

**Reporting on Activities in the Unallied Science Project Titled:
Science Consortium for Ocean Replenishment and Enhancement
(SCORE)**

**Award No. NA17FL1627
Semi-Annual Progress Report
For the period 1 January through 30 June 2005**



Submitted to:
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To National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, DoC
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A. Brief Project Overview:

The Science Consortium For Ocean Replenishment And Enhancement (SCORE) is a science-based approach to stocking hatchery-reared marine organisms to help rebuild depleted marine fisheries (marine fisheries enhancement). SCORE scientists are conducting research to resolve critical uncertainties about the effectiveness of culture-based marine enhancement as a fishery management tool. It is anticipated that significant progress will be made by SCORE scientists, leading to greater and greater success from marine enhancement programs in the U.S.

As scientific gains are made in understanding the potential, SCORE scientists are partnering with NMFS and regional fishery-management agencies to develop policy and apply fishery-enhancement science to rebuilding depleted coastal stocks. Linkages with local fishing communities provide the cadre of citizens needed to support and expand enhancement as a fishery management strategy. Much of the enhancement technology developed here will be supported by funds generated by contributions and license fees paid by stakeholders and user groups. To fully embrace and use the marine enhancement concept, demonstrated success stories are needed in a few key states. SCORE research is planned and coordinated to achieve such successes. Built around the principles of a responsible approach to marine stock enhancement (Blankenship and Leber, 1995; and see Leber, 2002, 2004), SCORE scientists are conducting key experiments to resolve critical uncertainties about how to control the biological, ecological, and economic effectiveness of marine fisheries enhancement.

SCORE is an R&D initiative conducted by a consortium of national partners. It is a powerful alliance of scientists and fishery managers currently working in the field of marine stock enhancement in the U.S.A., which encourages improved utilization of their expertise and resources. Bringing these scientists and managers together through SCORE allows synergisms to develop that would not occur otherwise.

Reporting Period

This contract commenced in September, 2001. This interim report covers progress made during the period January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005. This final phase of the project is part of a no-cost extension period (a no-cost extension was approved through June 30, 2005).

B. Project Accomplishments:

This no-cost extension period was needed by all three principal partner institutions (University of New Hampshire, Mote Marine Laboratory and NOAA-Fisheries Northwest Fisheries Science Center) to provide additional time needed to complete and publish the work done under this contract. The activities conducted during this time frame were all related to data-base maintenance, data reduction, data analysis / statistical evaluation of SCORE studies conducted over the course of the entire contract period. Much attention was placed upon publishing during this reporting period. Most of the studies are in various stages of publication for submission to scientific journals.

References Cited

- Blankenship, H. L. and K. M. Leber. 1995. A responsible approach to marine stock enhancement. *In* Uses and effects of cultured fishes in aquatic ecosystems. American Fisheries Society Symposium 15:165-175.
- Leber, K. M. 2002. Advances in marine stock enhancement: shifting emphasis to theory and accountability. Pp 79-90 *In* Stickney, R. R. and J. P. McVey (eds) *Responsible Marine Aquaculture* CABI Publishing, New York.
- Leber, K. M. 2004. Marine Stock Enhancement in the USA: Status, trends and needs. Pp 11-24 *In* Leber, K.M., S. Kitada, T. Svåsand and H.L. Blankenship (eds) *Stock Enhancement and Sea Ranching: Developments, Pitfalls and Opportunities*. 2nd Edition. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford. 562 pp.