

Gathering, Preserving, and Sharing Traditional Fisheries Knowledge from Down East Communities in North Carolina \$25,000

Document, preserve, and interpret traditional work practices and knowledge in the Down East communities of Carteret County, North Carolina. Products will be heritage tours and interactive educational exhibits that preserve and showcase these heritage assets.

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With an FY06 NOAA PAIG grant that funded our proposal, *Gathering, Preserving, and Sharing Traditional Fisheries Knowledge from Down East Communities in North Carolina*, we accomplished our main objectives and have expanded our partnerships and activities. We identified 48 keepers of the traditions, with the support of NC Division of Cultural Resources, conducted 2 training sessions where we trained 23 community folklorists, who have conducted and transcribed 48 interviews. We have scanned 1,024 slides and photos from the NOAA Beaufort Lab archives. We have also received local and state-wide media attention for NOAA PAIG and downeast North Carolina communities. With outside FY07 funding, we were able to purchase two Marantz digital recorders, two digital transcription kits, and a Nikon slide scanner to support this project. In light of our great success and the even greater potential we have uncovered in our collaboration, we are still working to extend this project to include a publication to share what we have uncovered with a larger audience. We propose taking a community-based look at both the history and future of commercial fishing in eastern North Carolina, with down east Carteret County being the focal point. Here we could incorporate excerpts from our interviews as well as the best NOAA archive photographs. These interviews and photographs reflect the community's rich tradition and the interaction of the local people with NOAA's research and education programs. A photo-documentary publication would allow our work to reach visitors to our area, the growing number of new residents to this region, and most importantly, provide an important foundation of research for the next generation of students, writers, researchers, and hopefully, fishermen. Our planned expansion is one of many projects that have spawned from this new collaboration.

~Gretchen Bath Martin

"Beaufort, North Carolina fish houses on Taylor's Creek *circa* 1930."

