



DOUBLE  
FEATURE!

# Fisheries Quarterly

Fall 2025/Winter 2026 | Issue #14/15 | 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 continues efforts to remove derelict lobster pots from central Long Island Sound.
- Highlights from our Fall & Winter Trawl Surveys off the south shore of Long Island.
- CCE Marine receives Industry Advancement Award.
- CCE co-hosts NY Sea Grant Seafood Summit.
- CCE hosts 2026 Northeast Cooperative Research Summit.
- CCE hosts multi-state workshops to discuss results and next-steps-forward for its pinger, TED and Scup GRA projects.
- Commercial and for-hire captains still have a chance to get free training and an iPad for submitting electronic vessel trip reports (eVTR).

## NEFSC Northeast Cooperative Research Summit

This spring, NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) provided the CCE Fisheries Team with the incredible opportunity of hosting the 2026 Northeast Cooperative Research Summit here in Riverhead NY!

We started things off on April 1, when we hosted a tour of the Shinnecock Commercial Fishing dock for all Research Summit attendees. This was a great opportunity for folks from out of town to meet some of Long Island's local fishermen, see their fishing vessels in person, and learn a bit more about our local fisheries and the issues facing Long Island's commercial fishing community. Summit attendees also had the opportunity to sample some delicious local seafood, both during the dock tour and later that evening at the opening reception at Riverhead's own Jerry and the Mermaid.

The next day, we held the official Research Summit at the Hyatt Place - Sea Star Ballroom. This summit provided a massive forum for commercial fishermen, scientists and stakeholders to come together and discuss all manner of topics ranging from cooperative research projects to opportunities for industry engagement. Here, our team's own Alex Mercado presented the findings from our recently completed Squid TED project (more on page 4). Breakout sessions and fisheries management exercises during the summit offered additional opportunities for attendees to interact with one another while discussing and working toward strategies and solutions to fisheries issues. Combine all of this with an amazing closing reception at Moonfish Brewery, and you have a day that none of our team will forget anytime soon.

The CCE Fisheries Team thanks the Northeast Fisheries Science Center for this opportunity, the amazing staff at Jerry and the Mermaid, The Hyatt, Moonfish Brewery, both our Shinnecock tour and summit attendees, our friends and colleagues in the seafood industry, and everyone else who made this event possible!



# Derelict Lobster Gear Removals in Long Island Sound Continue

We are pleased to announce that as of September 2025, CCE Fisheries is continuing their efforts to remove lost and abandoned (derelict) lobster traps from Long Island Sound (LIS). To date, CCE has worked closely with NY lobstermen to remove nearly 22,000 derelict lobster pots from LIS, covering a span from as far west as Oyster Bay, NY to as far east as Mattituck, NY. Starting this spring, we will be conducting a total of 20 trap removal trips in eastern LIS near Mattituck. While CCE has historically removed many traps from this area of LIS, this will be the first time that removal efforts will be combine local lobstermen's knowledge and side scan sonar technology.



*Above: Fisheries Director Scott Curatolo-Wagemann examines a derelict lobster pot aboard the F/V Susanne Marie.*

*Right: Amanda Jones (Inlet Seafood), Eric Koepel (LIOGA), Ann Welker (Suffolk County Legislator) and Sarah Lansdale (Suffolk County Economic Development and Planning) sit on the Working Waterfront Panel.*

# NYSG 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Seafood Summit

This March, the Riverhead Free Library once again generously provided space for CCE and New York Sea Grant to host the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Seafood Summit, where we experienced another large attendance of industry members, seafood restaurants, legislators, journalists, and concerned Long Island constituents.

The focus this year was an update of the accomplishments for seafood that stemmed from last year's summit. This included CCE's Kristin Gerbino to report on the success of the Long Island Seafood Cuisine South Trail, as well as the continuing development of the North Trail. Elected officials were given time to update the industry on their commitments to assist them in protecting working waterfront and promoting local seafood.

These updates were followed by an industry panel of fishermen, aquaculture growers, and elected officials that drove home their needs and the possibilities for economic growth inherent to expanding seafood processing and waterfront infrastructure. Guests were then treated to local seafood generously provided by the Davy Jones Shellfish Company and Riverhead's own Jerry and the Mermaid.

Big thanks to everyone who attended!



# CCE Marine Program Awarded for Seafood Industry Advancement

We're proud to share with you all that our Marine Program was honored with the Industry Advancement Award by Discover Long Island at their gala this past December.

This recognition highlights the impact of CCE Suffolk's Marine Program for creation of the Long Island Seafood Cuisine Trail App, which supports local fishermen, oyster growers, seafood businesses, and coastal communities while connecting residents and visitors to Long Island's rich maritime heritage.

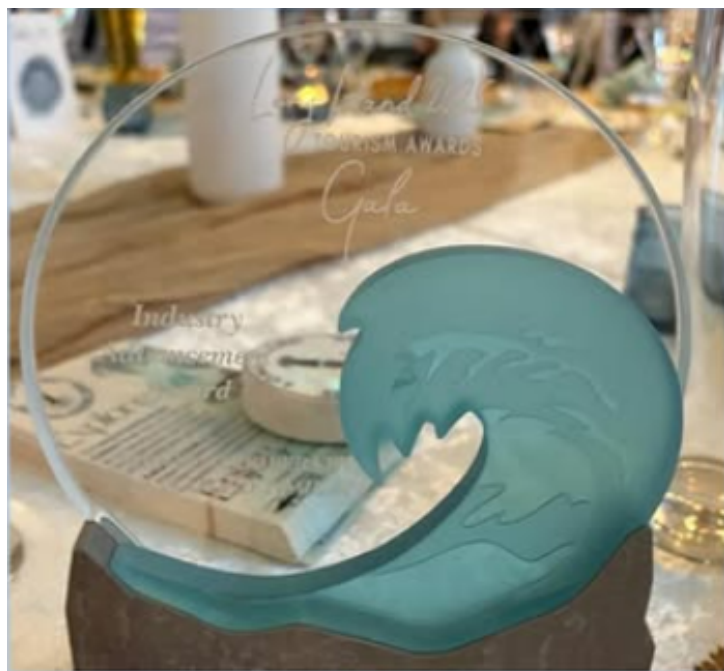
Check out our website and download the app, available on both Apple and Android devices (scan the QR code). Follow the trail to restaurants and fish markets serving and selling the freshest, finest seafood Long Island has to offer!



Apple App Store



Google Play Store



# A Word of Appreciation to Our Collaborators and Partners

**C**CE Fisheries has had a very busy and productive fall and winter between at-sea research, outreach and industry events. None of what we do would be possible without the support and cooperation of our project collaborators. From commercial fishermen and shellfish harvesters to gear builders, fellow scientists and nonprofit organizations to fisheries management agencies, we thank you all for everything that you do.

*F/V Bulldog*  
*F/V Prevail*  
*F/V Bookie*  
*F/V Amanda J*  
*F/V Freedom*

*F/V Susanne Marie*  
*F/V Lady K*  
*F/V Exit Strategy*  
*F/V Providence*  
*F/V Rosemary Ann*

*New York Sea Grant*  
*NOAA Fisheries*  
*Northeast Fisheries Science Center*  
*Virginia Institute of Marine Science*  
*New York State Department of Environmental*  
*Conservation*  
*Fish Tek Marine*  
*Superior Trawl*  
*Long Island Sound Future Fund*  
*Long Island Oyster Growers Association*  
*Long Island Commercial Fishermen's Association*  
*Long Island Lobstermen's Association*

*Davy Jones Shellfish Co.*  
*Freedom Fishery*  
*North Fork Big Oyster*  
*Inlet Seafood*  
*Gosman's Fish Market*  
*Jerry and The Mermaid*  
*Long Island Aquarium*  
*Hyatt Place*  
*Riverhead Free Library*  
*New York State Agriculture and Markets*



# Last Legs: Approaching the End of the South Fork Trawl Survey

Since we issued our last newsletter, CCE has successfully completed its final fall and winter South Fork Trawl Surveys in November 2025 and February 2026, respectively. This leaves but one final trawl survey for this project to be conducted this spring. As one of our longest-running at-sea projects of the past several years, this is a bittersweet accomplishment for CCE's Fisheries Team.

In November, team members Alex Mercado, Mike Bowen and Tyler Guteres experienced warm weather, calm seas and bountiful fishing, measuring a whopping 13,700 individual fish. This survey also yielded two new species never before encountered during this project (see our *Fish Feature* below).

This February, that trio became a duo as Mike Bowen and Tyler Guteres conducted the trawl survey together. Despite much cooler temperatures, calm seas and low winds made for especially pleasant conditions for this time of year. The fish disagreed, however... colder-than-usual water temperatures pushed most of the fish offshore, resulting in a 5-day total of only 254 fish--the lowest total catch for the entire project.



## *Featured Fish Triple Feature*



Round Herring (*Etrumeus sadina*)



Little Skate (*Leucoraja erinacea*) and  
Smooth Skate (*Malacoraja senta*)

# Workshops, Workshops and More Workshops!

This past March, the CCE Fisheries Team hosted not one, not two, but **three** different multi-state project workshops from Rhode Island south to Virginia! These workshops allowed us to get fishermen and regulatory officials together in the same space so we could disseminate project results and gather industry input, comments and concerns.

## Monkfish Pinger Workshop

Last summer, CCE worked with the F/V Lady K to test alternative frequency pingers on gillnets. Pingers are required in the monkfish gillnet fishery to deter harbor porpoise. Fishermen were concerned of pingers causing a “dinner bell” effect causing seal interactions. Sea trials occurred in June 2025 after permitting complications restricted research from occurring during pinger required period. Nonetheless, this workshop provided valuable input from our industry partners.



## Summer Flounder TED Workshop



Last June, the Fisheries team completed field work for our Turtle Excluder Device (TED) project. We tested two TEDs aboard the F/V Providence in the bottom trawl longfin squid fishery. Starting this fall, we will be fishing aboard the same vessel--this time testing a new TED design to be used in the summer flounder bottom trawl fishery. Our industry partners provided valuable input on TED design and regional practicality.

## Scup GRA Analysis Workshop

CCE, contracted by the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, has been evaluating the past and current effectiveness of the Scup Gear Restricted Areas (GRAs) by modeling multiple datasets of both fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent data to provide recommendations to the Council on the GRAs going forward. As of this March, we have completed two industry workshops for this project to gain insight about real-world fishing scenarios affected by the GRAs.



# Free Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting Trainings

The CCE Fisheries Team has held 26 training sessions that have helped nearly 200 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 through November 2026, so come join us!

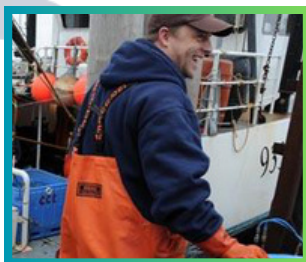
If you are a fisherman interested in receiving training and a free iPad to use for electronic reporting purposes, please register for an upcoming training session. Dates for upcoming trainings can be found at:

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

or contact Tara McClintock

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## The CCE Fisheries Team



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**Cornell Cooperative Extension**  
**Marine Program**

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