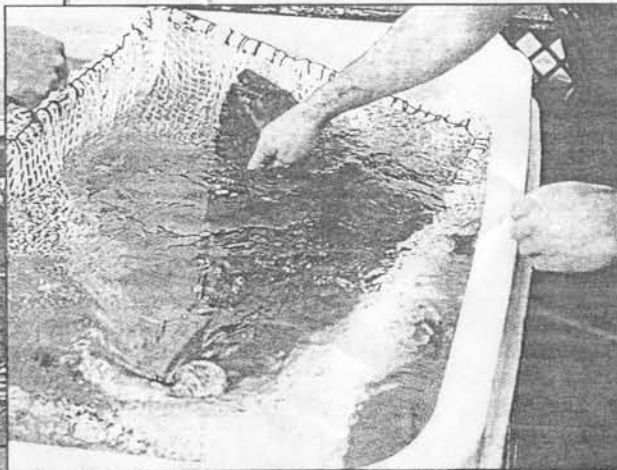


Susan Jones photos

LIVE HALIBUT - Is halibut a candidate for fish farming? That's a question researchers at the University of Maine hope to answer in the months ahead.



The project was launched in May, when Stonington, ME commercial fishermen brought in live, hook-caught halibut as potential broodstock for university researchers. The halibut are housed at the university's Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research in Franklin, ME. The facility is the defunct Integrated Food Technologies (IFT) fish hatchery, acquired by the university at a mortgage foreclosure sale last September.

At left, Bill O'Coin, who is the manager of operations at the center, and Phil Arnold carefully ready halibut for the trip to their new home. Look for a visit to the upgraded Franklin site in the next issue.