

**Proposal for funding made to the
Coordinating Council and the Operations Committee Atlantic Coastal Cooperative
Statistics Program 1050 N. Highland St., Ste. 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201**

**FY26: Catch, Effort, and Biological Data Collection for North Carolina and Florida
Fisheries Dependent Data**

Submitted By:
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Applicant Name: NOAA-Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission

Project Title: FY26: Catch, Effort, and Biological Data Collection for North Carolina and Florida Fisheries Dependent Data

Project Type: New

Requested Award Amount: \$345,223

Requested Award Period: FY 2026 (January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026)

Primary Program Priority: Biological Sampling and Commercial and Recreational Catch and Effort

Date Submitted: 8/15/2025

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Project Staff:

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FL Fish and Wildlife Commission
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TBD – Northern NC contracted port agent

TBD – Central/Southern NC port agent

TBD – NC headboat port agent

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Proposal for the NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center 2026

Objectives:

- Shift staffing approach that ensures commercial and headboat port agent coverage for northern and central North Carolina and southern Florida which provides effort and biological samples needed for stock assessments and quota monitoring (1 headboat port agent in NC, 1 commercial port agent in northern NC, 1 commercial port agent in central and southern NC, 1 headboat port agent in south Florida).
- Develop data feed of headboat biosampling and logbook data from SEFSC to ACCSP and continue development of the feed to ACCSP of commercial biosample data.

Need:

Port agents play a critical role in the implementation of The Southeast Region Headboat Survey (SRHS). They monitor headboat activity to validate reporting of trips and collect biological samples critical to quota monitoring. These efforts also provide valuable information for stock assessments. SRHS estimates of landings and discards are expanded for any trips documented by port agents but not reported. Fish weights collected by port agents are used to convert the estimated SRHS catch in numbers to weight, the common unit for annual catch limits. The lengths and otoliths collected by port agents inform the size and age-structure of the SRHS removals as well as more general life history parameters used in stock assessment models (e.g. growth curves). The SRHS data collected on fish sex are used in developing the sex ratio at age used in stock assessments. The dockside interactions port agents have with vessel operators and crew is critical to the continued high compliance rates for the headboat fleet. The SRHS program has 3 critical areas in the Atlantic region that will not have coverage in 2026. The SRHS also lost the Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Branch (RFMB) chief position to retirement and shifting NMFS priorities make it unlikely that position will be rehired, so there is a need for one of the contracted port agents to also provide program support.

Port agents also play a critical role in the implementation of the Trip Interview Program (TIP) which provides length and age composition of commercial catches of federally managed species

in support of the SEDAR process. The Atlantic region of the Catch Validation and Bio-sampling Branch (CVBB) at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) recently lost 3 of 8 commercial port agents to early retirement. These positions are not expected to be rehired. Some states have agreed to supplement their existing commercial port agent responsibilities. However, northern NC currently does not have a port agent or cooperator with the capacity to assist in commercial sampling. This region is important because data collected informs both the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic region stock assessments and quota monitoring. In addition, the increased program support responsibilities of the central NC SRHS port agent limit the ability to make the 4-hour drive to northern NC to sample the limited number of headboats in that area. A port agent trained to sample commercial and headboat locations could cover both sectors to maximize efficiency.

Results and Benefits:

Collecting high quality, comprehensive fisheries data is essential to successful fisheries assessment and management. This project allows for the continuation of commercial and headboat port agent coverage in the Southeast U.S. Atlantic. Maintaining the capacity to complete dockside effort validation, collect biological samples and interact with stakeholders has many benefits. The estimation of total landings for SRHS depends on knowledge of vessel effort and the bias and uncertainty in the estimates would increase without this information. The biological samples from the relatively small SRHS sector have been the primary source of recreational size and age information for almost all stock assessments in the Southeast US. The continued collection of spatially unbiased commercial samples also reduces the uncertainty and potential bias in stock assessments. Quota management also benefits from more accurate data and spatially unbiased dockside sampling. In-season changes in fish sizes related to fishing behavior changes due to management are better captured with adequate dockside sampling and reduce potential bias in converting numbers to weight.

Without funding, the SEFSC will lose biosampling in three important south Atlantic coast areas that in some specific cases make up large amounts of samples for certain species. For example, in SEDAR 78 (South Atlantic Spanish Mackerel) the only commercial gear type with enough samples for length and age compositions was gillnet (Fitzpatrick 2021). The Northern NC Port Agent area accounted for 1,081 gillnet Spanish mackerel samples in TIP for the most recent year of complete data (2023) which was 63% of all South Atlantic gillnet samples for this species. For SEDAR 92 (South Atlantic Blueline Tilefish), length composition data were produced for the area of Cape Hatteras to the North Carolina-Virginia border (Pawluk 2024). In 2023 all TIP samples in that stratum were collected by the Northern NC Port Agent. In SEDAR 96 (SE Yellowtail Snapper) the Southeast Florida subregion made up 35% of all headboat samples collected in 2023 (Cheshire et al. 2024) and the South Florida Port Agent collected 83% of the samples in that year/subregion. For several important south Atlantic species, the Central NC and South FL Port Agents combined made up very high proportions of total headboat samples: vermilion snapper 54%, gray snapper 48%, black sea bass 73%, gray triggerfish 71%, mutton snapper 43%, and king mackerel 45%.

Data Delivery Plan:

The biological and headboat activity data collected by headboat port agents will be uploaded to the SEFSC Oracle Cloud platform. The headboat landings, discards, and trip information are entered into the VESL application by the vessel operators. The biological and trip

data collected by commercial port agents will be entered into the TIP system via the ACCSP data transfer portal developed by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF). All data are coded weekly, checked for errors and submitted to be entered into the NCDMF database monthly. Following a second round of quality control checks the data is submitted to the ACCSP database and made available in TIP format. These data are prepared by SEFSC analysts for SEDAR stock assessments, quota monitoring, and research projects. The biological structures collected by the port agents are sent to SEFSC ageing labs to be archived for use in informing the age composition of removals from commercial, headboats and often other recreational fleets.

At the project's conclusion, these data products will be housed at SEFSC and made available to scientists working on subsequent phases of the research program. These products will also be made available to scientists of ACCSP Partner Programs, following NOAA Fisheries guidelines regarding confidential data. We will also share the data directly with ACCSP, leveraging a current project and future proposed work to transfer data directly from SEFSC Oracle Cloud to ACCSP as part of the ACCSP catch, effort, and biosample modules.

Approach:

Each headboat port agent will evaluate headboat activity by contacting the vessel operations point of contact, monitoring vessel AIS, personal observation, or other methods daily. This information will be used to provide quality control over trip type reporting and trip reporting. The port agents will upload headboat activity reports to the SEFSC Oracle Cloud tables. The port agents will intercept vessels as assigned and collect fish measurements, otoliths, spines, and other biological information as defined in the headboat port agent manual. Port agents are instructed to measure all fish on a stringer or in a basket from individual anglers as they depart the vessel. They are instructed to subsample stringers/baskets with less common but important species (focus species lists are provided). This sampling design ensures less-common species are sampled in adequate numbers while common species are typically measured in adequate numbers as they are plentiful on stringers/baskets with the less common species. On many SE Florida headboat trips all retained fish are able to be sampled. Port agents will be issued BigFin measuring boards that connect through Bluetooth to Android tablets. The port agents will proof the data and upload to the SEFSC Oracle Cloud tables. All these protocols are contained in the 2024 Port Agent Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

In addition to headboat data, the northern NC port agent will also collect commercial data by intercepting commercial trips as they unload at industry sites in Dare County NC (primarily Wanchese and Hatteras). Bio profile information such as length, weight, sex will be collected from randomly selected fish during the offload; and the captains will be interviewed regarding trip details such as trip length, area fished, and gear used. After collection, trip and biological data will be recorded in Program 438/439 and translated into TIP format via the ACCSP portal. All these protocols are contained in the [User's Guide for the TIP \(version 8.0\)](#) and NCDMF program documentation for Programs 438 (Offshore Live Bottom Fishery) and 439 (Coastal Pelagics Fishery). In addition to the TIP data collection, the northern NC port agent will provide the SEFSC

with a weekly report on commercial and recreational fisheries trends and conditions.

Funding will allow for continued sampling of a number of southeast species that appear in the upper 25% of the [2026 ACCSP bio-sampling priority matrix](#). Table 1 shows the CY2024 percentage that biosamples from the two areas covered in this proposal (NC and SFL for headboat, NC only for commercial) make up compared to all samples from NC, SC, and FL east coast. Several species made up 30% or more of the entire 2024 South Atlantic sampling production for both commercial and headboat: black sea bass, cobia, Gag, and gray triggerfish.

Table 1. 2024 Sampling percentages (vs total south Atlantic samples) for commercial (North Carolina) and headboat (North Carolina and Southern Florida).

COMMON NAME	PERCENT_NC_COMM	PERCENT_NC/SFL_HB
Black sea bass (<i>Centropristis strata</i>)	81.5	31.8
Bluefish (<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>)	11	75.8
Blueline tilefish (<i>Caulolatilus microps</i>)	70.2	0
Cobia (<i>Rachycentron canadum</i>)	76.9	34.5
Gag (<i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>)	49.1	63.6
Gray triggerfish (<i>Balistes capriscus</i>)	40.5	68.2
Red grouper (<i>Epinephelus morio</i>)	63.6	12.5
Red porgy (<i>Pagrus pagrus</i>)	50.5	8.3
Red snapper (<i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>)	21	18.3
Scamp (<i>Mycteroperca phenax</i>)	57.1	1.4
Snowy grouper (<i>Hyporthodus niveatus</i>)	67.5	1.3
Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i>)	63.5	22.8

This approach of the proposal has changed since the initial submission that was provided on June 13th 2025. Initially, the use of a federal contract was proposed to cover commercial and headboat sampling in NC by acquiring 2 contract employees located in North Carolina, directly supported and directed by SEFSC staff, and funding passed through to the Florida Fish and Wildlife commission (FWC) would cover the support and direction of an FWC sampler in the Southeast Florida area. In the updated approach, an additional sampler was proposed for NC, and staff from NCDMF and FWC were brought in as project Principal Investigators (PIs). While the SEFSC has a long history of working with FWC on headboat dockside sampling, inclusion of their staff more directly into the proposal planning (and if funded, project execution) will likely create efficiencies and inform evolving coordination of State-Federal biosampling activities. Bringing NC DMF staff on as PIs brings invaluable infrastructure support for the contract employees, as well as PIs with strong experience with local industry. The proposed use of an existing NC DMF contract provides an economic efficiency that allows for the inclusion of an additional NC port

sampler.

Funding transition plan: SEFSC is optimistic that the budgetary constraints that have resulted in (or will result in) the loss of coverage in the three areas described above will be temporary in nature. The SEFSC Fisheries Statistics Division (FSD) is evaluating internal reorganization strategies that will result in overall Port Agent operational efficiencies. Emerging electronic reporting and automation projects housed within the FSD may free up funds for dockside sampling, and other activities, in the areas proposed here. The SEFSC also plans to more fully engage with our State partners in planning and coordinating biosampling activities (beyond what is already supported via the ACCSP Biological Review Panel).

Geographic Location:

The project will be administered out of the NOAA-Fisheries Office in Miami, FL. The scope of the project covers all of NC and the southeastern (Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties) area of Florida.

Program Accomplishment Measurement Metrics:

The success of the project will be measured by the following metrics:

- Quality controlled headboat and commercial biosample data, and headboat logbook data available to ACCSP.
- Successful coverage of both the headboat and commercial fisheries in NC and south FL
- Evaluation of TIPS software applicability for capturing headboat biosample data.

Goal	Metric 1	Metric 2
Biological Samples	Successful implementation of biological sampling for FMP species across commercial and headboat sectors	Evaluation of TIPS for headboat biosample data entry
Headboat Effort Validation	Increase Coverage of Headboat Activity	Representative coverage of headboat activity
Weekly reports on fishery Trends and Conditions	Number of Trends Reports	
Data Feed to ACCSP	Successful implementation of data feed for ACCSP to access headboat and commercial sample data, and headboat logbook data	Commercial and headboat biosample data reporting through ACCSP

Table 2. Milestone Schedule

[illegible]

Requested Budget FY 26 (January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026)

PERSONNEL COSTS:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct Partner Share	Total
Northern NC Port Agent, commercial and headboat biosampling (NC Temp Solutions Staff 100%)	\$56,970	\$0	\$56,970
Central/Southern NC Port Agent, headboat biosampling (NC Temp Solutions Staff 100%)	\$56,970	\$0	\$56,970
Headboat Port Agent biosampling support for whole state (NC Temp Solutions Staff 100%)	\$56,970	\$0	\$56,970
Southeast FL Port Agent, headboat biosampling (FWC staff 100%)	\$45,225	\$0	\$45,225
Southeast FL Port Agent, headboat biosampling (FWC staff OT 100%)	\$675	\$0	\$675
B. Salmon, Environmental Program Supervisor II (PI)- (NC DMF FTE 5%)	\$0	\$4,081	\$4,081
J. Rock, Environmental Program Supervisor II (PI)- (NC DMF FTE 5%)	\$0	\$4,142	\$4,142
L. Beerkircher, Supervisory Fish Biologist (Lead PI) -(Federal FTE 10%)	\$0	\$18,291	\$18,291
R. Cheshire, Fish Biologist (PI)-(Federal FTE 5%)	\$0	\$5,652	\$5,652
C. LaVine, Research Assistant (PI)-(FWC FTE 10%)	\$0	\$5,061	\$5,061
O. Wilms, Research Administrator II (PI)-(FWC FTE 5%)	\$0	\$3,825	\$3,825
Fringe Benefits for Federal Employees (33% of salary)	\$0	\$8,132	\$8,132
Fringe benefits for NC DMF Staff (24.04% retirement, \$8,095 medical, 6.75% FICA)	\$0	\$3,416	\$3,416
Fringe benefits for FWC Staff (26% of salary)	\$0	\$2,399	\$2,399
Fringe benefits for Southeast FL Port Agent (26% of salary)	\$11,583	\$0	\$11,583
Indirect Charge, FWC MTDC (30.59% of FWC request)	\$18,815	\$0	\$18,815
Indirect Charge SEFSC overhead (13% on total requested ACCSP funds)	\$39,716	\$0	\$39,716
Total Personnel	\$286,924	\$54,999	\$341,923

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct Partner Share	Total
4 BigFin electronic fish measuring boards @ \$2,665 each	\$0	\$10,660	\$10,660
3 NC Samsung tablets @ \$400 each	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,200
4 Doran Scales @1,872 each	\$0	\$7,488	\$7,488
3 Dell laptops @ \$1,833 each	\$5,499	\$0	\$5,499
Fedex shipping of age structures	\$100	\$300	\$400
General Sampling Supplies	\$700	\$2,000	\$2,700
Office supplies	\$0	\$750	\$750
Telephone & Fax Usage	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800
Vehicle Usage and Travel	\$49,000	\$0	\$49,000
Total Supply	\$58,299	\$21,198	\$79,497

TOTAL:

Item	ACCSP Share	Direct Partner Share	Total
Total Direct Charges	\$282,692	\$76,197	\$362,889
Total Indirect charges	\$58,531	\$0	\$58,531
Grand Total	\$345,223	\$76,197	\$421,420
Percentage	82%	18%	

COST DETAILS:**Description of Budget categories and expenses for this project.****a. Salary****From Partners as match:**

- i. **Beerkircher, SEFSC Lead PI:** 10% of annual salary
(\$182,914) = \$18,291. Overall project coordination.
- ii. **Cheshire, SEFSC PI:** 5% of annual salary
(\$113,047) = \$5,652. Survey advice specific to headboat sampling operations.
- iii. **Salmon, NC DMF PI:** 5% of annual salary
(\$81,620)=\$4,081. Oversight and support of NC DMF contract sampling staff.
- iv. **Rock, NC DMF PI:** 5% of annual salary
(\$82,840)=\$4,142. Oversight and support of NC DMF contract sampling staff.
- v. **LaVine, FWC PI:** 10% of annual salary
(\$50,610)=\$5,061. Oversight and support of FWC sampling staff.
- vi. **Wilms, FWC PI:** 5% of annual salary

(\$76,500)=\$3,825. Oversight and support of FWC sampling staff.

b. Fringe benefits

i. Federal PI Employees

100% of fringe (33% of salary=\$8,132 as match)

ii. NC DMF PI Employees

100% of fringe (30.79% of salary + medical=\$3,416 as match)

iii. FWC PI Employees

(100% of fringe (26% of salary=\$2,399 as match)

iv. SE FL Port Agent:

100% of fringe (26% of salary=\$11,583)

ii. NC Port Agents:

Cost of benefits and overhead are contractually protected business information; the information given below in Section f includes these amounts.

c. Travel

The request for funding includes fuel and maintenance for an FWC vehicle for the Florida Port Agent (\$3,000), mileage for Northern NC, Central/Southern, and Headboat Port Agent at \$15,000 each annually. (\$45,000 total), and travel for the SE Florida Port Agent to travel to a yearly FWC training (\$1,000). Total of \$49,000.

d. Equipment

From ACCSP:

i. 3 Dell laptops for NC samplers @\$1,833/each=\$5,499

ii. 3 Samsung tablets for NC samplers @\$400/each=\$1,200

iii. Telephones: 3 mobile phones @40/month plus \$120 for phone=\$1,800

From SEFSC:

iv. Electronic Measuring Boards: 4 BigFin boards @ \$2,665/each=\$10,660

v. Scales: 4 doran scales @\$1,872/each=\$7,488

e. Supplies

From ACCSP:

i. General sampling supplies for FWC Port Agent: coin envelopes, vials, plastic bags, gloves, field clothing, Fedex shipping of age structures=\$700.

From SEFSC:

ii. General sampling supplies for Contracted Port Agents: coin envelopes, vials, plastic bags, gloves, UPS shipping of age structures=\$2,000.

iii. Office supplies for NC Port Agents: paper, pens, ink/toner=\$750

f. Contractual

Each of the four port agents will work full time on the project. The three NC port agents will be contracted through Temporary Solutions (NC Office of State Human Resources).

The FL port agent will be funded through a grant to FWC. The coordination, supervision, and administrative role for the NC port agents will be filled by appropriate

DMF supervisors who will coordinate with a designated SEFSC point of contact. The annual salaries for contract personnel and the percentage of their time spent on this project are as follows:

From ACCSP:

i. Northern NC Commercial Port Agent:

100% of annual contractual salary, fees, and benefits (\$56,970).

Dockside commercial biosampling, primarily Dare County NC.

ii. Central-Southern Commercial Port Agent:

100% of annual contractual salary, fees, and benefits (\$56,970).

Dockside commercial biosampling, central and southern coastal counties NC.

iii. NC Headboat Port Agent:

100% of annual contractual salary, fees, and benefits (\$56,970).

Dockside headboat biosampling and support, NC.

iv. Southeast Florida Headboat Port Agent:

100% of annual salary and fees (\$45,900 salary/overtime, \$18,815 fees = \$64,715). Dockside headboat biosampling in southeastern FL.

g. Construction

There will be no construction as part of this grant.

h. Other

There is nothing in this category

i. Total Direct Charges

This is the sum of all direct charges to the grant, listed above.

j. Indirect charges.

Request includes 30.59% MTDC FWC indirect charge (\$18,815) and an SEFSC indirect charge of 13% of incoming funding (\$37,716). Total indirect charges are \$58,531.

REFERENCES

Cheshire, Robin T., Kenneth Brennan, Matthew E. Green, Ariel Poholek and Jasmine Silvennoinen. 2024. Headboat Data for Yellowtail Snapper in the Southeast U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. SEDAR96-WP-02. SEDAR, North Charleston, SC. 57 pp.

Fitzpatrick, Eric. 2021. General recreational and commercial age and length composition weighting for Southeast U.S. Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*). SEDAR78-WP05. SEDAR, North Charleston, SC. 17 pp.

Pawluk, Micki. 2024. South Atlantic Blueline Tilefish (*Caulolatilus microps*) Length Compositions for Commercial Longline Landings North of Cape Hatteras. SEDAR92-WP-05. SEDAR, North Charleston, SC. 8 pp.

Summary of Proposal for Ranking

Proposal Type: New

Primary Program Priority: Catch and Effort (50%), Biological (50%)

- Effort validation for 100% of headboat activity used in expanding catch for missing trips.
- Biological sampling of headboat catch for lengths, weights, otoliths, spines. Other biological information will be collected as requested based on assessment research priorities (e.g. DNA, sex, etc.).
- Commercial sampling of coastal fisheries lengths, weights, otoliths, spines. Other biological information will be collected as requested based on assessment research priorities (e.g. DNA, sex, etc.).
- Priority Species: Both SEFSC dockside sampling programs (commercial, recreational headboat) collect biological data on the highest priority species (Black Sea Bass, Blueline Tilefish, Spanish Mackerel, Gray Triggerfish) and many others in the ACCSP Biological Sampling Priority Matrix for FY26.

Project Quality Factors:

Partners

- **Multi-Partner/Regional impact including broad applications** –To collect and manage commercial and recreational catch/effort and biological data in NC and FL. This sampling augments existing SEFSC sampling to provide adequate spatial coverage in the South Atlantic region as well as for species that are managed coastwide. The state of NC will provide a port agent office in northern NC and the FL port agent will be supervised by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) through a grant to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC). The data collected will be used in coastwide and regional stock assessments, therefore benefitting multiple Atlantic states and regions.

Funding

- **Contains funding transition plan** – This proposal contains a transition to funding plan on page 5. Significant changes in operations within the SEFSC may leverage resumption of SEFSC funding of the work proposed here in future years.
- **In-kind contribution-** 16% of this project is funded by the SEFSC.

Data

- **Improvement in data quality/quantity/timeliness** – The uncertainty estimates in the SRHS landings and discards is based primarily on the compliance information derived from port agent reports of vessel activity. Full spatial coverage of headboat vessels in the Southeast Atlantic allows for the monitoring of compliance in the census. Assumptions about compliance in areas lacking port agents would reduce the confidence in the estimates. Full spatial coverage of biological samples reduces spatial bias in the size and age compositions used in stock assessments. For many species, the SRHS biological samples provide the majority of the information available for the recreational sector. The primary species caught in each area are typically collected in large enough numbers for adequate mean weights and composition data. The increased sampling the additional port agents provide ensure that less common FMP species are adequately sampled for these purposes. Port agents typically enter the activity and biological data weekly so that it is

available for calculation of landings estimates in weight before the landings estimates are due for each wave.

- **Potential secondary module as a by-product** – The biological data collected by the SRHS has been used in over 50 life history manuscripts and continues to be a resource for scientific investigation. Port agents routinely collect additional samples as requested (e.g. DNA samples for red snapper and cobia).
- **Impact on stock assessment-** Data collected in this program is regularly used for many southeast stock assessments. The data collected also contributes to other regions' stock assessments or jointly managed species.

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Curriculum Vitae

Education:

May 2000: M.S. Marine Biology/Coastal Zone Management, Nova Southeastern University, Davie Florida

December 1996: B.S. (with Highest Distinction) Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Rhode Island, Kingston RI

Experience:

National Marine Fisheries Service, Miami, Florida (2010-Present). Supervisory Fisheries Biologist (ZP-IV) Chief, Catch Validation and Biosampling Branch. Responsible for the coordination of the Federal Port Agents in the southeast as well as supervising the staff of the Pelagic Observer program. Supervisor: Dr. David Gloeckner, 305-361-4482

National Marine Fisheries Service, Miami, Florida (2006-2010). Research Fisheries Biologist (ZP-III) Coordinator of the Pelagic Observer Program. Duties include coordination of observer deployments with commercial fishermen and observers, training of observers in pelagic fish species and sex identification, and sea safety training. Responsible for debriefing of observers and maintenance and quality control of observer database. Produce technical memoranda (program data summaries) for publication as required. Produce both white and grey literature as time permits. Supervisors: Dr. Clay Porch 305-361-4232, Guy Davenport (retired, current email available upon request)

National Marine Fisheries Service, Miami, Florida (2001-2006). Research Fisheries Biologist (GS11) with the Pelagic Observer Program. Duties include coordination of observer deployments with commercial fishermen and observers, training of observers in pelagic fish species and sex identification, and sea safety training. Responsible for debriefing of observers and maintenance and quality control of observer database. Produce technical memoranda (program data summaries) for publication as required by supervisor. Produce both white and grey literature as time permits. Supervisor: Dennis Lee (retired, current email available upon request)

National Marine Fisheries Service, Miami, Florida (Aug 1998-2001). Biological Technician (GS6) with the Pelagic Observer Program. Duties include at-sea deployment on commercial fishing vessels, communication with fishermen during program operations, administrative support, processing of biological samples collected by the program, and maintenance of a database of the samples. In addition, responsibilities include data QC and database validation of domestic longline dealer reports. Supervisor: Dennis Lee (retired, current email available upon request)

South Florida Aquaculture, Florida City, Florida (Jan 1997- July 1998; July 1998 – Dec 2001 consultant) Commercial fish culture operation, duties include all aspects of fish systems maintenance, product harvest, and delivery. Develop/oversee water quality monitoring program, diagnose and treat disease, research new species and technology for future use at the facility. Identify and remove/control exotic vegetation on the property. Job site outdoors adjacent to the Everglades National Park.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Research Lab, Narragansett R.I. (May- Dec 1996) (Employed as part of a research fellowship with the University of Rhode Island's Partnership for a Coastal Environment program). Maintenance of shellfish broodstock for use in toxicity tests, spawning and larviculture of these shellfish, and culture of various algae species. Set up and assist experiments dealing with generational transfer of phototoxic PAHs in shellfish, locate and review scientific literature.

Achievements, Memberships, and Training:

2011 NMFS Employee of the Year Award (Supervisor Category), 2011 Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award, 2004 Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award, 2000 Nova Southeastern University Distinguished Student of the Year (Oceanography), 1996 URI L. Robert Crandall Scholarship, 1996 URI Durfee Scholarship. Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. CPR certification (American Red Cross), fishery observer certification (National Marine Fisheries Service), marine safety instructor certification (Alaska Marine Safety Education Association), associate fisheries scientist certification (American Fisheries Society). Attended sea turtle handling/gear removal trainings 7/26/01, 6/5/02, and 5/27/03.

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EDUCATION

May 2009 Ph.D. Coastal Resources Management, East Carolina University,
Greenville NC

May 2002 M.S. Biology, East Carolina University, Greenville NC

May 1996 B.S. Zoology, Ohio State University, Columbus OH

WORK EXPERIENCE

Supervisory Mathematical Statistician-National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center 10/2019 - Present

I manage the financial and personnel resources of the Fisheries Statistics Division, supervising the work of 70 employees and contractors in our Recreational and Commercial Catch Monitoring Programs, Commercial Fishing Catch and Effort Reporting Programs, and in our Survey Design and Data Management Program. I am responsible for oversight of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's landings and catch-effort data acquisition, processing, and analysis, which requires coordination between many federal, state, and commission partners. Supervisor: Dr. John Walter, 305-365-4114/Mobile: 305-608-5883

Supervisory Survey Statistician-National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center 7/2010 – 10/2019

I managed the financial and personnel resources of the Fisheries Monitoring Branch, supervising 23 employees and contractors responsible for the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's landings and catch-effort data acquisition, processing, and analysis, which requires coordination between many federal, state, and commission partners. Supervisor: Dr. Steve Turner (retired, current email available upon request)

Fishery Biologist-National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center 7/2003 – 7/2010

My primary responsibilities were the coordination of our dockside sampling program from NC to TX, and quota monitoring of commercial fishing catches in the US South Atlantic. My responsibilities as sampling coordinator involved day to day database maintenance and quality control of sampling data, as well as directing the sampling effort to maximize efficiency in the allocation of resources. Supervisor: Dr. Steve Turner (retired, current email available upon request)

Marine Fisheries Biologist 1-North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries 5/2003 - 7/2003

Supervised four biological technicians conducting a gill-net survey in the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers to obtain abundance information to inform fisheries managers. I was also responsible for supervising fish house sampling of long-haul seine catches to derive size composition of catches to inform stock assessment models. Supervisor: Katy West (retired, current email available upon request)

Fisheries Reporting Specialist-National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office 7/1998 - 5/2003

I was responsible for the collection, summary, data entry and transmission to the NEFSC at Woods Hole of complex natural resource data collected from fisheries in NC. This position was responsible for tracking the reporting compliance and checking the accuracy of reports from those seafood dealers that held federal permits for the sale of Scup, Black Sea Bass and Summer Flounder. Supervisor: Greg Power (retired, current email available upon request)

Fisheries Research Technician-Ohio State University (Aquatic Ecology Laboratory) 4/1997 - 7/1998

Worked as a technician on a collaborative project with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, exploring the abiotic and biotic factors affecting the fecundity and recruitment of Black and White Crappie in temperate Ohio reservoirs. Supervisors: Konrad Dabrowski (retired) and Bo Bunnell (current email available upon request)

Fisheries Observer-Alaskan Observers Inc. 12/1996 - 4/1997

Worked as a field biologist, collecting catch, effort, and size composition of the catch for the National Marine Fisheries Service. Supervisor: Dave Erick (retired, current email available upon request)

ACHIEVEMENTS and TRAINING

2015 U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award, 2014 National Atmospheric Administration Administrator's Award, 2001 National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office Richard Denzler Award for outstanding port agent. Proficient with various statistical packages including SAS, SPSS, Systat, Sigmaplot. Proficient with the use of SQL and SQL+ for data extraction, manipulation and management of ORACLE databases. Proficient with the Microsoft Office suite of software including Excel, Word and Access. Member of Golden Key National Honor Society.

Robin T. Cheshire

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Beaufort, NC, 28516

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1999 – MS in Zoology with Statistics Minor, North Carolina State University. Advisor, James Rice. Thesis title: Investigating size-selective processes in larval Atlantic menhaden survival using patterns of growth and variability.

1996 – B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Science (Magna Cum Laude), North Carolina State University.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

04/10/2022 to current – Fish Biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Branch, Beaufort, NC. FTE (40 hours/week), ZP-0482-3, salary: \$113,047. Main duties and accomplishments:

- Database manager for the Southeast Region Headboat Survey (SRHS) including all aspects of data collection, storage, and dissemination.
- Served as NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center representative on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Citizen Science Operations Committee
- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Return Em' Right committee member to promote use of descending devices
- Analyzed and summarized SRHS data for use in stock assessments
- Lead automation of workflow for routine data extractions and preparation of recreational for stock assessments

08/01/2010 to 4/10/2022 – Operations Research Analyst, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Sustainable Fisheries Branch, Beaufort, NC. FTE (40 hours/week), ZP-1515-3, salary: \$100,739. (Recently reclassified as Fish Biologist) Main duties and accomplishments:

- Served as lead stock assessment analyst within the Sustainable Fisheries Branch at Beaufort, NC. (2021 Snowy Grouper, 2022 Spanish Mackerel)
- Conducted data mining and statistical analyses of fisheries data for input into stock assessment analyses. Mentored new data analysts in software, analysis, and presentations. Provided survey and analytical support for the Southeast Region Fisheries Survey. Represented SEFSC at technical meetings of resource management agencies.
- Co-author on several collaborative peer reviewed articles including recent studies of gray triggerfish movement related to hurricanes. Worked in collaboration with assessment lead analysts to complete many assessment reports using Latex typesetting code
- Collaborated in updates of the R package FishGraph. Maintained distribution of package and responded to issues with usage.

2/1/99 to 11/02/03 – Biological Science Technician (Fish), National Ocean Service, Beaufort, NC. FTE (40 hours/week), GS-0404-8/9, salary: \$35,061. Main duties: Participated in all phases of fisheries surveys related to habitat use in Everglades National Park, FL and Poplar Island, Chesapeake Bay including data collection, sample processing, data management, statistical analysis, recommending improvements to future survey

designs, and report preparation.

09/01/92 to 01/31/99 – Hourly Technician/Research Assistantship, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. Main duties: Support research related to the South Atlantic Bight Recruitment Experiment while completing graduate degree.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2013 and 2018 – NMFS Time off award

2000 to 2002, 2006 to 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 – NMFS performance cash award

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

2014 – 2020 – Kayak for the Warriors kayak race, Pine Knoll Shores, NC, race safety coordinator. Town event that raises money for wounded veterans. In combination with silent auction and golf tournament this event raises about \$75K annually.

PUBLICATIONS

- Siegfried, K.I., J.K. Craig, R.T. Cheshire, M. Karnauskas, and P.G.R. Jodice. 2024. Long-term Trends in Abundance and Potential Drivers for Eight Species of Coastal Birds in the U.S. South Atlantic. *Regional Studies in Mar. Sci.*, 80, pp. .
- Bacheler N.M., T. Michelot, R.T. Cheshire, K.W. Shertzer. 2019. Fine-scale movement patterns and behavioral states of gray triggerfish *Balistes capriscus* determined from acoustic telemetry and hidden Markov models. *Fish. Res.*, 215 (2019), pp. 76-89.
- Bacheler, N.M., K.W. Shertzer, R.T. Cheshire, J. MacMahan. 2019. Tropical storms influence the movement behavior of a demersal oceanic fish species. *Sci Rep* 9, 1481 (2019).
- Fitzpatrick, Eric E., E. H. Williams, K. W. Shertzer, K. I. Siegfried, J. K. Craig, R.T. Cheshire, G.T. Kellison, K. E. Fitzpatrick and K. Brennan. 2017. The NMFS Southeast Region Headboat Survey: History, Methodology, and Data Integrity. *Mar Fish Rev.*, 79 (1): 1-27.
- Schueller A.M, E.H. Williams, R.T. Cheshire. 2014. A proposed, tested, and applied adjustment to account for bias in growth parameter estimates due to selectivity. *Fish. Res.*, 158 (2014), pp. 26-39.
- Powell, A. B. and G. Thayer, M. Lacroix, and R.T. Cheshire. 2007. Juvenile and small resident fishes of Florida Bay, a critical habitat in the Everglades National Park, Florida. Seattle, WA, NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA Professional Paper NMFS, 6.
- Powell, A.B., R.T. Cheshire, E.H. Laban, J. Colvocoresses, P. O'Donnell, and M. Davidian. 2004. Growth, mortality, and hatchdate distributions of larval and juvenile spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) in Florida Bay, Everglades National Park. *Fishery Bulletin*, 102(1), pp. 142-155.

BRANDI N. SALMON

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EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Bachelor of Science

-Marine Biology

Bachelor of Science

-Environmental Studies

KEY SKILLS

- Project Management
- Budget Planning
- Supervision
- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Prioritization

EXPERIENCE

Environmental Program Manager II/License and Statistics Section Chief

Full-Time (40 hours)

NC Division of Marine Fisheries

June 2020 – Current

- Responsible for coordination, organization, management, supervision, recruitment, and administration of over 60 employees among four different research programs within the License and Statistics Section and other high priority projects for the Division.
- Provide guidance and leadership to direct and indirect staff on establishing priorities, project and work planning, developing new research projects, obtaining grant funding, and providing feedback bi-annually on staff performance and goal setting.
- Assess and evaluate Standard Operating Procedures and administrative processes to modify and improve practices that will ensure Program, Section, and Division objectives are achieved.
- Work with Division Director and upper management to update strategic plans, policies, and procedures annually and develop legislative requests to accomplish research needs and initiatives.
- Coordinate data collection and analysis of summary statistics for compilation into briefings for senior leadership decision-making.
- Oversee the management of the Section budget that includes over \$3 million in state and federal funds.
- Responsible for project planning by developing timelines/deadlines, writing grants and acquiring funding, managing budgets, creating and assessing priorities, delegating tasks to staff, scheduling meetings, documenting conversations and decisions, collaborating with internal staff and with other agencies/stakeholders, and maintaining an organized electronic filing structure.
- Communicate research and present briefings to various internal and external audiences and serve on state and federal councils, advisory panels, committees, workgroups, and teams by attending meetings and contributing to conversations and deliberations.

Conservation Biologist I/Quota Monitoring Biologist

Full-Time (40 hours)

NC Division of Marine Fisheries

November 2018 – May 2020

- Responsible for management and administration of the Quota Monitoring Program under the Commercial Trip Ticket Program within the License and Statistics Section.
- Ensure all relevant commercial fisheries data were collected, entered, and analyzed and quotas were closely monitored.
- Develop and implement disaster and economic relief programs by conducting research, submitting spending plans, collaborating with state and federal staff and stakeholders, and completing final reports.

Marine Fisheries Technician II/Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Field Sampler

Full-Time (40 hours)

NC Division of Marine Fisheries

November 2018 – May 2020

- Conduct MRIP surveys with recreational anglers at boat ramps, docks, marinas, beaches, and piers and collect biological and trip information on recreational catch.
- Explain scientific and fisheries management concepts to diverse audiences while out in the field and at outreach events.

Jason E. Rock
Division of Marine Fisheries
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
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Email: Jason.Rock@deq.nc.gov

Education

2009 – M.S. Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

2002 – B.S. Biology, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA.

Professional Experience

July 2024 – Present. Fisheries Management Section Chief, NC Division of Marine Fisheries

- Responsible for coordination, organization, management, supervision, recruitment, and administration of over 80 employees in six different offices for the Fisheries Management Section.
- Work with the Division Director and upper management to update strategic plans, policies, and procedures and develop legislative requests to accomplish research needs and initiatives.
- Responsible for project planning by developing timelines/deadlines, writing grants and acquiring funds, managing budgets, creating and assessing priorities, delegating tasks to staff, scheduling meetings, documenting conversations and decisions, collaborating with internal staff and with other agencies and stakeholders, and maintaining an organized file structure.
- Communicate research and present briefings to various internal and external audiences and serve on state and federal councils, advisory panels, committees, workgroups, and teams.

July 2018 – July 2024. Marine Fisheries Biologist Supervisor, NC Division of Marine Fisheries

- Project management, survey design, statistical analyses, report writing, grant writing, and fishery management plan development and implementation.
- Oversee staff, manage budgets, analyze data, and compile reports for all sampling programs in the Central District Field Office.
- Blue Crab biologist for North Carolina and responsible for annual update of the traffic light stock assessment and FMP development (ended March 2020)
- Federal and regional responsibilities include being the NC representative on the NEAMAP Survey Technical Committee and the ACCSP Biological Review Panel.

April 2013 – June 2018. Marine Fisheries Biologist Supervisor, NC Division of Marine Fisheries

- Project management, survey design, statistical analyses, report writing, grant writing, and fishery management plan development and implementation.
- Oversee staff, manage budgets, analyze data, and compile reports for all sampling programs in the Pamlico Field Office.
- Blue Crab biologist for North Carolina and responsible for annual update of the traffic light stock assessment and FMP development
- Federal and regional responsibilities include NC representative on the: SEAMAP Coastal Survey Work Group, NEAMAP Operations Committee, and NEAMAP Trawl Technical Committee.

August 2011 – March 2013. Marine Fisheries Biologist II, NC Division of Marine Fisheries

- Project management, survey design, statistical analyses, report writing, and fishery management plan development and implementation.
- Atlantic Croaker and Striped Mullet biologist for North Carolina
- Federal and regional responsibilities include NC representative on the: ASMFC Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee, ASMFC American Eel Technical Committee, SEAMAP Coastal Survey Work Group, NEAMAP Operations Committee, and NEAMAP Trawl Technical Committee.

May 2010 – August 2011. Marine Fisheries Biologist I, NC Division of Marine Fisheries

- Project management, survey design, statistical analyses, report writing, and fishery management plan development and implementation.

- Biologist responsible for Pamlico Sound Survey, Pamlico and Neuse Watershed Gill Net Survey, Striped Mullet Electroshock Survey, Estuarine Juvenile Trawl Survey, Commercial Long Haul Seine Fishery Survey
- NC representative on NEAMAP Trawl Technical Committee and SEAMAP Coastal Survey Work Group.

February 2008 – April 2010. Marine Fisheries Technician II, NC Division of Marine Fisheries

- Field tagging of finfish species using internal anchor tags, otolith removal and gonad staging
- Data management and quality control and inshore small boat operation and maintenance
- Use, upkeep, and maintenance of YSI, PIT tag scanners, and gill nets.

September 2006 – December 2007. Biological Scientist II, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Fish and Wildlife Health Program

- Database management, data analysis, and preparation of reports using SAS and MS Office
- Fish health and fish kill investigations
- Participation in semi-annual offshore research cruises (10-15 days) using 65-foot balloon trawl
- Fish necropsy including taking and processing tissue samples for histological examination, parasite identification, and mercury concentration

June 2003 - August 2004. Fisheries Technician, Mote Marine Laboratory, Center for Fisheries Enhancement, Marine Stock Enhancement Program

- Construction and maintenance of closed salt and freshwater recirculating aquaculture systems for common snook, red drum, red snapper, and tilapia.
- Field and laboratory tagging of several fish species using CWT, PIT, VIE, acoustic, and dart tags.
- Inshore and offshore small boat operations and boat trailering.
- Use, upkeep, and maintenance of YSI, PIT tag scanners, acoustic tracking devices, trammel nets, gill nets, otter trawls, plankton tows, seines, and electrofishing.

Publications

Burton, Michael L., R.C. Munoz, J.A. Quinlan, M.W. Nelson, N.M. Bachele, B.J. Runde, S.M. Binion-Rock, G.T. Kellison, J.W. Smith, R.W. Laney, G.R. Sedberry, J.W. Morley, S.J. Poland, R. Brodie, L. Gentry, K. Gore, **J.E. Rock**, M. Johnson, M. Reichert, J. Flowers, and C. Collier. (2023). A climate vulnerability assessment for fish and invertebrates in the United States South Atlantic large marine ecosystem. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-768. <https://doi.org/10.25923/f90h-1z90>

Schlenker LS, Stewart C, **Rock J**, Heck N, Morley JW (2023) Environmental and climate variability drive population size of annual penaeid shrimp in a large lagoonal estuary. PLoS ONE 18(5): e0285498. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0285498>

Li, Y., L.M. Lee, and **J.E. Rock**. 2019. Modeling population dynamics and nonstationary processes of difficult-to-age fishery species with a hierarchical Bayesian two-stage model. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, 12: 2199-2214.

Binion-Rock, S.M., J.A. Buckel, **J.E. Rock**, K.H. West, and L.M. Paramore. 2019. Importance of Sample Gear in the Identification of Trophic Guilds and Forage Species in a Large Lagoonal Estuary. Marine and Coastal Fisheries: Dynamics, Management, and Ecosystem Science, 11:393-413.

Bradley, C.E., J.A. Rice, D.D. Aday, J.E. Hightower, **J.E. Rock**, and K.L. Lincoln. 2018. Juvenile and adult Striped Bass mortality and distribution in an unrecovered coastal population. North American Journal of Fisheries Management, 38(1): 104-119. <https://afspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/nafm.10036>

Lee, L.M. and **J.E. Rock**. 2018. The forgotten need for spatial persistence in catch data from fixed-station surveys. Fishery Bulletin, 116(1): 69-74.

Olivia Wilms

St. Petersburg, FL | 904.707.9005 | Olivia.Wilms@myfwc.com

Professional Experiences

Research Administrator II, FWC-FWRI

December 2024 - Present Leads the Fisheries Dependent Monitoring subsection within Marine Fisheries Research.

- Supervises 11 direct reports with a collective team of over 100 staff.
- Oversees 5 long-term fisheries monitoring programs with the addition of at least 3 new projects in 2026.
- Manages budgets and spending for federal grants and state budgets totaling close to \$10 million.

Government Operations Consultant II, FWC-FWRI

April 2024 – December 2024 Improving the daily operation of state-wide research conducted within the Fisheries Dependent Monitoring sub-section with administrative skills learned during my previous professional experiences and fisheries knowledge gained during my education experience.

- Significantly decreased the amount of funds returned at the end of each grant by properly monitoring expenditure and communication with PIs to ensure that all needs of the project were addressed.
- Reduced turn-around time on key submissions like reports, budgets, and invoices to outside granting agencies by creating higher internal efficiencies and expediting the approval process
- Work with other FWRI sections to increase the efficiency of FDM procedures and align our methods with agency standards.

Board Member, Kids' Chance of Florida Board of Directors

Jan 2024 – Present Philanthropy position supporting students facing hardships through parental employment accidents, where I am responsible for representing the organization at conferences and ensuring smooth internal operations.

- First previous scholarship recipient elected to the board of directors for the Florida organization.
- Taking the initiative to incorporate a student vision into committee work to increase outreach and engagement.
- Inspired an individual to personally donate annually toward the scholarship fund after sharing my personal testimony of the organization.

Oil Spill Grant Specialist V, FWC-FWRI

Oct 2023 – April 2024 Supporting scientists state-wide with information gained during my master's education, where I am responsible for providing daily support to primary investigators and budget trackers which includes corresponding with granting agencies, budget monitoring, and amendment or new award requests.

- Confidently supported 37 different research projects totaling over

\$62 million in state grant revenue.

- Overhauled grant records to ensure proper monitoring while streamlining grant maintenance tasks.

National Student Ambassador, Kids' Chance of America

Feb 2023 – Present Personal position to support an organization in which I was a scholarship recipient of through undergraduate and graduate school. I am responsible for sharing my story during public outreach to ensure better promotion of the organization and provide key insights on how to better utilize resources to provide further student support for more scholarships.

- Ensured the continued support of many sponsors and donors by attending several conferences to create an interpersonal connection between people and the organization.
- Reinforced the importance of continued support from sponsors and donors by attending personal meetings, resulting in the continued support from several insurance providers and further discussion of exclusive opportunities for scholarship recipients.

Education

Master of Business Administration, University of North Florida

- Anticipated Graduation: Summer 2028

Master of Science in Marine Science, Nova Southeastern University

- Graduation Date: June 2023
- GPA: 3.90
 - Thesis Title: An Ecological Assessment of the Meso/Bathypelagic Fish Genus *Cyclothone* (Gonostomatidae; Stomiiformes) in the Gulf of Mexico, Putatively the Most Abundant Fishes of the World Ocean
- Committee: Dr. Tracey Sutton (major advisor), Dr. Rosanna Milligan, Dr. Mathew Johnston
 - Received over \$15,000 in merit and academic scholarships.
 - Important courses include scientific communications, biostatistics, and various marine biology and oceanography courses.

Bachelor of Science in Marine Science with Psychology Minor, Jacksonville University

- Graduation Date: April 2020
- GPA: 3.81
- Outstanding Student of the Year in Marine Science (2020)
 - Academic Excellence Award in Marine Science (2020)
 - Green Key – Top 1% of students (2019 – 2020)
 - ICUF Presidential Fellow (2018 – 2020)
 - Received over \$100,000 in merit and academic scholarships.
 - Important courses include honors leadership, honors computer science, oral presentation, and various marine biology and oceanography courses.

Craig LaVine

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Fish & Wildlife Research Institute
Fisheries Dependent Monitoring
100 8th Avenue SE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 687-6888
Craig.Lavine@myfwc.com

Education

University of Florida – B.S. December 1996

- Major: Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
- Minor: Zoology, Business Administration

Professional History

- Research Associate, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), supervise four staff and oversee FWC's participation in the Southeast Region Headboat Survey (SRHS). I also contributed to the design and implementation of the Florida State Headboat Survey, which I continue to oversee, including one field staff member. 2023-present
- Research Associate, FWC, Supervised four field staff and managed FWC's participation in The Southeast Region For-Hire Intercept Survey (SEFHIS). SEFHIS was the dockside validation component of the Gulf Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting program (SEFHIER). 2021-2023
- Biological Scientist II, FWC, Worked as port sampler for Southeast Region Headboat Survey. Duties included meeting headboats at the dock to take biological samples from the catch, as well as monitoring vessels' daily fishing reports for accuracy and vessel compliance. 2004-2021
- OPS Biological Scientist II, FWC, Started my career as a field sampler for the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS). I was soon promoted to regional coordinator of the MRFSS survey, where I made schedules, edited sampler data, and conducted a charter boat telephone survey. 1999-2004

Skills and Certificates

- Expert at Gulf fish identification and collection of biological samples, including otoliths, gonads, scales, and spines
- Certified Open Water I Scuba Diver-N.A.U.I.
- Coast Guard Auxiliary Safe Boating Certification
- National Marine Fisheries Service Certified North Atlantic Groundfish Observer