



Fisheries Quarterly

Summer 2025 | Issue #13 | CCE Marine Program

We are CCE Fisheries, a department within Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County's Marine Program. All throughout the year, the Fisheries Team focuses on all things fisheries – testing new and upcoming fishing gear, collecting biological data on the species most important to our fishing industries, holding events to introduce local seafood to Long Islanders, and so much more. We're here to ensure the voice of our local marine fishing industry is heard, whether it be for new fishing regulations, or coexisting with ocean construction projects. This newsletter will share the progress we've made towards these goals every quarter!

At a Glance

- CCE resumes efforts to remove derelict lobster pots from central Long Island Sound.
- Stats for our Summer Trawl Survey off the south shore of Long Island.
- CCE concludes Turtle Excluder Device (TED) research in Long Island's squid trawl fishery.
- CCE tests novel "pot light" technology alongside Long Island's lobstermen.
- CCE attends Long Island's first-ever Oyster Jamboree at Smith Point County Park.
- Commercial and for-hire captains still have a chance to get free training and an iPad to ease into electronic vessel trip reporting (eVTR).



Derelict Lobster Gear Removals Resume in Long Island Sound

We are pleased to announce that starting this fall, CCE Fisheries will be resuming its efforts to remove lost and abandoned (derelict) lobster traps from Long Island Sound (LIS) after a two-year hiatus. To date, CCE has worked closely with NY lobstermen to remove a total of 21,260 derelict lobster pots from LIS, covering a span ranging from as far west as Oyster Bay, NY to as far east as Mattituck, NY. Beyond marine debris removal, a major benefit of these results is the mitigation of "ghost fishing", wherein these derelict pots would otherwise continue to trap live organisms. This year, in collaboration with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), we will be conducting a total of 10 trap removal trips in central LIS near Mount Sinai Harbor. While CCE has historically removed many traps from this area of LIS, this will be the first time that removal efforts have been conducted here since 2022.



Oyster Jamboree at Smith Point

Back in August, CCE Fisheries was invited to attend Long Island's first-ever Oyster Jamboree at Smith Point County Park. As the event name suggests, the Jamboree was a grand celebration of that most iconic of Long Island's seafoods: the oyster. Patrons from all across Long Island came to sample fresh oysters from local harvesters such as North Fork Big Oysters, Peconic Gold Oysters and the Hampton Oyster Co., among others. The jamboree was a great opportunity for CCE Fisheries to not only spread education and awareness about local seafood, but also to promote local harvesters and the fruits of their labor. Huge thanks to everyone who came out!



- October 4
Local F.I.S.H. Cooking Demo/Tasting
Seafood Day at CCE Nassau
Farmers' Market @ Eisenhower Park from 9am-1pm

- October 10
Local F.I.S.H. Cooking Demo/Tasting
at Three Village Farmers' Market from 3-6 pm

- October 11
Shinnecock Oyster Festival
at Shinnecock Powwow Grounds from 1-7pm

- October 12
Oysterfest
at Greenport Harbor Brewery from 12-6pm

- October 18 & 19
Oyster Fest
in Oyster Bay
Sat & Sun 11am-6pm

- October 25
Shucktoberfest
at The Cull House in Sayville from 4-9pm

- November 7
Fish & Sips
at the Long Island Aquarium from 7:30-10pm

TED Tested in LI Squid Fishery

Early in June, the Fisheries team completed field work for our Turtle Excluder Device project. We tested two TEDs in the bottom trawl longfin squid fishery. CCE completed a total of 16 research trips aboard the F/V Providence from Shinnecock, completing 128 paired tows south of Long Island. Throughout this project, we caught over 47,000 pounds of squid! Preliminary results are promising, showing no difference between a net with or without a TED.



Summer 2025 Trawl Survey

In August, our team completed the fifth and final summer leg of the ongoing Trawl Survey, which will continue seasonally through Spring 2026. This long-term study is tracking how offshore wind development may affect fish populations and movements. Working alongside the captain and crew of the F/V Bulldog, Alex, Mike, Tara, and Kristin spent five days covering 46 miles of ocean and measuring more than 8,000 fish.



Crustacean Double-Feature:

Rock Crab (*Cancer irroratus*)

Jonah Crab (*Cancer borealis*)

LEDs in Lobster Traps

This summer marked the first year of a two-year study testing whether LED lights influence lobster and crab catches in New York waters. Over six weeks, the team partnered with the crew of the F/V Exit Strategy to trial different light setups in eastern Long Island Sound. Next year, the experiment will continue in a new location with the F/V Lady K.



Free Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting Trainings

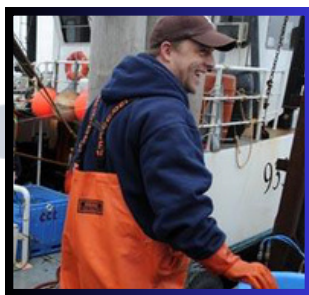
The CCE Fisheries Team has held 23 training sessions that have helped nearly 156 for-hire and commercial fishermen transition from paper vessel trip reporting (VTR) to electronic reporting. Electronic reporting became mandatory for for-hire fishermen on January 1, 2025. CCE is supporting the transition to electronic reporting by providing iPads at NO COST to fishermen needing to make the switch!

Continual trainings will be conducted throughout 2025, so come join us!

If you are a fisherman interested in receiving training and a free iPad to use for electronic reporting purposes, please register for an upcoming training session. Dates for upcoming trainings can be found at:

<https://ccesuffolk.org/marine/fisheries/evtr>

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Marine Program

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