



Fishermen's Knowledge Working Group

Meeting #1
May 10, 2022

Agenda


- Welcome and share agenda
- Introductions
- Summary of work
- Next Steps: developing coordinated projects/research
- Meeting Close

Setting the Stage

- Everyone is welcome to participate.
- We are gathered to work together to listen, ask/answer questions, solve problems, and have fun.
- We all have valuable information.

Pilot Project and Dec. 9th Webinar/Discussion


Commercial Fishermen's Observations of Ecological Change in Narragansett Bay
A Pilot Project



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Schumann December 9 NBEP workshop

Integrating commercial fishermen's ecological observations into estuarine monitoring in Narragansett Bay

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Dec 9th webinar and conversations showed interest from all parties to explore this further

Summary of Work

- 3 tracks to explore
 1. Continued regular **collection** and synthesis of FEK;
 2. A short-term “**joint fact-finding**” **initiative** to establish shared understandings and objectives among commercial fishing, scientific, and management audiences; and
 3. Ongoing efforts to provide for engagement of scientists and fishermen in **collaborative research** to better understand the changes occurring in the Narragansett Bay ecosystem.

1. Regular Collection of Fishermen's Knowledge

- We recommend the following:
 - **Annual survey** for observations on interannual variation
 - **Seasonal interview** with a core group of fishermen who will take surveys multiple times per year
 - **Periodic open-ended interviews** to help put the annual survey and seasonal interviews in the context of longer-term change and explore different trends in the bay on a longer time horizon.
- Focus on different gear types, different places in the bay, different times (present season, last year, etc.) and selecting fishermen who represent the diversity of the trade, different

2. Joint Fact-Finding Initiative

- Enables construction of mutually credible understanding of what is taking place in Narragansett Bay
- Work together to come to agreement regarding relevant facts
- Develop mutually agreed upon participants, ground rules, goals, and timelines (could be dependent on project, or for the entire working group)
- Decide on meeting schedule to do annual check-ins and networking, or more frequently to share results of projects

3. Collaborative Research

- Several opportunities came out of the pilot project and Dec. 9th meeting
 - **Water clarity** – collecting Secchi depth data throughout the bay
 - **Dissolved oxygen** – attaching O2 sensors to crab pots to produce near real-time data with extensive spatial coverage in areas where crabs are most likely to be located
 - **Fouling plates** – standardizing observations of fouling on equipment
 - **Seaweed** – create a macroalgae (seaweed) monitoring program and future seaweed research to figure out the extent of seaweed and if population is changing
 - **Unmonitored shellfish** – create a monitoring program for the “unmonitored” shellfish (like deckers); potential partnership with CFRF’s Shellfish Research Fleet

What's Next

- **GOAL:** Want to start developing 1-2 projects as a team.
- What's missing?
- What topics do you want to start with?
- What other meetings do you want? Field trips to NBC or labs for joint learning exercises? Networking?