Rolón, 270 Muñoz Rivera Ave., Suite 401, San Juan, PR 00918</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: 787-766-6239</td>
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<tr>
<td>PACIFIC</td>
<td>(California, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho)</td>
<td>503-820-2280</td>
<td>Donald O. McIsaac, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>FAX: 503-820-2299</td>
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<td>Toll Free: 866-806-7204</td>
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<tr>
<td>WESTERN PACIFIC</td>
<td>(Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)</td>
<td>808-522-8220</td>
<td>Kitty M. Simonds, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>FAX: 808-522-8226</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Secretary of Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>202-482-2112</td>
<td>Penny Pritzker</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>202-482-3436</td>
<td>Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D.</td>
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**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**

1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring Metro Center #3 (SSMC #3)
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>F</th>
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<th>Assistant Administrator for Fisheries --</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>301-427-8000</td>
<td>Eileen Sobeck</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Samuel D. Rauch, III</td>
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<td>301-427-8000</td>
<td>Paul Doremus, Ph.D.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>301-427-8000</td>
<td>Director, Scientific Programs &amp; Chief Science Advisor --</td>
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<td>301-427-8000</td>
<td>Richard Merrick, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>301-427-8004</td>
<td>Director, Office of Policy --</td>
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<td>301-427-8025</td>
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<td>301-427-8325</td>
<td>Director, NOAA Aquaculture Program --</td>
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<td>301-427-8800</td>
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<td>301-427-8011</td>
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<td>301-427-8011</td>
<td>Kate Naughten</td>
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<td>F/I A1</td>
<td>301-427-8368</td>
<td>Jean-Pierre Plé, Ph.D., Acting</td>
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<tr>
<td>F/I A2</td>
<td>301-427-8350</td>
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<td>301-427-2300</td>
<td>Matthew Brandt, Acting</td>
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<td>Timothy Hansen</td>
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<tr>
<td>F/HC1</td>
<td>301-427-8600</td>
<td>Buck Sutter</td>
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<td>F/HC2</td>
<td>301-427-8601</td>
<td>Chesapeake Bay Program Office</td>
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<td>F/HC3</td>
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### General Administrative Information

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Silver Spring, MD 20910

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**Office of Management and Budget --**

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<tr>
<th>Office Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brian Pawlak, Acting</td>
<td>301-427-8727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Execution Division</td>
<td>301-427-8721</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and Administration Division</td>
<td>301-427-8742</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Formulation and Planning Division</td>
<td>301-427-8760</td>
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<td>Financial Services Division</td>
<td>301-427-8771</td>
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<td>Facilities, Safety and Logistics Division</td>
<td>301-427-8789</td>
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**Office of Protected Resources --**

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<tr>
<td>Donna Wieting</td>
<td>301-427-8400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permits and Conservation Division</td>
<td>301-427-8401</td>
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<td>Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division</td>
<td>301-427-8402</td>
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<td>Endangered Species Conservation Division</td>
<td>301-427-8403</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning and Program Coordination Division</td>
<td>301-427-8404</td>
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<td>Endangered Species Act Interagency Cooperation Division</td>
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**Office of Sustainable Fisheries --**

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<tr>
<td>Alan D. Risenhoover</td>
<td>301-427-8500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highly Migratory Species Division</td>
<td>301-427-8503</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Fisheries Division</td>
<td>301-427-8504</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regulatory Services Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seafood Inspection Laboratory</td>
<td>228-769-8964</td>
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<td>Partnerships and Communications Division</td>
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**Office of Science and Technology --**

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<tr>
<td>Ned Cyr, Ph.D.</td>
<td>301-427-8100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisheries Statistics Division</td>
<td>301-427-8103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment and Monitoring Division</td>
<td>301-427-8102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics and Social Analysis Division</td>
<td>301-427-8101</td>
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<td>Science Information Division</td>
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<td>Marine Ecosystems Division</td>
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**Office of Congressional Affairs - Fisheries --**

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<th>Office Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Moller</td>
<td>202-482-5597</td>
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**Office of Public Affairs - Fisheries --**

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<th>Office Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Connie Barclay</td>
<td>301-427-8029</td>
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**Office of General Counsel - Fisheries and Protected Resource Section**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam Issenberg</td>
<td>301-713-9670</td>
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### General Administrative Information

#### National Marine Fisheries Service

#### Regional Facilities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MAIL ROUTING CODE</th>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBER</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| F/GAR             | Greater Atlantic Region  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930 | 978-281-9300  
Fax: 978-281-9333 | Gloucester, MA |
| F/NEC             | Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water St. - Rm. 312  
Woods Hole, MA 02543 | 508-495-2000  
Fax: 508-495-2258 | Woods Hole, MA |
|                   | Woods Hole Laboratory  
166 Water St.  
Woods Hole, MA 02543 | 508-495-2000  
Fax: 508-495-2258 | Woods Hole, MA |
|                   | Narragansett Laboratory  
28 Tarzwell Drive  
Narragansett, RI 02882 | 401-782-3200  
Fax: 401-782-3201 | Narragansett, RI |
|                   | Milford Laboratory  
212 Rogers Ave.  
Milford, CT 06460 | 203-882-6500  
Fax: 203-882-6517 | Milford, CT |
|                   | James J. Howard Marine Science Laboratory  
74 Magruder Road, Sandy Hook  
Highlands, NJ 07732 | 732-872-3000  
Fax: 732-872-3088 | Highlands, NJ |
|                   | Natl. Systematics Laboratory, MRC0153  
10th & Constitution Ave., NW, P.O. Box 37012  
Washington, DC 20013-7012 | 202-633-1290  
Fax: 202-633-8848 | Washington, DC |
|                   | Orono Maine Field Station  
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Orono, ME 04473 | 207-866-7322  
Fax: 207-866-7342 | Orono, ME |
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Fax: 727-824-5320 | St. Petersburg, FL |
| F/SEC             | Southeast Fisheries Science Center  
75 Virginia Beach Dr.  
Miami, FL 33149 | 305-361-4200  
Fax: 305-361-4219 | Miami, FL |
| F/SEC4            | Miami Laboratory  
75 Virginia Beach Dr.  
Miami, FL 33149 | 305-361-4225  
Fax: 305-361-4499 | Miami, FL |
| F/SEC5            | Mississippi Laboratory  
3209 Frederick St., P.O. Drawer 1207  
Pascagoula, MS 39567 | 228-762-4591  
Fax: 228-769-9200 | Pascagoula, MS |
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OVERVIEW

The Fisheries Information System (FIS) program fosters partnerships among Fisheries Information Networks (FINs); NOAA Regional Offices, Science Centers, and Headquarters Offices; state agencies; and other fisheries organizations. These collaborations are helping to bridge knowledge gaps, improve information flow, and bring disparate parties together in communities of practice to address common fisheries data needs. FIS is based in the Office of Science and Technology.

Marine fisheries data collection, reporting, analysis and management are inherently regional functions. All regions and states, along with their respective fisheries, have unique data needs and management challenges. However, fishermen often participate in more than one regional fishery, such as off Alaska and the Pacific Coast. NMFS also often needs to assess nationally the state of fisheries on behalf of Congress, the public, and others. In addition to meeting NMFS, Fisheries Management Council, and state needs, there is a growing demand from other users for information that is more timely, accurate, interconnected, easily accessible and regionally comparable. This breeds the need for cross-regional strategies to capture and share best practices, spark innovation, integrate information and facilitate coordinated priority-setting.

The FIS program’s cross-functional teams coordinate and support projects and initiatives that:

- Improve data collection processes and promote efficient data integration.
- Develop relationships among data providers, managers and users to explore, test and share ideas to address common issues and challenges.
- Demonstrate proof of concept and create on-the-ground realities to better collect, manage and disseminate data.

FIS-supported work identifies and promotes best practices and innovative approaches to managing each step in the data lifecycle – from evaluating how data is collected at its source, to ensuring QA/QC throughout aggregation and analysis, to enhancing the way information is managed and shared, to maximizing its value for marine stewardship through broader, more efficient and more accessible dissemination.

The FIS program supports Professional Specialty Groups (PSGs) that are made up of subject matter experts drawn from NMFS and partner agencies. Their roles are to provide technical expertise and help guide priority-setting in each area. Currently, the PSGs cover Electronic Reporting, Quality Management, and Data Access and Dissemination.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

FIS partnerships include the five regional Fishery Information Networks (FINs). The FINs acquire, maintain and disseminate data from marine fisheries of the United States: Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), Gulf Fisheries Information Network (GulfFIN), Pacific Fishery Information Network (PacFIN), Alaska Fishery Information Network (AKFIN), and Western Pacific Fishery Information Network (WPacFIN). The FINs are partners with states, tribes, territories, interstate fishery commissions, regional councils, NMFS, and others.

The Fisheries Information Networks are critical to the FIS Program, as well as to state and regional fisheries data collection and management. FINs act both as key data contributors and as liaisons for identifying and working to meet state and regional data needs. A major focus of FIS in Fiscal Year 2014 has been on supporting initiatives within the FINs targeted at developing and enhancing the services that they provide. This focus largely stems from a review of the FIN programs conducted in 2013 which highlighted how several years of flat funding has prevented them from taking some of the necessary steps to improve various aspects of their operations. FIS provided support for database migration, strategic planning, quality management initiatives, website redevelopment, and other projects proposed by the FINs.

For more information about the FIS Program visit http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/fis/
**SEA GRANT EXTENSION PROGRAM**

The Office of Sea Grant is a major program element of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The National Sea Grant College Program is funded jointly by the Federal Government and colleges or universities. Sea Grant’s Extension Service offers a broad range of information concerning the Nation’s fisheries to recreational and commercial fishermen, fish processors, and others. The following program leaders, listed alphabetically by State, can provide information on Sea Grant activities:

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SEAFOOD INSPECTION PROGRAM. NOAA oversees fisheries management in the United States. Under authority in the 1946 Agricultural Marketing Act, the NOAA Seafood Inspection Program provides inspection services for fish, shellfish, and fishery products to the industry. The NOAA Seafood Inspection Program is often referred to as the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDC) Seafood Inspection Program and uses marks and documents bearing the USDC moniker. The NOAA Seafood Inspection Program offers a variety of services which assure compliance with all applicable food regulations. The Program offers sanitation inspection as well as system and process auditing in facilities, on vessels, or other processing establishments in order to be designated as official establishments. Product quality evaluation, grading and certification services are available on a product lot basis. Certain products may be eligible to bear official marks, such as the U.S. Grade A, Processed Under Federal Inspection (PUFI) and Lot Inspection. All edible product forms ranging from whole fish to formulated products, as well as fish meal products used for animal foods, are eligible for inspection and certification. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends that USDC inspected fishery products be purchased for its food feeding programs. The USDC APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS provides a listing of products and participants who contract with USDC.

USERS OF INSPECTION SERVICES. The users of the voluntary seafood inspection service include vessel owners, processors, distributors, brokers, retailers, food service operators, exporters, importers, and those who have a financial interest in buying and selling seafood products. These services can be provided nationwide, in U.S. territories, and in foreign countries. The program is a competent authority within the U.S. Government for issuance of health certificates for export of fish and fishery products to foreign countries. The official government forms and certificates issued by USDC inspectors are legal documents recognized in any U.S. court.

USDC INSPECTION MARKS. These marks designate the level and the type of inspection performed by the federal inspector. The marks can be used in advertising and labeling under the guidelines provided by the Seafood Inspection Program and in accordance with federal and state regulations regarding advertising and labeling. Products bearing the USDC official marks have been certified as being safe, wholesome, and properly labeled.

US GRADE A MARK. The U.S. GRADE A mark signifies that a product has been processed under federal inspection in a sanitarily approved facility and meets the established level of quality of an existing U.S. grade standard. The U.S. Grade A mark indicates that the product is of high quality, uniform in size, practically free from blemishes and defects, in excellent condition and possessing good flavor and odor.

PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION MARK. The PUFI mark or statement signifies that the product is certified to be safe, wholesome and properly labeled, conforms to quality and other criteria in the approved specification, and has been officially inspected in a participating establishment under Federal inspection.

LOT INSPECTED MARK. The USDC Lot Inspected mark identifies products that were officially sampled and inspected to conform to an approved specification or criteria. This mark may be used on retail packages and packaging provided the label and specification are approved.

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