



# Marine Resources Education Program (MREP) Update

Council Communication Group Meeting  
May 22-23, 2018  
Sitka, AK

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SAFMC

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# Marine Resources Education Program (MREP)

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- Gulf of Maine Research Institute
  - Principal Investigator and Program Management
  - Facilitation and fiscal agent
- Workshop-based Program
  - Fisheries Science
  - Fisheries Management



“A program by fishermen for fishermen”



# Marine Resource Education Program Goals

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- 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 Greater Atlantic

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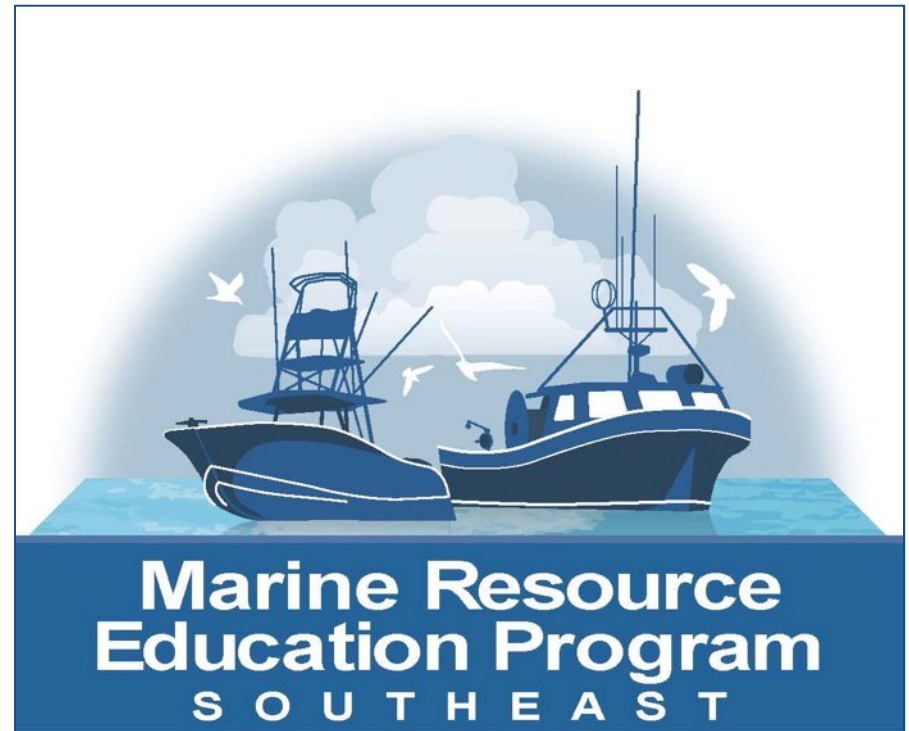
- Program Funding Began in 2005
  - Extended to Mid Atlantic in 2011
    - Start up funding secured via NEFSC Cooperative Research
- Partners
  - NOAA Fisheries
  - John Williamson, Mary Beth Tooley, Dave Goethel (council members)
  - New England Fishery management Council
  - Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council



# MREP Southeast

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- Program Funding Began in 2012 – Workshops in 2013
  - Start up funding secured by GMRI through NOAA Fisheries, NFWF
- Partners
  - Bob Gill, Duane Harris, Ben Hartig, Dave Webb
  - NOAA Fisheries
  - Florida Fish & Wildlife/FWRI
  - Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
  - South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
  - Caribbean Fishery Management Council



# MREP Steering Committees

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- Fishermen
- Scientists
- Managers
- Annual Program Review
- Curriculum Review
- Recommendations



# MREP Participant Solicitation

- Publicized by GMRI via:
  - Direct solicitation
  - Steering Committee networks
  - Post card mailings to permit holders, association lists, tackle shops, etc
  - Councils
    - Website announcement
    - Post card distribution
  - MREP Website
  - GMRI Press release



# MREP Participants

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- Recreational fishermen
- Charter/for-hire
- Commercial fishermen
- Industry representatives
- Marine manufacturer representatives
- Seafood  
Dealers/Processors,  
Chefs
- Council members
- Others





# Intro to Fishery Science Workshop

- FFWRI – Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
  - St. Petersburg, FL
- Average 30 Participants from Gulf and South Atlantic



# Science Workshop Curriculum



# Management Topics

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



# Social Time is Key!


Participation of Senior NOAA and council staff is invaluable!



# Evaluations


- Evaluations are distributed at the end of each workshop
  - Reviewed by Steering Committee
- Evaluations continue to be positive
  - Instructors ranked highly
  - Overall strong support for program

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



Gulf of Maine  
Research Institute

Evaluation Questionnaire



Marine Resource  
Education Program  
SOUTHEAST

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



# MREP Southeast Evaluations

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"I like how fishermen were moderating the session rather than scientists, managers, etc."

"I realize now the value of reporting accurate information to the government is vital to the process of stock assessments"

"I met and interacted with many participants from every sector. We educated and informed each other and hope for better interaction."



# Expansion/New Initiatives

## MREP Advanced Topics

- Insights into the stock assessment
- Advancing EBFM approaches

## MREP Condensed Formats

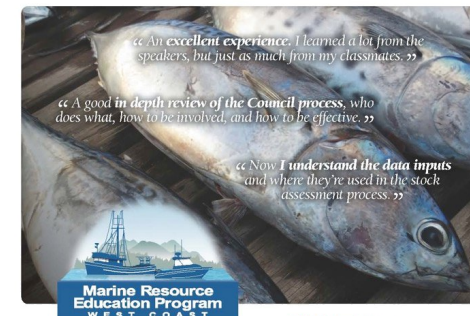
- Recreational Audiences

## MREP Regional Extensions

- West Coast Program – 2016
- MREP Caribbean (PR and USVI)

## MREP for Aquaculture

- 2018 Gulf of Mexico pilot program



The Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) provides fishermen, and others with an interest in productive fisheries, an opportunity to learn how the federal fishery science and management processes are applied in the Pacific region. The MREP West Coast workshops are tailored specifically to the region 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 on the right.

Applications will be reviewed in July 2016. Selected participants will be notified by phone and email. Meals and accommodations are provided during the workshops, and travel support is available for most applicants.

For questions about the program please call **Alca Dayton** at (207) 228-1684, or workshop moderators **Bob Dooley**, Commercial Fisherman at (630) 619-4713 or **Dan Volford**, Recreational Fisherman at (408) 656-1324.

### 2016 Workshops

**Fisheries Science Workshop**  
August 30 – September 1, 2016  
Hotel Parkside  
611 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA

**Fisheries Management Workshop**  
October 18 – 20, 2016  
Marriott Waterside  
1401 SW Naito Parkway, Portland, OR

Applications can be completed at [www.gmri.org/mrepwest](http://www.gmri.org/mrepwest) or you can call **Chris McHan** at (207) 228-1684 to submit your application over the phone.



# Always Improving – NMFS Regional Office visit and Cooperative Research Topics Added to Science Workshop in 2018

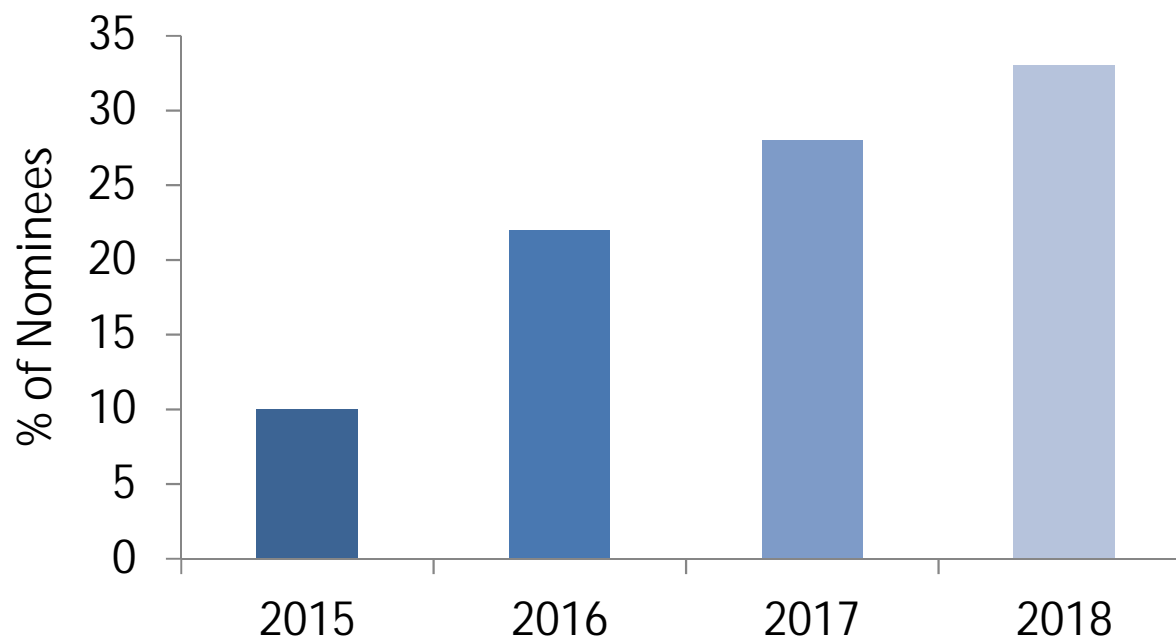
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## Major Outcomes: tracking the percentage of Council Nominees who are MREP Alumni

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Advisory Panel Membership also bolstered by MREP Alumni.  
Council discussions benefit from relationships forged at MREP.



# Council Support

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- Welcoming MREP Graduates to the “Council Family”
  - Sign them up for newsletters, mentoring
- Assistance with promoting MREP
  - Distribution of post card announcements at meetings and public hearings
  - Publicity in Council newsletter
  - Forwarding announcements
  - Note: Always ID as MREP initiative
- In-Kind Support
  - Participation of Council staff and council members
- Updates at Council Meetings
  - Bi-Annual updates by MREP staff on agenda
- Advisory Panels
  - Council advisory panel applications now include question about MREP participation.





Questions?

[www.gmri.org](http://www.gmri.org)



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council