

**Annual Report to the Northeast Consortium
for the project:**

**Building on promise: continued investigation in using a
4-seam bottom trawl to improve escapement of small
haddock and cod**

**Prime Award Number: NA05NMF4721057
Subaward Number: PZ06135
Period of Performance: 4/1/2006 to 6/30/2007**

12/20/2006

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Participants: Participants in this project are listed below.

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Project objectives and scientific hypotheses: Detail and provide clear reasons for any changes to the project's objectives, goals, and rationale.

There were no changes to original objectives, goals or rationale for this project during this year.

Methods and work plan: Detail and provide clear reasons for any changes to the experimental design and explain why this approach has been used.

No substantive changes are anticipated to the proposed work.

Work completed to date: Explain what has been accomplished in the last 12 months. Describe and explain any changes from the original statement of work and/or any unexpected difficulties encountered in project planning or implementation. State what work is complete and what has yet to be done.

Briefly, no fieldwork has been accomplished to date. The Experimental Fisheries Permit has been secured as of August 24, 2006, issued to the F/V Bad Penny. The two major obstacles were the fisheries permit, and the difficulty we've experienced in obtaining the appropriate hexagonal mesh. This is proving more difficult to get than we anticipated, and I am in communication with Dr. Chris Glass to resolve this difficulty.

Results to date: Describe the scientific and/or technical results of the project to date, emphasizing not only what was done, but what was learned.

We have no scientific or technical results to date, for the reasons mentioned above.

Data: All data from Northeast Consortium-funded projects should be submitted to the Northeast Consortium Fisheries & Ocean Database (www.northeastconsortium.org/data.shtml). State whether or not the data have been submitted to the Northeast Consortium database, and if not, indicate when the data will be submitted. If the data are internet-accessible in another format, provide the internet address (URL).

Data, when it has been collected, will be provided to the NEC.

Impacts and applications: Identify who would best benefit by knowing about the project. Describe the present or future impacts of the data and conclusions.

Our project has most direct impact for groundfish fishermen, and for scientists in stock assessment, the NEFMC, and fishing gear specialists.

Related projects: If this project was done in association with, or leveraged by, other research, outreach, or education projects, explain the nature of the collaboration and identify the source(s) of funding.

This research was a direct result of previous NEC funding, in a project entitled "Investigating the Use of Square Mesh Panels and Increased Taper in a Groundfish Trawl."

Partnerships: Describe the quality and extent of the fisherman-scientist partnership(s) and how many fishermen and scientists have been involved with the project over the past 12 months. What aspects of the project have the fishermen been involved with (e.g. project design; data collection, analysis and interpretation; communication of findings to end users, etc.).

This has been as usual a comfortable and productive collaboration with Kelo Pinkham and Claudia Coffin. We've all been on the same page to the extent that the project has moved forward, and look forward to actually being able to complete the fieldwork.

Presentations: Provide information for all presentations related to this project made in the past 12 months, including: name of presenter(s), title, meeting, date, and location.

There have been two presentation of a poster from the previous project (noted above) and the American Fisheries Society in Anchorage, Alaska (Sept. 2005), and at the Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Conference in Jacksonville in October, 2006.

Student participation: List how many students have been associated with this project, counting high school, undergraduate, and graduate students separately including the name of their institution.

No students have been participants in the project to date.

Published reports and papers: List reports and papers that have resulted from this project during the past 12 months, either published or submitted, including newsletter and web-based materials. Provide citations or internet addresses for each. Images: Submission of project images is encouraged (i.e. photo, diagram, or data summary) as a separate file (JPG or TIFF preferred).

The previous project, and information about the current project, appeared in Commercial Fisheries News, in their November 2006 edition. The article was the first in a series of pieces discussing advances in groundfish conservation engineering, emphasizing the impacts on haddock.