

**CRFL Senior Stock Assessment Scientist Position Status
November 19, 2008**

So far, time has been spent establishing the Senior Stock Assessment Scientist position (#65003069) and getting it classified through Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Personnel at a pay grade that would attract highly qualified applicants. The position was originally requested to be classified at a pay grade of 78 to attract a highly qualified candidate to lead the Division of Marine Fisheries' efforts in conducting stock assessments to provide the basis for management actions in state FMPs as well as be North Carolina's principal representative with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the regional federal (National Marine Fisheries Service) councils. The position is also to train and supervise two existing SAS positions within the Division and present assessment results to the Marine Fisheries Commission and Division staff.

DENR Personnel could only authorize a pay grade of 75 in the spring of 2008, so the position was advertised at that rate for expediency sake in hopes of upgrading it at a later date. After advertising and re-advertising the position at pay grade of 75 during March and April, no highly qualified applicants had applied. An attempt was made by the Division to justify the position at a pay grade of 78 and that request was denied by DENR Personnel in May. The position was established at a pay grade 76 in June and advertised with a closing date of July 28, 2008. This pay grade attracted several highly qualified applicants and interviews were held in September. Permission to hire the recommended candidate was given in October and he declined the job offer, saying he was going to pursue other options. Since the job is CRFL-funded, it is not frozen so the position was re-advertised and closed November 18. We will go through the interview process once more if qualified applicants apply.