

**Dr. Michael Jepson** is an Anthropologist and Social Scientist with NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Regional Office in St. Petersburg since 2009. Prior to coming to NOAA he served as Program Director for the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation. Dr. Jepson was the first non-economist social scientist to serve as Technical Staff for a Regional Fishery Management Council when he was hired by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in 1994. He has conducted research on fishing communities in both the South Atlantic and Gulf regions of the US for over 20 years. Currently he is chairman of the Gulf Council's Socioeconomic SSC and was a previous member of the Standing SSC.

His current interest in developing social indicators for fishery management has developed into important applied research and several publications on the topic have appeared in such journals as *Fisheries*, *Marine Policy*, and *Human Organization*. Additionally, his work on identifying and defining fishing communities has been instrumental in meeting the mandates for National Standard 8 to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act for both the Gulf and South Atlantic regions