

NEC Progress Report

1. Project title and contract number

Application of broadband sonar technology for fisheries assessment and research

2. PI contact information

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3. List of project participants with contact information

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Dr. Timothy Stanton, WHOI, Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering, Mailstop 11,
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Dr. Thomas Weber, UNH, Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, 24 Colovos Road,
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4. Major accomplishments and milestones

We have secured funding from the Maine Technology Asset Fund (\$532,000) to purchase acoustic equipment and outfit lobster boats with the equipment. We are still awaiting a federal earmark for operational funding (project is in both House and Senate budgets for FY11). As such, we have not proceeded with the project except to line up potential lobster boat participants and graduate student.

5. Unexpected difficulties and project alterations

- We are awaiting the passage of the FY11 federal budget to secure remaining required funding for the overall project.
- Our acoustic survey will take the form of outfitting ten lobster boats across the coast of Maine with Simrad ES70 single beam, dual-frequency systems rather than using a single broadband system. This strategy allows much greater spatial and temporal coverage of Area 1A for herring assessment and engages the lobster industry in the survey process. These changes have been discussed with Chris Glass.

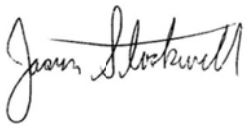
6. Next steps

Apply for LOA to sample herring during spawning closures during acoustic surveys. Once federal budget is passed and we receive earmark funding, we will purchase acoustic equipment and other necessary gear, hire graduate student, contract lobster boats, outfit lobster boats, finalize survey design, and begin execution of surveys in August 2011.

7. Impacts of the project to fishermen/fishing community and scientist/science community

The acoustic instrumentation, coupled with our community-based survey design in Area 1A, will provide direct and quantitative estimates of herring critical for informed management decisions that balance conservation needs for sustaining herring populations and economic needs of the Northeast.

8. Signed and dated

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Stockwell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and date.

Jason Stockwell, Ph.D.
December 7, 2010