

Project Announcement

The Rhode Island Commercial Fishing Industry Development of a Profile

In response to requests from the commercial fishing industry members, state and federal elected officials, policy advisors, economic planners, and state fisheries managers, the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF) has partnered with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program (CCE) to develop an up-to-date profile of the Rhode Island commercial fishing industry. The profile will include all fishing sectors active in Rhode Island (finfish, lobster, shellfish, etc.) and will characterize the harvesting and processing capacity of the industry, support businesses, and people engaged in this livelihood. The profile will assess the overall significance of the commercial fishing industry in the context of local, state and regional economies.

Portions of the profile will be compiled from information solicited directly from industry participants. In the coming weeks, CCE researchers will be asking industry members for information and insight into specific industry sectors. Participation in the project is open to all interested parties. Contact information for the researchers, along with specific data needs will be distributed through project partners. Industry associations, harvesters, processors, and dealers are encouraged to engage researchers and contact team members with any questions or comments.

Industry participation and collaboration are critical in creating an accurate summary that can be used to better inform fisheries management discussions, state, local, and marine spatial planning efforts, economic development initiative, and capital investment decisions.

The end use of the profile will have a direct impact on the industry itself, with the ultimate goal of the project being to advance the interests of the Rhode Island commercial fishing industry.

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