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March 7 Workshop Explores Marine Protected Areas in Fisheries Management

By [Kathleen Schmitt](#)
N.H. Sea Grant
603-749-1565

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DURHAM, N.H. -- Many tools are used in fisheries management in the effort to rebuild certain fish stocks. Marine protected areas (MPAs), areas of the marine environment set aside to protect part or all of the natural and cultural resources within its boundaries, are being promoted in New England as one such tool. However, many stakeholders are confused about the different types of MPAs and their impacts on fish stocks and the marine environment.

MPAs and their role in fisheries management will be the focus of a workshop Friday, March 7, at the Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth. The workshop runs from 1 to 5:15 p.m., with registration beginning at 12:30 p.m.

"MPAs are a topic that all marine users should want to know more about," says Rollie Barnaby, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension/NH Sea Grant extension educator. "Our primary objective is to provide to the most current scientific information on the subject and to review and assess the experiences of the various stakeholders."

The workshop will give individuals and agencies with a stake in fisheries and fishery management a chance to discuss the issues involved. Representatives from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the New England Fisheries Management Council will discuss the theoretical impacts of MPAs on fisheries and present an overview of existing protected areas in New England.

A member of the Ocean Conservancy and a fisheries consultant will present assessments of "no take zones,"

protected areas that ban fishing or other removal of sea life. The workshop will conclude with a case study presented by Canadian fishermen and resource managers in which MPAs have been used to manage fisheries in Canada.

The MPA workshop is the second in a series of three fisheries-related educational workshops scheduled over the course of the year. The first, held last December, focused on the problem of bycatch, and the last, to be held later this year, will address property rights in fisheries management.

Sponsored by the National Sea Grant Program, the workshop series is being developed in partnership with Sea Grant programs in New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine and Rhode Island. Additional partners include the National Marine Fisheries Service, Conservation Law Foundation, New England Fisheries Management Council, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Manomet Center for Conservation Studies, and commercial and recreational fishing communities.

The MPA workshop is free and handicap accessible. For more information, contact Rollie Barnaby at (603) 679-5616 or rollie.barnaby@unh.edu. More information about the workshops is available at <http://www.seagrant.gso.uri.edu/fa/edworkshops/index.html>.

Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries Management Workshop Agenda

Friday, March 7, 2003 , Urban Forestry Center

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

12:30

, Registration

1:00

1:00

, Welcome/Opening Remarks , Rollie Barnaby

1:10

1:10

, General Overview of MPAs , Tracey Morin, URI

1:40

1:40 Theoretical impacts to fisheries , Michael Fogarty,

- , NMFS
2:10
2:10 Overview of Existing Protected Areas in New
, England and the New England Fisheries
2:40 Management Council's Perspective , Paul Howard,
executive director, New England Fisheries
Management Council
2:40
- Break
3:00
3:00 Assessment of No Take Zones , Dr. Dennis
, Heinemann, Ocean Conservancy
3:30
3:30 Assessment of No Take Zones , Richard Allen,
, Fisheries consultant
4:00
4:00 Canadian Case Study , Closed Areas on the Scotian
, Shelf , Research Findings , Jonathan Fisher,
4:30 University of Pennsylvania, formerly associated
with Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia
4:30 Canadian Case Study , Closed Areas on the Scotian
, Shelf , Fishermen's Perspectives , Hubert Saulnier,
5:00 fishes for lobster, scallops, and finfish in southern
Nova Scotia area
5:00
, Summary/Closing Remarks , Rollie Barnaby
5:15

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