

Cornell Cooperative Extension to Feature Two Underutilized Northeast US Fish at Seafood Expo Global 2024

[NEW YORK, *April 16, 2024*] – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (CCE) is excited to announce that it has partnered with Food Export USA-Northeast to feature scup and searobin at Seafood Expo Global. The event will take place from April 23 - 25, 2024, in Barcelona, Spain at the Fira Barcelona Gran Via Venue at Food Export's Pavilion centered at 5E401.

Both scup and searobins, of which there are two species of the latter, are underutilized species native to the Northeast USA, from the states of Maine to New Jersey. Scup is readily available and sustainably harvested by the thousand of MT per year in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. Scup are relatives of sea bream and have the same mild, sweet flavor as their cousins.

Searobins – the Northern and striped – are considered bycatch and are not utilized commercially where they are caught in the Northeast USA. A type of scorpionfish, searobins are beautiful, red and brown-colored fish with long, wide pectoral fins that are often likened to wings, giving them their bird-themed name. Despite their beauty, and their flaky, white meat's likeness to flounder when cooked, searobins have no market in the USA.

“Americans consider them trash fish,” says Amanda Dauman, a fisheries specialist with CCE and the representative accompanying Food Export USA-Northeast to Barcelona, of searobins. “Here in the US, reputation seems to always proceed actual taste and usability.” Outside of the US, people may know these fish better as ‘gurnards’.

Scup are a bit more popular among fishermen, though most Americans only know them from recreationally fishing in their nearby waters. Expanded marketing and export of both these fish would greatly boost American fisheries on the world stage and mitigate bycatch by utilizing it instead of throwing it back as waste.

On similar notes, Food Export USA-Northeast has also invited representatives from Maine Coast Fisherman's Association and Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation to promote other Northeast USA seafood that is underutilized, such as spider crabs and the Atlantic groundfish suite, such as hakes, respectively.

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About Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County:

Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) is a non-profit community education agency established in 1917. We are affiliated with Cornell University as part of the national land grant university system started in 1862. CCE Suffolk is a subordinate governmental agency with an educational mission that operates under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University as agent for the State of New York. It is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The association is part of the national cooperative extension system, an educational partnership between County, State, and Federal governments. As New York's land grant university Cornell administers the system in this state. Each Cornell Cooperative Extension association is an independent employer that is governed by an elected Board of Directors with general oversight from Cornell. All associations work to meet the needs of the counties in which they are located as well as state and national goals.

The Marine Program - We are educators, researchers, specialists and support personnel who are dedicated to making Suffolk County a desirable place to live and work. Our researchers and educators inform Long Islanders how we can each do our part to safeguard our environment. Projects have been designed to bring back our once thriving eelgrass and shellfish populations, ensure our commercial fishing industry continues to thrive while limiting bycatch, provide public education about the environmental consequences of stormwater runoff, and introduce our young people to marine sciences and marine life on Long Island.

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Visit Our Website - ccesuffolk.org/marine