LOBSTER, TOURISM SUSTAIN THE MIDCOAST MAINE ECONOMY

By Melissa Waterman

The lobster fishery is integrated into the fabric of the Maine coast, giving its small towns and harbors a firm economic and cultural foundation. This wasn’t always true. Once Maine fishermen moved among fisheries based on the season of the year: lobster in the summer and fall, scallops and shrimp in the winter, halibut in the spring, herring in the summer, clam digging year-round. But those options have shrunk and, in some cases such as northern shrimp, vanished entirely. The coast of Maine is in a "gilded trap," as lobster biologist Robert Steneck wrote in 2011, largely dependent on one lucrative species, the American lobster.

How important is the lobster fishery to the Maine coast? What will be the economic impact of a reduction in the harvest due to regulations or to a changing Gulf of Maine? We continue our three-part series with a look at Midcoast Maine.

Walk the streets of Rockland and there’s little to suggest the economic clout of the lobster fishery in Knox County. Once called "Lobster Capital of the World," now billed as Maine’s "Art Capital," Rockland features the Farnsworth Art Museum, the Maine Center for Contemporary Art, and a bevy of restaurants, art galleries, and shops. In the summer months (pre-pandemic) out-of-state vehicles vie for parking spots, line up for the Vinalhaven and North Haven ferries, and dot the parking lots of the city’s B&Bs and hotels. Sailboats hang on moorings in the harbor and vacationers walk along the adjacent boardwalk, admiring the view.

Ten minutes south of town lies tiny Spruce Head Island. Linked to South Thomaston by a small bridge, Spruce Head’s one paved road leads down to the water, past clusters of year-round and summer homes. Jammed next to each other on the island’s west side sit a lobster co-operative, Atwood’s lobster company, and McLoon’s wharf and lobster shack. In the summer, the narrow road grows crowded with tourists hungry for lobster rolls, refrigerated trucks jostling up to the wharves, and lobstermen’s trucks searching for a place to park.

To the casual observer, it’s hard to believe that lobstermen operating out of Spruce Head harvested nearly eight million pounds of lobster in 2020, valued at close to $35 million, according to Department of Marine Resources (DMR).
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Maine Lobstermen’s Community Alliance
P.O. Box 315
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207-967-6221

www.mlcalliance.org

MLCAlliance is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, established in 2010, which achieves its charitable mission through programs in education, research and charity.

Our programs change lives.

lobstermen’s Relief Fund helps lobstermen, their families & children during times of difficulty or tragedy. Our connections make us a resource for anyone in Maine’s lobstering industry experiencing hardship. Funded by businesses and donors, our program handles requests on a case by case basis. For more information, please contact the MLCA office directly.

Our monthly newspaper Landings is sent free to all of Maine’s commercial lobstermen, state agency staff & elected officials, as well as to paid subscribers and MLA members. This is the one newspaper exclusively for lobstermen and their industry. Content is archived and available online and is widely searched daily.

The MLA’s mission is to foster thriving coastal communities and preserve Maine’s lobstering heritage. MLA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which achieves its charitable mission through programs in education, research and charity.

To donate, subscribe, or to learn more, visit us at www.mlcalliance.org
By Jeff Putnam

I have always been a naturally optimistic person, looking for the positive in every situation. Ask me what I think the lobster price will be next week and my response usually is “Hopefully it will go up, why wouldn’t it?” But in our line of work, there are harsh realities that even the most upbeat folks have to contend with and adapt to. The market and shipping disruptions following the 9/11 attacks, the financial crisis of 2008 and the early oversupply of lobsters in 2012 have been the biggest challenges to our industry during my time in this business, until recently.

The release of NMFS’s Biological Opinion (Biop) and ten-year conservation plan plus the pending right whale court cases have me questioning what the fishery will look like in five to ten years.

This is not good faith negotiating on the part of NMFS, it is a heavy-handed approach that shows that there is no interest in working together toward a realistic goal.

What is there to be positive about when we are facing these draconian measures to protect a species that we simply are not harming? For starters, I was truly impressed with lobstermen during the development of Maine’s plan which incorporated trawling-up scenarios, conservation equivalencies, gear markings, and vertical line weak points. I have been involved in the zone council and Lobster Advisory Council for many years now and to see us be proactive in this manner was encouraging. Many lobstermen volunteered to install rope load testers on their boats to check breaking strength while hauling. We sent in many rope configurations to the DMR lab for break testing. We showed our willingness to adapt to longer trawls for the purpose of reducing endlines and spent countless hours taking red marks out of our lines in exchange for the new purple marks.

Why did we do all of this? Because we wanted to show NMFS and the environmental groups that we were negotiating in good faith, that we care about the right whales and we want to put this behind us. More on their response later.

DMR Commissioner Kelich has been able to effectively communicate the severity of what the lobstering industry is facing to the Governor, Legislature and federal Congressional delegation. The state has committed major financial resources to protect the lobster fishery and is very involved in the court cases. Our federal representatives have urged the President and Commerce Secretary to oppose rules that would harm lobstermen’s livelihoods.

The Save Maine Lobstermen campaign by the MLA collects donations for the Legal Defense Fund so that we have representation in and knowledge of the court cases. This fundraising effort has had an incredibly successful start. I have taken notice of the many people and businesses that have donated to protect the heart of coastal Maine’s economy. The businesses that donate are the ones that many of us work with every day. The lobstering families that donate understand the importance of this fight for our future. Donations from people who have second-hand ties to the industry are truly appreciated, thank you.

The optimistic me thought that NMFS would be pleased that Maine had gone ahead and done all of the legwork to comply with the risk reduction numbers when it submitted a draft proposal to the whale rule in 2020. Unfortunately, NMFS just took Maine’s plan as starting point and imposed measures in the final whale rule that included a nearly 1000-square-mile closure during a very productive lobstering time. This is not something that we can just adapt to; it is unprecedented in Maine lobstering history.

The closure area does not pass the straight face test. Whales have not been entangled there and there is no data to suggest this is an area with a high co-occurrence of right whales and lobster gear. I am afraid that this is the first step in a plan to close other areas to lobstering, which we all know increases gear density nearby and effectively puts a gear “knee” around the closure area. This is...
that supply chain problems have delayed production of manufactured weak rope and in-line weak links. DMR has been told by manufacturers that plastic weak links could be available for purchase in February. Maine DMR submitted options for consideration by NMFS to include the use of knots, however, NMFS not yet ruled on whether these methods will be allowed. NMFS maintains a list of approved weak insert options on its website (https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/marine-mammal-protection/atlantic-large-whale-take-reduction-plan).

DMR plans to approve additional weak insert options for lobster gear fished in Maine's exempt waters. The state will conduct rulemaking to allow the use of a three-foot section of 5/16" line to be used as a weak insert if it is connected to the stronger line on each end with either a fisherman's knot or sheet bend. Alternatively, DMR will allow the top half of the buoy line to be rigged with 5/16" rope that has an overhand knot to meet the weak insert requirement in Maine's exempt waters.


DMR deputy commissioner Meredith Mendelson spoke about the court cases related to the whale rules. The DMR has hired Nossaman LLP, a national legal firm based in Los Angeles, California to represent the Department in two of the pending litigations. In September 2021, the DMR became an intervenor in the Massachusetts whale advocate Max Strahan’s legal suits in Maine and Massachusetts have been dismissed. In the Massachusetts case, however, the judge took the unusual step of making a statement about what should be done if the suit again reaches the court, specifically that Massachusetts must obtain an Incidental Take Permit to continue to permit vertical buoy lines in its state waters fisheries.

DMR Commissioner Patrick Keliher and Director of Marine Policy Deirdre Gilbert spoke about the rise in trap tag fees from 50 cents to 75 cents. Trap tag fees go into the Lobster Management Fund. The Fund helps pay the cost of DMR staff involved in lobster management. In 2018, the cost to manufacture the trap tags quadrupled. For the past three years, DMR has juggled funds to pay for staff positions. Last year the department requested new bids to manufacture the trap tags; the two bids received were both higher than the current contract. "I waited as long as I could without doing any increase," Commissioner Keliher said. "But we are spending a half a million more than we are bringing in."

The department plans to use the 2021 federal Consolidated Appropriations Act funds awarded to Maine to create a license reimbursement program for fisherman. The program will repay fisherman for the cost of an annual commercial license.


Weak Points: Sliver & Federal Waters

- Weak inserts must be chosen from NMFS-approved list: fisheries.noaa.gov/ALWTRP
- Waiting on verdict of weak point options ME DMR submitted

Weak Point Requirements by Zone/Distance from Shore:

- State waters: 1 weak point 50% down line or 50% of buoy line weak rope.
- 3 to 12 miles / Zones A west, B, C, D, E: 2 weak points 25% and 50% down the line, or top 50% of buoy line weak rope.
- 3 to 12 miles / Zones A east, F, G: 1 weak point 33% down the line.
- Outside 12 miles: 1 weak point 33% down the line.

NMFS Approved Options for Weak Inserts in Non-exempt Waters:

- insert an approved three-foot section of manufactured 1,700 pound rope.
- insert a three-foot long 1,700 pound braided “south shore” sleeve.
- insert a manufactured 1,700 pound weak link into the rope.

Where can I purchase weak inserts?

The approved in-line weak insert is manufactured by Seaside Rope in Warren, Maine. It may be available for purchase in stores in February. Plantes Buoy Sticks is also developing an in-line weak insert for approval by NMFS but is not yet available.

Approved manufactured 1,700-pound ropes are manufactured by Rocky Mount Cordage (available in red or candy cane at Ketchum Trap in New Bedford, MA), and Neco corp 3/8” polyester rope (1021) and Neco corp Seaway 5/16" #10 braid (available at Brooks Trap Mill in Maine and RI).

The southshore sleeve is manufactured by Novabraid and is available at NEMI in New Hampshire.

Weak Insert Requirements

There are a lot of questions and fewer answers about how to comply with weak inserts. All vertical lines must be rigged with weak inserts by May 1, 2022.

Additional options for weak inserts in Exempt Waters

The state will adopt the new federal whale rules into state regulations. While NMFS has sole authority to set standards for weak inserts in non-exempt waters, Maine has flexibility to set the standard for weak inserts in Maine’s exempt waters.

DMR determined that 5/16” rope on its own does not consistently break below 1700 pounds. However, if fished with an overhand knot in the line, or connecting a section of 5/16” rope to stronger line with a fisherman’s knot or sheet bend, it does meet the 1,700 pound standard.

Maine will be proposing the use of 5/16” rope with a knot to meet the weak insert requirement in Maine’s EXEMPT waters.
The new year is off to a very busy start, and 2022 will likely prove to be the busiest and most eventful year ever for the MLA. While the MLA is consumed by litigation over the whale rules, lobstermen are rightfully focused on the looming May deadline to comply with the most recent changes to the whale plan. There’s a lot of work involved in re-rigging more traps per trawl, adding weak inserts to buoy lines, and re-marking vertical lines again (for federal permit holders). The May deadline would be hard to meet during normal times when marine supply shops are fully stocked. But as you are painfully aware, that is not the case this year. To make matters worse, NMFS has approved a very limited number of options for weak inserts, none of which are available for purchase right now. Hopefully the manufactured plastic in-line weak inserts will make it to stores in February, but these days, who knows? Please don’t let the stress of converting all your gear to comply with the new rules distract you from the real threat. Our industry is facing two additional risk reductions to comply with NMFS’s 10-year whale plan: another 60% risk reduction in 2025 and an additional 87% risk reduction in 2039! As I’ve said before, I’m extremely worried that there is no way for our industry to actually achieve these reductions and still have a viable fishery. That is why the MLA has sued NMFS.

I’ve heard the state characterize the lawsuit filed by the four environmental groups (eNGOs) as the most important lawsuit pending right now. While I agree that case is extremely critical in avoiding that outcome when the court issued its ruling in 2019 to give NMFS an extra six months to complete the whale plan. This is a very big deal. The MLA will continue to invest significant resources in the eNGO case to help the court understand that shutting down the Maine lobster fishery will not save the right whale population. The science that shows right whales are moving away from where Maine lobstermen fish and will move even further away by 2050. The science that shows right whales are adapting to a shifting climate and are once again successfully foraging and producing young. The science that shows right whales do perish from natural causes like shark predation. And the science that shows right whales are showing up in unexpected places like Europe and the Gulf of Mexico, indicating that potentially important habitats are not being surveyed and that these animals should not be considered dead. Given the dire status of the right whale population and the continued occurrence of serious entanglements that cannot be traced to a fishery, commercial fisheries will remain in the crosshairs of regulators. It is unrealistic to think we could change the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). But through the courts, we can change how NMFS implements these laws. We must demand that NMFS meet the legal requirements in the ESA and the MMPA that call for it to use the best science available.

The science that shows Maine lobster gear has never been known to kill a right whale or even entangle a whale since 2004. The science which shows that over the last five years U.S. vessels strikes have killed two whales while U.S. commercial fisheries have not killed any. The science that shows Canadian fishing gear continues, by far, to be the predominant gear removed from entangled whales. The science that shows right whales are moving away from where Maine lobstermen fish and will move even further away by 2050. The science that shows right whales are adapting to a shifting climate and are once again successfully foraging and producing young. The science that shows right whales do perish from natural causes like shark predation. And the science that shows right whales are showing up in unexpected places like Europe and the Gulf of Mexico, indicating that potentially important habitats are not being surveyed and that these animals should not be considered dead because they may have migrated away from their prior range. For more than a decade, MLA has exhausted every avenue in seeking fair treatment for Maine’s lobster industry and accountability from NMFS in how and where it targets whale conservation measures. After door after door was slammed in our face, our only recourse was to go on the offensive, which actions they believe have violated the law and why. Parties that enter the case as intervenors can only weigh in on the legal issues raised by the plaintiffs. As an intervenor, your role is to ensure that the court understands your perspective on each issue. But if your key issues are not raised by the plaintiff, the judge has no jurisdiction to decide them. Period. So there are limits on what you can achieve as an intervenor in another party’s lawsuit.

In the eNGO court case, intervenors representing the lobster industry are trying to avoid a shutdown of the fishery on the legal grounds raised by the eNGOs — that is, NMFS failed to issue an incidental take statement. MLA’s involvement was critical to avoiding that outcome when the court issued its ruling in 2019 to give NMFS an extra six months to complete the Biological Opinion, which was finalized in May 2021. Surprisingly, the eNGOs are not satisfied with the new Biological Opinion and are once again looking to shut down the lobster fishery, this time going after both state and federal waters. This is a very big deal. The MLA is extremely grateful that the state obtained outside counsel and joined us as an intervenor in this case in 2021. But the eNGOs raise a narrow legal issue that can be decided by the judge without fixing the fundamental flaws in the science underlying the Biological Opinion. It is the Biological Opinion that is driving NMFS’s draconian risk reductions by lobstermen. That is why the MLA’s case is crucial to preserving a future for Maine’s lobster fishery. The MLA’s lawsuit seeks to expose the many scientific flaws in NMFS’s Biological Opinion and asks the judge to require NMFS to get the science right before it implements a ten-year whale plan that will wreak havoc on our industry without saving the right whale population. Our lawsuit is aimed at making sure that Maine lobstermen are only required to reach risk reduction goals that match up with the scientifically-documented risk posed by our fishery. It also demands accountability from an agency that has accepted, in spite of contrary scientific evidence, the eNGOs’ flawed vertical lines and whale entanglement as a existential threat to right whales that only ropeless fishing can fix. It is frustrating that the environmental groups continue to herald management measures recently implemented in Canada and somehow ignore the fact that ten right whales died in Canada in 2019 while these measures were in place. Through the MLA’s lawsuit, we have made it clear that we will not allow the U.S. government to hold Maine lobstermen accountable for right whales that we know are not being killed by our fishery. I wish we could make this all go away, but that is not possible. Given the dire status of the right whale population and the continued occurrence of serious entanglements that cannot be traced to a fishery, commercial fisheries will remain in the crosshairs of regulators.

Maine Lobstermen's Association UPDATE

MAINE LOBSTERMEN’S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

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

STEAMING AHEAD

As always, stay safe on the water.
ASMFCONSIDERS INCREASING MINIMUM SIZE FOR AREA 1 LOBSTER FISHERY

The ASMF Lobster Board met on January 25 and approved for public comment a proposal (Draft Addendum XXVII) to change the Lobster Fishery Management Plan to improve resilience of the lobster fishery. The draft addendum considers modifications to standardize measures across lobster management areas (LMA) to increase the minimum size of lobster. These changes are designed to protect the lobster stock and ensure that the fishery is sustainable. The changes include increasing the minimum size from 2-3/4 to 3-5/16 inches (84 to 86 mm). A few of the options would also require Area 3 to reduce its maximum size, as well as standardizing V-notch requirements. The goal of the draft addendum is to increase the resilience of the lobster fishery by reducing the risk of overfishing and ensuring the sustainability of the population.

Right whales are off to a good start for the 2022 calving season, which runs December through March. Researchers closely monitor the southeastern Atlantic coast for right whale mother/calf pairs. As of January 20, 12 calves have been identified. After a historic low in 2018 when zero calves were born, right whale calving rates have been improving, with seven identified in 2019, 10 in 2020 and 20 in 2021. According to NMFS, 20 newborns in a calving season is considered a relatively productive year, though they estimate higher rates are needed to recover the population.


HERRING ANNUAL CATCH LIMIT (ACL) QUOTAS FOR 2022

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<th>Area</th>
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The ASMFC vessel tracking public hearings were held online in January to update stakeholders and take public comment on the Commission's proposal (Addendum 29) to require electronic tracking for federal permit vessels in the American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries. This would provide better information to inform management decisions and support conservation goals.
federally permitted lobster boats. Fishermen supported maintaining the status quo and raised concerns. Questions included whether a vessel could go fishing if the tracker system malfunctioned, the cost of the units, whether existing VMS or AIS could be used instead, how this data would benefit fishermen, and why fishermen will be required to pay for this program. Several commenters believed that this data will not be used to help them, but instead will be used against them as a way to identify new closure areas and to enforce them. Written comments were due January 31.

**TIMELINE OF RIGHT WHALE COURT CASES**

There are currently three important court cases moving forward: two in D.C. District Court (CBD vs Ross, and MLA vs NMFS) and one in Bangor District Court (MLU vs Commerce). There is also an appeal pending in the MLU case.

**CBD vs Ross** was filed by several environmental groups in 2018 in D.C. District Court. The judge determined that NMFS’s authorization of the lobster fishery violates the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and ordered NMFS to issue a new Biological Opinion by May 2021. NMFS complied. The environmental organizations then filed this complaint and now allege that the new Biological Opinion and Final Whale Rule violate both the ESA and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and that the whale measures should apply to both state and federal waters.

**MLA vs NMFS** was filed by the Maine Lobstermen’s Association in September 2021 in D.C. District Court. The complaint challenges the federal government’s flawed 10-year whale protection plan (part of the Biological Opinion) arguing that it will erase the Maine lobster fishery but fail to save endangered right whales if it is not corrected.

**MLU vs Commerce** was filed by the Maine Lobstering Union in September 2021 in Bangor District Court. The MLU alleges that the LMA 1 closure is illegal because it is not based on best available science and why fishermen will be required to pay for this program. Several commenters believed that this data will not be used to help them, but instead will be used against them as a way to identify new closure areas and to enforce them. Written comments were due January 31.

**MAINE LOBSTERMEN’S ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

**LOBSTER BILLS – 130TH LEGISLATURE, 2ND SESSION**

**LD 1759** An Act To Extend the Legal Hours for Harvesting Lobster in the Month of September (Emergency), sponsored by Rep. Genevieve McDonald. This bill proposes to change the legal start time for lobster fishing to 4:00AM in the month of September. An online public hearing has been scheduled for February 1.

**LD 1742** An Act To Ensure Compliance with the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster, sponsored by Senator David Miramant. This bill proposes to allow the DMR Commissioner to adopt routine technical rules to amend the minimum and maximum lobster size and the dimensions of vents in lobster traps when necessary to comply with changes to the AEMC management plan for American Lobster. An online public hearing has been scheduled for February 1.

**LD 1988** An Act To Address the Economic Impact of Federal Closures on Maine’s Fixed Gear Fishing Industry, sponsored by Rep. Holly Stover of Boothbay. This bill proposes to establish the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Impact Fund, funded at $3 million and administered by the Department of Marine Resources, to mitigate negative financial impacts incurred by individuals and businesses engaged in Maine’s fixed gear fishing industry. An online public hearing has been scheduled for February 1.

**LD 1989** An Act To Limit Eligibility for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses, sponsored by Rep. Genevieve McDonald of Stonington. This bill proposes to limit eligibility for commercial menhaden fishing licenses beginning in 2023 to individuals under certain conditions. This includes individuals who held a license to fish commercially for menhaden in any year from 2016-2021 and landed 25,000 pounds or more of menhaden in at least one of those years. It also provides that the Commissioner may not issue a commercial menhaden license to any individual in any year subsequent to 2023 unless said individual possessed the license in the previous calendar year. An online public hearing has been scheduled for February 8.

**LD 1916** An Act To Create a Legal Defense Fund for the Maine Lobster Industry, sponsored by Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham of Winter Harbor. This bill proposes to establish the Legal Defense Fund for the Maine Lobster Industry and a commission to administer the fund. The commission would have 7 members, including 4 legislators from the Marine Resources Committee, the Senate chair and House chair, and 3 licensed commercial lobstermen. The commission would be charged with reviewing current and proposed laws, rules, and regulations, both federal and state, concerning the lobster industry, determining the best course of action, including a response involving the legal system, and using the money in the Legal Defense Fund for the Maine Lobster Industry to carry out that course of action as appropriate. This would be funded by 20¢ from the sale of each trap tag and 20% of the license surcharge for the State’s lobster marketing collaborative. The laws governing the commission and the fund would be repealed in 2032. An online public hearing has been scheduled for February 8.

**LD 1796** An Act To Coordinate Marine Port Development, sponsored by Rep. Roland Martin. This bill proposes changes to the governance of marine port terminal facility development including expanding the scope of the Maine Port Terminal Facilities Marketing Program. Other changes include requiring the Maine Port Authority to hire an executive director and certain other employees. An online public hearing has been scheduled for February 1.

**Bills submitted but not yet published:**


**LB 2289** An Act To Create the Office of Federal Liaison for Maine’s Heritage Lobster Industry, sponsored by President Troy Jackson of Aroostook.

**LB 2166** An Act To Establish the Lobster Roll as the Maine State Sandwich, sponsored by Senator Eloise Vitelli of Sagadahoc.

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**Schedule for Whale-Lobster Industry Court Cases**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>CBD vs Ross</th>
<th>MLA vs NMFS</th>
<th>MLU vs Commerce</th>
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<td>Mar 21</td>
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<td>Dec 20, 2021</td>
<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>Mar 21</td>
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<td>Defendant and intervenor Response Briefs</td>
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<td>Apr 13</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Feb 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plaintiff and intervenor reply</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
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<td>June 24</td>
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data. Those dollars were quickly spent at local businesses in Rockland and other towns of the Midcoast.

And that is the nature of the Midcoast Maine: a constantly changing dance between the tourism industry and the lobster fishery. "The lobster fishery is part of the fabric of our region," acknowledged Tom Peaco, executive director of the Penobscot Regional Chamber of Commerce. "It’s hard to separate the two."

The Maine Office of Tourism understands this connection well. The Office produces The Maine Quarterly, a glossy online magazine promoting the state through its food, outdoors, and culture. Not an issue goes by without an article referencing Maine’s commercial fisheries — the people, the harbors, the boats and the traditions. The coast of Maine sells, and a recognized part of that allure is the lobster fishery.

"It’s hard to measure [the impact] of the fishery, but it’s very significant," Peaco said. "You can see how much tourism lobster draws. People come here looking for it. This region has a positive reputation as a hub for lobster fishing."

In recent years, however, Knox County, once the leader in lobster landings along the coast, has moved to second place, trailing Hancock County. While lobster landings increased steadily in Knox county in the previous decades and have not faltered, lobster landings in both Hancock and Washington counties surged steadily upward in the past decade. This reflects a shift of the location of the peak lobster abundance in response to warming ocean temperatures (see chart). Still, the volume of lobster being landed in Vinalhaven and smaller Knox County harbors such as Spruce Head remains high.

"If you look at landings, the increase is in Downeast Maine. There’s been no significant drop in the Midcoast," said Sam Belknap, senior community development officer at the Island Institute in Rockland. "The long-term effects of climate change and regulatory issues are more cause for immediate concern.

Lobstermen are aware that their environment is changing. Many are venturing into other ocean-based businesses as a hedge against a long anticipated downward shift in landings, ventures for which Belknap provides assistance. "The lobster fishery is the key to providing the infrastructure for folks to branch out into kelp or oyster farming as secondary businesses," he explained. "Without the fishing infrastructure in place, it would be a challenge to get into the sector."

Belknap also recognizes that the lobster fishery helps boost tourism, both in the Midcoast and throughout the coast. "Lobstering is the core and essence of the cultural heritage that draws people here. They want to experience the sense of community in a fishing harbor," he said. The key is to continue to support lobstermen and their towns by protecting working waterfront properties and ensuring adequate access to the ocean. "Commercial fishing involves capital and time and investment," he said.

The balance between lobstering as a way of life and tourism continues to be a delicate one, according to Peaco. "Lobstering has a major effect on the local economy. It ripples to the car dealers, the grocery stores, everything. Lobstermen are making purchases locally: We all thrive by their success," he said.

In Thomaston, Brooks Trap Mill sprawls across several acres of land. The company, begun as a trap stock mill in 1946, provides commercial fishing and aquaculture products at seven locations in Maine and Rhode Island.

Stephen Brooks, co-owner of the company, sounded anxious during a January telephone conversation. Since the pandemic began, they have struggled to find enough workers and adequate supplies to meet the many trap and supply orders coming in. Before the pandemic, Brooks Trap Mill employed more than 100 local people as well as an additional 30 to 50 individual subcontractors. Currently nearly 40 openings at the company remain unfilled.

While Brooks Trap has diversified its products over the years, branching out into aquaculture supplies and other items, approximately 70% of the company’s revenue comes from lobstermen. "If lobster-related sales really dropped off, we would have to cut our overhead as quickly as possible. That means employees, inventory, possibly locations," Brooks said.

The company’s customers come from throughout the coast, many second or third generation patrons. Brooks finds it hard to believe that a fishery so long tied to his family’s business and to Maine’s culture could ultimately disappear. “Can you imagine what the state of Maine would look like with no lobstering? Think of the money lobstermen bring in. Can you imagine the impact to the state?” he said.

**2019-2020 combined landings and value, DMR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>millions lbs</th>
<th>$ millions value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vinalhaven</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>69.745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owls Head</td>
<td>2.524</td>
<td>12.955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spruce Head</td>
<td>7.78</td>
<td>34.978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenants Harbor</td>
<td>3.423</td>
<td>15.508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendship</td>
<td>9.039</td>
<td>45.454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Harbor</td>
<td>2.097</td>
<td>9.974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boothbay Harbor</td>
<td>2.435</td>
<td>11.842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matinicus</td>
<td>1.013</td>
<td>4.317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>4.565</td>
<td>21.509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cundy’s Harbor</td>
<td>4.501</td>
<td>21.064</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What will funding support?

Funding will directly support legal efforts to challenge flawed federal regulations through
- Lawsuits
- Regulatory processes
- Development of innovative gear solutions
- Education to save Maine lobstermen AND right whales.

We can’t do it without YOU.

Join The Fight Today!
SaveMaineLobstermen.org
Thank you 2021 MLA LDF Donors
$100 - $299 continued
William Nichols
Chelsea Nunn
Arthur O'Keefe
George Olsen
Brian Orcutt
Travis & Keith Otis
Phillip Page
Theresa Peterson
Justin Prebleston
Michael Pinkham
Janet Pollack
Woodbury Post
Lawrence Pye
Douglas Rackliff
David & Dana Ranta
Shawn Rich
Steve Rosen
Joseph Salisbury
Michael Sargent
Irving Brett Schwab
Carli Stewart
Gary Steele
Donna Spivey
Lange Solberg
Ralph Slaven
Lange Solberg
Beverly Sotell
Donna Spivey
Edward Stanhope
Gary Steeles
Carl Steet
Frank Strout
A. Tandy
David Tarr
Elliot Thomas
Dana Tracy
Peter Vogell
Virginia Wadleigh
Ray Wahr
Kashmona Watt
Derek Webber
Bradley West

$100 - $299 continued
Richard Wilson
Joseph Wood
Donald Wright
Chris Young

Gifts Under $100
Robin Alden
Ames/Walsh Family
Terrence Ashton
Judith Baker
Stuart Bevin
Erich Bohmern
Theodore Boyce
Norman Brazer Jr.
Kara Breese
Foy Brown
Linda Burley
Chelsea Chase
James Coakley
Kathleen Coulard
Ornolle Darling
Demaree DiBiase
Edgar Drew
Cara Dunn
Daniel Emerson
Jon Emerson
Corey Engle
Debra Furman
Brian Green
Jeffrey Greiner
Michael Gurtler
Andrea Hart
Willam Hart
Allison Hepler
Stephen Hewitt
Lindsay Hocking-Hauser
Linda Hooper
Kenneth Houghton
C Hutchings/BHS Special Svc Team
Margaret Jicha
Paul Kinsella
Angela Lancielli

Under $100 continued
Paul Lanie
Paul Lawhren
Ingrid Levasseur
Ken & Deb LaVoie/Central
Maine Video
Barbara MacAdams
Chloe Maxmin
Michael McGloine
Mary Medina
Kathleen Menard
John Miller
Mark Minton
William Mitchell
George Munson
Must Be Nice Lobster Co
Gordon Murray
Michael Nash
Ronda Nichols
Linda O'Brien
Robert Oberlander
Roz & Dolly Pachter
Zoe Pelegroino
Evan Pitette
Susan Potvin
Donna Reed
Bonnie Remar
John Rohrer
Andrew Rudalevich
Molly Schoppee
Gynell Schoppee
Molly Samuels
Andrew Rudalevich
Michael & Marnie Stevens
Susan & Paul Taylor
Andrea Torok
Diana Tyler
Michael & Patricia Weare
Kenneth Weed
Wendy Wenger

Under $100 continued
Mark White
Caleb Wiesing
Matthew Wiley

Under $100 continued
Amber Wotton
Susan York
Sandra York

In Honor of Matthew Thomas Joy
Swain Island
Bruce E Johnson

In Honor of our lobstermen sons
Ronda Nichols

Merry Christmas Captain K Glover
Matt Wiley

Gifts in Memoriam
In Memory of Richard Alley Jr.
Richard Alley Jr & Serena Spurling

In Memory of Marc Bradley
Lee Osgood

In Memory of Richard Bowen
Mike & Brad

In Memory of Gilbar Callamore Sr
Clinton Callamore

In Memory of Rodney Dyar
Lee Osgood
Courtland Tolman

In Memory Of Tim Dyar
Courtland Tolman

In memory of Rick Knight Jr.
Erich Brazer
Michael Flanigan
David & Dana Ranta
Michael & Patricia Weare

In Memory of Greg Hoyt
Alyson Ames
Calvin Bayley
Ellen Becht

Thank you to our 2022 Donors!

Our industry thanks you!

Gifts $1,000 - $4,999
Travis Doughty
Chris Goodale
Chip Johnson
Daniel Johnson
Lincoln Johnson
Kris Koerber
Craig Lazarro
Kenneth Young

Gifts $300 - $499
Chris Jenness

Gifts $100 - $299
John Bacon
Hugh Bowen
John Clinton
JT Lobster
Joseph Salisbury

Gifts Under $100
Carla Bryson
James O'Connell
Robert Raudenbush

Gifts $500 - $999
Elizabeth Fenwick
Shaun McLennan
Garrett Steele

“I am a commercial lobsterman in Gloucester Mass. This fight is all of our fight, we’re one brotherhood together! We need to stand together to be able to keep fishing! We need to protect the ocean and our way of life!”

“Stand strong!”

“Thank you [MLA] for all the hard work. Keep fighting the good fight.”

“We support your cause.”
The MLA is raising $10 million in three years to fight back against unfair whale rules.

New year, new $1,000 challenge!

Everyone who donates at least $1,000 in 2022 will receive an EXCLUSIVE SAVE MAINE LOBSTERMEN SWEATSHIRT.

How much is the future of Maine’s lobster industry AND its communities worth to you?

- Yes! I pledge $1,000
- Yes! I pledge $84 per month ($1,000 total)
- Other options for supporting #SML:
  - $10,000
  - $5,000
  - $2,000
  - $500
  - $365 “a dollar a day”
- Other: _________

Will you pledge at least $1,000 to SAVE MAINE LOBSTERMEN in 2022?

There are 4,800 licensed harvesters in Maine. If each donated just $1,000 to Save Maine Lobstermen, we’d be HALFWAY to our $10 million goal.

THAT IS JUST $84/MONTH!

Name: ____________________________
Business Name: ____________________
Address: __________________________
City: ______________________________
State: ___________ Zip: _____________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

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

Videos are an important marketing tool for sharing the industry’s perspective on different issues. The MLMC is planning a new video series in 2022 to showcase the Maine Lobster fishery as a steward of the environment and a leader in sustainability.

The videos will show:

• Scientists working with fishermen to gather data around climate and sustainability
• Industry members proactively addressing concerns such as ghost gear, product waste and carbon footprint
• The industry’s longstanding and ongoing commitment to protecting right whales

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

WE WOULD LOVE TO SERVE YOU!

There’s always an advantage with A.C. Inc.

LET US HELP YOU MARKET YOUR PRODUCT!

Buying product from dealers, wharfs, fishermen and harvesters.

AC Inc.  Beals, ME 04611  207-497-2261
Thank you for 45 years!

Wayne Hamilton started selling commercial fishing supplies out of his Searsport garage in 1977. Since then, Hamilton Marine has grown to six stores along the coast of Maine with the determination to serve our customers for many more years to come.
Thank you to all who donated to the Maine Lobstermen’s Community Alliance in 2021!

General Donations
Josie Briggs
Capt. Bruce Robertson-Dick
Rugged Seas, Cape Elizabeth ME
Tom Dickens
Industrial ME, Woolwich ME
FE & Laurie Propst
in memory of T Evans
William Alexander
Karen Asseln
Miranda Shinn
Regina Donnell
in memory of Rick Knight
Anonymous
Dori Desautel Brody
David King Sr.
Bill Sipperley

Donations to the Lobstermen’s Relief Fund
Citizen Maine, Damariscotta ME
Kristen Boyt
Sara Schwister, in memory of J. Croft III
Kerry & Mike Wentworth

Donations to the MLCA benefit programs in education, charity and scientific research as well as leadership and conservation.

We are grateful to those who share our affinity for Maine’s historic lobster fishery and its people.

For information on our programs or on how you can donate, please visit us at www.mlcalliance.org or call 207-967-6221

Maine Lobstermen’s Community Alliance | PO Box 315 | Kennebunk ME 04043
**MAINE FISHERMEN’S FORUM**

PO Box 240
Bath, ME 04530
(207) 442-7704

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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 and/or farmed Maine seafood or a Maine based resource for rainforest conservation efforts resulting in the sustainability of fisheries and/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)*

- [ ] 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.
- [ ] 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)*

- [ ] Did you provide an official transcript or Registrar’s letter of current standing?
- [ ] Did you complete this application and send to the address at the top of this letter.

Undergraduates attending a two 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.

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

- [ ] Student Name: __________________________
- [ ] Making Address: __________________________
- [ ] City, State, Zip Code: ______________________
- [ ] Home Phone: ______________________________
- [ ] 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 SEAFARERS’ INSTITUTE FAMILY MEMBER INFORMATION**

- [ ] Name: __________________________
- [ ] Relationship: __________________________
- [ ] Street/Shipping Address: __________________
- [ ] City, State, Zip Code: ____________________
- [ ] Phone: ________________________________
- [ ] Email: ________________________________
- [ ] Vessel Name or Commercial License Number: __________________

Please note that previous winners are not eligible.

---

**BROOKS TRAP MILL & MARINE SUPPLIES**

Jonesboro, ME
(207) 434-5791

Portland, ME
(800) 244-8727

 Thomaston, ME
(800) 426-4526

West Bath, ME
(855) 840-6027

Wakefield, RI
(401) 782-4412

---

**We specialize in what you need!**

Custom Lobster Traps, Custom Aquaculture Gear, Specialty Wire, Buoys, Rope, Fishing Supplies, Aquaculture Supplies and MORE!!

---

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

Visit us online at:  WWW.BROOKSTRAPMILL.COM
### MLA Member Discount Directory

#### Vessel Insurance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Discount Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midwest Solar, LLC</td>
<td>20% off Community solar for fishermen, lobstermen, aquaculture businesses, and 18% off Community Solar residential electricity for fishermen, lobstermen, and aquaculturists from the Bristol Community Solar Farm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Fishing, Marine & Industrial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smithwick &amp; Mariners Insurance</td>
<td>Falmouth, ME -- Discounted vessel insurance plus 5% discount with proof of CG approved Drill Conductor course w/in the last 5 years. Wooden boat, Builders coverage, no lay up period, discounted electronics deductible, and automatic coverage of researchers and more! Call Scott Smithwick 207-370-1883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton Marine</td>
<td>Jonesport, Kittery, Portland, Rockland, Searsport, Southwest Harbor, ME -- Discounts available to commercial fishermen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Fuel & Electricity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maine Camp Outfitters</td>
<td>Sunset, ME -- 10% off all apparel and promotional product orders. 800-560-6090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Lobstermen's Association</td>
<td>Kennibunk, ME -- 10% off all apparel 207-967-4555</td>
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#### Gifts

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<td>Hamilton Inn, Ellsworth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal Hydraulics</td>
<td>Seabrook, NH -- 10% discount on all in stock items for MLA members. 603-474-1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hews Company, LLC</td>
<td>South Portland, ME -- 10% off hydraulic components &amp; Cable Craft cables. 207-767-2136</td>
</tr>
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#### Propellers

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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McMillan Offshore Survival Training</td>
<td>Belfast, ME -- 25% discount on USCG Drill Conductor training. 207-338-1603</td>
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#### Refrigeration Services

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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Refrigeration Services</td>
<td>Windham, ME -- $250 off new installations. 207-893-0145</td>
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#### Safety Training & Equipment

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#### Newspapers

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<tr>
<td>Commercial Fisheries News</td>
<td>Deer Isle, ME -- Discounted annual subscription rate for $18.75 with MLA membership noted on check. 800-989-5253</td>
</tr>
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#### Bait

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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old School Pig Hide Bait</td>
<td>Cutler, ME -- $1 off per bucket (must show current MLA card). 207-812-5211</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Boat Builders/Repairs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SW Boatworks</td>
<td>Lamonic, ME -- $1000 discount for hull or top. on a 38' CB or 44' CB. 207-667-7427</td>
</tr>
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#### Electronic Equipment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deckhand Electronic Logbook</td>
<td>Bellingham WA -- Discounts &amp; Specials for MLA members. Call for more info. 888-210-3117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durabrite Lights</td>
<td>Garden City, NY -- Free Shipping for MLA members 201-915-0555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navtronics, LLC</td>
<td>York, ME -- 5% off of purchases. 207-363-1150</td>
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#### Accounting

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<tr>
<td>Back River Financial Group</td>
<td>Farmingdale, ME -- Free initial consultation and review of previous years tax returns. 207-622-3772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RG Tax Accounting &amp; Resolution</td>
<td>Brunswick, ME -- Free initial consultation and review of previous years tax returns. 207-607-7118</td>
</tr>
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#### Aquaculture: Prepared Foods

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Atlantic Sea Farms</td>
<td>25% off all online orders for MLA members. See your discount directory for the code or call 207-807-9185</td>
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#### Automotive

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>New England Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep</td>
<td>New Castle, ME -- 10% discount on all parts and service. $250 additional discount on any new vehicle after you make your best price. 207-563-5959</td>
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#### National Fishermen, North Hollywood, CA -- Special annual subscription rate for $12 for 12 issues. 800-959-5073 |

#### Museums & Entertainment

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<td>Penobscot Marine Museum</td>
<td>Searsport, ME -- Free admission for MLA members.</td>
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#### Cross Insurance Arena

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<td>Cross Insurance Arena</td>
<td>Portland, ME -- Special discounts to shows at the Cross Arena in Portland! Use promo code GFRIEND at checkout. Order by phone, online, or in person at the box office. Info at <a href="http://www.mainelobstermen.org">www.mainelobstermen.org</a></td>
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<td>Seacoast Tours of Freeport</td>
<td>Freeport, ME -- 15% off tours for MLA members. Must show MLA card. 207-798-2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Many thanks to our business supporters!
WHERE DO THE LOBSTER TRAP TAG FEES GO?

By Jeff Nichols, DMR communications director

As many of you know, the Department of Marine Resources has had to increase the cost of trap tags. Commissioner Keliher avoided implementing this increase for as long as possible, but after reviewing different scenarios he concluded that without a cost increase, critically important work and department positions funded by the fees would be in jeopardy.

The Lobster Management Fund (LMF), which derives its revenue from trap tags, supports many critically important department positions conducting lobster science, management, and enforcement. These positions are key to sustaining Maine’s valuable lobster resource.

Here’s a breakdown of those positions and the work supported by your tag fees.

Bureau of Policy and Management

The Lobster Management Fund supports a position that is responsible for supporting the Lobster Zone Councils and Lobster Advisory Council, as well as acting as a liaison with the lobster industry to ensure the Department is receiving input on matters of importance to the industry. This role has become increasingly critical as the Department works during the pandemic as it works to address the challenges presented by the situation with North Atlantic right whales.

The LMF also supports a portion of time for multiple staff within the Licensing Division. As the fishery with the largest number of license holders and a complex licensing system (e.g., multiple license types, Zones, tags, etc.), the lobster fishery requires a significant amount of staff resources to ensure the licensing system is properly administered and that license holders receive accurate and timely service.

Science Bureau

Here the LMF supports lead position within the Division of Biological Monitoring and Assessment. This position oversees the lobster monitoring and research programs. The LMF also funds the science position that oversees the lobster sea sampling and ventless trap programs, creating new research and programs to advance lobster science, and initiating collaborative research with members of the lobster fishery. This position also represents the department at state, interstate and federal lobster science and assessment meetings.

Other Science Bureau positions funded by the LMF include the lobster sea sampling and ventless trap programs, a field sampling position for the lobster sea sampling and ventless trap surveys, and a Landings Program position that monitors dealer and harvester licenses, and contacts dealers and harvesters to assist them with meeting their monthly reporting obligations.

Two Office Associate positions in the Landings Program are also funded by the LMF, including one that serves as the first point of contact for harvesters in need of assistance with their mandatory reporting laws. The Fund supports critically important enforcement of the state’s marine resource laws. The Fund supports six positions within the Bureau of Marine Patrol including three Marine Patrol Officers, two Boat Specialists, and one administrative support position.

The Department has been able to do this work since 2009 without an increase in trap tags. But there are only two companies that we have found to be able to produce tags; their costs have skyrocketed over the last several years and DMR cannot afford to absorb those costs. We hope for continued support by the Legislature for the important work outlined here so that we won’t have to consider a tag increase for many more years.

---

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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.maine.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>DMR Bureau of Sea Run Fish, Inc</td>
<td>S-side, E of Western Head, W of Little River</td>
<td>Cutler</td>
<td>4.00 acres</td>
<td>Finfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Application withdrawn (12/13/2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Run Fisheries &amp; Habitat</td>
<td>E of Western Head &amp; L1Rv Isl, Cutler Harb</td>
<td>Cutler</td>
<td>4.00 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review Complete 3/20/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscongus Bay Aquaculture</td>
<td>NW of Golden Ledge, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>Edgecomb</td>
<td>3.93 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Amendment rec’d, comments due (1/7/22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whisky 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>Doyle, Victor</td>
<td>E of Barlett 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>Peter Smith</td>
<td>Upper Dodge Cove, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>3.96 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Public hearing 6/21/22; 30 day public comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blasey L, and Lombardo, P</td>
<td>N of Coombs Cove, Pemaquid River</td>
<td>Pemaquid</td>
<td>1.6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec’d 6/1/22, comments due 6/21/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milliken, Mark</td>
<td>S of Eagle Island, Whistle’s Bay</td>
<td>St. George</td>
<td>5.9 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Lease Granted 11/10/2021</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>Pemaquid Mussel Farms LLC</td>
<td>NE corner, SW of Little River, Damariscotta Rd</td>
<td>Damariscotta</td>
<td>32 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review as of 3/20/2022; 30 day public comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Aqua Farms, LLC</td>
<td>NW of Golden Ledge, Frenchman Bay</td>
<td>Cutler</td>
<td>48 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Hearing scheduled 1/14/22, remote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perda Farms LLC</td>
<td>New Meadows River, E of Lower Coombs Isl</td>
<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>2.33 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 1/26/2022 Brunswick</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>Application rec’d 1/3/21, 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>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec’d 4/21/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Ledge Cove Seafood LLC</td>
<td>NE of Chebeague Isl, Wren Chandler’s Cove</td>
<td>Chebeague Isl</td>
<td>6.85 Acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec’d 11/21/21 Site visit TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schoodic Seafarm 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 Clappboard Island, Casco Bay, Palisads Pt, &amp; Cathance Island</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>100 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review pending as of 12/17/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Maine Scallop Co, LLC</td>
<td>E of Sturdivant Island, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>3.56 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Amendments granted to app (12/17/21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickenson, Christopher</td>
<td>860 ft SW Hog Island, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>Damariscotta</td>
<td>3.0 acres</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>Coflin, 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>Love Point Oysters, LLC</td>
<td>SE of Window Park, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Casco</td>
<td>4.79 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application granted (7/20/2021)</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>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application granted (12/20/2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooke Aquaculture USA, Inc</td>
<td>Off Black Island</td>
<td>Frenchboro</td>
<td>15 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing 9/8/2021, 3 pm, SW Harbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaffney, Michael &amp; Mark</td>
<td>N of Ploofe Isl, Robinsonhead Cove</td>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>7 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec’d 11/24/21 Site visit TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfield, Keith</td>
<td>Cass Bay, southwest of Lower Goose Island</td>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>25 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping session at Harpswell (1/14/2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Point Oysters, LLC</td>
<td>Middle Bay, Southeast of Upper Goose Island</td>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>3.02 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing 12/7/21, 4 pm Harpswell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restorative Aquaculture LLC</td>
<td>Middle Bay, E of Scragg Island</td>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>8.99 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>App rec’d 10/20/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islesboro Marine Enterprises, Inc</td>
<td>NE of Flat Island, Penobscot Bay</td>
<td>Islesboro</td>
<td>6.40 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review 9/15/21, 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moosabec Mussels Inc.</td>
<td>Off old Point, Jordan River</td>
<td>Lamoine</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>I George Faux Inc</td>
<td>S of Great Salt Bay, Upper Damariscotta Rvr</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>1.8 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session Nov 18, 2021 2 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Oyster Inc.</td>
<td>E and S of Lehman Isl. Upper Sheepscott Rvr</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>10 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec’d 8/17/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam and Michelle Campbell</td>
<td>Pulpit Harbor Mill Stream</td>
<td>North Haven</td>
<td>2.53 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>App rec’d (1/13/2022), 30 day public comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermit Island Oyster Co, LLC</td>
<td>Hermit Isl, Small Pt Hbr, New Meadows River</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>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec’d 5/4/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewey’s Shellfish, LLC</td>
<td>NW of Peters Island, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>South Bristol</td>
<td>0.58 acre</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec’d 8/16/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herion Oyster Company</td>
<td>Damariscotta River</td>
<td>South Bristol</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec’d 10/4/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Star Fisheries, LLC</td>
<td>Sheepscott River, W of Boston Island</td>
<td>Southport</td>
<td>4.5 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec’d 11/24/2021 Site visit TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewer, Robert</td>
<td>E of Penobscot Bay SW of Andrews Island</td>
<td>Stonington</td>
<td>32.6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>App rec’d 10/20/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey, Brian</td>
<td>W of Haynes Pt, Goose Cove, Western Bay</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review Pending as of 5/27/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raines, Robert &amp; Cole</td>
<td>W of Penobscot Bay, W of Hines Point, NE of Crow Island</td>
<td>New Harbor</td>
<td>7.37 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec’d 1/3/2021, site visit TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfield, Keith</td>
<td>East of Little Musker Island, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>2.72 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish/algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Lease amended (12/20), comments due (12/24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henttinger, Thomas</td>
<td>Broad Cove, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>5.9 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish/algae</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>5.48 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing 3/16/2021</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>Application rec’d 10/4/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Understanding the process! You can make a difference!

**Experimental Lease**:
- up to 3 years
- size is up to 100 acres
- non-renewable

**Standard Lease**:
- term is up to 20 years
- size is up to 100 acres
- renewable
TO YOUR HEALTH:  **Acupuncture another way to treat pain**

By Melissa Waterman

It’s not easy to accept, but lobstering involves pain. For the young, the pain may be fleeting, something to shake off with a hot shower and some rest. For others, the daily repetition of hauling extended over years results in chronic and sometimes acute pain. All too often fishermen turn to prescribed painkillers or surgery to deal with the toll lobstering takes on their bodies. 

Like massage, acupuncture is another type of treatment that can help relieve chronic and acute pain. Acupuncture has been a part of traditional Chinese medicine for many centuries and has gained acceptance in the Western world in recent decades. 

‘Acupuncture is one of the tools in Chinese medicine for helping bring the body back into balance,” explained acupuncturist Eileen Murray of Rockland. 

Acupuncture use specific techniques, including insertion of very thin solid needles into the body, to rebalance the body’s energy. According to Johns Hopkins Medicine in Maryland, traditional Chinese medicine practitioners believe that the human body has more than 2,000 acupuncture points connected by pathways or meridians. The body’s energy flows through these pathways. When that energy is blocked or disrupted, disease can occur. 

The acupuncture points are believed to stimulate the central nervous system. This, in turn, releases chemicals into the muscles, spinal cord, and brain. These biochemical changes may stimulate the body’s natural healing abilities and promote physical and emotional well-being. Individuals use acupuncture to address many physical problems, from migraine headaches to the after-effects of chemotherapy. 

The process of finding the specific acupuncture points to address a particular individual’s pain begins with talking. 

“The practitioner will first ask you questions about your complaint and then do certain diagnostic techniques, like feeling your pulse and touching parts of the body to detect areas of too much or too little energy,” Murray explained. “Then using different tools, they will help move what is stuck or build up what is empty.” 

Murray treats many lobstermen suffering from chronic or acute pain. One of the elements that causes such pain is the cold and damp conditions in which lobstermen work. “We call it a pathogenic factor. It penetrates and slows movement of the blood and body fluids in the tissue,” she said. To warm the tissue, Murray may use an infrared lamp, Asian body work, or other means to deeply warm the affected area. 

Murray emphasized that the needles used in acupuncture are extremely thin and are made to move through the tissues, not to cut them. “Many people don’t feel the needle but do feel an energy sensation,” she said. The result for most patients is a feeling of relaxation, cessation of pain, and a looser muscular-skeletal system. 

How often one undergoes acupuncture depends largely on how acute the pain is. “If it’s a chronic pain that you’ve had for 40 years, it may take a longer time. I have long-time patient, a lobsterman, who just comes when he can because he lives on an island. But it’s important to him,” she said. 

To practice acupuncture in Maine, one must hold a state license from the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers. The Maine Acupuncture Society (ww.maaom.org) features more information about acupuncture and a selected list of licensed practitioners.
Maine native Andrew Joyce has produced the first segment in a new documentary series explaining the threats to Maine’s lobster heritage from the ten-year whale plan and offshore wind development. The first installment, available on Joyce’s YouTube channel “The Maine Reset,” tells this story through the eyes of the fishing industry. Joyce says that the series “scrutinizes plans to industrialize the Gulf of Maine and highlights the perspectives of the Mainers most affected. At the forefront of the conversation are Maine lobstermen. In later episodes, scientists and ecologists also weigh in. The result is a thought-provoking primer on an issue that could result in the fundamental transformation of the State of Maine. Joyce is the son of Maine lobsterman Jason Joyce of Swans Island. You can view the video at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqYzBWJjWcZ6qOUZzqFWv2Q.

HUGE OFFSHORE LEASE AUCTION TAKES PLACE THIS MONTH

On February 23, the federal Bureau of Offshore Energy Management (BOEM) will hold its first-ever offshore wind lease sale, auctioning a record of more than 480,000 acres offshore New York and New Jersey. The auction will allow offshore wind developers to bid on six lease areas in an area known as the New York Bight. Leases offered could result in 5.6 to 7 gigawatts of offshore wind energy. The New York Bight offshore wind auction will include several innovative lease stipulations, such as incentives to source major components domestically and project labor agreements to ensure projects are union-built. Currently, BOEM has 18 commercial offshore wind leases on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf, and it recently announced plans to hold up to seven new offshore wind lease sales by 2025.

LOBSTER EXPORTS TO CHINA INCREASE

American exporters sold more than 13.2 million pounds of lobster to China during the first 11 months of 2021. That was about 6% more than the same period the previous year. Shipments were complicated by the fact that a seafood company can’t send lobsters directly to Beijing because of COVID-19 restrictions so businesses used other airports, such as Shenzhen, to move product into the country. While the lobster industry is still performing well in the current market, the value of exports will likely not reach the same levels as in 2018 when exports totaled more than $100 million, which set a record for the industry.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUYS MORE GROUNDFISH

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will purchase $25 million in Atlantic groundfish products for distribution to food banks and other community assistance, another round of buying for the Northeast seafood industry that had been historically left out of USDA’s Section 32 nutrition program. The federal government’s Covid-19 response during 2020 included big USDA buys of seafood product like Alaska pollock, and New England lawmakers pushed for the same with their hard-hit fleets. The agency announced another round of $25 million aimed at the Northeast in funding Dec. 22.

MAINE FISHERMEN’S FORUM SCHEDULES ONLINE SEMINARS

Although the Maine Fishermen’s Forum scheduled for next month has been cancelled amid coronavirus concerns, the Forum Board has scheduled several online seminars for this year. The first will be on February 17, an afternoon seminar on changes to the Northern Gulf of Maine federal scallop fishery. The second will be an open forum with NOAA Fisheries leadership, to be held in March. The final seminar will focus on careers related to the ocean at date yet to be announced. In addition, an anonymous donor has contributed $15,000 to the annual Forum Scholarship Fund this year (deadline for application is March 3). The Forum Board has pledged to raise a total of $40,000 for student scholarships which will be awarded in a drawing on March 4.
not good faith negotiating on the part of NMFS, it is a heavy-handed approach that shows that there is no interest in working together toward a realistic goal. The Biop ten-year conservation plan is the dark cloud headed our way on a sunny summer afternoon. Maine lobstermen have been willing to go above and beyond to reduce risk to the right whale. The plan aims for an undue level of risk reduction compared to the risk that we actually present. It is common knowledge that the risk posed by Maine lobster gear pales in comparison to the cruise ship industry or the global cargo shipping industry. It cannot be stated enough that without modifications to the ten-year plan the future of the lobster industry is in grave danger.

For generations Maine lobstermen have been stewards of the lobster resource. We throw back short, V-notched and oversize lobsters for one reason — we want the next generation to have a chance to make a living catching lobsters. For generations Maine lobstermen have been stewards of the lobster resource. For generations Maine lobstermen have been stewards of the lobster resource. For generations Maine lobstermen have been stewards of the lobster resource. For generations Maine lobstermen have been stewards of the lobster resource.

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

What does the future look like for Maine's next generation of lobstermen? Photo by H. Penney.
COBSCOOK BAY SCALLOP SEASON UNDERWAY

The boats aren’t large, nothing like the giant steel vessels that search for scallops from southern ports like New Bedford. Cobscook Bay’s scallop fishermen go to sea throughout the winter, facing the dual threats of staggering currents and bitter cold during Maine’s scallop season, which begins in December. Rotational closures and state surveys have rebuilt the fishery from its lows in the early 2000s. Today the scallop fishery is one of the most lucrative in the state, valued at $6,777,000 in 2020. High prices in 2022 have taken many by surprise, hitting $30 or more per pound in January.

Photos by Tessa Chaffey Ftorek.