



Marine Resources Education Program - Southeast *Update*

Information and Education Advisory Panel

November 5, 2015

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 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 in 2013, 2014 and 2015**



2015 MREP Southeast Workshops

- **Science Workshop**

- St. Petersburg, FL – FWC FWRI
- April 14-16, 2015

- **Management Workshop**

- Tampa, FL
- September 22 – September 24, 2014



MREP Southeast 2015:

Participants

- **Publicized in early 2015 by GMRI via:**
 - Steering Committee
 - Post card mailings to permit holders
 - Councils
 - MREP SE Website
- **Good response**
 - 70 total applicants



Intro to Fishery Science Workshop

- **Held April 2015**
- **FWC – Fish and Wildlife Resources Institute**
- **27 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

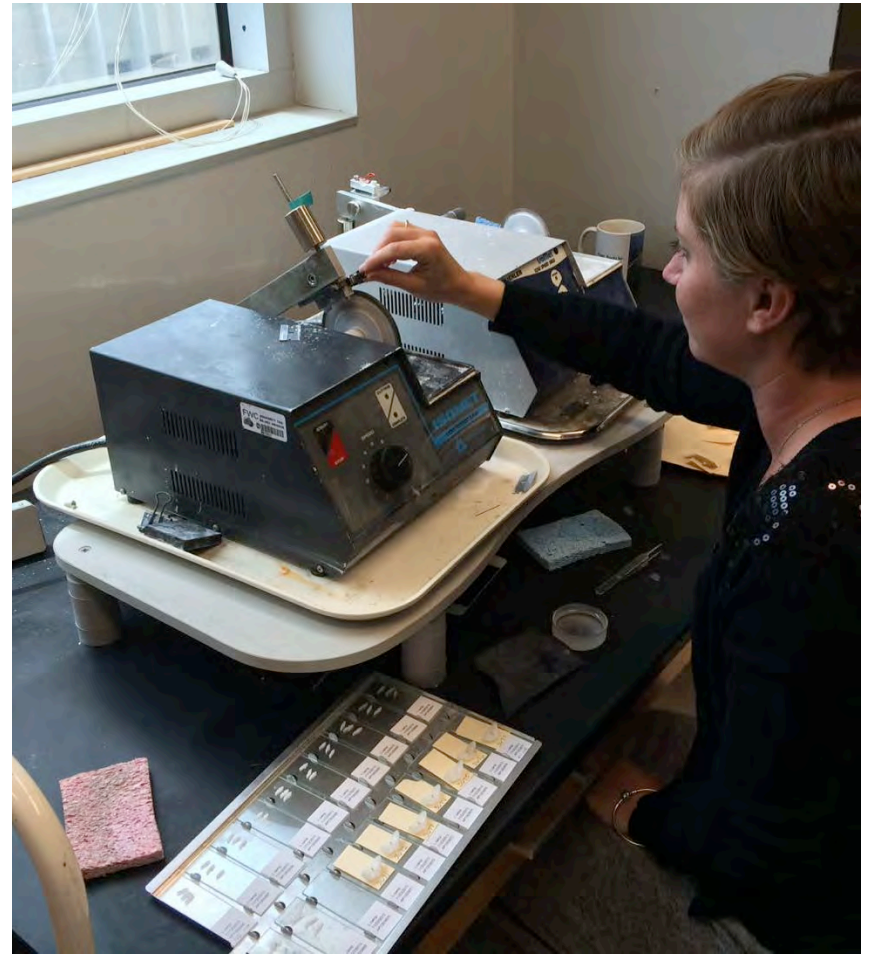
- **Population Biology**

Rotate Stations at FWRI

- **Wet Lab**
- **Age and Growth**
- **Sampling Gear**



Wet Lab – Aging and Otoliths



Otolith and Gonad Collection, Tagging and Acoustical Monitoring



New Activity – Growth Modeling

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



2015 MREP Southeast Fisheries Management Workshop



Intro to Management Workshop

- Held September 22-24, 2015
- 29 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

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 Barberi)	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 Therge)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Cooperative Research (Frank Helles)	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 2014-15

- **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



What's Next

- **November Steering Committee Meeting**
 - Review of program objectives and priorities
 - Evaluation
 - Follow up
- **Program Expansion**
 - West Coast
 - Council Vision Project Support





Questions?

Additional Program Information

www.gmri.org



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council