

Red Crab stock assessment project, Northeast US slope waters, 2004-2005: sex, size, condition, 100-600 fathoms, from the Canadian border (Hague Line) to approximately Hudson Canyon from 2004-2005 (NEC-CoopRes project)

Website: <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/2798>

Version: final

Version Date: 2007-04-01

Project

» [Northeast Consortium: Cooperative Research](#) (NEC-CoopRes)

Program

» [NorthEast Consortium](#) (NEC)

Contributors	Affiliation	Role
Wahle, Richard A.		Principal Investigator

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Dataset Description

Red Crab Tag Data

Project Leader: *Richard A. Wahle*, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences

Additional Participants:

Jon Williams, Benthic Fishing Corp.

Yong Chen, University of Maine

Companion objects:

[red crab tag data](#)

[red crab return data](#)

[redcrab temperature data](#)

[redcrab camera data](#)

[red crab trawl log data](#)

[redcrab trawl data.](#)

"The objectives of the main project were to: (1) Employ camera-based and net-trawl sampling methodology established by an earlier NMFS red crab surveys (Wigley et al. 1975) to determine whether abundance, size structure, and sex composition of the population has changed significantly at the same sites sampled in 1974, (2) Conduct sea sampling to better characterize the commercial catch, (3) Conduct tagging to obtain much needed information on red crab growth rates and movement, and (4) Develop three stock assessment modeling approaches of different complexities (size-structured yield-per-recruit model, production model, and size-structured simulation model) to evaluate the dynamics of the red crab stock, estimate current status of the fishery, and evaluate alternative management strategies. The supplemental project compared the efficacy

of otter-trawl to net trawl in this application.

The benthic sled system for camera surveys combined with net trawl collection generated the first population density estimates and demographic data of red crab in 30 years. The comparison of the two net trawl methods confirmed that otter trawls were the most efficient approach in these surveys. Results of the main project indicated that the abundance of the largest crabs targeted early in the history of the fishery (males >114 mm, 4.5 inches) is down by approximately 42% since 1974. Based on sea sampling data the fishery now harvests smaller male crabs, and the standing biomass of crabs currently harvested is on a par with 1974 levels. The abundance of smaller males and females is substantially higher than in 1974. Some 9600 crabs were tagged over the course of the study, and of about 300 returns there was little evidence of growth, which is consistent with prior evidence of slow growth for this species. However, the limited growth data curtailed application of the stock assessment models. The full parameterization of these models awaits additional growth data. Models are implemented as Excel spread sheets that and are available from the PI, and will be easy for the user to update as data become available. These results were a key component of the NMFS red crab stock assessment conducted in 2006. *"(extracted from: Final Report Submitted to the NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM, December 11, 2006)*

Questions regarding this data set should be directed to:

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Methods & Sampling

The benthic sled system for camera surveys combined with net trawl collection generated the first population density estimates and demographic data of red crab in 30 years. The comparison of the two net trawl methods confirmed that otter trawls were the most efficient approach in these surveys. Results of the main project indicated that the abundance of the largest crabs targeted early in the history of the fishery (males >114 mm, 4.5 inches) is down by approximately 42% since 1974. Based on sea sampling data the fishery now harvests smaller male crabs, and the standing biomass of crabs currently harvested is on a par with 1974 levels. The abundance of smaller males and females is substantially higher than in 1974. Some 9600 crabs were tagged over the course of the study, and of about 300 returns there was little evidence of growth, which is consistent with prior evidence of slow growth for this species. However, the limited growth data curtailed application of the stock assessment models. The full parameterization of these models awaits additional growth data. Models are implemented as Excel spread sheets that and are available from the PI, and will be easy for the user to update as data become available. These results were a key component of the NMFS red crab stock assessment conducted in 2006. "

Data Processing Description

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Data Files

File
redcrab_samp.csv (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 130.86 KB) MD5:a8df9ea42bdf7dddacce139d56137b38
Primary data file for dataset ID 2798

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Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
year	Sampling year	four digit number
date_local	Sampling date	local date
trawl	Identification what the boat named the trawl	
lat	Latitude where red crab was sampled	decimal degrees
lon	Longitude where red crab was sampled	decimal degrees
sex_code	1:male 0:female	
size	Carapace width	mm
discolor_code	0:no 1:yes	
barnacles_code	0:no 1:yes	
egg_color	Egg color	
tagid	Tag identification number	five digit number
comments	Notes of each sampling	

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Deployments

NEC-RW2001-1

Website	https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57766
Platform	F/V Krystal James
Report	http://northeastconsortium.org/ProjectFileDownload.pm?report_id=635&table=project_report
Start Date	2002-04-24
End Date	2005-11-25
Description	<p>Otter trawl- and camera-based sampling of red crabs, tagging study.</p> <p>Methods & Sampling The benthic sled system for camera surveys combined with net trawl collection generated the first population density estimates and demographic data of red crab in 30 years. The comparison of the two net trawl methods confirmed that otter trawls were the most efficient approach in these surveys. Results of the main project indicated that the abundance of the largest crabs targeted early in the history of the fishery (males >114 mm, 4.5 inches) is down by approximately 42% since 1974. Based on sea sampling data the fishery now harvests smaller male crabs, and the standing biomass of crabs currently harvested is on a par with 1974 levels. The abundance of smaller males and females is substantially higher than in 1974. Some 9600 crabs were tagged over the course of the study, and of about 300 returns there was little evidence of growth, which is consistent with prior evidence of slow growth for this species. However, the limited growth data curtailed application of the stock assessment models. The full parameterization of these models awaits additional growth data. Models are implemented as Excel spread sheets that are available from the PI, and will be easy for the user to update as data become available. These results were a key component of the NMFS red crab stock assessment conducted in 2006. "</p> <p>Processing Description "The objectives of the main project were to: (1) Employ camera-based and net-trawl sampling methodology established by an earlier NMFS red crab surveys (Wigley et al. 1975) to determine whether abundance, size structure, and sex composition of the population has changed significantly at the same sites sampled in 1974, (2) Conduct sea sampling to better characterize the commercial catch, (3) Conduct tagging to obtain much needed information on red crab growth rates and movement, and (4) Develop three stock assessment modeling approaches of different complexities (size-structured yield-per-recruit model, production model, and size-structured simulation model) to evaluate the dynamics of the red crab stock, estimate current status of the fishery, and evaluate alternative management strategies. The supplemental project compared the efficacy of otter-trawl to net trawl in this application.</p>

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Project Information

Northeast Consortium: Cooperative Research (NEC-CoopRes)

Website: <http://northeastconsortium.org/>

Coverage: Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine

The Northeast Consortium encourages and funds cooperative research and monitoring projects in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank that have effective, equal partnerships among fishermen, scientists, educators, and marine resource managers.

The Northeast Consortium seeks to fund projects that will be conducted in a responsible manner. Cooperative research projects are designed to minimize any negative impacts to ecosystems or marine organisms, and be consistent with accepted ethical research practices, including the use of animals and human subjects in research, scrutiny of research protocols by an institutional board of review, etc.

Program Information

NorthEast Consortium (NEC)

Website: <http://northeastconsortium.org/>

Coverage: Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine

The Northeast Consortium encourages and funds **cooperative research** and monitoring projects in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank that have effective, **equal partnerships** among fishermen, scientists, educators, and marine resource managers.

At the 2008 Maine Fishermen's Forum, the Northeast Consortium organized a session on data collection and availability. Participants included several key organizations in the Gulf of Maine area, sharing what data are out there and how you can find them.

The Northeast Consortium has joined the Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership. The purpose of the GoMODP is to promote and coordinate the sharing, linking, electronic dissemination, and use of data on the Gulf of Maine region.

The Northeast Consortium was created in 1999 to encourage and fund effective, equal partnerships among commercial fishermen, scientists, and other stakeholders to engage in cooperative research and monitoring projects in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank. The Northeast Consortium consists of four research institutions (University of New Hampshire, University of Maine, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution), which are working together to foster this initiative.

The Northeast Consortium administers nearly \$5M annually from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for cooperative research on a broad range of topics including gear selectivity, fish habitat, stock assessments, and socioeconomics. The funding is appropriated to the National Marine Fisheries Service and administered by the University of New Hampshire on behalf of the Northeast Consortium. Funds are distributed through an annual open competition, which is announced via a Request for Proposals (RFP). All projects must involve partnership between commercial fishermen and scientists.

The Northeast Consortium seeks to fund projects that will be conducted in a responsible manner. Cooperative research projects should be designed to minimize any negative impacts to ecosystems or marine organisms, and be consistent with accepted ethical research practices, including the use of animals and human subjects in research, scrutiny of research protocols by an institutional board of review, etc.

Funding

Funding Source	Award
NorthEast Consortium (NEC)	unknown NEC-CoopRes NEC