

RENAISSANCE

connecting farms, food, & nutrition.

Direct Markets for Locally-Caught, Sustainable Seafood in New Hampshire



Establishing direct markets for local fishermen is the focus of a new project to develop a Community Supported Fishery (CSF) in New Hampshire.

UNH Cooperative Extension and NH Sea Grant are helping link New Hampshire fishermen with local seafood consumers and retailers by building a better understanding of commercial fishing and the benefits of eating local, sustainably-caught seafood. The hope is that the establishment of direct markets between fishermen and consumers will lead to the sustainability of the industry, both in terms of fish stocks as well as the economic viability of the industry.

New Hampshire's rich history in commercial fishing has helped to shape the state's character and sense of community. Equally important, commercial fishing has been a vital component of the state's economy for over two centuries. Not only is seafood a multi-million dollar industry in New Hampshire that employs approximately 100 commercial fishermen, but it has also led to the creation of approximately 250 jobs in other sectors including

CLOSING THE FOOD GAP
AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT
UNH

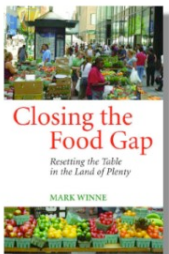
Mark Winne, author of *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty*, will give a free and open to the public presentation at UNH, Durham, on April 1, 4 p.m., at the Memorial Union Building (MUB) Theater II.

From 1979 to 2003, Mark Winne was the Executive Director of the Hartford Food System, a private non-profit agency that works on food and hunger issues in the Hartford, Connecticut area. He is a co-founder of a number of food and agriculture policy groups, including the City of Hartford Food Policy Commission and the national Community Food Security Coalition.

[Read his full biography and learn more about his book.](#)

food processing, tourism, restaurants, boatyards, etc.

Yet, the seafood industry is at an important juncture that will determine its future sustainability and viability. On the one hand, fishing regulations aimed at protecting declining fish stocks have made it difficult for commercial fishermen to turn a





profit. Couple this with near record-low prices for shrimp and lobster, commercial fishermen worry that their livelihood is in jeopardy.

There may be opportunities for the industry to sustain the resource and increase the profits from fish sales. The answer lies in establishing direct markets for local, sustainably-caught seafood. In fact, Cooperative Extension is helping the Yankee Fishermen's Co-op to establish a Community Supported Fishery (CSF) for shrimp and lobster. This winter, the Co-op will begin selling shares of shrimp and lobster direct to consumers at Seacoast Farmers' markets and through other venues. Ultimately, the hope is to establish direct links between the co-op and area restaurants and local fresh markets.

You can do your part by completing the following consumer survey, which will help us build a better understanding of the potential for direct markets in the seafood industry. Please visit www.nhseafood.com to complete the "consumer" survey.

NHCFSF Food Indicator Project Update

Since the summer of 2008 the Center has been conducting research in an effort to build a web-based, visual tool to help frame a policy discussion around food security. The 'Food Security Indicator' project is still in a preliminary stage but has been gaining momentum throughout the fall. With enthusiasm from the NHCFSF's advisory council and other supportive groups like 'Share our Strength,' we are committed to developing a tool that will offer a dependable frame of reference for all stakeholders to monitor progress in our region's food system.

The 'Food Security Indicator' project utilizes what are referred to as 'Business as Usual Models' and 'Wedges'. Business as Usual models are constructed by taking historical data and projecting what a particular phenomena will look like if the trend persists at its current rate. For example, in looking at agricultural land loss and household food insecurity in New England it becomes apparent that 'Business as Usual' is simply not acceptable. In a response to the current and perceived threat to our food system 'Wedges' are a series of quantified solutions for these problems and trends. The goal is to build more wedges than are necessary, thereby creating a variety of 'solutions' or 'interventions' for policy makers and others to choose from. We will continue to report details in coming newsletters and on our website.



New Hampshire Center for a
FOOD SECURE FUTURE

The mission of the New Hampshire Center for a Food Secure Future (NHCFSF) is to advance a renaissance of New Hampshire food culture from farm to table, promoting food systems that support sound nutrition and healthy sustainable communities.

[Visit our website](#)

Upcoming Events

March 7: [7th Annual NOFA-NH Winter Conference](#), Concord, NH

March 7: [Winter Farmers' Market](#), Stratham Town Hall

March 16: [Monadnock Matchmaker Event: Cultivating New Connections Between Local Buyers and Growers](#), Keene, NH

April 1: [Mark Winne, author of Closing the Food Gap, presentation](#) at UNH, Durham

April 21: [Flavors of the Valley Local Food Expo](#), White River Junction, VT

New Websites to Explore

Created by NH writer Helen Brody, New Hampshire Farms Network provides farm profiles, news, recipes, and discussion forums. The site includes a special focus on the vital role of farm women in NH:

www.newhampshirefarms.net

A new blog provides weekly updates on NH legislation:

www.nhfrontdoorpolitics.com