MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 9, 2014
TO: Research Steering Committee
FROM: Rachel Neild, Fisheries Specialist
SUBJECT: S-K Projects to avoid

The following is a list of projects likely to be funded under the S-K program in the northeast that should avoid duplication. The projects are also considered to be recommended for the Greater Atlantic Region (New England and Mid-Atlantic) and NOAA Fisheries has recommended these projects for approval. However, they still have to be reviewed by the NOAA Grants Office.

13NER028
University of New Hampshire, NH “A Multi-Trophic, All-Season Aquaculture Raft,” Federal Funding: $249,762. Principal Investigators are Dr. M Robinson Swift and Michael Chambers.

Integrated multi-trophic aquaculture provides the by-products, including waste, from one aquatic species as inputs (fertilizers, food) for another. A multi-trophic raft will be developed for the cultivation of steelhead, blue mussels, and sugar kelp.

13NER077

To create a model shellfish management program for soft-shell clams, Mya arenaria.

13NER110
Marine Biological Laboratory, MA “Expanding Opportunities for Blue and “Gold” Mussel Farming in New England from Hatchery to Growout,” Federal Funding: $373,088. Principal Investigator is Dr. Scott Lindell.

To develop hatchery and nursery technology for the improved production of blue mussels.
**13NER031**

Development of improved fishing practices and innovative gear technologies to reduce sturgeon interactions in the striped bass fishery.

**13NER055**
University of Maine, ME “Improving survivability of cusk and Atlantic cod bycatch discarded in the Gulf of Maine lobster trap fishery,” Federal Funding: $229,326. Principal Investigator is Dr. Yong Chen.

To identify the time and areas where cusk and cod are likely to be caught in lobster traps; identify key factors in handling which may significantly influence the survival rates of discarded cusk and cod; evaluate the effectiveness of recompression and venting in improving the survivability of released cusk and cod discarded in the lobster trap fishery; develop a protocol to reduce the discard mortality; and to conduct an outreach program to educate stakeholders on the discarded groundfish in the lobster fishery.

**13NER105**

To quantify the nature of sturgeon/sink gillnet interactions through direct assessment of post-release survival and in-situ behavior observation of Atlantic sturgeon exposed to sink-gillnets.

**13NER107**
Marine Biological Laboratory, MA “Developing Whale and Turtle-Friendly Subtidal Aquaculture Gear,” Federal Funding: $125,638. Principal Investigator is Dr. Scott Lindell.

Investigators, in collaboration with shellfish farmers, will demonstrate ways that subtidal aquaculture gear, including anchors and lines, may be modified to eliminate the risk to protected species, such as whales and turtles.

**13NER005**
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, VA “Genetic Tagging of Bluefin Tuna: Marker Optimization and Preliminary Assessment,” Federal Funding: $107,924. Principal Investigators are Dr. Jan McDowell and Dr. John Graves.

To develop a suite of molecular markers that can be used to estimate the abundance of the western stock of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

**13NER010**
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, MD “Otolith Stable Isotopes: A Natural Marker of Contingent Structure for Northwest Atlantic Mackerel,” Federal Funding: $205,281. Principal Investigators are Dr. David Secor and Dr. Lee Cooper.
Project aims to better resolve the migration and range dynamics of Northwest Atlantic mackerel through the development of otolith stable isotope markers (δ13C, δ18O, and δ2H) to track the migration patterns.

**13NER016**
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, VA “Laboratory Studies on the Effect of Temperature on Epizootic Shell Disease in the American Lobster, Homarus Americanus,” Federal Funding: $279,492. Principal Investigator is Dr. Jeffrey Shields.

To understand and quantify how temperature affects lobsters with epizootic shell disease, so as to better understand the disease dynamics in light of the increasing variability in ocean water temperature in the region.

**13NER044**
University of Maine, ME “The Effects of Regional Temperature Cycles on the Development and Disease Susceptibility of the American lobster (Homarus americanus),” Federal Funding: $249,516. Principal Investigators are Dr. Heather Hamlin, Deborah Bouchard, Dr. Robert Bayer, Dr. Ian Bricknell and Dr. Anne Lichtenwalner.

The project goal is to examine the hypothesis that increasing ocean temperature is a causative agent in the population decline of lobsters in Southern New England.

**13NER058**
Smithsonian Institution, DC “Nursery Habitat Contributions to the Chesapeake Blue Crab Spawning Stock,” Federal Funding: $323,341. Principal Investigator is Dr. Matthew Ogburn.

To generate information on the relative nursery value of sub-estuaries of Chesapeake Bay with a particular focus on their contribution to the reproductive output of the blue crab spawning stock.

**13NER069**

To provide a detailed description of the spatial and temporal extent of winter cod spawning activity in Massachusetts Bay.

**13NER111**

Project activities would support continuation of an ongoing acoustic herring survey being conducted in Maine’s inshore waters for an additional two years. Information gathered provides direct and quantitative estimates of herring abundance in State waters.
Gulf of Maine Research Institute, ME “Ecological Diversity of Atlantic Cod in the Gulf of Maine Fishery and Its Role in Resiliency of a Fishery,” Federal Funding: $332,741. Principal Investigators are Dr. Lisa Kerr, Dr. Graham Sherwood, Dr. Steve Cadrin, Dr. Adrienne Kovach, and Captain David Goethel.

To characterize the ecological diversity (i.e., genetic variation, habitat use, and spatial behavior) of two major spawning complexes of Atlantic cod in the Gulf of Maine and evaluate how the fishery interacts with these groups of fish.

Northeastern University, MA “Assessing Social Impacts in Groundfish Fishing Communities,” Federal Funding: $236,785. Principal Investigators are Dr. Jonathan Grabowski and Dr. Steven Scyphers.

Working directly with New England groundfish industry stakeholders and fishing communities, investigators will conduct an integrative research study and intervention program to document and mitigate the social and psychological consequences resulting from the Northeast groundfish fishery disaster.

University of Connecticut, CT “Harmful Algal Blooms: A Compendium Desk Reference,” Federal Funding: $217,865. Principal Investigator is Dr. Sandra Shumway.

This proposal will result in a publication that summarizes decades of research in the field of harmful algal bloom science.


The goal of this project is to build a sustainable, fully utilized fishery for Gulf of Maine harvested redfish (Sebastes fasciatus). Efforts undertaken to realize the full market potential value of this underutilized species include creating the capacity to process and market whole redfish fresh and frozen fillets that are competitively prices for new domestic and international markets.

Rutgers the State University of New Jersey, NJ “Collecting Fishery Dependent Data on the Developing Offshore Whelk fishery in the Mid-Atlantic Bight and Using HabCam to Estimate Relative Abundance,” Federal Funding: $262,940. Principal Investigators are Dr. Daphne Munroe and Dr. Eleanor Bochenek.

This project will collect information on relative abundance of offshore whelk in the Mid-Atlantic Bight over the fishery range using HabCam images from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center scallop survey, collect baseline fishery dependent data on offshore whelk biology and population demographics, and investigate the potential of new locations to support expansion and development of the fishery.
13NER051
University of Rhode Island, RI “Bioconversion of Squid and Scallop Processing Byproducts into Specialty Aquaculture Feed Ingredients Employing Energy Efficient Hydrolysis and Low-Cost Drying Processes,” Federal Funding: $279,544. Principal Investigators are Dr. Chong Lee and Dr. David Bengtson.

The goal of this project is to develop innovative ways for complete utilization of squid processing byproducts and scallop for specialty aquaculture feed ingredients

13NER052