

Science, Service, Stewardship



HOW DOES RSA WORK?



NOAA

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

Cheryl Corbett

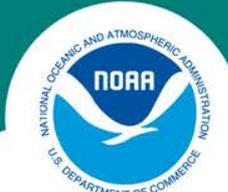
Cooperative Programs Specialist

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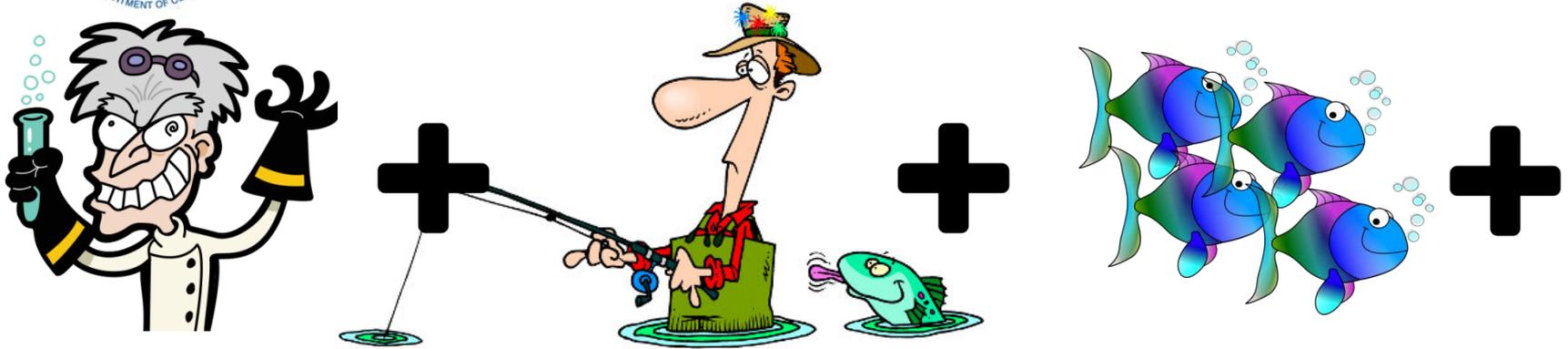


What is RSA?

- The RSA program is a Federal Grants Program unique to the Greater Atlantic Region.
- No Federal funds are provided to support the research. Research funds are generated through the sale of set-aside allocations for quota or DAS managed fisheries.
- There are active RSA programs established under the Atlantic Sea Scallop, Atlantic Herring, and Monkfish Fishery Management Plans.



RSA FLOW CHART



= \$ 4





Who's Program is It?



Joint venture – RSA Program Roles



New England
Fishery Management
Council

- Program creation
- Set aside specifications
- Priority setting
- Proposal reviews
- Application of results



NOAA FISHERIES
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

- Program administration
- Project selection
- Compensation fishing oversight, permitting
- Research and project oversight
- Technical support
- Proposal reviews
- Application of results



How much fish are set aside each year to fund research?

- Scallop RSA: The Council reserves 1.25 million pounds of scallops per year. This generates approximately \$15M (\$3M Research).
- Monkfish RSA: The Council reserves 500 days at sea per year. This generates \$1.75M (\$300K Research)
- Herring RSA: The Council reserves up to 3% of the annual catch limit (ACL) from each herring management area. Due to uncertainty of management closures which drives compensation fishing opportunities, funds generated under this program are uncertain, approximately \$100K-\$200K is generated to support research under the RSA Program



Who can apply for RSA?

- Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, institutions of higher education, hospitals, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, individuals, state, local, and Native American tribal governments.
- **Federal agencies and institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this program.** Additionally, employees of any Federal agency or Regional Fishery Management (RFM) Council are ineligible to submit an application under this program.





Current RSA Programs

Sea Scallops (2001-17)....155 projects @ \$124.5M

Monkfish (2005-17).....24 projects @ \$14.3M

Atlantic Herring (2007-17)....4 projects @ \$2.3M

 Mid-Atlantic (2001-14).. 39 projects @ \$15.5M

222 projects @ 156.5 M



Some RSA Partners

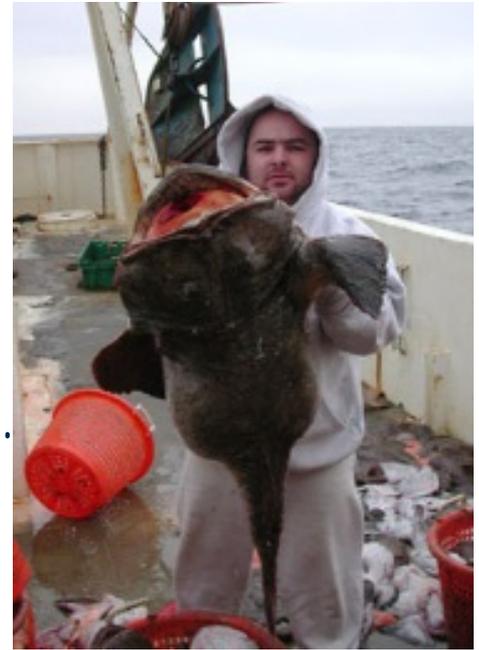
- Coonamessett Farm Foundation
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth (SMAST)
- NFI/Rutgers
- Gulf of Maine Research Institute
- Northeastern University
- Arnie's Fisheries
- Wood Hole Oceanographic Institute
- And many more.....





Types of Projects

- **MONKFISH** - S Mast tagging and life history research. Recently found the vertebral aging method was not appropriate for use in the assessment, and have been looking at the ilicia. Worked closely with Anne Richards.
- **HERRING** - S Mast river herring catch avoidance and portside sampling program. Very strong industry buy in/support and participation. S Mast and MADMF working closely with CRP on developing habitat forecast models to help reduce river herring catch.

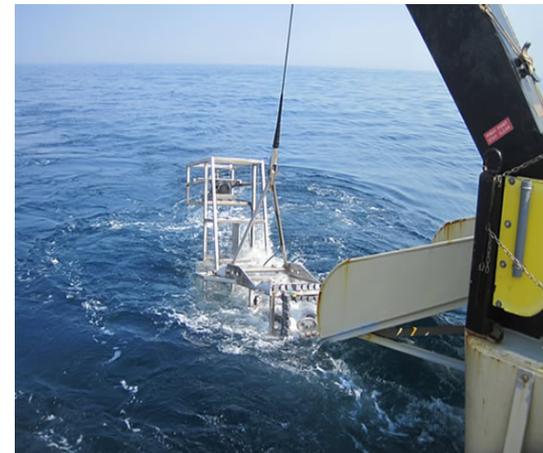
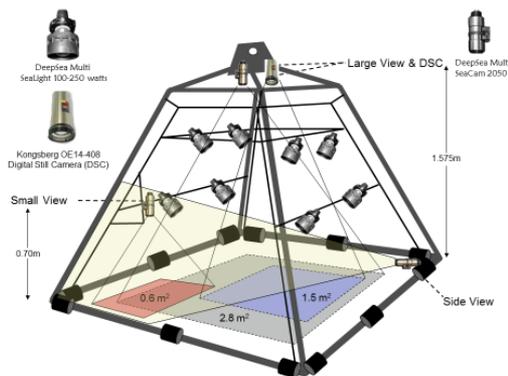




More Projects.....SCALLOP

RSA Survey projects results are incorporated into the stock assessments.

- SMAST –Drop Camera
- VIMS – NEFSC Survey dredge towed with a commercial dredge
- WHOI, HABCAM Group, CFF – HABCAM (Mostly developed through RSA starting back in 2005-Habitat Mapping Camera System)





Research Set-Aside Team (Shared Program)

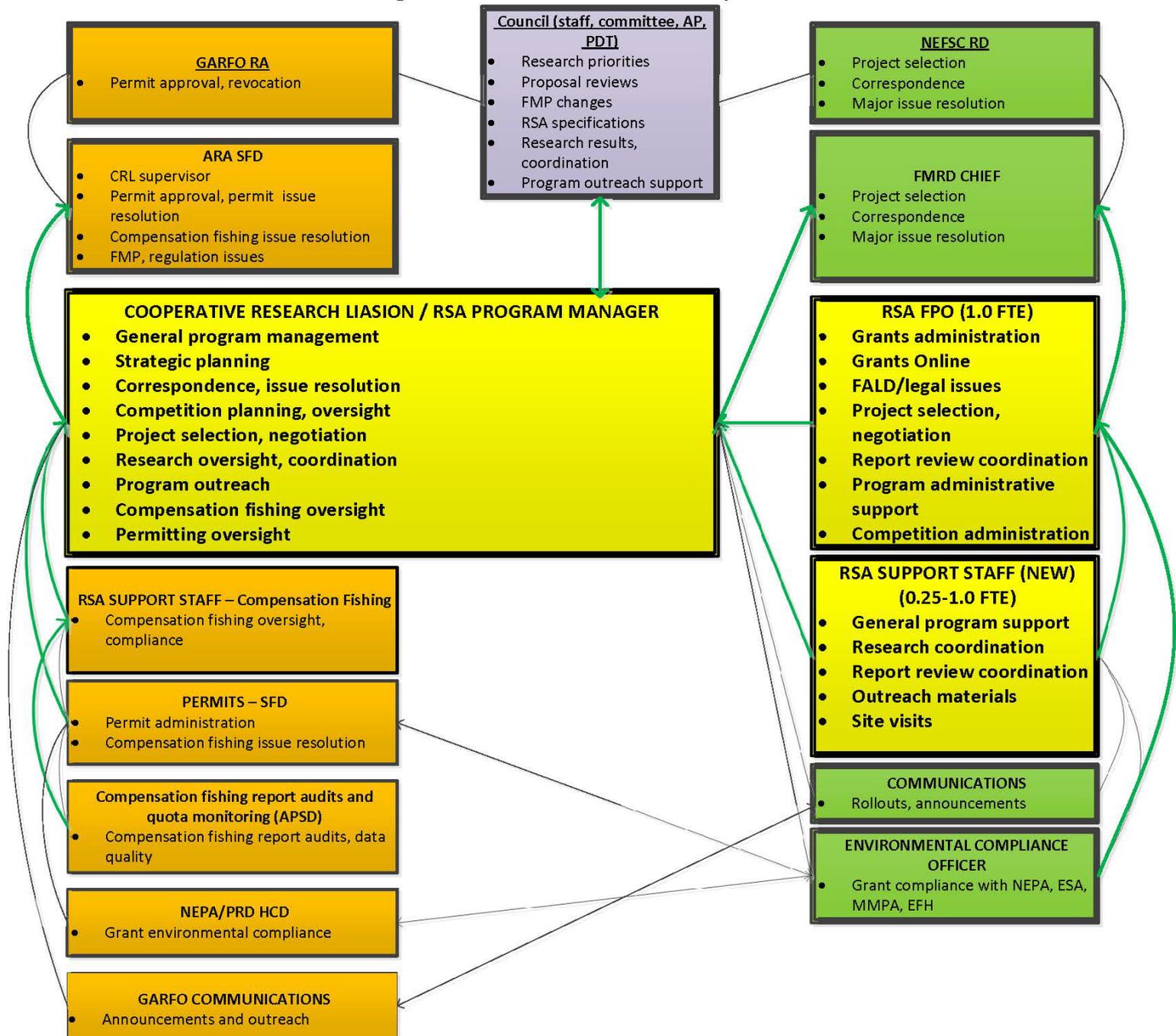


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RSA Program Administration Roles and Responsibilities





Program Strengths



- Funds high priority research without spending Federal dollars
- Councils involved in the process on what research projects get carried out
- Gets fishermen and researchers working together
- Gives NOAA Fisheries Service a new way to work with the Councils and fleet to solve problems



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Research Set-Aside Programs

Research Set-Aside (RSA) programs are unique to Federal fisheries in the Greater Atlantic Region. No Federal funds are provided to support the research. Instead, research funds are generated through the sale of set-aside allocations for quota managed or days-at-sea (DAS) managed fisheries. There are active RSA programs established under the Atlantic Sea Scallop, Atlantic Herring, and Monkfish Fishery Management Plans.

The New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils) set aside quota or DAS, which is awarded through a competitive grant process managed by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Money generated by the sale of the awarded RSA quota or DAS fund the proposed research.

RSA projects are selected through a competitive grants process, with priorities established by the Councils. Solicitations for RSA proposals are posted at www.grants.gov, and distributed widely through Councils' and other NMFS public relations channels.

RSA Programs have a demonstrated track record for supporting applied research that supports fishery management decisions and improving stock assessments. Visit our [searchable project feature](#) to learn more about research supported through the RSA Program.

RSA Program Frequently Asked Questions Page

- Everything you ever wanted to know about RSA -- and more!

Current Research Focus

- Atlantic Herring:** research to reduce bycatch of river herring, development of port side sampling to better characterize catch, exploration of ways to passively monitor net performance for a variety of purposes, investigation of video monitoring to document fishing and catch processing.
- Sea Scallop:** industry-based surveys of access areas, bycatch reduction, loggerhead sea turtle population information and bycatch avoidance
- Monkfish:** life history, stock definition, ecological significance, bycatch and discard, trawl and otter gear technologies to improve selectivity and reduce discard

Announcements

- 2018/2019 Sea Scallop Research Set Aside -- Proposals Due Nov. 6, 2017
- Gulf of Maine Sea Scallop Surveys Planned
- 2017-2018 Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside Recommended Awards Announced
- 2017/2018 Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside Program -- Proposals Due Oct. 7, 2016
- 2016-2017 Monkfish Research Set-Aside Awards Announced
- 2016-2017 Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside Recommended Awards Announced

NOAA researcher Larry Alade prepares to release a tagged monkfish. Credit: NOAA Fisheries

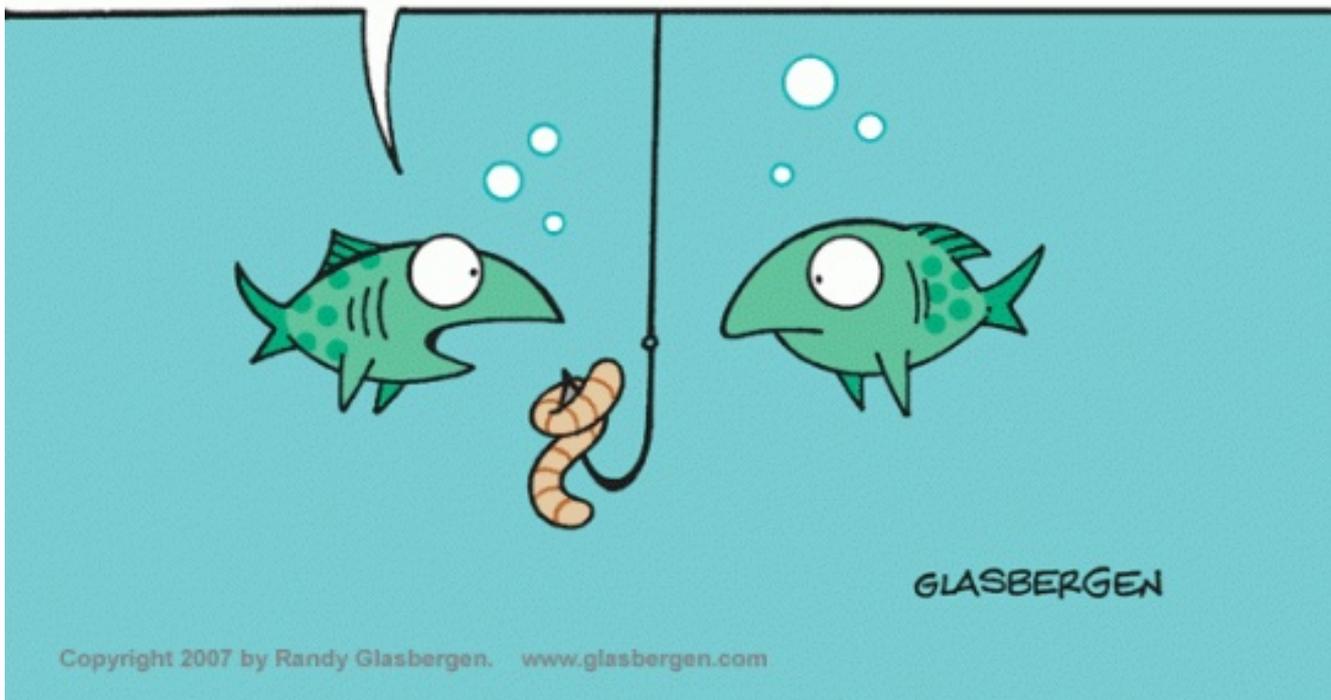
LARRY
& FRIEND

FFO'S
&
AWARDS

https://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/coopresearch/rsa_program.html



I'M THINKING ABOUT GOING ONLINE,
BUT I HEARD IT CAN BE DANGEROUS!



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