

## **History of the Seafood HACCP Alliance**

The National Sea Grant Program funded a two-year proposal to support plans for a "Seafood HACCP Alliance" for training and education. This Alliance was initiated by the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) and their regional affiliate of Southern States (AFDOSS) in conjunction with a cadre of sea Grant Seafood Specialists which originally assisted the National Fisheries Institute (NFI) with their initial HACCP training programs. The first formal Alliance meeting, June 22-23, 1994 in Portland, Maine established a project 'Steering Committee' largely based on the contributing authors for the original proposal. This Committee includes members representing the three principal federal agencies; Food & Drug Administration, US Department of Agriculture, and National Marine Fisheries Service, the various state agency organizations through AFDO regional affiliates and the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, and the industry trade associations, NFI and Food Products Association (formerly National Food Processors Association). The proposed approach recognized the essential role of state regulatory authorities, the educational network of Sea Grant and Cooperative Extension Service, and the need for regional attention per seafood diversity. The Alliance does not set or recommend policy. Their primary role rests with education and communication for a more uniform implementation of HACCP. They accomplished this objective by developing a uniform national HACCP education, training and technical assistance program for the seafood industry and federal, state and local food inspectors. They instruct this dual audience in a coordinated and mutual manner that is not intended to be exclusive. They recognize, encourage and plan to assist any related educational efforts be they private, institutional and/or of government base.