

MARINE RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM (MREP) OVERVIEW

**COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING
KEY WEST, FL | MAY 2023**

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MREP Guiding Principles

(Original Version)

Education First. The Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) is a 2-part workshop series that provides fishermen with the knowledge, tools, and connections to empower them to effectively play a role in the complex federal-water fisheries science and management processes:

- 3-day Fisheries Science Workshop
- 3-day Fisheries Management Workshop

From the beginning, MREP has embraced the “*by fishermen, for fishermen*” approach and addresses the questions: “What information and 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 and managers learn to work together to address fisheries issues? How are relationships important in the fisheries science and management processes, and who should fishermen build relationships with so they can most effectively get their voices heard?”

Who is MREP for? Any and all federal water fishermen and associated industry interested in effectively playing a role in the sustainability and management of the resource. We welcome and strategically aim to attract a diversity of gear type, vessel size, sector, fishery, region, etc. to each workshop, remaining steadfast to our foundational principles of neutral education for all, and thereby empowering the entire fishery.

Collaborative development. The workshop curricula are collaboratively developed by a diverse and comprehensive group of regional fishermen and industry members that represent the region to ensure the agendas are objective, comprehensive, and relevant to regional industry members. Fisheries scientists and managers contribute to this comprehensive collaborative development, but the program is foundationally led by industry.

Neutral. Workshops strategically happen outside of the regulatory process and are facilitated and coordinated by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to ensure neutrality and cohesiveness among all program leaders among the Steering Committee in the curriculum development, applicant selection process, and workshop delivery. Importantly, this neutrality fosters an effective environment for information exchange and uptake, and relationship building among fishermen and between fishermen and scientists and managers.

Alternative Version per recommendations from the North Pacific

Education First. The Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) provides those involved in and impacted by federally managed fisheries with the knowledge, tools, and connections to empower them to effectively play a role in the complex federal-water fisheries science and management processes managed by the Fishery Management Councils. It can take the form of a workshop series broken into one science plus one management workshop, or a single workshop that combines elements of science and management. Each workshop is 2.5 to 5 days long.

MREP is by and for those impacted by federally managed fisheries, in particular those managed by the Council system. From the beginning, MREP embraced a “by fishermen, for fishermen” approach, which has evolved to recognize the necessity of including other voices in program development and participation.

Collaborative development. The workshop curricula are collaboratively developed by a diverse and comprehensive group of fisheries leaders including commercial, recreational, charter, and subsistence fishermen, as well as community leaders. Teams are carefully constructed to represent the regions wide range of interests, knowledge, and perspectives. They ensure the agendas are objective, comprehensive, and relevant to our target audience. Critical partners in this development, fisheries scientists and managers contribute to these teams, but the program is foundationally led by industry and community leaders.

Leaders ask themselves: “What information and tools are needed to engage effectively in fishery management and collaborative science? What valuable knowledge do fishermen or community members bring to the table? How do fishermen, community members, scientists, and managers learn to work together to address fisheries issues? How are relationships important in the fisheries science and management processes, and who should fishermen and community members build relationships with so they can most effectively get their voices heard?”

MREP is for individuals involved in or impacted by Council-managed fisheries, predominantly fishermen, and in particular those interested in effectively playing a role in the sustainability and management of the resource. We welcome and strategically aim to attract a diversity of perspectives and interests to each workshop (e.g. gear type, vessel size, sector, fishery, community, region) remaining steadfast to our foundational principle of neutral education for all, and thereby empowering the entire fishery.

Neutral. Workshops strategically happen outside of the regulatory process and are facilitated and coordinated by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to ensure neutrality and cohesiveness among all program leaders among the Steering Committee in the curriculum development, applicant selection process, and workshop delivery. Importantly, this neutrality fosters an effective environment for information exchange and uptake, and relationship building among fishermen and between fishermen and scientists and managers.

Questions we consider in curricula development ...

For fisheries scientists/managers:

1. Although we've provided you with an overview of our intended objectives, what do you think are the critical educational needs of the region's fishing industry?
2. What tools/knowledge will the fishing industry need to become more active participants in the fisheries management process?
3. This program is about joint learning. What do you want to learn about the fishing industry? What do you want the industry to know about you?
4. What are the regional uniqueness's that we need to consider throughout the curricula

For fishermen/industry representatives:

5. Although I've discussed with you the program's intended objectives, I'd like to ground truth them with you. What knowledge about the fisheries science & mgmt. process is most valuable?
6. What are some tools/information you wish you knew when you first got involved in fisheries management?
7. What issues are unique to your region's fisheries that we need to consider in developing an educational program here?

For all: We have outlined a general curriculum in other regions. Here are the main components. What are we missing? What other components should we include? What should we keep? Anything we could cut out?

- a. Population biology
- b. Fishery dependent and independent data sources
- c. Survey Methodology and Statistical Analysis
- d. Biological reference points (MSY, OY, F, etc.)
- e. Stock assessment math, methods, and models
- f. Oceanography
- g. Fishermen's science/collaborative research
- h. Bridge from science to management (SSCs, sources of uncertainty, BSIA)
- i. MSA and Overview of the federal legal framework (NEPA, MMPA, ESA, etc.)
- j. Council process and jurisdiction
- k. Intersection of state and federal mgmt.
- l. (Where) Does subsistence mgmt. fit in MREP?
- m. Federal regulatory process
- n. Habitat Concerns – Science and Management issues...EFH, HAPC
- o. Spatial management – MPAs, monuments
- p. Fisheries Management Toolbox
- q. Negotiation case study exercise – mock-AP or mock-Council
- r. 'How to get involved' Toolbox
- s. Examples of successful engagement – case studies, stories
- t.

The MREP Experience – A Snapshot

More prepared and likely to engage. Fishermen leave workshops feeling more prepared and likely to engage in fisheries science and management. In the words of participants:

- *“I found the workshops empowering, informative, and a great networking opportunity.”*
- *“Pre-workshop, I believed we had no say in the matter [of fisheries management]. Now I see that is incorrect.”*
- *“This workshop has opened my eyes to how much of a voice we do have. I’m excited to spread the word.”*
- *“I feel more prepared and I now know what to look for to be engaged and the protocols necessary to be the most effective in the Council process. Knowing when it is my place to have an opinion and when it is too late.”*

Valuable networking. Participants create valuable relationships with other attendees, including fellow fishermen as well as fisheries scientists and managers. In post-workshop evaluations, participants and presenters alike share gratitude for the new friendships and professional associations formed:

- *“I feel like I’ve made some friends and contacts that will last a lifetime”*
- *“I’ve made great connections in the industry and on a personal level. I’m not the most social person, but these events and setup made it easy. Through these connections, I will become more involved in my local community and the council meetings.”*
- *“Working together with others from different industries, sectors, orgs, is key to the Council process and MREP. We are better together! ... + the case study exercise was fun! :)”*
- *“Guess I never realized how available everyone involved was and how accessible the meetings are.”*
- *“The networking experience turned out to be better than expected. I feel like I’ve made some friends and contacts that will last a lifetime.”*
- *“Great to have meals/drinks with presenters and discuss topics at great lengths”*
- *“I was surprised to learn how open everyone seems to be to the constant change and being able to adapt to new ideas.”*

During MREP, participants develop trust for not just individuals, but also for the system of fisheries science and management, and for Tribes and Tribal fisheries management in respective regions:

“I learned that the Council is helping manage fishing so we can all have fish. They are pro-fishing (they are not pro-rec or pro-commercial).”

“I learned so much but the Tribes treaty was very surprising. They granted the U.S. access, not the other way around!”

“It’s a tough process and a lot of people, effort, data + more go into the outputs and decisions. Decisions are not easily made.”

“I appreciated the NOAA lab tours. Our fisheries are in good hands with the army of talented and dedicated scientists.”

“The scientists are doing an amazing job under challenges with budget, data, etc.”

A mock council exercise/negotiation case study solidifies knowledge for participants and prepares them to be future Council or advisory panel members. Participants shared that:

“As an old timer, I'm very encouraged by the next generation of fishers, scientists, and experts! I have hope for the future of west coast fisheries.”

“The ‘boss fish’ exercise was a highlight. It played out well and gave everyone an idea on how these actually progress.”

“The mock council meeting, while at first was a little daunting, really tied everything together. I went in thinking I was way under prepared but was surprised how prepared I really was.”

From participant evaluations, the most valuable idea, tool, strategy, or piece of information learned at the workshop included:

“Take advantage of new contacts and get in touch with council staff on key issues”

“That you will be considered if you know the time and place and procedure to be considered”

“Openness to gather input from stakeholders. That decision matters. The government’s part is to bring stakeholders into the fold.”

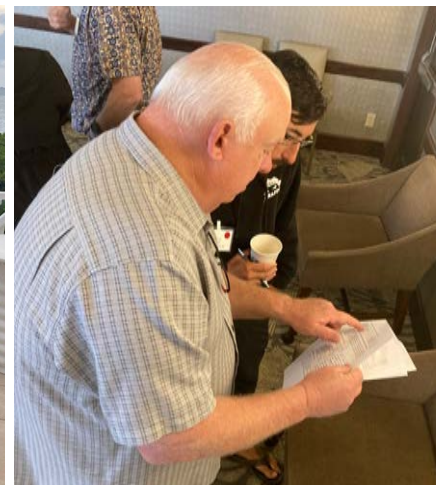
“Most valuable? Too many to list. The data collection and assessment process was personally the most valuable.”

“The functional aspects of the Council decision making process and where in that process the public can contribute and where/when stakeholders can be influential.”

“I learned to be involved in the process. Ask questions and speak up. Watch and comment on Council agendas. Maybe down the line, get on GAP or GMT. Work with Council and Advisory Panels.”

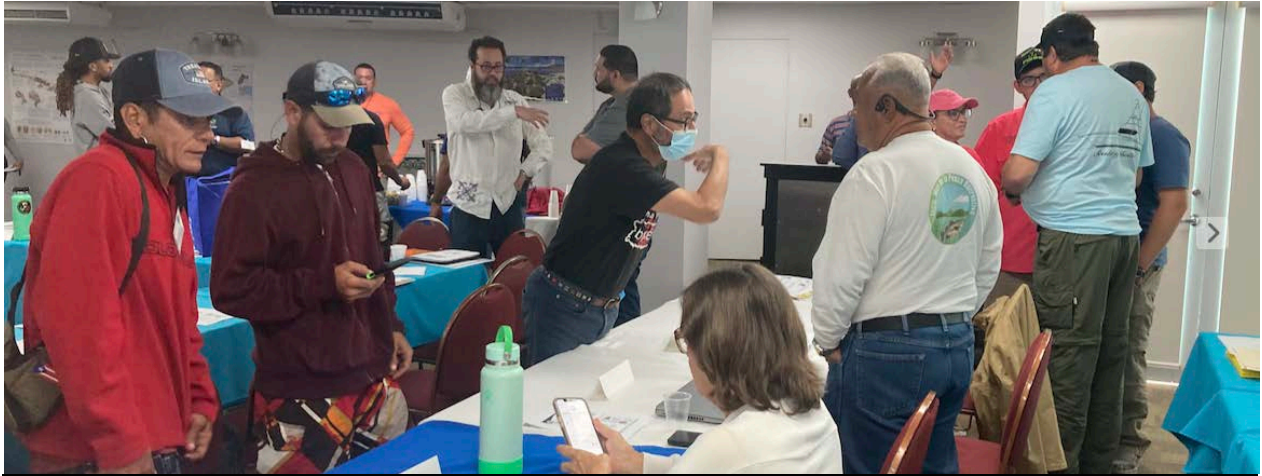
“There's really too much to pick one. Generally understanding the whole process has been the most valuable. Pre-workshop, I believed we had no say in the matter. Now I see that is incorrect.”

Networking outside of the classroom setting helps foster relationships and trust that can be a foundation for effective collaboration in fisheries science and management.



MREP agenda architecture, a carefully crafted participant list, and a carefully facilitated and welcoming meeting culture enable mentorship relationships like this one naturally percolate over the course of the week.

Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) Overview, May 2023



Science Center Visit –

(Right and below) Scientists at NOAA Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, CA talk with fishing industry members about use of acoustics and other innovative survey technology in support of ecosystem-based fisheries management.



(Left) MREP Puerto Rico – visit to University of Puerto Rico Isla Maguey labs to learn about use of technology to understand the ecosystem.

(Below left) CARICOOS presents to MREP Puerto Rico as part of our lab tour at Isla Magueyez, Univ. PR.



(Above right, and below) A visit to the Net Loft in Falmouth, MA during MREP Greater Atlantic in 2020.



Participants learn how gear modifications reduce bycatch and make fisheries more efficient and sustainable.



Alexander Stubbs, commercial fisherman at MREP North Pacific, 2023



Jeff Gearhart (above), MREP Southeast 2019

John Skamser (below) and Kurt Cochran (right),
MREP West Coast 2022





(Left) MREP West Coast attendees visited the NOAA Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, CA for a tour of 5 stations to learn, in smaller groups, from scientists engaged in research for better stewardship of the resource in collaboration with fishermen. At this station, fishermen learned about research being done on conservation aquaculture, barotrauma, and climate impacts on fish temperature preferences.

(Right) MREP Puerto Rico attendees learn about coral reef aquaculture as part of the lab visit to University of Puerto Rico, Isla Mayaguez.



(Below) MREP Greater Atlantic participants learn about the observer program: *How are observers trained? What do they do with the data?*



We highlight the knowledge that fishermen bring to the table.

MREP Greater Atlantic panel of industry members sharing stories and tips on effective engagement:



MREP Southeast workshops, as in all the MREP regions, are led by industry moderators:



Wilson Santiago and Vanessa Ramirez moderated the 2022 MREP Puerto Rico workshop. Marcos Hanke, Program Principal for MREP Caribbean and industry leader in Puerto Rico, played a key role in preparing Wilson and Vanessa for they role where they translated complex scientific and management concepts into language digestible by Puerto Rican fishers.



Marcos Hanke moderating the 2019 MREP Puerto Rico workshop:



Fish dissection – aging and reproduction.

Attendees learn about data collection and how otoliths are used to age fish as a means of better understanding the resource. Later in the workshop, they also learn how these data are aggregated in the stock assessments, and how stock assessment outputs are used to determine what management measures ought to be taken for optimal stewardship of the resource.





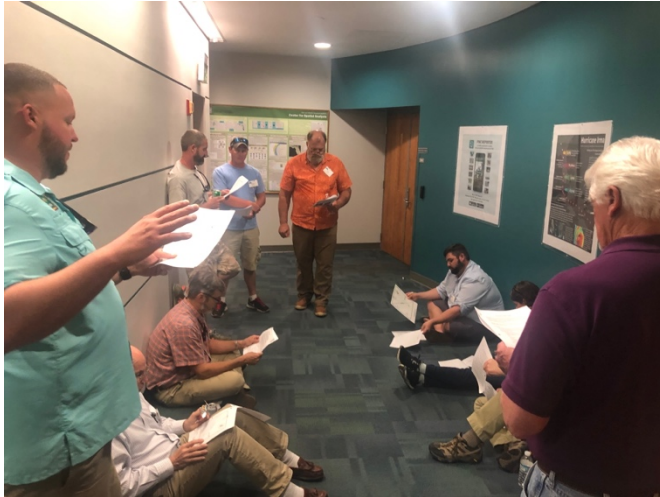
(Left and below)
Dissection at MREP
Puerto Rico workshop,
2019

More Interactive Learning



(Left) Interactive marine spatial planning mapper exercise.





First implemented in the Greater Atlantic region this **swept area survey exercise** has become a core component of the Southeast workshop.

(Left) MREP Southeast Program Principal, Dylan Hubbard, walks participants through the “black bass bean survey exercise.”

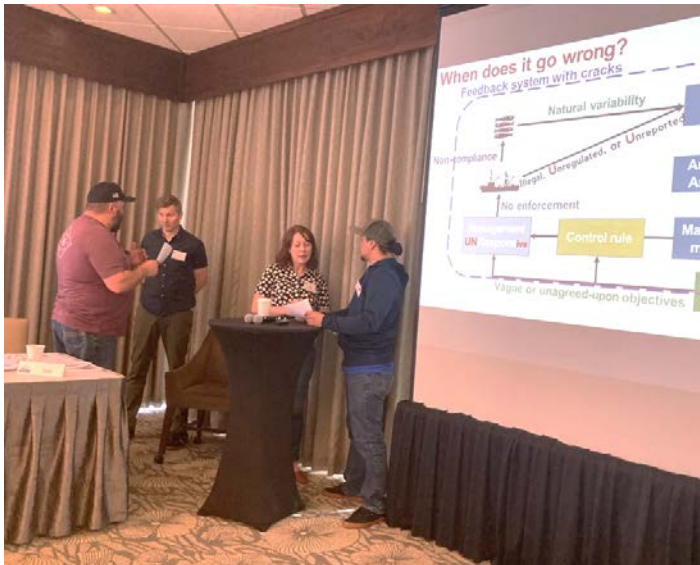


(Left) Moira Kelly, NOAA GARFO, helps run the same survey exercise in the MREP Greater Atlantic workshop in 2020.





We strategically build time into the agenda between presentations so that fishermen can engage with presenters in a one-on-one setting, diving deeper into concepts presented.



(Left) MREP West Coast, April 2022

(Below R) MREP Southeast, Feb. 2020

(Below L) MREP Puerto Rico, Aug 2022





We encourage presenters to stay at the workshops and engage in discussions when not presenting. Fisheries scientists and managers share that MREP is an opportunity for them to learn from the fishing industry as well. It is from a place of mutual respect that effective collaborative stewardship can be built.

(Left and below) MREP West Coast, April 2022



(Bottom) MREP Southeast, April 2022 on left, February 2020 on right





MREP Greater Atlantic (Above) Mgmt, March 2022; and (Below) Science, March 2020



(Below) MREP Puerto Rico, August 2022



Mock fishery management council exercise. – Initially developed in New England to mimic the NEFMC, each MREP region has adapted and developed a case study exercise for their region, for participants build negotiation skills and solidify understanding of classroom teachings, preparing participants for real-world fisheries stewardship within the complex management system which demands collaboration to be effective.



‘Coaching’ – Before the exercise, fisheries managers and industry members experienced in navigating the complex regulatory process together coach workshop participants. Participants receive a ‘briefing book’ of the mock fishery and are asked to prepare for the ‘council meeting.’ This coaching session offers an opportunity to confirm they understand the materials and the task at hand, and to consider how this is similar to and different from real-world management situations.





(Left) Participants hear from a mock-public comment about the MREP West Coast “bossfish” fishery.



(Below) MREP Puerto Rico attendees participate in the “Pesca Guapa” mock DAP meeting; Agust 2022.

(Below) MREP Puerto Rico attendees present to the “Council” after their mock DAP meetings during the “Pesca Guapa” case study exercise.



(Below) “Council Members” discuss an action in the MREP Southeast “Greatfish” case study exercise, guided by now Executive Director of the SAFMC, John Carmichael, with MREP Southeast Program Principals Ira Laks and Dylan Hubbard supporting participants and then Congressional Staffer, Topher Holmes, adding insights/answering questions as needed.



MREP West Coast case study exercise, 2020



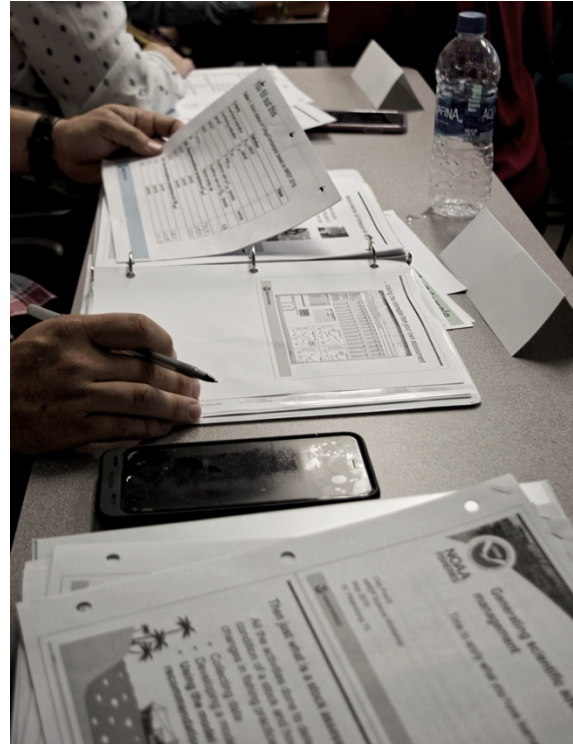


Mock Council exercise at MREP North Pacific, 2023

This first workshop in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council region was carefully curated by a team of industry leaders to reflect the unique regional challenges.

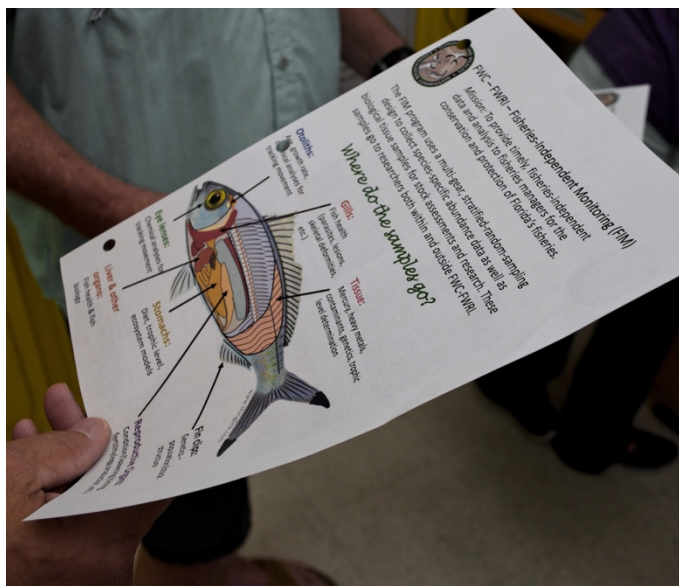


Materials provided at MREP are a useful tool for fishermen, and others involved in fishery management, when they leave the workshop and begin to navigate the process. The workshops have been described as “a firehose of information,” and so these tools enable participants to revisit information and jog their memories. Further, we include contact information of all attendees so that they can contact presenters, guest visitors, or other participants. In that way, a participant does not need to recall all of the information, but can rely on the experts they have come to trust.

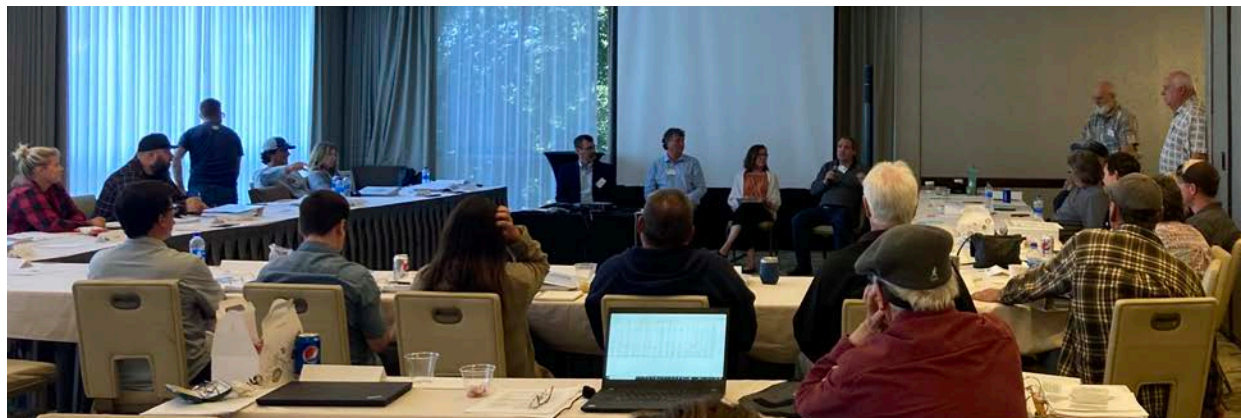


(Left) Commercial fisherman from Newport, OR, Justin Johnson, sits alongside Julie Bonney, Executive Director of the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, reviewing and discussing workshop materials. Though

Justin is based in Oregon, he fishes in the Pacific and North Pacific regions. Julie participated to learn more about MREP and, based on feedback following the workshop, was surprised to learn so much considering she has been involved in the NPFMC for a few decades.



MREP creates a space outside of the formal regulatory process for fishermen to speak directly with key managers. During the final panel, participants engage in dialogue with key regional leaders.



MREP West Coast Fishery Science & Management Workshop, April 2022



MREP Southeast Fishery Science Workshop, November 2019



MREP Greater Atlantic Fishery Management Workshop, March 2022

Since the COVID pandemic, MREP has fully stepped back into workshop delivery. This past fiscal year (July – June), GMRI delivered Steering Committee meetings and full program of science and management workshops in Puerto Rico (CFMC), Southeast (SEFMC & GMFMC), West Coast (PFMC), the Greater Atlantic (NEFMC & MAFMC), and Alaska (NPFMC).



MREP Puerto Rico Fishery Science & Management Workshop Cohort, August 2022



MREP Southeast Fishery Science & Management Workshop Cohort, February 2023



MREP West Coast Fishery Science & Management Workshop Cohort, October 2022 & January 2023



MREP Greater Atlantic Fishery Science & Management Workshop Cohort, March 2023



MREP North Pacific Fishery Science & Management Workshop Cohort, April 2023

And we have a lot of fun...





Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) Overview, May 2023



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Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) Overview, May 2023



MREP North Pacific Exploratory Committee Meeting

September 22-23, 2022 | Juneau, AK | Baranof Hotel

Program Leadership

The purpose of the MREP Steering Committees is to ensure that MREP is and remains ‘by fishermen, for fishermen’ by serving as a voice for MREP’s main stakeholders, fishermen, and by acting as an advisory body for the respective regional program. The Steering Committee is charged with addressing high-level questions about curricula to provide suggestions, advice, and support so MREP may continue to address the regional needs and goals of fishermen. The Steering Committee provides program guidance to ensure the program remains relevant, compelling, and accurate; to enhance development and recruitment to maximize outreach and diversity; and to improve engagement with alumni to maintain and grow the MREP community and network.

MREP is ‘by fishermen, for fishermen,’ and as such the majority of each Steering Committee is composed of industry representation (see table below). The Steering Committee adds significant value to MREP by bringing the fishing community together with council staff, regulators, and scientists. For that reason, special care is taken in Steering Committee membership selection to accurately reflect the diversity of the regional fishing community and industry. Factors such as experience (council, AP, commission, etc.), commitment to MREP (moderator, alumni, presenter, etc.), geography (regions, states, sectors, etc.), sectors (commercial, recreation, charter, subsistence) organization affiliation, and leadership/respect from the respective community are considered. A carefully selected Steering Committee enhances outreach opportunity so the message of MREP is meaningfully spread across many fishing communities and networks.

The Steering Committee meets annually in person for a 1-2 day meeting. Ad-hoc virtual meetings are rarely but occasionally held when a specific need surfaces. The Steering Committee is composed of approximately 20 members to ensure diversity and efficiency. There is currently no term minimum or limit for the Steering Committee but interested parties must be dedicated to the mission of MREP to empowering fishermen to effectively participate in the fisheries science and management process.

Example: MREP Greater Atlantic Steering Committee, composition	
Affiliation	Number of Seats, 20 total <small>*GMRI Staff not included in total number of seats</small>
Fishing Industry Members	<i>16 (approx. 50% New England, 50% Mid-Atlantic; a mix of sector, gear type, and fishery should be represented by these seats)</i>
Science Center	<i>1 (NEFSC)</i>
Council	<i>2 (One from NEFMC, one from MAFMC)</i>
Agency	<i>1 (GARFO)</i>
At-large, as needed/ desired	<i>1 Miscellaneous (eg academic sci.)</i>
GMRI Staff *	<i>1-3 (MREP Program Managers, Project Managers, or Coordinators)</i>

Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) Overview, May 2023

The Planning Team (PT) is a subset of the Steering Committee that comes together for monthly virtual 1-hour meetings to continue to advise GMRI and, together, implement ideas generated at the SC meetings.

	Steering Committee (SC)	Planning Team (PT) Subset of the SC
Composition	<p>Unique to each region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most industry/stakeholders • 1 Council(s) • 1 NOAA regional office • 1 NOAA science center • Others as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most industry/stakeholders • 1 Council(s) • 1-2 NOAA* • Others as needed. <p><i>*If 2, 1 is from the regional office, 1 from sci center</i></p>
# of seats	15-20	6-10
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some experience in fisheries sci + mgmt. • Industry or sci/mgmt. leaders, respected by their communities. • Represent as many interest groups as possible across the diversity of the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced with MREP • Long standing experience with fishery sci and/or mgmt. • Leaders with capacity to advise
Commitment	Participate in annual 1-2 day in-person meeting	1-2 calls/month, each 1-2 hours
Additional commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aid in recruitment/outreach • Serve as mentors in leadership development to participants. • Attend workshops as possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular contact with GMRI MREP team • Workshop attendance encouraged.
Term	3-4 years	Varies
Main Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Program development to ensure regionally relevant content for our target audience.</i> • <i>Outreach strategy to ensure we're attracting a diversity of participants</i> 	<i>In-depth curriculum development and refinement, and outreach efforts throughout the year in preparation for the workshop</i>

MREP North Pacific Exploratory Committee Meeting

September 22-23, 2022 | Juneau, AK | Baranof Hotel



Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Science. Education. Community.

MREP and GMRI joined forces in 2003 when John Williamson and Mary Beth Tooley approached GMRI to help facilitate and coordinate the MREP workshops in New England. Since then, GMRI has been a core partner ensuring the neutrality of workshops and enabling the regular delivery of programming across the country.

MREP Staff at GMRI	Primary tasks
Lauren O'Brien Senior Program Manager <i>All regions, focus on national + new regions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oversee execution of all program activities ● Develop and execute new region programs ● Manage national leadership and developments ● Supervise MREP team ● Fundraise and manage program budgets ● Oversee and support program impact research project
Leah MacNichol Operations Manager <i>All regions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinate all logistics with hotels and vendors ● Support participant travel logistics, process reimbursements ● Support program budget management
Liz Moore, Program Manager <i>GrAtl + West</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manage and execute Greater Atlantic and Caribbean regions ● Catalyze and track alumni engagement ● Support analysis of impact research
Courtney Pickett, Program Manager <i>SE + Caribbean</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manage Greater Atlantic and West Coast program ● Catalyze and track alumni engagement ● Manage and execute program impact research project
Coming! Project Manager <i>North + West Pac</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support expansion into new program regions (North Pacific, Western Pacific) ● Support “200-level” programming, as needed and capacity allows
Coming! Administrative Assistant <i>All regions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support Operations Manager with applicant database management, workshop material preparation and inventory, meeting scheduling, and other administrative tasks across all regions

The Gulf of Maine Research Institute develops and delivers collaborative solutions to global ocean challenges. We are an independent, objective nonprofit organization dedicated to the resilience of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and the communities that depend on it. We collaborate with stakeholders to support healthy ocean ecosystems, a thriving marine economy, sustainable seafood, and climate-resilient coastal communities. Our interdisciplinary approach combines world-class marine research with robust community and education programming to understand how natural, social, and economic systems interact. Learn more at gmri.org

National Steering Committee

Formation

Formed in 2020, the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) National Steering Committee (NSC) consists of representatives from each regional MREP Steering Committee, including the Greater Atlantic, Southeast, Caribbean, and West Coast. Specifically, each region nominates two fishing industry representatives (Program Principals), one NMFS and one Council representative. As new MREPs are developed in other regions, more seats will be added to the NSC in the same fashion as in the regions present in 2020.

Mission/Purpose

The purpose of the MREP National Steering Committee (NSC) is to bring together the Principals of the various regions along with their respective regional NMFS representatives to work with GMRI to chart the national course for the future success and expansion of the program.

Goals

1. Work collaboratively to assure the core values and fundamental philosophy of MREP (*for Fishermen, by Fishermen*) are respected and retained;
2. To foster appropriate stakeholder inclusivity (processors, distributors, chefs, etc.) while maintaining the by/for fisherman foundation;
3. To retain the individuality of each region while achieving the collective goals;
4. To maintain the high quality and neutrality of the program that has been the hallmark of MREP nationwide;
5. To maintain a high standard of diversity and inclusion in the program;
6. To maintain the common direction and communication between the regions;
7. To work to secure durable funding for the entire MREP program into the future;
8. To integrate potential growth entities within the MREP framework, both in-depth in current MREP regions and in breadth through expansion into new MREP regions;
9. To exchange knowledge and ideas across program regions, learn from one another's experiences, successes, and failures, and collaboratively strengthen each and all programs; and
10. To provide annual metrics (e.g. infographics, outcome statistics, reports, dashboard) as a continuation of and update to current data that quantitatively demonstrates the value of MREP.
11. To foster "MREP magic," both regionally and nationally, which in-turn enables effective, informed and respectful collaboration.

Contact us at



Lauren O'Brien
SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER
All Regions

lobrien@gmri.org
[\(207\) 228-1684](tel:(207)228-1684)



Leah MacNichol
OPERATIONS MANAGER
All Regions

lmacnichol@gmri.org
[\(207\) 228-1652](tel:(207)228-1652)



Liz Moore
PROGRAM MANAGER
Greater Atlantic & West Coast

emoore@gmri.org
[\(207\) 228-1680](tel:(207)228-1680)



Courtney Pickett
PROJECT MANAGER
Southeast & Caribbean

cpickett@gmri.org
[\(207\) 228-1645](tel:(207)228-1645)

2023-2024 Program Lineup, as of May 2023

Region	Event	Dates	Location
Caribbean: Puerto Rico	Science & Mgmt Workshop	August 25-27, 2023	Humacao, PR
Pacific Islands	Scoping	Fall, Winter, TBD	Pacific Islands
Greater Atlantic	Steering	Sept 12	Portland, ME
National	Steering	Sept 18-19	Portland, ME
West Coast	Science & Mgmt Workshop	Sept 25-29	Santa Cruz, CA
North Pacific	Science & Mgmt Workshop	Nov 6-10, TBD	TBD
Southeast	Science & Mgmt Workshop	Nov 13-17	St. Petersburg, FL
Caribbean: Puerto Rico	Steering	Dec 7 or 8	San Juan, PR
Caribbean: St Thomas/St John	Steering	December	San Juan, PR?
Southeast	Steering	January 9-10	TBD
Greater Atlantic*	OPTION A: Science Workshop	January 16-18, TBD	Falmouth, MA
North Pacific	Steering	Jan? Feb? June?	TBD
West Coast	Steering	Jan? Feb?	Portland, OR? Seattle?
Greater Atlantic*	OPTION A: Mgmt Workshop	February 13-16, TBD	MD? DC? Gloucester?
Greater Atlantic*	OPTION B: Sci & Mgmt Workshop	February 12-16, TBD	Falmouth, MA
Pacific Islands	Exploratory Committee	Spring	Honolulu?
Caribbean: St Thomas/St John	Science & Management Workshop	May, TBD	St Croix, USVI

**The GrA Steering Committee is in the process of determining whether to hold one 5-day workshop or two 3-day workshops.*