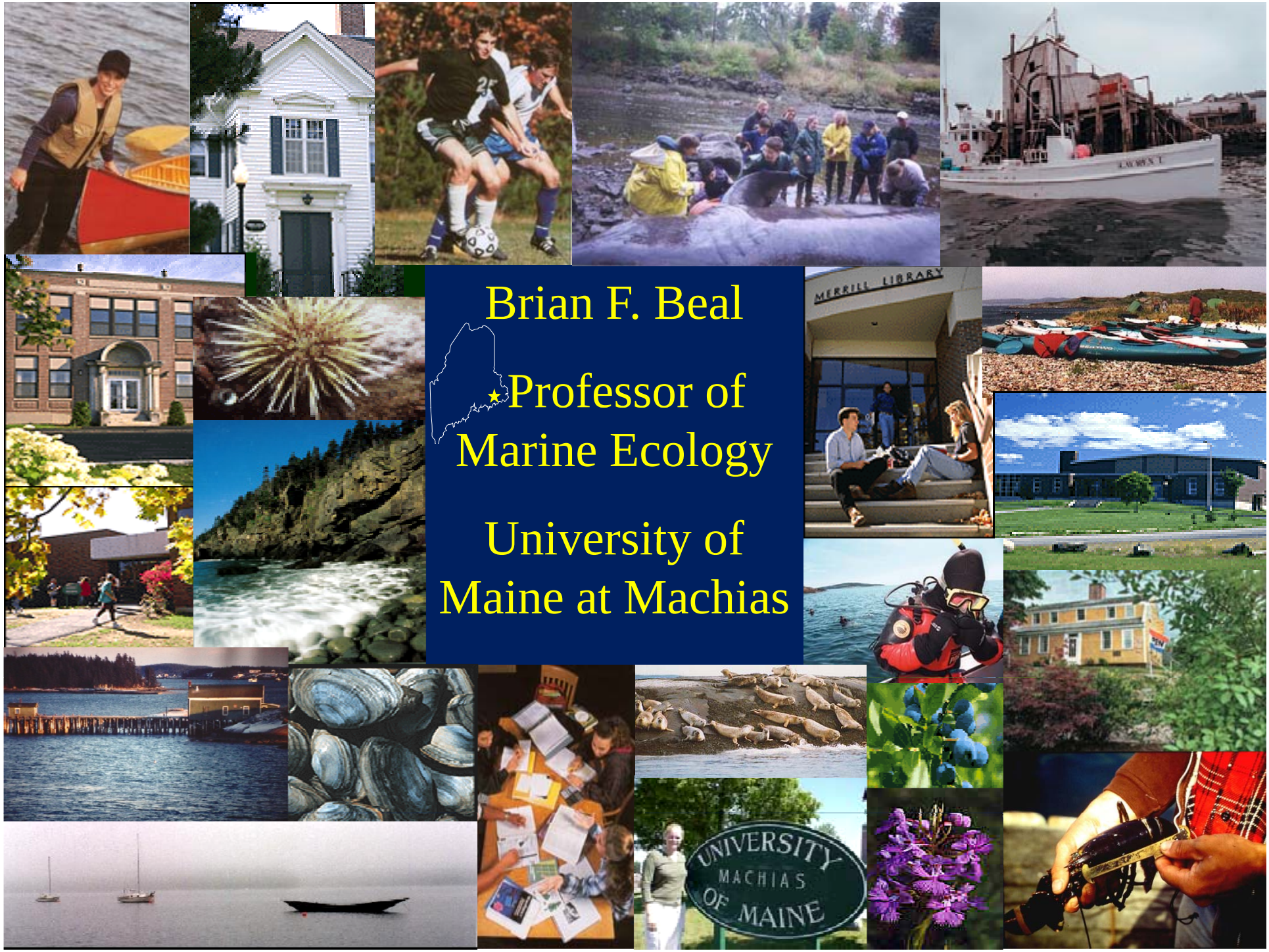
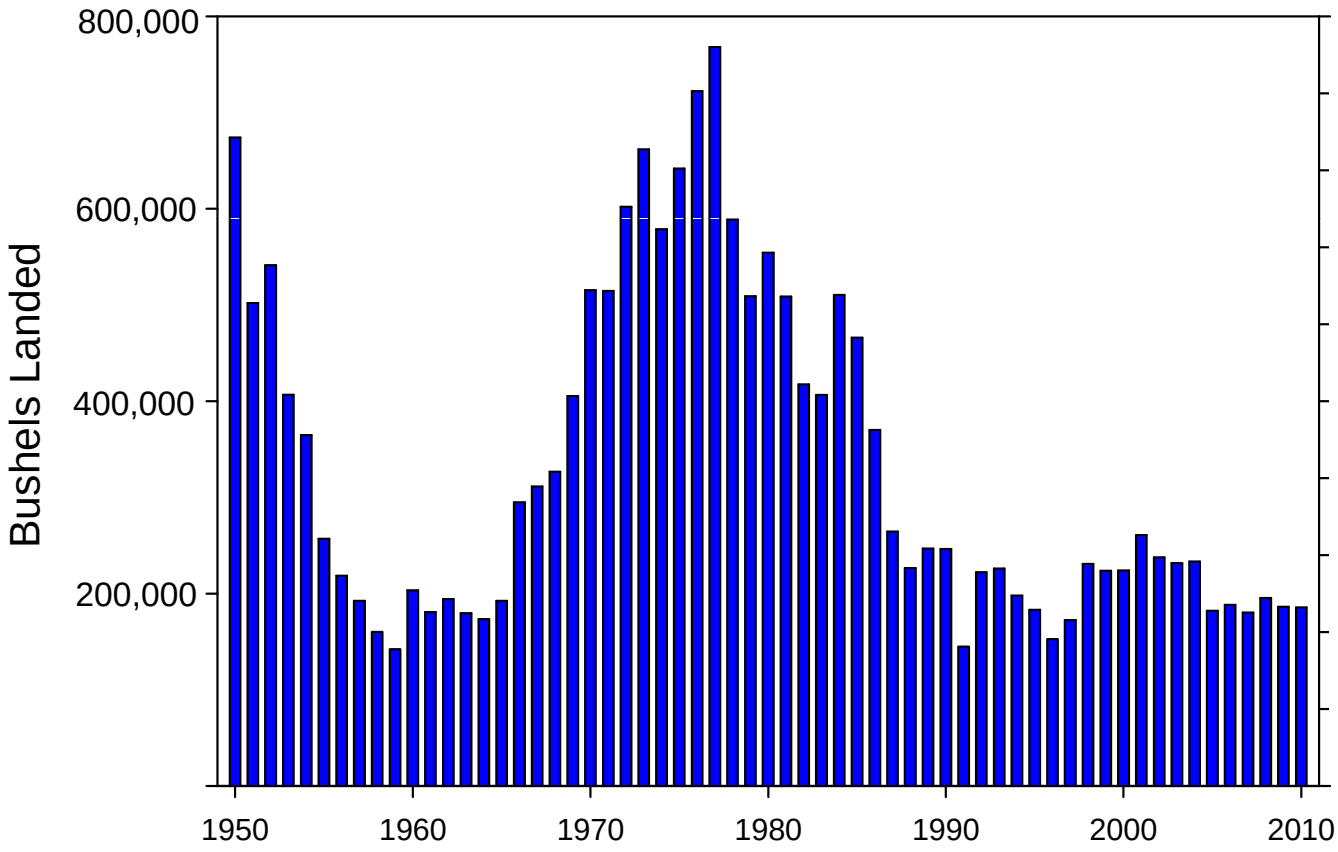


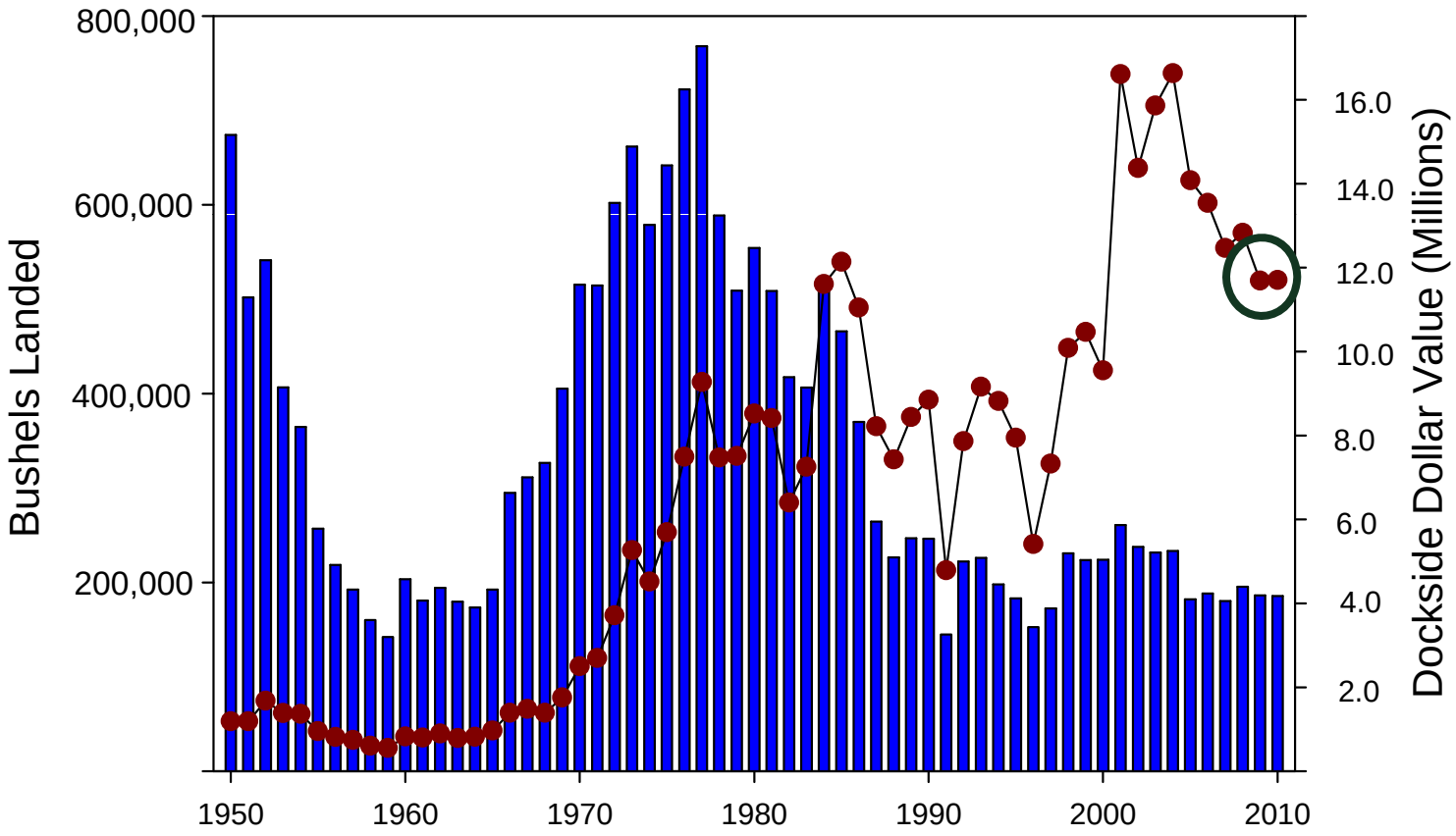
Brian F. Beal

Professor of Marine Ecology

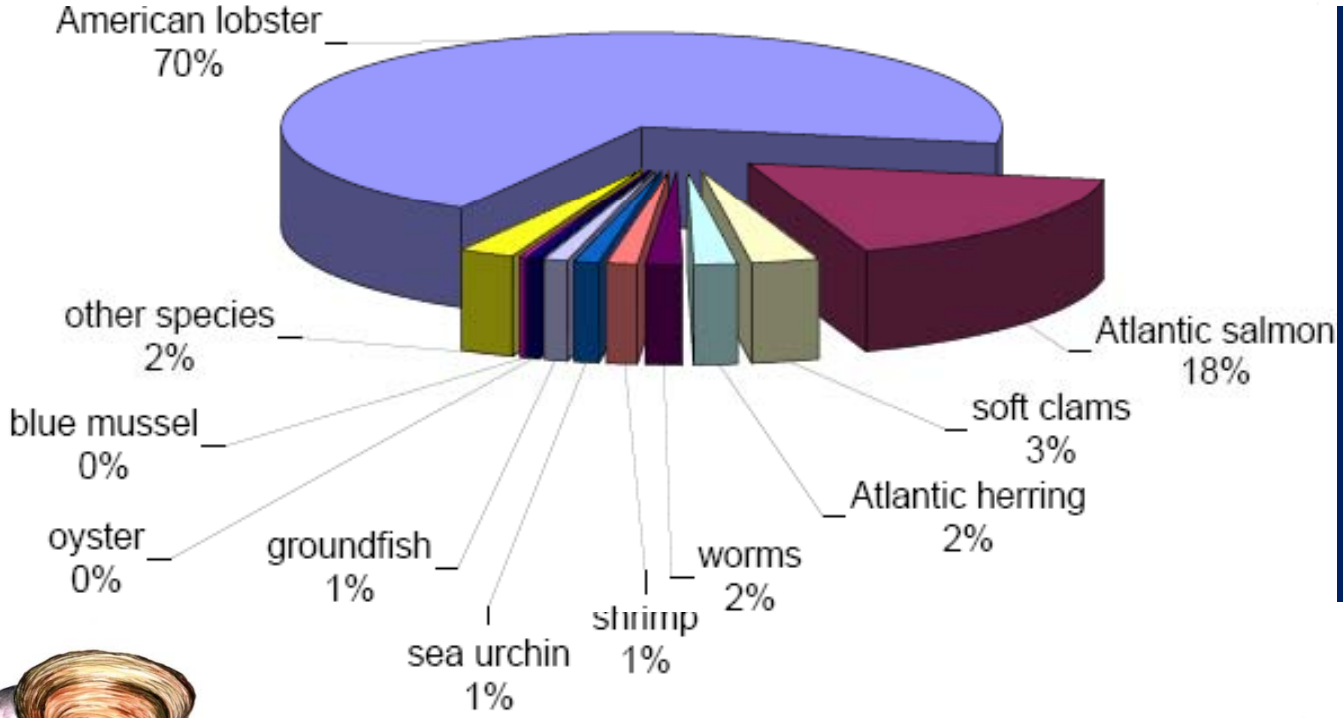
University of Maine at Machias

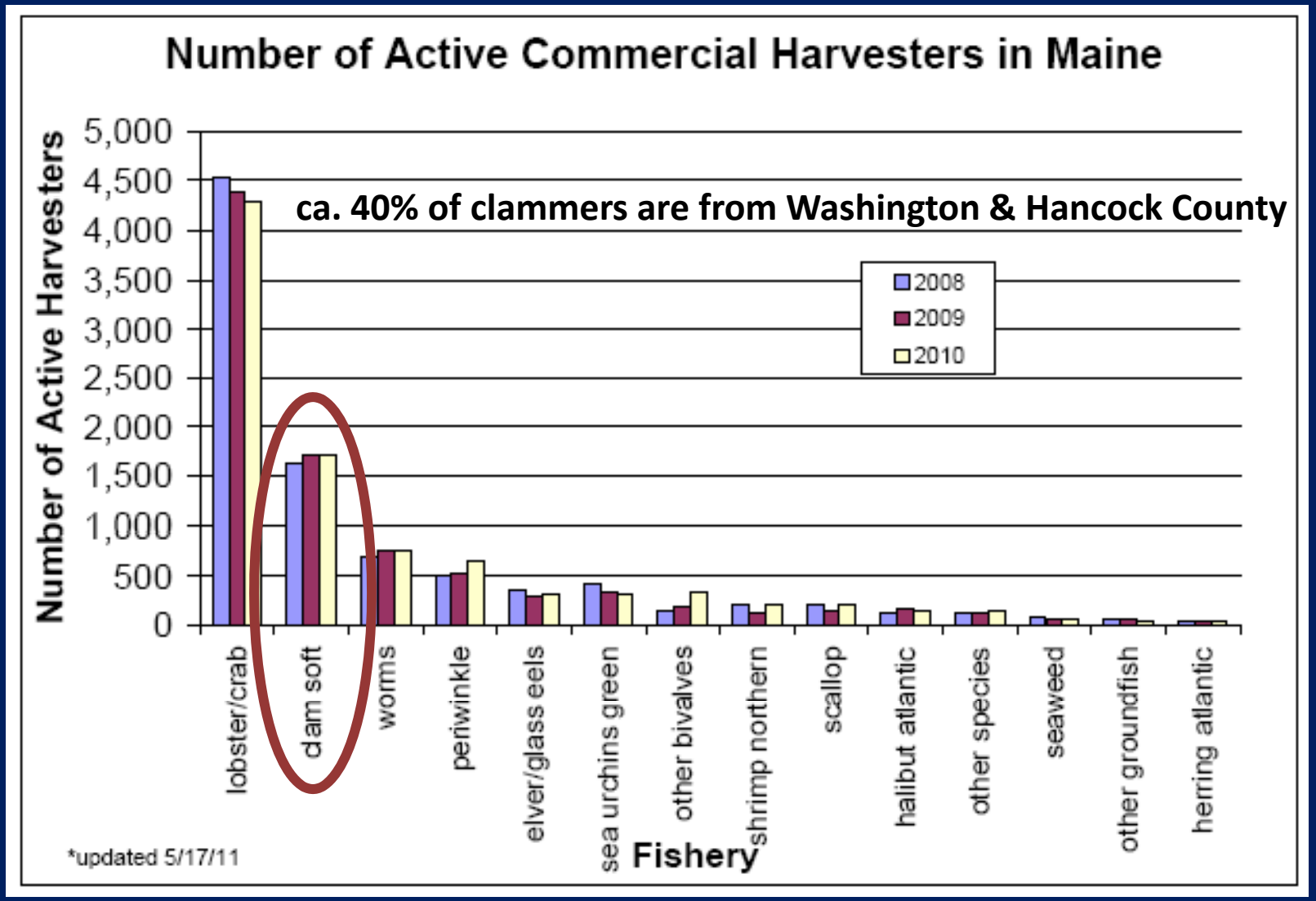
The Value of Clamming to Maine's Municipalities


800,000
600,000
400,000
200,000
Bushels Landed
1950
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010


800,000
600,000
400,000
200,000
Bushels Landed
16.0
14.0
12.0
10.0
8.0
6.0
4.0
2.0
Dockside Dollar Value (Millions)
1950
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010

Clams are the second most valuable wild marine resource in Maine, and the most valuable molluscan resource




Number of Active Commercial Harvesters in Maine
ca. 40% of clammers are from Washington & Hancock County
Number of Active Harvesters
5,000
4,500
4,000
3,500
3,000
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0
2008
2009
2010
lobster/crab
clam soft
worms
periwinkle
elver/glass eels
sea urchins green
other bivalves
shrimp northern
scallop
halibut atlantic
other species
seaweed
other groundfish
herring atlantic
Fishery
*updated 5/17/11

Maine Clamming: Economic Benefits

- Provides full and part-time jobs to residents within the municipality and/or region;

- Provides full and part-time jobs to shellfish dealers and their employees;

Maine Clamming: Economic Benefits

- Clammers purchase goods within the municipality for their livelihood (gas, boots, boats, motors, hoes, trucks and other vehicles, etc.), and for general well-being;

- Clammers pay taxes within the municipality that helps improve roads, education (local schools), enforcement, and other services within the municipality and region;

Maine Clamming: Economic Benefits

- Clams are purchased locally in supermarkets, and consumed in local restaurants, diners, and take-out places, all of which contributes to local employment;

- Clams provide jobs for resource managers (DMR), culturists (DEI), and employees of Spinney Creek.

Maine Clamming: Other facts

- 18% of clams are shucked in Maine before being sold out of state (12%) or to Maine restaurants (6%). *

- 82% are sold live to out-of-state buyers (76%) or Maine restaurants and retailers (6%).*

- A week-long closure in August of clam flats along the Maine coast would eliminate $1.8 million in harvester sales (2006 dollars)**

* Athearn: Economic impact of Maine's shellfish industry (January, 2008)

** Athearn: Economic losses from closure of shellfish harvesting areas in Maine (January, 2008)

Maine Clamming: Other facts

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULE-MAKING

AGENCY: Department of Marine Resources
STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 M.R.S. §§6172, 6192, 6193 & 6194

Maine Bacterial Closures

Washington County towns with closed shellfishing areas:

Calais, Robbinston, Perry, Eastport, Pembroke, Dennysville, Edmunds, Trescott, Lubec, Cutler, Whiting, Machiasport, Machias, Roque Bluffs, Jonesboro, Jonesport, Beals, Addison, Harrington, Milbridge, Steuben

Hancock County towns with closed shellfishing areas:

Gouldsboro, Corea, Winter Harbor, Franklin, Sorrento, Hancock, Lamoine, Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor, Northeast Harbor, Mount Desert, Tremont, Swans Island, Frenchboro, Trenton, Ellsworth, Surry, Blue Hill, Brooklin, Sedgwick, Brooksville, Penobscot, Castine, Deer Isle, Stonington, Bucksport, Verona Island

The Portland Press Herald

Rains close clam flats, dry up Maine supplies

The Times Record

Digging for Answers

The Ellsworth American

Heavy Rains Force Shellfish Closures

MaineNewsPress.com

Maine News

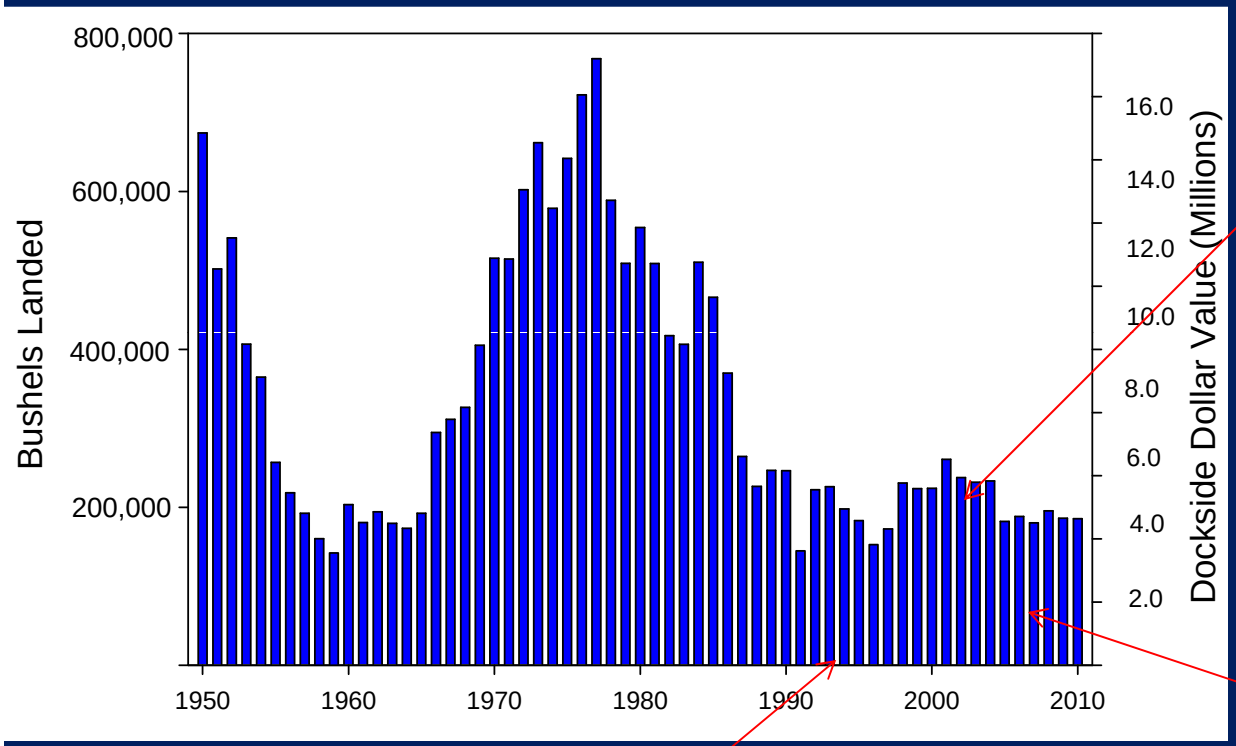
Clean H2O for clams

BANGOR DAILY NEWS

New Maine program aims to reopen closed clam flats

It's all about
Clean Water ……..

.....perhaps.....

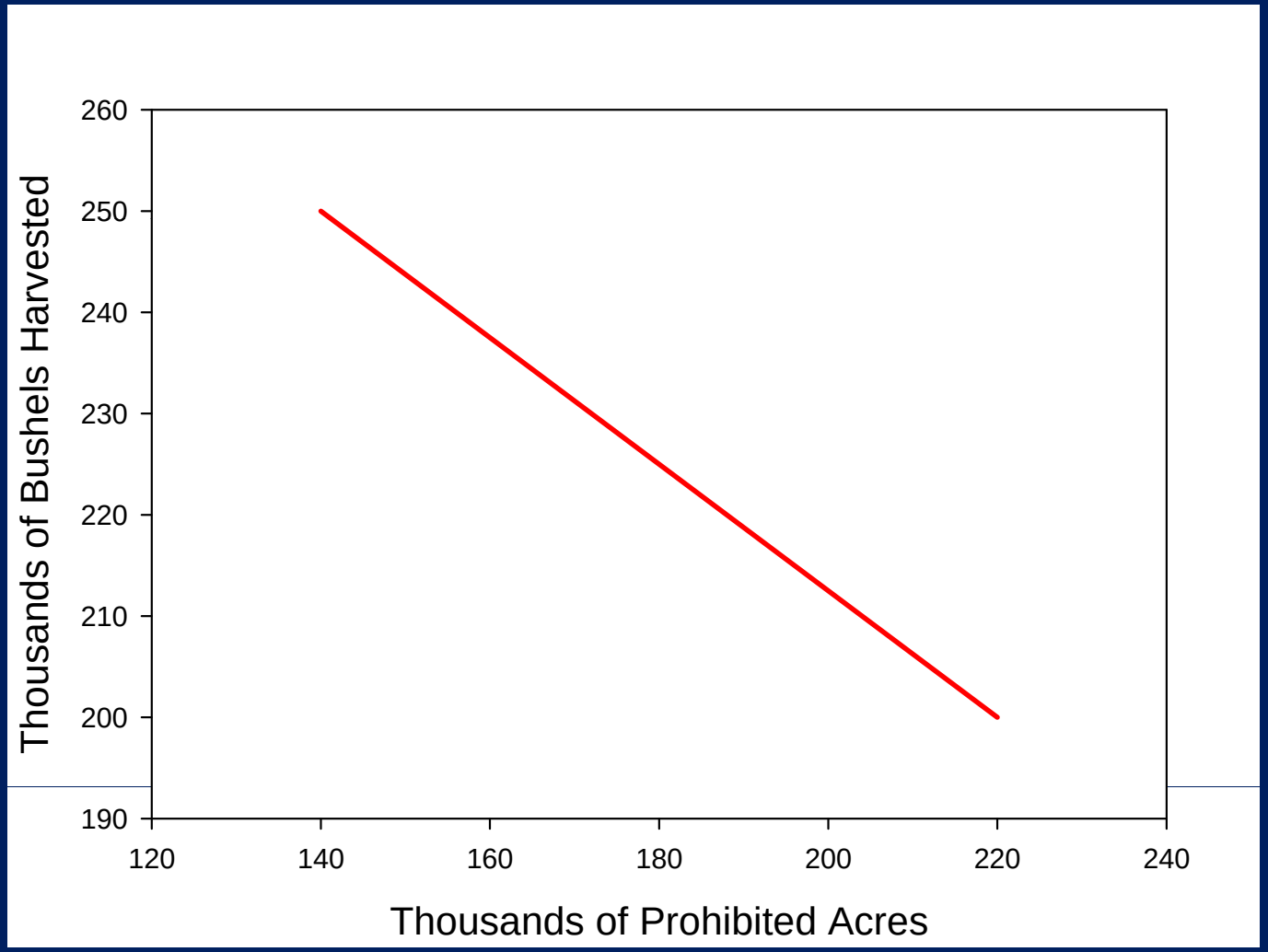


2002 = 153,847 acres closed

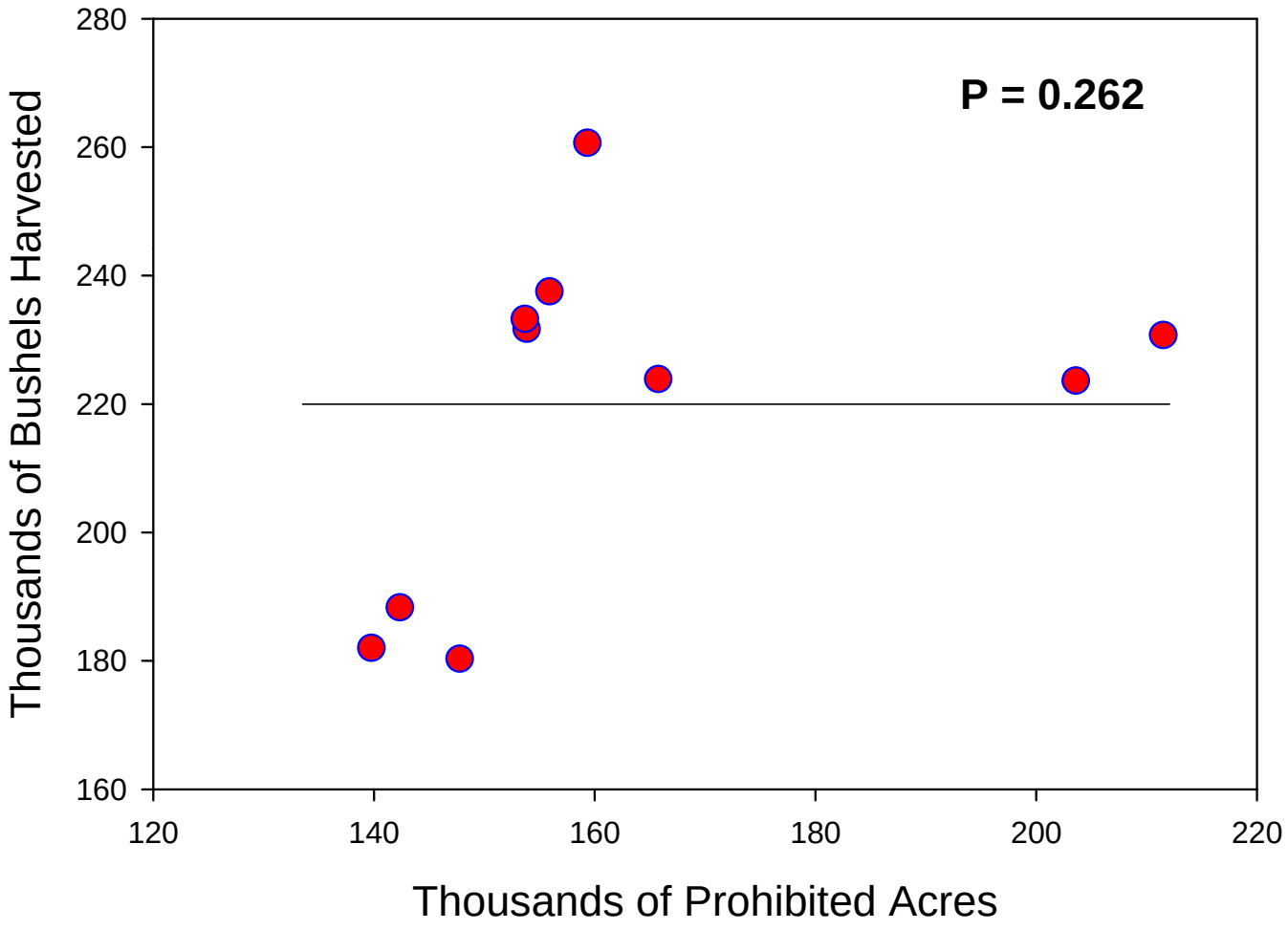
2007 = 147,767 acres closed

1993 = 270,444 acres closed (Prohibited)

If increasing clam harvests in Maine were as simple as cleaning up the water, then we would expect to see clam harvests increase as the acres of prohibited flats decrease.



1998-2007 Commercial Clam Landings vs. Number of Prohibited Intertidal Acres

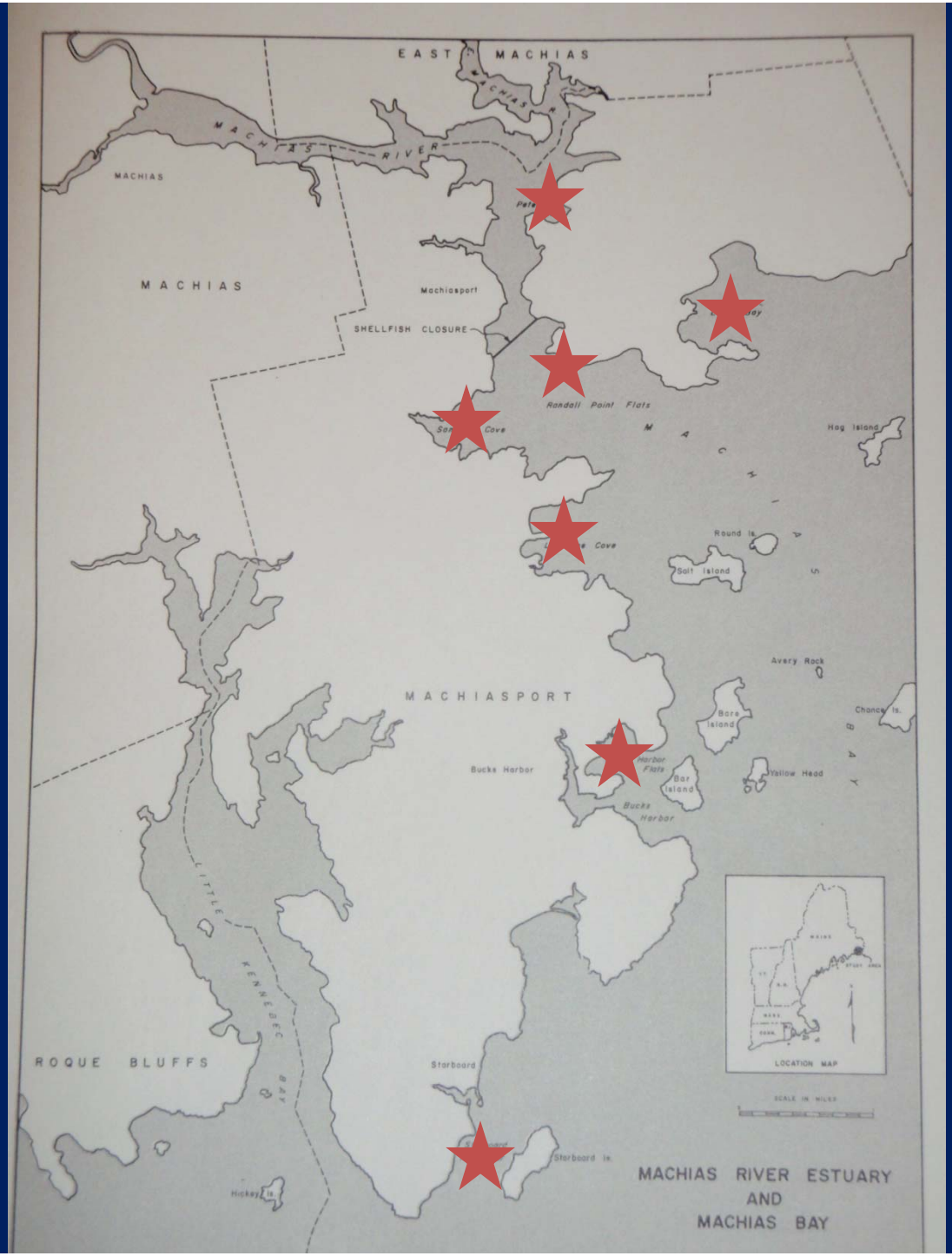


CWT 10-23

THE SOFT SHELLED CLAMS (Mya arenaria)

IN THE MACHIAS RIVER ESTUARY AND STARBOARD ISLAND BAR MACHIAS AND MACHIASPORT, MAINE

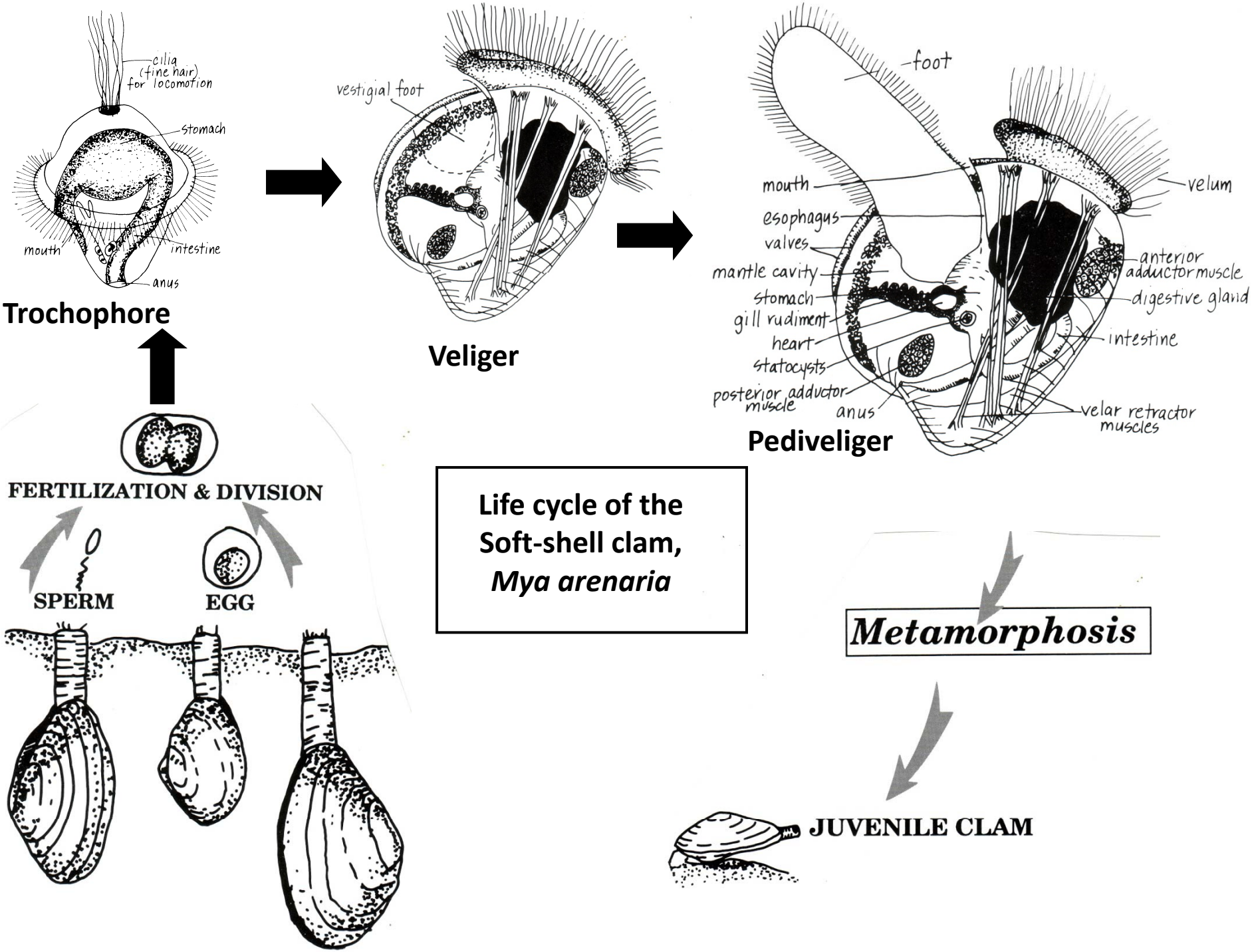
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FEDERAL WATER QUALITY ADMINISTRATION
NEW ENGLAND BASINS OFFICE
NEEDHAM HEIGHTS, MASSACHUSETTS
SEPTEMBER, 1970


EAST MACHIAS
MACHIAS RIVER
MACHIAS
MACHIAS
Machiasport
SHELLFISH CLOSURE
Randall Point Flats
Hog Island
Round Is.
Salt Island
Avery Rock
MACHIASPORT
Chance Is.
Bare Island
Harbor Flats
Bar Island
Yellow Head
Bucks Harbor
Bucks Harbor
LITTLE KENNEBEC BAY
ROQUE BLUFFS
Starboard
Starboard Is.
Hickey Is.
LOCATION MAP
MACHIAS RIVER ESTUARY
AND
MACHIAS BAY

Soft-shell clam survey (Machiasport) 1968-1969

Areas	Acres	Bushels/Acre	Valule*
Starboard Island Bar	40	175	$ 309,190
Bucks Harbor Neck	225	162	$1,609,997
Larrabee Cove	435	209	$4,015,716
Sanborn Cove	225	235	$2,335,489
Little Bay	355	248	$3,888,727
Randall Point	350	160	$2,473,520
TOTAL	1,630	198	$14,632,639

* Using 2010 average price per bushel of $63.10



Life cycle of the Soft-shell clam, *Mya arenaria*