Landings, vol. 31, no. 4

Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance

Patrice McCarron
President, Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance

Melissa Waterman

Nick Battist

Kristan Porter

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/landings

Part of the Agricultural and Resource Economics Commons, and the Aquaculture and Fisheries Commons

Repository Citation

Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance; McCarron, Patrice; Waterman, Melissa; Battist, Nick; Porter, Kristan; and Kelley, Kevin, "Landings, vol. 31, no. 4" (2023). Landings: News & Views from Maine's Lobstering Community. 120.
https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/landings/120

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Landings: News & Views from Maine's Lobstering Community by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.
Authors
Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance, Patrice McCarron, Melissa Waterman, Nick Battist, Kristan Porter, and Kevin Kelley

This newsletter is available at DigitalCommons@UMaine: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/landings/120
Maine lobstermen landed nearly 98 million pounds of lobster in 2022, down from 110.5 million pounds in 2021 according to preliminary data released by the Department of Marine Resources at the Maine Fishermen's Forum in March. The value of the 2022 catch was $388,589,931; average price per pound was $3.97. The value dropped significantly from 2021, when lobstermen received $742,168,052 for their catch and the average price per pound hit an all-time high of $6.71.

Governor Mills highlighted the lobster industry's continued resiliency in the face of significant challenges. "Maine's lobstermen were facing tremendous uncertainty about their future last year over pending federal whale regulations, compounded by the high costs for bait and fuel," she said.

The price drop was a hardship for many in the lobstermen who attribute low prices to the decline in landings. "In 2021, coming out of the pandemic, people had money to spend. They were out and about, buying lobster. Things were good," noted MLA president Kristan Porter. "Then last year, inflation hit, the economy not as good. People were spending more money on groceries and to fill up their car. They weren't doing the extras, so demand (for lobster) was low. With price being low, a lot of guys did not fish as hard." [Kathleen slide 7]

DMR data back this theory. According to DMR senior lobster biologist, Kathleen Reardon, in 2022 lobstermen left the dock to

The MLA and others will not let the Monterey Bay Aquarium's action against the lobster fishery stand. MLMC photo.
The winter has come to a close and for most of us, it was a mild one. In April the tempo will pick up along the coast as it does every year. Lobstermen will finish overhauling their gear, repainting their buoys and putting everything in order for the 2023 season. Hopes are high that the season will be a profitable one.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium placed lobster on its “red list” last fall, telling consumers to avoid buying the product because the fishery was unsustainable due to the legal cases being considered in Washington D.C. district court. To counter the Aquarium’s unsubstantiated claim, the Maine Lobstermen’s Association in March sued the Aquarium for defamation and loss of income. The lawsuit “alleges that Monterey Bay Aquarium knowingly ignored and mischaracterized scientific data to convince the public that, despite their sustainable practices, Maine lobstermen are causing harm to endangered North Atlantic right whales.”

In other news, at the Maine Fishermen’s Forum in early March, the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) released preliminary 2022 landings figures for Maine’s commercial marine species. Nearly 98 million pounds of lobster were landed in the state last year, down approximately 12.5 million pounds from the previous year. The average price per pound was $3.97, down sharply from 2021’s $6.71 per pound. In total, Maine fishermen harvested slightly more than 197 million pounds of seafood in 2022, worth $574 million. Of that total, $388,589,931 came from lobster.

DMR also gave an overview at the Forum of the results of its lobster surveys in 2022. DMR conducts multiple surveys on lobster at different life stages, including larval surveys, settlement survey, spring and fall trawl surveys, ventless trap survey and sea sampling aboard lobster boats. The surveys generally indicate fewer lobsters at most life stages, a trend first identified in 2012.

The Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) also presented a summary of its 2022 activities and plans for 2023. The Collaborative focused on defending the Maine lobster fishery was unsustainable due to the legal cases being considered in Washington D.C. district court. To counter the Aquarium’s unsubstantiated claim, the Maine Lobstermen’s Association in March sued the Aquarium for defamation and loss of income. The lawsuit “alleges that Monterey Bay Aquarium knowingly ignored and mischaracterized scientific data to convince the public that, despite their sustainable practices, Maine lobstermen are causing harm to endangered North Atlantic right whales.”

In other news, at the Maine Fishermen’s Forum in early March, the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) released preliminary 2022 landings figures for Maine’s commercial marine species. Nearly 98 million pounds of lobster were landed in the state last year, down approximately 12.5 million pounds from the previous year. The average price per pound was $3.97, down sharply from 2021’s $6.71 per pound. In total, Maine fishermen harvested slightly more than 197 million pounds of seafood in 2022, worth $574 million. Of that total, $388,589,931 came from lobster.

DMR also gave an overview at the Forum of the results of its lobster surveys in 2022. DMR conducts multiple surveys on lobster at different life stages, including larval surveys, settlement survey, spring and fall trawl surveys, ventless trap survey and sea sampling aboard lobsterboats. The surveys generally indicate fewer lobsters at most life stages, a trend first identified in 2012.

The Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) also presented a summary of its 2022 activities and plans for 2023. The Collaborative focused on defending the Maine lobster fishery. DMR also gave an overview at the Forum of the results of its lobster surveys in 2022. DMR conducts multiple surveys on lobster at different life stages, including larval surveys, settlement survey, spring and fall trawl surveys, ventless trap survey and sea sampling aboard lobster boats. The surveys generally indicate fewer lobsters at most life stages, a trend first identified in 2012.

The MLMC’s annual survey of consumer attitudes toward lobster found that few consumers even knew of the right whale situation. Most respondents remained strongly favorable toward the fishery.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) officials also attended the Forum to answer questions concerning NOAA actions. Michael Pentony, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) administrator, Jon Hare, science and research director at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and Eric Reid, New England Fishery Management Council chair, spoke to attendees on issues ranging from offshore wind energy projects to right whale protection measures.

We hear this month from Nick Battista, senior policy officer at the Island Institute in Rockland, on the economic importance of lobstering among coastal communities. While lobstering is spread up and down the coast, 20% of the state’s lobster licenses are held by individuals in five towns. Battista notes that, “as you go east and as you go down the peninsulas and out to the islands, communities have a higher percentage of residents with lobster licenses.” In other words, where other opportunities for work are the least, lobstering is of greatest importance.

In this issue we reprint a letter from Warren Fernald first published in Maine Coast Fisherman in 1959. Fernald, a lifelong Islesford fisherman, was the father of Bruce Fernald, who kindly sent us his late father’s letter. Warren, one of the first members of the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA), urges his fellow lobstermen to also become members. “Until our organization was born, the Maine lobsterman never had an office of their own open all year looking out for their interests and welfare. Never before had they anyone to be on hand at Augusta to fight legislation for them.” True then and true today.
The value of Maine’s 2022 lobster fishery was $388 million, a decline of over $353 million compared to 2021. While this is a significant number, the total value of Maine’s lobster landings didn’t exceed $350 million until 2013. In addition, we know that the value of these landings is not distributed evenly across the coast and that some communities are more dependent on the lobster fishery than others.

Which communities are most dependent on the lobster industry, and how can we better connect changes in the fishery on the water—environmental, economic, or regulatory—to understand broader community impacts?

We see at least three places to start this conversation:

• the ports with the highest percentage of lobster landings
• the communities with the greatest number of licenses and
data that some communities are more dependent on the lobster fishery than others.

More than 200 Maine communities are home to at least one licensed lobsterman. Looking at per capita density of lobster licenses, the top quarter of those towns are east of Boothbay, except for Long Island, Chebeague Island, Harpswell, Phippsburg, Georgetown, and Southport.

Digging deeper, over 10% of the population in 15 communities holds a lobster license. Nine of these are year-round unbridged island communities. The others are Beals, Stonington, Deer Isle, Friendship, Jonesport, and Cutler.

Generally speaking, as you go east and as you go down the peninsulas and out to the islands, communities have a higher percentage of residents with lobster licenses.

In working with Mike LeVert from Stepwise Data Research, our long-time partner on the Island Institute’s Waypoints publications, to understand how this connects to broader socio-economic data, two key trends emerge. When compared to all Maine towns, the 53 communities with the most significant participation in the lobster industry are generally smaller, slower growing, older, poorer, with lower rates of labor force participation, fewer local employment opportunities, and higher rates of self-employment.

This correlation illustrates the vulnerability to economic shocks that communities with a high reliance on lobstering face.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Today’s concerns are echoes from the past

To the editor:
This year will be my 54th season lobstering from Kittery Point. I’ve been successful, raising a family and supporting my industry whenever I could. Lobstering has given me a wonderful way of life. Only those in the business know what a rush it is to be a lobsterman — “Your worst day at sea is better than any day on land.”

In 1982:
1. bait was $825/drum
2. fuel was $6.60/gal
3. deckhands receive 20-25% off the top

In 2022:
1. bait was $325/drum
2. fuel was $6-7.00/gal
3. deckhands receive 20-25% off the top

I’ve been thinking about the difference between a few decades back and now.

What hasn’t changed is the lobster boat price! I received $3.00/lb. in both 1982 and 2022.

In 1982, two drums of pogies cost $50, 20 gallons of fuel came to $15.00, so my total expenses were $65.00. Just 25 lbs. of lobster at $3.00/lb. covered my daily expenses.

In 2022, two drums of pogies cost me $65, 20 gallons of fuel comes to $130, so my total expenses are $780.00. That means I need to bring in 260 lbs. of lobster at $3.00/lb. to cover my daily expenses.

Without reviewing the entire economic picture, it doesn’t take Kudlow or Greenspan to see that if the lobsterman doesn’t receive at the very least a minimum of $5.00/pound at today’s costs, then the dealers soon will be looking out for their welfare and interest. All one has to do is to see that most of the other branches of the fishing industry in the U.S.A. are organized, to scan through the National Fisherman’s magazine. They all seem to feel that they can not make a proper living unless they help themselves. Why should a lobster fisherman be any different?

I have often been asked, “What good is the MLA? What have they done?” It is to these people I speak. What have they themselves done? Most of them won’t even take time to attend a meeting to find out what is being done, and what can be done, with a little of their help and backing.

I was one of the first to become a member and am going to be the last to give up my support to the organization. It is worth my $5.00 in dues just to meet occasionally with my fellowmen all along the coast and to hear their ideas and problems. If we all felt the same, I am sure we would have a much more secure future.

Until our organization was born, the Maine lobsterman never had an office of his own open all year looking out for their interests and welfare. Never before had they anyone to be on hand at Augusta to fight legislation for them. What more can a man ask for $5.00? The MLA has already, in one small way, saved many of their boats from sale.

2021 proved that a decent boat price worked well for both dealers and lobstermen. Local businesses thrived with lobstermen spending on engines, electronics, traps, boats and other gear. The public consumed our product with enthusiasm. Men. Without reviewing the entire economic picture, it doesn’t take Kudlow or Greenspan to see that if the lobsterman doesn’t receive at the very least a minimum of $5.00/pound at today’s costs, then the dealers soon will be looking out for our welfare and interest. All one has to do is to see that most of the other branches of the fishing industry in the U.S.A. are organized, to scan through the National Fisherman’s magazine. They all seem to feel that they can not make a proper living unless they help themselves. Why should a lobster fisherman be any different?

I have often been asked, “What good is the MLA? What have they done?” It is to these people I speak. What have they themselves done? Most of them won’t even take time to attend a meeting to find out what is being done, and what can be done, with a little of their help and backing.

I was one of the first to become a member and am going to be the last to give up my support to the organization. It is worth my $5.00 in dues just to meet occasionally with my fellowmen all along the coast and to hear their ideas and problems. If we all felt the same, I am sure we would have a much more secure future.

Until our organization was born, the Maine lobsterman never had an office of his own open all year looking out for their interests and welfare. Never before had they anyone to be on hand at Augusta to fight legislation for them. What more can a man ask for $5.00? The MLA has already, in one small way, saved that amount for each fisherman by keeping his license fee at $5.00 instead of the proposed $10.00.

We have weathered several heavy storms and are still intact. Why give up now? Please think it over and attend some of our meetings. In hopes this will bring a few more members in our organization.

Warren Fernald
Islesford

Battista continued from page 3

At the same time, when you look at Maine communities with these socio-economic characteristics, the density of a community’s tie to lobstering has a significant positive relationship with the community’s income level. In other words, among communities with a similar structure of population, age, and labor force characteristics, the more robust a connection to the lobster industry within such a community, the higher the community’s income level and the lower its poverty level.

This correlation illustrates the supportive role that lobstering plays in the financial health of relatively small, older communities.

We also know that identifying communities that depend on lobstering is not always straightforward. We are eager to follow work our partners are doing to dive into socio-economic indicators that can help track trends over time and inform the fisheries management process as well as climate adaptation measures.

Still, by multiple measures, it is clear the data bears out what we have intuitively known to be true — lobstering plays an essential role in these communities and changes in the fishery will impact the broader communities.

To the editor:
As a very interested member of the MLA and a year around lobster fisherman, I am deeply concerned about both being a success. I often wonder why there isn’t more interest in the MLA. I think we are very much in need of an organization to look out for our welfare and interest. All one has to do is to see that most of the other branches of the fishing industry in the U.S.A. are organized, to scan through the National Fisherman’s magazine. They all seem to feel that they can not make a proper living unless they help themselves. Why should a lobster fisherman be any different?

I have often been asked, “What good is the MLA? What have they done?” It is to these people I speak. What have they themselves done? Most of them won’t even take time to attend a meeting to find out what is being done, and what can be done, with a little of their help and backing.

I was one of the first to become a member and am going to be the last to give up my support to the organization. It is worth my $5.00 in dues just to meet occasionally with my fellowmen all along the coast and to hear their ideas and problems. If we all felt the same, I am sure we would have a much more secure future.

Until our organization was born, the Maine lobsterman never had an office of his own open all year looking out for their interests and welfare. Never before had they anyone to be on hand at Augusta to fight legislation for them. What more can a man ask for $5.00? The MLA has already, in one small way, saved that amount for each fisherman by keeping his license fee at $5.00 instead of the proposed $10.00.

We have weathered several heavy storms and are still intact. Why give up now? Please think it over and attend some of our meetings. In hopes this will bring a few more members in our organization.

Warren Fernald
Islesford

Warren Fernald was born in 1927 on Little Cranberry Island, also known as Islesford, the last resident to be born on the island until 2021. He joined the Navy in 1945 and in 1950 returned to Islesford when he began lobstering. One of his six children is Bruce Fernald, who sent as a letter his father wrote to Maine Coast Fisherman in 1959 concerning the MLA. According to Bruce, “My father was a very practical and conservative man. I’ve always believed when it came to lobstering he could stretch a dollar further than any fisherman I’ve ever known.”

To the editor:
We also know that identifying communities that depend on lobstering is not always straightforward. We are eager to follow work our partners are doing to dive into socio-economic indicators that can help track trends over time and inform the fisheries management process as well as climate adaptation measures.

Still, by multiple measures, it is clear the data bears out what we have intuitively known to be true — lobstering plays an essential role in these communities and changes in the fishery will impact the broader communities.
Larval lobsters that have settled to the bottom are monitored by divers through larval lobsters in Maine waters each year. Newly-hatched lobster pass through DMR’s lobster surveys begin at the lobster’s earliest life phase — abundance of biologist Becca Peters noted that the average catch of 71- to 80-millimeter lobsters peaked in 2015 but the average catch per tow has decreased in all lobster zones since then. “We continued to see this decline in our average catch. The decline has been seen in all four of the depth strata that we sample in and in all regions. The magnitude of declines in average catch, however, has varied by region,” Peters explained. (24) The ventless trap survey, which takes place from June to August each year, targets juvenile lobsters. The traps are set in between 2 to 30 fathom of water at 276 sites along the coast. The survey results show relatively stable levels in the western lobster zones and declines of juvenile lobsters in the midcoast and Downeast zones.

Sea sampling takes place on board commercial lobster boats throughout the year. Samplers go out with lobstermen three times each month in each zone from May to November, then once a month in each federal statistical area from December to April. Samplers categorize everything that comes up in a trap. As it has for several years in a row, data from last year indicate that in all areas sublegal catch has dropped from its earlier peaks. That decline is the sharpest in the eastern zones. (29)

Reardon alerted the audience that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s draft Addendum 27 was out for public comment in March. The draft Addendum aims to protect lobster spawning stock biomass in the face of consistent declines among the many lobster surveys conducted by Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. The Addendum calls for a set trigger to be defined after which specific management changes would go into effect — a proactive rather than reactive approach.

Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program Coordinator Amalia Harrington gave an update on the Sea Grant American Lobster Initiative. The Initiative began in 2019 with the goal of addressing critical knowledge gaps about lobster and the fishery. Through federal funding, it supports both scientific research and a regional Sea Grant extension program. One of the projects funded by the Initiative is an analysis of the stomach contents of fish that may prey on lobsters. The stomach analysis project is led by DMR and began in the fall of 2021. Eight hundred and sixty stomachs of Atlantic halibut, cod, red and white hake, and Atlantic mackerel have been examined. Lobster was identified in the stomachs of just two white hake and two red hake.

“Trends in lobster abundance are also monitored through the spring and fall inshore trawl surveys which monitor a variety of species caught in the net. DMR biologist Becca Peters noted that the average catch of 71- to 80-millimeter lobsters peaked in 2015 but the average catch per tow has decreased in all lobster zones since then. “We continued to see this decline in our average catch. The decline has been seen in all four of the depth strata that we sample in and in all regions. The magnitude of declines in average catch, however, has varied by region,” Peters explained. (24) The ventless trap survey, which takes place from June to August each year, targets juvenile lobsters. The traps are set in between 2 to 30 fathom of water at 276 sites along the coast. The survey results show relatively stable levels in the western lobster zones and declines of juvenile lobsters in the midcoast and Downeast zones.

Sea sampling takes place on board commercial lobster boats throughout the year. Samplers go out with lobstermen three times each month in each zone from May to November, then once a month in each federal statistical area from December to April. Samplers categorize everything that comes up in a trap. As it has for several years in a row, data from last year indicate that in all areas sublegal catch has dropped from its earlier peaks. That decline is the sharpest in the eastern zones. (29)

Reardon alerted the audience that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s draft Addendum 27 was out for public comment in March. The draft Addendum aims to protect lobster spawning stock biomass in the face of consistent declines among the many lobster surveys conducted by Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. The Addendum calls for a set trigger to be defined after which specific management changes would go into effect — a proactive rather than reactive approach.

Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program Coordinator Amalia Harrington gave an update on the Sea Grant American Lobster Initiative. The Initiative began in 2019 with the goal of addressing critical knowledge gaps about lobster and the fishery. Through federal funding, it supports both scientific research and a regional Sea Grant extension program. One of the projects funded by the Initiative is an analysis of the stomach contents of fish that may prey on lobsters. The stomach analysis project is led by DMR and began in the fall of 2021. Eight hundred and sixty stomachs of Atlantic halibut, cod, red and white hake, and Atlantic mackerel have been examined. Lobster was identified in the stomachs of just two white hake and two red hake.
Maine Lobstermen’s Association

We all know that lobstermen are creatures of habit and change comes pretty hard. We use the same size traps with the same heads and same color and same brand wire.... until we realize that others are doing better with something else and then reluctantly try it.

Perhaps you go to haul by yourself for years because that’s the way you’ve always done it. You don’t think a sternman could make you any more money and where would you find anyone worth a damn anyway? Then you finally break down and take someone because your bones ache and you are trawling up now where before you always fished singles. Then you think, “Why didn’t I do this sooner?”

That is the situation MLA has found itself in over the past few years. We’ve all been going about our fishing and depending on our small staff to “just get it done,” even though the work just keeps getting piled on. As the stakes got higher, the MLA board made a bold decision to play offense instead of defense in the whale battle. This decision was definitely the right one but it has been a heavy lift for our small staff and it has taken its toll on the organization. Plus the issues we are now battling are not going away anytime soon.

Every one of us in the lobster industry has felt the stress and the weight of the past few years. The MLA board has put in a lot of hours, and the MLA staff has been grinding through just trying to stay on top of everything. Not only is there more work to do, but the issues we are grappling with are extremely complicated. And the stakes are high: we know that we are not only on the cusp of seeing lobstermen start to fall out of the business, but also we may actually lose our fishery. The MLA cannot tackle these issues without our talented legal team and outside help from consultants. So on top of everything else, we can’t even be in this game unless we continue to raise money.

There is no doubt that it is time to bring in some reinforcement. Everyone knows Patrice. She has been at the helm of the MLA for 23 years, and she is still there, guiding us through some pretty treacherous policy waters, keeping a sharp eye on our MLAs. MLA’s new chief operating officer, Amber-Jean Nickel, has transitioned to become MLA’s policy director. Her job is to ensure that the MLA, as an organization, can continue to do what it does best — stand up for its members wherever and whenever.

We will make sure the bills are paid, that the staff is working efficiently, that the MLA is ready for an even more complicated future so that MLA’s voice remains strong and powerful at the state, regional and federal levels.

The board feels really good about this change. We have done so much with so little for way too long that it’s a relief to be able to add another skilled professional to the MLA team. It’s like making a major investment in your fishing business — you are nervous about making the change but in the end you usually wonder why you waited so long.

The lobstering world is no longer a stable, predictable space. It is changing whether we like it or not. I can assure you that the MLA will continue to evolve so that we become even stronger as we navigate this complicated future. The MLA knows what is at stake and just how much we have to lose. I promise you that the board will continue to guide the organization through these changes and we will not forget why we are here. We are here for you, our members.

Thank you for all of your support!

Patrice McCarron
COO
for LMA 1. In 2024, the first offshore wind leases in the Gulf of Maine will take place and in 2026 NMFS begins the next phase of rulemaking to get new right whale regulations in place by 2028.

Concerning offshore wind leases, McCarron noted that five companies currently have expressed formal interest in the Gulf of Maine draft call area, which begins 20 nautical miles from shore. The state’s Offshore Wind Roadmap was released in February. That document reflects the 18 months of effort by its Fisheries Working Group to ensure fisheries issues were addressed, among them a recommendation to site any wind leases outside of LMA 1.

Concerning right whales, McCarron said the good news is that 15 calves have been born thus far this year; 20 were born last year. She then reviewed the positive impact lobstermen’s efforts have had on right whales — zero documented right whale deaths in Maine lobster gear and zero documented entanglements since 2004.

Despite the six-year pause authorized by Congress in December 2022, the lobster fishery is still scheduled for 98% risk reduction in 2030. This is why MLA has taken the bold step of suing National Marine Fisheries Service. “We are not exaggerating concern about this fishery,” McCarron said.

She thanked MLA members and Legal Defense Fund supporters for making the lawsuit possible, and explained that those funds also support developing new gear innovations, working with scientific experts to better inform the issue, and a communications strategy to ensure the public understands all the Maine lobstermen have done, and continue to do, to protect right whales.

She then introduced MLA’s legal team: Ryan Steen from Stoel Rives, Paul Clement from Clement & Murphy and MLA legal counsel Mary Anne Mason. Steen explained that MLA is currently involved in two lawsuits. One was brought by four national environmental organizations against NMFS, arguing that the agency was not doing enough to protect right whales and that the Biological Opinion and Take Reduction Rule were unlawful and insufficient. The MLA is an intervenor to that case. In July 2022 Judge Boasberg of the D.C. District Court ruled in favor of some of the plaintiff’s claims but did not close the lobster fishery.

The second case was brought by the MLA against NMFS in September 2021. “We challenged NMFS’s Biological Opinion and Take Rule. The risk reduction goal is not feasible,” Steen said. “The Agency made numerous decisions in the face of uncertainty that the lobster fishery is taking many whales each year, a worst-case scenario.” The MLA’s legal team contended that doing so was contrary to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). However, in September 2021 Judge Boasberg rejected those claims. “The judge did not engage in our arguments. He said that the agency is the expert and I need to bow to the agency’s actions.”

Steen explained. The MLA immediately hired Paul Clement, a renowned appellate lawyer, to appeal that decision. Steen took a moment to compliment Maine and the Department of Marine Resources for their positive actions on behalf of the lobster industry. “The involvement of the state is far more supportive than I’ve seen elsewhere,” he said. “Having the state back you in your lawsuit is huge. It’s unusual and very helpful.”

Paul Clement then addressed the meeting via Zoom. He explained that the appellate court tends to be a generalist court. That means the judges are not go-to experts on the fisheries issues the MLA is focusing on. “I need to appeal this decision to the appellate court in the country on administrative law now have heard us. We have got ourselves in a position to have a future.”

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MLA’S RAFFLE WINNERS!**

This year’s winners were: Daniel Brooks, Abbi Beal, Dan Staples, Nick Lemieux, Chris Guilford, Ryan Lemieux, Michael Hyvarian and Ted Ames. Prizes included: Traps - fur traps, bait, boat lights, gift certificates, sweatshirts, hydroflasks, and MLA swag. We are extremely grateful to our generous sponsors: Nor’East Bait, Maine Camp Outfitters, Brooks Trap Mill, Sea Rose Trap, Midcoast Marine, and Durabrite.

**MLA DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY**

On March 20 the MLA Board of Directors met via Zoom to discuss MLA’s position on ASMFC draft Addendum 27, two state bills scheduled for public hearing before the Marine Resources Committee and a proposal for an offshore wind procurement bill in the Maine Legislature.

Concerning draft Addendum 27 the board voted to endorse the status quo option (no change to the current fishery) regarding potential gauge changes proposed. While the board understands that increasing the LMA 1 gauge could help to expand overall lobster abundance, they believe this action is premature. There were several overarching concerns.

ASMFC has not conducted a market study to understand the implications of increasing the minimum size for LMA 1, which accounts for the vast majority of U.S. landed lobster, while Canada’s minimum gauge will remain unchanged. This proposal could increase the cost of lobster to consumers and negatively impact the boat price for U.S.-caught lobster.

The Board recommends using a 10-year reference period, rather than a 3-year reference period which includes the highest landings on record, to measure a decline before contemplating a management response.

LMA 1 would be impacted far more than other LMAs as a result of the proposed gauge increase. For example, Zone A lobstermen fish side-by-side with the Canadian lobstermen. The lobster below the new U.S. minimum gauge would be thrown back and immediately caught by Canadian fishermen. LMA 1 lobstermen already have the strictest definition of V-notch and oversize lobster. They already throw back lobsters that can be legally landed by others.

The lobster resource is not in crisis and it is not necessary to increase the gauge at this time. Lobstermen continually report that they were not getting to delve into the fine details of a case but rather look at the law as it was applied. “So there’s an art in figuring out how to take the regulatory system and explain it to generalist appellate judges so that they can do something about it,” he said. “If you go deep into the science then it gets complicated very quickly. Generalists’ eyes glaze over pretty quickly.”

Johnny McCarthy of Vinalhaven is the newest member of the MLA board of directors. When he was around ten he got the urge to lobster. After completing an outboard engine program at the Marine Mechanics Institute in the mid-2000s in Florida, he returned to the island to lobster. McCarthy also serves as secretary on the Zone C Lobster Council.

When asked why he chose to join the MLA board, McCarthy said: “I believe the MLA is important because advocates for the lobster fishery as a whole. The fishery needs an organization that fights for us now more than ever and I am proud to be a board member.”

When that happens, Clement continued, the easiest thing for the judges to do is to defer to the expert. His strategy is to identify cross-cutting errors in how the agency approached the case. In MLA’s case, this is the government’s focus on worst-case scenarios which is in violation of the ESA. “When there are issues with the science and a need to extrapolate from limited data, the agency gives the benefit of doubt to the whales. Why is that problematic? It’s inherently guesswork.” Clement said.

On February 24, Clement gave oral arguments to the three-judge panel at the D.C. Appellate Court. From the judges’ questions, he felt that they understood the MLA’s argument and how it was a cross-cutting issue that affected all NMFS’s calculations in the Biological Opinion. “They appreciated that in an area with so many unknowns, if you use the worst-case scenario assumptions, a wholly distorted analysis is the result,” Clement said. The judges asked parties to the case to return in March for a supplemental briefing on how Congress’s December legislation providing a six-year pause allows a different remedy than previously. “It’s a good sign they want more information,” Clement said.

Mary Ann Mason, MLA’s attorney since 2007, spoke next. “I never contemplated litigation until I realized that NMFS was on a forced march to the lobster fishery’s extinction even when the science sent them somewhere else,” she said. “Litigation is not the first and best option because it’s expensive and you don’t always get what you want. But we must do it. The three judges in the most expert court in the country on administrative law now have heard us. We have got ourselves in a position to have a future.”
and instead grant a 100-trap license to anyone who had previously fished for five consecutive years. The MLA will not support any changes that result in more fishing effort given the pressure the fishery is under to reduce effort due to the whale rules, which threaten to put many lobstermen out of business. It is also not fair to those currently in the apprentice program or on the waiting lists to create a new license that circumvents this entry program.

Finally, the board discussed an offshore wind procurement bill that is being drafted for consideration by the Maine Legislature. The bill seeks to develop 1,000 MW of offshore wind (equal to ~56-67 turbines) by 2030 and 2,800 MW of offshore wind (equal to 155-187 turbines) by 2035. MLA was invited to provide input for the draft bill along with the MLU, several labor union representatives and non-profit organization representatives in an effort to address overarching concerns of stakeholders.

The Board was reminded that BOEM is actively moving through the offshore wind leasing process. To date, it has removed the area within 20 miles of the coast from development and the MLA continues to push the Fisheries Working Group (FWG) recommendation not to site within LMA 1. BOEM plans to announce “Wind Energy Areas” in the fall of 2023 and issue offshore wind leases in the Gulf of Maine by late 2024. The MLA expressed concern over what offshore wind would mean for Maine and for its fisheries and ocean. The MLA restated its opposition to offshore wind and will continue to emphasize that if offshore wind moves forward in Maine it should be sited outside LMA 1.

SAVE MAINE LOBSTERMEN UPDATE

This year is off to a great start with the Maine Lobstermen’s Association playing offense in several areas.

The MLA recently joined with a group of other lobster businesses and trade organizations to file a lawsuit against the Monterey Bay Aquarium for making false and defamatory statements about Maine lobster fishing practices and for misleading consumers and commercial lobster buyers about the integrity of the Maine lobster harvest.

No one can accurately predict what may happen, but the MLA legal team was very encouraged by the discussions that happened during the appeal hearing. March clarifying understanding of the effect of the six-year pause on this case, the three-judge panel ordered the parties to submit supplemental briefs in the lower court’s decision resulted in fast-tracking the federal government has held Maine lobstermen to an unfair standard over their impact on the endangered North Atlantic right whale species compared to how it has treated offshore wind developers and other ocean-based industries. He added that the administration’s actions were aimed at appeasing environmental groups that have similarly targeted lobstermen. “Am I concerned about hypocrisy in how the federal government deals with the Maine lobster fishery, as opposed to big energy projects?” Golden asked. “The answer is 100% yes, because for four years now I have been constantly harassing the federal government to show us one piece of evidence that Maine’s lobster fishery is at all responsible for any kind of entanglement of whales, let alone a death of a right whale.”

Meanwhile Congressional Republicans plan to hold hearings on the Biden administration’s offshore wind policy. Rep. Jeff Van Drew of New Jersey opened the first public hearing on March 16 in his home state. “It is time we examine the process,” he said, raising concerns about the government’s lack of interest in understanding if there is a link between the increase in whale strandings and deaths this winter and offshore wind development.

“Offshore wind industrialization moves forward, it will be the most profound transformation of the Atlantic coast in the history of the United States of America,” said Van Drew, adding that BOEM has engaged in a rushed and sloppy approval process. “The truth is our government is acting more in the interest of the rich and powerful than the interest of the people of America,” he said.

Meghan Lapp, fisheries liaison at Seafoodsource Ltd. in North Kingstown, R.I., a major Northeast port for squid and other fisheries, said that “BOEM has refused to de-conflict wind energy areas before permitting.” According to Lapp, "There is a lot of discussion, a lot of meetings, but never anything actionable.”

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Maine 131st Legislature is in session, The Marine Resources Committee is chaired by Sen. Cameron Remy of Lincoln and Rep. Allison Hepler of Woolwich. Public hearings will be held in person, but online options will be offered. The committee’s live stream can be accessed through the Legislature’s calendar at https://legislature.maine.gov/Calendar/ by searching the date. Sign up for weekly scheduling updates online at https://lists.legislature.maine.gov/sympa/info/ mar-jp or by emailing Linda LaCroix at MLA@legislature.gov or 207-287-1337. The following bills have been proposed for consideration by the Legislature this session.

LD 710 An Act to Fund the Lobster Legal Defense Fund, sponsored by Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor. This bill originally proposed to provide a one-time $1 million general fund appropriation to reimburse lobster fishing associations and labor unions for legal costs involving the federal whale regulations. The sponsor amended the bill to change the funding mechanism to direct 20% of Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative funds to the LDF until 2030. The bill does not seek any General Fund support. The Marine Resources Committee held a public hearing was held on March 23 and work session on April 6.

LD 841 An Act to Create a Restricted Senior Lobster and Crab Fishing License, sponsored by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft. This bill proposes a new restricted senior lobster and crab fishing license for individuals 70 years or older who previously held a Class I, Class II or Class III license for at least 5 consecutive years. The bill allows the holder of the restricted license to participate in the federal lobster fishery as an individual fisherman. The bill was referred to the Marine Resources Committee this session.

LD 563 An Act to Assert State Sovereignty over Ocean Waters up to 12 Nautical Miles off the State’s Coast, sponsored by Senator Bracey of Androscoggin. This bill proposes that, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State of Maine owns and may exercise jurisdiction over and control all waters,
and all submerged lands lying under those waters, within the rise and fall of the tide seaward 12 nautical miles. The Marine Resources Committee has scheduled a public hearing for April 6.

**LD 16 An Act to Make Technical Changes to Maine’s Marine Resources Laws (DMR Bill),** sponsored by Representative Hepler of Woolwich. The bill proposes to amend several definitions, clarify appointment requirements for tribes, clarifies hallmark licensing requirements, and updates the administrative suspension process for certain circumstances.

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

**LD 258 Includes Department of Marine Resources Biennial Budget.** Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. DMR’s budget includes several initiatives comprised of a net increase of $5,170,676 in General Fund, which includes $3,600,600 in one-time funding, net increase of $240,349 in Federal, and a net increase of $416,284 in Other Special Revenue. This budget addresses some of the agency’s highest priority needs. The requests include $3.6 million to replace the agency’s 70 year old Cessna plane with a Kodak 100; $200k for ongoing maintenance of the Boothbay lab; an increase of $100k to maintain DMR’s boat fleet; and $125k to cover increased Marine Patrol fuel costs. The Appropriations Committee has held numerous public hearings on the budget package.

**LD 574 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Working Waterfront Covenants,** sponsored by Rep. Rich of Westbrook. This bill proposes to allow certain nonprofit corporations or charitable trusts that are authorized to hold conservation easements to also be allowed to hold working waterfront covenants. The Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee held a public hearing March 13.

**LD 194 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Certain Business Equipment Tax Benefits,** sponsored by Sen Stewart of Aroostook. This bill proposes to exclude from eligibility for the business equipment tax exemption and the business equipment tax reimbursement a person that, based on 3rd-party certifications, bans, boycotts or otherwise restricts or prevents the sale or distribution of any product that is legally produced, harvested or grown in the State. The Taxation Committee held a public hearing on February 14.

**LD 742 An Act to Divest State Pensions from Companies Boycotting Maine Lobster,** sponsored by Sen. Bracy of Androscoggin. This bill proposes to require the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to divest any stocks, securities or other obligations of any corporation or company that trades in lobsters and that has publicly stated it will not trade in lobsters caught in Maine waters or caught by any Maine commercial lobster license holder. The Labor and Housing Committee held a public hearing on March 9.

**Lobster Bills Not Yet Printed**


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

**Offshore Wind Bills Not Yet Printed**


---

**MLA LEADERSHIP**

**Kristan Porter** is the president of the Maine Lobstermen’s Association, elected in March, 2018. The board of directors is the organization’s governing body and legally responsible for the actions of the MLA. It guides the MLA, specifically in areas of strategy, policy decisions and financial management. The board hires high-level staff, evaluates and approves the MLA’s annual budget, and takes policy stances on pertinent issues. Kristan leads the board at its regular meetings, acts as MLA spokesperson, and interacts with MLA staff.

**Amber-Jean Nickel** is the MLA’s Chief Operating Officer. She makes sure that the MLA has the staff and infrastructure needed to pursue its mission, advocating for a sustainable lobster resource and for the fishermen and communities that depend on it. Those duties include oversight of all facets of the organization, including strategic development, finances, operations, and staff management.

**Patrice McCarron** is now the MLA’s policy director. Patrice works directly on the key policy issues facing Maine’s lobstermen, including the ongoing battle over North Atlantic right whale protection measures and rapid development of offshore wind energy. Her responsibilities include evaluating relevant policy issues, commenting as directed by the MLA board on policy proposals, working with the MLA’s legal team, and interacting with state and federal elected officials and agencies.

---

**MLA Policy Director**

**MLA Board President**

**MLA COO**

---

**MLA Board President**

**MLA COO**

**MLA Policy Director**
Thank you to our 2023 Donors.

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

$500 - $999 cont’d
Chris Kelley
Tim Morong
Paul Smith
Weathervane Seafoods
Wind Horse Arts
Leonard Young*

Gifts $300 - $499
Kyick Charters LLC
Maine Camp Outfitters
Charles Tarbox
Tiller & Rye Grocers

Gifts $100 - $299
American Lobster Products
Herman Anderson
Emily & Ron Axelrod
John Barrett
Glenda Beal
Robert Beal*
Thomas Bennett
Glenn Billings*
Carla Byron
Russell Bray
Albert Buswell
Bonnie & Gary Castanino
Daniel Clough
Alcyone Coo
Palmer Davies
Jesse Davison
Charles Dillon*
Barbara Edson
Stephanie Ewen
Judith Gary
Shelley Grant
Eugene Guilford
Curt & Sally Haskell
Stephen & Lisa Hewitt
Michael Higgins
Alice Ingraham
Island Spirits
Bruce Irwin John
The Kelley Family
Dana Krudsen
Stephen Kosacz

Gifts $100 - $299 cont’d
Anonymous
Larry & Barbara MacAdams
John McCann
Anne Pease
Travis Olis Family
Woodbury Post*
Lisa & David Pratt*
Clarence Preble*
Scot Resner
Anonymous
RG Tax Accounting & Resolution
Tammy Rowe
Michael Sargent
John & Soni Stanton
Gary Taylor
Zachary Teal
VIP Maine Mobile
Richard Wilson
Elaine Yandow
E. Richard Young

Gifts Under $100
Petrea Allen
Fred Backman
Baby Bart* (in Memoriam)
Eddy Bavelay*
Dana Betts Sr.
Col. Charles Brule (ret)
Dobbin Callahan
Patricia Callahan

Gifts Under $100 cont’d
Scott Callahan
Sheila Callahan
Lois Davis
Kim Drain
Gerry Fogerty
Kathryn Gorham
Alice Jaskola
James Klick
Namaste Clean Soaps
Harry Nelson
Willa Nieuwkerk
Russell Pancoast
Port Clyde Kayaks
Phebe Quattrucci
Rigid Fishing
Bonnie Rogers
Jan Salas
Shenanigan’s by Sam
Jon Stahl*
Roger Stephenson
Marquita Temple
The Community Gourmet
William Thurlow
Travis Widdecomb
Chiloso Young

*WE GOOFED. These generous donors were accidentally omitted from our 2022 recap. We are no less appreciative despite our oversight.

Gifts in Memoriam
Ed & Mary Blackmore
Curt & Sally Haskell
Greg Gamage & Annie Gamage
Travis Gamage
Willie Havener
Petrone Allen
Gene Kelley
The Kelley Family
June Kantze Pemberton
Dan Krudsen

Evelynne Small
Kathy Small
Susan Young
E. Richard Young

Gifts In Honor Of:
Cranberry Isles Co-op
Emily & Ron Axelrod
The Joy Family
Bruce Erwin Johnson

Donations listed were received by 3/22/23.

Help Us Keep Fighting for Our Heritage.

- $10,000
- $5,000
- $2,000
- $1,000
- $500
- $365 “a dollar a day”
- Other

Name: ____________________________
Business Name: ___________________
_____ please use my business name in my listing
Address: __________________________
City: ___________________ State: _______ Zip: _______
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Make this a yearly gift Sweatshirt Size: ____________________________

In Memory of: ____________________________

MLA Legal Defense Fund: 2 Storer St, Suite 203, Kennebunk, ME 04043
www.savemainelobstermen.org  207-967-4555
MARKETING UPDATES

The MLMC plans to continue highlighting the positive attributes of Maine Lobster and the fishery’s long history of sustainability. Three upcoming campaigns for the year include:

- Celebrating our ‘Maine Characters’ by profiling different people in the lobster industry and sharing their stories with new bios and lifestyle photography shared across social media, our website, and in media outreach.
- Leveraging the popularity of the air fryer and inspiring consumers to create easy Maine Lobster dishes at home.
- Capitalizing on lobsterman Jacob Knowles’ TikTok fame by pairing him with a top-tier culinary influencer to create video content on the water highlighting the sustainability of the fishery that we can put paid promotion behind on our social channels.

The MLMC plans to continue highlighting the positive attributes of Maine Lobster and the fishery’s long history of sustainability.

Three upcoming campaigns for the year include:

- Celebrating our ‘Maine Characters’ by profiling different people in the lobster industry and sharing their stories with new bios and lifestyle photography shared across social media, our website, and in media outreach.
- Leveraging the popularity of the air fryer and inspiring consumers to create easy Maine Lobster dishes at home.
- Capitalizing on lobsterman Jacob Knowles’ TikTok fame by pairing him with a top-tier culinary influencer to create video content on the water highlighting the sustainability of the fishery that we can put paid promotion behind on our social channels.

www.lobsterfrommaine.com

facebook.com/lobsterfrommaine
twitter.com/lobsterfromme
instagram.com/lobsterfrommaine

COMING SOON
Safety & Drill Conductor Training

MAINE

MAY 22 & 23
JONESPORT

MAY 25 & 26
BOOTHBAY HARBOR

REGISTER TODAY!

Navigator: Maria Carpenter

617.928.3443

fishingpartnership.org
BROOKS TRAP MILL & MARINE SUPPLIES

Jonesboro, ME  (207) 434-5791
Portland, ME  (800) 244-8727
Thomaston, ME  (800) 426-4526
West Bath, ME  (855) 840-6027
Wakefield, RI  (401) 782-4412

We specialize in what you need!
Custom Lobster Traps, Custom Aquaculture Gear,
Specialty Wire, Buoys, Rope, Fishing Supplies,
Aquaculture Supplies and MORE!!

With FIVE locations & trucks delivering throughout New England, we are closer to you than ever.....giving YOU easier access to great prices and SUPERIOR CUSTOMER SERVICE!

Visit us online at:
WWW.BROOKSTRAPMILL.COM

FRESH BAIT
DIRECT FROM O’HARA

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

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

Ready Seafood supports
the MLA in its fight
for the future of our industry!

www.readyseafood.com
NORTH ATLANTIC POWER PRODUCTS

We're here for you!

Twin Disc's MGX series marine transmissions and QuickShift® controls provide smooth, fast shifting along with amazing slow-speed control. And the QuickShift® control head isn't just another pretty face: it's designed to be workboat tough!

NORTH ATLANTIC POWER PRODUCTS

15 Continental Drive – Exeter, NH 03833
Call: (888) 460-7419 or (603) 418-0470
Email: djones@glpower.com
Your authorized Twin Disc Distributor for New England, New York & New Jersey

TWIN DISC®

AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR

---

CAT MARINE ENGINES

Tier 3 Commercial Line-up

**C7.1 Tier 3 Commercial Ratings:**
- 289 HP @ 2500 Maximum Continuous Duty
- 490 HP @ 2800 Maximum Continuous Duty

**C9.3 Tier 3 Commercial Ratings:**
- 410 HP @ 2800 Maximum Continuous Duty
- 470 HP @ 2300 Maximum Continuous Duty

**C12 Tier 3 Commercial Ratings:**
- 715 HP @ 2100 Maximum Continuous Duty
- 800 HP @ 2100 Maximum Continuous Duty

**C18 Tier 3 Commercial Ratings:**
- 1740 HP @ 2800 Maximum Continuous Duty
- 1800 HP @ 2800 Maximum Continuous Duty

**C32 Tier 3 Commercial Ratings:**
- 2200 HP @ 2800 Maximum Continuous Duty
- 2450 HP @ 2800 Maximum Continuous Duty

---

**Tier 4 Exempt Light Commercial Ratings:**
- 78 HP @ 1800-1850 Intermittent Duty
- 515 HP @ 4500 Intermittent Duty
- 575 HP @ 4500 Intermittent Duty

---

**Authorized Marine Dealers**

- **Milton Cat**
  - Boston, MA
  - Providence, RI
  - Newport, RI
  - Portland, ME
  - Rockland, ME
  - Jonesport, ME

---

**Authorized Marine Dealers**

- **Hamilton Marine**
  - Kittery, ME
  - Searsmont, ME
  - Rockland, ME
  - Portland, ME
  - Sw Harbor, ME
  - Jonesport, ME

---

**Open House Sale**

APRIL 1ST THRU 8TH

Shop in store, online or by phone.

KITTERY • PORTLAND • ROCKLAND • SEARSPORT • SW HARBOR • JONESPORT

---

*Contact Nick Fawle or Your Authorized Marine Dealer for Tier 4 exemption qualification details.*

*All Tier 4 Exempt Light Commercial Ratings, require qualifications review and approved by CAT Factory.*

**For Marine Engine Sales, contact Nick Fawle at 603-484-5248**

**Nick_Fawle@miltoncat.com**

---

**Hamiltonmarine.com**

---

**800.639.2715**

---

**Open House Shop**

**Open House Low Prices**

**Shop Our Lowest Prices of the Year!**

---

---

---

---

---
The Challenges Remain Real…

Just as we were all expecting hope to return to normalcy in our lives (both personally and business-wise) we’re faced with another wave of pandemic-based problems.

The delays we are experiencing in receiving supplies and materials continue – and in the meantime, we’re still rebuilding our workforce and focusing on our customers’ orders.

We’re all in this together and rest assured, we are doing everything in our power to get back to our normal levels of customer service as soon as possible.

Thank you all for your patience.

We’ve been dedicated to serving you since 1977… and that’s not going to change. That’s a promise.

A tribute to the revered Riverdale Aquamesh®

Aquamesh® features high strength steel wire, the heaviest zinc coating, and Riverdale’s proprietary marine grade PVC coating. Aquamesh® is pure and simple. It is the best; built for you, built to fish.
### MLA Member Discount Directory

#### Vessel Insurance

- **Hamilton Marine**
  Jonesport, Kittery, Portland, Rockland, Searsport, Southwest Harbor, ME -- Discounts available to commercial fishermen.

- **North Atlantic Power Products**
  Exeter NH-- 10% discount for all service repair of twin disc transmissions, 15% off any new MGX series 603-418-0470

#### Fishing, Marine & Industrial

- **Applied Refrigeration Services**
  Windham, ME -- $250 off new installations.
  207-893-0145

- **Coastal Hydraulics**
  Searsport, ME -- 10% off all stock items for MLA members.
  603-474-1914

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

- **Durabrite Lights**
  Garden City, NY -- Free Shipping for MLA members.
  201-915-0555

#### Accounting

- **RG Tax Accounting & Resolution**
  Brunswick, ME -- Free initial consultation and review of previous tax returns.
  207-607-7118

#### Aquaculture: Prepared Foods

- **Atlantic Sea Farms**
  See your discount directory for the code or call 207-807-9185

#### Automotive

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

#### Boat Builders/Repairs

- **SW Boatworks**
  Lamonie, 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

#### Bait

- **Nor’east Bait LLC**
  York, ME -- $1 off per bucket (must show current MLA card).
  207-752-6775

#### Boat Builders/Repairs

- **New England Propeller Inc**
  Plymouth, MA -- Discounts on marine propeller, shafting, and related items, sales & repairs.
  508-746-8804

- **Nautilus Marine Fabrication, Inc.**
  Trenton, ME -- 5% Discount on propeller reconditioning.
  207-667-1119

#### Fuel & Electricity

- **Midcoast Solar, LLC**
  New Harbor, ME -- 20% off Community Solar electricity for fishermen, lobstermen, aquaculture businesses, and 18% off Community Solar residential electricity for fishermen, lobstermen, and aquaculturists from the Bristol Community Solar Farm. Subscribers also receive a $100 local Gift card of their choice, and an invitation to learning tour and celebration party at Pemaquid Beach in the summer of 2022.
  207-677-0037

#### Gifts

- **Maine Camp Outfitters**
  Sunset, ME -- 10% off all apparel and promotional product orders.
  800-560-6991

- **Maine Lobstermen’s Association**
  Kennebunk, ME -- 10% off all apparel.
  207-967-4555

#### Hotels

- **Hampton Inn, Ellsworth**
  Ellsworth, ME

- **Hampton Inn, Ellsworth**
  Downtown-Waterfront – (Portland, ME)

- **Hampton Inn, Rockland**
  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.**

#### Lodging

- **Hamilton Marine**
  Jonesport, Kittery, Portland, Rockland, Searsport, Southwest Harbor, ME -- Discounts available to commercial fishermen.

- **North Atlantic Power Products**
  Exeter NH-- 10% discount for all service repair of twin disc transmissions, 15% off any new MGX series 603-418-0470

#### Lobster & Seafood

- **Cape Porpoise Lobster**
  Cape Porpoise, ME -- 10% off picked lobster meat.
  800-967-4268

- **Winter Harbor Fishermen’s Coop**
  Winter Harbor, ME -- 10% off picked lobster meat.
  207-963-5877

#### Newspapers

- **Commercial Fisheries News**
  Deer Isle, ME -- Discounted annual subscription rate for $18.75 with MLA membership noted on check.
  800-989-5253

- **National Fishermen, North Hollywood, CA** -- Special annual subscription rate for $12 for 12 issues.
  800-959-5073

#### Propellers

- **Acu Tech Marine Propeller Inc**
  Dover, NH -- 10% off all services.
  603-617-3626

- **New England Propeller Inc**
  Plymouth, MA -- Discounts on marine propeller, shafting, and related items, sales & repairs.
  508-746-8804

- **Nautilus Marine Fabrication, Inc.**
  Trenton, ME -- 5% Discount on propeller reconditioning.
  207-667-1119

#### Refrigeration Services

- **Applied Refrigeration Services**
  Windham, ME -- $250 off new installations.
  207-893-0145

- **McMillan Offshore Survival Training**
  Belfast, ME -- 25% discount on USCG Drill Conductor training.
  207-338-1603

- **Penobscot Marine Museum**
  Searsport, ME -- Discount for MLA members.
  207-333-5010

- **Cross Insurance Arena**
  Portland, ME -- 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.mainelobstermen.org

- **SeaCrest Tours of Freeport**
  Freeport, ME -- 15% off tours for MLA members.
  207-798-2001

#### Museums & Entertainment

- **Penobscot Marine Museum**
  Searsport, ME -- Free admission for MLA members.

#### Safety Training & Equipment

- **McMillan Offshore Survival Training**
  Belfast, ME -- 25% discount on USCG Drill Conductor training.
  207-338-1603

#### Show your MLA card to receive great discounts at these fine businesses!
# MLA SELECT BUSINESS MEMBERS

Show your support for these businesses!

## AQUACULTURE
- Atlantic Sea Farms 1513 Portland Rd, Arundel, ME 04006 207-667-2250
- lobster@atlanticseafarms.com www.atlanticseafarms.com

## AUTOMOTIVE
- Weirs GMC Buick 1513 Portland Rd, Arundel, ME 04006 877-882-6128
  info@weirsbuickgmc.com www.weirsbuickgmc.com

## BAIT DEALERS
- Cape Porpoise Lobster & Bait Co. P.O. Box 2171
  Kittery: 439-1133
  Jonesport: 497-2778
  Portland: 774-1772
  Rockland: 594-8181
  Twin City Financial Group 800-831-4230
  info@twincityfinancial.com
  10% discount on all in-stock items for MLA members.

## BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES
- Academic Benefits
  Discounts for MLA members.
  Contact Kevin Kennedy 50 Portland Pier, Ste 301 Portland, ME 04101 207-655-0560 (Kevin) 207-822-4385 (Connor) kkennedy@academicbenefits.com www.academiabenefits.com

## ELECTRONICS
- Deckhand Electronic Logbook
  Lango Solberg 11 Belbother Way Bellingham, WA 98225 888-210-3117
  info@deckhandlogbook.com www.deckhandlogbook.com

## FUELS
- Colby & Gale
  Matt Poole
  154 Us 1
  Damariscotta, ME 04634 207-363-3414
  info@colbyandgale.com https://colbyandgale.com

## GIFTS
- Maui Camp Outfitters
  Melissa Daniels
  300 Sunset Rd
  Sunnyside, ME 04879
  10% discount on all in-stock items for MLA members.

## FINANCIAL INVESTMENT
- DuraBrite Inc.
  310 Ellington Ave. E
  Garden City, NY 11530 201-915-0555
  info@durabritelights.com

## HYDRAULICS
- Coastal Hydraulics Inc.
  28 Route 86
  Southport, ME 04089 207-676-2136
  info@coastalhyd.com

## INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS
- Industry Organizations
  Cooperative Maine Lobster Marketing
  Collaborative

## INSURANCE
- F & A Peabody Insurance
  Josh McGuire
  207-543-9100
  info@faronmaineinsurance.com

## LIGHTS/CABINETS
- Lightlines Tackle
  Cody Rutter
  60 School Street
  Damariscotta, ME 04543 207-563-2944
  ftcruzan@gmail.com
  www.tightlinestackle.com

## LOBSTERS/SEAFOOD/WHOLESALE/RETAIL
- Abdon Lobster
  Travis Thompson
  286 Island Rd
  Southport, ME 04589 207-596-6491
trevsthompson@atwoodlobster.com www.atwoodlobster.com

## REAL ESTATE
- RE/MAX Jaret & Cohn
  Camden: 236-9626
  Belfast: 338-4220
  207-797-8550

## REFRIGERATION SERVICES
- Applied Refrigeration
  7C Commons Ave.
  Windham, ME 04062 207-893-0145
  info@appliedrefrigeration.com www.appliedrefrigeration.com

## RESTAURANTS
- Barnacle Billy's 50 & 70 Perkins Cove Rd.
  Ogunquit, ME 03907 207-666-5275
  barnaclebilly@barnabillies.com

## TRAP BUILDERS/STOCK SUPPLIES
- Sea Rose Trap Co.
  Biddeford, ME 04005 207-730-5531
  searosetrap@gmail.com

## TRAP BUILDERS/BOAT REPAIR
- Remote River Boat Repair
  Alan Dress 203 Bayview Ave. Yarmouth, ME 04042 207-846-9577
  alanroyalriverboat.com

## VETERINARY
- Vineyard Veterinary
  155 Vineyard Rd
  Vineyard Haven, MA 02568 508-635-8670
  info@vineyardvets.com

## WHOLESALE/RETAIL
- Maine Lobster Outlet
  301 Union St.
  Newport, ME 03601 207-363-4419
  caiman@mainelobsteroutlet.com
  https://mainelobsteroutlet.com

## WHOLESALE/RETAIL
- RD Lobster & Shellfish LLC
  1077 Box Harbor Rd.
  Trenton, ME 04665 207-467-2250
  rdpodums@yahoo.com

## WHOLESALE/RETAIL
- Shucks Maine Lobster
  150 Maine St.
  So. Berwick, ME 03908 207-977-4880
  johnny@shucksmaine.com

## WHOLESALE/RETAIL
- Source Head Fishermen’s Co-op
  275 Island Rd.
  S. Thomaston, ME 04588 207-986-8299
  atwoodlobster.com

## WHOLESALE/RETAIL
- L & D Lobster
  1077 Box Harbor Rd.
  Trenton, ME 04665 207-361-7286
  rdpodums@yahoo.com

## WHOLESALE/RETAIL
- Power Products Systems
  Julia Roncoli 140 Main St, Suite 4
  Wiscasset, ME 04578 207-504-2652
  info@powerproductsys.com www.powerproductsys.com

## WHOLESALE/RETAIL
- Friendship Trap Company
  Locations in Friendship and Columbia Falls.
  Friendship, ME 04647 207-354-2472
  info@friendshiptrap.com www.friendshiptrap.com

## WHOLESALE/RETAIL
- Sea Rose Trap Co.
  9 Digital Dr.
  Yarmouth, ME 04040 207-730-5531
  www.searosetrap.com

---

Many thanks to our business supporters!
It’s April. Is your boat in the water? Are your traps repaired? Are your ropes ready to fish? At what price to your health was all this work? Did you experience respiratory symptoms during the time you were working with the ropes and traps?

It would not be surprising if you answered “Yes” to all the above questions. The dust from handling ropes and traps can bring on congestion and perhaps a cough that hangs around while you are busy with the rope and traps, but which mysteriously disappears once you are back on the water and not indoors working with rope.

In occupational health and safety studies it is classic to find that symptoms disappear when workers leave a workplace environment that exposed them to dust, chemicals or repetitive tasks, for example. If you felt as if you had long-lasting congestion or a cold during the winter months when you worked inside with old rope and on other gear-related tasks, there is a good chance that you were exposed to a dust that contained endotoxin.

What is endotoxin?

Endotoxin is present in very low levels in the environment. It is present in higher levels in rural areas and in even higher levels in agricultural settings or where textiles are processed. Endotoxin is the material or dust which is left over when Gram-negative bacteria die (Gram-negative bacteria are those that don’t absorb a colored stain during the identification process). Endotoxin can be present in substantial amounts on dry trap rope. Algae and seaweed on rope and the rope itself harbor Gram-negative bacteria. When the rope is out of the water, the algae die, then the bacteria die, leaving a dust that contains endotoxin.

Making the connection between rope dust and endotoxin

Nearly 20 years ago, I went to Vinalhaven Island with several exposure scientists from the Harvard Chan School of Public Health. After taking a variety of particulate measurements in a lobsterman’s workshop, the researchers took some rope back to the lab and analyzed the dust on it for endotoxin. And guess what? The endotoxin level on the rope was very much higher than the background endotoxin level.

Lobstermen inhale the dust on ropes and traps when working with them. This inhaled dust results in symptoms that include cough or persistent cough with or without phlegm, tightness of chest, shortness of breath, increased susceptibility to lung infection and loss of pulmonary function with continued exposure. But because the symptoms of endotoxin exposure are similar to those of flu, colds and COVID-19, it is difficult for healthcare providers to differentiate between this exposure and the illnesses. Moreover, many doctors would not know to connect your symptoms with your exposure to rope.

Biofilms

Then there are biofilms. Biofilms are a collection of microorganisms that readily accumulate on living and inanimate material, such as algae, fish scales, and plastics. In a 2021 review article entitled “Microbial Life on the Surface of Microplastics in Natural Waters,” the authors stated that all the dominant microorganisms in biofilms that cover microplastic particles are Gram-negative bacteria. Surprisingly, different kinds of bacteria prefer different types of plastic. For example, the Alphaproteobacteria prefer the polyvinylchloride plastics (think PVC lobster buoys).

You can assume that there are biofilms of Gram-negative bacteria on algae, on the microplastics that are lodged among the algae, on poly rope, and probably on lobster buoys. Although a few of these Gram-negative bacteria may be pathogenic, they are not a problem until the bacteria die, and we inhale the endotoxin that is left behind as dust.

To reduce exposure to endotoxin on trap rope, the rope should be dunked in a hot water bath, such as the hot tank that some fishermen have on board, or put through a dilute chlorine bath. Perhaps also acceptable would be to give the rope a good rinse after being sun-dried, then dry it again before working with it. Regarding the PVC buoys, they probably do not present much of a problem, but they do “live” at the air/water interface that these biofilms enjoy. You might want to think about this if you are working with buoys (painting or taping) that have been in the ocean. The good news is that endotoxin-related symptoms will likely disappear once you are no longer working intensively with rope, buoys and traps, and are back on the water most of the day.
The Collaborative brought attention to Maine lobster through innovative products using lobster. The MLMC’s Maine Lobster Innovation Guide focused on home cooks interested in new ways to incorporate lobster in dishes. In addition, items such as a Valentine’s Day Lobster Bouquet and a Lobster Roll Wedding Cake brought national attention to Maine lobster. During the summer, the Collaborative also launched its revised web site, which is designed to work well on phones and tablets. In 2023 the MLMC will emphasize brand protection, product promotion and remaining flexible as the fishery copes with regulatory and economic changes. Lacroix noted that in the MLMC’s annual survey of consumers’ attitudes toward lobster, respondents remain strongly favorable to the fishery. “Just three out of ten are aware of the whale issue,” she said. “Of those three, the preponderance still have favorable views of the fishery.” Weber Shandwick public relations specialist John Siefort credited the MLMC’s efforts. “We are actually having a positive influence on the public despite some negative coverage. Awareness of the issue is consistently low and has not influenced consumer behavior,” he said.

The Collaborative will continue to generate positive news about Maine lobster through holiday promotions, National Lobster Day and Maine’s Lobster Week. It plans to create media content related to a day in the life of a lobsterman which would be used by a national publication. During the summer there will be a publicity campaign focused on the Maine lobster roll. In addition, it will focus on the stories of lobstermen and their families across all social media platforms throughout the year.

And last, but not least, the MLMC plans to take advantage of the current craze for Tik Tok. A culinary celebrity will go fishing with Jacob Knowles, a Gouldsboro lobsterman with a large Tik Tok following, and travel along the coast while posting the adventure on Tik Tok.

To learn more about MLMC, visit www.lobsterfrommaine.com and www.rightwhalesandmainelobster.com.
Jimmy Wotton of Friendship received the Department of Marine Resources’ (DMR) Andy Mays Award of Excellence. The award is named for Southwest Harbor fisherman Andy Mays, who passed away in 2017, but who left an important legacy of participation in the management and regulatory process. DMR Commissioner Patrick Keliher made the presentation to Wotton.

“This award is being presented in recognition of your expertise across numerous fisheries and your willingness to engage the department in a constructive way that contributes to the prosperity of all Maine fishermen,” said Keliher.

Wotton currently serves as vice-chair of the Zone D Lobster Council and as a member of the Scallop Advisory Council. He has held licenses in multiple fisheries including lobster, scallop, urchin, menhaden, river herring, and halibut. “Jimmy shares his broad base of knowledge with our advisory councils and through his collaboration with the department. That kind of strong working relationship is vital for the sustainability of our commercial fisheries,” said Keliher.

Ben Marten, Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association executive director, asked the panel about the dual responsibilities of GARFO. “Is advocacy for fishermen part of GARFO or the Fisheries Science Center?” he questioned. After noting his agency’s conservation and management duties as laid out in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, Pentony spoke about the larger picture. “This Administration [Biden] is going for offshore wind. Our agency [NOAA] wants us to work with BOEM to make that happen,” he said.

Patrice McCarron, policy director at the Maine Lobstermen’s Association, questioned Pentony on the agency’s vision for ropeless fishing in the lobster fishery. She referenced GARFO's Roadmap to Ropeless Fishing, released last summer, which envisions strategic adoption of ropeless fishing in the areas that pose the highest risk to right whales. Specifically, the report states that ropeless fishing gear is a tool that would allow fishermen access to fish in right whale closure areas. She also pointed out that in Pentony’s court declaration, made pursuant to the NGO’s legal case against NMFS, he stated that presently, a 98% risk reduction in the lobster fishery can only be achieved through full closure of both state and federal waters or by broad-scale adoption of ropeless fishing.

“NMFS is sending conflicting messages to the industry. One the one hand you say it is a tool to get guys fishing who are shut out due to closures. On the other hand you are saying the only way for the fishery to continue is if everyone converts to it which is it? If everyone must use it, many won’t be able to,” McCarron said. "Broad scale adoption would but many out of business. It’s very confusing, very conflicting."

“The target for risk reduction is changing each year,” Pentony replied. “Ropeless [gear] can be a tool and opportunity for fishermen. What’s shifting is the area that needs to be closed. We can have more, smaller, discretionary closures with ropeless. However, the size and duration of the closures will likely increase. By 2030, we may have large, long closures."
By Kevin Kelley, MLA director of advancement

“Chowder’s On” in Kittery

On February 26, “Chowder’s On” took place at the Kittery Community Center. Organized by Betsy Wish, Charlene Hoyt (the wife and mother of local lobstermen), and lifelong lobsterman and Maine Lobstermen’s Association member Dave Kaselauskas, the event brought together more than 100 people who enjoyed homemade lobster stew, clam chowder, and pie.

“Kittery, the oldest town in Maine, is where so many locals are either related to or have known lobstermen for most of their lives. It is a community where folks understand that lobstering is so much more than a job. It’s a way of life shared by generations, by many families where it’s a birthright,” said Betsy Wish, who has spent 16 years kayaking on the water, taking photos of local lobstermen, and delivering them fresh-baked cookies.

“With so many businesses and individuals eager to jump on board our event, Charlene, Dave, and I found that we were able to accomplish one of our goals — to support the MLAs’ efforts to protect Maine’s lobstermen. We also felt it was equally important to raise awareness for the many ways the health of our communities all along the seacoast to make some noise. You’ll be surprised by how many fishing families exist and just how much love and support are ready to ignite from your spark of energy,” she said.

Southport Was the Place to Be

That energy continued up along the coast when, on Friday, March 10, Robinson’s Wharf in Southport was the place to be!

Maine’s own country band 12/OC had the entire wharf celebrating the pub’s opening night of sorts for 2023. More than 100 people bought tickets to enjoy the music, food, and drink along with an opportunity to bid on dozens of amazing donations from local businesses in the silent auction.

Staff at Robinson’s went out of their way to ensure not only a successful fundraising event, but also a fantastic celebration of the importance of lobstering to their community. Special thanks to recently retired MLA board member Mark Jones for all his work on this event as well. When every penny is counted, we expect this event will have raised roughly $30,000 for our campaign.

Support from Towns is Growing

Voters and residents in several Maine towns have either agreed or voted to make donations to MLAs Save Maine Lobstermen legal defense fund. On March 11, voters in Harpswell approved a $10,000 donation; on March 20th, voters in Friendship approved $10,000; and on March 21, voters in Bristol approved a $3,000 donation. The communities of Cutler, Mount Desert, Sorrento, Stonington, and Kittery have also made or approved donations thus far this year.

In 2022, MLA received donations from the communities of Boothbay, Cranberry Isles, Ellsworth, Friendship, Georgetown, Jonesport, Long Island, Machiasport, South Thomaston, Stonington, Tremont, Vinalhaven, and York, as well as the State of Maine.

If you would like to host a fundraising event in your community, please contact Kevin Kelley at 967-4555 or Kevin@mainelobstermen.org.
2022 Landings continued from page 1

fish far fewer times than in any other year since 2008 when DMR began collecting this data. Overall trips fell below the previous low reported in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Overall, Maine fishermen harvested slightly more than 197 million pounds of seafood in 2022, worth $574 million. According to DMR, that value is consistent with the average value between 2011 and 2020, which was $586.6 million.

There was some good news for Maine fishermen in 2022. The value of Maine’s menhaden landings in 2022 increased by more than $1.6 million over 2021, reaching $12,066,941 in 2022. “Maine achieved a major win in 2022 for both lobster and menhaden harvesters, with an increase in state quota from 2 million pounds to more than 24 million pounds,” said Keliher. “That ten-fold increase in state quota will provide both menhaden and lobster harvesters much-needed certainty in their ability to harvest and source bait.”

The value of Maine scallops in 2022 was $8.7 million, one of the highest in the history of the fishery and making it the fifth most valuable overall for the state last year. Alewife landings increased last year, both in poundage and value. Alewife harvesters caught 3.3 million pounds, an increase of 1.4 million pounds over 2021, and earned $1.5 million; in 2021 the value was $723,291.

The price of elvers jumped by nearly $300 per pound in 2022, resulting in a value of $20,163,965, placing it as the state's second most valuable commercial fishery. The value of Maine-caught elvers reached $2,131 per-pound, which has only been exceeded twice in the history of the fishery.

Soft shell clams landings were valued at $16,676,325, making the fishery the state’s third most valuable in 2022. “By funding new positions at DMR to address climate change impact on clams and other nearshore species, the state has taken the vital step in supporting the resilience of this and other important fisheries in the nearshore, like mussels, seaweed and worms,” said DMR Commissioner Patrick Keliher in a press release.

Three of the top four fishing ports with the highest value of seafood landings in Maine in 2022, were located in Knox County, according to the Department of Marine Resources.

Stonington, located in Hancock County, once again led all ports in Maine, with the value of landed species totaling $44.7 million. This is down from $77.3 million in 2021, which was a record year.

Vinalhaven ranked second in terms of value at $30.5 million, down from $55.7 million in 2021. Vinalhaven’s landings were worth $33.7 million in 2020, $39.7 million in 2019, and $39.4 million in 2018.

Friendship was third. Its landings were valued at $23.5 million in 2022, down from $40.8 million in 2021. Friendship’s landings were valued at $19.5 million in 2020, $27 million in 2019, and $24 million in 2018.

Spruce Head ranked fourth in value last year at $18.3 million, down from $31.2 million in 2021. Spruce Head’s landings were valued at $16.9 million in 2020, $18.8 million in 2019, and $16.9 million in 2018.

In terms of pounds, Stonington was also the top port in Maine with 11.6 million pounds landed in 2022. Friendship was fifth at 7.2 million pounds. Vinalhaven was sixth at less than 7.2 million pounds. Spruce Head was seventh at 4.9 million pounds. Tenants Harbor was eighth at 3.8 million pounds.

Lobster continues to represent the largest proportion of the value of Maine’s seafood. However, in 2022 it represented only 68% of the total value, compared to 82% in 2021 and 79% in 2020.
JONESPORT AQUACULTURE FACILITY GOOD TO GO

Kingfish Maine's permit to build a recirculating aquaculture system facility in Jonesport has been upheld by the town’s board of appeals. A loan insurance request has been approved by the Finance Authority of Maine for project preparation. In a unanimous vote, the board of appeals denied the nonprofit organization Protect Downeast’s appeal of the planning board's approval of the building permit.

The company also received unanimous support from the Finance Authority of Maine for loan insurance on a direct loan by Machias Savings Bank relating to the $110 million land-based aquaculture facility. Groundwork is expected to begin sometime this year on the 50,000 square foot facility.

NOAA CONDUCTING ECONOMIC SURVEY OF FISHING BUSINESSES

NOAA’s Social Sciences Branch is collecting commercial fishing business cost information from federally permitted vessel owners that were active in 2021 or 2022. The survey, last conducted in 2016, tracks trends in costs over time, assesses economic fishery performance, and ultimately informs management decisions. The online survey is available at https://www.fishingcostsurvey.com/.

The survey ends September 1. The survey is also available via phone interview or by responding to a hardcopy of the survey that will be mailed to each vessel owner by NOAA’s survey firm, ICF. You may request a phone interview by calling 508-495-2015.

NEW INGREDIENT IN P.E.I. BAIT ALTERNATIVE

A P.E.I. company is adding seal meat to its bait sausages, hoping to capitalize on the abundance of seals in Maritime waters while helping fill the gap left by dwindling numbers of herring and mackerel. Bait Masters started producing bait sausages in its $1.4-million facility in Nine Mile Creek in April 2021, using a mix of fish, fish oil and other organic matter in a biodegradable casing. The new bait sausages are half seal and half mackerel and are meant for lobster traps and crab pots. The company’s site says a sausage will last four to five days in the water, compared to two to three days for traditional bait. Bait Masters made 2,000 new seal-mackerel sausages which were pre-sold to lobstermen, and will be asking for feedback during the spring fishery.

NOAA APPROVES 1/2" WEAK ROPE FOR OFFSHORE

On March 13, NOAA Fisheries announced that it has approved 1/2-inch rope manufactured by Neocorp rope for use as weak rope in the LMA3 offshore lobster fishery. The rope is a braided rope with a breaking strength of 1870 lbs and must be attached to other rope with a double sheet bend to allow for a clean break. The rope is white with a black tracer and can be purchased at Ketcham Supply in New Bedford.

HELP FOR TOWNS ASSESSING WORKING WATERFRONT

The Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association and Tidal Bay Consulting have created a tool for towns to collect data on their working waterfront’s infrastructure and economic impact in an effort to keep them operating. The Working Waterfront Inventory Template is designed to be especially useful for small coastal communities in the face of increasing shoreline development. “Before towns can address issues and plan for the future, they need to know what they have for working waterfronts,” said Jessica Joyce, principal of Tidal Bay Consulting, a non-profit based in South Freeport. The template is available at https://www.mainecoastfishermen.org/working-waterfront-inventory.

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


Inland Seafood News

Proposed design for the Jonesport facility. Kingfish image.
April 3
Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board meeting, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Public may join meeting via Zoom at https://zoom.us/j/8656409301?pwd=ccVd1DWRFmZmZzVpxK92YyB5eGhPUT09#success.
Lobster Zone A Council meeting, 4 p.m.

April 4
Aquaducture Public Hearing, Maine Island Aquaculture, 11:30 a.m., North Haven Community Building.

April 5
MLA Board of Directors meeting, Darby’s Restaurant, Belfast.

April 6
Marine Resources Committee, 1 p.m. Cross Office Building Augusta or Online. Public hearing on LD 563 and work sessions on LD 710 and LD 811. FMI: https://legislature.maine.gov/committee/4Committee/MIR.

April 8
Deadline for comments on ASMFC draft Addendum 27. FMI: www.asmfc.org.

April 10
Zone E Lobster Council meeting, 4 p.m., Lincoln County Regional Planning Office Wiscasset.

April 12
NEFMC Herring Committee webinar. FMI: www.nefmc.org.

Zone B Lobster council meeting, 5 p.m., Mt. Desert Island High School library.

April 15

April 24-27

May 1-3

May 2
Aquaducture Public Hearing, Pemaquid Mussel Farms, 4 p.m., Mount Desert Island High School Library, Bar Harbor.

May 6

May 7

May 9
Maine International Trade Center presents Maine's Future in the Global Market, 9:30-10:30 online. FMI: www.mitc.com/education-events/events.

May 18-20

April 24-27

May 1-3

May 2
Aquaducture Public Hearing, Pemaquid Mussel Farms, 4 p.m., Mount Desert Island High School Library, Bar Harbor.

May 6

May 7

May 9
Maine International Trade Center presents Maine’s Future in the Global Market, 9:30-10:30 online. FMI: www.mitc.com/education-events/events.

In Memoriam: Ron Peck
Ronald R. Peck, 81 years old, of Kingston, Mass. died on March 6 after a month-long battle with COVID. He owned and operated New England Propeller for many years.
Ron was born in 1941 in Syracuse, New York. He attended Lafayette School District before his family moved to Kingston in 1958, where he attended Silver Lake Regional High School. While holding down a full-time job, Ron began his own business, Capeway Welding, in 1968 out of his basement. In 1969, he left his job to focus solely on his business which flourished. In 1985 he built his current shop in the Plymouth Industrial Park. In 1987, he purchased New England Propeller, Inc.
Ron’s work ethic and ability to think outside of the box to problem solve were second to none. He leaves his wife of 61 years, Alice Hardy Peck; his sister Nancy Merry and husband Robert and his children Douglas Peck and wife Lori; Sally Balch and husband Ken; Kelly Clink and husband Clarence; and Alison Sopher and husband Sam as well as nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

2023 scholarship winners
The Maine Fishermen’s Forum board awarded educational scholarships to 23 students from Maine fishing families at the Forum in March. The funding for these awards is donated by Forum attendees, fishermen and organizations.

Myles Brown – Deer Isle
Jinny Davis – Addison
Rylee Eaton – Little Deer Isle
Jewel Farrin – Bristol
Jacob Gell – Deer Isle
Kolle Hardy – Ellsworth
Elaine Hutchins – Fort Kent
Brantley Kane – Addison
Meghan Keizer – Tenants Harbor
Jameson LaBrecque – Boothbay
Riley Lapoint – Harpswell
Jillian McDonald – Deer Isle
Samuel Miller – Tenants Harbor
Jonathan Parker – Deer Isle
Benjamin Pearce – East Boothbay
John “Jack” Pellechia – Cape Elizabeth
Jackson Percy – Phippsburg
Madison Pinkham – Georgetown
Ryleigh Ruber – Falmouth
Taylor Santaguida – Brunswick
Mason Savary – Bath
Marissa Wood – Machiasport
Josiah Yeaton – Phippsburg

In Memoriam: Ron Peck
Ronald R. Peck, 81 years old, of Kingston, Mass. died on March 6 after a month-long battle with COVID. He owned and operated New England Propeller for many years.
Ron was born in 1941 in Syracuse, New York. He attended Lafayette School District before his family moved to Kingston in 1958, where he attended Silver Lake Regional High School. While holding down a full-time job, Ron began his own business, Capeway Welding, in 1968 out of his basement. In 1969, he left his job to focus solely on his business which flourished. In 1985 he built his current shop in the Plymouth Industrial Park. In 1987, he purchased New England Propeller, Inc.
Ron’s work ethic and ability to think outside of the box to problem solve were second to none. He leaves his wife of 61 years, Alice Hardy Peck; his sister Nancy Merry and husband Robert and his children Douglas Peck and wife Lori; Sally Balch and husband Ken; Kelly Clink and husband Clarence; and Alison Sopher and husband Sam as well as nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.
WE HELP CREATE
A BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR LOBSTERMEN

We’ve served Maine lobstermen for over 10 years, and you’ve become central to the DuraBrite Lights story.

We’re reinvesting in the community with our #SaveMaineLobstermen product line. 20% of proceeds—not just profits—go directly to the Maine Lobstermen’s Association.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Maine Fishermen’s Co-operatives
Since 1947, organized for Maine’s fishermen, by Maine’s fishermen.

Swans Island Fishermen’s Co-op
PO Box 116
Swans Island, ME 04685
207-526-4327
sicoop@tds.net

Vinalhaven Fishermen’s Co-op
PO Box 366
Vinalhaven, Maine 04863
207-863-4373
www.vinalhavencoop.com

Cranberry Isles Fishermens Co-op
PO Box 258
Islesford, ME 04646
207-244-5438
cranberrycoop@gmail.com
www.littlecranberrylobster.com

Vinalhaven Fisherman’s Co-op
Located on the Island of Vinalhaven, Maine

Vinalhaven Fishermen’s Co-op
PO Box 366
Vinalhaven, Maine 04863
207-863-4373
www.vinalhavencoop.com