



# Foster's Online

Friday, August 6, 2004

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## Cod hatchery receives grant to study fish production

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DURHAM — Improvements to the commercial cod industry could soon expand economic opportunities for fishermen and have an overall impact on the state's economy.

The New Hampshire Industrial Research Center at UNH has awarded a \$60,000 grant to GreatBay Aquaculture, a Portsmouth company that is working with UNH's David Berlinsky, assistant zoology professor, on a study of cod.

The two-year, \$120,000 study will focus on understanding and reducing stress during transport, transfer, grading and inoculation activities of cod, according to Berlinsky.

According to Berlinsky, understanding how stress impacts the fish will help GreatBay produce the highest quality juvenile cod available.

GreatBay Aquaculture is the only commercial marine hatchery that produces cod in the U.S., in competition with Canada, Norway and the United Kingdom.

"If this project is successful, GreatBay Aquaculture believes it can grow its cod production to 3,000 tons within five years, creating 20 to 30 jobs, sales of more than \$12 million, and profits of more than \$2 million," GreatBay Aquaculture Co-founder George Nardi said. "Given the ratio of fishing industry workers to fisherman, we can project a substantial impact on the state economy."

Henry Mullaney, executive director of the New Hampshire Industrial Research Center, acknowledged the fishing industry as an important part of the state's economy.

"Many people do not realize that only 10 percent of its jobs are at sea," he said. "Processing, distribution and retail make up 90 percent of the jobs."

According to Mullaney, over-fishing has reduced the supply of fish and has led to federal restrictions on the harvest of natural fish.

"Aquaculture now provides an increasing fraction of fish to support the fishing industry," he said.

The New Hampshire Industrial Research Center is funded by the state of New Hampshire through its Department of Resources and Economic Development.

Professor Berlinsky declined to be interviewed for further comment on this project.

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