

RI SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN 2ND STAKEHOLDER MEETING

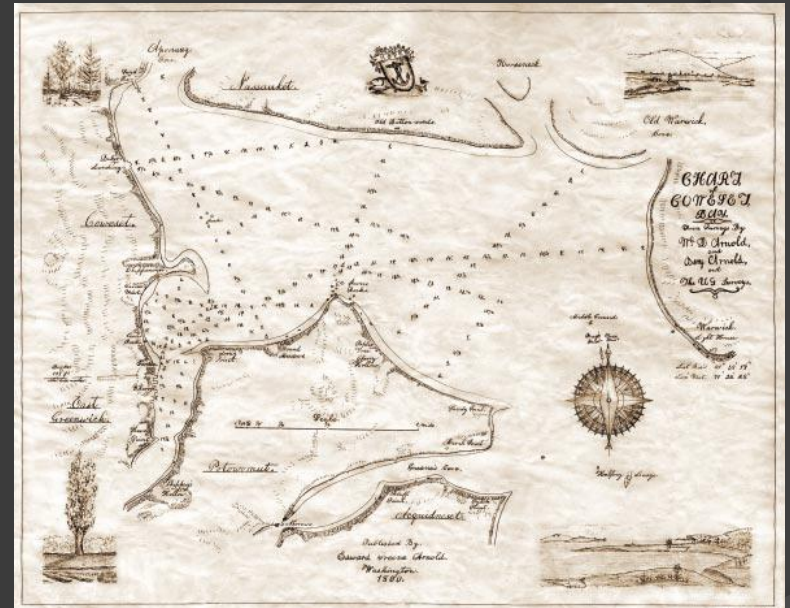
March 20, 2013
Corless Auditorium
Narragansett Bay Campus

Purpose...

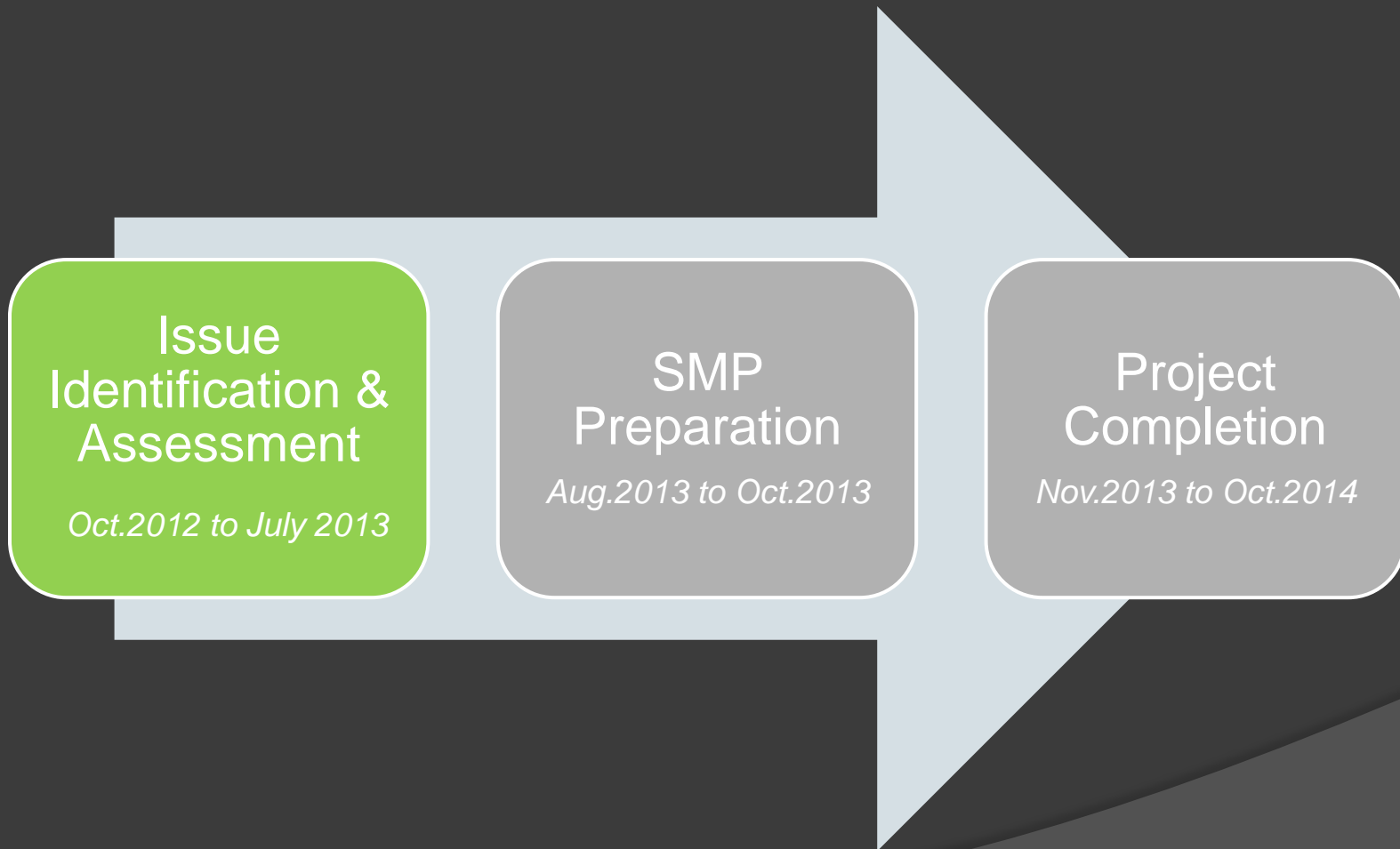
- ⦿ Demonstrate economic, environmental, and cultural value of the shellfish resource and industry to the people of Rhode Island
- ⦿ Propose (existing or alternative) shellfish management strategies and mechanisms for implementation
- ⦿ Promote science-based shellfish management decisions by increasing science activities
- ⦿ Identify and bolster research activities

Principles...

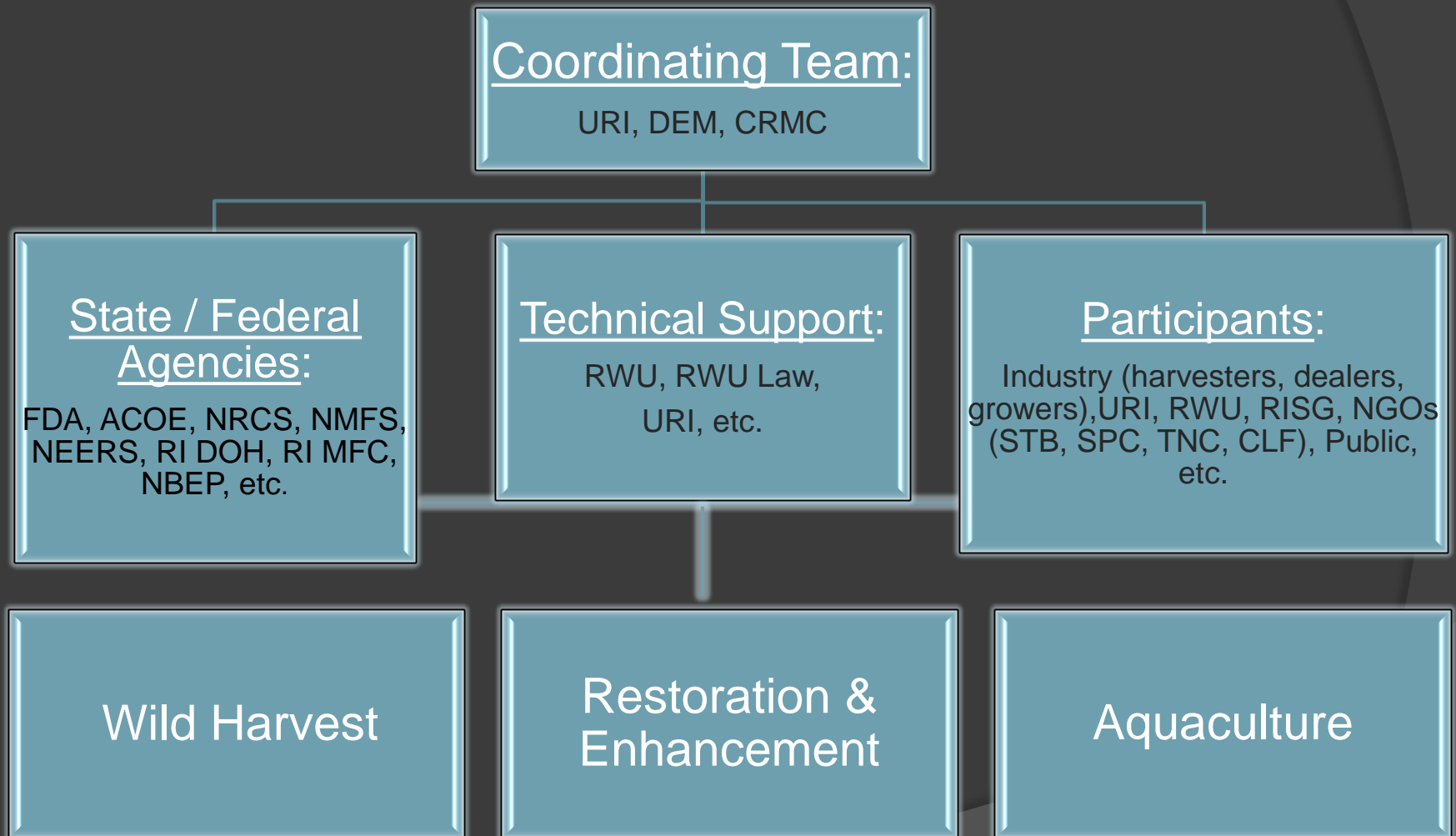
- Honor existing activities
- Involve all stakeholders
- Maintain transparency
- Use best available science
- Employ adaptive management



SMP Timeline...



Who's Involved...



Purpose of this meeting...

- ◎ Provide update on SMP initiative & progress
- ◎ Water quality regulations:
 - Enhance understanding
 - Provide forum for discussion
- ◎ Continuing the dialogue...



Goals & Objectives...

- Present draft Goals and Objectives
- Clarify the SMP process
- Issue of competing goals
- Expectations & what's realistic



Goals (draft)...

- Honor, promote and enhance the existing shellfish resource and uses.
- Conserve and manage marine shellfish resources for equitable and sustainable use.
- Contribute to a properly functioning ecosystem that is both ecologically sound and economically beneficial.
- Build a framework for coordinated decision-making between state and federal management agencies, industry, and other interested parties

Goals...

- ◎ What are your expectations, as a:
 - Fisherman?
 - Aquaculturist?
 - Environmentalist?

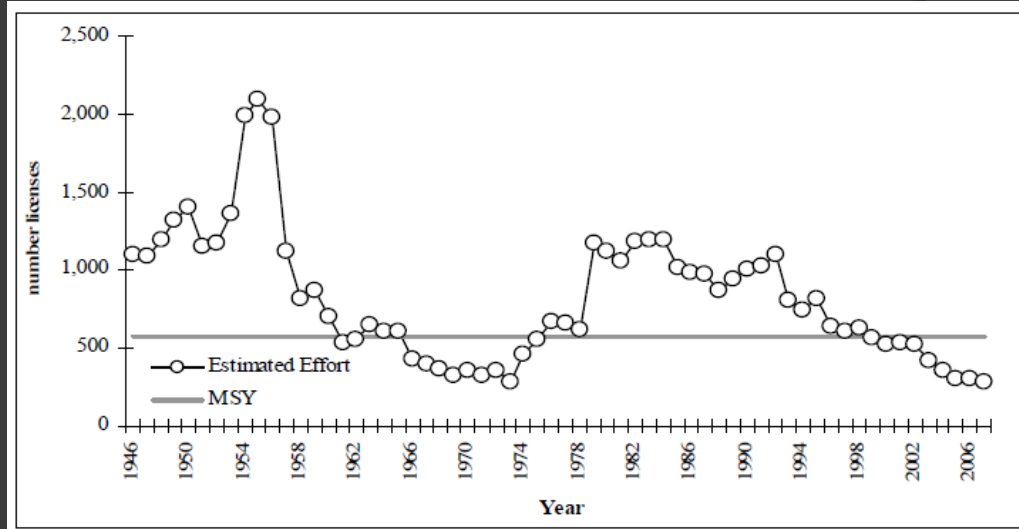
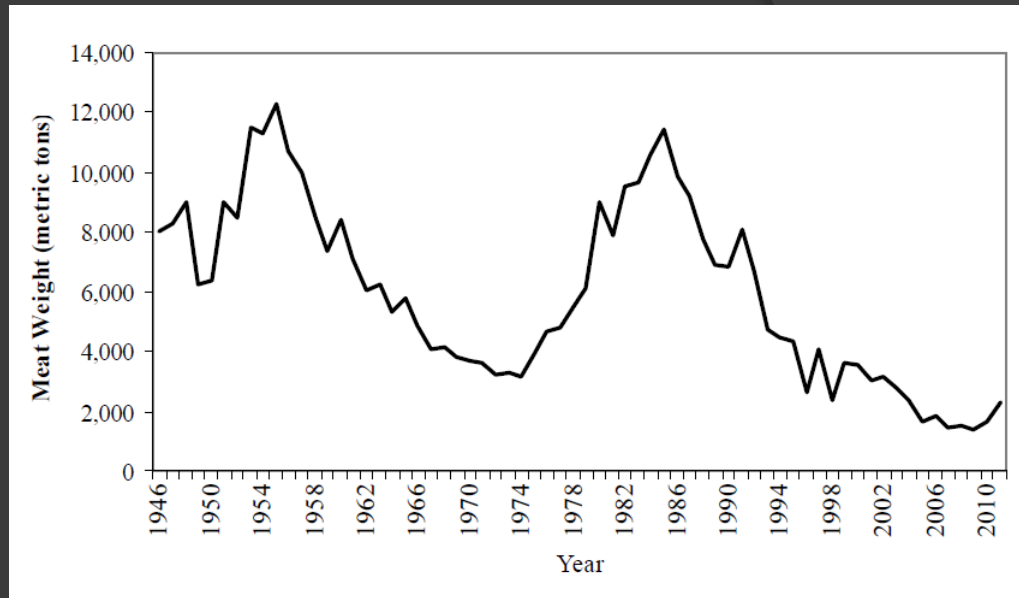


Fisherman?

Features about the peak quahog fishery in RI:

- ~12,200 metric tons in 1955 (~2,100 licenses)
- ~11,500 metric tons in 1983 (~1,200 licenses)
- Peak value at \$16 million in 1986-87

Rhode Island Quahog Production History

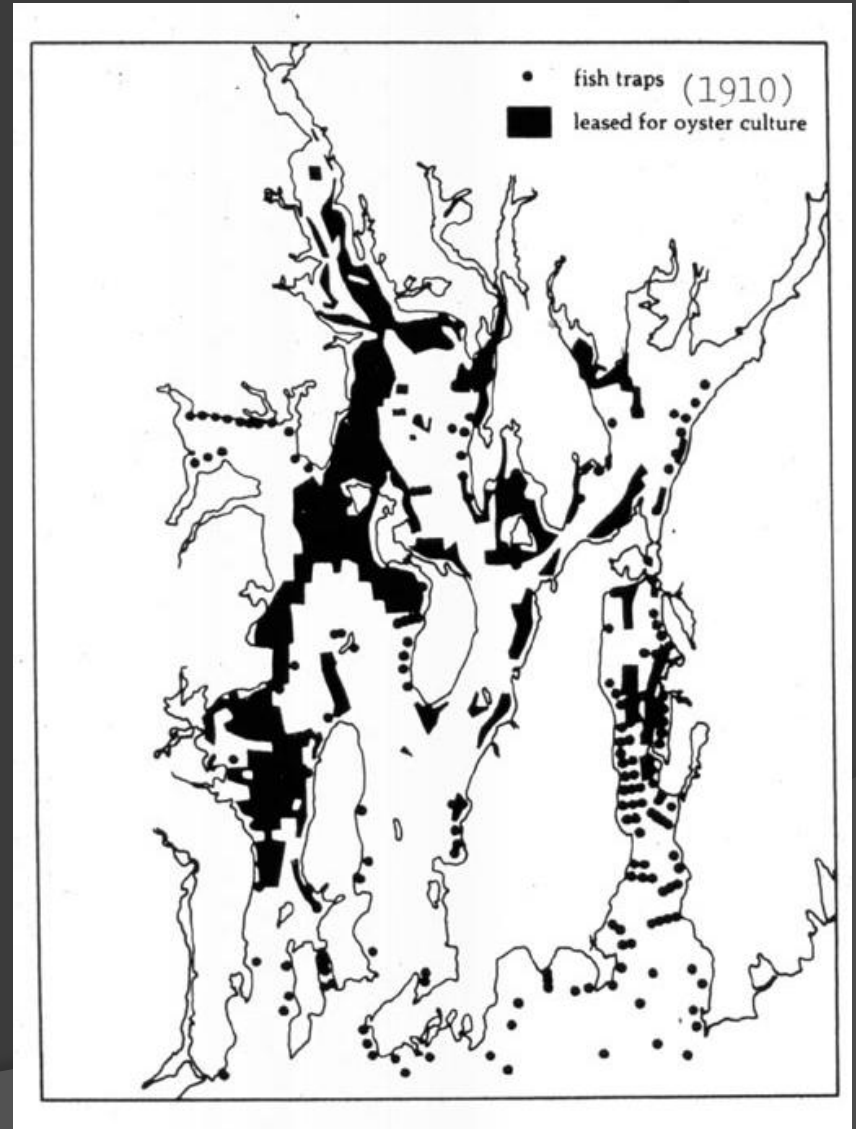


Aquaculturist?

Features about peak oyster aquaculture in RI:

- 20,846 leased acres (1910)
- 1.4 million bushels live oysters (1908)
- 1.3 million gallons of shucked oyster meats (1908)
- Worth >\$500 million in today's dollars

Oyster Aquaculture Leases and Fish Traps in Narragansett Bay 1910



Environmentalism?

◉ What did our shellfish resources look like when untouched?

- Thomas Morton wrote (in 1634) “There are great store of Oysters in the entrances of all Rivers; they are not as round as those of England, but excellent fat, and all good. I have seene an Oyster Banke a mile at length.”
- The Whaleback shell midden (Damariscotta, ME) was more than 30ft deep, more than 1,650ft in length, and a width varying from 1,320 to 1,650ft.
- Un-harvested quahog bottom averages a density of $\sim 20\text{-}30$ clams/m², compared to ~ 2.25 clams/m² average in the bay.



Objectives & Progress...

1. Document & increase our understanding of the current status of the natural resources and ecosystem conditions to help promote the health of our natural systems & prosperity of the shellfish industry.

- Economic Scope of Work
- Eco-History of RI Shellfishing Industry (contingent on funding)
- Baird Symposium, Fall 2013
- Seminar Series, ongoing
- RI Sea Grant 2014-2016 Research
- Research Agenda being developed



Objectives & Progress...

2. Clarify legal roles and responsibilities and identify mechanisms to facilitate improved coordination among federal and state decision-making.
 - DEM legal document compilation
 - RWU Legal Scope of Work – Draft in the summer

3. Identify the existing commercial, recreational, conservation uses of our state waters to minimize use conflicts.
 - Creating current “Use Maps” for the Bay and ponds

Objectives and Progress...

4. Explain and communicate current management decisions and processes.

- Website, www.rismp.org
- SMP Seminar Series
- Baird Symposium, Fall 2013
- Ongoing discussions



5. Improve stock assessment.

- Ongoing research by several groups, including RWU and RI DEM
- Potential RI Sea Grant funding
- Stakeholder ideas for improving stock assessments will be included in the SMP Research Agenda

Objectives and Progress...

6. Maintain a healthy and safe industry, while increasing marketing opportunities.
 - Seminar Series on food safety and sanitation requirements
 - Stakeholder Scoping Sessions – ongoing
 - Economic Scope of Work
 - Continue to explore opportunities
7. Implement actions to complete management plan.
 - Draft SMP by Oct. 2013



Updates...

◎ Scoping Sessions – review & outcomes

- Aquaculture (Jan.16)
- Wild Harvest (Jan.22)
- Restoration (Jan.24)
- State Agencies (Feb.27)
- Shellfish Dealers (March 14)
- Others



Next Steps...

- ⦿ Need YOUR involvement:
 - Comment on draft Goals and Objectives
 - Possible meeting to discuss further?
 - Finalized at end of April 2013
 - Continue to identify issues and collect baseline info
 - Use Maps – continuing effort
- ⦿ Seminar Series and Baird Symposium
- ⦿ Sea Grant RFP – proposals due June 3rd
- ⦿ Next Stakeholder Meeting – May 2013
- ⦿ www.RISMP.org

Contact Info...

- New website: www.rismp.org
- Sign up for Listserv
- Email: smp@etal.uri.edu
- Like and follow us on Facebook & Twitter
- Primary Contact:
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Water Quality Presentation