Sixty years is a long time. In 1954, when the Maine Lobstermen’s Association was established, no one had a computer in the house. Man had not walked on the moon. Polio was still a dreaded childhood disease and Sen. Joseph McCarthy’s hearings were in full swing. Dwight Eisenhower was President and the population of the United States was slightly more than 163 million people, compared to 317 million today.

The MLA was formed in 1954 largely due to the efforts of one man – Leslie Dyer. A Vinalhaven fisherman, Dyer thought that if lobstermen could get together and see themselves as part of something bigger, they could become a force to be reckoned with by lawmakers and dealers alike.

Dyer traveled the coast back in 1954 talking up the idea of a unified lobstermen’s group. In an interview with David Taylor in 1974, Dyer recalled some of

JACOBSON NEW HEAD OF
MAINE LOBSTER MARKETING
COLLABORATIVE

In July, the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) announced that it had hired Matt Jacobson as its executive director. "Matt is an outstanding selection for executive director of the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative," said Patrick Keliher, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Marine Resources in a press release. "His successes in business leadership, international relations, and marketing make him a perfect fit for this important position. This industry needs someone who can think critically, build consensus, and take initiative to set and accomplish new and ambitious goals. Matt definitely brings those accomplishments to the table."

Jacobson, 53, comes to his new position through a particularly varied professional path. Born at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, he grew up, as he puts it, “an Air Force brat.” After graduating from high school, Jacobson attended the

OPERATION GAME THIEF TAKES TO THE SEA

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Bureau of Marine Patrol, recently began taking part in Operation Game Thief (OGT). Operation Game Thief is a private, non-profit organization that works with state agencies throughout the country to identify and prosecute poachers. The program has been used successfully by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) since 1989. This is the first year it has been used by the DMR.

“Operation Game Thief applies to all natural resources,” explained Major Jon Cornish, DMR Marine Patrol. “The Operation Game Thief hotline has been in existence for many years at IF&W and has provided them with many good complaints and cases from members of the public.”

Operation Game Thief provides the public with a 24-hour, seven days a week hotline to call in tips about fisheries violations. Individuals may also file a tip on a secure Web site as well. Rewards of up to $1,000 may be paid for information that leads to a summons being issued for a violation or an arrest. The caller does not have to identify him or herself and will not be called to testify in court. The rewards are paid from private donations made to OGT; no state money is involved in the program.

Continued on page 16
August is here and with it the dog days of summer. The phrase is associated with the “Dog Star” Sirius, which the Romans linked to the long hot days of late summer. Here in Maine, August is marked by a southwesterly breeze and the presence of offshore fog. And by the influx of shedders, which lobstermen eagerly await each year. This year’s shedders are reported to be following a pattern more typical of years past, which will likely make August a busy month for lobstermen.

This month in Landings we take the opportunity to mark the 60th Anniversary of our sister organization, the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA). It was 1954 when a group of Downeast lobstermen decided that it might just be a good idea to band together. They hired Vinalhaven lobsterman Les Dyer as their first president and quickly became a force to be reckoned with on the coast. Sixty years later the MLA is going strong, despite the increasing complexity of the lobstering world. As part of its celebration, the MLA is holding a drawing for members who join by September 15 to win $1954.

We meet long-time MLA member Buzzy Kinney, who has been active in the lobster fishery for many years. One of the founders of the Spruce Head Co-op, Buzzy talks about how he came to believe that being a part of a group could accomplish more than speaking up on one’s own.

MLA’s Navigator, April Gilmore McNutt, provides some helpful information for those who are struggling with how to use their health insurance policy now that they are paying for it. Whether it is finding a doctor or understanding how your policy works, April walks you through the steps of turning your health coverage into health care.

We also introduce the new executive director of the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative. Matt Jacobson. Jacobson has had a dynamic career in the Air Force, in railroads, and as the head of Maine & Co., a nonprofit organization that helped bring major companies to Maine. He talks about his work and the opportunities that have come his way over the years, and his motivation for taking on the challenging job of building demand for Maine lobster.

Geoff Irvine, executive director of the Lobster Council of Canada, gives an overview of the many activities taking place in the Maritime Provinces. The Council has created a brand for Canadian lobster and is working with provincial Legislatures to create legislation necessary to provide a penny a pound levy on lobster in order to fund a region-wide marketing program.

Landings taps into the deep pride that so many have in Maine’s lobster industry. Columnist Christina Lemieux writes of the unbreakable link between lobstermen and their families. Daughter of a Cutler lobsterman, Lemieux points out the value of working hard when one is young, and the benefits which that work has given her as an adult.

Landings also delves into the different ways in which value can be added to the lobster landed in Maine. An entrepreneurial woman in Friendship, wife of a lobsterman, has found a sales niche that has turned into a howling success.

The Cranberry Isles Fishermen’s Cooperative has also taken a step out into the marketing world, creating a new company to sell their lobster online. Little Cranberry Lobster is branding and marketing their lobster, and educating customers about the lobster industry and local fishermen.

In this issue we will also meet Clayton Howard, a Damariscotta lawyer who has served Maine’s fishing communities well for more than 40 years. Howard was instrumental in creating many of the state’s fisherman’s cooperatives, and has staunchly represented lobstermen individually and through the MLA over the years.

Landings also explores Operation Game Thief (OGT), which provides a confidential 24-hour, seven days a week hotline to call in tips about fisheries violations. Individuals may also file a tip on a secure Web site. OGT has been used by Maine’s Inland Fish and Wildlife Service, and is now being used by Maine’s Department of Marine Resources.

Finally, in our continuing series “Voices” we hear the words of a Swan’s Island fisherman, Normie Burns. His reminiscences remind us that despite all that appears to be changing so rapidly in our world, some things, such as family, the respect of one’s friends and appreciating the quiet beauty of Maine, do remain the same.

I hope you enjoy this issue. We welcome your feedback and contributions.
On July 21, 2014, United States District Court Judge D. Brock Hornby signed an order terminating the Final Judgment entered into on August 5, 1958, imposing a consent decree against the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA). The consent decree was based on a court finding that the MLA had engaged in price fixing, a violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. The MLA worked with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) over several years to make the case that the consent decree was no longer necessary and did not serve the public interest. The DOJ concurred with the MLA.

On June 25, the MLA had filed a motion in United States District Court for the District of Maine, unopposed, requesting termination of the final judgment. The Department of Justice filed a memorandum in this court supporting the MLA's request. Judge Hornby heard arguments from MLA counsel, Mary Anne Mason of Washington, D.C.-based Crowell & Moring, and DOJ counsel, Michele Cano, on why the court should remove the consent decree. During the court proceeding, Judge Hornby underscored the importance of the lobster industry to the state of Maine, the rich history of the MLA case, and the importance of this ruling to the state of Maine. Judge Hornby also talked about the esteemed career of Judge Gignoux, who imposed the final judgment on the MLA during his first year on the bench in 1958. After inquiring whether any adverse public comment or other information had been received by the DOJ, Judge Hornby concurred with the MLA and DOJ that termination of the decree would be in the public interest.

Judge Hornby issued a signed order from the bench that states, "The Court having received the motion of defendant Maine Lobstermen's Association, Inc. ("MLA") for termination of the final judgment entered in this case on August 5, 1958 ("Final Judgment"), and the United States having represented to the Court that it has no objection to the motion, and the Court having considered all papers filed in connection with this motion, and the Court finding that it is in the public interest to terminate the Final Judgment, it is ordered, adjudged, and decreed: That said Final Judgment is hereby terminated."

"I felt like I was part of history to be present when this legal judgment, in place for nearly 60 years, was vacated," said Patrice McCarron, MLA executive director. "It really is a breath of fresh air for the MLA."

The MLA completed a strategic plan in 2009 which included reorganizing from a cooperative organization to a non-profit trade association, which better fits the MLA's mission. Dissolving the consent decree will allow the MLA to move forward with this goal.

In 1979, the Department of Justice (DOJ) adopted a policy calling for consent decrees to sunset within ten years of entry. The DOJ would work with parties seeking to modify or terminate decrees entered prior to 1980 that contain no sunset provision where terminating them appeared to be in the public interest.

"In the case of the MLA, the consent decree has long ago achieved its purpose and is no longer needed to achieve compliance with the U.S. antitrust laws," said Mary Anne Mason. "Moreover, the lobster fishing industry has changed fundamentally in the more than five decades since the Final Judgment was entered. During that time, federal and state environmental, economic, and fisheries management regulations have fundamentally altered the industry."

The role of the MLA as an organizational evolution has evolved in response to these changes. The present MLA has no involvement in the commercial harvest, sale, or distribution of lobster. Rather, the MLA is a trade organization dedicated to advocacy for a sustainable lobster resource and the fishermen and communities that depend on it.

Left, Mary Anne Mason, pro bono lawyer for the MLA and right, MLA executive director Patrice McCarron in front of the federal courthouse in Portland in July, when the consent decree was removed. MLA photo.
By Christina Lemieux

I was so pleased to see that the organizer of this year’s Maine Lobster Festival chose to honor Maine’s hard-working lobstering families with their festival theme, lobster living—Celebrating the families behind the industry. Lobster fishing is, and always has been, a family affair. For my brother and I started working on the ocean the crack of dawn each morning to fetching truckloads of sardines from the task. She did the book work and enterprise a success. My mother painted—Celebrating the families behind him. It is not just lobstermen, but lobster fishing families that have bought the backbone of Maine’s coastal economy. I have always been fascinated by the familiar aspects of lobster fishing. I not only dedicated the book I published in 2012 to the lobster fishing families of downeast Maine, but as I was writing the book I also researched the roles wives and children play in the lobster harvesting process. Of the downeast Maine fishermen I surveyed, almost 80% have their children help out on the boat. I find this an amazing figure. We live in an age where many children do not know what their parents actually do for a living and more than 50% of the nation’s young workforce has never held a basic, paying job, according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics survey in 2010. The offspring of lobster fishermen, on the other hand, grow up engaged in the industry and idolizing their seafaring fathers. Your average pre-schooler passes the day playing princesses or Fireman Sam. The children of lobstermen ‘play’ lobster fishing in old skiffs parked in their parents’ front yards. By the time they graduate grammar school, many of them are fishing a small gang of traps from an outboard boat under the guidance of a father. Even if they don’t go on to become full-time fishermen, these children enter adulthood equipped with crucial skills needed to thrive in the modern working world. While my brother has become a full-time lobster fisherman, I work at an advertising agency in London. It is a long way from the shores of Cutler and the stern of a lobster boat, yet the work ethic and commitment, humility and the ability to collaborate in a team environment. Perhaps more children should spend some time working on a lobster boat!

The offspring of lobster fishermen ... grow up engaged in the industry and idolizing their seafaring fathers.

living from an unforgiving ocean fills paintings, postcards and the minds of tourists, it is important to remember the family members who stand behind him. It is not just lobstermen, but lobster fishing families that have bought the backbone of Maine’s coastal economy. I have always been fascinated by the familiar aspects of lobster fishing. I not only dedicated the book I published in 2012 to the lobster fishing families of downeast Maine, but as I was writing the book I also researched the roles wives and children play in the lobster harvesting process. Of the downeast Maine fishermen I surveyed, almost 80% have their children help out on the boat. I find this an amazing figure. We live in an age where many children do not know what their parents actually do for a living and more than 50% of the nation’s young workforce has never held a basic, paying job, according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics survey in 2010. The offspring of lobster fishermen, on the other hand, grow up engaged in the industry and idolizing their seafaring fathers. Your average pre-schooler passes the day playing princesses or Fireman Sam. The children of lobstermen ‘play’ lobster fishing in old skiffs parked in their parents’ front yards. By the time they graduate grammar school, many of them are fishing a small gang of traps from an outboard boat under the guidance of a father. Even if they don’t go on to become full-time fishermen, these children enter adulthood equipped with crucial skills needed to thrive in the modern working world. While my brother has become a full-time lobster fisherman, I work at an advertising agency in London. It is a long way from the shores of Cutler and the stern of a lobster boat, yet the work ethic and commitment, humility and the ability to collaborate in a team environment. Perhaps more children should spend some time working on a lobster boat!

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The offspring of lobster fishermen ... grow up engaged in the industry and idolizing their seafaring fathers.
Richard "Buzzy" Kinney, 73, of Spruce Head wasn’t always a lobsterman. He started out in 1960 working in a Rockland auto garage for $55 a week.

"I didn’t own a car. My father drove me in on his way to work (in another garage). I had a daughter and a son, and I would just get caught up on bills and another kid would get sick. So after a few months, I asked for a raise," said Kinney. "They gave me $3 a week more."

That’s when he decided there had to be more to life and making a living, so he joined his father-in-law shearing sheep on Metinic, Big Green and Wooden Ball islands, and fishing the north end of Metinic.

"Once you’ve worked outdoors and made a reasonable living, it’s hard to go back indoors," he said. In 1970, he went to fish off Criehaven (Ragged Island) with his father-in-law and eventually bought out his share. Back then Kinney and his wife Eleanor and the children lived in a camp that was owned by his grandmother, but leased to Spruce Head Lobster Company. Later it became the site of the Spruce Head Fishermen’s Cooperative.

Kinney was there at the start of the co-op. "Around 1972, John Matheson was working for Sea Grant. He had graduated from Maine Maritime. He found me and talked to me about starting a fishing co-op," said Kinney. "He took me to Stonington. We drove down in a Chevy Vega—the worst car in the world."

Later they called a meeting in the community hall in Spruce Head to see if there was interest in a coop. "My brother, Chad, had taken a Dale Carnegie course," Kinney recalled. "He told me not to say ‘I’ but to say ‘we,’ so I tried to limit the use of ‘I’ during the meeting. We had 35 people who put up $200 to start the co-op."

The co-op hired a bookkeeper, but things didn’t turn out quite right and so they decided to take the books to an accountant. "He was going to charge us $7,000 to $8,000 to fix it," Kinney reported. "That’s when we found out about SCORE [which provides free business advice]. Norman McKenzie from Owls Head had helped us negotiate and work with the accountant to fix it. What I learned is you can manage your own money, but when you have 40 fishermen, it’s a different ball game."

The co-op members decided to hire a business manager. "Robert Baines, Sr. [MLA board member Bob Baines’s father] was our neighbor. He was retired then, but he had worked with the Port Authority in New York," Kinney continued. "They have all kinds of vendors there and he had to keep track of them. He put us on the right track," Baines Sr. continued as the co-op’s general manager for more than 20 years. "He set us on the right road. We learned you can’t pay out all your profits. Baines set us up right. He was a firm leader."

"Once you’ve worked outdoors and made a reasonable living, it’s hard to go back indoors," he said. In 1970, he went to fish off Criehaven (Ragged Island) with his father-in-law and eventually bought out his share. Back then Kinney and his wife Eleanor and the children lived in a camp that was owned by his grandmother, but leased to Spruce Head Lobster Company. Later it became the site of the Spruce Head Fishermen’s Cooperative.

During its history, the co-op has kept the majority of its membership. "We buy several days each week then returns to Spruce Head. Photo by Nancy Griffin.

Continued on page 23


**COVERAGE TO CARE: HOW TO USE YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE**

By April Gilmore McNutt

When you certainly needed a lot of information in order to enroll in the health insurance program this past year. And now there’s more that you need to learn in order to make best use of your health insurance policy. You likely have many questions, such as: How do you use your insurance once you have it? How do you make sure your visit is covered, and make the most of your appointment time spent with your doctor? That’s why The Center for Medicaid and Medicare recently launched a new nationwide initiative called Coverage to Care, to help consumers and all the newly insured get the information they need to know about their health insurance.

I'm sure we all agree that the process of enrolling in a health insurance plan can be overwhelming. It’s a big expense to pay each month, yet we know we need it to stay healthy and be ready for those “what if” situations. Over 44,000 Maine residents signed up for coverage during the open enrollment period that ended this past March.

Under the Affordable Care Act, all new plans must offer preventative services. Some plans offer preventative services at no cost such as colorectal cancer screening; flu shots and vaccinations; blood pressure and diabetes 2 screenings, just to name a few. And there are many other preventative services for adults and children that you may not realize are available.

Chronic diseases – such as heart disease, arteriosclerosis (which causes strokes), cancer, and diabetes – are among the most prevalent, costly, and preventable of all health problems. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 25 percent of all deaths in Maine in 2005 were due to cancer and up to 60 percent of deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented if persons aged 50 and older were screened regularly. Access to high-quality and affordable preventative measures is an essential step in saving lives, reducing disability, and lowering costs for medical care.

Lots of people shy away from visiting a doctor because they suspect something is wrong and don’t want to hear bad news. That’s why these preventative care services are so important. They allow a doctor to identify a problem early so it’s easier and less expensive to address it. Most ACA plans offer a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week Nurse Line so you can call your insurance company anytime you have questions and need professional advice. Some plans offer three free visits for behavioral counseling and tobacco cessation services including nicotine replacement therapy at no cost to the plan holder. Some provide health programs with registered nurses, dietitians and therapists as health coaches to help you find the information you need to make the best medical decisions for you and your family.

Every health insurance policy comes with a “summary of benefits” which explains the cost of covered benefits, what the provider will pay for certain services, coverage limitations and exceptions. It also explains your plan deductible, co-pays and the co-insurance portion of services your provider will share with you. It is important that you read through this summary so that you understand how your health insurance plan works.

Knowing where to go for health care and finding a provider who works for you is also important. Every insurance provider has a “network” which is the group of hospitals and doctors with which the provider contracts. As the insured, you want to stay within that network to avoid paying out-of-network rates for services. Your insurance provider or an insurance Navigator can help you find a local doctor in your network.

If it’s your first time seeing a new doctor, call the office to find out what you need to bring with you to your appointment time. If you’ve been assigned a doctor from your insurance provider with whom you’re not comfortable, you may have options to change doctors. If you need to see a specialist, you may need a referral from your doctor before you do so in order to have that cost covered by the insurance provider. If you are not sure, simply call the number on your insurance, please call the MLA office or an insurance navigator to get help connecting with available resources.

If you’re uninsured and missed the open enrollment deadline, you may still be able to sign up for coverage before the next open enrollment period begins in November. Call the MLA to see if you qualify for the special enrollment period.

We all want to live a long and healthy life, so ask for help from your provider or contact a health insurance Navigator to learn how to make the most of your health insurance coverage. And if you have questions about how your plan works, you’re looking to enroll in a new plan or questions about using your current health insurance, please call the MLA office and we will help connect you with the most appropriate resources.
Maine Lobstermen’s Association

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

President: David Coursen
So. Thomaston, 207.594.7518

1st VP: Jim Dow
Staff

 info@mainelobstermen.org

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STEAMING AHEAD

This year the MLA is celebrating 60 years of service to Maine’s lobstermen. This anniversary is truly staggering if you think about it. Existing for six decades is a feat in and of itself. But when your job is to remain a cohesive and effective organization while representing a group of staunchly independent businessmen spread across 3,500 miles of coast, keeping the doors open for 60 years is a true accomplishment.

There’s no doubt that the MLA has had its ups and downs over the years. But I would challenge anyone to disagree with the fact that because of the MLA the Maine lobster industry is in much better shape than it would have been otherwise. During 60 years, many issues related to lobstering have come and gone. Some have been easy to resolve, many more have been controversial and others have been painful. A lot of people, including lobstermen, have disliked the MLA position at different times. But regardless of which side of an issue you stand on, you can always count on the MLA to be honest, transparent and accountable for its actions. And I don’t say this lightly.

When your work is highly political and often controversial and it can affect people’s lives, you must pay attention to how you conduct yourself. The MLA has never forgotten why it was formed or who it is here to serve. We have never taken on work that does not directly benefit or affect Maine lobstermen and we have never misled our members. After all, the ends never justify the means. We are the oldest and largest fisheries organization in the state but still, the MLA has remained relatively small and certainly pretty nimble over the years, avoiding the trap of evolving into something other than what we were created for in the first place.

The reason for that is simple – the MLA always has been and always will be a membership organization. If our membership is strong, the MLA is strong. If it were not, there would cease to be an MLA. Looking back over the decades, it’s clear that the MLA has been blessed with loyal members who have repeatedly elected a very strong board of directors to lead the organization. It is because of its members who have liked the MLA position at different times. But regardless of how you conduct yourself. The MLA has never forgotten why it was formed or who it is here to serve.

Maine Lobstermen’s Association

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Board of Directors’ Meeting Schedule

All meetings take place at Darby’s Restaurant, Belfast.

Sept. 3, 5 p.m.

YOU COULD WIN $1954!

It is time to renew your membership or become a member of Maine’s oldest fishing organization!

This year is a big one for MLA as we celebrate 60 years of service to Maine’s commercial lobstermen. Without our members, there would be no MLA. To thank you, the MLA is offering members a chance to win $1954! All you have to do is renew or join by September 15th.

This year, the MLA also is offering an opportunity for sternmen to join, and for our members to receive a discount by joining for multiple years. All members will receive MLA’s 60th Anniversary hat and bumper sticker. Look for your membership application in the mail, or on page 11, and be sure to JOIN TODAY!

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MAINE LOBSTERMEN’S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Singles Are Not Banned!

Under the new herring rules which go into effect in June 2015, singles are NOT banned. The Bangor Daily News incorrectly reported on the new rules in June, leading to confusion about what the new rules require. Under the new herring rules, there are no new regulations for gear fished in Maine state waters inside the exemption line. So, if you fish in an area exempt from the sinking line rule, you are exempt from the vertical line rules.

Summary of Maine’s Vertical Line and Gear Marking Rule Implementation June 1, 2015

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<th>Area/Zone</th>
<th>Minimum Traps/Trawl</th>
<th>Gear Marking</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exempted State waters</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Matinicus, Monhegan, Craighead</td>
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<td>12” mark (red)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zones A to C (6 to 12 miles)</td>
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<td>Zones D to G (6 to 12 miles)</td>
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<td>All zones – A to G (12+ miles)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zones F and G (12+ miles)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12” mark (red)*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Rope must be marked at least 3 times

1. top (within 2’ of top of buoy line),
2. mid way along the length of the buoy line,
3. bottom within 2’ of the bottom of the buoy line

Maine Lobster is a Healthy Choice

An environmental group announced in June that it planned to raise concerns about consumer guidelines for seafood consumption under review by the FDA, specifically, consumption guidelines for pregnant women consuming lobster. The MLA brought this to the attention of Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and Maine Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The Maine CDC determined that the data referred to by the environmental group and the FDA was outdated, referring to a 36-year-old FDA report. Not only do the data cited not reflect current conditions, but the lobsters sampled were not all from the Maine coast or of Maine’s legal size. Maine CDC filed comments with the FDA to set the record straight.

The Maine CDC referred FDA officials to more recent data from the EPA, with samples collected between 2000 and 2010 along the Maine coast from Casco Bay to Cobscook Bay. Based on analysis by the Maine CDC, Maine lobster is a healthy source of protein for pregnant women. In fact, it is listed in the Maine CDC’s Family Fish Guide as the “Next Best Choice” for pregnant women who want to meet the new FDA guidelines for two meals of fish a week. The only reason it is not considered a “Best Choice” is that it is not as high in Omega 3 fish oils as some other fish. Furthermore, according to the Maine CDC, a pregnant woman who weighs approximately 147 pounds can safely eat eight 4-ounce meals of lobster per week, assuming she isn’t eating any other fish meals. Any questions should be referred to Andy Smith, Maine State Toxicologist, Maine CDC 287-5189.

Herring Days at Sea

On July 2, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission managers decided that states would allow seven landings days per week for herring beginning July 7. As of July 23, Area 1A herring landings remained below projections and managers determined that there was no need to adjust the number of landings days.

MLA Directors Meeting

The MLA meeting opened with guest speakers Christine Beil and Sarah Ebel from the University of Maine. They updated the MLA Board on a new interdisciplinary research project underway. For the study they would like to speak with fishermen to understand how local knowledge can be used to fill gaps and inform understanding of fisheries and changes in the marine environment. They hope that by speaking directly with fishermen, they can fill in some of the gaps not captured by scientific studies such as landings data and research surveys. The goal of the study is to develop a plan to promote local stewardship and diversified fisheries in the Gulf of Maine.

Patrice McCarron summarized the final whale rule which includes minimum trawling up requirements and gear marking outside the exemption line. There are no new measures for lobstermen fishing inside the exemption line. Overall, the MLA has gotten positive feedback on the final rule, with only a few areas of concern including the omission of several islands from the ¼ mile island buffer, the ability of some vessels to fish large trawls outside 12 miles, and the expanded gear marking requirement.

The MLA Board voted unanimously to direct McCarron to complete the federal paperwork to apply for two exemptions under the whale plan. First, MLA will request that the Metinic Island group, Wooden Ball, Seal, and the Maine portion of the Isles of Shoals be included in the ¼ mile buffer allowing them to fish singles around the islands. Secondly, MLA will request the creation of a safe trawl equivalency for vessels that believe that they cannot safely fish the 15-trap trawl minimum beginning at the 12-mile line. MLA will request that NMFS create a process for allowing concerned vessel owners to apply for a safe trawl equivalency which would allow them to fish no less than 10 trap trawls in this area.

The DMR Commissioner invited representatives of lobster industry groups to meet with him this month. Patrice and David Cousins represented MLA and were joined by representatives of the Downeast Lobstermen’s Association, Southern Maine Lobstermen’s Association and the Lobster Union. The Commissioner used this meeting to report on the final whale rule. DMR’s approach to develop a lobster fishery management plan and the agency’s growing concerns about drug addiction leading to serious enforcement cases.

The Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative announced that they have hired Matt Jacobson to serve as Executive Director. He is expected to begin work later this summer.

DMR Marine Patrol has reported that the passenger vessel Nova Star, running between Portland, ME and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, has agreed to run on a set track running from east to west at the following coordinates: WP 15°N 43°37’W01°36’ to WP 16°N 43°37’W01°36’ WP 17°N 43°40’W01°36’ WP 18°N 43°40’W01°36’. Nova Star representatives have stated that the vessel will not stray more than 25 meters on each side of this line. MLA Directors have not heard of any issues with lobstermen losing gear to this vessel since the Nova Star committed to maintain this set route.

The MLA remains in communication with NOAA over the operational plan for the hydrographic survey vessel, Ferdinand Hassler. The boat will not work in Maine again this year, but may return in the winter of 2015 to see if they are able to survey during the winter months.

MLA is assisting Miranda Rogers, a Tufts University medical student and daughter of an Orrs Island lobsterman, in circulating a medical survey to fishermen. Miranda’s research focuses on gaining better understanding of the health needs of Maine fishermen in order to improve access to health care. MLA continues to work with Fishing Partnership Support Services to apply for funds to continue to support Maine lobstermen in exploring health insurance options.

The MLA membership renewal will go out in late July. MLA is celebrating 60 years, and will offer a drawing to win $1954 for those who join or renew before September 15. All 2014-2015 members will receive a membership card, bumper sticker, hat and business discounts. MLA will also issue a press release to promote this anniversary in local papers.

MLA staff had a busy month dealing with press on a variety of issues including the outlook for the lobster season, new state and federal rules, and seafood advisories for mercury. MLA works hard to ensure that Maine’s lobster industry maintains a positive image in the mainstream media.

The Bait Report

2014 Herring Catch and Quota

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Quota (as of 7/24)</th>
<th>% of quota</th>
<th>2014 quota</th>
<th>2013 quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area 1A</td>
<td>5,161</td>
<td>15.63%</td>
<td>33,031</td>
<td>24,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area 1B</td>
<td>4,733</td>
<td>16.46%</td>
<td>2,878</td>
<td>4,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area 2</td>
<td>10,315</td>
<td>35.86%</td>
<td>28,764</td>
<td>22,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area 3</td>
<td>21,833</td>
<td>55.39%</td>
<td>39,415</td>
<td>38,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42,042</td>
<td>40.39%</td>
<td>104,088</td>
<td>89,480</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from the NMFS Weekly Atlantic Herring report. Framework 2 imposed seasonal restrictions on Areas 1A and 1B. As a result, Area 1A opened on June 1, and Area 1B opened on May 1 and was closed on May 24. Area 1A percent of quota includes current ME state-only vessel herring landings.

Continued on page 9
The Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association announced that they reviewing their participation in the weekly lobster price report. The MLA Board voted that MLA staff in Maine continue to collect and distribute lobster, bait and fuel prices for our members. In the interim, MLA members will not receive prices from Massachusetts or the Weekly Market Demand and Supply Update.

The MLA has been approached by a Maine processor about Maine’s competi-
tive disadvantage relative to Canada on undersized lobster. The MLA Board strongly sympathizes with this issue, but needs more information on the cost and benefits to the Maine lobster industry of potential solutions. The MLA will again provide lobster for an annual lobster bake to thank our legal council for pro bono representation of the MLA.

The Directors discussed the status of the lobster season, with all areas of the coast reporting slow landings. Some sheds have been seen very close to shore and in the rivers. While the lack of cash flow has been frustrating and concerning for many, there was a strong sense that Maine will have a strong lobster season. The next MLA meeting will be held in September.

LOBSTER ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Lobster Advisory Council (LAC) met in July after a nine-month break. The July meeting brought many new faces to the table as Commissioner Keliher made new appointments for all of the non-zone seats. The LAC is comprised of 13 members: 7 zone council members and 6 appointed by the Commissioner. The zone council representatives are: A-John Drouin, B-Jon Crocker, C-David Tarr, D-Josh Miller, E-Andrew Hawke, F-Jeff Putnam, G-Steve Taylor. The Zone councils will accept nominations and vote for their LAC representa-
tives this fall.

The non-zone members appointed by the Commissioner are as follows:

- Downeast Harvester, Genevieve McDonald (replacing Nick Lemieux)
- Midcoast Harvester, Bob Baines
- Western Harvester, Marshall Spear (replacing Elliott Thomas)
- Eastern Dealer member: Pete Daley (replacing Dana Rice)
- Western Dealer members: John Jordan (replacing Pete McAleny)
- General Public member: Terry Savage (replacing Ted Hoskins)

The LAC discussed a wide range of new business. Much of the meeting focused on defining the LAC’s role as the DMR develops a fisheries management plan (FMP) for lobster. Deirdre Gilbert, DMR’s Policy Director, provided an overview of developing an FMP and explained that the law requires the DMR to develop the plan with advice from the LAC. The FMP must include the following infor-
mation:

- Clearly articulated management goals and objectives;
- A description of the biology of the relevant species;
- A description of the relevant fishery;
- Any available information regarding stock status;
- Current management measures;
- Any recommendations to achieve goals and objectives;
- Findings of current research and future research needs; and
- An ecosystem-based characterization of each species under considera-
tion.

At its meeting, the LAC took the following actions:

- Voiced no opposition to Swan’s Island going to the Legislature to request increasing their trap limit from 550 to 600; however, the LAC did not take a position on this issue.
- There is concern that the current 3x3 mesh biodegradable vent is not large enough to allow oversized lobsters to escape; the LAC was asked to support a proposal to increase the mesh size to 4x4 or larger. The LAC tabled the discussion requesting more information on a range of options which could address this issue.
- Genevieve McDonald was nominated to represent the LAC on the Commercial Fishing Safety Council.
- The LAC selected a nominating committee to nominate LAC Chair for election at the next meeting.
- The LAC received the following updates:
  - Matt Jacobson has been hired as the new Executive Director of the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative. Marianne Lacroix provided a brief update on the MLMC’s activities.
  - Sarah Cotonio provided a summary of the new whale rules. She empha-
sized that there are no new whale rules inside Maine’s exempted waters. The rules go into effect in June, 2015, and include minimum travel require-
ments starting at the exemption line and moving offshore, and also require more gear marking. Lobstermen fishing across lines must abide by the most restrictive rule where they are fishing.
  - Commissioner Keliher raised the issue of drug addiction leading to severe fisheries violations. The LAC discussed the ideas of requiring mandatory drug testing to obtain a license or random drug testing to maintain a li-
  cense. Col. Fessenden of the Maine Patrol clarified that laws are in place to deal with anyone operating under the influence. There was strong consen-
sus that drug addiction is a serious problem that has broad impact on the industry; however, there was no consensus on how best to deal with it.
  - Commissioner Keliher stated that he is speaking regularly with Canadian officials to ensure that both Maine and Canada are accurately informed on the status of the lobster fishery on both sides of the border.
  - Maine has formed a Green Crab Task Force, and changed laws and regula-
tions to ease requirements on the harvest and sale of green crabs.
  - Col. Fessenden reported that Marine Patrol is down several officers, and southern Maine continues to be understaffed. The DMR has offered jobs to six strong candidates; two will be able to start immediately while four will need to go through the academy. Marine Patrol will be spending more time patrolling the Gray Zone as there has been an increase in Canadian fishing activity. He also emphasized that replacement tags are issued in lots of 20 and are only issued as traps are lost. The system is not intended to issue all 80 replacement tags at once. Lobstermen must sign an affidavit, but local MPO’s no longer need to sign off on it.
  - The Maine Legislature created an Ocean Acidification Task Force and ap-
pointees have been named; they will meet in August. Dredging projects are moving forward in Scarborough and Yarmouth. The DMR continues to monitor closely the proposal for the Searsport Dredge Project and plans to schedule a public hearing in the affected area once the water quality cer-
  tification permit is filed with Maine DEP. The Searsport dredge has not yet been funded by Congress.
  - DMR is cleaning up its regulations contained in Chapter 25 to convert all Loran references to Lat/Long. This will also include a review of lobster trap limits to ensure that these do not conflict with new vertical line rules.
  - Steve Taylor, Zone G rep., stated that Zone G plans to submit a bill to re-
quire those on the waiting list to renew their interest in staying on the list annually and to require any new entrants to the zone to start at 300 traps.
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1980s: Lobster Management Begins
1990s: Maine Lobstermen Expand their Voice
2000s: Whales and Bait
2010s: Complexity at Every Level

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Maine Lobster Leadership Program

The MLA has been successful in gaining support from thousands of lobstermen over the years. Without that support, the MLA would not exist and its voice would not be credible.

Thank you for 60 years of support.

Maine Lobster Leadership Program participants traveled to Prince Edward Island in May to fish with their Canadian counterparts and tour processing plants. MLCA photo.

The MLCA grew out of the desire by lobster community stakeholders to educate the public about Maine’s lobstering heritage, support scientific research to further the industry’s conservation ethic and stewardship of ocean resources, and provide charity to distressed fishing families.

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

1954-2014: MLA IS 60!

The MLA has been successful in gaining support from thousands of lobstermen over the years. Without that support, the MLA would not exist and its voice would not be credible.

Thank you for 60 years of support.

1954: The Beginning

1980s: Management

2000s: Whales & Bait

2014: Still Strong

Become a member by SEPT 15th for your chance to WIN $1954!
By Shelley Wigglesworth

Clayton Howard’s involvement in the fisheries and lobster industry dates back over four decades, starting in 1970, when he was an Assistant Attorney General working in the State House in Augusta. In addition to representing a number of state agencies and the Secretary of State's office he occasionally represented corporations, some of those being fishermen’s cooperatives. Eventually he decided to leave the public sphere. "In 1971, I set up my own private law practice in Damariscotta and for the next 43 years formed the majority of lobster co-ops currently operating in the state of Maine," Howard said.

Those co-ops organized or represented by Howard include: Bucks Harbor, Beals-Jonesport, Vinalhaven, Port Clyde, Spruce Head, Islesford, Friendship, Heritage, New Harbor, South Bristol, Georgetown, Cundy’s Harbor, Pine Point and the Maine Association of Cooperatives.

Howard discussed the progression of his involvement with Maine commercial fishermen and the Maine Lobstermen’s Association over the decades. "At the time I was beginning to represent lobstermen, over 40 years ago, the difficulty for younger fishermen starting in this industry to get enough capital to purchase a boat, gear and equipment. Before co-ops were active, private buying stations would often furnish financial help since banks were reluctant to make those kinds of loans," Howard explained. If a lobsterman was indebted to the local buying station, then he was obligated to sell his catch to that station, with little leverage over the price.

In an attempt to overcome that problem Howard was instrumental in forming the Maine Lobstermen’s Credit Union through the Damariscotta Bank & Trust Company. Not only did this credit union give fishermen another option financially, essentially freeing them to sell their catch competitively on an even playing field, it also helped them to manage their money. The credit union was well equipped to provide lobstermen with the banking services specific to their needs.

"We set up the first direct deposit for a percentage of the lobstermen’s income each week to go directly into the credit union. The winter months are typically low-income, high-expense months, (for fishermen) and they found themselves very often without adequate funds to pay taxes to the state and IRS," Howard said. "As a rule of thumb, we came up with a savings program where 10% of their gross lobster sales would be deposited into their individual credit union accounts, which would typically be enough to pay state and federal taxes." The success of the direct deposit program soon expanded to lines of credit and even mortgages for fishermen financed through the credit union.

Howard worked with lobstermen to improve the ability of coops to obtain bail for members as well as to have adequate markets for the lobster catch throughout the lobstering season.

"[To achieve these goals], the Maine Association of Cooperatives was formed. Each of ten co-ops owned a share in this larger statewide co-op known as 'Big Mac.' Big Mac then entered into contracts with its various co-op members to buy approximately 95% of each co-op’s catch and then share any profits as patronage dividends on the basis of the percentage of catch that each co-op contributed. Big Mac also entered into contracts to purchase bait," Howard explained.

Big Mac, locally owned, controlled and operated, also included a lot of red tape, extra work and was quite time-consuming for the fishermen volunteers. Ultimately, it was sold after a legal battle successfully navigated and negotiated by Howard, resulting in all ten co-ops receiving full payment for their investments in Big Mac without any loss.

Howard was also there to represent lobstermen when the IRS started a statewide audit of all lobster dealers several decades ago, "The theory by the IRS was that armed with this information, IRS agents would invite fishermen in for an informal audit where they were asked to sign an affidavit under penalties of perjury as to all of the dealers that they sold to during a given tax year," Howard said. "The IRS was encouraging lobstermen to make statements in writing that could be the basis for charges of criminal tax evasion and/or perjury without any disclosure to these people that they had a right to have an attorney present along with other constitutional protections."

He added, "Shortly after exposing to the press the practice of inviting fishermen in to sign affidavits, IRS did discontinue the practice and all of the audits that I handled [for fishermen] were ultimately resolved without criminal prosecution." It was during this time that the Maine Lobstermen’s Association invited Howard to serve as its legal counsel.

Howard also serves as the clerk for the MLA board. "I can’t imagine the MLA holding its annual meeting without Clayton at the head table. He brings so much skill, passion and institutional knowledge and has been there to get the MLA over some tough hurdles over the years," commented Patrice McCarron, MLA’s executive director.

REMARKABLE PEOPLE: Clayton Howard, lawyer

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**Clayton Howard, lawyer**

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**Clayton Howard, lawyer**
MLA continued from page 1

the difficulties getting lobstermen to become members. "Some of the old-timers were afraid they were going to have to give up some individual rights...The main thing was to convince these lobstermen that our industry was run by the monopoly of a half dozen big dealers," he said.

Getting lobstermen to work together remained a daunting challenge for Dyer throughout his time as MLA president. "Lobstermen are the most independent breed of people on the face of the earth. They're so damned independent that anything you propose to them that's new or different, they want nothing to do with it," Dyer said.

Yet over the years, the MLA has successfully brought Maine's independent lobstermen together to tackle the issues that affect them individually and as a fishery. Whether it is in Augusta or in Washington, D.C., the MLA makes sure that Maine's lobstermen are heard by those who make the laws. Issues in decades past may have focused on such things as a lobster's legal size or escape vent configuration. Today's issues, however, cover the waterfront, from federal regulations based on the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Clean Water Act to marketing and promotion of the state's signature seafood.

"It's crazy," explained David Cousens, MLA president since 1991. "Whenever you turn around there's another thing coming at you. We have to be there when the decisions are made. In fact, we have to be there before the decisions are made if we want to keep this industry going for the future."

Dyer's observations about Maine lobstermen remain true today. Lobstermen remain a difficult group to organize but still have much to gain by working together. Despite the challenges presented by such an independent group, the MLA has been successful in gaining support from thousands of lobstermen over the years. Without support from lobstermen, the MLA would not exist and its voice would not be credible.

Sixty years is a long time for any organization to thrive and is worth celebrating. To mark its 60th Anniversary, the MLA is thanking our members by offering a drawing to win $1954 for those who join or renew by September 15th. Help MLA celebrate its many years of success by joining today!

THE MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION TAKES A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE!

1950s and 1960s: The Beginning
MLA convicted by a federal judge for lobster price fixing. Six lobster dealers plead no contest.
MLA pressures the Maine Legislature to make lobster a trap-only fishery.

1970s: Taxes in the Forefront
MLA retains lawyer Clayton Howard to help Maine lobstermen with IRS tax audits.

1980s: Lobster Management Begins
MLA pushes NEFMC to include Maine's lobster conservation measures in first management plan.
The Council prohibits possession of v-notched lobsters, but increases lobster gauge to 3-5/16 inches.
MLA persuades the feds to halt gauge increase at 3-1/4 inches.
MLA begins its annual V-notch survey to document its conservation value.
MLA pushes Maine Legislature to maintain maximum gauge.

1990s: Maine Lobstermen Expand Their Voice
MLA effectively argues that lobsters are best managed as a coastal species by the states through ASMFC, not NEFMC.
MLA pushes for Area 1 boundary to extend 40 miles offshore and include Mass & N.H, expanding Maine's conservation measures beyond state waters.

MLA works with Sen. Snowe to address unfiled dragging for lobster in federal waters resulting in a 100 per day or 500 per trip limit outside of Maine.
MLA supports establishment of Maine lobster zones to give lobstermen a greater voice in lobster management.

2000s: Whales and Bait
The MLA represents lobstermen in whale protection efforts and secures pro bono legal representation from prestigious law firm to ramp up its fight.
MLA and state successfully negotiate exemption of 70% of Maine state waters from sinking groundline rule.
MLA supports ban of herring midwater crawlers from summer fishing to protect herring stocks.
MLA pushes for a new herring stock assessment & research on inshore stock.

2010s: Complexity at Every Level
MLA fights to keep dragger-caught lobster from being landed in Maine.
MLA produces newsletter for all lobstermen.
MLA provides business training for lobstermen, addresses lobster quality and lobsters to increase industry investment in marketing.
MLA aids research to keep lobstermen fishing in the face of whale rules; MLA pushes for an area based approach for new whale rules and to keep 70% of Maine state waters exempt from these rules.
MLA recruits new industry leaders and fosters relationships with other lobster fisheries through international exchanges in Maine and in Canada.
FRIENDSHIP ENTREPRENEUR’S LOBSTER PRODUCTS A CANINE HIT

By Melissa Waterman

They say that necessity is the mother of invention. But in the case of Patricia Havener, wife of Friendship lobsterman Greg Havener, her invention—Lobster Treats for Salty Dogs—came not from necessity but from several salvaging dogs. Greg and Pat recently had taken part in the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program offered through the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA). The program showed lobstermen and family members the economic value of doing more with lobster than just selling it to a dealer. The workshops got Pat thinking about what else could be done with her husband’s catch.

“We had some friends visiting that summer [2012],” said Cornish. “We ate lobster outside and then the dogs climbed all over the picnic table to get to the lobster. I thought, ‘Ahah!’” Pat recalled. Lobstermen like her husband had grown very discouraged by the price paid for their lobster since the economic downturn of 2008. In 2012, the price took another tumble due to the unprecedented landings that year. “They were catching a wonder

ful product and there was no market for it. I thought, we just have to get creative”, Pat said. A nurse by training and an enthusiastic cook, Pat saw a business opportunity. After all, pet ownership in the United States is a booming industry. According to the American Veterinarian Medical Association, there were approximately 70 million pet dogs in this country in 2010. The financial success of Planet Dog, a Portland, Maine, company founded in 1997, underscores Americans’ devotion to their dogs.

Pat researched some basic recipes for dog biscuits. “I played around with a replacement for harvesters calling their local Marine Patrol officers or calling one of our Division offices. It simply offers the public another option for providing information on violators.” The hotline has been in operation since May. Sergeant Robert Beal, who covers the coast from Portland to the Kennebec River, reported that there have been three calls to the hotline thus far, with two convictions from the calls. According to Cornish, the hotline will be helpful in catching those who violate recreational fishing laws as well as commercial fishing. “It will be good for seasonal fisheries, such as striped bass. Many of these folks are not as familiar with Marine Patrol as the commercial fishermen are,” he explained.


The more information that you can supply, and the more specific you can be, the better the chances are for apprehending a violator. Here are some of the things to look for: Names of suspects, along with as complete a description as possible; physical descriptions of violators; type of violation, when and where it occurred. Provide all of the information you can: As exact a location as possible; Number of suspects; Clothing worn; Vehicle description, including type, year, color and license number.

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Good dog! Good treat! Photo courtesy of P. Havener.
Jacobson continued from page 1

Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, as his father had done before him, where he too trained to become a pilot. “I was in the Air Force as an active member for seven years and then four years in the Reserve,” Jacobson said. “I went all over, to Germany, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. It was great for that time of my life.”

In 1992 he resigned his commission and took a job with a railroad company in Jacksonville, Florida. “Someone I had met in the Air Force sent me a note saying that they were hiring. It was funny, I couldn't read his writing and did all this research on a different company. Turns out the company he mentioned was CSX!” Jacobson said. At the time Jacobson joined CSX, the railroad company was moving into intermodal transportation. It had acquired the Sealand Company, which transported containerized goods by sea, Jacobson first worked as a liaison to the smaller regional rail lines that comprised the CSX system. He then moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Boston, Massachusetts, to work on integration of Sealand into CSX.

“While I was there [in Boston] I was approached by the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad and asked to run that railroad,” Jacobson continued. The St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad is a short (157 mile) railway line that connects with the Canadian National Railway. “The company had a corporate head in Maine, Maine, was not doing well.

“I’m a little competitive. I like to challenge myself and I like to win.”

“Well, it was a gamble,” Jacobson said, reflecting on his decision to take the job. “It was sinking, But I was 36 years old and I thought, what the heck.” Jacobson’s girlfriend, now his wife, was a Bowdoin graduate. She wanted to live in Maine and encouraged him to take the job. He worked as president and chief operating officer of the railway for four years, overseeing expansion of the company’s business and creation of a new intermodal terminal in Auburn.

In 2000, Canadian National Railway hired Jacobson away, moving him from Maine to Chicago. He worked as assistant vice-president for intermodal sales and assistant chief mechanical officer. “The latter job involved keeping Canadian National’s trains moving. “The company has a yard on the south side of Chicago. I had to make sure 60 trains were running every night. I spent a lot of money with a lot of people to get a ton of broken locomotives fixed,” he laughed.

But things had changed in Jacobson’s life. Now married, he and his wife, a physician, had adopted a 4-day-old boy. “The couple was moving into a different stage of life. “Chicago is a great place to visit,” Jacobson said. “But it is a hard place to have a child.” One day in 2002 Jacobson’s wife turned to him and said, “Why don’t we go home?” Home meant Maine.

So in 2006 the couple returned to Maine where Jacobson began work as the head of Maine & Co., a non-profit economic development company that assists firms interested in moving to Maine or expanding their business within the state. “It was great,” Jacobson said, referring to his time at Maine & Co. Large companies, such as Athenahealth and Boston Financial Data Services, chose to move to Maine during his tenure. But the job did hold its frustrations. After one company opted not to come to the state due to a specific tax issue, Jacobson vented his unhappiness to his wife one night in bed. ‘She said ‘Why don't you run for Governor and fix it’ and then rolled over and went back to sleep,’ he said.

Jacobson took his wife’s suggestion. In 2010 he ran as a Republican gubernatorial candidate but was defeated in the primary. “I decided to do it because it was so difficult to do some things in Maine, things that I thought should be easy,” he recalled. “I am very interested in public policy and job development.” The experience of running unsuccessfully didn’t scar Jacobson. On the contrary, he speaks of his dip into politics with enthusiasm. “It was a good education. I studied everything and met some really good people. Although I didn’t like having to raise money all the time,” he said.

In 2011 Jacobson left Maine & Co. to work as chief operating officer for a start-up data center located at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. Resilient Tier V Corporation was soon bought by Oxford Networks and after a year, Jacobson left the company. So what did he do next? Take care of his children. Jacobson became a stay-at-home dad.

The first three weeks of his new venture was a bit hard, Jacobson said. But after that transition period, “It was great! Being at home was really helpful for my son, who was just starting middle school,” Jacobson said. “I got to know all the teachers by their first names. And it was a good lesson for my daughter as well.” He also honed his triathlon skills during his at-home time. “I’m a little competitive. I like to challenge myself and I like to win,” Jacobson admitted. He will be taking part in the U.S.A. Triathlon Age Group Nationals in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this month.

While he acknowledges that his own drive has made a difference in his professional career, Jacobson readily acknowledges that luck has had much to do with it as well. “I have been incredibly fortunate to do what I wanted to do three or four times. I went to the Naval Academy, ran a railroad, and got to live in Maine,” he reflected. “I have worked hard but I've had a ton of opportunities.” Jacobson is not wasting any time getting up to speed on the Maine lobster industry. He met with the state’s Lobster Advisory Council in July and he will begin work as MLMC executive director on August 18.

He exudes enthusiasm when he speaks about his new role as head of the MLMC. “It's important and we've got to get it right. A lot of it is selling the notion of Maine and what that means. I didn't just want a job, I wanted to do something that matters.”
GUEST COLUMN: Busy times for the Lobster Council of Canada

By Geoff Irvine

After a successful Lobster Summit at the end of March and a busy and productive spring lobster fishing, processing and shipping season, there is much to report on the many important projects and priorities of the Lobster Council of Canada (LCC).

Within the LCC much activity is underway. The newly-launched Canadian Lobster Brand is getting positive reviews from within the industry. Next steps involve promoting the brand more broadly internally and encouraging exporters to integrate the core values in their marketing materials, to begin to use the new graphic image on their packaging and to continue to fulfill the brand promise: “To consistently and sustainably deliver the highest quality and most flavourful live and processed lobster to consumers who value the best.”

A Request for Proposals to develop a generic marketing campaign will be issued by the LCC in August with the intent of creating a plan to promote Canadian lobster by late fall. This plan will help the lobster sector understand the tactics used in generic marketing strategies for Canadian lobster and help build support for a levy or fee structure to pay for eventual implementation. The legislatures of the four Atlantic Provinces are making progress toward introducing a one-cent-per-pound levy which will fund the generic marketing of Canadian Lobster.

The Marine Stewardship Council certification process is well underway in the Gaspe, Gulf of St. Lawrence and Maritime regions of Atlantic Canada with full assessment approval expected by fall for all Lobster Fishing Areas in the Maritime Provinces.

Several projects which were completed recently include the proceedings from the March Canadian Lobster Value Recovery Summit; the first draft of the Quality Grading Report; and the report on a project that evaluated opportunities for automation in lobster processing plants. This report is particularly relevant as the current chronic labor shortage in Canada will heighten the need for plants to process lobster more efficiently.

The LCC is encouraged by the efforts being made both in Canada and in Maine to develop funding models that will support a strong generic marketing effort. We look forward to working with our colleagues in Maine on strategies that support raising the value of Homarus americanus, only found in Canada and the United States, in all markets around the world.

Continued on page 22

NEW FACES ON LOBSTER ADVISORY COUNCIL

By Melissa Waterman

The state’s Lobster Advisory Council (LAC) has some new faces. The 13-member LAC, which was created by the Legislature in 1997, advises the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Commissioner on issues related to the state’s lobster industry.

Each of the state’s seven lobster zone councils nominates one person to represent it on the LAC, a process which takes place each fall. In addition, there are two people on the Council who are lobster dealers, one person who does not hold any fishing license, and three people not from the lobster zone councils who do hold a fishing license. Terry Savage of Holden, Marshall Spear of Yarmouth, Genevieve Kurilec McDonald of Stonington, John Jordan of Yarmouth, and Pete Daley of Hancock are new LAC members all of whom were selected by the DMR commissioner. Members Ted Hoskins, Elliott Thomas, Nick Lemioux, Dana Rice, and Pete McAleney have completed their terms.

“The Lobster Advisory Council is imperative to communicating fishermen’s needs to Augusta,” said newly appointed Genevieve Kurilec McDonald, 31. McDonald is the first woman to serve on the LAC in its history and represents Yarmouth, and her region and in order to do that, she needs to hear what their concerns are. She noted that her role is to represent the interests of lobstermen from her region and in order to do that, she needs to hear what their concerns are.

Continued on page 22
JELLYFISH A COMMON SIGHT IN MAINE THIS SUMMER

By Sarah Paquette

Jellyfish have been abundant this summer along the coast of Maine, but no one seems to know why. One theory is that climate change and warmer water temperatures have caused the increase in jellies in Maine. Lower oxygen levels caused by runoff from land or overfishing may be to blame as well. 2012 was another big year for jellyfish, and a year marked by unusually high water temperatures in the Gulf of Maine. But there is no research to support or refute these theories.

A June article in the Portland Press Herald noted that there are no experts or good data on jellyfish in Maine. However, Nick Record of the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in East Boothbay has decided to change that. He has been documenting the reported species seen in Maine this year and hopes in the future to create a predictive model.

“There’s something out there called the ‘Jelly Oceans Hypothesis,’” said Record, in a recent interview on Maine Public Radio. “Some scientists have hypothesized that we’re shifting toward an ocean that’s dominated more by gelatinous species rather than things like fish. And there are a variety of causes, from over-fishing, to low oxygen, things related to pollution, but that hypothesis is debated.” Jellyfish are not actually fish so scientists call them jellies to avoid confusion. There are two groups of jellies – ctenophores and cnidarians. Cnidarians are the true jellies; all have specialized stinging cells. This group of jellies includes Portuguese man-o-war, sea wasps, anemones, corals, and moon and lion’s mane jellies. The latter are two of the three jellies found in Maine. Lion’s mane jellies are a northern species, native to the Arctic, northern Atlantic and northern Pacific oceans. Moon jellies are found throughout the East coast.

They capture small zooplankton in their tentacles as they float through the water. Some bigger jellies prey upon fish, stunning them with their stinging cells. Jellies also become prey themselves as a favored food of sea turtles and other jellies.

Record has decided that after two summers of numerous jellies showing up in Maine it’s time to keep track of the gelatinous visitors. This summer he began building a library of the species spotted here and hopes to create predictive models that might tell us when to expect jelly blooms like the one that began this June.
NEW VENTURE FOR ISLAND LOBSTER COOPERATIVE

By Melissa Waterman

The Cranberry Isles Fishermen’s Co-operative, located on Islesford, has started a new on-line business called Little Cranberry Lobster (www.littlecranberrylobster.com). “We are working with a processor down in Portland,” explained Mark Nighman, co-op member and manager. “We can now sell meat or live lobsters ourselves.”

Co-op members were troubled by the low prices they received for their catches in 2012. So they decided, as Nighman put it, “to take control of their destiny.” They worked out a name, then contacted a company in Yarmouth to design a logo and build a new Web store for the company. And they paid for it all themselves. “We decided to have a marketing fund a few years back. We put money into it each year,” Nighman said.

The new Web site tells customers about the conservation practices of Maine lobstermen. As one page notes, “Through generations of experience we have learned to fish in balance with the sea. We take our stewardship of the ocean seriously. We have participated in establishing trap limits, size limits and most importantly, protecting egg-bearing females. These measures ensure a harvest for generations to come. Today, every lobster we catch is MSC certified, sustainable and traceable. We are proud custodians of a great tradition providing a fresh product, caught right and delivered to you.”

The site also provides a link to the Cranberry Isles Fishermen’s Co-operative Web site, where customers can learn about the co-op members. The site explains the names of many of the island’s lobster boats. Mark Fernald, for example, named his 42-foot Duffy Emma Marie after his “beautiful, intelligent and kind daughter.” The site also tells visitors more about how lobsters are caught, the gear used and the size limitations on lobster in Maine. Emphasized is the company’s motto: sustainable, traceable, Maine-caught. In each shipment of lobster is a brochure about the co-op and a refrigerator magnet. The shipping box costs $4.95; shipping is $39.95 for up to 35 pounds anywhere in the world.

“Th e site has only been up a couple of weeks now,” Nighman said. “We’re still tweaking it. But it’s another way of getting our product out there.”

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BELOVED DOWNEAST RESTAURANT BURNS

Helen’s Restaurant in Machias was severely damaged by fire in July. The popular eatery is one of only a few restaurants in Machias. It has been a mainstay business since 1950. In 2005, Life magazine named Helen’s blueberry pie as the best in America. The restaurant was originally located in a building on Main Street in Machias. It moved to its present location in 1983. The restaurant’s owners, David and Julie Barker of Machias, said they would rebuild the restaurant and hoped to reopen next spring.

SHRIMP SEASON LOOKS GRIM FOR NEXT WINTER

Federal regulators may limit the number of fishermen allowed to catch northern shrimp in the Gulf of Maine once the depleted fishery reopened. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission closed the shrimp season for 2014 for the first time in more than 30 years because shrimp populations dipped to their lowest recorded levels. The commission will decide this fall if there will be a 2015 season based on surveys of the shrimp resource.

Hancock Gourmet Lobster Company

Hancock Gourmet Lobster Company took home the top prize for the 11th time at the Fancy Food Show in New York City in July. The company received the “Soli,” which stands for Specialty Outstanding Food Innovation, for its new gluten-free lobster mac and cheese.

NEW RESEARCH INITIATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Maine fishermen are invited to participate in a confidential interview as part of the University of Maine’s Sustainability Solutions Initiative: Emerging Opportunities research project with anthropologist Christine Beil and fisheries scientist Yong Chen. The project brings together researchers and stakeholders to collectively identify problems and solutions in Gulf of Maine fisheries.

Boothbay Harbor Festival

Boothbay Harbor will celebrate its second annual Harbor Fest from August 29 to September 7. This 10-day festival is a community collaboration that was created to offer visitors and locals the opportunity to experience a collection of unique and vibrant events that celebrate who we are. There will be a Chili Chowder Challenge, art show, road races, golf tournament and a treasure hunt. One of the highlights of the ten-day celebration is the restaurant week, during which local restaurants showcase local foods, specifically lobster.

"I love it," Miller responded when asked about the proposed management plan. "At the zone level we keep getting pushed by the Legislature. I think this is a way to get data on how each zone can sustain [management] changes. What we want to know is what's the OK point. That will be different for each zone." One of the items that the LAC will be involved in this year is creation of a Fishery Management Plan for lobster in the state. Components of a lobster management plan will include the biological, ecological, and social elements of the lobster industry in Maine. As advisors to the DMR Commissioner, LAC members will be deeply involved in drafting the plan.

"I want to express my appreciation personally to those members of the LAC whose terms have expired. I want to express my appreciation to everyone to those members of the LAC whose terms have expired. I want to express my appreciation personally to those members of the LAC whose terms have expired. I want to express my appreciation personally to those members of the LAC whose terms have expired."
Kinney continued from page 5

the largest portion of lobster in Spruce Head. We lost a few members, but I believe all the lobstermen in Spruce Head benefited from better fuel prices and better prices for lobsters." Kinney has had three vessels in his career, starting with a used 33-foot Novi boat that needed a fuel system then—you didn’t have to wait for the herring everywhere. Purse seining was the technology then—a boy, that’s a lot of money’, ” Kinney said.

We lost a few members, but I believe all the lobstermen of Criehaven benefitted from better prices for lobster. ” Kinney said. “I found out it was from overharvesting of sea urchins to eat it”, “Kinney said.

“Maine’s Green Crab Explosion,” talk by Dr. Brian Beal, 7-8 p.m. Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Portland. FMI: 228-1699.

Criehaven harbor was bluish gray and smelled like methamphetamine. "I hated regulations, but I know we need them, " Kinney said.

I asked that at a meeting. They said it might disrupt their reproductive cycle. " Kinney said. Kinney has cut back on his lobstering a bit now. He fishes his 800 traps for three days and stays on Criehaven just two nights.

His grandson Sam and granddaughter Haley now fish as second and third man on his boat. “In a certain sense, I liked the old days,” Kinney admits, but despite the changes, he’s still optimistic about the industry. “They say settlement is down now, but I never saw so many short lobsters with eggs. In 200 traps, I recently punched 97 females. I saved the V-notches.”

“I hate regulations, but I know we need them.”

He said, ‘Boy, that’s a lot of money’, ” Kinney said.

The third, his current vessel, is a T Jason 34 launched recalling. The second was an Arnold Day vessel. Kinney has had three vessels in his career, starting with a used 33-foot Novi boat that needed a fuel system then—you didn’t have to wait for the herring everywhere. Purse seining was the technology then—a boy, that’s a lot of money’, ” Kinney said.

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“I hate regulations, but I know we need them.”
The Swan's Island Memory Project started as a collaborative effort to rebuild the island's historical collection after a fire destroyed the library and archives in 2008. Swan's Island Historical Society volunteers led by Island Institute fellow Meghan Vigeant built a digital collection of oral histories and photographs. Vigeant then produced 30 short audio and multimedia documentaries, each piece focusing on a different aspect of the island's history and character. This is an interview with Normie Burns by Meghan Vigeant from March, 2010. 

**NR:** My name's Norman Burns. I live on Swan's Island. I'm sixty-three years old. I've lived here all my life. I guess I started when I was twelve years old in a skiff and outboard to go lobstering. 

**MV:** How did you get to become a lobsterman? 

**NR:** My father was and I chased him around constantly. He went to the shore. I went to the shore. When I'd come home from grammar school on the bus I'd wait to hear my father's engine on the backshore, but when he got to the Lighthouse I'd start running for the co-op. Go up there. It was called Bill Sprague's then, where he sold his lobsters. I would ride home with him in the boat and come ashore in the punt. I guess I got my first outboard when I was twelve, only three horse but I had 10, 12 traps in the cove in the summer time. Back then you could get lobsters like nothing right in this cove. Price was down to 40, 50, 60 cents. 60 cents when I first started. Then when the lobsters pick up back then you could get lobsters like nothing right in this cove. Price was down to 40, 50, 60 cents. 60 cents when I first started. Then when the lobsters pick up 

**NB:** You mean the fun of going? I love it on the water. I like going 'fore daylight. 

**MV:** What's the best thing about living out here? 

**NB:** We had an old fellow, that's Levi Moulden, always teasing us kids, always wrasseling when he see it. He said, "If there's any sea on, dear, if the sea is coming from the southeast or sou'easterly then you know what direction it's in. Then you just let her come for home. Cause if it's sou'easterly you're gonna run northeast to come in the harbor." He did it, for years and years. We'd look around to see if he had a compass hidden, or had the boat in the wharf ground out. The last of it he'd just go anywhere. 

**MV:** What's the best thing about living out here? 

**NB:** We had an old fellow, that's Levi Moulden, always teasing us kids, always wrasseling when he see it. But he'd go out in the fog, with no compass. And we could never understand it. He said, "If there's any sea on, dear, if the sea is coming from the southeast or sou'easterly then you know what direction it's in. Then you just let her come for home. Cause if it's sou'easterly you're gonna run northeast to come in the harbor." He did it, for years and years. We'd look around to see if he had a compass hidden, or had the boat in the wharf ground out. The last of it he'd just go anywhere. 

**MV:** And what was Levi? What did he do? 

**NB:** Well, he was just a lobster fisherman, short fella, big beer belly. In the old days I guess he was quite a drinker. Him and Carl Batcheler, uncle, went to Stonington one night in a thick of fog. There's a girl in the library and they wanted to impress her. And he said, "We're looking for the book of Levi Moulden written by Carl Batcheler." Well, they had her looking for half an hour and he just made the story up. I guess he never did get her out (laughs). 

**MV:** What's the best thing about living out here? 

**NB:** Well, I guess you can say it's very quiet. After nine o'clock there aren't hardly anybody on the roads except one or two teenagers. I should say eight o'clock in the winter. Summertime it's probably ten. It's very quiet. Everybody's very friendly. If somebody is sick or been sick and hurt, they'll have a supper for you. They'll raise money for you. They'll help with anything.

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**Normie Burns as a young man. Photo courtesy Swan’s Island Historical Society.**

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