

Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farm

Photo courtesy of Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farm



REMOVAL OF GHOST FISHING GEAR FROM CUTTYHUNK SHORELINE

Squeaky Wheel Gets the Grease - Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farm owner Seth Garfield reached out to MA authorities over many years to request assistance in cleaning lobster gear off the beaches.

It's Who You Know - MA Environmental Police had supported CCS ghost gear removals since 2013 and knew of our focus on Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG). One day they asked if we could help. We said "yes!"

Seeing is Believing - Lt. Col. Moran brought CCS to scope out the issue in October 2021; Seth gave us a tour of the extensive ALDFG on the shoreline impacting habitat and water quality.

Power in Numbers - CCS identified additional collaborators including Cornell, Buzzards Bay Coalition and artists, and submitted a proposal to SNEP two minutes before the deadline.

Getting Serious - First step after the award was issued: survey and identify all ALDFG targets using a CCS aerial system. Second step: map the hot spots. Third: order food to feed an army!

Spring Break on an Island - Field work was designed to take advantage of partner Cornell's spring break. Artists and educators joined for the week-long immersion in April's fickle weather.

Collecting Debris and Data - 25 people took part in the removal efforts, and all debris was inventoried before being shipped off-island to be recycled, repurposed, or incinerated.

Art for the Win - Artwork inspired by this residency will be exhibited at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park in July; a culminating community cleanup and art exhibit will take place on Cuttyhunk the weekend of August 12, 2023.



Lt. Col. Pat and Sgt. Matt Chauffer CCS team to island October 2021.



Typical shoreline trap debris pile

Photo courtesy of Cuttyhunk Charter Fishing Program



Cornell students and advisors meet with CCS to discuss Spring Break.



CCS Marine Researcher Dan Solazzo pilots the drone to survey the shoreline.



Drone image near oyster farm

Cuttyhunk Field Campaign map showing the area near the oyster farm.



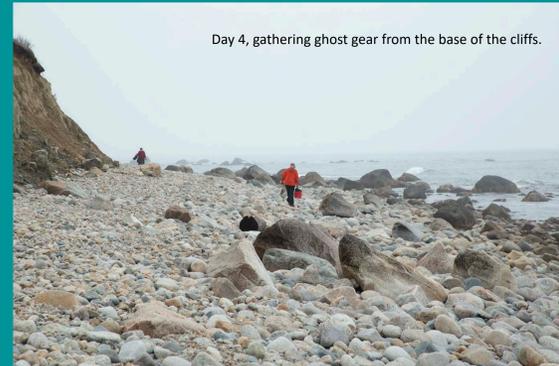
First day with the full group, April 3, 2023 – touring the island shoreline.

Josh, Seth, Pamela, Demi, Laura, Ann, Gabi, Kevin, Zoe, Suha, Isaac, Annie, Kat, Saumya, Anthony, Sophie, Lindsay, Hal, Susan, Megan.

Missing from photo: Mark, Michelle, Constance, Sarah (behind the camera)



Day 3, deconstructing the huge pile of traps.



Day 4, gathering ghost gear from the base of the cliffs.



MA Environmental Police visit on a foggy day – we call this our Vanity Fair cover shot.

Photo courtesy NB Standard-Times



Days 2-5, inventorying the debris takes many hands and many days.



PBS News Hour cameraman filming the loading day.



Loading rope.



One of two full 40-yd containers barged over to receive the recycling and debris.



Lt. Col. Patrick Moran stands in front of a targeted pile of lobster traps, October 2021. The pile yielded +/- 300 decrepit traps 1-23 years old.

Debris Type	Weight (pounds)
Wire Lobster Traps recycled as scrap metal	6,300
Rope, Net, Buoys and miscellaneous trash items incinerated	6,500
Ballast removed from lobster traps (bricks or concrete) reused by Island Residents	1,950
Rope, Net and other debris retained for use by artists	1,200
Total weight of all debris removed from Cuttyhunk Shoreline	15,950

Poster heralding the project, displayed at the depot area near marina.

# CLEANING UP GEAR ON CUTTYHUNK!

ISLAND TRAP REMOVAL APRIL 3-7, 2023  
 TRAPS IN GOOD SHAPE RETURNED TO OWNERS  
 JUNK TRAPS AND ROPE DEBRIS RECYCLED OR USED BY ARTISTS  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION  
 CALL/TEXT LAURA AT 207-263-5300



Poster designed by L. Ludwig, Center for Coastal Studies Marine Debris & Plastics Program.

[www.ccsstudies.org](http://www.ccsstudies.org)

All photos courtesy of Center for Coastal Studies except where noted.

Thanks to all our collaborators and supporters!