

# eMOLT

## Spring 2009 Update

### Today's Package includes...

In addition to this *newsletter*, you should find:

1. *logsheet*: lists your contact info, site info, and probe serial number(s). If any of the information (such as your email address) is wrong, please let me know.
2. *probe*: If a probe was not enclosed with this package, I am assuming you already have a probe for your 2009 deployment. If you ever find yourself fishing without a probe in the water, please let me know immediately at 508-495-2211 or email [james.manning@noaa.gov](mailto:james.manning@noaa.gov).
3. *envelope*: I 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. I will send you a reminder and another envelope near the end of the year if I don't hear from you.
4. *color map*: This map should show where I think your site(s) is located relative to loran and depth contours.

### Annual calibration check

As reported in the last newsletter, the temperature probes performed well in a controlled ice-bath conducted at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution this past year. While two of the old ONSET Tidbits showed signs of age and needed to be removed from the inventory, all VEMCO Miniloggs performed according to specs.

### Cigar-shaped probes have 341 day memory limit but some now have double that

The cigar-shaped "Minilog" probe that most of you are now using has a memory limited to 341 days. However, the newer units with serial numbers beginning with "4" have double that amount. In any case, they will stop blinking when their memory runs out.

### Site Maps

As you know, our primary mission is to verify the site location associated with each temperature

series. To help with this task, we have provided you with a detailed map of your sites in relation to loran lines and depth contours. We have labeled your site with its 4-digit code. We ask that you study this figure and let us know if we are in error. Note that the loran TDs are listed on the map title and the site is denoted by a purple dot in the middle of the map.

### Drifter plans for 2009

Drifter deployments (to document flow patterns around the Gulf of Maine) will be made Feb through Sep 2009. Approximately two dozen new units have been funded by various institutions (UNH, UMASSD, MASS-DMF, and NOAA). A new batch of students at the Southern Maine Community College is hard at work in constructing these. If you come across any drifters while underway, please call the number posted on the PVC pipes. We want to thank several fishermen who helped recover drifters in 2008 so that we could redeploy them again in 2009. You can view the progress of these units along the coast at: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/drifter>.

### eMOLT Phase VI: bottom currents

After successful tests of prototype current meters by about a dozen lobstermen last fall, we are planning more tests this spring that will include a digital compass as well as a tilt meter and other modifications such as the tether design. To see the latest in this development see "emolt.org".

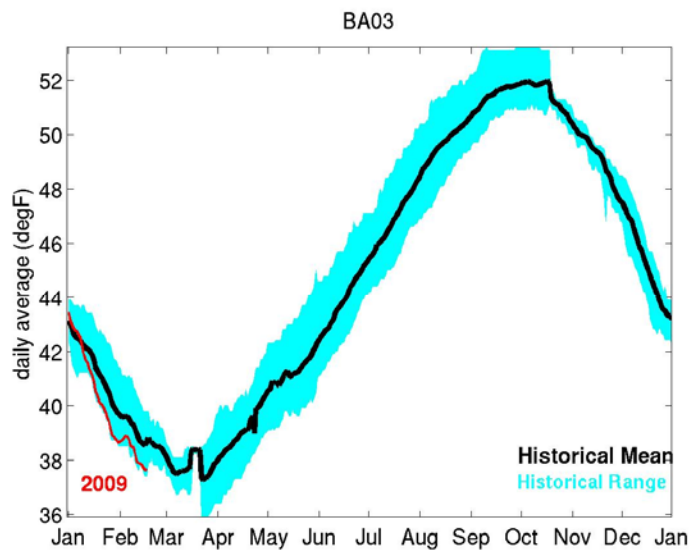
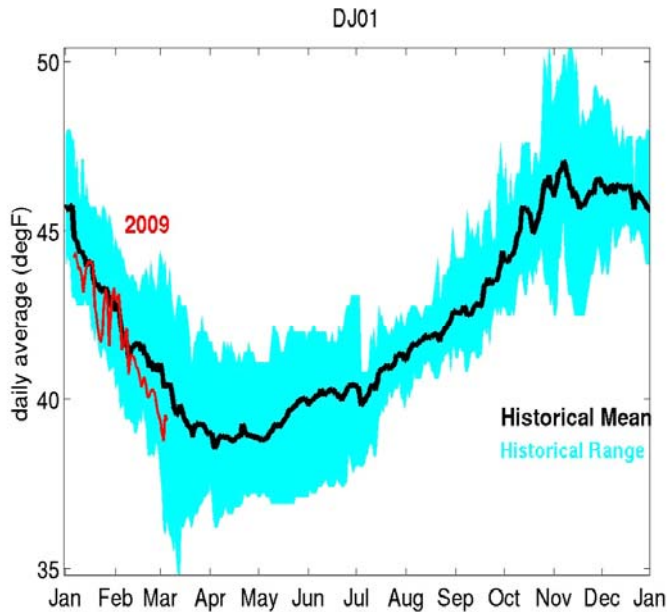
### eMOLT News Release

The eMOLT story was printed in hundreds of newspapers and websites around the country recently after a NOAA news release was published on 9 March 2009. See [http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/press\\_release](http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/press_release). With all the phone call and email response, you may still see notices in your local papers if you haven't already. It is hoped that this type of PR will result in new funding sources that would at least sustain our present operation for years to come.

### Cold Start to 2009

While it is too early to generalize about 2009, the first indications are that the year is starting out on the cold side relative to the eMOLT years. Both David Johnson and Billy Anderson, located in deep water on either ends of the state of Maine, show

temperatures well below the mean at those sites/depths (see figures below). These two individuals have recorded a total of 60,000 and 200,000 thousand hourly observations, respectively, at multiple sites.



It will be interesting to see if and when the temperature rebounds to normal levels in 2009.

### eMOLT Website Feedback

We are finally getting around to updating the eMOLT website so you should see changes soon. We ask that you email suggestions on how to improve the website to [james.manning@noaa.gov](mailto: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 Publications Available

Two eMOLT-related articles have been published in the scientific literature in the last few months. If you are interested in reading the results of either the drifter studies, temperature studies, or both, please send me an email request at [james.manning@noaa.gov](mailto:james.manning@noaa.gov). Let me know if you want a hardcopy or electronic version. The articles appeared in *Continental Shelf Research* and the *Journal of Operational Oceanography*, respectively. A figure from the drifter article, presented below, describes the mean and variability of currents throughout the Gulf of Maine based on hundreds of drifter tracks. We now have statistics on mean velocity, residence times, and tidal amplitudes at all regions of the gulf.

