



MEDIA RELATIONS

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Contact: Steve Adams
NH Sea Grant
603-749-1565
steve.adams@unh.edu

UNH Symposium Focuses on Goals and Results of the Closure of the Western Gulf of Maine to Fishing

Durham, N.H. – The New England Fisheries Management Council (NEFMC) sought to protect spawning and nursery areas and other key habitats and reduce the bycatch of overfished and threatened stocks when it closed the western Gulf of Maine to fishing in 1998.

Fishermen, scientists, resource managers and others with an interest in this management strategy will gather at UNH on March 26 to review the purpose of the closure and to examine the progress that has been made toward its goals.

The symposium will feature two keynote speakers who have been intimately involved with the closure, Paul Howard, executive director of NEFMC, and Mike Fogarty, a fisheries biologist with the NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center.

For more information on the event, go to <http://www.seagrant.unh.edu/GOMclosure.html> or contact Ken LaValley (ken.lavalley@unh.edu), a NH Sea Grant fisheries specialist who's helping to organize the event.