



NEWSLETTER

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Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island
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SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER RE:

Collaborative Research Opportunity

Issued by the

Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation

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Letter to the Commercial Fishing Community

Members of the commercial fishing community,

Since the last edition of the newsletter, the CFR Foundation has been hard at work, with the assistance of U.S. Senator Jack Reed, to secure additional funding to support collaborative fisheries research projects focused on fisheries important to southern New England, and our work has paid off. With funding that was received recently through Senator Reed's efforts, along with funding remaining from the first round of awards, the CFR Foundation recently issued another Request for Proposals (RFP) to extend the "Southern New England Collaborative Research Initiative" (SNECRI) project it began last year. The CFR Foundation is now in the process of soliciting proposals from teams of researchers and members of the fishing industry. It is an opportunity for members of the commercial fishing industry to get involved in helping develop research ideas, and to be compensated for being part of collaborative research teams carrying out the work.

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The CFR Foundation is pleased to be able to use this special edition of the newsletter to reach out to members of the commercial fishing industry here in Rhode Island and beyond to tell them about the collaborative research opportunities available under this RFP. The information included in the following pages is intended to help interested fishermen and others in the industry get involved by explaining the types of broad research topics included, how proposals are evaluated, the timeline for decisions, the amount of funding available, and in general, how to get more information.

We think that most everyone - fishermen, scientists, managers, and interested others - will agree that management decisions need to be based on good information and there is much work to be done to improve the information we have. And we all know there are many areas needing work. For example, just to name a few, we could be working on improving stock assessments, or understanding better the real time changes in abundance of various species and the food chain dynamics, environmental factors, and reproductive trends influencing stock rebuilding. We could also be working on profiling the social and economic importance of fisheries in southern New England and the impacts of various management scenarios, or developing new technologies to harvest more selectively and reduce bycatch through gear modifications or alternative fishing strategies.

Certainly research results take time to develop and incorporate into the decision-making system, and this research effort may take some time to have an impact. But hopefully collaborative research projects such as the ones this program intends to support can begin to set us on the right course.

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Views expressed by the individual organizations belong to them and them alone.

(Continued from page 1)

Central to this effort is a growing need to incorporate the fishing industry's perspective as part of a team approach. Observations by those in the industry can play an important role in determining what the pressing research questions are, and where we should be investing our time and resources.

Certainly research results take time to develop and incorporate into the decision-making system, and this research effort may take some time to have an impact. But hopefully collaborative research projects such as the ones this program intends to support can begin to set us on the right course. Central to this effort is a growing need to incorporate the fishing industry's perspective as part of a team approach. Observations by those in the industry can play an important role in determining what the pressing research questions are, and where we should be investing our time and resources.

There are a variety of ways to be involved ranging from simply passing along thoughts on research ideas and needs, to offering use of one's vessel for scientists to collect data at sea, to bringing back specimens to the lab, to being part of a Project Team that submits a proposal for funding and carries out a research project from start to finish. If, after reading this newsletter you would like to get involved and need more information, please feel free to contact me (Phone: (401) 515-4662; e-mail: pparker@cfrfoundation.org) and/or follow our website for periodic updates at www.cfrfoundation.org

It is something we hope you will all think about. We look forward to hearing your ideas.

Best regards,



Peg Parker, Executive Director
Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation

Fisheries Research: How Might Fishermen Be Involved?

Collaborative Research Participation: Members of the commercial fishing industry have the opportunity be members of Project Teams submitting proposals under the CFR Foundation's current Request for Proposals. One of the criteria for submitting a proposal is that the Project Team must be comprised of both members of the fishing industry and scientists. Members of the fishing industry with research ideas can approach scientists and other researchers and work with them to develop their ideas into a research proposal. Likewise, scientists and researchers may also approach members of the fishing industry to seek their participation in a research project they would like to pursue.

Cooperative Research Participation: There are growing opportunities for fishermen to work with scientists/researchers at academic institutions, state agencies and NMFS in a cooperative manner. This may include chartering a fishing vessel for work at sea, collecting specimens, collecting data as part of routine fishing operations, etc. The CFR Foundation will maintain a list of fishermen interested in these opportunities and work to help facilitate the connections.

If you are a member of the fishing community and are interested in being involved in research either collaboratively or cooperatively as explained above, but need help finding scientists/researchers to work with, contact Peg Parker, Executive Director, CFR Foundation for assistance. [Phone: (401) 515-4662; E-mail: pparker@cfrfoundation.org]



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What Kind of Research Is Included?

The targeted research areas in the current RFP include the following:

- Improvement of stock assessment information
- Bycatch reduction through gear technology and alternative fishing strategies
- Healthy habitats and changing ecosystems as related to rebuilding stocks important to southern New England
- Cumulative impacts of regulations on southern the New England fishing industry
- Added value: Creating new business opportunities and enhancing existing ones
- Spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*)
 - Accurate stock assessment (Supplementing NMFS trawl surveys)
 - Sex ratio of overall population and distribution of sexes
 - Role of Spiny dogfish in the ecosystem

The Request for Proposals (RFP) process is being administered by the RI Sea Grant College Program, and awards issued under this RFP will be used to support research projects on the order of 1 to 2 years in length.

To obtain a copy of the RFP, visit the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation website at www.cfrfoundation.org. For more information on how to apply contact Alan Desbonnet, Assistant Director, RI Sea Grant Program. [Phone: (401) 874-6813 or e-mail: aland@gso.uri.edu]

What Types of Projects Qualify?

Research proposals submitted under this RFP need to meet the following general criteria:

- Project Teams must be comprised of both members of the fishing industry and fisheries scientists and/or researchers in fields complementary to fisheries science;
 - Proposals concerned primarily with outreach and/or education will not be considered;
 - Proposals involving aquaculture research will not be considered;
- Proposals submitted that address areas outside of the defined research priority areas will not be considered.

How Much Funding Is Available?

Total current funding available under this RFP is approximately \$597,000. A proposal for additional funding is currently pending and is under final review by NOAA/NMFS. Projects seeking funding in amounts between \$25,000 and \$200,000 total per proposal will be considered.

How Are Proposals Evaluated?

Each proposal submitted will receive extensive peer review from both scientific and management perspectives. This includes a review by outside scientists, and a Technical Review Panel assembled by the RI Sea Grant Program. During the process Project Team members are given a chance to offer rebuttals. The Technical Review Panel makes recommendations for funding to the Board of Directors of the CFR Foundation which in turn makes the final decisions regarding awards.

Key considerations for proposal evaluation include:

- **Relevance:** The degree to which the proposed project successfully addresses an important issue, problem, or opportunity in development, use, or management of southern New England fisheries.
- **Collaboration:** The degree to which the fishing industry and scientific partners will collaborate in project planning, project execution, and the use of project findings.
- **Timeliness:** The timeliness of the research subject in terms of important issues facing key fisheries in southern New England.
- **Relationship to SNECRI Priorities:** The degree to which the project targets the research priority areas delineated.
- **Utilization:** The ease with which the results are likely to be incorporated into fishery management practices or used by the commercial fishing industry.
- **Scientific or Professional Merit:** The degree to which the project will use science to improve sustainability of southern New England fisheries.
- **Qualifications and Past Record of Investigators:** The degree to which investigators are qualified by education, training, or experience to execute the proposed activities.
- **Reasonableness:** The reasonableness of the proposed budgets and the practicality of the methods proposed.

What is the Timeline for Applying and for Awards to be Issued?

2009

September 2, 2009 Request for Research Proposals Released.

September 15, 2009 Information Meeting , 5:30 - 7:30 pm, URI Bay Campus, Coastal Institute Building, Hazard Room A/B.

October 16, 2009 Letter of Intent to submit proposal due, via electronic e-mail submittal, 4:00 PM to Alan Desbonnet (aland@gso.uri.edu) at Rhode Island Sea Grant Program.

October 30, 2009 Full proposals due, via electronic e-mail submittal, 4:00 PM to Alan Desbonnet (aland@gso.uri.edu) at Rhode Island Sea Grant Program.

Nov. - Dec. Proposals under review.

December 4, 2009 Review period closes.

December 9, 2009 Project Teams receive Reviewer Comments for rebuttal.

December 18, 2009 Letters of response to Reviewer Comments due, via electronic e-mail submittal, 4:00 PM to Alan Desbonnet (aland@gso.uri.edu) at Rhode Island Sea Grant Program.

2010

Week of Jan. 18 Technical Review Panel meets.

Week of Jan. 25 Review of recommendations by Technical Review Panel and final award decisions made by the Board of Directors of the CFRF.

Week of Feb. 1 Applicants notified.

February 2010 Meetings with award recipients to finalize budgets and Work Agreements.

February 26, 2010 Funding decisions announced to the public.

February - May NEPA Review Process, Experimental Fishing Permit Process.

June 1, 2010 Funding available to Project Teams pending acquisition of permits.

What Kind of Projects Were Awarded Funding Last Year?

The following projects were awarded funding at the beginning of 2009:

1. **“The Reduction of Butterfish and Scup Bycatch in the Inshore *Loligo* Squid Fishery”** - Project Team: David Beutel (URI/RI Sea Grant), Laura Skrobe (URI/RI Sea Grant), Christopher Brown (FV Grandville), Steve Arnold (FV Elizabeth Helen)

2. **“Evaluation of a New Turtle Excluder Device (TED) Design in the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Summer Flounder Trawl Fisheries”** - Project Team: Dr. Joseph DeAlteris (URI), Chris Parkins (URI), Capt. Joel Hovanessian (FV Excalibur), Capt. Jim Ruhle (FV Darana R)

3. **“Examining Settlement Dynamics of Postlarval American Lobster, (*Homarus americanus*), in Lobster Management Area 2”** - Project Team: Robert Glenn (MA Div. of Marine Fisheries), Mark Gibson (RI DEM), Richard Wahle (Bigelow Laboratories), Jim Manning (NMFS), Lanny Dellinger (RI Lobstermen’s Association), Arthur DeCosta (MA Lobstermen’s Association), Tom Angell (RI DEM), Tracy Pugh (MA Div. of Marine Fisheries), Kelly Whitmore (MA Div. of Marine Fisheries), Steve Wilcox (MA Div. of Marine Fisheries)

4. **“Discard Mortality Estimation of the Southern New England Flatfish Complex Using RAMP Methods”** - Project Team: Dr. Kevin Stokesbury (UMass), Adam Barkley (UMass), Steve Cadrin (UMass), Christopher Brown (FV Grandville), Jim Kendall (New Bedford Seafood Consulting)

5. **“Job Satisfaction, Well-being and Change in Southern New England Fishing Communities”** - Project Team: Richard Pollnac (URI), Russell Wallis (Commercial Fisheries Center of RI), Rich Fuka (RI Fishermen’s Alliance), Lisa Colburn (NOAA)

6. **“The Buzzards Bay Lobster Resource: Are Changes in Reproduction Having a Negative Impact on the Fishery?”** - Project Team: Dr. Winsor Watson (UNH), Robert Glenn (MA Div. of Marine Fisheries), Arthur DeCosta (MA Lobstermen’s Association), Tracy Pugh (UNH), Jason Goldstein (UNH)

For more information on the scope of work involved in each of these projects visit the CFR Foundation’s website at www.cfrfoundation.org

How Do Fishermen Get Help in Getting Involved?

For assistance in submitting research proposals contact Alan Desbonnet, RI Sea Grant Program, phone: (401) 874-6813, e-mail: aland@gso.uri.edu

For assistance in finding partners to work on a research idea contact Peg Parker, Executive Director, Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation, phone: (401) 515-4662, e-mail: pparker@cfrfoundation.org or Alan Desbonnet, RI Sea Grant Program, phone: (401) 874-6813, e-mail: aland@gso.uri.edu

Information Session - An informational meeting about the RFP will be held in Hazard Room A/B in the Coastal Institute on the Narragansett Bay Campus of the University of Rhode Island on **Tuesday, September 15, 2009, 5:30 - 7:30 PM.** (Hazard Room A/B is located on the first floor of the Coastal Institute building; for directions visit: <http://www.gso.uri.edu/files/directions.pdf>.) The intent of this meeting is to provide basic information about the current RFP, answer questions from potential applicants, and to provide an opportunity for interactions between interested researchers and members of the commercial fishing industry.



AS OF AUGUST 27, 2009

2009 RHODE ISLAND COMMERCIAL POSSESSION LIMITS (pounds)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
BLACK SEA BASS 11" min size	750(1/1)*	750 CLOSED(2/23)	CLOSED	CLOSED	100 (5/1)* CLOSED(5/18)	CLOSED	CLOSED	100 (8/1)* CLOSED(8/17)			250 (11/1)*	
SCUP Other gear - 9" min size	30,000(2weeks or 2,000/day)(1/1)*	30,000(2weeks or 2,000/day)	30,000(2weeks or 2,000/day or 1,000/day)(3/19)	1,000/day	2,500wk (5/1)* 1,000wk(5/3)	1,000wk 400wk(8/7) CLOSED (8/21)	400wk (7/1)*	400wk 200wk(8/18)	400wk (8/18)*		3,500(11/1)*	
SCUP Floating Traps - 8" min size	30,000(2weeks or 2,000/day)(1/1)*	30,000(2weeks or 2,000/day)	30,000(2weeks or 2,000/day or 1,000/day)(3/19)	1,000/day	25,000 (4/15)* or (5/1)*	25,000 5,000(8/2)	5,000	5,000			3,500(11/1)	
STRIPED BASS Rod & Reel-34" min size	Closed(1/1)*	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	5fish(8/1)* No fish-out CLOSED(8/29)	CLOSED	CLOSED	5 fish (9/13)*			
STRIPED BASS Floating Traps-28" min size	No Limit (1/1)*	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit	500/day(8/18) CLOSED (8/21) No Limit (8/27)* 300 (8/27)				
SUMMER FLOUNDER 14" min size <small>(offshore RI aggregate catch limit, limit is 750 if current limit exceeds 200 pounds. Only permitted vessels may participate in weekly landing limits when available)</small>	100(1/1)*	1,000(week) or 100/day(2/1)*	1,000(week) or 100/day or 200/day(3/22)	3,000(week) or 300/day(4/5) 100/day(4/12)* 750/day(4/12) 2,000/day(4/17) 500/day(4/28)	100/day(5/1)*	350wk or 100/day(8/1)* closed Fri/Sat two-out 250wk or 50/day(8/7) closed Fri/Sat two-out	250wk or 50/day closed Fri/Sat two-out	250wk or 50/day closed Fri/Sat two-out CLOSED(8/18)			225 (11/1)*	
TAUTOG 18" min size	Closed(1/1)*	Closed	Closed	Closed 10fish (4/15)*	10fish CLOSED(5/14)	Closed(8/1)*	CLOSED 10fish(7/15)*	10fish Closed(8/29)*		10 fish(10/15)*		
SPINY DOGFISH	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	2,000(5/1)* 3,000(5/1)	3,000	3,000	3,000			2,000(11/1)*	
WEAKFISH 18" min size	150	150	150	150	150	unlimited(8/1)*	150(7/1)*	unlimited(8/7)*			150 (11/8)*	
MENHADEN In the Narragansett Bay Menhaden Management Area	120,000/day(1/1)*	120,000/day	120,000/day	120,000/day	120,000/day	120,000/day CLOSED(8/18)	CLOSED	CLOSED				

underlined text indicates current possession limit as of August 27, 2009

* indicates scheduled start or end of a sub-period



RI Shellfisherman's Association
130 Lincoln St.
North Kingstown, RI 02852-1220
brueast@cox.net

WE HAVE LOST A GREAT FRIEND

On July 27, 2009 longtime member Louis Ricciarelli died while shellfish diving in Narragansett Bay. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his family. Lou always attended our meetings and was always active in offering input to help improve our industry. He was a regular volunteer at festivals and other events. We will always remember that perpetual smile he possessed. Lou was a commercial fisherman and aquaculture lease holder. He often worked with us on aquaculture issues, just another way he was such a valuable asset to our Association. Our State and its commercial fishing industry has suffered a great personal loss. Lou was a shining example of the long tradition of commercial fishermen who have fished our States waters.

NEWS FROM SPRING 2009

Transplants: The Rhode Island Shellfisherman's Association would like to thank all parties involved in this years successful transplant effort. At Warwick Cove 4/29, 64 fishermen moved 101,300 lbs. At East Greenwich Cove on 5/5, 91 fishermen moved 172,550 lbs and at Apponaug on 5/7, 70 fishermen moved 102,600 lbs. The second transplant from Greenwich Cove on 5/13 yielded 223,200 lbs with 92 fishermen participating. We did not get a final official figure on the last transplant at Apponaug on 5/19. It was estimated at between 70-80,000 lbs. Fishermen were also on a limit 5/19 as funding was running low. This would give us a total of close to 700,000 lbs transplanted this Spring. Thanks again, to everyone involved.

Water Quality Changes: DEM recently issued its reclassification of certain shellfishing areas. The most significant was the reopening of Greenwich Bay Management Area to conditional status in December and January. Smaller areas were reopened at Nags Creek, Jacks Island (Sakonnet River), Sakonnet River (near Rucker Wild life Area), and Block Island / Cormorant Cove.

A permanent closure took place inside the Potowomut Management Area. The area is southwest of a line from a stone pier at Rocky Hill School to a DEM marker at a point to the south across the river. This area is 95.5 acres. Ten acres at Fox Hill Pond in Jamestown and 8.7 acres in Quonochontaug were also permanently closed.

Seeding program funding: President Mike McGiveney announced that a memorandum of agreement (MOU) concerning our seeding program had been signed between our group, DEM and Roger Williams University. This MOU will provide funding for the project. Dale Leavitt (RWU) and Owen Kelly (operations manager) have gotten upwellers operational and are looking into solar power options. We will also pursue some additional funding for seeding from funding from Senator Reeds office for aquaculture.

CSO Tunnel Project: Phil Holmes, our NBC Stakeholder representative, reported on the performance of the CSO Abatement Tunnel, from November 2008 to April 6, 2009. Phil reported that during this period, 509 million gallons were treated that would have overflowed prior to the "tunnel" coming on line. Of the sixteen storms recorded, ten storm overflows were completely captured by the tunnel and the other six storms, where the tunnel reached capacity, the overflow was treated at the Wet Weather Treatment facility at NBC. This was fantastic news! DEM water quality will need 6-12 months data to justify overall improved openings.

GREENWICH BAY

After a two year loss, the Greenwich Bay Management Area will again reopen conditionally for December and January. The opening would start 12/9/09 and we have proposed MWF 4 hrs each day for December. We support altering opening days just prior to the Christmas and New Years holidays (MTW) to facilitate timely shipping of product. Those holidays are on Friday this year. Our proposal of January, February, March and April openings of one day (first available day) a week needs to be clarified. High Banks proposal is unchanged with it again switching to M thru F (sunrise to noon) beginning Feb. 1,. Proposed changes for Greenwich Management Area will have to go before the Marine Fisheries Council.

We had a very successful Charlestown Seafood Festival event. We will thank volunteers next report. We will need help at the Bowens Wharf Seafood Festival in October.

Our next membership meeting will be in September. Post card notices will be sent.





Eastern New England Scallop Association

“Working to preserve the New England small boat scallop fishery and fishermen”

Hello All,

The Eastern New England Scallop Association is growing slowly. We represent General Category scallopers mostly from Maine to New York. We look to try to protect the interests of the small boat scallop fisherman, whether General Category or Small Dredge DAS, but we have a hard job with many well financed interests against us. As you may know, NMFS and the NE Council voted last year to limit effort to about 300 GenCat vessels coast wide and give us an ITQ scheme, rushed in under the terms of the old Magnuson Act, so it did not require a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote as required in the newer version. Also, The GenCat fleet was given about 4.5% of the overall TAC (.5% remains open for incidental permits) which means that any ITQ based on history will be cut by about 45% right out of the gate. Not bad for a “successful” fishery with no overfishing and signs of further improvement. And we get to pay NMFS up to 3% of the value of the scallop ITQ to defray the cost of the program. We are looking for ways to at least keep 10% of the TAC, but we are not overly hopeful on that one at this immediate point. Another hope of many is that NMFS does not actually finish the appeals in time and the process gets kicked back to be re- done under the new Magnuson rules. If that were to happen we would keep the 10% for a while, but I have word that a well financed fisheries group from a nearby port has a lawsuit filed to keep us at 5% regardless of the scenario. By March, many GenCat scallopers left in New England will not have enough ITQ to be viable, a few will. There are currently 5 valid GenCat permits left in RI, 4 are working regularly. We may need to get creative and look at sectors and co-ops for a few to remain viable in this area. There are permits available on the market, previously going for \$3.73 - \$6lb, then up to nearly \$8lb due to managed “scarcity”, all on a qualification factor that will be cut in half in March making the real price near \$13-\$14lb. This will take 2-3 years to pay for when figured with expenses. This is not a program I would boast as a success as Paul Howard intended it to be, but more like an economics professors experiment dreams. I say this all to make many aware as you look to your options in other fisheries, of the unintended consequences that hide in the shadows, so you may be more successful in your efforts.

On another front, I have been attending most of the RI SAMP meetings to represent the near shore scallop fleets concerns with the potential placements of wind power or other large marine projects. Several areas were of great concern to us as working bottom and habitat as well as several seed areas. So far this process seems to be bringing out a lot of important fisheries

issues and appears on the surface at least to be positively affecting the outcome to the benefit of the fisheries, the State, and the developer. It is my hope that All our groups concerns are not just heard, but fully acknowledged and worked in to the final outcome by the State planners who eye our oceans for potentials other than producing this areas finest seafoods.

“It aint fish yer buyin, it men’s lives.”

-from “MEN’S LIVES” by Peter Matheson, a book about the end of the LI beach Haul Seines and commercial striped fishing.

Michael L. Marchetti

Pres. Eastern New England Scallop Assoc.

Point Judith Fishermen Memorial Foundation

A Tribute to Friends Lost

Hello All,

I wish to start off by thanking all who attended our annual dinner/ fundraiser on May 20. This one was once again held at Spain Restaurant in Narragansett. This one, as with the last several was a huge success, drawing good crowds and serving up our finest local seafood at a very fine local establishment. I wish to thank all who attended and all those who donated seafood for dinner and goods for our raffles as well as the staff of Spain, and of course the Board of the PJFMF for pulling this off in short order.

We raised several thousand dollars to build our funds for the future unfortunate loss of any members of our community at sea and continual site maintenance. At some point, as we continue with fundraising, I would like to say I envision us moving toward finding ways to return much to the community in the form of donations to scholarship funds to the children of those lost and/ or other help for those families, but this will require much discussion. In fact much of this was discussed at our creation, and there are other communities to look to for guidance such as Gloucester and Seattle. Those of us on the Board never feel we are able to help enough. We are also looking into possible development of “the top of the hill” with stairs and a patio with benches, since we do also lease that part of the property. We are also looking at the potential of a general stone at the top of the hill, dedicated to the memory of those who have passed that dedicated so much of their energy and time over the last several decades to make Galilee a better, safer place to fish from. Jake Dykstra would certainly come to mind since his recent passing, as would a great many others like Chet Westcott, and so on. Thank you for your continued support!

Fish Safe.

Michael L. Marchetti.

Pres. PJFMF



What's Going on at URI/RI Sea Grant?

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND

The Perfect Team

A local group of collaborative researchers funded by CFRF, recently visited the Flume Tank at the Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Resources, Memorial University, Newfoundland. Pictured from left to right are Laura Skrobe (URI/RI Sea Grant), Steve Arnold, (F/V Elizabeth Helen), Christopher Brown (F/V Grandville Davis), Jonathan Knight (Superior Trawl) and David Beutel (CRMC).

