

## MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service,  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center.

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<b>A. Contract Number</b>	EA133F-10-CN-0322, BAA for Cooperative Research
<b>B. Amount of Contract</b>	Federal \$599,863
<b>C. Project Title</b>	<b>A network approach to conservation engineering for New England's groundfish fishery: collaboration, outreach and demonstration of alternative fishing gears.</b>
<b>D. Award period</b>	09/15/2010 thru 09/14/2012
<b>E. Reporting period</b>	09/15/2010 - 09/30/2010
<b>Principle Investigators</b>	Shelly Tallack (GMRI), Steve Eayrs (GMRI), Pingguo He (SMASST), Jon Knight (Superior Trawl), Mike Pol (MA DMF) and Mike Walsh (FV Guardian)

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**Report Prepared By / Signature of Principle Investigator**



09/30/10

Shelly Tallack, Ph.D.

Date

Gulf of Maine Research Institute

## **F. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND EXPENDITURES**

### **F.I. Work Accomplishments**

#### ***F.I.a.* Tasks scheduled for this period**

Our scope of work for this entire contract includes four core objectives:

1. Work with sector managers to hold individual meetings with each groundfish sector (and the common pool) to capture/document urgent fisheries research needs, as perceived by New England's groundfish fishermen; these research needs may or may not involve gear conservation research.
2. Coordinate a three-day workshop (with public and sector participation during the first two days) to review the gear focused research needs proposed by individual sectors. Present this project's objectives to the wider gear research network. In collaboration with workshop attendees, finalize a list of high priority gear research and a 'research gear pool' wish list, then develop a schedule to address these research needs.
3. Establish a multi-institutional Gear Conservation Engineering Demonstration Network (GEARNET) that has the capacity (in terms of both personnel and equipment) to: (a) undertake proof-of-concept gear conservation research projects in partnership with individual sectors, and (b) demonstrate fishing gear modifications and/or fishing sensor equipment to interested parties, and (c) review project outcomes on completion of the sea trials to plan for a Phase Two of research.
4. Disseminate findings through a variety of avenues, including: a user-friendly website, quarterly mailings, feedback meetings with sectors, a one-day reporting back workshop, presentations at relevant meetings/workshops, and progress reports submitted to the Northeast Cooperative Research Program.

Of these, only the first objective is relevant to the month being reported in this document.

**F.I.b. Tasks accomplished this period.**

Only the first objective is relevant to the month being reported in this document.

**Objective 1:** Work with sector managers and the common pool to capture/document urgent fisheries research needs, as perceived by New England’s groundfish fishermen; these research needs may or may not involve gear conservation research.

With the official start date of this project being September 15<sup>th</sup> 2010, there is little progress to report at this time. That said, in preparation for upcoming meetings with sector managers, we have undertaken the following:

- Internal meeting at GMRI to cross-reference between the scope of work for this contract, and a separate contract that GMRI is also coordinating (A Spatial and Temporal Information Management Tool for Bycatch Avoidance in New England Groundfish Sectors) to compare the timings of each projects workshop deliverables and look for cost-saving opportunities for each. This discussion considered combing each project’s initial workshop if this means a more streamlined, efficient process for the network group – yet to be decided.
- GMRI has scheduled and held a conference call with the six PIs listed on this project to enable discussion on how to proceed in the next month.
- GMRI is preparing to schedule a meeting with all project participants listed in the proposal.
- GMRI is preparing to schedule individual meetings with each groundfish sector and the common pool, to begin addressing this objective’s deliverables.
- GMRI has developed a ‘logo’ for this contract which will be used during all public presentation and communication materials; this will help the network develop its identity with its participants and others, and will also help distinguish the groundfish gear network from other funded gear research networks.



**Objective 2:** *Coordinate a multi-day workshop to communicate the goals of the network to the wider groundfish industry, research and management community. In this group setting, finalize a list of high priority gear research and a 'research gear pool' wish list, then develop a schedule to address these research needs.*

Nothing to report at this time.

**Objective 3:** *Establish a multi-institutional Gear Conservation Engineering Demonstration Network (GEARNET) to:*

- a) *undertake proof-of-concept gear conservation research projects in partnership with individual sectors,*
- b) *demonstrate fishing gear modifications and/or fishing sensor equipment to interested parties,*
- c) *review project outcomes on completion of the sea trials to plan for a Phase Two of research.*

Nothing to report at this time.

**Objective 4:** *Disseminate findings through a variety of avenues, including: a user-friendly website, quarterly mailings, feedback meetings with sectors, a one-day reporting back workshop, presentations at relevant meetings/workshops, and progress reports submitted to the Northeast Cooperative Research Program.*

Nothing to report at this time.

***F.I.c. Special problems, differences between scheduled and accomplished work, etc.***

None to date.