

## Full Council –



### Update on the Marine Resource Education Program Southeast

Council staff will provide an update on the MREP Southeast Program during Full Council. Below is background information as well as updated information on the Management Workshop held in September 24-26, 2013 and the Steering Committee Meeting held

November 12-13, 2013.

#### Background

In 2012 in the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) was expanded from its roots in New England to the Southeast Region. The educational program, designed *by* fishermen *for* fishermen, is based on a series of workshops for fishermen addressing both fisheries science and fisheries management. The program is administered by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute <http://www.gmri.org/community/training.asp>. With funding secured through NOAA Fisheries, the program began in the Southeast with formation of an MREP Steering Committee to help guide development and implementation of the program. Steering Committee members include commercial, recreational, charter/for-hire fishermen from the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico as well as industry leaders, Sea Grant representatives, and NGOs. The Steering Committee met initially in September 2012 to help determine the targeted audiences for workshop participants, workshop dates and locations, recommendations for instructors, and general curriculums.

The first MREP Southeast Science Workshop was held April 2-4, 2013 in St. Petersburg, Florida. The 3-day workshop was held at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish & Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) facility. Instructors for the Science Workshop included SEDAR Coordinator John Carmichael as well as staff from NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Centers, FWRI, and other agencies. Participants in the workshop included fishermen, industry representatives, and media representatives from the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean.

A poster to promote the MREP Southeast was presented during the recent Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 National Conference in Washington, DC held May 7-9, 2013

#### MREP Southeast Update

- **Management Workshop – September 24-26, 2013**

The second of the two-part workshop series, the MREP Management Workshop was held in Tampa, Florida September 24-26, 2013 and included participants from the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. A total of 22 participants attended the workshop, representing commercial, recreational and charter fishermen as well as fish house owners/dealers and media.

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Presenters at the Management Workshop included Council staff, as well as staff from NOAA Fisheries Science Center, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, NOAA General Counsel, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, the National Weather Service. Bob Gill served as the moderator and Alexa Dayton with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute facilitated the workshop.

The Executive Directors from the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils attended the workshop and presented overviews from their respective Councils on “Sustainable Fisheries, Visioning and Current Issues.” NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator, Dr. Roy Crabtree also attended the workshop.

Agenda items for the workshop included:

- The Fishery Management Process – An Overview
- Role of Science in Management
- How to Get Involved
- Legal Framework
- Enforcement Overview
- Council Role Playing Session

Information on the MREP Southeast Program, including the agenda and briefing book/presentation materials for both the 2013 Science Workshop and Management Workshop is available at: <http://www.gmri.org/community/display.asp?a=5&b=15&c=266>

- **MREP Southeast Steering Committee Meeting – November 12-13, 2013**

The MREP Steering Committee met in Charleston, SC to review 2012 Committee recommendations, program achievements for 2013, workshop curriculum and presentations, and evaluations from participants. The Committee discussed program participation, governance issues, program funding, and provided recommendations for moving forward with MREP Southeast 2014.

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Council staff will provide a brief overview of the MREP Southeast Management Workshop and MREP Steering Committee member Kenny Fex will brief the Council on the results of the November Steering Committee meeting.