The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act or MSA), amended on January 12, 2007, by Public Law 109-479, provides for the conservation and management of fishery resources within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). It also provides fishery management authority over continental shelf resources and anadromous species beyond the EEZ. The exception is when the fish 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, which encompasses approximately 3.36 million square nautical miles, 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).

**GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENT**

Under the MSA, 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 MSA governs foreign fishing in U.S. waters. The process applied to foreign fishing has been described in prior issues of this publication. 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 MSA: 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 in case a situation arises in which allowing limited foreign fishing in an underutilized fishery would be advantageous to the U.S. fishing industry.
New England Fishery Management Council
1. Northeast Multispecies FMP
2. Northeast Skate Complex 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
1. Spiny Dogfish FMP (joint with NEFMC)
2. Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP
3. Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog FMP
4. Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP
5. Bluefish FMP
6. Tilefish FMP

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

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
1. Coastal Migratory Pelagics of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic FMP (joint w/ SAFMC.)
2. Coral and Coral Reefs of the Gulf of Mexico FMP
3. Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico FMP
4. Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico FMP
5. Spiny Lobster in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic FMP (joint w/SAFMC)
6. Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico FMP
7. Regulating Offshore Marine Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico FMP

Caribbean Fishery Management Council
1. Spiny Lobster Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands FMP
2. Corals and Reef-Associated Plants and Invertebrates of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands FMP
3. Queen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands FMP
4. Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands FMP

Pacific Fishery Management Council
1. Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP
2. Pacific Coast Salmon FMP
3. Coastal Pelagic Species FMP
4. U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species FMP

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1. Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands FMP
2. Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska FMP
3. Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab FMP
4. Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska FMP
5. Scallop Fishery off Alaska FMP
6. Fish Resources of the Arctic Management Area FMP

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council
1. American Samoa Archipelago Ecosystem FEP
2. Pacific Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region Ecosystem FEP
3. Hawaii Archipelago Ecosystem FEP
4. Mariana Archipelago Ecosystem FEP
5. Pacific Remote Island Areas Ecosystem FEP

Highly Migratory Species Plans
1. Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species FMP
## REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Constituent States</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
<th>Executive Directors and Addresses</th>
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<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</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FAX: 978-465-3116</td>
<td>50 Water St., Mill 2</td>
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<td>Newburyport, MA 01950</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</td>
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<td>Toll Free: 877-446-2362</td>
<td>800 North State Street</td>
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<td>FAX: 302-674-5399</td>
<td>Suite 201</td>
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<td>SOUTH ATLANTIC</td>
<td>(North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida)</td>
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<td>Gregg Waugh</td>
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<td>FAX: 843-769-4520</td>
<td>4055 Faber Place Dr., Suite 201</td>
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<td>Toll Free: 866-723-6210</td>
<td>N. Charleston, SC 29405</td>
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<td>GULF OF MEXICO</td>
<td>(Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida)</td>
<td>813-348-1630</td>
<td>Doug Gregory</td>
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<td>FAX: 813-348-1711</td>
<td>2203 North Lois Ave., Suite 1100</td>
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<td>Toll Free: 888-833-1844</td>
<td>Tampa, FL 33607</td>
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<td>CARIBBEAN</td>
<td>(U.S. Virgin Islands and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico)</td>
<td>787-766-5926</td>
<td>Miguel A. Rolón</td>
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<td>FAX: 787-766-6239</td>
<td>270 Muñoz Rivera Ave.</td>
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<td>San Juan, PR 00918</td>
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<td>PACIFIC</td>
<td>(California, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho)</td>
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<td>Toll Free: 866-806-7204</td>
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<td>Portland, OR 97220</td>
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<td>NORTH PACIFIC</td>
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<td>FAX: 907-271-2817</td>
<td>605 West 4th Ave., Suite 306</td>
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<td>WESTERN PACIFIC</td>
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<td>FAX: 808-522-8226</td>
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<td><strong>SEC</strong> Secretary of Commerce</td>
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<td>Penny Pritzker</td>
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<td><strong>A</strong> Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere</td>
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<td>Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D.</td>
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<td><strong>NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>F</strong> Assistant Administrator for Fisheries --</td>
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<td>Eileen Sobeck</td>
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<td>Samuel D. Rauch, III</td>
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<td>Paul Doremus, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Director, Scientific Programs &amp; Chief Science Advisor --</td>
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<td>Richard Merrick, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Michael Rubino, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>John Henderschedt</td>
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<td>Ned Cyr, Ph.D.</td>
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| F/GAR             | Greater Atlantic Region  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930 | 978-281-9300  
Fax: 978-281-9207 | Gloucester, MA |
| F/NEC             | Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water St.  
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  
17 Godfrey Drive-Suite 1  
Orono, ME 04473 | 207-866-7322  
Fax: 207-866-7342 | Orono, ME |
| F/SER             | Southeast Region  
263 13th Avenue, South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701 | 727-824-5301  
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 |
| F/SEC6            | Panama City Laboratory  
3500 Delwood Beach Rd.  
Panama City, FL 32408 | 850-234-6541  
Fax: 850-235-3559 | Panama City, FL |
| F/SEC7            | Galveston Laboratory  
4700 Avenue U  
Galveston, TX 77551 | 409-766-3500  
Fax: 409-766-3508 | Galveston, TX |
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<td>831-648-8515 (Fax: 831-648-8440)</td>
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<td>907-481-1700 (Fax: 907-481-1701)</td>
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<td>Auke Bay Laboratory</td>
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<td>Portland (2)</td>
<td>207-780-3322</td>
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<td>Gregory R. Power, Fishery Information Section</td>
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<td>508-717-0210</td>
<td>William Duffy, 53 North Sixth St., Suite 211</td>
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<td>401-783-7797</td>
<td>Walter Anoushian, 83 State St., 2nd Floor,</td>
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<td>E. Hampton, NY (2)</td>
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<td>Joanne Pellegrino, 26 Main St. Suite O,</td>
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<td>Cape May</td>
<td>609-884-2113</td>
<td>Josh O’Connor, 1382 Lafayette St.</td>
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<td>757-723-3369</td>
<td>Steve Ellis, 1006 N Settlers Landing Rd.,</td>
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<td>David Hoke, 1021 Driftwood Dr. Manteo, NC 27954</td>
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<td>Tom Herbert, 5659 Strand Ct., Suite 107</td>
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<td>St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-551-5793 (Roman) 727-551-5792 (Hourihan) FAX:727-824-5349</td>
<td>Renee Roman/ Michael Hourihan, 263 13th Avenue, South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701</td>
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<td>850-234-6541 850-234-6541, x 224 FAX:850-234-3559</td>
<td>John Brusher / Albert Corey Gabel, 3500 Delwood Beach Rd., Panama City, FL 32401</td>
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<td>Pascagoula</td>
<td>228-569-1611 FAX:228-769-9200</td>
<td>Charles Armstrong, 3209 Frederic St., Pascagoula, MS 39567 (For Mobile, AL contact Charles Armstrong)</td>
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<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>504-875-4029 (Anderson) 985-791-8200 (Jensen) FAX: 504-242-0740</td>
<td>Debbie Anderson /Jill Jensen, 401 Whitney Avenue, Suite 203, Gretna, LA 70056</td>
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<td>Houma</td>
<td>985-872-3321 FAX: 985-872-3321</td>
<td>Al LeFort, 425 Lafayette St., Rm. 128, Houma, LA 70360 (For Golden Meadow contact Al LeFort)</td>
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<td>Lafayette</td>
<td>337-291-2117 FAX:337-291-2118</td>
<td>Beth Bourgeois, NOAA Fisheries Lab., 646 Cajundome Blvd., Room 220 Lafayette, LA 70506</td>
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<td>Galveston</td>
<td>409-766-3515 FAX:409-766-3543</td>
<td>Keith Roberts, 4700 Avenue U, Bldg. 302, Room 217 Galveston, TX 77551</td>
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<td>Freeport</td>
<td>979-233-4551 FAX: 979-233-4551</td>
<td>Michelle Padgett, 200 W. Second Street, Suite 213, P.O.Box 2533 Freeport, TX 77542</td>
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<td>Brownsville/ Port Isabel</td>
<td>956-548-2516 FAX: 956-838-1478</td>
<td>James Patterson, 2001 Foust Rd. Brownsville, TX 78521</td>
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<td>Stephen Freese, Bldg. 1, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle, WA 98115-6349</td>
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<td><strong>ALASKA :</strong></td>
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<td>Juneau (1)</td>
<td>907-586-7010 FAX:907-586-7465</td>
<td>Jennifer Mondragon, Federal Building, 4th Floor, 709 West 9th St., Room 401 P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99801</td>
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<td>Honolulu (1)</td>
<td>808-725-5660 FAX:808-725-5558</td>
<td>Kimberly Lowe, NMFS/PIFSC/FRMD/FMB, 1845 Wasp Blvd., Building: 176, Rm. 2239 Honolulu, HI 96818</td>
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(1) Regional or area headquarters for statistics offices.
(2) State partner coordinator.
Library Information

The NOAA Library and Information Network (NLIN) provides information and research support to NOAA staff and the public through the NOAA Central Library located in Silver Spring, MD; regional libraries in Miami and Seattle; and a number of field libraries located throughout the United States. The library network libraries have collections that cover the research topics of interest to NOAA—weather and atmospheric sciences, marine fisheries, oceanography, ocean engineering, nautical charting, marine ecology, marine resources, ecosystems, coastal studies, aeronomy, geodesy, cartography, mathematics, and statistics.

The NOAA Library and Information Network Catalog (NOAALINC) shows the physical and digital holdings of the NOAA Library System. Currently, NOAALINC contains records for more than 400,000 items with 5,000 to 10,000 items added each year. Users can access the catalog at: http://library.noaa.gov.

In addition to NOAALINC, the Library and Information Services Division retains digital copies of many NOAA and related agency publications in the NOAA Institutional Repository. Users can search the repository at: https://repository.library.noaa.gov/

The Repository currently contains more than 2000 records with links to nearly 5000 documents. The repository recently moved from a pilot stage into an operational product and will add many more records in the coming years.

NOAA personnel may contact their nearest NOAA Library or the NOAA Central Library and arrange to borrow materials not available online. Members of the general public should contact their local libraries to arrange for an inter-library loan of physical materials. Restrictions apply on circulation of certain materials. Digital resources are for the most part freely available without restriction.

NOAA and the public can contact reference staff of the NOAA Central via email, phone, fax, or chat.

Email: Library.Reference@noaa.gov.

Phone: 301-713-2600 x157 (between 9:00am and 4:00pm Monday through Friday)

Fax: 301-713-4599

Chat: NOAA staff and the public may also chat with a librarian between the hours of 1:00pm and 4:00pm EST on Monday through Friday. Access this service from the library homepage http://library.noaa.gov.
OVERVIEW

In an era of increasing pressures on our oceans, the need for data that supports sound science and effective stewardship of our living marine resources has never been greater. The mission of the Fisheries Information System (FIS) Program is to meet this need by working across the fisheries-dependent data community to facilitate access to comprehensive, high-quality, and timely information on the Nation's fisheries.

The FIS Program is a regionally driven collaboration among state and territorial marine fisheries agencies; Fisheries Information Networks; and NOAA Fisheries Headquarters, Regional Offices, and Science Centers. FIS partners work together to prioritize data improvement needs, identify potential solutions, and fund the testing, verification, and implementation of a wide array of projects and initiatives.

From 2013 through 2015, FIS has provided nearly $5 million in funding divided across each NOAA region, with 2015 funds supplemented by the National Observer Program and the National Catch-Shares Program. These funds are distributed through a competitive process to state and regional teams that work to identify and promote best practices and innovative approaches for managing each step in the data lifecycle. These steps include evaluating and improving how data is collected at its source; ensuring QA/QC throughout information aggregation and analysis; enhancing the way information is managed and shared; and maximizing the value of information for marine stewardship through broader, more efficient, and more accessible dissemination.

In addition to funding pilot studies, FIS convenes and supports Professional Specialty Groups (PSGs) that consist of experts from multiple disciplines and agencies, including NOAA Fisheries Headquarters, Regional Offices, Science Centers, FINs, and state partners. The role of the PSGs is to provide technical expertise about high-priority issues and identify pressing needs and emerging opportunities. Currently, there are three FIS PSGs that focus on Electronic Reporting, Quality Management, and Data Access and Dissemination.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

More than half of commercial seafood in the United States is harvested in Alaska. Alaska's fisheries range from small boat salmon fisheries to large-vessel, at-sea catcher-processors. As long as a decade ago, it was clear that the volume and value of these fisheries justified the pursuit of electronic reporting systems. However, the sheer size and geography of the state made the implementation of electronic reporting challenging. Ports are geographically dispersed and many are not accessible by road. Technical challenges, such as limited access to the Internet and even telephone service, needed to be overcome before such a system could be put into place.

In 2009, FIS provided a grant to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to study whether there was a workable electronic reporting solution for tendered fisheries. It is often impractical for fishing boats to unload at shoreside processors because of the distance separating the processing plants from the fishing grounds. Therefore, tender boats go to the fishing grounds, buy fish from different boats, and resupply the fishermen with food, fuel, and other necessities. This feasibility study found that such an electronic reporting system could be implemented and presented several options.

The findings of that initial study led directly to the allocation of an additional grant by the Alaska legislature for $500,000 to develop and implement an electronic data collection system for the state's tendered fisheries. The result was a program called tLandings, an application that enables vessels to document landings accurately and electronically at the point of tender delivery without the need for Internet service. As the adoption of tLandings has spread, additional FIS funds have been used to identify ways to streamline and integrate the data collection and reporting process between the state and industry.

The tLandings system provides more timely and accurate harvest information for in-season fisheries management, as well as for long-term analysis. Starting with a small grant from FIS for a feasibility study, the tLandings program is now a widely supported, efficient electronic reporting solution for Alaska's tendered fisheries. As of 2016, approximately 70 percent of all salmon harvest is reported electronically, representing more than 150,000 reports annually.

For more information about the FIS Program visit: http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/data/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 about the Nation’s fisheries to recreational and commercial fishermen, fish processors, and other stakeholders. 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 of 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.

RETAIL MARK. Participants qualify to utilize the Retail Mark by contracting for sanitation services and associated product evaluation. Use of the retail mark gives retail firms the opportunity to advertise on banners, logos, and/or menus that their facility is recognized by the USDC for proper sanitation and handling of fishery products.

USDC HACCP MARK. The USDC HACCP-based service is available to all interested parties on a fee-for-service basis. Label approval, record keeping and analytical testing are program requirements. An industry USDC-certified employee trained in HACCP principles is also required for each facility/site in the program. Compliance ratings determine frequency of official visits. Benefits to participants include increased controls through a more scientific approach, use of established marks, increased efficiency of federal inspection personnel, and enhanced consumer confidence. The USDC has made available a HACCP mark and a “banner” to distinguish products that have been produced under the HACCP-based program. The HACCP mark may be used alone or in conjunction with existing grade marks to distinguish that the product was produced under the HACCP Quality Management Program. Participants receive the marketing benefits of using the HACCP mark on brochures, banners, and company labels.

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