



Aug. 4 Meeting To Discuss Impacts Of Collaboration Between Fishing Industry And Science

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Reporters and editors are welcome to attend this meeting. Ken La Valley can be reached at 603.862.4343 or ken.lavalley@unh.edu

Commercial fishermen and fishery scientists and managers will meet in Portsmouth to discuss the impacts of their collaboration over the past decade. The meeting, part of an eight-meeting series that comprises the Collaborative Research Visioning Project, will be held at the Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Road, on Aug. 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The project, which is funded and organized by NH Sea Grant and the Northeast Consortium, involves meetings in July and August throughout northeast coastal areas, ranging from Machias, Maine through Chatham, Mass. Each public meeting will seek input from attendees on the impacts that collaboration between the commercial fishing industry and science has had on fisheries research in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank over the past decade.

Research partnerships are providing opportunities for different stakeholders to communicate and build knowledge of the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank ecosystems for their sustained management, says Rachel Feeney, fisheries specialist for the Northeast Consortium.

"There has been a lot of effort in our region over the past decade to improve science-industry relationships," she says. "It's time to take a step back and consider the impacts of collaborative research, to learn if it has improved communication and problem solving, to discuss how the research results have been used, and to think about the future of collaboration."

The meeting is free and open to the public. Stakeholders of collaborative research, such as fishermen, scientists, fishery managers, industry organizations, conservation groups, and any other interested individuals are encouraged to attend. The Portsmouth meeting will be facilitated by Michelle Gagne from UNH and is hosted by Ken La Valley, NH Sea Grant commercial fisheries specialist, and David Goethel, captain of the *F/V Ellen Diane*, Hampton.

For more information about this meeting and the Collaborative Research Visioning Project, please visit http://northeastconsortium.org/collaborative_visioning.shtml or contact Ken La Valley at 603.862.4343 or ken.lavalley@unh.edu.



