



Fishermen's Climate Roundtables

Project Title: Maine Fishermen's Climate Roundtables

Headline Title (2-5 words): Maine Fishermen's Climate Roundtables

Brief Summary (Abstract): Fishermen's Climate Roundtables is an annual event hosted by the Island Institute that is an opportunity for fishermen and scientists to come together and share notes about the past fishing/research year, as well as longer term changes participants are noticing out on the water.

Project Location: Maine

Partners: Island Institute

Background: Fishermen's Climate Roundtables has been going on for eight years. There are a core group of about 15 fishermen who attend every year. A larger group attends less regularly. Usually a representative from the Maine Department of Marine Resources participates. We invite 2-3 different marine scientists per year, depending upon the specific topics of interest identified by the fishermen.

Project Goals: Learn from fishermen about environmental changes they are seeing on the water. Provide a venue for fishermen and scientists to exchange information and have informal discussions related to climate change and fisheries.

Strategy Goals Implemented: Goals 4: Support adaptive management in a changing climate through integrated observation and monitoring and use of decision support tools; Goal 6: Increase awareness and motivate action to safeguard fish, wildlife, and plants in a changing climate

Climate Impacts Addressed: impacts of warming water and ocean acidification on fisheries and fishing communities

Status of Project Implementation (Timeline, Milestones, Next Steps): Ongoing. Started in 2007 and has been held annually ever since.

Project Outcomes: Released a report, "A Climate of Change- A Preliminary Assessment of Fishermen's Observation on a Dynamic Fishery" in 2008 which was an overview of climate science and the major findings from the first two years of Climate Roundtables. We are in the process of putting together a retrospective paper on the observations from the last 8 years. The goal of this output is to raise awareness to climate change in Maine. Participants want to use the cultural attachment to the lobster fishery to bring home the relevance to Maine.

Funding Sources: Private family foundation with a long interest in climate change and Maine communities.

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Photos/Attachments (can be provided later if avail): yes



Photo/Figure Credits (do we have permission to print):