



# Field Notes

News and updates from  
the Coonamessett Farm Foundation

Issue No. 3 June, 2019

Greetings,

Here at Coonamessett Farm Foundation, exciting things are happening.

Our at-sea research crews are gearing up to launch a host of new studies. Working in collaboration with our commercial fishing partners and experts from fellow research institutions, we will expand upon our hallmark, long-term studies of the Atlantic sea scallop fishery and the interactions between the scallop fishery and loggerhead turtles. We'll venture into new research areas, too--such as testing dredge gear using computer models, an innovative concept described below.

On land, we will soon cut the ribbon on our brand new composter at an Open House on Thursday June 6th from 5-7 pm at the Farm. We hope to see you there!

We hope you enjoy the highlights of our work in this newsletter. Oh, and please be sure check out our brand new website: [www.cfarm.org](http://www.cfarm.org).

Sincerely,

Frank Almeida  
President, Board of Directors



Visit our new website

## CFF AWARDED \$4.8 MILLION IN NOAA FISHERIES' SCALLOP RESEARCH SET-ASIDE PROGRAM

CFF is pleased to announce we have been awarded funding for five research projects from the NOAA/NMFS Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside Program. Here's a snapshot of the work that has been funded:

- *An optical assessment of sea scallop abundance, distribution and growth in the Nantucket Lightship Scallop Management Area.*
- *Improving automated detection of scallops and flounder in optical surveys with stereo detection methods.*
- *An optical assessment of sea scallop abundance and distribution in the Southern Closed Area II Scallop Management Area.*
- *Seasonal survey in the Atlantic sea scallop fishery.*
- *Understanding the impacts of the Atlantic sea scallop fishery on loggerhead sea turtles.*

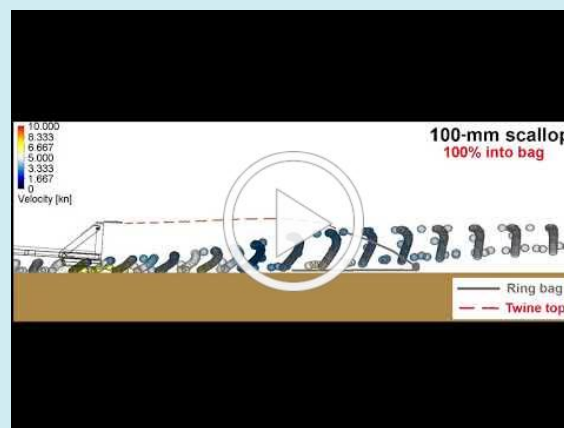
These major CFF studies, which will be conducted during 2019-2020, will help CFF continue its mission to support fishery management decisions and improve stock assessments with scientific research.

# COMPUTER SIMULATIONS PROVIDE A NEW WAY TO TEST SCALLOP DREDGE DESIGNS

For years, CFF's gear research team has worked to develop an ideal scallop dredge that catches scallops but does not catch fish. But testing new fishing gear designs can be very expensive--sometimes exceeding \$250,000 per study.

That got us wondering: what if we could test ten new ideas a day using a different method? Turns out, technology may have the answer.

With funding from the Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside program, CFF has begun designing and testing scallop dredges using computer simulations to model water flow around various dredges. A new program written by CFF senior research biologist Liese Siemann determines whether scallops and fish would move into the dredge bag, or escape through the twine top. Data from these simulations may provide important clues to help scallop fishers further reduce bycatch in a cost-effective manner. Watch the video animation to see how this exciting new method works. Stay tuned for updates as these tests progress.



## JOIN CFF TO TALK SOME DIRT ON JUNE 6



This Thursday, CFF welcomes friends, supporters and members of the community to an Open House and Ribbon Cutting to meet our massive, new composter. We'll be joined by the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce for the ribbon cutting ceremony at 6 o'clock. Our farm researcher, Allison Maikath, will give a demo and answer questions. Light apps, beer, wine and soft drinks will be served.

Celebrate Compost with CFF: An Open House & Ribbon Cutting  
Thursday, June 6, 2019 5-7 pm  
Coonamessett Farm,  
277 Hatchville Road, East Falmouth  
**FREE but RSVP requested: email [rcarey@cfarm.org](mailto:rcarey@cfarm.org).**

## FIND A TAG, GET A TEE!

### **Attention Fishing Partners:**

CFF has a new program to reward our fishing partners for helping us recover tags from black sea bass!

CFF research biologist  
Ricky Alexander modeling  
our new tag appreciation  
T-shirt. Keep you eyes



Tagging fish with environmental recording devices is an essential component of CFF's ongoing at-sea research. However, these tags need to be recovered so the data can be downloaded. We have deployed several Star Oddi CTD tags (large white capsules pictured) on black sea bass in the southern Mid-Atlantic Bight, and plan to deploy 28 in total over the next 18 months.



peeled and add  
[tags@cfarm.org](mailto:tags@cfarm.org) to your  
Contacts.

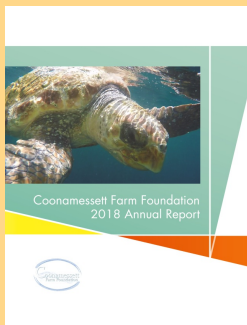


If and when you catch a tagged fish--in any condition--please remove the capsule, and record the fish length and GPS location. Tags can be removed by using a small wire cutter to snip the wire passing through the fish. Once recovered, please mail the tag back to us at 277 Hatchville Road, East Falmouth, MA 02536. **You will be handsomely rewarded with this specially designed 100% cotton, long-sleeve T-shirt.**



If you catch a fish with only the thin white spaghetti tag, please do not remove; simply record fish length and GPS location and email this information ([tags@cfarm.org](mailto:tags@cfarm.org)). **For providing this information we will send you a specially designed beer coozie.** We appreciate the help!  
Call: (508) 356 3601 or Email: [tags@cfarm.org](mailto:tags@cfarm.org)

## CFF'S 2018 ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE



We are pleased to share our recently published **2018 Annual Report** which showcases our research focus areas, financial position and extensive research capabilities. We also gratefully acknowledge our generous 2018 financial contributors. We could not do our work without you. Donations of all sizes are always greatly appreciated.

MAKE A 2019 DONATION

Coonamessett Farm Foundation | 508.356.3601 | [Contact@Cfarm.org](mailto:Contact@Cfarm.org) | [www.cfarm.org](http://www.cfarm.org)

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