Fisheries Uncertainty Workshop

Approximately 40 people attended a Fisheries Uncertainties workshop in Syracuse organized and facilitated by NYSG Fisheries Specialist **Dave MacNeill**. Representatives of several agencies including New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), US Geological Survey, Canadian Centre for Inland Waters/Department of Fisheries and Oceans (CCIW-DFO), Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Great Lakes Research Consortium as well as members of academia and interested stakeholders came to the fall '05 workshop funded by the New York Great Lakes Protection Fund. The purpose of the workshop, as its name implies, was to discuss the various factors and events that potentially impact future populations of economically important species of fish in New York's Great Lakes. As someone who has observed Great Lakes fisheries over the last several decades, and has recently been nominated by NYS DEC to serve on the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission representing commercial fishing interests, MacNeill comments, "Nothing is more certain than uncertainty itself."

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— Dave MacNeill "

Highlights of the agenda were presentations from three workshop speakers. **Evan Cooch** of Cornell University presented new modeling techniques using dynamic models developed by physicists. **Valerie Luzadis** of SUNY ESF spoke on ecological economic valuation, and **Cliff Scherer** (also of Cornell) gave a presentation on risk/uncertainty communication tools.

Based on completed attendee evaluations, the workshop was a success. Out of workshop discussions, some potential research topics emerged. Also, NYS DEC expressed keen interest in follow-up workshops that will focus on decision analysis and risk communication planning that agencies can use with stakeholders.

Proceedings from the workshop are being developed into a final report as is a fact sheet. For more on the workshop or the report, contact Dave MacNeill at dbm4@cornell.edu.

**— Dave MacNeill,
NYSG Fisheries Specialist**