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# October Newsletter

Vol. 1

[cfcri.org](http://cfcri.org)

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## Message from CFCRI Board President:

Greetings,

Welcome to our new Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island newsletter. It has been an ongoing goal of ours to provide information to you All on our involvements in the Fisheries community and the general community. Thanks to Fred and Shaye for their hard work pulling this together!

It is always our goal to be of service to the fishing community, a resource for fishermen, and provide benefits to the community at large that are the consumers of our hard-earned catch.

It seems like we are facing a constant uphill battle on all fronts in all our local

fisheries, from nutrient issues in the upper Bay to Marine Protected Areas in the furthest reaches of our offshore waters, and everything in between.

Right now the lobster and crab fishermen are facing an unparalleled threat and to their ability to just go fishing and even market their catch. Some fisheries are facing potentially heavy quota cuts and meanwhile Fuel costs are insane and out of control for us all. Most all of the members of our board are involved in the management process from the State level to the New England council, and beyond.

Lurking in plain sight for most of us is the offshore wind movement that unfortunately will leave an indelible and unfortunate mark or scar on our grounds and fisheries. We attempt to do our best representing this States fishing interests by engaging with BOEM and the CRMC through the Fisheries Advisory Board as well as the Commercial Fisheries Center. Again, most all of our board is involved here too on the FAB. We are involved in the research as well as the politics, attempting to mitigate or minimize potential impacts, some results have been better than others but we try our best. We are all fishermen, and we try VERY hard to work for the overall good or benefit to all our state fishing community, it's resources, and the habitat that supports it All!

At the center of all this is Fred and Shaye, working every day on a host of projects, issues, problems facing us all, making contact and connection so we may try better to serve your best interest!

Thanks for your time, hopefully you have a good read here.

Mike Marchetti

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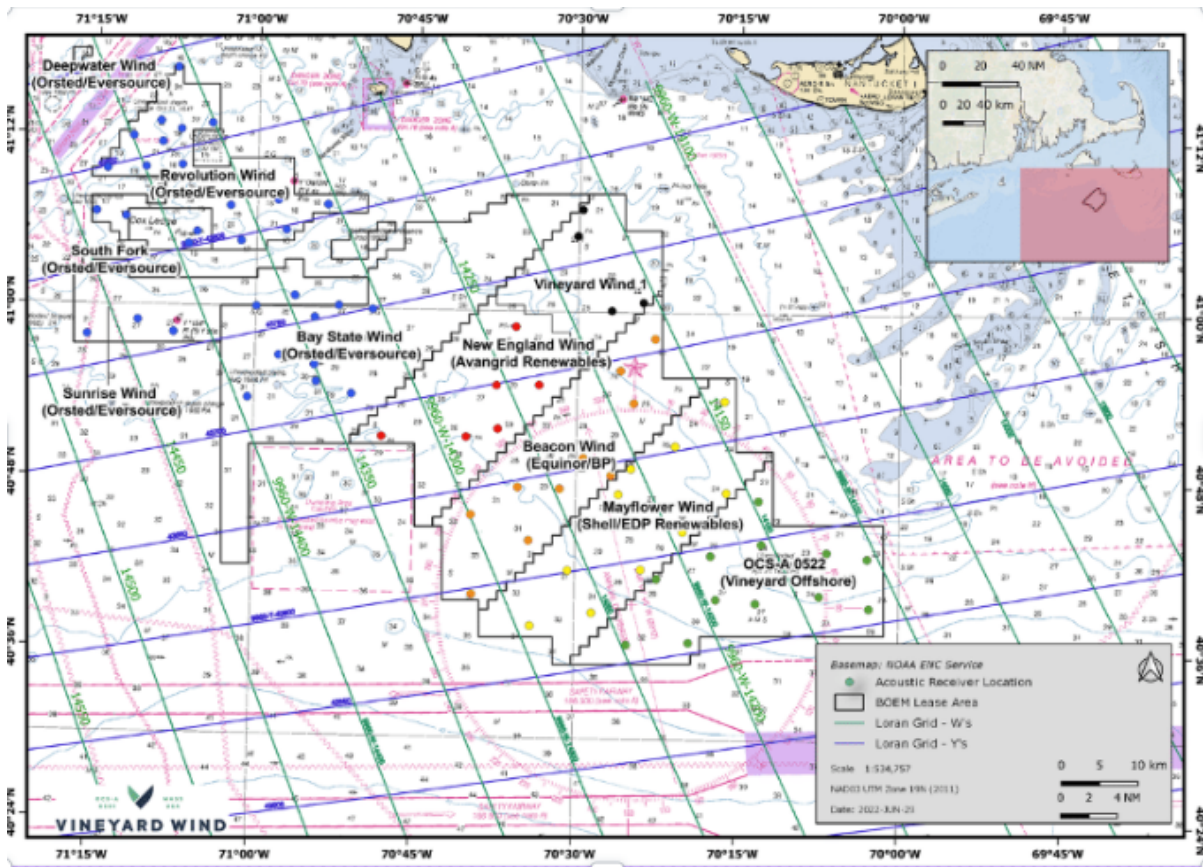
## Offshore wind updates:

Offshore wind development is upon us as construction start dates are fast approaching. It will be more and more important to stay informed when construction starts and activity in the area will greatly increase. If you would like to stay informed by receiving regular mariner briefings, you can learn how to at [cfcri.org/offshore-wind](http://cfcri.org/offshore-wind).

# HMS Research

The New England Aquarium and INSPIRE Environmental are conducting research on the movements of highly migratory fish species (sharks, tunas, and marlins) in the southern New England wind energy area. Part of this research requires acoustic receivers to be placed on the seafloor in the locations shown as colored circles in the chart below. Receivers have no surface buoys and are connected to a mooring system weighing approximately 75 pounds that extends 6 to 9 feet off the seafloor. Receivers have been placed near obstructions to the greatest extent practicable to reduce the risk of interaction with mobile fishing gear and will be deployed in these locations until December 15, 2022. Flash drives compatible with WindPlot and TimeZero are available, please contact Crista Bank if you would like a flash drive: [cbank@vineyardwind.com](mailto:cbank@vineyardwind.com), 508-525-0421.

[Learn More Here](#)



## **Lost/Damaged Gear Claims**

Are you a fisherman that has experienced lost or damaged gear due to an interaction with an offshore wind survey vessel from any project? If yes, please consider reaching out to us. CFCRI is currently in the process of compiling data about incidents of gear loss and damage throughout the years. This data will be passed onto the Coastal Recourse Management Council with the goal of improving the gear claims process. Names and specific details about gear locations will remain confidential.

## **Fishery Friendly Climate Action Agenda**

Seafood has among the lowest carbon footprints of any protein source. It is also a vital part of our nation's economy, coastal identity, and food system. Like many aspects of the U.S. economy, fisheries are already experiencing the effects of climate change. Although commercial fishermen across the U.S. experience climate impacts differently, there is one thing we can agree on: America must address climate change in the most fishery-friendly way possible, by uplifting technologies and policies that work for fisheries and not at their expense.

CFCRI was instrumental in launching a new bicoastal campaign to help us better advocate for technologies and policies that promote fishery-friendly climate solutions. Endorsers of the Fishery-Friendly Climate Action Agenda gain entry to an information- and opportunity-sharing network that empowers members to advocate for fishery-friendly climate policies. Endorsers include fishery associations, individual fishermen, and fishery-related businesses who believe that America should never have to choose between addressing root causes of climate change and safeguarding the health of fishery ecosystems and the people who depend on them. We can — and we must — do both, and together, we are determined to show policy makers how to get there.

Individual fishermen, fishing/seafood businesses, and fishery associations are invited to join the Fishery Friendly Climate Action campaign's email discussion list and gain access to a community of commercial fishermen nationwide who are deepening their understanding of the issues and opportunities that lie at the intersection of fisheries and climate action. The campaign is planning a series of winter webinars and policy

engagement opportunities in the months ahead that will help this growing network leverage its collective voices to lift up climate action that works for U.S. fisheries, and not at their expense. To join the list, send a blank email to [fisheryfriendlyclimateaction+subscribe@fisheryfriendlyclimateaction.groups.io](mailto:fisheryfriendlyclimateaction+subscribe@fisheryfriendlyclimateaction.groups.io).

Questions about the campaign should be directed to Sarah Schumann at [shiningseaconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:shiningseaconsulting@gmail.com)

[Learn More & Endorse Agenda Here](#)

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## Local Agriculture & Seafood Act Grant Program

RI Food Policy Council's Local Agriculture and Seafood Act grant program application period is now open until November 30th. The goal of this program is to support the growth, development, and marketing of local food and seafood in Rhode Island. More funding than ever is available! They're offering no cost, individualized assistance to individuals and organizations applying.

[Get Free Help with your Application](#)

## Apprenticeship Program 2022

CFCRI conducted the fifth commercial fishing apprenticeship program this past June. There were 12 apprentices that went through the comprehensive month-long training where they learned the basics to start off a career in the industry as a deckhand. After a few challenging years of training during the pandemic, this year was certainly one of the most successful in terms of retention. Apprentices are now working across a variety of different fisheries including trawling, lobstering, party-and-charter, and even aquaculture. What makes the program successful, is the great amount of engagement and collaboration from the local industry. Thank you to all who have

participated and supported this initiative and helped continuously improve the outcomes over the years.



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## Management Council Updates

From NE Council Member & CFCRI Board member, Rick Bellavance

### December 6-8, 2022 Newport, RI

#### **Habitat:**

- Aquaculture: update on framework to facilitate offshore Atlantic salmon aquaculture
- Offshore Energy and Habitat-Related Work: update

#### **Groundfish:**

- Framework 65: final action to include (1) 2023- 2024 TACs for U.S./Canada shared resources on Georges Bank; (2) 2023-2024 specifications for GB cod, GB yellowtail flounder; (3) 2023-2025 specs for 14 additional groundfish stocks; (4) revised rebuilding plans for GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder; (5) additional measures to promote stock rebuilding; (6) acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule revisions

#### **Sea Scallops:**

- Framework 36: final action on 2023 fishery specifications, 2024 default specs, other

measures

**Other:**

- 2023 Council Priorities: final action
- Guidance to Councils on Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusals: NOAA General Counsel briefing
- East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning: Council input
- CCC Subcommittee on Area-Based Management: final report
- Fall 2022 Management Track Assessments Peer Review (monkfish, many groundfish stocks): NEFSC
- Proposed Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary: NOAA update
- ICCAT: report on November 14-21, 2022 meeting
- North Atlantic Right Whales: update on status of BiOp and ALWTRP measures; next steps
- Council Harassment Policies Follow-up

**Ecosystem-based Fishery Management:**

- EBFM Public Information Workshops: preliminary summary of workshops
- Prototype Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): progress report
- CMOD: report on November Council Member Ongoing Development Workshop

**Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting):**

- 2021 Annual Monitoring Report

**Spiny Dogfish:**

- Specifications

**Monkfish:**

- Framework 13: final action on 2023-2025 specifications and other measures

**January 24-26, 2023 Portsmouth, NH**

**Habitat:**

- Offshore Energy and Habitat-Related Work: update

**Groundfish:**

- Recreational Measures: provide recommendations to Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) on fishing year 2023 recreational measures for Georges Bank cod, Gulf of Maine cod, and Gulf of Maine haddock
- Metrics for Amendment 23 Monitoring System Review: progress report on developing metrics for review process to evaluate groundfish monitoring system

### **Sea Scallops:**

- 2023 Work Priorities: update

### **Ecosystem-based Fishery Management:**

- EBFM Public Information Workshops: next steps
- Prototype Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): preliminary report

### **Other:**

- Spiny Dogfish and Bluefish Peer Review: NEFSC
- Congressional Update: Dave Whaley
- Addressing Uncertainty in Council Decision-Making: consider SSC suggestions for quantifying, interpreting, and communicating sources of uncertainty in Council actions

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## **Seafood Donation Program**

The CFCRI Seafood Donation Program has allowed us to purchase locally caught seafood species at fair market price and donate free of charge to families in need across the state that typically would have limited access to RI seafood. This is a mutually advantageous program that benefits not only the families receiving sustainable and nutritious protein, but also provides a direct economic return to the Rhode Island fishing community. Since August 2020, we have been able to distribute over 210,00 lbs of Rhode Island-caught seafood (about 133,000 meals) to families experiencing food insecurity. Thanks to the many partners and supporters of this program, we have been able to add additional infrastructure to streamline the process and to expand the amount of seafood being distributed. We have recently purchased a refrigerated truck, eliminating the need for our partners to rent vans and drive from Providence down to the ports to pick up seafood. Additionally, Move for Hunger, a national nonprofit, has kindly donated a fixed refrigerated unit that will be located at Farm Fresh Rhode Island. Community partners now will only have to travel



a few minutes to access seafood and distribute among their community members. This is an extremely rewarding program, and we are grateful for all the industry support and collaboration.

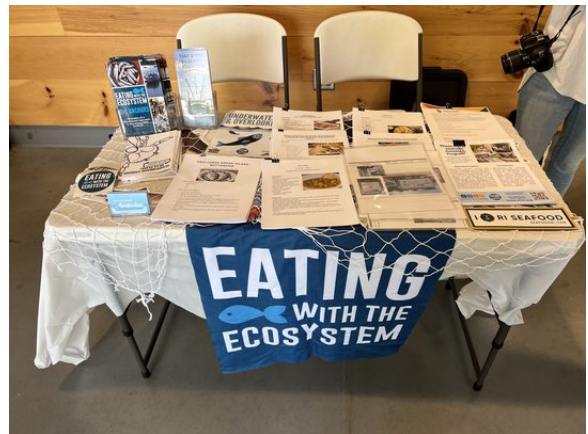
[Learn More Here](#)



## Seafood Donation Celebration

On Saturday, September 10th CFCRI was joined by our essential partners and the community to celebrate our new cold storage unit at Farm Fresh RI in Providence. We will be able to distribute 3,000 - 5,000 pounds of fresh fish every week for hunger relief. Farm Fresh RI, Move For Hunger, Eating With the Ecosystem, and UnFi Foundation were all key partnerships who contributed to this venture. We enjoyed Brown Butter Monkfish Rolls prepared by Andrew McQuesten and freshly shucked oysters to end the day. Plaques of recognition were presented to Adam Lowy and Jackie Godlewski from Move For Hunger, Jenny Pereira and Inés Merchán from Rhode Island Foundation, Amanda Cantrell from Rhode Island Community Food Bank, Jesse Rye from Farm Fresh, and Peg and Jeff Parker from Strategic Help Initiative. We are grateful for their donations to this program.





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## RI Seafood Campaign

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management has received funding from a Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant to fund a comprehensive marketing campaign to promote Rhode Island-caught seafood within the state. The objectives of the project are to increase consumer awareness about local seafood and where to access it, raise the value of local seafood, and to raise overall consumption of RI-landed species in the state. The campaign involves promotion through a variety of media efforts, attending local seafood events and festivals, developing harvester profiles, and tailoring a phone app, FishLine, to connect consumers directly with Rhode Island seafood through restaurants, retail markets, fishermen selling direct, and farmers markets. Additionally, modifications were made to the rules and regulations surrounding use of the RI Seafood logo. Find all the different venues that serve local

[Learn More Here](#)



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Mike McGivney

Rick Bellavance

Brian Thibeault

Todd Sutton

Greg Mataronas

Lanny Dellinger

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Shaye Rooney

*Assistant Director*

Bailey Tougas

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Monkfishermen's Association | Point Judith Fishermen Memorial Foundation | RI  
Party & Charter Boat Association | Eastern New England Scallop Association |  
Pt. Judith Scholarship Foundation**

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