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Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance

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June 2023 | Vol. 31, No. 6

## STOCK DECLINE WILL TRIGGER PHASED-IN GAUGE CHANGES

#### By Melissa Waterman

In early May the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries American Commission's Lobster Management Board approved Addendum 27 to the Lobster Management Plan. The Addendum establishes a trigger which would cause certain management measures to go in place, specifically gauge and escape vent sizes in Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMAs) 1 and 3. The Addendum also changes management measures for the Outer Cape Cod LMA to improve the consistency of regulations.

Continued on page 4



MLMC photo.

## WIND ENERGY MOVING FAST IN THE GULF OF MAINE

#### By MLA staff

The Bureau of Offshore Energy Management (BOEM) held a two-day meeting of the Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force in Bangor in May. The Task Force is composed of federal, state, local and tribal government officials from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. Its role is to help coordinate energy planning activities in federal Gulf of Maine waters.

The purpose of the meeting was for BOEM to update task force members and the public on the Bureau's offshore wind energy planning activities in the Gulf, and to discuss next steps regarding the lease process underway for the area.

Two developments are underway in the Gulf of Maine. First, BOEM is in the process of developing a lease area in the Gulf for commercial wind energy projects. BOEM published a Call for Information and Nominations for leases in the Gulf. This Call invites public comment on and assesses interest in possible commercial wind energy development in areas offshore Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine; comments are due by June 12.

Second, the state of Maine has an application before BOEM to lease an area in federal waters off southern Maine for an offshore wind energy research array. The purpose of the research array is to build a small-scale commercial wind farm to conduct research to better understand the impacts of large-scale commercial wind development in this region. BOEM published the Gulf of Maine's Continued on page 5

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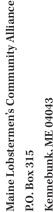
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# YOUNG LOBSTERMEN UPBEAT **DESPITE UNCERTAIN FUTURE**



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Kennebunk, ME 04043

Photo by J. Doughty

#### By Melissa Waterman

Jace Doughty, 16, likes to lobster. In fact, he's liked to lobster since he started with his father Travis at age 6. Sure, there were a few bumps in the road back then. "I remember seeing a lobster for the first time. It freaked me out. Plus, one got me," he recalled.

Since then, lobstering has been a key element in the life of this busy young man. Now a junior at Oceanside East High School in Rockland, he fishes from Cushing aboard his 32-foot boat, Chasing Tail, which he co-owns with his cousin Noah Ross. He got his lobster license at age 14. "I started out in a skiff with five traps. Once

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#### LOBSTERMEN SUMMER

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Welcome summer! The skies are blue and Maine's summer visitors have returned. A fresh lobster fishing season is underway with fingers crossed in the state's small harbors that the year is a good one.

Lobstermen are talking about the cost of bait, of fuel, of all the various supplies and gear needed to leave the dock. And also about the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) approval of Addendum 27 to the interstate lobster management plan. Nicknamed the "resiliency" addendum, Addendum 27 calls for changes in minimum and maximum legal sizes for lobsters if surveys show a 35% decline in recruitment. In May, Department of Marine Resources

Commissioner (DMR) Patrick Keliher addressed lobstermen's misgivings about this change in a letter to fishermen, which we reprint in this issue.

Proposed offshore wind energy developments in the Gulf of Maine are also front and center in the minds of many Maine lobstermen. In May, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) held a twoday meeting of the intergovernmental Gulf of Maine Task Force in Bangor. The pur-

pose was to provide

information to the public about the Gulf of Maine Call Area, which is a nearly 10 million-acre region of the Gulf potentially available for wind development leases in 2024. Energy companies including Avangrid Inc., TotalEnergies SE, Hexicon, Mainstream Renewable Power, and Pine Tree Offshore Wind have already expressed interest, according to BOEM. The Task Force also reviewed Maine's application for a wind energy research array lease area approximately 20 nautical miles off the southern Maine coast and BOEM's plan to conduct and Environmental Assessment of this project. Comments are due June 12 and 5, respectively.

*Landings* takes a look at another issue with broad legal consequences. A case brought by East Coast herring fishermen has been accepted for review by the Supreme Court. The crux of the case is whether the courts have given too much deference to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in its application of the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act (MSCMA). NMFS is requiring herring vessels to pay for fisheries observers aboard required aboard the vessel. The fishermen contend that the Magnuson-Stevens Act doesn't provide NMFS that power and that the courts can't bow to the agency's supposed expertise and uphold its action. The case parallels the Maine Lobstermen's Association legal suit, now under appeal.

Maine is brimming with deer ticks and more and more Mainers are falling prey to painful illness with long-lasting effects. In 2022, Maine CDC reported 2,636 Lyme disease cases which was a new annual record, 824 anaplasmosis cases, 192 babesiosis cases, plus 26 other tick-based illnesses. Ticks tend to be most abundant in the woods, along trails, and in the grassy, brushy areas adjacent to



Summer may be here but continuing wind and right whale issues mean little leisure for Maine's lobstermen. MLMC photo.

the woods. The CDC recommends that you light-colored wear clothing treated with tick repellents that contain permethrin and wear long pants and sleeves when possible tucked in to keep ticks off of your skin. Repellents that contain 20-30% DEET can be used on exposed skin. The CDC warns that ticks are likely to be abundant in areas where white-tailed deer and the whitefooted mouse are present.

In Massachusetts a winter-long trial of ro-

peless fishing gear came to a close in April. Ten lobstermen were permitted to fish in whale closure areas to test various ropeless gear. The participating lobstermen hauled the gear 186 times by early April, according to NOAA data. Still questions remain about the safety of the gear and its affordability to the greater New England lobster fleet.

All the turmoil related to right whales and wind energy development might discourage many. But for Maine's younger fishermen at the start of their careers, lobstering remains the center of their working lives. Two young men, cousins from Cushing, talk about what brought them into the fishery and what they are hoping for in the future.

Look for a #SaveMaineLobstermen event in your area this summer and support the Maine lobster industry during our beautiful summer season.

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## HERRING FISHERY SUPREME COURT CASE CHALLENGES FEDERAL OVERREACH

In Loper Bright Enterprises Inc. v. Raimondo,

the fishermen argue that it is not within NMFS's

authority under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries

Conservation and Management Act to require

fishermen to pay for fisheries observers.

#### By Melissa Waterman

For many years, East Coast herring fishermen have argued that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) does not have the authority to require them to pay for mandated fisheries observers on their vessels, whose salaries may equal 20% of their yearly revenues. With no relief from NMFS, the fishermen turned to the courts, unsuccessfully. Now their argument will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In May, the Court announced that it would take up an appeal petition from

the fishermen. The Supreme Court receives thousands of petitions annually and accepts less than 1% of them. The Court's ultimate decision in the case may affect the extent of all federal agencies' authority.

The herring fishermen, led by Loper Bright Enterprises of New Jersey, are represented by Paul Clement, who

also represents the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) in its legal case against NMFS. In Loper Bright Enterprises Inc. v. Raimondo, the fishermen argue that it is not within NMFS's authority under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries

Conservation and Management Act to require fishermen to pay for fisheries observers. Clement argues that the agency exceeded its authority and needs direct and clear Congressional authorization to make the demand.

The Washington D.C. district court earlier ruled in NMFS's favor in the case, saying that the Magnuson-Stevens Act is ambiguous on the issue of observers. Drawing on a previous court case, Chevron vs. the EPA, which requires a court to defer to an agency's expertise when a law is ambiguous, the district court found that NMFS's actions were a reasonable interpretation of the Act.

Chevron vs. the EPA allows courts at all levels to defer to an agency's interpretation of the law when the law's intent is not explicit but rather implicit. A court may not substitute its own interpretation of the law for a reasonable interpretation made by the administrative agency.

The Washington D.C. district court came to a similar conclusion concerning the MLA's case against NMFS regarding the agency's 2021 Biological Opinion on the lobster fishery, which established a ten-year right whale conservation plan. In its 2022 ruling in the MLA's case, the district court also gave deference to NMFS, saying that the agency "considered the relevant data and offered a

rational and peer-reviewed explanation for its approach." The decision is currently under appeal.

The herring fishermen's petition to the Supreme Court states that the Magnuson-Stevens Act expressly grants NMFS the authority to require a fishery to pay for observers in only three specific instances and that the

Act does not give NMFS general authority to require other fisheries to pay for observer coverage.



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Photo courtesy of J. Ciaramitaro.

It is not yet clear what the result of this case could mean for commercial fisheries. Among the potential outcomes, the Supreme Court may hold that the D.C. Circuit misapplied Chevron because the statute unambiguously did not allow NMFS to take this particular action. Or the Supreme Court may determine that Chevron is wrong and must be overruled or clarified because it allows for agencies to take unlawful actions.

The Supreme Court is due to hear the case in its next term, which begins in October.

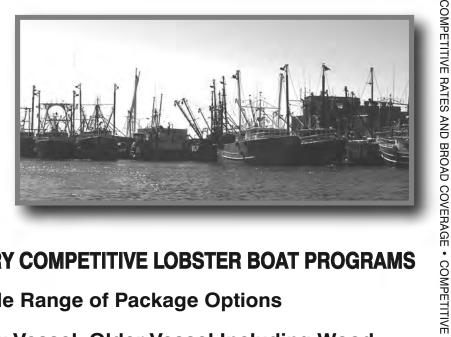
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# FUTURE LOBSTER GAUGE CHANGES EXPLAINED

#### By Patrick Keliher, DMR Commissioner

By now you have probably heard that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Lobster Management Board voted to approve Addendum XXVII. I have heard a lot of misinformation regarding the outcome of the Addendum, so I am writing to outline what happened at the Board meeting.

The Addendum specifies that management measures in LMA1, including changes to gauge and escape vent sizes, will only be implemented if the Board observes a 35% decline in a trigger index which looks at data on recruit abundance (71-80 mm lobsters) in the trawl and ventless trap surveys. These measures are intended to allow more sublegal lobsters to reproduce before being harvested and increase spawning stock biomass.

I heard clearly at the zone meetings and at the Lobster Advisory Council (LAC) that change was not looked at positively, but neither was stock collapse. Most of those conversations really focused in on a higher trigger but certainly the idea of a 45% trigger and understanding that landings would likely drop to around 60 million pounds before a trigger was pulled was concerning, so the advice to me seemed to focus in on the mid-thirty range.

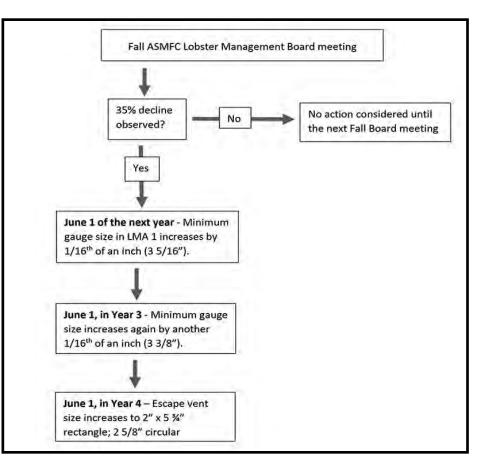
The Board was considering a range of triggers from 32% to 45%. I made an initial motion for a 38% trigger in the interest of finding a compromise, but it was clear that some states wanted either an immediate gauge change or a low trigger, so ultimately the Board narrowed in on a compromise and went with 35% trigger.

I want to emphasize that a gauge size change won't happen this year. The ASMFC Lobster Management Board will review the data each October, and if a 35% decline is observed, the change would not take place until June of the following year.

Also, if the trigger is tripped, the changes won't happen all at once. A minimum gauge size increase of 1/16th of an inch will be triggered in LMA1 in the year after a 35% decline is reported. The minimum gauge size for LMA1 will increase again by 1/16th of an inch in the 3rd year. The Board did vote to push back any changes to the escape vent sizes in LMA1 until year 4 based on public comments received from fishermen.

The Board also took critical action to bring other LMAs up to the conservation standards of Maine fishermen. The Board voted to prohibit the upfront issuance of replacement trap tags to harvesters in LMA 1 and 3 unless trap losses are documented. This is a practice which Maine has implemented for some time and now other jurisdictions will meet Maine's standard.





The Board also established a maximum gauge size in Outer Cape Cod (OCC) state waters, finally closing a loophole which allowed oversized lobsters to be imported from Canada. In addition, the Board established a more conservative v-notch definition in OCC state waters of 1/8" (previously ¼"), creating a consistent v-notch definition between LMA3 and OCC. LMA1 maintains a zero-tolerance v-notch definition.

Finally, I made a motion that the Board requests the ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Policy Board approve the creation of a subcommittee to engage Canada in issues related to importation of lobsters between the two countries. These conversations will be critically important to ensure equity for our harvesters and to support continued strong working relations between US lobster processors and Canada.

While I recognize that it's an especially tough time to think about future changes in the fishery, this change to the Fishery Management Plan is necessary if we want to ensure the long-term resilience of this important fishery.

To summarize, every October the ASMFC Lobster Management Board (Board) will review trawl and ventless trap survey results to see if the 35% decline in the recruit abundance has occurred. We are currently at a 23% decline in abundance, and at this point we can't predict when the 35% decline will be reached. If a 35% decline **is not** observed during the fall board meeting, no action will be considered until the next year's fall meeting.

Addendum 27 continued from page 1

Changes to Management Measures Initiated When 35% Trigger Level is Reached						
Area	LCMA 1	LCMA 3	000			
Current	Minimum gauge: 3 ¼"	Minimum gauge: 3 <sup>17</sup> / <sub>32</sub> "	Minimum gauge: 3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "			
Measures	Maximum gauge: 5"	Maximum gauge: 6 ¾"	Maximum gauge: 6 ¾"			
(Year 0)	Vent size: status quo	Vent size: status quo	Vent size: status quo			
Measures for	Minimum gauge size:	Status quo	Status quo			
Year 1	3 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>16</sub> " (84 mm)					
Implementation						
Measures for	Minimum gauge size:	Status quo	Status quo			
Year 3	3 ³/ <sub>8</sub> " (86 mm)					
Implementation						
Measures for	Vent size:	Status quo	Status quo			
Year 4	2 x 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " rectangular;					
Implementation	2 ⁵/ <sub>8</sub> " circular					
Measures for	Status quo	Maximum gauge size:	Maximum gauge size:			
Year 5		6 ½"	6 ½"			
Implementation						

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294 Ocean St Brant Rock, MA 781-834-9301

86 Cemetary Rd Stonington, ME 207-367-2692 If the lobster recruit abundance drops by 35% from the reference level, which is equal to the average of Maine and Massachusetts surveys from 2016-2018, a series of gradual changes to gauge and vent size will be implemented beginning in the following fishing year. These changes include two increases to the minimum gauge size in LCMA 1 (Gulf of Maine) and a single decrease to the maximum gauge size in LCMA 3 (offshore federal waters). Vent size changes will be implemented with the last gauge change. The gauge and escape vent size changes are intended to increase the proportion of the lobster population able to reproduce before being harvested, and to enhance stock resiliency by protecting larger lobsters of both sexes.

The Addendum also implements a standard v-notch definition of 1/8" with or without setal hairs and a maximum gauge size of 6 34" for federal permit holders in Outer Cape Cod to match the standards in place in Area 3. The Lobster Board established subcommittee to discuss gauge changes with Canada.

#### BOEM continued from page 1

Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Maine's wind energy research array lease and is accepting public comments until June 5.

The first day of the Task Force meeting provided in-depth presentations on

three emerging issues: floating offshore technology, offshore wind data collection activities including analyses for whales and other protected species, and transmission planning. In addition, BOEM staff provided a brief overview of the leasing process in the Gulf of Maine.

The second day dug deeper into BOEM's leasing process in the Gulf of Maine to discuss opportunities, concerns and next steps. BOEM's approach is to start with a very large area and remove areas that are unsuitable for offshore wind development based on feedback from developers or issues identified by other stakeholders due to environmental harm or significant conflict with existing uses. For the Gulf of Maine, the draft offshore wind planning area included almost the entire Gulf. Based on public comment, BOEM has removed from consideration all ar-

Gulf of Maine Call for mation and Nomina Area (Call Area) ed from Draft Cal Area Draft Call Are Call Area Gulf of Mai Traffic Separation Sc Existing BOEM Leas BOEM

There were many concerns raised during the meeting from both the public and task force members. Fishermen raised concerns that developing offshore wind would harm the productive Gulf of Maine ecosystem and put the livelihood and heritage of Maine's fishing industry at risk. Wildlife scientists noted

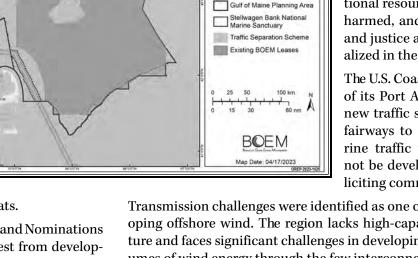
> that the Gulf of Maine has tremendous value in its wildlife, fisheries and habitats. They raised concern over the impacts of offshore wind on birds, marine mammals and other marine species, and worried that the models under development lack sufficient data to produce informative results. Representatives from the tribes voiced concern that many of the traditional resources they depend on would be harmed, and raised concerns over equity and justice as tribal members are marginalized in the federal process.

> The U.S. Coast Guard presented the results of its Port Access Study, which identified new traffic separation schemes and large fairways to establish safe routes for marine traffic where offshore wind should not be developed. The Coast Guard is soliciting comments on this proposal.

eas within 20 miles from shore and also other sensitive habitats.

The feedback BOEM receives through the Call for Information and Nominations in the Gulf will help the agency determine the level of interest from developers and better understand the conditions, which could further narrow down potential lease areas. BOEM will then publish "draft wind energy areas" for the public to comment on and conduct a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) analysis on the final "wind energy areas" to select a smaller area, which ultimately will be considered for offshore wind leasing.

According to BOEM the size and scope of offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine will be determined by the states' energy goals. During the meeting, Massachusetts revealed it plans to develop 23 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind; Maine plans to develop 3 GW (a gigawatt equals 1000 megawatts (MW)). To achieve this energy output, 1,440 wind turbines (each producing 18 MW) would need to be constructed in the Gulf of Maine.



Transmission challenges were identified as one of the biggest hurdles to developing offshore wind. The region lacks high-capacity transmission infrastructure and faces significant challenges in developing solutions to move large volumes of wind energy through the few interconnection sites.

Additional information on the BOEM Gulf of Maine Task Force meeting and lease development process is available at https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/maine/gulf-maine.

BOEM is accepting public comment to gather information and assesses interest in possible commercial wind energy development in the Gulf of Maine until June 12 (BOEM-2023-0025). BOEM is accepting public comment on its Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Maine's wind energy research array lease until June 5 (BOEM-2023-0031). Comments for both should be submitted through www.regulations.gov.



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## STEAMING AHEAD BY MLA COO AMBER-JEAN NICKEL

It's been about a minute. That is how long I have been on the MLA team. In fact, I've been here three months but when you consider the seven-decade timeline of the Maine Lobstermen's Association, I've been here just a minute.

When I began to dive into my new position I often sat back and listened. I asked to be at any meeting and on every email and yes, any Zoom I could. I wanted to listen to an-

yone and everyone. I wanted to hear who took part in the conversations, who added their opinions after the subject changed and who were the people who waited until the end to speak.

I read a lot too. Thankfully Landings issues are online, archived, so that challenges of past years are available to study, issues filled with the storylines of how we got to where we are today.

In 2016, Patrice wrote in "Steaming Ahead," "It's a privilege to be a lobsterman during times of plenty, but nevertheless we will face some tough issues ahead. We've certainly done a lot right over the years and there is much about this industry that should not change. Still, there are some changes that perhaps each lobsterman should be thinking about and that our industry as a whole should be dis-

cussing. "Fish smarter, not harder!" 2016 was a great year for many, but also a year that led to a season of change and challenge. Even some younger lobstermen must look back now with nostalgia at a time when lobstering was a whole lot simpler (and less expensive!).

In my first week on the job I was handed a "Fish Smarter, Not Harder" T-Shirt to wear at the Fishermen's Forum. It's a good example of how understanding the meaning behind the words changes your perspective. This slogan was not composed by a marketing department in a city somewhere out of state, but was born on the water, in the Gulf of Maine.

As I continued listening, I observed subtle things. How MLA staff ask about a member's family by name and how board members checked in on members who needed some help. Donation checks for the MLA legal fight arrived with personal notes sharing stories and connections to the MLA. Some were so detailed and special they moved staff members to tears.

One day a board member entered the office during a meeting and instead of any of us being startled or even annoved at the interruption, smiles and welcoming gestures immediately ushered him in. He came straight from getting his bait so had a certain .... aroma. Everyone at the meeting was excited to sniff the scent of the starting season; some even noticed that he had gone back to herring, which had been so hard to come by. It was jubilant and supportive. It was personal.

I haven't experienced this type of industry before, where your work is understood so personally by other fishermen

> throughout the Maine coast and the struggles you and your family face are also shared. The Maine lobster industry is old school, and some might say stuck in its ways. But it's those ways that have built a fishery to be proud of. It's the grit that keeps our small coastal towns afloat through economic ups and downs.

> There is another voice that I think is important, that the MLA makes heard: the lobstermen too busy to advocate for themselves. They are giving it their all and trying to find a balance between sanity and survival. They are on the water chasing the catch and then on land planning their next day out. They and their families may not be as vocal, but they have deep-felt concerns like the rest of us.

> The more I dig, the more I realize there will never be a day when I can say, "I am all caught up!" Still,

what I have already grasped is that the MLA is the glue. The MLA was founded in 1954. We are the oldest and largest fishing industry association in the state, still working nearly 70 years later to sustain the industry and the lobster resource.

Because the MLA is a credible voice and highly regarded we must remain in the painful conversations taking place about our lobstering future. You fish; the MLA fights.

The MLA has been and will continue working diligently to uphold lobstermen, the sustainable wild-caught food they provide, and the economic stability they create for our coastal communities and for our children to live and work in Maine. Whether you are a lobsterman, a business, or just someone passionate about Maine and its iconic fishery, your support as a member matters.

I am so proud to be a part of the MLA team and its history. But if I am being honest, I am even more excited to see how our next chapter reads. There is a lot more that we will do ... minute by minute.

andierflan

0



The MLA was founded in 1954 to represent lobstermen in harbors large and small. MLA photo.

Maine Lobstermen's Association 2 Storer St., Suite 203 Kennebunk, ME 04043 207.967.4555 www.mainelobstermen.org



## **BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

Your inform	ation
Name:	
Phone:	
Email: (Please include your email in orde	r to receive weekly e-news updates, renewal info and wind & whale updates)
Boat Name:	
License # : Z	oneDistrict:
T-shirt size (for Highline	rs & Lobster Lovers):
Family Members (plea	se include DOB and license # if applicable)
OP TRAMEN'S TASOCIATION	Payment info: Pay with: Credit Card /Check / Cash Credit Card #:

#### Harvester Membership Levels:

	Highliner	\$375				
	Harvester	\$275				
	Harvester Family*	\$350				
	Junior Harvester (under 18)	\$150				
	Senior Harvester (over 65)	\$150				
	Retired Harvester (no longer a captain)	\$75				
* family memberships are for spouses and children under 23 living at home						
Non-Commercial Membership Levels:						
	Sternman	\$75				
		ship Level \$75				

#### ls:

Sternman	\$75
Lobster Friend	\$125
Lobster Lover	\$275

Mail with payments to: MLA, 2 Storer St, Ste 203, Kennebunk, ME 04043

# MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

#### MLA DIRECTORS' MEETING SUMMARY

The MLA Board of Directors met on May 3 at Darby's in Belfast. The board discussed several staffing and administrative issues. COO Amber-Jean Nickel has been investigating all the MLA's tools and is building standard operating procedures. The MLA is looking to improve members' experience, such as improved accessibility through MemberClicks and increased membership value through add-on benefits (e.g., discounts, etc.). Board members were asked to continue to encourage lobstermen and businesses to become members.

The Maine Lobster Community Alliance (MLCA) continues to expand its work, particularly on the right whale issue. The MLA Board voted to give MLCA its red claw logo to brand fundraising. The MLA will use the other Save Maine Lobstermen logo used on the gray sweatshirts and hats for its fundraising work.

Dustin Delano announced that he accepted a position as Chief Operating Officer of the New England Fishermen Stewardship Association. He resigned his position as vice-president but will remain on the MLA Board. The board elected its officers for a one-year term: Kristan Porter, president; Craig Stewart, vice-president; Jarod Bray, vice-president; Jim Dow, treasurer; and Chris Welch, secretary.

Patrice McCarron updated the board on the status of bills before the Legislature. The EPA's exemption of Tier 4 engines in lobster boats ends in 2024. In following up with the EPA, it was confirmed that there is already a process in place for boat builders to request an exemption if Tier 4 engines are not available after 2023. MLA will distribute this information fishermen and boat yards.

BOEM will hold the Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force in Bangor on May 10 and 11 to provide an update on BOEM's commercial and research offshore wind energy planning activities and to discuss next steps for the Gulf of Maine.

BOEM is currently accepting public comment on conducting an environmental assessment for the Maine research array (due June 5) and on a Call for Information and Nominations to solicit public feedback and assess interest in possible commercial wind energy development in the Gulf of Maine area (due June 12).

On the right whale front, the MLA is waiting for the Appeals Court to issue its decision. Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is preparing to ramp up its research on right whales using the \$26 million in federal funds provided from the 2022 Omnibus bill to be disbursed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). DMR will be sending letters to lobstermen in June to distribute the previously allocated \$10 million in federal funding to lobstermen to offset cost of whale rules. Federal permit holders will receive \$3,400 and state waters lobstermen \$1,700.

ASMFC approved Addendum 27, effective January 1, 2024. When scientists determine that resource has declined by 35% decline, the Area 1 minimum gauge will go up by 1/16" in year 1 and year 3 to 3 3/8". The Area 3 and Outer Cape maximum gauge will go down to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " in year 5. The Outer Cape will adopt a 1/8" v-notch definition (already in place for A3). States are no longer allowed to issue extra trap tags in A1 and A3 unless a loss is documented. The Lobster Board also established a subcommittee to meet with Canada to discuss impacts of the gauge changes. The next meeting is scheduled for June 7.

#### DMR MEETINGS ON ELECTRONIC REPORTING

DMR will host a series of meetings on electronic reporting that will feature one-on-one training. Participants should bring their own laptop/smartphone/ tablet as well as passwords needed to access emails, iCloud, or app downloads. Contact Marissa DeCosta at (207) 592-2746 with questions about the meetings. Fishermen can come anytime during the scheduled sessions.

Staff are also available from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at the DMR Laboratory in West Boothbay Harbor. Please call ahead for on-on-one assistance with reporting or to speak with the Landings Program (207) 633-9414.

#### LEGAL UPDATE

The MLA is still active in three lawsuits. First, the MLA Appeal has been fully briefed and arguments have been made to the panel of judges in the D.C. Appeals Court. The decision is expected soon. Second, NMFS is seeking to dismiss the environmental groups' case before Judge Boasberg but this may not be considered until after the ruling in the MLA case. Parties must file a joint status report to the court by July 10. Third, the Monterey Bay Aquarium's motion in the MLA's lawsuit against the Aquarium was due May 22, with the MLA's response due July 24.

#### SAVEMAINELOBSTERMEN CAMPAIGN

The MLA attended the Auburn Lobster Festival on May 16. The Festival included a lobster bake and buoy painting contest. The Festival raised money for the SML campaign. On May 17, the MLA attended "Band Together: A Celebration

of Maine's Lobstering Heritage" at the Elks Lodge in Portland. This event featured bands and comedians who came together to support the SML campaign. The MLA also joined the Maine Tourism Association for its 101st Annual Meeting. Patrice McCarron joined Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative director Marianne LaCroix and Curt Brown from Ready Seafood on a panel to discuss how the right whale regulations threaten the future of the lobster industry.

The MLA will be at the 10th annual Claw Down Lobster Bite Competition on June 15 in Boothbay, which will feature local



MLA policy director Patrice McCarron with Tony Cameron, CEO of the Maine Tourism Association, at the MTA's annual meeting. MLA photo.

chefs competing for the best lobster bite. The South Bristol Fisherman's Co-Op is holding a SML fundraiser on June 17, which will include a lobster bake, a raffle and silent auction featuring dozens of items donated by local businesses. On August 27, the MLA will be at the "Music, Masts, and Lobster Traps" at Maine Maritime Museum for a daylong celebration of Maine's lobstering heritage, including a concert by the Mallett Brothers Band.

#### ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

*American Lobster* – The Lobster Board approved Addendum 27 to Lobster Management Plan on May 1. The Board initiated the Addendum as a proactive measure to improve the resiliency due to observed declines in lobster settlement surveys and recruitment indices throughout the Gulf of Maine (GOM) (see *Landings* article on page 1).

*Atlantic Menhaden* – The Menhaden Board met on May 1. The Board requested a report from Virginia on the proposed and enacted legislative and regulatory changes since 2019, as well as management responses to recent fish kill events.

 $The Stock Assessment \, Subcommittee \, (SAS) \, and \, Assessment \, Science \, Committee \, recommended \, converting \, the single-species \, assessment \, from \, a \, benchmark \, to$ 

Ellsworth, May 25, 12 to 5 pm BE Moore Community Center - Conference Room

Rockland, June 1, 12 to 5 pm Rockland Ferry Terminal - Conference Room

Brunswick, June 8, 12 to 5 pm Curtis Memorial Library - Morrell Meeting Room

Stonington, June 15, 12 to 5 pm Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries - Conference Room

Kennebunk, June 22, 12 to 4:30 pm Kennebunk Free Library - Hank's Meeting Room

East Machias, June 29, 12 to 5 pm Washington Academy an update, since the model has been peer-reviewed several times and no new data sources were identified that would necessitate utilizing the benchmark process. The Board approved the Draft Terms of Reference for the Ecological Reference Points (ERP) Benchmark Stock Assessment. The Single-Species Assessment Update and ERP Benchmark Stock Assessment are scheduled to be presented to the Board at the Annual Meeting in 2025.

*ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee* – The Law Enforcement Committee met on May 2 and discussed the status of vessel monitoring system (VMS) implementation in the lobster fishery under Addendum 29. The software program and approved hardware vendors for VMS systems were reviewed. ASMFC staff will continue to include LEC input to working group discussions regarding further VMS development and use in the lobster fishery.

The committee also discussed the consistency of management measures across specific Lobster Conservation Management Areas under newly adopted changes in Addendum 27. The LEC recognizes the uniqueness of certain LCMAs but continues to support consistent management measures within each of the LCMAs.

Continued on page 8

# MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

#### MLA update continued from page 7

#### MAINE LEGISLATURE

The Maine 131st Legislature is considering legislation which would affect the Maine lobster fishery.

#### Passed

LD 574 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Working Waterfront Covenants, sponsored by Rep. Rielly of Westbrook. This will allow certain nonprofit organizations whose purposes or powers include retaining or protecting coastal community values, culture or heritage, coastal habitat or real property that provides coastal water access to hold working waterfront covenants.

LD 1444 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Eligibility Restrictions for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses, sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor. This amended language relaxes eligibility requirements for obtaining a commercial menhaden license by adding 2022 as a qualifying year. A license holder is now eligible if they held a commercial menhaden license in 2 of the following 4 years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 but specifies that if a license holder already holds a commercial license, they cannot use 2022 to qualify for a second license. To be eligible, proof of landing 25,000 lbs in any year 2019-2022 must have been submitted to the DMR no later than January 1, 2023. DMR estimates that the amendment to the licensing criteria will add 28 new commercial licenses to the fishery.

LD 1552 An Act to Create the Lobster Innovation Fund, sponsored by Sen. Vitelli of Sagadahoc. Establishes the Lobster Innovation Fund to provide stipends to Maine commercial lobstermen who participate in the testing of new lobster f shing technologies through a one-time appropriation in each year of the biennium to the fund (2023/2024 and 2024/2025). The Fund may also accept donations. This is supported by the Marine Resources Committee but passage pending review of the Appropriations Committee.

LD 16 An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine's Marine Resources Laws (DMR Bill), sponsored by Rep. Hepler of Woolwich. Amends several definitions, clarifies apprentice requirements for tribes, clarifies halibut licensing requirements, and updates the administrative suspension process for certain circumstances.

#### Carried Over to Next Session

LD 710 An Act to Fund the Lobster Legal Defense Fund, sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor. The amended bill proposes to reimburse lobster fishing associations and labor unions for legal costs involving the federal whale regulations redirecting 20% of Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative funds to the LDF until 2030.

#### Tabled

LD 370 An Act to Protect Marine Resources in Maine, sponsored by Sen. Reny of Lincoln. This is a concept draft that proposes to protect marine resources in the State.

#### Not Voted

LD 1895 An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence of York. Seeks to procure 1,000 MW by 2030 (55 turbines at 18 MW); and 2,800 MW by 2035 (155 turbines at 18 MW) of offshore wind. The amended bill includes language to incentivize siting any offshore wind outside LMA 1 by offering developers tax benefits.

LD 1884 An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development, sponsored by Rep. Strout of Harrington. Seeks to prohibit the licensing, or permitting the siting, construction or operation of, or issuing a lease or granting an easement for an offshore wind power project in state-owned submerged lands, territorial waters or federal waters. It also removes the exemption for the Monhegan project from the state waters exemption.

#### Not scheduled for Public Hearing

LD 1618 An Act to Create the Lobster Industry Working Group, sponsored by Rep. Golek of Harpswell. This bill proposes to require DMR to convene a working group to develop a longterm plan to support the lobster industry.

#### Dead

LD 811 An Act to Create a Restricted Senior Lobster and Crab Fishing License, sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft. This bill proposed a restricted senior lobster and crab fishing license, limited to 100 lobster traps, to be exempt from current entry requirements.

LD 563 An Act to Assert State Sovereignty over Ocean Waters up to 12 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast, sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin. This bill proposed the State of Maine claim jurisdiction and control all waters out to 12 nautical miles. It was determined that the state does not have this authority.

LD 742 An Act to Divest State Pensions from Companies Boycotting Maine Lobster, sponsored by Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin. This bill proposed to require the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to divest portfolios of company publicly refuses to purchase Maine lobster.

#### *Not Yet Printed (as of 05/22/2023)*

LR 1544 An Act to Allow Lobster Fishing in Federal Waters Under the Federal Endangered Species Act, sponsored by Rep. Adams of Lebanon.

LR 1793 An Act to Assist Lobster Fishing Apprentices to Obtain a License Within 5 Years, sponsored by Rep. Collamore of Waldoboro.

LR 1481 An Act to Require Federal Offshore Wind Development to Benefit Maine Communities, sponsored by Rep. Gere of Kennebunkport.

LR 1407 An Act to Require Legislative Approval of the Location and Construction of an Offshore Wind Port in Searsport, sponsored by Rep. Williams of Bar Harbor.

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

Accutech Marine	Interstate Lobster Co.	Oliver Investments, LLC
Propellor	Island Fishing Gear &	Pack Edge
Agri-Access	Auto Parts	Port Clyde Fishermen's
Atlantic Edge Lobster	Island Fishermen's Wives	Cooperative
Beals-Jonesport Coop Inc.	John's Bay Boat Co.	Port Lobster Co.
Beals Lobster Pier	Lobster Trap Co.	RE Thomas Marine
Bowdoin College	Lonnie's Hydraulic Inc.	Hardware
Dining Services	M & B Fish Co.	RG Tax Accounting and
CEI	Machias Savings Bank	Resolution
Chapman & Chapman	Maine Center for Coastal	Riverdale Mills
Chase Leavitt	Fisheries	Rope Razor
Coastal Documentation II	Maine Financial Group	Seacoast Lobster Bands
Coastal Equipment Corp.	Maine Lobstermen's	Seacoast Tours of
CSL Plasma	Community Alliance	Freeport
Downeast Davboat	Maine Ocean Lobster	Shearwater Marine

LD 258 Includes Department of Marine Resources Biennial Budget. Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Seeks a net increase of \$5,170,676 in General Fund to DMR including \$3.6 million to replace the agency's 70 year old Cessna plane with a Kodak 100; \$200k for ongoing maintenance of the Boothbay lab; an increase of \$100k to maintain DMR's boat fleet; and \$125k to cover increased Marine Patrol fuel costs.

LD 191 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Certain Business Equipment Tax Benefits, sponsored by Sen. Stewart of Aroostook. Proposes to exclude businesses that restrict or prevent the sale or distribution of any product that is legally produced, harvested or grown in the State based on 3rd-party certifications, bans, or boycotts from eligibility for the business equipment tax exemption and the business equipment tax reimbursement.

Downeast Dayboat Maine Sea Grant Farrin's Boatshop Marine Hydraulic Finestkind Scenic Cruises Engineering Co. Inc. First National Bank McMillan Offshore F. W. Thurston Co. Inc. Survival Training Georgetown Fishermen's Midcoast Marine Supply Cooperative Midcoast Solar LLC Gulf of Maine Lobster Milton Cat Foundation Nautilus Marine Guy Cotten, Inc. Fabrication The Hanover Insurance New England Marine & Group Industrial Inc. Harbor Bait New England Propeller Infab Refractories Inc. Northeast Marine Survey Inland Seafood

Surveying South Bristol Fishermen's Cooperative Superior Marine Products **Tenants Harbor** Fishermen's Cooperative The Clam Shack Varney Insurance Inc. Vinalhaven Fishermen's Cooperative William Coffin & Sons

Winter Harbor Fishermen's Cooperative Woods Hole Group

Novatec Braids LTD

# SUMMER OF LOBSTER LOVE: SAVE MAINE LOBSTERMEN UPDATE

#### By Kevin Kelley, MLA director of advancement

Nearly 3,000 people turned out on May 6 to enjoy the first Auburn Lobster Festival.

Auburn Mayor Jason Levesque told the Lewiston Sun Journal that, quirky as it may seem to hold a lobster festival in the inland city, it made sense because the lobster fishery supports the state's entire economy and "lobster dollars" are spread far beyond coastal communities.

The event, which featured a lobster bake prepared by the Auburn Exchange Club, several food trucks, local craft breweries, and several musical performances, filled Festival Plaza on what turned out to be a beautiful spring day.



An array of decorated buoys, to benefit the SaveMaineLobstermen campaign. MLA photo.

The City of Auburn, which invited the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) to participate, also organized a special buoy painting contest, which raised \$1,600 to be split between the MLA and one lucky winner drawn randomly from all the buoy entrants. In addition, several other participants donated funds to the MLA's Save Maine Lobstermen campaign, including Geary Brewing Co. whose servers donated all their tips — nearly \$500! One employee, Cathy Proctor, went so far as to

donate part of her own paycheck to the cause! These acts of kindness are incredible.

Next year's event will be even bigger and better, according to organizers, and the MLA looks forward to watching it grow into an annual tradition.

On Sunday, May 7, the ballroom of the Elks Lodge in Portland was

filled with music and laughter as the first "Band Together: A Celebration of Maine's Lobstering Heritage" rocked the house to showsupport of #SaveMaineLobstermen. Music was provided by Mike Maurice, John Hughes Radio, one hundred thorns, Paddy Mills, and Holy Smoke. Comedians Connor McGrath and Adam Groppman kept the crowd laughing while Emily Dillon did a masterful job as master of ceremonies. Special appreciation to Cape Ann Lobstermen, a dealer in Gloucester, MA, who made a last-minute donation of lobster for the lobster rolls!

It's inspiring to see support growing for our efforts. We were invited to set up a Save Maine Lobstermen information table at the 10th annual Claw Down Lobster Bite Competition on Thursday, June 15th. Claw Down, sponsored by the Boothbay Harbor Region Chamber of Commerce, will feature local chefs competing



Auburn mayor Jason Levesque and MLA COO Amber-Jean Nickel. MLA photo.

for the best lobster bite. Tickets are available through the Chamber's website at www.boothbayharbor.com.

Tickets are also on sale (while supplies last!) for the Save Maine Lobstermen fundraiser at the South Bristol Fisherman's Co-Op on Saturday, June 17th. Tickets are \$50 each for the lobster bake, a raffle and silent auction, which will feature dozens of items donated by local businesses. The folks at the Co-op say tickets are going fast so call Laura at 650-0960 to reserve yours.

Finally, details are still coming together for what promises to be the event of the summer! "Music, Masts, and Lobster Traps" will be held on Sunday, August 27th at Maine Maritime Museum in Bath. We expect more than 1,000 people to turn out for a daylong celebration of Maine's lobstering heritage. Demonstrations, displays, and of course lobster will be available during the day with paid admission to the Museum (MLA members with proof of membership get in free!). At 4 p.m., the Mallett Brothers Band will take the stage under a special tent to entertain the evening crowd. Tickets to the concert are being sold separately and are now available online at *https://mlcalliance.org/events/music-masts-lobster-traps*.

# SaveMaineLobstermen Partner Profile: Moody's Gifts

#### By MLA staff

At the corner of Route 1 and Main Street in Waldoboro, a little gift shop sits in the shadow of its much older and much more famous big sister, Moody's Diner. Along with the Diner's trademark gear and Maine-made handcrafts and treats, you can also find sweatshirts, T-shirts and hats that benefit the Maine lobster industry.

Mary Olson founded Moody's Gifts in 1999. And though Mary and her family sold the business last year to another family member, the gift shop's tradition of supporting Maine lobstermen lives on through a special logo design.

The Olson family is close to Friendship lobsterman and MLA Board member, Dustin Delano. Mary learned early in 2020 about the industry's struggles in the face of stringent right whale protection measures. She was determined to help. It was Mary and her daughter Jasmine who first came up with the idea of the traditional Save Maine Lobstermen sweatshirt design which the Maine Lobstermen's Association quickly adopted as its cam-





or call Laura at 207-650-0960

paign logo.

Working with Monte Gross at A.M. Associates in Waltham, Massachusetts, Mary and Jasmine helped develop the logo and produced first T-shirts, sweatshirts, and later hats. Mary then found vendors who would agree to donate a portion of all sales to the MLA Save Maine Lobstermen legal defense fund.

Delano Seafood in Waldoboro was one of the first to carry the sweatshirts in its store; Hamilton Marine and Midcoast Marine Supply soon stepped up to carry Save Maine Lobstermen products in all their stores. Save Maine Lobstermen items can now be found from Kittery to Jonesport and A.M. Associates ensures the Legal Defense Fund profits from every sale. And it's all thanks to Mary Olson.

If you own a business and would be interested in selling Save Maine Lobstermen gear, contact Kevin Kelley at kevin@mainelobstermen.org.

Meantime, the next time you get hungry, get MOODY, then stop in at Moody's Gifts and thank them for supporting Maine lobstermen!



### Lobster bake, raffles, silent auction and live entertainment! Lobster bake at 2:00 - raffle/auction at 5:30 Proceeds to benefit the MLA's Legal Defense Fund.

# www.mainelobstermen.org



# Thank you to our 2023 Donors.

The crisis is far from over. Help us keep fighting for you and your family!

### Thank you to those whose donations to #SaveMaineLobstermen Campaign total \$100.000 or more

John and Brendan Ready Machias Savings Bank Bar Harbor Bank & Trust First National Bank **Donald Sussman** 

#### Gifts \$ 10,000-\$14,999 Town Of Cutler Town of Friendship

Gifts \$ 5,000-\$9,999 Hamilton Marine Maine Aquaculture Association

## Gifts \$2,500 - \$4,999

Delano Seafood Friend & Friend Town of Sorrento

Town of Stonington

#### Gifts \$1,000 - \$2,499

Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce Eric Beal David Black Brown's Boat Yard Tricia Ann Carver Larry Coombs Ben Doliber Go Fish! Brian Eaton Michael Flanigan Travis Gamage: The Penalty Box Kevin Glover Peter Goldstein Chip Johnson Stuart Levenbach Moody's Shellfish Jonathan Murphy Brent Olsen Alfred Osgood Douglas M Ricci Todd Savage: The Penalty Box David A Thomas Town Of Kittery Town of Mount Desert

#### \$1,000 - \$2,499 cont'd

Town of Vinalhaven Lee Watkinson Chris Welch Wendy Webster Good Fine Art Whitney's Tri-Town Marine Eben Wilson

## Gifts \$500 - \$999

Travis Alley Josh Beal Blue Water Concepts Chandler River Fuel Service City Of Auburn Deer Isle Sunset Cong Church Robert Docill **KA ORA Bracelets** Kyle Koerber Martin Leeman John McCarthy Katherine Miller Port Lobster Company Sean Kelley Chris Kelsey Tim Morong Martha Silver Paul Smith Weathervane Seafoods Wind Horse Arts Chilloa Young

#### Gifts \$300 - \$499

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Gifts \$100 - \$299

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

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#### Gifts Under \$100

Petrea Allen Fred Backman Dana Betts Sr. John Bowden & Calare Catarius Col. Charles Brule (ret) Dobbin Callahan Patricia Callahan Scott Callahan Sheila Callahan Craig & Merrill Chapin Lois Davis Kim Drain Gerry Fogerty Kathye Gorham

#### **Gifts in Memoriam**

Ed & Mary Blackmore Curt & Sally Haskell

Edward Chickering Sr. **Debbie Kelley** 

Greg Gamage & Arnie Gamage Travis Gamage

Peter Goldstein Nicole & Larry Heath

Willie Havener Petrea Allen

Gene Kelley The Kelley Family

Connor Lazaro Jason G Hamilton

#### Gifts Under \$100 cont'd

Michael Gray Alice Jaskolka **Debbie Kelley** James Klick Jeffrey Knuckles Namaste Clean Soaps Harry Nelson Willem Nieuwkerk Russell Pancoast Lucy & Jerome Pieh Port Clyde Kayaks Phebe Quattrucci Rigid Fishing Bonnie Rogers Jan Salas Shenanigan's by Sam Marshall Shepard Joshua Scherz Carl Steiniger Roger Stephenson Paula Stover Susan Tananbaum & Joe Frazer Marguita Temple The Community Gourmet William Thurlow Mary Wells **Richard & Aileen Wenzel Travis Widdecomb** 

#### **Donations listed were** received by 5/19/23.

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Gus Radley Jason G Hamilton

Evelynne Small Kathye Small

Susan Young E Richard Young

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Tim Dyer Larry Coombs

The Joy Family Bruce Erwin Johnson

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Anonymous

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Michael Rowan

207-967-4555

# MAINE LOBSTER THE SWEETEST ON EARTH

## **MARKETING UPDATES**

The MLMC is showcasing the people that make up the lobster industry with compelling images and stories that will be shared across social media platforms through a paid digital advertising campaign. These profiles will help put faces to the fishery while communicating key messages to our target audience. Many thanks to those who took time out of their schedules to help us with this promotion, including Stephen Brooks of Brooks Trap Mill, Denny Fiaalii of Luke's Lobster, Katie Werner of Island Lobster Co., and lobstermen Sadie Samuels, Krista Tripp, Thom Werner, and their families.



www.lobsterfrommaine.com

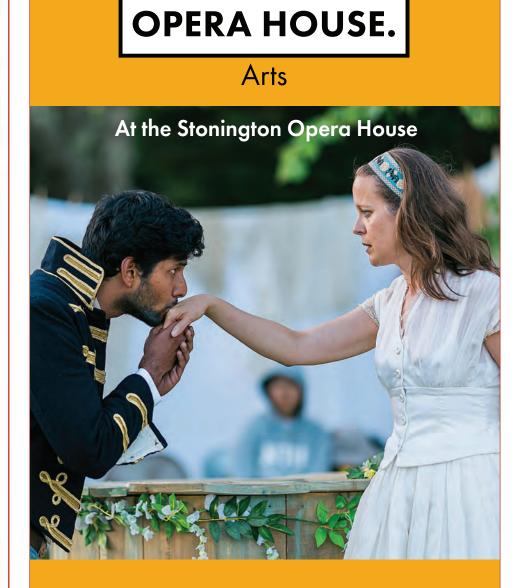
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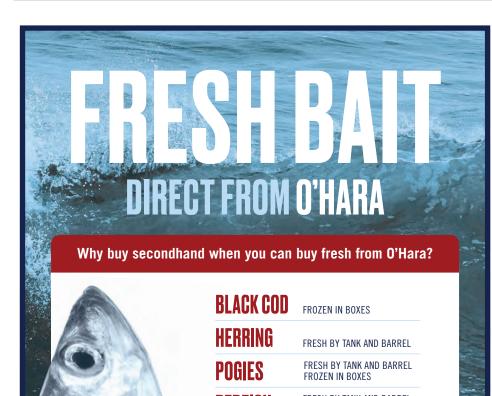


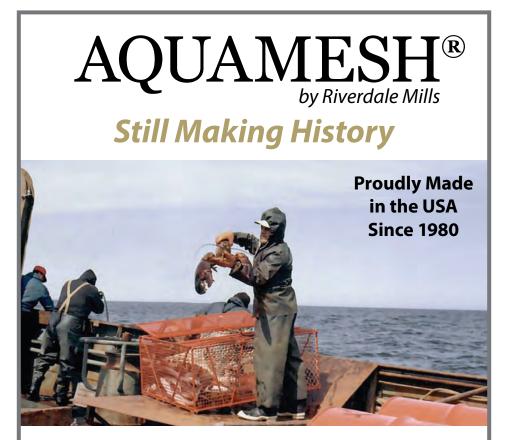
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# DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES NEWS

## Lobster Advisory Council meeting

#### By Jeff Putnam, LAC chair

The Lobster Advisory Council (LAC) met on April 27. I assume that none of us reading this really thought that the 6-year pause on new restrictions pertaining to right whales meant that we could sit back and enjoy some quiet time.

DMR Commissioner Keliher explained in detail why he intended to make a motion at the upcoming ASMFC meeting for a gauge increase that would take effect once a trigger level was hit. The discussion was focused on the nuances of market impact, the difference in Canadian retention practices and how areas outside of LMA1 would be affected.

The conversation is an example of the importance of the LAC. The broad spectrum of lobstermen at the table, some of whom fish next to Canadians and some of whom fish next to the Massachusetts fleet, is beneficial to the policy makers. We each brought a unique perspective and were able to look at the gauge increase impacts and explain how these proposals affect different areas.

We are in a time when a new term or phrase is presented at almost every meeting. The latest is "passive acoustic monitoring (PAM)." Did you know that DMR and the University of Maine have around 20 acoustic sensors in LMA's 1 and 3 to record the sounds whales make in the water? The term "passive" means that the monitor detects and records noise and the time and makes the data available when it is retrieved.

These PAMs will be used, along with harvester reporting, federally permitted vessel tracking devices, and DMR's new analysts to build the case that we all know is true: Maine lobstermen do not present real risk to North Atlantic right whales. Federal funding that our Congressional delegation and DMR secured will be put to use immediately to counter the false assertions that have been presented in previous right whale risk models created by the National Marine **Fisheries Service.** 

The DMR relies on LAC members to provide input, but we also have to go back to our zones and harbors and relay the reasons why new regulations (such as 100% reporting) are important in the long run. Believe it or not, the DMR is not just compiling boatloads of information for the fun of it!

The LAC also received an update on offshore wind. We all have followed the process that the Governor's Energy Office has taken on the proposed offshore wind research array. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) held a two-day task force meeting in Bangor on May 10 and 11 to update the public on that research array lease and also to lay the groundwork for commercial offshore wind leasing in the Gulf of Maine. The LAC has voiced its opposition to offshore wind in the past. No changes to that sentiment were presented at this meeting.

The LAC appreciates that Marine Patrol always attends the meeting to learn how any new regulations will affect lobstermen. They also update us on staffing changes, plans for patrol boat upgrades, and enforcement compliance rates.

We also understand that DMR spends considerable time in the Legislature's Marine Resources Committee. While we are fishing or doing onshore gear work, DMR staff are attending hearings and work sessions on bills that affect our fisheries. The LAC was updated on a broad range of proposed bills, from state territorial waters changes to menhaden license qualification changes.

Since the LAC and lobster zone councils all met this spring, we'll probably take a break for the summer. Please be thinking about what the industry can do proactively to prepare for the inevitable changes that we will face in the years to come. What can we do now to leave our younger fishermen an industry that they are willing to devote their heart and soul to in the way that we have? Those are the topics that I want to have on the agenda for the next round of meetings.

## Lobster Zone Council meetings

#### By DMR staff

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) held seven Lobster Zone Council meetings in the month of April, during which DMR staff covered a lot of ground, but the primary focus of conversation was Addendum XXVII to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Interstate Management Plan for American Lobster.

Some of you have seen Commissioner Keliher's notices explaining the addendum, both of which are available on the DMR website. Because of the impact on industry, this information bears repeating, so here is a summary of information for LMA1 harvesters.

The Addendum is intended to protect the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank (GOM/ GBK) spawning stock biomass. It establishes a trigger that implements management measures if the abundance of sub-legal (71-80mm) lobsters declines by a specific percentage.

The data on sub-legal lobster abundance, known as the recruit abundance, comes from the ventless trap survey and the trawl survey. The management measures include gauge and escape vent size changes. ASMFC's Lobster Management Board was considering a range of triggers from a 32% decline in the recruit abundance to a 45% decline.

At each zone council meeting Commissioner Keliher discussed the draft addendum and sought feedback from industry before participating as a member of the Lobster Management Board during its meeting in May. Harvesters shared strong concerns about the change, but also acknowledged the need to take action that prevents a collapse of the stock.

Many industry members at the meetings pushed for the management changes to only be triggered when the decline reached 45%. But when it was explained that that approach would result in a 60-million-pound fishery before a trigger was pulled, industry advice to the Commissioner focused on a trigger in the mid-thirties. Commissioner Keliher proposed a 38% trigger during Board deliberations, however, the Board voted for a 35% trigger.

The ASMFC Lobster Management Board will review the data each October, and if a 35% decline is observed, the change would not take place until June of the following year. We are currently at a 23% decline in the recruit abundance, and at this point we can't predict when the 35% decline will be reached. Also, if the trigger is tripped, the changes won't happen all at once, but will be implemented over several years.

## Changes to LMA 1

#### 1st Gauge Increase

The first 1/16th of an inch gauge increase will take effect June 1 of the year after a determination by the Board that a 35% decline in recruit abundance has occurred.

#### 2nd Gauge Increase

On June 1, three years after the Board's determination, the second 1/16th of an inch gauge increase for LMA1 harvesters will take effect.

#### **Escape Vent Increase**

On June 1, four years after the Board's determination, lobster trap escape vent size increases will take effect.



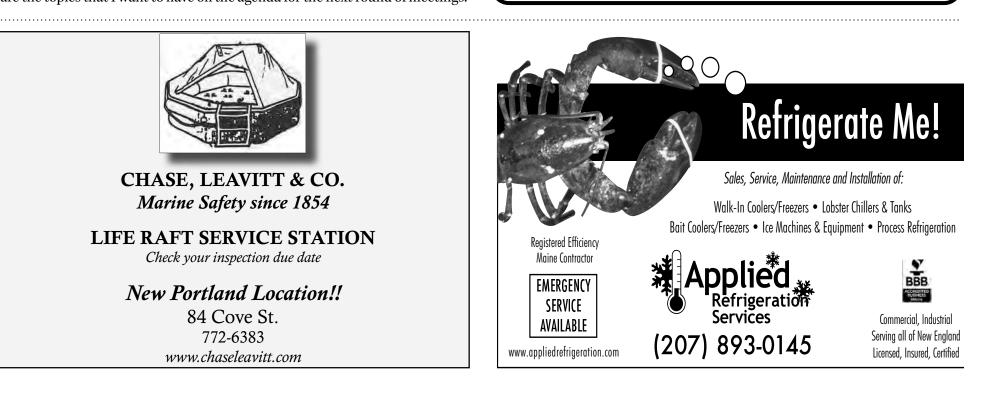
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Young lobstermen continued from page 1

I got older, I got a bigger skiff with a hauler and fished with my cousins and my dad," he said.

The lure of lobstering for Doughty was two-fold. "My dad got me going. I wanted to make him proud. And the money is definitely good," he said with a laugh.

Over the years he found a way to balance school and lobstering. Doughty would haul in the summer months and then on weekends.

Once he entered high school he hauled on weekends and occasionally during the school week. "I skip some days," he said. He typically sets 150 traps but this year will have 300 ready by June 6, his birthday.

Doughty is aware of the issues facing the fishery, from right whale regulations to offshore wind developments, plus the environmental changes in the



Jace, as a boy, fishing with his father Travis. J. Doughty photo.

Gulf of Maine due to warmer water. They are clouds building on his future horizon.

"I hope it will all hold off until I really get going. I want to be able to save money and buy my own house when I'm 21," he said.

He has a back-up plan in case the fishery changes dramatically in the next five years. "It's always good to plan ahead. I'm interested in joining the Marines or training to be a plumber," Doughty said. "But I really want to fish until I can't because of regulations. My great-grandfather was a lobsterman, my father is and now me."

His cousin Noah Ross, 19, is a lobster-man through and through. His thoughts are on the upcoming season, what the price is now, what the price might be

in July. He remembers when he started fishing back when he was 13, sterning for his uncle Travis. "I was baiting irons, all that. The biggest thing, even then, was being my own boss," he recalled.

After graduating from Oceanside East High School, Ross set his mind to lobstering. "I never really thought about doing anything else, to be honest. But I don't know where it's going. If lobstering goes bad, I'd be kind of stuck," he said. "Maybe scalloping or working at my grandparents' fencing business."

He and Jace have fished together for years, currently from their shared boat. But that will change this year. "He is going to go alone. We'll get a schedule to



Noah Ross when he's on shore. N. Ross photo.

make it work. I haul through twice a week so it might be two days at the beginning and end of the week for me, the rest for him," Ross said. He lobsters inside; his cousin is thinking about someday getting a federal license to fish outside state waters.

Looming right whale protection regulations, now delayed until 2029, concern Ross but he realizes that he is in a better position than many other lobstermen.

"I don't have a lot of debt. A lot of the highliners, they have a lot to worry about — big boats, houses, nice trucks. If we lost the lobster fishery, they would be in trouble real quick," Ross said. "My worry is that we will end up with a quota for lobster, like so many other fisheries."





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# TO YOUR HEALTH: Tick bites pack a powerful punch

#### By Melissa Waterman

*Powassan. Babesiosis. Anaplasmosis.* The names sound like some horrible alien species planning to attack Earth. In fact, each is a horrible illness that attacks human beings through the bite of the deer tick.

Guess what? Maine is brimming with deer ticks and thus many Mainers are falling prey to painful illness with long-lasting effects. In 2022, Maine Center for Disease Control reported 2,636 Lyme disease cases — a new annual record — 824 anaplasmosis cases, 192 babesiosis cases, plus 26 additional tick-based illnesses.

There are three tick species that are permanent inhabitants in the state: Blacklegged tick or Deer tick, American Dog tick, and the Woodchuck according to the tick, Cooperative Extension Tick Lab at the University of Maine. Twelve other species of ticks can be found in the state but are not considered permanent.

Deer ticks carry *Lyme disease*. Lyme disease is currently the most reported vector-borne (transmitted by an anthropod) illness in the United States. Infected people suffer headaches, fever, chills, joint and muscle pain, fatigue. Less than 50% of those infected develop a characteristic rash which looks like a bullseye.



Female adult tick and nymph. UMaine Tick Lab photo.

The common treatment for Lyme disease is oral antibiotics such as doxycycline; if left untreated, Lyme disease may lead to severe arthritis, facial palsies, meningitis, and carditis.

*Anaplasmosis* is another nasty sickness caused by bacteria carried by the deer tick. The number of reported cases in the country has been increasing over the past twenty years particularly in Maine, where cases nearly doubled each year from 2012 through 2017. Symptoms of anaplasmosis may include fever and chills, severe headache, body aches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. The illness is also treated with doxycycline or other oral antibiotics.

*Babesiosis* also comes from deer ticks but is caused by a parasite, not bacteria, that infects red blood cells, potentially causing anemia. Symptoms of babesiosis are similar to anaplasmosis but may also include dark urine or jaundice, both indications of anemia. The number of cases in Maine is low, relative to Lyme disease, but has increased slowly, reaching a high of 192 reported cases last year.

*Powassan encephalitis* is a potentially fatal neuroinvasive disease caused by a virus. Typically carried by the woodchuck and squirrel ticks, it has recently been found in deer ticks. The period between the tick bite and onset of symptoms may be from one week to one month. Those symptoms may include fever, headache, vomiting, weakness, confusion, loss of coordination, slurred speech, seizures. People with severe cases of Powassan often need to be hospitalized to receive support for breathing or reducing swelling in the brain. Currently there

are no treatments for the illness. While rare in Maine, it does occur. A person in Sagadahoc County died of Powassan in late May; a Waldo county resident died in 2022 as did a Cumberland county resident in 2019.

No one in their right mind wants to get any of these diseases. Yet many of us want to go hiking, hunting or just hang out in the backyard with the dog. To do so safely during tick season, which now occurs from May until November in Maine, you must take preventive steps. Remember, deer ticks like cool, high humidity habitat so they will be found in shaded, moist places covered with leaf litter and debris. They also require animal hosts (such as white-tailed deer or white-footed mice) on which to feed. Ticks tend to be most abundant in the woods, along trails, and in the grassy, brushy areas adjacent to the woods.

#### **Check for tick hosts**

- Although the deer tick may feed on a wide variety of hosts, two of its favored hosts are the white-tailed deer and the white-footed mouse.
- Take note that if these two animals are prevalent on your property, ticks may be abundant as well.

#### **Dress appropriately**

- Wear light-colored clothing to make ticks easier to detect.
- Wear long pants tucked into socks or boots and tuck your shirt into your pants to keep ticks on the outside of your clothes.
- Do not wear open-toed shoes or sandals when in potential tick habitat.
- Use tick repellents
- Use products that contain permethrin to treat clothing and gear. Do not apply permethrin directly to your skin.
- The use of repellents that contain 20-30% DEET on exposed skin and clothing can effectively repel ticks for several hours.
- Other tick repellents recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) include picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535.

#### How to remove a tick

- Use tweezers or a tick removal spoon.
- Do not use petroleum jelly, a hot match, nail polish, or other folk remedies to remove ticks. Those methods are not effective and may increase the risk of disease transmission.



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## DMR AQUACULTURE LEASE APPLICATION STATUS FOR JUNE as of 05/19/23

Experimental Lease: term up to 3 years, 4 acres, non-renewable; Standard Lease: term up to 20 years, up to 100 acres, renewable.

Experimental Lease Applications						
Davidson, Colby	E of Hog Island, Muscongus Bay	Bremen	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App1 rec'd 9/27/22; comments due 10/29/22
Davidson, Colby	E of Hog Island, Muscongus Bay	Bremen	3.89 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App2 rec'd 9/27/22; comments due 10/29/22
Unicorn Oyster	E of Perkins Point, Damariscotta Rvr	Bristol	3.9 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App recd 11/17/22; comments due 10/29/22
Green, Christopher	The Reach	Brunswick	2.71 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App recd 11/18/22; comments due 12/17/22
Chebeague Island Oyster Co.	SW corner Chandlers Cove, Casco Bay	Chebeague Isl	2.4 acres	Shellfish	3rs	App recd 3/21/23; comments due 4/22/23
Nappi, Brent	East of Sturdivant Isl, Casco Bay	Cumberland	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App recd 4/11/22; comments due 5/14/22
Black Stone Point Oysters LLC	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Damariscotta	3.45 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App recd 5/9/23; comments due 6/10/23
Glidden Point Oyster Co.	SW of Dodge Pt, Damariscotta River	Edgecomb	3.97 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App recd 12/1/22; comments due 0/10/20 App rec'd 12/1/22; comments due 12/31/22
Martin, Thomas	E of Brothers Islands, Casco Bay	Falmouth	0.15 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App recd 2/7/22; comments due 12/01/22
Nappi, Brent	S of Clapboard Isl, Casco Bay	Falmouth	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App rec'd 4/11/22; comments due 5/14/22
DiMauro, Levi	W of Little French Isl, Casco Bay	Freeport	3.92 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App rec'd 1/10/23; comments due 2/11/23
Ryan, Stuart	SW side of Williams Isl, Casco Bay	Freeport	2.4 acres	Shellfish/algae	3 yrs	App rec'd 2/7/22; comments due 3/12/22
Cutts, Joe	E end of Friendship Long Isl, Meducook Rvr	Friendship	2.2 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd 12/13/22; comments due 1/14/23
Green, Christopher	Near White Island, Middle Bay	Harpswell	4 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	Lease Granted 3/21/23
Whiskey Stones LLC	E of Dogs Head, Harpswell Sound	Harpswell	0.481 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	Lease Granted 4/11/23
Wilson, David	Wilson Cove, Middle Bay	Harpswell	4 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd 5/2/22; comments due 6/5/22
Wilson, David	SE of Doughty Pt, Long Reach	Harpswell	4 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd 4/12/22; comments due 5/15/22
Grindle, Kimberly	Turtle Head Dove, Penobscot Bay	Isleboro	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App recd 1/12/22; comments due 3/12/22 App recd 1/31/23; comments due 3/4/23
Lindelof, Jett	E of Job Isl, Penobscot Bay	Isleboro	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App recd 3/21/23; comments due 4/22/23
Lake Lindelof	W of Middle Isl, Penobscot Bay	Isleboro	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App recd 3/21/23; comments due 4/22/23
Hutchins II, Edward	NE of Cape Porpoise Harbor	Kennebunkport	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App recd 5/5/22; comments due 6/4/22
Shearwater Ventures LLC	NW of L'il Chebeague Isl, Casco Bay	Long Island	3.86 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App recd 3/21/23; comments due 4/22/23
Smith, Peter	Upper Dodge Cove, Damariscotta River	Newcastle	3.96 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App recd 1/7/22; comments due 2/8/22
Bracy, L & Lombardo, P	N of Coombs Cove, Pemaquid River	Pemaquid	1.6 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App recd 7/19; comments due 8/21/21
Restorative Aquaculture LLC	WSW of Mackworth Isl, Casco Bay	Portland	3.38 acres	Shellfish/algae	3 yrs	App recd 2/18/22; comments due 3/26/22
FV 11th Hour, Inc.	SW of Sears Isl, Penobscot Bay	Searsport	3.94 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App rec'd 3/21/23; comments due 4/22/23
Nichols Fisheries	S of Sears Isl, Penobscot Bay	Searsport	3.94 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App recd 1/17/23; comments due 2/18/23
Norumbega Oyster Inc.	Eastern Shore S/Merry Isl, Damariscotta Rvr	So. Bristol	2.78 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App recd 2/28/23; comments due 2/12/23
Glidden Point Oyster Co.	W of Prentiss Isl, Damariscotta River	South Bristol	3.99 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App re-rec'd 2/28/23; comments due 4/1/23
Schroeder, Jeffrey	Turkey Cove, St. George River	St. George	.9 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd 2/23/23; comments due 3/25/23
Pinkham, Randy	E of Chair Pond Head, Pegeon Hill Bay	Steuben	3.99 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	Apps 1&2 rec'd 3/28/23; comments due 4/29/23
Sokoloski, Victor	E of Chair Pond Head, Pegeon Hill Bay	Steuben	3.99 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	Apps 1&2 recd 3/28/23; comments due 4/29/23
Johnson, Ezra et al.	NE part of Burt Coat Harbor	Swans Island	1.6 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	Public Hearing 6/6/23 Swan's Isl Town Office
Bennett, T & Simmons, A	N of Haystack Island, Medomak River	Waldoboro	2.52 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd 3/3/22; comments due 4/2/22
Dodge Cove Marine Farm	N/Glidden Ldg, W/Fitch Cv, Damariscotta Rvr	Walpole	1.9 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd 3/21/23; comments due 4/22/23
Gerber, Caitlin	SE of Moshier Island, Casco Bay	Yarmouth	4 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App rec'd 8/25/22; comments due 9/24/22
Dirigo Marine Resources	NE of Moshier Island, Casco Bay	Yarmouth/Freeport	3.9 acres	Marine Algae	3 yrs	App rec'd 8/4/22; comments due 9/3/2022
So ME Sustainable Shellfish	W of Sewall's Bridge, York Rvr	York	0.97 acres	Shellfish	3 yrs	App rec'd 3/21/22; comments due 4/23/22
	-	dard Lease 1				11
Pemaquid Mussel Farms LLC	Mt Desert narrows, E of Googins Ledge	Bar Harbor	32 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Pub.Hearing 5/2/23 4pm Mt. Desert Isl HS Lib.
Acadia Aqua Farms LLC	Between Parker&Hancock Pts, Frenchman Bay	Bay Harbor	68.3 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Withdrawn April 2023
Acadia Aqua Farms LLC	SW of Googins Ledge, Frenchman Bay	Bay Harbor	48 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Hearing completed 3/28/22
The Flying Place LLC	W/Beals-Great Wass Cswy, Flying Place Pound	Beals	5.57 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 3/21/23; site review TBD
Yentsch, Carlton	W of Samoset Rd, Bottle Cove	Boothbay Hrbr	1.12 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 10/27/22; site review TBD
Ferda Farms LLC	E of Lower Coombs Isl, New Meadows Rvr	Brunswick	2.33 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 2/28/22; site review TBD
Johnson, Timothy	SE of Barnes Pt, Middle Bay	Brunswick	17 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Public Hearing 2/7/23 4pm SMCC Brunswick
Great Ledge Cove Seafood	NE L'il Chebeague Isl, Wstrn Chandlers Cv	Chebeague Isl	6.85 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 11/24/21, site review TBD
Hunt, Stewart	N/NE of Seal Ledge, Casco Bay	Chebeague Isl	13.75 acres	Shelfish/algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 6/8/21; site review TBD
Mook Sea Farms Inc.	Days Cove, Damariscotta Rvr	Damariscotta	4 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 11/8/22; site visit TBD
Barrows, Abigail	South of Big Hay Isl, Pickering Cove	Deer Isle	4.24 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 7/26/22; species change comm. due 4/8/23
Deep Blue Aquaculture LLC	W of Hog Island, Eastern Penobscot Bay	Deer Isle	41.2 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 4/4/23; site review TBD
Coffin, Bailey	W of Sow & Pigs Isl, Casco Bay	Freeport	6.84 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Pub.Hearing 5/23/23 1pm Freeport Town Hall
Sparta, Kenneth Curtis	W of Crab Isl, Casco Bay	Freeport	8.25 acres	Shellfish/algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 3/25/22; site review TBD
Gaffney, Michael & Mark	N of L'il Phoebe Isl, Robinshood Cove	Georgetown	7 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 11/24/21; site review TBD
Goose Island Oysters LLC	W of Upper Goose Isl, Middle Bay	Harpswell	10.4 acres	Shellfish/algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 1/31/23; site review TBD
		Harpswell	3.20 acres	Shellfish/algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 2/11/22; site review TBD
Love Point Oysters LLC	Middle Bay, SW of Upper Goose Isl	-		, j		**
Quahog Bay Conservancy	E of Snow Island, Quahog Bay	Harpswell	1.36 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 5/18/23; site review TBD
		-		, j	20 yrs 20 yrs	App rec'd 5/18/23; site review TBDApp rec'd 10/20/21; site review TBDApp rec'd 8/22/22; site review TBD

...continued next page

For an interactive source of pending lease applications, please see DMR's "Table of Lease Applications Under Review" where you can find maps and documentation. Go to: www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/.

Scoping Session and Hearing info can also be found at www.mainelobstermen.org

Standard Lease Applications (continued)						
Great Ledge Cove Seafood	S L'il Chebeague Isl, NW Channel Rocks, Casco Bay	Long Island	9.03 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 4/9/23, site review TBD
Ocean's Balance	West of Cow Isl Ledge, Casco Bay	Long Island	4 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 12/1/22; site review TBD
Summit Point LLC	N of Cow Isl, Casco Bay	Long Island	6.4 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 3/29/23; site review TBD
Dodge Cove Marine Farm	SE of Dodge Pt, Damariscotta River	Newcastle	12.26 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 7/15/21; site review TBD
George Faux, Inc.	S of Great Salt Bay, Upper Damariscotta Rvr	Newcastle	1.8 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 2/15/22; site review TBD
Maine Oyster Inc.	E & S of Lehman Isl, Upper Sheepscot Rvr	Newcastle	10 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 6/17/21; site review TBD
Norumbega Oyster Inc.	E of Upper Dodge Pt, Damariscotta Rvr	Newcastle	6 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 9/9/22; site review TBD
Maine Island Aquaculture	SW of Hog Isl, Marsh Cove	North Haven	15 acres	Shellfish/algae	20 yrs	Pub.Hearing 4/4/23 North Haven Comm.Bldg
Hermit Island Oyster Co. LLC	Hermit Isl, Small Pt Hbr, New Meadows Rvr	Phippsburg	2.56 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App 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	App 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	Pub.Hearing 3/21/23 4pm S Bristol Town Hall
Dewey's Shellfish LLC	NW of Peters Island, Damariscotta River	South Bristol	0.58 acre	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 8/16/21; site review TBD
Heron Island Oyster Co.	Fitch Cv @ Glidden Ldg, E side Damr Rvr	South Bristol	1 acre	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 10/4/21; site review TBD
Morning Star Fisheries LLC	Sheepscot River, W of Boston Island	Southport	4.5 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 11/24/21; site review TBD
Albatross Fisheries	Deep Cove, W of Port Clyde, St. George River	St. George	4.41 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 3/21/23; site review TBD
Banalo, JW & McCoy, MR	Harrington Cove, Wheeler's Bay	St. George	1.98 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 7/26/22; site review TBD
Francis, Arnold	E of Birch Point, Dyer Bay	Steuben	2.91 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 8/18/22; site review TBD
Francis, Arnold	Smelt Brook, Dyer Bay	Steuben	3.56 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 8/18/22; site review TBD
Brewer, Robert	SW of Andrews Isl, Penobscot Bay	Stonington	3.26 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 10/20/21; site review TBD
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 review TBD
Butterfield, Keith	SE of Little Moshier Isl, Casco Bay	Yarmouth	2.72 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	Site review complete 4/24/23
Henninger, Thomas	Little John Isl, Casco Bay	Yarmouth	6.37 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 4/4/23; site review TBD
Nickerson, Travis	E of Blaney Pt, Casco Bay	Yarmouth	2.80 acres	Shellfish	20 yrs	App rec'd 10/4/21; site review TBD
Summit Point LLC	S of the Nubbin, Casco Bay	Yarmouth	9.3 acres	Marine Algae	20 yrs	App rec'd 3/29/23; site review TBD

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Scoping Session











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The Maine Lobstermen's Association is a 501 (c)(6) organization and contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes as charitable contributions.



#### P.E.I. NORTH SHORE LOBSTER FISHERY CLOSED FOR RIGHT WHALES

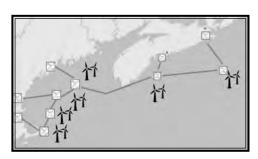
Lobstermen along Prince Edward Island's northern shore had to remove gear from the water just three weeks into a two-month season due to a right whale sighting. The dynamic closure is limited to waters deeper than 10 fathoms and must remain free of lobster gear for 15 days. Government officials will conduct aerial surveys of the area between days nine and 15 of the closure. If a right whale is sighted during that time, the area will remain closed until November 15. The area will reopen if there are no right whales are sighted.

#### NEW FISHERMEN ADVOCACY GROUP FORMED

A new advocacy group for New England fishermen seeks to "fight against needless regulation and offshore wind development threatening the viability of the American fishing fleet," organizers say. The New England Fisherman Stewardship Association (NEFSA) was founded by Jerry Leeman, a longtime New Bedford trawler captain and a resident of Orr's Island, Maine. Leeman, now the group's first executive director, introduced the enterprise on May 2 with an op-ed column in the *Portland Press Herald*. Dustin Delano, former vice president of the Maine Lobstermen's Association, serves as the chief operations officer.

# ENERGY DEVELOPERS EYE GULF OF MAINE FOR FUTURE INTERNATIONAL GRID

A coalition of seven developers of offshore wind, green hydrogen, and transmission solutions has formed to explore the benefits of a US-Canadian transmission corridor. To this end, the New England – Maritimes Offshore Energy Corridor (NEMOEC) coalition, in partnership



with Power Advisory LLC and DNV, has released a white paper titled *A New England – Maritimes Offshore Energy Corridor Builds Regional Resilience for a Clean Energy Future.* The paper discusses the potential benefits of a 2,000 MW shared transmission link between Nova Scotia and New England, connecting offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine and in Nova Scotia with load centers in the two regions via a new HVDC transmission intertie.

#### MONKFISH STEW WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The Maine Coast Fishermen's Association's (MCFA) Monkfish Stew was recognized with a 2023 Good Food Award in April. The national award comes from the Good Food Foundation, which aims to celebrate, connect and empower makers of authentic food. The products also meet environmental and social responsibility standards. MCFA, based in Brunswick, works to identify and foster ways to rebuild the fisheries of the Gulf of Maine and sustain Maine's fishing communities. MCFA worked with Hurricane's Premium Soups and Chowders of Greene to create Maine Coast Monkfish Stew as a way to introduce consumers to monkfish and to create revenue for its Fishermen Feeding Mainers (FFM) fish donation program.

#### MASSACHUSETTS PURSUES MORE OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY

In early May, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey's administration and the state Department of Energy Resources released a draft proposal asking offshore wind developers for their plans to produce another 3,600 megawatts of offshore wind power. If approved, it would be the biggest-ever solicitation of wind energy in New England history. The wind power would supply 25% of the state's electricity demand. If approved by the Department of Public Utilities, the project would be the largest in New England. Healey's administration hopes to open bidding on the new procurement by this June, with a January 31, 2024 due date for submissions. "This draft RFP is a signal to the rest of the world that Massachusetts is all-in on offshore wind and ready to be the industry's hub," Governor Healey said in a statement.-



# **2023 LOBSTER BOAT RACING**

17 JUNE Boothbay Harbor Ashlee Lowery (207) 808-9230

18 JUNE Rockland Nick O'Hara (207) 542-4348 Mike Mayo (207) 542-1879

25 JUNE Bass Harbor Colyn Rich (207) 479-7288

1 JULY Moosabec Reach, Beals Island/Jonesport Roy Fagonde (207) 610-4607

9 JULY

13 AUGUST Merritt Bracket, Pemaquid Brent Fogg (207) 350-7712 Sheila McLain (207) 677-2100

19 AUGUST Long Island Lisa Kimball (207) 332-3968 Amy Tierney (207) 317-1576

20 AUGUST Portland Katie Werner (207) 807-1832

14 OCTOBER Annual Meeting/Awards Banquet Robinson's Wharf, Southport Jon Johansen (207)-223-8846

Stonington Jeff Eaton (207) 598-0488

23 JULY Friendship Robin Reed (207) 975-9821

30 JULY Harpswell Amanda Peacock (207) 756-3104 Kristina York (207) 449-7571

12 AUGUST Winter Harbor Chris Byers (207) 963-7139 All Races: Sign-up 8 to 9 AM ; Races Start 10 AM Exception: Long Island – Sign up 10 to 11 AM; Start 12 PM.

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

#### June 1

DMR electronic reporting training, 12-5 p.m., Rockland Ferry Terminal.

#### June 5

Deadline for public comments on Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Maine's offshore wind energy research lease application. FMI: *https://www.boem.gov/ renewable-energy/state-activities/maine/gulfmaine.* 

#### June 7

MLA Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m., Darby's restaurant, Belfast.

#### June 8

DMR electronic reporting training, 12-5 p.m., Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick.

#### June 12

Deadline for public comments on Gulf of Maine offshore wind lease area. FMI: *https://www. boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/ maine/gulf-maine* 





#### June 15

DMR electronic reporting training, 12-5 p.m., Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, Stonington.

Boothbay Harbor Lobster Claw Down, 5 p.m., The Shipyard, Boothbay Harbor.

Talking Aquaculture in Maine: Super Powers of Seaweed, 7-8:30 p.m., Lincoln Theater, Damariscotta. FMI: *membership@islandinstitute.org*.

#### June 17

Save Maine Lobstermen Fundraiser at South Bristol Fishermen's Co-Op, 35 Thompson Inn Road. Lobster bake, raffle, silent auction. Tickets \$50/person. Contact: Laura Hughes 207-650-0960.

Boothbay Harbor Lobster Boat Races.

June 18 Rockland Lobster Boat Races.

#### June 22

DMR electronic reporting training, 12-4:30 p.m., Kennebunk Free Library, Kennebunk.

June 25 Bass Harbor Lobster Boat Races.



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June 27-29

New England Fishery Management Council meeting, Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport. FMI: *https://www.nefmc.org/ calendar/june-2023-council-meeting*.

#### June 29

DMR electronic reporting training, 12-5:00 p.m., Washington Academy, East Machias.

# MASSACHUETTS TESTING ON-DEMAND LOBSTER GEAR

#### *By Craig Idlebrook First published in* Working Waterfront. *Reprinted with permission*.

This spring, researchers were given an expanded opportunity to test lobster trap gear that eliminates the need for vertical buoy lines in waters traversed by critically endangered North Atlantic right whales.

Under the direction of NOAA, and with permission from the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries, a fleet of ten vessels has been allowed since February 1 to use special on-demand lobster traps in either state or federal waters along the eastern coast of Massachusetts and south of Martha's Vineyard. The fleet has until the end of April to test the traps in areas that are otherwise closed to traditional lobstering to protect the endangered whales from entanglement.

As of late March, lobstermen have retrieved the traps from the ocean floor 186 times, according to NOAA data. The lobstermen and the researchers are continuing to test the effectiveness of both the on-demand gear and the mapping technology used to find the traps.

In this round of permitted fishing, one focus is ensuring the tracking technology is accurate even when traps are in proximity to one another. Semi-retired lobsterman Marc Palombo said this tracking technology recently passed a critical test in federal waters."We got another vessel with a satellite with internet on its boat and had it go right next to my boat, and I could see his gear and he could see my gear," he said. Massachusetts DMF for permission to fish in state waters just off the coastline. DMF agreed, and both efforts are being directly supervised by NOAA.

In his letter allowing NOAA to set the experimental traps, DMF Director Daniel J. McKiernan did express some skepticism about the practicality of the on-demand traps for coastal lobstering. "DMF's view is that on-demand technology works best for those that fish long trawls on the larger vessels in the fleet," he wrote. "Its applicability and affordability is far less for smaller vessels that fish single traps or short strings of gear in dense gear fields."

Erica Fuller, a senior attorney for the Conservation Law Foundation, said that even with those doubts, it still made sense for state regulators to greenlight testing near shore, where lobstering activities are at their densest.

"There were some questions about how close can you actually fish this gear to another guy, and those questions weren't so much being answered in the far offshore," Fuller said. "While they were trying to get close, those [offshore] trawls are so much longer they're generally not right on top of one another."

DMF Director McKiernan is not alone in his skepticism. When asked about the latest round of testing of on demand gear, Beth Casoni, executive director of the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association sent the following statement: "The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association does not support the use of ondemand gear as the economics are not feasible and it will destroy the American lobster fishery."

This effort represents the largest chance yet to experiment with the on-demand traps in real world conditions in New England. For years, researchers have been working to design traps that could eliminate the need for standing vertical lines. Those efforts have met with some resistance, however.

For example, the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries (DMF) denied an application by a group of lobstermen to test experimental gear in 2022. That group did gain an 11th-hour permission from federal regulators to try the gear in lobster harvesting, but only for a few days.

Since then, NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center received an exempted fishing permit from federal regulators to allow up to 100 fishing vessels to test and improve on-demand gear in a variety of fisheries. Scientists from the center then devised a plan to test the lobster gear in federal waters and approached

For now, Palombo is one of a minority of lobstermen who doesn't share his colleagues' pessimism on the evolving technology, and he has been recruiting other Massachusetts fishermen to the effort to test the new traps out. He knows the technology may still be unaffordable at this point for most fishermen, but he says the funding is there to help develop the trap gear, and he's seen the improvements each year in the experimental gear. People need to remember that it's a long process to create a new technology, he said.

"I like to use the analogy that we're the Wright brothers right now," Palombo said. "They didn't start out with the F-15 fighter. They were at Kittyhawk, and that's where we're at right now. We're at Kittyhawk."



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