

3. Dependence of vessels and persons engaged in pelagic longlining on other fisheries. Particular emphasis should be placed on the extent to which the capital and/or labor engages in other fisheries at particular times of the year and reasons for this switching behavior.

F. Groundfish and Estuarine Fishes.

Substantial stocks of groundfish and estuarine species occur in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Most of the database for assessments comes from studies conducted by NMFS and state fishery management agencies. Because of the historic and current size of these fish stocks, their importance as predator and prey species, and their current or potential use as commercial and recreational fisheries, more information on their biology and life history is needed. General research needs are:

1. Red drum.
 - a. Size and age-structure of the offshore adult stock in the Gulf.
 - b. Life history parameters and stock structure for the Gulf and the South Atlantic. Research should include determination of migratory patterns, long-term changes in abundance, growth rates and age structure. Specific research needs for Atlantic red drum are fecundity estimates, as a function of length and weight, and improved coastwide coverage for age-length keys.
 - c. Catch-and-release mortality rates from inshore and nearshore waters.
2. Life history and stock structure for weakfish, menhaden, spot and croaker in the Gulf and the South Atlantic. Research should include determination of migratory patterns, long-term changes in abundance, growth rates and age structure, and comparisons of the inshore and offshore components of recreational and commercial fisheries.
3. Improved catch and effort statistics from recreational and commercial fisheries, including development of age-length keys for size and age structure of the catch, to develop production models.

G. Coastal Herrings.

Preliminary studies indicate that substantial stocks of coastal herrings occur in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Most of the available data are generated from fishery-independent surveys conducted by NMFS and state fishery management agencies. Because of the size of these stocks; their importance as prey, and in some instances, as predator species; their potential for development as commercial and recreational fisheries needs to be understood. General research needs include:

1. Collection, collation, and analysis of available fishery-independent and

fishery-dependent data from state and Federal surveys, with emphasis on species and size composition, seasonal distribution patterns, biomass, bycatch, and environmental relationships.

2. Description and quantification of predator-prey relationships between coastal herring species and carnivores such as mackerels, tunas, swordfish, billfish, sharks, bluefish, and others in high demand by commercial and recreational fisheries.

H. Crabs and Lobsters.

1. Monitoring of fecundity and sex/size frequencies for examination of spawning potential in relation to overfishing criteria for stone crab and spiny lobster.
2. Development of recruitment, population assessment and management models for stone crab and spiny lobster.
3. Determination of the relationship between the reproductive cycle characteristics of spiny lobster in Florida and those in the Gulf.
4. Re-evaluation of spiny lobster short mortality to determine changes since effort restrictions were implemented.
5. Estimation of stone crab regenerated claw production versus new recruits to the fishery from landings observations.
6. Evaluation of spiny lobster catches from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

I. Sea Turtle Conservation.

The conservation of endangered and threatened sea turtles in the Southeast Region requires further investigation into life history parameters and ecological requirements. The interaction of sea turtles, fishing gear (excluder devices) and inshore/offshore fisheries also needs further refinement.

J. General.

There are many other areas of research that need to be addressed for improved understanding and management of fishery resources. These include methods for data collection, management, analysis, and better conservation. Examples of high-priority research needs include:

1. Assessment of the changes in recreational and commercial values that have resulted from past management practices for red drum, shrimp, mackerel, and reef fish.
2. Development of improved methods and procedures for transferring technology and educating of constituency groups concerning fishery management and conservation programs. Of special importance are programs concerned with controlled

access and introduction of conservation gear.

3. Compilation of baseline socio-demographic data for describing the social and cultural framework of managed fisheries.

4. Design and evaluation of innovative approaches to fishery management with special attention given to those approaches that control access to specific fisheries.

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Dated: February 2, 1995.

Gary Matlock,

Program Management Officer, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Addition

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Addition to the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 13, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 16, 1994, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice (59 F.R. 65026) of proposed addition to the Procurement List. Comments were received from the current contractor for this service in response to a request for sales data. The contractor indicated that addition of the service to the Procurement List would have a severe financial impact on the company and would cause the displacement of several workers.

The Committee has been informed that if the Committee did not add this service to the Procurement List, the Government contracting activity intended to set it aside for performance by a small disadvantaged business under the Small Business Administration's 8(a) program. The