MLA ANNOUNCES $10 MILLION CAMPAIGN TO SAVE MAINE LOBSTERMEN

By MLA staff

On November 16, the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) announced the launch of a three-year, $10 million fundraising campaign to fight new federal regulations that threaten the future of the Maine lobster industry. The campaign comes in response to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) release in August of its Biological Opinion which requires the fishery to reduce risk to North Atlantic right whales by 98% in ten years.

"The federal government has adopted a draconian plan intended to protect North Atlantic right whales. But their plan is a lose-lose for all. It will not protect right whales, and it will eliminate the Maine lobster fishery. If we don’t meet the 98% risk reduction mandate, it will be illegal for the federal government to continue to permit the lobster fishery," said Patrice McCarron, executive director of the MLA.

The fundraising campaign will support a four-pronged effort to combat the new rules. The legal fight began in September, when the MLA filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. against NMFS’s ten-year plan, arguing among other points, that the agency did not use the best available data to build the plan.

In addition, the MLA is working with scientists to ensure that NMFS is required to use the most up-to-date science related to right whales. The MLA also will engage with lobstermen to develop innovative fishing gear that protects right whales and also guarantees the continuation of the fishery. Finally, the MLA will ensure that public is aware of the serious threat faced by lobstermen and the thousands of small businesses in the state that depend on them.

Katie Werner, co-owner of Island Lobster Company on Peaks Island, urged Maine businesses that rely on a robust lobster fishery to support the MLA’s fundraising campaign.

"This isn’t just a campaign to save Maine lobstermen, this is a vital step in saving our state’s economy, not only my business but other businesses that rely on tourism," she said. "I’m challenging other companies to step up and be part of this cause."

The lobster industry is critical to Maine. It contributes nearly $2 billion a year to the state’s economy and supports at least ten thousand jobs.

By MLA staff

On November 16, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit issued a ruling to reinstate the 967-square-mile Lobster Management Area (LMA) 1 closure.

The Appeals Court determined that Bangor District Court Judge Lance Walker’s October ruling to delay implementation of the LMA 1 closure was based on a misunderstanding of the record, and that the court over-stepped its role in rejecting the judgment of the agency charged by Congress with the protection of whales—the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The court noted that, "Congress has placed its thumb on the scale for the whales."

In response to the ruling, Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) president Kristan Porter said, "The MLA is extremely disappointed with the Appeals Court ruling. This massive closure in LMA1 will create economic hardship for too many Maine lobstermen who have already invested in gear, rigged up, and are fishing these waters."

The state agreed. "This industry is suffering from whiplash, trying to change plans based on these rapidly evolving court decisions," said Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Commissioner Patrick Keliher. "Moving gear around 30 miles off-shore at this time of the year also poses a serious safety risk for fishermen. Fishermen’s lives are at stake and NOAA and the courts have an obligation to take fisherman safety into consideration when they make these decisions."

Continued on page 5

Continued on page 5
On November 16, on Widgery Wharf in Portland, the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) announced its ambitious goal: to raise $10 million over three years to support its fight against new federal regulations that threaten the existence of the Maine lobster fishery.

That threat is as real and as deadly as a blizzard at sea. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulations released in August call for a 98% reduction by the year 2030 in the risks presented by lobster gear to the endangered North Atlantic right whale. "The federal government has adopted a draconian plan intended to protect North Atlantic right whales. But their plan is a lose-lose for all. It will not protect right whales, and it will eliminate the Maine lobster fishery. If we don’t meet the 98% risk reduction mandate, it will be illegal for the federal government to continue to permit the lobster fishery," the MLA stated at a press conference that day.

The MLA is calling on all businesses and individuals who rely on the Maine lobster fishery — everyone from local restaurants and real estate firms to boat builders and bait dealers — to contribute to this campaign. As Dustin Delano, vice president of the MLA, said, "If the federal government shuts down this fishery, they’re not telling any of us to get a new job... they’re telling us to get a new life. We must ensure that this fundraising campaign is a success because if we can’t afford to fight back, we’re done.”

Later that same day, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit issued a ruling that if certain legal issues are corrected, it would sue. "We and individual fishing groups will have a pronged attack against the 10-year whale plan. Photo by R. Dennis."

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As the year winds down and snow begins to fall, the MLA is embarking on a multi-pronged attack against the 10-year whale plan. Photo by R. Dennis.

COASTAL OUTLOOK

Thoughts from MLCA President Patrice McCarron

Thank you and happy holidays!

On November 16, on Widgery Wharf in Portland, the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) announced its ambitious goal: to raise $10 million over three years to support its fight against new federal regulations that threaten the existence of the Maine lobster fishery.

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We cannot win this battle without your support

By Kristan Porter and Dustin Delano

It’s never easy to ask for help. But the truth is if all of us whose livelihoods depend on Maine’s lobster industry don’t step up in a big way, we are all in deep trouble.

As you know, the federal government has laid out a 10-year plan that is supposed to protect right whales. But we see the writing on the wall. We know that there is no realistic way for Maine lobstermen to comply with what the government is asking us to do.

The Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) board of directors has said enough is enough – we’re not going to let this happen without a fight.

The MLA has hired the best legal team we could find and we filed a lawsuit in US. District Court in Washington, D.C. in September. We are aiming big — the MLA is going after NMFS’s entire 10-year plan because it is that plan that ultimately will erase Maine’s lobster industry.

We believe that the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) failed to use the best scientific information and does not account for the success of all of the conservation measures we’ve adopted over the last 20 years when it developed this flawed plan.

Scientists know that right whales are rare off the coast of Maine and several recent publications show they continue to shift even further away from where we fish. Fighting this fight in court won’t be cheap, but we don’t have a choice. Environmental groups have deep pockets.

So, we’re asking you to ask yourself — what can I do to help MLA fight back and win? We all know that this has been a good year. Despite record expenses, we’ve generally had good hauls and higher prices at the dock this season. Now is the time to contribute, and if we all give even a little – it will help a lot.

There are about 4,800 licensed lobstermen in Maine. If each of us gave just $1,000 to the MLAs “Save Maine Lobstermen” fund, well be $4.8 million closer to our $10 million goal. That’s nearly halfway! If each gave just $500, well have $2.4 million more to help us win.

Each one of our board of directors is committed to putting his money where his mouth is. We have all pledged to donate at least $1,000. We’re asking you to do the same and to ask your friends and other lobstermen you know to give as well.

We’re proud of the support that we have already received. The Port Clyde Co-op has pledged to donate $5,000 a year for the next three years, and the York Lobstermen’s Association just donated $5,000 for the second year in a row. But we also know we can’t fight this fight alone.

That is why we are asking Maine’s business community, which relies on a strong lobster industry to keep the local economies going, to back us in this battle. You know who they are — the businesses in your towns where you shop, eat, do your banking, buy your vehicles, and get your gas. Ask for their help. Share the website, www.savemainelobstermen.org, or tell them to call MLA’s office at 207-967-4555.

We are in a decade-long battle to save the lobster fishery and we need everyone to be involved!
I came across this quote from Mark Twain the other day: “Predictions are difficult, especially when it involves the future.” Not a day goes by that I don’t hear a question from a fisherman about what will happen with whales, wind, sustainability, or another big issue facing the industry. My goal is to provide certainty to the lobster industry, but the future right now is impossible to predict and the road to certainty is uphill and difficult. What always impresses me though, is knowing that the Maine lobster industry will lean into the many challenges it’s facing — none of which you want or deserve.

**Whales**

There are many things happening with several court cases, and DMR is working with our legal team to finalize our strategy. As the cases move forward, I will send a message to industry members who are being impacted by right whale rules with a breakdown of what the state focus will be.

As you know, Maine Federal District Court Judge Lance Walker issued an order in October that prevented the LMA 1 Restricted Area from taking effect. This was a rare bit of good news, but very short lived. As I was writing this article the First Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated the closed area and sent it back to Judge Walker with instructions to close the area “promptly.” The First Circuit’s opinion clearly sided with whales over the fishery when it considered relative harms: “And, while there are serious stakes on both sides, Congress has placed significant emphasis on the protection and recovery of whales in the Endangered Species Act.”

While the State was not asked to engage in this case, we did follow it very closely. Ultimately, we decided that our focus needed to remain on the larger case because it has much broader implications for the overall fishery, including the potential of an outright shut down. The industry must do the same, as the stakes are too high.

The larger lawsuit in Washington, D.C. was brought forward by the environmental organizations challenging NMFS’s old Biological Opinion. We expected that suit to go away now that the new Biological Opinion and rule are final but, as we know, it’s never enough for the environmental groups. The judge has allowed the parties to file a supplemental suit, so DMR has also hired outside legal counsel to fully engage in this case. The firm we hired (Nossaman) is out of Seattle and they have great knowledge in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) that are driving these challenges. Nossaman has represented a range of clients in these types of cases, including the State of Alaska.

DMR has been granted intervenor status in the D.C. case and we are looking carefully at what our options are (the MLA and MLU are also intervenors). It is important to point out that the case filed in D.C. also targets the fishery in state waters. All lobster fishing effort by Maine license holders is in the environmental organizations’ crosshairs.

The MLA has also filed suit in D.C. challenging portions of the Biological Opinion and the Final Rule; we are looking closely at how we will engage. This is an important effort that focuses on the science and data that NMFS is using. DMR has created an extensive record that supports this effort as well as the Maine Lobster Union case. These cases may all converge in front of one judge, but that is yet to be seen.

Governor Mills has been very supportive of our needs and has contributed $230,000 from her contingency fund for DMR’s legal efforts, with a promise of finding additional resources for our growing legal bills.

In October, Governor Mills co-signed a letter with the members of the Congressional delegation to Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo urging her to withdraw the final whale rule by highlighting the flawed and incomplete data on which the rule relied. The letter made clear that the closure had the potential to cause irreparable harm to Maine’s lobster industry while doing little to protect right whales. The Secretary’s response was simple. “North Atlantic right whales are in crisis, and we need to take immediate, meaningful actions to mitigate the primary threats to the species: entanglements and vessel strikes.”

DMR is also working to improve the science on which future management decisions will be made. The Governor and the Legislature supported our requests for more staff as well as money for research. We are in the process of hiring new science staff as well as policy support. DMR’s science staff deployed seven archival sound traps in October throughout the Gulf of Maine, including one in the LMA1 Restricted Area, to listen for right whales. Data won’t be downloaded and analyzed until spring or summer 2022.

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Continued on page 23
In its ruling to reinstate the closure, the Appeals Court considered several factors including whether there is a strong likelihood that the case will succeed on its merits and if there is likely to be irreparable harm if the closure is not implemented.

On the merits of the case, the Appeals Court concluded that NMFS’s justification for the LMA1 Closure made it “likely that the Agency ruling at issue here will be sustained given the deference that a court must accord to executive agencies carrying out congressional mandates.”

On the issue of irreparable harm, the Appeals Court noted that there are two competing interests: harm to right whales and harm to lobstermen.

The Court wrote, “The difficult question, then, is how does one balance that increased risk of impeding Congress’s aims and increasing right whale fatality against the certain risk of economic harm to the plaintiffs? In this instance, we answer that question by looking to Congress for guidance,” before noting Congress’s “plain intent … to halt and reverse the trend toward species extinction, whatever the cost.”

The Appeals Court also reasoned that if any right whales are lost or presumed lost because the LMA1 Closure was not implemented, NMFS then may need to implement more stringent whale conservation measures which “could cause lobster harvesters additional harm.”

“This decision foreshadows the grave future our lobster fishery faces if NMFS’s 10-year whale plan is not rescinded in favor of a plan based on sound science,” said MLA executive director Patrice McCarron. “The 10-year whale plan that the federal government has adopted will not protect the right whales, but it will eliminate the Maine lobster fishery. It is a lose-lose for all.”

Commissioner Keliher emphasized the need for the state to remain focused on a lawsuit that is potentially even more impactful than the Union lawsuit. “As tough a loss as this is, the state will continue to focus its legal resources on the case in the D.C. District Court that challenges the biological opinion and has the potential of a complete fishery closure. These stakes are extremely high and demand our full attention,” Commissioner Keliher noted.

The LMA1 closure is now in effect and the Appeals Court has sent it back to Judge Walker “to resolve, if necessary, any disputes concerning the prompt removal of the banned gear from the LMA1 restricted area. Given the already lost time and the short period remaining for the seasonal closure, we encourage the parties to act promptly.”

In its announcement that the LMA1 closure was in effect immediately based on the court’s ruling, NMFS stated, “Given the capacity of offshore fishing vessels to remove and relocate trawls as well as potential weather and safety concerns, we anticipate it could take up to two weeks for all lobster and Jonah crab trap/pot gear to be removed from the LMA1 Restricted Area.” DMR has stated that it will confirm the timing of the closure and will communicate pertinent details to the industry when they are available.

Kristan Porter, president of the MLA, noted that the MLAs Board of Directors is one hundred percent committed to this fundraising campaign. The board is challenging not only lobstermen but anyone who relies on a strong lobster industry to make a generous contribution.

“Lobstermen have been honest brokers and stepped up every time the federal government has required new whale conservation measures because we care deeply about our fishery and about the whales,” said Porter. “But this time, we have no choice but to fight back and we can’t do it alone.”

“If the federal government shuts down this fishery, they’re not telling any of us our livelihood depends on it, and I’m fully invested in ensuring this fundraising campaign is a success because if we can’t afford to fight back, we’re done.”

The MLA created a website, SaveMaineLobstermen.org, which provides details on its proposed actions as well as opportunities to donate.

“Just as Maine lobstermen can’t solve whale deaths that aren’t occurring in our fishery, Maine lobstermen cannot save our lobstering heritage without broad support,” McCarron said. “The MLA urges every Mainer and business person, anyone who feels a sense of pride about a connection to Maine’s lobster fishery and our lobstering heritage, to step up and make a contribution to Save Maine Lobstermen.”
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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I cannot believe it is December already — what a year it’s been! In some ways, I feel like the Maine lobster industry has been run over by a truck and then kicked in the gut over and over again. Certainly being put under a 10-year whale plan with its 98% risk reduction — and a massive offshore closure as just a small piece of part one of the plan — has left many of us feeling beat up.

Yet I believe that the Maine lobster industry has doubled down on its resolve to take on this seemingly unwinnable fight. When you are faced with losing your livelihood and your heritage, you really have no choice but to fight.

I will admit that the enormity of these issues and what they mean for the future of the lobster industry often feel overwhelming. But I am truly convinced that the Maine lobster industry will prove stronger than these threats.

Just a few years ago we are now facing would have seemed inconceivable. We have a federal whale conservation plan that does not protect whales and, I believe, will eliminate our lobster fishery within a decade. The federal whale rules have been in place for nearly 25 years; lobstermen have grumbled but adapted to its restrictions. Now for the first time the government has set a quantifiable risk reduction target that we must meet — 98% — and a certain time to get there — by 2030. Based on the court’s recent ruling, if the lobster industry does not meet this goal and its restrictions, we will lose our lobster fishery.

I’ve spent more hours than I care to admit trying to figure out how we can meet this goal and continue to fish. Our toolbox is painfully empty. Here’s what I do know.

Based on the final rule, in the first phase of the 10-year plan the northeast lobster fishery is required to reduce risk to right whales by 60%. To get there, we earned 6.5% risk reduction in 2025, and up to an 87% risk reduction by 2030. Ten million dollars may sound like a lot of money, but it is a drop in the bucket when we think about what is on the line.

Our industry does not occur in the future. However, now the right whale population estimate is based on a computer model rather than the number of right whale carcasses counted each year. Scientists have devised a way to quantify the number of whales that they believe actually die each year, which includes both those seen and those that are never seen.

By using this methodology, NMFS argues that the risk reduction target in the first phase of the 10-year plan should have been closer to 90%, rather than the 60% we achieved through closures, weak points, and trawling up.

We must particularly remain diligent in the regulatory arena. As we have just seen with risk reduction targets, NMFS will continue to throw one curve ball after another at us, moving the goal posts when they want to. We must be prepared to respond firmly, with legal and scientific ammunition, when they do.

We also must engage with the research and science community to ensure that the whale conservation plan is based on state-of-the-art science and not just what NMFS cobbled together to get a plan out quickly because it was under a court-mandated deadline.

Maine lobstersmen consistently land around a half a billion dollars of lobster at the docks each year. Our industry directly supports more than 10,000 jobs on the water, another 5,000 through the dealer network, and hundreds of small businesses depend on the continued success of this fishery.

Maine Lobstermen’s Association has never walked away from a tough situation in its 67-year history. We know where to attack, how to do it, and when. But without substantial financial support, we are as dead in the water as a lobster. MLA has launched an ambitious fundraising campaign to Save Maine Lobstermen. We will raise $10 million over the next three years. We must have funds in order to remain proactive on all fronts of this battle.

We must be able to fund our lawsuit in D.C. District Court seeking accountability from the government on the scientific basis of its 10-year whale plan. We must let the government and the environmental groups know that we are prepared to go head-to-head with them. We will not surrender our livelihoods and our communities due to lack of financial resources.

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The MLA board of directors met on November 4 via Zoom to discuss its Save Maine Lobstermen campaign, updates on right whale management and ASMFC’s federal lobster boat vessel tracking plan.

The MLA Board has endorsed a $10 million fundraising campaign over three years. The MLA will be promoting this campaign broadly within the lobster industry and to the public. Board members noted that it has been a good year financially for lobstermen and they hope many will contribute generously.

In the November issue of Landings the MLA published an overview of the all the lawsuits pending that address right whales and an overview of the 10-year whale plan and how the current round of whale rules fit into it. The MLA has filed suit against NMFS’s 10-year whale plan, which requires a 98% risk reduction. MLA is also an intervenor in the Washington D.C. court case and an Amicus to the legal case challenging the LMA 1 closure. The lobster industry must have strong legal representation to navigate the complex web of lawsuits and regulatory requirements. The lobster industry is facing elimination by 2030 if we don’t fight back.

During its November Take Reduction Team (TRT) meeting, NMFS informed the team that both the right whale population and the Potential Biological Removal (PBR) rate have declined. NMFS’s risk reduction goal was previously based on whales known to have died during the year, as evidenced by a carcass being found. This year, NMFS have determined that many more whales die that are never seen. Now NMFS is using a methodology that is based on both the whales seen dead and as well as the others that they know have died but were never seen. The risk reduction goal now will be based on all dead whales, those seen and those assumed to have died. NMFS will begin discussions on how to address the need for additional risk reduction in the lobster industry at its December TRT meeting.

The ASMFC is drafting a change to the lobster management plan to require mandatory vessel tracking for federally permitted lobstermen. ASMFC will meet in December to finalize the draft management plan which will then go out for public comment in January. The MLA Board will meet again on December 8 via Zoom.

VEssel TRACKING REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL LOBSTER BOATS

ASMFC’s Lobster Management Board will meet on December 6 to finalize its proposal to require all federally permitted lobster and Jonah crab vessels to use a vessel monitoring system. ASMFC is considering requiring low cost, accessible options such as cell devices that would report location at 1 ping per minute. Tracking devices would be required to be on board and powered at all times when the vessel is in the water (unless under repair). Public hearings are expected to be scheduled in January, and the final vote to approve this requirement would happen winter/spring 2022.

MLA LAUNCHES $10 MILLION CAMPAIGN TO SAVE MAINE LobSTERMEN

The MLA is raising $10 million to fund its efforts to Save Maine Lobstermen from extinction as NMFS implements its draconian whale rules over the next eight years. Funds raised will enable the MLA to implement a four-pronged strategy to save Maine’s lobstering heritage.

Legal and Policy: MLA is suing the federal government to stop the 10-year whale plan that will decimate Maine’s lobster industry. MLA has asked the court to fix the plan using accurate science so that we can save right whales without sacrificing the lobster fishery.

Science: MLA is engaging with scientific experts to ensure that the most up to date, cutting-edge science is the basis of any right whale conservation plan. This includes use of state-of-the-art modelling and objective research that will guide effective management decisions.

Conservation: MLA is working with Maine lobstermen to continue efforts to develop innovative gear solutions that protect right whales and support the continuation of Maine’s lobstering heritage.

Communications: MLA is building support to ensure the public understands that Maine’s lobstering heritage is at risk and may disappear forever, erasing generations of locally owned and operated fishing businesses and the economic engine of Maine’s coastal communities.

By all accounts, it has been a tremendous year for the Maine lobster fishery. The DMR reported that the value of lobster landings has increased by $230 million to date compared to last year. MLA urges you to consider what is at stake for you, your community, the state of Maine, and our lobstering heritage if the lobster industry doesn’t stand up for itself. Ten million dollars is a lot to raise, but it is a small investment compared to the loss of our lobstering heritage.

As you think about how much you plan to invest in your lobster business this year — whether it is to upgrade your boat, engine, or gear — or how much you plan to spend on a well-deserved vacation this winter — also think about the value of preserving your ability to even set traps in a few short years.

We need everyone to pitch in what you can. It will take all of us who care about the future of the lobster industry working together if we are to be successful against the federal government and deep-pocketed environmental groups.

Thank you for your continued support of the MLA and thank you for considering a generous donation to Save Maine Lobstermen. Visit www.savemainelobstermen.org for more information and to make your donation.

The TRT met on November 2 with updates on the right whale population and anticipated new risk reduction requirements. The updated right whale population continues to decline. The new estimate is 336 whales (~200 males and 136 females). The Potential Biological Removal (PBR) figure has been reduced to 0.7 (down from 0.8).

In the past, NMFS has based risk reduction goals on the number of right whales observed dead or seriously injured. However, scientists now estimate that there are many that die and are never seen. NMFS will now require commercial fisheries to reduce the risk to all right whales that are known to have died, as well as those that they assume have died but were never seen. This means that U.S. commercial fisheries currently are exceeding PBR; the revised risk reduction goal will increase to 90% or more. NMFS will continue this discussion with the TRT in December.

NMFS RELEASES WHALE PLAN OUTREACH GUIDE FOR MAINE

NMFS has released an outreach guide for Maine lobstermen detailing the requirements of Final Whale Rule that was released in September 2022. The LMA 1 closure was reinstated on November 16. The remaining requirements for trawling up, weak points and gear marking will be effective in May 2022. The Final Whale rule includes the following:

- **Exempt State Waters Gear:** 3 purple marks (1 x 36” in top 2F and 2 x 12”) and 1 weak point (half way down). Required by state of Maine regulations Chapter 75.
- **Non-exempt State Waters Gear:** 3 purple marks (1 x 36” in top 2F and 2 x 12”), 1 weak point (half way down), and trawling up (zone specific). Required by Federal Whale Rules.

**Federal Waters Gear:** 4 purple marks (1 x 36” in top 2F and 3 x 12”) and 4 green marks (4 x 12” within 6” of each purple mark), 1 or 2 weak points (vary by zone and distance from shore), trawling up (vary by zone and distance from shore), and LMA 1 closure (Oct through January). Required by Federal Whale Rules.

This guide includes zone specific maps of the trawling up requirements which clearly show minimum trawl numbers required by distance from shore. The document is available at: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MDMIR/2021/11/19/file_attachments/2001384/Maine%20Guide%20Whale%20Rule.pdf.
Environmental Lawsuit Challenging Biological Opinion and Final Rule (D.C. District Court)
Nov. 23 – Proposed briefing schedule filed.
Next Steps – The court will set a schedule for the case to proceed.

MLA Lawsuit Challenging Biological Opinion and Final Rule (D.C. District Court)
Nov. 23 – MLA request a schedule for the case to proceed.
Next Steps – The court will set a schedule for the case to proceed.

MLU lawsuit on LMA 1 closure:
Oct. 16 – Bangor District Court put the implementation of LMA 1 closure on hold.
Nov. 5 – Bangor District Court denied government and NGO request to implement closure pending an appeal of his decision.
Nov. 16 – First Circuit Court of Appeals grants government request to reinstate closure pending full appeal.
Next Steps – Appeals Court will give its final ruling, but the court has been clear in its preliminary order that that closure will remain in place. Bangor District Court has not yet set a schedule to decide the lawsuit challenging the legality of the LMA 1 closure.

MLA Lawsuit Challenging Biological Opinion and Final Rule (D.C. District Court)
Nov. 23 – MLA request a schedule for the case to proceed.
Next Steps – The court will set a schedule for the case to proceed.

2021 HERRING SEASON UPDATE

Given the extremely low herring quota, herring landings were short-lived this season. Even with the addition of 1,000 metric tons of quota reallocated to the Area 1A quota due to low landings in New Brunswick, season 1 landings were caught by August 3 and season 2 was only open for one day.

<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>2,579</td>
<td>2,883</td>
<td>112%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>181.5</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,181</td>
<td>2,221.5</td>
<td>102%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,128</td>
<td>5,286.4</td>
<td>103%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Accutech Marine Propeller
Alliance Rubber
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
Beals-Jonesport Coop Inc.
Beals Lobster Pier
Bowdoin College Dining Services
Chapman & Chapman Chase Leavitt
Coastal Documentation II
Conary Cove Lobster Co.
Downeast Boat Co.
Farrin’s Boatshop
Fineskild Scenic Cruises
First National Bank
F. W. Thurston Co. Inc.
Georgetown Fishermen’s Cooperative
Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation
Guy Cotten, Inc.
Infab Refractories Inc.
Inland Seafood
Intermediate Lobster Co.
Island Fishing Gear & Auto Parts
Island Fishermen’s Wives
John’s Bay Boat Co.
Lobster Trap Co.
Lomnie’s Hydraulic Inc.
M&B Fish Co.
Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
Maine Financial Group
Maine Lobstermen’s Community Alliance
Maine Ocean Lobster
Maine Sea Grant
Marine Hydraulics Engineering Co. Inc.
McMillan Offshore Survival Training
Midcoast Marine Supply
New England Marine & Industrial Inc.
New England Propeller
Northeast Marine Survey
Novatec Braids LTD
Pack Edge
Port Clyde Fishermen’s Cooperative
Port Lobster Co.
RE Thomas Marine Hardware
RG Tax Accounting and Resolution
Riverdale Mills
Rope Razer
Superior Marine Products
Tenants Harbor Fishermen’s Cooperative
Twin City Financial Group
Varny Insurance Inc.
Vinalhaven Fishermen’s Cooperative
William Coffin & Sons
Winter Harbor Fishermen’s Cooperative
Worcesters Lobster Bait
HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Thank you to these businesses for supporting the Maine Lobstermen’s Community Alliance!

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Super soft and durable, perfect for layering. Classic channel logo on the chest $68.95
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LOBSTER CLAW TRIVET
A steel claw trivet, centerpiece or work of art. Unpolished steel, handmade and unique.
Industrial ME

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS
Hand painted in the salty air on 10 oz canvas duck, with authentic mooring line and waxed sail thread. Custom colors & styles. $40.00
Cobalt Sky Studio

HEART STEEL WINDCHIME
Steel lobster claws and a heart show your lobstering love and bring the coast to your home. $125.00
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Limited edition hardworking tote with waterproof base and nickel clasps. Made from recycled bibs, each is one of kind! $129.95
Rugged Seas

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All items are made to order in our farmhouse studio in Monroe, Maine. We use duck canvas. Free shipping on all orders. Any colors you choose- we also match buoy colors! $40.50
Cobalt Sky Studio

LOBSTER CLAW LONG SLEEVE BABY ONESIE
Light blue long sleeved 100% organic cotton with three snap closure and a navy lobster claw on the front. Super cute and super soft! $30.00
Industrial ME

CHANNEL MARKER CREWNECK SWEATSHIRT
Soft crewneck sweatshirt with classic logo and channel marker on the chest. $58.00
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The perfect pouch for carrying your phone & other essentials at sea & keeping them dry. Made from recycled bibs, each one is unique!
Rugged Seas

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Floating heart style lobster claw pendant in sterling silver. Handmade in Maine. 20’ chain and perfect for every occasion. $135.00
Industrial ME

Rugged Seas: www.ruggedseas.com/shop/

Cobalt Sky Studio
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Industrial ME
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The Challenges Remain Real…

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

As 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 level 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.

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Mike Wadsworth
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Proud to be a fourth-generation seafood wholesaler in Maine

If you’re selling shellfish, lobsters, crabs, soft-shell clams, periwinkles, scallops, etc., you may want to give us a call.

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We’re in a 10-year battle to save our industry.

Thank you for your generous support!

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John C Ready III
Brendan Ready

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Downeast Lobstermen’s Assoc.
Ian Jan
Maine Aquaculture Assn.

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Bob Baines
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W. Kenneth Boone III
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Jerome Briggs
Peter Conforti
David Cousens
Dustin Delano
Jeffrey Donnell
Jim Dow
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Bruce Fernand
Michael Flanigan
Ed Foye
Ryan Haskell
Nicholas Hawke
Jason Hooper
Shawn Howard
Samuel Hyler
Chip Johnson
Nathan Jones
Kitty Point Yacht Yard
Simple Lash
Jack Merrill III
Midcoast Marine Supply (T-shirt sales)

Tad Miller
Mathew Nowell
Alfred Osgood
Josh Polk
Matt Poole
Matt Samuels
Mark Sewell
Stephen & Marsana Snow
Sorrento Seafood
Craig Sproul
Lester Stanley
Eric Staples
Joseph Staples
Craig Stewart
David Thomas
Courtland Tolman
Michael Tripp
Keith Wallace
Lee Watkinson
Walter Wiley IV
John Williams
Anonymous

Gifts $500 - $999

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Mark Bradstreet
Dwight Carver
Mark Cheney
John Chipman
Cranberry Island Lobster Co.
George Dow
Eric Emmons
Peter Flanagan
Donald Foye
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Erick Harjula
Hews Company LLC
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Bobby Ingalls
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David Johnson
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Mark Jones
Stuart Jonas
Jennifer Kelley
Kristofer Koerber
Michael Kram
Craig Lazaro
Jeff Libby
Travis Lunt
Doug & Laura McLennan
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Phillip Morris
William Most
Christopher Nunan
Cody Nunan
Robert O’Hara Jr
Nicholas Page
Old School Pig Hide
Alton Pinkham
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Bill & Julie Putnam
Edward & Linda Robbins
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Kathryn Skocum
Paul Smith
Nathaniel Snow
Wills Spear Jr.
David Sullivan
Charles Tarbox
David Thurlow
Jim Tripp
Ronald Watkinson
Ronald Weeks
Thomas Werner
Jeff White
Peter Wildes
Eben Wilson
Leonard Young
Jason Zanke

Gifts $300 - $499
Jason Alley
E Vance Bunker
Norman Burns
John Clinton
Robert Donnell
Alison Farrell
Herman Faulkigham
Donald Foye
Adam Gamage
Chad Gamage
Earl Hamilton III
Ed Hutchins
Blaine Hutchinson
Bruce Johnson
Donald Jones
Samuel Joy
Alden McFarland
Zachary Piper
Harry Ross
Bradford Scott
Todd & Kim Simmons
James Smith
Zachary Stobz
Ted Sprirling
Charles Tarbox
Samantha Thompson
Chuck Williams

Gifts $100 - $299
Dorothy Ahlgren
A.M. Associates Inc (T-shirt sales)
Annaliese Aly
Anonymous
Rick Alley Jr.
Laurence Ames
Ted Ames
William Ball
Barry Baudanza
Nancy Beal
Robert Beal
Ellen Becht
John Benning
Thomas Bennett
Brian Billings
Cindy Boyt
Susan Boyt
Hugh Bowen
Russell Bray
Eric Brauer
Carla Bryson
Ernie Burgess
Stephen Burns
Steven Burns
Albert Buswell
Greg Byer
Patrick Cough
Coastal Builders
Clinton Collamore
Jason Colby
Ben Crocker Sr.
Ronald Currier

Gifts Under $100
Robin Alden
Ames/Walsh Family

Thank you 2021 MLA LDF Donors

$100 - $299 continued

Eric Davis
Howard Dentremont Jr.
Charles Dillon
Benjamin Doliber
Joseph Donnelly
Patricia Doherty
Forrest Dow
Jordan Doulin
Martha Durman
Leonard Eugey
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Shane McIntire
James Mcmahon Jr
Robert Mcmahon
Chris Nelson
Richard Nelson
Randy Newcomb
Kyle Nichols
William Nichols
Chelsea Nunn
Arthur O’Keefe
George Olsen
Burdensome Federal Regulations Threaten to End Maine’s Lobster Industry

New federal rules intended to protect the North Atlantic right whale have set a course to eliminate the Maine lobster fishery and end Maine’s lobstering tradition.

The plan will end the Maine lobster fishery but won’t save right whales.

The Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) is fighting back! We are putting 65 years of experience as the leader of the world’s most sustainable fishery to work to find a solution that will protect right whales AND Maine’s lobstering heritage.

Join the Fight to Save Maine Lobstermen

Fighting the federal government and solving complex environmental problems takes resources. We must raise $10 million over the next three years to lead this fight.

What will funding support?

Funding will directly support legal efforts to challenge flawed federal regulations through lawsuits, regulatory processes, development of innovative gear solutions, and education to save Maine lobstermen AND right whales.

Join The Fight Today!
SaveMaineLobstermen.org
The Issue:

In 2021, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released a 10-year whale plan that requires the Maine lobster fishery to reduce risk to right whales by 98 percent. This is an achievable goal that the lobster industry cannot survive. Now the government is threatening to require these deep cuts even sooner.

The Challenge:

Maine lobstermen are not to blame. There has not been a single right whale entanglement in Maine lobster gear in almost 20 years and Maine lobster gear has never been linked to a right whale death.

New research shows that right whales rarely visit the waters where Maine lobstermen fish. Simply put, the federal government is wrongly holding Maine lobstermen accountable for the decline of the right whale population.

The Solution:

The MLA is engaging in a four-prong strategy to Save Maine Lobstermen AND right whales.

- **Legal and Policy** — The MLA is suing the federal government to stop the 10-year whale plan that will decimate Maine’s lobster industry. MLA has asked the court to fix the plan using accurate science so that we can save right whales without sacrificing the lobster fishery.

- **Science** — MLA is engaging with scientific experts to ensure the most up-to-date, cutting-edge science is the basis of any whale conservation plan.

- **Conservation** — MLA is working with Maine lobstermen to continue efforts to develop innovative gear solutions that protect right whales and support the continuation of Maine’s lobstering heritage.

- **Communications** — MLA is building support to ensure that our community understands that Maine’s lobstering tradition is at risk and may disappear forever, erasing generations of locally-owned and operated fishing businesses and the economic engine of Maine’s rural coastal communities.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

To maintain a robust lobster industry today and for future generations and the thousands of families that rely on it.

Join the Fight Today!

SaveMaineLobstermen.org
Help Us Fight Back.

Contributions to #SaveMaineLobstermen allow us to fight for the future of Maine’s lobster fishery.

Under $1000 continued

Terrence Ashton  
Judith Baker  
Erich Bohrmann  
Theodore Boyce  
Norman Brazer Jr.  
Kara Breese  
Foy Brown  
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James Cookeley  
Orville Darling  
Demaree DiBase  
Edgar Drew  
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Jeffrey Greiner  
Andrea Hart  
Allison Hepler  
Stephen Hewitt  
Lindsay Hocking-Hauser  
Linda Hooper  
C Hutchings/BHS Special Svc Team  
Angela Lanicelli  
Paul Lanoie  
Ingrid Levesque  
Chloe Maxim  
Michael McGlone

Under $1000 continued

Mary Medina  
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John Miller  
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Roz & Dolly Pachter  
Zoe Pellegrino  
Evan Pinette  
John Rohrer  
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Molly Samuels  
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Jim Smith  
Andrea Torok  
Michael & Patricia Weare  
Kenneth Weed  
Bradley West  
Mark White  
Caleb Wiesing  
Amber Wolton – in honor of Friendship’s 2020 Xmas lights

Gifts In Memoriam

In Memory of Gilbert Collamore Sr  
Clinton Collamore  
In Memory of Rick Knight Jr  
Eric Brazer  
Michael Flanigan  
David & Dana Ranata  
Michael & Patricia Weare  
In Memory of Albert Osgood Sr  
Lee Osgood  
In Memory of Marc Bradley  
Lee Osgood  
In Memory of Rodney Dyer  
Lee Osgood  
Courtland Tolman  
In Memory of Greg Hoyt  
Alyson Ames  
Calvin Bayley  
Ellen Becht  
BHS Special Service Team  
Kara Breese  
Cindy Boyt  
Susan Boyt  
Patricia Doherty  
Linda Hooper  
Roslyn Pachter  
Andrea Torok  
The Walsh Family

Gifts In Memoriam cont’d

In Memory Of Tim Dyer  
Courtland Tolman  
In Memory Of Orlando Wallace  
Keith Wallace  
In Memory Of Ernest Wallace  
Keith Wallace  
In Memory Of Richard Wallace  
Keith Wallace

What’s the fishery worth to you?

Yes! I’ll donate today!

- $10,000
- $5,100 ($1700/ year for 3 years)
- $5,000
- $1,000
- $500
- $365 “a dollar a day”
- Other: ___________________

Do the Math:
500 donations of $5000 = $2.5 million
1000 donations of $1000 = $1 million
Together we fight. Together we win.

Name: ____________________________________________

Business Name: ____________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: ______________________________________________

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Phone: ____________________________

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MLA Legal Defense Fund: 2 Store St., Suite 203, Kennebunk, ME 04043  www.mainelobstermen.org  207-967-4555
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2022 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Maine Fishermen’s Forum Board of Directors offers a scholarship fund to benefit children or grandchildren or a legal dependent of someone actively involved in harvesting wild caught or farmed Maine seafood or a Maine based resource law enforcement officer regardless of financial need or academic achievement.

Applications will be accepted through March 3, 2022. Scholarships will be awarded by a random drawing to be held on Friday, March 4, 2022.

You qualify for the scholarship drawing ONLY IF you check all 4 items below.

Do you qualify? (Both questions must be answered YES to qualify)

1. Are you in College now, as a sophomore, junior or senior? You must be at least a sophomore in college or be in at least the second semester of a Certificate Program to apply.

2. Are you a child, grandchild or legal dependent of someone participating in Maine’s seafood industry?

What is required? (Both of these items are required to be a valid candidate)

3. Did you provide an official transcript or Registrar’s letter of current standing?

4. Did you complete this application and send to the address at the top of this letter.

Undergraduates attending a two year or four year college who are in at least the second year of their program, or students who are in at least the second semester of their Certificate Program will be eligible.

Please note that previous winners are not eligible.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name____________________________________________________________________________________________
Making Address__________________________________________________________ Home Phone_____________________
City__________ State_____ Zip Code________ Email: _____________________________________

SCHOOL INFORMATION (High School students are not eligible)

College/University Name____________________________________________ _ Expected Year of Graduation: ____________
Location of College _________________________________________________ Your Major __________________________

**COLLEGE Standing as of Sept 2021 (circle one) Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

MAINE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY FAMILY MEMBER INFORMATION

Name____________________________________________________________ Relationship____________________________
Street/Mailing Address_____________________________________________________ Phone__________________________
City________________________ State______ Zip Code_________ Email: _________________________________________

Vessel Name or Commercial License Number __________________________________________________________________
Describe participation in the Maine seafood industry_____________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________

You qualify for the scholarship drawing ONLY IF you check all 4 items below.

Visit us online at:
WWW.BROOKSTRAPMILL.COM
MLA Seeks Nominations for Board of Directors

MLA Members -- Don’t miss your opportunity
to influence the future of your organization and your industry!

Annual Meeting be announced

Did you know?
• MLA Directors are elected for a 3-year term
• MLA Directors meet monthly (except August)
• Board members expected to attend at least 4 meetings/yr

Overview of MLA Board
• Maximum # of Board members: 21
• Current Board: 21 members
• Number of Directors with Terms expiring: 7
• Average age of MLA Board: 49
• Youngest MLA Board member: 26
• Oldest MLA Board member: 73

MLA Board representation
• Zone A 4 (1 expiring)
• Zone B 3 (1 expiring)
• Zone C 3 (1 expiring)
• Zone D 3
• Zone E 3
• Zone F 3 (2 expiring)
• Zone G 2 (2 expiring)
• Islands represented 4

2022 Board Priorities
• Dedicated lobstermen who care about the future of the industry
• Lobstermen who can talk about the industry’s needs and priorities
• Balanced industry representation across the state

Nomination Requirements
• To make a nomination, you must be a MLA member in good standing.
• All nominees must hold a Maine lobster license & be a MLA member in good standing.
• Deadline for nominations: February 4, 2022.
• Feel free to nominate yourself, or someone else.

Thank you for helping to keep the MLA strong!

Mail your nomination to the MLA office: MLA, 2 Storer St, Ste 203, Kennebunk, ME 04043
Or feel free to call in your nomination to 967-4555 or email: patrice@mainelobstermen.org

---

MLA Director Nomination Form (detach and return)

Name:________________________________________________________________________________
Fishing Port:_________________________________________________________________________
Zone:___________Town of residence:________________________________________________

Please let us know how this nominee could contribute to the MLA Board:
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for helping to keep the MLA strong!

Nominee Information (must be MLA member)
Name:_____________________________________________________
Fishing Port:_____________________________________________
Zone:___________Town of residence:_________________________

Please let us know how this nominee could contribute to the MLA Board:
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Person submitting nomination (must be MLA member)
Name:________________________________________________________________________________
Lobster Lic. #:_______________________________________________________________________

2021 MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS

• Ran a digital advertising campaign that resulted in over 260,000 people being more likely to purchase Maine Lobster.
• Conducted a broadcast media tour featuring lobsterman Chris Welch and an adversorial in Fast Company that shared key messages about the industry’s commitment to protecting right whales, reaching local and national audiences.
• Implemented the first ever Maine Lobster Week to drive lobster consumption during peak fall season locally and nationally.
• Created the Maine Lobster Innovation Guide featuring consumer research about increased lobster demand and new product concepts to inspire food manufacturers and retailers to create more products using Maine Lobster.
• Generated extensive positive media coverage through promotions including Valentine’s Day Tail Bouquet, the Maine Lobster Suite, Mother’s Day Seafood Box, and Maine Lobster Butter released in celebration of National Lobster Day.

The MLMC will distribute a full summary of 2021 marketing results in January.

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BLACK COD  FROZEN IN BOXES
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POGIES  FRESH BY TANK AND BARREL
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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.
MLA SELECT BUSINESS MEMBERS 
Show your support for these businesses!

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www.atlanticseafarms.com

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www.nauroc.com

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Damariscotta, ME 04543
207-563-3414
mpoirier@colbyandgale.com
https://colbyandgale.com

GIFTS
Maine Camp Outfitters
Melissa Daniels
300 Sunset Rd
Sunset, ME 04838 800-560-690
melmia@maine-camp.com
www.mainepromotional.com

HYDRAULICS
Corporate Hydraulics Inc.
28 Route 86
Seabrook, NH 03874
603-474-1914
www.corporatehydraulics.com

NEW ENGLAND BOAT BUILDERS/ REPAIR
Cranberry Isles Fishermens Coop
286 Island Rd
Lamoine, ME 04605
207-569-6691
travis.thompson@atwoodlobster.com

D.C. Air and Seafood
238 Newman St.
Winter Harbor, ME 04693
207-963-7139

Pruitts Lobster
do not sell to public

Main Coast LLC
15 Hannaford Drive, Unit 2
York, ME 03909
207-363-0876

Laye's Lobster
166 Tibbetts Rd.
NorthWood, ME 04762
207-846-3831

Brant Point Lobster
301 Brant Point Rd.
Nantucket, MA 02554
508-228-4602

Trout Point Bait
131 Route One
Tommy Duckworth
207-963-7139

TWIN CITY FISHING
Mike Godin
1017 Lisbon St.
Lewiston, ME 04240
207-777-6286
mike@twincityfg.com

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parker@parkerseabait.com

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On October 19, the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA), an organization of fishing industry and companies, filed a 60-day notice of its intent to sue over the decision by the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management (BOEM) to permit Vineyard Wind 1, an offshore wind project in federal waters off Massachusetts.

"Offshore wind has inherent conflicts with fishing and this is a huge threat to seafood production as we know it," stated RODA’s Executive Director Annie Hawkins in an email. "We can’t let the first project set a precedent that it’s okay to ignore the concerns and recommendation of fishermen who have lived on those waters for centuries."

The Secretary of Interior through BOEM granted the Vineyard Wind 1 Project final approval in July. The wind farm would encompass more than 65,000 acres of seafloor and feature 84 fixed wind turbines generating 800-megawatts of electricity when completed.

"This Administration is moving full speed ahead on offshore wind, with plans to build 30 gigawatts in U.S. waters in less than 10 years and then a lot more," Hawkins noted. "The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s leasing regulations allow developers to do almost anything they want, instead of upholding the public interest. There are no real requirements for projects to be sited and designed to avoid fisheries. There aren’t even any criteria for weighing the importance of fishing or fishing communities."

RODA stated its intent to file a lawsuit if federal officials do not make changes to the project that bring it into compliance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and other federal laws that were enacted to protect the nation’s environment, industries, and people. The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act controls federal leases for offshore mineral and energy resources. The Clean Water Act helps control pollution and discharge from companies into important oceans and rivers. The Endangered Species Act conserves and protects endangered and threatened species along with their habitats. If the legislative violations are not resolved within a 60-day period, RODA will move forward with suing the federal government for its failure to address these issues.

Hawkins emphasized that fishermen’s concerns have not been recognized by BOEM, despite years of involvement.

"We and individual fishing groups and associations have attended every meeting, written thousands of pages of comments, met with state and federal regulators, and gone above and beyond to improve this process," she said. "We’ve made various reasonable requests, from some baseline research on environmental impacts to suggesting a reason-able network of transit lanes so that fishermen can pass safely through project areas. Yet all the government did was agree to the voluntary ‘mitigation’ practices proposed by the developer.”

The intent to sue letter comes a month after RODA submitted a petition for the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals to review BOEM’s decision. The court has yet to make a ruling on the petition.

Hawkins reiterated the long-term importance of RODA’s action. "We need to make the government and wind developers understand that the ocean isn’t the wild west and they can’t just take whatever they want. This would apply to all current and future projects, not just Vineyard Wind or those in Southern New England," Hawkins said.
“Depression still has a stigma,” said River Martin, help line manager at NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Maine. “But knowing that others have it helps normalize it. It’s not a character flaw.”

Depression is a mental health disorder, affecting an estimated one in 15 adults in the United States, according to the American Psychiatric Association (APA). It is characterized by certain symptoms that persist for more than two weeks, such as loss of interest in once-enjoyable activities, changes in appetite, increased fatigue, feelings of worthlessness, difficulty concentrating or making decisions, sleeping too much or too little, and thoughts of death or suicide. Severe depression can wipe a person out, rendering them unable to function at work or at home.

Many factors contribute to the onset of depression, according to Martin. “There’s genetics or a traumatic event which can occur at any time in life. Depression is also caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain,” he said. Continuous exposure to violence, abuse, or poverty may make some people more vulnerable to depression.

The onset of depression often occurs when a person enters the later teenage years or early 20s. Afterward it may be reoccur throughout one’s life. “But depression can come at any time,” Martin cautioned. One in six people will experience depression at some point, according to the APA.

Depression is very different from general sadness or grief. Sadness and grief are normal reactions to loss of a loved one or a job and may ebb over time. Depression is a black hole into which no light comes. The depressed person is considered to be in a state of despair.

It is characterized by certain symptoms that persist for more than two weeks, according to the Mayo Clinic. A person may need to try several medications or a combination of medications before finding one that works. Some medications require several weeks or longer to take full effect.

Medications may also help release a person from the grip of chronic depression. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) are considered safe and generally cause fewer side effects than other types of antidepressants, according to the Mayo Clinic. A person may need to try several medications or a combination of medications before finding one that works. Some medications require several weeks or longer to take full effect.

“Reaching out for services is the strongest thing a person can do,” Martin said. “You are bettering your life and overall wellness.” The pandemic has led more people to seek mental health help from his organization, a result that encourages Martin. “A lot of people are reaching out for the first time and talking about it [depression], We are starting to see a shift in thinking about mental health and physical health.”

TO YOUR HEALTH:  Depression is not a character flaw

By Melissa Waterman

Where to seek help

The Maine Statewide Crisis Hotline 1-888-568-1112

Call this 24/7 line to speak with a trained crisis clinician if you are concerned about yourself or someone else.

Intentional Peer Support Warmline 1-866-771-9276

Call this 24/7 peer support line to speak with a trained peer support specialist who has life experience with mental health and/or substance use recovery.

NAMI Maine Helpline 1-800-464-5767, Option 1

The NAMI Maine Helpline provides support, education, and advocacy for anyone with questions about mental health concerns.

Man Therapy, www.mantherapy.org

This is not a helpline, but it is a great resource for men who may be hesitant to talk about mental health.
GULF OF MAIN E RESEARCH INSTITUTE BUYS PORTLAND’S UNION WHARF

Union Wharf, part of Portland’s working waterfront for 228 years, is being purchased by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) to maintain access for fishermen, oil spill responders, lobster wholesalers, and other maritime businesses. The wharf has been in private hands since it was constructed in the aftermath of Portland’s destruction in the American Revolution. Members of the Poole family have owned it outright since the 1950s. The Poole’s – led by brothers Charlie and Malcolm – are selling to their immediate neighbor, GMRI, a marine research institution that purchased and rehabilitated Wrights Wharf just to the west as its headquarters. GMRI’s bid wasn’t the highest, but they chose to sell to the institute because of its commitment to remain long-term stewards of the pier as the anchor of the working waterfront. GMRI president Don Perkins said his organization decided to try to purchase Union Wharf when it became clear no private maritime commercial companies or nonprofits were coming forward to take on the challenging and specialized mission of owning and operating a working commercial pier.

MAINE INVESTING $10 MILLION IN SEAFOOD INFRASTRUCTURE

The state will invest $10 million in federal funds through the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan to allow Maine seafood dealers and processors to upgrade their infrastructure. The new Seafood Infrastructure Investment Program will launch early next year and will be administered through the Department of Marine Resources. It will provide grants to Maine seafood dealers and processors to upgrade buildings, equipment, and utilities. These grants will help seafood dealers and processors increase the supply of Maine-harvested seafood; strengthen their ability to deliver to markets in Maine, across the United States, and around the world; and create and sustain jobs throughout Maine’s iconic seafood industry. The Department of Marine Resources will begin accepting applications in the coming months. A range of funding will be offered, including smaller grants for facilities improvements and larger grants for capital projects.

GOULDSBORO ADOPTS A 6-MONTH FINFISH AQUACULTURE BAN

Gouldsboro residents overwhelmingly voted for a moratorium ordinance that immediately halts for six months the review and issuance of municipal permits for American Aquafarms or other proposed 10-acre-plus finfish aquaculture ventures seeking to base their operations in town. The ordinance gives the Gouldsboro Planning Board time to review, and possibly propose amendments to, the town’s comprehensive plan as well as its land use, site plan, subdivision, and shoreland zoning ordinances that currently do not address finfish aquaculture development.

The ordinance was created largely in response to American Aquafarms’ plan to convert East Coast Seafood Group’s dormant Maine Fair Trade complex in Prospect Harbor into a large-scale operation which would process 66 million pounds of Atlantic salmon per year and raise its own juvenile fish to replenish its stocks at a hatchery on site.

ASMFC SEEKS INPUT ON LOBSTER VESSEL TRACKING REQUIREMENT

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s (ASMFC) Lobster Management Board will meet via webinar on December 6 at 1pm to discuss the release of a draft plan to the public that would require electronic vessel tracking in the federal lobster and Jonah crab fisheries. This proposed action aims to address a critical need for high-resolution spatial and temporal data to characterize federal lobster fishing effort.

ASMFC has discussed potential specifications and requirements for tracking devices, harvesters, and states that will be necessary to ensure these data needs are met. ASMFC is planning to hold public hearings in January 2022 and adopt final measures in winter/spring 2022. For more information and to register to attend this meeting, go to https://www.asmfc.org/calendar/12/2021/american-lobster-management-board/1840.

MAINE’S FISHING HISTORY THROUGH ONE FAMILY

A new book on a historic fishing family was published recently. The Nunans of Cape Porpoise was created by photographer Robert Dennis and writer Shelley Wigglesworth. It tells the story of the Nunan family’s long history of fishing beginning in 1861 up to the present. The books is full of interviews with the current Nunan lobstermen in the Cape Porpoise fleet complete with photos of the Nunan fishermen, their boats, their forefathers, and of Nunan’s Lobster Hut, begun in 1953. A portion of the proceeds from book sales benefit the Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association. To learn more, visit www.kportimages.com/The-Nunans-of-Cape-Porpoise.

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

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December 1 and 2
NOAA Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team meeting, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. FMI: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/marine-mammal-protection/atlantic-large-whale-take-reduction-team#pcoming-team-meetings.

December 2-12

December 3
NEFMC Scallop Committee meeting, 9 a.m. To register: www.nefmc.org/calendar/dec-3-2021-scallop-committee-meeting.

December 6
ASMFC Lobster Management Board, to discuss vessel tracking on federal lobster boats, 1:00 p.m. via webinar. FMI: www.asmfc.org/calendar/12/2021/American-Lobster-Management-Board/1840.

December 6
BOEM Guidance for Mitigating Impacts to Fisheries Meetings, East Coast workshop on fixed gear, 10 a.m. to Noon. FMI: brian.hook-er@boem.gov.

December 7
Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative Board, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. FMI: info@lob-sterfrommaine.com

Maine Offshore Wind Fisheries Working Group, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. FMI: www.maineoffshorewind.org.

December 7–9
NEFMC meeting, Newport, RI. To register: www.nefmc.org/calendar/december-2021-council-meeting.

December 8
MLA Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m., via Zoom.

December 13
Fisheries hot water: Defining sentinel indicators of resilience in the American lobster fishery, part of Collaborative Chats series, hosted by Maine Sea Grant via Zoom, 4 p.m. FMI: https://seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/american-lobster-initiative/events.

December 14
Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap Advisory Committee Meeting, virtual meeting, 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. FMI: http://maineoffshorewind.org.

December 17
ASMFC Northern Shrimp Section meeting, via webinar, 9-11 a.m. FMI and to register: www.asmfc.org/calendar/12/2021/Northern-Shrimp-Section/1841.

January 1, 2022
Happy New Year!

January 12
Early life history of American lobsters in coastal southern New England waters, part of Collaborative Chats series, hosted by Maine Sea Grant via Zoom, 5:30 p.m. FMI: https://seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/american-lobster-initiative/events.

These sound traps will provide data to better understand right whale habitat use in the Gulf of Maine. The University of Maine’s underwater glider has been active this year in the Gulf of Maine and has had several right whale detections, including in the LMA1 closed area.

Stock Resiliency
If whales were not enough, at its October Annual Meeting, ASMFC’s Lobster Management Board continued work on its addendum to the fishery management plan to build resiliency into the stock. The Addendum considers a trigger-based approach. If a trigger is hit, a management response would be implemented. The ASMFC Technical Committee has recommended that the trigger be based on the result of surveys, including the ME/NH spring and fall surveys as well as ventless trap surveys, and a change in gauge size as the best management response to increase spawning stock biomass. The Lobster Board will review a completed draft of the Addendum at their January 2022 meeting. At that point they can send it back to the Plan Development Team for modifications or approve it for public comment. We will update the industry during the next round of lobster zone council meetings.

Federal Relief
As you also likely have heard, there will soon be $17 million in federal relief funds available for Maine’s seafood industry by way of the Consolidated Appropriations Act. DMR has sought input on the use of these funds from industry associations, advisory councils, and individual businesses, and consistently heard that these funds represent an unusual opportunity to make strategic investments that will improve the long-term viability of the eligible sectors.

The Governor recently announced that she has made an additional $10 million available through grants for Maine’s dealers and processors to support their infrastructure needs. The goal of these funds is to provide dealers and processors support that they did not get from other sources of federal relief funding. Many had to forego needed capital investments because they had to spend money adapting to market and workplace challenges driven by COVID-19. These funds will be made available to dealers and processors as grants in the coming months.

We are working on a plan for spending the Consolidated Appropriation Act money and will be submitting it to NOAA soon for approval. We have received preliminary approval to reimburse all Maine commercial fishermen who renew their licenses for 2022 for the cost of their 2022 fees (license fees, surcharges, and trap tags). We will communicate to you exactly how this will work once our plan is approved by NOAA.

It is my hope that it will take the sting out of my announcement that we will have to raise the price of trap tags given increasing tag costs in recent years – a cost I have resisted passing on to lobstermen for ten years.

Keliher continued from page 4
The people of the Maine coast celebrate their connection to the sea at all times of the year, but perhaps most colorfully in the holiday season. From Eastport to York, the small towns and harbors light up in celebration.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

A lobster trap Christmas tree rises in Rockland. MLA photo.

Santa Claus arrives in Kennebunk. R. Dennis photo.


A peaceful winter scene at the Jonesboro Grange. R. Hodgson photo.

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