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10-1-2019

S1: The Maine Question Podcast Season 1 Trailer

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Repository Citation

Lisnet, Ron, "S1: The Maine Question Podcast Season 1 Trailer" (2019). *The Maine Question*. 1.
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Original Release Date: 10/01/2019

[Introductory background music]

Ron Lisnet [00:00:04] Researchers at the University of Maine spend their careers taking on challenging, complicated issues that make sense of our past, define our times, and prepare us for the future. The Maine Question podcast explores how these researchers, innovators, and changemakers tackle those questions.

I'm your host, Ron Lisnet. Join us as we consider these questions.

Some are big in scope; like the development of a game-changing way to conduct science along the Maine coast.

Michael Kinnison [00:00:31] About six thousand years ago somebody came up with the brilliant idea of using nets to pull fish and other organisms out of aquatic environments. With environmental DNA we've just, in a way, scaled these nets down really small.

Uh...Our new nets for environmental DNA could fit in the palm of your hand and these DNA nets catch everything, so that's really transformative. You know, there's no other nets out there that you can put out there and catch pretty much everything from micro-organisms to whales.

Ron Lisnet [00:01:00] We delve into one of the most personal questions a person or a couple can make: whether or not to have children.

Amy Blackstone [00:01:05] The choice not to have kids very often has very little to do with others. It's about the life we envision for ourselves. Some of the more common kinds of reaction include, 'Oh, isn't that a selfish choice?' 'Are you worried about what will happen to you when you're older?' 'You might die alone.'

And then sometimes there are funny responses, 'Oh, I wish I'd made that choice myself' or 'Good for you!' Occasionally, there's a positive, 'That's great. I'm happy you're living a life that you've chosen for yourself.'

Ron Lisnet [00:01:39] Some of the questions we explore, you might not have even thought about. Would you or your dog like the taste of green crabs?

Angela Miracle [00:01:46] ...and I said, let's figure out how to cook the crab, make crabmeal and use it in something. How 'bout dog treats?

We did some test batches--took them to our neighborhood dogs and our homes. Basically, the dogs wolfed them down.

Ron Lisnet [00:01:59] What's it like to spend your career studying our changing climate while living and working on sheets of ice in the world's most remote places?

How do yard sales and re-sale shops contribute to Maine's re-use economy?

We'll ask these and many other questions in our first season of The Maine Question podcast. The Maine Question is available on the UMaine website, umaine.edu-slash-podcasts.

You can also find it in many of the places that podcasts are available: iTunes, Google Play, and others.

We hope you'll join us on our journey.