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
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
  - Instructors ranked highly
  - Majority found workshop “Valuable or Very Valuable”
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
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