

eMOLT

Spring 2007 Update

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Did you get a temp probe for 2007?

If a probe was not enclosed with this package, we are assuming you already have a probe for your 2007 deployment. If ever you find yourself fishing without a probe in the water, please let me know immediately at 508-495-2211 or email james.manning@noaa.gov. We ask that you keep the probes in the water as long as possible and mail them (using the enclosed self-addressed envelope) at the end of the year.

Please check site latitude/longitudes

It has come to my attention this past year that the latitude and longitude recorded for many sites is often not exactly correct. While it is understood that the trap locations from one haul to the next might vary by small amounts (<1 mile), the site has a nominal position that

participants try to maintain from one year to the next. You are supplied with the lat/lon of your sites with each mailing but, since many of you used loran, it may be necessary for you to toggle your navigation system in order to validate the fix. If for example, a scientist wants to revisit your site 20 years from now, it is important that these sites are well documented. It is also necessary to validate the nominal depth associated with these sites.

Passing sites to next generation...

A few of you who have been involved with eMOLT for several years now have noted that you are cutting back on some traps (the deeper sites in particular) as you get older. Understood. We are all getting older. Since we hope to keep the eMOLT time series over multiple years, even multiple decades, we hope that you can pass your fixed eMOLT site(s) on to the next generation.

Realtime Temperature Update

We are happy to note that the realtime temperature probe is working. Thanks to local lobstermen (see Figure 1), a probe recovered from Massachusetts Bay wirelessly transmitted its data to the wheelhouse. We hope to demonstrate the next step in development, transmitting data on to the satellite, later this year.



Figure 1. Lobstermen Lamborghini, Oehme, Weeks, and Casoni testing realtime temperature probes.

Drifter plans for 2007

Drifter deployments (to document flow patterns around the Gulf of Maine) will be made April through July 2007. Fifty or more units have been funded by various institutions but the majority of these will be tracking harmful algal bloom (ie red tide) transport from the Bay of Fundy and south. A new batch of students at the Southern Maine Community College are hard at work in constructing these (Figure 2). If you come across any drifters while underway, please give me a call (my number will be posted on the PVC pipes). Some will have a drogue tethered below and some will be the standard surface drifters. If any look to be in bad shape, torn, missing a drogue, or missing flotation, please haul them aboard and store ashore. Otherwise, if you can't reach me, let them be.

We want to thank several fishermen who helped recover drifters in 2006 so that we could redeploy them again in 2007.

Catch vs temperature analysis

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Mary Kate Worden and her students at the Univ. of Virginia, we are starting to address the issue of lobster catchability vs temperature change. Given the eMOLT haul counts documented thus far and some new data coming in from the various temperature-probe-fitted ventless trap studies, we hope to report on our findings at the next set of forums in 2008. Mary Kate presented her preliminary results on this topic to eMOLT participants gathered in Portsmouth this past January (Figure 3) along with Win Watson (UNH) and Lew Incze (USM).



Figure 2. eMOLT participants gathered in Portsmouth in January 2007.

Logging invasive species

Over the years, I have heard many of you make note of what might be invasive species growing on and occupying your traps. If you would like to enter these observations to a gulf-wide database and help researchers document their onset, distribution, and growth, please visit: _____ and give me a call if you need help getting through the online forms. Photographic evidence of these observations is obviously desired.