

An Important Questionnaire for Commercial Fishers in Southern New England

The attached announcement describes moored instruments that will be deployed as part of a research project off the southern New England coast. The main goal is to understand and predict water currents and temperature patterns, similar to the way that weather predictions are made. The predictions will be made available to fishers free of charge. The study is being carried out with no connection to monitoring, regulation, or management of fisheries.

Your response to this questionnaire is essential in order to minimize:

1. Interference of the moored instruments with fishing activities
2. Adverse impact of fishing gear on the moored instruments

By taking the time to answer the questions here, you will help guide scientists in determining where the moored instruments are placed.

Sharing with us what gear you use and where you use it will allow us to deploy the instruments in locations with little fishing activity. It is at least as important that you also share the locations where you normally *don't* fish at all (e.g. wrecks, boulder piles, cables, etc.). This will make it possible to locate the moored instruments near hang sites, which should be an effective way to avoid contact with fishing gear.

We believe that two-way communication will be critical to the success of the project, but we recognize that you may have concerns about providing us with information that is so important to your livelihood. Any information you provide us will be held in the strictest confidence. It will not be distributed to any other parties connected to monitoring, regulating, or managing the fisheries. It will be used only by a scientist to help determine where the moored instruments will be placed.

Please complete the following questionnaire and mail it back as soon as possible. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Your Name: _____ Telephone #: () _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Vessel Name _____ Length: _____

Homeport _____ Horsepower: _____

1) Position determining method most often used on board your vessel (circle all that apply).

GPS with Differential

Radar

GPS without Differential

Dead Reckoning

Loran-C

Radio Navigation

Electronic Charting

SAT-NAV

NOAA Charts

2) The aim is to broadcast the locations of the moored instruments and deploy them without a marker buoy. To what level of accuracy would you need to know the position of the instruments to avoid them? (circle one)

10yds, 50yds, 100yds, 200yds, 500yds, 1000yds, 2000yds?

3) Would a surface marker consisting of a lobster buoy with a stake or flag, enable you to avoid one of the moored instruments? (circle) Yes No

If you circled "No", explain what type of marker would be the most effective.

4) What would be the single most efficient and useful way to communicate the positions of the moored instruments to you? (circle one)

Broadcast Notice to Mariners

Local Newspaper Ad

Commercial Fisheries News

Association Newsletter

Other (please explain)

5) Which of the following fishing gear types do you utilize? (circle all that apply but please mark your primary gear type).

Bottom Trawl

Mid-water Trawl

Scallop Dredge

Lobster Pots

Hydraulic Dredge (Clam Dredge)

Long Line/Tub Trawl

In the table below, mark with X's which months of the year you utilize each gear type in or near the proposed study area (shown on the included chart).

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Bottom Trawl												
Scallop Dredge												
Hydraulic Dredge												
Longline/Tub Trawl												
Mid Water Trawl												
Lobster Pots												

6) Look at the attached chart with a descriptive key of the proposed locations for the moored instruments on the back. Will your fishing habits and opportunities be affected by the proposed placement of the moored instruments? (circle) Yes No

If you circled "Yes", how would you describe the effect: (circle)

very limiting

some habits affected

minor inconvenience

7) Which months in the year will you be most affected? (circle)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

8) Which months of the year will you be least affected? (circle)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

9) Within or near the proposed area for the instruments there may be places that are normally avoided by bottom fishermen such as: wrecks, submerged cables or natural obstructions. On the attached sheet ("Positions with no Fishing Gear Contact") please write their position (lat/long, TD, or both) in the space provided and mark which type. Use additional pages if necessary. Numerical positioning information will be most useful, but it is acceptable if you prefer to draw and label any sites on the attached chart. These sites may make good locations for the moored instruments.

10) On the chart provided, please indicate the location and direction of trawling or dredging activity. We would like to emphasize again that all information obtained from this questionnaire will be held in the strictest confidence and will be used only to help position the instruments so as to minimize their contact with fishing gear.

Comments or other information that you think would be helpful.

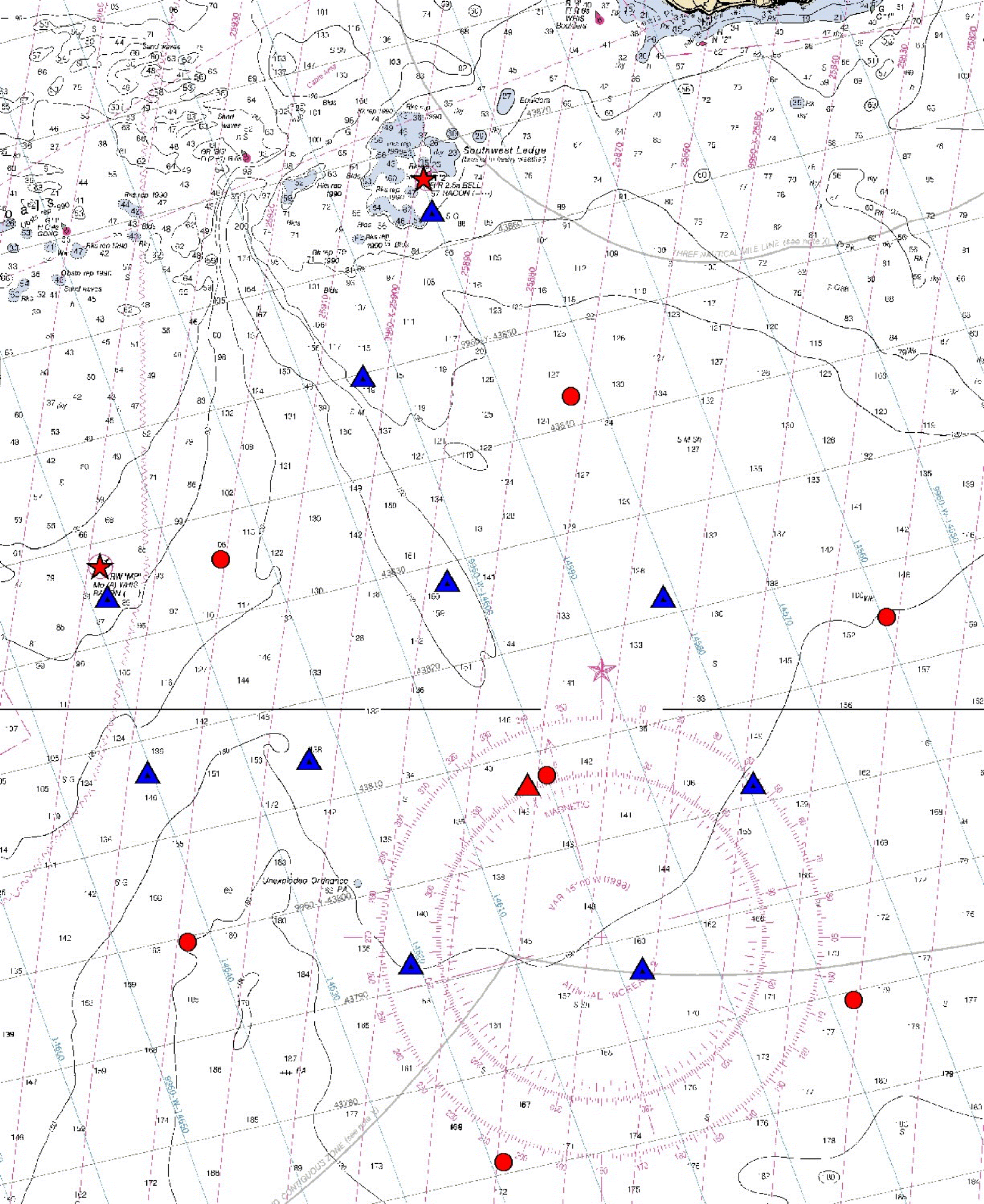


Chart Key

Proposed Positions for Instruments

DESCRIPTON	TD1	TD2	LAT	LONG
Modem 1 (blue triangle)	14589.24	43863.78	41 06.30	71 40.15
Modem 2 (blue triangle)	14602.73	43849.74	41 04.21	71 41.30
Modem 3 (blue triangle)	14601.99	43828.27	41 01.62	71 39.90
Modem 4 (blue triangle)	14580.55	43821.80	41 01.42	71 36.29
Modem 5 (blue triangle)	14637.33	43834.63	41 01.42	71 45.57
Modem 6 (blue triangle)	14430.73	44243.13	41 59.20	71 44.90
Modem 7 (blue triangle)	14622.75	43814.38	40 59.37	71 42.20
Modem 8 (blue triangle)	14578.64	43802.04	40 59.06	71 34.80
Modem 9 (blue triangle)	14620.00	43792.36	40 56.78	71 40.50
Modem 10 (blue triangle)	14596.84	43786.80	40 56.72	71 36.65
ADCP only (red circle)	14582.31	43842.84	41 03.94	71 37.84
ADCP only (red circle)	14558.73	43814.71	41 01.15	71 32.57
ADCP only (red circle)	14641.89	43799.40	40 57.05	71 44.23
ADCP only (red circle)	14618.01	43771.09	40 54.26	71 38.96
ADCP only (red circle)	14599.24	43807.41	40 59.16	71 38.24
ADCP-CTD (red circle)	14624.27	43835.55	41 01.89	71 43.67
ADCP-CTD (red circle)	14576.80	43779.09	40 56.31	71 33.13
AVVPO (red triangle)	14601.54	43806.93	40 59.04	71 38.56