By Melissa Waterman

You see it when you drive into town. The simple clapboard houses along Route 187 have ocean views that reach to the horizon. Head down the road a bit and you come to Moosabec Marine, Hamilton Marine and the Jonesport Shipyard. Across the harbor on Beals Island are lobster pounds, lobster boats, bait shops and the seafood processor A.C. Inc. What you don’t see are art galleries, T-shirt shops, and high-end restaurants. Jonesport is a town that has long turned to the sea, whose livelihood today is based on one fishery: lobster.

In 2019, according to the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Jonesport lobstermen landed 2,929,282 pounds of lobster. Vessels homeported in Beals landed 5,993,452 pounds. At an average price per pound of $4.82, the two ports brought more than $43 million into the local economy last year. That level of economic activity means a lot in a county with Maine's highest 2019 unemployment rate (6.1%).

There’s a saying in Maine: “You can’t eat beauty.” While tourists and summer residents admire the coast’s splendor, its residents know that living there can be tough, particularly in the region east of Ellsworth. In Hancock and Washington counties one doesn’t see the sorts of jobs available in the southern areas of the state — manufacturing, retail, office work. Here people derive their sources of income from the water.

That way of life hangs by a single thread. In 2018, the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, the Humane Society of the United States and Conservation Law Foundation sued the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), arguing that the agency was not fulfilling its legal mandate to protect endangered North Atlantic right whales under a suite of federal laws. The case was assigned to the Federal District Court for Washington D.C.

In April 2020, Judge James Boasberg ruled that NMFS had violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in permitting the lobster fishery. The judge’s opinion states that “failure to include an ITS [Incidental Take Statement] in its 2014 BiOp [Biological Opinion] after finding that the American lobster fishery had the potential to harm the North Atlantic right whale at more than three times the sustain-

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF WHALE REGULATIONS WOULD BE PROFOUND

By Melissa Waterman

It’s not everyday that you open your mail and find a check for $5,000. But that is exactly what happened at the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) office in May. Offshore lobsterman Alec Phippen, who fishes from Northeast Harbor, sent a $5,000 check to support the MLA’s Legal Defense Fund. And Phippen is not even an MLA member.

“Our jobs are at stake,” he said in a recent interview. “No one else has gone to bat for us.”

The MLA Legal Defense Fund kicked off a $500,000 fundraising campaign in May in response to a finding from the Federal District Court for Washington D.C. that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in permitting the lobster fishery. The judge’s opinion stated that “Congress enacted the ESA in 1973 to halt and reverse the trend...
COASTAL OUTLOOK

Thoughts from MLCA President Patrice McCarron

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a severe national and international decline in demand for seafood, and the looming threat of a shutdown of the New England lobster fishery due to several court cases brought forward to protect right whales have combined to make this a season like no other. At a time when Maine lobstermen traditionally have been setting their traps and catching up with each other at the summertime lobster boat races, many are instead searching for a silver lining in what appears to be a rather dark cloud.

We start this month’s issue of Landings with a look at the repercussions in Maine’s coastal economy if lobster fishing, the number one commercial fishery in the state by value, were severely restricted or closed due to its assumed threat to endangered North American right whales. Lobstermen earned more than $585 million in 2019, strictly in boat prices. That figure can be multiplied many times when the numerous ancillary businesses, such as marine electronics, boatbuilders, bait businesses, and others, are factored in. The money earned by lobstermen goes to pay local property taxes, pay for groceries, and keep numerous other businesses not directly affiliated with the fishery operating. As Will Tuell, state representative from East Machias, said, “If the fishery were to close, it would be far more devastating than the coronavirus over the next twenty years.”

The Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) is working to make sure that doesn’t happen. As an intervenor in the court case taking place in Washington, D.C., the MLA has the opportunity to present information to the judge that may influence his decision, due later this summer. To do that, it has assembled a strong legal team in Washington. Jane Luxtorn and Mary Anne Mason bring a valuable depth of legal knowledge and understanding of protected species laws and regulatory processes to the team, as we note in this month’s issue.

Landings also features an article on what has motivated some of our industry’s young lobstermen to make generous donations to the MLA’s Legal Defense Fund (LDF). To pay for the work of its legal team, the MLA kicked off a $500,000 fundraising campaign in May. And lobstermen are showing their support. To the credit of the MLA’s Legal Defense Fund (LDF), donors who have shown their support.

When the CARES Act was passed in March to provide financial aid to individuals and businesses affected by the coronavirus, $2 trillion million was set aside for assistance to the nation’s seafood industry. In May, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) finally released the award figures for 31 states and territories. Maine was awarded $20.3 million, as Patrick Keliher, Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Commissioner, writes in Landings. DMR asked those in the seafood sector to make their thoughts known on how that money should be distributed via an online survey; the majority of respondents favored directing the amount up into direct payments. In the meantime, Keliher cautions all involved in the lobster fishery to be conservative this season. “[I]f lobster landings in Maine and Canada occur as they have historically, there is the potential for there to be large volumes of lobster with no place to go and negative impacts to the price this summer as a result.”

We also hear from Marianne Lacroix, executive director of the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC), on how that organization is adapting to a changed market landscape for seafood. The MLMC had planned to focus this year on educating those in the food supply chain about the qualities and stories associated with Maine lobster. But with COVID-19 causing restaurants to close and people to eat primarily at home, the MLMC shifted gears. It introduced Resources for the Home Cook section of its website, turned its digital advertising focus to home consumers, and concentrated on other methods to drive demand for Maine lobster among retail customers. “The MLMC is working closely with industry groups to make sure that we have the most robust and effective marketing program possible to create demand in all available channels and to remain nimble as market conditions continue to change,” Lacroix writes.

Ann McAlhany, an advisor at the Small Business Administration office in Bangor, gives some tips this month to those facing an uncertain future on the importance of having a plan on how to structure one’s business. Interminable business and personal expenses and accounts leaves a business proprietor liable for all sorts of legal and financial headaches, McAlhany writes. At a time when the financial situation is uncertain, taking stock of your business structure makes good sense.

Landings continues its series on the changing Gulf of Maine with an article on the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). The AMOC is an ocean circulation system that draws warm surface water from the equatorial latitudes to the far north, where it cools, becomes saltier and denser, then sinks to the deep ocean where it moves southward, to repeat the entire cycle. The AMOC however has become weaker in strength, allowing the warm Gulf Stream to move northward. That in turn has let warmer water enter the Gulf through the deep Northeast Channel. Warmer water at depth has had a distinct effect on certain species, among them a small copepod much desired by endangered North Atlantic right whales, causing a shift in their feeding patterns.

Finally, we look at an enterprising bait dealer located in Jonesport. Durkee Lobster Bait and its spinoff, Bring It Inc., supply lobster bait for many lobstermen in Downeast Maine. Ben Durkee has worked with his father Manford since he was a child. A proud MLA business member, Durkee donated to the MLA’s Legal Defense Fund and online auction because, he said, “This is a scary time. Lobstermen are the targets now…if the fishery is shut down it will be bad for everyone. Every little bit helps.” Thank you Ben, and the many other MLA business members who have shown their support.

And thank you for your continued interest in the Maine lobster fishery and the men and women who keep it healthy.
It was early May when I first learned how much of the $300 million in CARES Act funding for the nation’s seafood sector had been allocated to Maine. First, the good news: Maine is receiving $20 million to provide relief to fishermen and fishery-related businesses, such as dealers, processors, aquaculture operations and party/charter operations affected by COVID-19. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) made the allocations based on a multi-year average of the total annual revenue of each region’s commercial fishing, charter fishing, processor, and aquaculture sectors. The $20 million Maine will receive represents the fifth-highest amount awarded to 31 different recipients (other states, jurisdictions and Tribes).

Now, the bad news: Maine is only receiving $20 million. Don’t get me wrong -- $20 million is a lot of money, and I am grateful to the Maine delegation for their hard work to get this funding approved and directed toward Maine’s seafood industry. But at the same time, $20 million isn’t a lot of money, not when you start trying to divide it up among the many deserving recipients across all of Maine’s fishing sectors. Remember, in 2019 the landed value of just Maine seafood was nearly $700 million. DMR sells roughly 20,000 licenses and permits. With so many businesses in every part of the supply chain suffering the impacts of drastically reduced markets, $20 million can’t possibly address all the needs.

In recognition of this reality, Governor Mills has communicated to our congressional delegation the need for additional funding for Maine’s seafood industries. Remember, in 2019 the landed value of just Maine seafood was nearly $700 million. DMR sells roughly 20,000 licenses and permits. With so many businesses in every part of the supply chain suffering the impacts of drastically reduced markets, $20 million can’t possibly address all the needs.

In recognition of this reality, Governor Mills has communicated to our congressional delegation the need for additional funding for Maine’s seafood industries. There are already efforts underway to secure billions more for U.S. fishers to fund such efforts as additional disaster assistance, purchase of seafood for foodbanks, and development of markets and advertising to increase seafood consumption. I am hopeful that these efforts will be successful, but in the meantime, I am well aware of the urgency to get the dollars that we do have into the hands of the people who need them.

Toward that end, DMR conducted an online survey to collect as much input as possible on how the $20 million could be used. By the time the survey closed, we had received nearly 900 responses. Overwhelmingly, people favored direct payments (85% of respondents), even understanding that a system that simply “spend plan” for approval. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has been tasked with coordinating and assisting the states with getting the payments out. My goal is to do this as quickly as we can. I will then, with the full support of the Governor and the Maine Congressional delegation, focus on trying to secure a second pot of funding to address the longer-term impacts of this crisis.

While I hope that the direct payments will provide some immediate relief, we also need to be prepared to act to help ourselves as the potential impacts of reduced markets and processing capacity play out over the summer. While there is no way of knowing for certain, a “guess” would suggest that if lobster landings in Maine and Canada occur as they have historically, there is the potential for there to be large volumes of lobster with no place to go and negative impacts to the price this summer as a result.

If that is where we find ourselves, I truly believe that this problem is best solved by the industry (harvesters, dealers and processors) working together to communicate market realities and reduce the supply as best we can to match the demand, rather than the state stepping in with sweeping management actions. In my opinion, state intervention should be a last resort.

While I know it is easier said than done, everyone needs to be prepared to set aside past baggage and try to trust that everyone in the industry will be working in good faith toward the best outcome we can achieve in a terrible situation. It is very likely that no one will have the luxury of just going on auto-pilot, doing everything the same way we have in years past.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts. We received many useful comments and good information on the timing and nature of the impacts.

We are still waiting for final guidance from NOAA, but my staff has been working on the details of how a system of direct payments could work across all eligible sectors. Once that is worked out, DMR must submit our proposed “spend plan” for approval. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has been tasked with coordinating and assisting the states with getting the payments out. My goal is to do this as quickly as we can. I will then, with the full support of the Governor and the Maine Congressional delegation, focus on trying to secure a second pot of funding to address the longer-term impacts of this crisis.

While I hope that the direct payments will provide some immediate relief, we also need to be prepared to act to help ourselves as the potential impacts of reduced markets and processing capacity play out over the summer. While there is no way of knowing for certain, a “guess” would suggest that if lobster landings in Maine and Canada occur as they have historically, there is the potential for there to be large volumes of lobster with no place to go and negative impacts to the price this summer as a result.

If that is where we find ourselves, I truly believe that this problem is best solved by the industry (harvesters, dealers and processors) working together to communicate market realities and reduce the supply as best we can to match the demand, rather than the state stepping in with sweeping management actions.

In my opinion, state intervention should be a last resort.

While I know it is easier said than done, everyone needs to be prepared to set aside past baggage and try to trust that everyone in the industry will be working in good faith toward the best outcome we can achieve in a terrible situation. It is very likely that no one will have the luxury of just going on auto-pilot, doing everything the same way we have in years past.

Continued on page 23
GUEST COLUMN: Changing strategy to adapt to pandemic impacts

By Marianne Lacroix

At the Maine Fishermen’s Forum, the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) presented a plan for promoting Maine lobster to wholesalers, retailers, and consumers in 2020. Shortly after, the world changed dramatically as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The MLMC quickly evaluated the new landscape and made changes to the marketing plan to drive demand in the new market conditions.

One of the biggest impacts of the pandemic is the dramatic decrease in foodservice demand that resulted when restaurants, cruise ships, casinos and events shut down across the country and around the world. These foodservice channels typically account for about two-thirds of Maine lobster consumption. Even as markets begin to re-open, the future of these establishments is uncertain.

The issues with food service present a significant challenge, however changes in consumer behavior have revealed two sales channels as growth opportunities: direct to consumer sales and grocery stores. These segments are reporting increased demand as consumers cook more at home. To meet that demand, Maine lobster dealers are working to line up new grocery customers and expand volumes and product offerings with existing customers.

Given the changes in demand, the MLMC shifted the focus of its marketing program from supply chain promotions to consumer promotions. The first step was to launch the ‘Resources for the Home Cook’ section of our website. This provides home cooks with all the basics of buying, storing, cooking and shucking lobster. The same content is available in our Content Hub for use by dealers, grocery customers and other suppliers, making it easy for everyone to promote Maine lobster.

In 2019, MLMC ran a robust digital advertising campaign targeted at supply chain customers. The campaign reached 83% of the U.S. wholesale seafood industry and resulted in a 43% increase in intent to purchase among those who were exposed to ads as compared to those who were not. This year, given the new reality, we are going to shift the focus of the digital advertising campaign to consumers.

We have consistently targeted consumers over the years through public relations and social media, and with this year’s increased focus on that audience, we will promote the key attributes of Maine lobster, including its sweet flavor, American origin and seasonality. An additional support message will ask consumers to choose Maine and in turn support working lobstermen and coastal communities. By using digital advertising, we’re able to target consumers with relevant content year-round as well as during key holidays.

The MLMC will also work to increase demand through grocery chains by partnering with lobster dealers to run advertising programs with retail customers. These campaigns will drive demand by promoting Maine lobster’s key product attributes rather than price discounts. We will continue to promote Maine lobster to food service channels through our webinar series put on in partnership with Seafood Source, distribution and promotion of our new comprehensive Buyers Guide, introduction of a new newsletter, and media relations efforts with trade publications.

Unfortunately, the pandemic isn’t the only issue the Maine lobster industry is facing in 2020. Additional whale protection regulations may be forced on the fishery as a result of court cases. The MLMC’s role is to protect the brand reputation of Maine lobster so that consumer and wholesale customers have continued confidence in our products.

Gauging public perception of the issue is an important part of determining our marketing response. We continually audit news coverage and social media conversations on the subject and this year also conducted a survey to determine any changes in consumer perception about Maine lobster. Both the audit and the survey show that consumers are largely unaware of any connection between Maine lobster and endangered right whales, and two-thirds of those that do follow the issue closely are still eating lobster.

If you’ve not yet visited the RightWhalesAndMaineLobster website we created last year, it is full of content about Maine’s long-standing efforts to protect right whales and preserve our traditions and fishery. MLMC has also added a ‘Support Maine Lobstermen’ section to our home website that highlights lobstermen’s efforts to protect right whales over the years.

The MLMC is working closely with industry groups to make sure that we have the most robust and effective marketing program possible to create demand in all available channels and to remain nimble so that we can respond as market conditions change.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and decline in restaurant demand, the MLMC is reconfiguring its marketing efforts on building demand among home cooks. MLMC images.
TIME IS SHORT FOR MLA LEGAL TEAM

By Melissa Waterman

The Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) has assembled a powerful legal team to represent its members in legal and regulatory challenges regarding the level of protection necessary to safeguard endangered North Atlantic right whales from lobster gear. Jane Luxton, from the Washington D.C. office of Lewis Brisbois, and Mary Anne Mason, now retired from Crowell & Moring, are currently representing the organization in a court case that alleges that lobster gear poses significant harm to right whales.

Mason was a highly respected anti-trust lawyer during her career and also has expertise in maritime law, having served as executive director of the U.S. delegation to the Law of the Sea Conference and as a policy advisor in NOAAs Office of Coastal Zone Management in the early 1980s. She has extensive experience on right whale and policy issues having served as MLA's counsel since 2007.

Luxton has had a stellar career in the public and private sector and brings extensive knowledge of the workings of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). From 2007 to 2009, she served as general counsel of NOAA, acting as the chief legal officer for all NOAA activities. She was a policy advisor to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, providing advice on legal and policy issues related to natural resource damages, coastal area and fisheries management, endangered species and marine mammal protection. She is currently the Administrative Partner of Lewis Brisbois' Washington, D.C. office, and co-chair of its Government Relations Group Leadership and Environmental and Administrative Law practices.

"I have a keen appreciation of the complexity of these issues and the need to find working solutions," Luxton said. "The Endangered Species Act is very difficult to work with. Its requirements make it very hard to find a balanced outcome."

Luxton's connection to Maine began as a child when her family vacationed at small cabins along the Penobscot Bay between Camden and Rockland. "I have an affinity for Maine. When I had my own family we would spend part of the summer at Biddeford Pool and more recently in St. George. My son became fascinated with lobsters and he still is," Luxton said. Mason and her husband spend summers on the St. George peninsula and return to Maine each year for MLA's Annual meeting and the Maine Fishermen's Forum.

Luxton and Mason are preparing the MLA's brief to present in DC District Court on June 18. The MLA is an intervenor in the court case filed against National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) by four environmental groups, providing the association full standing in the case, which means that it can present information about the lobster fishery which the judge previously had not heard. To be granted recognition by the court as an intervenor, an organization must demonstrate that it has a unique interest in the case that the judge needs to take into account to make a just decision.

"We are in an urgent situation," Luxton continued. "The brief is due by June 18 on the question of a remedy. We are putting together compelling expert testimony that highlights the need for a workable and balanced remedy. We have worked hard to find knowledgeable, highly credible experts who can bring home to the judge the weight of our arguments. The system is set up to give us our day in court and to have the judge listen to us."

"Our aim is to provide the court with a full picture of the work Maine's lobster harvesters have already done to protect the right whale and to ensure that any decision is made on the basis of the best available science about interactions between Maine's fishery and endangered whales," Mason added.

The timeline for a final decision in the federal court case is short with the judge expected to render his opinion by late summer. The work of the MLA's legal team does not end with the court's decision. The MLA will review the court's findings and determine if an appeal is necessary.

The MLA legal team is also reviewing the court case filed in Bangor District Court by Richard "Max" Strahan seeking an injunction against the permitting of vertical buoy lines in Maine's coastal waters. "We are exploring options to determine how best to support the Maine Department of Marine Resources, which is the defendant in this case," explained Mason. "We want to ensure that we bring the full force of our resources and expertise to facilitate the best outcome for the state and our members."

Navigating the morass of red tape created by the legal and regulatory requirements necessary to balance protection of large whales while maintaining a successful and sustainable lobster fishery are not new to the MLA. "The MLA has been fighting for Maine lobstermen to be treated fairly under the whale rules since Pat White was first appointed to the Take Reduction Team back in 1995," said Patrice McCarron. "McCarron took over for Pat White and has served in this role for more than 15 years. "The MLA has a deep understanding of the complex legal and regulatory framework of this issue. Our legal team is ready to see this fight through the courts and the rulemaking process."

The courts have made it clear that NMFS will be required to issue an Incidental Take Statement (ITS) to continue to permit the lobster fishery moving forward. In its court filings, NMFS revealed that it followed an alternate rulemaking procedure when it issued the 2014 Biological Opinion without an ITS because the lobster fishery would not have been able to proceed had it complied with a strict interpretation of the ESA. The judge wrote disparagingly of NMFS' action stating that, "[NMFS] cannot rewrite the statute just because they do not agree with its consequences."

Luxton does not take this challenge lightly. "The standard to obtain an ITS is significant because it brings the strict conservation standard of both the ESA and MMPA together under one requirement." She added, "We have our work cut out for us to ensure that NMFS is able to develop an ITS for the lobster fishery that passes legal muster while sustaining a safe and successful fishery for Maine lobstermen."

---

Byline: Jane Luxton served as General Counsel of NOAA and is now part of the MLA legal team.

---

Farm Credit East specializes in providing loans and lines of credit to Maine's commercial fishing industry. With long- and short-term financing options for real estate, boats and equipment, Farm Credit East is the right choice for you. We provide attractive rates and solid advice for aquatic businesses of every type and size. Our lending experts understand your business.

Call them today at the branch office closest to you.

LOANS AND LEASES FOR:
- BOATS
- TRUCKS
- REAL ESTATE
- PERMITS
- BAIT STORAGE FACILITIES
- WHARVES
- EQUIPMENT
- HAUL OUT AND REPAIR
- OPERATING LINES

Farm Credit East
800.831.4220 | FARMCREDITEAST.COM
able rate is about as straightforward a violation of the ESA as they come." He further states, "Congress enacted the ESA in 1973 to halt and reverse the trend toward species extinction, whatever the cost." As a consequence, the judge could require NMFS to close or severely restrict the lobster fishery in order to meet the requirements of the law.

"If the lobster fishery were to go away, it would be devastating," said Will Tuell, state representative from East Machias and a member of the Joint Committee on Marine Resources. "My district is mostly lobstermen. They have families. They spend their money at local businesses, like restaurants and hardware stores. If the fishery were to close, it would be far more devastating than the coronavirus over the next twenty years."

"Th ey spend their money at local businesses, like restaurants and hardware stores. If the fishery were to close, it would be far more devastating than the coronavirus over the next twenty years."

"If the lobster fishery were to go away, it would be devastating," said Will Tuell, state representative from East Machias and a member of the Joint Committee on Marine Resources. "My district is mostly lobstermen. Th ey have families. Th ey spend their money at local businesses, like restaurants and hardware stores. If the fishery were to close, it would be far more devastating than the coronavirus over the next twenty years."

H & H Marine, Steuben; Hancock Marine Service; James H. Rich Boatyard in Bernard; Libby’s Boat Shop in Beals; Nautilus Marine Fabrication in Trenton; Midcoast Marine Electronics in Rockland; Great Island Boat Yard in Harpswell; York Harbor Marine. Th e list of small businesses related to the lobster fishery goes on and on.

"A general observation is that there is probably no fishery or aquaculture sector that will match the magnitude and value of Maine’s lobster fishery," said Paul Anderson, executive director of the Center for Coastal Fisheries in Stonington. "If you look at landings data, even when salmon farming is having a good year, the total value is dwarfed by the lobster value, plus they really don’t employ that many people."

Th e lobster fishery sustains thousands of businesses and communities. Lobster is not only a Maine icon, but is an economic pillar for Maine tourism and the coastal economy. Th is is an urgent situation for Maine’s lobster fishing families and also for everyone in Maine who values our cultural heritage and the economic impact tourism brings to the state,” said Amy Lent, executive director of the Maine Maritime Museum.

Th e ripple effect of the lobster fishery closing or being sharply reduced will impact not only local businesses and the tax revenues of small communities but also could change the basic character of those communities. “Th e exodus that could happen if there are severe cutbacks in the lobster fishery with no reasonable alternatives will change the demographic of many rural coastal communities. I fear that in that vacuum, the gates will swing wide open to gentrification, which could change those communities forever, shifting them away from working waterfront communities to vacation and seasonal resident communities,” Anderson said.

A research study published by Colby College economics professor Michael Donohue in 2018 examined the economic value of the lobster supply chain, those businesses who are connected to lobster after it leaves the wharf. He found that the wholesale lobster distribution supply chain contributed an estimated $967.7 million to the Maine economy and supported more than 5,500 jobs in 2016. Th ese are the jobs found in companies like Ready Seafood, Beals Jonesport Coop, Seaview Lobster, or Island Seafood.

"Nor will other commercial fisheries in aggregate or aquaculture enterprises at the size and scale that Maine’s coast allows can employ as many people as the lobster fishery does on the water, on the docks, and in the post-harvest sectors," Anderson said emphatically.

---

**Selected towns and landings, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>pounds landed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addison</td>
<td>1,085,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beals</td>
<td>5,993,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonesport</td>
<td>2,929,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corea</td>
<td>1,931,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutler</td>
<td>1,221,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machiasport</td>
<td>1,578,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steuben</td>
<td>1,561,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonington</td>
<td>10,893,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swans Island</td>
<td>1,942,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass Harbor</td>
<td>2,518,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owls Head</td>
<td>2,524,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spruce Head</td>
<td>3,800,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinalhaven</td>
<td>7,607,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Clyde</td>
<td>1,388,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Porpoise</td>
<td>824,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cundy’s Harbor</td>
<td>2,294,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>2,851,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kittery</td>
<td>1,189,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>654,705</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMR Landings data 2019 (https://maineditor.shinyapps.io/Landings_Portal/)

---

**HYDRO-SLAVE**

SAME DAY SERVICE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

**“THINKING OF BUILDING A NEW BOAT?”**

LET US QUOTE YOU ON A POWER STEERING OR A POT HAULER.

**HAULERS AVAILABLE 8” TO 17”**

- Aluminum Backplate
- Polished Stainless Backplate
- All Stainless Hardware

**POWER STEERING AVAILABLE IN 5 CLASSES**

- Up to 120 Feet
- Stainless Quadrant Assemblies
- Stainless Helms

**16” SPAKED WHEEL**

- Bronze
- Chrome

**ELECTRIC CLUTCHES**

**HIGH EFFICIENCY VAPE PUMP**

$544.70

**5.5 HP HONDA POWER UNIT**

- 110PM @ 1550 PSI 2 Stage Pump
- Light, Versatile and Portable
- This unit will power 10” and 12” and 14” haulers
- Ideal for outboards and small outboards
- Log Splitter

**DUAL RAM QUADRANT ASSEMBLY**

- 100% Stainless Steel construction
- Rudder side thrust eliminated
- No stress on boat timbers

**OUR NEW GENERATION SUPER BLOCKS**

- 4” Low LIP and Hi LIP
- 5” Low LIP and Hi LIP
- 2000 lb. Capacity
- Sealed tapered roller bearings
- Aluminum Sheaves
- Stainless Sheaves

**WORLD’S LARGEST POT HAULER MFG. FOR OVER 40 YEARS**

Call John for more information 1-800-747-7550 • Or visit us on the internet: marine-hydraulic-engineering.com

MARINE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING
17 Gordon Drive • Rockland, Maine • Fax: 207-594-9721
Email: marinhydr@midcoast.com

---

**Old School Pig Hide**

From one fisherman to another...

We save you money!

31 Number Nine Rd.
Cutler, ME 04626
oldschooltrucking2@gmail.com
207-812-5211

MLA members get $1.00 off per bucket
MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

STEAMING AHEAD

In this line of work one thing I can always count on is a phone call from a lobsterman telling me just how things are going to be. The subject may be the lobster price, the price of bait or fuel, or management changes that are coming.

From the conversation, you learn which problems are unique to an individual, which ones are likely to work them selves out, and which ones you need to roll up your sleeves and try to fix. Lobstering has been so good too so many that, honestly, the days when you would regularly call the office to give me an earful had become few and far between.

That has all changed. Today’s circumstances are a stark contrast to the comfortable place many lobstermen and the MLA have enjoyed in recent years. As the director of MLA, my job has always been to work with the MLA Board and members to make sure that the forces affect the lobster industry — and there are a lot of them — do not undermine our industry, traditions and sustainable fishing practices.

To do this requires the MLA to act for the fishery as a whole; that is why MLA’s work is often viewed as controversial.

This year is one in which we must navigate uncharted waters. Lobstermen are opening their season in the steepest market decline since the Great Depression. Predictions suggest that the severe constriction of the food service and entertainment sectors will translate directly into a lack of customers for the millions of pounds of lobster we have yet to land. Simple economics dictate that if you have more product than customers, price goes down. Lobster is particularly vulnerable to price deflation due to the tremendous risk in holding and moving live product.

Add to this uncertainty the fact that currently there is not a single person who can tell lobstermen how to prepare for the next round of whale rules. Despite having created one of the most sustainable fisheries in the world, the lobster industry finds itself on the wrong side of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We know that the outcome of the pending court cases and the long anticipated new Biological Opinion on the lobster fishery will require us to change how we fish. The changes will be significant, but we do not know what they will be or when they will need to be in place.

Bottom line, thousands of owner-operated businesses that we fish. The changes will be significant, but we do not know what they will be or when they will need to be in place.

WEATHER NEWS

MAINE LOBSTERMEN’S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

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

President: Kristan Porter
Cutter, 259-3336
1st VP: John Williams
Stonington, 367-2731
2nd VP: Dustin Delano
Friendship, 542-7241

Directors
Bob Baino, Spruce Head, 596-0177
Sunny Bead, Baile Island, 497-3440
Launin Brooks, Kennebunk, 468-2165
Herman Coombs, Orr’s Island, 807-8596
Gerry Cushman, Port Clyde, 372-6429
Jim Dow, Bass Harbor, 288-9846
Janice Hallock, S. Bristol, 677-0148
Robert Ingalls, Bucks Harbor, 255-3418
Mark Jones, Boothbay, 633-6504
Jaceen Joyce, Swan’s Island, 526-4109
Jack Merrill, Islesford, 244-4187
Tad Miller, Mainucus, 372-6941
Mike Sargent, Steuben, 460-1316
Craig Stewart, Long Island, 829-2109
John Tripp, Spruce Head, 601-9744
Chris Welsh, Kennebunk, 205-2093
Thomas Wetzer, Cape Elizabeth, 807-1048

Staff
Executive Director
Patrice McGarron
patrice@mainelobstermen.org

Membership Director
Andi Pelletier
andi@mainelobstermen.org

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING SCHEDULE

WEBINAR: How to Find Lobster
2020-11-20 03:00 AM

WEATHER NEWS

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MLA has suspended all in-person meetings.

Legal Defense Fund Launched to #SaveMaineLobstermen

Th e MLA has launched #SaveMaineLobstermen, an ambitious fundraising campaign to raise $500,000 to preserve a future for Maine lobstermen and the businesses and communities that depend on their success. Th e MLA is currently three court cases – in Washington D.C., Boston, and Bangor – each of which could significantly impact the future of the Maine lobster fishery. Lobstermen must grapple with several federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Administrative Procedures Act. Each of these legal mandates will require us to navigate an equally challenging legal landscape and the process to get across the fishing line.

Th e MLA is extremely grateful for the outpouring of support from the industry. As of May 28, we have raised $110,000. While we still have a way to go, this is tremendous progress given the difficult economic times facing our state and our industry. Funds raised for the MLA Legal Defense Fund are dedicated to the legal challenges moving through the courts and for policy experts to ensure our industry can effectively take part in the rulemakings once these legal issues are decided.

The MLA cannot guarantee the outcome of these court cases or future rulemakings, but we can promise to do everything possible to save our industry. We can guarantee that lob- ster will lose a lot if we don’t keep up the fight to save Maine lobstermen. If you haven’t already, please support the MLA Legal Defense Fund and do your part to #SaveMaine Lobstermen by visiting the MLA website. If you have already made a contribution, thank you so much! We urge our members to encourage others in your area to help us in this fight.

Federal Court Case (CBD vs Ross in DC District Court)

Four environmental groups filed suit against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) early in 2018 seeking more stringent regulation of the American lobster fishery. Our legal team provide a shield to temper the blow from that gun, and we are standing our ground to fight for your future. Look around your town. The local grocery store is support ed by the income from your boat. The local school is paid for by your property taxes. The boatyard, marine electronics store and bait shop are all thriving because of you. If lobstermen are hurt or lose their businesses, others will be hurt too. There is too much at stake for us to let this fishery fail. We cannot let that happen.

We must all work together to keep the ship heading on course through this truly historic year. If you are not yet an MLA member, we urge you to join today. Your membership dues ensure that the MLA has a professional staff in place ready to respond to whatever comes up next (currently only 2.5 people). And if you have not yet donated to the Legal Defense Fund, please consider supporting us today. It will take all of us joining together to get through this.

I am grateful for the outpouring of support and good will we have received, so thank you.

As always, stay safe on the water.

June 2020 | LANDINGS | Page 7

Continued on page 8
to protect North Atlantic right whales. The MLA intervened in May 2018. The case proceeded in two phases. The first was to decide if NMFS had violated the law in permitting the lobster fishery and the second, if necessary, was to seek a remedy to bring NMFS and, in effect, the lobster fishery back into compliance with the law. In April 2020, the U.S. District Judge ruled that NMFS had violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when it issued its 2014 Biological Opinion and permitted the American lobster fishery without an Incidental Take Statement.

The court case has now transitioned to the second phase to identify a remedy to bring NMFS and the lobster fishery into compliance with the law. The court has not yet heard from the fishing industry because Phase 1 dealt strictly with legal issues. The MLA will have a strong presence in Phase 2, which is focused on what mitigation actions will be required of lobstermen and the timeline to comply with the law. The MLA will also correct significant errors in the factual basis for the alleged harm to right whales from lobster fishing gear. The MLA has posted information on our website that summarizes NMFS’s most recent data on right whale entanglement.

In late April, the judge set the final schedule for this case:

May 15: Plaintiffs (4 environmental groups) file opening motion on remedy
June 15: Federal Defendants (Dept. of Justice on behalf of NMFS) file response
June 18: Defendant-Intervenors (MLA and Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association) file response
June 22: Amicus curiae file its brief (Maine Dept. of Marine Resources)
July 10: Plaintiffs (4 environmental groups) file their reply

Since the schedule was set, two lobster industry groups have filed motions to intervene. The Maine Lobstering Union (MLU) filed its Motion to Intervene on May 12 and Little Bay Lobster (Shafmaster) on May 13. As a party to the case, the MLA was consulted on both of these filings and did not object to either group requesting intervenor status. The environmental groups opposed these requests; NMFS did not object to them. The MLA filed a Response to MLU’s Motion to Intervene to correct factual information about the MLA on May 15. The Plaintiffs filed a brief opposing the two motions to intervene on May 26. The judge has full discretion on whether or not he will grant intervenor status to these groups.

On May 15, the environmental groups filed its “Plaintiffs Brief on Remedy and an Expert Declaration” in support of their brief. The plaintiffs have asked for an interim remedy to include:

- The Judge vacate the 2014 Biological Opinion but temporarily stay any injunction while the matter is remanded to NMFS with a requirement that NMFS issue a new Biological Opinion and Final Whale Rule by January 31, 2021; and
- NMFS is prohibited from permitting the use of vertical lines in the Southern New England Restricted Area (the area south of Nantucket) until the agency issues a Biological Opinion that includes an Incidental Take Statement for right whales and any necessary mitigation measures are in effect on the water; and
- NMFS provide monthly status updates to the court and that the court retain jurisdiction over this matter pending issuance of the new Biological Opinion and implementation of any necessary mitigation measures on the water.

The good news is that the Plaintiffs have not recommended an interim management action in the Gulf of Maine. We hope that the judge does not stay from this recommendation because it would allow Maine lobstermen to get through the 2020 fishing season at least without additional whale regulations. However, this procedure sets a precedent for the prohibition of buoy lines under certain circumstances and will require NMFS to issue an Incidental Take Statement (ITS) with the new Biological Opinion, which will be a daunting challenge. NMFS has not previously included an ITS with the Biological Opinion because it could not make the case that the lobster fishery would have a ‘negligible impact’ on right whales. The MLA will file its brief and expert declarations by June 18. The judge will consider all of the briefs filed in the court by the July deadline and will ultimately decide what comes next for the fishery.

Max Strahan Court Case Against Maine (US District Court in Bangor)

In September 2019, Max Strahan filed a complaint against Maine DMR and NMFS in U.S. District court in Bangor for authorizing the use of vertical buoy lines in Maine’s state and federal lobster and gillnet fisheries. NMFS filed a motion to dismiss the case. On May 4, the judge ruled to allow the case to proceed, limiting its scope to right whales.

On May 15, Max Strahan filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction, asking the judge to prohibit the use of vertical buoy lines in Maine’s coastal waters lobster and gillnet fisheries and to require the state to immediately apply to NMFS for an ESA Section 10 Incidental Take Permit to continue to license these fisheries. The MLA’s legal team is exploring options on how we can best support the state of Maine in this pending court case.

Max Strahan Court Case Against Massachusetts (US District Court in Boston)

In February 2018, Max Strahan filed a complaint against Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, NMFS, ASMFC and Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association in U.S. District court in Boston for authorizing the use of vertical buoy ropes in Massachusetts state and federal lobster and gillnet fisheries.

On April 30, the judge ruled in favor of Strahan and issued an order granting partial injunctive relief. Specifically, the judge ordered the state of Massachusetts to “promptly seek an Incidental Take Permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act” for licensing the use of vertical buoy ropes and “Plaintiff may renew his motion for a preliminary injunction enjoining Defendants from licensing fishing activities that use Vertical Buoy Ropes in Massachusetts state waters if Defendants have not obtained an Incidental Take Permit within ninety (90) days of this Order.”

ASMFC Updates

ASMFC Atlantic Herring Section Days Out Meeting — The ASMFC’s Herring Board members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts set effort control measures for the 2020 Area 1A herring fishery for Season 1 (June-September).

The Area 1A sub-anual catch limit (ACL) is 2,957 metric tons (mt) which reflects the season’s quota. 30 mt fixed gear sector, and herring closure when 92% of the sub-ACL is landed. ASMFC previously set seasonal allocations for the 2020 fishery with 72.8% of quota allocated from June-September and 27.2% from October-December. Effort control measures for the 2020 herring fishery:

- The herring fishery opens on July 19 in Maine (July 20 in New Hampshire and Massachusetts).
- Category A permit holders that have declared into the Area 1A fishery may land herring four (4) consecutive days a week, with one landing per 24-hour period.
- Category A permit holders may harvest up to 240,000 lbs (6 trucks) per harvester vessel, per week.
- Small mesh bottom trawl vessels with an Atlantic herring limited Access Category C or Open Access D permit that have declared into the fishery may land herring five (5) consecutive days a week.
- Category A permit holders and carrier vessels landing herring caught in Area 1A to a Maine, New Hampshire, or Massachusetts port may transfer herring at-sea to another harvester vessel but may not make any at-sea transfers to a carrier vessel. Carrier vessels may not receive at-sea transfers from a harvester vessel.
- Fishermen are prohibited from landing more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip from Area 1A until the fishery opens. Landings will be closely monitored and the fishery will be adjusted to zero landing days when the seasonal period quota is projected to be reached.

ASMFC Atlantic Herring Management Board — The Atlantic Herring Management Board met via webinar in May to review and consider final action on an update to the herring management plan. Addendum III proposes options to better manage the Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) sub-anual catch limit (ACL) under low quota scenarios. This would provide additional tools for allocation distribution and expanding the landing provisions across different permit categories within the days out program.

The Herring Board voted to postpone action on Addendum III due to several pending actions. An assessment update for Atlantic herring will be finalized later this summer that may impact catch limits for the 2021 fishing season. Amendment 8, developed by the New England Fishery Management Council, has not been implemented as yet. Amendment 8 establishes a long-term acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule which will result in low Atlantic herring quotas should the resource continue to be below its biomass target, and the prohibition of midwater trawl gear inshore of 12 nautical miles from the U.S./Canada border, and a 20 nautical miles off the east coast of Cape Cod.
**AQUAMESH®**

**40 YEARS OF INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE**

PROUDLY MADE IN AMERICA SINCE 1980

1.800.762.6374 • sales@riverdale.com • www.riverdale.com

---

**FRESH BAIT**

DIRECT FROM O’HARA

Why buy secondhand when you can buy fresh from O’Hara?

**BLACK COD**

FROZEN IN BOXES

**HERRING**

FRESH BY TANK AND BARREL, FROZEN IN BOXES

**POGIES**

FRESH BY TANK AND BARREL, FROZEN IN BOXES

**REDFISH**

FROZEN IN BOXES

**ROCKFISH**

FROZEN IN BOXES

**SALT TUNA**

50 LB BAGS

---

**SERVICE**

**DEPENDABILITY**

**QUALITY**

SINCE 1907

---

19 Front Street
Rockland, ME 04841

FRESH
207.594.0495

FROZEN
207.542.1856
WHEN YOUR ENGINE MEANS BUSINESS, MILTON CAT MEANS MORE.

Milton CAT is the Northeast and upstate New York Caterpillar dealer. Our complete range of marine power systems solutions is backed by a team with exceptional knowledge and experience.

• More engine choices.
• More fully equipped and staffed locations.
• More support for your commercial fishing vessel, ferry, tug, or pleasure craft.
• More ordering and delivery options for unparalleled part availability.

Contact:
Kevin Hampson, 508-634-5503, Kevin_Hampson@miltoncat.com

Bottom Line
Super 46 Wesmac
C18 CAT

BROOKS TRAP MILL
& MARINE SUPPLIES

Working to make 2020 your best season ever!

~ The one stop shop for your lobster & commercial fishing needs! ~

Visit us online at: www.brookstrapmill.com
Save Maine’s Lobster Industry

One of the world’s most sustainable fisheries could be shut down and we cannot let that happen. Right whales are not dying in Maine lobster gear.

Patrice McCarron, executive director
Maine Lobstermen’s Association

• The federal government has violated the Endangered Species Act.
• The Maine lobster fishery could be shut down.
• This could mean the end of the lobstering tradition for our children.

The MLA is raising $500,000 for the Legal Defense Fund to save Maine’s lobster industry.

Donate Online:
www.mainelobstermen.org

Donate By Mail:
MLA LDF, 2 Storer St, Ste 203, Kennebunk ME 04043

5/28/2020
How did we get here?

There are currently three court cases pending — in Washington D.C., Boston, and Bangor — each of which could significantly impact the future operation of the lobster fishery. These cases bring the full force of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) to bear on the lobster fishery. Each of these legal mandates also requires completion of a challenging rulemaking process in order to keep the lobster fishery in operation.

In early 2018, four environmental groups filed suit against National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) seeking more stringent regulation of the lobster fishery to protect North Atlantic right whales. The MLA intervened in May 2018 gaining full standing in the case which proceeded in two phases. The first was to decide if NMFS had violated the law in permitting the lobster fishery, and the second, if necessary, would seek a remedy to bring NMFS, and in turn, the lobster fishery, into compliance with the law.

In April 2020, the judge ruled that NMFS violated the ESA when it issued its 2014 Biological Opinion (BiOp) and permitted the American lobster fishery without an Incidental Take Statement. The judge wrote, “Congress enacted the ESA in 1973 to halt and reverse the trend toward species extinction, whatever the cost.”

Phase 2 of the case is underway to identify a remedy to bring NMFS permitting of the lobster fishery into compliance with the law. The court has not yet heard from the fishing industry as Phase 1 dealt strictly with legal issues. MLA will have a strong presence in Phase 2 during which it will correct significant errors in the factual basis for the alleged harm to right whales from lobster fishing gear such as the outstretched role of Canada in right whale deaths over the past five years. Sadly, all ten right whale deaths in 2019 were attributed to Canada. The industry received good news on May 15 when the Plaintiffs did not recommend an interim management action in the Gulf of Maine. This gives us hope that Maine lobstermen may get through the 2020 fishing season without additional whale regulations. However, this proposal sets a precedent for the prohibition of buoy lines in the lobster fishery and will require NMFS to issue an Incidental Take Statement (ITS) with the new BiOp by January 31, 2021, which is a daunting challenge. In its court filings, NMFS revealed that it issued the 2014 BiOp without an ITS because the lobster fishery would not have been able to proceed had it complied with a strict interpretation of the ESA. The judge wrote disapprovingly “[NMFS] cannot rewrite the statute just because they do not agree with its consequences.”

In a separate court case, a judge is requiring the state of Massachusetts to obtain an incidental take permit within 90 days in order to continue permitting its state waters lobster and gillnet fisheries a similar complaint is moving forward in Maine seeking to cease the permitting of vertical lines in Maine’s coastal waters.

Timeline of Federal Court Case

January 2018 — Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife and Humane Society file suit against Department of Commerce, NOAA & NMFS.
February 2018 — Conservation Law Foundation and Earth Justice also file suit.
March 2018 — Judge consolidates both cases into a single case. Plaintiffs are the four conservation groups (enGOs) and Defendant is NOAA Fisheries.
May 2018 — Judge orders case split into two phases. Phase 1 (Liability Phase) to deal with legal issue of whether NMFS has violated the ESA, MMPA or APA; and Phase 2 (Remedy Phase) to decide what remedy, if any, is necessary to cure a violation of the law.
May 2018 — MLA granted status as Intervenor/Defendant with full rights to participate in the case.
June 2019 — Plaintiffs enGOs file motions for summary judgment in Phase 1.
March 2019 — Discovery completed on Phase 1 legal issues.
October 2019 — Judge denies NMFS motion to “stay” pending TFR outcome.

Donate TODAY to #savemainelobstermen

Name: __________________________________________

Business Name: __________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: __________________________________________

State: ______ Zip: ______

Phone: __________________________________________

Email: __________________________________________

☐ $5000
☐ $1000
☐ $500
☐ $365 “a dollar a day”
☐ $100
☐ Other: __________________________

Make checks payable to “MLA LDF”
2 Storer St, Suite 203 Kennebunk, ME 04043
Call: 207-967-4555
Online: www.mainelobstermen.org

The Jay Smith Challenge
Lobstermen donate $1,000

The Brooks Trap Mill Challenge
Businesses donate $10,000 or more

Alec Phippen Challenge
Offshore Lobstermen donate $5000 each

Take the Challenge!
Richard Wall met the Jay Smith Challenge by donating $1,000!!

John Stanley met the Jay Smith Challenge by donating $1,000!!

Tyler Cheney • All Things Lobstering •
May 28th

Every lobsterman in the state should do this. What is a few hundred bucks versus hundreds and thousands of dollars of your future. Wake up people.

May 28th

John Stanley met the Jay Smith Challenge by donating $1,000!!

He would like to personally thank you for fighting to save an industry that means so much to so many in Maine and New England. We truly appreciate all that you are doing to help with this battle. #savemaine #lobster #lobstermen #mainelobster #mainelobsters

Ryan and Laurie Schoppke
Bangor, Maine

We are truly all in this together! Thank you for all your efforts. Go get them!!

-Steve Budrow

Richard Wall met the Jay Smith Challenge by donating $1,000!!

June 16th

ONLINE AUCTION
All proceeds benefiting: the Maine Lobstermen’s Association Legal Defense Fund

SaveMaine Lobster
Find the event on Facebook. Bidding will begin and end with bidding ending at 6pm on June 17th.

June 16–17th

ONLINE AUCTION
All proceeds benefiting: the Maine Lobstermen’s Association Legal Defense Fund

SaveMaine Lobster
Find the event on Facebook. Bidding will begin and end with bidding ending at 6pm on June 17th.

Richard Wall met the Jay Smith Challenge by donating $1,000!!

Richard Wall
May 28th

We are truly all in this together! Thank you for all your efforts. Go get them!!

-Steve Budrow
**Thank you for helping to Save Maine's Lobster Industry**

### 2020 Donors - as of 5/28/2020

#### Gifts under $100
- A Bright Horizon
- Tele Aasden
- Sean Allen
- Terrance Ashton
- Lacie Bachelder
- Nancy Beal
- Kevin Beining (DriveTrain)
- Thomas Bell
- W. Kennedy Boone III
- Theodore Boyce
- Lisa Brackett
- William Crowell
- Curtis Brand Music
- Chris Cushman
- Jess Dagle
- Jon Emerson
- Erin Fitzgerald
- Kyle Foley
- Rachel Fowlie
- Kate Fox
- Tiffany Gardner
- Sandra L. Gates
- William Gilpatrick
- Asa Goodband
- Erik Hansen
- Gregory D Havener
- Pat Havener
- John C Holliday
- Christina Hunningshaus
- Cynthia Jensen
- William Johnston
- Sumner Kinney
- Paul Kinsella
- Kevin Kline
- Ellen Kornetsky
- Robert Krist
- Patricia Lagasse
- Erin Lally
- Kenneth F Lemont
- Gary Libby
- Edward & Debra Meyers
- Jed Miller
- Tracy Moody
- Miriam M Mullikin
- Eve Murray
- Kyle Nichols
- Robert H Oberlander
- Jim O'Connell
- Brent L Oliver
- Mary Olsen
- Pandemonium Holdings LLC
- Andrea Pellechla
- Douglas Rackcliff
- Darren & Nicole Randall
- Robert Redmaker
- Rebecca Robinson
- Erin Rodin
- Brandon Secord
- David & Joyce Southard
- Tiffany Strong
- Debbie Sweet
- Asa Thompson
- Kelsey Tower
- Ventura Fishermen’s Market
- Greg Veshinsky
- Andrew Vorkink
- Kenneth Weed
- Carla White
- Anne Wiedenekel
- Cynthia Wright
- Scott Young

#### Gifts $100 — $299
- Jason Alley
- Daniel L Ames
- Mike Arsenault
- John Bacon
- Andrew Balser
- Michael Balser
- Robert L Beal
- Blaine E Blackmore
- Scott Blackmore
- Hugh Bowen
- Kent Bradstreet
- Eric Brazer
- Amy Brazer
- Laurin Brooks
- Foy F Brown
- John W Chipman
- John Clinton
- Daniel S Clough
- Philip R Condon
- Jocelyn Coombs
- Riley Coombs
- Marilyn Crowell
- Benjamin A Dobler
- Jerry Doughty
- Edgar Drew
- Jordan Drouin
- Martha T Dunham
- Anne Eggers
- Betsy Eggers
- Peter Emerson
- Nathan Fangonde
- A. Michael Faulkingham
- Nick Faulkingham
- Donald Foye
- Ryan Geel
- George’s River Canvas
- Kevin Glover
- Alexander Gonzalez
- Kate Griffin & Rich Leidinger
- Jessica Hathaway
- Andrew Havener
- Gary E. Hawkes
- Bruce Heanssler
- Richard & Bonnie Heanssler
- Jim Henderson
- Christopher Herring
- Todd Hubbard
- Bobby Inglis
- Angela Johnson
- Robert P Johnson
- Donald Jones
- Heather Jones
- Samuel Joy
- Spencer Joyce
- Sharon Kern
- Knight Marine Service
- Matthew D Knowlton
- Alex De Koning
- Fiona De Koning
- Gene Lazarro
- Garrett Lemoine
- Jason Mann
- Adam McAfee
- Genevieve McDonald
- Michael McDonough
- James R McMahen Jr
- Alice McWilliams
- Daniel Miller
- Peter Miller
- Ryan Miller
- Miss Madison LLC
- Jonathan Murphy
- Karl Murphy

#### $100 - $299 cont’d
- Richard C Nelson
- Mike Norcia
- Philip D Page
- Michael Parenteau
- Nicolas Pellechla
- Penobscot Bay & River Pilots
- Luke Philbrook
- Alton Pinkham
- Port Clyde Fresh Catch
- Richard Post
- Lawrence Pye
- Kelly Ralph
- Steve Rosen
- Patience Sampson
- Matt Samuels
- Saunders Fishing Inc.
- Sandra Shepard
- Michael Sherman
- Heather Sirocki
- Philip Spalding
- Ted Spruling Jr
- Jenni & Gary Steele
- Craig Stewart
- Cody Stewart
- Courtland Tolman
- True North Fisheries
- Alexander Varner
- Brandon Wallace
- Lee Watkinson
- Jeanne L Whitter
- Jeret Winchenbach
- Jason Witham
- Barry L Wood Sr
- Cheryl Worthing
- Donald Wright
- Jason York
- Ali Young
- Luke Zable
- Mark Zable

#### Gifts $300 - $499
- Bob Baines
- Mary Blackmore & Sally Haskell
- E. Vance Bunker
- Tyler Cheney
- Robert L Donnell
- Philip N Doucette
- David Neubig
- Adam Scott
- Charles H Tarbox
- Jason Zanke

#### Gifts $500 - $999
- Justin J Wright
- John and Judy Williams
- Jeff White
- Brian Alley
- Joshua Ames
- Rex Benner
- Joel Billings
- David F Black
- Steve Budrow
- Dwight Carver
- Herman Coombs
- David Cousins
- Laurie Crane
- CSM Inc.
- John Daggett
- Delano Seafood Shack
- Travis Doughty
- John Drouin
- Elizabeth Fenwick
- Bruce W Fernald
- Joshua Hatch
- Richard Howland

#### Gifts $1000 - $4,999
- Bring It Inc.
- Dustin Delano
- Wayne Delano
- Jeffrey A Donnell
- Gillespie Marine LLC
- Sam Hylte
- Stephen Lash
- Lee Marine
- Ian Lussier
- Jack Merritt III
- Jim Merriman
- Alfred Osgood
- Josh Polk
- Harold Poole
- Jay Smith Jr
- Smithwick & Mariners Ins.
- John Stanley
- Starlight Inc.
- David A Thomas
- Richard Wall
- Keith Wallace
- Ronald T Watkinson
- Ted Weber
- Thomas Werner
- Jeff White
- John and Judy Williams
- Justin J Wright

#### Gifts $5,000 - $9,999
- Alec Phippen
- Spruce Head Fishermen’s Co
- Swans Isl. Fishermen’s Co-op
- York Lobstermen’s Assoc.
- The Harbor Challenge:
  - Cape Porpoise Lobstermen: $5300
  - York Harbor Lobstermen: $3200

[Support the MLA Legal Defense Fund!](#)
Businesses that value Maine lobstermen also value the Maine Lobstermen’s Association.

Please renew your Business Membership today

www.mainelobstermen.org/membership

or call 207-967-4555 for more information

Oily, salty, Gulf Menhaden has 5 times more oil than Atlantic pogies*

Individually Quick Frozen (IQF) Pogie

Buy factory direct
Stable supply and stable pricing

For more info call Shawn Switzer (337) 400-4121

www.getbait.com

*LSU Ag Center Test results
**PREDIABETES: COULD IT BE YOU?**

More than 1 out of 3 American adults — have prediabetes.
Most adults with prediabetes don’t know they have it.
With prediabetes blood sugar levels are higher than normal but not high enough to be diagnosed as type 2 diabetes.

prediabetes increases the risk of:

If someone has prediabetes, losing weight by eating healthy and being more active can cut their risk of getting type 2 diabetes in half.
For those who ignore prediabetes their risk for type 2 diabetes goes up — type 2 diabetes increases the risk for serious health complications:

**Could it be you?**

*More than 1 out of 3 American adults — have prediabetes.*
*Mandatory reporting is coming, so get ahead of the curve and put a product on board that takes care of compliance.*

Deckhand is one-part reporting tool for your vessel trip reports and three-parts innovative logbook for keeping track of your own proprietary information to make your business run as efficiently as possible.

Whether you’re a fisherman who keeps meticulous logs or just wants to get the trip report done and head home, Deckhand works the way you do, all while getting your reports submitted in a matter of seconds.

**You can prevent type 2 diabetes**

*Find out if you have prediabetes — see your doctor to get your blood sugar tested*.

Mandatory reporting is coming, so get ahead of the curve and put a product on board that takes care of compliance, adds value to your business, and is enjoyable to use.

**Introductory offer**

*$499 annual subscription only*  
*$999 annual subscription + iPad® + waterproof case**  
*Available June 1*

---

**RDR LOBSTER AND SHELLFISH**

Trenton & Jonesboro, Maine

• Buying Lobster Year Round
• Top Prices Paid
• Pickups Available
• Instant Pay

207-667-2250  
rdrl Lobster@yahoo.com

---

**Brought to you by**

the Maine CDC.

---

**It’s no longer just about compliance. It’s about your future.**

Deckhand is one-part reporting tool for your vessel trip reports and three-parts innovative logbook for keeping track of your own proprietary information to make your business run as efficiently as possible.

Whether you’re a fisherman who keeps meticulous logs or just wants to get the trip report done and head home, Deckhand works the way you do, all while getting your reports submitted in a matter of seconds.

Mandatory reporting is coming, so get ahead of the curve and put a product on board that takes care of compliance, adds value to your business, and is enjoyable to use.

**Introductory offer**

*$499 annual subscription only*  
*$999 annual subscription + iPad® + waterproof case**  
*Available June 1*

---

Copyright © Real Time Data North America, 2020. All rights reserved. Pricing, specifications and availability subject to change. *Pricing valid through December 31, 2020. Pricing is for a 12-month subscription paid up front. **iPad (32 GB, Wi-Fi + Cellular) & AG aShell™ (10.2, iPad). Cellular data plan not included, nor required. Apple and iPad are registered trademarks of Apple Inc.*
toward species extinction, whatever the cost. NMFS must comply with the Endangered Species Act. The Maine lobster fishery, the mainstay of the state’s coastal economy, could be shut down or severely limited as a consequence. “This case could lead to closure of the world’s most sustainable fishery and we cannot let that happen. Right whales are not dying in Maine lobster gear,” MLA executive director Patrice McCarron said. “Lobstermen have done everything they have been asked to protect right whales and remain committed to doing their part to save the species.”

Phippen, who got his student license when he was nine years old, is modest about his contribution. “It didn’t seem like that much money to me. I told the guys who fish around me what I’d done and asked them to step up too,” he said. Phippen noted that should the lobster fishery shut down, the trickle-down effect on communities throughout the coast would be catastrophic. “There’s a lot of money [from lobster] coming into the state and lobstermen spend most of that in the state. Think about the dock workers, truck drivers, boat yards, banks. It would be a colossal hit to the whole state,” he said.

Eric Emmons also felt compelled to do something to save the lobster fishery. In addition to making a contribution, he and fellow lobsterman Cody Nunan went to all the lobstermen in their homeport of Cape Porpoise and asked them to contribute to the Legal Defense Fund. “It worked well. We asked them to put their contribution in a sealed envelope and then collected the envelopes. I think about 80% of the guys gave something,” he said.

Emmons was amazed to find many lobstermen in his harbor did not fully understand the threat they were facing. “They didn’t know anything was going on.” Emmons began fishing full-time when he graduated from high school in 1988. The last ten years of fishing have been “decent,” he said, with 2018 being among his best years ever. Like many lobstermen, he is accustomed to heading out to sea whenever he wants to. “My biggest worry is that they will put in place seasonal closures. Look what’s happened in Massachusetts. Or ropeless fishing, my God!” he said.

Travis Reynolds, who fishes from Spruce Head, made his donation after he learned the verdict of a court case in the US District court in Boston brought by Max Strahan, a longtime whale activist. “I know that my livelihood is in jeopardy especially if they are talking about closures or shutting us down one hundred percent,” Reynolds said. Reynolds, who received his student license when he was eight years old, has two young children, Owen and Rose. His mother, Daphne, still lobsters on her own vessel. His wife’s father lobstered for many years.

“Toward the end of the summer, we might have to start thinking about what we’re going to do,” he said. Other Spruce Head lobstermen that Reynolds knows have been taking a set amount of their catch each week and donating that amount of money to the Legal Defense Fund.

Phippen hopes that lobstermen from every harbor on the coast will contribute to the Fund in order to fight for the fishery. “If everyone who would be affected gave $500 we would be talking about millions of dollars. That’s not even a half a day of fishing for most,” he said.
## MLA Member Discount Directory

### Vessel Insurance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton Marine</td>
<td>10% discount on parts and service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Atlantic Power Products</td>
<td>10% discount on parts and service.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fishing, Marine & Industrial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bessy Bait, LLC</td>
<td>5% discount per drum on multiple drum purchases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England Propeller Inc</td>
<td>10% off hydraulic components &amp; Cable Craft cables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nautilus Marine Fabrication, Inc</td>
<td>10% off all legal services for MLA members.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Accounting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Back River Tax Accounting</td>
<td>Free initial consultation and review of prior tax returns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weirs Buick - GMC</td>
<td>Purchase a new GMC and get a free Bullet Liner. Must show MLA card.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Automotive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep</td>
<td>10% discount on all parts and service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accutech Marine Propeller</td>
<td>10% off propeller repair.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bait

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old School Pig Hide Bait</td>
<td>$1 off per bucket.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Harbor Fishermen's Coop</td>
<td>Discounts available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Boat Builders/Repairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SW Boatworks</td>
<td>1% discount off hull or top on a 38’ CB or 44’ CB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion Makers</td>
<td>10% off all legal services for MLA members.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Electronic Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deckhand Electronic Logbook</td>
<td>Discounts &amp; Specials for MLA members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nautronics, LLC</td>
<td>5% off of purchases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Refrigeration Services</td>
<td>$230 off new installations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fuel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Edge Lobster</td>
<td>Fuel discount for MLA members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liferaft Services, LLC</td>
<td>5% discount on USCG Drill Conductor training.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gifts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maine Camp Outfitters</td>
<td>10% off all apparel and promotional product orders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Lobstermen's Association</td>
<td>10% off all apparel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hotels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hampton Inn, Ellsworth</td>
<td>Special rates for MLA members and Business Supporters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton Inn, Downtown-Waterfront</td>
<td>Discount: Special rates for MLA members and Business Supporters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence Inn by Marriott</td>
<td>Discount: Special rates for MLA members and Business Supporters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastline Hydraulics</td>
<td>10% off all in stock items for MLA members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hews Company, LLC</td>
<td>10% off hydraulic components &amp; Cable Craft cables.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hydraulics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bessy Bait, LLC</td>
<td>1% discount off hull or top on a 38’ CB or 44’ CB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Harbor Fishermen's Coop</td>
<td>Discounts available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Portland, ME</td>
<td>10% off hydraulic components &amp; Cable Craft cables.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Legal Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law Office of Crystal Tarjick</td>
<td>10% off all legal services for MLA members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nautilus Marine Fabrication, Inc</td>
<td>10% off all legal services for MLA members.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Museums & Entertainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penobscot Marine Museum</td>
<td>Free admission for MLA members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Maritime Museum</td>
<td>Free admission to MLA members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Desert Oceanarium</td>
<td>Free admission to commercial fishermen and their families.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Newspapers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Fisheries News</td>
<td>Discounted annual subscription rate for $18.75 with MLA membership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Fishermen, North Hollywood, CA</td>
<td>Special annual subscription rate for $12 for 12 issues.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Propellers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accutech Marine Propeller</td>
<td>10% off propeller repair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England Propeller Inc</td>
<td>Discounts vary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McMillan Offshore Survival Training</td>
<td>25% discount on USCG Drill Conductor training.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Refrigeration Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Refrigeration Services</td>
<td>$230 off new installations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McMillan Offshore Survival Training</td>
<td>25% discount on USCG Drill Conductor training.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Safety Training & Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liferaft Services, LLC</td>
<td>5% off life raft repack with proof of MLA membership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Harbor Fishermen's Coop</td>
<td>Discount: Special rates for MLA members and Business Supporters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trap Builders, Stock & Supplies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sea Rose Trap Co</td>
<td>10% off list price on traps.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Show your MLA card to receive great discounts at these fine businesses!
MLA BUSINESS MEMBER: Durkee Lobster Bait and Bring It Inc., Jonesport

By Melissa Waterman

You might say that bait runs in the family. Ben Durkee, 35, grew up helping his father, Manford Durkee, in the family’s lobster bait business in Jonesport. Durkee Lobster Bait has been in operation since forever, according to Ben. "He started it before I was born," Durkee said, "and I’m working with him still."

But last year Durkee struck out on his own, starting a second bait business called Bring It Inc. "It’s a joke I had with my niece and nephew when they were real young," Durkee said, declining to elaborate. Together the two companies handle every variety of bait sought by lobstermen in the region.

Herring has always been the mainstay for lobstermen along the Downeast coast. Durkee and his father have managed to keep the herring supply going for their customers, despite a sharp reduction in the herring quota in recent years and a rise in wholesale prices. "We have good sources. They are reliable. We don’t jump around," Durkee explained.

If the fishery is shut down it will be bad for everyone. Every little bit helps."

He acknowledged that the bait business has changed a lot in the past decade or so. As herring became more restricted, Durkee had to broaden his offerings of other baits. "We get our bait from everywhere now. There’s a lot of demand for hard bait. We are starting to sell pig hide this year. Everybody wants to try something different," he said. Herring still remains a staple, but lobstermen in his area are trying to stretch out every bit of the expensive fish, using other species to supplement.

The two companies sell throughout the region. This year Durkee plans to deliver pig hide anywhere along the coast, selling it by Xactics rather than buckets or crates. "The Xactics are more convenient. The guys can get it right on the dock. You sell it in buckets, the buckets come back but not the covers. There’s a lot of those covers floating around out there," he said.

Durkee signed up to be a business member of the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) just this spring. "I’ve known [MLA board member] Bobby Ingalls all my life," he explained. "He said I should be a member. The company not only became a member but Durkee also has made a generous donation to the MLA’s Legal Defense Fund and donated bait for the June online Facebook auction. "This is a scary time. Lobstermen are the targets now. If the virus wasn’t bad enough, now we have a judge and Max Strahan coming after us. If the fishery is shut down it will be bad for everyone," he said. "Every little bit helps."

New MLA business member Bring It Inc., based in Jonesport, offers pig hide bait and other baits to lobstermen throughout the coast. Photo courtesy of Downeast Acadia Regional Tourism.
The Gulf of Maine is located at the border of cold northern water (the Labrador Current) and the warm surface current (the Gulf Stream). Because the Gulf is largely an enclosed sea, deep water enters it primarily through the Northeast Channel. The source and temperature of that water is largely controlled by the AMOC.

The warming global climate has affected the AMOC's strength. As more ice melts in the Arctic and Labrador Seas, more freshwater enters the North Atlantic. The warm southerly surface water that enters the region is diluted by the freshwater, reducing its salinity. The water then does not sink but rather remains in a cold layer at the ocean surface, effectively turning off the convective current.

In addition, the oceans are growing steadily warmer, particularly at the northern latitudes, reducing the temperature contrast between southern and northern regions. This too has diminished the AMOC. Scientists estimate that the AMOC has weakened by about 15% since the mid-twentieth century.

The weakened AMOC, in turn, has had an effect on the Gulf of Maine. The Gulf Stream has shifted northward; the cold Labrador current flowing into the Gulf of Maine is weaker, allowing the warmer Gulf Stream water to enter into the Gulf of Maine. As a 2019 article in *Oceanography*, co-authored by Nick Record, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Jeffrey Runge, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, and others noted, changes in the AMOC have resulted in deeper waters of the Gulf of Maine warming at twice the fastest rate surface waters. "Warming has been most rapid in deep water during these seasons [late summer through winter], likely reflecting changes in flow through the Northeast Channel. The decline in *C. finmarchicus* is likely a combination of reduced supply and a more direct effect of deepwater temperatures."

Meanwhile, *C. finmarchicus* has been abundant in the western Gulf of Maine. The abundance is largely due to the transport of the copepods to the region by the Maine Coastal Current and is not due to changes in the AMOC. In Cape Cod Bay and south of Nantucket, right whales have shown up in large numbers in recent years, presumably to forage on the copepods.

It's a long way from the Gulf of Maine to the Arctic Ocean. Yet the steadily warming temperatures in that region and resulting ice melt are causing fundamental changes to the Gulf's currents and ecology and, inevitably, its commercial fisheries.
FIRE DESTROYS PROCESSING PLANT IN NEW BRUNSWICK

A May fire at the Les Pêcheries de Chez-Nous factory in Val Comeau New Brunswick, destroyed two of the company’s three processing buildings. The loss of the two buildings means the company is unable to purchase and process more than 80,000 pounds of live lobster per day. Prior to the fire, 331 people were working at the plant processing lobster caught by almost 100 lobster fishermen. Val Comeau is a community of 800 people that relies on the fishing industry. Les Pêcheries de Chez-Nous was purchased by international seafood company Thai Union in 2016.

P.E.I. LOBSTER PROCESSORS FACING LACK OF WORKERS

Prince Edward Island lobstermen are harvesting a lot of lobster, typical of catches seen in recent years. But they can’t sell it all. The season was delayed for two weeks, starting on May 15. According to Lucas Lesperance, he has harvested 1,000 pounds of lobster on some days but his buyer has only been accepting 600 to 700 pounds. The problem is a lack of workers in the lobster processing plants. P.E.I’s Seafood Processors Association said that factories on the island are short about 200 workers. Those workers usually come from foreign countries but, because of COVID-19, are currently not allowed into Canada. As a result the workforce and processing capacity in P.E.I. plants is down by about 30%.

CANADA PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FISHERIES

In mid-May the Canadian government announced $469 million (CN) in direct support to fishermen affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, to be allocated through two programs. The Fish Harvester Benefit, a program worth up to $267.6 million (CN), will provide income support to eligible self-employed fish harvesters and crew members who cannot access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. The benefit will be available to fishermen who have experienced fishing income declines of greater than 25% in the 2020 tax year. The Fish Harvester Grant, worth up to $201.8 million (CN), will provide support of up to $10,000 to self-employed fish harvesters with a valid fishing license and who are ineligible for the Canada Emergency Business Account or equivalent measures. This is in addition to a $62-million aid package rolled out in April for fish processing companies across Canada to cover the costs of protective equipment and supplies for their plants.

MAINE SEA GRANT HIRES AQUACULTURE AGENT

Maine Sea Grant recently hired Heather Sadusky to join its marine extension team as the coordinator of the Maine Aquaculture Hub. Sadusky will work with Hub partners to expand training in response to workforce needs, support the development of a 10-year roadmap for aquaculture in Maine, and evaluate Hub impacts, according to a news release. She will also help coordinate partner efforts and support the hub’s steering committee. The Hub is a collaboration formed with leadership from Maine Sea Grant to help the aquaculture industry in the state overcome barriers to growth and to support industry innovation.

NOAA ANNOUNCES $8 MILLION FUNDING FOR SK PROJECTS

NOAA Fisheries announced recommendations to fund 30 projects for more than $8 million under the 2020 Saltonstall-Kennedy Competitive Grants Program. Projects fall into two categories: Promotion, Development and Marketing and Science or Technology that Promotes Sustainable U.S Seafood Production and Harvesting. Eight of those projects, which are recommended to receive roughly $2.25 million, are in the Greater Atlantic Region. The University of Maine was awarded $299,000 for its project, Improving Business Practices to Reduce Mortality in the Lobster Supply Chain.

Maine Coastal News

Covers the Coast Like No one Else!

What happened at the lobster boat races this year? Slow or fast we covered it all.

What is going on in the boat shops and yards?

Pick us up on a local newsstand or receive it via subscription.

Maine Coastal News
P.O. Box 710, Winterton, Maine 04496
(207) 233-8846
MLA’s Facebook auction to raise funds for its Legal Defense Fund. The auction starts at noon on June 1 and ends at 6 p.m. on June 7. Visit www.facebook.com/events/5415088026738873/ to place your bid!

June 9
New England Fishery Management Council Herring Committee webinar, 1:30 p.m. To speak June 9 to place your bid!

June 1-7
MLA’s Facebook auction to raise funds for its June 1-7 meeting. You must register in advance at www.nefmc.org/calendar/jun-9-2020-herring-committee-meeting.

June 26
“Halibut, No Plaice Like It: Halibut Science in Maine,” on-line talk by DMR’s Bill DeVoe, 12:30 p.m., Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, https://coastalfisheries.org/events.

June 27
Rockland Lobster Boat Races, all day. Proceeds benefit the MLA’s Legal Defense Fund.

BUSINESS 101: WHO ARE YOU?

By Ann McAlhany

Sometimes we find ourselves in a business and realize that we got there without a lot of intentional planning. Maybe we eased into the business with someone else, or really started our operations as a hobby rather than a true profit-generating enterprise. Perhaps we inherited it from someone else, for instance. Or, just maybe, we thought planning decisions were too expensive ... or not a big deal ... or we were too busy.

Then a time comes when it is important to step back and think about our operation as a business, as something intentional and apart from ourselves. Legal entity is a great place to start. So, who are you?

It’s a question worth answering. The choice of “legal entity” is influenced by the dual considerations of business liability and tax implications.

Basically, there are two choices for your business. Either you and the business are joined, or you have separated the business into a different entity.

Either you are a sole proprietor and you and your business finances are muddled together, or you have created a separate legal entity for your business. If you don’t do anything, you are, by default, a sole proprietor.

In this case any liability in the business or your personal life can affect the other; they are not separated. That means, should there be an accident with your boat — the sun is in your eyes as you motor back to the wharf and you nick one of those kayaks slithering on the water. OOOOPS! — then all your personal assets, all the things that you own, such as your house or your car or your motorcycle, could be in jeopardy. That is because you and the business are considered one.

On the other hand, you can separate the business from your person by creating a separate legal entity. The most common are LLC (Limited Liability Company) or subchapter S-corporation. In either of these, you have separated the business from your personal affairs and therefore separated the liability.

Ok, so you want to form a legal entity, but you don’t know how and you worry that it will be awfully expensive. You can get the forms from the state (Maine Bureau of Corporations) and do it yourself for a couple hundred dollars. However, there might be questions you don’t know how to answer, or advantages to the various business structures that support your long-term goals that a lawyer would be best suited to help you navigate. To form a legal entity is a one-time expense (with annual renewals), and from my conversations with attorneys, a basic business formation costs about eight hundred to a thousand dollars. It may be well worth the extra cost to talk to someone who knows the ins and outs of the formation process.

But remember, if your business is a separate entity, then you need to act like it is something separate. You should have a separate business bank account. All business bills get paid from the business account. All personal payments, such as your personal house mortgage payment or your ATV payment, are made from your personal bank account, and so forth. Sure, the business is there to make money for you, so you write yourself a business check or make a bank transfer to take an owners draw (or issue a paycheck to yourself, in the case of an S-Corp). But then, pay all your personal bills from your personal account.

If you continue to pay personal bills from the business side or vice versa, then that would be considered “piercing the corporate veil,” and you would have defeated the purpose of separating the business liability from yourself.

Also, by separating the business transactions from your personal finances, you have a better opportunity to analyze the financials of the business and understand how the business is operating. This will allow you to make better and more informed business decisions. That has a lot to do with business recordkeeping... which will be an article for another time!
WE WORK TOGETHER

Working together has taken on new meaning during the COVID-19 pandemic. For some Maine lobstering families, however, it is just the way work gets done. Fishing as a couple is not for everyone, but for these folks it makes the harvest even better.

Many thanks to all who submitted photos via Instagram!

Richard Bubar and Leslie Duncan, F/V Knot Guilty, Stonington.

Cory and Genevieve McDonald, F/V Hello Darlings II, Stonington.

Herman and Monique Coombs, F/V Jocelyne K, Orrs Island.

Carroll and Lindsey Staples, F/V Age Quod Agis, Swans Island.

Travis and Ashlee Reynolds aboard F/V Owen’s Rose, Spruce Head.

Richard Bubar and Leslie Duncan, F/V Knot Guilty, Stonington.

Cory and Genevieve McDonald, F/V Hello Darlings II, Stonington.

Herman and Monique Coombs, F/V Jocelyne K, Orrs Island.

Carroll and Lindsey Staples, F/V Age Quod Agis, Swans Island.

Travis and Ashlee Reynolds aboard F/V Owen’s Rose, Spruce Head.

WE WORK TOGETHER

Working together has taken on new meaning during the COVID-19 pandemic. For some Maine lobstering families, however, it is just the way work gets done. Fishing as a couple is not for everyone, but for these folks it makes the harvest even better.

Many thanks to all who submitted photos via Instagram!

Richard Bubar and Leslie Duncan, F/V Knot Guilty, Stonington.

Cory and Genevieve McDonald, F/V Hello Darlings II, Stonington.

Herman and Monique Coombs, F/V Jocelyne K, Orrs Island.

Carroll and Lindsey Staples, F/V Age Quod Agis, Swans Island.

Travis and Ashlee Reynolds aboard F/V Owen’s Rose, Spruce Head.

WE WORK TOGETHER

Working together has taken on new meaning during the COVID-19 pandemic. For some Maine lobstering families, however, it is just the way work gets done. Fishing as a couple is not for everyone, but for these folks it makes the harvest even better.

Many thanks to all who submitted photos via Instagram!

Richard Bubar and Leslie Duncan, F/V Knot Guilty, Stonington.

Cory and Genevieve McDonald, F/V Hello Darlings II, Stonington.

Herman and Monique Coombs, F/V Jocelyne K, Orrs Island.

Carroll and Lindsey Staples, F/V Age Quod Agis, Swans Island.

Travis and Ashlee Reynolds aboard F/V Owen’s Rose, Spruce Head.

WE WORK TOGETHER

Working together has taken on new meaning during the COVID-19 pandemic. For some Maine lobstering families, however, it is just the way work gets done. Fishing as a couple is not for everyone, but for these folks it makes the harvest even better.

Many thanks to all who submitted photos via Instagram!

Richard Bubar and Leslie Duncan, F/V Knot Guilty, Stonington.

Cory and Genevieve McDonald, F/V Hello Darlings II, Stonington.

Herman and Monique Coombs, F/V Jocelyne K, Orrs Island.

Carroll and Lindsey Staples, F/V Age Quod Agis, Swans Island.

Travis and Ashlee Reynolds aboard F/V Owen’s Rose, Spruce Head.

WE WORK TOGETHER

Working together has taken on new meaning during the COVID-19 pandemic. For some Maine lobstering families, however, it is just the way work gets done. Fishing as a couple is not for everyone, but for these folks it makes the harvest even better.

Many thanks to all who submitted photos via Instagram!

Richard Bubar and Leslie Duncan, F/V Knot Guilty, Stonington.

Cory and Genevieve McDonald, F/V Hello Darlings II, Stonington.

Herman and Monique Coombs, F/V Jocelyne K, Orrs Island.

Carroll and Lindsey Staples, F/V Age Quod Agis, Swans Island.

Travis and Ashlee Reynolds aboard F/V Owen’s Rose, Spruce Head.

WE WORK TOGETHER

Working together has taken on new meaning during the COVID-19 pandemic. For some Maine lobstering families, however, it is just the way work gets done. Fishing as a couple is not for everyone, but for these folks it makes the harvest even better.

Many thanks to all who submitted photos via Instagram!

Richard Bubar and Leslie Duncan, F/V Knot Guilty, Stonington.

Cory and Genevieve McDonald, F/V Hello Darlings II, Stonington.

Herman and Monique Coombs, F/V Jocelyne K, Orrs Island.

Carroll and Lindsey Staples, F/V Age Quod Agis, Swans Island.

Travis and Ashlee Reynolds aboard F/V Owen’s Rose, Spruce Head.

WE WORK TOGETHER

Working together has taken on new meaning during the COVID-19 pandemic. For some Maine lobstering families, however, it is just the way work gets done. Fishing as a couple is not for everyone, but for these folks it makes the harvest even better.

Many thanks to all who submitted photos via Instagram!

Richard Bubar and Leslie Duncan, F/V Knot Guilty, Stonington.

Cory and Genevieve McDonald, F/V Hello Darlings II, Stonington.

Herman and Monique Coombs, F/V Jocelyne K, Orrs Island.

Carroll and Lindsey Staples, F/V Age Quod Agis, Swans Island.

Travis and Ashlee Reynolds aboard F/V Owen’s Rose, Spruce Head.