

United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Management Division
State-Federal Relations Branch

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

STATE: Rhode Island

AGENCY: Department of Environmental Management
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Fisheries

PROJECT TITLE: Rhode Island 2007-2008 ACCSP Project

PROJECT NUMBER: NA07NMF4740204

SEGMENT NUMBER: 15 & 16

PERIOD: May 1st, 2007 to April 30th, 2008 Completion Report

JOB 1: Continue Harvester Catch and Effort Logbook program.

JOB 2: Maintenance of the Electronic Seafood Dealer Data Reporting System.

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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

- A. Grant Number: NA07NMF4740204
- B. State: State of Rhode Island
- C. Project Title: Rhode Island 2007-2008 ACCSP Project
- D. Award Period: 05/01/2007 - 04/30/2008
- E. Period covered by this report: 5/01/2007 – 4/30/2008
- F. Summary of Progress to Date:

1. Work Accomplishments:

JOB 1: Continue Harvester Catch and Effort Logbook program.

During segment 15, RI Lobster Catch and Effort Logbooks were processed, data entered and checked for quality assurance. The coordinator provided technical support for Rhode Island's new Harvester Catch and Effort logbook to commercial license holders. As the logbook is in a new format there was a higher volume of support requests during this period. During this segment, a database was developed to house data from the new catch and effort logbook. The database is written in Microsoft Access and stores catch and effort statistics as well as those from dockside sales of lobster.

The coordinator continued working in support of Rhode Island's implementation of ASMFC Amendment 3, Addendum 7 (ADD7) to the American Lobster fisheries management plan. Data analysis concerning allocation variables was routine. The coordinator attended status conferences and hearings related to ADD 7 as data consult. Outreach to the fishing community relative to ADD 7's affect on individual fishing practices was provided.

In addition to providing support to the ADD 7 implementation, the coordinator aided in the preparation of Rhode Island's commercial lobster data (landings and biological samples) for the upcoming lobster assessment. Databases were developed for at sea samples and portside biological samples and all data were converted to ACCSP upload format. Also, the coordinator prepared and submitted the state supplemental landings of lobster and shellfish for the NOAA Fisheries of the US NMFS database.

During segment 16, RI Lobster Catch and Effort Logbooks were processed, data entered and checked for quality assurance. The coordinator continued to provide technical support for Rhode Island's new Harvester Catch and Effort logbook to commercial license holders. As the logbook is in a new format the volume of support requests remained high during this period. Compliance protocols were carried out during this segment to assure that fishers met their reporting requirements. Because fishers may not renew their commercial fishing license until all logbook reports the compliance rate remains high (> 95 %). Logbooks for 2008 were printed and mailed to all license holders. To address crustacean (lobster and crabs) dockside sale reporting issues which arose due to the design of the 2007 logbook, a new separate logbook which only collects dockside sales statistics was developed, printed and mailed. The old logbook format collected dockside sales information on the same form as catch and effort statistics. Because fishers who fill out NOAA Fisheries Vessel Trip Reports are exempt from the catch and effort portion of the state logbook, these fishers would often overlook the dockside sales portion of the form and the information would go unreported. The new separate logbook is only mailed to dockside sales permit holders with explicit instructions of the requirements.

The coordinator continued to provide support in the preparation of Rhode Island's commercial lobster data (landings and biological samples) for the upcoming lobster assessment. Catch and effort statistics were calculated; landings were checked for quality assurance and broken out into statistical areas. Additionally, the coordinator prepared and submitted the state supplemental landings of horseshoe crabs for the NOAA Fisheries of the US NMFS database.

JOB 2: Maintenance of an electronic seafood dealer data reporting system.

RIDFW has put a regulation in place requiring all seafood dealers holding a Rhode Island Seafood Dealer license to enter complete trip level data into SAFIS (RIMFC Reg section 19.14). State licensed federally permitted dealers are given technical support upon request. Site visits to dealers for support and retraining was routine during this period. With the initial state dealer implementation complete, five dealers were set up into SAFIS when they received their licenses. Currently, there are 111 seafood dealers licensed by Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) reporting to SAFIS or declared as non primary buyers.

RIDFW has completed the process of relieving dealers of the state requirement of calling in landings of quota-managed species via the computerized Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. The coordinator further developed the RIDFW quota monitoring database, which takes data from SAFIS and puts it into a usable format. Technical work in support of the new quota monitoring system was routine, quota reports were reformatted, research set aside exceptions handled, and compliance procedures developed. Data requests of SAFIS data became more frequent during this period in support of ASMFC compliance reports, shellfish management, and commercial fishing license tracking. During this segment RI commercial license holder information was compiled and updated in the SAFIS tables.

Meetings funded by ACCSP attended this segment:

Commercial Technical Committee, 4/22/08 – 4/23/08

Information Systems Technical Committee, 4/23/08 – 4/25/08

Biological Review Panel, 1/29/08 – 1/30/08

Bycatch Prioritization Committee, 1/30/08 – 1/31/08

Operations Committee, 8/1/07 – 8/2/07

Operations Committee, 10/10/07 – 10/11/07