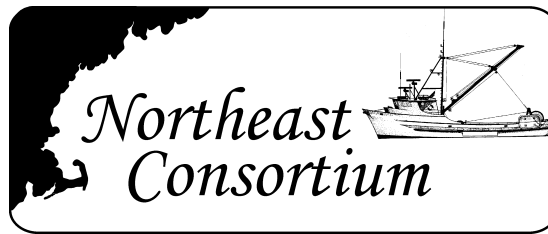




Collaborations

A monthly update of cooperative research news

December 2001



Selective gear research and development. Cooperative research leading to the development of selective fishing gear to reduce or eliminate technical barriers to trade, minimize harvest losses, reduce bycatch, and improve fishing practices.

Evaluation of closed areas and closed area systems. Studies of environmental condition, bio-diversity, oceanographic processes, and fisheries recruitment in areas closed to fishing. Development and use of non-invasive and non-fishing approaches. Consideration of the historical character of these regions, based on knowledge of commercial fishermen in formulating hypotheses, designing and implementing the field studies. Analysis of the impacts of area closures including changes to landscape and biota.

Fish habitats. Inclusion of industry-based information for essential fish habitat designations. Improved accuracy and reliability of the underlying information.

Commercial harvest and species sampling. Alternative approaches to analysis of species' distribution and abundance; evaluation of effects of oceanographic patterns and processes; analysis of life history features, behavior, and dispersal.

Oceanographic and meteorological monitoring. Better information on weather, sea-state, and oceanographic and fishing conditions in the coastal waters of the US. Synoptic coverage of large regions, use of satellite telemetry. Use of commercial fishing vessels as platforms for ocean monitoring, modeling, and prediction.

Additional information on Planning Letter and Full Proposal preparation is available by contacting the representatives of the Northeast Consortium:

Ann Bucklin, Professor and Director
New Hampshire Sea Grant Program
142 Morse Hall
Durham, NH 03824

Tel: (603) 862-0122; Fax: (603) 862-0243; email: acb@christa.unh.edu

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Paul Anderson, Interim Director
Maine Sea Grant Program
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from the *Northeast Consortium* outreach coordinator:

Rollie Barnaby, Extension Educator
New Hampshire Sea Grant Extension
113 North Road
Brentwood, NH 03833

Tel: (603) 679-5616; Fax: (603) 679-8070; email: rollie.barnaby@unh.edu

and from the *Northeast Consortium* project coordinator:

Rebecca Clauss, Project Coordinator
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Procedures for distribution of funds

The distribution of funds will be via an open competition to be administered by the University of New Hampshire on behalf of the *Northeast Consortium*. Funding recommendations and decisions will be made by the *Northeast Consortium* representatives.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) process and funding decisions are guided by a ~25-member Advisory Committee, whose roles also include helping to announce this funding opportunity to their communities, and evaluating Planning Letters and Full Proposals. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to help match-make between fishermen and researchers. Advisory Committee members may submit Planning Letters, but they may not participate in discussions of any Planning Letter on topics related to their submission. Advisory Committee members will be asked to resign prior to submission of a Full Proposal. Neither *Consortium* representatives nor Advisory Committee members may submit Full Proposals to the *Northeast Consortium*.

Guidelines for preparation of Planning Letters

Anyone may submit a Planning Letter to the *Northeast Consortium*. The use of Planning Letters is intended to expand access to these funds to people who are not accustomed to writing proposals. The Planning Letter should explain the central concept and the plan of work in

sufficient detail to be understandable to a reader knowledgeable about fisheries research, oceanography, and management. Planning Letters should be no more than 5 pages in length. For Planning Letters selected for further development, the proposers may request assistance from the *Northeast Consortium* in team-building, project development, and preparation of a Full Proposal.

Guidelines for preparation of Full Proposals

Full Proposals may be submitted to the *Northeast Consortium* without prior submission of a Planning Letter. Full Proposals for consideration for cooperative research funding must include as co-principal investigators both one or more researchers (faculty or staff members at institutions of higher learning or accredited research facilities, or employees of state or federal programs or agencies) and one or more commercial fishermen. All parties must be specifically identified by name and position.

Full Proposals must originate from one and only one organization authorized to receive federal research funding, which will then accept responsibility for administration of the *Northeast Consortium* award. The activities and budgets for all project participants must be included in this proposal, with industry participants identified as sub-contractors, service providers, or other designation, with provisions in place to allow payment of all participants.

Full Proposals must conform to content, format, and length guidelines provided below.

Budget guidelines and requirements

A mix of one-, two-, and three-year projects is desired. Projects recommended for funding may be funded for multiple years using FY2002 funds. Cooperative research funding will be divided in the following proportion: 25% to researchers and 75% to fishermen. Cooperative research projects should be designed to meet this target. Funds may be requested for participants' salary and wages, vessel use, equipment (for the fishing vessel or the laboratory), and supplies.

Proposers should note that equipment (defined by UNH as items costing more than \$3,000) purchased using *Northeast Consortium* funds is the property of UNH. Equipment may remain in the possession of the investigators for the duration of the project and may also be used for other research efforts. At the end of the project or upon the sale of the designated vessel, all equipment must be returned to UNH.

Costs for use of commercial fishing vessels

Cost of commercial fishing vessel use for cooperative research should be based on actual costs for the proposed effort (including crew salaries and wages, fuel, vessel depreciation, insurance, permits, etc.). The usual assumption is that vessels will not fish while they are engaged in research, although exceptions can be made. Costs of loading, equipping, and unloading time and effort can be included as part of the budgeted costs. The *Northeast Consortium* will require detailed justification of vessel use charges prior to funding.

The *Northeast Consortium* encourages institutions to fund commercial fishermen participating in cooperative research efforts via monitored fixed-price agreements, based on a set cost for each fishing vessel trip or other event. Information regarding this option is available upon request following approval of funding.

Permits

It is the responsibility of the principal investigators for any *Northeast Consortium* award to obtain appropriate, proper, and necessary permits for the proposed activities. When necessary, experimental fishing permits must be obtained from the National Marine Fisheries Service prior to beginning field work. The *Northeast Consortium* will assist investigators as desired in obtaining permits.

Full Proposal content, format, and length

All Full Proposals submitted in this competition should contain the following sections and elements. Note: There is a 15 single-spaced page limit on proposals, excluding Literature Cited, Budget, Resumes, and subsequent sections. Please use 1 inch margins and 12 point font. Please send 15 copies of the proposal, to allow for distribution to reviewers. Copies of the proposals cannot be returned to the proposers.

Abstract: The abstract is intended to present a concise summary of the funded activity in a form useful to a variety of readers not necessarily requiring detailed information. Abstracts are not substitutes for proposals but should permit judgments as to whether proposals merit reading for a particular purpose.

Rationale: This section should thoroughly develop the justification/need for your proposed work and how it relates to the goals of the *Northeast Consortium* set forth in this RFP. Any anticipated collaborations between this project and other cooperative research efforts, including those funded by other sources, should be identified here.

Review of Previous Work: A description both of the previous work done in the area of the project you are proposing and a review of your experience working in this area.

Project Objectives and Scientific Hypothesis: A clear statement of the project objectives and goals. If appropriate, clearly construct and state a defensible scientific hypothesis.

Project Plan or Experimental Design: Carefully explain the conceptual approach to the project with the methodology to be used. Feel free to use language and terminology appropriate to your discipline. The plan should include a discussion of the timeline for the proposed work. The need for experimental fishing permits, access to closed areas, and other special requirements should be explained here.

Available Resources: Briefly describe personnel qualifications or special resources, equipment or facilities, which demonstrates either your ability or special opportunity to successfully pursue the proposed project.

Dissemination of Results, Impacts and Deliverables: Provide specific information about plans and prospects for dissemination of the results of the proposed work, including publication, workshops, inclusion in databases, and others. Indicate the likely real-world impacts, measurable products, and deliverables for ocean and fisheries management (e.g., integration into stock assessment or fisheries management processes). Explain in detail any plans for technology transfer.

Budget and Budget Justification: Provide brief explanations of the major budgetary items for the proposed work. Include detailed budgets from all sub-contractors or service providers. Budgets for commercial fishing industry activities should be based on fixed costs per trip or event; daily charges for vessel use should be justified based on actual costs (see above). Budgets should show allocation of funding between research and fishing industry efforts.

Literature Cited: Complete bibliographic citations including titles of all papers, books, and reports to which reference is made.

Resumes of Principal Investigators and Key Associate Investigators: Include resumes on all those individuals (two page maximum for each) who will play a major role in the project. As a part of your resume please include your complete address and current telephone number.

Description of Prior Results: Any previously-funded cooperative research projects by the principal investigator(s) should be described in sufficient detail to allow evaluation of results, deliverables, and impacts. Results from projects previously funded by the Northeast Consortium and the National Marine Fisheries Service must be described; results from other prior research and cooperative research efforts may be included as desired.

Current and Pending Support for Principal Investigators: A list of projects currently underway or under review for funding. Include the following information for each project: funding agency or program, title of project, principal investigators, period of performance, amount of award, and time requested for key personnel.

Funding decisions for cooperative research projects will be based upon evaluation of Planning Letters and Proposals according to the following criteria:

1. Importance of the proposed idea for oceanographic and fisheries research

What research or management needs does the Planning Letter/Proposal address? Are these important needs in your view? Is the topic of the proposed work the best use of *Northeast Consortium* funding? Are the benefits of the proposed effort likely to be immediate (1 -2 years) or longer-term (5 years)?

2. Technical merit of the proposal and the project as proposed

Is the description of the experimental design detailed and understandable? Will the experimental design allow the investigators to answer their questions with certainty? Is there a better (easier, cheaper, more likely to succeed) way to answer the questions

posed? Is the work plan feasible given the time, effort, personnel, and budget? Is the project likely to be successful in meeting the stated goals?

3. Prospects for partnership between commercial fishermen and researchers

To what extent does the Planning Letter/Proposal define a topic that is of mutual interest to fishermen and researchers? Are members of both communities likely to be active participants? Will the leadership of the project be shared equally - from project design to data collection and analysis to practical application of the results or products?

4. Prospects for impact of the proposed work on an end-user community

Who are the end-users of the proposed work? What is the likelihood that they will benefit from the project? Should they or will they be included in the project from the beginning? What are the deliverables of the project? Are they useful, reasonable, and valuable? Are there other deliverables that should be added? What are some of the impacts that may result from the proposed work?

5. Experience of the project proposers; available resources for the project

Do the proposers have prior experience in related types of studies or work? What were the results and impacts of any previous work, especially any research funded by the Northeast Consortium? Do you believe the proposers are the right people to do the job? Who else should be added to the team? What facilities, equipment, special training, vessels, and other resources will the proposers bring to project? What other projects are the proposers involved in? Are they likely to have enough time to complete the proposed work?

Planning Letter and Full Proposal Submission

Planning Letters and Full Proposals should be sent to:

Ann Bucklin
Northeast Consortium
University of New Hampshire
142 Morse Hall, 39 College Road
Durham, NH 03824

Planning Letters must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2002

Full Proposals must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Late Planning Letters and Proposals will not be considered.