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Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance

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LANDINGS

News & Views from Maine's Lobstering Community

July 2022 | Vol. 30, No. 7

MLA 68TH ANNUAL MEETING

By Melissa Waterman

The 68th annual meeting of the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) took place outdoors at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast on June 4. The meeting opened with the presentation of the MLA's Officer of the Year award to two Maine Patrol Officers (the 2021 award ceremony was not held) to Officer James Mayotte from Section 2 and Sergeant Mark Murry from Section 5

MLA president Kristan Porter introduced the four MLA staff and then three members of the legal team, Ryan Steen and Jason Morgan from Stoel Rives and long-time counsel Mary Anne Mason. He followed by presenting the slate of nominees for election to the MLA board: Joshua Beal, Laurin Brooks, Herman Coombs, Jim Dow, Craig Stewart, John Tripp, and Chris



Attorney Ryan Steen speaks to MLA members. MLA photo.

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MLA LEGAL TEAM TOURS THE COAST

By MLA staff

The Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) legal counsel Ryan Steen and Jason Morgan from the Seattle law firm Stoel Rives traveled to Maine for the MLA Annual Meeting in early June. The two men arrived on Thursday and were met by MLA executive director Patrice McCarron for a tour of Ready Seafood's processing facility in Saco. Curt Brown and John and Brendan Ready showed Steen and Morgan through the plant and then discussed the importance of the MLA's legal case against the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Biological Opinion and the ramifications for the lobster fishery if the ten-year whale conservation plan is allowed to stand.

On Friday MLA board member Dustin Delano of Friendship took the two men lobstering. Despite the cool and rainy weather, which was not unfamiliar to residents of Seattle, they enjoyed learning more about the fishery and the conservation measures lobstermen follow every day. After an impromptu feast at one of Delano's relative's home, they visited the Spruce Head Fishermen's Co-operative for a quick tour with MLA board member Bob Baines and former board president Dave Cousens, and had time to chat with some local lobstermen.

Then it was on to a lobster bake in Port Clyde hosted by board member Gerry Cushman. Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Commissioner Patrick Keliher attended as well as local lobstermen and members of the MLA board and staff. Lobster, clams and libations made the evening lively.

After Steen spoke at the MLA meeting on Saturday afternoon, several MLA members in attendance said how encouraged they were about the MLA's court

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MAINE SUMMER = CRAFT BEERS AND LOBSTER

By Melissa Waterman

Summer is here and the living, for some of us, is easy. Not so for Maine's hardworking beer brewers! Maine has become a mecca for those in search of authentic and sometimes unusual beers, as a glance at the Maine Beer Trail web site will show. In the height of summer, tourists are once again flocking to the state, and many glasses of Maine brews are being quaffed along the coast. And what type of beer goes best with Maine's traditional symbol of summer, a fresh steamed lobster? We asked several coastal brew masters their opinions on the best beer to serve with the state's signature seafood.



Odd Alewives Farm and Brewery in Waldoboro brews with ingredients from their farm. Odd Alewives photo.

In South Thomaston beer fans can savor both fine beers and a stunning setting overlooking the ocean at Waterman's Beach Brewery. Opened in 2019 on the site of the former Waterman's Beach

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COASTAL OUTLOOK *Thoughts from MLCA President Patrice McCarron*

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MLCalliance is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, established in 2010, which achieves its charitable mission through programs in education, research and charity.

In June, members of the Maine Lobstermen's Association once again gathered in person for the organization's annual meeting. For the past 68 years MLA members have met to discuss the pressing issues of the year. Over the decades these have spanned from oil refining facilities planned for the Downeast coast and IRS campaigns against lobstermen to lobster gauge increases and herring quota declines. This year the subject was more sobering than any before: an update on the MLA's crucial legal challenge to the Biological Opinion, referred to as the 10-year whale plan, created by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which, if left unchallenged, would erase the Maine lobster fishery by 2030.

After a comprehensive overview of the background for the MLA's case, now before the Washington, D.C. District Court, a member of the MLA's legal team offered a clear and concise summary of the MLA's legal strategy. Ryan Steen, from the Seattle law firm Stoel Rives, accompanied by his fellow lawyer Jason Morgan, reminded MLA members that the association's case is a straightforward one. The MLA is not asking that the Biological Opinion be tossed out entirely because without a Biological Opinion in place, the lobster fishery cannot be permitted to operate. Instead, the MLA is asking that the plan be sent back to NMFS so that its numerous errors will be corrected. After an extensive question and answer session, members talked enthusiastically about the MLA's hoped-for legal victory. David Black of Belfast said it well. "I am confident they [the MLA legal team] will do a good job and that the money the MLA is raising will be well spent. We are in good hands."

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is also involved in the MLA lawsuit as an intervenor. As DMR Commissioner Patrick Keliher writes this month, the agency also feels confident that the flaws in NMFS's science and its arbitrary assumptions will be recognized by the court and the draconian regulations flowing from the Biological Opinion amended. Commissioner Keliher notes that "... there is shared agreement on NOAA's arbitrary use and interpretation of the science — this is at the heart of what DMR and MLA are challenging. The fact that a regulatory body and an industry advocacy group are aligned in their legal strategies is rare, and to me that rarity highlights the extreme approach taken by the federal regulators."

Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) executive director Marianne LaCroix writes this month about the efforts the MLMC has made to ensure that consumers fully understand the changes Maine lobstermen have made over the years to protect right whales and sustain the lobster stock. The Collaborative has produced a new video series with segments on lobstermen working with scientists, ocean preservation efforts, and right whale protection measures. The MLMC unveiled an updated web site and distributed a very successful broadcast/radio interview featuring lobsterman Mike Sargent to more than 20 media outlets. As LaCroix notes, the summer season will be filled

with "a host of marketing activities to promote awareness and protect the reputation of Maine lobster."

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) filed an application with NMFS in June for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to test ropeless lobstering gear in New England. Up to 100 commercial lobster boats would be permitted to test ropeless gear, with priority given to those who would fish in seasonal right whale closure areas. The MLA has staunchly opposed imposition of ropeless fishing gear in the Maine lobster fishery. Among its comments against the proposal, the MLA noted "that the research aims cited by NEFSC does not address the MLA's concern as to how lobstermen—operating under normal conditions—can accurately locate gear fished without a surface buoy and share that information with law enforcement and other commercial fishermen." Furthermore, the MLA made clear the grave injustice of allowing the few lobstermen participating in the EFP to catch lobsters in the seasonal right whale closure areas while the majority who traditionally fish those areas remain sidelined.

In other news, DMR welcomed a new Marine Patrol Bureau Colonel in June. Matthew Talbot, who has served in Marine Patrol for 21 years, took over the position from Jay Carroll, who retired in May. In 2019, he became Captain and was responsible for planning, directing, overseeing, and evaluating all activities within Marine Patrol's Special Services Division. Talbot's father Alan served as Major in Marine Patrol and retired in 2013 after a 25-year career.

Landings also profiles the efforts of a Stonington woman to document the stories of those who make their living in Maine's commercial harbors. Galen Koch calls her multi-year oral history and multimedia exhibit project *The First Coast*. The "first coast," wrote author John Gillis, is the place where people work hard to earn their livelihoods through traditional as well as contemporary industries. The second coast is one of T-shirt shops and nautically-themed restaurants, "built up around the nostalgia for the working waterfront," Gillis wrote. Koch spent months in Lubec, Jonesport and Beals Island, Stonington and Bar Harbor to capture the stories and images of those who live on Maine's "first coast."

Finally, Maine has become well-known not only for its strong lobster fishery but also for its growing craft beer breweries. More than 150 breweries are located throughout the state, many right on the coast. In the spirit of summer, *Landings* asked several brewers their thoughts on the perfect beer to pair with Maine's most popular seafood. Which is what most of us want to do during the brief weeks of summer!

We hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to your comments on future stories.

Patrice

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GUEST COLUMN: *DMR, MLA share similar legal strategies*

By Patrick Keliher

Speaking at the MLA's Annual meeting last month I had the privilege of sharing a summary of the state's efforts on the legal front in support of Maine's lobster industry.

I was pleasantly surprised to hear MLA's lead legal counsel share his team's approach. What struck me is that while there are some differences in legal strategies, we share a similar outlook on the flaws in the science driving the whale regulations, and on what must happen to protect both right whales and Maine's vital lobster industry.

As I stated to the annual meeting attendees, our initial strategy in the lawsuit *CBD v. Ross* was to submit an amicus brief that argued that the right approach was to remand NMFS's existing Biological Opinion (Biop) back to NOAA without vacating it. In other words, we argued for the need to send NOAA back to the drawing board, but to allow the continued authorization of the fishery.

Knowing that all this high-powered legal expertise on the part of both the state and the MLA is working toward shared goals gives me hope for a positive outcome.

Judge Boasberg vacated the Biop in August 2020 but stayed the decision until the 31st of the following May, allowing NMFS to issue a new Biological Opinion in 2021.

The judge also allowed the plaintiffs to make their case that the new Biop was illegal.

At that point it became clear that the state needed outside counsel with expertise in the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act to engage at a deeper level in this case. We saw this case as the most critical one to focus on because a Biop is necessary for Maine's lobster fishery to be authorized. If the plaintiffs win and the new Biop is vacated, the fishery could potentially be shut down.

Governor Mills appreciates the need for the state to focus its legal resources on this case and freed up money from her contingency fund so we could hire

lawyers with the needed depth of experience to intervene in this case. DMR, along with the MLA, the Maine Lobstering Union (MLU) and the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, are all intervenors in *CBD v. Ross*.

The need for the state to invest in additional legal resources became even more evident when the MLA filed suit against NMFS, claiming that the 2021 Biop went too far in placing obligations on the Maine lobster industry.

After I briefed Governor Mills on the status of the MLA lawsuit, she once again supported our efforts by including \$3 million in her budget. We quickly got to work at the Legislature, and we were successful in securing this money for legal representation, allowing DMR to intervene in MLA's suit as well. These funds will also allow DMR to have an account ready in case appeals or other legal actions are needed.

Here's where the two legal paths come together. Both cases have the potential to impact the Biop — as mentioned, *CBD v. Ross* could vacate it altogether, which is the worst possible outcome. The MLA's case has the potential to send the Biop back to NMFS for improvement.

While there are differences in the two cases, there is shared agreement on NOAA's arbitrary use and interpretation of the science — this is at the heart of what DMR and MLA are challenging.

The fact that a regulatory body and an industry advocacy group are aligned in their legal strategies is rare, and to me that rarity highlights the extreme approach taken by the federal regulators.

All parties to both suits have submitted their final briefs, and it is a waiting game for Judge Boasberg's, the U.S. District Court judge presiding over both cases, decision. We are expecting that he could rule on the cases in July or August. Knowing that all this high-powered legal expertise on the part of both the state and the MLA is working toward shared goals gives me hope for a positive outcome.


Have a safe summer.

Pat




Patrick Keliher is the Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources. DMR photo.


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GUEST COLUMN: *New season of marketing Maine lobster*

By *Marianne LaCroix*

The Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) is kicking off the season with a host of marketing activities to promote awareness and protect the reputation of Maine lobster including a satellite media tour, a MAT release, a video series, an updated website, and a lobster roll wedding cake.

We expect increased media coverage of right whale issues when decisions are announced in the pending court cases and when the Monterey Bay Aquarium finalizes its Seafood Watch ranking for Maine lobster (possibly resulting in a 'red list' or 'do not buy' recommendation). Because of this, we have planned a number of actions to promote the Maine lobster fishery's commitment to sustainability and to right whale protections.

Lobsterman Mike Sargent did an amazing job fielding over 20 interviews in one day for our Satellite Media Tour, a controlled broadcast/radio interview segment pitched out to media stations and picked up based on their interest and needs. It appears alongside regular broadcast/radio content but is highly controlled with pre-selected questions and messages. For these interviews, we highlighted the positive work being done by the fishery, including efforts to protect right whales, unparalleled sustainability practices, and the small business nature of the industry. Our goal is to maintain consumer confidence in Maine lobster and the fishery ahead of peak season while driving home sustainability practices. These interviews have already reached 20 media markets, with video and audio news releases reaching an additional 330 markets. The interviews will continue to be aired over the next few weeks in target markets.

MLMC distributed a sustainability-focused MAT, a controlled news release-style piece of content distributed to consumer audiences. The article, entitled "5 Reasons to Add Lobster to Summer Meals," highlights reasons that consumers can feel good about eating lobster and includes a recipe for Chilled Lobster with Orange and Basil Vinaigrette to help inspire purchase. The release will be distributed across news outlets nationwide, as well as on social media. To date, results include over 1,000 placements across local media nationwide and over 182 million impressions.

In May and June, the MLMC filmed a new video series with the help of several

industry members. We want to issue a special thanks to everyone who participated in the films, including the Coombs family, Dustin Delano, Curt Brown, Bob and Jesse Baines, Patrice McCarron, Rick Wahle, Kathleen Reardon, and Emily Lane. There are segments on lobstermen cooperating with scientists, ocean preservation efforts, community impact, and right whales; the goal is to improve awareness of the Maine lobster industry's extensive and ongoing sustainability efforts. We will use paid video advertising to distribute the videos on major media properties throughout New England and in major seafood markets nationwide from July through September. We will share the videos with the industry as soon as they are finalized in July.



Marianne LaCroix is the executive director of the MLMC.



The new Lobster Roll Wedding Cake. MLMC photo.

In other news, the MLMC has launched a newly updated website (<https://lobsterfrommaine.com/>). The site has an updated look and better functionality, allowing us to champion industry members, emphasize campaigns and storytelling, highlight relevant and refreshed content that we know users are seeking and generally improve the user experience with an easy-to-navigate system and thoughtful design. Most importantly, it has a mobile-first design, ensuring that the user experience is great regardless of what type of device is used to view the site. The site has also been improved for search engine optimization with optimized images, improved page load times and clearly defined header tags and metadata. All this means that we are likely to have improved Google rankings for key search results.

The MLMC partnered with My Seafood to launch the new Lobster Roll 'Wedding Cake,' leveraging the unique concept and compelling photography to gain media coverage at the start of the season. In the first few days of launching the concept, we secured coverage in *Food & Wine*, *Foodbeast*, *Food & Beverage Magazine* and *TrendHunter*. The Lobster Roll 'Wedding Cake' offers a new way to serve lobster rolls and reminds consumers of the celebratory nature of Maine lobster. With a strong wedding season coming on the heels of pandemic delays, we hope that the Lobster Roll 'Wedding Cake' will be the must-have trend of the year.



Federal funds help save fishermen's access to Port Clyde harbor

A \$3.9 million federal grant to St. George will help repair and expand the Port Clyde landing pier. The money comes from the American Rescue Plan through the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. The grant will be matched with \$962,771 in local funds and is expected to create 15 jobs and retain 151 jobs, according to grantee estimates. In 2021, the value of the commercial harvest in Port Clyde was over \$11 million.

To the editor:

I grew up, the son of a fisherman, in Port Clyde, and after a 25-year career in the Marine Patrol in the western part of the state, I retired and moved back to Port Clyde and went lobster fishing. After some arm-twisting by two town managers, both of whom I went to school with back in the day, they corralled me to be a member of the town's Harbor Committee, and eventually chairman.

The Committee has worked diligently since 2015 on acquiring a deep-water access point next to the outdated town landing. So many waterfront parcels in Port Clyde have been converted from working waterfront to recreational uses. Even the fish house, wharf and house I had grown up in sold for over \$1 million a few years ago. My experiences with fishermen's access issues in western Maine was happening right in front of us, here in Port Clyde.

In a town with 150 miles of coast, we had 138 feet of public access. Thankfully, the town's voters backed the property acquisition and re-hab cost, \$3.5 million. During our presentations to voters we were able to impart the importance of our heritage of commercial fishing activities. We were surprised to learn that many of the town's non-fishing residents, who now call St. George their home, do so because of the fishing activities they see on a daily basis, activities of a unique quality, not seen in most places, and generations in the making.

Unfortunately, we found that costs had increased beyond that amount, and we have spent the better part of three years of frustration, Covid and all, trying to procure another source of funding. Many stakeholders and organizations, including the MLA, assisted us along the way. This grant, we hope, will put us in a position to create a first-class town landing that will improve recreational access and, more importantly, preserve our working waterfront for future generations. The issue of public access to the shore is so very important to all of us and it's been very gratifying to live in St. George, knowing we have many residents who believe we must preserve it when we have the chance.

A long time ago Pat White and David Cousins presented a humble Marine Patrol Officer the MLA's "Officer of the Year" award at the Maine Fishermen's Forum. And now, as a 67-year-old lobster fisherman and card-carrying member of the MLA, it is a full circle for me. The work of the MLA, like our town landing project, is about the future, and even though the path may seem all uphill at times, keep up the good work you do. Our future depends on it.

Sincerely,

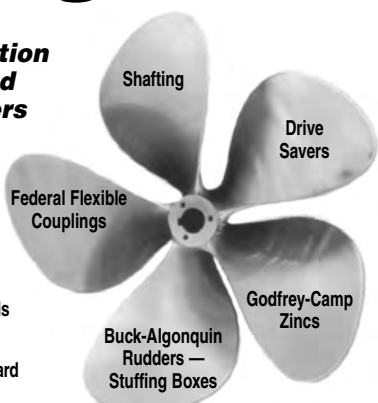
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APPLICATION FILED TO TEST ROPELESS FISHING IN CLOSED AREAS

By Melissa Waterman

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) filed an application with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in June for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to test ropeless fishing gear in New England. Up to 100 commercial lobster boats would be permitted to test ropeless gear; 30 of those boats would be allowed to fish in areas closed to lobstering under the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. Specifically, each of the 100 vessels could replace up to ten existing trawls with trawls containing three or more ropeless traps.

NEFSC states that the purpose of the EFP application is “to expand trials of on-demand fishing gear that uses one or no surface buoys and to test the ability of gear marking systems to consistently locate gear.” The new permit would expand the trial to up to 100 participating vessels, for a total of up to 1,000 modified trawls, and would conclude on May 1, 2023.

The Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) submitted comments on the application staunchly opposing the testing of ropeless gear in seasonal whale closures, citing safety, enforcement and equity concerns.

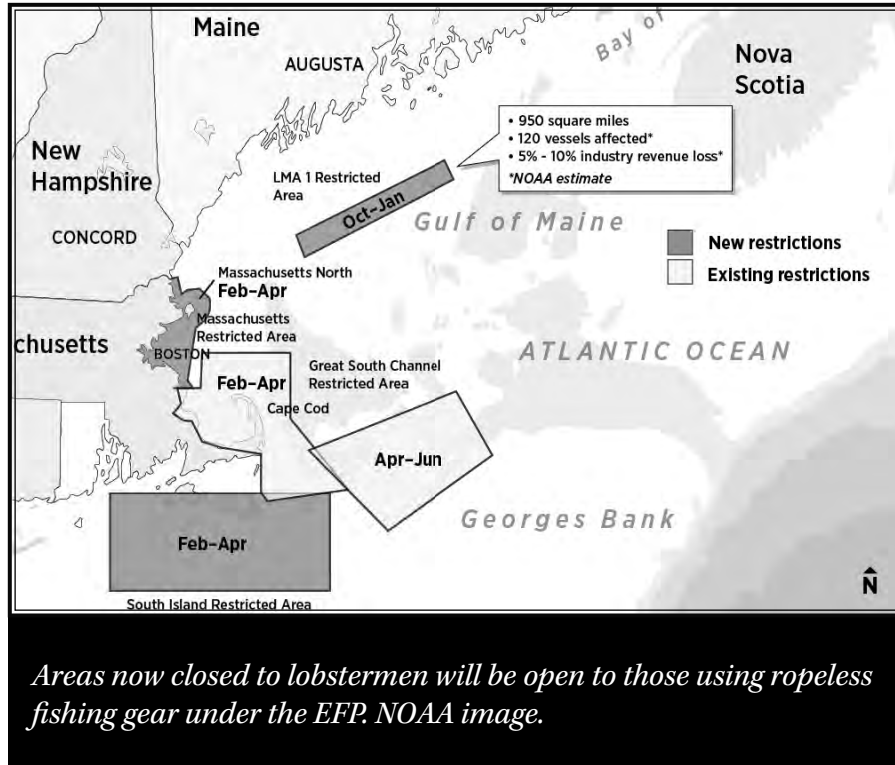
In its comments, the MLA noted that the research aims cited by NEFSC does not address the MLA’s concern as to how lobstermen—operating under normal conditions—can accurately locate gear fished without a surface buoy and share that information with law enforcement and other commercial fishermen. “Answering this question is essential to addressing significant concerns regarding electronic gear marking, gear efficiency, gear conflicts, safety, gear loss, enforcement and other operational and economic impact aspects of ‘ropeless’ fishing,” wrote the MLA.

In addition, the MLA stated that repeated field trials of expensive gear retrieval


systems are not necessary. “Fishermen have already demonstrated success in customizing acoustic ropeless systems to work on a pilot basis and the ability to haul back gear from a galvanic release or by grappling. What is needed, and what the NEFSC’s proposal does not adequately address, is hard data and information about the effectiveness of tools to locate on-demand gear in active fishing grounds with multiple users and gear types.”

“Once fishermen have an accurate, consistent, affordable way to locate gear without a surface buoy, there are many options to retrieve the gear. Given the diversity of the lobster fleet, these must include a range of solutions from high tech to low tech across multiple price points,” the MLA stated.

In its comments, the MLA made clear the grave injustice of allowing those lobstermen participating in the EFP to fish in closed areas. “This approach will create highly unproductive, unhelpful and unnecessary conflicts within the local lobster fishery and between the lobster fishery and NMFS. ... The study design exacerbates the economic harm to non-participants because lobster that would otherwise be caught upon reopening of the closure will instead have been harvested by participants in the EFP. ... These adverse results need not occur if research on ropeless gear is designed to be conducted in areas that are open to fishing and the gear being tested is deployed under realistic operating conditions,” the MLA stated.



“We are not opposed to research that addresses key questions to further understanding of how on-demand gear could operate in a commercial fishery,” Patrice McCarron, MLA executive director said. “NMFS should pursue research designs that evaluate all buoyless solutions on active fishing grounds using vessels of all configurations.”



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Beer and lobster continued from page 1

Lobster, the brewery is run by Brad and Anna Frost and Sandra Manahan, founder Heath Curtis' mother. Customers can enjoy their beers in a small covered beer hall or at picnic tables scattered around the property.

The brewery's connection to lobster is apparent the moment you step up to the counter. "We have an IPA that we named HydroSlave after the hydraulic equipment the lobstermen use. Both of our founding partners were lobstermen and one actually went back to fishing last year," explained Anna Frost. To go with lobster she recommended several of their beers. "I would recommend our Light & Variable Pale Ale #6 which has some bright citrus notes that complement the lobster flavor, much like a squeeze of lemon does. And we just released an American lager, Buzzy, that is super light and crisp which would highlight the lobster without burying its delicate flavor. Buzzy also has a low alcohol by volume of 4.3% which makes a great beer for a lobster bake," she said.



Mary and Matt Weber own and operate Monhegan Brewing Company with Mary's father, famed brew master Danny McGovern. The brewery is open from April to November, after which Matt continues his work as a lobsterman. Just a few minutes' walk from the center of Monhegan, the tasting room features at least five beers on tap which customers can enjoy at picnic tables outside. Mary Weber favors one of their lighter beers as a good pairing with lobster. "I'd recommend our Balmy Days Citra Kolsch [an ale originally from Germany and yellow in color]. It's a Kölsch-style ale hopped with Citra hops. It's very light bodied and refreshing and the hops give it a citrusy quality," she said.

Odd Alewives Farm Brewery founders John and Sarah McNeil make and serve their beers in a renovated 1820's barn in Waldoboro. Recently celebrating their fourth year in operation, the brewery uses a variety of hops, fruit, herbs and vegetables produced on the farm in its beers. Other ingredients not produced on the farm are sourced locally within the state, resulting in beers that are at least 95% Maine ingredients. In 2021 the brewery was named Best of Maine tasting room by *Down East* magazine. "I suggest Old Pip to go with lobster," said Sarah McNeil. "It's a petite saison [meaning a seasonal beer] made with Maine wheat, honey and lemon coriander we grow here. It has a faint citrus note and

is light and refreshing."

Oxbow Brewing Company in Newcastle prides itself on its farmhouse ales with a European influence. The brewery and tasting room are in a converted barn while the bottling takes place in Portland.



The company, which now has tasting rooms in Portland and Oxford, as well as Newcastle, started out with its Farmhouse Pale Ale, a beer brewed with American hops. Experimentation led to a broad array of flavorful beers, including a seasonal one called Saison dell'Aragosta, brewed with Maine lobster and sea salt. Tom Adams, founder of Oxbow Brewing Company, thinks most of the company's beers would go well with lobster. "I will suggest Farmhouse Pale Ale as the perfect beer to pair with a lobster dinner. This dry and refreshing blonde farmhouse ale is brewed with Maine-grown malt and features a crisp and citrusy hop character," Adams said.

Maine lobster and a Maine beer — the finest elements of a Maine summer!

Boothbay businesses combine efforts to benefit Save Maine Lobstermen

Many of those who enjoy Maine's beers and lobster this summer might not know of the serious federal regulatory actions that are threatening to erase the Maine lobster fishery by 2030. But Win Mitchell of Boothbay Craft Brewery does. Mitchell and his sister Jennie have organized to give financial support to the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) legal campaign, Save Maine Lobstermen, through their respective brewery and restaurant. Save Maine Lobstermen is a three-year, \$10 million effort by the MLA to support its four-prong strategy to fight against the National Marine Fisheries Service's punitive ten-year right whale protection plan, which calls for a radical reduction in lobstering in the state.

Mitchell, who lobstered as a child and worked 13 years in the Marine Patrol Bureau, has brewed a summer ale that will go well with lobster, some of which will be labeled with a unique name and label related to the MLA campaign. The proceeds from the sale of that beer will go to directly to Save Maine Lobstermen. Jennie is hosting a fundraising evening in August at her restaurant Brady's in Boothbay Harbor for the same purpose, where the featured brew will be the Save Maine Lobstermen beer created by her brother.

Boothbay Craft Beer is distributed throughout the state and can be found from Eastport to Kittery (www.boothbaycraftbrewery.com).



The Mitchell family at the Watershed Tavern, part of Boothbay Craft Brewery. E. Mitchell photo.

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

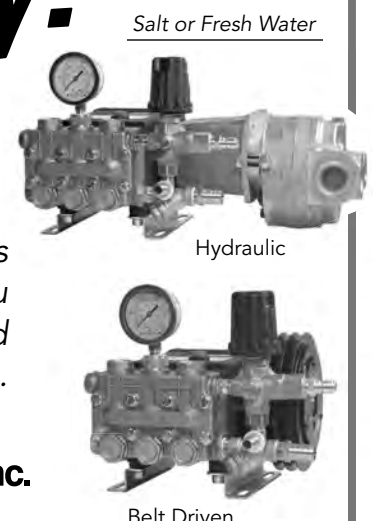
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Accutech Marine Propellor | Island Fishing Gear & Auto Parts | New England Propeller |
| Bar Harbor Bank & Trust | Island Fishermen's Wives | Northeast Marine Survey |
| Beals-Jonesport Coop Inc. | John's Bay Boat Co. | Novatec Braids LTD |
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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.

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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

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Joshua Beal, Milbridge, 479-9624
Sonny Beal, Beals Island, 356-1684
Jarod Bray, Matinicus, 542-8961
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
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

The long sunny days of summer provide a daily reminder of just how special Maine is and how lucky we are to live and work along its beautiful coast. Being a part of Maine's lobster industry and working to continue its lobstering heritage continually deepens this connection for me.

The steady delivery of sobering news about ever-tightening right whale regulations and the threat of industrial offshore wind development is a constant reminder of how much we have to lose. But these threats have also shown that our shared passion and commitment to our lobster heritage remains an incredibly strong bond among us. Together, Maine lobstermen are taking on these issues. That common dedication gives us all reason for hope.

In June, members of MLA's legal team visited Maine. They saw the fishery first-hand and talked to lobstermen and others in the industry. Not only did the visit invigorate them, but every person who spoke with Ryan Steen, Jason Morgan and Mary Anne Mason — and listened to them — came away with a strong sense of optimism about our future.

The MLA's legal team developed a brilliant strategy, based on the facts and the law, which has been skillfully executed through the MLA's lawsuit against the federal government. Those who met the legal team came away knowing that the MLA's lawyers are not only the cream of the crop, but they also understand how much the lobster fishery means to each and every one of us. The team's court briefs skillfully weave together stellar legal arguments grounded in science as well as the critical importance of Maine's lobster industry to the state's identity, heritage, economy, communities and families.

Through our efforts, the MLA has made a sharp impression on the federal government and environmental organizations (engos). Gone are the days when they could simply disregard the concerns of the lobster industry and push their agenda forward. No longer can environmental groups control the narrative in order to confuse the public about what is causing harm to right whales and portray fishermen as villains. They now understand that the MLA has identified significant, legitimate factual issues that the court cannot ignore. The MLA has shown that the lobster industry can go head-to-head with all of them.

The MLA has been fighting for the lobster industry for a long time, since 1954 in fact. But the lobster industry has suffered from a lack of unity, dulling our voice, and giving the feds and environmental organizations just enough room to push our concerns aside. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) created a ten-year whale plan mandating a 98% risk reduction in the lobster industry by 2030, putting an expiration date on our fishery. And the environmental groups want to shut down the fishery entirely unless this draconian plan comes into force even faster.

But they have underestimated us. The MLA launched its Save Maine Lobstermen campaign in 2021 to raise \$10 million to wage this fight for as long as it takes. The MLA board made the bold decision to hire the best legal team available so that the fishery would not be eliminated in ten years. The board took a huge leap of faith that the industry and our communities would step up to fund this monumental effort. It was a very big risk for the association — but we

couldn't afford not to.

Many lobstermen and members of fishing communities donated early to support the campaign. If not for these early donations, the MLA would not have been able to hire our legal team and sue the federal government. And less than a year later, we have raised just over \$1 million.

Our legal work has expanded significantly over the past year, and thankfully, so has the financial support. More and more lobstermen are contributing, and the size of those donations continues to increase. Many coastal towns, recognizing the extreme consequences the ten-year whale plan would bring to their community, have made contributions as well.

The MLA has been talking to the Maine Chamber of Commerce, Maine Tourism Association, Hospitality Maine, Maine's car dealers, lobster dealers and processors, and many others, to ensure they understand the full economic repercussions the ten-year whale plan will pose for them. We continue to build these relationships, educate people about the severity of the threat facing Maine's lobster industry, and ask for financial support.

Now that COVID restrictions have been reduced, the MLA will hold fundraisers throughout the summer. During an event on Vinalhaven in June, I was presented with a check for over \$1,800. The money had been raised by a civics class

at the Vinalhaven school. When Jim LePage's students learned about what lobstermen were facing due to the ten-year whale plan, they organized to raise money from their community to support the MLA's legal fight. I was surprised and very moved that these schoolchildren would take the time to fundraise for us. In the long term, if we are successful, their efforts will ensure that they have similar opportunities to lobster as their parents had before them.



The MLA legal team and MLA board and staff in Belfast. MLA photo.

If the Maine lobster industry continues to stand together, I firmly believe that we will convince the court and others that the federal government has gotten it wrong — that Maine lobstermen are not the reason that the right whale population is in decline. We have a chance to send the ten-year whale plan back to NMFS so that our fishery is not eliminated. We will be able to hire scientists and educate the public and the media about Maine lobstermen's decades-long conservation record and the fishery's successful efforts to protect right whales.

This will only happen if our industry continues to stand together and the MLA has the necessary funds to stay in this fight.

I am really proud of all that MLA has accomplished so far. I am touched and humbled by the generosity of all of those who have supported MLA. It is true that we still have a long way to go to meet our goal. It doesn't need to be easy, it just needs to be possible. As the saying goes, where there's a will there's a way. And there is certainly no shortage of will among Maine lobstermen.

As always, stay safe on the water.

Patrice



MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

MLA LEGAL TEAM VISITS MAINE

The MLA was thrilled to have two attorneys from our legal team, Ryan Steen and Jason Morgan, both of Stoel Rives based in Seattle, visit in June. They did a short whirlwind tour to experience the Maine lobster industry first-hand. Highlights of their time included a visit to tour the impressive Ready Seafood Plant in Saco, a lobstering trip out of Friendship, a stop at the Spruce Head Coop, an incredible lobster bake in Port Clyde and the MLA Annual meeting in Belfast. MLA members had plenty of time to speak with the legal team and everyone came away feeling energized and optimistic by the incredibly high caliber of our legal team.

OSW FISHERIES WORKING GROUP

The state's Offshore Wind Fisheries Working Group created a subcommittee to draft recommendations on where offshore wind should and should not be sited off the coast of Maine. The subcommittee is considering important commercial fishing grounds, highest use and highest value fishing areas, sensitive habitats and protected areas, among other considerations. The draft recommendation will be presented to the full Fisheries Working Group at its June 28 meeting for consideration as part of its overall recommendations to the OSW Roadmap Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will produce a final report of recommendations to be submitted to the Governor.

CAN LOBSTERMEN'S COMMERCIAL TRIP DATA HELP THE INDUSTRY?

The MLA is partnering with commercial lobstermen, UMaine and RODA on a new project to explore how the data lobstermen collect during normal fishing operations can be used to benefit the industry as future whale rules and offshore wind development move forward. The MLA will work with lobstermen who run Olex or Time Zero while they fish. The data will be downloaded and housed at the Fisheries Knowledge Trust, which is a program of RODA (Responsible Offshore Development Association), to ensure that fishermen retain full ownership and control regarding how the data may be used. UMaine will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fisheries Knowledge Trust so they can create maps and other data products approved by fishermen. If you use an Olex or Time Zero system on your lobster boat and are interested in learning more about this project, contact Patrice McCarron at patrice@mainelobstermen.org.

OCEANA SEEKS INVESTIGATION OF ENFORCEMENT OF U.S. WHALE REGULATIONS

In the fall of 2021, the environmental group Oceana requested that the Commissioner for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) investigate how the U.S. enforces its laws intended to safeguard the North Atlantic right whale, alleging that the U.S. has been soft on enforcement for at least 20 years. The CEC is an international authority under the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement. The CEC has 60 days to vote on whether it will accept the recommendation and open the probe. The U.S. urged the CEC to deny the request, noting that it has brought more than 70 administrative cases against parties that violated vessel-speeding rules over the past decade, reaching settlements in 16 cases involving violations of its fishing gear entanglement rules since 2019. Oceana's fisheries campaign manager stated that the U.S. hasn't done as much as Canada to preserve the whale species.

MLA OPPOSES TESTING ROPELESS FISHING IN CLOSED AREAS

The MLA opposed an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) request from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to allow up to 100 lobster boats to test ropeless fishing gear, giving priority to those who would test it during seasonal closures. The MLA's opposition is based on concern that the gear will not answer the fundamental question of how lobstermen fishing under normal operating conditions could locate and haul back gear while maintaining catch rates and avoiding gear conflict. The MLA also cited concern about granting a small number of lobstermen access to a closed area while the majority of those who usually fish there are excluded.

2022 HERRING SEASON

The ASMFC delayed the start of the 2022 Trimester 2 herring season -- which runs from June 1 to September 30 -- to July 10. Beginning July 10, ASMFC has approved five landing days for Season 1, Sunday at 6:00 p.m. through Friday at 6:00 p.m. The weekly landing limit for Atlantic Herring Limited Access Category A vessels is 240,000 pounds (or 6 trucks). Harvesters may not transfer herring to carrier vessels while at-sea. Carrier vessels may not receive herring from a harvester vessel while at-sea.

2022 Herring Annual Catch Limits (ACL)					
	Final 2020 sub-ACLs	2020 Catch	2020 Overages (+) / Overages (-)	Initial 2022 sub-ACLs	Adjusted 2022 sub-ACLs
Area 1A	4,244	4,353	+ 109	1,184	1,075
Area 1B	483	831	+ 348	176	0
Area 2	3,120	353	- 2,767	1,139	1,295
Area 3	4,378	4,054	- 324	1,598	1,817
ACL***	12,224	9,591	NA	4,098	3,813

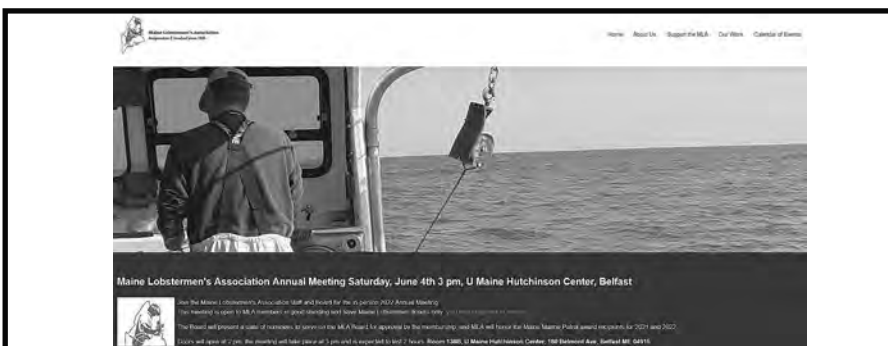
2022 MENHADEN SEASON

Under the ASMFC Menhaden Plan, Maine is allocated 0.52% of the coastwide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for menhaden. This translates to an allocation of 2,194,080 pounds for the state directed fishery, which opened on June 13. In anticipation of increased effort resulting from legislative action to limit entry to the fishery in 2023, and to allow for timely tabulation of landings reports, DMR open harvest days are limited to only Mondays and Thursdays. For the 2022 fishery, it is unlawful 1) to fish for, take or possess more than 23,800 pounds or 68 barrels per harvester vessel per week, 2) to sell, give or transfer menhaden they have taken to any other vessel while at sea, 3) to receive menhaden from a harvester vessel while at sea, and 4) to complete more than one landing per calendar day.

DMR documented a five-fold increase in the number of participants reporting landings on the opening day of the menhaden fishery. As a result, there was an overage within the state allocation fishery, which was exacerbated by late reporting.

Once the state allocated fishery quota has been landed, the fishery can shift to the Episodic Event Set Aside (EESA) program, which receives 1% of the coastwide total allowable catch (TAC); it is a shared quota pool between Northeastern states. The estimated EESA quota for FY2022 is 4,285,786 pounds. Maine's EESA menhaden fishery opened June 21. It is limited to Tuesdays and Fridays only due to the increased participation, and harvesters are restricted to a single landing of 6,000 pounds per vessel daily with same day reporting required.

New MLA membership software in place



The Maine Lobstermen's Association launched new membership software to support staff and streamline the membership process as well as offer better services to members.

The new system integrates a website, email, payment processing, and a member interface. MLA members create a user name and password in order to log in. After that, members can view and update their personal information and renew their membership with a click of a button. It also gives them access to member-only tools such as discount codes for certain businesses. The new system also has an *auto renew* option for those who would like to "set their membership and forget it." The revised MLA website features an improved Business Directory and calendar. Members and the public can easily donate to "Save Maine Lobstermen" or shop for MLA gear in the brand-new online store.

The new software is an exciting step forward for MLA. If anyone has trouble with any aspect of the new web site and its many features, please call the office at 967-4555. And for those members who are not comfortable with computer technology, be assured that the MLA will continue to communicate by mail and process membership renewals by check and credit card.

MLA meeting continued from page 1

Welch for three-year terms and Jarod Bray for a two-year term. He also commended Tad Miller of Matinicus, who stepped down this year after serving on the board for 16 years. The membership unanimously supported the slate of nominees. "I'm so proud to have these guys behind me," said Porter. "I can't thank these guys enough for putting the time in."

MLA executive director Patrice McCarron then presented some highlights of MLA's work during the past year. She first pointed out the numerous challenges facing the Maine lobster fishery. In 2023 Maine lobstermen will have to comply with 100% mandatory reporting regulations. Electronic trackers will be required on all federally permitted vessels by December 2023. The federal Bureau of Offshore Energy Management (BOEM) plans to hold a lease of offshore areas in the Gulf of Maine for wind energy development late in 2024. And the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be implementing further risk reduction measures in the lobster fishery to achieve a 90% reduction earlier than expected.

The electronic vessel tracking requirement (Addendum 29), instituted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), was designed to generate more precise spatial and temporal data on the lobster fishery. "While MLA did not agree with many aspects of this management proposal, we really don't know who is being impacted by wind projects or whale rules because we don't know where they are fishing and what they are landing," McCarron said. The devices will remain on all the time, will ping at a rate of once a minute, and will be paid for with federal funds for the first three years.

ASMFC has also proposed Addendum 27, known as the "resiliency" addendum, to address the future productivity of the lobster fishery. Based on the last five years of data, lobster abundance is down at every stage of its life cycle. To ensure enough baby lobsters are entering the population that allow the fishery to maintain landings around 100 million pounds annually, the ASMFC is exploring options to standardize measures among the lobster management areas and set a trigger point which when reached would cause other conservation measures to be applied, such as a change in legal size and/or vent size. There is some pressure to hold off on the Addendum until there is more clarity on the whale rule regulations. The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) plans to have meetings with lobstermen before ASMFC holds public meetings on the Addendum in the fall.

Governor Mills' plan to lease an area offshore southern Maine for construction of a wind research array is moving forward. In July 2021, a 15.2 square mile final area was selected; in October that year the Governor's office formally applied to BOEM for a lease to construct up to 12 floating turbines in the area. BOEM will send out a request for competitive interest this summer. If others express interest, then BOEM will proceed into a competitive bid process.

In the meantime, the Governor's Energy Office is completing its Offshore Wind Road Map, a strategic plan for Maine's offshore wind strategy, which will be finalized this fall.

BOEM will also send out a request for interest for offshore leases in the Gulf of Maine later this year. The draft request for interest includes nearly all of the Gulf of Maine for lease, although the area will be reduced as areas of conflict are identified. The plan is for a lease auction in late 2024.

McCarron next gave an update on the whale rules. The 10-year whale conservation plan is part of the Biological Opinion released by NMFS in May 2021. The first phase of that plan required Maine lobstermen to use weak links or weak rope (breaking at 1,700 pounds of pressure) in their end lines, to trawl up based on distance from shore, and to use purple marks in their lines (paired with green in federal waters). That, combined with the October-to-November offshore closure, allowed the state to reach the 60% reduction in risk to right whales mandated by NMFS.

McCarron noted that MLA's work sifting through NMFS's data elucidated many of the statistics that are now commonly understood about the Maine lobster fishery's role in the right whale decline. Maine lobster gear has never been known to kill a right whale. The last entanglement in Maine gear occurred in 2014. Furthermore, the rope removed from those right whales that have been entangled has been increasing in diameter while at the same time the majority of known right whale deaths have been attributed to Canadian activities. McCarron noted that in recent years, NMFS data show that vessel strikes in U.S. waters have caused more right whale deaths than any fishery-related deaths.

Since 1997, when the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan was first put into place, lobstermen have removed 27,000 miles of groundline and 3,000 miles of vertical line. There has been a 90% reduction in lobster gear entanglement since 2010. Research shows that, due to climate change, right whales are actually moving further away from the footprint of the Maine lobster fishery and are spending many months in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Legal team continued from page 1

case. "We think the MLA is doing a wonderful job," said Chantal Jennings who, with her husband Michael, has been a stalwart MLA supporter. "Ryan explained things in a way that was easy to understand and he certainly didn't beat about the bush."

"I liked how he presented himself," said Belfast lobsterman David Black, referring to Steen. "I am confident they will do a good job and that the money the MLA is raising will be well spent. We are in good hands."

Yet NMFS has called for lobstermen to move from 60% risk reduction to 90% reduction earlier than scheduled in the 10-year whale conservation plan. "What can we do?" McCarron asked. "We know we will have to take more rope out of the water but have few options to accomplish that. We could be facing trap limits and potentially more closures. How can you change your business plan to reduce rope and still be able to make a living?"

McCarron reviewed the status of the MLA's lawsuit and that brought by national environmental organizations against NMFS. The environmental organizations' suit contends that NMFS's Biological Opinion is inadequate. The whale rules should apply to both federal and state waters and risk reduction measures should be instituted immediately, not over a ten-year period. The suit has the potential to shut down the fishery entirely. This lawsuit tells the court the story of the right whale decline from the environmental groups' perspective.

The MLA lawsuit contends that NMFS acted arbitrarily and capriciously when it created the Biological Opinion and the agency must revise the ten-year whale conservation plan. The agency relied on flawed data, then assigned too much risk to the lobster fishery. "NMFS logic for this is simply that the lobster fishery is the largest fishery with a lot of rope in the water so therefore you are the cause," McCarron explained. To make matters worse, it relied only on worst case scenarios for the right whale recovery and stretched those assumptions out for 50 years. "NMFS got it wrong," McCarron said. "You guys are going to be eliminated. MLA recognized that we need to be out in front of this to set the tone for the fight. By suing NMFS we can get information about the lobster fishery before the judge that he has not yet seen. He will finally hear our side of the story."

McCarron next turned the podium over to attorney Ryan Steen from the lawfirm of Stoel Rives. Steen explained in detail the strategy that the MLA's legal team is using to prove the arbitrary and capricious character of NMFS's actions.

MLA members asked numerous questions about the details of the court case. The questions revolved around the core elements of the case, specifically what the MLA is asking D.C. District Court Judge Boasberg to do. Steen explained that the MLA lawsuit contends that the Biological Opinion is wrong in terms of how much risk reduction Maine lobstermen should be required to make. The MLA is not asking the Biological Opinion be tossed out entirely because without a Biological Opinion in place, the lobster fishery cannot be permitted to operate. Instead, the MLA is asking that the plan be sent back to NMFS and its numerous errors corrected. Judge Boasberg will assess whether NMFS made a lawful decision under the Endangered Species Act, and if not, what should be done to rectify its action. His decision may come as early as mid-summer.

DMR Commissioner Patrick Keliher spoke about the legal actions his department has taken regarding the 10-year whale conservation plan. Governor Mills approved funds for DMR to hire outside legal counsel with expertise in the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act. The DMR contracted with Seattle law firm Nossaman LLC to represent the agency. Commissioner Keliher requested additional funds from the Governor for the court case and anticipated appeals and received \$1 million, bringing total available funds to \$3 million.

"We are proud to work with the MLA and we are proud to be in this fight," Keliher said. "But even if we win, there will be more changes coming to the fishery."

Steen noted how rare it is for a state marine resource agency and an independent fishermen's group to work together. "It's really unusual to have the state in sync with the fishery. It is extremely significant to have the state support you, it's a huge step up," he said.

President Kristen Porter closed the meeting by recognizing Brendan and John Ready, who were in the audience. The brothers recently made a \$200,000 donation to the MLA's Save Maine Lobstermen campaign in addition to their previous donation of \$50,000 in 2021. "They get it. They are putting pressure on others to do the same," Porter said. "We are doing this right. All of you, go back to your harbors and tell them that this is real. Tell them to contribute!"



From left to right, DMR Commissioner Patrick Keliher, Officers of the Year MPO James Mayotte and Sergeant Mark Murry, MLA board president Kristan Porter. MLA photo.



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Town Of Boothbay
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Jonathan Murphy
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Town Of Vinalhaven
Dennis Warren
Lee Watkinson
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The past and the future matter.

As I'm getting ready for this upcoming lobster season, things just feel different.

As fishermen, we all have concerns about the price. Price of lobsters, bait, fuel, boats, gear... the list goes on.

Now with the added time and expenses of the new regulations, it feels like we have an anchor tied to one leg and we are trying to keep our heads above water. Honestly, the future of this fishery scares the hell of out of me.

I'm a fourth generation fisherman and have been lobstering for 37 years. I grew up on a boat. Started with my Dad at ten years old. Lobstering for me is more than a job, it's a way of life. Yet, who knows if in 10-20 years whether we'll still be able to fish. This terrifies me.

These pictures are of my boys. My Dad (who at age 67 is still an animal when it comes to lobstering) built this boat for my son Spencer when he was five. It's literally part of our family. Spencer, and my other son Nathan, are now 25 and 20. They are both full-time, fifth generation fishermen. To say I am proud of them is an understatement. Spencer and his wife are expecting their first baby in a few weeks. It's a boy, my first grandchild. I can't help but wonder when my grandson is playing in this boat in a few years whether he will ever get the chance to become a sixth generation lobsterman. I pray that he will have the chance to decide if he wants to continue this family tradition and that it is not decided for him.

All of these new rules and regulations are overwhelming, but we are all doing our best to do what we gotta do to keep fishing. It's our way of life. If this industry suffers, we will all suffer.

Good luck to my fellow fishermen. See you on the water and have a safe season.

Heather Strout Thompson is a lobsterman from Harrington



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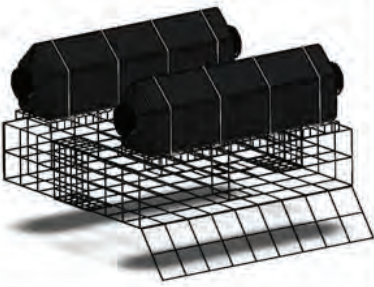
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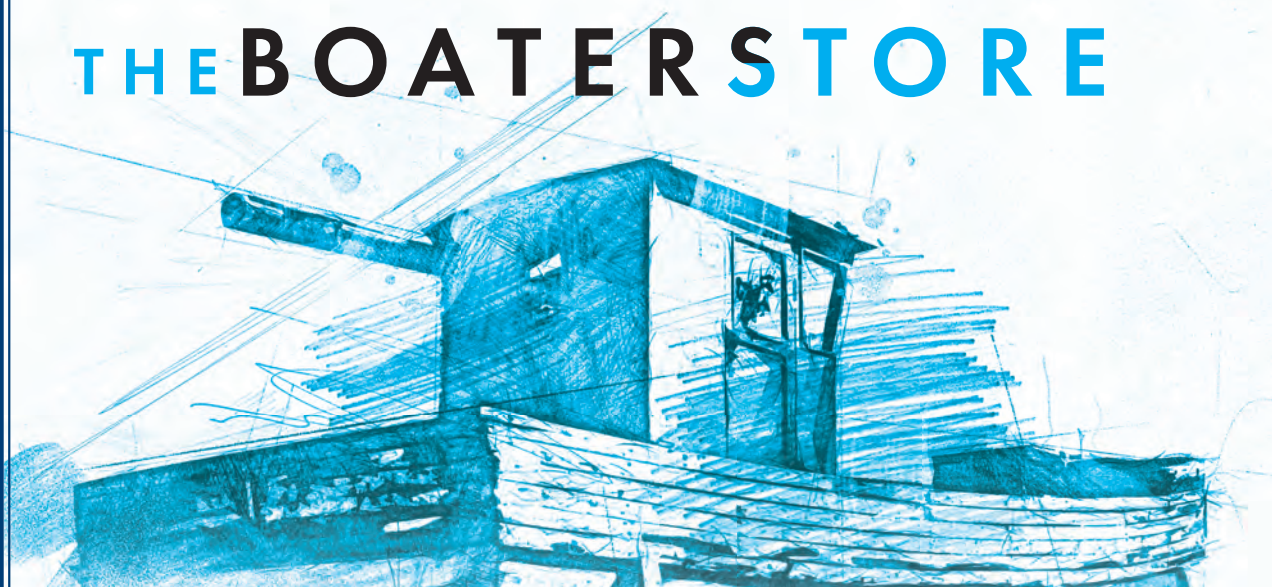
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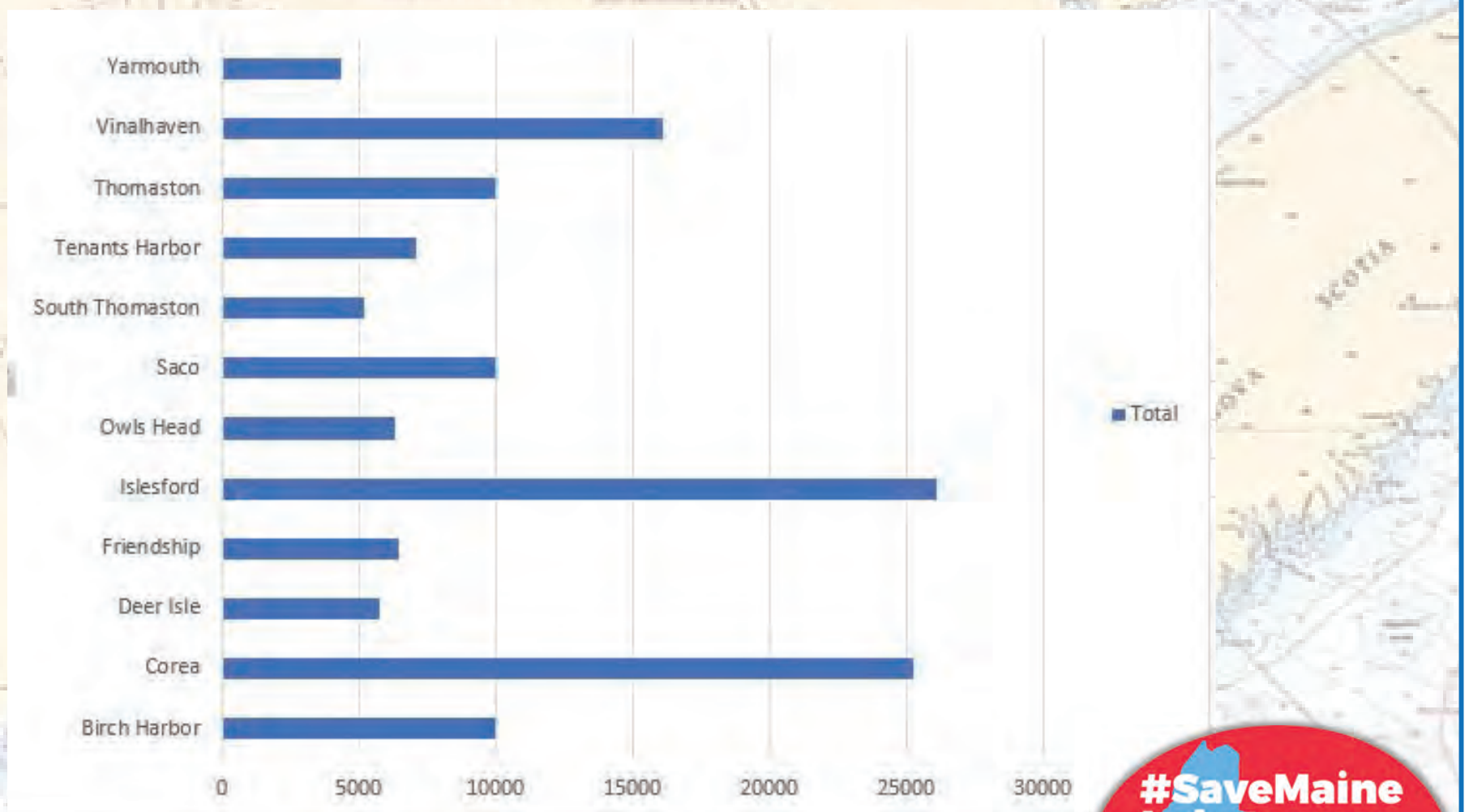
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National Fishermen, North Hollywood, CA -- Special annual subscription rate for \$12 for 12 issues. 800-959-5073

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TO YOUR HEALTH: *Simple steps to take to protect your brain*

By *Melissa Waterman*

Has this happened to you? I leave my desk to get something from the table in the living room. Once in the living room I stop cold. "What am I doing here? What was I looking for?" Briefly the thought flashes through my mind: dementia! My mind is slipping.

In fact, many people fear the onset of dementia as they grow older. A 2021 AARP research study found that among adults 40 and older, a full 48% believe they are likely to have dementia in their later years. Yet the actual rate of dementia among individuals age 71 and older is just 13.9%.

Many of the conditions that increase the risk of dementia are related to cardiovascular disease and other chronic health conditions.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), dementia is not an inevitable result of aging. It is true that as we grow older the brain's abilities change. There will be subtle alterations in memory, thinking, and reasoning. For example, you may not remember where you put your car keys and grow very frustrated, yet still have the ability to think logically about where you might have put them. It's annoying but not a sign of dementia.

It's also important to remember that dementia is not a disease. Alzheimer's, on the other hand, is a disease, incurable, and ultimately fatal. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerative disorder that attacks the brain and results in disorientation, with impaired memory, thinking, and judgment. Currently it is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States.

There are specific actions that we can all take to reduce the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease in later years, according to the CDC. Many of the conditions that increase the risk of dementia are related to cardiovascular disease and other chronic health conditions. They include hypertension, not getting enough physical exercise, obesity, diabetes, depression, smoking, hearing loss, and binge drinking.

A 2022 CDC study examined how common these eight risk factors were among adults 45 years and older. The frequency of cognitive decline increased from

3.9% among adults with no risk factors to 25% among those with four or more risk factors. Furthermore, 50% of those participating in the study had high blood pressure or did not meet physical activity guidelines.

There is hope, however. Because dementia takes years to progress, changing certain behaviors now can offset or slow its development in future years. Maintaining healthy lifestyle habits could reduce your dementia risk.

Actions you can take

Be active and maintain a healthy weight — A 2020 National Institute on Aging study found that a Body Mass Index indicating overweight or obese is related to a higher risk of dementia. Regular physical activity is important for good health; and combined with a healthy diet can lead to a healthy weight.

Pay attention to your blood sugar — Your brain is sensitive to the amount of glucose (sugar) it receives. Both high and low blood sugar can damage blood vessels in the brain. In the same way that diabetes can cause nerve damage to eyes, feet, and hands, it can also affect the brain by harming nerves and blood vessels. This can lead to problems with memory and learning, mood shifts, and over time, other serious problems like Alzheimer's disease.

Prevent and manage high blood pressure — Recent studies show that high blood pressure is linked to a higher risk for dementia. Evidence suggests that having uncontrolled high blood pressure during midlife (ages 44 to 66) creates a higher risk for dementia later in life, according to the CDC.

Prevent and correct hearing loss — If you have hearing loss, you have a greater chance of developing dementia, according to a 2020 report that lists hearing loss as one of the top risk factors for dementia. Hearing loss is estimated to account for 8% of dementia cases. This means that hearing loss may be responsible for 800,000 of the nearly 10 million new cases of dementia diagnosed each year, according to a John Hopkins University study. If hearing loss is a concern of yours, the Northeast Center offers an array of hearing protection and affordable prices for farmers, loggers and fishermen (<https://necenter.org/safety-gear>). Of course, stopping smoking and modifying binge drinking are also critical steps to reduce the risk of dementia.

For more information about dementia and actions to prevent it, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/aging/dementia/index.html> or <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/9170-dementia>.

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DMR AQUACULTURE LEASE APPLICATION STATUS FOR JULY (as of 06/27/22)

*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
Click INTERACTIVE DATA TABLE at the top of the list.*

Experimental Lease Applications

Name of Applicant/Company	Site	Town	Size	Product	Duration	Status
Norumbega Oyster Inc.	Wadsworth Cove, Damartiscotta River	Boothbay	3 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	Appl. Rec'd 5/19/22, comments due 6/18/22
Summit Point LLC	300ft N of Lower Basket Ledge	Chebeague Isl	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 Isl	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App rec'd (2/17/22); comments due (3/19/22)
Jordan, John	E side of Bangs Island, Casco Bay	Chebeague Isl	3.98 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App rec'd 5/9/22; comments due 6/4/22
Putnam, Beth	NE of Great Chebeague	Chebeague Isl	3.9 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	Application rec'd 3/11/22
Putnam, Jeff	E of Great Chebeague	Chebeague Isl	3.9 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	Application rec'd 3/11/22
Nappi, Brent	East of Sturdivant Island	Cumberland	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App. rec'd 4/14/22; comments due 5/14/22
Muscongus Bay Aquaculture	NW of Glidden Ledge, Damariscotta River	Edgecomb	3.93 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	site review complete 1/22/2022
Martin, Thomas	E of Brothers Islands, Casco Bay	Falmouth	0.15 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd (2/11/22); 30 day public comment
Nappi, Brent	S of Clapboard Island	Falmouth	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App. Rec'd 4/14/22; comments due 5/14/22
Stuart Ryan	SW side of Williams Island, Casco Bay	Freeport	2.4 acres	Shellfish/algae	3 yrs	App rec'd (2/11/22); 30 day comment
Green, Christopher	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
Wilson, David	Wilson Cove, Middle Bay	Harpwell	4 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	Appl rec'd 5/6/22. comments due 6/5/22
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
Hutchins II, Edward	NE of Cape Porpoise Harbor	Kennebunkport	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App rec'd 5/5/22; comments due 6/4/22
Doyle, Victor	E of Barlett Isl, Blue Hill Bay	Mount Desert	1 acre	Shellfish	3 yrs	Lease application withdrawn 6/10/22
Smith, Peter	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
Ocean Resources, Inc	Jordan River in Lemoine and	Trenton	2.96 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	Site Review Complete 9/3/2021
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

Acadia Aqua Farms, LLC	Frenchman Bay	Bar Harbor	68.3 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Site Review TBD
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
Pleasant Cv Oyster Farm, LLC	Pleasant Cove, Damariscotta River	Boothbay	6.26 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Hearings sched for July- see MLA website
Yentsch, Carl	Bottle Cv; W of Samoset Rd at 176 Samoset Rd	Boothbay Hrb	1.12 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Scoping Session 6/22/22, Boothbay Harbor
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 Cv Seafood LLC	NE L'il Chebeague Isl, Wstrn Chandlers Cove	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	Lease application withdrawn 6/22/22
Dodge Cove Marine Farm	SE of Dodge Pt	Damariscotta	12.26 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 7/15/21; site review TBD
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
Sparta, Kenneth Curtis	West of Crab Island, Casco Bay	Freeport	8.25 acres	Shellfish/algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 3/25/22, site review TBD
Gaffney, Michael & Mark	N of Phoebe Isl, Robinshood Cove	Georgetown	7 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 11/24/21, site visit TBD
Love Point Oysters, LLC	Middle Bay, Southeast of Upper Goose Island	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
Islesboro Marine Ent, Inc	NE of Flat Island, Penobscot Bay	Islesboro	6 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 4/1/21, site review TBD
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
Hermit Island Oyster Co, LLC	Hermit Isl, Small Pt Hbr, New Meadows Rivr	Phippsburg	2.56 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 5/26/21; site review TBD
Hermit Island Oyster Co, LLC	The Branch, New Meadows River	Phippsburg	0.62 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Appl Rec'ds 5/26/21, Site Review TBD
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	So. Bristol	0.58 acre	Shellfish	20 yrs	Application rec'd 8/16/21, site review TBD
Heron Isl Oyster Company	w/in Fitch Cv, @ Glidden Ledge, E side of Dam. Rvr	So. 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
Albatross Fisheries, LLC	Deep Cove, St George River	St George	4 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	Scoping Session 6/7/22, 5 pm St George
Miss Madisyn LLC	Deep Cove, St George River	St. George	4 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	Scoping Session 6/7/22, 5 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	Lease Granted June 10, 2022
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	Application Granted 6/9/2022
Henninger, Thomas	NW of Eastern end of Littlejohn Isl	Yarmouth	6.37 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Scoping Session 6/22/22, 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

DOCUMENTING THE WORKING COAST OF MAINE

By *Melissa Waterman*

There are two coasts here in Maine. The first coast, as described by John Gillis in his book *The Human Shore: Seacoasts in History*, is made up of commercial harbors peopled by men and women who make their living from the sea and whose culture derives from that hard and perilous work. The second coast is a place of nautically-themed restaurants, lifestyle shops and residential developments with names like Coastal Vista, “built up around the nostalgia for the working waterfront,” Gillis wrote.



Amanda Lyons wormweed harvesting, Trescott. All images by Greta Rybus, used with permission.

Galen Koch, 33, is dedicated to preserving the stories from Maine’s working coast. “I’ve interviewed a lot of fishermen. They don’t fit into stereotypes. They have a totally different understanding of the natural world, lots of depth and nuance,” she said. She set out to capture their stories in a multi-year oral history and multimedia exhibit project she called *The First Coast*.

Koch grew up in Stonington, although not in a fishing family. She graduated from Skidmore College then attended the Salt Institute in Portland where she studied radio production. After graduating in 2014 and doing freelance radio reporting around the country, she realized that she wanted to stay in Maine. The Portland Waterfront Alliance hired her to produce 12 multimedia stories illustrating the city’s working waterfront. Meeting with fishermen, lobstermen, dock workers and others, Koch quickly recognized she had found her passion.

With financial support from the Kindling Fund and her own crowdfunding efforts, Koch rehabbed her stepfather’s old Airstream trailer and set out to document stories found in other Maine harbors, specifically Bar Harbor, Stonington, Jonesport and Beals Island, and Lubec. She towed the trailer to each town and settled in for weeks and months to capture the tales of those who make their living from the sea.

“These waterfronts are so similar but so different,” Koch reflected. “All have their own personality. Jonesport doesn’t cater to tourists. It’s definitely a working town. Stonington, on the other hand, is a huge lobstering port and also a tourist destination.” In each place, Koch found people eager to tell stories about the past and present, from fishermen lamenting the loss of traditional fisheries to young seaweed harvesters and aquaculturists shaping their own lives on the water.

Koch particularly enjoyed listening to the older fishermen. “I was struck by the deep knowledge they have of the places where they fish and the changes they have seen. There’s the perspective that there’s a battle going on between fishermen and environmentalists. I think that’s so strange. They are part of the environment, not separate from it,” she said.

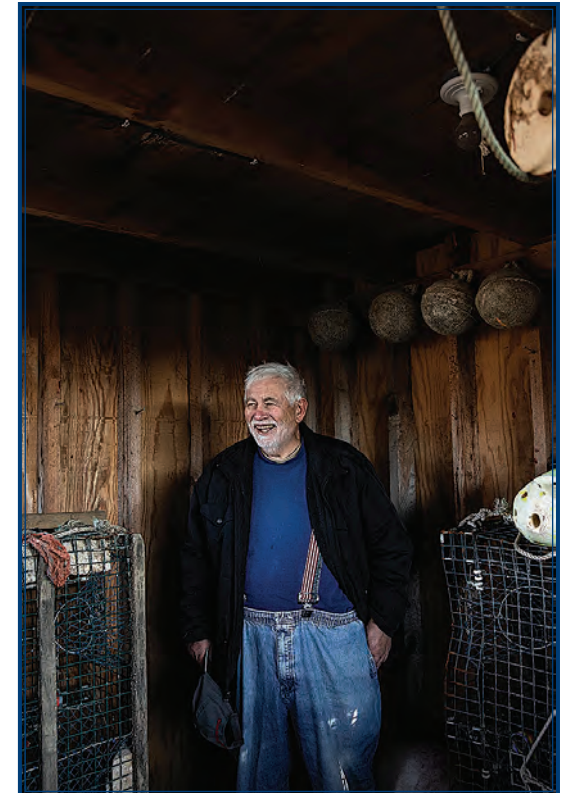
Since 2020, *The First Coast* has been supported by The Fund for Maine Islands, distributed by College of the Atlantic and Island Institute. The first photo exhibit, featuring images by Greta Rybus and accompanying sound stories premiered in October 2019 at the Lubec Brewing Company. The latest, featuring stories and images



Sonny Beal, Beals Island.

from Jonesport and Beals Island, also by Greta Rybus, was exhibited at the Peabody Memorial Library from January to April 2022.

Koch is now involved in producing a podcast called ‘From the Sea Up’ for the Island Institute. The podcast, which begins its second season this September, focuses on stories from Maine’s coastal and island communities. Along with colleagues at the Island Institute, Maine Sea Grant and College of the Atlantic, she is part of the team that manages the Mapping Ocean Stories project, which includes a ten-week class at COA and paid internships for students working on stories, exhibits, and GIS-mapping related to the lived experiences of Maine’s remote coastal and island residents.



Charlie Alley, Jonesport

In addition, Koch has created Maine Sound + Story, an online database featuring oral histories from across the state, radio stories, and curated images of Maine’s people and places. “We wanted to have the collections be useful to academics, historians, anyone. The long-form interviews are all transcribed. I’m really excited about it,” Koch said.

“I see myself in a communications role, sharing these stories through sound installations, the podcast, and writing. I hope that people who have moved here are listening and want to know more about the culture of this place. Why do you live here? How will you protect it?”



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In the NEWS

MAINE'S OYSTER BUSINESS BOOMING

In 2021 Maine's oyster harvest was the largest and most valuable in its history, according to data from the Department of Marine Resources. The amount of oysters harvested, primarily aquaculture grown, grew by more than 50% to more than 6 million pounds. Maine oysters were worth more than \$10 million in 2021, just ten years after they were worth less than \$1.3 million. Oysters are now the fourth most valuable marine resource in the state. The growth of Maine oysters is happening at a time when the national oyster industry is diversifying. A decade ago, about 60% of the value of U.S. oysters came from Washington and Louisiana, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Now, those states make up just 27% of the value, while oyster harvests have grown in numerous other states, including Texas, Virginia, Massachusetts and California.



Photo courtesy of Visit Freeport.

NEW LUKE'S LOBSTER RESTAURANT FOR NEW YORK CITY

Luke's Lobster is opening its newest restaurant this month in New York City. The new eatery will open on July 20 at the Grand Central Terminal train station. Luke's Lobster Grand Central is an open-concept design with 52 seats, some of which are original, wooden train-station benches, and an additional 10 bar seats in the 1,200-square-foot lower-level concourse. The company currently operates seven lobster shacks in New York City and 18 nationwide.

DFO SLASHES N.S., N.B. HERRING QUOTA

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) cut the herring quota for southwestern Nova Scotia and New Brunswick by one-third in late June, citing a need to protect the depleted forage fish. Most of the quota is caught by seiners — boats that use big nets to circle a school of herring as it comes to the surface. DFO reduced the 2022 quota, or total allowable catch (TAC), from 35,000 tons to 23,450 tons, a 33% reduction. However, environmentalists say the cut does not go far enough to rebuild the stock.

NEW MARINE REFUGE ESTABLISHED OFF NOVA SCOTIA

The Canadian federal government declared a 44,000 square kilometer area off Nova Scotia a marine refuge in early June. The Eastern Canyons Marine Refuge runs from the edge of the continental shelf near Sable Island to Canada's exclusive economic zone more than 300 kilometers offshore. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) says Eastern Canyons is home to rare bottlenose whales and cold-water corals. All bottom-contact fisheries — including trawls, traps, and longlines — will be prohibited inside the marine refuge, with the exception of one fishing zone for smaller vessels that use longlines. Establishment of the refuge was criticized by some in Nova Scotia's lucrative halibut fishery, which will be blocked from most of the area.

PORTLAND FISH EXCHANGE TAKES HARD LOOK AT ITS FUTURE

The Portland Fish Exchange board took the first tentative steps in June toward possibly ending the 35-year-old auction. The Fish Exchange provides space on the Portland Fish Pier for fisherman to bring their haul and for seafood buyers to bid on the fresh catch. But it has struggled in recent years as fishermen are landing fewer fish. And they often take what they do catch to Massachusetts, which has robust seafood markets. The auction opened in 1986 as an alternative to selling catches out of state. The goal has been to support and maintain Portland's fishing fleet, but a dwindling catch has made that more difficult and the auction struggles to fill its four times weekly sales of seafood.

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2022 LICENSE AND OTHER FEES TO BE REIMBURSED

Gov. Janet Mills announced in late June that commercial fishermen and aquaculture operators will be reimbursed their 2022 license and tag fees. The Department of Marine Resources will use \$8.3 million in federal funds from the Consolidated Appropriations Act to reimburse the costs of commercial harvesting licenses, as well as the initial fees for tags required for each lobster trap. To be eligible for reimbursement, the license must be a renewal of a commercial license held in 2021 and the license holder must have been 18 years or older as of January 2022. The department is extending the reimbursement offer to dealers and processors as well. It will waive and reimburse 2022 commercial aquaculture lease fees through a separate process.

"I think everyone in the industry appreciates the opportunity to have that little bit of extra cash at a time when the season is just beginning," said Dustin Delano, a Friendship lobsterman and vice-president of the Maine Lobsterman's Association in an interview with the *Portland Press Herald*.

"Obviously fuel is about double, bait is almost double," he said. "Everything you buy is that way... everything you need is higher, and lobster is lower than it was last year. Lobster doesn't seem to be going up with inflation, so it's going to be tricky."

The state will process reimbursement payments quarterly through the end of 2022. It is currently processing reimbursements for 2022 licenses sold between Nov. 15 and March 31. Next, the department will process reimbursements for licenses sold between April 1 and June 30. Dealers will be reimbursed after the 2022 dealer licensing year ends on March 31, 2023.

Delano also holds a menhaden license and a dealer license for buying and selling bait. With reimbursement for those license fees and for his lobster license and tags, he expects to receive several thousand dollars back from the state.

Delano said he is planning on donating that money to the Maine Lobstermen's Association's Legal Defense Fund, and he has heard that some other lobstermen will be doing the same. "The way I look at it, it's money I already spent, and we really need every penny we can get to help with our legal fight," he said.

Events Calendar

More details on all of these events can be found online at www.maine lobstermen.org

July 2
Moosabec Reach Lobster Boat Races

July 24
Harpwell Lobster Boat Races

July 2-10
73rd Shediac Lobster Festival, Shediac, New Brunswick. <https://www.shediaclobsterfestival.ca/en>.

July 28
"A Watershed Moment: A Story about People, Fish, and the Water that Connects Them," Blue Hill Library, 6 p.m.

July 7
"Gyotaku and the Evolution of Observational Data," An interactive event featuring scientist Graham Sherwood and Maine artist Nate Garrett, 5:30-7:15 p.m., Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Portland. FMI: <https://gmri.org/events/sea-state-gyotaku-and-the-evolution-of-observational-data>.

July 27-31
Fog Fest, Campobello Island, Canada. FMI: <https://campobellofogfest.org>.

July 10
Stonington Lobster Boat Races

August 1-4
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission summer meeting, Arlington, VA.

July 15-17
Yarmouth Clam Festival, Yarmouth. FMI: www.clamfestival.com.

August 3-7
Maine Lobster Festival, free, Rockland. FMI: <https://mainelobsterfestival.com>.

July 17
Friendship Lobster Boat Races

August 7
Save Maine Lobstermen fundraiser at Brady's In Boothbay Harbor, 3 p.m. FMI: 207-967-4555.

July 20-24
Acadia's Birds and Whales, Schoodic Institute, Winter Harbor. FMI: <https://schoodicinstitute.org/event/acadias-birds-whales-2>.

August 13
Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Races

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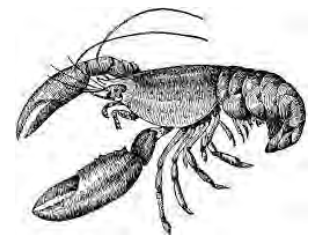
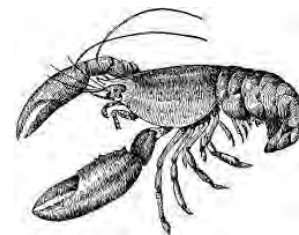
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LONG-TIME BUSINESS PARTNER AND STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF MLA PASSES AWAY

Stephen M. Smithwick, 87, died on June 9 at his home in Falmouth, Massachusetts with his family by his side.

Smithwick was born on July 20, 1934, in Boston, Mass., the son of the late Reginald Smithwick, M.D. and Eleanor Holton (Smithwick). He attended Choate Rosemary Hall, Brown University, and graduated from Babson College with a bachelor's degree. While in college, Stephen met his future wife, Sue, and they married in 1959. After he graduated college he began his career in the insurance industry in Boston.

In 1950 Stephen, as skipper, and his high school team won the North American Junior Sailing Championship (SEARS cup). He was a skilled racer of sailboats and enjoyed cruising and boating both power and sailboats. He owned more than 30 boats over the years, ranging from small sailboats to large power boats. One of his favorite annual trips was to Roque Island. When Stephen and his wife moved to South Bristol in 1987, they built their home on the water so he could enjoy his frequent sailing trips.

That year Stephen opened his own insurance practice in Portland with his business partner, Howard Clarke, calling the company Smithwick & Clarke

Insurance. His sons joined the family business and it evolved into Smithwick & Mariners Insurance, with an office in Falmouth and affiliate locations across Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Smithwick & Mariners has managed MLA's vessel's insurance program for more than 30 years.

Stephen was predeceased by his brother, Reginald "Rex" Smithwick. He is survived by his three sons, Steve Smithwick and wife, Beth, of Palm City, Fla., Chris Smithwick and wife, Missy, of Cumberland, and Scott Smithwick and wife, Elaine, of Falmouth; nine grandchildren; and his cousin, Dan Shearer.



Photo courtesy of Lincoln County News.

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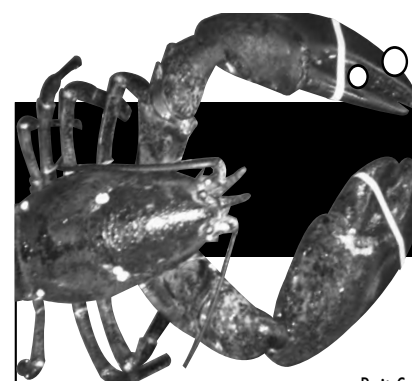
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MATTHEW TALBOT NEW COLONEL AT MARINE PATROL

DMR press release

Matthew Talbot, a 21-year veteran with the Maine Marine Patrol has been promoted to Colonel, replacing Jay Carroll, who retired after 26 years of service, including three as Colonel.

“Colonel Talbot has shown great initiative and integrity at every point in his career, as an Officer, Specialist, Sergeant, and Captain,” said Department of Marine Resources Commissioner Patrick Keliher. “I am certain he will provide capable and steady leadership in this new role.”

Colonel Talbot joined the Marine Patrol in 2001 after completing the Maine Criminal Justice Academy’s Basic Law Enforcement Training Program. Talbot holds two associate degrees from Maine Maritime Academy in Small Vessel Operations and from Southern Maine Technical College in Law Enforcement.

Talbot spent 12 years serving as a Patrol Officer in the Rockland-Searsport Patrol and in 2007 became a Boat Specialist, operating the Patrol Vessel Guardian III. In 2013, Talbot was promoted to Sergeant of what is now Section Three, stretching from Waldoboro to Belfast, a position he held for six years.

In 2019, Colonel Talbot was promoted to the rank of Captain. In this role Talbot was responsible for planning, directing, overseeing, and evaluating all activities within Marine Patrol’s Special Services Division. Duties included oversight of the Bureau’s watercraft and truck fleets, technology and equipment, and several specialty teams including Maritime Security, Firearms, Honor Guard, Whale Disentanglement, and Marine Patrols participation on the State Underwater Recovery Team.

“The Special Services Division is a critical part of Marine Patrols ability to respond effectively to the many different types of incidents that occur on our coastal waters,” said Keliher. “Colonel Talbot made sure that the Division was prepared to respond at all times at the highest level.”

During his career, Colonel Talbot has received the 2006 North East Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Association Officer of the Year award, the 2010 and 2016 Maine Marine Patrol Commendation award, the 2013 Maine Lobstermen’s Association Officer of the Year award, the 2016 Maine Marine Patrol Colonel’s Supervisor award, and the 2017 US Coast Guard Certificate of Valor.

Colonel Talbot brings a longstanding family connection to Marine Patrol. His father Alan served as Major and retired in 2013 after a 25-year career.


“I’m proud to carry on the legacy of conservation and community policing that are cornerstones of Maines Marine Patrol and am honored to step into this new leadership role,” said Colonel Talbot. “I look forward working closely with both the fishing community and our dedicated patrol officers as we face unprecedented challenges and opportunities together.”

Retired Colonel Carroll began his career in the Marine Patrol in 1996, rising through the ranks from Officer to Colonel. “Jay has been a strong leader and an exceptional Marine Patrol Officer throughout his career, and I greatly appreciate his service and dedication to Marine Patrol and the industry it serves,” said Keliher.



Matthew Talbot is DMR's new Bureau of Marine Patrol Colonel. Talbot has served in Marine Patrol for 21 years. DMR photo.


The advertisement features a background image of several fishing boats docked at a pier. Two white boxes with blue borders contain the logos and contact information for two co-operatives. At the bottom, a blue banner with white text reads: "Maine Fishermen's Co-operatives Since 1947, organized for Maine's fishermen, by Maine's fishermen."



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