Justice denied

- Exxon’s empty promise — p. 4
- Sadly, no surprise — p. 5

Tackling tuna
Quality reels a must for bluefin
ATLANTIC

“IT'S A SCIENTIFIC PACKAGE I HAVE A LOT OF CONFIDENCE IN.”
JIMMY RUBLE, NORTH CAROLINA FISHERMAN

A new ground by sampling inshore waters

Foot dragger Darnau

a Northeast ports this

back fishermen and

much better undertak

ers work.

Report, and it's a

Woods Hole (Mass.)

Carolina fisherman

leased his boat to the

Marine Science for

Monitoring and As

(www.necmapp.net)

Atlantic States Marine

Survey, is building

a time series of sampling inshore of

the 60-foot depth contour, using the same
gear as NOAA's new research vessel the

Woods Hole-based Henry B. Bigelow

that will operate outside the 10-fathom

line, says Jim Garland, the multispecies

Survey leader with the Virginia Institute

of Marine Science.

Ultimately, Ruble says, the goal is to

get an inshore survey that's never been
done before, from Cape Hatteras (N.C.)
to Martha's Vineyard (Mass.).

"I'm really excited about it. It's a sci

entific package I have a lot of confidence

in," Ruble said after he and his crew

brought scientists and guest observers

back to Cape May, N.J., to wind up its

spring survey May 15.

"Jim is a highliner, and his crew is one of

the best. We're very fortunate to be work

ing with them," Garland says. "We've got

work stations set up on his deck, compu

ters all over the place. We converted his fish

hold into a wet lab."

Ruble said he's already impressed with

the numbers of snapper, skate and other fish

thought to be scarce. Garland says caut

iously, "We really need to get our time

series and get like three years under our

belt. But I think this survey will prove

very useful."

— KIRK MOORE

Union hopes to organize fishermen on Long Island

Membership offers alluring lobbying power

A union that represents some 1.4

million workers in seafood, food

processing and grocery industries has

reached out to recruit commercial fis

hermen, starting with Long Island, N.Y.,

Researcher Evan McOmber tends a catch of

skates (with some scup and bay anchovies)

taken off Long Island this spring in a coastal

survey.

ports that supply the new Fulton Fish

Market.

There is a lot of interest among fis

hermen on Long Island's east end, because

they feel outnumbered by NMFS and the

influence environmental groups have in

Washington, says George Miller, a Mont
	
tuck captain whom Local 399 of the United

Food and Commercial Workers

asked to help organize preliminary

meetings.

"We're going to get things together.

We're in the process. You know how it is

with trying to get fishermen together," 

Miller says.

Local 399 President Dennis Faicco met

with Montauk and Shinnecock fishermen in

early June, and talked about how Fulton

workers see the difficulties at the re

located market in the Hunts Point section

of the Bronx are related to the diminished

supply of domestic seafood.

The main attraction of the United

Food union is its force of lobbyists and

lawyers, Miller says. Fishermen hope they

could be a counterweight in Congress to

environmental groups, who had a lot of

influence during the last reauthorization of

the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con

servation and Management Act.

But a union that deals mostly with the

processing and sales end of the busi

ness has a steep learning curve to under

stand the science and politics of catching

fish, Miller says: "We have to educate them

on a lot of things on our end. It's a massive

mess."

— K.M.

Chesapeake crabs turn up,

but dock prices are sinking

Fuel costs pinch fishermen and processors

Chesapeake Bay crabbers are catching

crabs, but price at the dock is

sinking in a year when fuel and other ex

penses have gone through the roof.

In Virginia, the spring hard crab and

deer season has been "pretty good," says

Michael J. Osterling, commercial fis

heries specialist with the Virginia Insti

For updated news, visit www.nationalfisherman.com