

INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE MARINE RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM
(MREP)

The Council is entering its third year of working with the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP), which provides training in fisheries science and management for fishermen and others who want to learn more about the Council process and acquire the skills to engage in fisheries science and management.

MREP was founded 14 years ago by fishing industry members in New England and is now implemented by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. The program in each region is guided by a local Steering Committee, which is co-chaired by Dan Wolford and Bob Dooley in the Pacific region. The program provides a neutral, workshop-based overview of fisheries science and management; industry moderators keep the discussions actionable and relevant to the fishing community. To date, more than 1200 fishermen in six Council regions have graduated from the program. In 2018, MREP graduates represented 33% of the nominees put forth by State governors for open Council positions nationwide. This proportion has steadily increased from 20% in 2015, 25% in 2016 and 30% in 2017.

This year, an MREP West Coast science workshop will again be held in Santa Cruz on September 18-20 and delivered in collaboration with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, and a management workshop will be held in Portland October 16-18. The workshops reference and build upon each other, and are designed and held as a collaborative effort. Presenters are drawn from National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Offices and Science Centers, the Fishery Management Councils, research institutions, and the fishing community. Participants leave the workshops prepared to engage confidently in fishery management and to critically evaluate the science affecting their fishery.

Dorothy Lowman, Heather Mann, and Shems Jud will moderate this year's sessions. Applications are now being accepted, and fishermen and other stakeholders are encouraged to apply.

A summary of the science workshop agenda is provided below. In 2017, there were 32 participants. Speakers included Bob Dooley, Dan Wolford, Frank Lockhart, Kevin Werner, Kristen Koch, Sherry Flumerfelt, Steve Freese, Chantal Weltzel, Susan Sogard, John DeVore, John Field, Michael O'Farrell, John Gruver, John Holloway, Lyall Bellquist, David Crabbe, Joe Petersen, Jim Anderson, Tom Maricich, Jan Newton, Cameron Spier, Steve Lindley, Kelly Ames, Jennifer Gilden, and others.

DAY ONE

Program & agenda overview
Fishery science & management: A very high-level overview
Fishery-dependent data collection
Fishery-independent data collection
Lab tour (fish tracking, boatyard, genetics, stock identification, population structure, fish aging, otoliths, etc).

DAY TWO

Stock assessment & modeling overview
“STAR” process overview
Fishermen’s science and introduction to collaborative research
Gear demonstrations

DAY THREE

Oceanography & climate drivers
Economics

The agenda for the October management workshop in Portland has not been finalized, but the main topics will likely be similar to last year’s:

- Magnuson-Stevens Act overview
- Overview of Federal fisheries management
- Fishery Management Council process overview
- Tribes and management
- Monitoring & accountability
- West Coast Regional Office: The bridge from science to management
- West Coast Region enforcement overview & considerations
- Essential fish habitat
- Introduction to Robert’s Rules of Order
- “Bossfish fishery” role-play scenario
- How to get involved in the Council process
- Sustainable fisheries, visioning and current issues

For more information or to apply to attend the MREP West Coast workshop, see <http://gmri.org/fisheries-convening/mrep-west> or contact Jennifer Gilden (Council staff), Bob Dooley (redooley@aol.com), Dan Wolford (dan.wolford@comcast.net), or Alexa Dayton/GMRI (adayton@gmri.org)

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