



Marine Resources Education Program - Southeast Overview

Council Communication Meeting
February 2016

Partners:

Gulf of Maine Research Institute

NOAA Fisheries

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Caribbean Fishery Management Council

Marine Resources Education Program (MREP)

- Gulf of Maine Research Institute
 - Administrative partner and facilitator
- Workshop-based Program
 - Originated in New England
- Designed to foster new relationships and increase knowledge and understanding of:
 - Fisheries Science
 - Fisheries Management

“A program developed by fishermen for fishermen”



MREP Goals

- Bring fishermen, scientists and managers together in a neutral setting outside of the regulatory process.
- Increase the number of people at work in the region's fisheries who are comfortable working with the fishery data and management systems.
- Help policy makers and scientists become more familiar with the inner working of the fishing community.
- Increase the number of fishermen involved in collaborative research and pursuit of best available science.
- Develop leadership and promote trust.



MREP Southeast

- Program Funding Began in 2012
 - Start up funding secured by GMRI through NMFS, NFWF
- Steering Committee
 - Provides ongoing program direction and evaluation
- Workshops began 2013



Steering Committee Critical

- Goals and objectives specific for MREP Southeast
- Targeted audience
- Curriculum
- Funding



Intro to Fishery Science Workshop

- Held in April - 3 days
- FWC – Fish and Wildlife Resources Institute
- Participants from Gulf, South Atlantic and Caribbean:
 - Recreational fishermen
 - Charter/for-hire
 - Commercial fishermen
 - Industry representatives
 - Media



MREP Southeast Science Workshop Participants 2015



Science Workshop Curriculum

- Sampling and Survey Methods
 - Fishery Dependent and Independent Data
 - Data Collection
 - Data Sources



Science Workshop Curriculum

- Population Biology
 - Rotate Stations at FWRI
 - Wet Lab
 - Age and Growth
 - Sampling Gear



Wet Lab – Aging and Otoliths

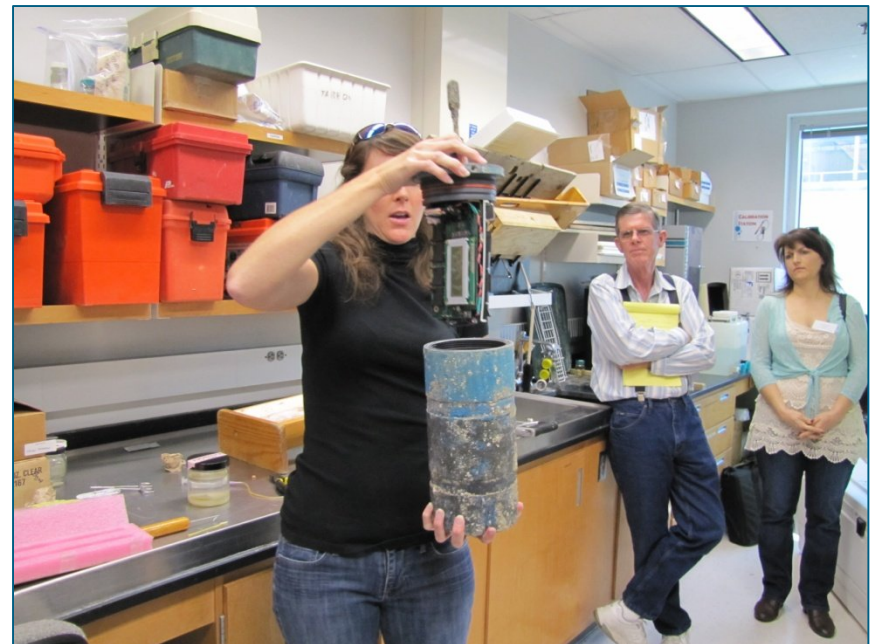


Otolith and Gonad Collection





Wet Lab – Tagging and Acoustical Monitoring



Barotrauma and Use of Descending Devices



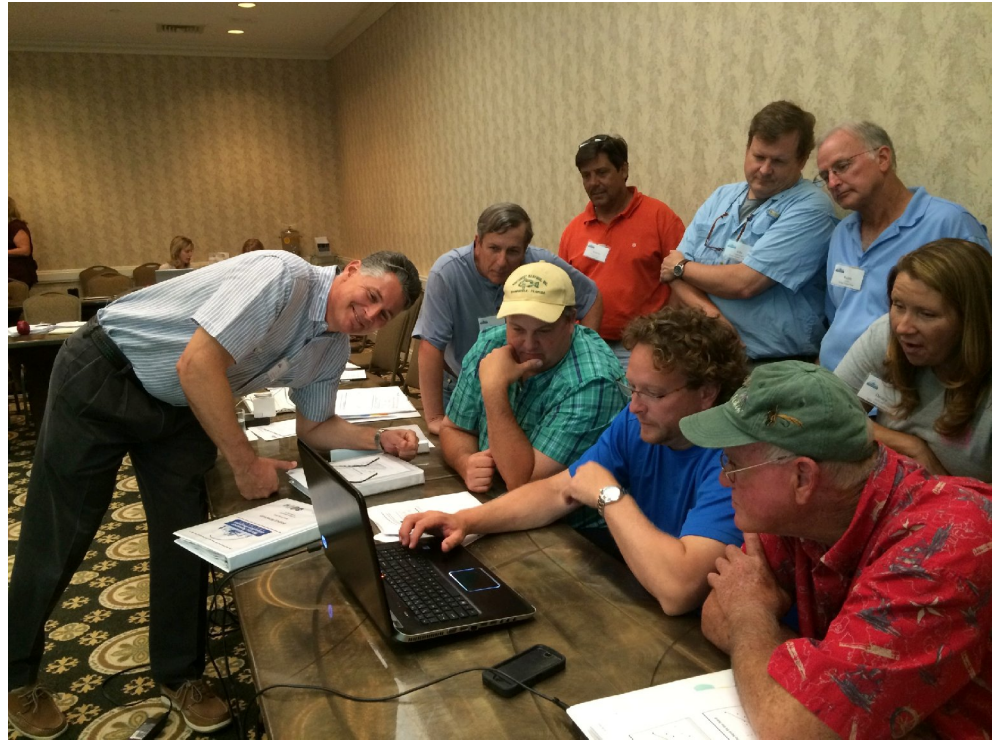
Back to the Classroom

- SEDAR Stock Assessment Process
- Stock Assessment and Modeling
- Cooperative Research



New Activity – Growth Modeling

- Workgroups read otoliths and age each
- Plug data into simple growth model
- Develop growth curve and good discussion!





MREP Southeast Fisheries Management Workshop



Intro to Management Workshop

- Held September/October – 3 days
- Avg. 30 participants from Gulf and South Atlantic
- Improved agenda to increase role playing exercises



Management Topics

- Science Overview
- Magnuson-Stevens Act
- Council Process
- Overview of Federal Management
- The Role of the NMFS Southeast Regional Office
- Case Study/Role Playing
- Law Enforcement
- How to Get Involved
- Panel Discussion
 - NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator
 - Council Executive Directors



Evaluations

- Evaluations were distributed at the end of each workshop
- Evaluations continue to be positive
 - Instructors ranked highly
 - Majority found workshop “Valuable or Very Valuable”

Marine Resource Education Program
St. Petersburg, Florida
April 2 – 4, 2013

Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Evaluation Questionnaire

Please take a few moments to provide feedback on the Science Workshop. Your comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated and will help to ensure that we can continue to improve and evolve the program.

1. Please rate how valuable the following portions of the program were in enhancing your overall understanding and knowledge of fisheries science, based on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = not valuable, 5 = very valuable). Circle your answer for both the content, and the presenter's ability to communicate the content.

	Part 1: Content Rating	Part 2: Presenter Rating
DAY 1 - Tuesday		
Sampling and Survey Overview (Lutz Barbieri)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Fishery Dependent Data Collection (Gordon Colvin)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Population Biology Introduction (John Carmichael)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
FWRI Labs/Stations 1. Reproductive Biology Lab	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
FWRI Labs/Stations 2. Age & Growth Lab	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
FWRI Labs/Stations 3. Sampling gear	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
FWRI Labs/Stations 4. Research vessel Tour	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
DAY 2 - Wednesday		
Stock Assessment Overview - SEDAR (John Carmichael)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Stock Assessment Modeling (Clay Porch)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Bycatch Reduction Technology (John Mitchell)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Conservation Engineering & Gear (Steve Theberge)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Cooperative Research (Frank Heltes)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
DAY 3 - Thursday		
Oceanography Overview (Mandy Karnauskas)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Ecosystem Based Management (Steve Murawski)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5



Notable Outcomes 2015

- New! 3-Day MREP Workshop in Puerto Rico
January 24-26, 2015
- 3 New SAFMC AP Members
- 1 Cooperative Research Proposal
- Positive articles from media participants
- Program funding for next 2 years – but need more!
- New Steering Committee Members



2015 MREP Evaluations

- “We’re delighted by MREP’s progress to date!” Don Perkins, President, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
- “Overall a great workshop. Its almost a shame that it was only 2.5 days. I can’t wait for the Science Workshop!” David Moss, West Palm Beach, FL, Recreational Rep - SAFMC Snapper Grouper AP
- “There isn’t any amount of reading that can replace the educational group workshop and the discussion that follows.” Jim Green, Commercial Fisherman, Destin, FL



2015 MREP Evaluations

- “The tools and information learned at this program are invaluable to every individual involved in any aspect of fishing and fisheries management.” Cinthia Sandoval, Wild Ocean Seafood, Titusville, FL
- “The MREP workshops are “must attend” events for members of the marine industry who want to preserve the industry and see our customer base grow.” Austin Roebuck, Yamaha Marine Group, Kennesaw, GA



2016 MREP Southeast Workshops

- Science Workshop
 - St. Petersburg, Florida
 - Florida Fish & Wildlife FWRI
 - April 19-21, 2016
- Management Workshop
 - Tampa, Florida
 - October 4-6, 2016



MREP Southeast 2016: Participants

- Publicized in early 2016 by GMRI via:
 - Steering Committee
 - Post card mailings to permit holders
 - Councils
 - MREP SE Website
- Good response
 - Approx. 50 total applicants



A unique educational experience, designed for fishermen, by fishermen

The Marine Resources Education Program (MREP) provides fishermen, and others with an interest in healthy fisheries, an opportunity to learn how the federal fishery science and management processes are applied in the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean regions. The MREP Southeast workshops are tailored specifically to those regions and bring together commercial, charter, and recreational fishermen with scientists, managers, and other marine resource professionals to learn the processes, share their insights, and network in a neutral and professional setting. Participants leave the program empowered and better prepared to be a voice in federal fisheries management. The 2016 workshop dates and locations are as follows:

2016 MREP workshop schedule:

MREP Fisheries Science

April 19-21, 2016

Fish & Wildlife Research Institute
St. Petersburg, FL

MREP Fisheries Management

October 4-6, 2016

Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay
Tampa, FL

Seating is limited, apply today!

Applications can be completed at www.gmri.org/mrep or you can call **Patty Collins** at (207) 228-1625 to submit your application over the phone.

Applications will be reviewed in February 2016. Selected participants will be notified by phone and mail. Meals and accommodations are provided during the workshops, and travel support is also available to qualifying applicants.

For questions about the program please call **Alexa Dayton** at (207) 228-1645, or workshop moderators: **Bob Gill**, Commercial Fisherman at (352) 795-3843, or **Duane Harris**, Recreational Fisherman at (912) 269-9378.



What's Next

- November 2015 Steering Committee Meeting
 - Review of program objectives and priorities
 - Evaluation
 - Follow up



MREP Southeast Steering Committee
San Juan, Puerto Rico



What's Next

- Program Expansion
 - West Coast !!
 - SAFMC Vision Project Support
 - NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office and Science Center Support





Questions?

Additional Program Information

www.gmri.org



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council