

This month:

***The World Beyond
Our Front Door***

Relationships. Even the word can be daunting. The development and maintenance of personal and professional relationships represent some of the most challenging objectives human beings can undertake.

While the very nature of collaborative research involves relationships, the strength of new bonds and alliances can make all the difference when attempting to solve complex problems or obtain new data.



Randy Seaver

So it is with the Wild Scallop Stock Enhancement project now being conducted in several communities throughout the Gulf of Maine. Unlike

many other collaborative research endeavors, the stock enhancement project is one that an entire community can rally around.

People from all walks of life have shown interest in the project being conducted in Saco Bay. When it came time to build the spat collection nets, a chiropractor found himself involved, along with a housewife, students, fishermen and researchers. They all shared an interest: determining if a scallop population can successfully be returned to

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LOOKING FOR ANSWERS — Scott Feindel, Jim Henderson and Carla Morin review the results of their work

Bring on the scallops

A wild scallop stock enhancement project in Saco Bay is fostering new relationships and exciting potential

By RANDY SEAVER

Now entering its third year, a wild scallop stock enhancement project continues collecting data, building relationships and fostering a sense of community pride. While this report focuses on the project being conducted in Saco Bay, similar efforts are being conducted in several other coastal communities throughout the Gulf of Maine.

The project's overall objective is simple: to determine if a once thriving

scallop population can be returned to a specific area that has seen a significant decline in landings. Centered upon methodology that Japanese fishermen began experimenting with in the 1960s, the project involves using spat collection bags; allowing the baby scallops to grow in a secured environment, and then releasing them.

The Saco Bay project is being funded this year by a \$25,000 grant from the Northeast Consortium.

"I really think this is a project that a lot of different kinds of people find interesting," said Carla Morin, the

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Scallops

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project's coordinator in Saco Bay. Morin, who works as NAMA's assistant director, said the project — in addition to its scientific benefits — helps to instill a sense of pride in local fishermen. "The people who are participating in the project feel as if they are giving something back to the community; an opportunity to bring back something that was once here through a lot of hard work, dedication and commitment."

According to Morin, the stimulus behind this project stems from a 1999 visit of Maine officials to Japan. The delegation, she said, consisted of state government, community organizers, educators and commercial fishermen who could witness, first-hand, the success that the Japanese had achieved in wild enhancement.

The benefits of improved relationships

But the project has also produced something else, participants say; it has fos-

tered not only a sense of community pride but also a sense of stronger relationships between area scientists and fishermen. In fact, the project is credited with providing the impetus for the creation of the Saco Bay Alliance, a group of people who all share a common concern and commitment for the waters of Saco Bay.

Since the University of New England (UNE) recently completed the construction of a state-of-the-art marine research facility at the mouth of the Saco River,

Morin said they became an obvious choice as partners in the project.

Dr. Steve Zeeman, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at UNE's Biddeford campus, says the project has opened up a whole new set of opportunities and resources for him, his students and the university as a whole.

"Basically, I saw this project as an opportunity to work with local people on a local project and as a way to get my students involved with their community," Zeeman said. "Partnerships give me, as a scientist, a better understanding of the local environment and its needs."

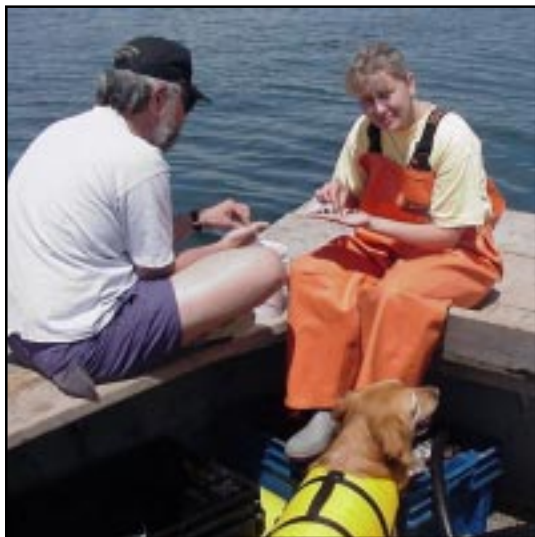
According to Zeeman, the scientific portion of the project involves looking at a number of issues in order to determine scallop preferences and needs.



SHARING RESOURCES — A Japanese delegation visits the NAMA office in Saco to share information about scallop stock enhancement methods.

"The people who are participating in the project feel as if they are giving something back to the community; an opportunity to bring back something that was once here through a lot of hard work, dedication and commitment."

— Carla Morin



SORTING AWAY — Dr. Steve Zeeman from the University of New England and Carla Morin from NAMA work on separating juvenile scallops from other things that may have collected in the spat collection bags. Morin's dog, Sarah, keeps an eye on the process.

In the first year of the project, local fishermen raised concerns about water quality conditions in Saco Bay. The fishermen said they noticed a steady decline in algae on lobster traps, and they wondered if a nearby water treatment facility wasn't making the harbor's waters too clean. Zeeman said his research in this area is still in its preliminary stage, but he has a number of experiments scheduled for this fall.

In other areas, Zeeman said his students will be studying what food sources are available for juvenile scallops and collecting data on area phytoplankton. Students will also examine predator/prey relationships and studying scallop ingestion patterns.

"It's really a fascinating project in terms of its potential," Zeeman said. "And now that I know some of the local fishermen, I'm hoping that the university will continue to have another resource for other projects and research. I have, in the past, found myself boatless," he laughed. "Hopefully, those days are over."

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Scallops

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Collecting the data

For Scott Feindel, a marine resource scientist at the Maine Department of Marine Resources, the project requires a lot of work and commitment from its participants.

“What we’re really trying to determine now is understanding where we should be releasing the scallops. In the first year, we had problems with storms, but we also need to be concerned with environmental conditions and area predator-prey relationships.”

If, for example, the spat collection bags are put out too late (beyond a 30-day window in the fall, usually September) starfish, a natural predator of scallops, will appear in the spat collection bags.

Once the juvenile scallops have reached an average size of 15mm they are ready to be released. Tagging these juvenile scallops, Feindel said, will allow researchers to understand how and where the scallops are moving once released.

“It generally takes between two and three years for these tagged scallops to start popping up, so in the meantime we’re also conducting dive surveys and



WATER QUALITY ISSUES? — This navigational chart details an area in Saco Bay that local fishermen suspect has become polluted by a nearby water treatment facility, which has discharge pipes leading out into the bay



MEASURING — Carla Morin and Scott Feindel measure the size of the juvenile scallops that were retrieved from spat collection bags in Saco Bay

hoping to use camera technology to cover a wider area,” Feindel said.

Feindel said the scallop project is something that can easily be replicated in a number of other communities.

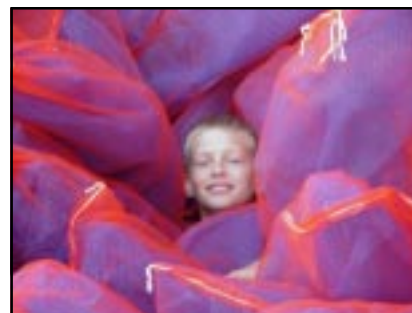
“Wherever there is a core of dedicated and passionate fishermen, the project can be implemented,” he said. “While it’s fairly simplistic, this type project does require a lot of time and work.”

Jim Henderson, a Saco lobsterman, said he and his peers find a lot of satisfaction from participating in the stock enhancement project. “Sure, I’m motivated to open up another fishery for the off-season,” he said. “But it’s a good project to be involved in. It’s a way for us to show, in a very concrete way, that local fishermen can be good stewards of their own resource.”

Getting others involved

At the same time, both Morin and Henderson agree that it would be beneficial if more area fishermen got involved in the project. “We

“Wherever there is a core of dedicated and passionate fishermen, the project can be implemented.”
 — Scott Feindel, Maine DMR



HAVING FUN — Craig Pendleton takes a moment to play in a group of spat collection bags during a gathering of community members who offered to help put the bags together.

now have a total of 12 fishermen involved,” Morin said. “While that’s four more than we had last year, the project is very time consuming and requires a

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lot of work.”

In order to prevent a sense of ‘burn-out’ among the project’s participants, Morin said she is working on ideas to help build momentum and perhaps recruit more interest. “We’re thinking of something like a spaghetti supper,” she said.

“It’s a great bunch of people, we really enjoy working together, but whenever we’re together it’s always about work. I think it would be good if we could just get together and share in some fun, celebrating the successes we’ve already had because we still have a long ways to go.”



PERSPECTIVE— A group of tiny scallops is put into perspective as they rest on a fisherman’s hand.

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one particular area

Now in its third year, the scallop project in Saco Bay has also forged a unique partnership between researchers at the University of New England, local fishermen and the Maine Department of Marine Resources. Although the university recently opened a state-of-the-art marine research facility at its Biddeford campus, there were hardly any connections between its students and staff and local fishermen. The wild scallop enhancement project has changed all that, providing both fishermen and researchers with resources neither group realized previously.

I guess this is what I will miss most about covering collaborative research projects in the Gulf of Maine: watching groups come together and finding common ground. This is my last issue of *Collaborations* since I have decided to return to my former career as a local newspaper editor and columnist. I will miss the relationships I have developed since Joining NAMA back in January.

When I started this job, I was somewhat overwhelmed by the magnitude of my assignment. Where to begin? How does someone who doesn’t know the difference between an otter trawler or a gillnet begin to write about multifaceted research projects that are intended to reduce bycatch, provide educational resources or study fish behavior?

I did what any other reporter would do: I began asking questions. Lots of questions. The more I learned, the more I realized that I was completely ignorant about the resource that has always dominated the landscape just beyond my front door. While I enjoyed talking with scientists and fishermen during telephone interviews, the real fun began when I gassed up my car and hit the road in search of new stories.

I have to admit — having a job that sometimes required fishing off the shores of Cape Cod on a hot, summer day isn’t such a bad way to make a living. But I have to follow my heart, and I have vowed to maintain many of those relationships I discovered during the last few months.

I have so many people to thank for their assistance and guidance that it would be impossible to list all of their

names in this limited space. Despite a wide range of differing backgrounds and personalities, each person I interviewed or pestered with questions had one thing in common: they were all excited about the prospect of sharing their information with me and ultimately the readers of *Collaborations*. In the end, it doesn’t really matter who writes the stories that appear in *Collaborations*. It is the projects and the fascinating people behind them that make the newsletter what it is: an informative and fascinating look at the world just beyond our front door. So as Douglas Adams, one of my favorite authors, said in the title of his fourth book: *So Long, And Thanks For All The Fish!*

Are you working on a project that you would like to see highlighted in “Collaborations”? Did you miss an issue? Would you like to subscribe?

**Contact NAMA today,
collaborations@namanet.org
(207)284-5374; 888-320-4530**

Faces in the crowd:

Chris Glass

A leading marine scientist, he says it's crucial for researchers and fishermen to continue cooperating

By RANDY SEAVER

It is a summer afternoon on Cape Cod. The beaches and highways are crowded. It is mid-July and Dr. Chris Glass has his work cut out for him, working frantically to meet the submission deadline for several proposed collaborative research projects. Despite the workload and busy time of year, Glass readily agrees to an interview.

Glass, a senior scientist and director at the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences (www.manomet.org), appears relaxed. He offers a friendly tour of the grounds, explaining the center's history and humble beginnings: from the home of a couple who were interested in providing a bird nesting sanctuary to one of the country's most dynamic research facilities.

A native of Belfast, Ireland, Glass, 45, first came to New England six years ago for a one-year sabbatical. He never left. Today, he lives in nearby Plymouth with his family. After studying animal behavior at Queen's University in Belfast, he graduated from the University of Glasgow with a PhD in marine biology and made his way east, taking a job with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Scotland. It was a job he held for 14 years, including work as a research diver in Jamaica, where he discovered two new species of marine life.

"I never made a conscious decision about my career," he laughs. "When I was 10 years old, and you had asked me what I wanted to do. . . I don't know

if I would have been able to properly describe it, but I think it would be what I am doing now. Like lots of other people of my generation, I grew up with Jacques Cousteau on television, there's little doubt that it was something, which intrigued me, being underwater. I forced my parents to buy me a mask and a snorkel, and I went underwater as much as I could."

Glass said he was attracted to the Manomet Center because of its core principles, which include making science useful. "We see that our science

"Every time we go out on fishing boats or we meet people, it never ceases to amaze me how much there is there that makes my job so much easier."

can be used to promote healthier oceans but also used to help coastal communities," he says. "We always want to work with as many people as possible... what would be defined very loosely as all stakeholders."

He says the fishermen in this part of the world are extremely well educated and very articulate. "Every time we go out on fishing boats or we meet people, it never ceases to amaze me how much there is there that makes my job so much easier."

In a relatively short period of time, Glass has earned an enviable reputation in many of the fishing communities where his work takes him. Commercial fishermen will sometimes view scientists with a certain amount of skep-



ticism or distrust, but his colleagues say he has been able to break down those traditional barriers simply by taking the time to listen to those who make their living on the ocean.

"When you have someone of the caliber and has the credibility like Chris — a guy who is regarded worldwide as a leader in his field of study — then it becomes an even greater motivation for fishermen to [participate in collaborative research]" said Craig Pendleton, a

life long fisherman and the coordinating director of the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance.

Laura Taylor Singer, the collaborative research manager at the Gulf of Maine

Aquarium, agrees. "Chris is just one of those people you love to work with," she said. "He's a true professional, but he's not at all arrogant. The thing that has always impressed me about him is his ability to listen to many different points of view. And he really listens. He has developed a level of trust with the fishing industry that is truly remarkable."

Asked about one of his favorite experiences in working with New England fishermen, Glass recalls a recent trip to Portland, Maine. "We were looking at a new net design with Lendell Alexander, and we met some fishermen on the dock who just happened to be

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NAMA needs your support

NAMA was your voice when a federal judge was considering how to resolve a lawsuit that could have been devastating to the Gulf of Maine's fishing fleet.

NAMA was there when a group of fishermen and others found themselves without a voice in mid-coast Maine, and we offered the assistance and expertise to help form yet another new community-based alliance.

NAMA is continuing to reach out, providing community outreach, educational and support services and helping fishermen and others learn about collaborative research projects.

Since 1995, our organization has continued to grow, and we have been able to make great strides in our efforts "to generate a new voice and institutional presence," within the Gulf of Maine. We are open to all who are committed to our purpose and principles, that will work toward economic and ecological stability, personal responsibility and accountability, resource protection and distributed power and authority."

But as harsh as it may sound, even the most noble of efforts and organizations requires sustainable funding in order to continue in their mission. That's why we are asking you to consider becoming a NAMA affiliate member or to make a tax-deductible contribution so that we may continue our work.

Today, New Englanders are facing daunting challenges, but they are also taking initiatives — organizing themselves to use innovation, science, tech-

nology and local knowledge so that the tradition of coastal fishing communities may continue for generations to come.

NAMA has coordinated many of these initiatives, and we stand ready to do more in the weeks and months ahead. Our alliance is a highly respected and fast growing organization that needs some financial support to do what the federal government cannot: to restore and enhance the fisheries of the Gulf of Maine (the waters of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine) as well as Maritime Canada.

We can offer you recognition throughout the New England coast as being one who thought enough of the fishermen's traditions, their livelihoods, their communities, and of the marine resources to lend a generous and helpful hand. Please send the most generous check you can to the address below. All contributions are eligible as deductions to a non-profit organization on your income taxes.

Please call or e-mail us with any questions.
Sincerely,

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Great links!



Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences

www.manomet.org



Gulf of Maine Aquarium

www.gma.org



Northeast Consortium

www.northeastconsortium.org



NMFS

www.nero.nmfs.gov



Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance

www.namanet.org

"Collaborations" is a monthly update on the 'goings on' of collaborative fisheries research. The Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA), with support from the Northeast Consortium, publishes this update as a service to individuals and groups committed to the future of collaborative research. Please visit us at www.namanet.org and www.NortheastConsortium.org to learn more about our organizations.

NMFS seeking cod-tagging proposals

The National Marine Fisheries Service's (NOAA Fisheries) Northeast Regional Office (NER), Cooperative Research Partners Initiative (CRPI) is seeking interested parties to implement an Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) tagging program.

The CRPI initiative is a program involving cooperation between members of the fishing industry and scientists. The CRPI cod tagging program aims to: 1) improve coordination of existing cod tagging projects, 2) integrate lo-

calized tagging operations into a regional program, and 3) coalesce the varied existing cod tagging research hypotheses into a scientifically coherent research program.

The goal of this initiative is to develop a region-wide collaborative cod tagging program that includes the active participation and involvement of fishermen, scientists and other interested parties. This program will improve our understanding cod movement patterns, as well as provide new information on

cod essential habitat, and fish behavior, with the ultimate goal of expanding the information base for management of Atlantic cod.

Questions on the objectives or preparation of research proposals should be addressed to Nick Anderson at (978) 281-9383 or nick.anderson@noaa.gov.

For detailed information, visit <http://www.eps.gov/spg/DOC/NOAA/EASC/EASC-02-0002/SynopsisP.html>.

Glass

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there," Glass said. "[These fishermen] had a natural curiosity about what we were doing. As the time went on, more and more fishermen gathered around. I was impressed with their willingness to learn and be involved in the process. As the day wore on, they remained with us, helping us with the nets. These guys gave up the better part of a Sunday because what we were doing intrigued them."

Although he very much he enjoys his work, Glass said there is always room for improvement when it comes to collaborative research projects.

"There are times when it hasn't worked out well on specific projects, and we always try to take stock of those situations to learn from those experiences," he said. "At the same time there are some overriding things that, in my opinion, need to be addressed and re-

solved sooner than later."

For example, Glass acknowledges that the fishing business is just that: a business, and a very competitive business. Sticking points that can fumble up a research project, he says, include problems with obtaining experimental fishing permits.

"It something that frustrates me enormously," he says. "The permit process desperately needs to be re-worked. It somehow needs to move away from its totally inflexible, protracted time period that were in at the moment."

Another challenge he identifies is what appears to be an unfair approach to the use of Days at Sea (DAS) during research. "It would seem that there isn't a level playing field," he said. "Some projects have allowed fishermen to get out of DAS regulations by doing collaborative research while other fishermen will sacrifice their Days at Sea to do collaborative research. There isn't a clear set of guidelines about what is permissible and what is not. While one fisherman is allowed to sell his catch

“ [The Gulf of Maine] is still a hugely productive piece of water. In looking at it, we should have no preconceived notions. We should always be looking at all of the data in front of us. ”

from a research project, others are not. It's certainly something that needs to be looked at and resolved."

On the upside — as a scientist, Glass said there is hardly a day that goes by when he doesn't learn something new. "[The Gulf of Maine] is still a hugely productive piece of water. In looking at it, we should have no preconceived notions. We should always be looking at all of the data in front of us. I'd say that I'm lucky. For someone who never gave much thought to his career, I'd say that I feel very fulfilled with what I am doing now."

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