January 2005

# Collaborations

A report on collaborative research projects in the northwest Atlantic Ocean.

Dr. John H. Annala, former Chief Scientist for the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries named the GMRI's founding Chief Scientific Officer.

## FOUNDING SCIENTIST

A two-year, worldwide search for a scientist to lead research at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) in Portland, Maine is complete, with the appointment of John H. Annala, Ph.D. as the institute's founding Chief Scientific Officer in September .

Dr. Annala formerly served as the Chief Scientist for the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries, but has strong roots to the Gulf of Maine region, having completed his undergraduate work at the University of New Hampshire and a Ph.D. at the University of Maine. He was also a post-doctorate fellow at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

"Dr. Annala brings a unique combination of professional accomplishment and international recognition, as well as considerable experience in working directly with the fishing industry in research and outreach projects," said Dr. Steve Murawski of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Annala said his work in New Zealand, including a stint as Chair of the Stock Assessment Group of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, prepares him for some of the challenges surrounding fisheries research initiatives in this

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Architectural Design by EHDD

## Message From The Editor:

If you're like me, you've been asked repeatedly to explain how the New England Fishery got in the tight spot it's in. This is easier said than done of course with the history of fishing tracing back to at least the Vikings. Notwithstanding, understanding the history of our present dilemma (and being able to explain it well and quickly is important). Here's a go at it.

While the history of the region's fishing industry can be traced to pre-colonial times, its present ecological and social crises are very much a product of the modern age. For centuries, the northwest Atlantic Ocean sustained what may have been the most productive groundfish stocks (the cod, haddock, flounder, and other species that live near the seafloor) in the world. Indeed, fish were abundant enough to support the seafood appetites and fleets of no less than four industrial nations (U.S., Canada, Japan, and the Soviet Union). But in the 1950s and 1960s, technology transformed commercial fishing much as it revolutionized agriculture and warfare, making it deadly efficient with such tools as electronic fish finders and nylon nets the size of football fields. Between 1963 and 1974, New England's groundfish declined by almost 70 percent, according to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) statistics. The U.S. government was forced to act. Its response was a bill now known as the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. The law, which claimed all marine resources within 200 miles of the U.S. coast for the American people, took effect in 1977. It also created regional management councils to govern eight jurisdictions on both coasts and the Gulf of Mexico. The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) was made responsible for managing marine resources within federal waters from New Jersey to Maine.

With the foreign fleets gone in the late 1970s managers felt it prudent to allow the region's fleet to return to its previous capacity, and soon watched it grow dramatically with support from federally subsidized loans. For a short time, prosperity returned to the region's historic ports, but the boom was short lived. By 1989, fewer than 20 years after the government took over the fleet in a bid to save it, groundfish stocks had again fallen to dangerously low levels—and the industry was again locked in an entirely avoidable man-made disaster. Fed up with the failure of fishermen and managers to act, and under the pressure of numerous lawsuits filed by environmental groups, a federal judge named Judys Kessler ordered NMFS to substantially reduce fishing in 2002 or risk losing its mandate. The first round of cuts came last year in an adjustment to fishing rules known as Amendment 13, but the government has suggested that the fleet may still be three times too large for the ocean to support. Today, the question on the minds of those close to the groundfish industry is: Where do we go from here? The time is ripe for a new approach.

Hashing out the details of this gut-wrenching decision falls on four different but interrelated communities: scientists, environmentalists, fishermen, and managers. Unfortunately, the battle over fish in the 1990s built up a deep well of suspicion between each that has proven exceedingly difficult to overcome. It's the responsibility of scientists to determine how many fish are left (and thus how many can be harvested). Yet counting fish is extraordinarily difficult, and several recent blunders left many fishermen wondering if scientists are up to the job at all. Environmentalists have also played an important role, filing lawsuits that have pressured the government to cut back fishing. But their good intentions have come at a cost: threatening the vitality of coastal communities, some with few alternatives to fishing. Many environmentalists increasingly see the need to balance the needs of fish stocks with the needs of people, but the bottom line of course is that resources are not inexhaustible. Next, there are the fishermen, those who remain are a special breed, one that has learned to work within the system to survive, but now even their patience is wearing thin. Finally, implementing a policy that works for all concerned is the job managers. Many are tired of the same battles recurring again and again, and are eager to find a lasting solution. Whatever it may be, veterans of the fisheries management crises agree, if there is an approach that works – one that does not just make new rules but also a climate of trust – it can't come from the government or courts alone. The time is ripe for a collaborative approach, one that engages all stakeholders in a process of identifying the challeges we face and working together to find a solution.

Good Fishing,
Mike Crocker
Editor

**Collaborations:**

A monthly update of collab orative research projects in the northwest Atlantic Ocean.
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Written and designed by Michael Crocker, communi cations director,

**Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance**.



All editorial submissions and comments should be sent to Michael Crocker, Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance, 200 Main Street, Saco, ME 04072

Telephone: 207-284-5374
Fax: 207-284-1355
Email: mike@namanet.org

## NAMA Staff:

**Craig Pendleton**
Coordinating Director

**Jen Levin**
Director of Operations

**Michael Crocker**
Communications Director

"The institute's vision has evolved radically over the years from a 'fishtank for tourists' to a 'think tank for fishermen'. We have taken a large, complex vision, and broken it down into a series of achievable steps. First, secure our waterfront site. Second, build a world-class laboratory for collaborative fishery ecosystem research and marine biotechnology research. Ultimately, build an innovative marine education facility that serves the entire State of Maine."

- Don Perkins, GMRI President

part of the world.

"The Gulf of Maine is a unique and important resource, and it is exciting to have the opportunity to bring my years of experience in fisheries research and management in New Zealand and international-

ly to bear on the challenges that the Gulf of Maine currently faces," he said. "In my first few months back, I have also enjoyed renewing old friendships with people in the fishing industry, academic institutions, and state, federal, and international agencies."

With the recent completion of a 45,000 square-foot state-of-the-art laboratory, Annala's appointment comes at a time when the GMRI is positioned to take a national lead in marine research.

"John possesses the scientific experience and strategic thinking skill to evolve our young research institute into a national center for fishery ecosystem research," said Don Perkins, GMRI President.

Among Annala's first responsibilities is to recruit a team of research scientists that

GMRI (continued page 4)

# A YEAR IN REVIEW: BIG CHANGES AT THE GMRI

## Building the Capacity of Collaborative Research

The most visible change at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) over the past year has been the completion of its 56,000 square-foot laboratory, which now appears as one of the most prominent structures on Portland's working waterfront, but even before the laboratory's steel framing and drywall were in place, it had attracted the attention of some of the region's leading marine science institutions and agencies.

The University of Southern Maine and the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) have both leased space at the lab, bringing together four new scientists with diverse backgrounds in marine science together. Additionally Maine's Department of Marine Resources has agreed to co-sponsor a groundfish ecologist position at the lab, rounding off the expertise now together beneath one roof. Additionally, a national search has begun for three more scientists with expertise in pelagic, groundfish, and benthic fish species. They are expected to be on board by mid-2005.

Their work will build on four collaborative research projects initiated in 2004 addressing key Gulf of Maine fisheries: groundfish, shrimp, and monkfish. This year teams of fishermen and scientists have been assembled to design and test conserva tion-friendly gear to target haddock.

It is anticipated that the facilty will create 145 high-quality jobs in the marine research field. On top of that theincreased capacity could over time inject millions into the struggling fishing community through cooperative research projects.

## Outreach and Education

The GMRI has also devoted considerable resources over the past year to commu nicating the products of scientific research in the Gulf of Maine to the general public.

In early 2004, it accepted a $600,000 challenge grant from the Sam L. Cohen Foundation and The Lunder Foundation to support innovative science education at the lab. Staff are also developing of an interac tive exhibit and curriculum, and the funds needed, to meet a goal of offering every town in Maine the opportunity to send 5th or 6th grade students to visit the facility for a hands-on experience in marine science.

In July, the GMRI launched a unique website focusing marine nanotechnology, a breakthrough field of science that looks at the fundamental building blocks of crea tures found in nature. For example, nano-researchers are investigating how it is that a simple abalone shell, made up of the same material found in everyday writing chalk, is be twice as strong as high-tech ceramics. Visit www.gma.org/nano to find out more.

The site is part of the NASA-funded Maine Biological Nanotechnology Effort (MBNE), geared to grade 7-12 students, teachers, as well as the public. It uses illus trations, photographs, animations, and interactive virtual microscopes to help visitors understand nanotechnology and biomimicry research.

Finally, the GMRI field science education initiative known as, "Vital Signs", has gone international. Over the summer, the program, which uses state-of-the-art palm pilots to record environmental observations, partnered with an environmental group in the United Kingdom, to make devices available for students, fishermen, and scien tists monitoring salmon habitat along the Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland border.

Northeast Consortium

UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**
**Research Professor and Director, Northeast Consortium**

The Northeast Consortium was established at the University of New Hampshire in 1999 to encourage and fund partnerships among commercial fishermen, researchers, and other stake holders to engage in cooperative research on a range of topics, including fishing gear technol ogy and living marine resources. Commercial fishermen and commercial fishing vessels from New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts are encouraged to participate in coopera tive research in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank.

The Northeast Consortium consists of four research institutions (University of New Hampshire, University of Maine, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution), each of which designates a Representative. The Northeast Consortium has received $5M each year for 2000 to 2004 from NOAA Fisheries, with fund ing administered by the University of New Hampshire. In addition to the Director, the Northeast Consortium office has four professional staff at UNH and is currently housed in the Ocean Process Analysis Laboratory (OPAL), one of four centers in the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space (EOS; www.eos.unh.edu) at UNH. For more information about the Northeast Consortium please visit www.northeastconsortium.org.

Responsibilities of the Northeast Consortium Director and Research Professor
UNH seeks an established, internationally recognized researcher in fisheries biology, fis heries oceanography, fisheries management, or related fields consistent with Northeast Consortium mission areas and goals. Strong preference will be given to applicants who have prior experi ence managing federal funds; can provide strong leadership and mentoring for program staff; and will work effectively with all stakeholder groups, especially commercial fishermen. As Research Professor, the successful applicant will be expected to establish and maintain a significant, extramurally funded research program in EOS. As Northeast Consortium director, the successful applicant will be expected to supervise professional staff; administer program funds; oversee a proposal-based competition to select cooperative research projects; liaison with other Northeast Consortium institutions through the Representatives; and coordinate with stakeholder groups through the Advisory Committee, fishing industry organizations, and outreach activities.

Salary for the Research Professor and Director will be paid on a nine-month basis by Northeast Consortium funds, the Northeast Consortium will guarantee 36 months of salary over the first 3 years. The Northeast Consortium will also provide some funds each year to support the Director's research program.

Application
Please send a letter of application, resume, and description of research interests and program leadership experience to the address below. Letters of application should be submitted by February 14, 2005 to receive full consideration. Address for receipt of applications:

Dr. John Aber, Vice President for Research and Public Service
University of New Hampshire
Room 107, Thompson Hall
105 Main Street
Durham, NH 03824-3547

*UNH is committed to excellence through diversity in its faculty and strongly encourages women and minorities* to apply.

**GMRI**
represent a breadth of expertise across scientific disciplines. The GMRI's research department will represent eight areas of marine science: biological oceanography, benthic ecology, groundfish ecology, pelagic ecology, ecosystem dynamics modeling, fish behavior and gear design, resource economics, and marine mammal ecology. Such an interdisciplinary approach is designed to address the diverse biological, physical and social components that affect life in the Gulf of Maine and its watershed.

In respect to the diverse and sometimes conflicting interests in the region, the GMRI assembled a search committee that refelected the numerous interest groups in the region. Annala's experience working with fishermen, scientists, environmentalists, and managers in New Zealand made him an attractive choice to an array of Gulf of Maine stakeholders.

"Dr. Annala comes to Gulf of Maine Research Institute from a background of fisheries assessment and research in which the industry is fully involved," said Mary Beth Tooley, Executive Director, East Coast Pelagics Association and a member of the Search Committee. "He will be a great asset, not only in the pursuit of good science, but also in integrating fishermen into that process."

Jim Salisbury, a retired fishermen and member of the search team noted, "John has an unusual combination of experience within government, science, and industry that gives him a practical perspective, which will further enhance the Institute's research program. I expect he will soon establish the Gulf of Maine Research Institute as the place we all will look to for answers because it is addressing the relevant questions."

A variety of funding sources came together to support the creation of the Chief Scientific Officer position. The Henry L. and Grace Doherty Foundation committed a $1 million challenge gift to build an endowment, and support for the search and hiring of came from the Sudbury Foundation, the David Rockefeller Fund, the Henry P. Kendall Foundation, and the Surdna Foundation.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

January 13, 2005

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter clarifies requirements for a fishing vessel that comes into port with fish on board and that intends to resume the fishing trip without offloading fish. This clarification is in response to questions about whether a fishing vessel could layover in a port for weather reasons without offloading its catch and then continue fishing, including going back into the U.S./Canada Management Area, to catch the remainder of its trip limit.

Under current regulations, any fishing vessel may come into port without offloading its fish, provided the vessel is in compliance with all applicable fishing regulations, including possession limits. By coming into port, however, the vessel is still subject to days-at-sea (DAS) requirements, which means the vessel must call out of the DAS program if it does not have a VMS. The vessel can then go back to fishing with its fish still onboard, provided the vessel complies with DAS program requirements for declaring into another fishing trip.

For example, if a fishing vessel comes into port with 10,000 lb of yellowtail flounder from the Eastern U.S. / Canada Area and the trip limit for yellowtail flounder is 15,000 lb per trip (with no daily possession limit), the vessel may layover in port without offloading and go back into the Eastern U.S./ Canada Area with the fish on board, provided it complies with requirements to start another fishing trip. Once the vessel goes back into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, the vessel can harvest and possess another 5,000 lb of yellowtail flounder and land a total of 15,000 lb of yellowtail flounder when it comes into port again.

A vessel that comes into port with species managed by a daily landing limit (such as Gulf of Maine cod) may also layover without offloading its catch, but cannot go back out fishing on its next trip if the vessel has more than one day's worth of fish on board. For example, if a vessel comes into port with 800 lb of cod caught in the Gulf of Maine, and the daily landing limit for Gulf of Maine cod is 800 lb/DAS, the vessel can layover in port without offloading and go back out to continue to fish on a subsequent trip with the fish still on board. In this example, if a vessel comes into port with 1,600 lb of cod caught in the Gulf of Maine, the vessel would be required to offload at least 800 lb of cod prior to starting its next trip, so that it would be in possession of only one day's daily limit on the first day of that trip. Vessels subject to daily landing limits must have fished sufficient DAS for the amount of fish onboard both when calling out of and when calling back into the DAS program.

Vessels fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area or under the Regular B DAS Pilot Program are still subject to the requirement to notify the observer program before beginning the next trip. To facilitate the ability of a vessel to come into port to avoid unsafe conditions, the vessel will continue in its observer status for the next trip. In other words, if an observer has been placed on board the vessel, the observer will remain with the vessel for the subsequent trip. If an observer waiver is granted on the interrupted trip, the observer program will continue to waive the placement of an observer for the subsequent trip. The NOAA Fisheries Observer Program contact number is: (508) 990-9057.

This is intended to clarify the flexibility currently available to vessels that may want to interrupt a fishing trip by coming into port without offloading fish for weather or other emergencies. To facilitate the ability of a vessel to come into port to avoid unsafe condi tions, the observer program will waive the placement of an observer on a vessel that notifies the observer program that it is inter rupting its trip without offloading fish. The NOAA Fisheries Observer Program contact number is: (508) 990-9057. This interpreta tion of the regulations will be clarified in a proposed rule soliciting comments on several corrections being made to the NE multi species regulations.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

University of New Hampshire
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
University of Maine
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

# 2005 OFFICIAL GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF PLANNING LETTERS

**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, based on review and recommendations of a panel consisting of Northeast Consortium Advisory Committee members and other commercial fishermen, scientists, and representatives of governmental, quasi-governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations. Funding is contingent upon the availability and timely release of funds to the Northeast Consortium from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries.

**Preparation of Planning Letters**

Anyone may submit a Planning Letter to the Northeast Consortium. Planning Letters are an obligatory first step in seeking Northeast Consortium funding. Full Proposals will not be accepted without prior submission of a Planning Letter. The Planning letter stage is intended to help build partnerships among fishermen and scientists, provide feedback to improve Full Proposals, and maintain the goal of funding ~50% of submitted Full Proposals.

The Planning Letter should explain the central concept and the plan of work in sufficient detail to be understandable to the panel reviewers. Planning Letters can be up to 5 pages in length, excluding budget documentation. Please do not send letters of support, attachments or other materials with Planning Letters.

**The Planning Letters should include:**

• Complete contact information for all proposers, including phone, mailing address, and email address (if available).

• Statement of need or rationale.

• Project objectives.

• Technical approach of the research.

• Identification and brief descriptions of key participants. Where possible and appropriate, projects are encouraged to contain broad participation among scientists and fishermen, including partners who have not previously participated.

• Identification of the end users of any results, new information, and/or deliverables. Be as specific as possible in the Planning Letter; detailed information will be required for Full Proposals.

• Budget estimate and brief justification for the approximate costs of the project. A detailed budget and institutional signatures are not required or recommended.

• Description of anticipated permit requirements (if known), including whether vessels will use Days-At-Sea, whether an EFP will be sought, whether fish will be caught and sold,and what proportion of time will be spent doing research vs. commercial harvesting.

• Page numbers.

**Ask the Northeast Consortium**

New proposers are particularly encouraged to discuss new project ideas and Planning Letter preparation with a Northeast Consortium representative or staff member. For further information, please see the website, www.NortheastConsortium.org, which includes a searchable Project Information Database and the Northeast Consortium Fisheries and Ocean Data Management System. Requests for program documents and general information should be directed to Laurinda Sousa Smith (Program Coordinator) by telephone (603-862-0136) or email (Laurinda.Smith@unh.edu).

During preparation of Planning Letters, proposers can ask for assistance in locating an securing partners from the scien-


Continued next page

tific or commercial fishing communities. Proposers may also request assistance in identifying and engaging end-users, who may include representatives of NOAA Fisheries, the New England Fisheries Management Council, environmental groups, and commercial fishing organizations, commercial fishermen, and others. Please call any representative or staff member with these requests.

**Evaluation of Planning Letters**
Planning Letters are reviewed by panels comprising members of the Northeast Consortium Advisory Committee and other experts. All Planning Letters are rated by these panels according to the following criteria:
• Importance of the idea for fisheries and oceanographic research and management.

• Relevance to the Northeast Consortium's programmatic goals:

• Prospects for partnerships between commercial fishermen scientists, educators, and coastal managers.

• Potential for enabling commercial fishermen and fishing vessels to participate in cooperative research.

• Potential for bringing fishermen's information, experience, and expertise into the scientific framework.

• Opportunity to equip and utilize commercial fishing vessels as research and monitoring platforms.

• Feasibility of the technical approach.

• Likelihood of successful implementation of the proposed project.

All of these criteria will be applied in the evaluation of the Planning Letters. Proposers submitting Planning Letters will receive feedback on their submissions, including a recommendation on whether or not they should submit a Full Proposal. Due to the increase in number of proposals, Full Proposals will be accepted only if encouraged following review of the Planning Letter. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS**

**Submission of Planning Letters**
Submit fifteen (15) copies of each Planning Letter to:

Laurinda Sousa Smith, Program Coordinator
Northeast Consortium
142 Morse Hall
Durham, NH 03824
Tel: (603) 862-0136
Fax: (603) 862-7006
email: laurinda.smith@unh.edu

Planning Letters must be received in the Northeast Consortium office by 5:00 pm on April 6, 2005. Late Planning Letters will not be considered. Submitters should take into account mail delivery time; U.S. Mail to Durham may be significantly delayed. Due to the number of letters submitted, it is not possible to accept fax or email submissions.

## CORRECTION

Last issue it was reported that 840-square-miles of the Stellwagen Marine Sanctuary is closed to dragging. In fact, only 21 percent of the sanctuary, which is the part that overlaps the western Gulf of Maine closure, has been closed to trawl gear since 1998. We apologize for the inaccuracy.

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC MARINE ALLIANCE
200 Main Street, Suite A
Saco, Maine 04072-1507