



Commercial Fishing Workshop For Non-Fishermen Provides Hands-On Experience

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Reporters/editors: The media is welcome to attend all or part of this workshop, particularly for the at-sea demonstrations on August 27 or 28 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you cannot attend the entire day, you are welcome to talk to participants prior to or after their experiences onboard.

DURHAM, N.H. – For two days, non-fishermen will have the opportunity to spend time at sea learning the ropes of fishing straight from those who do it all the time — commercial fishermen.

NH Sea Grant and UNH Cooperative Extension will be hosting a fishing gear workshop for non-fishermen for the third year in a row Aug. 27 and 28, 2007. This two-day at-sea workshop will give participants hands-on opportunities to learn about the operation of trawls and gillnets as well as the theory behind fishing gear design. Four New Hampshire commercial fishermen will lead the workshop, where topics such as net mending, fish behavior and conservation will also be discussed.

Previous participants have included National Marine Fisheries Service employees, congressional and senatorial staff, state fisheries scientists, marine docents, extension professionals, and representatives of conservation groups. Allowing fishermen to teach these individuals about their livelihood provides a vivid instructional environment and fosters communication and future cooperative relationships between the commercial fishing industry and those with a stake in it.

For more information or to register for this workshop, please contact Ken La Valley, commercial fisheries specialist for NH Sea Grant (603.862.4343, ken.lavalley@unh.edu)

