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## Landings, vol. 30, no. 5

Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance

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# LANDINGS

News & Views from Maine's Lobstering Community

May 2022 | Vol. 30, No. 5

## "OUR FUTURE IS AT STAKE": JOHN AND BRENDAN READY MAKE \$200K DONATION TO MLA LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

By Melissa Waterman

The largest donation yet to Save Maine Lobstermen, the Maine Lobstermen's Association's (MLA) fundraising campaign, has given the Association a crucial boost in its fight to save the lobster fishery from being strangled by new federal regulations. John and Brendan Ready, founders of Ready Seafood, recently donated \$200,000 to the campaign, following up their \$50,000 contribution in 2021. "We understand fully what's coming next for the lobster fishery. It makes sense for everyone to give money now to the MLA's legal campaign," Brendan Ready said.

To ensure that the next generation of lobstermen have the same opportunities to go lobstering and also to preserve an integral part of Maine's culture, the MLA is raising funds for an urgent legal battle on behalf of the lobster industry to reveal the truth about Maine lobstermen's twenty year effort of right whale conservation and to defend

the industry from extinction. The current narrative is pitting Maine lobstermen against this endangered species yet the science and data being used against lobstermen isn't accurate. The only ammunition in the fight is money to provide the MLA the financial means for a legal assault against NMFS and to prevent the fishery from being closed down.

John and Brendan know what is at stake. Both men began baiting and banding lobsters with their lobsterman uncle out of Cape Elizabeth when they were seven and eight years old, and soon grew into their own boats and traps to begin fishing for themselves. "We loved it," John said. "We were independent and invited to be part of a bigger group."

After years of lobstering inshore and offshore, the two men eventually established a lobster buying and processing business now known as Ready Seafood. Founding the company was one way to answer questions that troubled them both: where do the lobsters go once they hit the dock? How can lobstermen



As lobstermen themselves, John and Brendan Ready and Curt Brown understand the life-altering threat Maine lobstermen are facing now.  
Photo courtesy of B. Ready.

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## Maine Fishermen's Cooperatives

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## WHALE RULE ENFORCEMENT: COMMUNICATION AND COMMON SENSE

By Patrick Keliher, Department of Marine Resources Commissioner

Despite efforts by Maine's delegation and Governor Mills to get the federal whale rule implementation date pushed to July 1, NOAA did not budge on that request, and the new federal regulations went into effect on May 1.

Maine's Chapter 75 regulations, which incorporate measures from the federal rule, have also taken effect and can be found on the DMR website (<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/laws-regulations/regulations/index.html>).

We recognize that Maine's lobster industry has struggled to find the gear to comply with the new federal regulations.

It's important to note that the Maine Marine Patrol takes its enforcement responsibilities seriously. And as always with new regulations, Marine Patrol will be working to help harvesters through com-



MLA photo.

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## COASTAL OUTLOOK *Thoughts from MLCA President Patrice McCarron*

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On May 1, new requirements mandated under the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) ten-year whale conservation plan took effect in Maine. A time when Maine lobstermen are typically looking forward to the start of a new fishing season has been marked by frustration and confusion because many of the required items, such as weak links and weak rope, are not widely available for purchase. In addition, other regulatory changes and the ongoing pressure of offshore wind energy development have made the spring of 2022 darker than in past years.

The Marine Patrol Bureau is charged with enforcing the new requirements. Department of Marine Resources Commissioner Patrick Keliher writes this month about the challenges lobstermen have faced finding, purchasing, and rigging the mandated gear by the May 1 deadline. "We fully acknowledge that the approval and availability of weak links and weak inserts has been evolving, which makes it especially difficult to comply. I also continue to be frustrated that NOAA has consistently refused to approve the use of knots in federal waters as weak points," Keliher notes.

The head of NMFS's Gloucester office, Michael Pentony, also acknowledged lobstermen's difficulties finding the required gear in a letter issued in late April. "...unanticipated supply chain delays are preventing some of the fleet from fully coming into compliance. I want to assure fishermen who are making good faith efforts to comply with these new measures but are not able to procure compliant gear that we understand the difficulty of their situation. We are working closely with our state and federal enforcement partners to implement a graduated enforcement effort that will focus on compliance assistance rather than civil penalties until we have determined that localized supply chain issues have been sufficiently resolved."

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), a regulatory body comprising 15 states along the East Coast, is moving forward with draft Addendum 27 to the interstate lobster fishery management plan. The draft Addendum is designed to ensure a robust lobster population as the Gulf of Maine continues to warm. To do that, the ASMFC's Lobster Board is considering changes to the legal size measurements for lobsters. As our article this month notes, the Department of Marine Resources lobster surveys over the last five years show that the lobster population is declining. While the full effects of that decline will not be felt for many years, the data have prompted the ASMFC to take action now.

In addition, the ASMFC has also approved Addendum 29, which will require all federally permitted lobster vessels to carry electronic tracking devices throughout the year. The devices will provide precise data on where each lobster vessel transits and hauls traps. The data are intended to help federal and state agencies better understand where fishermen operate and at what times of the year as well as the health of the lobster and Jonah crab stocks. With finer-scale data, regulators will have a better sense of how fishermen might interact with right whales or proposed

offshore wind energy projects. Lobstermen are not happy about the new regulation.

Meanwhile, the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) has drafted a series of recommendations as part of its Offshore Wind Road Map. The Road Map will guide the state in the economic development of offshore wind energy. Four working groups were created to create the recommendations, among them a Fisheries Working Group. The group met for the past 18 months to express fishermen's concerns about future wind development projects and hammer out specific recommendations to address them. Laura Singer, facilitator for the Fisheries Working Group, explains the process and its results in this month's issue.

Stephanie Hawke, former two-term state legislator and Boothbay business owner, writes to sound the alarm about the 10-year whale plan, which could destroy the lobster fishery by 2030 and cripple Maine's tourism and hospitality industries. "Lobstering is a \$1 billion business in Maine, supporting 10,000 jobs on the water and thousands more bait dealers, boat builders, and trap manufacturers. The loss of the fishery would extend beyond the immediate coast. Millions of tourists come to Maine to visit small coastal towns like Boothbay and to eat lobster. What would happen to our hotels, restaurants, seaside take-outs, gift shops, and to our coastal communities overall? The question is — what would Maine be without lobster?"

John and Brendan Ready, two brothers from Cape Elizabeth who started Ready Seafood, a major lobster processing company in the state, fully understand what is at stake if the ten-year whale conservation plan moves forward. The two men recently made substantial donations to the *Save Maine Lobstermen* legal defense fund. John and Brendan and Curt Brown, a marine biologist at the company, make the point that so many Maine businesses depend on the vitality of the fishery and will suffer financially if the fishery is reduced or closed. They urge everyone in the supply chain who has benefited from the hard work of Maine lobstermen to make contributions to the MLA's campaign.

"The lobster industry has been good to a lot of people. Lobstermen have been doing the right thing for generation after generation," said Brendan. "It's time we all stepped up and put something back into the industry. If you understand the facts about what's going to happen, then it's time to give money to the MLA."

Eric Beal, a Milbridge lobsterman, also understands what the lobster industry is facing. To aid the MLA in its legal fight against NMFS, he has pledged to give \$2,000 each year for three years to the MLA's *Save Maine Lobstermen* campaign. "I've been fishing for more than forty years," said 60-year-old Beal. "I knew I had to do something.... If we don't do something, we are not going to be fishing."

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Landings* and look forward to your comments.

*Patrice*

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## GUEST COLUMN: *Hospitality industry must act now to save Maine lobstermen*

By *Stephanie Hawke*

Maine's lobster industry is in a fight for its life and it's up to all of us to do what we can to help save it.

We all know the problem. Under a court mandate, the lobster fishery is being forced to comply with strict new regulations intended to protect the endangered right whale. No Maine lobsterman would ever want to hurt a whale. But in this court fight, that fact does not matter. Nor does the fact that data show Maine's lobster industry is not the greatest threat to the whale. No whale has ever been known to die in Maine gear. Instead, scientific research conducted by Bigelow Labs in Boothbay shows the whales are moving further and further away from area where Maine Lobstermen fish because their critical food source, the copepods, are moving out of the Gulf of Maine. This is luring the whales north and east into Canadian shipping lanes where they are being struck by ships.

*No one is working harder to sound the alarm and fight these senseless regulations than the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA). It would serve our state's hospitality and tourism industries to listen, and act, now before it is too late because the fishery and these industries are critically connected.*

So even after Maine lobstermen move heaven and earth to comply with all the changes that the federal government is imposing, the right whales will still be at risk of death and injury. It doesn't make sense, but if the industry does not comply, the federal government will not license the fishery. That means it could be illegal for Maine's lobstermen to operate within the next decade.

No one is working harder to sound the alarm and fight these senseless regulations than the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA). It would serve our state's hospitality and tourism industries to listen, and act, now before it is too late because the fishery and these industries are critically connected.

I attended the recent HospitalityMaine Expo in Portland and listened to MLA executive director Patrice McCarron outline the problem and the impact the loss of our lobster industry would have on our state and coastal communities.

Lobstering is a \$1 billion business in Maine, supporting 10,000 jobs on the water and thousands more bait dealers, boat builders, and trap manufacturers. The loss of the fishery would extend beyond the immediate coast. Millions of tourists come to Maine to visit small coastal towns like Boothbay and to eat lobster. What would happen to our hotels, restaurants, seaside take-outs, gift shops, and to our coastal communities overall? The question is - what would Maine be without lobster?

This isn't hypothetical. Due to these regulations, Maine's lobster industry is on the brink of extinction and everyone who makes money off the supply chain needs to understand that they have a responsibility to step up and help in this fight. The MLA has filed a lawsuit and is raising money to help pay the extensive legal bills. It's trying to raise \$10 million in three years. As Patrice said, that is an overwhelming task, but we don't have any choice.


Harvesters have stepped up to the challenge, so have some co-ops, dealers, processors, and other businesses. But it's still not enough. If just 10,000 people or businesses that make money off the lobster industry gave just \$1,000 each, the MLA would have the resources to fight, and to win. One thousand dollars seems like a small price to pay to ensure the lobster industry remains intact.

The MLA must be able to stay in the courtroom because the government and the environmental groups want to drag this out until they think we can't afford to fight anymore. I know we can prove them wrong because no one is more tenacious than Maine lobstermen. Let's work together to Save Maine Lobstermen before this important heritage is lost forever.




*Stephanie Hawke is a former two-term state representative and small business owner in Boothbay Harbor. Photo courtesy of Lincoln County News.*


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# ASMFC RECOMMENDS CHANGES TO LOBSTER PLAN TO PROTECT SPAWNING STOCK

By Melissa Waterman

The time is fast approaching when Maine lobstermen must weigh in on a proposal to respond to a changing lobster population in the Gulf of Maine. That is the underlying assumption of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Addendum 27 to its interstate lobster fishery management plan, nicknamed the "resiliency addendum." In March and April, the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) met with each lobster zone council to explain the options being considered in the Addendum and to present the Department's annual lobster science update, which indicates an overall decline in lobster abundance in Maine's monitoring surveys.

## Addendum 27

Addendum 27 is intended to buffer the impact on the fishery of potential changes in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank (GOM/GBK) lobster stock. The Addendum proposes several options to standardize management measures within and across Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMAs), as well as changes to gauge and vent sizes to improve protection of the spawning stock.

Under the plan as it stands currently, conservation measures would not be necessary until lobster abundance dropped to 2000-2002 levels, when Maine fishermen caught around 55 million pounds. The concern is that waiting to act until this number is reached could be extremely painful to the Maine fishery given the level of current landings (greater than 100 million pounds annually in ten of the last eleven years).

## DMR annual lobster surveys results

Each year DMR conducts many scientific surveys related to all life stages of the lobster and each of the surveys indicate a declining stock. "We have multiple streams of data from different areas and different depths along the coast. If the survey data showed opposing trends, then we would have more questions. But

by having agreement among all the surveys we have more certainty that the direction of those trends reflects the change in total lobster abundance," DMR lobster biologist Kathleen Reardon said.

While lobster landings remain relatively strong, sublegal lobster numbers have been declining for five years in some areas. Since approximately 2013, Maine's Lobster Settlement Index has indicated low levels of juvenile lobster settlement along the Maine coast. In 2021, data showed once again that young-of-the-year lobster numbers remain down.

Beginning in 2018, DMR's Ventless Trap Survey data began to indicate a decline in sublegal lobsters from previous peaks, especially in eastern areas. The most western area has remained stable over time. Catches from this survey are 90% sublegal lobsters.

The annual fall Inshore Trawl Survey has showed a decline in sublegal-size lobsters in all areas, with higher declines in eastern portions of the coast. The spring trawl survey data exhibited a decline beginning in 2019 among all sizes of lobster in all areas of the coast; the data indicate a sharp decline in 2021 (the spring 2020 survey was cancelled due to the pandemic).

Yearly commercial sea sampling data confirm that sublegal lobsters are down in number throughout the coast. In Zone C and B those numbers have dropped steeply during the past five years, though these are also areas that saw the biggest increases beginning a decade ago.

In addition, lobster landings in the state have dropped from a high in 2016 of 132 million pounds to an average annual 102 million pounds from 2019 to 2021.

"When you see such a sustained decline over a number of years, the question is whether it will level off or continue down in the future," Reardon said. "The sublegal numbers are a good indication, however, of what we expect to see in the legal catch in the next couple of years."


Which leads to the question ASMFC Addendum 27 is designed to address: when should action be taken to ensure the vitality of the lobster stock and fishery?

What to do and when?

Among its 2021 goals, the ASMFC Lobster Board included actions designed to keep the lobster stock at its highest biological productivity levels, creating a plan to respond proactively to a population decline by increasing protection of the spawning stock biomass. The Board's proactive approach stands in contrast to a more passive approach taken in the early 2000s in response to the sharp drop in the southern New England lobster populations. Management actions taken then were likely too late because lobster numbers had dropped so precipitously; fewer lobsters were left to survive and successfully reproduce to sustain the population.

The ASMFC's Lobster Technical Committee considered several options in Addendum 27: to increase the gauge size, institute trap reductions, set seasons, or set quotas. Based on the analysis, the scientists recommended an approach





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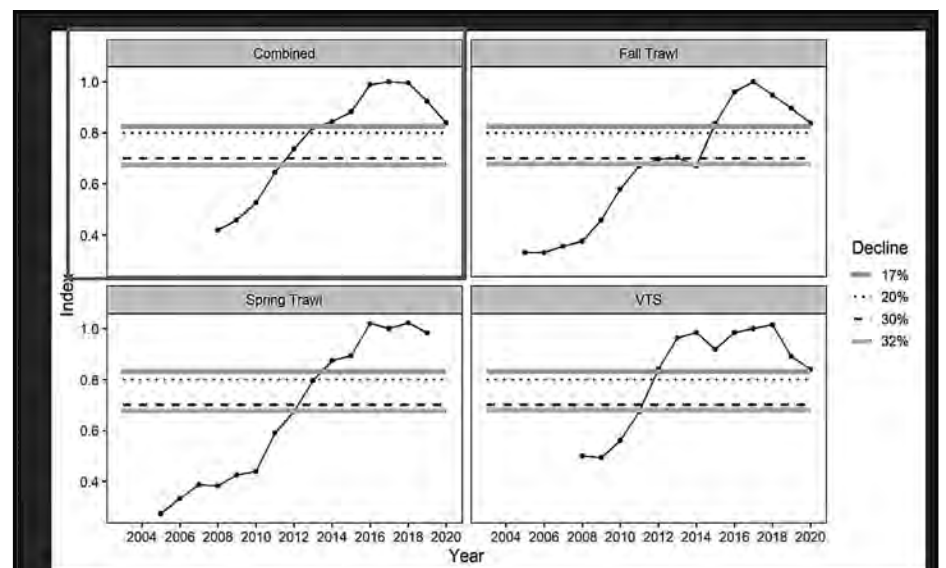


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## SUBLEGAL LOBSTER SURVEYS THROUGH 2020



The fall and spring trawl survey data and the ventless trap data show a combined decline in the past five to six years. DMR graph.

## ELECTRONIC TRACKING TO BE REQUIRED FOR FEDERALLY-PERMITTED LOBSTER VESSELS

By Melissa Waterman

On March 31, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Lobster Management Board voted to require federally permitted vessels fishing for lobster and Jonah crab to use electronic vessel tracking devices next year. Vessels from Maine to North Carolina must use the devices.

The ASMFC developed a low-cost cellular based technology to track each vessel at the rate of one ping per minute. A “ping” is a data point — including the date, time, latitude, longitude, and a vessel identifier — released by the device to a receiver. It shows where the boat is in time and space; the ping rate reveals whether the vessel is moving or hauling traps.

ASMFC will work with the states to help cover the costs associated with purchase and installation of the devices including service plans for up to three years. The money will come from \$14 million included in the federal Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill to help the lobster industry comply with new whale rules. Implementation date of the new requirement is December 15, 2023.

A Working Group is being created to oversee the details of the new requirement, said Caitlin Starks, fisheries management plan coordinator at the ASMFC. “The Working Group will put out a request to companies that make electronic tracking devices so it can evaluate if those devices are appropriate, then put out a list of approved devices,” she said.

The data will inform federal and state agencies on where fishermen operate, at what times of the year, and on the health of the lobster and Jonah crab stocks. With additional data, regulators will have a better sense of how fishermen might interact with right whales or proposed offshore wind energy projects, among other activities.

Lobstermen, who currently are not required to provide precise information on where they fish, are suspicious that providing location data could be used

against them when it comes to siting wind farms or closing off additional areas of the Gulf of Maine to protect right whales.

“We understand that people are concerned [about tracking data being used against them]. But this [requirement] is to better define where fishing grounds are,” Starks said. “Finer-scale data can help to not close off large sections of the ocean. With a finer scale, measures can be honed, effective, and not as broad.”

Fishermen move about to catch lobsters within any given area based on the weather, the time of the year, or a number of other factors. Those specific areas may change from year to year, particularly as the Gulf of Maine continues its inexorable warming. By producing better data year after year, the tracking devices can provide a better sense of broader fishing patterns largely unrecognized to date, according to Starks.

“Lobstermen say that their fishery is not static, that it moves around. The longer we have good data, the more we can show that it does move around,” she said. “Continuous data shows that whales move around too. We need this data because where there is uncertainty [because of a lack of data] then regulations won’t change because people are cautious.”

Federally permitted vessels, whether they are fishing in federal or state waters, must always have the device on. Fishermen are concerned that they may be penalized if the device doesn’t work for some reason or may lose fishing time tied up at the dock waiting for someone to repair it. In addition, they are worried that they may find themselves in trouble if they take their boat out for a cruise some weekend or take the family out for an evening picnic.

“We don’t care about someone taking their boat and family out on a weekend or for recreational use. We just want to know when transiting and hauling,” Starks emphasized. “We have algorithms to look at trip reports and tracks and how they match up.”

*Lobster addendum continued from page 4*

which would sustain the lobster population in the long term. “The Technical Committee decided that changing the gauge size in a targeted fashion would have the best biological impact on the spawning stock,” Reardon said.

Warmer water temperatures throughout the Gulf of Maine have caused female lobsters to reach sexual maturity at a smaller size than was true thirty years ago, according to a recently completed study by DMR. Yet at the current minimum legal size for lobster, less than half are able reproduce before they are caught by the fishery.

Thus, increasing the minimum size in LMCA 1 would allow a greater percentage of female lobsters to reproduce before they are caught. “Delaying harvest by increasing the minimum size by a millimeter or two can make a big difference,” Reardon noted. Because there are so many lobsters at that current minimum size in LCMA 1, making a small change to gauge size would have a proportionally greater impact on the stock. While there likely would be a small reduction in the number of lobsters caught overall, the weight of those caught would be greater in the short term, according to Reardon. In the long term, the lobster population would be able to produce more offspring, putting it in a stronger position to weather environmental changes that may have a negative effect on the habitability of the Gulf for lobster.

Increasing the minimum size in LCMA 3, on the other hand, would not be as beneficial to the spawning stock because the minimum size in that area already allows most female lobsters to reproduce before they are caught by the fishery. Decreasing the maximum size for lobsters caught in LMCA3, however, would benefit the stock by protecting the largest lobsters forever. Reardon acknowledged that there is more uncertainty about the population of larger lobsters and thus how much the lobster stock would benefit from decreases to the maximum gauge, and how this would affect offshore landings. Still, it is known that larger females carry more eggs and that larger males are necessary to mate with larger females.

### A trigger to mandate management chances

One option in the Addendum is to incorporate a “trigger” that would require changes to the lobster fishery management plan if the lobster stock declines by a certain amount. That trigger mechanism would be based on numbers of sublegal lobsters from surveys in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Management action would only be triggered based on the last three years of data; prevent management action would not be based on a single year of data.

The 2020 data on sublegal lobsters from those states’ surveys show a 16% decline compared to the 2016-2018 data. ASMFC is waiting for Massachusetts survey data to become available before completing its analysis for the 2021 surveys.

Lobstermen must now wrestle with the question of when they believe action should be taken to prevent the further decline of the lobster stock. And what management changes should be put in place then?

DMR Commissioner Keliher will be meeting with lobstermen to talk about possible answers to that question, most likely in June. The ASMFC may schedule a vote on Addendum 27 for its August meeting.



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get more financial value from the labor they put into landing the lobsters?

“We wanted to add value to that lobster hauled with such hard work and to let the world know who caught it and where,” Brendan explained. Their mission led them to grow the company from simply buying and selling live lobster to a diversified business model split between live lobster and processing. In 2019 the company expanded into the largest state-of-the-art processing facility in Maine and now produces an array of value-added lobster products.

“At the end of the day it’s all about adding value and making sure we are giving back to the industry,” Brendan said. “But honestly, one of our most precious things still is our lobster license numbers.”

That desire to add something to a fishery that has given them so much has prompted a remarkable level of both financial and research support from John and Brendan. Curt Brown, himself a lobsterman and marine biologist, joined the company in 2014 after a stint at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland. He urged the brothers to think about the sustainability of the fishery, particularly about the need for increased research on Gulf of Maine lobster populations.

“We got involved in a study of lobster settlement at depth, led by Rick Wahle [director of the Lobster Institute at the University of Maine]. It was funded for two years by Maine Sea Grant,” Brown explained. When the funding ran out, Ready Seafood stepped in to support the work, marking the first time a private company funded public lobster research. The company’s support helped leverage additional money from Red Lobster, Cranberry Isles Lobstermen’s Co-op, Thurston’s Lobster Pound, in addition to harvester support from Jordan Drouin of Cutler. “The study’s now in its seventh year. With contributions from all levels of the supply chain, this project is providing data and information to make decisions that help better understand and hopefully manage the fishery,” Brown said. “We’ve contributed \$500,000 since 2016,” Brendan added. “It is simply the right thing to do for the industry.”

Brendan remembers hearing MLA president Kristan Porter speak at the Maine Fishermen’s Forum in 2018, when federal agencies were first contemplating new regulations to protect right whales. “Kristan outlined what was coming and I thought, ‘Man, that sucks but that is a long way off.’ And now it is here.”

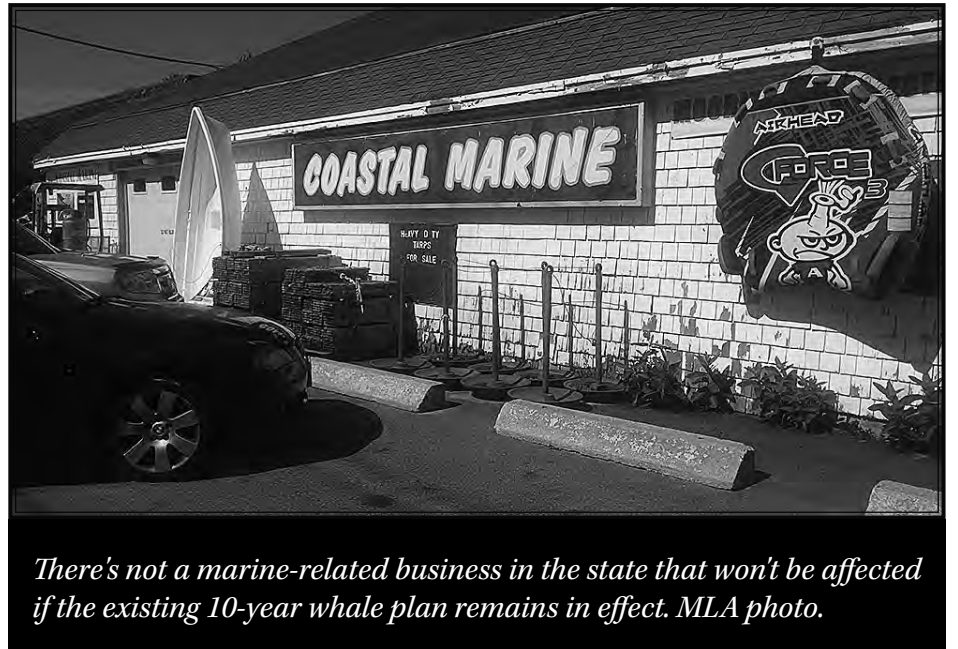
Lobstermen were outraged when in 2021 NMFS closed a large offshore area to lobster fishing from October to January. Recent statements from NMFS, however, hint at additional risk reduction measures later this year, reductions that could include limiting the number of traps and additional closures.

Many feel that the goal of the whale plan is to simply remove all rope from the water. The 10-year whale plan set the year 2025 for lobstermen to endure the next round of cuts, but recent statements from NMFS indicate that additional risk reduction measures will be implemented on an accelerated schedule. As soon as next year, lobstermen may expect massive trap reductions and extensive closed areas. In less than eight years, lobstermen may be limited to using so-called “ropeless” gear only.

*“... Everyone’s response should be the same to this threat. As an industry we are on the right side of this issue and we need our story to be heard. Everyone who benefits from the fishery should join this fight.”*



Photo courtesy of the Portland Press Herald.



There’s not a marine-related business in the state that won’t be affected if the existing 10-year whale plan remains in effect. MLA photo.

“We know what we are up against, and we know what’s coming next,” Brendan said. “We donated \$50,000 last year to this fight and realized it’s not enough. I have two kids, John has three, Curt has two. What will be there for them?”

“The lobstermen before us took great care of the fishery and the ocean when we came in. Our job is to hand it on to the next generation even better than when we got it,” John added.

Both men noted that Maine lobstermen have been quick to donate to the MLA’s Save Maine Lobstermen campaign since it began last November but are disappointed in the level of support outside the harvesting community. They pointed

out that many other Maine businesses depend on the vitality of the fishery, from other large dealers and processors, boat builders and marine electronic suppliers to grocery stores and restaurants.

The economic health of many of Maine’s coastal towns and cities depends on the continued success of lobstermen, whose profits keep an intricate web of businesses, large and small, afloat.

“What we have here in Maine is unique. And it is now at risk. Everyone’s response should be the same to this threat. As an industry we are on the right side of this issue and we need our story to be heard. Everyone who benefits from the fishery should join this fight,” said Brown.

“The lobster industry has been good to a lot of people. Lobstermen have been doing the right thing for generation after generation,” said Brendan. “It’s time we all stepped up and put something back into the industry. If you understand the facts about what’s going to happen, then it’s time to give back.”

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## MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

### Maine Lobstermen's Association

...

Advocating for a sustainable lobster resource and the fishermen and communities that depend on it since 1954.

President: Kristan Porter  
Cutler, 460-0560  
1st VP: Dustin Delano  
Friendship, 542-7241  
2nd VP: John Williams  
Stonington, 367-2731  
Treasurer: Jim Dow  
Bass Harbor, 460-2565  
Secretary: Chris Welch  
Kennebunk, 205-2093

#### Directors

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Joshua Beal, Milbridge, 479-9624  
Sonny Beal, Beals Island, 356-1684  
Laurin Brooks, Kennebunk, 468-2165  
Herman Coombs, Orr's Island, 807-8596  
Gerry Cushman, Port Clyde, 372-6429  
Jamien Hallowell, S. Bristol, 380-7976  
Robert Ingalls, Bucks Harbor, 271-7199  
Mark Jones, Boothbay, 315-5977  
Jason Joyce, Swan's Island, 526-4109  
Jack Merrill, Islesford, 244-7884  
Tad Miller, Matinicus, 372-6941  
Troy Plummer, Boothbay, 350-7280  
Craig Stewart, Long Island, 653-6914  
John Tripp, Spruce Head, 691-9744  
Thomas Werner, Cape Elizabeth, 807-1048

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## STEAMING AHEAD

When it rains, it pours. Maine lobstermen are grappling with the reality of the May 1 deadline for Round One of three in the 10-year whale plan. Round One only gets us to a 60% risk reduction on our way towards the 98% reduction mandated by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Lobstermen are required to comply with these rules despite Maine's nearly 20 year track record of zero documented right whale entanglements in our lobster gear—and despite the reality that the gear you need is not widely available to purchase. And many of you who have rigged with weak inserts have gone to haul only to find rope that has become unlaid, chaffed and broken, to watch weak links shatter while hauling or to find that your gear was just plain gone.

I have spoken with many of you and know how confused, anxious and frustrated you are. But it is imperative that every lobsterman, lobster buyer, or person who in some way depends on the lobster industry understands that this is just the first of three rounds of required risk reductions. There is no doubt that this round of whale rules has been difficult to comply with and has made lobstering more dangerous and your business more expensive to run. Yet I also have no doubt that Maine lobstermen will find a way to make it through this round of rules.

But it's not close to being over. We have to think about what comes next.

NMFS now is saying that the 60% risk reduction we are currently implementing didn't go far enough soon enough. Our fishery was scheduled for the next round of cuts in 2025, but now NMFS plans to fast track those regulations to get us to 90% reduction as soon as feasible. We know that by 2030, NMFS will require even deeper reductions to the fishery so that our risk is reduced cumulatively by 98%.

I don't know about you, but I am really afraid of what this means for the future of Maine's lobster fishery, for Maine's exceptionally diverse fleet of owner-operators who literally keep our coastal economy afloat, and for the future of our children.

Think about it... what will it take for the fishery to get from 60% risk reduction to 90% risk reduction? The largest reduction credit by far (nearly two-thirds) in this first round of whale rules came from the two massive closures in Massachusetts. Weak rope, trawling up and the LMA 1 closure combined account for less than 1/3rd of the overall risk reduction in the first round of whale rules.

Now that the majority of U.S. waters where right whales frequent are closed to fishing, it will likely take massive, broad-scale gear reductions and/or new closures to get us to the 90% risk reduction NMFS is now aiming for.

Speculating, I would guess that to reach the 98% cumulative reduction in risk to right whales by 2030 would mean a near total closure of the lobster fishery, or a lobster fishery without rope.

This is the sobering reality for the Maine lobster fishery. So why don't we just say 'No'? I can assure you that the MLA has told NMFS that its plan will decimate the Maine fishery and fail to save whales. The MLA has challenged every bit of this plan as it has unfolded. But the environmental groups continue to push NMFS to do more through the courts, and sadly, the laws of our nation are clear that we either comply with the risk reduction goals or the federal lobster fishery will be shut down. And as if that is not bad

enough, the environmental groups are asking the courts to have the federal and state waters fishery shut down as well.

NMFS's 10-year whale plan threatens to erase our lobster fishery and our heritage. Not rhetorically, but literally! That is why the MLA is bringing all its guns to bear and is suing NMFS.

What does it take to sue the federal government? Good lawyers, sound legal arguments, and a lot of money. We have the first two, we need the third. The MLA must raise \$10 million within three years to stay in this battle. We are fighting in the courts and the regulatory arena, through science and research, and through broad communications. With so much at stake, we must never be in a position where we don't have the funds to mount the best fight possible on behalf of our industry.

The MLA is so grateful to everyone who has dug deep and supported

us. There have been so many lobstermen, businesses, individuals and communities who have stepped up. In particular, the MLA is gratified and encouraged by a \$200,000 contribution from John and Brendan Ready.

We truly hope their generosity will inspire others to think about what the lobster industry means to them and what is at stake for each and every one of us if Maine were to lose this fishery.

Yes, it's true that when it rains, it pours. Collectively we all have a long road ahead of us. The MLA believes in men and women, the small wharves and large companies that make up the Maine lobster fishery. We believe that our community will step up to make sure the MLA will win this battle.

As always, stay safe on the water.

Patrice



Lobstermen are recognizing that the 10-year whale plan will erase this fishery. Photo courtesy of Little Cranberry Lobster.

### JOIN US ON JUNE 4 IN BELFAST FOR THE MLA ANNUAL MEETING!

The MLA invites all members and Legal Defense Fund supporters to attend our 68th Annual meeting on Saturday, June 4, at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast, from 3 to 5 p.m. We welcome you to gather with your fellow members at an in-person meeting!

Registration required prior to the meeting.





## MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

### MLA DIRECTORS MEETING

The MLA Board met on April 6 via Zoom. The MLA Annual meeting take place, in person, at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast on Saturday, June 4. The Board voted to present the 2021 Marine Patrol Award to Sergeant Mark Murry of Section 5. The Board will also present the 2020 Marine Patrol Award to Officer James Mayotte of Section 2. The board approved a slate of nominees to serve a three-year term on the MLA board: John Tripp (Spruce Head), Jim Dow (Bass Harbor), Laurin Brooks (Kennebunk), Craig Stewart (Long Island), Chris Welch (Kennebunk), Herman Coombs (Orrs Island) and Joshua Beal (Beals). MLA's lead attorney Ryan Steen will address the MLA membership. The meeting is open to MLA members (and family) and LDF donors only and you must register to attend.

The MLA is working on launching a new website and membership software. MLA members will have a log-in which will allow you to manage your membership and donations through the website. The Save Maine Lobstermen (Legal Defense Fund) is gaining momentum. Many lobstermen have donated at least \$1,000. MLA staff have met with the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, HospitalityMaine, and the Maine Tourism Association and is reaching out to coastal towns, lobster dealers, and many other businesses seeking support for the fundraising campaign. The lawsuits are very expensive, and the MLA needs to diversify its base of support to keep this fight going.

The MLA submitted briefs in the environmental non-governmental organizations' (eNGO) case in Washington, D.C. on April 11 and is responding to briefs filed by the eNGOs in the MLA's case against NMFS on May 13.

NMFS continues move the goal post for the level of risk reduction required in the lobster fishery. NMFS informed the Take Reduction Team (TRT) that based on new right whale population and mortality estimates, the 60% risk reduction implemented this year does not go far enough — the goal should have been a 90% risk reduction. This means that the gillnet fisheries and trap/pot fishers (other than Northeast lobster) must reduce risk by 90% rather than 60% by 2023. After this rule is drafted, NMFS will begin new rulemaking for the additional risk reduction in the Northeast lobster fishery.

The ASMFC adopted the vessel tracking requirement for the federal waters lobster fishery and has asked NMFS to complete rulemaking by May 2023. ASMFC will convene a workgroup to work out the details of the program. ASMFC also plans to schedule public hearings on Addendum 26, which includes proposals to increase the minimum gauge in Area 1 (among other measures), in June. DMR's lobster biologist Kathleen Reardon met with all lobster zone councils to explain the science that is driving ASMFC's proposal. DMR plans to hold outreach meetings with lobstermen on this before the public hearings. The MLA board will meet again via Zoom on May 4 at 5 p.m.

### NMFS BACKS OFF ON ENFORCEMENT OF MAY 1 DEADLINE

NMFS has finally acknowledged that lobstermen, despite their efforts, are not able to fully comply with the May 1 deadline for the new whale rules. NMFS will implement a "graduated enforcement effort that will focus on compliance assistance rather than civil penalties." The agency acknowledged that "unanticipated supply chain delays are preventing some of the fleet from fully coming into compliance... and that they "want to assure fishermen who are making good faith efforts to comply with these new measures but are not able to procure compliant gear that we understand the difficulty of their situation."

NMFS has approved a few more options for weak points, however commercial supplies are still limited. To see the most up-to-date list of approved weak points visit <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/marine-mammal-protection/approved-weak-inserts-and-line-atlantic-large>.

### ROPELESS FISHING APPLICATION DENIED

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries denied an application from Pioneers for a Thoughtful Co-existence to test the efficacy of on demand "ropeless" lobster gear in the Massachusetts state waters closure from February 1 to May 15. DMF Director, Dan McKiernan wrote "Research proposals into the efficacy of ropeless fishing technologies must attempt to meaningfully contribute to the knowledge base regarding one or more of these critical areas (or other well defined questions critical questions regarding the efficacy of this gear). Your research proposal fails to do this with any specificity. Rather, the objectives of your proposal ... would only serve to reinforce what we already know—the gear can be successfully deployed, located, and retrieved. Such research goals can be readily achieved through testing this gear in times and spaces currently open to commercial lobster trap fishing in Massachusetts."

McKiernan continued, "deploying this gear in a highly controlled setting may advance advocacy for this technology. However, such activities do not necessarily constitute a viable research project."

He notes that "DMF has issued Letters of Authorization to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in the past to test on-demand gear in state waters and I will gladly continue to issue them in the future with an expectation that the work is coordinated by the federal gear technologists with a well-crafted study design."

#### *Weak rope*

Rocky Mount Cordage company, candy cane rope (1,752 break strength)

Rocky Mount Cordage company, 2 other weak ropes (1,438 and 1,568 break strength)

Neocorp braided rope, 2 types, (1,229 and 1,530 break strength)

Everson, still in testing

#### *South Shore Sleeve*

Novabraid, available in 2 sizes (1,700 break strength)

#### *In Line Weak Inserts*

Seaside, 2 sizes (up to 5/8")

Plantes, several sizes (up to 5/8")

Brooks (Maine Mold)

### TRT UPDATE

The Take Reduction Team (TRT) is scheduled to meet May 9 through 13. The meeting was supposed to be held in person in Philadelphia but has been changed to a virtual meeting. According to NMFS, "The primary objective for our meeting is to complete the Team's work on developing recommended measures for our Phase 2 process for risk reduction in mid-Atlantic lobster trap/pot, U.S. East Coast multispecies trap/pot, and gillnet fisheries coastwide. These measures must reach the needed minimum 90 percent risk reduction described in our November 2021 webinar."

"We [NMFS] have a revised and challenging risk reduction target, which is necessary to reduce North Atlantic right whale mortalities and serious injuries in U.S. fisheries to below the stock's population biological removal level (PBR)... Since Fall 2021, preliminary updates to the right whale population estimate, continued high mortality rates, and low number of calves suggest we still must considerably reduce annual mortality for the species to recover."

"Phase 1 focused on the Northeast lobster and Jonah crab trap/pot fisheries' achieving an estimated 60 percent minimum risk reduction, which does not reach the new minimum risk reduction target of 90 percent. For this reason, we plan to follow up Phase 2 fairly quickly with a third phase to address the remaining risk posed by Northeast lobster and Jonah crab trap/pot gear to ensure all fisheries coastwide meet the same risk reduction necessary for North Atlantic right whale recovery given the continued decline.

We will begin discussing data and analyses for Phase 3 within the context of the updated Decision Support Tool (reminder that the updated Tool will be reviewed at a March 29 webinar) at the May meeting."

"NOAA Fisheries will also continue efforts to implement improvements to the vessel speed regulations to reduce incidences of lethal vessel strikes planning for a proposed rule in Spring 2022, and will continue engaging in bilateral discussions with Canada."

### ZONE COUNCILS DISCUSS STATUS OF LOBSTER STOCK

DMR lead lobster biologist Kathleen Reardon presented an update on the status of the lobster stock at each of Maine's seven zones during March and April. While lobster stock abundance is still very high, DMR's surveys are showing declines across the board. DMR has surveys to monitor all life stages of the lobster including larvae, young of the year, sublegals, adults and reproductive females. Trends across all these surveys show decline in recent years.

According to Reardon, based on these results the ASMFC Lobster Board is recommending management action to stabilize the lobster population over the long-term. Addendum 27 seeks to improve the resiliency of the lobster stock by standardizing management measures across lobster management areas and



Photo courtesy Maine Public.

protection spawning stock biomass (which means allowing more lobsters to reproduce before they are caught by the fishery). Measures that would increase spawning stock biomass include gauge increases for Area 1, gauge decreases for Area 3 and standardizing the definition of v-notch. DMR Commissioner Keliher is planning a series of outreach meetings to continue discussions with the lobster industry on ASMFC's proposal, and then ASMFC will hold public hearings in late spring or early summer to get feedback.



# MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

## WHERE ARE THE RIGHT WHALES?

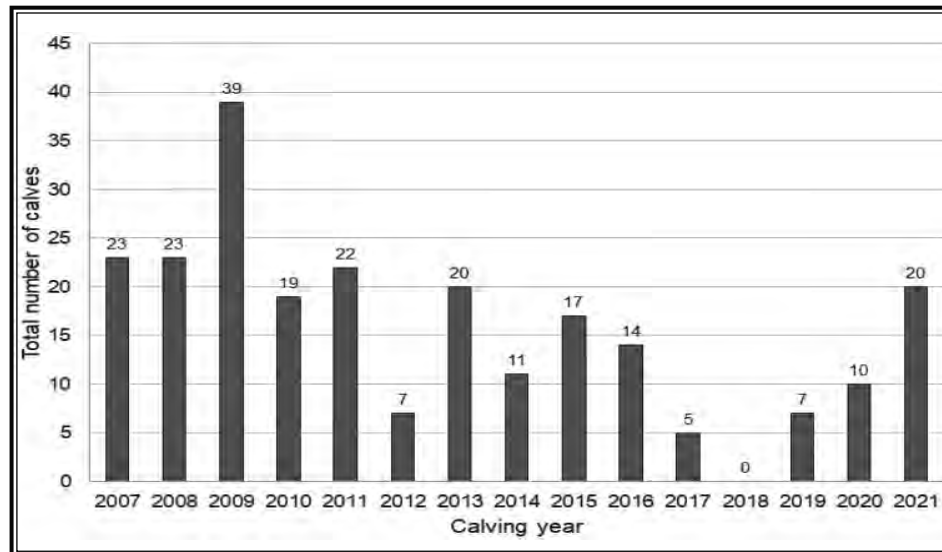
If you want to know where right whale surveys are taking place and where they are finding right whales, visit the interactive right whale sightings website. Go to <https://whalemap.org/WhaleMap>. You can choose a date range and zoom in on various regions. Here's a map of right whale sightings for 2022.



## 2022 RIGHT WHALE CALVING SEASON ENDS

The 2022 right whale calving season ended with 15 calves. NMFS considers 20 newborns in a calving season as a relatively productive year, though they estimate higher rates are needed for the population to recover.

More information on the 2022 right whale calving season can be found at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/endangered-species-conservation/north-atlantic-right-whale-calving-season-2022>.



## ASMFC MANDATES ELECTRONIC TRACKERS ON FEDERAL LOBSTER BOATS

ASMFC's American Lobster Management Board approved Addendum 29 to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan establishing electronic tracking requirements for federally permitted vessels in the American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries. The goal is to collect high resolution spatial and temporal effort data to support several ongoing efforts.

Electronic tracking devices will be required for federally permitted vessels with commercial trap gear area permits for Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMAs) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and Outer Cape Cod. The Addenda establish minimum criteria that must be met by tracking devices and vendors to be approved for use in the fishery, including a data reporting rate of one ping per minute, technical specifications, and customer service standards. To identify devices and vendors that meet these criteria, the Commission will form a work group to review and approve tracking technologies and provide information on available options to the states. States, in conjunction with Commission staff, will work to develop an implementation plan, including a standard operating procedure and a request for quotes from vessel tracking companies.

According to the ASMFC, the data collected through electronic tracking will greatly improve the stock assessment's ability to estimate exploitation and abundance for American lobster by providing size composition data at a finer resolution than what is currently available. Additionally, the models used to assess the location of vertical lines in the fishery and their associated risk to endangered right whales will be substantially improved, which could have an impact on federal risk reduction requirements for the fishery. With a better understanding of the spatial footprint of the U.S. lobster and Jonah crab fisher-

ies, managers will be better positioned to minimize and mitigate the impacts of other ocean uses such as aquaculture, marine protected areas, and offshore energy development on the fisheries. Furthermore, vessel tracking data will enhance the efficiency and efficacy of offshore law enforcement efforts. The Commission is requesting that NOAA Fisheries implement the requirements of the Addenda through the federal rulemaking process by May 1, 2023.

## LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The second session of the 130th Legislature statutory adjournment was April 30. The following bills were passed by the Legislature:

*LD 1916 An Act To Create a Legal Defense Fund for the Lobster Industry* was amended and approved by the Marine Resources Committee, House and Senate to create the Lobster Industry Legal Defense Fund. The Appropriations Committee did not approve the General Fund appropriation of \$500,000, so the final amended bill provides \$380,000 from the MLMC to fund the Legal Defense Fund for one year. The funds will be evenly distributed between a statewide lobstering association and statewide lobstering labor union to reimburse legal expenses involving whale plan regulations.

*LD 1742 An Act To Ensure Compliance with the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster* allows DMR to adopt rules to remain compliant with ASMFC's lobster management plan

*LD 1759 An Act To Extend the Legal Hours for Harvesting Lobster in the Month of September (Emergency)* which changes the start time for lobstering to 4 a.m. in September.

*LD 1908 An Act To Limit Eligibility for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses* was amended and passed by the Legislature. This bill will limit eligibility for menhaden fishing licenses beginning in 2023 to individuals who to have held a license in any two of the past three years (2019-2021) and had landings of 25,000 lbs. in any or those years, or in 2022.

## Many thanks to these fine businesses, the MLA's Keeper members!

Accutech Marine Propellor	Inland Seafood	Novatec Braids LTD
Alliance Rubber	Interstate Lobster Co.	Pack Edge
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust	Island Fishing Gear & Auto Parts	Port Clyde Fishermen's Cooperative
Beals-Jonesport Coop Inc.	Island Fishermen's Wives	Port Lobster Co.
Beals Lobster Pier	John's Bay Boat Co.	RE Thomas Marine Hardware
Bowdoin College Dining Services	Lobster Trap Co.	RG Tax Accounting and Resolution
Chapman & Chapman	Lonnie's Hydraulic Inc.	Riverdale Mills
Chase Leavitt	Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries	Rope Razor
Coastal Documentation II	Maine Financial Group	Seacoast Tours of Freeport LLC
Conary Cove Lobster Co.	Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance	Superior Marine Products
Downeast Boat Co.	Maine Ocean Lobster	Tenants Harbor Fishermen's Cooperative
Farrin's Boatshop	Maine Sea Grant	Twin City Financial Group
Finestkind Scenic Cruises	Marine Hydraulic Engineering Co. Inc.	Varney Insurance Inc.
First National Bank	McMillan Offshore Survival Training	Vinalhaven Fishermen's Cooperative
F. W. Thurston Co. Inc.	Midcoast Marine Supply	William Coffin & Sons
Georgetown Fishermen's Cooperative	Midcoast Solar LLC	Winter Harbor Fishermen's Cooperative
Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation	New England Marine & Industrial Inc.	Woods Hole Group
Guy Cotten, Inc.	New England Propeller	Worcesters Lobster Bait
Harbor Bait	Northeast Marine Survey	
Infab Refractories Inc.		

# You Are Helping Us Fight Back.



## Gifts: \$200,000

John and Brendan Ready

## We must raise \$10 million to stay in this fight.

### Gifts \$ 10,000 - \$49,999

Corea Lobster Co-Op  
Cranberry Isles Fishermen's Co-Op

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Tenants Harbor Fishermen's Co-op  
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### \$1,000-\$4,999 cont'd

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Alfred Osgood  
Justin Osgood  
Nicholas & Kristin Page  
Alan & Rebecca Poland  
Neal Prescott  
Sam Rosen  
Nicholas Saunders  
Sam Sewell  
Scott Smithwick  
Craig Sproul  
David Thomas  
Town Of Vinalhaven  
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James West  
Gregg Whitton  
Walter Willey IV  
Eben Wilson  
Donald Wotton  
Kenneth Young

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Inland Lobster  
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Nicholas Kennedy  
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Bill & Julie Putnam  
Mike Sargant  
Ryan Schoppee  
Garrett Steele  
Courtland Tolman  
Merritt Wotton  
Bradley Yeaton

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### \$100 - \$299 cont'd

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Julia Debery  
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Andrew Feeney  
Thomas Fernald  
Spencer Gamage  
Alexander Gonzalez  
Julia Goodall  
Kurt Harrington  
Stephen and Lisa Hewitt  
Alice Ingraham  
John Jordan  
Kathi Jordan  
JT Lobster  
Eugene Kelley  
Lewis Kelsey  
Spinner Lee  
Gary Libby  
Jason Ludwig  
Mantinius Isl Recycling  
Linda Molvie  
Eleanor Nunan  
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Ryan Simmons  
Town Of Long Island  
Caitlin Trafton  
Keith Trefethen  
Warren's Lobster House  
Richard Wilson  
Donald Wright  
Nancy Wynne

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Rep. Lydia Crafts  
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Edith DiBartolo  
Timothy Hambelton  
Greg Havener  
Anthony Hooper  
Erin House  
William Fahey  
Ronald Lachappelle  
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Chad McGuire  
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James O'Connell  
Robert Raudenbush  
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Diana Tyler  
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Donald & Gail Wright  
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*In Memory of Jeff Tolman*  
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# MAINE LOBSTER THE SWEETEST ON EARTH

## MARKETING UPDATES

The MLMC is encouraging food manufacturers to create more products using Maine Lobster through a digital advertising campaign driving them to our Product Innovation Guide. The Guide shares consumer trend data and on-trend products incorporating Maine Lobster, especially underutilized products like the lobster mince. After the successful introduction of a lobster butter in 2021, MLMC is working with manufacturers to create other new products in 2022.

Monterey Bay Aquarium issued a draft assessment of the Maine Lobster fishery in which they recommend a 'do not buy' status primarily due to potential impact on right whales. The MLMC hosted a webinar and developed a fact sheet to educate industry members and customers about the issue, to identify flaws in the assessment and to emphasize the measures taken by the fishery to protect right whales.



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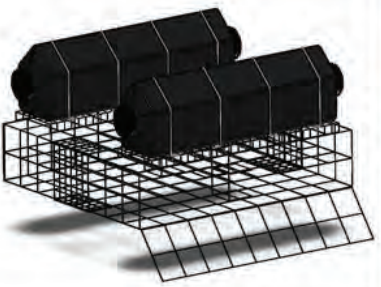
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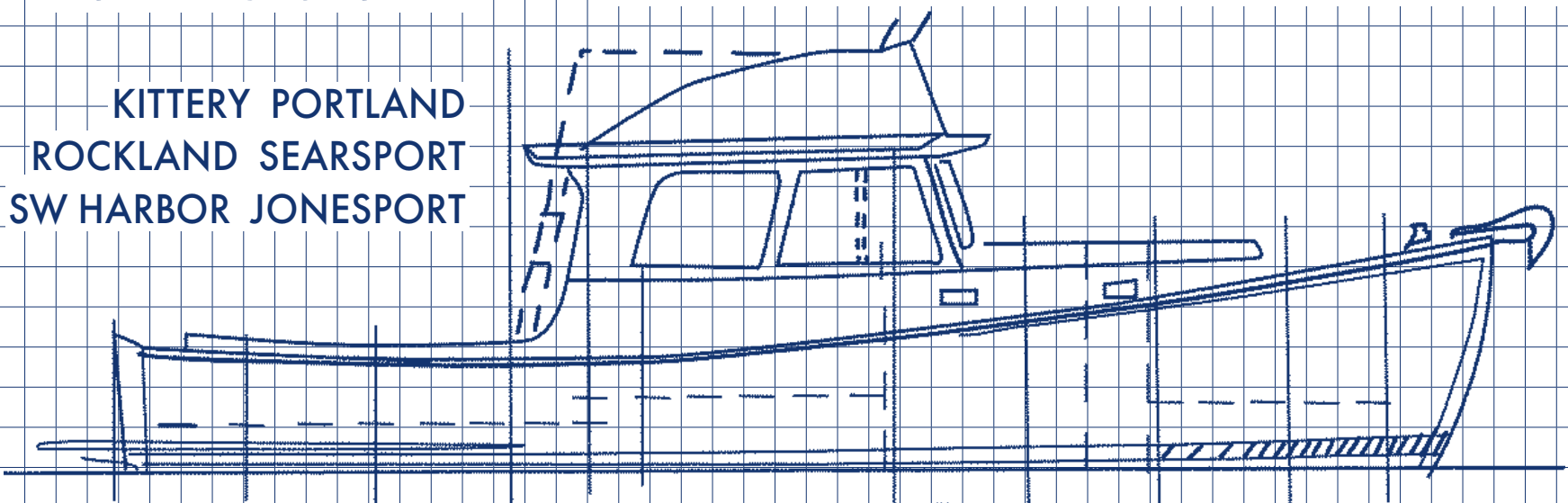
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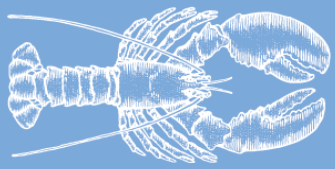
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# NMFS COMMITS TO 'GRADUATED ENFORCEMENT' OF NEW WHALE REGULATIONS

*By Michael Petony, Regional Administrator,  
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office*

As we announced last fall in our final rule to implement new measures to protect North Atlantic right whales, the deadline for Northeast lobster and Jonah crab fishermen to make the necessary gear modifications is May 1, 2022. These regulations are critical to protecting the endangered North Atlantic right whale and keeping this valuable and important fishery open for business. Most participants in the Northeast lobster and Jonah crab fishery are nearly finished with the needed gear modifications and ready for the deadline. However, unanticipated supply chain delays are preventing some of the fleet from fully coming into compliance. I want to assure fishermen who are making good faith efforts to comply with these new measures but are not able to procure compliant gear that we understand the difficulty of their situation. We are working closely with our state and federal enforcement partners to implement a graduated enforcement effort that will focus on compliance assistance rather than civil penalties until we have determined that localized supply chain issues have been sufficiently resolved.

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of fishermen, gear experts, and manufacturers who have developed and tested numerous weak links, sleeves, and ropes that comply with the 2021 modifications to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. We would also like to express our great appreciation to the many fishermen who have already or are now modifying

their gear to reduce the risk of entanglements. Nevertheless, the availability of compliant gear is not yet universal. NOAA Fisheries is closely monitoring the challenges that some Northeast lobster and Jonah crab trap/pot fishermen are facing in their effort to comply with weak rope measures.

New England fishermen have been in the forefront of efforts to design weak rope and weak inserts. Nearly every weak rope and weak insert that has been approved for use under the new regulations was designed by, or developed in collaboration with, fishermen. They have fished with weak inserts in state waters since state regulations were implemented in the spring of 2021. Offshore fishermen, led by the Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association, have sourced larger diameter weak ropes and are now conducting field testing to ensure they retain dimensions that can be used in offshore haulers without jamming. Availability continues to be a challenge despite these persistent and collaborative efforts, many initiated in early 2019.

We are committed to continuing to message urgency to rope and weak link producers and to monitor the supply challenges closely. We will also remain in close communication with fishermen as well as with New England state managers, the Northeast Office of Law Enforcement, and our state and federal enforcement partners. I will continue to work to ensure that both North Atlantic right whales and the valuable lobster fishery have a long and healthy future.

*Enforcement continued from page 1*

munications and education to understand the new rule and find workable solutions to come into compliance.

We fully acknowledge that the approval and availability of weak links and weak inserts has been evolving, which makes it especially difficult to comply. I also continue to be frustrated that NOAA has consistently refused to approve the use of knots in federal waters as weak points.

We will continue to work with NOAA to urge them to consider fishermen's input on approved weak inserts. In the meantime, we urge fishermen to reach out to their local Marine Patrol Officer or Marine Patrol Division Office to seek information and to discuss common sense approaches to compliance with these new regulations. Contact information for Marine Patrol can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/marine-patrol/marine-contact.html>.

## MILBRIDGE LOBSTERMAN MAKES MULTI-YEAR DONATION TO SAVE MAINE LOBSTERMEN

*By Melissa Waterman*

The Maine Lobstermen's Association's (MLA) Save Maine Lobstermen campaign — to raise \$10 million to wage a legal battle against the National Marine Fisheries Service's punitive 10-year whale plan — has inspired support from people and businesses throughout the state. To one contributor, a donation of \$2,000 each year for three years to the campaign was a matter of simple common sense.



*Eric Beal hopes his contribution will prompt others to give as well. Photo courtesy of Bar Harbor Bank and Trust.*

"I've been fishing for more than forty years," said 60-year-old Eric Beal of Milbridge. "I knew I had to do something."

Beal thought about making his donation anonymously. "But then I thought I needed to put my name behind it. Other guys may think, 'Well if he gave this much, it must be needed.' And that's true. If we don't all do something, we are not going to be fishing."

Beal, who is well-known on the lobster boat racing circuit and has long served on the Zone A Lobster Council, has thought hard about the problem of the endangered North Atlantic right whale. He, like so many other lobstermen, has no desire to entangle a right whale but he also feels that the 10-year whale plan will do little to protect the whales while doing much decimate the Maine lobster fishery.

"You know lobstermen are conservationists. We don't want to tangle with the whales. And those right whales are going where their feed is. Sightings of right whales are way down in the Gulf," Beal said. "You don't go to a restaurant if you are not going to eat."

The MLA's legal efforts against the whale plan have Beal's full support, both financially and personally. "The MLA was created by lobstermen. It's a spokesman for us. We have to support the campaign because whoever has the most money in this will win, whether they are right or wrong," Beal said.

He's seen many changes along the coast since he first started fishing. Long ago, his grandfather ran sardine carriers for the local sardine factories. During his first few years of high school Beal started out helping his father build and maintain herring weirs. Soon after his first year at the University of Maine he returned to Milbridge and, with a loan from the bank, bought his first lobster boat for \$31,000. "I dug clams to pay for it," he recalled.

"The fishery's changed a lot. I'm setting traps where I never would thirty years ago. It's crowded! But we [lobstermen] need each other, no matter what part of the coast. We all have the same conservation ethic," Beal said.

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Ketcham Traps [www.ketchamsupply.com](http://www.ketchamsupply.com)



## TO YOUR HEALTH: *Know your knees and how to protect them*

By Scott Fulmer, UMass Lowell, and Ann Backus, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

When you go to sea, whether it's calm or blowing hard, you are giving your knees a workout. The knee is a bony joint that is a complex collection of bones, muscles, ligaments (soft tissue connecting bone-to-bone), tendons (soft tissue connecting muscle to bone), and cartilage (lubricating bone-to-bone surfaces). The knee enables the common leg motions of walking, jogging, stair ascent and descent, squatting, kneeling, and maintaining a static stance, especially on a moving surface. It is a "synovial joint," meaning it is encapsulated in fluid that lubricates the bone-to-bone movement.

The biomechanics of knee motion consist of swinging and shock absorption. Swinging consists of a push off from the toes, a swinging motion, and then a heel strike. The knee's absorbing power while walking is much greater than its force generating power. The peak load through the knee joint is two to three times body weight (BW) during walking, two to five times BW getting up from a sitting to standing position, four to six times BW during stair climbing, and seven to twelve times BW during running. Maintaining stability while working on a lobster boat could fall into a range that includes all of these, from two to twelve times BW.

The knee is often thought of as a hinge. However, because of the complicated shape of the surfaces of the knee bones that slide against each other, the knee's motion cannot be modeled as a simple hinge. At its center, the knee joint motion is a combination of rolling and sliding bones. Also, it lacks the kind of stability seen in other types of joints like the hip (ball and socket), and the foot (mortise and tenon).

### Ligaments provide structural strength

The structural strength of the knee is provided by the ligaments, which are soft tissue connecting bone-to-bone. "Collateral" ligaments, located on either

side of the knee joint, control the inward rotation or outward bowing of knees, and bear the weight under those conditions. "Cruciate" ligaments join the shin bone and thigh bone to one another within the internal structure of the knee and prevent any forward/ backward motion of these bones in relation to one another. Athletes and sports fans know that the Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) plays a role in controlling deceleration from jumping and quick changes of direction.

Shock absorption is assisted by a soft tissue called a "meniscus" that lies between the ends of the thigh and shin bones. This tissue produces a fluid that lubricates the articular cartilage that covers the ends of each bone. Like a gasket, the meniscus is the interface between two

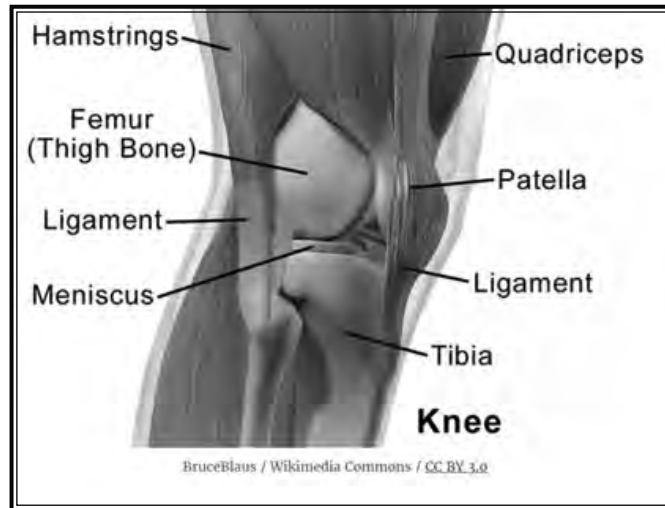
differently shaped bone surfaces. In the knee this gasket cushions the interface and increases stability by distributing weight across the surfaces of the two bones.

### Knee injury

High impact pressure, like a bump or hit to the knee, can cause acute trauma -- tears, abrasions to internal tissue. Longer exposure to pressure in a specific location can cause the same damage over a period of time, especially when the tissue does not have adequate time to regenerate between injuries. Cartilage and ligaments in and around the kneecap have limited blood supply, and thus typically take longer to recover from injury. Contact stress on the knee occurs when

kneeling or when pressing the kneecap on the boat hull while reaching overboard to haul in a trap.

Opposing leg muscles, the quadriceps, and the hamstrings, exert force on the knee joint. When the quadriceps contract, the knee straightens; when the hamstrings contract, the knee flexes or bends.



### How to reduce the risk of knee injury when fishing

Causes of Knee Injury	Strategy to Reduce Risk	Comment
Slips, trips, falls	Consider a rubber mat.	Be sure mat is not a trip hazard.
Constant standing on shifting work platform	Add cushioning and friction with a rubber mat. Wear good shoes with high-friction soles.	Be sure mat is not a trip hazard.
Getting caught in rope	Install rope bin or locker.	Keep rope away from feet.
Repetitively kicking rope	Install rope bin or locker.	Keep rope away from feet.
Using knees and thighs against the hull to stabilize stance	Don't! Cut a semi-circle out of the rail to get closer to the davit and not have to lean.	Consider knee guards or other padding.
Blunt trauma such as hit by trap or falling against hull	Reduce swelling with cold pack and leg elevation.	See healthcare provider if swelling persists.
Damage to ligaments	Avoid sudden movements and falls.	See healthcare provider if pain persists.
Cuts and scratches on legs	Wear long pants; don't ignore broken skin.	Seek healthcare provider if infection sets in.
Weak knees	Do leg strengthening exercises and stretch.	Good to do even if your knees are not weak.
Lifting traps	Squat correctly with heels on the ground and back straight.	Using your knees correctly prevents back injury.
Extra force on the knees	Maintain a healthy weight.	A lot of knee pain can be reduced through weight loss.

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# FISHERIES WORKING GROUP OFFERS DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAINE OFFSHORE WIND ROADMAP

*By Laura Taylor Singer, SAMBAS Consulting LLC (for Consensus Building Institute) and Patrick Field, Consensus Building Institute*

Last July, the Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) formally launched the Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap effort, a federally-funded initiative to identify how to support an offshore wind (OSW) economy in Maine that considers the impacts of offshore wind on current marine users, wildlife and the marine resources upon which so many Maine residents depend.

Creation of the Roadmap is happening through four Working Groups with nearly 100 public and private sector representatives. The Working Groups have developed draft recommendations focusing on energy markets, ports and infrastructure, manufacturing and supply chains, workforce development, and fisheries and the environment. An Advisory Committee, composed of the co-chairs from each Working Group and additional representatives with experience in different facets of offshore wind has received draft recommendations from the Working Groups to assist GEO in drafting the final Roadmap. All Working Group and Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

A dedicated group of fishermen and fishing industry representatives has been meeting about monthly via Zoom as members of the Fisheries Working Group. The discussions have not been easy. This is a conversation most fishermen wish just wasn’t happening. From the outset of the process, it was made clear that participating in the Working Group discussions does not constitute endorsement of offshore wind development.

The Fisheries Working Group includes representatives from the Maine Lobstermen’s Association, Maine Lobstering Union, Downeast Lobstermen’s Association, Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, Maine Aquaculture Association, scallopers, groundfish fishermen, tuna fishermen, herring operators and recreational fishing interest. It is led by Terry Alexander (F/V Jocka) and Meredith Mendelson (DMR) as co-chairs. The Working Group has met nearly a dozen times since July 2021 to jointly learn about various aspects of offshore wind, share issues and concerns and craft an initial set of recommendations.

The Working Group’s agenda has been driven by the members themselves. Staff support from the Department of Marine Resources and professional facilitators has allowed the Working Group meetings to target specific issues and concerns from the industry. The Working Group has brought others from areas already seeing offshore wind development, such as southern New England and Long Island, to share lessons learned from their experiences. The co-chairs of the group have brought forward specific topics, from communications and monitoring to siting and navigation, for discussion; the draft recommendations are based on the group’s input.

Participants in the Fisheries Working Group have worked hard to understand what OSW would bring and, if it does come, what can be done to avoid, minimize, or mitigate its impacts. Engaging in the conversation has been a way to ensure Maine’s fishing interests are a core part of the state’s efforts to define its OSW future and to meaningfully influence how, where and when OSW happens in the Gulf of Maine.

Given the scale of fishing activity by Maine fishermen in the Gulf of Maine, it is critically important that Maine learns from and improves upon lessons from elsewhere. The idea of a new industry being introduced in the marine environment raises significant concerns. Consequently, the draft recommendations are driven by the direct experience of Working Group members and by advice from scientists, policymakers, and fishermen with offshore wind project experience in southern New England who made presentations to the Working Group. The Working Group recommendations have also been informed by approaches taken in other regions and countries.

The initial set of draft recommendations focuses on the need for robust communication between developers and the fishing industry and on being adaptive, with increased monitoring and modifications for future developments if adverse impacts are detected, and on assuring accountability measures are in place. In addition, extensive work has been done by scientists and stakeholders across the region to ensure that data from individual wind projects can be compared and incorporated into existing data sets to inform impact assessment.

In their current form, the recommendations are intended to signal the general content and focus of the Working Group’s deliberations to date; they are not intended to represent the final consensus of the group, nor should they be interpreted as endorsed by any individual participant in the process.

The Fisheries Working Group has generated additional recommendations on issues such as transmission, navigation and safety, regional coordination, and cumulative impacts. It continues to explore additional data and information to determine where OSW might be considered in the Gulf of Maine and where it should not be for the sake of fisheries, habitat and wildlife. The recommendations will evolve based on stakeholder feedback along with some additional information from technical consultants.

The umbrella group for the Roadmap process, the OSW Advisory Committee, will meet on July 20 to discuss recommendations from all the working groups. The GEO will create a draft document over the summer. There will be additional opportunity for public feedback on the entire Draft Roadmap document created by the Advisory Committee in late summer or early fall.

It is easy to get lost, frustrated and overwhelmed by all that is happening that negatively affects the fishing industry these days, yet now is the time to engage in the OSW discussion. Regardless of whether Maine chooses to actively seek out OSW energy development in the Gulf of Maine, the other states that border the Gulf of Maine are already pursuing commercial OSW.

On May 19, the Bureau of Ocean Energy (BOEM) will start the process for designating areas of OSW leases in earnest as it convenes the Gulf of Maine Task Force. The kinds of thoughtful recommendations that are coming out of the Fisheries Working Group through the Roadmap process will influence the conversation at the regional level and can help shape the future outcome of OSW energy for Maine.

## Fisheries Working Group Goals

- Produce actionable, prioritized strategies to sustain Maine’s heritage fishing industry, minimize potential conflict, enable co-existence with offshore wind development, and inform Maine’s Offshore Wind Roadmap and overall initiative
- Make recommendations on how to implement those strategies, including potential policy changes, research, funding options, and partnerships, in the immediate, near term (through 2025), and longer term ( from 2026 – 2040).
- Throughout the duration of the working group, learn from prior experience and adjust process, communications, and content in response to feedback in order to maximize productivity for all parties involved.



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## DMR AQUACULTURE LEASE APPLICATION STATUS FOR APRIL (as of 04/21/22)

For an interactive source of pending lease applications, please see DMR's new "Table of Lease Applications Under Review" where you can find maps and documentation with just one click. Go to: [www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/leases/pending.html](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/leases/pending.html)

Click INTERACTIVE DATA TABLE at the top of the list.

### Experimental Lease Applications

Name of Applicant/Company	Site	Town	Size	Product	Duration	Status
Summit Point LLC	300ft N of Lower Basket Ledge	Chebeague	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App rec'd (2/17/22); comments due (3/19/22)
Summit Point LLC	1000ft N of Lower Basket Ledge	Chebeague	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App rec'd (2/17/22); comments due (3/19/22)
Nappi, Brent	East of Sturdivant Island	Cumberland	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App. Rec'd 4/14/22; comments due 5/14/22
Nappi, Brent	S of Clapboard Island	Falmouth	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App. Rec'd 4/14/22; comments due 5/14/22
Thomas Martin	E of Brothers Islands, Casco Bay	Falmouth	0.15 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd (2/11/22); 30 day public comment
Stuart Ryan	SW side of Williams Isl, Casco Bay	Freeport	2.4 acres	Shellfish/algae	3 yrs	App rec'd (2/11/22); 30 day comment
Christopher Green	Near White Island, Middle Bay	Harpwell	4 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd 2/18/22; comments due (3/20/22)
Whisky Stones, LLC	E of Dogs Head, Harpswell Sound	Harpwell	0.481 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd, comments due 3/3/21
Wilson, David	SE of Doughty Pt, Long Reach	Harpwell	4 Acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd, Comments due 3/15/22
Nautical Farms, LLC	N of Roque Island, Shorey Cove	Jonesport	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App rec'd (2/3/22); 30 day public comment
Doyle, Victor	E of Barlett Isl, Blue Hill Bay	Mount Desert	1 acre	Shellfish	3 yrs	Public hearing postponed to later date.
Norumbega Oyster Inc.	NE of Perkins Pt, Damariscotta Rvr	Newcastle	7.31 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	Comments due (4/23/22) for expansion
Peter Smith	Upper Dodge Cove, Damariscotta River	Newcastle	3.96 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd (1/7/22); 30 day public comment
Bracy L, and Lombardo, P	N of Coombs Cove, Pemaquid River	Pemaquid	1.6 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd 7/19, comments due 8/21/21
Restorative Aquaculture LLC	WSW of Mackworth Island, Casco Bay	Portland	3.38 acres	Shellfish/algae	3 yrs	30 day public comment period (3/26/22)
Johnson, Ezra et al.	NE part of Burt Coat Harbor	Swans Island	1.6 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd 5/24/21; comments due 6/26/21
T. Bennett & A. Simmons	N of Haystack Island, Medomak River	Waldoboro	2.52 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd (3/3/22); comments due (4/2/22)
Hunt, Stewart	Upper Basket Island Ledge, Casco Bay	Yarmouth	3.9 acres	Shellfish/algae	3 yrs	App rec'd 5/24/21; comments due 6/26/21
So ME Sustainable Shellfish, LLC	West of Sewall's Bridge, York River	York	0.97 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	30 day public comment period (4/23/22)

### Standard Lease Applications

Name of Applicant/Company	Site	Town	Size	Product	Duration	Status
Pemaquid Mussel Farms LLC	Mt Desert narrows, E of Googins Ledge	Bar Harbor	32 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 5/7/21, site review TBD
Acadia Aqua Farms, LLC	SW of Googins Ledge, Frenchman Bay	Bay Harbor	48 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Hearing scheduled 3/28/22, 5pm, remote
Ferda Farms LLC	E of Lower Coombs Isl, New Meadows Rvr	Brunswick	2.33 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 2/28/22; site visit TBD
Johnson, Timothy	SE of Barnes Pt, Middle Bay	Brunswick	17 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 3/15/21, site review TBD
Nice Oyster Company, LLC	E of Woodward Pt, New Meadows River	Brunswick	4.49 acres	Shellfish	10 yrs	Application rec'd 4/21/21; site review TBD
Great Ledge Cove Seafood LLC	NE L'il Chebeague Isl, Wstrn Chandlers Cv	Chebeague Isl	6.85 Acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	Application rec'd 11/24/21, site visit TBD
Summit Point LLC	NE of Clapboard Isl, Casco Bay; Falmouth &	Cumberland	100 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	Site review complete (3/18/21)
Wild Ocean Aquaculture, LLC	E of Sturdivant Island, Casco Bay	Cumberland	5.36 acres	Shellfish	10 yrs	30 day public comment period (4/16/22)
Dodge Cove Marine Farm	SE of Dodge Pt	Damariscotta	12.26 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 7/15/21; site review TBD
Abigail Barrows	Pickering Cove; West of Freese Island	Deer Isle	4.24 acres	Shellfish/algae	20 yrs	Scoping session 3/10/22, 5pm, Deer Isle
Long Cove Sea Farm, LLC	Long Cove	Deer Isle	2.45 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	30 day public comment period (03/26/22)
Spinney Creek Shellfish	Spinney Creek	Elliot	2.75 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	14 day public comment period (3/13/22)
Coffin, Bailey	W of Sow & Pigs Isl, Casco Bay	Freeport	6.84 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 6/16/21 - site review TBD
Kenneth Curtis Sparta	West of Crab Island, Casco Bay	Freeport	8.25 acres	Shellfish/algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 3/25/22, site review TBD
Cooke Aquaculture USA, Inc	Off Black Island	Frenchboro	15 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Public hearing 11/8/21, 4 pm, SW Harbor
Gaffney, Michael & Mark	N of Phoebe Isl, Robinshood Cove	Georgetown	7 acres	Shellfish	20 Yrs	Application rec'd 11/24/21, site visit TBD
Schoodic Seafarm LLC	Off Long Mill Cove, Gouldsboro Bay	Gouldsboro	2.2 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Lease granted 4/19/21
Taunton Bay Oyster Co., Inc.	SE of Cedar Point, Taunton Bay	Hancock	13.91 acres	Shellfish	10 yrs	14 day public comment period (3/13/22)
Butterfield, Keith	Casco Bay, southwest of Lower Goose Island	Harpwell	25 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Scoping session at Harpswell (1/14/22)
Love Point Oysters, LLC	Middle Bay, Southeast of Upper Goose Isl	Harpwell	3.20 acres	Shellfish/algae	20 yrs	Application rec'd (2/15/22), site review TBD
Restorative Aquaculture LLC	Middle Bay, E of Scragg Island	Harpwell	9.89 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App. rec'd 10/20/21; site review TBD
Wilson Cove LLC	Middle Bay, Wilson Cove	Harpwell	3.21 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Scoping session at Harpswell (4/25/2022)
Islesboro Marine Enterprises, Inc	NE of Flat Island, Penobscot Bay	Islesboro	6 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 4/1/21, site review TBD
Ocean's Balance	Casco Bay; West of Cow Island Ledge	Long Island	4 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	Scoping Session 4/20/22 5 pm; Long Island
George Faux, Inc.	S of Great Salt Bay, Upper Damariscotta Rvr	Newcastle	1.8 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd (2/15/22), site review TBD
Maine Oyster Inc.	E and S of Lehman Isl. Upper Sheepscoot Rvr	Newcastle	10 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 6/17/21, site review TBD
Norumbega Oyster Inc.	E of Upper Dodge Point, Damariscotta Rvr	Newcastle	6 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Scoping session, Newcastle, 04/14/2022
Adam and Michelle Campbell	Pulpit Harbor Mill Stream	North Haven	2.53 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd (1/13/22),
Hermit Island Oyster Co, LLC	Hermit Isl, Small Pt Hbr, New Meadows Rvr	Phippsburg	2.56 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 5/26/21; site review TBD
Saltwind Seafarm LLC	W of Nonesuch Point, SE of train trestle	Scarborough	2.31 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Scoping session at Scarborough (3/11/22)
Maine Fresh Sea Farms LLC	Clark Cove, Damariscotta River	So. Bristol	3.6 acres	Marine Algae	10 yrs	Application rec'd 5/4/21, site review TBD
Dewey's Shellfish, LLC	NW of Peters Island, Damariscotta River	South Bristol	0.58 acre	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 8/16/21, site review TBD
Heron Island Oyster Company	Fitch Cv, Glidden Ledge, E side of Dam.Rvr	South Bristol	1 acre	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 10/4/21; site review TBD
Morning Star Fisheries, LLC	Sheepscoot River, W of Boston Island	Southport	4.5 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	Application rec'd 11/24/21, site visit TBD
McCoy, MR and Balano, JW	Northwest of Harrington Cove, Wheeler Bay	St. George	1.98 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Scoping Session 4/21/22 7 pm; St George
Brewer, Robert	E of Penobscot Bay SW of Andrews Island	Stonington	3.26 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 10/20/21; site review TBD
Harvey, Brian	W of Haynes Pt, Goose Cove, Western Bay	Trenton	6 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Public hearing 4/12/22, 5pm, Trenton
Baines, Robert & Cole	W Penob. Bay, W of Hewitt Isl, S of Clam Ledges	Unorg. Terr.	7.33 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 1/6/22; site visit TBD
Henninger, Thomas	E of Mouth of Broad Cove, Casco Bay	Yarmouth	5.9 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Hearing scheduled 3/8/22, 5pm, Yarmouth
Nickerson, Travis	E of Blaney Pt	Yarmouth	2.80 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 10/4/21; site review TBD

Experimental Lease: up to 3 years, 4 acres and is non-renewable: Standard Lease: term up to 20 years, size is up to 100 acres and is renewable

# BEST PROTECTION AGAINST TICK-BORNE DISEASES IS TO BE "TICK WISE"

From the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention

With warmer weather on its way, Lyme Disease Awareness Month is here again! Health care providers reported 1,508 cases of Lyme disease in 2021 (as of March 25, 2022).

The 2022 Lyme Disease Awareness Month theme this May is "Tick Wise." This reminds us to stop and practice tick prevention measures frequently. The easiest way to avoid tickborne diseases is preventing tick bites. Please remember to be "Tick Wise" and:

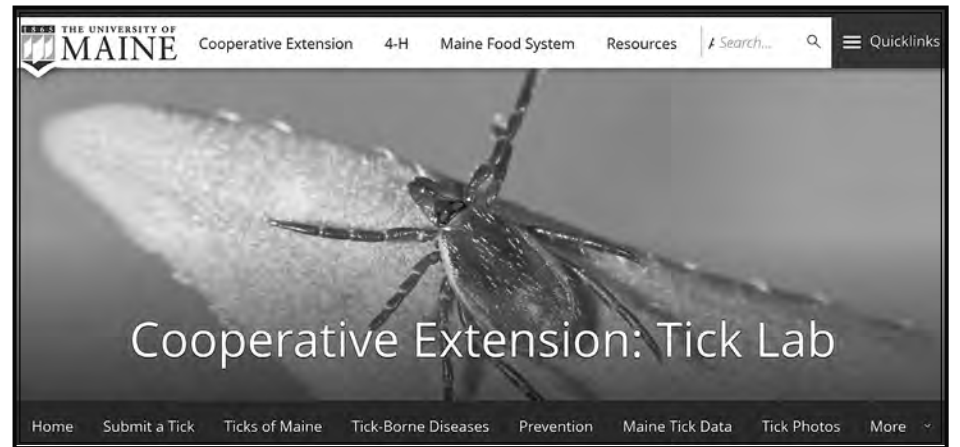
- Know tick habitat and use caution in areas where ticks may live.
- Wear light-colored clothing that covers arms and legs.
- Use an EPA-approved repellent such as: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Perform tick checks on yourself, family members, and pets daily and after any outdoor activity. Take a shower after exposure to a tick habitat to wash off any crawling ticks.

Infected deer ticks can spread the bacterium that causes Lyme disease when they bite. For transmission to occur, the deer tick must be attached for 24-48 hours. Use frequent tick checks to find and remove ticks as early as possible.

In Maine, adults over the age of 65 years and children between the ages of 5 and 15 years are at highest risk of Lyme disease. People that work or play outside are also at high risk of encountering infected ticks.

If a tick bites you or you spend a lot of time outdoors, make sure to watch for symptoms for up to 30 days after exposure. Also be sure to call a health care provider if symptoms develop. The most common symptom of Lyme disease is a skin rash. This is better known as the "bull's-eye" rash. The rash usually appears 3-30 days after the tick bite and can show up at the bite site or anywhere else on the body. Other symptoms include fever, headache, and joint or muscle pain. Lyme disease is treatable, and most people recover fully.

Lyme disease is not the only disease that deer ticks in Maine can carry. *Anaplasmosis*, *babesiosis*, *Borrelia miyamotoi* disease, and *Powassan* virus disease are other tickborne infections found in Maine, which saw record cases of *anaplasmosis* and *babesiosis* in 2021 and tied the record number of *Powassan* virus disease infections statewide.



The deer tick is the only species of tick in Maine that can pass the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. Still, there are several other species of ticks found across the state. Tick identification is important, especially when removing ticks. Free tick identification resources can be ordered at the Maine CDC website. University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick ID Lab also offers tick identification and testing services.

## Resources

Lyme disease information is available at [www.maine.gov/lyme](http://www.maine.gov/lyme).

Lyme disease data is available through the Maine Tracking Network at [www.maine.gov/lyme](http://www.maine.gov/lyme) under "Maine Tracking Network: Tickborne Diseases" on the left-hand side of the page.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick ID Lab submission instructions found at [www.ticks.umaine.edu](http://www.ticks.umaine.edu).

For additional questions, please call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821 or email [disease.reporting@maine.gov](mailto:disease.reporting@maine.gov).

Tickborne disease videos found at <http://www.maine.gov/idepi> under "Videos" on the left-hand side of the page.

Tick identification resources and other materials available to order at [www.maine.gov/dhhs/order](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/order).

Make cleanup easy and fast.

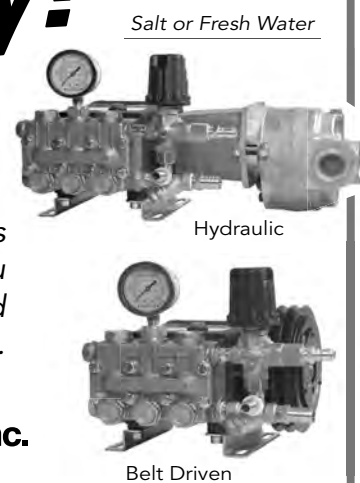
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## In the NEWS

### DFO SHUTS DOWN HERRING, MACKEREL FISHERIES

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) closed the herring fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Atlantic mackerel fishery in Atlantic Canada and Quebec on March 30. The department said urgent action had to be taken to give the stocks a chance to recover and to ensure the long-term sustainability. Herring and mackerel are a traditional source of bait in many Canadian fisheries, including lobster, snow crab and halibut. Department scientists said that herring stocks have been in the critical zone for about two decades, and previous conservation methods have not produced the desired results. Mackerel have been in the critical zone, and relatively unchanged, for the past 10 years. DFO cautioned that a one-year moratorium may not be enough time to rebuild the two stocks.

### AT-SEA MONITORING COVERAGE INCREASED

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) plans to increase at-sea monitoring of certain commercial fishing trips to 100% coverage. The new rules apply to commercial species harvested in the Northeast such as cod, haddock and flounder. NMFS said the new rules will replace the old process of calculating a target for the level of monitoring coverage every year. The coverage target will instead be 100% for four years as long as federal funding can support agency and industry costs.

### BUOYS MADE FROM MUSHROOMS?

Ecovative, a New York company that creates alternative materials with mycelium, will be producing buoys made with mycelium, the thread-like fungal root networks that sprout mushrooms, on a small scale this summer. The company will test the buoys at two sites as a potential alternative to the hundreds of plastic foam buoys that dot the Maine coast. The so-called "myco buoys" are made by putting mycelium in a mold and feeding it with hempstock or other types of plant waste. The mycelium then grows into a material that's biodegradable, strong and buoyant.

### HYBRID LOBSTER BOAT INTRODUCED IN NEW BRUNSWICK

The Canadian federal government is giving New Brunswick firm Aspin Kemp & Associates \$340,000 for the further development of a hybrid lobster fishing boat. The engineering firm showcased its new diesel-electric hybrid model for the first time at a boat show this spring in Moncton, N.B. The vessel is designed for the inshore lobster fishery and is powered by batteries made in P.E.I. Aspin Kemp has been working with another Canadian firm on a retrofit solution so that older boats can get the hybrid system installed. The company has developed hybrid systems for larger vessels in the past but has been working toward a boat for the small commercial boat market for over a decade.



Photo courtesy of Aspin Kemp.

### MASSACHUSETTS CLOSED AREA REMAINS OFF LIMITS TO ROPELESS FISHING









The director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Daniel McKiernan in early April rejected a proposal by a few Massachusetts lobstermen who sought to fish in restricted waters using ropeless gear. Had the proposal been approved, it would have been the first time commercial lobster fishing were allowed without buoy lines in any state waters. The applicants asked for permission to set as many as 200 ropeless traps in areas along the South Shore, where lobster fishing is closed three months a year. McKiernan wrote that the lobstermen's proposal "will not provide any additional or immediate conservation benefit to right whales" and said there is "very little interest among the broader industry within state waters in adopting new risk mitigation strategies to accommodate year-round fishing opportunities."

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<p><b>ELECTRIC CLUTCHES</b></p> 	<p><b>HIGH EFFICIENCY VANE PUMP</b></p> <p><b>\$544.70</b></p> 	<p><b>OUR NEW GENERATION SUPER BLOCKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4" Low LIP and HI LIP</li> <li>• 5" Low LIP and HI LIP</li> <li>• 2000 lb. Capacity</li> </ul>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sealed tapered roller bearings</li> <li>• Aluminum Sheaves</li> <li>• Stainless Sheaves</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.5 HP HONDA POWER UNIT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11GPM @ 1500 PSI 2 Stage Pump</li> <li>• Light, Versatile and Portable</li> </ul>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This unit will power 10" and 12" and 14" Haulers</li> <li>• Ideal for outboards and other small boats</li> <li>• Log Splitter</li> </ul>			

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Caroline Cotter in Concert - Live! for \$5

Thursday, June 29 - Friday, June 30

Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*

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Vaccination required

# Events Calendar

More details on all of these events can be found online at [www.mainelobstermen.org](http://www.mainelobstermen.org)

**May 2**  
Maine/NH Spring Trawl Survey begins.

**May 2-5**  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting, Arlington, VA.

**May 4**  
MLA Directors Meeting, 5 p.m., Zoom.  
Aquaculture Public Scoping Session - Arnold Francis, 3 p.m., Steuben Town Office. <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/leases/draft-standardapps.html>.

Lobster Zone D Council meeting, 6 p.m., Rockland Ferry Terminal.  
Free Safety Training, Cundy's Harbor. Call 978-282-4847 to register.

**May 5**  
Free Drill Conductor Certification, Cundy's Harbor. Call 978-282-4847 to register.  
Free Safety Training, Tenants Harbor. Call 978-282-4847 to register.

**May 6**  
Free Drill Conductor certification, Call 978-282-4847 to register.

**May 9-13**  
Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (TRT), all day, virtual meeting. Registration required. FMI: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/marine-mammal-protection/atlantic-large-whale-take-reduction-team>.

**May 19**  
BOEM Gulf of Maine Wind Task Force meeting, 9-5 p.m., online. To register, [https://cbuilding.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tm-93KjKKSkeLRw9F5U4IYw](https://cbuilding.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tm-93KjKKSkeLRw9F5U4IYw).

**May 25**  
OSW Advisory Committee, 10 a.m.- afternoon, Cundy's Harbor. FMI: <https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/offshorewind/meetings>.

**June 4**  
68th annual meeting of the Maine Lobstermen's Association, 3-5 p.m., University of Maine Hutchinson Center, Belfast.

**June 28-30**  
New England Fishery Management Council meeting, Portland.



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# MLA 2022 Annual Meeting



**Saturday June 4th, 2022,  
3 pm**

**U Maine Hutchinson Center,  
80 Belmont Ave, Belfast ME 04915**

This meeting is for current MLA members in good standing and recent Save Maine Lobstermen donors.

**You must register to attend.**

The Board will present a slate of nominees to serve on the MLA Board for approval by the membership, and MLA will honor the Maine Marine Patrol award recipients for 2021 and 2022.

There will be an update for MLA members on the association's work in the courts and on critical regulatory matters. And time will be available to hear from members and for Q&A. Doors will open at 2 pm, the meeting will take place at 3 pm and is expected to last 2 hours.

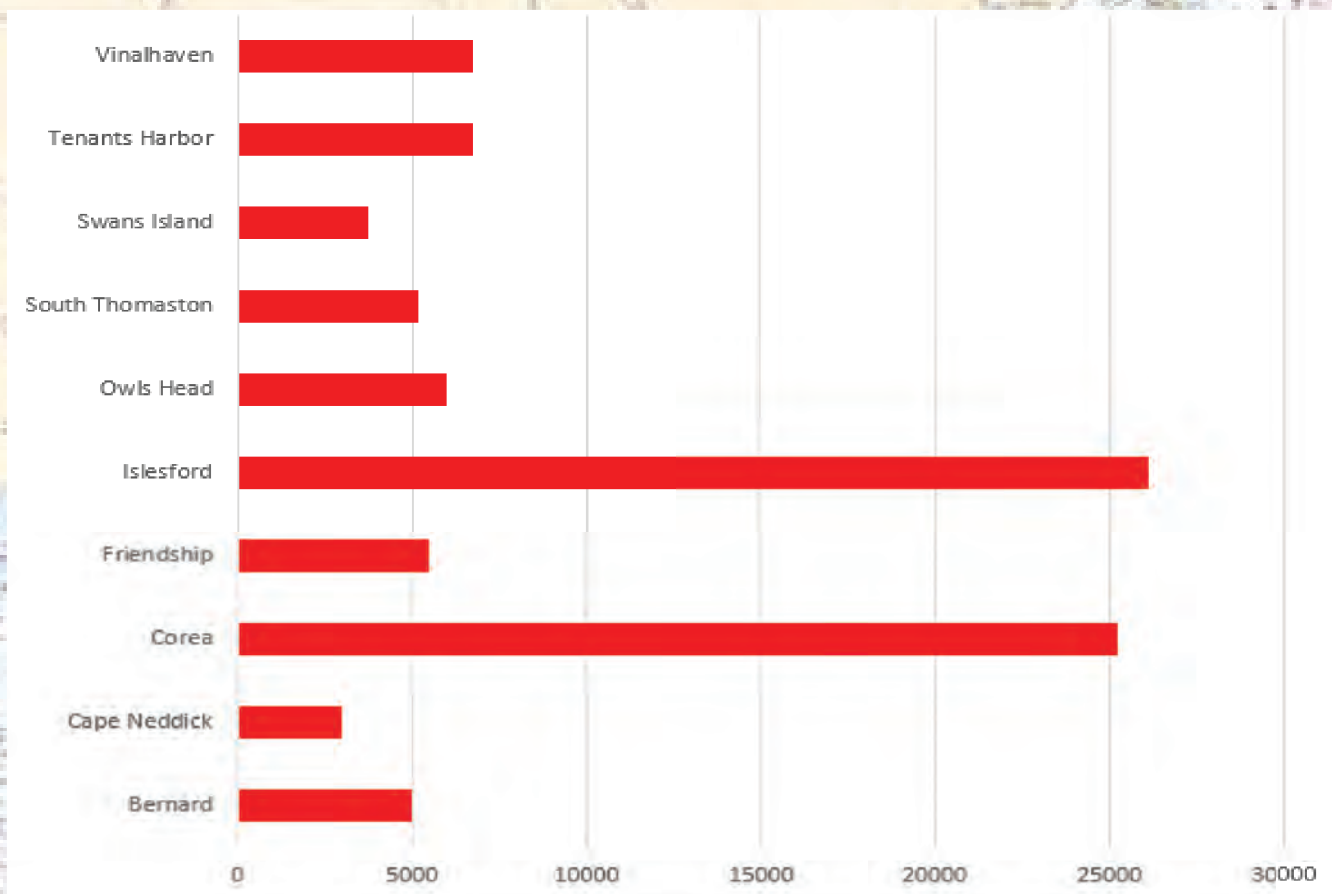
### To Register:

- Log into [www.mainelobstermen.org](http://www.mainelobstermen.org)
- Call our office: 207-967-4555
- Email [andi@mainelobstermen.org](mailto:andi@mainelobstermen.org)





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