



Quoddy Pilots USA  
99 Toll Bridge Road  
Eastport, Maine 04631  
U.S.A.

Mr. Ed Welch, Chairman  
Hydrographic Services Review Panel  
901 North Pitt Street, Suite 100  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**May 2, 2011**

**Re: Support for the NOAA NRT5 Survey of Cobscook and Passamaquoddy Bay, Maine**

Dear Mr. Welch:

I understand that the Hydrographic Services Review Panel will meet this week in Hawaii. I wish to report to the HSRP the results of one of the panel's recommendations last year to Dr. Lubchenco of NOAA.

Shortly after the May meeting and making the recommendation (within one week) NOAA had people from Navigation Response Team 5 on the water in Cobscook working out of Eastport, Maine conducting what turned out to be an amazing survey effort which lasted into November, 2010. The team was escorted and set up personally by CDR Larry Krepp, Chief, NOAA Navigation Response Branch. CDR Krepp made sure all logistics and equipment were working well and held a very thorough community meeting with all stakeholders to explain the parameters and requirements of the survey team's work. CDR Krepp returned several times in the subsequent months to hold community outreach meetings in Lubec and Eastport for the public, press, and especially the fishing community.

Captain John Lowell, director of the NOAA Office of Coast Survey and U.S. Hydrographer, also visited Eastport and the NRT 5 team, and held a very thorough briefing with the local maritime community covering all port and fishing issues which proved very helpful.

The NRT 5 team was very well led by Mr. Nickolas Forfinski who, along with scientist Mr. Matt Andring, conducted a complete survey of the area and worked very hard with public outreach and especially with the fishing community. NRT 5 met with the press on an almost weekly basis, and responded to special requests for wreck identification and charting, successfully locating (within centimeters) missing and dangerous wrecks. This valuable information was sent to us in December, after the field work was completed, and the wrecks identified in February.

The tidal currents in Cobscook, especially on days when tidal ranges of -3.2 ft to +23.9 ft occur on one tide, are very difficult to work surveys in, and NRT 5 personnel's expert and safe boat handling during surveys was interesting to observe.

NOAA responded quickly, enthusiastically, and thoroughly to your panel's request. The result of the NRT 5 survey, press relations, community outreach, and local participation is, we are very happy to report, **the loss of no fisherman or vessels during this dragging season from October 2010 to April 2011.**

We have no doubt that the work of the Office of Coast Survey and NRT 5 both on and off the water was the primary reason for this dragging season's safe outcome. NOAA and NRT 5 gave us the tools and just as importantly helped change for the better the safety psychology of the fishing community in our area. We could ask for no more.

Please thank each member of the HSRP for their support. This support made a real difference in people's lives.

Most respectfully,

*Robert J. Peacock*

Captain Robert J. Peacock  
Quoddy Pilots USA