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Project #07-085

Northeast Consortium Annual Report for:
An Alternative to Observer Discard & Fishing Effort Reporting

The Basket Study project has been on slow speed for the last couple of years due mainly to the length of time it took to obtain an EFP. The EFP was attached to another by-catch project in an attempt to speed up the process. This past spring the other project, with permits that had an expiration date, had to be completed first.

I am just putting the fishing gear back on the vessel after the shut-down. With renewed interest in by-catch and finding effective ways to minimize it, the timing seems right to put the basket to the test.

The 1”square steel mesh basket has been constructed and we’ve conducted on-shore testing with the video cameras on the F/V Ocean Reporter. The tests were done to determine the best placement and angle to record the discard process and to best identify discarded species. The placement and angles will most likely vary from vessel to vessel. I plan to conduct the first at-sea tests on the Ocean Reporter by mid-August and hope to complete the project well within the allotted time period.