

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

2011 ACTION PLAN

APPROVED BY THE FULL COMMISSION 11/10/10



HEALTHY, SELF-SUSTAINING POPULATIONS FOR ALL ATLANTIC COAST FISH SPECIES OR
SUCCESSFUL RESTORATION WELL IN PROGRESS BY THE YEAR 2015

GOAL 1 REBUILD AND RESTORE DEPLETED ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES, AND MAINTAIN AND FAIRLY ALLOCATE RECOVERED FISHERIES THROUGH COOPERATIVE REGULATORY PLANNING.

This goal focuses on the responsibility of the states to conserve and manage the Atlantic coastal fishery resources for sustainable use. States will develop fisheries management programs that account for ecological interactions, bycatch, habitat quality, and socioeconomic concerns. Effective conservation and management of fishery resources must be achieved within the human and fiscal resources of the states. Cooperation and coordination with the federal government and stakeholders can streamline the fisheries management process. Actively involving partners into the process can increase efficiency, transparency, and, ultimately, success. In the next five years, the Commission is committed to making significant progress on rebuilding overfished or depleted Atlantic fish stocks.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

1.1 Develop and implement new fishery management plans, amendments, and addenda in a timely manner to address the conservation and management needs of Atlantic coastal fishery populations.

Task 1.1.1 – American Eel: Complete benchmark stock assessment for peer review. Initiate management action based on results of stock assessment and peer review. Maintain communication with Canadian Working Group to monitor progress on Canadian stock assessment. Following completion of ASMFC and Canadian assessments, determine if completion of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Great Lakes Fishery Commission is necessary. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Monitor USFWS and NMFS action on petition to list American eel under ESA.

Conduct fish passage workshop building on concepts identified in previous Commission workshop in conjunction with Fish Passage Working Group to address technical passage issues including issues related to American eel (See Task 1.11.8.1).

Task 1.1.2 – American Lobster: Complete Addendum XVII to implement management measures to rebuild the SNE stock. Consider development of Addendum XVIII to address interactions between the cancer crab and lobster fisheries.

Work with ISFMP Policy Board to develop long-term funding strategy for fishery dependent and independent data collection.

Continue the development of the lobster database to track trap tag transfers.

Continue to work with federal government to ensure consistency between regulations in state and federal waters.

Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance, including potential increased monitoring to support outcome of SNE management decision.

Update lobster database with landings information and monitor landings patterns in both the trap and non-trap fisheries.

Task 1.1.3 – Atlantic Menhaden: Complete Addendum V to consider alternative biological reference points. Continue to work with Technical Committee and Multi-species Technical Committee to explore alternative biological reference points that consider predation demands on the menhaden population. Evaluate management alternatives to achieve current biological reference points.

Consider initiation of an addendum to implement management response to achieve current biological reference points or alternative reference points adopted by the Board.

Continue to monitor recent fishery-dependent and independent research and data, particularly for the Chesapeake Bay. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.1.4 – Shad and River Herring: Review shad and river herring sustainable fisheries management plans to facilitate implementation of Amendments 2 and 3. Completion of benchmark stock assessment for peer review in late 2011 or early 2012. Consider Addendum II to minimize monitoring and management differences between Amendments 2 and 3.

Continue to work with NEFMC and MAFMC on the development of Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring FMP and Amendment 14 to the Squid, Mackerel, and Butterfish FMP to evaluate and mitigate shad and river herring bycatch in small mesh ocean fisheries. Monitor the potential initiation of a federal anadromous (Alosine) fishery management plan (See Task 1.12.4). Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance

Task 1.1.5 – Spanish Mackerel, Spot and Spotted Seatrout: Complete Omnibus Amendment to make the management programs consistent with ACFCMA standards. Maintain South Atlantic Advisory Panel involvement in the completion of the Omnibus Amendment.

Spanish Mackerel: Monitor South Atlantic Fishery Management Council activities and consider changes to ensure state-federal alignment. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Spot: Following completion of Omnibus Amendment, evaluate management trigger to determine if management action is warranted. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Spotted Seatrout: Provide analytical assistance to states as needed for stock assessments. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.1.6 – Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks

Spiny Dogfish: Establish the specifications for 2011/2012. Continue the development of Addendum III to establish state shares for the commercial fishery. Monitor final approval of the MAFMC's Amendment 14 (ACL/AM) and determine if a management response is warranted. Participate in the development of federal Amendment 3 to modify the current allocation of the

federal quota. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Coastal Sharks: Establish the specifications for 2012 and later. Monitor the development of Amendment 3 and 4 by the Highly Migratory Species Office of NMFS. Determine appropriate Commission response to HMS Amendments. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.1.7 – Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass:

Summer Flounder: Work with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) to evaluate the interactions between the Monitoring Committee, Scientific and Statistical Committee, and the Technical Committee and adjust process if necessary. Monitor final approval of the Mid-Atlantic Council's Amendment 14 (ACL/AM) and determine if a management response is warranted. Work in collaboration with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to complete stock assessment update.

Finalize regulations for 2011 recreational fishery. Establish the specifications for 2012. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Scup: Work with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) to develop an amendment to address allocation in the scup fishery. Also, work with MAFMC to evaluate the interactions between the Monitoring Committee, Scientific and Statistical Committee, and the Technical Committee and adjust process if necessary. Monitor final approval of the Mid-Atlantic Council's Amendment 14 (ACL/AM) and determine if a management response is warranted. Work in collaboration with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to complete stock assessment update.

Finalize regulations for 2011 recreational fishery. Establish the specifications for 2012. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Black Sea Bass: Work with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) to evaluate the interactions between the Monitoring Committee, Scientific and Statistical Committee, and the Technical Committee and adjust process if necessary. Monitor final approval of the Mid-Atlantic Council's Amendment 14 (ACL/AM) and determine if a management response is warranted. Work in collaboration with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to complete stock assessment update.

Conduct workshop to develop a strategy to address fishery independent survey needs, if funded through the Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science.

Finalize regulations for 2011 recreational fishery. Establish the specifications for 2012. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.1.8 – Tautog: Complete Addendum VI to address illegal live market and prevent increase in harvest as benchmark assessment is developed. Conduct data and assessment workshops to support completion of benchmark assessment and peer review in 2012. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.1.9 – Continue development of Commission policy regarding ecosystem based approach to fisheries management based on the results of the 2010 Commissioner Workshop (See Task 2.6.1).

1.2 Determine status and monitor progress of interstate fisheries conservation and management programs.

Task 1.2.1 – Atlantic Croaker: Complete Addendum I to implement new biological reference points and management area consistent with benchmark stock assessment and SEDAR peer review. Complete update of annual assessment triggers. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.2 – Atlantic Herring: Develop Addendum IV to consider allowing small purse seine and bottom trawl vessels additional landing opportunities in Area 1A.

Monitor the New England Fishery Management Council's development of Amendment 5 (bycatch monitoring and management) and determine appropriate Commission management response. Set specifications for the 2011+ Atlantic herring fishery. Hold meetings as necessary to establish state effort control (days-out) programs for Areas 1A and 1B. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.3 – Atlantic Striped Bass: Consider development of an Addendum III in response to stakeholder concern over decline in abundance and range. If approved, implement and monitor the effect of Addendum II. Complete a stock assessment update. Initiate analytical projects to prepare for the 2013 benchmark stock assessment. Consider development of alternative approach for evaluating conservation equivalency.

Monitor law enforcement activities and consider options to evaluate effects of poaching. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance, including review of any alternative management proposals implemented in 2010.

Task 1.2.4 – Atlantic Sturgeon: Continue monitoring activities of federal partners relative to Endangered Species Act. If threatened or endangered species status is determined, work with states to coordinate response to meet federal requirements. Continue monitoring sturgeon bycatch and ship strike mortality. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.5 – Bluefish: Work with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) to evaluate the interactions between the Monitoring Committee, Scientific and Statistical Committee, and the Technical Committee and adjust process if necessary. Monitor final approval of the Mid-Atlantic Council's Amendment 14 (ACL/AM) and determine if a management response is warranted. Conduct aging workshop (See Task 2.4.4) and continue development of coastwide biological monitoring program.

Continue development of coastwide monitoring program to address technical deficiencies identified during the last peer review. Conduct stock assessment update. Establish specifications

for 2012 in cooperation with the MAFMC. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.6 – Horseshoe Crab: Integrate newly developed technical and advisory groups into the continued development of the Horseshoe Crab/Red Knot Adaptive Resource Management Model (ARM) framework and the quota allocation methodology. ARM Subcommittee conducts management strategy evaluation (MSE) as recommended by the 2010 peer review.

Consider development of an addendum to select allocation methodology as part of the ARM framework implementation. Continue to monitor recent fishery-dependent and independent research and data, particularly for Delaware Bay. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Engage federal management agencies, the biomedical community, and shore-bird advocacy groups to secure \$202,000 in annual funding to support the Horseshoe Crab Benthic trawl Survey.

Task 1.2.7 – Northern Shrimp: Complete annual stock assessment update. Establish specifications for the 2011/2012 season. Initiate an amendment to explore alternative trawl configurations to reduce retention of small shrimp in spring fishery, trip limits, limited entry, and other issues identified during the scoping process. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.8 – Red Drum: Continue to monitor progress and results of long-line study. Work with Red Drum Stock Enhancement Subcommittee to complete stock enhancement guidelines. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.9 – Weakfish: Initiate addendum to establish stock indicators to trigger management action as stock rebuilds. Review trends in landings and conduct annual review of conservation equivalency programs. Review state proposals for alternative management, if necessary. Develop template to streamline biological sampling plans.

Monitor stock indicators prior to next assessment update. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

Task 1.2.10 – Winter Flounder: Continue to monitor enforcement issues associated with Amendment 16 sectors, common pool, and state fisheries. Monitor fishery for consistency with management parameters and state compliance.

1.3 Evaluate management program progress using appropriate metrics such as biological reference points.

Task 1.3.1 – Conduct review of stock rebuilding performance through the ISFMP Policy Board.

1.4 Utilize the best available scientific advice.

Task 1.4.1 – Present, to the Policy Board, individual board records in following scientific advice in management actions, as part of the annual stock rebuilding performance.

1.5 Manage responsibly when facing uncertainty.

Task 1.5.1 – Develop Commission policy regarding risk and uncertainty in consideration/coordination of/with Councils. [Previous task no progress]

Establish policy regarding requirements for technical committees to provide risk and uncertainty estimates when presenting scientific advice.

1.6 Encourage the use of monitoring programs (e.g., observer programs) to characterize fisheries.

Task 1.6.1 – Evaluate data collected and observer coverage through the Standard Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) for ASMFC species. Pursue remedies to address deficiencies in bycatch data. Evaluate link between ACCSP bycatch priorities and SBRM funding.

Task 1.6.2 – Develop strategy with state and federal biological sampling programs to achieve efficiencies in sample collection and processing to meet bio-sampling goals and FMP requirements.

Task 1.6.3 – Continue to participate in the NRCC Working Group to explore alternative sources of observer funding.

1.7 Document, evaluate, and minimize discards and bycatch in commercial and recreational fisheries.

Task 1.7.1 – Continue Fishing Gear Technology Work Group evaluations of problematic gears, as resources are available. Focus on gears with the greatest impacts and pursue remedies.

Task 1.7.2 – Submit ASMFC changes to existing priorities for at-sea observer coverage for inclusion in the ACCSP FY2012 Bycatch Prioritization Listing.

1.8 Commit to implementing full commercial and recreational catch and landings reporting systems for all species.

Task 1.8.1 – Work with ACCSP to determine level of catch reporting for each species; determine impacts of status to science and management. Utilize ACCSP catch reporting evaluations to highlight ASMFC species with incomplete catch reporting.

1.9 Evaluate interactions and minimize impacts on protected species.

Task 1.9.1 – Provide liaison between ASMFC activities and marine mammal take reduction teams and the NMFS National Sea Turtle Strategy.

Task 1.9.2 – Monitor the potential impacts of ESA listings on ASMFC-related species, including Atlantic and short-nose sturgeon.

Task 1.9.3 – Work with the Law Enforcement Committee on exchanging information and best practices related to the enforcement of protected and endangered species regulations (See Task 3.3.6).

1.10 Enhance integration of habitat, compliance, and socioeconomic concerns into the fisheries management process.

Task 1.10.1 – Incorporate socioeconomic research needs into the ASFMC Prioritized Research Needs document (See Task 2.4.1).

Task 1.10.4 – Cooperate with ACCSP staff on issues requiring socioeconomic data.

1.11 Promote development of effective fish passage approaches and projects through state and federal collaboration.

Task 1.11.1 – Coordinate the activities of the Fish Passage Working Group to carry out priority tasks as defined by the ISFMP Policy Board.

Task 1.11.2 – Continue to develop a policy on passage efficiency for diadromous fishes in cooperation with USFWS and NOAA.

Task 1.11.3 – Prioritize fish passage projects and develop performance criteria.

Subtask 1.11.3.1 – Develop database of dams, fishways, and passage efficiency studies.

Task 1.11.4 – Identify effective fish passage approaches.

Task 1.11.5 – Establish coast wide fish passage targets by 2012.

Task 1.11.6 – Continue to develop an East Coast Fish Passage Plan.

Task 1.11.7 – Develop a guidance document for navigating the FERC dam relicensing process. Also develop materials for a training workshop for state biologists and other technical experts.

Task 1.11.8 – Task diadromous technical committees with evaluating positive and negative consequences of providing fish passage.

Subtask 1.11.8.1 – Co-sponsor fish passage techniques workshop with American Eel Technical Committee and USGS (See Task 1.1.1).

Task 1.11.9 – Engage with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to secure fiscal resources to improve fish passage.

1.12 Monitor and promote cooperative planning with the Regional Fishery Management Councils, NOAA Fisheries, and other entities.

Task 1.12.1 – Attend Regional Fishery Management Council meetings as needed, and as time is available; participate as a non-voting member and liaison between the Councils and the Commission on matters of mutual interest.

Task 1.12.2 – Participate on the Northeast Regional Coordinating Council and SEDAR Steering Committee to set state/federal management and assessment priorities.

Task 1.12.3 – Work with the Regional Fishery Management Councils and the National Marine Fisheries service to improve alignment between state and federal fishery management programs.

Task 1.12.4 – Continue to work with NEFMC and MAFMC on evaluating and mitigating shad and river herring bycatch in small mesh ocean fisheries. Monitor the potential initiation of a federal anadromous (Alosine) fishery management plan (See Task 1.1.4).

1.13 Promote efficiency and accountability in the Interstate Fisheries Management Program process.

Task 1.13.1 – Continue to track status of stocks relative to biological reference points to evaluate and drive improvement and results in the Commission’s fisheries management process.

Task 1.13.2 – Continue to improve the “Meeting Overview” document to increase the efficiency of management board meetings.

1.14 Annual review of Commission progress towards achieving ASMFC Vision.

Task 1.14.1 – Conduct annual assessment to gauge the Commissioners’ evaluation of progress towards achieving the Commission’s Vision using an on-line survey.

1.15 Strengthen incorporation of stakeholder input into the interstate fishery management planning process, including contributions from advisory panels, environmental organizations, and other interested parties.

Task 1.15.1 – Engage Atlantic Menhaden, Spiny Dogfish, Tautog, American Lobster, and South Atlantic Advisory Panels in the development of FMPs and Amendments.

Task 1.15.2 – Continue communication with non-active advisory panels (species in the maintenance mode).

Task 1.15.3 – Continue to integrate non-traditional constituents into the advisory panel process through the Advisory Panel Oversight Committee.

1.16 Evaluate alternative allocation approaches including conservation incentives to promote fair allocation.

Task 1.16.1 – Support socioeconomic assessments in conjunction with stock assessments, as recommended by CESS for striped bass and other species, to provide more comprehensive information for managers when making allocation decisions.

GOAL 2 STRENGTHEN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CAPABILITIES, DATA COLLECTION, AND THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR STOCK ASSESSMENTS TO SUPPORT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS.

This goal recognizes that successful fisheries conservation and management depends on high quality research and scientific information. It seeks to improve the quantity, quality, and timeliness of the information used to support stock assessments and manage fishery resources. Stock assessment data need to be accurate, relevant, and timely to reduce uncertainty and provide the best available science in stock assessment results. This goal encompasses the development of innovative scientific methods and research and also augments the states' stock assessment capabilities. It provides for the administration, coordination, and expansion of cooperative interstate research and data collection programs. Achieving this goal will ensure sound science is available to serve as the foundation for effective management actions and improve the Commission's evaluation of stock status.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

2.1 Continue to promote the development of sound science.

Task 2.1.1 – Address data needs for stocks of unknown status. Develop quantitative assessments for species of unknown stock status.

Task 2.1.2 – Address data needs for species with limited data. Collect comprehensive data for use in advanced assessment modeling of species with limited data.

Task 2.1.3 – Develop measurable goals and timelines to move species from unknown to known status.

2.2 Improve, expand and focus interstate and state-federal cooperative research and statistic programs to support critical scientific and fishery management needs, including the Northeast and Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Programs (NEAMAP and SEAMAP), Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistic Program (ACCSP), and NOAA Fisheries research program priorities.

Task 2.2.1 – Coordinate and implement NEAMAP.

Subtask 2.2.1.1 – Identify and procure funding to conduct 2012 NEAMAP survey (most recent funding source RSA).

Subtask 2.2.1.2 – Support the NEAMAP Nearshore Trawl Survey.

Subtask 2.2.1.3 – Update and maintain a NEAMAP website for access to program information and fisheries-independent survey indices.

Subtask 2.2.1.4 – Assist in the development of a NEAMAP data management plan.

Subtask 2.2.1.5 – Develop the 2012 NEAMAP Operations Plan.

Subtask 2.2.1.6 – Develop long-term funding strategy for NEAMAP.

Subtask 2.2.1.7 – Coordinate meetings of the NEAMAP Board, Data Management, Operations, and Trawl Technical Committees. Serve on the Federal Trawl Survey Advisory Committee.

Subtask 2.2.1.8 – Include NEAMAP age information in coastwide aging workshops and exchanges.

Subtask 2.2.1.9 – Track and demonstrate use of NEAMAP data in stock assessments.

Subtask 2.2.1.10 – Ensure NEAMAP products are serving the needs of technical committees.

Task 2.2.2 – Coordinate SEAMAP-SA program.

Subtask 2.2.2.1 – Coordinate all research components of SEAMAP-SA: Coastal Survey, Red Drum Longline Survey, Bottom Mapping, Fish Habitat Characterization and Assessment, Pamlico Sound Survey, MARMAP Complement Survey, and the Data Management and Crustacean Work Groups.

Subtask 2.2.2.2 – Assist in developing the 2012 Operations Plan.

Subtask 2.2.2.3 – Participate in the expansion of SEAMAP-SA to include fisheries independent data coordination. Support Data Management Work Group development and populating of SEAMAP-SA database (Coastal Survey, Pamlico Sound Survey, Red Drum Longline Survey, MARMAP Complement, Winter Tagging Cruise), and coordinate with SC DNR to develop database with web query interface.

Subtask 2.2.2.4 – Coordinate South Atlantic activities with the Gulf and Caribbean components.

Subtask 2.2.2.5 – Redesign, update, and maintain the SEAMAP website.

Subtask 2.2.2.6 – Publish the 2011-2015 SEAMAP Management Plan.

Subtask 2.2.2.7 – Promote the use of Deepwater Horizon funds to develop assessment methodologies and survey techniques that will benefit the entire Southeast region.

Task 2.2.3 – Facilitate information exchange on state, federal, and regional activities regarding invasive species, as issues arise.

Task 2.2.4 – Continue the Tagging Certification Program and improve the use of tagging data in ASMFC species management programs. Develop tagging registration programs, update and maintain the tagging resource website, and continue developing tagging videos to improve the efficiency and quality coordination of tagging efforts along the coast.

Task 2.2.5 – Continue to participate in the development and implementation of the Marine Recreational Information Program, with ASMFC staff serving on Executive Steering Committee,

Operations Team, and Angler Registry Team. Report progress to the ISFMP Policy Board, Assessment Science Committee, and Management and Science Committee.

Task 2.2.6 – Continue to move forward with an efficient requirements-based Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise.

Task 2.2.7 – Evaluate the extent of fishery-dependent and -independent data collection programs that record information on black drum; produce preliminary summary of basic trends.

2.3 *Strengthen the quality and credibility of Commission stock assessments.*

Task 2.3.1 – Coordinate stock assessment reviews of American eel and river herring through the ASMFC External Peer Review process. Monitor the peer reviews of coastal sharks through SEDAR.

Task 2.3.2 – Coordinate Assessment Science Committee’s evaluation of workload issues to support and complete 2011 benchmark assessments. Develop long-term assessment schedule; identify data and technical constraints to address toward improving species assessments.

Task 2.3.3 – Serve as members of the American eel, summer flounder, tautog, Atlantic herring and river herring technical committees and stock assessment subcommittees to assist in completion of benchmark assessments and annual assessment updates. Utilize ASC for guidance as necessary.

Task 2.3.4 – Conduct introductory, intermediate, and advanced stock assessment methods training workshops. (See Task 7.2.1)

Task 2.3.5 – Develop new policies and approaches to better match assessment workload with assessment resources, using the guidance of the Assessment Science Committee.

Task 2.3.6 – Continue to utilize the Framework for Benchmark Assessments.

Task 2.3.7 – Facilitate stakeholder participation in data workshops for use in stock assessments and fisheries management.

Task 2.3.8 – Continue to support monitoring and other data collection to improve information available for assessments of southern kingfish (whiting) complex and black drum; evaluate stocks when feasible to determine if interstate management is warranted.

2.4 *Develop cooperative programs to address Commission research needs through partnerships with agencies, universities, private research organizations, and stakeholders.*

Task 2.4.1 – Update the annual list of all Commission research needs by species (TC/PRT review); incorporate Socioeconomic and Fish Habitat Research Needs Lists to support Commission FMPs. (See Task 1.10.1).

Task 2.4.2 – Participate in meetings of MARFIN, MARMAP, CBSAC, the Cooperative Research Program and ACCSP to review funding proposals and monitor regional research activities to promote member state needs.

Task 2.4.3 – Participate as members of the Chesapeake Bay Food Web Quantitative Ecosystem Team, and the Atlantic Menhaden, Atlantic Striped Bass, and American Shad Species Teams to ensure coordination of the Bay plans with the Commission FMPs. Also serve on the Chesapeake Bay Goal Implementation Team and the Fisheries Ecosystem Workgroup.

Task 2.4.4 – Work with the states to develop cooperative program to collect otoliths to improve age data for assessments of striped bass **and weakfish** and other species. Conduct age sample exchanges and **a bluefish aging workshop** to ensure optimal and consistent methods are being used coast wide (See Task 1.2.5).

Task 2.4.5 – Distribute electronically the ASMFC fish aging manual for Atlantic coast species.

Task 2.4.6 – Conduct regular meetings with staffs of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and ASMFC to review research priorities and explore funding opportunities.

2.5 *Identify and evaluate sources of mortality, other than fishing mortality, and methods to integrate them into the assessment process.*

Task 2.5.1 – Coordinate the Multispecies Technical Committee to support the Policy Board regarding multispecies interactions.

Task 2.5.2 – Continue to improve multispecies modeling efforts (e.g., the MSVPA) to support single-species assessments.

Task 2.5.3 – Seek cooperative opportunities with state, federal, and university researchers to collaborate using existing data collection platforms to advance ASMFC ecosystem models. E.g., diet studies, surveying spawning habitats.

2.6 *Increase data collection and research for ecosystem-based management strategies.*

Task 2.6.1 – Continue to develop Commission policy regarding ecosystem based approach to fisheries management based on the results of the 2010 Commissioner workshop (See Task 1.1.9).

Task 2.6.2 – Promote interstate programs to improve integrated management of fish, fish habitat, and water quality in regulatory and operational programs.

Task 2.6.3 - Develop Commission approach to ecosystem science to support ecosystem-based fisheries management.

2.7 *Provide opportunities for stakeholders to participate in regional assessment processes.*

Task 2.7.1 – Continue to encourage attendance of stakeholders, including advisory panel members, at regional assessment processes.

Task 2.7.2 – Track attendance of stakeholders and report to Policy Board.

2.8 *Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Commission's ISFMP technical process.*

Task 2.8.1 – Continue to work with stock assessment scientists and ACCSP staff to increase use of ACCSP data in the Commission's technical work.

Task 2.8.2 – Following benchmark stock assessments, create species-specific databases (including CDs) to facilitate efficient future assessment updates.

2.9 *Facilitate stakeholder involvement in cooperative data collection for use in stock assessments and fisheries management.*

Task 2.9.1 – Continue angler-based age sample collection initially focusing on red drum and striped bass.

Task 2.9.2 – Promote scientifically sound tagging practices and certification of angler-based tagging programs through the Interstate Tagging Committee.

2.10 *Increase the Commission's involvement in decisions of how joint state-federal fishery management plan research-set-asides will be used.*

Task 2.10.1 – Develop priority list of projects for review and approval by the appropriate species management boards.

Task 2.10.2 – Work closely with federal partners to insure ASMFC priorities are addressed.

2.11 *Participate as a partner to fully implement the ACCSP.*

Task 2.11.1 – Provide ASMFC perspective to the ACCSP's Coordinating Council, Operations Committee, Bycatch Prioritization Committee, Biological Review Panel, Recreational and Commercial Technical Committees, Outreach Committee and the Computer Technical Committee.

GOAL 3 IMPROVE STAKEHOLDER COMPLIANCE WITH COMMISSION FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS.

This goal recognizes that fisheries managers, law enforcement personnel, and stakeholders have a shared responsibility to promote compliance with fisheries management measures. Stakeholder support and compliance is vital to successful management plans. Activities under this goal seek to increase and improve the extent to which states coordinate their law enforcement efforts with each other and with federal agencies. Commission members recognize that adequate and consistent enforcement of fisheries rules must keep pace with increasingly complex management activity, including thorough reviews of proposed management measures for enforceability. Achieving this goal will improve the effectiveness of the Commission's fishery management plans.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

3.1 Develop practical compliance requirements recognizing fiscal limitations.

Task 3.1.1 – Identify compliance requirements that the states are unable to implement due to fiscal limitations in the Annual FMP Reviews.

Task 3.1.2 – Review effectiveness of the “Guidelines for Resource Managers” to evaluate its ability to inform fishery managers and affect their decisions in the regulatory process.

Task 3.1.3 – Evaluate enforceability of management options proposed in FMPs, amendments, addenda and conservation equivalency proposals.

3.2 Evaluate effectiveness of enforcement and compliance measures of fisheries management programs.

Task 3.2.1 – Report on the enforceability of existing FMPs as part of the annual compliance review for each species.

Task 3.2.2 – Evaluate equipment obtained under JEAs to enforce FMPs and report effectiveness to other states.

Task 3.2.3 – Report on enforcement issues associated with differing federal, interstate, and state regulations.

Task 3.2.4 – Review draft addendum to ensure cancer crab fishery does not impact enforceability of lobster regulations.

Task 3.2.5 – Continue to coordinate efforts to improve compliance with tautog regulations and striped bass EEZ closure.

Task 3.2.6 – Continue to evaluate methods for differentiating aquaculture products from “wild-caught” products to ensure the effectiveness of fishery regulations is not undermined.

Task 3.2.7 – Evaluate and report on states ability to effectively close (communicate and enforce) recreational fisheries in-season through emergency or other actions.

3.3 Enhance communication of enforcement and compliance issues to Atlantic state agencies and other law enforcement programs.

Task 3.3.1 – Provide a forum to promote interjurisdictional enforcement operations targeting specific fishery resources.

Task 3.3.2 – Expand efforts to reach out to the law enforcement advisory committees of the regional fishery management councils and interstate commissions to seek opportunities for collaboration and ensure consistent law enforcement strategies.

Task 3.3.3 – Continue to evaluate the states’ use of VMS data with increased access provided to the states. Determine if current level of access is adequate for state use of VMS data. Provide training opportunities, if necessary and resources permit, for state officers to ensure timely and efficient access to VMS data.

Task 3.3.4 – Monitor the activities of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Association and exchange information as appropriate.

Task 3.3.5 – Exchange information on record keeping of violations, dispatching, and use of real time data to enhance conservation enforcement efforts.

Task 3.3.6 – Exchange information and best practices related to the enforcement of protected and endangered species regulations (See Task 1.9.3).

Task 3.3.7 – Continue to evaluate the compliance with newly implemented state and federal recreational registry requirements.

3.4 Promote and expand existing partnerships with state and federal natural resource law enforcement agencies.

Task 3.4.1 – Provide forum for enforcement agencies to display successful development and use of enforcement technologies.

Task 3.4.2 – Conduct semi-annual presentations, by state and federal agencies, of enforcement actions and facilitate discussions on joint efforts that can assist in fisheries enforcement.

Task 3.4.3 – Share covert operations techniques, potentially through closed sessions, and law enforcement success stories and provide regional training sessions (if resources allow) to enhance law enforcement efficiency along the Atlantic Coast.

Task 3.4.4 – Monitor the NMFS response to the Inspector General’s report and offer assistance to NMFS where appropriate.

3.5 Develop and implement fishery management measures that include compliance incentives and foster stakeholder buy-in.

Task 3.5.1 – Identify and explore fishery management measures that maximize stakeholder buy-in.

GOAL 4 PROTECT, RESTORE AND ENHANCE FISH HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, POLICY DEVELOPMENT, AND EDUCATION.

This goal aims to improve fish habitat and ecosystem health to the benefit of Commission managed species. Habitat loss and degradation have been identified as significant factors affecting the long-term sustainability of the nation's fisheries. Consequently, the mission of the Commission's Habitat Program is *to work through the Commission, in cooperation with appropriate agencies and organizations, to enhance and cooperatively manage vital fish habitat for conservation, restoration, and protection, and to support the cooperative management of Commission managed species.* The Commission's Habitat Program embraces the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, and will continue to work cooperatively with that program to improve aquatic habitat along the Atlantic coast.

The challenge for fisheries managers and the Commission is maintaining fish habitat in the absence of specific regulatory authority for habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement. This goal calls for the Commission to be a change agent in effectively integrating habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement into fisheries management programs, in recognition of ecosystem-based management principles.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

4.1 Effectively protect, restore, and enhance Atlantic coastal fish habitat through fisheries management programs and partnerships, such as the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP).

Task 4.1.1 – Continue to support the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) under the direction of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) Board. ACFHP Steering Committee will report progress at Spring Meeting to the Policy Board.

Subtask 4.1.1.1 – Assist in obtaining future funding (\$100,000 in 2010, \$500,000 in 2012 and \$1,000,000 in 2014, recurring at \$1,000,000 thereafter) to support ACFHP operations and fish habitat conservation projects.

Subtask 4.1.1.2 – Continue to support habitat conservation projects to address ACFHP Conservation Strategic Plan priorities.

Task 4.1.2 – Complete activities identified in the ACFHP Multi-State Conservation Grant.

Subtask 4.1.2.1 – Facilitate communication and outreach with ACFHP partners, overlapping partnerships, and new partners. Develop informational displays and maintain the ACFHP website.

Subtask 4.1.2.2 – Implement the ACFHP Conservation Strategic Plan containing goals, objectives, actions, and priorities.

Subtask 4.1.2.3 – Support development of Regional Action Plans containing quantifiable and time-bound objectives and actions.

Task 4.1.3 – Coordinate artificial reef activities among the Atlantic coast states, and between the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions.

4.2 *Identify important habitat areas for Commission-managed species.*

Task 4.2.1 – Finish updating FMP Habitat Sections for American eel, Atlantic sturgeon, American lobster, tautog and other species.

Task 4.2.2 – Initiate development of a source document for Atlantic coast threats analysis for priority habitats for Commission managed species for review and use by the states.

Task 4.2.3 – Publicize important habitat areas identified for Commission-managed species.

Task 4.2.4 – Work with state and federal agencies, the Councils, and NGOs to build on existing efforts to develop a coast wide GIS of fish habitat resources, to identify important fish habitats for Commission managed species.

Task 4.2.5 – Assess status and develop strategies for improving implementation of habitat recommendations in current Fishery Management Plans.

4.3 *Build and support partnerships with fishery and non-fishery management agencies, researchers, and habitat stakeholders to leverage regulatory, political and financial resources.*

Task 4.3.1 – Provide information or comment on Atlantic coast projects and permits in accordance with ASMFC project review protocol.

Task 4.3.2 – Facilitate funding and partnership opportunities to promote habitat research in the states.

Task 4.3.3 – Forge additional relationships with non-governmental organizations to facilitate the promotion of fish habitat through a collaboration of strengths of different stakeholder groups.

Task 4.3.4 – Participate in the creation of fish and habitat data standards for use in coastal alteration project site characterizations.

4.4 *Educate Commissioners, stakeholders, and the general public about the importance of protecting, restoring, and enhancing habitat to achieve successful fisheries management.*

Task 4.4.1 – Facilitate coordination and distribution of information for ecosystem-based management and marine protected (managed) area activities.

Task 4.4.2 – Participate in regional and national habitat meetings and scientific conferences to facilitate increased communication with agencies and programs that have jurisdiction over habitat.

Task 4.4.3 – Publish periodic issues of the *Habitat Hotline Atlantic* newsletter.

Task 4.4.4 – Oversee the Habitat Committee's completion of the "Alternative Energy" source document.

Task 4.4.6 – Serve as a point of contact and information conduit for energy-related issues at the Commission.

4.5 *Implement performance metrics to focus efforts and monitor progress of the Habitat Program.*

Task 4.5.1 – Review program goals and evaluate accomplishments annually.

4.6 *Engage local governments in habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement programs.*

Task 4.6.1 – Highlight local habitat activities in *Habitat Hotline Atlantic* and distribute to local governments.

Task 4.6.2 – Work with ACFHP to foster partnerships with like-minded organizations at local levels to further common habitat goals.

Task 4.6.3 – Provide stakeholders with the tools to effectively communicate, promote and accomplish habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement programs at the local level.

GOAL 5 STRENGTHEN CONGRESSIONAL, STAKEHOLDER, AND PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE COMMISSION’S MISSION, VISION, AND ACTIONS.

This goal recognizes and supports the critical role of stakeholder and public participation in Commission programs. In order for this participation to be effective these groups must have a clear understanding of the Commission’s Mission, Vision, and decision-making processes. This goal seeks to foster an informed constituency, including our federal partners, stakeholders, and Congress. It does so through expanded outreach and education efforts about Commission programs, decision-making processes, and its management successes and challenges. It aims to engage congressional delegations in the process of fisheries conservation and management, and promote the activities and accomplishments of the Commission. This goal strives to provide Commissioners and stakeholders with the tools to effectively communicate the Commission’s Mission, Vision, achievements and challenges to their peers. Achieving this goal will increase stakeholder participation in and congressional understanding of Commission activities.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

5.1 *Increase public understanding and support of the Commission and its activities through expanded information and education efforts for stakeholders.*

Task 5.1.1 – Publish 10 issues of *Fisheries Focus*. Move to color format and explore posting to web via html format. Promote subscriptions and increase the net number of subscribers by 75.

Task 5.1.2 – Promote ASMFC through attendance at fisheries-related trade shows and conferences.

Task 5.1.3 – Continue to use webpage as a vehicle to promote ASMFC activities and solicit public input.

Task 5.1.4 – Promote the activities of the Commission regarding American eel, Atlantic menhaden, American lobster, shad and river herring, tautog, winter flounder, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, and the NEAMAP Trawl Survey to a broader constituency through mechanisms such as targeted press releases, informational brochures, submission of articles in popular press and scientific publications, webpage highlights and conference/trade show participation.

Task 5.1.5 – Develop and distribute youth-based educational materials designed to increase awareness of fisheries science to key venues (e.g., Eco-camps, charter boat operations, aquatic educators) to help promote marine stewardship and ocean literacy.

Task 5.1.6 – Develop performance measures to track success of outreach activities.

Task 5.1.7 – Explore ways to leverage East Coast aquaria in promoting ASMFC science and management objectives.

Task 5.1.8 – Conduct 3 outreach meetings with various marine policy and marine science graduate programs to promote Commission’s mission and programs (See Task 7.1.1).

5.2 Engage and assist congressional delegations with an interest in supporting the Commission’s goals and objectives.

Task 5.2.1 – Work with Commission leadership and Legislative Committee to develop ASMFC message and strategies for communicating that message to Congressional delegations, and implement as appropriate.

Task 5.2.2 – As requested by member states, meet with state legislatures and governors to increase understanding of and promote state participation in the Commission.

5.3 Strengthen national, regional and local media relations to increase coverage of Commission actions.

Task 5.3.1 – Prepare and distribute biweekly ASMFC-related news clippings to Commissioners and staff.

Task 5.3.2 – Conduct media training for key staff members.

Task 5.3.3 – Prepare “Stock Assessment Briefs” for major benchmark stock assessments (river herring, American eel, spiny dogfish, large coastal sharks, tautog) to facilitate media understanding and coverage of assessment findings and methodologies.

Task 5.3.4 – Explore posting press releases and associated photos/graphs on website in html format to increase usefulness to media.

Task 5.3.5 – Increase networking opportunities with fellow outreach/public affairs contacts in the state and federal agencies to share successful tools, identify key media contacts and work cooperatively on joint projects.

5.4 *Empower partners and stakeholders to promote Commission to stakeholders and state legislatures through outreach efforts.*

Task 5.4.1 – Work with state and federal partners on the development of informational materials regarding state, regional, and federal fisheries stock assessment and management processes.

Task 5.4.2 – Promote Commission/state partnership with increased presence at state sponsored marine-related festivals and fairs.

Task 5.4.3 – Provide information, guidance, and support to the states to conduct outreach on issues of mutual interest.

5.5 *Promote transparency of the Commission’s decision-making process and activities.*

Task 5.5.1 – Revise, publish, and distribute program-specific factsheets and stock assessment summaries to increase awareness of and foster transparency in Commission programs/processes.

Task 5.5.2 – Utilize appropriate outreach tools (i.e., Annual Report, Status of the Stocks, species factsheets and website) to document progress in rebuilding Atlantic stocks.

Task 5.5.3 – Research live broadcasting pros and cons of similar organizations doing the same thing e.g. Regional Fishery Management Councils and/or State Fishery Commissions/Councils. (See Task 8.4.6).

Task 5.5.4 – Interact with NOAA to learn about challenges, costs, benefits of using Facebook as a communication tool.

GOAL 6 REPRESENT MEMBER STATES’ COLLECTIVE INTERESTS AT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS.

This goal recognizes that state fisheries interests are often underrepresented at the regional and national levels. States are positioned to achieve many of the national goals for marine fisheries through their mutual and cooperative efforts. Policy formulation is often disconnected from the processes that provide the support, organization, and resources necessary to implement the policies. The capabilities of the states need to be kept sharply in focus as approaches to national fisheries policy are developed. This goal seeks to emphasize the importance of achieving conservation goals consistent with productive commercial and recreational fisheries and healthy ecosystems, and of working with all stakeholders in all phases of the process.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

6.1 *Promote the interests of the states to Congress and the Administration, and in national forums.*

Task 6.1.1 – Engage with Ocean Policy Task Force to provide state perspectives regarding the Administrations on ocean priorities.

Task 6.1.2 – Work with Legislative Committee to prioritize federal legislation before Congress and the Administration.

Task 6.1.3 – Distribute the Legislative Tracking Sheet to Commissioners upon action of a significant bill.

Task 6.1.4 – Publish and distribute 2010 Annual Report to Congress, state legislators and stakeholders to provide an overview of our activities and progress in carrying out the Commission’s mission and public trust responsibilities.

Task 6.1.5 – Update Legislative Binder and Commission database after fall elections, or as appropriate.

Task 6.1.6 – Participate in national and other forums such as AFS, NFWF, and AFWA in order to promote and communicate issues of interest to the Commission.

Task 6.1.7 – Continue to serve as an advisor to MAFAC.

Task 6.1.8 – Participate in the interagency coordination under the ACFCMA.

Task 6.1.9 – Maintain the Commission’s visibility on Capitol Hill through interaction with staff and principals.

6.2 *Maintain working relationships with national state government associations, and other interstate organizations.*

Task 6.2.1 – Maintain working relationship with Director and staff at AFWA.

Task 6.2.2 – Coordinate with the GSMFC and PSMFC on legislative initiatives of national interest.

Task 6.2.3 – Maintain working relationship with Executive Director of Coastal States Organization.

Task 6.2.4 – Respond as necessary to requests from in-state marine fishery commissions or other governing bodies for additional information regarding ASMFC activities and processes.

6.3 *Engage state marine councils/commissions to address stakeholder concerns and increase understanding of Commission actions.*

Task 6.3.1 – Strengthen outreach efforts by distributing *Fisheries Focus* and quarterly meeting summaries to the membership of state commissions/councils.

Task 6.3.2 – Meet with Massachusetts Marine Advisory Committee in association with annual meeting to discuss common issues.

6.4 *Develop a clear, proactive, and visionary federal legislative agenda.*

Task 6.4.1 – Work with the Legislative Committee to develop policy positions and recommendations for comment on relevant federal fisheries and ocean regulations and legislation from the state perspective.

Task 6.4.2 – Update Legislative Program Manual, bringing together informational resources and standardized processes for approaching legislative issues.

Task 6.4.3 – Continue to update and implement strategies for ensuring appropriate Commission funding from Congress and the Administration.

6.5 *Participate in the formulation of national strategies stemming from the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.*

Task 6.5.1 – Work with regional fishery management councils as well as SERO and NERO to implement ACLs and AMs in the fisheries management process.

6.6 *Work to ensure that JOCI action and policy complements and enhances Commission activities.*

Task 6.6.1 – Track federal implementation of U.S. Ocean Policy.

Task 6.6.2 – Continue to serve on the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative (JOCI) legislative advisors working group.

GOAL 7 STRENGTHEN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCE LEARNING AND GROWTH WITHIN THE COMMISSION.

This goal promotes human resource policies that attract talented and committed individuals to carry out the Commission actions. It also highlights the need for the Commission as an organization to continually educate itself. Increased understanding of the Commission process and issues will improve the efficiency of decision-making. It calls for Commissioners and Commission staff to maintain or expand the institutional knowledge of the Commission through periods of turnover. The Commission also embraces the opportunity to integrate the talents, perspectives, and energy of new Commissioners and staff to continually improve. The Commission is committed to promote learning and growth of state personnel in order to leverage scarce fiscal and human resources. Achieving this goal will build core strengths enabling the Commission to respond to increasingly difficult and complex fisheries management issues.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

7.1 *Strengthen the human resources policies of the Commission, including strategies to recruit the best talent to fill open positions and expand the skills of existing staff.*

Task 7.1.1 – Promote Commission’s programs and activities and recruit new talent by conducting seminars to graduate level marine programs (See Task 5.1.8).

Task 7.1.2 – Launch online Human Resources website and conduct training for staff.

Task 7.1.3 – Develop recruitment materials to promote Commission’s strengths as an employer.

Task 7.1.4 – Revise Employee Handbook as appropriate.

Task 7.1.5 – Strengthen new employee orientation to include meetings with each department to become familiar with the various staff roles and responsibilities.

Task 7.1.6 – Review and revise position descriptions as necessary.

Task 7.1.7 – Review vacancy announcement distribution list and update as necessary.

Task 7.1.8 – Conduct staff training on MMD with regard to the new database.

7.2 *Provide learning opportunities to state members in the areas of science, policy, and meetings management to improve efficiency of decision-making during Commission meetings.*

Task 7.2.1 – Conduct stock assessment methods training workshops. (See Task 2.3.4)

7.3 *Strengthen orientation for new Commission participants, including Commissioners, technical committees, and other committees.*

Task 7.3.1 – Executive Committee discuss and decide on implementation of appropriate orientation program for new Commissioners.

Task 7.3.2 – Update and distribute, as necessary, the Commissioner Manual.

Task 7.3.3 – Continue to provide orientation materials for new members of Commission supporting committees.

7.4 *Benchmark Commission processes with similar organizations to increase institutional efficiencies.*

Task 7.4.1 – Continue to monitor regional fisheries management councils and other interstate commissions for best practices.

7.5 *Facilitate learning and growth opportunities for staff and state personnel.*

Task 7.5.1 – Facilitate staff participation in professional growth conferences.

Task 7.5.2 – Seek educational opportunities targeted to specific staff based on job responsibilities and facilitate participation.

GOAL 8 PROVIDE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMISSION'S BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND ENSURE THE COMMISSION'S FINANCIAL STABILITY.

This goal addresses the Commission's administrative and management opportunities, including operational stability. This goal will ensure that the business affairs of the Commission are managed effectively and efficiently. This goal encompasses efficiency of operations, including workload balancing through the development of annual action plans to support the Commission's management process. It also highlights the need for the Commission to efficiently manage the resources it currently receives, and develop strategies for finding new funding sources to carry out its programs. This goal promotes the efficient use of legal advice to proactively review policies and react to litigation. Achieving this goal will ensure that the Commission has sufficient fiscal resources to support its Mission.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

8.1 Develop, implement, and monitor an annual action plan.

Task 8.1.1 – Conduct semi-annual reviews of progress under the 2011 Action Plan with the AOC, and report semi-annually to Commissioners concerning progress.

Task 8.1.2 – Develop 2012 Action Plan.

8.2 Conservatively manage the Commission's operational and programmatic budgets and reserves to ensure fiscal stability.

Task 8.2.1 – Monitor and update as necessary guidelines for cost effective meeting locations and meeting attendee travel practices.

Task 8.2.2 – Manage the Commission's reserve fund according to the approved investment policy. Review investments annually with AOC.

Task 8.2.3 – Review Reserve Policy in view of previous, current and expected legal expenses, as well as other uses.

Task 8.2.4 – Submit a Certification of Indirect Cost to the Department of Commerce.

Task 8.2.5 – Monitor expenditures on a monthly basis and project variances to ensure complete and timely use of available funds. Distribute monthly financial report to Senior Staff.

Task 8.2.6 – Conduct annual meeting with financial advisor to review retirement program performance with staff and provide opportunities for staff and provide opportunities for staff to meet individually with financial advisor to match financial goals with investment choices for retirement.

Task 8.2.7 – Prepare for and work cooperatively with CPA firm to conduct annual audit.

Task 8.2.8 – Conduct physical inventory.

Task 8.2.9 – Develop Commissioner ethics policy.

Task 8.2.10 – Seek ways to achieve greater efficiency and cost effectiveness through selection of meeting venues.

Task 8.2.11 – Respond to administrative requirements associated with new office space.

8.3 *Maintain and seek to increase long-term funding for programs that support Commission goals.*

Task 8.3.1 – Work to ensure the reauthorization of ACFCMA includes an increase to the authorized amount.

8.4 *Explore new information technology to increase efficiency of business management and presentation of technical information.*

Task 8.4.1 – Develop standardized protocols for improving navigability of and access to electronic shared files.

Task 8.4.2 – Attend information technology seminars/trade shows to remain abreast of current and future technologies.

Task 8.4.3 – Develop process to allow staff to electronically submit work hours.

Task 8.4.4 – Fully populate electronic letter and memo books to establish single repository for incoming and outgoing Commission correspondence.

Task 8.4.5 – Provide targeted staff training for full use of office equipment.

Task 8.4.6 – Research live broadcasting pros and cons of similar organizations doing the same thing e.g. Regional Fishery Management Councils and/or State Fishery Commissions/Councils. (See Task 5.5.3).

Task 8.4.7 – Implement direct deposit for reimbursement of Commissioner travel expenses.

8.5 *Incorporate proactive legal advice on new management strategies and policies and respond to litigation as necessary.*

Task 8.5.1 – Continue pending litigation regarding challenges to ASMFC's FMPs.

8.6 *Provide an administrative home for the ACCSP.*

Task 8.6.1 – Provide administrative support to the ACCSP, including human resource and meeting management, grant and financial monitoring and office space.