



**THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
SEA GRANT MARINE ADVISORY PROGRAM**

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**SHELLFISH COMMISSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS
IN CONNECTICUT -1985**

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Connecticut's public shellfisheries are governed by local town appointed shellfish commissions. Recent legislation has mandated that shellfish commissions develop shellfish management programs. Initially, these management plans are specific to areas presently closed to direct shellfish harvesting. It is also anticipated that management plans will soon be required for certified areas open to public shellfishing.

Many towns presently lack the shellfish management plans needed to regulate shellfish resources. Shellfish surveys and population inventories are known to be important tools for both short- and long- term management proposals. High school student interns, working under the direction of a shellfish commission and a program director, could provide this valuable research data. High school students would perform the field work, i.e., sampling programs, while being provided opportunities for academic enrichment and community involvement. Coordination and linkages with various state, academic legislative and regulatory agencies prevent duplication of effort, allow for technical assistance, and in some cases, supply crucial foundational information.

A shellfish commission internship program was implemented between the Daniel Hand High School and the Madison Shellfish Commission. A biology teacher at the High School was named project Director and was in charge of the two high school interns. The tasks involved collecting shellfish data, spat fall monitoring, transplanting of shellfish and relaying programs for recreational shellfishing. The students and Director receive a stipend for their efforts and class credit at the High School.

The program required a significant amount of technical information and background literature. Information was provided on seed oystering, harvesting equipment (dredges, tongs, rakes) relaying and operation of shellfish equipment. Much of this information involved field work and demonstration of equipment.

In addition to field work, literature was provided concerning construction of spat collectors, how to perform shellfish surveys, shellfish biology and shellfish management. The program has been successfully incorporated into the Shellfish Commission schedule of activities. One of the projects completed by the Interns was a 10-minute presentation that has been viewed by the Commission and shown to civic groups.

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