



**Press Release: Science Center for Marine Fisheries (SCeMFIS)**  
**February 24, 2015**  
**Science Center for Marine Fisheries Offers Stakeholders  
a Solution to the Difficult Task of Scientific Collaboration**

Anyone involved in the fishery management process can attest to its level of sophistication and complexity. The rigorous schedules and administrative process, while time consuming, can be overcome. However the stock assessment process requires an entirely different skill set and is best left to qualified scientists. Many of us can personally attest to the difficulties of being unprepared for this task not to mention the hundreds of hours, and thousands of dollars spent in travel. It is imperative that we create a formal structure to prepare for any stock assessment in a meaningful way. That structure has been created through a unique relationship between academia, industry and the National Science Foundation in the form of the Science Center for Marine Fisheries (SCeMFIS).

SCeMFIS was created for this need and now, through a formal relationship with the National Science Foundation (NSF), we have a special opportunity to utilize the professional expertise of stock assessment scientists.

Essentially SCeMFIS is a cooperative venture managed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), and funded jointly by a 5-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and industry partner subscriptions. Dr. Eric Powell of USM's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory leads the Center, with Dr. Roger Mann directing the SCeMFIS site at VIMS. The Center is unique in that industry members take a leadership role in both planning and funding the research needed to promote sustainable fisheries throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Gulf coast region.

SCeMFIS has created a Stock Assessment Team made up of three experienced scientists Steve Cadrin, Jean-Jacques Maguire, and Robert Leaf. Ultimately, these scientists will participate in a cooperative manner by engaging members of the industry and the staff at the Northeast Science Center and in other NMFS regions. This team will participate in the 2015 benchmark assessment for scup, with a SAW scheduled for June, 2015.

**Steven X. Cadrin** is an Associate Professor of Fisheries Oceanography at the School for Marine Science and Technology in Fairhaven MA and is the Director of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute's Education Program. Steve has a PhD in Fisheries Science from University of Rhode Island, a MS in Marine Biology from University of Massachusetts and a BS in Marine Science from Long Island University. He was a stock assessment scientist for twenty years with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, Massachusetts Marine Fisheries and New York Department of Environmental Conservation. His accomplishments include the advancement of stock assessment methods for a wide range of invertebrate and finfish species, development of harvest strategies for regional, national and international fishery resources, and global leadership in evaluating geographic stock structure and modeling spatially complex

populations. He chairs several regional, national and international working groups or committees and has convened workshops, symposia, and conferences for the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas, National Marine Fisheries Service, New England Fishery Management Council, American Fisheries Society and the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference. Steve was the inaugural recipient of the Excellence in Mentoring Award from the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, and is Past President of the American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists. His teaching and research agendas focus on population modeling, stock identification, fisheries management, collaborative research with fishermen, and application of advanced technologies for fishery science.

**Jean-Jacques Maguire** has extensive experience in the provision of neutral scientific advice for fisheries management in national and international scientific and management processes. He started his career in 1977 with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans. As a stock assessment scientist, he worked directly on the assessments of several species / stocks on the Canadian Atlantic coast (cod, redfish, pollock), in the east Atlantic (Faroe Plateau cod, Faroe saithe) and on Atlantic bluefin tuna. As a stock assessment reviewer, he has been active in the peer review processes in International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management and North Western Working Group), in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), in eastern Canada and on both coasts of the USA (SAW/SARC, SEDAR, STAR panels), including chairing stock assessments reviews (Groundfish and Pelagic subcommittees of the Canadian Atlantic Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee, the ICCAT bluefin tuna working group, and a USA SAW/SARC process). He has been involved in providing management advice through the Canadian Atlantic Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee (1977 to 1993, including chairing its Steering Committee during 1989 -1993), in the Canadian Fishery Resource Conservation Council (2002-2009), in the ICES Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management (member from 1989 to 1996, chair 1996-1999), in ICCAT (1983-1987, 1993-1995, 2003, 2010), in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) (2008), in the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) (1998) and in the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the New England Fisheries Management Council (SSC). From 2011 to 2013, he chaired the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM <http://ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/ACOM.aspx>). Since 1996, he has been a private consultant in fisheries science and management working for a diversified client base of national governments (Canada – Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, Canadian Auditor General, Faroe Islands – Fisheries Research Laboratory, Spain – Spanish Oceanographic Institute), international organisations (ICES, FAO, CCSBT, GFCM), fisheries groups (Scottish Fishermen Federation, the Ship Owners Cooperative of the Port of Vigo, the USA Monkfish Defense Fund, the USA herring and mackerel Sustainable Fisheries Coalition, the North Sea Fisheries Partnership and the North Sea Regional Advisory Council), environmental non-governmental organisation (WWF) and development organisations (Canadian International Development Agency, International Development Research Centre, the Danish International Development Agency, and Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation). He has also been a member of assessment teams for four Marine Stewardship Council fishery evaluations processes.

**Robert Leaf** is experienced in the use of mathematical modeling related to fisheries assessment of commercially harvested species and to understanding the factors that drive population growth.

Robert Leaf joined GCRL in September of 2012 and has expertise in quantitative methods and computer-intensive modeling approaches. Research goals include the use of mathematical models to understand population regulation and develop appropriate and effective conservation and management strategies. Dr. Leaf received his Ph.D. in Fishery and Wildlife Sciences from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2010, where he studied how phenology of individuals in harvested populations were altered under size-selective fishing. As a post-doctoral researcher in NOAA's "Fisheries and the Environment" program, Dr. Leaf examined how phytoplankton bloom phenology determined recruitment patterns in northeast Atlantic ground fishes. His current work involves assessment of Gulf Menhaden, Gulf of Mexico Blue Crab, and Mississippi's Red Drum stock. Dr. Leaf is part of a four-member assessment team supported by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources that focuses on state-regulated fisheries and is a participant in the SCeMFiS stock assessment team.