

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Upgrades to the Biological Collection Program: sampling equipment and phase III database development

March 2009 through August 2010

Award Number NA09NMF4740278

**Final Report to NOAA and ACCSP for
March 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010**

BACKGROUND

This project was funded by the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) with the overall objective of this proposal is to enhance and maintain the continuity of the Virginia Marine Resource Commission's (VMRC) Biological Collection Program (BCP). This program was initiated by the VMRC in 1988 to collect biological samples from the state's important commercial and recreational fisheries. The data collected by the BCP has been used to support fisheries management and stock assessment work on both a statewide and regional basis. The intent of this proposal is to request funds for resources needed to maintain the continuity of the program and to improve the current data management system. Specifically, new equipment is needed to replace outdated and failing electronic measuring boards and personnel support is needed to upgrade the current database from a DOS system, based on 1994 technology, to a contemporary system that allows more flexible and accessibility.

PROGRESS

The planned upgrade of the current database system from FOXPRO to MYSQL has been completed. We successfully completed the manufacturing bid process and contract procedures, and have received all of the electronic fish measuring boards and subsequent support equipment for the boards from the manufacturer. Staff has completed the development of data entry protocols for the electronic fish measuring boards and has deployed the equipment to the field technicians for use. A budget amendment to use remaining funds to purchase additional fish measuring support equipment was approved and we purchased new fish weighing equipment (Class III scales) and additional support equipment for the biological program. The additional support equipment included new biological storage freezers, transport cooler boxes, miter saws for obtaining otoliths, a field operations tent for outdoor sampling at large biological collection events, work-up tables, and tubs for weighing fish. All equipment has been deployed and is in use by staff at this time.