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LANDINGS

News & Views from Maine's Lobstering Community

July 2020 | Vol. 28, No. 7

U.S. FEDERAL LAWS CREATE COMPLEX PATH FOR LOBSTER FISHERY

By Patrice McCarron

The United States has some of the most stringent environmental protection laws in the world. Those laws, which ensure we have clean water and air, also ensure that plant and animal species are protected for future generations.

Two of those laws directly affect lobstermen. Congress enacted the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973 to halt and reverse the trend toward species extinction. Similarly, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) sets an international standard for conservation of marine mammals. Maine lobstermen are known for their conservation and stewardship practices when it comes to sustaining the lobster fishery and for nearly a quarter of a century Maine's lobster industry also has implemented conservation measures to protect endangered whales.

The Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (TRP) or "whale plan," as it is referred to by most lobstermen, lives under the MMPA. There is a long list of conservation measures lobstermen have had to follow under the whale plan, such as weak links, gear marking, sinking groundlines and minimum traps on a trawl in addition to prohibitions on wet storage of gear and floating line between traps or at the surface.

After being subject to the whale plan for many years, most lobstermen under-

stand that the MMPA requires the lobster fishery to avoid the serious injury or death of right whales that would exceed the potential biological removal (PBR) rate, which is currently 0.8 whales annually, or four whales over a five year period. Their efforts have paid off; known entanglement of right whales

in New England lobster gear has declined by 90% since 2010, and the last known entanglement in Maine lobster gear was back in 2002.

Then there's the ESA. Over the past few years, lobstermen have become familiar with the ESA because North Atlantic right whales are among the most critically endangered marine mammals in the world. In 2017, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) completed its Five-Year Review of right whales and reinitiated consultation on the American lobster fishery under Section 7 of the ESA to determine whether the lobster fishery is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of right whales. NMFS has revised the timetable for its release several times, and now expects to

publish the draft in late summer or early fall. The final biological opinion, along with final whale rules, is expected by the end of May 2021.

The biological opinion is critical to the future of the lobster industry because the ESA does not allow the permitting or authorizing of any actions that are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species. If there is the po-

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Photo courtesy of the Peter Ralston Gallery, Rockport.



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LOBSTER WORLD UNITES TO #SAVE MAINE LOBSTERMEN

By Melissa Waterman

"It's like a bunch of rogue waves bearing down on us," said Kristan Porter, president of the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA). "These court cases are complex, serious and they are not going away."

Several legal cases brought by activists and national environmental organizations against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on behalf of endangered North Atlantic right whales threaten to close or severely limit the practice of lobster fishing in Maine. In order to counter the allegations that lobster fishing threatens the right whale population, the MLA has called on lobstermen and businesses throughout the coast to contribute to the Association's Legal Defense Fund (LDF). "LDF contributions are key to this battle," said Patrice McCarron, MLA executive director. "We have assembled a top-notch legal team to fight for a future for the Maine lobster industry. We need to build our case on good data and information, and the environmental community has been in control of that for way too long. It's time for the lobster industry to invest in getting our story on the record, and that takes time, strategy and



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COASTAL OUTLOOK Thoughts from MLCA President Patrice McCarron

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How many of you peek at the ending of a mystery book? It's a common urge, to find out who the murderer really is and how things turn out in the end. We are all dealing with a similar feeling this July, anxious to know when the pandemic will stop and when our lives can return to normal.

But the future remains murky for everyone, particularly Maine lobstermen. The season begins in earnest this month but with weak markets, no one really knows how lobstermen will fare. Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Commissioner Patrick Keliher writes this month about the need for lobstermen to check often with their individual buyers to make sure there is a market for their lobsters before they catch them. Buyers should be forthright with lobstermen as well. As Keliher points out, "[W]e all know that lobsters landed by harvesters and purchased by dealers when there are no markets will result in a value decline that will be felt by everyone in the industry, potentially for several seasons to come. A short-term sacrifice may help us achieve a longer-term gain."

Among the many challenges facing the Maine lobster fishery, court cases seeking protection for endangered North Atlantic right whales threaten to rock the foundation of the fishery. Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is updating its Biological Opinion on whether the continuation of the lobster fishery jeopardizes the right whale population. A recent decision in a court case filed in Massachusetts requires that state to apply to NMFS for an Incidental Take Permit in order to continue to use vertical lines in its state waters fishery. The same issue is under review in U.S. District Court in Bangor with respect to Maine's state waters fishery. In an article in this month's issue, we see just how complicated complying with federal law can be.

The Pew Charitable Trusts petitioned Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in late June to implement emergency rules to close extensive portions of the Gulf of Maine and waters south of Nantucket to all vertical lines in an effort to protect migrating right whales. The petition calls for seasonal closures in areas offshore of Mt. Desert Island and Jeffreys Ledge and in Area 3 in the offshore Gulf of Maine, plus a year-round closure south of Nantucket. In addition, the nonprofit organization asked the Department to consider instituting other restrictions, such as limits on the number of traps or use of ropeless fishing, as complements to these closures. No response to the petition had been made public by press time.

Landings also features an update on the fundraising taking place to ensure lobstermen's perspectives are heard in these court cases. The Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) began its fundraising campaign (#SaveMaineLobstermen) in May, aiming to raise \$500,000 for its Legal Defense Fund (LDF) to fight for a future for Maine lobstermen. Since then, numerous individuals and businesses have stepped up to help the Fund. They have found all sorts of creative ways to

generate money for the LDF, from a Facebook auction to selling T-shirts and mugs. "These are scary and uncertain times for Maine lobstering families, and I know the Maine Lobstermen's Association Legal Defense Fund is going to be a vital resource in waging this battle," Rebecca Spear, a fundraiser and wife of a lobsterman in Yarmouth, said.

Prince Edward Island lobstermen are required this season to use specific marks on their vertical lines to ensure such lines can be identified if they entangle a whale. Ian MacPherson, head of the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association (PEIFA), writes this month of the complex color twine system that all fixed gear fishermen in Canada must use on their vertical lines. Like Maine lobstermen, who must have specific purple marks on their lines in place by September 1, Canadian crab and lobster fishermen are putting their frustrations aside and complying with the new and time-consuming rules.

We also hear from Monique Coombs, of the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA), on the efforts that organization is making to make available mental health resources for fishermen. MCFA received two grants to increase mental health awareness and well-being among fishermen. Fishing is a dangerous profession in the best of times. Currently fishermen are facing many stresses that are beyond their control. The lack of mental health resources dedicated to fishing communities puts fishermen particularly at risk, Coombs writes.

Keeping on top of one's business records is one way to have a bit of control, according to Craig Olson of the Island Institute in Rockland. Olson writes in our "Business 101" series of the value of record keeping for any small business, particularly a lobstering one. Making sure that personal and business expenses are separate and assessing costs and revenue on a weekly or bi-weekly basis is the foundation for a successful business. He encourages fishermen to use professional services when needed, because a fisherman's time is best used fishing, not fiddling with account books.

Port Clyde has long been associated with fishing, in all its many forms. First known as Herring Gut for the plentiful herring schools that passed along its coast, the village has historically based its economy on what the sea provides, whether clams, shrimp, groundfish, herring or lobster. The residents' tenacity and entrepreneurial character have helped Port Clyde survive the changes in the fishing over the years, though at some cost, as this month's article describes.


Finally, *Landings* features a profile of artist Robert Beck. A native of Pennsylvania, Beck was drawn to the Jonesport area some years ago. His oil paintings reveal and honor what he sees around him in that hardworking town by the sea. In 2016 the Maine Maritime Museum presented his Maine works in an exhibit titled "Over East, An Artist's Journal." We offer a selection of his works in this month's issue.

Patrice



Hard work and perseverance may not be enough to ensure a future for Maine's young lobstermen. MLA photo.


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GUEST COLUMN: *This season, communication and cooperation are key*

Never has the lobster industry been so tested — whale regulations and lawsuits, a petition to close large areas of the Gulf of Maine, bait supply, and COVID-19. To make matters worse, lobster markets in the U.S. and around the world are extremely limited due to restrictions related to the global pandemic. Restaurants, cruise lines, casinos, and hotels are closed or severely limited in their ability to serve customers. It is uncertain how long this will last, but it's clear that it will continue at some level through the summer.

I have spent hours working the phones, holding meetings and discussing with industry members possible solutions to what could very well be an oversupply problem as the fishery ramps up this summer. My position about government intervention has not changed — I don't think that government should wade in to try to influence market conditions. It would be a terrible precedent to set. That doesn't mean we might not want to temporarily slow or stop the fishery if we reach a state of emergency, but that should be the last option.

As many of you remember, we had a similar situation in 2012 when an early shed in Maine waters led to an increased supply of lobsters in a very short amount of time which U.S. and Canadian processors weren't prepared to handle. I was asked then to intervene, and I said no. My feeling then, as it is today, is that the government should not use its authority to impact markets.

The dozens of conversations I've had with harvesters, dealers and processors this spring have made it clear that the vast majority also do not want the state to intervene at this point, but rather to let the industry resolve the situation.

But, we are in unprecedented times. So while I am reluctant to make use of government authority, I will remain in close contact with industry and will consider taking action as a last resort to avoid loss or waste of product and to help ensure that all Maine lobster brought to shore can find a home.

Some of the measures that the industry has asked me to consider include changing the gauge size, reducing the maximum number of traps, prohibiting fishing on certain days of the week, and prohibiting landing culls. Every one of

these has challenges with implementation and enforcement, and potential unintended consequences that could undermine this industry.

So, in the short-term, I continue to strongly encourage the industry to address this issue through communications and cooperation.

As I have said earlier, harvesters should refrain from landing product if there is no market for it. Likewise, dealers should communicate to harvesters when they don't have sufficient markets.

I recognize that using this type of restraint is asking for a sacrifice. But we all know that lobsters landed by harvesters and purchased by

dealers when there are no markets will result in a value decline that will be felt by everyone in the industry, potentially for several seasons to come. A short-term sacrifice may help us achieve a longer-term gain.

This emphasis on communications and cooperation should be matched with a commitment throughout the industry to quality. That should involve a shared commitment with dealers incentivizing only the highest-quality product and harvesters sacrificing volume for quality.

A commitment to quality throughout the supply chain will support the brand reputation of Maine lobster

which you have all worked so hard to build.


I can't imagine what the uncertainty of this coming season is doing to you and your family. But I do have confidence that working together is the best path forward. This is an unprecedented time, but I believe this industry will, as it always has, rise to the occasion and weather this storm.



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


But we all know that lobsters landed by harvesters and purchased by dealers when there are no markets will result in a value decline that will be felt by everyone in the industry, potentially for several seasons to come.


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GUEST COLUMN: *New Canadian gear marking requirements in place*

By Ian MacPherson, PEIFA

All fisheries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence are a little more colorful these days as Canadian fishermen are adding colored twine to all vertical lines for 2020 and future fishing seasons. This effort is to provide additional data on North Atlantic right whale entanglements. It takes place in addition to significant area fishery closures that are in effect until November 15, 2020.

Each color added to the twine represents either an area or species fished. The goal is to gain a better understanding of where whales are getting entangled and in what gear type. The information will assist the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in making decisions related to the prevention of whale entanglements.

Every vertical line in the water is required to have a series of colored twine repeated three times. This includes not only fishing lines, but any vertical line in the water, even if for scientific purposes.

The first marking is within 6.6 feet from the buoy, the third marking is within 6.6 feet from the trap and the middle marking or second mark is dependent on the length of the vertical line. If the vertical line is less than 98.4 feet the second marker must be more than 9 feet 8 inches away from both the buoy and the trap.

If the vertical line is greater than 98.4 feet the middle marker must be more than 39 feet 4 inches from the buoy and trap. This ensures the second marking is in the middle section of the rope.



Ian MacPherson is the executive director of the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association.

All vertical lines in the Gulf region will have a 6-inch piece of blue twine, representing the Gulf region. The Maritimes region color is black; Newfoundland is red; Quebec is green. The color identifying species is also 6 inches and it is woven into the vertical line with the blue twine. For lobster, the species color is yellow, for rock crab the species color is blue, for small pelagic the species color is grey.

MARITIMES REGION

Lobster fishing area colors

27	28	29	30	31A	31B	32
black yellow	black yellow	black brown yellow	black yellow yellow/black pattern	black yellow pink	black yellow purple	black yellow white
33	34	35	36	38		
black yellow	black yellow	black yellow	black yellow	black yellow		
41 Clearwater	multi species	multiple areas				
black yellow/black	black yellow/black	black yellow				

Snow crab fishing area colors

North-ENS	23	24	4x	Multiple areas
black orange	black orange	black orange	black orange	black orange

GULF REGION

Lobster fishing area colors

23	24	25	26A	26B	Multiple areas
blue yellow	blue yellow	blue yellow	blue white	blue black	blue yellow

Snow Crab fishing area colors

12	12E	12F	19	Multiple areas
yellow orange	yellow orange	yellow orange	blue orange	blue orange

The majority of fisheries in the Gulf region need only two colors, one for region and one for species, but lobstermen requested a better break down by location. Therefore, vertical lobster lines have a third color which follows the region and species colors. This third color represents the Lobster Fishing Area (LFA) and is also 6 inches in length.

A few examples:

- LFA 24: blue (Gulf region) and yellow (lobster) twine together, followed by green (LFA 24) twine
- Rock crab fishery: two pieces of blue twine together (Gulf region and rock crab)
- Mackerel fishery: blue (Gulf region) and grey (small pelagic) twine together.

Gulf of St. Lawrence fishermen were irritated because they understood these marking changes were coming and asked DFO for the color patterns before the end of the prior season. As they were putting gear away last year would have been the proper time to put the twine in the lines. But DFO had not standardized information so there were different interpretations on how the twine was to be installed. Some methods were much more time-consuming than others so for a period of time fishermen were frustrated. The focus this season, however, is on implementation of the twine and any required adjustments can be made in the off season.



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LDF continued from page 1

money.” After the MLA kicked off a campaign in June to raise \$500,000 for the LDF, the response throughout the state was immediate.

Rebecca Spear, wife of Marshall Spear of Yarmouth, decided to organize a one-week fundraising auction on Facebook. “Putting together the auction was a spur of the moment decision,” she explained. “I’ve done larger auctions for other groups and really just wanted to find a way that I could help. I’m not the type of person who can sit around and watch!” Spear solicited donations of everything under the sun, from airplane and train tickets to jewelry and lobster bait. The auction brought in more than \$4,500 for the LDF, much to the delight of Spear and the MLA board of directors.

“My goal was to raise funds but also awareness. I think it’s important for brands and businesses with connections to Maine lobster know what the industry is facing. It’s also important for Maine consumers to understand as well. These are scary and uncertain times for Maine lobstering families, and I know the Maine Lobstermen’s Association Legal Defense Fund is going to be a vital resource in waging this battle,” Spear said.

Christine Crowley, owner of Sea Crow Company, an online bag and accessories company based in Hancock, decided that she needed to give something to the LDF as well. Her husband, Donnie, fishes out of Prospect Harbor and numerous family members and friends lobster as well. Crowley began her company doing custom embroidery for fishermen who wanted their fishing vessels embroidered on coats and sweatshirts. Six years ago, she incorporated as Sea Crow Company and began making tote bags, purses and other items, drawing inspiration from the colors of her husband’s rope and other elements of the lobstering business.

“I was made aware of the MLA Legal Defense Fund by Facebook. I decided to donate 10% of my sales to the Fund,” Crowley said. She also chose to donate the 7% commission she receives from Sea Crow Company necklaces sold at Ellsworth Jewelers to the Fund as well. “Ellsworth Jewelers also agreed to match that donation,” she said. “It really was a no-brainer to me to decide to donate to the Defense Fund, not just because my husband is a lobsterman but because so many of my customers are too.”

Another entrepreneurial woman chose a creative way to generate money for the LDF. Jessica Crane, head of the nonprofit organization Outside Of The Box, which organizes events benefiting autism awareness, teamed up with Meagan Rackliff of CoastalMECreations to produce coffee mugs bearing the MLA’s campaign slogan “Save Maine Lobstermen” on them. Crane approached Adventure Advertising to produce the same slogan on T-shirts. All proceeds of the sale of both items go directly to the LDF.

“I feel as though it’s time for Outside Of The Box to give back to an industry that has helped us so greatly,” Crane declared on her web site. “Over the years of Outside Of The Box hosting events and fundraisers, we have always had tremendous support from Maine’s largest industry, lobstering. The lobstering men and women have always donated their catch, the trap builders have donated traps, the bait companies donated gift certificates toward bait.”

It hasn’t just been women finding ways to support the LDF. Nick O’Hara, of O’Hara Corporation in Rockland, is part of the organizing committee for that harbor’s annual lobster boat races. Because of the outbreak of COVID-19, the committee did not get approval from the Coast Guard to hold the races (on June 27) until very late.

“The race registration is how we generate money for prizes and raffles but we didn’t know if we were going to be able to have the races,” O’Hara said. “So the committee decided to donate all the money to the LDF. More money is coming in from sponsorships as well.” Because several races have been cancelled this summer, O’Hara expects more than the typical 50 to 60 boats that race in Rockland each year to turn up, further increasing the committee’s contribution. When asked who specifically came up with the idea of making such a generous gift, O’Hara replied, “I don’t know, it just seemed like the right thing to do.”

Jason Philbrook, of Rockbound Computers and Navroc Marine Electronics, also decided to make a contribution. His company will donate \$150 for every plotter sold between June 15 and July 31. Philbrook takes a pragmatic view of his donation. “I reviewed the LDF website and other information the MLA produces and saw quite a few customers in the pictures and interviews. I want them to stay in business,” he explained.

Philbrook recognizes the inextricable link between lobstering and the economic health of Maine’s small coastal communities. “We keep a long view of customer relationships. Most people think long view means we maintain a business relationship through a customer’s career. That’s correct but also short-sighted. We have customers whose kids and grandkids do business with us. People who are teenage sternmen right now may be our customers in a few years if the lobster fishery survives,” Philbrook said.

Many other companies and individuals are helping to reach the MLA’s target of \$500,000, from Moody’s Gift Shop in Waldoboro to individual lobstermen donating a portion of their catch each week to the Fund. “It is amazing to read the notes that come with the contributions and to hear from lobstermen what they are doing to make sure we can represent in court and wherever else this whale issue takes us,” the MLA’s McCarron said. “It’s a long road but we are going to make it.”



Jessica Crane and her son Brody. J. Crane photo.

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FISHERMEN'S ORGANIZATION OFFERS MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

By Monique Coombs, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association

Maine's commercial fishermen are familiar with uncertainty and uncontrollable circumstances under normal conditions, but the level of ambiguity and the impact of the current pandemic have sharply heightened worries regarding their businesses and the future of their industry. In addition, the lawsuits over right whale protection, the inherent risk associated with fishing, and possible future development of offshore wind projects further exacerbate concerns.

Because of these things, and because of what we have been hearing from many fishermen, the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA) began efforts to explore and identify mental health and wellness resources available to Maine's commercial fishermen. Initially, we wanted to produce printed and online materials that could be made easily available to fishermen seeking help, support, and information. But the need for support increased recently due to the pandemic and its potential to greatly impact family fishing businesses. So, to more immediately provide information to Maine's fishermen MCFA reached out to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Maine).

MCFA staff sought help from NAMI Maine for our own well-being this past January after the devastating loss of our board president and friend, fisherman Joe Nickerson. NAMI Maine's expertise and counsel guided our staff through an exceedingly difficult time. Our own experience with NAMI Maine led us to our decision to share their expertise and resources with fishermen.

NAMI Maine and MCFA have been working together since then to identify topics that are pertinent to fishermen during this time of pandemic but also under normal circumstances, such as times of grief, trauma, stress, anxiety, depression, and job insecurity.

NAMI staff person Hannah Longley, LCS, has been helping write some of the blog posts for the MCFA website. "Feeling a lack of control and uncertainty can make people feel like they are spiraling. One in five Mainers seek treatment for

anxiety or depression in a given year, and men are three times more likely to die by suicide," Longley said. "We encourage Mainers to look out for each other and to tackle the issues surrounding mental health and wellness, and that includes supporting Maine's commercial fishermen."

Other than safety, accidents, and fatalities, there are not a lot of statistics that quantify the impact of stress and the need for mental health support specifically among commercial fishermen. There are a few statistics from the federal Centers for Disease Control that highlight the extreme stress and pressure that fishermen face because of the risks inherent in their occupation. Commercial

fishing is one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States, with a fatality rate 29 times higher than the national average. The Northeast lobster fishery has the highest number of fatalities, with more deaths caused by falls overboard than vessel disasters. In contrast, the research and statistics, not to mention support, related to farmers' mental health and wellness are abundant.

Acting chairman of the MCFA board and commercial fisherman from Chebeague Island Alex Todd says, "It's important to me and my friends and family who go fishing that there are resources available that can help us deal with some of the challenges we are facing. There is so much we have to deal with right now and it's really taking a toll on a lot of us. I think even just letting people know that some fishermen are pretty anxious and depressed right now is important."

Because of the efforts from MCFA to highlight the need for mental health and wellness resources for fishermen and because more fishermen are

vocalizing their increasing stress and concern, acknowledgement that opportunities need to be made available to fishermen is occurring.

MCFA has received grants from the Fisher Charitable Trust and the Sewall Foundation to support access to mental health and wellness resources for Maine's fishermen. We are using the funding to connect fishermen with mental health and wellness resources and professional counselors so they can access the critical support they need to stay emotionally resilient and healthy during this unprecedented and confusing time. Despite the necessity, nothing like this is happening for the fishing industry anywhere else in the United States.

Senator Susan Collins recently joined a bipartisan group of Senators in introducing legislation to expand telemental health services in rural areas. The Home-Based Telemental Health Care Act of 2020 would establish a grant program for health providers to expand telemental health services for those in rural populations working in the farming, forestry, and fishing industries.

Maine fishermen, like many small business owners in Maine, are worried about the potentially disastrous impacts of the pandemic on their livelihoods. This, coupled with the stress and volatility associated with managing a fishing business, is putting an excessive amount of pressure and worry on fishermen. Creating opportunities for fishermen to seek help, to find resources to learn about managing stress and trauma, to promote wellness, and to show fishermen support is a priority for the MCFA in its efforts to sustain Maine's fishing communities for future generations.

To learn more about the support we are making available to fishermen, please visit www.mainecoastfishermen.org. Fishermen do not need to contact us; they can reach out directly to the counselors and resources that are listed on the website. If you or someone you love could use support, please reach out to NAMI Maine's Helpline 622-5767 ext 1.



The uncertainties of working on the water have been compounded for Maine's fishermen this year by the effect of COVID-19 on markets. Photo courtesy of the Bangor Daily News.

Old School Pig Hide

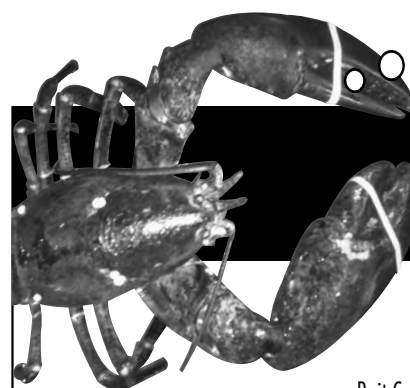
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MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Maine Lobstermen's Association

...

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

President: Kristan Porter
Cutler, 259-3306
1st VP: John Williams
Stonington, 367-2731
2nd VP: Dustin Delano
Friendship, 542-7241

Directors

Bob Baines, Spruce Head, 596-0177
Sonny Beal, Beals Island, 497-3440
Laurin Brooks, Kennebunk, 468-2165
Herman Coombs, Orr's Island, 807-8596
Gerry Cushman, Port Clyde, 372-6429
Jim Dow, Bass Harbor, 288-9846
Jamien Hallowell, S. Bristol, 677-0148
Robert Ingalls, Bucks Harbor, 255-3418
Mark Jones, Boothbay, 633-6054
Jason Joyce, Swan's Island, 526-4109
Jack Merrill, Islesford, 244-4187
Tad Miller, Matinicus, 372-6941
Mike Sargent, Steuben, 460-1316
Craig Stewart, Long Island, 829-2109
John Tripp, Spruce Head, 691-9744
Chris Welch, Kennebunk, 205-2093
Thomas Werner, Cape Elizabeth, 807-1048

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SCHEDULE

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

STEAMING AHEAD

There is so much facing the lobster industry these days that it is almost surreal. The government response to the pandemic has hit the restaurant and entertainment industries particularly hard, resulting in the loss of a huge portion of our traditional lobster market. While dealers and processors are innovating new ways to move more lobster through retail and direct-to-consumer outlets, a significant volume of lobster will need to find new customers. Not surprisingly, the lobster industry is split on what, if anything, should be done about this, so it is highly likely that this season will simply run its course. The looming fear is that this will lead to a steep deflation of the lobster price, which will require several years to recover.

We also learned in June that the new herring stock assessment is devoid of good news. Both herring biomass and recruitment to the herring stock remain extremely low. This is a result of recruitment failure and not due to overfishing. Herring quotas have been cut significantly this year, with the commercial fishing quota set at just over 11,000 metric tons. This is down from more than 100,000 metric tons in 2017, and just under 50,000 tons in 2018. The sustained loss of such a huge portion of the bait supply has caused bait prices to skyrocket over the past few years.

These two facts pose significant challenges and will threaten the survival of many lobstering businesses. But truthfully, they are not the most significant obstacles that we face. In my view, the mandate to save right whales is the issue that threatens to dismantle our fishery as we know it.

The MLA is expected to tackle all of these issues of course, plus more, for instance, the push for offshore wind development off the Maine coast. Yet, keep in mind that the MLA is a membership organization funded voluntarily by lobstermen and other industry members through dues. This model has worked for us for more than 65 years, allowing the MLA to successfully steer many of the policies and laws that are now the pillars of lobster conservation and stewardship practices. Based on the present day demands faced by lobstermen, the MLA is no longer funded or staffed adequately to meet this vast array of complex challenges.

But we are not giving up! In order to address the whale issue, the MLA is raising money for the Legal Defense Fund. The whale issue is so broad and complicated that the MLA has needed to bring in reinforcements to represent the lobster industry's interests. Much of the MLA's call to action for the Legal Defense Fund has been focused on raising the money necessary for the legal services to represent MLA members in the federal court case involving the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). I cannot underscore the importance of the lobster industry having talented lawyers to represent us in these legal challenges. The court's judgement will clarify how the laws apply to the lobster fishery, and will dictate the legal and regulatory standards that must be met.

In the federal court case, the MLA has been able to provide information about how the lobster industry operates and interacts with right whales. We have urged the court to limit its reach to the legal issues and to leave the management decisions which dictate how the fishery will operate to the regulatory agencies. We do not want a judge deciding how we fish.

If — and it is still an “if” — we are successful in convincing the court to leave the management decisions to the regulatory agencies, we still face an uphill battle. The real threat

to how the lobster fishery will operate in the future will be decided through rulemaking.

The environmental community has been effective in creating a narrative making the lobster fishery out to be the “bad guy” when it comes to threats to right whales because it is the largest fishery on the East Coast. They cleverly cite statistics on the recent spate of right whale deaths and entanglement in commercial fishing gear but omit the details about where and how those right whales died and which fisheries were involved. They are silent on the consequences of right whales' shift in recent years away from the area where the majority of the Maine lobster fishery takes place into the Gulf of St. Lawrence.



Maine's wharves could become quiet places if court cases underway bring a halt or severe disruption to Maine's lobster fishery. MLA photo.

Based on their story, how many people would guess that of the 30 right whales that have died since 2017, 77% are attributed to Canada? Based on their story, who would guess that Canadian vessel strikes have been the primary source of these deaths, followed by entanglement in Canadian fishing gear? I would bet money that the stories spun by the environmental community make no mention of the fact that the Maine lobster fishery has never been implicated in the death or serious injury of a right whale.

While dealing with environmental organizations is frustrating, the entity I have been most disappointed in is the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The agency simply refuses to base its decisions on the best available data. In the federal court's April ruling, the judge references a previous litigation over a gillnet closure and writes, “the Service's own expert claimed that “[t]he risk of entanglement mortality to right whales is much higher in trap/pot gear, particularly lobster gear, because lobster fishing accounts for over 97% of the vertical lines on the east coast.” NMFS expert Mike Asaro made this statement with full knowledge that there has been only one documented mortality or serious injury in US trap/pot gear since 2010 (which was not attributed to the lobster fishery), and three documented mortalities or serious injuries in gillnet gear during that time. It would seem to me that the agency would reach the opposite conclusion given those facts.

But, reality check. The MLA is not the federal government. NMFS is responsible for promulgating rules for the lobster fishery that meet the standards of the MMPA and ESA. Whether we are happy with how they are handling things or not, the Maine lobster fishery must have an effective working relationship with the agency.

It goes without saying that the MLA will continue to demand that NMFS be required to use the best available data to guide regulatory decisions and that the agency be held accountable for its actions. But we must recognize that NMFS eventually will issue a biological opinion, new whale rules, an Incidental Take Statement on right whales for the federal waters fishery, and possible an Incidental Take Permit for Maine's state waters lobster fishery. If Maine lobstermen are not represented in court and when NMFS creates those rules, who knows what may happen? That is why your support for the Legal Defense Fund is critical. The fund allows the MLA to engage a powerful legal team and other experts to help us through what will surely be a difficult and controversial process.

The MLA Legal Defense Fund also will allow the MLA to fill data gaps related to lobster fishing and whales, conduct related analyses and potentially generate new research. One

Continued on page 8



MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

MLA continued from page 7

of the realities of the current situation is that the very people who are doing the majority of research on right whales are also some of the most vocal advocates for fishery closures, ropeless fishing, trap reductions and transitioning to weak rope. The universe of research is no longer balanced. There is a clear need to engage members of the scientific community who are more objective on this issue and ensure that the published literature provides a balanced perspective on the impacts of a multitude of commercial fisheries and other human activities on right whales.

Finally, in addition to addressing the legal, regulatory and scientific issues posed by the right whale situation, the Legal Defense Fund will enable the MLA to challenge the outcome of the federal court case, if the outcome threatens the survival of the industry, and also to identify potential opportunities for the MLA to launch its own legal challenge to this process.

We are in a truly perilous time, not simply because an invisible virus has turned the world upside down, but because two federal laws may force the government to transform the operation of the lobster fishery, or worse, shut it down. There's that old saying, "Put your money where your mouth is." I can't urge you strongly enough to do that, now, today. If you are a Maine lobstermen, or depend on the lobster industry, your livelihood and certainly the fishing prospects of your children are at stake. Please contribute as generously as you can to the MLA Legal Defense Fund.

As always, stay safe on the water.

Patrice

WHALE UPDATES

MLA's staff and legal team have been putting in overtime to stay on top of all the whale cases. Much of June was spent preparing to file our brief on remedy in federal court, but there have been other developments as well.

With regard to the federal whale court case pending in Washington, D.C. district court, the MLA and other intervenors filed briefs on June 18. The defendants (NMFS) filed on June 15, the plaintiffs (eNGO's) filed on May 15, and DMR filed an *amicus* brief on June 22. The plaintiffs have a final opportunity to respond by July 10. From there, the judge will review all the filings and make his decision.

Due to generous contributions to the MLA Legal Defense Fund, MLA was able to engage experts to provide critical information to the court. It is important to understand that you do not have carte blanche to put information on the record in a court case. Instead, you have to work from the information that is on the record, presented by the plaintiffs and defendant. Due to the excellent work of our legal team, MLA was able to get much of our position on the record in our brief, but also expanded the record significantly by filing six expert declarations in support of our brief. Here's a brief summary of the declarations that MLA included in our filing:

Glenn Salvador — a former commercial lobsterman with a 20-year career at NMFS as a gear specialist, Salvador reviewed data on the gear removed from right whales and showed that entanglement in lobster gear has declined by 90% since 2010 and the majority of unknown rope removed from whales since then is characteristic of that fished in the Canadian snow crab fishery.

James Lecky — former director of NMFS Office of Protected Resources in Washington, D.C., Lecky reviewed the literature on the shift in right whale distribution away from the Maine coast and acknowledged the lack of evidence linking the lobster fishery to right whale deaths and serious injuries. He determined that rope in the water, in and of itself, does not present a threat to whales unless the whales and fishing gear co-occur.

Noah Oppenheim — a lobster researcher and former director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Oppenheim provided an analysis of the safety, environmental, operational, enforcement and economic challenges posed by line-less or ropeless fishing.

Patrice McCarron — director of the Maine Lobstermen's Association, McCarron provided data on the economic importance of the Maine lobster fishery, and measures adopted by lobstermen to protect right whales.

Beth Casoni — director of the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, Casoni provided data on the economic importance of the Massachusetts lobster fishery, and measures adopted by lobstermen to protect right whales.

David Borden — a former director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and director of Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association, he discussed recent changes in the lobster fishery to reduce effort and explains that implementation of a vertical line closure could increase risk to right whales as gear is shifted to nearby waters.

NMFS revealed an updated timeline for the release of the draft biological opinion and whale rules, stating that the release date for the draft will be delayed until late summer or early fall and the final rule is not expected to be published before May 31, 2021.

On June 17, the MLA filed for intervenor status in the court case brought against NMFS and DMR in Bangor District court by Max Strahan. We are waiting to hear from the court whether our request has been granted. This case was filed in September, 2019 against DMR and NMFS for authorizing the use of vertical lines in Maine state waters' lobster and gillnet fisheries. The Maine Lobstering Union has been granted intervenor status in this case. A similar court case was filed in Massachusetts, where the judge ruled that the state of Massachusetts is required to get an incidental take permit within 90 days to continue to permit buoy lines in its state waters fishery.

Finally, the Pew Charitable Trust sent a petition to NMFS, also on June 18, requesting emergency rules to protect whales by instituting four closures to include a massive year-round vertical line closure below Nantucket in Massachusetts, a seasonal vertical line closure offshore of Mount Desert Island (August to October), a seasonal vertical line closure off Jeffreys (May to July), and a massive offshore seasonal closure in Area 3 along the Area1/Area 3 line (Oct to May). Maine has strongly opposed these proposals for closure over the past couple of years, and they were soundly rejected by the TRT because they show little conservation benefit

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND REACHES \$175,000

The Legal Defense Fund fundraising is going well. We have raised approximately \$175,000 of our \$500,000 goal. MLA is grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support dedicated to Save Maine Lobstermen. We still have a way to go to reach our goal of \$500,000, but we will get there. There is no doubt that Pew and the other environmental organizations are spending far more than that to try to shut the Maine lobster fishery down. Please know that we would not be able to engage on these whale issues effectively without this support.

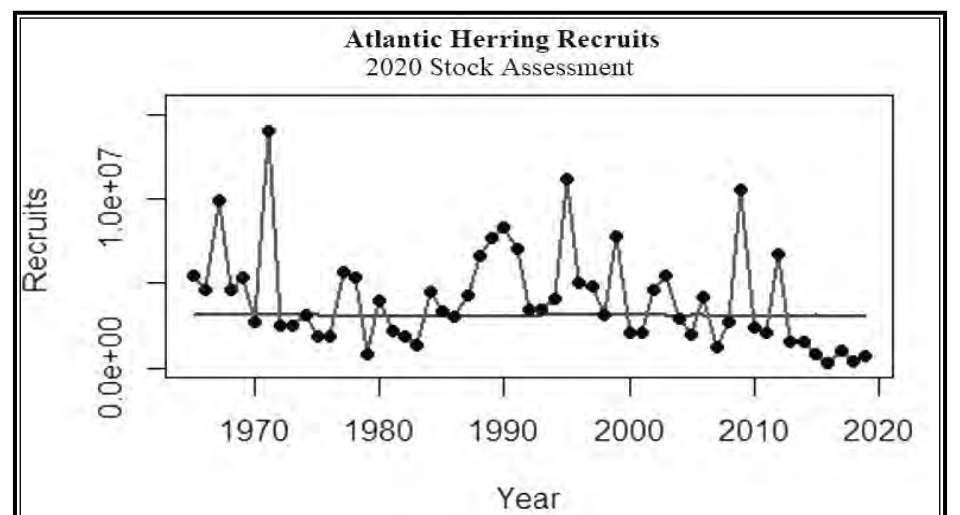
HERRING UPDATES

2020 Atlantic Herring Landings For Data through June 19, 2020		
Area	Quota 2020	% 2019 Quota Landed YTD
1A*	3,214	0%
1B	483	6.6%
2	3,120	36%
3	4,378	89.7%
Total	11,195	45.4%

Area 3 — NOAA Fisheries announced the closure of the Area 3 directed herring fishery from June 6 through January 31, 2021. Under the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan, when 92 percent of the an area's catch limit is projected to be harvested, the directed fishery is closed.

Area 1 — The Area 1A 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. 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.

Herring Stock Assessment — The Northeast Fisheries Science Center has provided a preview of the 2020 herring stock assessment. The results are very similar to what was observed in the 2018 herring stock assessment. Atlantic herring continue to experience poor recruitment so the stock level remains very low. The NEFSC held a peer review on June 22. Once the peer review is complete, this stock assessment will be finalized.





MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

MENHADEN QUOTA HARVESTED; MAINE APPLIES FOR EPISODIC QUOTA

Atlantic menhaden are managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). The menhaden management plan maintains a suite of commercial management measures including allocation, quota transfers, quota rollovers, incidental catch, the episodic events set aside program, and the Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap.

The ASMFC's Atlantic Menhaden Board set the total allowable catch for the 2020 fishing seasons at 216,000 metric tons. Maine's allocation of Atlantic menhaden quota is 0.52% of the available 216,000 metric tons, or 2,438,677 pounds. Maine is also able to participate in the Episodic Events Fishery Set Aside program; the set aside quota is 1% of the total allowable catch and is approximately 4.7 million pounds for the 2020 fishing year.

On June 19, Maine's reached its allocated quota and closed the state directed fishery. DMR requested participation in the Episodic Event Set Aside program (EESA) from ASMFC and is awaiting the determination of that request. If granted, DMR intends to reopen the menhaden fishery on June 29, but the fishery will be limited to Mondays and Thursdays only and landings must be reported in the same day. The daily landing limit (120,000 lbs) and the weekly cap (160,000 lbs) will remain the same for both harvester and carrier vessels along with one landing allowed per calendar day.

PRESIDENT TRUMP VISITS MAINE; MLA RAISES RIGHT WHALE ISSUE



Photo courtesy of National Fisherman.

On June 5, President Donald Trump met with a small group of representatives from Maine's fishing industry to announce the opening of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument to fishing. Industry members were invited to support the President's announcement and had limited opportunity to highlight other issues. It was an honor for MLA's president, Kristan Porter, to meet the President of the United States. Porter provided a statement to the President thanking him for opening the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, and highlight the extreme challenges facing the Maine lobster fishery to further protect right whales.

The MLA has been in communication with White House staff over the past year. In the weeks leading up to the President's visit and in the weeks following, these conversations have become more frequent and focused on how the White House can support Maine's lobster industry on the right whale issue. MLA has stressed our industry's commitment to do its part to save the species, but we cannot solve this problem alone. We have highlighted several important facts such as:

- of the 30 right whales that have died since 2017, 23 died in Canada, more than half as a result of entanglement and vessel strikes;
- since 2010, entanglement in U.S. lobster gear has declined by 90%; the last known entanglement in Maine lobster gear occurred in 2002 and that whale is currently alive and healthy;
- right whales have shifted away from the coast of Maine to other habitats including the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

On June 24, President Trump signed an executive order to support the lobster industry dealing with trade issues. The MLA has communicated its appreciation to the White House for this level of support, but stressed that the largest threat to Maine's lobster industry is the right whale issue. The President's staff has informed us that they continue to work on the right whale issue and that the trade announcement is in addition to that.

Some excerpts from Kristan Porter's statement to President Trump:

"Mr. President, on behalf of Maine's 5,000 commercial lobstermen, I welcome you to Maine... Maine's lobster fleet supports more than 10,000 jobs and the shoreside sector employs an additional 5,500 workers. If fishing were to go away, so would my town of Cutler, and most of our coastal communities....

Keeping our nation's commercial fisheries strong is something that I am very passionate about. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today about how the government failed the commercial fishing industry when it created the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. Rather than work with the very constituents who are most knowledgeable about this issue, and whose very livelihoods depend on its proper management and stewardship, the government instead created this monument behind closed doors with special interests.... We are very concerned about setting a precedent that closes areas to fishing and forces fishermen into smaller and smaller boxes....

Mr. President, fishermen are practical people. We want the opportunity to work hard, make an honest living and be a part of something we can be proud of. Maine lobstermen are proud of our long-standing stewardship practices through which we have developed one of the most sustainable fisheries in the world.

Despite our tremendous success, we find our industry at risk being shut down due to a rare population of North Atlantic right whales which is in decline. The MLA has been in communication with your staff about this, and you heard from the Maine delegation about this last summer. This is yet another example where the process of government has broken down. There has been a deliberate campaign of misinformation led by special interests and a lack of transparency from the government. Maine lobstermen want to be treated fairly. We want decisions to be based on the best data that is out there, and we want our voices and expertise to be respected and heard. The government has refused to acknowledge our voice and our expertise, and our livelihoods hang in the balance.

PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS

Applications for the Paycheck Protection Program closed on June 30, 2020. If you have received a PPP loan, it is time to start thinking about applying for loan forgiveness. The forgivable portions of a PPP loan include payroll costs. The SBA announced on June 25 that fishing boat captains can now use proceeds of the PPP loan to pay their sternmen as crew. The SBA's previous advice was that sternmen were independent contractors and could not be covered as a forgivable expense under the Captain's PPP loan. The SBA has changed the amount of the PPP loan that must be used to pay employees, lowering it to 60% from the previous requirement of 75%. Other forgivable expenses include mortgage interest payments (but not any pre-payments), lease payments, and utility payments for electricity, gas, water, transportation, telephone, or internet access. These must be existing expenses and cannot be new liabilities.

To maximize forgiveness:

- At least 60% must be spent on payroll costs, and no more than 40% of the forgivable loan amount can be spent on mortgage interest, rent, and utilities related to the business and entered into before February 15, 2020.
- Proceeds from any advance up to \$10,000 on an EIDL loan will be deducted from the loan forgiveness amount on the PPP loan.
- Forgiveness will be reduced if full-time employee headcount declines.
- Sternmen are now considered employees for the purposes of the PPP.
- Forgiveness is based on maintaining salary levels and will be reduced if salaries decrease by more than 25% for an employee.

The borrower must submit a loan forgiveness application to its within 10 months after the end of its loan forgiveness covered period or December 31, 2020, whichever is earlier. You can find the PPP loan forgiveness application on the SBA website: www.sba.gov/document/sba-form-paycheck-protection-program-loan-forgiveness-application-revised-6-16-2020

If you are self-employed and have no employees, you can file the EZ Loan Forgiveness Application which is a shortened version with fewer calculations and documentation requirements. A business is eligible for the EZ form if it meets at least one of the following 3 requirements: 1) the borrower is self-employed and has no employees; or 2) the borrower did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25% and did not reduce the number or hours of their employees; or 3) the borrower experienced reductions in business activity as a result of health directives related to COVID-19, and did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%. The PPP EZ Loan Forgiveness Application can be found at: <https://www.sba.gov/document/sba-form-paycheck-protection-program-ez-loan-forgiveness-application-6-16-2020>.

The review process for loan forgiveness may take up to five months. Once a borrower submits an application for loan forgiveness, a lender has 60 days to review the application and forward it to the SBA; the SBA then has 90 days to review the application.

MAINE'S HISTORIC PORTS: *Port Clyde, St. George*

By *Melissa Waterman*

“Port Clyde, U.S.A.,” reads the T-shirt of a young man sauntering to the wharf. The short phrase encapsulates the view of a small village that knows precisely who and where it is. Port Clyde, part of the town of St. George, is the furthest east groundfishing port in the state, a precarious distinction in a time when groundfishing remains an extremely restricted fishery.



But that wasn't always the case.

When the St. George peninsula was first settled, originally by wandering explorers and more permanently by Scotch and Irish immigrants brought by landowner Samuel Waldo to the area in the early 1700s, the resources of land and sea were abundant. The harbor was first known as Herring Gut, a reference to the rich herring schools that travelled the Maine coast in mid to late summer.

The early Port Clyde residents turned their hands to the natural resources of the area to make their livings. Lumber was available for building homes and sea-going vessels. Granite was nearby to be quarried for wharves and city buildings. Even cutting ice became a profitable endeavor: the Port Clyde Cold Storage and Ice Company began operating in the 1870s. The village's population peaked around 1880 at 3,000 individuals.

Marine resources, however, have been the keystone of Port Clyde's economy. In recognition of the village's seafaring economy, Congress authorized construction of the Marshall Point Lighthouse in 1832 at the eastern entrance to the harbor; the lighthouse was partially rebuilt in 1857 and 1896. It was automated in 1971 and is now operated as a museum by the town of St. George.

A cannery was operating in Port Clyde as early as 1859. The facility first canned lobsters, clams and mussels. As canning technology improved, sardines became a popular canning item. The Port Clyde Packing Company began operating in 1944 and remained successful until the factory burned down in 1970. It was the largest fire in the history of St. George and left 200 people jobless. When the factory exploded hundreds of cans flew out of the building and landed in the water. The adjacent beach took on the name “Can Beach” for the many cans that soon washed ashore.

In its heyday, Port Clyde featured all the small businesses associated with fishing: a salt factory, menhaden factory, ice businesses, shipyard, sawmill, blacksmith shops, sailmaker and stores selling marine supplies. Port Clyde fishermen, like many along the coast, fished through the seasons, shifting from lobster to herring to shrimp and other species depending on the time of year. Now fewer than 12 groundfishing vessels call Port Clyde their home port. The bulk of the fleet fishes for lobsters and scallops in the winter; the shrimp fishery closed in 2013 and has not reopened.

But the village's understanding of its deep connection to the sea remains constant. In 2008 a fishermen's memorial was dedicated near Marshall Point Lighthouse, honoring 11 fishermen who have died at sea since 1941. The motivation for the memorial came when Port Clyde fisherman Gary Thorbjornson was lost at sea in 2005. Thorbjornson made sure his son and son's friend had their survival gear on before going below to get his own gear. For three years the community held raffles, suppers and auctions to raise the funds necessary to erect the monument.

Port Clyde Fresh Catch, which began as a Community Supported Fishery in 2007, is a new face on the harbor although the company is peopled with old Port Clyde names. The idea behind Fresh Catch is simple: focus on quality, not quantity, and provide fishermen with a higher price per pound. Groundfishermen (and shrimp fishermen when the fishery was open) bring their daily catches to a small facility on the harbor, where the fish are cleaned and processed, then sold locally and also shipped throughout the country. As Glen Libby, manager of Port Clyde Fresh Catch and a former fisherman himself, says in *Caught: Time. Place. Fish.*, “The most important lesson to learn...is if you become complacent and expect things to go along as they always have you are in for a big surprise. Change is never ending and ignoring that fact will lead to failure.” And that is a point of view that deftly sums up the fishing village of Port Clyde, U.S.A.



Cold Storage Rd., 1942. Photos courtesy of Marshall Point Lighthouse Museum.

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REDFISH	FRESH BY TANK AND BARREL FROZEN IN BOXES
ROCKFISH	FROZEN IN BOXES
SALT	50 LB BAGS
TUNA	FROZEN IN VATS/BOXES

SERVICE

DEPENDABILITY

QUALITY

SINCE 1907



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oharabait.com

FRESH
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FROZEN
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HAMILTON MARINE

BOATERS' STORE!™

IMPERIAL USCG APPROVED

Adult Universal Cold Water Immersion Suit

Wide legs for easy donning. Retro-reflective tape. Includes bag and whistle.

\$269⁹⁹ ea

RVS-1409A
Order# 743829



KENT USCG APPROVED

Premium Adult Universal Immersion Suit

Articulated arms for easier donning with buddy line and whistle. Hi-vis yellow highlights and removable head pillow.

\$304⁹⁹ ea

KNT-1540-AU
Order# 753274



BEACON 35 USCG APPROVED

Automatic/Manual Inflatable PFD

Provides superior performance in rough offshore type conditions.

\$149⁹⁹ ea

Reg 179.99

Color Order#
Blue 773535
Orange 773536

35 LBS OF BUOYANCY!
SAVE \$30



Three Season Gloves

High visibility orange with black anti-slip grip. Latex foam palm dipped. Nylon liner for superior comfort and durability. Washable.

\$2⁹⁹ pr

Sizes S-2XL
Search# EBO-LNG



GRUNDÉNS Foul Weather Gear

Search# GRD-

FULL LINE IN STOCK!



ocean SIGNAL RescueME EPIRB1 Category II with GPS

66 channel GPS enabled. Strobe light. 48+ hour operational life. Waterproof. Includes lanyard.

\$425⁹⁵ ea

ACR-RESCUEMEC2
Order# 776394

10 Year Battery!



C-Light™ H2O

USCG/SOLAS APPROVED

Manual or Auto activation. Takes two AA batteries (not included).

\$19¹¹ ea

ACR-3962-1
Order# 761836



KENT USCG APPROVED

Offshore Commercial Type I Life Vest

With reflective tape, light loop and whistle attachment.

\$35⁵⁰ ea

Adult Universal
Order# 748930



Hairless Salted Pig Hide Lobster Bait

NOW IN STOCK!

SAVE by the pallet!



HML-HIDEBAIT
Order# 740935

Fish Baskets

Plastic with holes for draining. Approximately 1 bushel capacity.

\$19⁹⁹ ea

Orange Order# 118243
Green Order# 763280



Hamilton Marine Lobster Buoy Paint

Waterbased, tough, long lasting, flexible coating, UV & weather resistant, low odor, fast drying, easy soap & water cleanup. Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Black or White.

Search# HM-LBP
\$14⁹⁹ qt

\$49⁹⁹ gal



Are you seeing purple? We have all the purple stuff you need for marking lobster gear to meet Maine's new fishing regulations.



Bait Bags

Huge Inventory in stock!



Search# HML-BB

Manline Pot Warp

High strength, low noise!

Volume Pricing Available!

Search# HMP-MANLINE



Electric Rope Cutting Guns

100 Watt **\$35⁶¹ ea**

PUR-15463
Order# 127675

Heavy Duty 120 Watt

PUR-15463HD **\$37⁴⁵ ea**



Fuzzy Rope

1/2" black. Sold in 1200 ft coils. For use in mussel farming.
AQC-FR50BK
Order# 763256

Lantern Nets

Aquaculture lantern nets, for use in scallop farming.

Description Order#
4mm 5 Tier 763277
4mm 7 Tier 769870
9mm 5 Tier 763278
9mm 7 Tier 769871





**Built the Best, Built to Last,
Built Your Way.**

THE Specialists
FROM BUOY TO TRAP



Chris Anderson
Owner

In addition to all the traps we've built, I have built a lot of friendships over the eight years I've owned this business.

But many more friendships have been built over many more years between our customers and the Friendship Trap team.

Not only are we committed to providing traps that are "Built the Best, Built to Last and Built Your Way", we also are deeply committed to the relationships of integrity we have with the special people that are our customers.

Friendship Trap is more than a name to us – it's who we are – and we truly value your friendships with us. And we strive to give all our friends the best we've got every time!

So thank you! We look forward to working with old friends and making many new ones this year!

Chris and the Friendship Trap team



*In Friendship –
Greg Bradley, Jerry Wadsworth,
Mark Wadsworth, Mike Dean*



*In Columbia Falls –
VJ Lenfesty, Danni Emerson,
Jimmy Emerson*

Here to serve you!

Jerry Wadsworth (207) 542-0842 jerryw@friendshiptrap.com

Jimmy Emerson (207) 598-7047 jemerson@friendshiptrap.com

Friendship Office (Greg Bradley): (800) 451-1200; (207) 354-2545

Columbia Falls Office (VJ Lenfesty): (207) 483-6555

Visit our website: www.friendshiptrap.com



Bottom Line
Super 46 Wesmac
C18 CAT

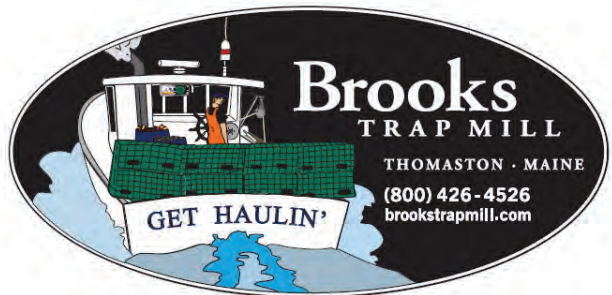


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- More fully equipped and staffed locations.
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- More ordering and delivery options for unparalleled part availability.

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& MARINE SUPPLIES**

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(855) 840-6027



Save Maine's Lobster Industry



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

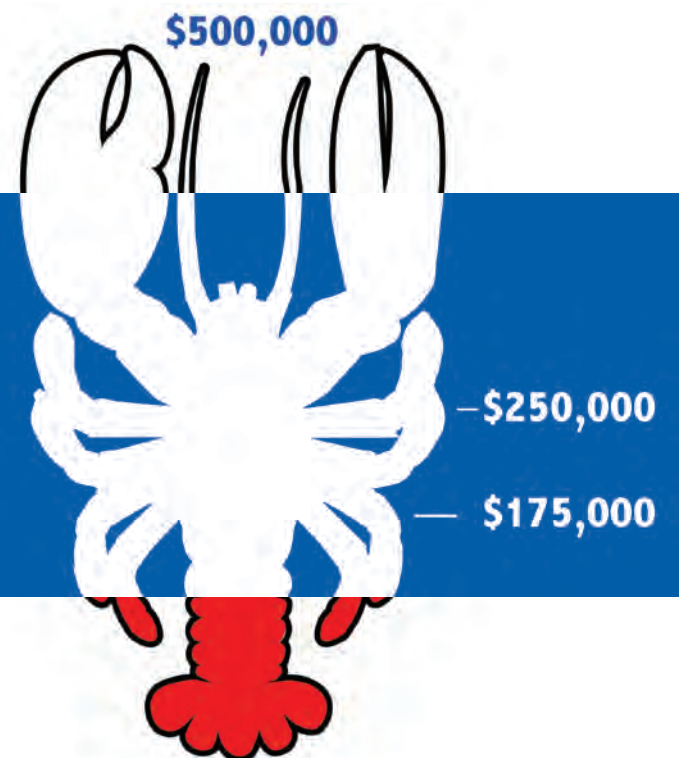


Patrice McCarron, executive director
Maine Lobstermen's Association



- The federal government has violated the Endangered Species Act.
- The Maine lobster fishery could be closed.
- 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

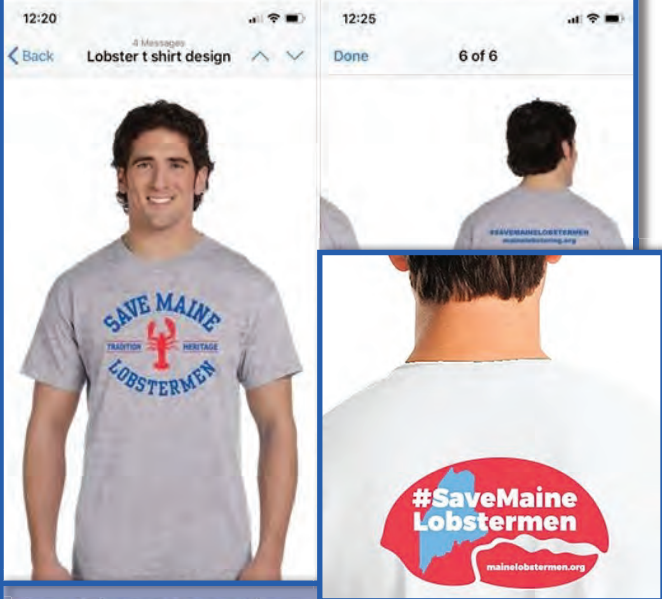
Donate By Mail:
MLA LDF, 2 Storer St, Ste 203,
Kennebunk ME 04043

Maine Lobstermen's Association Legal Defense Fund

Thank you for your Support!!!



Mary Olson from Moody's gifts had these shirts designed by her talented daughters! If any local businesses would be interested in selling them to raise money for the Maine Lobstermen's Association Legal Defense Fund, please pm me. She's asking for the shirts to be sold for \$20 with \$10 from each shirt to be donated to the fund. Jessica Crane is also selling some shirts she designed for the same cause! At this point the gray shirts will be available at Delano Seafood, Moody's Gifts, and Hamilton Marine.



Tee shirts supporting #savemainelobstermen are available online, through retailers, at boat races and through the MLA.



Sea Crow Designs and Ellsworth Jewelers have teamed up to donate all commissions from the sale of Sea Crow designed jewelry!

Thank you for this effort. We hope to contribute more as this is an issue of critical importance to our customers. Good Luck!

Alan Tracy
Vessel Services

*MLA,
Started Lobstering After Returning
From war, At Big Green Island,
West of Minnieus for 40 years. I think
IT WAS IN 1958 THAT WE WERE OFFERED
35 CENTS PER POUND FOR LOBSTERS, THANK
GOD FOR SHIP TO SHORE TELEPHONE. THE STRIKE.
I WAS GOOD FRIENDS OF LES DYER AND
FLAY GROSSMAN. I WAS AN ORIGINAL
MEMBER OF MLA. I THINK THE GREAT JUDGE
AT THE PORTLAND TRIAL ADVISED TO START
A COOP OF AN ASSOCIATION TO GET A
PRICE FOR LOBSTERS. I CAN NOT UNDERSTAND
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PEOPLE WHO WOULD DO
SO MUCH HARM TO LOBSTERMEN TO PROTECT
A RIGHT WHOLE.
Keep up the good work, 40 years
of lobstering and I never saw a
Right whole.*

Donations \$50. Regards,
Mike McEmmel

June 1st - 7th

ONLINE AUCTION

All proceeds benefiting the Maine Lobstermen's Association Legal Defense Fund!

Find the event on Facebook! Items will be posted June 1st at noon with bidding ending at 6pm on June 7th.

Interested in donating or have questions? Email rebecca@mainelobstermen.org

Help keep the future of Maine's lobster industry bright!

This online auction raised almost \$5000!

*Give 'em hell, Patrice
You've Got This!!*

*Keep up the fight
Pete*

We always appreciate notes of support!

Navroc Marine Electronics
June 12 at 8:24 PM

For the rest of June and July 2020, Navroc will donate \$150 for each Hondex plotter or Navroc computer we sell retail to the Maine Lobstermen's Association Legal Defense Fund. MLA is working hard for our customers during this time!

#SaveMaineLobstermen

June and July 2020 Only!

Navroc will donate \$150 from the retail sale of each new Hondex plotter or Navroc computer to MLA Legal Defense

Welcome Navroc Electronics and Thank You!

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: 207-967-45555
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!

Thank you for helping to Save Maine's Lobster Industry

2020 Donors - as of 6/23/20

Gifts under \$100

A Bright Horizon
Tele Aadsen
Sean Allen
Terrance Ashton
Lacie Bachelder
Nancy Beal
Kevin Beling (Drivetrain)
Thomas Bell
John and Andrea Beveridge
W. Kennedy Boone III
Theodore Boyce
Lisa Brackett
Brynmorgan Press
John and Carolyn Burr
Caitlin Callahan
Patrick Conrad
William Crowell
Curtis Brand Music
Chris Cushman
Jess Daniels
Jon Emerson
Erin Fitzgerald
Kyle Foley
Rachel Fowlie
Kate Fox
Joshua French
Tiffany Gardner
Sandra L. Gates
Kara George
William Gilpatric
Asa Goodband
Erik Hansen
Gregory D Havener
Pat Havener
John C Holliday
Christina Hunninghaus
Craig Hutchinson
Cynthia Jensen
William Johnston
Sumner Kinney
Paul Kinsella
Kevin Kling
Ellen Kornetsky
Robert Krist
Patricia Lagasse
Erin Lally
Kenneth F Lemont
Gary Libby
Nicole Look
Irving McConchie
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 Pellechia
Amanda Porter
Douglas Rackcliff
Darren & Nicole Randall
Robert Redimarker
Michelle Rioux
Rebecca Robinson
Erin Rodin
Brandon Secord
David & Joyce Southard
Tiffany Strong
Debbie Sweet
Asa Thompson
Kelsea Tower
Ventura Fishermen's Market
Greg Veshinsky
Andrew Vorkink

Under 100 cont'd

Kenneth Weed
Wendy Wenger
Carla White
Anne Wiedenkiller
Cynthia Wright
Scott Young

Gifts \$100 - \$299

Jason Alley
Daniel L Ames
Mike Arsenault
John Bacon
Andrew Balsler
Michael Balsler
Robert L Beal
Glenn Billings
Blaine E Blackmore
Scott Blackmore
Hugh Bowen
Kent Bradstreet
Eric Brazer
Amy Brazier
Laurin Brooks
Foy W Brown
John W Chipman
John Clinton
Daniel S Clough
Philip R Condon
Jocelyne Coombs
Riley Coombs
Marilyn Crowell
Benjamin A Doliber
Jerry Doughty
Downeast Fishing Gear
Edgar Drew
Jordan Drouin
Martha T Dundman
Anne Eggers
Betsy Eggers
Peter Emerson
Nathan Fagonde
A. Michael Faulkingham
Nick Faulkingham
Donald Foye
Ryan Geel
George's River Canvas
Jay Glover
Kevin Glover
Alexander Gonzalez
Frank J Gotwals
Kate Griffin & Rich Leidinger
Jessica Hathaway
Andrew Havener
Wayne Havener
Gary E. Hawkes
Bruce Heanssler
Richard & Bonnie Heanssler
Jim Henderson
Christopher Herring
Todd Hubbard
Bobby Ingalls
Island Lobster Supply
Angela Johnson
Ezra Johnson
Lincoln Johnson
Rachel Johnson
Robert P Johnson
Vernon Johnson
Donald Jones
Heather Jones
Samuel Joy
Carlton Joyce

\$100 - \$299 cont'd

Jason Joyce
Spencer Joyce
Irene Kennedy
Sharon Kern
Rodney & Marcia King
Scott S Kittredge
Knight Marine Service
Matthew D Knowlton
Alex De Koning
Fiona De Koning
Edwin G Lawson
Isaac Lash
Gene Lazaro
Garrett Lemoine
Jason Mann
John Marsh
Adam McAfee
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Alice McWilliams
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Michael Sherman
Heather Sirocki
Lange Solberg
Philip Spalding
Ted Spurling Jr
Jenni & Gary Steele
Craig Stewart
Cody Stewart
Courtland Tolman
True North Fisheries
Alexander Varner
Richard Waldron
Brandon Wallace
Lee Watkinson
Derek Webber
Christopher Weller
Jeanne L Whittier
Jeret Winchenbach
Jason Witham

\$100 - \$299 cont'd

Barry L Wood Sr
Cheryl Worthing
Donald Wright
Jason York
Alli Young
Luke Zable
Mark Zable

Gifts \$300 - \$499

Bob Baines
Mary Blackmore & Sally Haskell
E. Vance Bunker
Mark Cheney
Tyler Cheney
Robert L Donnell
Philip N Doucette
John Fenwick
John's Bay Boat
William D McLain
Jim McMillain
Midcoast Marine Supply
Steve N Miller
David Neubig
Adam Scott
Charles H Tarbox
Welch Engineering
Jason Zanke

Gifts \$500 - \$999

Brian Alley
Joshua Ames
Rex Benner
Randall Betts
Joel Billings
David F Black
Gordon Bok
Steve Budrow
Dwight Carver
China Hill Restaurant & Bar
Herman Coombs
David Cousens
Laurie Crane
John Daggett
Delano Seafood Shack
Travis Doughty
John Drouin
Bruce W Fernald
Earl Hamilton
Joshua Hatch
Richard Howland
Charles Ingalls
Michael Jennings
Stuart Jones
Kennedy Marine, Inc
Craig Lazaro
Nicholas Lemieux
Midcoast Diesel Performance
Chris Moore
Matthew B Nowell
Nicholas O'Hara
Ladd Olsen
Tara Perez
Micah Philbrook
Woodbury A Post
Michael S Prior
Jeffrey Putnam
Ryan & Laurie Schoppee
David A Sullivan
Sam Rosen

Continued on the next page

Jay Smith \$1000 challenge * Alec Phippen Offshore Challenge • Brooks Trap Mill Challenge ♦

Support the MLA Legal Defense Fund!

Thank you for helping to Save Maine's Lobster Industry

2020 Donors - as of 6/23/20

\$500 - \$999 cont'd

Brian Tripp
John J Tripp
Vinalhaven Lobster Co-Op
Harlan Warren
W.A. Fasteners
Donald Young
Linda Zuke

Gifts \$1,000 - \$4,999

Jeremy S Alley*
Billings Marine Service
Bramhall's Lobster Wharf
Bring It Inc.
Dustin Delano*
Wayne Delano*
Jeffrey A Donnell*
Zachary R Donnell*
Elizabeth Fenwick*
First National Bank
Friendship Heritage Lobster Co-op

\$1000 - \$4,999 cont'd

Gillespie Marine LLC
Michael Hunt*
Sam Hylar*
Journey's End Marina
Stephen Lash*
Lee Marine
Ian Lussier*
Jack Merrill III*
Jim Merriman*
Alfred Osgood*
Peter Philbrook*
Josh Polk*
Harold Poole*
Kristan L Porter*
Tristan Salman*
Jay Smith Jr*
Smithwick & Mariners Ins.
John Stanley*
Starlight Inc.
Town of Stonington*

\$1000 - \$4,999 cont'd

David A Thomas*
Alex Todd*
Vessel Services Inc.
Richard Wall*
Keith Wallace*
Ronald T Watkinson*
Ted Weber*
Thomas Werner*
Jeff White*
John and Judy Williams*
Bob Williams*
Justin J Wright*

Gifts \$5,000 - \$9,999

Alec Phippen*
Abraham Philbrook*
Spruce Head Fishermen's Co
Swans Isl. Fishermen's Co-op
York Lobstermen's Assoc.

\$10,000 and above

Brooks Trap Mill*
Colby & Gale
Machias Savings Bank

The Harbor Challenge:

Cape Porpoise Lobstermen: \$5300
Frenchboro Lobstermen: \$1085
York Harbor Lobstermen: \$4465

Gifts In Memoriam

Doris Ewing—In memory of David Provencher
Sheldon Goldthwait Jr— In memory of Hugh Watts
Robin Amorello- In loving memory of Sherri Cook
Antonina Pelletier-In memory of Sherri Cook
Susan Salomon-In memory of Sherri Cook
Jeanne Rapone- In memory of Sherri Cook

Thank you to all who donated in 2019! A full list of 2019 donors can be found in our May issue.

You need us. We need you.



Become a member of the Maine Lobstermen's Association today.

Harvester Membership Levels:

- First-time Member \$200
- Highliner \$350
- Harvester \$250
- Harvester Family* \$325
- Junior Harvester (under 18) \$125
- Senior Harvester (over 65) \$125
- Retired Harvester \$50
(no longer a captain)

** family memberships are for spouses and children under 23 living at home*

Individual Membership Levels:

- Sternman \$50
- Lobster Friend \$100
- Lobster Lover \$250

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ D.O.B: _____

Email: _____

(Please include to receive weekly e-news updates and lobster, bait, & fuel prices)

Boat Name: _____

Lobster License #: _____ Zone & District: _____

*Family Members: _____

Yes, I want to add my sternman for \$50!

Name: _____ DOB: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

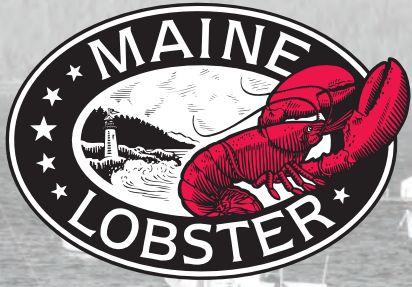
Lobster license # (If applicable): _____

Payment info: Pay with: Visa MasterCard Check: # _____ Total amount \$ _____

Credit Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. date: _____ CV code: _____

Billing town/state/zip: _____





MAINE LOBSTER THE SWEETEST ON EARTH

MARKETING UPDATES

Resources for Home Cooks

The MLMC launched new resources for Home Cooks online to provide consumers everything they need to know about buying, preparing, cooking and storing Maine Lobster in all its product forms. It includes 20 new recipes with photos and some videos to make Maine Lobster more approachable. We will use social media and digital advertising to promote these resources.

Buyer's Guide

The MLMC has a comprehensive new guide for wholesale customers buying Maine Lobster. The guide includes information on product forms, freezing techniques, sustainability information and more. We will share it with target wholesalers through email marketing and digital advertising.

Retail Promotions

The MLMC is introducing a pilot program designed to increase demand for Maine Lobster among grocery customers. We are working with dealers and their retail customers to create custom marketing programs using a variety of different marketing tools including in-store signage, visual materials and digital advertising.



www.lobsterfrommaine.com

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twitter.com/lobsterfromme

instagram.com/lobsterfrommaine

Louisiana Bait Products, Inc.



Individually Quick Frozen (IQF) Pogie

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

*LSU Ag Center Test results



Buy factory direct

Stable supply and stable pricing

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

www.getbait.com



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 yet 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:



YOU CAN PREVENT TYPE 2 DIABETES

FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE PREDIABETES —
See your doctor to get your blood sugar tested



JOIN A CDC-RECOGNIZED
diabetes prevention program



- ✓ eat healthy
- ✓ be more active
- ✓ lose weight

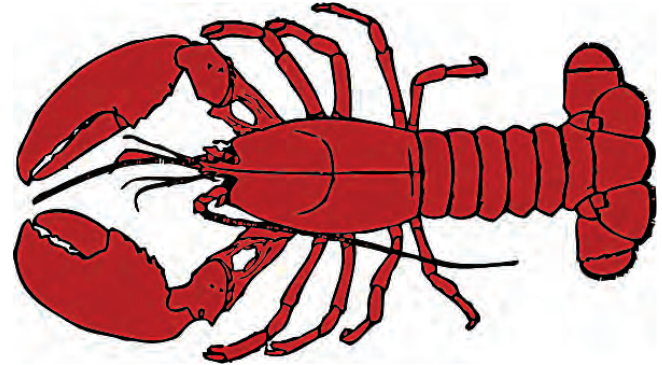


Brought to you by the Maine CDC.

LEARN MORE FROM CDC AND TAKE THE **PREDIABETES RISK TEST** AT www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/prediabetes.html

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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.

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\$999 annual subscription + iPad® + waterproof case**

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deckhandlogbook.com/greater-atlantic



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Falmouth, ME -- Discounted vessel insurance plus 5% discount with proof of CG approved Drill Conductor course w/in the last 5 years. Wooden boat, Builders coverage, no lay up period, discounted electronics deductible, and automatic coverage of researchers and more! Call Scott Smithwick 207-370-1883

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Brunswick, ME -- Free initial consultation and review of previous tax returns. 207-607-7118

Back River Financial Group

Farmingdale, ME -- Free initial consultation and review of previous years tax returns. 207-622-3772

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Newcastle Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep

Newcastle, ME -- 10% discount on all parts and service. \$250 additional discount on any new vehicle after you make your best price 207-563-5959

Weirs Buick - GMC

Arundel ME -- Purchase a new GMC and get a free Bullet Liner. Must show MLA card 877-861-0070

Bait

Bessy Bait, LLC

Seabrook, NH -- \$5 discount per drum on multiple drum purchases (must show current MLA card). 603-300-2846

Old School Pig Hide Bait

Cutler, ME -- \$1 off per bucket (must show current MLA card). 207-812-5211

Boat Builders/Repairs

SW Boatworks

Lamonia, ME -- \$1000 discount for hull or top. on a 38' CB or 44' CB. 207-667-7427

Electronic Equipment

Deckhand Electronic Logbook

Bellingham WA -- Discounts & Specials for MLA members. Call for more info. 888-210-3117

Navtronics, LLC

York, ME -- 5% off of purchases. 207-363-1150

Fuel

Atlantic Edge Lobster

Boothbay Harbor, ME -- Fuel discount for MLA members. 207-633-2300

Gifts

Maine Camp Outfitters

Sunset, ME -- 10% off all apparel and promotional product orders. 800-560-6090

Maine Lobstermen's Association

Kennebunk, ME -- 10% off all apparel 207-967-4555

Fishing, Marine & Industrial

Hamilton Marine

Searsport, Rockland, Portland, Southwest Harbor, Jonesport, ME -- Discounts available to commercial fishermen.

North Atlantic Power Products

Exeter, NH -- 10% discount on parts and service. 603-418-0470

Hotels

Hampton Inn, Ellsworth -- (Ellsworth, ME)

Hampton Inn, Downtown-Waterfront -- (Portland, ME)

Hampton Inn, Rockland/Thomaston -- (Rockland, ME)

Residence Inn by Marriott - (Scarborough, ME)

Discount: Special rates for MLA members and Business Supporters. Please contact the MLA for booking information, or mention MLA when booking.

Hydraulics

Coastal Hydraulics

Seabrook, NH -- 10% discount on all in stock items for MLA members. 603-474-1914

Hews Company, LLC

South Portland, ME -- 10% off hydraulic components & Cable Craft cables. 207-767-2136

Legal Services

Law Office of Crystal Tarjick

(Port Clyde, ME) -- 10% off all legal services for MLA members. 207-691-2633

Museums & Entertainment

Penobscot Marine Museum

Searsport, ME -- Free admission for MLA members.

Maine Maritime Museum

Bath, ME -- Free admission to MLA members.

Mount Desert Oceanarium

Bar Harbor, ME -- Free admission to commercial fishermen and their families.

Cross Insurance Arena

Special discounts to shows at the Cross Arena in Portland! Use promo code GFRIEND at checkout. Order by phone, online, or in person at the box office. Info at www.maine lobstermen.org

Lobster & Seafood

Crazy Lobster & Shellfish

Port Chester, NY -- 20% off off the entire site: www.crazylobstershellfish.com

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NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION PETITIONS NMFS FOR CLOSURES

By Melissa Waterman

On June 18, the Pew Charitable Trusts sent a petition to Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requesting emergency rules in a broad stretch of the Gulf of Maine and in Massachusetts waters to protect North Atlantic right whales. The petition comes as NMFS is drafting its new Biological Opinion under the Endangered Species Act on whether the continuation of the American lobster fishery poses a threat to the recovery of the endangered right whale population. A draft was to be published in July; NMFS now anticipates its draft Biological Opinion may be completed by late summer or early fall.

The petition asks the Department of Commerce to close four areas to all vertical lines: 1) year-round closure in an area below Nantucket, 2) a seasonal closure offshore of Mount Desert Island (August to Oct), 3) a seasonal closure off Jeffreys Ledge (May to July), and 4) a large seasonal closure along the Area 1/Area 3 line (October to May).

In a letter accompanying the petition Peter Baker of Pew Charitable Trusts and attorney Purcie Bennett-Nickerson wrote of the vulnerability of the right whale population. "Specifically, we request that you designate one year-round closure south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, and three seasonal offshore closures in the Gulf of Maine in which the use of vertical lines in the American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries is prohibited.... The proposed areas have been scientifically identified as posing the greatest risk of entanglement to the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale."

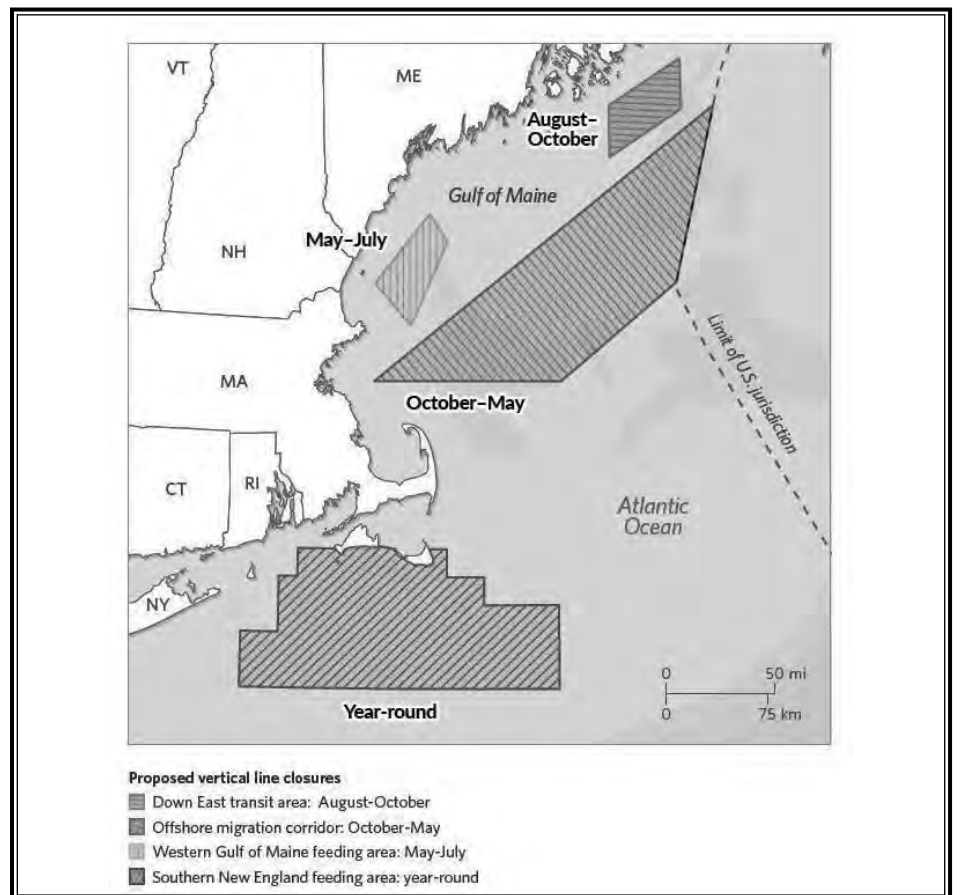
The petition further encourages Commerce to put in place other restrictions in addition to closures. "We also request that through the permanent rulemaking the Secretary consider and implement additional measures that would complement vertical line trap/pot closures. Alternatives for such measures should include trap reductions and vertical line limits that cumulatively, with vertical line closures, will reduce take below the legal thresholds, including alternatives identified through the 2019 scoping to initiate rulemaking under the MMPA [Marine Mammal Protection Act]."

The petition is a method for Pew Charitable Trusts to pressure NMFS to move more quickly on the Biological Opinion, as well as bring the possibility of ropeless fishing to the foreground.

"Maine has strongly opposed these closure proposals over the past couple of years, and they were soundly rejected by the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team. Unfortunately, Pew is trying to resurrect them without any rational scientific basis," commented Patrice McCarron, executive director of the Maine Lobstermen's Association.

PROPOSED VERTICAL LINE CLOSURES

Downeast transit area:	August to October
Offshore migration corridor:	October to May
Western Gulf of Maine feeding area:	May to July
Southern New England feeding area:	Year round



DRIFTERS ON THE LOOSE

Press release

Scientists at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, the University of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, and Saint Joseph's College of Maine are trying to determine how warming ocean waters might influence the movements of female lobsters carrying eggs and how changes could impact the settlement of larval-stage lobsters in in-shore nursery grounds. The working hypothesis is that females will seek colder water and thus move further offshore. This might, in turn, influence where their larvae are transported by ocean currents. To address this question, the research team is deploying ocean drifters designed to mimic how lobster larvae will drift from four different locations that range from 2 to 16 miles from the coast of New Hampshire.



If you see one of these before August 1, leave it in the water. If you see one after August 1, bring it in and call the phone number on the drifter.

A total of 24 drifters were released in late June. These drifters are largely submerged, with their top floating just above the surface. Each drifter is equipped with a GPS unit and an orange flashing light. Lobster larvae are typically in the water column for about 30 days before they settle to the bottom. Therefore, it is important to make sure the drifters also spend at least a month in the water. If lobstermen see one BEFORE August 1 of this year, they are asked to leave it in the water. If you see one AFTER August 1 the researchers would like it returned to them. There is a phone number on the unit to call or text; project staff will come to pick the drifter up.

The research team is made up of Jason Goldstein and Ben Gutzler (Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve); Joshua Carloni (New Hampshire Fish and Game Department); Win Watson and Tom Lippmann (University of New Hampshire); and Steve Jury (Saint Joseph's College of Maine).

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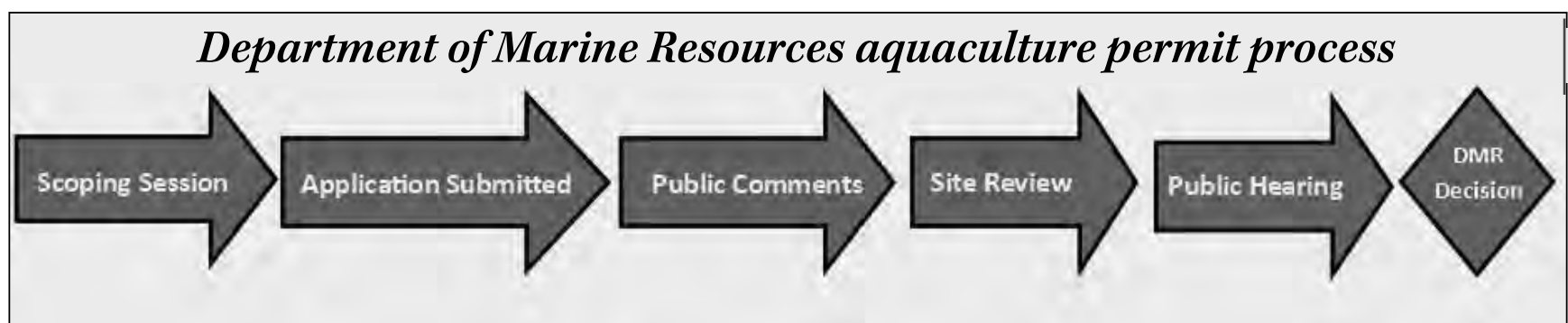
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DMR AQUACULTURE LEASE APPLICATIONS FOR JULY *(as of 6/18/2020)*

Name of Applicant/ Company	Site	Town	Size	Product	Lease type	Duration	Status
Experimental Lease Applications							
Mardsen Brewer	Sellers Rock, E Penobscot Bay	Deer Isle	4 acres	Scallops	Experimental	3 yrs	Site Review Complete 3/29/20
Robert Brewer	Sellers Rock, E Penobscot Bay	Deer Isle	4 acres	Scallops	Experimental	3 yrs	Site Report Complete 6/10/20
Deep Blue Aquaculture	W of Hog Isl, Penobscot bay	Deer Isle	3.86 acres	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	Comment Period closes 3/28/20
Downeast Institute	Near Mud Hole Pt, Estrn Bay, Mud Hole Cove	Beals	4 acres	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	Public Hearing Held 2/4/20
Victor Doyle	E of Barlett Isl, Blue Hill Bay	Mount Desert	1 acre	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	Public Hearing Postponed
Ferda Farms LLC	E Lower Coombs Isl, New Meadows River	Brunswick	3.86	Shellfish	Experimental	3 years	Comments closed 6/18/2020
Hermit Island Oyster Co., LLC	Hermit Isl, Small Pt Hrbr, New Meadows Rvr	Phippsburg	0.76 acres	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	Comment Period Ended 1/17/20
George & Lucas Morrill	N/NE of Tommy Isl, Penobscot Bay	So Thomaston	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	Lease is granted 6/3/20
George & Lucas Morrill	NW of Muscle Ridge channel, Penob. Bay	So Thomaston	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	Lease is granted 6/3/20
Mussel Bound Inc.	Barlett Narrows, Blue Hill Bay	Mount Desert	3.55 acres	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	Public Hearing Postponed as of 11/1/19
Mussel Bound Inc.	N of Thomas Isl. Frenchman Bay	Bar Harbor	3.58 acres	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	Comment Period Ended 8/24/19
Saltwind Seafarm LLC	opp side Demis Bar, Nonesuch River	Scarborough	3.15 acres	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	Comments due 4 pm 4/5/20
Sea Run Fisheries & Habitat	E of Western Head & Li'l Rvr Isl, Cutler Hrbr	Cutler	4 acres	Finfish	Experimental	3 years	Comments due 4 pm 4/3/20
Sea Stuff, LLC	N of Li'l Chebeague, W of Indian Pt	Chebeague Isl	3.9 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	Public Hearing held 11/6/19
Jeffrey Schroeder	Broad Cove, St George River	Cushing	4 acres	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	Comments closed 2/15/20
Darling Marine Center, U Maine	Lowe's Cove, Damariscotta River	South Bristol	1.79 acres	Mixed	Scientific- Exp	3 yrs	renewal approved 6/16/2020
Standard Lease Applications							
Maine Island Aquaculture	Marsh Cove	North Haven	15 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Scoping Session - Postponed as of 3/16/20
Black Stone Point Oysters LLC	Damariscotta River	Damariscotta	12.98 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Public Hearing: POSTPONED
Acadia Aqua Farms LLC	Googins Ledge, Frenchman Bay	Bar Harbor	48 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Lease is granted 06/17/2020
Walter Coffin	SW of Indian Head, Recompense	Freeport	16 acres	Oysters	Standard	20 yrs	Lease is denied 6/3/20
Community Shellfish Co., LLC	W of Oar Isl & N of Hog Isl, Medomak River	Bremen	4.19 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Public Hearing Postponed as of 3/19/20
Christopher Dickenson	800 ft SW Hog Island, Damariscotta River	Damariscotta	1 acre	Shellfish	Standard	20	Site Review pending as of 10/1/19
Peter W Fransisco	E of Middle Ground, New Meadows River	West bath	5.5 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Public Hearing scheduled for 3/10/20
Frenchman Bay Oyster Co.	W & S of Ingalls Isl. Sullivan Harbor	Sorrento	5.85 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review pending as of 10/17/19
Glidden Point Oyster Co.	West shore, S of Jacks Pt, Damariscotta River	Newcastle	5.5 acres	Shellfish	Standard	10 yrs	Public Hearing Postponed 3/20/20
Glidden Point Oyster Co.	Dodge Lower Cove, Damariscotta River	Edgecomb	8.22	Oysters	Standard	20 yrs	Lease renewal approved 6/16/2020
Harraseeket Oyster Co.	S of Bowman Isl & Stockbridge Pt, Casco Bay	Freeport	7 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review Pending as of 12/11/19
Brian Harvey	W of Haynes Pt, Goose Cove, Western Bay	Trenton	6 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review Pending as of 3/27/2020
Timothy Johnson	E of Crow Isl, Middle Bay	Harpwell	2.67 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Hearing Notice
Love Point Oysters, LLC	SE of Winslow Park, Casco Bay	Freeport	4.78 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review Pending as of 1/13/20
Love Point Oysters, LLC	S of Crab island, Casco Bay	Freeport	4.15 acres	Oysters	Standard	20 yrs	Site review Pending as of 2/20/20
Maine Ocean Farms, LLC	E of Wolfe's Neck, Recompense Cove	Freeport	9.88 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review Pending as of 12/13/19
Maine Source Seafood	E of Lane's Isl, Casco Bay	Yarmouth	3.48 acres	Oysters	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review Complete as of 4/2/20
Amanda Moeser	S of Lanes Isl, Inner Casco Bay	Yarmouth	9 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review pending as of 9/30/19
Mook Sea Farms Inc.	S of Wiley Pt & N of Fitch Pt, Damaris. River	South Bristol	3 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review pending as of 9/9/19
Shearwater Ventures LLC	E of Li'l Chebeague, Casco Bay: Long Isl and	Chebeague Isl	3.79 acres	Marine Algae	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review pending as of 10/7/19
Spinney Creek Shellfish, Inc.	NW of Rt 95 Bridge, Spinney Creek	Eliot	2.75 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review complete 3/18/20
Summit Point LLC	S of Basket Island, Casco Bay: Long Island &	Chebeague Isl	100 acres	Marine Algae	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review pending as of 12/2/19
Summit Point LLC	NE of Clapboard Isl, Casco Bay; Falmouth &	Cumberland	100 acres	Marine Algae	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review pending as of 12/2/19
Tightrope Farms	south of Carlton Island, Salt Pond	Blue Hill	7.25	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Site Review Pending as of 10/20/2019
Western Bay Oyster Co.	off Old House Cove, Western Bay, Spruce Pt	Bar Harbor	3.36 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Public hearing Postponed 3/20/20
Wolfe Neck Oyster Co. LLC	SE of Lanes Island, Casco Bay	Yarmouth	8 acres	Shellfish	Standard	10 yrs	Site Review pending as of 11/15/20

For more information, visit Maine DMR website at: <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/index.html>. Subscribe to DMR updates on aquaculture leases: www.maine.gov/dmr; scroll to bottom of page, under "Connect with Us", click on "subscribe to email/text notifications"

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GOVERNOR MILLS RESPONDS TO PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS PETITION FOR CLOSURES

DMR press release

Standing up for Maine's vital lobster industry and its hardworking men and women, Governor Janet Mills today urged U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross to deny a petition by Pew Charitable Trusts that would prohibit the use of vertical lines in the American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries in four areas of the New England coast.

In a letter sent to the Commerce Secretary yesterday, Governor Mills explained that the petition, which asks for immediate year-round closures south of Marthas Vineyard and Nantucket and three seasonal offshore closures in the Gulf of Maine to protect North Atlantic right whales, "not only fails to provide additional protections for right whales, but contrary to Pews assertions, it will also cause significant economic impact to Maines iconic lobster fishery."

Governor Mills explained that, unlike the Pew petition, a proposed regulation currently in development intended to protect right whales has benefited from broad stakeholder input. It is my sincere hope that you will ensure that NOAA Fisheries continues to pursue development of this rule, which has been developed through the input of a diverse body, the Take Reduction Team (TRT), stated the Governor. The TRT includes fishermen who understand the operational realities posed by various measures and are working side by side with the conversation community to identify practical, safe solutions to protect right whales.

Governor Mills added that NOAA staff cannot afford to divert attention from the regulatory process to address a proposal that has the potential to harm right whales, rather than help them.

The Pew proposal will increase risk to right whales by creating a curtain effect where fishermen move gear to open waters around closures increasing density of vertical lines and therefore, increasing risk in those areas, explained Governor Mills.

Governor Mills also called into question the data and methodologies used by Pew to establish the location and timing of closures. A 2019 paper cited by Pew as a basis for location and timing of proposed closures that examines shifts in right whale prey fails to incorporate predictions of whale migration.

Pews assertion that the proposed closures will have minimal impact on fishing is patently untrue, wrote the Governor. Two areas proposed for closure provide critical opportunity to our harvesters and represent 15% to 24% of the area accessible to Maine fishermen during the impacted months, she wrote.

According to Department of Marine Resources data, landings revenues for Maine fishermen from two of the proposed closures are estimated to be \$18.8 million during the proposed May through October closure, representing 4 percent of the \$482.9 million 2019 value of Maine lobster fishery.

Maines lobster harvesters are concerned about the status of North Atlantic Right Whales, stated Governor Mills. My Commissioner of Marine Resources, Patrick Keliher, has been working closely

with the industry to develop a plan that provides meaningful protections in the areas of greatest risk to whales, while also ensuring our fishery can continue to operate safely. We remain committed to working toward these objectives.



Gov. Mills argued that the suggested closures would do little to protect right whales while causing "significant economic impact" within the state of Maine. Photo courtesy of the Maine Office of Tourism.



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Federal laws continued from page 1

tential for jeopardy or harm to the species, the biological opinion will include “reasonable and prudent alternatives” so that the permitted activity takes place in way that will not harm the species. For lobstermen, this in effect creates a more stringent whale plan.

Recent court cases have unveiled another layer to this already complicated legal framework. Currently three court cases are pending, and the rulings to date have introduced another hurdle to the continued operation of the lobster fishery — the issuance of an Incidental Take Statement (ITS) under Section 7 of the ESA for the federal waters lobster fishery, and obtaining an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) under Section 10 of the ESA for the state waters lobster fishery.

The first case was filed in early 2017 by four environmental groups against NMFS and is moving through the Washington, D.C. district court. In April 2020, the judge ruled that NMFS violated the ESA when it issued the 2014 biological opinion on the lobster fishery without including an ITS for right whales. In the 2014 biological opinion NMFS issued a finding of no jeopardy because the vertical line rule, which required lobstermen to trawl up based on distance from shore, was scheduled for implementation.

The judge was clear that if a permitted activity such as lobstering has the potential to harm a listed species such as right whales, that NMFS must issue an Incidental Take Statement (ITS) to address how the lobster fishery would operate in a manner that averts this potential harm to right whales. In its court filings, NMFS revealed that it purposefully did not issue an ITS for right whales in the 2014 biological opinion because the lobster fishery would not have been able to proceed. The judge wrote disapprovingly of NMFS’ action, stating that “[NMFS] cannot rewrite the statute just because they do not agree with its consequences.” This case is now in the remedy phase, which will determine how to bring NMFS and, in turn, the lobster fishery into compliance with the ESA.

The other two court cases were filed in Massachusetts and Maine district courts in 2018 and 2019, respectively, by self-proclaimed whale activist Richard Max Strahan. The Massachusetts case was filed against the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries, NMFS, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association. The Maine case was filed against Maine Department of Marine Resources and NMFS. Both cases were filed to challenge the permitting of vertical lines in the state waters lobster and gillnet

fisheries of each state. While the Maine case is still pending, in April 2020 the Massachusetts federal court ruled in Strahan’s favor, stating that Massachusetts officials must obtain an ITP under Section 10 of the ESA before permitting vertical lines in its state waters fishery. The state was given 90 days to do so.

In the two court cases in which the judge has ruled, it has become clear that the lobster fishery will no longer be allowed to operate in the absence of an Incidental Take Statement for right whales for the federal waters portion of the fishery and, at least in Massachusetts, an Incidental Take Permit for right whales in the state waters portion of the fishery. Although ITS and ITP are not the same thing and are under separate sections of the ESA, each requires that the fishery meet a very similar standard, essentially that the fishery operates in a way that will not incidentally harm right whales.



Two federal laws provide strict protections for North Atlantic right whales. NOAA image.

Here is how the two laws come together. If NMFS authorizes an incidental take under the ESA, it must also authorize an incidental take under the MMPA, so the standards of both laws must be satisfied in order for the lobster fishery to continue. Under the ESA, if NMFS determines that the lobster fishery has the potential to harm right whales, the biological opinion must include “reasonable and prudent alternatives” to ensure that lobstering operates in manner that will not harm right whales, and the agency must issue an ITS for right whales. In authorizing incidental take under the ESA, NMFS must also authorize the incidental taking of right whales by the lobster fishery under the MMPA, for which three criteria must be met. First, there must be an ESA recovery

plan in place or under development, which has been done; second, the fishery must have a Take Reduction Plan and monitoring plan in place, which has also been done; and third, NMFS must make a “negligible impact determination” or “NID” showing that incidental mortality and serious injury from the lobster fishery will have a negligible impact on right whales.

The MMPA does not provide a definition of “negligible impact,” so NMFS has developed criteria on how to make this determination. The most recent guidance was issued in 1999 and required NMFS to look at serious injury and mortality from all commercial fisheries. Fortunately, NMFS has published updated guidance on NIDs effective June 17, 2020. The new guidance applies two thresholds to determine whether permitting the fishery will have a negligible impact on right whales. The first considers maximum total amount of human-caused mortality or serious injury from all sources. If that figure exceeds PBR, and for right whales it does, the second threshold comes into play. The second threshold allows the agency to consider the amount of mortality or serious injury from a single fishery. This new guidance will allow NMFS to consider the impact of the lobster fishery as a stand-alone fishery, rather than a part of all U.S. commercial fisheries. In its analysis, however, NMFS must also consider the potential for recovery of the right whale stock and the impact of the individual fishery on right whales within that broader context.

The California Dungeness Crab fishery has been grappling with the reality of obtaining an ITP for its state waters fishery more than a year. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife was sued by the Center for Biological Diversity in October of 2017. The case resulted in a settlement to reduce the interaction between the crab fishery and endangered whales by shortening the crabbing season by several months to end in April, or earlier if whales are detected. The department now collaborates with fishermen on at-sea assessments of whale migration and fishing activity to keep track of where the whales are during the winter and early spring. The state of California began its application with NMFS for an ITP more than a year ago, and these interim measures have allowed the crab fishery to operate while the ITP application process is underway.

The North Atlantic right whale population continues to decline, in large part due to mortalities in Canada in recent years. As the overall number of right whales goes, down, the federal standard to continue to permit the lobster fishery is becoming more difficult to meet. As the federal and state court cases proceed to remedy the violations of the law identified by these courts, the impact on the operation of the lobster fishery is unknown. There are a range of outcomes that are possible given the strict standards of the ESA and MMPA. The worst-case scenario is the closure of the lobster fishery until a new biological opinion and ITS for right whales are issued for the federal waters fishery and ITP is obtained for the state waters fishery. Or interim measures could be put in place that could range from status quo to a large scale restructuring of fishing practices to a ropeless fishery.

The environmental community has gained traction in making its case for much more stringent regulation of the lobster fishery, built upon closures that could only be accessed by fishermen using ropeless techniques. The Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) has been leading the charge to set the record straight on the role of the Maine lobster fishery in the right whale decline. The MLA has engaged a talented legal team to advance the lobster industry’s position in the court cases and with NMFS to make sure decision makers have a full understanding of the fishery and its operations, and how this impacts right whales.

How NMFS ultimately interprets the potential for the Maine lobster industry to harm right whales could change the course of this fishery forever.

TO YOUR HEALTH: *Savor the health benefits of seafood*

By *Melissa Waterman*

Long lines of people stood among the trucks in the local parking lot. Carefully spaced six feet apart, the men and women were waiting patiently to buy seafood offered by area fishermen — clams, lobster, scallops, even oysters. They were there because they wanted to support the fishermen and also because they knew that fresh, local seafood is delicious. But did they also know how good it is for you?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture found that lobster is a low-calorie, low fat, rich source of protein.

The American Heart Association released a scientific advisory in 2018 that recommended eating two servings of fish per week. Why? Because eating just 3.5 ounces of oily fish or shellfish twice a week reduces the risk of heart disease, heart failure, congestive heart failure and stroke. Quite a list of benefits from such a small amount of food. The reason that most seafood is so good for you has to do with Omega-3 fatty acid.

“Fat” and “acid” aren’t words typically associated with health. Omega-3, however, works to reduce cholesterol in the blood while decreasing inflammation in the body. The anti-inflammatory action reduces damage to the blood vessels, thereby protecting against heart disease and stroke. Omega-3 may also decrease triglycerides, lower blood pressure and reduce blood clotting, all of which benefits the body overall.

Omega-3 even help to keep your brain functioning well. One type of Omega-3, called docosahexaenoic acid or DHA, is required to by the brain and nervous system tissues to keep the brain in top shape. A 3½-ounce serving of lobster provides a substantial 83 mg of Omega-3 fatty acids.

And that’s just the start. Seafood as a food group is a natural source of many different vitamins and minerals, such as vitamin D and B-complex vitamins. B-complex vitamins (B1, B3, biotin, B12, etc.) are vital for energy production and metabolism. Fish such as salmon are rich in vitamin A, which helps protect vision while boosting the immune and reproductive systems. Minerals such as selenium and zinc are also found in seafood. No one is likely to be talking about selenium at the breakfast table, but a deficiency of this vital mineral

can lead to infertility, muscle fatigue and weakened immune system. Lack of zinc can result in poor night vision, a decrease in sense of taste and smell, and a reduced ability to fight infections. The Mayo Clinic states that zinc is particularly high in hering and oysters, two seafood items popular with many Maine residents.

Then there’s lobster.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture found that lobster is a low-calorie, low fat, rich source of protein. A 3½-ounce serving of lobster has 89 calories, 19 grams of protein, and less than 1 gram of fat. Lobster provides a significant amount of minerals, such as zinc, calcium, phosphorus, selenium, magnesium and potassium, as well as B vitamins.

Lobster has less cholesterol than an egg (145 mg for lobster, 187 mg for an egg). Nutritional research has debunked the notion that dietary cholesterol is bad for you. In fact, dietary cholesterol, such as that found in lobster or an egg, is not strongly related to an increase in blood cholesterol or heart disease. What’s bad is consuming loads of saturated fat. That means the fat on a sirloin steak or the butter served with your lobster is far worse for you than the cholesterol in a lobster.

“What’s for supper?” is a universal refrain. During this time of constraints, the answer for most of us should still be “Lobster!”



Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 3 oz (85g)
Northern Lobster, cooked moist heat

Amount Per Serving		% Daily Value*	
Calories 80		Calories from Fat 5	
Total Fat 0.5g			1%
Saturated Fat 0g			0%
Trans Fat 0g			
Cholesterol 125mg			42%
Sodium 410mg			17%
Total Carbohydrate 0g			0%
Dietary Fiber 0g			0%
Sugars 0g			
Protein 16g			
Vitamin A 0%		Vitamin C 0%	
Calcium 8%		Iron 2%	
Vitamin D 0%		Selenium 90%	

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

	Calories: 2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than 65g	80g
Saturated Fat	Less than 20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g	375g
Dietary Fiber	25g	30g

Calories per gram:
Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4

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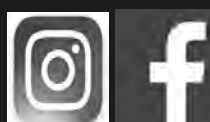
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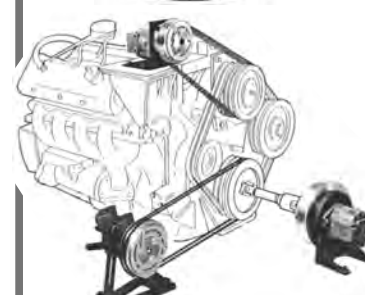


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In the
NEWS

SCALLOP STOCKS PREDICTED TO SHIFT NORTHWARD

East Coast sea scallop stocks will likely follow lobsters in shifting away from the mid-Atlantic and southern New England region in the coming decades as a consequence of warming ocean waters, according to a new study that projects the impact of climate change on the two valuable Atlantic fisheries. The research, led by Vincent Saba from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, suggests that American lobster will move further offshore and sea scallops will shift to the north in the coming decades. Researchers used species distribution models and a high-resolution global climate model to picture the possible impact of climate change on habitat for lobsters and scallops in the Northeast continental shelf ecosystem, ranging from the New York Bight north to southern New England, Georges Bank and the Gulf of Maine.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CHALLENGE TRUMP ACTION ON MARINE MONUMENT

In mid-June, several environmental groups sued President Trump over a decision to open a National Marine Monument off the coast of southern New England to commercial fishing, arguing the president's proclamation violates federal law. The president announced the decision during a June 5 visit to Maine. The lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. says that under the U.S. Antiquities Act a president can only create protections for national monuments and does not have the right to remove them – only Congress can.

FEWER TRAPS, SAME PROFIT

New research suggests that the U.S. lobster industry could place fewer traps in the water and remain profitable. That finding could play a role in the debate over what should be required of Maine lobstermen to reduce the risk of entanglements to endangered North Atlantic right whales. The study was published in the peer-reviewed Marine Policy Journal. Lead researcher Hannah Myers, a graduate student at the University of Alaska's College of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, examined landings and effort data from U.S. and Nova Scotia lobster fisheries. The researchers behind the study found that while the Canadians

spent fewer days at sea and fished fewer traps, the traps they pulled had almost four times as many lobsters in them. Canadian lobstermen in the Gulf of Maine caught about the same amount of lobster using seven and a half times less effort than Maine lobstermen, according to Myers.

GREEN CRAB ENTREPRENEUR WINS CONTEST

Jillian Robillard, a University of New England (UNE) 2020 graduate in the school's marine entrepreneurship program and daughter of a Maine lobsterman, won this season's "Greenlight Maine Collegiate Challenge" for her Green Bait business venture.

In the final round of the televised business pitch competition Robillard won \$25,000 to expand her startup business. Robillard developed cost-effective lobster trap bait using invasive green crabs that enter lobster traps. The invasive species has wreaked havoc on the state's clam beds in recent years. She created a proprietary bait blend using the green crabs that she will sell to lobstermen at a reduced price. Besides providing a reliable, cheaper bait alternative, her product aims to preserve the coastal ecosystem as well as keep and create jobs in Maine's lobster industry. Robillard earlier created a business in her sophomore year, buying Jonah crabs directly from lobster boats and reselling the crabs wholesale. She is one of 250 students in the UNE School of Marine Programs and about 10 in marine entrepreneurship.

DEEP-SEA CORAL AMENDMENT APPROVED BY NOAA

A new amendment from the New England Fishery Management Council has been approved by NOAA Fisheries. The Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment is expected to take effect this summer and applies to two regions in the Gulf of Maine and the Continental Slope area south of Georges Bank. In total, the amendment will protect 25,153 square miles south of Georges Bank. In the Gulf of Maine, the new amendment will protect corals at Outer Schoodic Ridge and Mt. Desert Rock by prohibiting trawling and dredging in the area, and it also creates a new research area in Jordan Basin. The new amendment prohibits the use of bottom-tending commercial fishing gear within the area.

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**TRUMP OFFERS MAINE
LOBSTERMEN RELIEF SUBSIDIES**

By MLA staff

On June 24, President Trump signed a memorandum calling on the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make available to the lobster industry subsidies like those given to soybean and other agricultural farmers. Maine's Congressional delegation lobbied for such a move in a June 2019 letter to the President.

The order from Trump but directs the Agriculture Department to extend a \$30 billion farm bailout program to Maine's commercial fishermen. The program previously sent cash to corn, soybean, pig and other farmers, primarily in the Midwest. The action follows years of lobbying by Maine's congressional delegation, which cited "severe financial difficulties due to unfair retaliatory tariffs" instituted by the Trump administration.

It is unclear how much aid the industry will get or how fishermen will access it. Between 2018 and 2019, the Trump administration rolled out \$25 billion in similar offsets directed at Midwestern farmers hurt by U.S. trade policies. Trump also directed U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to report by July 15 on whether China is beginning to comply with \$150 million in lobster purchase commitments under the "Phase one" agreement signed by the president earlier this year.

Governor Janet Mills responded to the President's Memorandum saying, "Earlier this year, I wrote to the President asking him to marshal the resources of the Federal government to support Maine's seafood industry during this unprecedented time. My Commissioner of Marine Resources, Pat Keliher, also wrote to Peter Navarro, the President's Director of the Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy, urging him to prioritize trade policies that will help our lobster industry regain its competitive footing. After years of hammering Maine's fishermen with shortsighted trade wars, I am pleased the President is beginning to recognize the harm his Administration's policies have caused and now wants to take steps to rectify them. This is a welcome step forward. My Administration will continue to work closely with Maine's Congressional delegation to support our hardworking fishermen and seafood producers. Their work is the lifeblood of our coastal communities and a cornerstone of our economy."

BUSINESS 101: KEEP GOOD RECORDS

By Craig Olson

Think about the fishermen who seem to do well when prices drop or bait and fuel costs go up. They always seem to do OK while others struggle. This doesn't mean they necessarily fish harder or always have the perfect place to set their traps. I would bet money that their secret is that they have structured their business in a way to plan and manage expenses so that the business is easier to run. With a plan in place, all they need to concentrate on every day is one thing: fishing.

You know that to make the most profit in a season you need to be efficient, you need to be safe, and you need to treat well those who work with you. You keep your boat in order. You know it doesn't magically repair itself over the winter, your traps don't clean and fix themselves, bait doesn't magically appear. You have to do the work. You need to do the same with your business. A good business structure puts the parts in place to let the owners do what they love every day.

Record keeping is an essential part of a successful business. On a weekly or bi-weekly basis you need to know where your business stands financially. You should never base business decisions on the fact that you have a positive balance in your checking account. It's all about cash flow. Will you have the money in your account when a planned expense comes in? You must train yourself to realize that abundant cash in your account does not mean that you should make an unplanned purchase.

So how do you get there? First, keep your personal expenses separate from your business expenses. You may not have started that way when you got your first boat. It is so easy to deposit those checks in your personal account, pay for bait, fuel, your sternman, and groceries — all in the same day, all from the same account.

My final piece of advice: don't rely on your spouse or partner to be responsible for business finances.

Keep personal and business expenses separate. I'll say that again: Keep personal and business expenses separate. The best way to do this is by setting your lobster business up a separate business entity, a topic covered in last month's issue, and opening a separate bank account for the business.

A separate checking account is all you really need once your business structure is established; everything written from that checkbook should be a business expense. Get a debit card and make as many purchases as you can through that card. Bank statements will tell you where you spent money, receipts will back it up. If you're tech savvy, and many of you are savvier than you think, look into some of the receipt-capturing tools out there. Services like Quickbooks and Expensify have apps that allow you to snap a picture of the receipt and have it directly entered into your accounting software. It's hard in the winter to look back at a receipt and remember why you spend \$375 at Hamilton Marine — was it line or was it life jackets? The more information you can capture as you go, the better you will be at running your business.

Second, hire a professional bookkeeper or accountant. Once you've met with your lawyer and set up the business structure that works best for you, find a bookkeeper or accountant. If you already have that person, they should be part of the discussion with your lawyer. If they are already filing your income taxes, quarterly withholding estimates, or doing any other financial management, your costs for those services may even drop in the long run. With your business now separated from your personal life, your bookkeeper may spend less time on your finances because part of the job won't be separating (and proving) what is a business expense and what is a personal expense.

Third, work with a payroll service and pay yourself as an employee. Many lobstermen just draw money from the business as they need it to cover expenses, and some pay themselves as a contractor. However, there are many advantages to setting yourself up as an employee and paying yourself regularly through a payroll service. Federal, state, and other taxes shift on a regular basis. Trying to determine withholding rates, making sure employment taxes are paid on time and all the other details that go with having employees are too complicated to do yourself and do well. The great thing is, you can pay yourself any salary you'd like on any schedule you would like and the funds are deposited directly into your personal account. Taxes are taken care of, Social Security and Medicare are paid, and you can even set up a retirement fund or a health savings account (HSA) as a business expense and spread those costs out over the whole year. It will also eliminate that tax time terror when you realize you may not have enough money in your account to cover the withholding taxes you owe.

My final piece of advice: don't rely on your spouse or partner to be responsible for business finances. Nothing creates greater tension in a marriage or partnership than repeated questions or concerns about money. Don't elevate the tension inherent in running a business within a family by adding another level of complexity. Your bookkeeper or accountant is a much better sounding board for your questions and concerns and should challenge you about why you are booking certain expenses to your business. That's their job. Your partner's may work in the business with you, but don't saddle them with the additional stress of being your financial manager. Work on those issues with a professional.

So, in short, track your expenses now, leave the technical process of managing the financial side of your business to professionals, and don't saddle your life partner with the burden of keeping the books. And finally, never forget that even though your time is worth more fishing than doing anything else, you have a responsibility to yourself and those who depend upon you to manage the health of your business. Once you get started you'll wonder why it took you so long.



Craig Olson is the Senior Community Development officer at the Island Institute.

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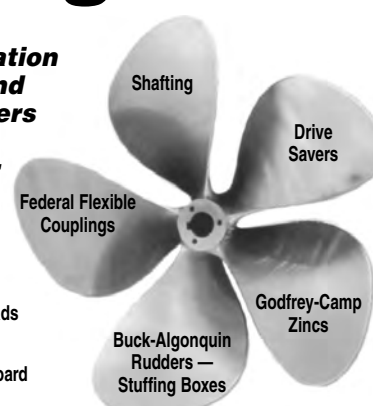
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A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

By Melissa Waterman



Sternman

“Art is a universal language. I can take a painting to Japan or Africa or Omaha and see the same reactions,” explained the artist Robert Beck. “There are as many ways to view things as there are people.”

Beck, a native of Pennsylvania, has spent many months in the town of Jonesport, painting what he sees there. He came to art late, leaving his career in the business world at age forty to study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. After he had established himself as a painter — “when I wasn’t living on Cheerios anymore,” he said drily — he decided he wanted to paint a fine old boat. “I called

the editor at *Wooden Boat* magazine and told him I was looking for a classic motor yacht to paint. He told me about a sardine carrier that was being rebuilt, the *Grayling*. I jumped in the car to take a look,” Beck said.

Something clicked for Beck during that first visit Downeast. As a young boy Beck’s family had gone to New Hampshire in the summer and ventured into southern Maine. But Brooklin, Jonesport and other

small coastal towns called to Beck. “I thought, “This is the place. It matches.” He saw a part of the world in which old ways — of building a boat, of fishing, of community — still existed but within a contemporary context. “Jonesport is like that. It is holding on to a reality that doesn’t want to let go,” Beck noted.

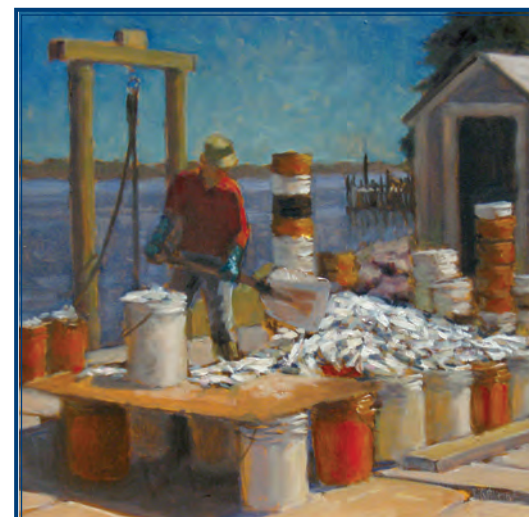
In 2017, the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath held an exhibit of Maine paintings by Beck, titled “Over East, An Artist’s Journal.” Museum executive director Amy Lent said at the time, “Museums exist to collect manifestations of history and use them to tell a story about people and events, and a way of life worth remembering and learning from. This is life on the coast of Maine, and Robert Beck has captured the soul of it with respect and has found the truth in these scenes of everyday life.”



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