Scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center laboratory in Milford have been working for the last two summers in Long Island Sound to document environmental benefits provided by Connecticut’s oyster aquaculture industry. Off-bottom oyster cages are growing in popularity as a method for culturing large numbers of oysters on a small footprint. These cages create complex three-dimensional structures that may attract fish and other animals.

Fish may utilize oyster cages as a food source, for shelter, refuge from current flow, or protection from predation. Shellfish farms with many cages add habitat and structure to the seafloor and may act as an artificial reef, attracting greater numbers of fish than would normally be found in areas without natural structure.

Considerable anecdotal evidence from shellfish growers suggests that fish of a variety of life stages frequently interact with aquaculture gear. But there is limited scientific data available that documents which fish species use oyster cages, how many fish interact with cages on a daily basis, and how those fish are using the cages.

Point-of-view video cameras provide a new opportunity to document and quantify the interactions between fish and oyster aquaculture gear. The relatively low cost of individual cameras has increased the feasibility of collecting scientifically rigorous data underwater, on aquaculture operations at leased sites.

These data demonstrating habitat services provided to fish are valuable to regulators and fishery managers who make decisions about siting shellfish farms and protecting habitat for recreationally and commercially important fish species. Videos of fish using oyster cages can also serve as compelling outreach tools to demonstrate environmental benefits provided by the shellfish aquaculture industry to the public.

Milford Lab scientists have been working on Connecticut oyster aquaculture leases, using cages typical of the style used in Connecticut, stocked with local oyster seed. They have attached two GoPro cameras to each of a series of oyster cages.

One camera looks across the top of the cage like a periscope and the second camera hangs off one corner so that it looks down two sides of the cage and can also view the interface between the cage and the seafloor.

The team also uses Blink timers to delay the onset of video recording for approximately 24 hours in order to let any seafloor disturbance associated with cage deployment to dissipate. Cameras record video for eight minutes every hour, for 12 hours, so that they can collect video over the course of nearly all daylight hours as well as a full tidal cycle.

So far, the team has observed black sea bass, tautog, cunner, scup, conger eel, hake, goby, oyster toadfish, and rock gunnel associated with the oyster cages.

Identifying the fish species and counting the numbers of fish using the cages is only the first step in the video analysis. The team has also partnered with University of Connecticut...
WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

NEw ENGLAND SHELL EGGS
Per dozen Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)
XTRA LARGE 1.70 1.85
LARGE 1.57 1.75
MEDIUM 1.11 1.21
SMALL 0.82 0.92

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS
Per dozen Grade A brown in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)
XTRA LARGE 1.09 1.37
LARGE 1.03 1.17
MEDIUM .67 .80

SLAUGHTER HOGS
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES:
SLAUGHTER EWES:
CALVES

SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing
breakers 75-80% lean
boners 80-85% lean
lean 85-90% lean
CALVES - Graded bulk
No 1 102-118 lbs

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Wooled & Shorn

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION Per cwt.
SLAUGHTER HOGS
52-56 200-300 lbs 36.00 46.00
300-350 lbs 39.00 42.00
48-52 200-300 lbs 28.00 39.00
300-350 lbs 30.00 39.00
Sows, US 1-3
300-500 lbs 25.00 31.50
500-700 lbs 26.00 33.50
Boars 400-500 lbs 5.00 5.00

BOSTON MARKET CUT FLOWERS
Wholesale. $/unit listed. Long stem unless noted. August 7.
AGERTUM,NEN, /BN 8.50 8.50
ALLUM,BULLT,PA /BN 5.00 5.00
AMRINTHS,UPRT,PA /BN 8.50 8.50
ASCLEPIAS,PA /10 8.50 10.00
ASTER,MATS,CA /BN 7.50 8.50
CELOSIA,CKCMB,PA /BN 8.50 8.50
CELOSIA,PLMSA,PA /BN 8.50 8.50
DAHLIA, NEN,5/BN 12.50 15.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Middlefield, CT - August 13, 2018

BOSS TOWN SHIPPED IN
Price Range. Per unit.
BEAN, CRANBERRY,NJ, BUSHEL. 45.00 45.00
CABBAGE, GOLD, NJ, 12 BN/CRATE 22.00 24.00
CABBAGE, GRN, DE/NJ, 50 LB 13.00 24.00
CABBAGE, RED, DE/NJ, 50 LB/M 18.00 22.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY, NJ, 40 LB/M 16.00 20.00
CHINESE CABBAGE, NJ, 13 BU 12.00 25.00
CUCUS PICKLER, NJ, BU, S, M 16.00 20.00
Cukes, PICKER, NJ, BU, S 16.00 20.00
ENDIVE, NJ, 1.3 BU 15.00 18.00
ESCAROLE, NJ, 1.3 BU 15.00 18.00
KOHRLABI, NJ, 12 BN/CTN 15.00 20.00
LEeks, NJ, 12 BN/CRATE 22.00 24.00
LETTIC, NJ, GRNL, 24/CTN 12.00 15.00
LETTIC, NJ, REDL, 24/CTN 12.00 15.00
LETTIC, NJ, Romaine, 12/CTN 14.00 15.00
LETTIC, NJ, Romaine, 24/CTN 14.00 15.00
LETTIC, NJ, Romaine, 3/4, 1/2 BU 28.00 28.00
PEACH, YLW, NJ, 2-3/4UP, 1/2 BU 28.00 28.00
RADISHES, NJ, 24 BN/CRATE 12.00 14.00
SPINACH, FLAT, NJ 22.00 24.00
SWISS CHARD, MX CLR, NJ 12.00 16.00

RETAIL GRASS FED BISON MEAT
RIBEYE STEAKS 19.49 51.54
FILET MIGNON 39.95 67.60
NEW YORK STRIP 17.99 44.80
FLAT IRON 14.99 30.00
FLANK STEAK 15.49 27.00
SKIRT STEAK 12.95 23.00
CHUCK ROAST 11.99 18.50
EYE OF ROUND ROAST 11.99 12.99
TOP SIRLOIN 19.99 39.53
SIRLOIN TIP 10.66 19.75
BRISKET 11.20 13.17
RIB END 8.45 19.60
PRIME RIB 30.63 37.35
TENDERLOIN 39.50 50.00
STEW MEAT 11.49 15.95
JERKY 34.49 70.67
HEARTS 8.46 13.00
LIVERS 9.99 20.38
TONGUES 5.00 10.89
HOT DOGS 13.49 17.50
GROUND BISON: BULK LEAN 10.39 18.21
PATTIES 11.39 18.21

NEW HOLLAND, PA HAY REPORT
Price per ton, small squares. Aug. 10.
ALFA/LFA/GOOD 220.00 260.00
ALFA/LFA/GRASS
SUPREME 280.00 350.00
PREMIUM 255.00 265.00
GOOD 205.00 240.00
GRASS HAYS
PREMIUM 285.00 320.00
GOOD 192.00 230.00
FAIR 120.00 160.00
STRAW 150.00 225.00
(continued from Page 1)

professor and fish ecologist Pete Auster to identify and quantify the many different ways that fish are using the oyster cages.

The scientists have seen fish feeding on the fouling community that has grown on the cages, little fish escaping from bigger fish by darting inside the cage itself, and even female fish escaping male attention by retreating inside the cage.

The team plans to continue collecting video throughout the summer, and has only just begun to analyze the many hours of video they already have on hand.

HARTFORD TO HOST AQUAPONICS CONFERENCE

The 2018 Aquaponics Association Conference will be held September 21-23, 2018 in Hartford, CT. The three-day conference will include presentations from aquaponics experts, tours of commercial aquaponics operations, a vendor showroom, interactive discussions, and social events for aquaponics growers to collaborate. Spencer Curry, CEO and co-founder of Meriden-based Trifecta Ecosystems will present information regarding the commercial aquaponics industry and the future of aquaponics.

Trifecta Ecosystems, an aquaponics technology company and indoor farm, recently received a $500,000 investment from the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) to expand its farm network into the New Haven region. For more information visit www.aquaponicsassociation.org.

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

11-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut’s first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal’s Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

49-R. Dahlia tubers – exhibiting/cut varieties. $6 each. For more information about purchasing and varieties email info@strongfarm.org.


65-R. Hay tedder for sale: New Holland#162, new hubs, pins, and bushings. 16”, 4 baskets. Works great, needs nothing. $3,000.00 or BO. 860-823-9349.

66-R. Hay tedder for sale: SITREX # ST 520H. Works great, needs nothing, 16’, 4 baskets, ready to go: $2,500.00 or BO. 860-823-9349.


WANTED

7-R. Livestock wanted: Dairy cattle, heifers of any age, beef cows, bulls, steers, feeder cattle, veal, groups of sheep and goats. RyanM01@comcast.net or 860-655-0958. If no answer, leave message. All calls returned.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

68-R. Bulldozing in Eastern CT. Farm ponds up to 3 acres. Need farm water, call Don Kemp. Also, land clearing. 860-546-9500.
HIRING AND LABOR ISSUES WORKSHOP

Join the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) on Tuesday, September 4, 2018, for a workshop to discuss hiring and labor issues at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington St., New Haven, CT, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Heather Callahan from the U.S. Department of Labor will give a presentation on the H2A Program, a temporary agricultural employee program, discussing H-2A standards related to recruitment, wages, housing, transportation, and recordkeeping for employers of temporary non-immigrant agricultural workers admitted to the country under Section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Following, a panel of Connecticut producers will share their experience with the program and answer questions.

This is a free program funded by a grant from UConn Extension and is a cooperative effort of DoAg, UConn Extension, and the Risk Management Agency/USDA. To register for this event email Rebecca.Eddy@ct.gov by Friday, August 31, 2018.

AGRI-TOURISM IN CT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Agri-tourism enterprises are a rapidly growing business sector in Connecticut and New England—from pick-your-own orchards, to farm dinners, and on-farm festivals.

Learn what is being done by federal and state agencies to protect the public from health risks at a webinar on Wednesday, August 15, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.. Educational tools and other resources will be shared. For registration visit www.train.org/main/course/1078784. For additional information contact kathi.traugh@yale.edu.

CONNECTICUT SPECIALTY CROPS PROMOTION

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) is conducting a multimedia promotion of Connecticut specialty crops through September 2018. The project’s purpose is to increase the redemption rate of Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks by participants of the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, while also increasing awareness of Connecticut specialty crops among residents.

DoAg will implement bilingual radio campaigns through iHeartMedia/Total Traffic and Weather Network (92.5, 95.7, 105.9 and 97.9 FM) and Full Power Radio/Bomba (97.1 FM), directing listeners to find specialty crops at farmers’ markets and farm stands throughout the state. DoAg will work cooperatively with the Department of Public Health to issue direct phone calls and text messages to WIC participants encouraging the purchase of fruits and vegetables at farmers’ markets.

Additionally, sponsored social media posts directing potential consumers to the appropriate pages on the agency website is expected to provide specialty crop producers an increase in sales and revenue.

To learn more, visit www.ctgrown.gov/farmersmarkets and www.ctgrown.gov/crops.