Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

NEWS RELEASE

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Opinion on Fisheries Electronic Reporting Requested from Atlantic Coast Fishermen and Dealers

Arlington, VA (January 24, 2013) ï The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) has brought together fishermen, dealers and fisheries managers to evaluate electronic reporting on the Atlantic coast. The first part of this project is a survey to collect attitudes and opinions from Atlantic coast fishermen and dealers about the current state of electronic reporting.

John Carmichael, with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Project Leader, explains ñFishermen and data managers both appear to have strong opinions on electronic reporting programs, so this project was begun to describe those opinions and better understand their basis. Information from this survey will be critical to addressing the concerns of the end users as future electronic reporting programs are considered. A great aspect of the project is how scientists and fishery representatives are working together. For example, the questions asked in the survey, and how they are worded, were largely determined by the fisheries representatives. This gives a bit of a different, and I think appropriate, tone to the survey than other efforts fishermen may have encountered.ò

The survey is titled, ñImproving Our Understanding of Atlantic Coast Fisheries Electronic Reportingò and can be filled out at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACCSP_ereporting. This project will be collecting information from the survey link or paper copies until May 31, 2013. If you do not have access to a computer you can also get a paper copy of the survey by calling 703.842.0782 or from any of the regional fishery councils or most state fisheries agencies.

The second phase of the project will be a workshop in Fall of 2013 reviewing this survey information, as well as other surveys and papers on the subject of fisheries electronic reporting. Overall goals of the project include 1) creating recommendations on current electronic reporting programs and approaches, 2) identifying frequently asked questions on electronic reporting systems, 3) evaluating the real costs and benefits electronic reporting systems, as well as 4) improving outreach and public understanding of electronic reporting systems. The final product will be a report released in the Spring of 2014.

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About ACCSP

ACCSP is a cooperative state-federal program to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. It is composed of representatives from natural resource management agencies coastwide, including the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the three Atlantic fishery management councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NOAA ï National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For further information please visit www.accsp.org.