

Movement and Migration Patterns of Winter Flounder  
(*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*) Tagged Along the Maine Coast

Award # 10-078

Progress Report for the period 4/15/10 to 12/31/10

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The primary objective of this project is to fill an information gap existing on the movement and migration patterns of winter flounder. It is hoped that tagging winter flounder and tracking their movements will provide more detailed information on their distribution and migration patterns, thus leading to improvements made in management of the species.

Specific objectives include:

- Tag up to 20,000 winter flounder with Petersen disc tags and up to 25 fish with data storage tags
- Determine movements of winter flounder along the coast of Maine
- Determine the contribution of winter flounder tagged along the Maine coast to the fisheries
- Investigate the role of temperature on movements of winter flounder
- Investigate whether winter flounder are a truly sedentary species as previously thought
- Address questions about stock structure of winter flounder

The monies provided by this grant were to pay for the tags to be used in this study.

**Work Completed**

The monies for this project were used to pay for data storage tags and Petersen disc tags to be used in the field. Twenty-five data storage tags were purchased from LoTek Wireless, along with the necessary computer software to download and interpret the data from those tags. In addition, 24,930 Petersen disc tags (printed with contact information) and nickel pins were purchased from Floy Tag. Initial tagging activities will begin during the fall leg of the ME-NH Inshore Trawl Survey, during October and November. Directed tagging activities will be conducted from March through June 2012.