

Northeast Consortium Progress Report

Project Title:

Synoptic acoustic and trawl surveys to characterize biomass and distribution of the spring spawning aggregations of Atlantic cod in Ipswich Bay

Project Leader :

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Project Participants:

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5. Dennis Robillard, 278 River Rd., Eliot, ME 03903. Ph 207-439-7494; Email: Atlneter@aol.com

Major accomplishments:

1. An Institutional Animal Care and Use protocol was submitted, and has been approved (Protocol No. 100606).
2. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) questionnaire has been filled out, submitted (to the Northeast Consortium), and approved.
3. The fishermen who will participate in the research have been selected (Felch, Goethel and Robillard).
4. Letters of Acknowledgment (LOAs) were requested from NOAA/NMFS for each of the participating fishers/vessels, and these have been received.
5. An initial meeting with the fishers has occurred, and another is scheduled for early January 2011.

Unexpected difficulties and project alterations: None

Next steps, tasks for next 6 months:

1. An organizational meeting with all participants will occur in early January 2011.
2. A mounting system for the split beam hydrophone will be designed, fabricated, and installed on one of the fishing vessels.
2. Field work will start in March 2011 as scheduled.

W.H.Howell Dec. 14, 2010