This project is concerned with the wider regional development of the northeastern Atlantic littoral, specifically the development of the cod fishery in the Gulf of Maine and the English Shore of Newfoundland, between 1600 and 1763. This project proposes a comparative study of the fisheries of these two regions through archaeological and historical sources, with an emphasis on the economic development of each region. Specifically, the fisheries will be analyzed as a developing capitalist industry taking into account the vernacular developments and the wider economic conditions in each region.

 By using both archaeological data and the historical record, it is believed that a more complete image of the early-modern North Atlantic fisheries and their transition into the modern period can be constructed. Comparing the two major fishing areas with each other in a way that has not been done before will highlight the differences and similarities in the development of each region, and more importantly why those two regions developed so differently.