

eMOLT

Fall 2009 Update

Today's Package includes...

In addition to this *newsletter*, if you haven't yet returned your probe this year, you should find:

1. *logsheet*: lists your current contact and site info, etc. If any of the information (such as your email address) is wrong, please let me know.
2. *self-addressed stamped envelope*: I ask that you keep the probes in the water as long as possible and mail them (using the enclosed envelope) at the end of the year. I will remind you via a phone call in a few months if I don't hear from you.

Whenever you mail in a probe late in the year, please let me know if you want the probe sent immediately back, otherwise I will keep it until the spring.

2010 calibration check

Most of the temperature probes will be immersed in a controlled ice-bath at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution sometime this winter (before many of you start fishing again in the spring). We have done this several times in the past to make sure the probes are behaving properly and have only found a few bad probes over the years.

Drifter results in 2009

A total of fifty-eight drifter deployments (to document flow patterns around the Gulf of Maine) have been made so far this year and a few dozen more are planned for later this fall. Over two dozen institutions have now used these drifters that were originally designed and deployed with eMOLT funding. We want to thank several fishermen who helped recover drifters in 2009 so that we could redeploy them again in 2010. As always, you can view the progress of these units along the coast at: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/drifter> .

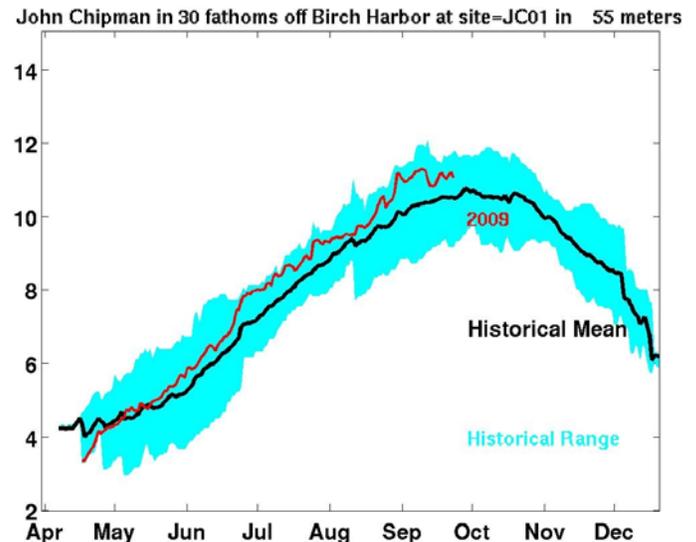
eMOLT Phase VI: bottom currents

Tests of additional prototype current meters were made this past summer in local Woods Hole waters.

While the attempts to integrate digital compasses have so far failed, alternative solutions are being planned.

Cold Start and Warm Finish in 2009?

The first indications are that the year started out on the relatively cold but, for most areas, ended up as one of warmest on eMOLT record. See the results of John Chipman's 9th year of data (red), for example, overlaid on his historical (cyan) and mean (black) records.



eMOLT Website Feedback

We finally got around to updating the eMOLT website. We ask that you email suggestions on how to improve the website to james.manning@noaa.gov. There are many ways to visualize eMOLT data that depend on the questions asked. What questions do you have? How do you want to see your data presented?

eMOLT proposed as part NERACOOS

The Northeast Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) has submitted a proposal to maintain and enhance the work conducted to date by GoMOOS. While we are not sure if it will be accepted, the eMOLT operation is being proposed as part of this effort including \$ for more new probes and routine drifter deployments. Stay tuned.

Drifter workshop for educators

SMCC hosted eight other colleges at their S Portland campus for a 3-day workshop this past August. We taught dozens of educators from around

the country about building drifters and processing data.



You can view the blog associated with these educational activities at <http://coseenow.net/mate>

2009 lobster larvae drift study

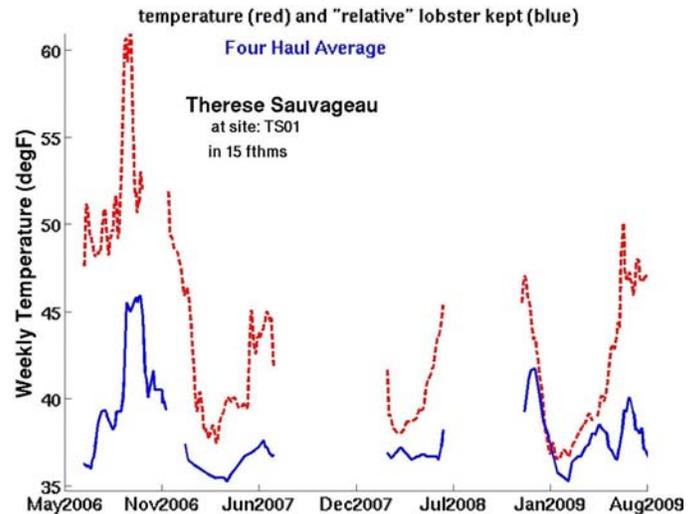
Bob Glenn, his staff from the Mass Div of Marine Fisheries, Tom Angell, and his staff from RI Dept of Environmental Management did a fantastic job this past summer in deploying dozens of eMOLT-style drifters off the mouth of Buzzards Bay and Block Island Sound. It will be interesting to see what collected in their Wahle-style settlement traps in downstream waters and if the two datasets correspond. Stay tuned.

eMOLT 10-year anniversary in 2010

We hope to celebrate our 10-year anniversary next year. While we do not currently have any funding for a get together (like we had for our 5-year anniversary), we are actively submitting proposals that may allow such an event. We want to express our appreciation for the work you are doing. Stay tuned.

Catch vs temperature analysis

A few eMOLT participants continue to submit their catch data associated with temperature-monitored traps so that we can take a cursory look at the correlations. Therese Sauvagneau, for example, now has a few years of data at her 15 fathom site as shown in the figure below.



While the data is spotty (ie missing for some parts of the year), there is usually a seasonal relationship as expected and as seen at many other eMOLT sites in the past. Much more work obviously needs to be done to quantify the relationship. Combining eMOLT catch data with that conducted by the various “ventless-trap” projects should provide significant data in the future.

Window sash weights available

I have a few hundred window sash weights in my backyard that I would like to pass on to whoever uses them. We once used these for ballast on the drifters but now use a more consistent dive weight. So, if anyone wants them, let me know. I can deliver them to the Maine Forum or Mass Weekend.

Proposal ideas anyone?

After a year hiatus, our primary funding agency, the Northeast Consortium, has issued a call for proposals due on the 8th of December. They particularly like ideas from fishermen. What is it you would like to study? Do you have any proposal ideas? If so, send them asap to james.manning@noaa.gov. Personally, I would like to propose a new phase to eMOLT that incorporates the results of numerical models and compares your observations to these computerized simulations. How well do these ocean models do and how good are their forecast products?