Coastal Research Volunteer Program Meeting Minutes

NH Sea Grant Office, Lee, NH
10 April 2013; 6-7:30pm

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Updates and news

NY Times article on citizen monitoring of elver ingress

NH Poacher caught with elvers in ME
http://www.seacoastononline.com/articles/20130408-NEWS-130409787

Washington post article on climate change impacts, increased carbon makes crabs bigger and more voracious predators, and oysters weaker.

PROJECT PRESENTATION

Helen Cheng – Horseshoe crab surveys

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Human use of horseshoe crabs – bait (eel and whelk), blood (biomedical industries)
Ecological use – eggs eaten by migrating shorebirds, bioturbation
Currently on the decline due to human impacts
Annual horseshoe crab survey across northeast, but little information in NH
2006 – GB NERR started monitoring project in NH; 578 counted from 2006-2010
Objective: understand and protect horseshoe crab. Know where they mate and grow up within Great Bay
2012 pilot monitoring program consistent with regional surveys; tagging
2012 sites – 1. GB Marine, 2. JEL boat launch, 3. JEL cove, 4. GB Discovery Center
2012 results: counted over 2,323 adult horseshoe crabs, 211 tagged and 30 recaptured (~14%)
Crab abundance corresponded with moon cycle and increasing temperatures; nor’easters during full moons may have limited abundance
ID – males have ‘boxing glove’ claws; females have scars on carapace from male latching on; tagged pairs, female is in front
Methods:
Surveys – spawning season (May and June)
Everyday at high tide; days around full/new moon, every day and night at high tide
2013 sites: 2012 sites + Chapman’s landing (Stratham), Jackson’s Landing (Durham), Moody Point (Newmarket), 2 private homes
this year’s tags will have orange stripes to identify last year’s animals from this year’s
not much sand (preferred substrate) in Great Bay so will use shale
CRV ideas of other locations to potentially monitor: Winnicut, GB NWR, Wagon Hill Farm
Training session – 4/19 at Jackson Estuarine Lab; Helen will send information to Alyson
who will send it out to the group
If you see horseshoe crabs, especially tagged animals, send information (where, how
many, pictures, tagged?) to Helen
Surveys to start Apr 23
Looking to designate a person to each beach who would be responsible for monitoring it
daily (ideally) or at the very least around the new and full moon.
Helen’s blog where she will post information and updates on the horseshoecrab surveys
micropopbio.org/hcheng/gbehscsurveys
Alyson and Helen will determine the best way for volunteers to signup and will share it
with the group

NEW IDEAS AND DIRECTIONS

**GiveGab**
new site for viewing available CRV opportunities, learn more info and sign-up to
volunteer for projects; https://www.givegab.com/nonprofits/coastal-research-
voluteers/events
Note that not all information is required in sign up
Once you sign up, you can be updated automatically when new CRV opportunities
are posted

**Phenology training sessions**
May 8; 5:30-8:00 pm (in conjunction with CRV meeting)
May 14; 9:30-11:30 am
Location: NH Sea Grant office, 122 Mast Road
Please contact Alyson to sign-up or do so via GiveGab

**Monthly Meeting times** – change meeting time to 4-6pm?
**CRV t-shirts** – t-shirts likely won’t be used. Alyson will explore hats, long sleeve t-
shirts, and long sleeve sun shirts.

OTHER BUSINESS