

Marine Resource Education Program (MREP)

Bridging the gap between fishermen, scientists & managers since 2001

Lauren O'Brien
MREP Senior Program Manager

*On behalf of Liz Moore
MREP Atlantic Region Program Manger*

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
February 8, 2023



**Marine Resource
Education Program**



**Gulf of Maine
Research Institute**

Science. Education. Community.

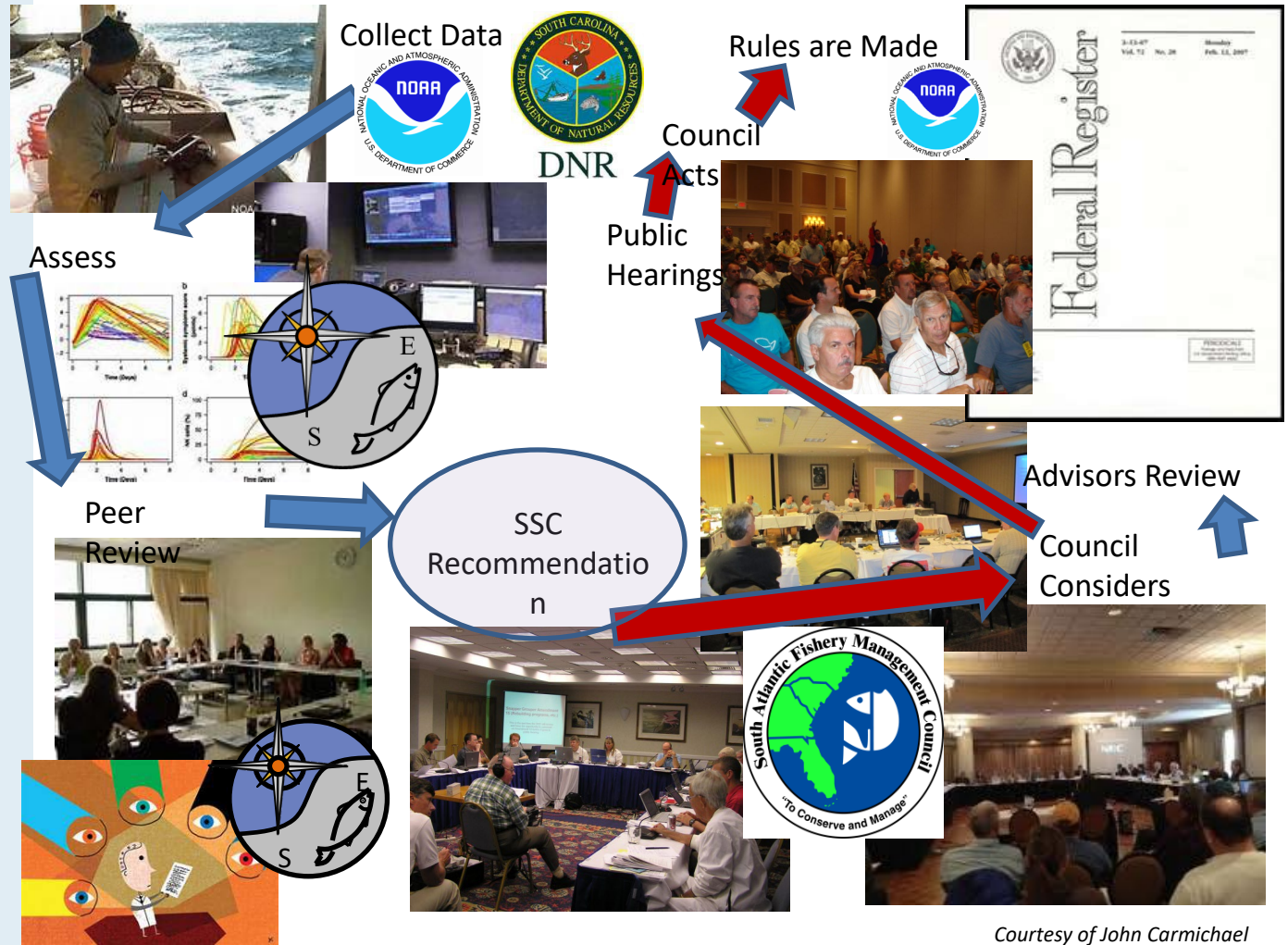
In 2001, Two fishermen in New England came together...



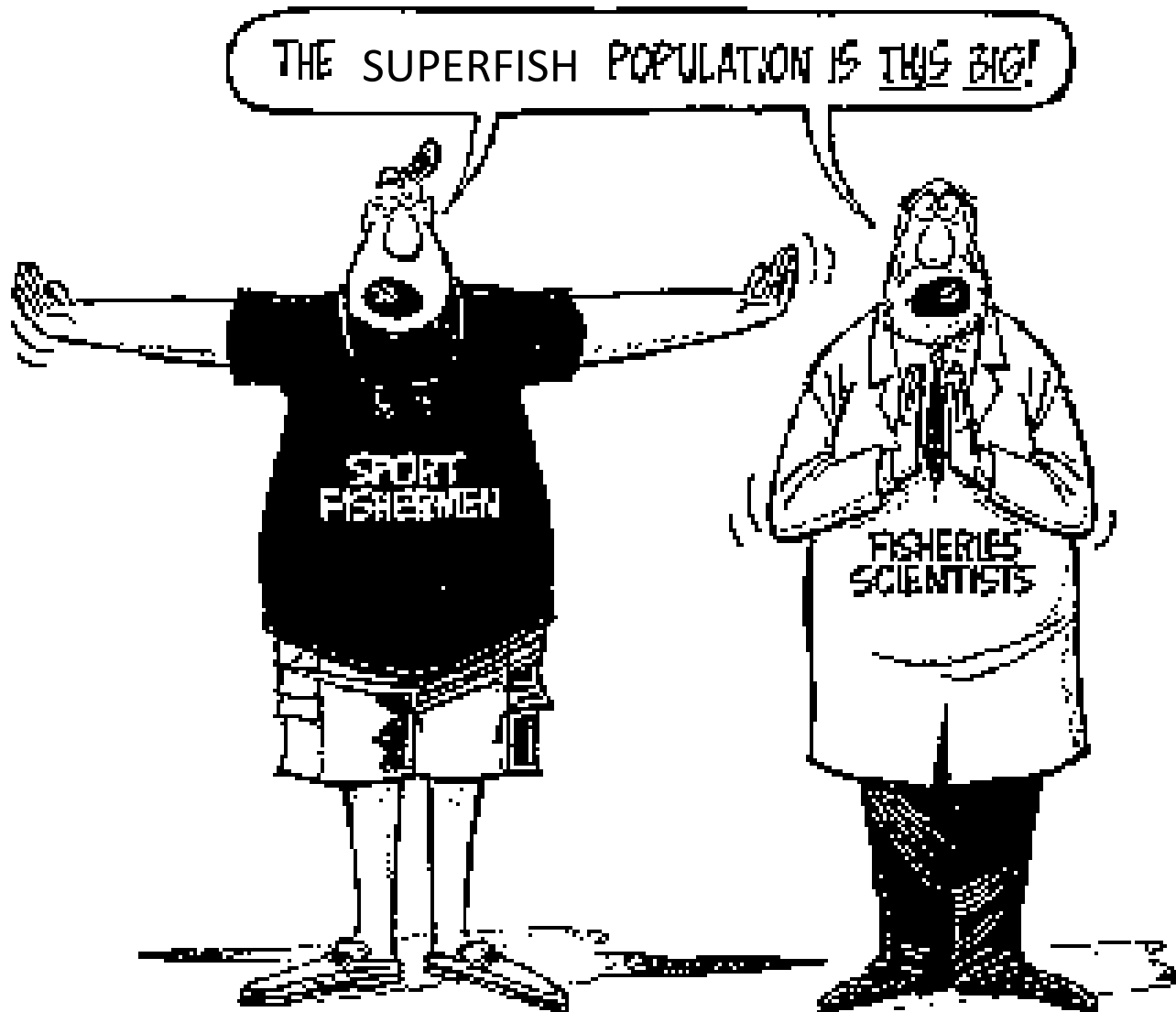
**Mary Beth Tooley, future Council member, &
John Williamson, Council member at the time**



The complex system of fisheries science & management is difficult to navigate ...
 ... Making it hard to contribute to the process.



Far too often...



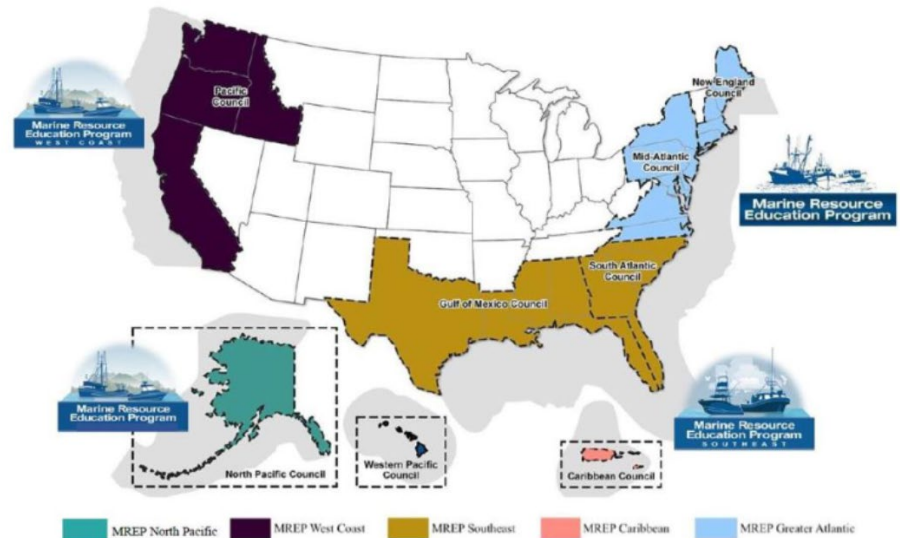
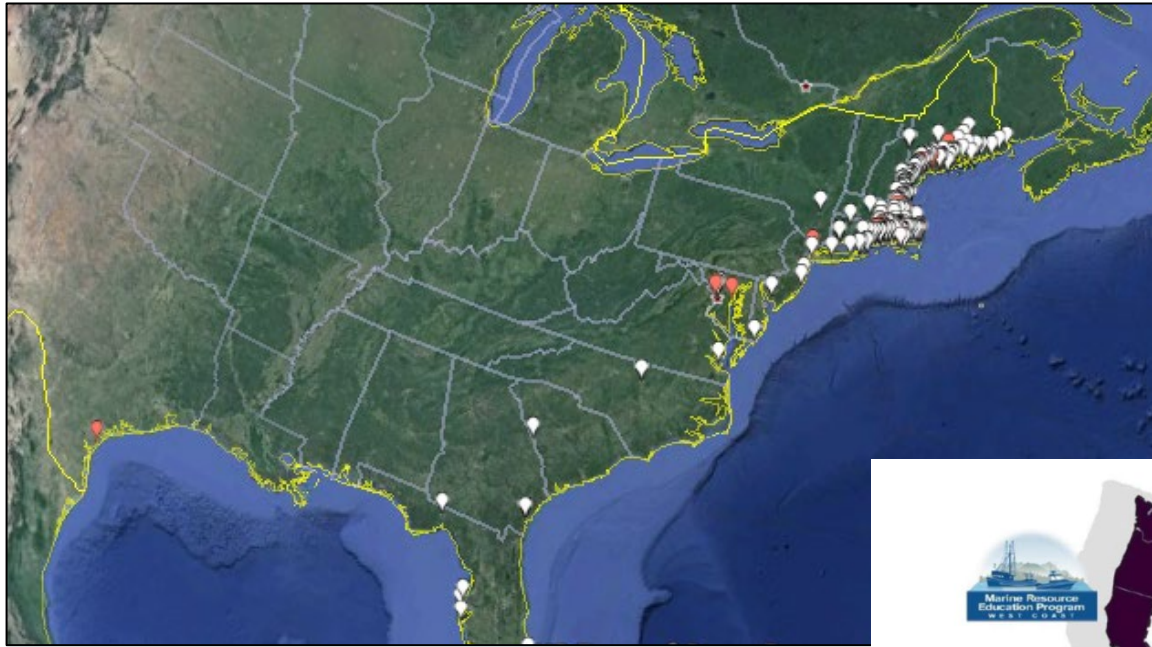
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“Fishermen are trained to catch fish. Biologists, managers, and environmentalists are trained to save fish. We all need some type of education on how to work for the same goals in fishery management.”

- Rodney Avila, former Council member, MREP 2001 curriculum committee



MREP applicants begin to come from other council regions, and other sectors



Steering Committees ensure MREP remains “By Fishermen”

Who?

- Fishermen
- Fishing Industry
- Scientists
- Managers



MREP Greater Atlantic Steering Committee Members, November 2023

What?

- Annual Program Review
- Curriculum Review
- Recommendations
- Mentoring and communications

Collaboratively, the MREP Steering Committee addresses:

- *What info & tools do fishermen need to engage effectively in fishery management and collaborative science?*
- *What valuable knowledge do fishermen bring to the table?*
- *How do fishermen, scientists & managers learn to work together to address fisheries issues?*
- *How are relationships important in the fisheries science & management processes, and who should fishermen build relationships with so they can most effectively get their voices heard?*

MREP Greater Atlantic Steering Committee



Al Cottone

Gloucester Fisheries Commission



Bobby Rhule

F/V Darana R
Wanchese, NC



David Sikorski

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Hank Soule

Sector Manager, New England



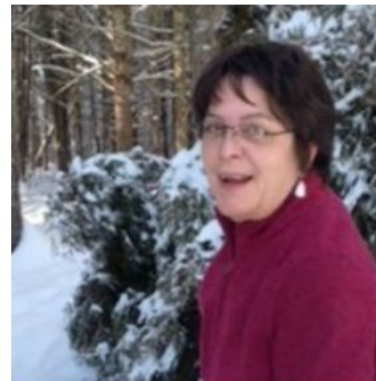
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Many are in the room today!

MREP Greater Atlantic Steering Committee



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Many are in the room today!

MREP is first and foremost about Education

A 2-part workshop series:

- **Fishery Science Workshop (3 days):**
Science concepts and processes essential to fishery management
- **Fishery Management Workshop (3 days):**
How to effectively engage in fisheries management – the process & people, tips & tools

Knowledge, tools, and connections

So **you** can effectively play a role in federal-water fisheries science and management processes

Fisheries Science Workshop

(typically January)

Topics Include:

- Fisheries independent and dependent data collection
- Cooperative research
- How a stock assessment works
- Socioeconomics
- Oceanography & ecosystem based management
- Hands-on activities and site visits



Fisheries Management Workshop (typically March)

Topics Include:

- Magnuson Stevens Overview
- Other applicable laws
- Council Process
- Bridging Science and Management
- Role of advisory panels, SSC
- Negotiation tips
- Hands on activity (mock council process)
- Role of Law Enforcement



MREP Greater Atlantic Workshops

- The 2-part workshop series is held once per year
- **Free** for participants to attend (we pay for travel, hotel costs, and food during the workshop)
- Next series: TBD 2024

We accept rolling applications!

Visit **MREP.gmri.org**



The curricula is designed specifically for fishermen

- Federal water fishermen, and some associated industry
- All gear types, sectors, vessel sizes, and geographies
- ***Leaders and future leaders who want to make a difference***

“All fishermen who give a damn ought to take this seminar.”

– MREP participant

MREP is Neutral



**Gulf of Maine
Research Institute**

Science. Education. Community.

So what is MREP?

“A program by fishermen for fishermen”

- *By fishermen, for fishermen*
- *Collaborative development*
- *Education first*
- *Neutral*



**Marine Resource
Education Program**

What do participants have to say about the program...

Thank You



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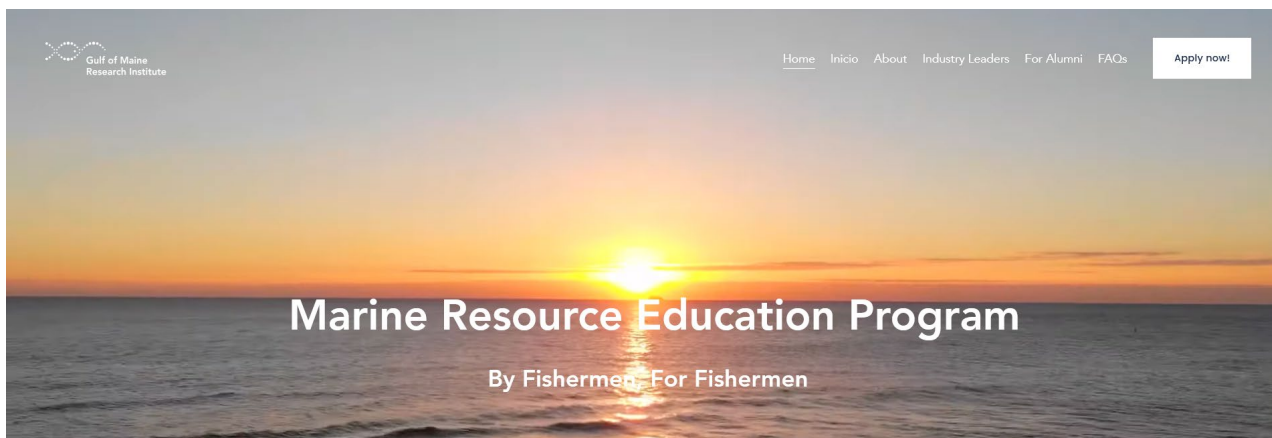
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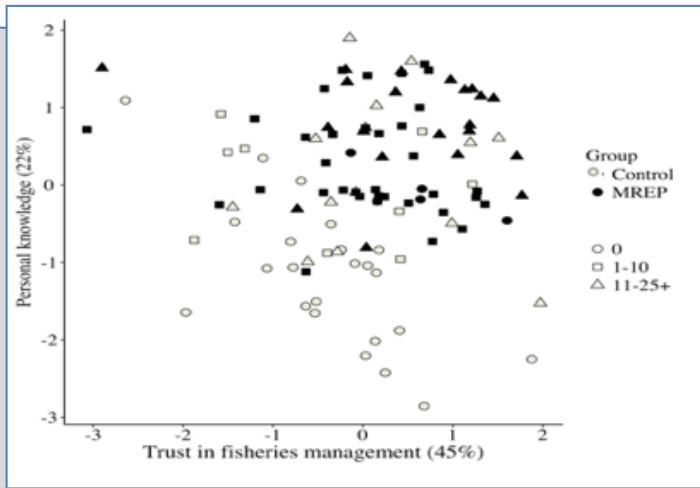


Fig 1.

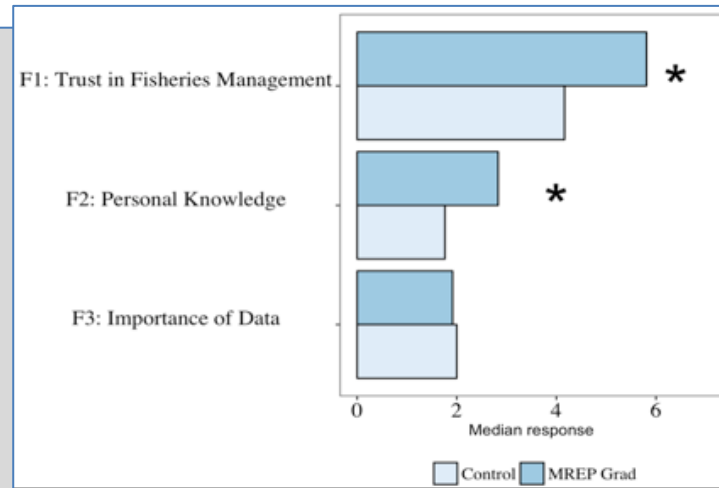


Fig 2.

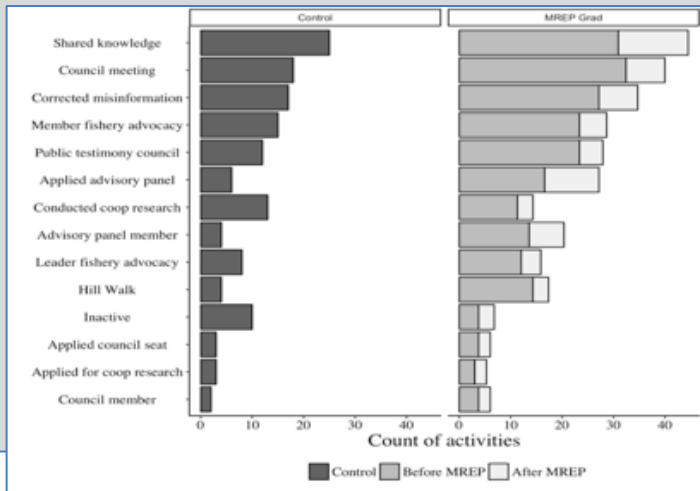


Fig 3.

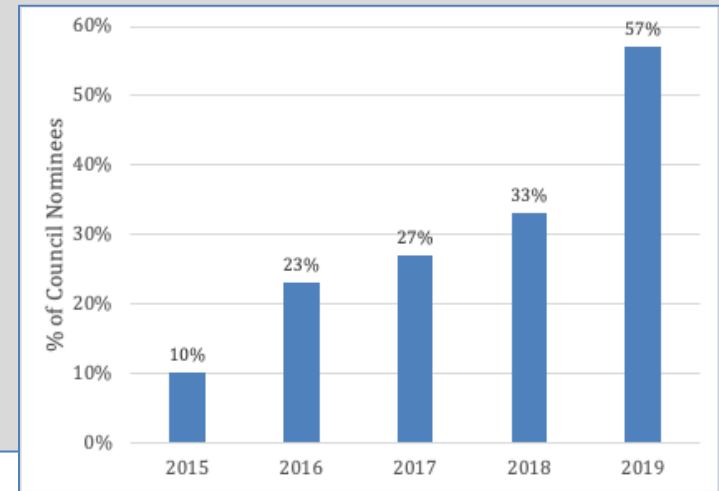


Fig 4.