

John Bullard, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast regional administrator, has appointed **Kevin Chu** to serve as assistant regional administrator to better serve the Mid-Atlantic area, a need repeatedly articulated during meetings with constituents last year. In the Dec. 10 announcement, Bullard said the plan is to establish a modest office in Annapolis, MD to support NMFS staffers working in New York, New Jersey, and Virginia.

Trained as a whale biologist, Chu has been with NMFS for almost 20 years and may be familiar to fishing industry people in the Northeast for his past work on cooperative research, marine mammal, and other issues. He also has served on international delegations and consensus building teams and, most recently, worked as the deputy regional administrator of the NMFS Southwest Regional Office.

"Kevin will be my primary representative in the Mid-Atlantic and will report directly to me regarding what he hears from our stakeholders in the region," said Bullard, who added that one of Chu's greatest strengths was being "a good listener."

The **Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation** (CFRF) has produced a visually impressive, high-quality video about its **"On-Deck Data Program,"** which is training lobstermen to use tablet computers and electronic calipers to collect and transmit in real time information on their catch (see CFN March 2013 for more about the program).

The target audience for the video is broad, according to CFRF Executive

Director **Peg Parker**.

"It includes other fishermen who may want to get involved in this approach to data collection, scientists in all disciplines looking for a cost-effective way to collect data at sea, the fisheries governance system that needs to understand and consider new approaches to data collection, and potential funders interested in developing and expanding this kind of work," she explained.

You can watch the eight-minute video, which features at-sea footage and brief interviews with fishermen and others involved in the project, on the CFRF website at <www.cfrfoundation.org>.

The Wellfleet mussel dragger **Artemis** and Novi-style fiberglass dragger/gillnetter/mussel dragger **Sweet Carolyn** were recently seen at Sesuit Harbor in Dennis on the bay side of Cape Cod.

The latest reality-TV show about fishing focuses on the Maine elver fishery. **"Cold River Cash"** debuts on Jan. 2 at 10 pm on the **Animal Planet** cable channel.

According to a press release, the eight-episode series will document the "adventure and mishaps" of three teams of eelers as they "work round the clock to find prime fishing holes, protect profitable territory, and haul in as many eels as possible."

The teams and their members are:
 ● **"The Eelinators"** of Brunswick, featuring brothers **Dana and Chris Hole** and **Ken Cornelison**;
 ● **"The Grinders"** of Hebron, featuring brothers **Chad and Justin Jordan**,



Steven Kennedy photo

The former Gloucester dragger **Mary & Josephine**, for sale for a number of years, has received new life as a side-rigged clam dredge. Renamed **Tom Slaughter**, the 67-footer is now registered in Essex, MA. She was spotted at the Cape Cod ports of Provincetown and Hyannis in December.

Chad's son **C.J. Jordan**, and **Lester Toothaker**; and
 ● **"The Maineiacs"** of Scarborough, featuring father and son **Lee and Jason Leavitt** and Jason's brother-in-law **Mike Bradley**.

Coincidentally, at the same time the TV show was announced in mid-December, the **Maine Department of Marine Resources**, under tremendous pressure from the **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission** (see CFN December 2013), was holding meetings with fishermen to figure out how to reduce the elver harvest by 25% to 40% for the upcoming season, which starts in late March.

A California sport fisherman got a surprise while hauling his crab traps off San Francisco in mid-November – a

big "Maine" lobster. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that it was the first time ever such a lobster had been verified in the area.

Sean Hodges caught the lobster, which weighed an estimated eight pounds, aboard his boat **Hog Heaven**. The trap had been set on the ocean floor about 250' down off the **Farallon Islands**. After getting a photo, he released it.

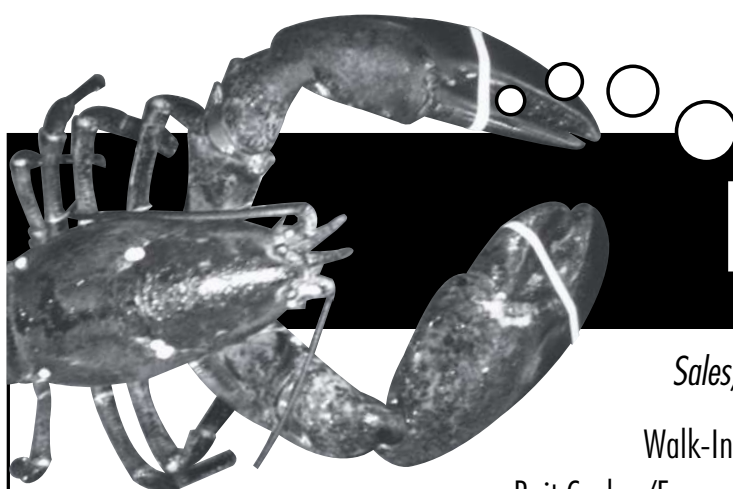
A marine biologist who verified the catch said he bet that someone bought the big lobster at a local Chinese restaurant and let it go.

After an eight-year hiatus, **Jerry Schill** has agreed to return as interim executive director of the **North Carolina Fisheries Association** (NCFA) to help reorganize and re-energize the 51-year-old organization.

Schill was NCFA's president from 1987 to 2005. During that time, he served two terms on the **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**, was a member of the Mid-Atlantic council's demersal species committee, and kept a close watch on fisheries-related activities before the state Legislature and the **North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission**.

He took a break to pursue life as a farmer in Pennsylvania, but eventually returned to North Carolina, where he has been busy with a sod-laying business and running a nonprofit home for young mothers, a job he will continue to hold.

Schill also happens to bear an uncanny likeness to Santa Claus, as his many friends will attest. In his first weekly update to NCFA members just before Christmas, he quipped, "It's good to be back, if only on an interim basis. Just remember: I'm a senior citizen now, with lots of gray hair and a red suit to go with it. Be nice! I have an ample supply of coal." /cfn/



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