MFP Funded Collaborative Research Projects

Project	Partners	Summary	Funder
Pilot Project to Test the Use of Side-scan Sonar to Identify Seafloor Features Associated with Pre-spawning and Spawning Cod Aggregations	MA Division of Marine Fisheries, Capt. Sam Novello, Capt. Peter Marshall Contributors: USGS, CZM, Boston University, University of New Hampshire	This project was re-scoped to groundtruth existing USGS charts in areas associated with pre-spawning and spawning cod.	Northeast Consortium
Design and Testing of a Low-Impact Scallop Dredge (pilot)	MIT Sea Grant, MA Division of Marine Fisheries, Commercial diver Paul Tasha, Capt. Lou Williams	An alternative approach to scallop harvesting is being tested that relies on hydrodynamic flow to increase the catchability of scallops and reduce bottom impacts. A prototype dredge was tested at sea.	Northeast Consortium
Pilot Project to Assess Need and Initialize a Methodology to Groundtruth Existing Multi-Beam and Side-Scan Sonar Seafloor Charts	Northeastern University, MIT, MA Coastal Zone Management, Capt. BG Brown	This pilot project is groundtruthing existing U.S. Geological Survey multi-beam and side-scan sonar charts of the seafloor from Cape Ann to Jeffrey's Ledge using grab samples and video surveillance.	Northeast Consortium
Ecosystem Effects of Trawling on Groundfish Communities: Catch Composition and Food Web Dynamics With Respect to Long-Term and Rolling Closures on Stellwagen Bank	Boston University, Capt. Paul Vitale	This study examined the effects of bottom trawling on sea bottom habitats and the combined multi-species effects of trawling on the food webs that support local fisheries.	National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
An Examination of Biological Processes of Sand Lance and Associative Species on Stellwagen Bank	Boston University, MIT Sea Grant, Capts. Phil Michaud, Bill Lee	This project is examining the abundance, distribution and biological processes of sand lance on and around Stellwagen Bank to understand their role as a possible keystone species in this marine environment. Several methods to reliably catch sand eels were tested.	Northeast Consortium

Effects of the Western Gulf of Maine Closure on Deep Mud Habitats	Boston University, Capt. Paul Vitale	A continuation of a previous project to examine the ecosystem effects of the Western Gulf of Maine Closure, this project examines these effects in deep mud habitats.	NMFS
Staying Alive: Promoting a Culture of Safety at Sea in New England's Fishing Industry	MIT, Capt. Rodney Avilla Contributors: USCG; City of New Bedford/New Directions; Mass Maritime; SBNMS; SMAST, Blaney Marine Safety, I.M.P., Life Raft & Survival, Marine Safety Consultants, NESTCo., Sylvester Consultants	This project provided for the coordination of a series of free, hands-on safety trainings in several ports throughout Massachusetts.	NMFS
Charting Anecdotal Information and Oral Histories from Local Fishermen	MIT, Capts. Ed Barrett, Phil Michaud, Dave Casoni, Tom DePersia, Bill Crossen, Jay Michaud	Local commercial and recreational fishermen are crafting an historical record of their use of Stellwagen Bank to demonstrate the collective effort of each gear type, the seasonal variations in target species and approximate fishing locales by digitizing in 3D anecdotal information provided by 147 MA fishermen.	Northeast Consortium
Mapping Mobility: The Movement of New England Multi-Species Vessels and Crew in New England and Beyond from 1994-2004	Sarah Robinson, Jennifer Brewer, Christine Sherman, Gina LeDuc	This project is analyzing the extent to which multi-species regulations contribute to the movement of vessels and crew and its effect on coastal communities.	Northeast Consortium
A Cooperative Partnership for Ecosystem Monitoring in the Western Gulf of Maine	University of Maine/ Gulf of Maine Research Institute, University of New Hampshire, Capts. Dan Murphy, Peter Marshall, BG Brown, Peter Kendall, Craig	Fishermen are collecting data showing seasonal and interannual patterns in abundance of zooplankton and ichthyoplankton that will be invaluable for the validation of physical-biological models that simulate effects of climate variability on Gulf of Maine ecosystems.	Northeast Consortium

	Mavrikis, Erik Anderson, Dennis Robillard, George Littlefield		
A Community-Based Nutrient Water Quality Monitoring Project to Support Habitat Protection in Nantucket Sound	UMass Dartmouth, SMAST	This project establishes a system-wide water sampling program to provide baseline information about the water quality in Nantucket Sound to examine the potential link between impaired waters discharging from coastal embayments and the impact on the water and habitat quality of the Sound.	NMFS
Development of a Massachusetts Commercial Fishing Vessel Collaborative Researxch Database	MFP	This project develops a database of Massachusetts commercial fishing vessels to generate cooperative research partnerships.	Northeast Consortium
MFP Organizational Strategic Planning	Project Adventure	This grant supported visioning and strategic planning for the MFP and its 18 member groups to enable the commercial fishing industry to become better organized, more focused, and significantly more effective in addressing the myriad issues it faces today and in the future.	Sailor's Snug Harbor Foundation of Boston
Fishing Community Science and Management Participation Project	MFP	This project enabled commercial fishermen to participate significantly in several on-going policy and scientific processes undertaken to examine and govern the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and Massachusetts Bay areas.	Sailor's Snug Harbor Leverage: UNH Sea Grant Program
Safety Training Market Analysis	MFP	This project conducted a feasibility study and drafted a business plan for a self-sustaining hands-on safety training program for commercial fishermen.	Sailor's Snug Harbor
Workshop to Identify Cod Spawning Grounds and Juvenile Habitat in MA Bay	University of New Hampshire	MFP convened a workshop with commercial fishermen to identify cod spawning grounds and juvenile habitat in Massachusetts Bay.	University of New Hampshire

Institutionalizing Social Science Data Collection: A Pilot Project ("Community Panels Project")	MIT Sea Grant Rutgers University	This project established local panels of community experts in six New England ports. Participatory methods of data collection were employed. Impacts of Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Plan were presented, reports made available to municipalities pertinent to zoning decisions, and various other management issues analyzed. Recommendations pertaining to the social organization of collaborative research were developed.	Northeast Consortium and NMFS Saltonstall Kennedy Program