

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT



Agency: State of New Jersey
Division of Fish and Wildlife

Project Number: NA03NMF4520311

Project Title: New Jersey Commercial Blue Crab Fishery Economic Assistance

Principal Contact: Paul G. Scarlett

Study Accomplishments for the Period: July 1, 2003 – December 31, 2004

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (Division) proposed to provide direct personal assistance to commercial blue crab fishermen based on the following eligibility criteria:

- 1) Fishermen must have reported commercial landings of blue crabs during any of the years 1999 to 2001;
- 2) Fishermen must be active in the fishery by purchasing a 2003 commercial crab pot or crab dredge license.

Individual amounts of assistance were determined by calculating the cumulative 1999 to 2001 percent of total harvest for each fisherman based on mandatory monthly harvest reporting forms that were filed with the Division. Each eligible fisherman previously received a letter via certified mail explaining the blue crab fishery economic assistance program and informing them of their recorded harvest of blue crabs. Fishermen were required to return a copy of the letter either to agree or disagree with the recorded harvest of blue crab within 60 days of the date of the letter and were given the opportunity to provide additional evidence of harvest for the purpose of appeal.

Funds were dispersed to a total of 170 fishermen based on the eligibility criteria and calculation of individual amounts of assistance as described above. All funds have been dispersed, therefore no additional funds are available for commercial blue crab fishery economic assistance and all obligations under this project have been completed.