

## **Innovation at the Regional Fishery Management Councils: A Compilation of Practices**

February 3, 2009

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Beaufort, N.C. -- The Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum announces the release of our first report, *Innovation at the Regional Fishery Management Councils*.

Fishery managers face some of the most challenging times, economically and environmentally, of its long and proud history. The recent reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act places additional requirements on the fishery management system. In an effort to showcase this innovation and share information among the councils, the Fisheries Forum compiled the report to encourage discussion and exchange of ideas from across the country. The report is available at [www.fisheriesforum.org](http://www.fisheriesforum.org).

The report describes four practices: a public scoping process in the South Atlantic, management areas in the Pacific designed to protect depleted rockfish stocks, treating council members as executive decision makers in New England, and developing an allocation policy in the Gulf of Mexico. Each section includes links for additional information.

Council members clearly expressed an interest in learning from the experiences of other regional fishery management councils at our 2008 Stanford workshop. Thanks to the contributions of council members and staff, the first edition is enclosed. We will compile a second report later this spring and welcome additional contributions.

The Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum provides continuing education and networking opportunities for members of the regional fishery management councils. The Forum is a partnership of the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions and the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University, the Center for Ocean Solutions managed by the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University, and Environmental Defense Fund, Incorporated. For more information on the Fisheries Forum, please visit [www.fisheriesforum.org](http://www.fisheriesforum.org).

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