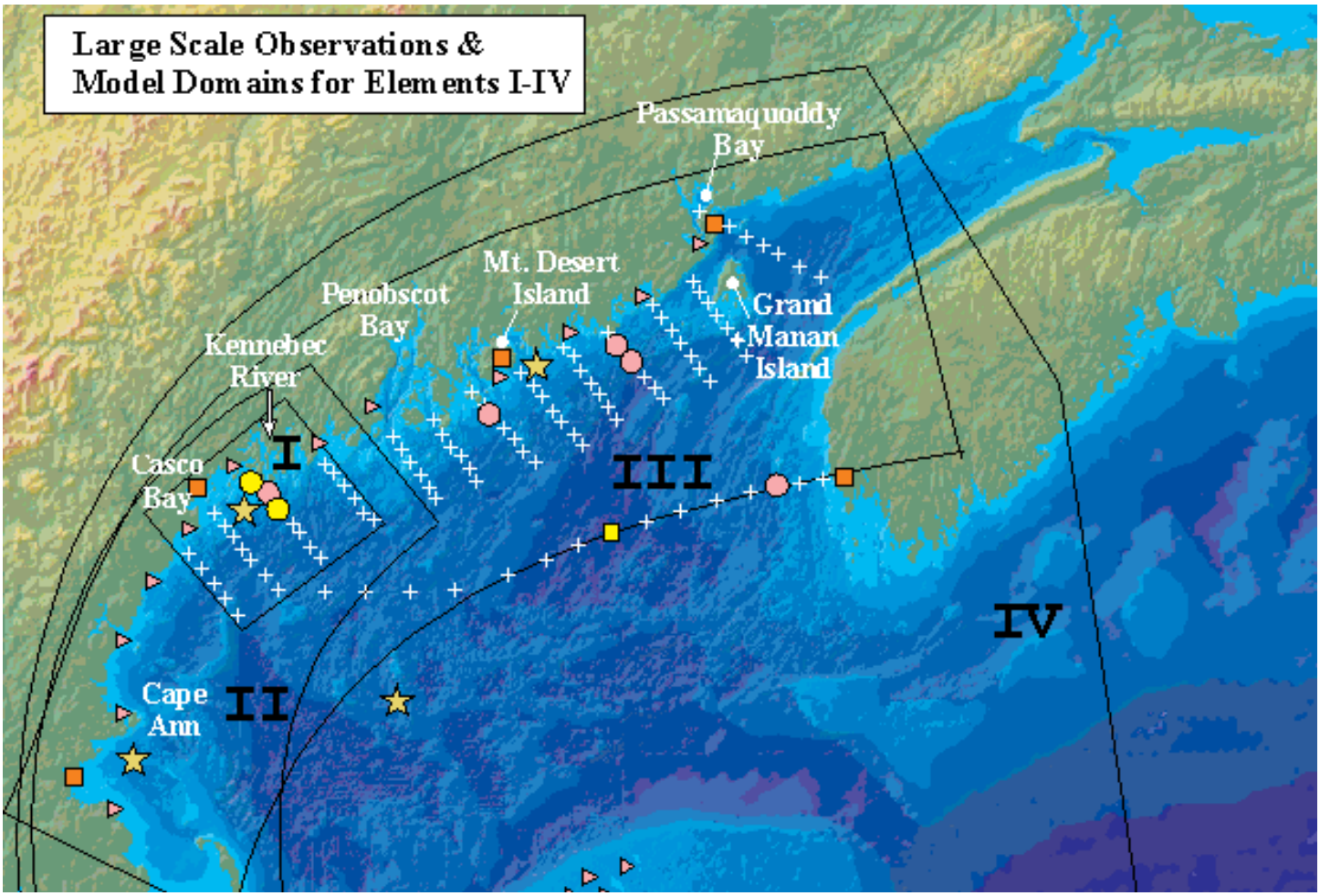
February 2007

Collaborations

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



Technology at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution allows scientists to model oceanographic processes on nautical charts. The new Northeast Consortium database will allow for the same kind of manipulation using collaborative research data. (WHOI)

Northeast Consortium Fisheries and Ocean Data Management System

With an eye to the future of fisheries management, the Northeast Consortium has created the Fisheries and Ocean Data Management System in partnership with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The system will store information gathered by fishermen and scientists during collaborative research projects over the past six years.

"One of the main purposes of the system is to put data in a format that can be evaluated and considered by managers. Data are grist by which management policies are formulated," said Peter Wiebe, a senior scientist at Woods Hole and NEC representative, during a presentation to the collaborative research community.

Additionally, the new database is interfaced with Woods Hole's JGOFS/GLOBEC mapping system, which can overlay data onto digital charts of the area studied. See: http://mapservice.whoi.edu/maps-bin/nec/map

The NEC requires submission of data as a condition of grants.

Currently, all information that had been made available, which includes latitudes and longitudes, are online. As new data are submitted, they will be accessible in both the text and geospatial formats.) Visit, www.northeastconsortium.org and follow links to data management system page.

Wiebe outlined the other goals of the system:

-Permits data to be compared, integrated, and synthesized from many different projects;

-Allows cooperative research participants to learn about the results of projects and avoid repeating experiments or observations that have already been made;

-To archives cooperative research data;

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Message from the editor

One of the major goals of the collaborative research model in New England was to integrate fishermen into the data collection process that determines a stock's total allowable catch (and thus how many fish can be harvested.)

The need to improve the relationship between groundfishermen and scientists can be traced back to a misunderstanding with the first TAC set by NMFS under the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (later to be known as the Magnuson-Stevens Act) in the late 1970s. At the time a disconnect appeared between what scientists were seeing in their surveys and what fishermen were seeing in their nets. Similar discrepancies have occurred periodically since.

The problem hasn't been resolved entirely of course, but great strides have been made in recent years, largely due to collaborative research projects that team the industry with scientists and build trust between the two professionals.

Many times scientists and fishermen have both had it right. Because they tend to view the ocean in different ways, we probably shouldn't be surprised that they can interpret what they see in the ocean in differently. (Back in the 1970s, for example, it turned out that a particularly strong year-class of haddock was turning up a plentiful juveniles, while the overall stock was severely depleted.)

One of the strengths of collaborative research is that it recognizes that there will likely always be such tension when one group's information helps determine the prosperity of another's. This isn't all bad: The industry should be skeptical of science, that's part of the scientific method, which, in the end, leads to better information and better management.

The next step is to work collaboratively gathered information into the management process. At times this has been slow going--mostly due to federal regulations that require a five-year duration before data sets can be used in decision-making.

Today, many projects are crossing that threshold, and becoming part of the grist of fisheries policy-making, as with herring, shrimp, and conservation trawl gear information.

As you'll read in this issue's story about the Northeast Consortium's new database software, collaborative fisheries data has now been made availble to scientists, managers, fishermen, and the public to be evaluated and applied for decision-making, This development will likely prove to be a crucial step in the future of collaborative management in New England.

Good fishing,

Michael Crocker
Editor
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Editor's note: last issue a story about collaborative herring research mistakenly implied that the project was turned down by the NEC for funding, when in fact additional funding was not pursued there. We regret the error.

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

Published by the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance with funding provided by the Northeast Consortium.

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Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance

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Submitting data is as easy as 1,2,3! A step-by-step tutorial.

1. Where are the data?
www.northeastconsortium.org

2. Click on the DATA menu link to access the data.

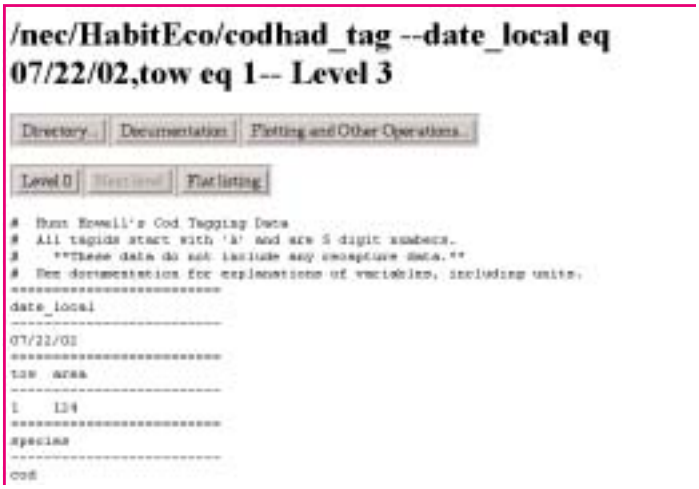
3. Data entrance page

4. Access from the project inventory

5. The inventory shows the status of the project chosen

6. Cod tagging project (example)

The Data!



-Follows federal guidelines for public access to data resulting from federally funded programs and activities.

How the system works

The data management software system uses the existing JGOFS/GLOBEC (U.S. Joint Global Ocean Flux Study/GLOBal Ocean ECosystem dynamics) technology to serve cooperative research data. The system is designed to allow the public to view, manipulate, and retrieve data using a standard web browser (such as, Internet Explorer, Netscape, Firefox, etc.)

New information can be added to the system in a variety of formats including tables, spreadsheets, and Matlab files. Data can also be served directly from other data management systems, such as Oracleand other programs that support internet access and SQL interface.

Images and movies can also be uploaded (within certain memory and resolution constraints.)

Information is displayed hierarchically and actual data values are used; additionally, the system allows data to be graphed on an X-Y axis or downloaded using ASCII tables, Matlab, zip, and tar files.

Intellectual property ownership

The data management website has established guidelines to protect the intellectual property of collaborators. A summary follows. For a complete explanation please visit the site.

"There is an etiquette that ought to be followed when using any data, and this system is no different," said Wiebe. "If you plan to use someone's data you should let them know."

"The collection of a data set entitles the investigator to the fundamental benefits of the data set. Publication of descriptive or interpretive results derived immediately and directly from the data is the privilege and responsibility of the investigators who collect the data," according to the system's guidelines.

We respect the desires of researchers who would like to publish data prior to making the data publicly available. Researchers are strongly encouraged to submit all data as soon as possible after the completion of their project. We will work with researchers on a case-by-case basis to allow a grace period, typically three years from the date of data collection, for publication purposes. Data will be appended to the database, but will not be accessible to third parties until the grace period has expired."

To address long-standing industry concerns regarding the use of proprietary information—such as latitude and longitude of fishing locations—the system will make every effort to maintain anonymity. However, the nature of certain projects makes total privacy impossible in some cases.

How to submit data, in brief

To streamline the submission process, primary investigators are encouraged to contact the consortium's data management office prior to providing their information. The data can be submitted be by spreadsheet, word processing, tabular format, or any computer readable file (except PDF). Supporting documentation about the file contents must also be provided. Images are accepted in GIF, TIFF, JPEG, and PNG; data can be submitted via e-mail, floppy disk, CD-ROM, DVD, and ftp file transfers.

All data should be accompanied by an explanatory document containing the following information:

-Project title.
-Year(s) funded. Note if the research was a project development award.
-Principal investigator(s) (list name, institution and/or F/V name).
-Other key participants.
-Project abstract/summary.

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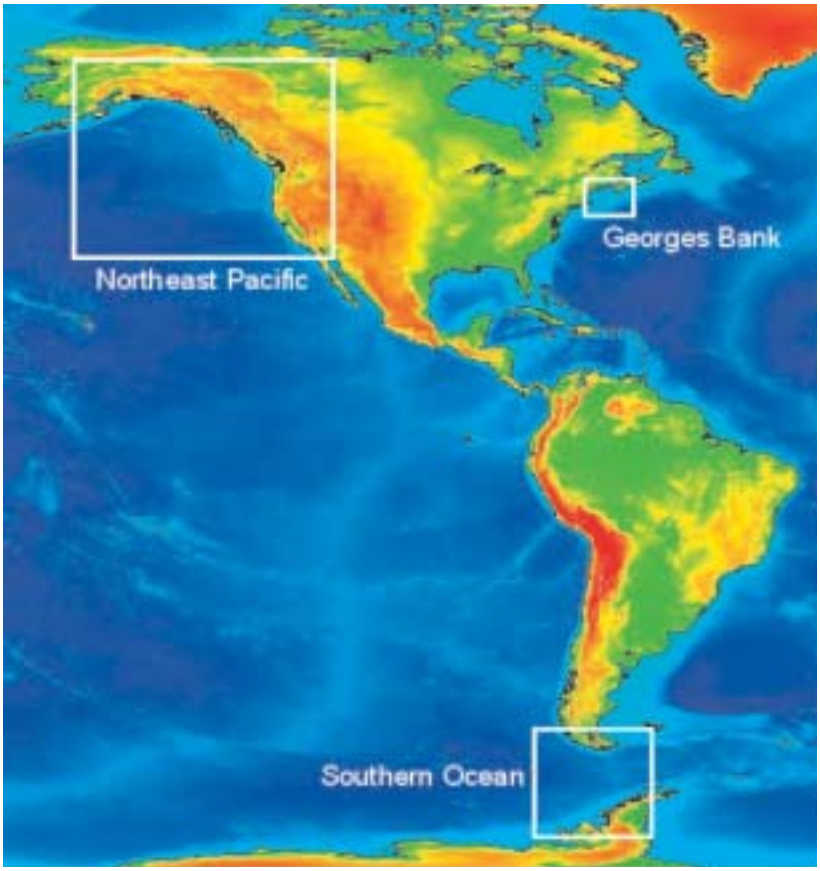

The power of GLOBEC's map service joined with the data collection power of the New England commercial groundfish fleet!

The U.S. GLOBEC Data Management Office is responsible for managing the data collected by the Georges Bank, Northeast Pacific and Southern Ocean programs of the U.S. GLOBEC project and making these data available on-line. Currently, the systemcontains over 775 Georges Bank data sets, 157 Southern Ocean data sets and 437 data sets from the Northeast Pacific programs. The US JGOFS/US GLOBEC data management system is used to serve these data via the internet and is accessible to any stand Web browser, such as Internet Explorer, Mozila, Netscape, Firefox and Safari. GLOBEC encourages investigators to serve their own data from the central data server. Current activities included on-going quality control, adding new data and modeling results to the data system, adding data reports and presentations to the web sites, and improving overall access to the data.

Western Gulf of Maine Closure Area: 2007 Symposium

March 26, 2007 — 8am-5pm

Elliot Alumni Center, University of New Hampshire
Durham, New Hampshire

The Western Gulf of Maine Closure Area (WGoMCA) has been a predominant fisheries management strategy since its establishment in 1998. The goals of the closure have been to protect spawning and nursery areas of key species, maintain age structure by retaining older proportionately more fecund individuals, protect key habitats, and reduce bycatch of overfished and threatened stocks. The 2007 Symposium provides an opportunity to look back at the original purpose and goals of the closure and examine the progress made towards its goals. This meeting also serves as a follow-up to the 2003 WGoMCA Investigators Meeting at the University of New Hampshire, at which information about research activities related to the closure and opportunities for future research were explored.

2007 Symposium Topics:

- Explore the impact the WGoMCA has had on benthic communities, fish stocks, and stock rebuilding;
- Describe current research related to the closure;
- Consider if and how the closure is meeting its goals and proving its utility;
- Consider how understanding of the closure has improved over the years; and
- Explore what the future holds for the closure.

Keynote Speakers:

- **Capt. Paul Howard**, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council
- **Dr. Mike Fogarty**, Fisheries Biologist, NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Participants:

Fishermen, scientists, fisheries managers, and others with a specific interest in the Closure are welcome to attend, including those who attended the 2003 meeting.

Draft Agenda:

8:00 – 9:30	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:30 – 10:00	Capt. Paul Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council
10:00 – 10:30	Dr. Madeline Hall-Arber, Anthropologist, MIT Sea Grant College Program
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 11:15	Dr. Ray Grizzle, Research Associate Professor, University of New Hampshire
11:15 – 11:45	Capt. Peter Kendall, Commercial Fisherman, Rye, New Hampshire
11:45 – 12:15	TBA, pending confirmation of speaker
12:15 – 12:45	Morning summary/facilitated discussion
12:45 – 1:30	Lunch (provided)
1:30 – 2:00	Dr. Mike Fogarty, Fisheries Biologist, NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center
2:00 – 2:30	Dr. Jonathan Grabowski, Research Scientist, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
2:30 – 3:00	TBA, pending confirmation of speaker
3:00 – 3:15	Break
3:15 – 3:45	Dr. Les Kaufman, Boston University
3:45 – 4:15	Dr. Peter Auster, Science Director, National Undersea Research Center, University of Connecticut
4:15 – 5:00	Afternoon summary/facilitated discussion/wrap-up

Meeting Registration:

To register, please visit http://www.seagrant.unh.edu/GOMclosure.html or call Ken La\Valley at (603) 862-4343. The registration fee is $20.00, which includes parking, continental breakfast, lunch and two refreshment breaks. Commercial fishermen are particularly encouraged to attend and may request a waiver of this fee.

Symposium Organization Committee:

Dr. Ray Grizzle
Research Associate Professor
Jackson Estuarine Laboratory
University of New Hampshire

Dr. Ken La\Valley
Extension Specialist
New Hampshire Sea Grant

Rachel Gallant
Fisheries Specialist
Northeast Consortium

NMFS Releases are available at:

www.nero.noaa.gov

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

January 17, 2007

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

REVISED 2007 FINAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUMMER FLOUNDER

Dear Permit Holder:

NOAA Fisheries Service has increased the commercial quota and recreational harvest limits for summer flounder (fluke), effective January 19, 2007. This increase has been implemented using authority granted by the Maguson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act).

The summer flounder total allowable landing (TAL) is increased by this action from 12.983 million lb published in the Federal Register on December 14, 2006, to 17.112 million lb. After this increase, the revised commercial quota is 10,267,098 lb, and the revised recreational harvest limit is 6,844,800 lb. The commercial quota is further allocated to the states, according to the allocation percentages identified in Amendment 2 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (see Table 1). The research set-aside (RSA) will remain 389,490 lb, as originally specified in the December 14, 2006, final rule.

Under these revised 2007 specifications, Delaware continues to have no 2007 commercial summer flounder quota. Therefore, fishing vessels issued a Federal moratorium permit for the summer flounder fishery may not land summer flounder in Delaware during the 2007 calendar year, and dealers issued Federal dealer permits for summer flounder are advised that they may not purchase summer flounder from federally permitted vessels that land in Delaware during the 2007 calendar year, unless additional quota becomes available through a transfer.

This letter does not contain all the regulatory provisions that pertain to these species, and consequently, has no legal force or effect. A copy of the regulations can be obtained through a link to the Office of the Federal Register at the NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Office website: http://www.nero.noaa.gov.

This small entity compliance guide complies with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

Sincerely,

for Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

See next page for landings values

continued

Table 1. Revised state-by-state commercial summer flounder allocations for 2007.

	Percent Share	Revised Initial Quota	Revised Initial Quota, Less RSA	Quota Overages (through 10/31/06) [1]	Revised Quota less RSA [2]	Change in Quota from Dec.14, 2006 Final Rule to Emergency Action
State		lb	lb	lb	lb	lb
ME	0.04756	4,883	4,772	0	4,772	1,178
NH	0.00046	47	46	0	46	11
MA	6.82046	700,270	684,331	30,046	654,285	168,970
RI	15.68298	1,610,203	1,573,553	0	1,573,553	388,530
CT	2.25708	231,739	226,464	16,470	209,994	55,917
NY	7.64599	785,029	767,161	148,038	619,123	197,346
NJ	16.72499	1,717,188	1,678,103	0	1,678,103	414,345
DE	0.01779	1,827	1,785	50,528	-48,743	441
MD	2.03910	209,358	204,593	0	204,593	50,516
VA	21.31676	2,188,634	2,138,818	0	2,138,818	528,101
NC	27.44584	2,817,919	2,753,780	0	2,753,780	679,943
Total	100.00	10,267,098	10,033,407	245,082	9,788,325	2,485,299

[1] 2006 quota overage is determined through comparison of landings for January through October 2006 plus any landings in 2005 in excess of the 2005 quota that were not previously addressed in the 2006 quota specifications, with the final 2006 quota for each state (70 FR 77060, December 29, 2006).
[1] Total quota is the sum of all states having allocation. A state with a negative number has an allocation of zero (0).

(Continued from page 4)

-List variables and brief descriptions of each variable.
-Any other explanatory notes for the data, including data acquisition and data processing methodologies.

Contact information

For all matters relating to data submission and accessibility contact Dicky Allison at the Northeast Consortium Data Management Office:

Dicky Allison, Database Manager
Northeast Consortium Data Management Office
Swift House, MS #38
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, MA 02543
dallison@whoi.edu
(508) 289-2298

For questions relating to the scientific or technical aspects of cooperative research projects, please contact Rachel Gallant or Chris Manning or at the Northeast Consortium.

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