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Beth Potier

UNH Media Relations

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UNH Large Pelagics Public Seminar Series Launches April 8

Media Contact: [Beth Potier](#)
603-862-1566
UNH Media Relations

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For information:
www.largepelagics.unh.edu

DURHAM, N.H. - The University of New Hampshire's Large Pelagics Research Center (LPRC) launches its Nelson "Hammer" Beideman Public Seminar Series April 8 with a lecture on the fate of Atlantic billfishes. The seminar series, named for a successful swordfish boat captain and advocate of fisheries research and conservation, presents internationally acclaimed researchers on billfish, tuna, swordfish and sharks.

The series presents the following speakers:

Tuesday, April 8, 1:00 p.m.

John Graves, fisheries science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

"Life after catch? Determining the fate of Atlantic billfishes released from commercial and recreational fisheries."

Tuesday, April 29, 1:00 p.m.

Jim Franks, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, University of Southern Mississippi

"Life history aspects and habitats of large pelagic fishes in the northcentral Gulf of Mexico."

Tuesday, May 6, 1:00 p.m.

John Neilson, St. Andrews Biological Station, Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans

"Swordfish satellite tagging studies off eastern North America: movements, migrations and population structure."

Tuesday, May 13, 1:00 p.m.

Lisa Natanson, Narragansett Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service

"NMFS Apex Predators Program: An overview of large pelagic shark research in the North Atlantic."

All lectures are in Kingsbury Hall N101 on the UNH Durham campus and are free and open to the public.

Nelson "Hammer" Beideman was co-founder and executive director of Blue Water Fishermen's Association, through which he helped initiate some of the most effective collaborative research projects between commercial fishermen, NOAA scientists and conservation organizations. He was highly successful in promoting efforts to reduce sea turtle interactions with pelagic longline fleets. A true friend of science, in 2001 Nelson was among a core group of industry leaders who called for the creation of the Large Pelagics Research Center so that

gaps in knowledge of Atlantic tunas, sharks, billfish and sea turtles could be filled. To learn more about Nelson and his work visit <http://nelson-beideman.memory-of.com/>.

The UNH Large Pelagics Research Center aims to improve the management of large pelagic marine species - including tuna, marlins, sharks and sea turtles -- by enhancing biological information needed to manage these resources within a biological, oceanographic and fisheries science framework. For more information, go to www.largepelagics.unh.edu.

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