For further information please visit our website: http://www.codresearch.org

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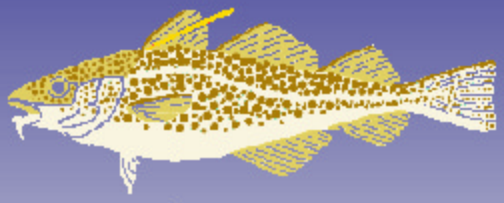
Northeast Regional



Cod-Tagging Program

June, 2003.

About this project

The Gulf of Maine Research Institute, based in Portland, Maine, is coordinating a region-wide collaborative cod-tagging project.

Fishermen and scientists, throughout New England and Southern Canada, will be working together to improve our understanding of the valuable cod resource.

Cod will be caught using otter trawls, hook & line, and lobster traps.

Tagging began in March 2003 and will continue for two years, with the aim of tagging 100,000 cod. Cod will be tagged year round, but predominantly from November - March.

Tagging locations will be targeted in both inshore and offshore locations within the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, Southern New England waters and Canadian Maritime waters (see map).

Why is this important to fishermen?

- Involves fishermen in the data collection process on a key fishery.
- Improves information on cod in the region.
- Provides access to information on individual fish movements identified through this project.
- Near real time mapping of recaptured tagged cod will be possible online, using state of the art GIS mapping tools.

What do you need to record?

At the time of tagging and recapture:

- Tag #
- Fish length
- Location
- Date
- Water temperature
- Depth of water fished
- Spawning condition
- Time

Tag recaptures may be reported by:

- Calling **1-866-447-2111**, or
- Emailing codresearch@gma.org

A reward will follow and your name will be entered into a lottery!

How is a cod tagged?

- All participating fishermen and observers will be trained in cod-tagging techniques.
- Yellow T-bar tags will be inserted using a tagging gun.
- The tag is inserted below the dorsal fin.

What questions can be answered?

1) What movement and migration patterns are evident for cod? Is there an inshore-offshore relationship?

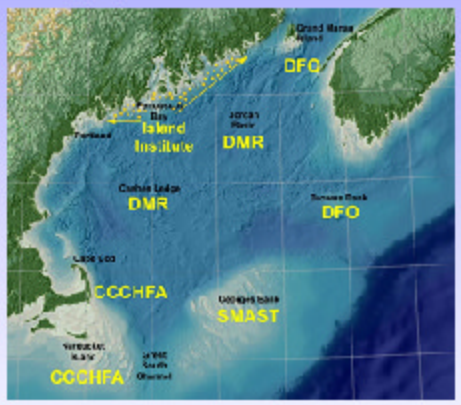
2) Has the distribution, movement and migration changed over the years?

3) Does movement change according to depth, and water temperature?

4) How fast do New England cod grow?

5) Where and when do spawning cod appear?

Cod-tagging areas



- The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST)
- Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association (CCCHFA)
- The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR)
- The Island Institute
- Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)