HELP WANTED: LABOR SHORTAGE AFFECTS MARINE BUSINESSES

By Melissa Waterman

You see the signs everywhere you go in Maine: "Help Wanted" or "Hiring Now." Businesses in every sector of Maine's economy have found it difficult to hire the number and type of workers they need, whether the business is a local restaurant or a major manufacturer. The problem has become acute in the businesses that supply lobstermen with their traps and other equipment.

"Sadly we've been calling customers to ask if they could live without new traps," said Stephen Brooks, co-owner of Brooks Trap Mill in Thomaston. "We told them they could get them later or next year. Many cancelled their orders. I've been in this business all my life and I have never experienced anything like this struggle to get workers."

The labor issue also is affecting marine businesses outside of Maine. Riverdale Mills, a wire mesh manufacturer in Northridge, Massachusetts, currently is advertising for everything from forklift driver to welding machine operator to keep its three shifts in production. The company is even offering new hourly employees a $700 hiring bonus.

"We've reached out to get workers back but some have just disappeared. Our production level is half or less than half of what it was last year," Brooks added. Maine's Department of Labor took note of the labor shortage earlier in the summer and established the Back to Work grant program, which provided companies with funds to give bonuses to newly hired full-time and part-time workers. A full-time worker could receive $1,500 if he or she took a job and stopped receiving unemployment benefits for two months or more.

By late July, 100 companies had applied for grants to entice approximately 300 workers to fill empty positions, according to the Department of Labor. Given the broad range of companies seeking employees, however, 300 people employed appears to be a drop in the bucket.

Workers across the nation left or lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic last year. In Maine, the unemployment rate shot up in early spring 2020, reaching 5.8% in June 2020. Many of those jobs were held by retail, hospitality, and manufacturing workers whose companies closed during the height of the virus in 2020 and during the surge this past winter.

LOBSTER PRICES STRONG AS SHEDDER SEASON RAMPS UP

By Melissa Waterman

As restaurants reopen throughout the country and tourism in Maine hits new heights, Maine lobstermen are feeling the love. Both price and landings appear to be strong, at least at mid-summer as shedder season ramps up.

"I never thought I'd see $5 a pound sheddies," said Darrel Payne, manager at the Corea Lobster Cooperative. In late July the boat price paid by the coop for hardshell lobsters was $7.00 and soft shell $5.10. On Vinalhaven, the Fishermen's Cooperative was paying $8.20 for hardshell and a whopping $6.85 for sheddies. "It went to $7 briefly for sheddies," said Coop manager Carol Hamilton. "I've been fishing since I was 11 and I've never seen that price. Plus we're landing a lot of sheddies now." Prices at Cape Porpoise Lobster were comparable, where the boat price in late July was $7.50 for hardshell and $6.50 for softshell.

"Lobster prices are still at record highs for this time of year," said John Sackton, founder of SeafoodNews.com. "Partly it is the huge demand for lobster meat, which is keeping Canadian processors buying at shore prices they never would
Finding enough workers to keep the coastal Maine econ-
omy aloof each summer has never been easy. This year, with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic still rippling through the nation, there is an acute scarcity of workers in all sectors of the state’s economy, including marine busi-
nesses. Facing a lack of vital employees, lobster trap mak-
ers, such as Brooks Trap Mill in Thomaston and suppliers such as Rivendale Mills in Massachusetts, are going to ex-
traordinary lengths to lure workers while also dealing with increased costs for basic materials, as our lead story this month illustrates.

In other news, the Mills administration announced in July that it had refined the location of a future commer-
cial offshore wind research project that it first proposed in November 2020. After reviewing fisheries and other data for a 770-square-mile area off southern Maine, the Governor’s Energy Office stated that the final 16-square-mile development would be loc-
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With all the looming regulatory issues facing the lobster industry, lobstermen can take heart in the fact that the average price for lobster this summer has been strong. In fact, at the start of the summer the price for Maine’s signa-
ture summer treat, a lobster roll, hit historic levels due to a sharp uptick in demand and constricted supplies. Now as the summer shedder season unfolds, the price for soft-
shelled lobster has also hit record levels, in part due to the reopening of Maine restaurants and the surge of tourists to the state. Lobondings hears from Department of Marine Resources Commissioner Patrick Keliher this month on activities in his agency. The state budget passed earlier this summer included $1 million in funding for a new $1 million facility under construction now. The new building will feature a flowing seawater lab, a dry lab, and teaching areas, significantly expanding the Center’s capac-
ity to host both students and researchers.

Finally, we take note of the regard held by long-time Maine Lobstermen’s Association president, Stonington lobster-
man Eddie Blackmore, who passed away in December 2019. The MLA is very concerned about the potential economic impact on fisheries and wildlife. The turbines would be larger in size, increased from 10-12 megawatts capacity to 12-15 megawatts. The scarcity of lobster fishing data within the area was cause for alarm among lobstermen. “The MLA [Maine Lobstermen’s Association] is very concerned about taking another step towards development of a wind farm in the Gulf of Maine given the lack of data on where lobstermen fish, which areas are most important, and the potential economic impact of wind development on the lobster fishery. DMR [Department of Marine Resources] did an admirable job of characterizing fishing activity and economic impacts with extremely limited data, but there’s still too much that is not understood,” said Patrice McCarron, executive director of the association.

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We hope you enjoy this issue of Lobondings and look forward to your suggestions for future articles.

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In the Bureau of Marine Science, we'll have more capacity to work on whale 

positions within our agency to advance our work on science, policy, and enforcement.

With tremendous support from Governor Mills and the Marine Resources Committee, I am pleased to report that we have been authorized to add or fill positions within our agency to advance our work on science, policy, and enforcement.

In the Bureau of Marine Science, we’ll have more capacity to work on whale research to improve our ability to engage in and inform federal processes aimed at protecting right whales. We will also have additional capacity to work on the research questions and monitoring associated with the development of offshore wind. And for the first time we will have dedicated staff working on white shark research.

We are also adding a senior policy position that will provide policy support on both the topics of offshore wind as well as right whales. As with the Science Bureau staff, policy staff have done a tremendous job working on these topics, but with so much going on, they are stretched very thin. More resources to do this work are certainly warranted, given the importance of Maine’s commercial fishing industries.

The Bureau of Marine Patrol also received new General Fund support for two patrol positions that have been frozen due to lack of funding.

Also, for the first time ever, the Land for Maine's Future program will be fund-ed with General Fund dollars, rather than bond funds. As part of that process, the Legislature specified that at least $4 million be made available for Working Waterfront Access Protection Program (WWAPP) projects over the next four years. This a tremendous opportunity to protect more waterfront properties to ensure their continued availability to future generations of fishermen.

Governor Mills also developed a spending plan for the federal American Recovery Plan dollars that Maine will receive, which was approved by the Legislature. Some of the highlights from that Plan include funding for a new Patrol vessel capable of safely and effectively operating and enforcing fishing activity more than 40 miles offshore. There is also $10 million for a competitive grant program to support seafood dealers and processors in making infrastructure improvements and investments in their businesses that improve the economic resiliency of this sector. Several industry leaders came forward to support these and other pieces of the Plan important to the Department, and we are very grateful for the efforts they made to do that.

Finally, you may be aware that Congress has appropriated an additional $255 million in fisheries assistance funding. NOAA has allocated this money to individual states; Maine will receive $17.1 million. Eligible sectors include members of the commercial fishing industry, aquaculturists, seafood dealers and processors, and for-hire guides. These funds are subject to the same requirements as the first round of CARES Act funding including a 35% revenue loss to qualify to receive funds. DMR is working on the development of a spend plan subject to NOAA’s review and approval but I am hopeful we can apply these funds in ways that will provide meaningful, long-term benefits to these sectors.

**Whales**

As you know, the final whale rule is expected to be published in September. I want once again to express my appreciation for all the hard work Maine’s lobstermen have done to inform these federal regulations.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), released in July, evaluates the biological, economic, and social impacts of alternatives in the soon-to-be-published final rule, including an alternative that NMFS prefers. One measure proposed in the draft regulation, a closure along the LMA1/3 line, is listed as a preferred alternative. We continue to have concerns about the data used to support this closure and the conservation benefits of the closure given documented shifts in right whale distribution.

Continued on page 18

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In July the Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) announced that it had identified a preferred site for a proposed 12-turbine floating wind energy installation in federal waters off southern Maine. Governor Mills announced in November 2020 her administration’s intention to apply to the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management (BOEM) for an offshore wind research lease to construct the installation.

As stated in a GEO press release, the site decision was the result of balancing “a number of factors, such as impacts on fisheries and wildlife, navigation, costs, and more.” The GEO identified its preferred location for the 16-square-mile final lease site within a 56-square-mile Narrowed Area of Interest (NOI) recommended by Department of Marine Resources (DMR) with input from Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) and the public. GEO accepted public comments on the preferred site through July 30.

“The MLA is very concerned about taking another step towards development of a wind farm in the Gulf of Maine given the lack of data on where lobstermen fish, which areas are most important, and the potential economic impact of wind development on the lobster fishery,” said Patrice McCarron, executive Director of the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA). “DMR did an admirable job of characterizing fishing activity and economic impacts with extremely limited data, but there’s still too much that is not understood.”

The GEO conducted outreach through a series of online meetings to solicit feedback on the location of the preferred site to minimize impacts on fisheries and the environment. The GEO initially identified a broad swath of the ocean area or Area of Interest (AOI), 770 square miles in size, as the general area in which the 16-square-mile lease would be located. The public engagement process included four public meetings, one workshop, five work sessions, two webinars and numerous informal conversations with fishermen, individuals, scientists, and organizations, according to the GEO. At the request of lobstermen, DMR held six meetings with the Lobster Zone Councils. The DMR was instructed by the GEO to conduct an analysis of the 770-square-mile area and its importance to marine wildlife, commercial and recreational fisheries. The DMR resulting report “first provides a record of concerns identified by the fishing community.” The report states that fishing communities were deeply concerned that the mooring systems might adversely impact whales or entangle fishing gear that could then cause a secondary entanglement for a whale” and that “that they [fishermen] will continue to bear the cost for future risk reductions that could be caused from offshore wind development rather than fishing gear.”

Fishermen raised additional concerns regarding the dangers of fishing in narrow corridors around offshore wind structures, anchors and catenary mooring lines; the impacts of cables including installation, electric and magnetic fields from the cables, and fishing around cable-messing systems; increased vessel traffic to construct and maintain wind farms; and competition for access to already limited working water.

To characterize the AOI, the DMR made use of a wide array of public data, looking at bathymetry data from recent surveys, fishery data drawn from federal vessel monitoring systems (VMS), the Northeast Data Portal, an online survey, interviews with fishermen and other sources.

Based on this work, DMR created a composite map of affected fisheries including lobster, groundfish, recreational and commercial tuna. Atlantic herring and scallop fishing. Fishing activity was standardized into one-minute grids to characterize activity across all fishing sectors. Based on this analysis, DMR identified the 56-square-mile “Narrowed Area of Interest” (NOI) where it determined there is less known impact on fisheries activities.

Fishing activities within the large AOI vary by time, activity and level of intensity. Data indicate that the area, which abuts Platts Bank, acts as a transition between inshore and offshore marine species. Lobstering takes place through-out, but generally in areas shallower than 90 meters. Groundfishing, on the other hand, picks up in deeper water and extends further east into the Gulf. Recreational tuna fishermen noted that bluefin tuna use the area extensively because of the aggregation of prey species.

continued on page 6

Governor Mills Signs Wind Legislation Banning Development in State Waters

On July 7 Governor Mills signed compromise legislation to permanently ban future development of wind energy projects in state waters. Mills had initially proposed a 10-year moratorium but agreed to make the ban permanent after strong protests from Maine fishermen. Lawmakers negotiated the final bill to create an Offshore Wind Research Consortium with an advisory board that will have at least two representatives of the lobster industry as well as other commercial fishermen.

The new law prohibits state and local governments from licensing or permitting the siting, construction or operation of wind turbines in the state territorial waters (within 3 nautical miles from shore). The New England Aqua Ventus pilot project off Monhegan Island and future “pi-loat-scale, limited duration” research projects would be exempt. Cables cannot be permitted unless the offshore wind plan and research plan are completed.

In addition, the Governor included $3 million in the state’s 2021 Supplemental Budget for research activity related to offshore wind and the proposed offshore wind energy project in federal waters. DMR’s report on the research array site selection available at https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/inline-files/DMR%20Siting%20Information%20for%20Proposed%20OSW%20Research%20Array_0709021FINAL_0.pdf.

continued on page 6

STATE SELECTS OFFSHORE SITE FOR FIRST COMMERCIAL FLOATING WIND FARM

By Melissa Waterman

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With businesses fully reopened now and the unemployment rate at 4.8% in June, businesses are begging for additional employees. "We stayed busy last year and were OK at the beginning of this year but things just kept getting worse," Brooks explained. "Most lobstermen place their orders at the end of the year for the next year. We had the orders and everything all scheduled out but then we started losing people. And it just never stopped." Many commentators point to the extra $300 in federal unemployment benefits that began in December, 2020, as the culprit in the current labor shortage. That amount, combined with state unemployment benefits, is thought to motivate people to remain unemployed because the total in benefits is greater than what they would receive once employed.

Others see a more complex cause for the acute labor shortage. James Myall at the Maine Center for Economic Policy at the University of Maine noted in a recent paper that Maine has long had a shortage of workers. "Maine's prime working-age population (25-64 year-olds) peaked at just under 745,000 in 2006. Since then, that number has steadily declined to just over 703,000 in 2019, according to the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey," Myall wrote. Those who lost their jobs may face new obstacles to getting back to work, among them childcare. According to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, approximately 100 child care facilities closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the rest operated at reduced capacities. A survey by the U.S. Census Bureau in late May found that thousands of Maine parents were either out of work or working reduced hours because their child's daycare or school was closed.

Brooks, like many other business owners, has a limited number of options available to entice employees. "We try to have competitive wages for our employees plus health benefits which are equivalent to $3 per hour. Then there are bonuses and vacation time and holidays. If we raised wages for some, then we would have to raise them for all to be fair. But we don't know how long we could sustain that. What happens in the long term?" he said. Currently the company pays each worker who comes to work as scheduled all week an extra dollar per hour for that week.

With unemployment figures. The Department of Labor states that "If participation in June was as high as it was 16 months earlier, the number of unemployed would be 26,400 higher and the unemployment rate would be 8.4 percent." Stephen Brooks is not only concerned about finding workers, he's also deeply worried about the rising cost for the materials he uses in his business. "Everything we sell has increased in price at least once, sometimes up to five times. Literally everything in our traps costs more," he said. A recent shipment of wire imported from overseas came with a whopping surprise: a $12,000 freight cost on top of the normal $5,000 fee. Some other containers which used to cost $5,000 for delivery are now $25,000 to $28,000 for freight. "It doesn't matter where it comes from, whether its buoys out of Texas or wire from Italy," Brooks said. "Our shipping costs are up five times more than they were in the past, and some items aren't even being shipped."

Maine will end the extended federal unemployment benefits on September 6, which may lead to an uptick in job applicants. For Brooks, getting through the rest of the year without losing more customers is his primary worry. "There will be no new investments, that's for sure. We're going to hunker down and work through it. Summer is busy in most parts of Maine with seasonal jobs so we might see an influx of job seekers this winter. But it is a scary time," he said.

Carry on, Maine lobstermen and restaurateurs. You are not alone. The market is there and so are the customers. Now it’s up to you to keep them coming back."
NEW RESEARCH FACILITY EXPANDS ISLAND CENTER’S REACH

By Melissa Waterman

Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership, a nonprofit focused on scientific education and applied research, recently began work on a $1 million field research station on its main campus on Hurricane Island, off Vinalhaven. The new building should be open to researchers and students by next summer. The new facility will feature a flowing seawater lab, a dry lab, and teaching areas.

Fundraising began in the fall of 2019 when an anonymous donor proposed a $250,000 match challenge to be met within three months. The Center exceeded the challenge by $50,000 and began the planning process for the building in January 2020.

The Center was established in 2009 on the former Hurricane Island Outward Bound property. Its mission is to offer hands-on science curriculum for students of all ages through exploration and connection with the natural world.

The student facilities include a fully equipped lab, classroom and student space, and housing for up to 80 people.

Sustainability is a cornerstone of the Center. Electricity is supplied by a 24-panel solar energy system, which charges a 24-volt battery bank. Water is gravity-fed from the island’s quarry, hot showers are solar-heated, and the toilets are composting Clivus Multrums.

Hurricane Island students are already involved in significant research work through the Center’s 3-acre aquaculture site. Current research includes a scallop tagging study which began last year in collaboration with the Department of Marine Resources (DMR). Scallops were tagged and released into the Lower Penobscot Bay rotational management area; other scallops were suspended in lantern nets on the island’s aquaculture site to study growth, tag retention, and mortality. If the released scallops are later caught by fishermen, the tag number, catch location, and shells are returned to the Center, which will provide data on growth area and help identify additional sites for closure and enhancement.

Wind continued from page 4

The DMR also characterized the economic importance of fisheries in the AOI. DMR used NOAA Fisheries economic data which indicated that the top five fishery Management Plans (FMP) that would be impacted in the larger area were Atlantic herring, Northeast Multispecies, fisheries without a federal FMP, monkfish, and American lobster.

The data, however, are not complete. "DMR believes the NOAA economic data reported above represents a six-to-seven-fold underestimate for landings and value for the Maine lobster fishery on an annual basis" because "only 3% of Maine lobster license holders and 16% of the federal lobster trap permit holders are required to report through federal VTRs." The DMR revised NOAA’s estimate of a $258,565 annual value for lobster landings in the AOI to $7,321,477 using DMR dealer and harvester data from 2016 to 2018.

The DMR also reviewed data on the how the AOI is used by marine mammals, such as baleen whales. While the data are scarce, DMR concluded that the highest abundance of baleen whales, such as North Atlantic right whales or humpbacks, is to the southwest, near Jeffrey’s Ledge and in the region of Platts Bank. The lowest abundance is to the northeast of Mistaken Ground. Smaller cetaceans, such as large and small delphinids, have the potential to use the Large AOI broadly with no known high abundance areas.

"Ultimately, DMR has determined that there is no location within the Large AOI that avoids impact completely, though the Narrowed AOI was selected because it appears to be an area of lower intensity of fishing activity, as compared to other areas of similar depth and bottom characteristics within the Large AOI," the agency wrote in its report to GEO.

"This area avoids parts of the initial [770-square-mile area] with significant fishing activity, mostly avoids areas with outcropping and upwelling that attract significant wildlife, avoids the TSS shipping lanes and published USCG guidance regarding TSS buffer areas ... and avoids areas central to DoD (Department of Defense) activities. The final 16-square-mile site will be located within the Narrowed AOI and will be determined by the time the State files the application with BOEM," GEO stated in its official Pre-application Siting and Staker Summary report.

The GEO also noted in the report that while it plans to maintain a limit of 12 floating turbines in total at the final site, those turbines will be larger than initially described. Rather than 10-12 megawatts (MW) in power, each turbine will be between 12-15 MW. By contrast the floating turbine envisioned for the pilot wind energy installation New England Aqua Ventus, off Monhegan Island, will be 11 MW.

After close of the public comment period on July 30, the GEO will evaluate the comments and finalize its decision on the exact location of the 16-square-mile site for the offshore wind research array. The GEO will develop a research framework with areas of potential focus and then submit a research array lease application to BOEM. The lease application process includes a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and opportunity for additional public input before a research lease is issued.
Maine Lobstermen's Association

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

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MLA Board of Directors
new meeting schedule will start in September


Maine Lobstermen’s Association Update

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"We must all indeed hang together or most assuredly we will all hang separately." Benjamin Franklin’s words have never been more apt for Maine’s lobster industry than today. Environmental groups would like nothing better than to see our industry divided against itself while they cast us as villains determined to harm endangered right whales. But the MLA and its members have never been afraid of a fight. MLA is working relentlessly to make sure that you are not the last generation of lobstermen in this state.

To say that the past few years have been a challenge does not begin to reflect the stress and anxiety we have all grappled with. Yet we must press forward and tackle head on the challenges that threaten to erode our fishery: NMFS’s mandated 98% reduction of risk to right whales by 2030 and the growing foothold of offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine. The significance of these issues makes clear the importance of lobstermen working together through a strong MLA.

The MLA’s track record is impressive. Since 1954, the MLA has been in the forefront of every issue affecting Maine’s lobstermen. From day one, MLA president Les Dyer fought for fair pricing and helped members get health and boat insurance plans that they could afford. Ossie Beal then led the fight against construction of oil refineries in Downeast Maine and against landing lobsters caught by draggers in Maine, a fight that the MLA continues to battle every time it rears its ugly head.

By the 1970s Ed Blackmore had stepped in as MLA president to wrangle with the Internal Revenue Service on behalf of Maine’s lobstermen. Ed fought a contentious battle over several years to keep lobstermen from paying costly payroll taxes on their sternmen, an expense that most simply could not afford. Ed won that fight; in the current U.S. tax code sternmen are classified as self-employed contractors.

When it became apparent that the New England Fisheries Management Council was not the right entity to manage Maine’s largely state-based lobster fishery, MLA executive director Pat White and president David Cousens joined forces with Maine’s Congressional delegation to get management authority moved to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. It was through this process that Maine was able to expand its lobster conservation measures to New Hampshire and Massachusetts and out to 40 miles from shore, thus keeping Shafmaster boats from sitting on the 3-mile line and catching Maine’s oversized and V-notched lobster.

After 67 years, there is no organization with more experience or a deeper understanding of the threats facing our industry than the MLA. As the oldest, largest and most experienced fishing industry organization in Maine, the MLA has never been afraid to tackle any issue that could harm Maine’s lobstermen or the lobster resource. We are always at the forefront, making sure our members’ voices and the interests of Maine’s lobstering communities are heard.

And we understand our members. The MLA respects the survival-of-the-fittest ethic that pervades our industry and how to balance that with the need to maintain a vibrant and profitable lobster fishery to keep our coastal communities alive and preserve economic opportunity for our children.

It is not the MLA’s job to tell lobstermen how to run their businesses or to have any part in micromanaging how they fish. Rather, the MLA’s job is to fulfill its mission to advocate for a sustainable lobster resource and the fishermen and communities that depend on it. Given the scope and depth of the issues facing the Maine lobster industry today, fulfilling our mission is more important than ever.

No lobsterman in this state will be untouched by the extreme challenges that most could not have envisioned just a few short years ago. Under the leadership of MLA’s President Kristan Porter, the MLA has shifted gears and stepped up our game in a big way. With broad support from the lobster industry and others for our Legal Defense Fund, the MLA has hired a top-notch legal team to elevate the voice and credibility of Maine lobstermen. We have transitioned from reacting and responding to the issues as they unfold to getting ahead of them so that we can develop solutions that are truly workable for Maine lobstermen.

The MLA is standing up in court to dispute the false accusations of deep-pocketed environmental organizations against the lobster fishery. We are demanding NMFS’s base its regulatory decisions to reduce entanglement risk on sound science, not biased assumptions. And the MLA is challenging NMFS’s overly pessimistic view of the right whale population and its misguided policy of holding the lobster fishery responsible for right whale deaths known to happen outside our waters. These issues are daunting and the lobster industry must work together if we hope to save our industry.

Our way of life is under threat. The MLA needs your help to continue the fight. Our voice is only as strong as our members’ voices.

We’ve been here since 1954 and with your support we will continue to be here, protecting your future. Please help us by renewing your MLA membership and by making a 2021 donation to the Legal Defense Fund.

Thank you for your continued support. And as always, stay safe on the water.

"We must all indeed hang together or most assuredly we will all hang separately." Benjamin Franklin’s words have never been more apt for Maine’s lobster industry than today.
**OFFSHORE WIND UPDATES – RESEARCH ARRAY**

On July 13, the GEO released a report on its outreach effort to identify a preferred site to locate its proposed offshore wind research array. The GEO had identified a large 770 mi² blob-shaped Area of Interest and sought feedback on where to locate the wind development turbines within that area. The GEO’s 16 mi² preferred site will be located in the portion of the blob identified by Maine DMR as minimizing impacts on commercial fisheries. The DMR submitted a report to GEO on the bathymetry of the blob and its importance to commercial and recreational fisheries and marine wildlife. DMR’s report highlights the many concerns voiced by fishermen regarding offshore wind development. The DMR pulled together a variety of federal and state data resources to determine the importance of the area to various fisheries. The department supplemented official data sets by conducting a survey and interviewing fishermen on the importance of the area.

Ultimately, DMR determined that there is no location that avoids impact completely, but DMR identified a 54 mi² narrow area within the blob with a low intensity of fishing activity relative to other areas. GEO report at: https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/offshorewind/researcharray/siting. DMR report at: https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov/energy/files/inline-files/DMR%20Siting%20Information%20for%20Proposed%20OVW%20Research%20Array%20070902FINAL_0.pdf. The Governor’s Energy Office held its last Fisheries and Wildlife Work Session on July 13 to discuss the process used to identify the preferred site for the research array. A link to a recording of the meeting is available online at https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/offshorewind/researcharray/worksessions.

**OFFSHORE WIND UPDATES – ROADMAP PLANNING PROCESS**

The GEO kicked off Maine’s Offshore Wind Roadmap Planning Process with the first meeting of the Advisory Committee on July 14. The Offshore Wind Roadmap is supported by a $25 million federal EDA grant to make plans to support the growing offshore wind sector in a way that ensures compatibility with Maine’s coastal heritage and minimizes impacts on fisheries and the environment. The Roadmap is led by the GEO and includes an Advisory Committee as well as four working groups on manufacturing, supply chain, ports and harbors; renewable energy strategy and markets; fisheries; and wildlife and habitat. Representatives from the MLA were asked to serve on the Advisory Committee and Fisheries Working Group. The MLA agreed to participate in order to ensure that the fishing industry’s concerns are addressed and has made it clear that it is not partnering with the state and does not support offshore wind development. The first Fisheries Working Group meeting will be held on July 27. The Governor’s Energy Office launched a new offshore wind website located at https://www.maineoffshorewind.org.
rules to address high non-compliance and urged NMFS to revisit regulations to more effectively reduce vessel strikes.

2021 HERRING SEASON UPDATE

The Area 1A Atlantic herring season opened on June 13. The Area 1A sub-annual catch limit (ACL) is only 1,453 metric tons (mt) available for season 1 (June 1 – September 30) and 27.2% (395 mt) available for season 2 (October 1 – December 31).

Vessels declared into Area 1A may land herring five (5) consecutive days a week. One landing per 24-hour period and harvest up to 240,000 lbs. (6 trucks) per harvester vessel.

**2021 Atlantic Herring Landings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Quota 2021</th>
<th>Landings 2021</th>
<th>% Quota Caught</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1A*</td>
<td>1,609</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>.50</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>181.5</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,181</td>
<td>2,221.4</td>
<td>102%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,681</td>
<td>2,973</td>
<td>63.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2021 MAINE MENHADEN SEASON

The state-allocated menhaden fishery opened on June 14 with a quota of 2.19 million pounds. Vessels were allowed four harvest days on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays with a daily landing limit of 6,000 pounds or 17 barrels, and electronic daily trip reports are due weekly by Sunday. Harvester vessels are prohibited, and menhaden must immediately be stored in barrels, crates or fish totes, or a combination thereof upon harvest and remain stored either on the harvester vessel and the dory towed by the harvester vessel.

Events Fishery opened on June 25 with a quota of approximately 4.28 million pounds, with a weekly vessel limit of 14,000 pounds or 40 barrels. For all three phases of the fishery, transfers at sea of menhaden to either a harvester or carcass is prohibited, and menhaden must immediately be stored in barrels, crates or fish totes, or a combination thereof, upon harvest and remain stored either on the harvester vessel and the dory towed by the harvester vessel, if utilized for all gear types.

2021 MAINE MENHADEN SEASON

The DMR closed the episodic event set aside (EESA) for menhaden on July 2 and opened the Incidental Catch and Small Scale (ICSS) menhaden fishery on July 5. Under the ICSS, menhaden may be harvested Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays with a daily landing limit of 6,000 pounds or 17 barrels, and electronic trip reports are due weekly by Sunday. Harvesters are limited to one landing per day, and all fish must be immediately stored in crates, barrels or totes (or a combination thereof).

The state-allocated menhaden fishery opened on June 14 with a quota of 2.19 million pounds. Vessels were allowed four harvest days on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays with a weekly limit of 23,800 pounds (68 barrels). The quota was caught in six days, with the fishery closing on June 23. The Episodic Events Fishery opened on June 25 with a quota of approximately 4.28 million pounds, with a weekly vessel limit of 14,000 pounds or 40 barrels. For all three phases of the fishery, transfers at sea of menhaden to either a harvester or carrier vessels are prohibited, and menhaden must immediately be stored in barrels, crates or fish totes, or a combination thereof, upon harvest and remain stored either on the harvester vessel and the dory towed by the harvester vessel, if utilized for all gear types.

MLA CONTINUES TO RAISE CONCERNS OVER OFFSHORE WIND

The Governor's Energy Office (GEO) invited a representative from the Maine Lobstermen's Association to serve on the Advisory Committee and Fisheries Working Group for Maine's Offshore Wind Roadmap, a two-year, $2 million planning process to “identify how to support the growing offshore wind sector in a way that embraces the opportunity, while ensuring compatibility with our Maine coastal heritage and minimizing the impacts on fisheries and the environment.” The MLA officially accepted this invitation through a memo to the GEO to make clear that MLA's role is not as a partner to advance offshore wind, but instead as an advocate to ensure that fishermen's concerns are addressed.

Offshore wind development remains an extremely contentious and concerning issue for Maine's fishermen and fishing communities. While the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) supports Maine's efforts to transition to a clean energy economy, we do not share the vision that offshore wind will play a prominent role in the state's renewable energy portfolio.

As interest in offshore wind development in the waters off of Maine grows, it is imperative that the state conduct an objective and thorough planning process that includes important baseline work to inform how Maine will achieve its renewable energy portfolio. What role offshore wind could play in that mix, and to answer fundamental questions about what offshore wind development will mean for Maine's fishermen, environment, and the people of Maine. Maine fishermen remain extremely troubled over the industrial scale of these developments and the scope of impacts they will have on marine eco-systems, fisheries, and the tens of thousands of jobs that depend on commercial fishing.

I accept the invitation to serve on the Offshore Wind Roadmap Advisory Committee and Fisheries Working Group on behalf of MLA to ensure that this planning process addresses the many unanswered questions and concerns raised by Maine's commercial fishermen. The MLA is not a partner in the effort to bring offshore wind development to Maine, but instead, will participate to ensure that the interests of Maine's commercial fishermen are voiced, heard and understood.

Thank you for including the MLA in this planning process.

Patrice McCarron
Executive director

Stonington Benches Honor Longtime Lobster Leader

By Antonina Pelletier

Stonington is known as the lobster capital of Maine, home to stalwart, passionate lobstermen and fishermen. It also has produced leaders and innovators in Maine's lobster industry. One such leader was Eddie Blackmore. A charter member of the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA), Ed went on to become MLA president, serving for 17 years. While the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) supports Maine's efforts to transition to a clean energy economy, we do not share the vision that offshore wind will play a prominent role in the state's renewable energy portfolio.

So it is no surprise that following his death in December 2019 at age 92, people stepped up to make sure that Eddie was not forgotten. With the help of local donations, the town of Stonington installed a series of benches along the Stonington waterfront “right where Ed liked to sit,” according to Henry Teverow, Stonington’s Economic Development head. “He liked to sit, " according to Henry Teverow, Stonington’s Economic Development head. “He liked to sit where he could watch the [lobster] boats come in.”

The MLA also stepped up to pay tribute to its influential leader, donating funds for the purchase of a plaque so that Eddie's name might never be forgotten. Today visitors wandering the wharf can sit where Eddie sat, ponder the long, complicated history of Maine's lobster industry and remember the name of Eddie Blackmore — “Lobsterman, Leader, Tireless Advocate.”
Landings August 2021
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Newspapers

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

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Photo by Wayne Hamilton ©
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MARKETING UPDATES
MAINE LOBSTER WEEK
The MLMC partnered with the organizers of Maine Restaurant Week to create the first ever Maine Lobster Week. Running September 19-25, the event gives chefs the opportunity to showcase their classic dishes as well as new and exciting ways to serve Maine Lobster. Consumers have the chance to celebrate two beloved Maine groups – lobstermen and chefs – while enjoying delicious lobster dishes.

If you supply (or run) a local restaurant or shack, let them know about Maine Lobster Week. There is no cost to restaurants to participate. For more information, contact the MLMC at info@lobsterfrommaine.com or visit MaineLobsterWeek.com.

Photos courtesy of Chef Matt Ginn, Executive Chef at Evo Kitchen & Bar and the Chebeague Island Inn Portland.

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Protecting the industry, one buoy at a time.

The MLA works tirelessly to make sure you are not the last generation of Maine lobstermen. How?

- MLA has a top-notch legal & policy team to give Maine lobstermen a voice in court cases and demand that policy decisions be based on sound science.
- MLA has set the record straight on the Maine lobster fishery’s role in the right whale crisis, documenting how and where right whales are being killed.
- MLA has challenged NMFS’s overly pessimistic view of the right whale decline and burdensome conservation framework involving only U.S. fishermen.

Your membership & contributions to the MLA Legal Fund make all this possible. While we remain active on the whale issue, we must now also battle against offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine.

We cannot do this without your continued support.

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Protecting the industry, one buoy at a time.
The pandemic has made people much more aware of health and safety over the last year and a half. Understanding health and safety in commercial fishing, however, is not new. In the years 2000-2014, 693 commercial fishermen died from occupational causes in United States fisheries, 225 of which were in the Atlantic in the northeast states. Fifty occurred in the Atlantic scalloping fishery alone.

In this article, I describe what some colleagues and I learned from looking at death certificate records in two fishing ports in Massachusetts. People use death certificate data to learn if there are preventable deaths happening at an unexpected rate. For example, if accidental drownings occur at a higher rate among fishermen than non-fishermen, there’s an incentive to work on ways to prevent these drownings from happening.

We looked at data from all the records of people who died in New Bedford and Gloucester from 2000 to 2014. The data allowed us to compare what was causing fishermen and non-fishermen to die. We studied 670 records of fishermen and 25,634 non-fishermen who died in those ports during those years.

It might surprise you to know that, while Gloucester and New Bedford are famous as fishing ports, fishermen are only about one percent of the employed male population of each city. The comparison between fishermen and non-fishermen is more clear when looking at actual fishing communities, like these two cities, rather than an entire state. The residents there, fishermen or non-fishermen, share characteristics such as strong traditions, similar lifestyles and things like housing, educational and healthcare services, all of which can affect health.

Among fishermen in Gloucester and New Bedford, the largest number of deaths (73) were caused by accidents; this category included accidental overdose deaths. Accidental deaths were about 3 times (300%) as likely to have occurred among fishermen than non-fishermen. The data show that these deaths, in fact, were mostly accidental overdose deaths. If you subtracted the accidental overdose deaths, then other forms of accidental deaths were “only” about 50% more common among fishermen than non-fishermen.

The second most common cause of death in fishermen (66) was the category “opiod overdose.” Fishermen were more than four times as likely to have occurred among fishermen than non-fishermen.

Opioid overdoses can have many underlying causes. In some cases, addiction to opioids may have originated after prescription pain treatment for a non-fatal injury. The interaction between exposure to risk for pain or injury in commercial fishing and other factors may increase the overall risk of opioid overdose. In other words, an injury can be the beginning of a series of events which are compounded by the need to keep working and the distress of working in pain. Injuries and chronic pain in commercial fishing are very common. Pain treatment with opioids might have an unintended consequence of contributing to a pathway to opioid overdose. This may be more common among fishermen than non-fishermen because there are more injuries and pain in fishing than other industries. The fact that a recent study showed a high rate of non-fatal injuries in lobstering is cause for concern in this context.

Several studies have shown that the risk of prescription opioids leading to addiction is quantifiable. Preventing commercial fishing injuries, then, should be thought of as a policy tool in the effort to end the opioid epidemic. Similarly, pain treatment ought to take the work environment of the fishermen into consideration.

TO YOUR HEALTH:

Overdose leading cause of preventable death among fishermen

By Scott Fulmer, Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health

The past year-and-a-half has been tough. While 2021 has brought you a good price and stabilizing markets, the pending whale regulations mean there will be rough waters ahead. I’m hopeful that before long we’ll be able to meet in person again to face those challenges head-on. In the meantime, stay well and stay safe.

In this article, I describe what some colleagues and I learned from looking at death certificate records in two fishing ports in Massachusetts. People use death certificate data to learn if there are preventable deaths happening at an unexpected rate. For example, if accidental drownings occur at a higher rate among fishermen than non-fishermen, there’s an incentive to work on ways to prevent these drownings from happening.

We looked at data from all the records of people who died in New Bedford and Gloucester from 2000 to 2014. The data allowed us to compare what was causing fishermen and non-fishermen to die. We studied 670 records of fishermen and 25,634 non-fishermen who died in those ports during those years.

It might surprise you to know that, while Gloucester and New Bedford are famous as fishing ports, fishermen are only about one percent of the employed male population of each city. The comparison between fishermen and non-fishermen is more clear when looking at actual fishing communities, like these two cities, rather than an entire state. The residents there, fishermen or non-fishermen, share characteristics such as strong traditions, similar lifestyles and things like housing, educational and healthcare services, all of which can affect health.

Among fishermen in Gloucester and New Bedford, the largest number of deaths (73) were caused by accidents; this category included accidental overdose deaths. Accidental deaths were about 3 times (300%) as likely to have occurred among fishermen than non-fishermen. The data show that these deaths, in fact, were mostly accidental overdose deaths. If you subtracted the accidental overdose deaths, then other forms of accidental deaths were “only” about 50% more common among fishermen than non-fishermen.

The second most common cause of death in fishermen (66) was the category “opiod overdose.” Fishermen were more than four times as likely to have occurred among fishermen than non-fishermen.

Opioid overdoses can have many underlying causes. In some cases, addiction to opioids may have originated after prescription pain treatment for a non-fatal injury. The interaction between exposure to risk for pain or injury in commercial fishing and other factors may increase the overall risk of opioid overdose. In other words, an injury can be the beginning of a series of events which are compounded by the need to keep working and the distress of working in pain. Injuries and chronic pain in commercial fishing are very common. Pain treatment with opioids might have an unintended consequence of contributing to a pathway to opioid overdose. This may be more common among fishermen than non-fishermen because there are more injuries and pain in fishing than other industries. The fact that a recent study showed a high rate of non-fatal injuries in lobstering is cause for concern in this context.

Several studies have shown that the risk of prescription opioids leading to addiction is quantifiable. Preventing commercial fishing injuries, then, should be thought of as a policy tool in the effort to end the opioid epidemic. Similarly, pain treatment ought to take the work environment of the fishermen into consideration.

DMR continued from page 3

One positive to highlight from the FEIS is the inclusion of conservation equivalencies that we worked hard for with input from Maine’s lobster industry. Specifically, the recommendation would allow flexibility in situations where the number of traps per trawl require two buoy lines to use only one buoy line if half the number of traps per trawl are used. This is an important consideration since many fishermen shared concerns that the longer trawls outlined in the draft regulation will pose a threat to their safety.

Additionally, measures from each Zone’s conservation equivalency proposal for areas within 12 miles from shore appear in the preferred alternative. This is important recognition by NOAA that one size does not fit all along the Maine coast. Zones spent significant time developing these proposals and it is encouraging to see those efforts taken into account.

Marine Patrol

In addition to the new patrol vessel mentioned above, another new patrol vessel, funded through the DMR’s Joint Enforcement Agreement with NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service, will soon be christened. The P/V Endeavor, a 42-foot Calvin Beal, will replace the P/V Monitor, a 35-foot Young Brothers, which was damaged by electrical fire in 2019. The new, larger vessel will serve officers well while hauling and inspecting lobster trap trawls and will accommodate a 14’ rigid hull inflatable (RHI) that can be carried on deck and used for at-sea boardings. Like the Monitor, the Endeavor will be assigned to Marine Patrol’s Section 2 (Freeport to Bremen) and homeported at the DMR’s West Boothbay Harbor pier.

The past year-and-a-half has been tough. While 2021 has brought you a good price and stabilizing markets, the pending whale regulations mean there will be rough waters ahead. I’m hopeful that before long we’ll be able to meet in person again to face those challenges head-on. In the meantime, stay well and stay safe.
BUSINESS NEWS

In April, Farm Credit East and Yankee Farm Credit announced the board of directors of both associations unanimously approved the signing of a letter of intent to merge the two organizations. Farm Credit East and Yankee Farm Credit are both successful Farm Credit associations that already partner on a number of programs, including Crop Growers crop insurance, FarmStart investments for beginning farmers and the Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement grant program. The combined association will operate under the Farm Credit East name.

Hodgdon Yacht Services, located in Southport, is now the newest dealer of Highfield Boats aluminum rigid inflatable boats (RIBs) and tenders. Hodgdon Yacht Services has two locations: Hodgdon Marina in Boothbay Harbor and Southport Boatyard in Southport. The company offers an extensive range of marine services including fuel, dockage and moorage, boat storage, service, and refit, as well as serving as a dealer for Suzuki and Yamaha outboards. Highfield Boats has sharp meteoric sales growth in the U.S. during the past three years.

Atlantic Sea Farms is opening a 27,000 square foot plant in Biddeford to process aquaculture-raised kelp. The 24 farmers who supply kelp to the company have increased their landings by 12,000% in the past two years, to roughly 700,000 pounds of seaweed this year. The new facility will quadruple the company’s processing space. Atlantic Sea Farms sells its kelp products at 1,400 retail outlets, including Whole Foods and Sprouts.

If you have news about your company’s products or services you would like the world to know about, send your information to melissa@mainelobstermen.org by the middle of each month.

Atlantic Sea Farms

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### DMR AQUACULTURE

**LEASE APPLICATION STATUS FOR AUGUST (as of 7/21/21)**

*For an interactive source of pending lease applications, please see DMR’s new “Table of Lease Applications Under Review” where you can find maps and documentation with just one click. Go to: www.main.gov/dmr/aquaculture/leases/pending.html and click INTERACTIVE DATA TABLE at the top of the list.*

#### Experimental Lease Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Applicant/Company</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sea Run Fisheries &amp; Habitat</td>
<td>E of Western Head &amp; Ll’l Riv Isl, Cutler Hbr</td>
<td>Cutler</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>Finfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review Complete 3/20/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrows, Abigail</td>
<td>Pickering Cove Southeast Harbor</td>
<td>Deer Isle</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Comments Due 5/29/2021 4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffin, Chad</td>
<td>W of Pond Pt, NE of Pond of Tea, Harraseeket Riv</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>1.62 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>appl submitted comments due 12/12/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiskey Stones, LLC</td>
<td>E of Dog Head, Harpswell Sound</td>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>0.481 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd, Comments due 3/3/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chebeague Island Oyster Co. LLC</td>
<td>NW of Ll’l Chebeague, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>1.72 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Application submitted, comments due 5/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doyle, Victor</td>
<td>E of Barlitt Isl, Blue Hill Bay</td>
<td>Mount Desert</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing Postponed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musiel Bound Inc.</td>
<td>Barlitt Narrows, Blue Hill Bay</td>
<td>Mount Desert</td>
<td>3.35 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing 3/10/21 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brady L. and Lombardo, P</td>
<td>N of Coombs Corn, Pemaquid River</td>
<td>Pemaquid</td>
<td>1.6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd 7/11/19, comments due 8/31/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurumbequa Oyster, Inc</td>
<td>South of Merry Island, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>South Bristol</td>
<td>3.96 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Comments Due 2/6/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Ezra et al.</td>
<td>NE part of Burt Coat Harbor</td>
<td>Swans Island</td>
<td>1.6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd 5/24/21, comments due 6/26/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunt, Stewart</td>
<td>Upper Basket Island Ledge, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>3.9 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish/algae</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd 5/24/21, comments due 6/26/21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Standard Lease Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Applicant/Company</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maine Oyster Inc.</td>
<td>E of Sunken Ledge, Frenchmen Bay</td>
<td>Bar Harbor</td>
<td>68.3 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application Rec'd 3/5/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pemaquid Mussel Farms LLC</td>
<td>MR Desert narrows, E of Gorgins Ledge</td>
<td>Bar Harbor</td>
<td>52 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application Rec'd 5/27/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Timothy</td>
<td>SE of Barnes Pt, Middle Bay</td>
<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>17 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nice Oyster Company, LLC</td>
<td>E of Woodward Pt, New Meadows River</td>
<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>4.49 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>Application Rec'd 4/21/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunt, Stewart</td>
<td>N/NE of Seal Ledge, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Chebeague Isl</td>
<td>13.75 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish/algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application Rec'd 8/6/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shearwater Ventures LLC</td>
<td>E of Ll’l Chebeague, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>3.79 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing 7/26/21 3 pm via online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schodack Seafarms LLC</td>
<td>Off Long Mill Cove, Gouldsboro Bay</td>
<td>Corea</td>
<td>2.2 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd 9/24/20, site review scheduled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Point LLC</td>
<td>NE of Clapboard Isl, Casco Bay, Palans &amp; Cheesehead Pt</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>100 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review pending as of 12/21/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickerson, Christopher</td>
<td>800 ft SW Hog Island, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>Damariscotta</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing May 10 3 pm - remote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodge Cove Marine Farm</td>
<td>SE of Dodge Pt</td>
<td>Damariscotta</td>
<td>12.26 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd 7/15/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinney Creek Shellfish, Inc.</td>
<td>NW of Rf 95 Bridge, Spinney Creek</td>
<td>Eliot</td>
<td>2.75 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing 6/16/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffin, Bailey</td>
<td>W of Sow &amp; Pigs Isl, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>6.84 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application Rec'd 6/16/21 - Site Review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harraseeket Oyster Co.</td>
<td>S of Bowman Isl &amp; Stockbridge Pt, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>7 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 9/4/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Point Oysters, LLC</td>
<td>SE of Winslow Park, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>4.78 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 9/11/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Point Oysters, LLC</td>
<td>S of Crab Island, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>4.15 acres</td>
<td>Oysters</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site review Pending as of 2/20/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Ocean Farms, LLC</td>
<td>E of Weller’s Neck, Recompense Cove</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>9.88 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 9/30/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooke Aquaculture USA, Inc</td>
<td>Off Black Island</td>
<td>Frenchboro</td>
<td>16 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>comments sought for Lease renewal 6/15/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islesboro Marine Enterprises, Inc</td>
<td>NE of Flat Island, Penobscot Bay</td>
<td>Islesboro</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application Rec'd 4/4/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosabac Mussels Inc.</td>
<td>Off old Point, Jordan River</td>
<td>Janesville</td>
<td>89.78 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Lease renewal, comments due 6/26/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Oyster Inc.</td>
<td>E and S of Lehman Isl.</td>
<td>New Castle</td>
<td>10 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application Rec'd 4/6/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermit Island Oyster Co. LLC</td>
<td>Hermit Isl, S Pt Hbr, New Meadows Rvr</td>
<td>Phippsburg</td>
<td>2.56 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application Rec'd 5/26/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Fresh Sea Farms LLC</td>
<td>Clark Cove, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>So. Bristol</td>
<td>3.6 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>Application Rec'd 5/4/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frenchman Bay Oyster Co.</td>
<td>W &amp; S of Ingalls Isl.</td>
<td>Sullivan</td>
<td>3.85 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Hearing Scheduled for 8/29/21, 3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewey's Shellfish, LLC</td>
<td>NW of Peters Island/Damariscotta River</td>
<td>South Bristol</td>
<td>0.45 acre</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session held 11/19/20 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brewer, Robert</td>
<td>E of Penobscot Bay SW of Andrews Island</td>
<td>Stinson</td>
<td>3.26 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 12/21/20 4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey, Brian</td>
<td>W of Haynes Pt, Penobscot Cove, Western Bay</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review Pending as of 3/27/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfield, Keith</td>
<td>SE of Little Moose Island</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>2.72 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish/algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application Rec'd 5/26/20, site review TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hennessey, Thomas</td>
<td>Broad Cove, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>3.9 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application submitted 7/9/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Source Seafood</td>
<td>E of Lane's Isl, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>3.48 acres</td>
<td>Oysters</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing 3/16/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moser, Amanda</td>
<td>S of Lanes Isl, Inner Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>9 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing 7/12/21 3 pm, remote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickerson, Travis</td>
<td>E of Blaney Pt</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>2.80 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 5/30/21 10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfe Neck Oyster Co. LLC</td>
<td>SE of Lanes Island, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>8 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>Hearing scheduled for 8/23/21, see MLA calendar for info about participation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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For more information, visit the DMR website

www.main.gov/dmr/aquaculture and select “Map & Lease Inventory [pending & current]”

The MLA recommends you sign up for email alerts about aquaculture by selecting the big red email button at the bottom of their aquaculture page.

Understand the process! You can make a difference!
Last year in August a woman from New York City was killed by a great white shark while swimming off Harpswell. The tragedy generated immense media attention and highlighted the unseen presence of great white and other sharks in Maine waters.

In 2020, the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) began a collaboration with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy, and James Sulikowski of Arizona State University to monitor white sharks passing along the coast. DMR staff installed eleven passive acoustic receivers that year in southern Maine waters. The acoustic receivers capture data emitted from tags that have been placed on great white sharks. Currently, there are approximately 210 great white sharks that have been tagged as part of the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy’s research work.

"The questions that can be answered are based more around movement patterns and habitat use than tracking every single individual," explained Erin Summers, director of the Division of Biological Monitoring in DMR. "We can learn things about the times of year they tend to show up in Maine waters, when occurrence peaks, times of day that are more common, and residency patterns."

The receivers were retrieved in the fall and data was downloaded by DMR science bureau staff. The 2020 data recorded 14 visits along the coast by great white sharks and one from a blue shark and one from a sand tiger shark.

In 2021, DMR expanded the project to 32 acoustic receivers deployed in mid-coast and southern near-shore areas. The sites were chosen to learn more about the migration and habitat use of great white sharks in the Gulf of Maine and thus better protect public safety.

Great white sharks are common along the entire East Coast and in Canadian waters. "White sharks are pretty opportunistic and will feed on fish, including other sharks, when they are smaller and then switch to a marine mammal diet when larger," Summers said. "Their numbers are experiencing a rebound after years of protection and the simultaneous resurgence of seals in the region, particularly on Cape Cod."

In July DMR introduced a new method for the public to submit shark sightings to the department. An online form offers a convenient way to submit photos and a description to the DMR science bureau.

Once the form and photos are submitted, a DMR scientist reviews the information and responds via email either confirming the shark species or requesting additional information. The data will be shared with the New England White Shark Research Consortium, which includes fisheries officials in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Canada as well as marine conservation groups and federal and university researchers.

Sightings data will also be transmitted to the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy to be loaded to the organization’s Sharktivity app. The app provides users with a recap of shark activity detected by acoustic receivers, in addition to shark sightings. Information and app downloads can be found at https://www.atlanticwhiteshark.org/sharktivity-app.
In the NEWS

SPEEDING TOWARD EXTINCTION

In late July the environmental organization Oceana released a report, Speeding Toward Extinction: Vessel Strikes Threaten North Atlantic Right Whales, that showed most large vessels are exceeding speed limits in areas designed to protect North Atlantic right whales. Oceana analyzed vessel speeds in speed zones established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) along the Atlantic coast from 2017 to 2020. The data showed that non-compliance was almost 90% in mandatory speed zones, and non-cooperation was almost 85% in voluntary areas. Cargo vessels were the least compliant vessel type. Studies have found that slowing vessel speeds to 10 knots reduces a North Atlantic right whale’s risk of death from vessel strikes by between 80% to 90%. The analysis focused on vessels 65 feet or larger that are required to use AIS (automatic identification system) which transmits a ship’s position. The report is available at https://usa.oceana.org/publications/reports/speeding-toward-extinction-vessel-strikes-threaten-north-atlantic-right-whales.

NEW GLIDER TO LISTEN FOR RIGHT WHALES

A new marine robot, part of a fleet of underwater gliders operated by the Ocean Tracking Network and Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, will help monitor North Atlantic right whales to keep them from colliding with ships. The newest glider, launched this summer, will carry a hydrophone to identify the calls of right whales and report their locations. The University of New Brunswick and Transport Canada are partners in the $3.6 million project that will span the next five years.

SECOND SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM TO FOCUS ON FLOATING WIND TURBINES AND FISHING

The Responsible Offshore Development Authority (RODA) received a grant from NOAA to bring experts together to discuss the impact of offshore wind energy development on U.S. fisheries. The latest $155,000 award will fund a second “Synthesis of the Science” symposium, to understand how floating offshore wind turbines may interact with fisheries. It follows on a $150,000 grant the agency awarded to RODA – a coalition of commercial fishing groups and communities – in 2020 to conduct a first-of-its-kind symposium on the current science regarding fisheries and offshore wind interactions. RODA, BOEM and NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service entered a formal agreement in 2019 to collaborate on science, research, monitoring, and the planning process for U.S. offshore wind energy development.

JONESPORT AQUACULTURE PROJECT GETS FINAL PERMIT

Kingfish Maine, owned by the Netherlands-based Kingfish Company, secured its final critical state permit required for its planned recirculating aquaculture facility in Jonesport. The Department of Environmental Protection approved the Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit in July for the company to build a state-of-the-art land-based recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) facility aquaculture facility. The company plans to develop on up to 20 acres of a 94-acre waterfront parcel of land about 1 mile east of town on Chandler Bay. When completed, the estimated $110 million facility would produce some 6,000-8,000 metric tons (about 13.2-17.6 million pounds) annually of high-value yellowtail, also known as Hamachi. The company claims it will create 70 permanent jobs in Jonesport. The Kingfish Company currently operates a land-based recirculating aquaculture system in the Netherlands.

NMFS RELEASES FEIS FOR WHALE RULE

On July 2, NMFS released its Final Environmental Impact Statement, Regulatory Impact Review, and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis for Amending the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan: Risk Reduction Rule, referred to as the FEIS. Volume 1 outlines the agency’s “preferred alternative” for the Final Whale Rule. It includes the final economic impact analysis and modelling results of the risk reduction achieved under different management alternatives. The Final Whale Rule is expected to be published by September and must achieve at least 60% risk reduction in the Northeast lobster fishery. The FEIS is at https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/public/nesa/april/2021FEIS_Volume%201.pdf.

NOVA SCOTIA INTRODUCES PROVINCIAL SEAFOOD CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Nova Scotia is launching its own seafood quality certification program. Participating Nova Scotian companies must meet a range of traceability, handling, processing and food safety standards including an annual product quality assessment prior to export. Other certification programs are in place throughout the world, however Nova Scotia officials argue the provincial program is more comprehensive because it includes an emphasis on quality as well as food safety. Certification will allow a seafood company to use the Nova Scotia Seafood trademark logo and receive technical assistance and training from Perennia, the province’s agrifood development agency. Certified companies will also be featured prominently in promotional materials for the Nova Scotia Seafood brand, marketing campaigns and all trade-related events.

LOBSTERS MAY HEAR THROUGH THEIR HAIR

A new study by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) indicates that lobsters may hear through their hair. Scientists placed electrodes near the brain of the lobster to detect neuron responses to off. Researchers determined that hairfans, the external cuticular hairs that cover much of a lobster’s body, are likely responsible for sound detection. “Lobsters are clearly capable of communicating with these buzzing sounds while engaged in important behavior such as during aggressive encounters between males, which are crucial confrontations during reproduction,” Youenn Jézéquel, a postdoctoral researcher at WHOI and the lead author of the paper, said in a statement. At a time when officials are considering building offshore wind turbines in New England, Jézéquel said this finding raises concerns about the potential of noise on the lobsters. “We need marine renewable energy, but we don’t want to impact marine life. It’s very important to assess the impact of pile driving noise on lobster populations to be able to tell fishermen, politicians and others about these impacts and to try to reduce sounds produced by offshore wind farms as much as we can.”

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August 5
“Rising to the Challenge: Whales, Wind & Waves,” by Paul Anderson, Blue Hill Public Library 6:30 p.m. 207-374-5515.

August 9
Aquaculture Lease hearing, Frenchman Bay Oyster Co at the Sorrento Town Hall, 3 p.m. DMR 207-624-6567.

August 9-15
MLA office closed.

August 14
Winter Harbor Boat Races, registration at 8 a.m. at the town dock.

Winter Harbor Lobster Festival, downtown Winter Harbor 9 a.m. -4:30 p.m.

August 15
Last day to enroll in ACA health insurance. Call Patty Lovell 207-860-4482.

Merritt Brackett Lobster boat Races, Pemaquid, registration 8 a.m. at the State Park restaurant

August 17
“Tall Tales, Fish Tails and Damn Lies,” REACH Performing Arts Ctr, Deer Isle 6 p.m. FMI 207-367-2708.

August 21
Long Island Boat Races, registration begins 10 a.m. at town dock.

August 22
Portland Lobster Boat Races, registration at 8 a.m. at Portland Yacht Services.

August 23
Aquaculture Lease Hearing Wolfe Neck Oyster Co., Log Cabin, Yarmouth, or remote online, 3 p.m. FMI DMR 207-624-6567.

2021 MAINE LOBSTER BOAT RACING

SCHEDULE

19 JUNE
Boothbay Harbor
Ashlee Lowery (207) 808-9230

20 JUNE
Rockland
Nick O'Hara (207) 542-4348
Mike Mayo (207) 542-1879

27 JUNE
Bass Harbor
Colyn Rich (207) 479-7288

3 JULY
Moosabec Reach,
Beals Island/Jonesport
Roy Fagonde (207) 610-4607

11 JULY
Stonington
Cory McDonald (207) 479-7288
Genessee McDonald (207) 266-5113

18 JULY
Friendship
Robin Reed (207) 975-9821

25 JULY
Harpersfield
Amanda Peacock (207) 756-3104
Kristina York (207) 449-7571

14 AUGUST
Winter Harbor
Chris Byers (207) 963-7139

15 AUGUST
Merritt Brackett, Pemaquid
Benn Fagg (207) 563-6720
Sheila McLain (207) 677-2100

16 OCTOBER
Annual Meeting/ Awards Banquet
Robinson’s Wharf, Southport
Jon Johansen (207) 223-8846

All Races: Sign up 8 to 9 AM
Races Start 10 AM

Exception: Long Island: Sign up 10 to 11 AM, Start 12 PM.

Please note more details on all of these events can be found online at www.mainelobstermen.org
MAINE’S LOBSTER BOAT RACES HAVE LONG LEGACY

The beginning of the Maine lobster boat races is shrouded in time but according to Jon Johansen, publisher of Maine Coastal News and president of the Maine Lobster Boat Racing Association, it all began in the early 1900s when two lobstermen, fishing from their respective Friendship sloops, got into a race.

Friendship sloops quickly faded from the water as gasoline-powered engines became commonplace. According to Maine-ly Lobster, a web site of Maine native Christina Lemieux Oragano, the racing really took off in the Moosabec Reach during the 1920s. “The Reach became an ideal testing ground for boat builders to trial their latest designs. Each time a builder won the coveted prize of fastest lobster boat, it was a wonderful advertisement for his business,” she wrote. Eventually, in 1964, casual competitions became the official lobster boat races.

There are many stories about the rivalries among the racers. Throughout it all was the ever-increasing need for speed. Colby, Arvid and Arvin Young raced their Sopwith Camel fast and furiously for many years against Corliss Holland’s Red Baron. Alfred Osgood of Vinalhaven set a 2010 record in his diesel-powered Starlight Express, reaching 58.9 miles per hour. Galen Alley of Beals Island set a record for gasoline engines when his Foolish Pleasure clocked in at 72.8 mph. Just last month, Wild Wild West, now owned by Cameron Crawford, broke another speed record, 61.6 mph, at the race in Stonington.

Those earlier lobstermen would shake their heads in amazement at the speed, but they would certainly recognize the camaraderie that has remained steady at the races throughout the decades.

PURE AND SIMPLE,
our focus is on providing our customers consistent service and reliability for one product and one product only: the best, highest quality, wild-caught Stonington Maine lobsters.

–Hugh Reynolds, Owner