

Tab R, No. 4

# Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison Report

**Gulf Council Meeting  
Biloxi, Mississippi**



# INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT

- **Work focused on several areas**
  - **Improve state and commission data management systems**
  - **Centralize state recreational data at GSMFC**
  - **Red snapper recreational research**
  - **At-sea sampling in Louisiana and Texas**



# **SOUTHEAST FISHERY OBSERVER PROGRAM**



- **NOAA Fisheries has contracted with GSMFC to provide personnel support for the Southeast Fishery Observer Program (SEFOP)**
- **NOAA Fisheries providing approximately \$1.5M annually for the next 3 years**

# SOUTHEAST FISHERY OBSERVER PROGRAM

- **The mission of program is to provide fishery-dependent data used to manage South Atlantic, Gulf and HMS fish stocks and protected resources**
- **GSMFC is providing two project managers to oversee personnel management and scientific data quality**
- **GSMFC is hiring 6-7 new employees located in Galveston, TX and Panama City, FL to serve as observer trainers/debriefers and a data entry clerk**



# SOUTHEAST FISHERY OBSERVER PROGRAM

- **Debriefers work directly with observers to provide quality control assurance of observer field data as well as helping train observers**
- **Data Entry clerk will perform computer data entry, analysis, and maintenance of databases along with preparing data for scientific reports and presentations**



# SOUTHEAST FISHERY OBSERVER PROGRAM



- **GSMFC is striving to play a more active role in SEFOP data collection and sharing such that these data could be beneficial for state stock assessments efforts**

# INTEGRATED MULTI-TROPHIC AQUACULTURE (IMTA) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

- The IMTA project is intended to traverse the permit process for finfish aquaculture and test the Aquafort technology in the Gulf in state waters
- The site is two miles off the beach south of Fort Morgan, Alabama and includes two 20X20ft nets that extend down 15ft.



# INTEGRATED MULTI-TROPHIC AQUACULTURE (IMTA) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

- The structure was received at Dauphin Island along with the copper net two weeks ago.
- Assembly is underway and is expected to be towed to the site in another week or two.
- Animals will be introduced in early December.
- Harvest will be just prior to hurricane season and the structure will be towed back to shore.
- It will be redeployed in next November



# QUESTIONS?

