



New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2020

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Council Views Scallop Video; Honors Dr. Jim Weinberg; Receives Data Portal and Market Development Updates

The New England Fishery Management Council received a number of updates and reports on the first day of its January 28-30, 2020 meeting in Portsmouth, NH. Here's a quick rundown of the day's highlights.

Northeast Ocean Data Portal

The Council received a presentation on the Northeast Ocean Data Portal, which contains over 5,000 maps showing a variety of ocean uses, including fishing activity, and provides a wide range of information related to marine life, habitat, offshore wind, aquaculture, and more.

During the presentation, representatives from the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) and the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) informed the Council that they, along with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO), are working collaboratively to update commercial fisheries data on the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portals and engage industry through focus groups and other outreach efforts in the development of data products. The groups have



The New England Council bid a fond farewell to Dr. Jim Weinberg, who has served as the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's liaison to the Council since 2005. Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn, in his tribute to Dr. Weinberg, said, "You have consistently provided the Council with comprehensive information on science center activities. Your knowledge of marine science, assessment and survey methods, and your positive attitude were great assets in helping the Council understand the arcane mysteries of fishery independent observations. We hope that some of the things you have learned about length-specific catch efficiency studies, door calibrations, flume tanks, and cryptic biomass will help you in your pursuit of post-retirement activities." Pictured above from left to right are: Council Executive Director Tom Nies; Northeast Fisheries Science Center Director Dr. Jon Hare; Dr. Weinberg; and Dr. Quinn. – NEFMC photo



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federal funding for 2020 to advance regional data sharing to help in management decision-making.

- Take a look at the NROC/RODA [presentation](#).
- Visit the Northeast Ocean Data [website](#).

U.S. Seafood Marketing

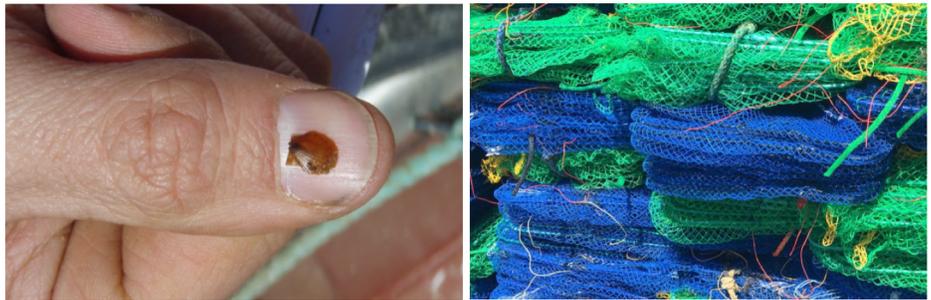
The Council also received a presentation from Dr. Michael Rubino, the senior advisor for seafood strategy for NOAA Fisheries. Dr. Rubino described the supply and demand objectives of U.S. seafood market development and walked through a series of suggestions for action that could be taken by NOAA in partnership with industry. A few of these included:

- Making full use of U.S. wild-caught fisheries;
- Developing U.S. marine aquaculture;
- Conducting economic and market analyses; and
- Expanding public/private research to support seafood production.

A backgrounder and the presentation are available [here](#).

Also take a look at the Council's actions on [commercial eVTRs](#) and [habitat](#).

The Scallops of Hokkaido: Lessons from Japanese Aquaculture



In June of 2019, a U.S. delegation of stakeholders traveled to Hokkaido, Japan to learn about seed-sowing practices used in Japanese scallop aquaculture. The team included members from the scallop industry, NOAA Fisheries, academia, and Council staff. The trip was arranged and coordinated by NOAA Fisheries at the request of industry. In order to help share what the team learned, the New England Council, working with Stove Boat, produced a video that aired on January 28, 2020 during the Council meeting. In short, scallop spat is collected in the wild in fine-mesh spat bags. Seed scallops (top left) are transferred to lantern nets (top right) that are hung in the water column for roughly two years. At around 2" in size, the scallops finish their grow-out in one of two ways – on lines suspended in the water column (ear-hanging technique, pictured above, middle row, left) or distributed on the ocean bottom before being harvested two or three years later depending on the technique used.