

Ted Ames to Give Next Bay Ecology Lecture at MDIBL

Fisherman and scientist Ted Ames will give the next talk in the Bay Ecology Lecture Series at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory on Thursday, November 8 at 4 p.m. A founder of the Penobscot East Resource Center in Stonington, Ames will speak on “Frenchman's Bay Fisheries: Lessons Learned from Penobscot Bay.”

Ames is a long-term, Maine lobster and ground fisherman who has fused the roles of fisherman and applied scientist in response to increasing threats to Maine fisheries from years of over-harvesting. His detailed studies of groundfish spawning, habitat and fishing patterns in the Gulf of Maine make use of both rigorous scientific methodology and the anecdotal experiences of generations of fishermen.

Among his many honors and awards, in 2005 Ames received a “genius” grant from the MacArthur Foundation, given to individuals “who show exceptional merit and promise of continued creative work.” He was recently designated a “Champion of the Ocean” by Monmouth University’s Urban Coast Institute in New Jersey.

The Penobscot East Resource Center works to secure a future for fishing communities from the Penobscot Bay Islands east to Jonesport, primarily by fostering community leadership and making community science projects possible. Ames directs the Zone C Lobster Hatchery at the Center, which collaborates with MDIBL scientist Dr. David Towle on lobster genetics.

The Bay Ecology Lectures are an outgrowth of growing concern among MDIBL scientists about the condition of Frenchman’s and Eastern Bays and the increasing scarcity of species that MDIBL scientists have traditionally studied. The Bay Ecology committee seeks to be a resource for the concerned public and policy makers by sharing a scientific perspective on some of the issues impacting local waters.

Future lectures include Hilary Neckles of the U.S. Geological Survey speaking on “Eelgrass: Ecology, Importance, and Threats” on December 6 and Nick Brown from the University of Maine Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research discussing “Aquaculture Efforts and Groundfish Stocks” on December 13. All lectures will be at 4 p.m. and are open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call 244-3147 or visit www.mdibl.org.