

12/2/2004

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Dave Kellam, Principal Planner, New Hampshire Estuaries Project
Phone: 603- 559-0022
Email: dkellam@des.state.nh.us

Scientist Searches for a Way to Protect Hampton Harbor Clams from Predatory Crabs

An experiment is underway in Hampton Harbor that studies the effectiveness of using nylon mesh to protect juvenile soft shell clams from predatory green crabs. On November 20th, experimental plots were prepared and seeded with juvenile clams. The plots were then covered with nylon mesh to prevent green crabs from eating the young clams. The experiment will be in place until May 2005. The study is funded by the New Hampshire Estuaries Project and is being conducted by Dr. Brian Beal of the University of Maine at Machias. **Dr. Beal will be visiting the study site at Willow Flats in Hampton on Friday, December 3, at 10:30am.** To arrange an interview and photos, contact Dave Kellam at the New Hampshire Estuaries project (559-0022). If a reporter cannot attend this Friday, telephone interviews and site visits can be arranged.



Setting the experiment on November 20, 2004 (from left: Dr. Brian Beal, juvenile clams, seeding clams, preparing experimental plots.)

The New Hampshire Estuaries Project is a collaborative program funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency that involves governmental agencies, universities, non-profit organizations, businesses, and the public to protect, enhance and monitor the environmental quality of the state's coastal bays and rivers. The NHEP Management Plan, project reports and other resources are available at www.nh.gov/nhep.

###