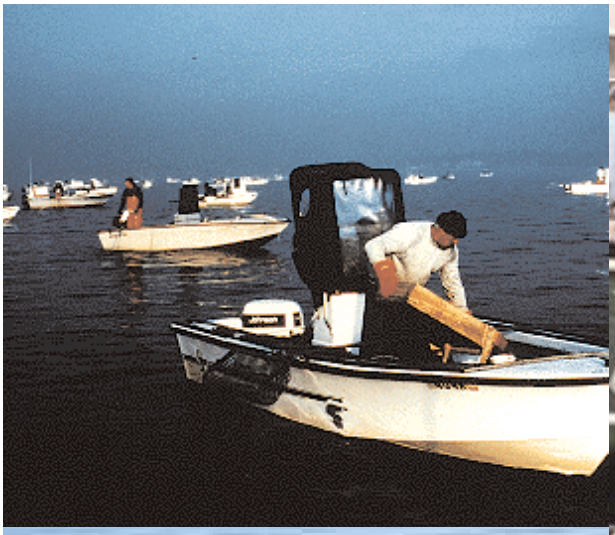
October 2004

Collaborations

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



Five fishing organizations—the Ocean State Fishermen's Association, the R.I. Commercial Fishermen's Association, the R.I. Shellfishermen's Association, the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation, and the Fishermen's Call —are now housed together under one roof at the University of Rhode Island's East Farm campus in Kingston. The center serves as a headquarters for Rhode Island's diverse marine stakeholders. (URI Photos)

Fisheries Groups Collaborate in Ocean State

Last spring, fishermen, scientists, managers, educators, and community leaders in Rhode Island opened a sort of headquarters for cooperation across marine fisheries' many fields of discipline.

Located on the University of Rhode Island's East Farm campus in Kingston, the Commercial Fisheries Center brings representatives of five fishing organizations—the Ocean State Fishermen's Association, the R.I. Commercial Fishermen's Association, the R.I. Shellfishermen's Association, the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation, and the Fishermen's Call —together under one roof. The groups reside in an unused building that they have leased from URI for $1 per year.

The center serves as a meeting place to discuss fisheries-related issues and promote a better understanding of the marine environment. What's more, its presence on the campus of one of the nation's leading ocean science institutions makes commercial fishermen more accessible to a variety of researchers working with fisheries issues than ever before, according to Kathy Castro, who heads Rhode Island's Sea Grant program.

But she added that the most important function of the center transcends geographic convenience.

"There used to be a fishing coop that served as a meeting place for fishermen and their families. When that went away, they lost an important connection to each other. This facility has helped to restore a sense of community to fishermen and their families."

Message From The Editor

Conversations about collaborative research these days almost inevitably turn to measuring its impact. As with any investment of tax payer dollars people eventually, and understandably, begin to ask: What's the return?

Anticipating this question I have a boiler plate response, please feel free to borrow from it or steal it entirely:

(1) Collaborative research provides ancillary income to fishermen who otherwise might not be able to make a living because of severe restrictions on fishing.

(2) Collaborative research has broken down barriers that used to exist between scientists and fishermen--barriers that prevented a more meaningful understanding of ocean ecosystems.

(3) Collaborative research has enhanced the management of fish resources by building personal relationships between fishermen and government managers.

(4) Collaborative research has added a new level of knowledge of marine systems by integrating fishermen's "anecdotal" observations into a scientific framework.

(5) Collaborative research is being used to make management decisions, as is the case with herring surveys.

(6) Collaborative research has built capacity in the fishing industry by training fishermen in research techniques and buying equipment for research. It has done the same on the research side of things.

(7) Collaborative research has made a safer fleet, bringing vessels up to date with safety codes and survival training.

(8) Collaborative research has dramatically enhanced the amount of data being collected on the ocean system.

(9) Is new and I've just started to think about it after writing this issue's cover story. I'm going to call it "collaborative research's improvements to social capital."

As you'll read, The Commercial Fisheries Center in Rhode Island has brought together five fisheries groups on the URI campus. There are certain practical reasons, of course, having these groups together in one spot is a good thing--ideas flow more freely, relationships are forged, accessibility is improved, and so on. But the center was also an important investment in social capital.

This is what I mean. Across the country involvement in social activities has been in decline in the past decades. Partcipation in social clubs is down 58 percent, family dinners down 33 percent, the practice of having friends over dropped 45 percent, all according to a recent Harvard survey of civic activity in America.

In other words we have become increasingly disconnected from our friends, families, neighbors, and communties. Collaborative research, I would argue, helps fishing communities reconnect.

The Commercial Fisheries Center, for example, impacts community life beyond fishing: They hold blood and toy drives, they host civic meetings, and they provide food for those in need.

As those involved with collaborative research continue to debate its impacts in the years to come, I think it would be important to put a value on the social capital that is built.

By the way, that same study showed that people who belong to at least one organization tend to live longer. Not a bad reason to get involved with a collaborative research project near you.

Good Fishing,

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Collaborations:

A monthly update of collaborative research projects in the northwest Atlantic Ocean. Published each month by the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance with generous funding provided by the Northeast Consortium.

October 2004

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NAMA is:

URI has long-standing ties to the fishing industry and fisheries-related research for decades. Faculty in the Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science conduct fisheries and aquaculture research on shellfish and finfish, and they regularly interact with commercial fishermen.

Ocean State (continued)

Chris Brown, president of the R.I. Commercial Fishermen's Association, and captain of the fishing vessel, *Granville Davis* , agreed.

He said the center is working on projects that have more to do with supporting their community than their fishing businesses.

"Right now we're organizing a blood drive and a toy drive for the upcoming holidays. We also regularly donate thousands of pounds of fish to area food banks."

Brown said that the experience of Rhode Island's fishermen represents a microcosm for the region's industry.

"The industry's various gear types and boat sizes are often depicted as being in conflict. This is not always the case. The center allows us to work together on the issues that are important to all fishermen—water quality, sustainability, and economic stability, to name a few. There's a spirit of cooperation here that makes this kind of setup possible," he said.

What's more, Brown said that the center encourages cooperation across gear types in the pursuit of science.

"Recently, I was involved in a habitat study that needed boats smaller than mine to work. All I had to do was walk across the hall and talk to some lobstermen who were able to use their boats for the research."

URI has long-standing ties to the fishing industry and has conducted fisheries related research for decades. Faculty in the Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science conduct fisheries and aquaculture research on shellfish and finfish, and they regularly interact with commercial fishermen.

"I'm very excited that we've been able to help in bringing together the various commercial fishing groups in the state and provide them with a permanent home. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved—the commercial fishing industry, the state and the University," said Jeff Seemann, dean of the college. "I expect that as these associations begin to work more closely with one another, as well as with URI researchers, the entire local fishing industry will benefit. And that will be a boon to the economy of the entire region."

"I think we have a good thing going here," said Brown. "There's a tremendous amount of resources for us to benefit from. I always say cooperative research is better than uncooperative research," said Brown.

The Rhode Island commercial fishing indusry is diverse, with sectors ranging from quahogging to lobstering to fishing for stripped bass, tuna, groundfish, and squid. With annual landings valuing around $65 million annually, supporting thousands of fishing-related jobs, it is a crucial component of the state's economy.

Fisheries Facts: Rhode Island (source R.I. DF&W)

The Rhode Island commercial fishery supports approximately 4,500 license holders. The direct dockside value of commercial landings has fluctuated widely over the last ten years between a high of $86 million recorded in 1999 and a low of $69 million in 2003. Landings of ground fish, shellfish and lobster provide the mainstay of the industry. The total value of the industry, however, when domestic sales, exports, purchase of supplies and services and other generators of economic activity are factored in, is estimated to be in excess of $500 million (R.I. Seafood Council).

on an average annual basis, an estimated 300,000 recreational anglers, 62% of them non-residents, generate over one million fishing trips and spend in excess of $150 million on bait, tackle, boats, and gear. Recreational fishing has become such an important component of Rhode Island marine fishing that the recreational take exceeds the commercial take for a number of important species.

In addition, on an average annual basis, an estimated 300,000 recreational anglers, 62% of them non-residents, generate over one million fishing trips and spend in excess of $150 million on bait, tackle, boats, and gear. Recreational fishing has become such an important component of Rhode Island marine fishing that the recreational take exceeds the commercial take for a number of important species (striped bass, summer flounder, blue fish, black sea bass, scup, and tautog).

While there is evidence of stock rebuilding in some fisheries, four out of ten of the state's most valuable species remain over fished, including those generating the highest dockside revenues (lobster, quahog, winter flounder, and bluefish). Management restrictions on catch of these species must be maintained if these stocks are to reach sustainable levels. Rhode Island has exclusive management control only for those species that spend their entire lives in state waters.

Exclusivity is effectively limited to sedentary bivalves such as quahogs, oysters and whelks. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), a compact of the US east coast states, manages inshore migratory species along the Atlantic seaboard inside of 3 miles.

This interstate fishery management program covers species such as striped bass, bluefish, scup, black sea bass, summer and winter flounders, menhaden, weakfish, and tautog. Other species which spend most of their life cycles in federal waters (3-200 miles) are managed by the New England Fisheries Management Council and/or the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

Recognizing the crisis confronting fisheries management in Rhode Island, the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed new legislation in 2004 (S 2771) that provides a framework for the Director of DEM and the Marine Fisheries Council to better manage marine fisheries in Rhode Island. In addition, the new statute creates a much improved fisheries management process, consistent with the goals established by the General Assembly in the Marine Fisheries Management Modernization Act of 2001.

	2003	2004	CHANGE
MULTI-PURPOSE LICENSE	**1,191**	**1,135**	**-56**
PRINCIPAL EFFORT LICENSE	**1,325**	**1,148**	**-177**
LOBSTER ENDORSEMENT	61	56	**-5**
NON-LOBSTER CRUSTACEAN ENDORSEMENT	19	20	**1**
QUAHOG ENDORSEMENT	924	776	**-148**
NON-QUAHOG ENDORSEMENT	672	556	**-116**
RESTRICTED FINFISH ENDORSEMENT	338	326	**-12**
NON-RESTRICTED FINFISH ENDORSEMENT	138	147	**9**
COMMERICAL FISHING LICENSE	**271**	**283**	**12**
LOBSTER ENDORSEMENT	50	48	**-2**
NON-LOBSTER CRUSTACEAN ENDORSEMENT	68	69	**1**
NON-QUAHOG ENDORSEMENT	156	172	**16**
NON-RESTRICTED FINFISH ENDORSEMENT	192	198	**6**
OVER 65 SHELLFISH LICENSE	50	86	**36**
STUDENT SHELLFISH			

A quick comparison of Rhode Island's various commercial fishing activities over the past two years shows diversity and change. (R.I. DF&W

NOAA BULLETIN:

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

October 29, 2004

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Permit Holder:
This letter is to notify you that the regulations implementing Framework 16 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Framework 39 to the Northeast (NE) Multispecies FMP (Joint Frameworks) were filed with the Federal Register and will take effect on November 2, 2004. This letter summarizes the new management measures established by these JointFrameworks, but this summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations. The full text of the regulations is available on our website: www.nero.nmfs.gov, or you may request a copy via mail by calling 978-281-9315.

The major measures implemented by the Joint Frameworks are as follows.
· Establishment of Sea Scallop Access Areas within Northeast (NE) multispecies Closed Area I (CAI), Closed Area II (CAII), and the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (NLCA). The Joint Frameworks authorize the scallop fishery to access the scallop resource within portions of the NE multispecies closed areas during specified seasons, and ensure that NE multispecies catches by scallop vessels are consistent with the Multispecies FMP.
· Revision of the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) closed areas implemented under Amendment 10 to the Scallop FMP (Amendment 10) in order to make the areas consistent with the EFH closures under the Multispecies FMP, as established by Amendment 13 to the Multispecies FMP (Amendment 13). All of the management measures implemented by the Joint Frameworks and described below will take effect on November 2, 2004, EXCEPT for access to the Sea Scallop Access Areas in the NE multispecies closed areas for sea scallop vessel fishing under General Category permits.

JOINT FRAMEWORKS MANAGEMENT MEASURES
Multispecies Closed Area Scallop Access Areas, Season, and Gear Restrictions
· The boundary coordinates for scallop Access Areas within the NE multispecies closed areas are provided below.
·Scallop fishing is authorized during an open season of June 15 through January 31.
· Vessels fishing for scallops in the multispecies closed areas can use only scallop dredge gear.

Access Area Coordinates

CLOSED AREA I ACCESS AREA
Point Latitude Longitude
CAIA1 41E26' N. 68E30' W.
CAIA2 40E58' N. 68E30' W.
CAIA3 40E55' N. 68E53' W.
CAIA4 41E04.5' N. 69E01' W.
CAIA1 41E26' N. 68E30' W.
CLOSED AREA II ACCESS AREA
Point Latitude Longitude
CAIIA1 41E00' N. 67E20' W.
CAIIA2 41E00' N. 66E35.8' W.
CAIIA3 41E18.6' N. 66E24.8 'W.
CAIIA4 41E30' N. 66E34.8' W.
CAIIA5 41E30' N. 67E20' W.
CAIIA1 41E00' N. 67E20' W.
NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP ACCESS AREA
Point Latitude Longitude
NLAA1 40E50' N. 69E30' W.
NLAA2 40E50' N. 69E00' W.
NLAA3 40E20' N. 69E00' W.

The Language Divide

New England fishermen, managers, and scientists may speak the same language, but they don't always hear each other. MREP can help.

If there's something scientists, managers, and fishermen can agree on it's that they don't always communicate well.

"The three fields experience the marine system in dramatically different ways, which sometimes leads to unnecessary misunderstandings," said John Williamson, a member of the New England Fisheries Management Council and primary investigator on a project designed to bridge this longstanding communication gap. "Reconciling some of these differences would yield a deeper understanding than any one perspective is capable of alone."

The course is divided into two three-day modules—one covers fisheries science and the other fisheries management. Each seeks to enroll 20 students, 15 from industry and five from marine related science or management programs.

For it's second year, The Marine Resource Education Project (MREP for short) which is funded by the Northeast Consortium and administered by the University of New Hampshire, is bringing scores of people involved with commercial fishing together at a sort of crash course in the fisheries management process.

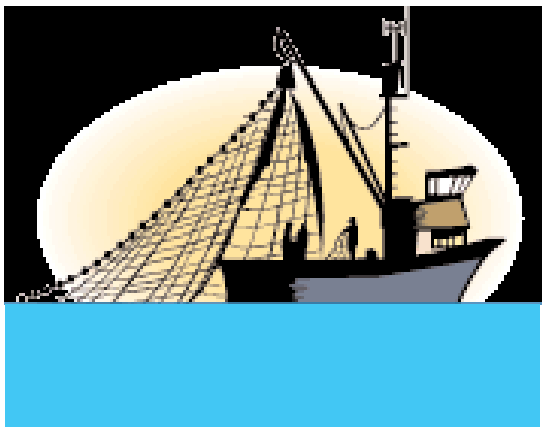
The first and arguably most important element of the project, according to Williamson, is the personal relationships that are forged between participants.

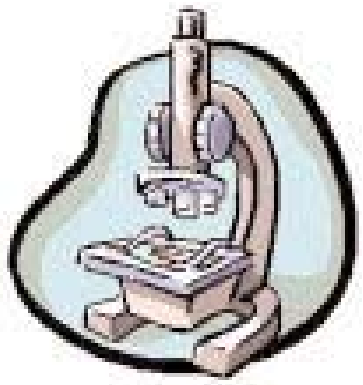
"It may sound like a cliché, but the truth is that just by introducing members of this community to each other, so they can put a familiar face on these different perspectives, has gone a long way to increasing cooperation in the process," he said.

The project is headed jointly by Williamson with Andrew Rosenberg, and Mimi Becker of the University of New Hampshire's department of Natural Resources.

The course is divided into two three-day modules—one covers fisheries science and the other fisheries management. Each seeks to enroll 20 students, 15 from industry and five from marine related science or management programs.

The science module is designed to provide





participants in the basic elements of population biology and the assessment process including survey techniques, statistical tools, and scientific modeling.

The curriculum is focused on explaining how fishing effort relates to the assessment of stocks' health, and offers insights into how fishermen's knowledge can contribute to the development of regulations.

"The science portion was developed to allow fishermen to ask the question: "What do scientists and managers need to know,' said Williamson.

The management module provides an outline of the various entities, federal, state, and local, which contribute to the management of marine resources in New England. Emphasis is given to the Council process and the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and National Standards.

"We also look at the development of a management plan so that participants can see what the critical moments for participation are," said Williamson. "This also allows fishermen to investigate possibilities for alternative management techniques.

MREP CALENDER

Nov. 8-10, 2004 (fisheries science)

Dec. 6-8, 2004 (fisheries management)

March 16-26, 2005 (fisheries science)

April 11-13, 2005
(fisheries management)

Space is limited. If you're interested in attending please contact the UNH Department of Natural Resources at (603) 862-0654.

Berried Lobster Tracking and Temperature Project Fall 2004

WHAT IS THIS PROJECT ABOUT?

The purpose of this project is to obtain long-term records of the temperatures experienced by berried female and their eggs. Approximately 120 lobsters have been fitted with HOBO Tidbit temperature loggers, in 3 different locations: 1) NH Coast; 2) near Friendship, ME; 3) offshore canyons and Georges Bank. For more information about the project check the following website after November 1st, 2004: www.lobsters.unh.edu Below is a lobster with a tidbit attached to it. The data on the tidbit can be downloaded without removing it, if you have the right equipment. Several lobstermen in each area have the tidbit readers for this purpose.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU CAPTURE ONE OF THESE LOBSTERS?

If you capture a lobster BEFORE March of 2005. please release it and contact us with the following information:

• Date of capture
• Lobster ID # located on a white piece of paper on the top of the tidbit. It should read something like: M2 or NH 3 or O 5. M=Maine, NH=NH and O=offshore
• Location of capture, preferably with GPS coordinates
• Your name, phone number and email address.

If you capture a lobster AFTER March 2005, please remove the HOBO tidbit and return it to us, and then you will receive a $25 reward and we will enter your name in a lottery for a yet to be determined prize.

Contact Information:

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