



## **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair  
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2019**

The Council's priorities for 2019 are included as Attachment 4a in TAB 6, Executive Finance Committee. Detailed information on the status of each FMP/Amendment and upcoming meetings is contained in the Council Follow-Up (Attachment 4c in TAB 6, Executive Finance Committee). Under the direction of the Council Chair, Jessica McCawley, the Council will now set annual priorities at the September meeting. This will allow the Executive Finance Committee to review a budget that the Council will review and approve at the December meeting each year. This will give the Council an approved budget going into each new year. There is a new table that Dr. Brian Chevront prepared that starts in September and lists each amendment the Council is working on indicating how many meetings it will take to finalize the amendment. The Committee/Council will need to prioritize the important amendments and space them out so that the workload at each meeting is something that the staff and the Council can accommodate. Please be sure to look this material over and get with Brian if you have any questions prior to the meeting. We need to come away from the September meeting with a clear list of priorities and timing so that the 2020 budget can be prepared.

The South Atlantic Council is co-hosting the November 5-7, 2019 Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting in Washington, DC. Please look over the preliminary list of topics (Attachment 1 in TAB 6, Executive Finance Committee) and be prepared to provide any guidance at the September meeting. This is your opportunity to make sure the CCC is addressing issues important to the South Atlantic Council's operations.

Also, in Executive Finance we will review comments on some MSA legislation. Three new bills have been introduced (Attachments 2c, 2d, & 2e in TAB 6, Executive Finance) and the Committee/Council will be reviewing detailed comments on the Senate Staff Working Draft (Attachment 2a & 2b in TAB 6, Executive Finance). Please take a look at these bills as this may be an opportunity to affect some needed revisions to the MSA.

Once again, this has been a busy time since our June 2019 Council meeting. Council staff continued to work on amendments, rescheduling meetings/workshops, conducted scoping/hearings, and conducted AP meetings. Work on MyFishCount and Citizen Science continued. Outreach was conducted for the red snapper season, and work continued to prepare for the mandatory charter vessel reporting previously expected on April 1, 2019. Hopefully, the final rule will be published before our September 2019 Council meeting. It is critical that the final rule be published in 2019 so that data collection can begin in 2020. We have already lost data collection during 2019; it would be a shame if data collection does not begin on January 2020. We produced our third electronic newsletter; congratulations to our super Outreach Staff.

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) is an important partner in all things data related. Mike Cahall recently retired as Director and was recognized by the South Atlantic Council at the May 2019 CCC meeting. Geoffrey White has been named ACCSP Director and Julie Defilippi Simpson was named ACCSP Deputy Director (see the attached News Release). Both Geoff and Julie have been with the program for many years and I am confident that ACCSP will continue to operate efficiently as a partner for our data needs. Great news for them and for all ACCSP partners, and thanks to Bob Beal and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) for being such a supportive partner and for housing ACCSP.

The Council will recognize several staff members who have worked with the Council for more than 15 years:

1. Roger Pugliese – 33 years
2. Cindy Chaya – 25 years
3. Kim Iverson – 20 years
4. Myra Brouwer – 16 years
5. John Carmichael – 16 years



# ***Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission***

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 20, 2019

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### **Geoffrey White Named ACCSP Director**

Arlington, VA – Robert E. Beal, Executive Director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, has announced the selection of Mr. Geoffrey White as the Director of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). Mr. White has been with the Commission for more than 20 years and has worked in various capacities for ACCSP for the past 15 years. Since 2015, Mr. White has coordinated and managed the transition to and full implementation of state conduct of the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS), an integral component of the Marine Recreational Information Program. Mr. White replaces Mr. Michael Cahall, who served as ACCSP Director from 2007 to May 2019.

“Geoff’s long-standing dedication to the Commission and ACCSP, combined with his outstanding record of accomplishments over two decades, made him a clear choice for ACCSP Director,” stated Robert Beal. “His leadership in overseeing the transition of APAIS from a federal contractor to state conduct for the states of Maine through Georgia is particularly notable. With an extensive background in both fisheries science and information technology, Geoff is ideally suited for this position. He understands the absolute necessity for high quality, dependable, and timely fisheries data, as well as the need to leverage technological innovations to improve efficiencies at all levels of data collection and management.”

Joining Mr. White in a new leadership position is Ms. Julie Defilippi Simpson as ACCSP Deputy Director. Ms. Defilippi Simpson is another ACCSP veteran, having joined the Program in November 2007 as a Fisheries Data Coordinator. Dedicated, hard-working, and highly proficient in all that she does, this will be Ms. Defilippi Simpson’s third promotion. As Deputy Director, she will coordinate the annual request for proposals process and staff the Operations Committee. She will also continue to lead the Data Team, providing guidance on all data-related activities including standards, warehousing, and dissemination.

In accepting the Director position, Mr. White stated, “I am honored and privileged to direct a program I feel so passionate about. I’m very proud to have been part of the progress ACCSP has made to date and I am excited to work with our new Deputy Director, Ms. Julie Defilippi Simpson, to maintain our rigorous program standards while exploring opportunities to improve data collection and access. One of our goals will be to more fully integrate ACCSP’s activities with partner needs.”

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species.

In 1995, recognizing the need for consistency across Atlantic coast fishery-dependent data collection efforts, the 23 state, regional, and federal agencies responsible for fisheries management on the Atlantic coast established the ACCSP. Using a committee-based approach, ACCSP works with its partners to increase data utility by: (1) developing and implementing coastwide data standards; (2) providing electronic applications that improve partner data collection; (3) integrating and sharing partner data via a coastwide repository; (4) facilitating fisheries data access while protecting confidentiality; and (5) supporting further technological innovation. Since the Program's inception, the Commission has played an important role in its creation and administration. In 2016, ACCSP officially became a Commission program.