



COMMERCIAL FISHERIES RESEARCH FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 278, Saunderstown, RI 02874
Phone: (401) 515-4892 | Fax: (401) 515-3537
www.cfrfoundation.org

CFRF Quahog Research Fleet: Project Overview

General Description

- The CFRF, in partnership with RWU and RI DEM, is launching a Quahog Research Fleet in Narragansett Bay. The survey will involve commercial shellfishermen collecting biological quahog data via bullraking sampling and recording information using Android tablets. Biological data will be used to compare densities to other collection techniques and provide additional information for the quahog stock assessment.
- Quahog Research Fleet participants will sample throughout the year in various habitats (i.e. substrates) under the guidelines specified by the project team, as outlined below.

Participant Responsibilities

- Each shellfishermen will sample 8 stations per month throughout the year (18 months total)
 - Four sampling stations will be selected by participating shellfishermen at locations within their typical fishing grounds
 - Four sampling stations will be selected by CFRF, RWU, and RI DEM to maximize spatial coverage of the bay and fill in areas not sampled by the RI DEM hydraulic dredge survey.
- At each location, participating shellfishermen will conduct three independent bull rake pulls.
- Shellfishermen will record the number of quahogs in each market class (little neck, top neck, cherrystone, chowder) caught in each bullrake pull using a pre-programmed tablet application.

Compensation

- If sampling protocols have been followed, participants will receive a stipend of \$200 per month.
- All equipment, training, and technical support will be provided to each participating vessel without cost.

Timeline

- July 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018 (18 months)
- **Deadline for applications is: June 1, 2016**

Project Team:

- Anna Malek Mercer, Executive Director, CFRF
- Dale Leavitt, Associate Professor, RWU
- Conor McManus, Principal Biologist, RI DEM Marine Fisheries
- Aubrey Ellertson, Research Associate, CFRF

Contact Information:

Aubrey Ellertson, Research Associate, CFRF

Email: aellertson@cfrfoundation.org, Phone: (401)- 515-4892

Project Website: www.cfrfoundation.org/quahog-research-fleet