



New York Sea Grant Trawl Design Workshops have helped fisheries managers and commercial trawlers improve existing programs and design new initiatives

NYSG Trawl Design Workshops Enhance Fisheries Management and Commercial Trawling

Bottom trawling is widely used to provide fish abundance information to the managers of the \$4 billion Great Lakes fisheries. However, Great Lakes assessment programs' knowledge of on-bottom trawl operation and designs lags behind that of marine trawling programs.



NYSG Responds

To increase awareness of trawl design parameters, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) developed and held an International Trawl Design Workshop for the Great Lakes in 2011. Building on the successes resulting from that educational opportunity for 35 biologists and trawl vessel personnel, the New York and Michigan Sea Grant programs organized a second workshop featuring renowned trawl design experts from the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN).

With National Sea Grant Office funding, a second workshop in 2013 had a larger focus on the dynamics of fish behavior and trawl catches for 42 attendees including fisheries assessment staff from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Idaho and Ontario, and commercial trawlers.

Workshop Meets Information Need

Workshop participants report dramatically increased awareness of trawl design parameters among trawling program managers who subsequently successfully modify trawls to reduce mussel clogging and to deploy gear and underwater cameras to evaluate trawl performance.

The international group of participants in the 2013 NYSG Trawl Design Workshop represented fisheries assessment and commercial trawling interests; photo: Michigan Sea Grant

Participants in the late 2013 workshop indicate plans to deploy additional sensing gear on trawls and have requested the NYSG-led trawl design workshops continue.

Several state and federal program participants have sent trawl design plans to MUN for design evaluation.

Partners: Michigan Sea Grant, US Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA) Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Memorial University of Newfoundland; funding: National Sea Grant

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Safe & Sustainable New York Seafood Supply.

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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