

## QUARTERLY 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>	01/01/2012 - 05/31/2012
<b>Principle Investigators</b>	Shelly Tallack (GMRI), Steve Eayrs (GMRI), Pingguo He (SMAST), Jon Knight (Superior Trawl), Mike Pol (MA DMF) and Mike Walsh (FV Guardian)

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### Report Prepared By / Signature of Principle Investigator



06/18/12

Shelly Tallack, Ph.D.

Date

Gulf of Maine Research Institute

## F. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND EXPENDITURES

### F.I. Work Accomplishments

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.

Our progress on each of these objectives is summarized in subsequent pages.

#### F.I.a. Tasks accomplished this period.

**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.**

- During the course of December, January and February (2011), meetings had been held with each individual groundfish sector, to brainstorm and ascertain the research/gear conservation engineering needs on a sector-by-sector basis.
- With most sectors that have prepared research projects, multiple planning meetings have been necessary. During this current reporting period, additional planning meetings have been held with the following sectors: the GB Fixed Gear Sector.

**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.*

- As reported in an earlier progress report, over the course of a number of meetings with individual groundfish sectors, it became clear that holding a 3-day workshop would not be perceived by industry as good use of their time, or indeed, good use of GEARNET funds.
- In our July 2011 progress report, we indicated that GEARNET intends to hold a 1-day workshop to review the findings of each sector, during the winter of 2011/2012. However, based on the relative progress of different projects, during the October 2011 PI meeting, it was agreed that this should likely be delayed until the summer of 2012. Therefore, during the April 2012 PI meeting we agreed schedule this meeting for June 2012, but unfortunately attendance was likely to be too low, and thus, the meeting was cancelled. Detail on the decisions made for future efforts will be presented in the minutes from a PI meeting that focused on Outreach (June 4, 2012, see page 32).
- The list of high-priority gear research and the wish list for gear purchases is reported on under Objective 3.

**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, and (C) review project outcomes on completion of the sea trials to plan for a Phase Two of research.*

- The multi-institutional Gear Conservation Demonstration Network is organic by design, and as such, will continue to grow over the course of the project. By way of demonstration, Table 1 indicates how the number of individuals involved in the project has grown since we received funding in September 2010. The ‘participants’ page on the GEARNET website ([www.gearnet.org/participants.html](http://www.gearnet.org/participants.html)) is updated periodically to reflect the growing number of project participants.

**Table 1: Growth in the GEARNET network since September 2010.**

	GEARNET PIs	GEARNET Project Participants (based on active/completed projects)	GEARNET Technical Committee	No. sectors that have submitted GEARNET proposals (includes Common Pool)
<b>September 2010</b>	6	12	10	0
<b>February 2011</b>	6	18	14	12
<b>July 2011</b>	6	27	14	13
<b>December 2011</b>	6	46	14	13
<b>May 2012</b>	6	46	14	13

- **The GEARNET Technical Committee** has been established (January 2011) as a group of experts with the responsibility of advising our efforts to meet the goals under Objective 3. As reported previously, this Technical Committee includes a total of 14 individuals representing the commercial groundfish industry, fisheries research organizations, fishery management organizations and gear manufacturers.

- **Equipment:** on a project-by project basis, additional pieces of equipment have been purchased, for example fuel gauges, codends, modified gillnet gear, pingers, mesh, electric rod and reel machines, topside but waterproof cameras to secure photos from each project for outreach needs, etc.
- **GEARNET PI Meeting:** In early April 2012, GMRI coordinated a 1-day meeting with the GEARNET PI group and representatives from the NE Region Cooperative Research Program. The detailed summary from this meeting is included as Annex 1 (p. 11). Some key decisions from this meeting include:
  1. Shelly's departure from the project: Shelly will be leaving GMRI to take maternity leave sometime in June 2012; this departure will also mark her permanent departure from GMRI, and thus, also from the GEARNET project (though she will likely remain involved in future months taking on some graphic design responsibilities as the GEARNET outreach plan develops and findings are disseminated). Shelly will be commencing a new position with Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences in October 2012.
  2. Analysis roles in GEARNET projects: It was agreed that while all GEARNET PIs should be aware of each projects findings and analyses, it will be the responsibility of the lead PI on each project to undertake the analysis their own projects. If a project is going to be presented publically, that when possible, the presentation should be shared with other GEARNET PIs ahead of presenting, so that people remain in the know regarding findings that are being presented. One key outcome from this discussion was the development of a peer review process that will be followed once projects are complete and project reports have been prepared; this peer review will precede any uploading of reports to the GEARNET website.
  3. GEARNET Templates and Outreach/Dissemination Plan: This conversation was somewhat shelved for a separate meeting that would focus on GEARNET Outreach (scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> 2012, and thus this will be reported on in the next progress report). However, it was agreed that GEARNET should try to solidify its 'brand' and develop outreach materials in a consistent manner, based on templates that will mostly be developed by Shelly in future months. Templates will likely include posters, project reports, two-page summary flyers, powerpoint presentations, etc. It was also reiterated that GEARNET needs to build up a quality photo library and to that end, a number of small cameras would be purchased to put on participating vessels during field trials.
  4. Flume-tank Workshop: It was agreed to move forwards with a multi-gear flume tank workshop. This workshop will be planned by Pingguo He, with help from Dan Salerno.
  5. Equipment loan/donation: NOAA has a goal of having industry use ~40% of the gear conservation solutions funded through the various gear research networks; to this end, the group discussed the concept of GEARNET using some of its equipment fund to purchase items such as fuel flow meters, and giving these away at future GEARNET meetings, based on a lottery concept.
- **Progress of individual GEARNET projects:** Table 2 indicates the progress/status of proposals/projects that we intend to undertake as part of this first round of GEARNET proof-of-concept projects.

**Table 2: Project progress and status of research.**

Sector	Approximate dates of progress (Month/Year)								
	Original proposal reviewed/accepted	Proposal refinement meeting held	Proposal refined	Refined proposal approved by GEARNET Pls	Research permit received	Equipment purchased	Fieldwork completed	Report prepared	Data / report on website
<i>Common Pool</i>	03/11	4/11	4/11	4/11	5/11	4/11	5 & 6/11	6/12	
	Analysis has been completed and a number of presentations on preliminary findings have been given (to Carl Bouchard, at FAST meetings, at the Fishermen’s Forum, etc.). A project report has been prepared and distributed for internal review.								
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 2</i>	04/11	12/11	Re-visit						
	Awaiting feedback from Sector Manager								
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 3<sup>1</sup></i>	03/11	7/11	8/11	9/11	12/11	Underway	Fall?		
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 3<sup>2</sup></i>	03/11	7/11	Re-visit						
	Gear has been purchased for project 1, though some elements are on back-order – field works will hopefully commence in the fall; the 2nd proposal (gillnet focused) still requires refinement, and they may instead opt for a different project owing to concerns regarding whether or not this project would be perceived as promoting a smaller mesh than is currently regulated.								
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 5</i>	03/11	Do – Apr/May							
	NEFS 5 may progress with an alternative proposal in late 2012.... Likely to not hit water til January 2013?								
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 6</i>	03/11	11/11	11/11	11/11	N/A	2/12	Waiting for fish...		
	Waiting for haddock to show up. Everything is ready to go; the data being collected will be trip reports, and this could be expanded upon if anyone else uses it again... additional data will include a skipper interview and a crew member interview.								
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 7</i>	03/11	7/11	8/11	9/11	12/11	12/11	1/12		

Sea trials happened but catch rates very poor, (delayed for a while to wait for haddock). 25 tows with just 1500 lbs haddock. Around 50% reduction in haddock, huge reductions in catch between the control and experimental (all species). So, big reduction in all species (including non-target species) but not catch generally to compare and draw conclusions; not enough haddock around to verify its performance as a haddock net. But it may be that you can't create a net solely for haddock. May or may not warrant additional research/tweaking. (May work if we get a new wave of larger haddock again, ~2 yrs...). Next step: analysis & report, and others may try... once the haddock show up. Phase 2 candidate? Camera work to observe haddock behavior at the front of the net? Are they escaping out due to large mesh at the front?

<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 8</i>	03/11	7/11	8/11	9/11	N/A	underway		
Field work has been postponed due to allocation shortages and death of a captain for FV Virginia Sands; sea trials on FV Sao Paulo will proceed in early 2012. Netting has been purchased, one fuel monitor has been installed. No permit needed, just fuel monitoring and no tech time needed, so ready to go really, but not on the water yet. Two vessels involved.								
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 9</i>	03/11	11/11	2/12	3/12	waiting			
Had to rebuild one of the nets to match the other. Will hit the water this spring.								
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 10:1</i>	03/11	11/11 & 12/11	12/11	12/11	N/A	3/12	Ready to start...	
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 10:2</i>								
This is one of potentially 2 proposals; the 2 <sup>nd</sup> will likely focus on gillnets.								
Ultracross: first net has been delivered, the rest are built, and waiting for delivery. Technology transfer, not research. No fuel gauges. Some basic data collection, plus a post-project interview.								
#2 – fixed gear: how much do we chase them... probably no second proposal at this stage...								
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 11</i>	03/11	4/11	5/11	6/11	7/11	6/11	11/11	
Analysis is planned for early 2012 – can we ask them to continue collecting data...?								
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 12</i>	03/11	4/11	5/11	6/11	7/11	6/11	7/11	
Analysis is planned for early 2012. How much do we want to support/encourage focusing on larger fish/big spawners. – can we continue data collection? Which net are you using....?								

<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 13</i>	N/A <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<p>No proposal was submitted in February 2011. Are they interested in pair trawling? (NEFS 2 bigger boats are also interested). Would we get a permit for this type of gear (EFP) - ? Jon will look at the cost of converting gear. Fuel, seabed impact and cod is capped. Emphasis would be on improving economic efficiency for catch shares.</p> <p>Pingguo &amp; Jon!!!!</p>									
<i>GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector</i>	03/11	8/11	9/11	9/11	N/A	10/11	Underway		
<p>Shelly will chase up again, and try to figure out what's happening. ....</p>									
<i>NE Coastal Comm. Sector</i>	03/11	5/11	3/12	4/12	N/A				
<p>Feedback was deafening! Look into large whale take reduction exemptions....</p>									
<i>Port Clyde Comm. Sector</i>	03/11	5/11	6/11	7/11	N/A	7/11	4/12 ?		
<p>This project has been included on an EFP application that Steve Eayrs has submitted for other, similar ongoing work that overlaps this time period. Sapphire twine has been delivered to the guys to build their nets (n=4); they are currently being built. 3 of 4 have collected their fuel flow meters; 2 are installed. By May there will be 5 vessels set up with these nets and fuel flow meters, and we need to just set up the data collection piece, based on what has been done before. It won't be highly robust data, but the project is more about gear transfer.</p>									
<i>Sustainable Harvest Sector</i>	03/11	4/11	N/A <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<p>Proposal was withdrawn by industry member, no additional proposals have been received to date. Some interest from Jim Odlin to try (semi?) pelagic doors, but these will cost ~\$20,000 for one vessel... NFWF proposal been submitted with Steve...</p>									
<i>Tri-State Sector</i>	N/A <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<p>No proposal was submitted in February 2011; Shelly had a second meeting with Cindy Smith (Sector Manager) in November 2011 and research options were discussed; Cindy intended to talk about these with her fishermen and will confirm if they would like to pursue anything. Cindy contacted Shelly in May 2012 with some potential ideas, but has not been in touch since. Steve will be taking over from Shelly in terms of future correspondence with Cindy.</p>									

**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.**

- GMRI continues to maintain and improve the GEARNET website which serves as the depository for detailed information and updates about the project/network; particular updates include adding photos from field work, maintaining the participants list and adding updated project information to the page: <http://www.gearnnet.org/projects.html>.
- In February 2012, a two-page article on GEARNET featured in the National Fisherman; this article was prepared by GMRI's 2011 GEARNET Intern, Willy Goldsmith. Unfortunately the article was printed without including the requested edits (requested by Shelly) that specifically included reference to our funders, NOAA Fisheries Cooperative Research Program. For future articles, it is imperative that we ensure that this credit is included, while recognizing that we have little control over what goes to final print. Follow-up conversations with Jes Hathaway clarified that omitting acknowledgement of NOAA was not intentional.
- GMRI hosted a booth at the Maine Fishermen's Forum (March 2012) and GEARNET outreach materials were made available, along with three new posters depicting the progress for three specific GEARNET projects (Common Pool, NEFS 11 and NEFS 12). GEARNET was also well-featured during a special session on the Saturday, entitled "Improving the Bottom Line in New England Fisheries: An Update on Fuel Efficiency and Gear Selectivity Projects". The posters were also used during this session, along with 2-page handouts on each poster.
- Finally, one of the actions from the April 12<sup>th</sup> PI Meeting was to schedule a GEARNET meeting focused on OUTREACH; to this end, a meeting was scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will not be reported here since it falls beyond the period being reported upon, but the agenda has been included for reference (page 32) and the subsequent progress report will likely review the meeting.

**F.I.b. Permits required**

Table 3 shows the permit requirements anticipated for all GEARNET projects; in addition, this table notes whether any sale of catch occurred in conjunction with the project, and if so, the total revenue.

**Table 3: Permit requirements and sale of catch for each GEARNET project.**

Sector	Permit anticipated	Permit secured?	Sale of catch
Common Pool	LOA	April 2011	\$54,811
NE Fishery Sector 2	Currently unknown		
NE Fishery Sector 3	EFP	December 2011	
NE Fishery Sector 5	-		
NE Fishery Sector 6	Temporary Possession LOA		
NE Fishery Sector 7	LOA	December 2011	
NE Fishery Sector 8	Temporary Possession LOA/EFP?		
NE Fishery Sector 9	Temporary Possession LOA/EFP?	LOA denied, May 2012	
NE Fishery Sector 10	N/A		
NE Fishery Sector 11	Temporary Possession LOA	July 2011	-
NE Fishery Sector 12	Temporary Possession LOA	June 2011	-
Port Clyde Community Sector	None required / EFP	Ongoing EFP	-

<b>NE Coastal Community Sector</b>	EFP	Requested
<b>Sustainable Harvest Sector</b>	-	-
<b>GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector</b>	N/A	

*F.I.c. Interactions with Protected Species*

None to date.

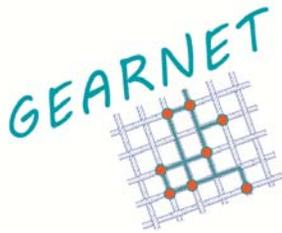
***F.II. Special problems, differences between scheduled and accomplished work, etc.***

- None.

***F.III. Tasks planned for the next quarter***

- Secure paperwork from NOAA that extends the NOAA-GMRI GEARNET contract by 12 months.
- There is an ongoing need for refining a number of the GEARNET projects: additional meetings with individual sectors may be necessary to refine the original GEARNET proposals and move forwards with these projects in a time-sensitive manner.
- Data summary and analysis for GEARNET projects that have already completed their fieldwork.
- Schedule a wider GEARNET participants meeting (winter 2012).
- Schedule a GEARNET PI outreach meeting (scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012).
- Plan and execute the multi-gear flume tank workshop.
- Prepare a document that collates what we have learned about the hurdles, successes, barriers and challenges to engaging groundfish sectors in GEARNET.

## ANNEX 1 – Summary from the GEARNET PI and Funders Meeting, April 5th, 2012.



# Northeast Groundfish

Gear Conservation Engineering & Demonstration Network

### GEARNET PI Group Meeting - SUMMARY

**Purpose:** Semi-annual Progress Meeting with the PI Group

**Date:** Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

**Location:** The Hyatt House Hotel, 54 Fourth Avenue, Waltham, MA 02451

**Attendees (12):** Shelly Tallack (GMRI), Steve Eayrs (GMRI), Mike Pol (MA DMF), Pingguo He (SMASST), Mike Walsh (FV Atlantic Prince, F/V Guardian), Jon Knight (Superior Trawl) Carolyn Woodhead (NOAA) and Earl Meredith (NOAA).

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### AGENDA

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#### 1 Introduction:

- Review of action points from previous meetings.

#### 2 Plan of attack for Shelly's maternity leave:

- Timing & preparation
- Roles for others

#### 3 Status of individual sector's projects:

- Sector by sector (each PI will update on the sectors they are working with);

#### 4 Analysis roles in GEARNET projects:

- Plans for analysis and reporting back to industry.
- Should we be taking a network approach to analysis?
- Peer review process.

#### 5 GEARNET Templates and Outreach/Dissemination plan:

- Outreach plan and opportunities – a networked approach
- Review of the GEARNET 'brand':
  - Project reports;
  - One-page project summary flyers;
  - Posters;
  - Presentations.

#### 6 Budget review:

- Review of funds remaining after completing current proposed / accepted projects.

#### 7 Flume tank workshops:

- Self-closing cod end (see introductory info. from Mike/Dave);
- Multi-gear demonstration workshop (Pingguo).

#### 8 Equipment loan / donation:

- Pelagic trawl doors?
- Fuel flow meter lottery?

#### 9 Wrap-up

### 1) Introduction

- The group spent some time reviewing action points from the two previous meetings to remind us of what we had agreed to act on since October 2011.

### 2) Plan of attack for Shelly's [maternity] leave

- Shelly's maternity leave will commence in late June/early July 2012, when she goes out to have her baby; in recent weeks Shelly has decided that she will not be returning to her position at GMRI after having the baby. As such, Steve Eayrs will take over her GEARNET responsibilities at GMRI.
- Steve will be responsible for GMRI-related budget management, contract management, progress reports, meeting coordination, etc. Steve will likely involve his two research technicians (Adam Baukus and Croy Carlin) to a greater level to assist in particular with field –related activities.
- Shelly will continue to offer graphic design services to the GEARNET group in the form of assisting to produce outreach materials (posters, flyers, summary reports) in addition to maintaining the GEARNET website; she would likely be contracted through GMRI to achieve this.
- **Action:** It may be timely to also schedule a wider-reaching GEARNET Participants meeting, to re-engage the Technical Committee and other partners and update them of our progress and change in personnel.

### 3) Status of individual sector's projects

- Each PI updated the group on their individual progress with each sector's specific project.
- **Action:** It was also discussed that it will be important to capture the nuances of what works and what doesn't when working with sectors. To some extent this has been recorded in previous progress reports and meeting summaries and Shelly will attempt to draw this all into one document before her departure.

Sector	Project status
<p><b>Common Pool (Shelly Tallack)</b></p>	<p><b>Groundfish net modified into a toplless flounder net</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This project's fieldwork took place in May and June of 2011; a total of 10 research days were undertaken and there were no major problems.</li> <li>- Preliminary analysis indicates that this net may prove a promising tool for fishermen hoping to reduce their catches of cod, with an average cod catch reduction of ~50% per pair of tows (n=30 pairs of tows).</li> <li>- Preliminary analysis has been presented to Carl Bouchard (industry partner) and an overview of findings for this net have been presented at FAST meetings, in addition to the Fishermen's Forum (March 2012) as part of the overall GEARNET update.</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action:</b> It was reiterated that these analyses are preliminary and additional analysis is required before drawing any conclusions; Shelly hopes I coming weeks to be able to move forwards with preparing a draft report for circulation to the PI Group for review.</li> <li>- <b>Action:</b> additional analyses on net selectivity will hopefully be performed in coming weeks by either Shelly or Mike Pol.</li> <li>- <b>Action:</b> This project will also be presented (by Carl Bouchard and David Beutel) at a workshop coordinated by GMRI on "Exploring Innovations in Fishing Operations" in mid April 2012.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NEFS 2 (Steve Eayrs)</b></p>	<p><b>Codend mesh selectivity study to target flounder</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The study design has been narrowed down to 2 mesh sizes and the proposed work is really for the end of the winter, but so far minimal budget information has been provided.</li> <li>- This project has lost some momentum in part due to the season, and in part due to the turnover of sector manager (Dan Salerno moved to NEFS V); we are awaiting feedback from the Sector and Sector Manager (Libby Etrie).</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is some question regarding how interested this sector is in pursuing this project – it may be that it is no longer of interest to them since they sort of tested the meshes anyway on their own last winter.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communication/continuity remains a problem with this sector – the last phone calls were held in March and April.</li> <li>- Steve will approach them one last time, to find out, or to see if there is an alternative project they would like to do.</li> </ul>
<b>NEFS 3, Proposal #1 (Pingguo He)</b>	<p><b>Utilization of electric rod and reel to target Pollock in the WGOM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two vessels will be involved and the study area will be inside the WGOM closed area.</li> <li>- The EFP application was submitted in August; one condition of the EFP is that observers be present on all trips. The EFP will be valid through the end of 2012.</li> <li>- NOAA may be able to offer additional technical support if we want this study to continue in the closed area beyond the budgeted time frame.</li> <li>- Equipment purchases are almost complete; the rods are on backorder.</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action: Pingguo</b> Field work is scheduled for the fall of 2012.</li> </ul>
<b>NEFS 3, Proposal #2 (Pingguo He)</b>	<p><b>Gillnet selectivity study</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pingguo is thinking of suggesting that they pursue an alternative project; in light of the recent concerns about the status of cod, he has mixed feelings about proceeding with this study since it entails going to a smaller mesh, and there are also no haddock around (which this study would be ideally targeting).</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action: Pingguo</b> will approach the NEFS 3 to see what else they may be interested in addressing.</li> </ul>
<b>NEFS 5, Proposal #1 (Jon Knight)</b>	<p><b>Additional testing of the Mid-Eliminator trawl / Alternative project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Mid-Eliminator trawl has finally been approved, and thus, the sector is no longer interested in pursuing this idea; a new gear code will be used for the Mid-Eliminator trawl during VTRs.</li> <li>- Jon Knight and Dan Salerno have been discussing a new research idea with members of NEFS V – many of these fishermen have more cod allocation than they do flatfish. Jon has built a prototype escape panel that should allow them to target cod and avoid flatfish. Since the panel has been ready, no cod have been around to test this, but this will likely form the basis of a new proposal later this year.</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action: Jon</b> will work with NEFS 5 to prepare a draft proposal during April/May 2012.</li> </ul>
<b>NEFS 6 (Mike Pol &amp; Mike Walsh)</b>	<p><b>Haddock/Flounder Ruhle Trawl demonstration on Georges Bank</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two vessels will be involved; the data will be recorded as trip reports, in addition to follow-up interviews with the captain and crew.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Everything is ready to go (the net has been built and leased to the project).</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action:</b> They are waiting for haddock to show up to test the net.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NEFS 7 (Pingguo He)</b></p>	<p><b>Testing of a new Reidar's haddock trawl on Georges Bank</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An LOA application was submitted, this project hit the water during the fall of 2011.</li> <li>- Sea trials happened but catch rates were very poor, (delayed for a while to wait for haddock).</li> <li>- Out of 25 tows, they caught just 1500 lbs haddock. They saw huge reductions in catch between the control and experimental (all species) and ~50% reduction in haddock.</li> <li>- There was not really sufficient catch to compare and draw conclusions; not enough haddock around to verify its performance as a haddock net. But it may be that you can't create a net solely for haddock.</li> <li>- This study may or may not warrant additional research/tweaking. (May work if we get a new wave of larger haddock again, ~2 yrs...).</li> <li>- Others may also try this net, once the haddock show up.</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action: Pingguo</b> will undertake further analysis and prepare a report.</li> <li>- Possible Phase 2 candidate? In which case, this might involve camera work to observe haddock behavior at the front of the net? Are they escaping out due to large mesh at the front?</li> </ul>
<p><b>NEFS 8 (Pingguo He)</b></p>	<p><b>Evaluation of small diameter Dyneema twine in groundfish trawls to reduce drag and fuel consumption</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The revised proposal was approved by the PI group in late September 2011, so this project can now move forward.</li> <li>- Two vessels are involved.</li> <li>- Field work has been postponed due to allocation shortages and death of a captain for FV Virginia Sands; sea trials on FV Sao Paulo will proceed in early 2012.</li> <li>- Netting has been purchased, one fuel monitor has been installed.</li> <li>- No permit is needed (because it's just fuel monitoring and no technician time is needed) so they're ready to go really, but the project is not on the water yet.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NEFS 9, (Pingguo He)</b></p>	<p><b>Improving fuel efficiency &amp; evaluating a haddock separator trawl using video monitoring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pingguo has prepared a revised proposal that merges NEFS 9's proposals #1 and #3 (as requested by the Technical Committee).</li> <li>- Compensation will include sale of catch and this will follow the sharing of revenue as outlined during the April 2011 GEARNET meeting.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Slight delay since they had to re-build one of the nets to match the other.</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action:</b> Field work will take place in the Spring of 2012; good weather is needed because of the camera work involved.</li> </ul>
<b>NEFS 10 (Mike Pol)</b>	<p><b>Technology transfer: Seven-inch square knotless (Ultracross) codends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One refined gear technology transfer proposal was approved in December 2011;</li> <li>- All nets have been built, and the first net has been delivered to a vessel, and others will be delivered in coming weeks.</li> <li>- This is not a research project per se, but rather a gear technology transfer project; some basic data will be collected plus a post-project interview.</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Despite numerous attempts to encourage an additional proposal on fixed gear (e.g. gillnet), none has been forthcoming and it is safe to assume that there will likely be no second proposal at this stage.</li> </ul>
<b>NEFS 11 (Shelly Tallack)</b>	<p><b>Vertical profile and reduced mesh depth as a method to improve gillnet selectivity and operational efficiency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinated by Ken La Valley (NH Seagrant) and Shelly, this project's fieldwork began in September 2011 and was completed by November 2011.</li> <li>- Preliminary analysis is complete, though catch was low and thus, the data has limited application.</li> <li>- An overview of the findings was included in Shelly's presentation at the March 2012 Maine Fishermen's Forum.</li> <li>- This project could be a candidate for additional research, assuming the industry members are interested.</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action:</b> Assuming that the analysis is complete, the next step is preparing a report on this project. <b>Shelly</b> will work with <b>Ken</b> to get this underway.</li> </ul>
<b>NEFS 12 (Shelly Tallack)</b>	<p><b>Use of codend mesh size, fuel sensors and catch sensors to increase fishing efficiency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinated by Erik Chapman (NH Seagrant) and Shelly, this project's fieldwork was completed in August 2011.</li> <li>- Preliminary analysis is complete.</li> <li>- An overview of the findings was included in Shelly's presentation at the March 2012 Maine Fishermen's Forum.</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action:</b> Additional analysis may be undertaken. The next step is preparing a report on this project. <b>Shelly</b> will work with <b>Erik</b> to get this underway.</li> </ul>
<b>NEFS 13 (Pingguo)</b>	<b>No proposal submitted</b>

<p><b>He, Jon Knight)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No proposal was submitted in February 2011.</li> <li>- Might these guys be interested in developing a pair trawling project?</li> <li>- Would we be able to get a permit for this type of gear?</li> <li>- The emphasis would be on improving economic efficiency for catch shares.</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action: Jon Knight</b> will look at the cost of converting the gear.</li> <li>- <b>Action: Jon Knight and Pingguo He</b> will take the lead with this sector.</li> <li>- <b>Action: Shelly Tallack</b> will be presenting about GEARNET at the May 2012 Sector Manager meeting (coordinated by GMRI); this will be the final call for proposals from sectors that have not yet submitted a proposal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Port Clyde Community Sector (Steve Eayrs)</b></p>	<p><b>Evaluation of fine mesh for catch selectivity and fuel consumption</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This project is an extension of work already being undertaken by Steve with different funding; preliminary results indicate no effect on marketable catch, but ~20% fuel savings.</li> <li>- This project involves minimal data collection and is more about technology transfer; the project aims to provide netting to the remaining boats in the Port Clyde Community Sector.</li> <li>- <u>Nets</u>: Two bails of netting (sapphire twine) have been purchased and have been delivered to the fishermen to start building their nets (n=4). The net modification involves changing the entire net (not just codend) from a 6.5" regular mesh to a 7" Sapphire twine net.</li> <li>- Fuel flow meters: four fuel flow meters have been distributed; 2 have been installed to date.</li> <li>- By May 2012 there will be 5 vessels set up with these nets and fuel flow meters.</li> <li>- Results from the initial study are promising and the real testament is that the fisherman involved is still using this net.</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action:</b> The data collection component needs to be set up – this will be based on what has been done before. The data won't be highly robust, but the project is more about gear transfer.</li> <li>- <b>Action:</b> Develop data sheets and encourage additional data collection so that we have more quantitative data in time for the End of Year workshop.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tri-State Sector (Mike Pol / Shelly Tallack)</b></p>	<p><b>No proposal submitted</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mike had some contact with Cindy Smith about developing a proposal with the guys fishing in the Tri-State Sector back in the earlier months of the project.</li> <li>- Shelly had a meeting with Cindy (November 2011) and gave examples of some of the other research projects that had been</li> </ul>

	<p>proposed – Cindy was going to take these ideas back to her sector members to see if there was any interest; to date there has been no indication that these fishermen are interested in proceeding with a proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– It has not proven possible to coordinate a meeting since these fishermen are widely distributed geographically.</li> <li>– The question was again posed as to how hard we should try to reach out and get sectors engaged.</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Action: Shelly Tallack</b> will be presenting about GEARNET at the May 2012 Sector Manager meeting (coordinated by GMRI); this will be the final call for proposals from sectors that have not yet submitted a proposal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NE Coastal Community Sector</b> (Steve Eayrs / Mike Pol)</p>	<p><b>Are Newfoundland cod pots effective and economically viable to catch cod in New England</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The sector manager (Aaron Dority) has played a big role in preparing this proposal and he has ascertained that no permit is required for this work.</li> <li>– The refined proposal was approved at this meeting (i.e. April 2012).</li> </ul> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Action: Steve</b> will give the go-ahead for Aaron to place an order for the cod pots to be built.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sustainable Harvest</b> (Shelly Tallack / Jon Knight)</p>	<p><b>Proposal withdrawn, no additional proposal submitted</b></p> <p><i>Hurdles/Actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Action: Shelly Tallack</b> will be presenting about GEARNET at the May 2012 Sector Manager meeting (coordinated by GMRI); this will be the final call for proposals from sectors that have not yet submitted a proposal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GB Fixed Gear Sector</b> (Shelly Tallack)</p>	<p><b>A feasibility study to assess the performance of alternative pinger devices as seal deterrents in groundfish gillnet gear</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A follow up meeting was held with this sector in June 2011 and the proposal was revised.</li> <li>– Shelly and the sector manager (Eric Brazer) did a lot of legwork to understand the permit implications of this study – the outcome was that as long as we limit the study to areas and times outside of the Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan, no permit is required.</li> <li>– Fishermen have been fishing their own allocation and were trained on land during a half-day training session in November 2011.</li> <li>– Fieldwork began in November 2011; fishermen felt that initially the new pingers were working, but that relatively quickly, no improvement in catch damage was seen.</li> <li>– Shelly has been trying to get an update on the project since then, to no avail, but suspects that little data is now being collected, in part due to the time of year, and in part due to fishermen not</li> </ul>

feeling that the pingers were making a difference

*Hurdles/Actions:*

- **Action:** Shelly will make a trip to Cape Cod to interview the fishermen as a follow-up – hopefully in May 2012.

The following table summarizes the timeline of each project.

Sector	Approximate dates of progress (Month/Year)								
	Original proposal reviewed / accepted	Proposal refinement meeting held	Proposal refined	Refined proposal approved by GEARNET PIs	Research permit received	Equipment purchased	Fieldwork completed	Report prepared	Data / report on website
<i>Common Pool</i>	03/11	4/11	4/11	4/11	5/11	4/11	5 & 6/11	Next...	
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 2</i>	04/11	12/11	Re-visit						
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 3:1</i>	03/11	7/11	8/11	9/11	12/11	Underway	Fall?		
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 3: 2</i>	03/11	7/11	Re-visit						
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 5</i>	03/11	4/12 ?							
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 6</i>	03/11	11/11	11/11	11/11	N/A	2/12	Waiting for fish...		
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 7</i>	03/11	7/11	8/11	9/11	12/11	12/11	1/12	Next...	
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 8</i>	03/11	7/11	8/11	9/11	N/A	Underway			
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 9</i>	03/11	11/11	2/12	3/12	Waiting...				
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 10:1</i>	03/11	11/11 & 12/11	12/11	12/11	N/A	3/12	Ready to start...		
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 10:2</i>	Unlikely?								
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 11</i>	03/11	4/11	5/11	6/11	7/11	6/11	11/11	Next...	
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 12</i>	03/11	4/11	5/11	6/11	7/11	6/11	7/11	Next...	
<i>Northeast Fishery Sector 13</i>	Unlikely?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector</i>	03/11	8/11	9/11	9/11	N/A	10/11	Underway		
<i>NE Coastal Comm. Sector</i>	03/11	5/11	3/12	4/12	N/A				
<i>Port Clyde Comm. Sector</i>	03/11	5/11	6/11	7/11	N/A	7/11	4/12 ?		
<i>Sustainable Harvest Sector</i>	03/11	4/11	Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Tri-State Sector</i>	Unlikely?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Columns shaded orange indicate the 'next stage' to be worked on for each project

#### 4) Budget review

- **Action:** An overview of the overall GEARNET/CEMFIN budget was not presented this time, but Shelly and Mike will work on this in coming weeks, and will then distribute to the group.
- The group reviewed the relative cost of each proposed project; in total, 13 projects have had funds committed to date and are either underway or about to hit the water. With NEFS 2, the refined proposal has been approved, but the sector is slow in moving forwards and it is possible that with much more delay, an alternative proposal may become more relevant.
- The “Potential cost?” column indicates funds that we may need to keep in reserve for proposals (n=5) that have not been refined or submitted to date, and it’s possible that these may never happen. The costs assumed in this column are either the cost of the original proposal (if one was submitted), or in the case of NEFS 5, the average cost of their two initial proposals; in the case of NEFS 13, the cost assumed is the average cost of all other potential cost proposals.
- It was noted that at the upcoming Sector Managers’ Meeting (8th May 2012) Shelly will update the Sector Managers on GEARNET’s progress and will remind the Sector Managers for Sustainable Harvest, the Tri-State Sector, and NEFS 13 that we will still welcome a proposal from these sectors if their members are interested in submitting one. This will likely be our ‘last call’ to these sectors and if we do not receive proposals this time around, we will re-allocate any un-used funds to other areas of GEARNET, whether it be flume tank workshops or Phase II of gear testing.

Sector	Original cost	Revised cost	Difference	Potential Cost?
Common Pool	\$12,220	\$59,715	\$47,495	
*Sustainable Harvest	\$12,315	\$-	\$(12,315)	\$12,315
Port Clyde Comm. Sect.	\$-	\$42,899	\$42,899	
NE Comm. Sect.	\$23,625	\$18,193	\$(5,432)	
GB Fixed Gear	\$21,946	\$27,357	\$5,412	
*Tri State	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
NEFS 2	\$7,350	\$24,410	\$17,060	\$-
NEFS 3 (#1)	\$24,050	\$-	\$(24,050)	\$24,050
NEFS 3 (#2)	\$4,950	\$16,884	\$11,934	
NEFS 5 (#1)	\$42,352	\$-	\$-	\$31,576
*NEFS 5 (#2)	\$20,800	\$-	\$-	\$-
NEFS 6	\$43,750	\$33,283	\$(10,467)	
NEFS 7	\$43,500	\$57,561	\$14,061	
NEFS 8	\$40,800	\$26,176	\$(14,624)	
NEFS 9 (#1)	\$40,580	\$64,413	\$23,833	
*NEFS 9 (#3)	\$36,250	\$-	\$-	\$-
NEFS 10 (#1)	\$15,200	\$19,200	\$4,000	
*NEFS 10 (#2)	\$40,000	\$-	\$-	\$-
NEFS 11	\$13,500	\$31,768	\$18,268	
NEFS 12	\$17,325	\$34,493	\$17,168	
**NEFS 13	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$22,647
<b>Total requested</b>	<b>\$460,513</b>	<b>\$456,352</b>	<b>\$(4,160)</b>	<b>\$90,588</b>
<b>Average cost</b>	<b>\$21,929</b>	<b>\$21,731</b>	<b>\$(198)</b>	<b>\$11,324</b>
<b>Costs covered by GMRI</b>	<b>\$171,433</b>	<b>\$238,835</b>	<b>\$67,402</b>	<b>\$43,891</b>
<b>Costs covered by MA DMF</b>	<b>\$289,080</b>	<b>\$217,518</b>	<b>\$(71,562)</b>	<b>\$46,697</b>

\* Unlikely to submit a refined proposal?

\*\* Potential cost = average of other potential costs

## 5) Analysis roles in GEARNET projects

- The primary question addressed was whether we should be taking a network approach to analysis, or whether those involved in preparing each Sector's proposals would take the lead on analysis for each respective project.
- It was pointed out that it's important that we're each familiar with and/or aware of the findings of each individual GEARNET project, but this does not necessarily mean we all need to have an in-depth understanding of every project, just a general familiarity. We would still direct any questions on a specific project to the relevant GEARNET PI who was involved in the project.
- It was agreed that when a project is going to be presented to an audience, that the presenter will give the PI group advanced notice, and if appropriate time-wise, also a copy of the intended presentation for review/comment. However, it was recognized that there is not always time to have the analysis reviewed ahead of such presentations; whenever the data has not been reviewed others, we should be diligent in communicating to the audience that the analysis is "preliminary" and that peer review of the findings has yet to occur. It was reiterated that incomplete analysis and lack of peer review is not a reason to not present GEARNET work; it is not uncommon for scientists to present 'work in progress' at relevant venues/conferences, etc. and it is still important to communicate about the work that we're doing.
- It was proposed that the analysis in each project be summarized, and that this could also be helpful for other projects when deciding on analytical approaches.
- It was agreed that there would be both an internal review process (for each individual project) and an external review process (for GEARNET as a whole at a later stage). External reviews may also be required if the project in question has gear management or gear regulation implications, but for demonstration projects and projects that don't require any regulatory approval, this will likely be unnecessary.
- This review process will likely involve a combination of GEARNET PIs and GEARNET Technical Committee members, which will help diffuse the workload on GEARNET PIs, while also re-engaging members of the Technical Committee who helped to approve which proposals warranted refinement back in March 2011.
- **Action:** It was agreed that Shelly will prepare a draft peer-review process/model (see page 23) and make this available for comment by the group after today's meeting.
  - NOTE: The goal of this review process is not to slow down communication of findings from GEARNET projects. If a relevant opportunity or venue is coming up that will help share the findings of projects to the wider fishing industry/scientific community, projects may be presented with appropriate disclaimers (i.e. "this is preliminary analysis", "results have not yet been peer-reviewed", "further analysis is required", etc.). Ahead of doing so, we will distribute presentations to the GEARNET PI group.

## DRAFT Peer Review Process:

(Prepared after the workshop and to be refined by GEARNET PIs)

### Report

- The report will be prepared using the Project Report Template finalized by the group during this meeting, and presented in Appendix I.
- This report will include a 'checklist' that summarizes certain characteristics of the project and helps the reviewers decide what level of review is required for each project, e.g. the number of sea days, quantity/quality of data, whether the project was a research project or demonstration project, whether the gear assessed requires regulatory change, special permits, etc.

### Review

- The report will be distributed among the GEARNET PI group to decide whether or not the project requires peer review (based on the criteria in the checklist).
- If the report requires further review, it will be sent to 3 individuals in total: 1-2 from the GEARNET PI group and 1-2 from the GEARNET Technical Committee, for a total of 3 reviews.
- Reviewers (anonymous or not?) will be asked to provide feedback within 4 weeks of receiving the report.
- Reviewers will also recommend whether external review is required.

### Share

- Once the report has been reviewed, it may be uploaded to the GEARNET website and further outreach materials may be developed.
- Each report will also be compiled (along with the refined project proposal and any other relevant outreach material) in the GEARNET Final Report to funders.

## 6) GEARNET Templates and Outreach/Dissemination plan

- **Outreach plan and opportunities – a networked approach:** The group had a short discussion on the need for developing an outreach plan, however, since the day was running behind schedule, it was agreed that we would likely need a separate meeting to discuss outreach needs in detail.
- **The GEARNET ‘brand’:** Throughout our outreach efforts with GEARNET, we have avoided displaying individual partners’ logos since not all partners have logos. [This might be a discussion point for a future meeting on our outreach approach.] Instead, we have opted for developing a GEARNET ‘brand’ that helps give the combined GEARNET/CEMFIN network a visual identity. Developing solid working templates that are easy for partners to use will help solidify this identity her forwards, as we each present the findings of individual (and overall) projects. It is hoped that this effort will also help unite the GEARNET and CEMFIN contracts, and reduce confusion in terms of project ‘ownership’ by presenting all GEARNET projects in a visually cohesive manner.
- **Templates for outreach efforts:** Accordingly, it is appropriate to develop additional templates for outreach materials that will enable the dissemination of findings from the GEARNET network in a uniform, visually cohesive manner.
  - GEARNET Project Reports: The group finalized the template for the GEARNET Project Reports (emailed around about 2 months ahead of this meeting). These reports will serve to document in detail the findings/outcomes of each sector’s individual GEARNET project. That said, as with the templates for project proposals, it is hoped that these reports will remain reader-friendly and not overly verbose, but this will depend on the project and the quantity of data, and therefore, the depth of analysis possible and appropriate. These reports are what will be peer reviewed when appropriate; they will also serve as the detail behind the production of more concise project summaries (e.g. posters, summary flyers) for each project. The finalized version of the Project Report Template is presented in Appendix 1.
  - GEARNET Posters: During the Fishermen’s Forum (March 2012) Shelly had prepared three of the GEARNET projects into poster format using the GMRI poster template. This is a format that GMRI requires for posters to be displayed in the GMRI building; long-term, however, the idea is that we will develop a GEARNET poster template that will enable the GEARNET network to display a series of cohesively formatted posters at future outreach venues (conferences, workshops, results dissemination meetings with each sector, etc.).
  - One/two-page summary flyers: These were not addressed in detail during this meeting, but the goal of these will be to provide a brief overview/summary of each project in a format that is particularly suitable for the lay-person. These would also serve as a handout during presentations, and would eventually be uploaded to the website for readers hoping to absorb a less detailed report.
  - Presentations: Finally, as at the outset of GEARNET, the idea is that we would have a GEARNET Powerpoint template that we will each use when presenting GEARNET work.
- **Development of Templates:** Future development of these branding templates will likely be developed by Shelly. Shelly will both design the templates and offer support in preparing actual posters, handouts etc. with content (writing, analysis, figured, etc.) prepared by GEARNET PIs.
- **Photos:** It was also reiterated that building up a good photo/video library of GEARNET projects will be hugely helpful in developing quality outreach projects. To this end, Shelly will be purchasing 5 point-and-shoot digital cameras for sharing among projects. These will be given to captains so that they can help document the work they are doing.

- **Earth Day 2012:** Carolyn raised the potential that the upcoming 'Earth Day' in April 2012 might be a good opportunity for NOAA to highlight the work of GEARNET. Carolyn will follow up with an email after this meeting to discuss our options in greater detail.

**Excerpt from Carolyn's email, dated April 13, 2012:**

*"I just wanted to follow up on the potential outreach article HQ is developing for release in conjunction with Earthday. Unfortunately, they have decided to go with another topic focusing more on fishing communities, but we will continue to work with the folks in Silver Spring to bring some of our cooperative research projects to light."*

- **General outreach opportunities with NOAA HQ (Silver Spring, MD):** Carolyn will investigate further the options for general outreach opportunities through NOAA HQ (Silver Spring, MD), for example, video, website, etc.

## 7) Update of flume tank workshop

- This conversation began by addressing two potential GEARNET related workshops, as indicated below.

Multi-gear demonstration workshop	Self-closing codend demonstration
- Amount needed is ~\$70,000.	- Amount needed is ~\$11,500.
- NEC funding has been withdrawn;	- Funds remain from project's original budget (plus sale-of-catch funds?).
- GMRI does not have funds to offer;	
- Is this something that GEARNET/CEMFIN should and wishes to fund?	

- **Self-closing codend flume tank demonstration:** After a detailed discussion, it was agreed that with the history of how the idea and research plan for the BreakBag 'sub-network' came about, it will be more simple to keep this project separate from GEARNET, since the project was not developed using the same model as all other GEARNET projects. Furthermore, this project has funds remaining that were a separate part of the GEARNET/CEMFIN combined budget; it is these funds that will be used to support a short trip to the flume tank to refine the self-closing codend further. From here forwards, this project will not be discussed as part of the wider GEARNET effort (though this group may still request additional funds in a Phase II if necessary).
- **Multi-gear demonstration workshop:** This discussion continues from the previous GEARNET PI meeting (October 2011). GMRI has ascertained that it will not have additional funds from other grants to offer this effort. It was agreed that with some refinements to the format of the proposed workshop, and corresponding budget, the group will find funds within the GEARNET/CEMFIN budgets to support this workshop, particularly since some sectors do not seem interested in undertaking research projects, so we may have some buffer in terms of funding. **Action:** Pingguo will refine the flume tank workshop proposal and budget to reflect the discussion by the group. In particular:
  - We want to be sure that we invite individuals from each sector, and that these individuals are mostly people who have not been to the flume tank before. Also, we want to be sure that they are the type of people who may talk about their experience there, rather than just keeping it to themselves.

- Outreach opportunity – it would be great if we could plan on distributing a DVD on the different gears showcased at the workshop. This DVD does not necessarily need to be high-end; to keep the costs to a minimum, Steve’s technicians can work on editing this (for example, a DVD with raw footage and a contents page). NOAA may also be able to assist to create a more refined product at a later stage.
- It may be that Dan Salerno’s involvement (as identified initially from when NEFS 2 proposed a flume tank trip) may no longer be relevant.
- The number of attendees would not exceed 22, with up to 5 of these being non-industry participants (e.g. GEARNET partners, NOAA representatives, etc.)
- We may or may not need to consider asking fishermen to contribute to the cost of the workshop – this will depend on GEARNET/CEMFIN funds available.
- We may want to request a 100% refundable deposit from attendees, to minimize people backing out last minute.
- We should make sure that the focus is highly relevant; unlike the original proposal, we should probably remove the haddock focus, though focusing on cod may be a good idea.
- Potential nets to demonstrate include: the topless shrimp trawl, the Eliminator trawl, the Bigelow net, etc.
- *Potential timing:* Fall 2012.

#### 8) Equipment loan / donation

- NOAA has indicated that one of their goals is to have industry using ~40% of the gear conservation solutions funded through the various gear conservation networks.
- Steve raised the discussion of whether we could use GEARNET/CEMFIN funds to purchase specific gears (e.g. pelagic trawl doors) to loan out to fishermen to try them out, since the cost of some gears is overly prohibitive for many fishermen.
- Another idea was to consider using any spare funds to purchase ‘low hanging fruit’ gear solutions such as fuel flow meters, to hand out to industry members. The notion of a ‘fuel flow meter lottery’ was discussed, where we plan to give away X amount of fuel flow meters, to people who attend ‘end of project’ meetings with GEARNET to learn about the findings of specific projects. We would enter attendees names into a draw and we would require them to be present for the whole meeting to be eligible as a winner. We could also ask the winners to complete a follow-up telephone survey to learn how the fuel flow meter has or hasn’t affected how they fish.
- **Action:** Steve Eayrs will develop a proposal for the fuel flow meter lottery concept.

## 9) Wrap-up / Action points

In addition to actions related to specific sector's GEARNET projects (identified on pages 3 – 9), following are additional actions that need to be addressed in the immediate future:

Who	Action
Project leads	– The next GEARNET progress report is due at the end of April; all project leads should provide an update to Shelly by the last week of April.
Shelly Tallack / Mike Pol	– Provide group with an update on the GEARNET/CEMFIN budget, to enable decisions on funding future aspects of GEARNET, e.g. the flume tank workshop, fuel flow lottery, etc.
Shelly Tallack	– Prepare a draft peer-review process/model and make this available for comment by the group ( <b>Done, see page 23</b> ).
Shelly Tallack	– Schedule a wider GEARNET Participants meeting for May 2012?
Shelly Tallack	– Prepare a document that collates what we have learned about the hurdles, successes, barriers and challenges to engaging groundfish sectors in GEARNET. – <u>Questionnaire</u> : Develop a questionnaire to hand out to Sector Managers and GEARNET PIs to capture additional information for this.
Shelly Tallack / Steve Eayrs	– Schedule an OUTREACH specific meeting (early June 2012?). To be included in the agenda: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of outreach material templates (e.g. posters, handouts, reports, etc.).</li> <li>2. Use of partner logos in outreach materials.</li> <li>3. Graphic design needs?</li> <li>4. General outreach opportunities with NOAA headquarters.</li> </ol>
Shelly Tallack	– Purchase ~ 5 point and shoot, waterproof digital cameras for loan to participating vessels.
Steve Eayrs	– Develop a proposal for the fuel flow meter lottery concept.
Pingguo He	– Refine the flume tank workshop proposal and budget to reflect the discussion by the group.
Carolyn Woodhead	– <u>Earth Day 2012</u> : Carolyn will investigate any opportunities for GEARNET to feature in NOAA's outreach plans for Earth Day. ( <b>Done – see page 25</b> ).
NCRP	– Hold a wider 'network' workshop with attendees from all seven research networks; this might have a focus on the both the results and the experiences of working within these networks

## Appendix 1: Finalized Template for GEARNET Project Reports



# Northeast Groundfish

Gear Conservation Engineering & Demonstration Network

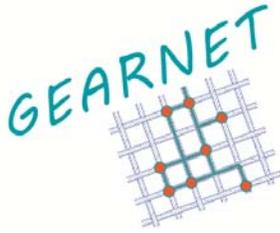
## GEARNET Project Summary Report

**Suggestion for completing your report:** Much of the information requested here was already outlined in your final approved project proposal; we recommend using your proposal to guide you in completing this report, while recognizing that some things may have changed as the project progressed.

**Why we need this report:** The information provided here will also be used to develop a 1-2 page lay-person summary of each project completed. Both reports (1-2 pager and this detailed report) will become available on the website after peer review by members of the GEARNET PI group and/or the GEARNET Technical Committee. Note that the information provided in “*GEARNET Project Characteristics & Review Needs*” will help us determine the level of peer review required for each project being reported.

**How to submit your report:** All reports should be submitted as a Word Document, by email to [Steve Eayrs](#) at GMRI when they are ready for review. If your files are too large to email, arrangements can be made to provide you with an alternative digital uploading tool.

**Questions:** If you have any questions, please contact Steve Eayrs by [email](#) or by phone: (207) 228-1659.



# Northeast Groundfish

Gear Conservation Engineering & Demonstration Network

## GEARNET Project Summary Report Cover Page

<b>Project title:</b>				
<b>Sector:</b>				
<b>Primary Contact:</b>		<b>Phone:</b>		
<b>Email:</b>				
<b>Additional Participants:</b>	<b>Industry:</b>			
	<b>Scientists:</b>			
	<b>Graduate students:</b>			
	<b>Interns:</b>			
<b>Vessel(s) involved:</b>	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Vessel name</b>	<b>Size (ft)</b>	<b>Homeport</b>
<b>Study location:</b>				
<b>Project duration:</b>	<i>Start month/year through End month/year</i>			
<b>Total cost of project:</b>	<i>Including industry costs, travel, equipment and scientist/analysis costs</i>			
<b>In kind contribution:</b>	<i>E.g. equipment, personnel time, etc.</i>			
<b>Date report submitted:</b>				

## GEARNET Project Characteristics & Review Needs

<b>Project title:</b>			
<b>Sector:</b>			
<b>Primary Contact:</b>		<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>			

<b>Type of project:</b>	<i>Research:</i>		<i>Demonstration:</i>		<i>Tech Transfer:</i>	
<b>Regulatory implications:</b> <i>Do the findings of this project have implications for fishery management?</i>						
<b>Gear regulations:</b> <i>Does the gear being tested require regulatory approval before it can be adopted by industry?</i>						

Data quality				
<b>No. of sea days:</b>	<i>Planned:</i>		<i>Completed:</i>	
<b>No. of hauls / tows:</b>	<i>Planned:</i>		<i>Completed:</i>	
<b>Data type:</b>	<i>Technician:</i>		<i>VTR data:</i>	
	<i>Interview:</i>		<i>None:</i>	

Results dissemination planned (check all that apply)					
<i>Journal paper:</i>		<i>GEARNET report:</i>		<i>GEARNET handout:</i>	
<i>GEARNET poster:</i>		<i>GEARNET website:</i>		<i>Other?</i>	

Suggested peer review needs					
<i>None:</i>		<i>Internal:</i>		<i>External:</i>	
<b>Suggested reviewers:</b> <i>Please provide name and contact information</i>					

**A) Background information** (*Introduction, background information on what need the study was trying to address?*).

**B) Primary Technical and/or Management Goals** (*A list of the project's core objectives, including species addressed*).

**C) Methods and Experimental Design** (*Please provide detail on the planned study design, equipment modifications, analysis performed if relevant, etc.*).

**D) Equipment purchased/used** (*Please list all major equipment purchased, and/or used. If any equipment was an in kind donation, please indicate as such*).

**E) Findings/Results** (*Description of the work actually completed, total number of trips, any problems encountered, data collected, data analysis, etc.*)

**F) Feedback from participating fishermen** (*quotes from participating fishermen that provide direct, honest feedback on uptake or changes in gear or behavior that result from the project*)

**G) Summary/Conclusions** (*An interpretation of the findings relative to the objectives planned*).

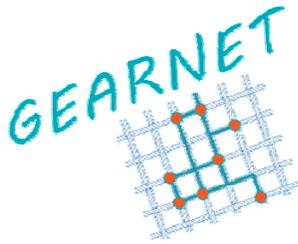
**H) Next Steps** (*ideas for future work based on the findings of this project*).

**I) References**

**J) Image Captions** (*In this section, please include captions, credits and corresponding image filenames for any images you have provided. All images should be sent separately as high resolution files to GMRI who will be compiling a library of images for all projects, for inclusion in future outreach about GEARNET, and for use on the programs' website.*)

**K) Final budget summary** (*Using the budget template provided for your proposal, please indicate the actual costs incurred for this project. Where there is any discrepancy between the budgeted and actual, please provide justification/clarification*).

## Annex 2: Agenda from the June 4th GEARNET PI Meeting on OUTREACH.



# Northeast Groundfish

Gear Conservation Engineering & Demonstration Network

### GEARNET PI Meeting on OUTREACH - AGENDA

**Date:** Monday June 4<sup>th</sup> 2012

**Time:** 8:30 – 4:00

**Location:** Hilton Garden Inn, 100 High Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801

#### AGENDA

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**8:30 Breakfast / coffee**

9:00 Introduction, review of agenda and feedback from Sector Managers' meeting (May 2012)

9:15 Development of outreach material templates (e.g. posters, handouts, etc.). What is needed? When?

10:00 Use of partner logos in outreach materials

**10:30 Break**

10:45 Graphic design needs generally (also discuss need for photos from projects)

11:15 General outreach opportunities with NOAA headquarters

12:00 Specific outreach efforts to prioritize (e.g. articles, etc.)

**12:30 Lunch**

1:00 Planning for 'travelling road show' / dissemination of findings to GEARNET participants

2:00 Outreach needs for flume tank workshop & planning update

3:00 Wrap-up

**~4:00 End**

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