

# CFRF NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023

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## Project Results and a New Way Forward: Sea Scallop Research Fleet

Last year, we worked with 6 scallopers and a group of scientific advisors to figure out if we could use the [Research Fleet approach to fill data gaps in the sea scallop fishery](#). This approach engages fishermen by providing them with tools and training to collect scientific data while they are fishing. Throughout our pilot project, participants collected information on nearly 800 scallops over 6 months.

The initial results showed that scallopers can collect data on individual scallops following scientific protocols. However, it turned out that weighing individual scallops on the boats was not the best way to do this as originally thought. Instead, we decided an image-based approach may be better moving forward.

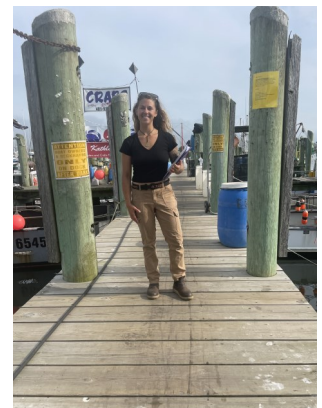
We are now establishing a [Scallop Research Fleet](#) to implement these results. Four vessels will be equipped with a portable sampling station that includes a scientific-grade camera system. The goal is to determine the optimal image-based sampling method to track information such as shell height, reproductive condition, diseases present, and meat quality.

We look forward to working with the scallopers and our project partners, the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance and New England Marine Monitoring, to make this a success.



## New Project: Ghost Gear Interviews

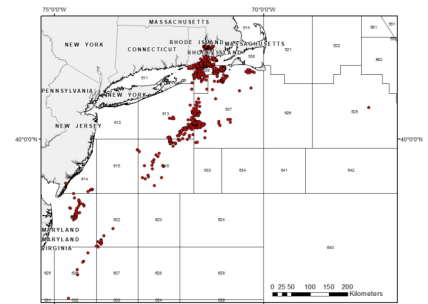
The Ocean Conservancy and Global Ghost Gear Initiative have enlisted the help of CFRF to conduct interviews with fishermen to better understand how different types of fishing gear interact with and can turn into ghost gear. This is part of a worldwide standardized survey by the Food and Agriculture Organization to gather information on ghost gear and come up with options to reduce loss and interactions. The interviews focus on gathering data on the type and parts of gear that can be lost, when and how they are lost, the frequency of interactions with ghost gear, and how fishermen avoid ghost gear while fishing. The interviews are anonymous and captains receive a small stipend for their time. Tori Thomas and Susan Inglis have begun contacting and interviewing dredge and gillnet fishermen in Rhode Island. If you would like to participate, please contact [singlis@cfrfoundation.org](mailto:singlis@cfrfoundation.org) or [ythomas@cfrfoundation.org](mailto:ythomas@cfrfoundation.org).



## Project Update: Black Sea Bass Research Fleet

We are coming up on 7 years of sampling for the [Black Sea Bass Research Fleet project](#) and have surpassed 55,000 black sea bass sampled, including over 3,200 fish sampled so far this year! Over the years, 20 different captains have collected this data from nearly 3,000 locations throughout the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic regions. Click on the map to zoom in and see all of the sampling locations!

A core part of our work at the CFRF is to empower fishermen to collect data that contributes to the sustainable management of their resources- and thanks to all of the work of the fishermen who have participated in this project, this data is being included in the upcoming [stock assessment for the northern stock of black sea bass!](#)



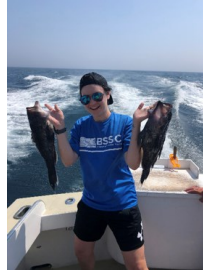
## Welcoming Our Newest Team Members

We are pleased to introduce the newest members of our team, Lu McGinnis, Lizzy Soranno, and Maddie Sachs!

Lu and Lizzy both joined us as Research Biologists and are both working on our ventless lobster trap surveys. Lu is also working on our spider crab project and SFWF Fish Pot Survey, and they are also managing the CFRF's research equipment. Lizzy is assisting with the Black Sea Bass Research Fleet, electronic gear location marking, and other windfarm survey projects as well!

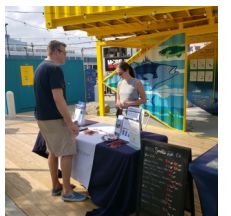
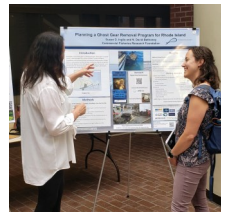
Maddie is our Campbell Foundation summer intern- she is helping us grow and improve our crab research portfolio, including a new initiative to study blue crabs.

We're excited to have them all on board!



## Education and Outreach

- This spring, Dave Bethoney and Susan Inglis helped advise a group of students at the University of Rhode Island who completed a project to come up with a potential solution for ghost gear. The project was part of the interdisciplinary [Hacking4Oceans](#) course, which encourages students to critically examine issues facing our oceans and propose new technologies and solutions that can help. Read more about the project- and their proposed solution- [here](#)!
- In June, Susan Inglis presented a poster on our project to [plan a ghost gear removal program](#) for Rhode Island at the Southeast New England Program of the EPA meeting in Fall River, Massachusetts. We've already begun [implementing this plan](#) in Narragansett Bay!
- Thanks to everyone who attended our meeting to discuss new results from our [Salinity Maximum Intrusions project](#) in New Bedford in June! We enjoyed the open conversation with members of the fishing community regarding changes in their catch and how they could be related to warm, salty intrusions.
- Last week, Dave Bethoney and Hannah Verkamp hosted an outreach booth at the newly installed [Boxes at the Boston Fish Pier](#)! Thanks to everyone who stopped by to learn more about our mission and various research projects!
- Don't forget to follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) for regular updates on our work!



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