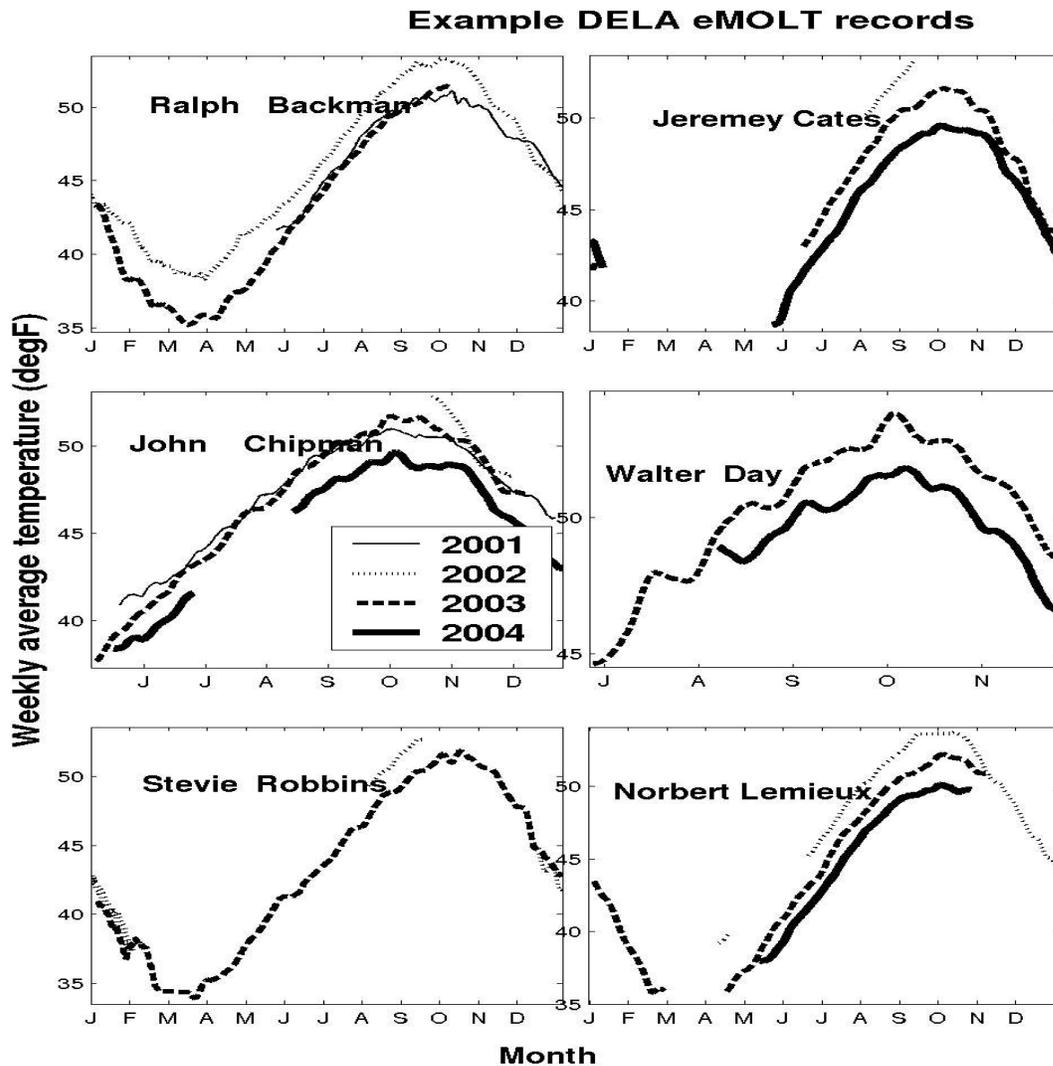


Downeast Lobstermen Association's eMOLT Update

Figure 1. Multi-year records of bottom temperature collected by lobstermen.



Having evolved through various phases over the last 4-5 years, the eMOLT operation is settling into a routine that works for all those involved: the fishermen, administrators, and science partners. The primary objective of eMOLT (Environmental Monitors on Lobster Traps) has been, and still is, to maintain bottom temperature records at fixed locations on the Northeast Continental Shelf. While reserve funds will supply us in standard temperature probes for 3-4 years into the future, we have been investigating other technologies for obtaining "realtime" bottom temperatures. In 2004, we were able to secure funding to the Advanced Design Consultants Inc of Lansing, NY to develop a probe that sends data wirelessly to the wheelhouse. While this unit failed in its first sea trial, we hope to see this technology work in the coming year. We have also experimented with units that telemeter data via satellite. We will keep you abreast of further development on both these fronts. In the meantime, we encourage our existing participants to keep their internally-recording probes in the water until the next download session later this year. A selection of DELA temperature records are plotted in Figure 1 above. Given four years of hourly observations at many sites, we can now begin to quantify what is a "normal" year. We have documented, for example, how cold 2004 was compared to the previous three years.

We have expanded the eMOLT operations in recent years to include student-built, lobstermen-deployed, satellite-tracked drifters. The objective here is to provide current observations (along with temperature) to help validate numerical simulation of flow. More than 50,000 km of ocean has been logged to date.

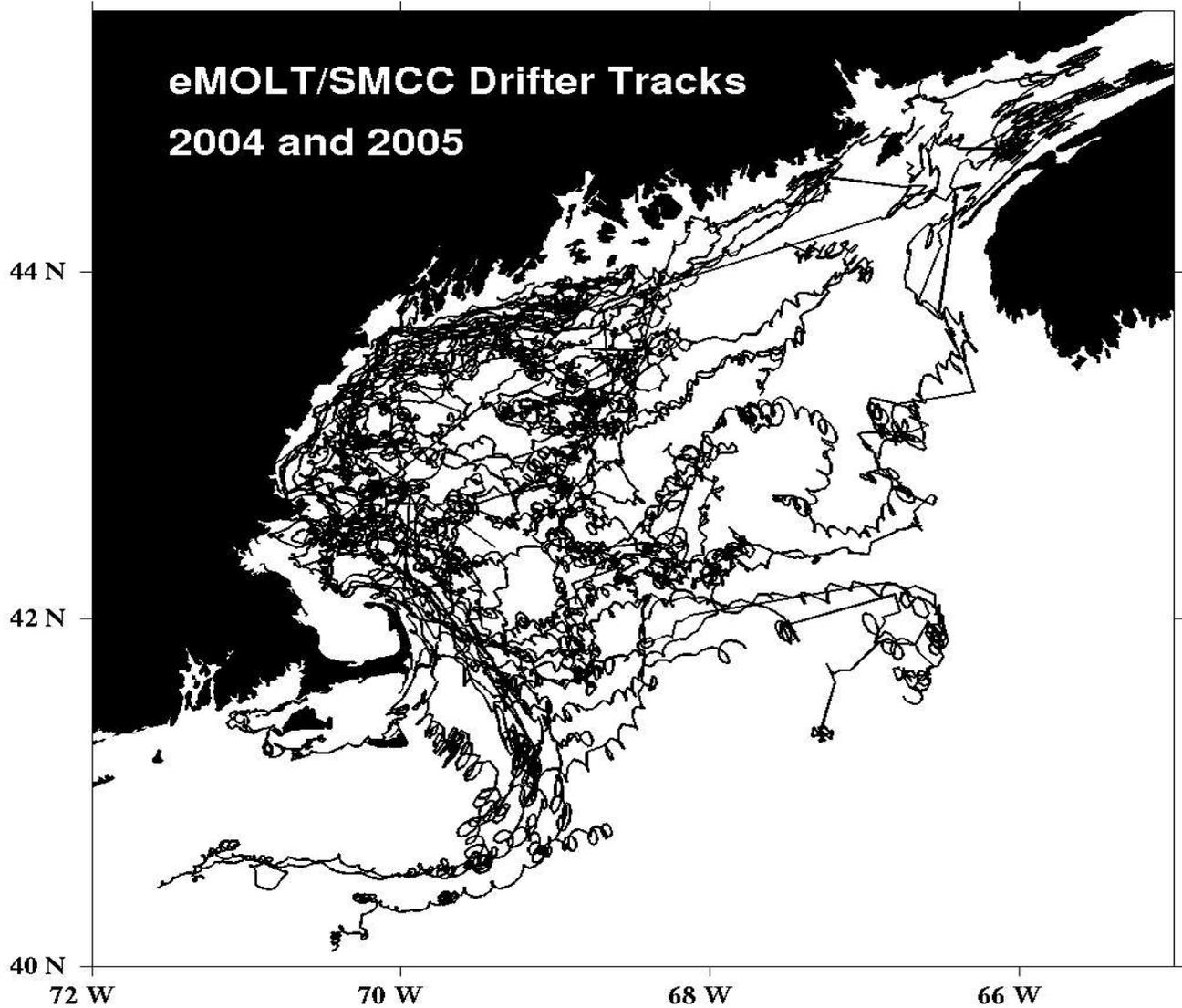


Figure 2. Combination of trajectories from eMOLT drifters built by Southern Maine Community College students.

Visit emolt.org for more details or contact james.manning@noaa.gov (508-495-2211) & Jeremy Cates (207-259-3647)