

Fish

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When the market is down, St. Pierre doesn't fish. When it's good, the hunt is on. He can pull up a huge cod catch without tossing most of it back.

"I've spent five, six years trying not to catch fish," said St. Pierre, 50, a gill-netter from Chatham. "It's been the first good fishing experience I've had in a long time."

By May 2009, regulators plan to have "sector management" widely in place. Nineteen groups have applied to become sectors to the New England Fishery Management Council, which recommends rule changes to federal regulators.

"The council as a whole believes that this is a good way to

go," said the council's Deputy Director Christopher Kellogg.

Not all of the fishermen are convinced.

Mike Walsh, who fishes out of his native South Boston, has succeeded on his own and has no interest in a new set of regulations. While joining a sector isn't mandatory — managers say those outside the system will be treated equitably — Walsh believes anyone who doesn't will be left haggling over scraps.

"It's the next thing the government is shoving down our throat," he said.

The current system tries to protect fish by making it harder for fishermen to catch them. But after about 13 years under those rules, key species such as cod and flounder still are struggling. The New England fishing fleet has shrunk steadily — the number of boats fell from 990 to 773 between

1996 and 2004. And some fishermen are allowed to fish just 24 days a year.

Environmentalists have long argued that the current system has failed to stop overfishing because it lacks the strict annual quotas that force fishermen to stop fishing for a species once the quota is exceeded.

The new sector system will have an annual quota, and by distributing the quotas to the groups, rather than individual fishermen, it lessens fears that the industry is being broken into small pieces that can be easily swept up and consolidated by big companies.

It also gives fishermen a chance to share resources, as well as the flexibility to make quick decisions based on weather or the market without getting tangled in so much red tape.

"As long as you're meeting

your quota, you're pretty much honoring your promise to the government," said Vito Giacalone of the Northeast Seafood Coalition, an industry group that supports the new system.

Fishermen can join together for various reasons — they don't have to fish in the same area or use the same gear. Two sectors have been established already — St. Pierre's group and another for hook fishermen targeting cod in Chatham.

Dividing the entire New England fishery will be far more complicated and controversial. Each fisherman will be allotted a certain amount of fish, and their allotments will combine to make a sector's quota.

A person's catch history likely will be the biggest factor in determining allotment, but it's not likely to be as simple as

counting up what a fisherman has brought back to port. Among many issues: Some fishermen have survived by leasing unused fishing days from colleagues. Will they get credit for the fish caught on those days, or will it go to the person who leased them the extra time? The sectors also will come with administrative costs for fishermen. Each sector will need to hire someone to manage it, and St. Pierre said more on-boat observers are essential to make sure catch reports are accurate.

Giacalone also sees potential problems in forcing traditionally independent fishermen to share decision-making and potentially their catches.

"Fishermen are independent. We're not going to all of the sudden subscribe to socialism," he said. "It's not like five boats are going to get together and say, 'Hey,

goombah, the four of us will hand you the family jewels, and you'll be the winner.'"

Walsh, the South Boston fisherman, said hard work is the reason he has survived in the fishery while others have failed. He stayed a step ahead of changing fishing rules by buying boats and permits that allow him adequate fishing days. The new system will take those days away, and he's convinced he won't be justly compensated.

His three boats are more than a business. "It's my life," he said. Walsh speaks reverently of an industry that got him out of the projects, but he has a bad feeling about its latest turn.

"I'm definitely going to be losing what I worked to get," he said.

No matter, he said. He'll adjust. "I'll be the last one standing," Walsh said.

9-11

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died when a flight crashed into a Pennsylvania field were honored as "citizen soldiers."

The Manhattan ceremonies were held largely in a public park because of rebuilding at ground zero. First responders, volunteers and firefighters who helped rescue New Yorkers from the collapsing twin towers read the names of the city's 2,750 victims — a list that grew by one with the addition of a woman who died of lung disease in 2002.

Several first responders referred to the illnesses and deaths of their colleagues that they blame on exposure to toxic dust.

"I want to acknowledge those lost post-9-11 as a result of answering the call, including

police officer NYPD James Zadroga," said volunteer ambulance worker Reggie Cervantes-Miller. Zadroga, 34, died more than a year ago of respiratory illness after spending hundreds of hours working to clean up ground zero.

Victims' spouses, children, siblings and parents had read names before, often breaking down with heart-rending messages to their loved ones and blowing kisses to the sky. At Zuccotti Park, where the sounds of trucks and buses sometimes drown out speakers, fewer tears were shed and most readers did not speak at length — even when mentioning siblings or children who were killed.

Hundreds streamed out of the ceremony after about an hour and fewer than 60 remained at the end. The city estimated 3,500 family members and mourners turned out, down from 4,700 attendees at the fifth anniversary.

Some might have been kept away by rain, a sharp contrast from the picture-perfect weather six years ago.

Ground zero "was more sacred and sad," said Clarence White, whose brother was killed at the trade center. At the park, he said, "the meaning wasn't as close."

The city moved the ceremony this year because of progressing construction at the site, where several idle cranes overlooked a partially built transit hub, 1,776-foot office tower and Sept. 11 memorial.

But family members had threatened to boycott the ceremony and hold their own remembrance if they were not granted access. The city and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey — which owns the trade center site — allowed relatives to descend a ramp to lay flowers inside a reflecting pool with two 6-foot outlines of the towers

inside and touch the ground where the trade center once stood.

Howard Gabler, who worked on the 47th floor of the trade center's north tower and escaped on the day of the attack, came to mourn his son Fredric, who

worked on the 104th floor of the same tower. He has no remains of his son.

"This is where he died and we have nothing else," Gabler said. "It's very painful, it's very painful all the time, but today was, I guess, worse knowing

we're not going to be back down there."

Gabler said he touched the ground, which he fears will not be available to him next year as construction goes on. "So today I kissed my hand and I kissed the ground — I'm still kissing him."

Makeover

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Construction on the home must be completed by Sunday when the family returns from Walt Disney World in Florida where ABC sent them on vacation. The show is expected to air early next year.

Work on the foundation already has begun. Some earth moving could be done Monday, because the new house isn't being built on the site of the old structure.

About 30 workers from N.S. Giles Foundations Inc. of Bangor stood by to begin foundation work as soon as ABC crews were done filming the house demolition.

Before the razing of the haunted house began, both the old house and the new house site were blessed Tuesday by Pentecostal lay minister Charles Kelley of Unionville Church of God at the request of Brittany's father, Gary Ray.

LiBrizzi was at the "Extreme Makeover" site to tell media outlets about the book he wrote that includes a chapter devoted to the Ray house haunting.

The book, titled "Dark Woods, Chill Waters: Ghost Tales from Down East Maine," came out last week. The theme of its stories is particularly frightening and gruesome supernatural horror.

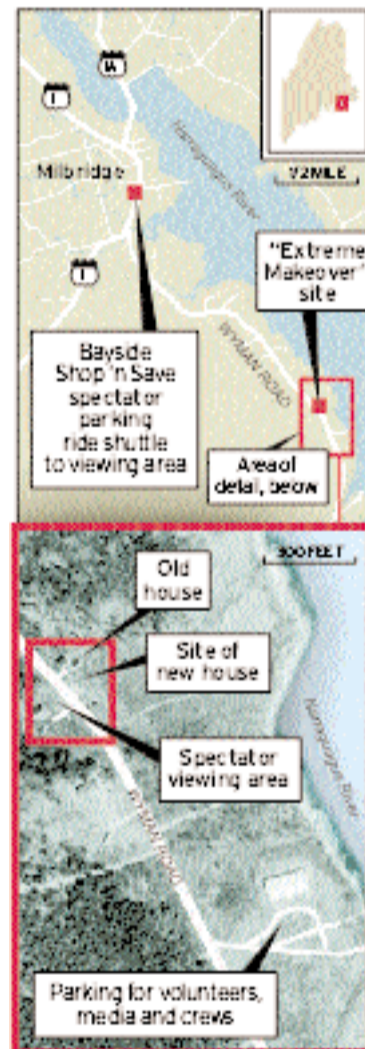
He referred to the ghost or ghosts in Ray's house as "spectacular, even bizarre."

The resident spirit is believed to have an affinity for sharp objects as the family has returned home to find scissors standing upright on the counter, shirt pins or a threaded needle balanced on their points.

The story goes that Brittany Ray's great-great-grandmother Etta Mitchell had a fear of sharp objects.

"On four occasions, they found household scissors standing upright on a Formica countertop," LiBrizzi said. He added that there are stories of the house being haunted even before the Ray-Smith family moved in.

The climax of the ghostly activity and perhaps most dis-



"Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" Milbridge

ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" has come to Milbridge. Here's how to get there.

Directions from Ellsworth: Head southwest on U.S. Route 1A. Turn left onto High Street and follow U.S. Route 1 through Sullivan and Steuben to Milbridge.

Directions from Machias: Follow U.S. Route 1 through Jonesboro, Columbia Falls and Cherryfield to Milbridge.

When you arrive: There will be signs to direct spectators to the parking area at Milbridge's Bayside Shop 'n Save where they will be shuttled by bus or can walk to the "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" construction site. Spectators cannot cross the road to the construction site, but photos and video taken from the spectator area are acceptable. Wyman Road will be closed to all but local and working traffic.

SOURCE: Suzelene Weston, Marketing Communications
BANGOR DAILY NEWS MAP BY ERIC ZELZ

turbing is when the ghost manipulated the needle in the thermostat, he said.

"One eerie night in November, Brittany [Ray] woke up to find the furnace racing madly out of control," LiBrizzi said. "I speculated if it was manipulating other sharp objects, [the ghost] probably did so to the needle in the thermostat."

Since LiBrizzi wrote "Dark Woods, Chill Waters," there have been indications of another spirit in the house, whom the author believes to be Augustus Mitchell, Ray's great-great-grandfather.

LiBrizzi said Etta and Augustus Mitchell reportedly had a strained relationship, and the strange occurrences with sharp objects possibly could be explained as Etta Mitchell protecting herself, or Augustus Mitchell tormenting her.

Kelley said his blessing had nothing to do with attempting to remove the ghosts from the house.

"It wasn't any kind of exorcism," Kelley said, noting that

he has no formal experience with ghosts.

The Ray family asked that the history of the home be considered in the blessing and in the building of the new house. Kelley said he hopes that the Ray ancestors will be able to find some peace.

"I kind of hope they're laid at rest [with the old house]," he said.



LiBrizzi



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