

eMOLT

Fall 2011 Update

Temperature probes in 2011

Most of you should have had a temperature probe mailed to you back in April 2011 along with a “2011 deployment log”. Hopefully you deployed that probe(s) at your long-term fixed site(s) and can keep it deployed as long as possible this fall. If you would like to swap it out for a new probe to deploy at that site over the winter, let me know at james.manning@noaa.gov or call 508-495-2211 (office) or 508-566-4080 (cell). In either case, mail it in to me at NOAA, 166 Water St, Woods Hole, MA. 02543 when you are done fishing for the season and we will return it to you in Mar/Apr 2012.

Please double check site lat/lon positions

Once again, please take note of the latitude, longitude, and depth of your nominal eMOLT sites listed on your deployment log and let us know if they are not correct. Since most of you originally supplied your positions in loran TDs and there is some uncertainty in the various conversion routines that output lat/lon, we ask that you toggle your navigation readout to lat/lon in order to validate the position. It is VERY IMPORTANT that we continue to verify these fixed-site positions so that your great grandchildren will know exactly where you took these measurements. Always provide lat/lon & depth when you mail in probes even if you think I know where it was at.

Current Meters in 2011

Most of you also deployed a current meter probe in 2011. We are anxious to have a look at these multi-month records. We hope that the instruments survived Irene so that we can document the response of these winds. You can mail these instruments back along with your temperature probe and, if you have multiple temperature probes, please note which serial number was deployed with the current meter. Again, *don't forget to include the lat, lon, and depth the instruments were deployed.* If you no longer have the bubble envelope that the current meter was sent in, you can either use one of the \$5 flat-rate US mail boxes available at all post offices or ask me to send you one of these prepaid boxes.

September 26th Ocean Observing Meeting

Those of you who read emails know that all eMOLT participants are invited to a meeting on 26 September at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Providence RI. If you visit the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems website at <http://www.maracoos.org> and scroll down to “Fisheries Workshop” you will be able to register and read about the purpose of this meeting. You will see that their goal is to “Develop an Ocean Observatory/ Fisheries Community Interactive Partnership” but they list other objectives as well. While I will not be able to make this meeting myself, I encourage you to attend. They provide overnight travel and a \$100 stipend to commercial fishermen who participate. I highlight this in red font because it is limited to 30 and time is running out.

Update on plans to expand our geographic range

Our proposal to engage both the Rhode Island and Connecticut Commercial Lobstermen Associations was shot down but we continue to look towards expanding the operation southward. In the next few years, we will try to deploy temperature probes, current meters, and drifters in Buzzards Bay, Block Island Sound, and perhaps as far south and west as Long Island Sound in addition to our existing sites.

Status of the “real-time temperature probe” project

At least two participants are experimenting in 2011 with a new probe that wirelessly downloads data to a hand-held device on deck. While this download is NOT automatic (ie it requires a button be pushed), it is a step in the right direction. Eventually, we will be looking for the hand-held device to then wirelessly transfer the data to a dockside computer when you return to port or directly to a satellite but that won't be until late 2012 at the earliest. The technology exist to make these advances but it is still cost prohibitive to have them deployed all along the coast. Fortunately, NOAA Northeast Cooperative Research Program has recently come up with some money to have this probe engineered so, if all goes according to plan, we will finally have at least one probe per association to test by the end of 2012.

Status of the camera project

A few dozen of you responded to my email on cameras. The first few participants to respond have tried these cameras and have all returned images but found that the batteries are limited to about four hours when it is programmed to take a picture every 60 seconds. Nevertheless, some of these participants have made multiple deployments and getting some interesting results. You can view the images thus far at www.flickr.com/photos/emoltlobcam. The image below is one example from Bill Doherty. We are investigating the possibility of using other cameras that do not have this 4 hour limit but it may be awhile before we can afford them.

