



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

September 20, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: David Potter
Branch Chief, FSB

SUBJECT: International Fisheries Observer Conference Highlights

Please find enclosed a folder of interesting handouts, posters, and abstracts from the International Fisheries Observer Conference (IFOC). The IFOC was held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, from May 15th – 18th, 2007. Several observers, observer provider staff, and NEFOP staff attended. This event is a biennial conference, the earlier ones being in Seattle, St. Johns Newfoundland, New Orleans, and Sydney Australia, whose main focus is to share and develop best practices for fishery monitoring programs world wide.

The next conference is planning on being held in our part of the world – either Portland, Maine or Portsmouth, NH and is schedule for the Fall of 2009.

Oral presentations from people you may know (abstracts enclosed) included:

Importance of Law Enforcement for Observer Programs - Dubois, T.
Comparison of Fishermen Catch Reports and Observer Data - Van Atten, A.
Cooperative study fleets as a mechanism for fisheries monitoring - Palmer, M. et. al
Observer At-Sea Data Collection Project - Kupcha, E., et. al
Estimating Discards in US Commercial Fisheries - Desfosse, L. et. al
Use of Observer Data in Estimating and Mitigating Loggerhead Sea Turtle Bycatch in US Mid-Atlantic Bottom Otter Trawl Gear - Murray, K.
In-Season Fisheries Management: A Study of Northeast Fisheries Observers and the 2006 Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishing Season - Quinn, S. et. al

Several people from our program did posters presentations as well. Katherine McArdle, Jerry Cygler, Karl Cygler, Mandy Kardas, Neal McIntosh, Carrie Nordeen (NERO), Holly McBride. AIS also had a booth display - with Chelsea DoEpp, Don MacIsaac, and Arv Poshkus there. Several other observers attended as well, like Dan Coffman, Marc Renaghan, and Pete Scola. Ted Harrington from the USCG, Boston was also there (you may have met him during training).

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Mike Tork and Eric Matzen put a great deal of effort into a safety room and safety displays through out the conference which was a great hit and were involved in the observer safety work group.

If you are interested in additional details, the full conference abstracts, agenda, list of delegates and speakers (and eventually a conference summary with minutes) is available on the IFOC website at: www.fisheriesobserverconference.com

Amy Van Atten and Mike Tork will be on the steering committee in planning the next conference. If you would like more details about the past or upcoming International Fisheries Observer Conferences, please contact either at:

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Thank you.

