

The Resilient Fisheries RI project

Rhode Island's commercial fishermen have long been known for their resourcefulness and innovation. Now they are applying that spirit of ingenuity to a new puzzle: adapting to environmental change.

While environmental variability is not new, adapting to it is harder than used to be. An increasingly complex web of regulations, economic pressures, market trends, and social changes is reducing the "adaptation space" available to Rhode Island fishermen and making it harder to carry out business planning for the future. Meanwhile, global temperature rise threatens to escalate the natural pace of change, affecting local fisheries in unprecedented, irreversible, and hard-to-predict ways. While fishermen themselves are naturally adaptive, they are enmeshed in a system that severely hampers their ability to roll with the punches. This has profound implications for resilience.

The "Resilient Fisheries RI" project is addressing these emerging concerns through an industry-wide collaborative learning process. Although it is anchored in a focus on environmental change, the tools produced through the project will empower fishery stakeholders to maximize their resilience in an era of many interacting pressures - *including but not limited to* changes in the environment.

Join the Resilient Fisheries RI Network

1. Call or e-mail list serve moderator Sarah Schumann (info below) to get on the project list serv. Anyone can post to this list serv. It will include project updates, discussions, and announcements.
2. Go to www.resilientfisheriesRI.org and register to access the Members-Only portion of the website. This is where we'll store drafts and other stuff that we want feedback on before letting it go public.

Questions? Contact Sarah at resilientfisheriesRI@gmail.com or (401)297-6273