



Mid-Atlantic Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program 2007 Fishing Year

06-RSA-001 - NFI, “*Development of a Supplemental Finfish Survey Targeting Mid-Atlantic Migratory Species.*” - Principal Investigator ~ Eric Powell

RSA Requested: 223,140 lbs Summer Flounder, 221,581 lbs Scup, 61,500 lbs Black Sea Bass, 281,089 lbs *Loligo*, 363,677 lbs Bluefish

Performance Period: 01/01/07 – 12/31/07

Description: The goal of this project is to supplement the survey database with information on the deep-water extent and migratory behavior of important species by developing a supplemental multispecies survey program. This project is now entering its fourth year.

This survey will track the seasonal movements of selected fish species, offshore and downcoast in the fall coincident with declining temperatures and upcoast and onshore migration as the water warms in the spring. To accomplish this, the survey will include both spatial and temporal components. The sampling intensity will be increased between 150 and 250 fm so as to extend this survey beyond the domain of present-day surveys. The sampling program includes fixed, depths-structured samples plus adaptive stations to enhance the resolution of species distribution and to describe the cross-shelf distribution of species.

Award Status: **Active.** NOAA Grants Approval received 2/1/07. First performance report is due 7/30/07.

06-RSA-002 – NFI, “*Bycatch Reduction and Gear Development in the Mid-Atlantic: Evaluation of Optimal Codend Mesh Size in the Loligo Fishery.*” Principal Investigator ~ Eric Powell

RSA Requested: 163,633 lbs Summer Flounder, 189,875 lbs Scup, 40,358 lbs Black Sea Bass, 331,000 lbs *Loligo*

Performance Period: 01/01/07 – 12/31/07

Description: This proposal will address the significant discard issue in the small-mesh *Loligo* squid fishery. Investigators propose to evaluate the performance of intermediate codend mesh sizes above the present legal size of 1.875” and below 2.5”. Researchers will also attempt to determine the influence of these intermediate mesh sizes on the catch of other species such as

butterfish and silver hake and accompanying bycatch species as well as the primary target of the program, submarket size *Loligo* squid.

Award Status: **Active**. NOAA Grants Approval received 2/5/07. First performance report is due 7/30/07.

06-RSA-005 - Cornell Cooperative Extension. “*Evaluation of Summer Flounder Discard Mortality in the Bottom Trawl Fishery*,” Principal Investigator ~ Emerson Hasbrouck

RSA Requested: 178,000 lbs Summer Flounder

Performance Period:01/01/07 – 12/31/07

Description: This project would implement a program to improve and enhance fishery information relative to discard mortality of summer flounder (SF) in the bottom trawl fishery. With the cooperation of commercial bottom trawlers in NY, SF would be collected. under various fishing conditions and held live. The SF discard, both legal and sub-legal size will be measured, tagged and kept in a live holding pen for mortality monitoring. Mortality will be monitored on a weekly basis and fish will be released with tags after two weeks. Extended mortality and migration information will be collected upon recapture of tagged fish.

Award Status: **Active**. NOAA Grants Approval received 2/1/07. First performance report is due 7/30/07.

05-RSA-007 – Borden, “*2007 Fishery Independent Survey of Selected Hard Bottom Areas in Southern New England*.” Principal Investigator – Laura Skrobe

RSA Requested: 2,289 lbs Summer Flounder, 40,000 lbs Scup, 30,000 lbs Black Sea Bass

Performance Period:05/01/07 – 12/31/07

Description: This proposal involves a fishery independent scup survey of ten separate hard bottom sites in Southern New England and two sites located on the scup spawning grounds in Vineyard Sound using fish pots. All of the proposed sampling sites are on rocky substrate and further, are located a considerable distance offshore where there is little or no scup pot fishery and no active trawl fishery. Since existing State and Federal research vessels, which rely on bottom trawls as their primary collection method, sample only fishable grounds, they do not survey hard bottom areas which constitute the majority of summer inshore habitat of scup. If this technique proves useful, it may substantially improve the current and future understanding of the scup resource.

Award Status: **Active**. NOAA Grants Approval received 2/1/07. First performance report is due 10/30/07.