GULF OF MEXICO
YOUNG FISHERMEN
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Addressing a recognized need within commercial fishing industry through regional collaboration

Ashford Rosenberg, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting
March 12, 2020
PROBLEM STATEMENT

“Greying of the fleet” – national issue.

Average age of commercial fisherman is increasing.

Lack of young, qualified deck hands.

Difficult to find “first step.”

Start-up costs can be high.

Lack of access to capital.

Other regions have young fishermen training programs.
GOM YOUNG FISHERMEN PROGRAM TIMELINE

2017
- Informal conversations between Eric Brazer and Bob Gill.

Winter 2018
- Bob Gill, Eric Brazer, and Ashford Rosenberg become “coordinating team.”

Spring 2018
- Started researching programs across the country.
NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Sea Grant

BC Young Fishermen’s Network

Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island
How are other regions dealing with this problem?

- Grassroots, industry-led programs.
- Housed under industry trade organizations or partnerships with Foundations, Academia, or NGOs.
- Two general formats – classroom vs. on-the-water.
- Reliant on external funding.

Cathryn Klusmeier and Jake Metzger fish on the F/V I Gotta as part of ALFA’s deckhand training program. Photo by Eric Jordan.

Photo credit: Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association
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MARINE RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM (MREP)
PLANNING TEAM

- Small group charged initiating the program, build structure, and execute the program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Justin Bruland</td>
<td>OFF and FKCFA</td>
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<td>Wild Seafood Co</td>
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<td>Ryan Bradley</td>
<td>MSCFU</td>
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<td>Bob Gill</td>
<td>formerly of Shrimp Landing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Brazer</td>
<td>GORFSA</td>
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<td>Lance Nacio</td>
<td>Anna Marie Shrimp</td>
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<td>Shane Cantrell</td>
<td>Galveston Sea Ventures</td>
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<td>Laura Picariello</td>
<td>TX Sea Grant</td>
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<td>Ashford Rosenberg</td>
<td>GOMRFSA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kim Amendola (NOAA)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alexa Dayton (formerly GMRI/MREP)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Jeff Barger (Ocean Conservancy)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bob Gill (formerly Shrimp Landing)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Leann Bosarge (Bosarge Boats)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gary Graham (retired TX Sea Grant)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mike Lombardi (Lombardi’s Seafood)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lisa Schmidt (Bohica Fisheries)</strong></td>
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- **Fall 2019**
  - Hosted webinars about other Young Fishermen Programs.
FALL 2019

- “Development Phase” Grant.
- Coordinate in-person Steering Committee meeting.
- Determine structure of young fisherman training program.
- Create basic work plan for a pilot.
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Spring 2020
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STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
TAMPA, FL MARCH 3-4

Photo credit: Kai Lorenzen, University of Florida
INITIAL STEERING COMMITTEE GOALS

- Build community and trust among steering committee.
- Identify Young Fishermen’s Training Program learning objectives and measures of success.
- Brainstorm form, function and funding opportunities for the Young Fishermen’s Training Program that the planning team can finalize.
- Provide planning team with the content needed for project workplan development and execution.

Joy Hazell, FL Sea Grant - Facilitator

Photo credit: Kai Lorenzen, University of Florida
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Photo credit: Kai Lorenzen, University of Florida
CONSENSUS ON “PROBLEM STATEMENTS” FROM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

• If fishery doesn’t have good crew, we won’t have a next generation of captains/owners.

• Barriers to entry exist for young crew and deck hands.

• Fisheries are a complicated system to navigate.

• There is a problem with perception of industry and professionalization (internal and external).
CONSENSUS ON POTENTIAL FORMAT OF TRAINING PROGRAM

• Focus on training deck hands as crew for pilot/early phases.
  • Can extend into paths to ownership/captains as program grows.
• Combine classroom and on-the-water component.
• Need to drug screen and background check participants.
• Recruit passionate, patient captains and owners to act as mentors.
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

• Seeking partners.
• Seeking funding.
• Identifying resources that already exist that can be incorporated.