Maine’s Congressional delegation, working with Governor Mills, achieved what some might call a “Christmas Miracle” for Maine’s lobster industry. The Omnibus federal funding bill, which Congress approved in late December, included a policy rider that halts implementation of new whale rules in the lobster and Jonah crab fisheries for six years, until December 2028. It also authorizes $50 million for scientific research, monitoring and technology development to address questions lobstermen have been asking for years.

“I’ve never seen a worse case of regulatory overreach to address a problem and blame an industry that is not at all responsible for a problem,” noted Senator Susan Collins. “I’ve also never seen the Maine delegation, which is ideologically diverse, and the Governor more united to protect an iconic way of life in the state of Maine.”

With this pause, Congress prevents the implementation of any new whale rules before December 2028, and allows the lobster fishery to continue to operate while a new, lawful plan — based on realistic assumptions instead of worst-case scenarios — is developed. The action by Congress recognizes what the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) has said all along: the federal rule-making process intended to protect right whales is broken.

It does not mean the lobster industry’s fight is over. The MLA lawsuit against the federal government will proceed. In its court case, the MLA has argued that the Biological Opinion and its ten-year whale conservation plan developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is unlawful because its underlying science is premised on “worst case scenarios” rather than those that are “reasonably certain to occur,” as required under the ESA. In its legal appeal, MLA Staff

MLA APPEAL MOVES QUICKLY

The Maine Lobstermen’s Association’s (MLA) expedited appeal of Judge James Boasberg’s September 8 ruling against the Association is moving quickly through the appellate court. The MLA filed its opening brief on November 10.

The MLA’s appeal, led by Paul Clement, former U.S. Solicitor General and a leading Supreme Court advocate, stated “this is a clear case of government overreach. It is no exaggeration to say that the fate of the Maine lobster fishery, a national icon, hangs in the balance. The applicable statute requires the agency to apply the best available evidence. The agency instead has resolved every doubt and every disputed issue against the lobster fishery. The agency is inflicting unprecedented hardship on Maine lobstermen, while explicitly acknowledging that all this suffering will do nothing to restore the right whale so long as they continue to die in Canada.”

The MLA’s opening brief argued that the District Court “abdicated its judicial duty” and “side stepped the core legal question” because it assessed “whether agency action is arbitrary or capricious” rather than “considering whether that action is contrary to law” adding that “the APA [Administrative Procedures Act] imposes a non-discretionary duty on courts to resolve questions of law.”

Maine’s Department of Marine Resources, Maine Lobstering Union and Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association also filed briefs in November. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce has joined MLA’s Appeal by filing an Amicus brief in support of the MLA, highlighting the widespread economic harm that the misguided federal plan would impose on businesses and communities throughout the state of Maine.

Continued on page 21
The new year is always a cheerful time. You take down the old calendar, put up the new one and contemplate all those months unfolding, full of promise. For Maine lobstermen, 2023 is suddenly looking brighter than it was just a few short weeks ago. In a heroic effort by Maine's Congressional delegation and Governor Mills, Congress has hit the pause button on any new whale rules for Maine lobstermen until December 2028. This gives the industry time to address NMFS's misuse of the science so that the agency can develop realistic risk reduction goals that address the actual risk our fishery poses to endangered right whales. Lobstermen will face uncertainties in 2023, but Congress has given us the gift of time to fix a broken system and we must make good use of it.

The Maine Lobstermen's Association's (MLA) court case against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) moves forward this month in the Washington, D.C. appellate court. The MLA's appeal has been given expedited status by the court, with a January 10 date for submission of all briefs. As we note in this issue, oral arguments are scheduled for February 24 and a ruling is possible by the spring.

The Maine Chamber of Commerce, recognizing the importance of the MLA's case to the state's economy, filed an amicus brief in the case late last year. The brief points out the profound economic impact the lobster fishery has within the state and the devastation curtailing it would create. The Chamber also emphasized in its brief that the Endangered Species Act, under which NMFS operates, mandates that the agency consider economic and social impacts in its policies which, the brief contends, it did not do.

The Downeast Wives for the Fishing Industry is the tongue-in-cheek name given to an informal group of Beals Island and Jonesport women whose husbands or partners are lobstermen. This fall the group has been active in fundraising for the MLA and providing factual information about the fishery to the general public. However, worries about the coming season combined with the financial effects of a bad 2022 are causing increasing worries about the coming season combined with the financial effects of a bad 2022 are causing increasing worries about the coming season combined with the financial effects of a bad 2022 are causing increasing worries about the coming season combined with the financial effects of a bad 2022 are causing increasing worries about the coming season combined with the financial effects of a bad 2022 are causing increasing worries about the coming season.

Maine's lobster industry continues to face an uphill battle that will require a continued aggressive and diligent legal strategy. In addition we must address scientific deficiencies, test new gear technology, and continue to educate the public about our industry's successful efforts to protect right whales. Lobstermen will face uncertainties in 2023, but Congress has given us the gift of time to fix a broken system and we must make good use of it.

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By Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King, Reps. Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden, and Governor Janet Mills

Several years ago, when NOAA began working on regulations that drastically affect Maine’s lobster fishery without meaningfully advancing the stated goal of protecting endangered right whales, the five of us pledged that we would pursue all policy solutions to protect our hardworking lobstermen and women.

The inclusion of provisions in the federal omnibus funding bill that postpones the implementation of any new whale rules by NOAA for six years is a down payment on that pledge. Working together in a nonpartisan spirit and across levels of government, we achieved a victory for our State, for our iconic and vital lobster industry, and for common sense.

While we are proud of this accomplishment, the resilience shown by the men and women of the industry was our inspiration. In the face of misguided threats to their livelihoods and their way of life, they responded with determination and facts. The expertise provided by the Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Lobstermen’s Association, and Maine Lobstering Union was essential to this process.

Our provisions mean that for the next six years, the current right whale regulations will be frozen in place, allowing more time to gather data to pinpoint what is causing the demise of the right whale. It is a measure to protect the family businesses of the thousands of Mainers who make their living from one of the best managed and sustainable fisheries on earth. It also gives the industry and regulators time to develop effective and practicable policies regarding fixed-gear fisheries and marine mammals. Without this provision, an industry that contributes more than $1 billion annually to Maine’s economy and supports small businesses all along our coast could have been faced with a complete shutdown, and the ripple effects across our state would have been widespread.

Maine lobstermen and women have long demonstrated their commitment to maintaining and protecting their sustainable fishery. They have invested in countless precautionary measures to protect right whales, including removing more than 30,000 miles of line from the water and switching to weaker rope to prevent whales from being entangled.

And the fact is, there has never been a right whale death attributed to Maine lobster gear. We know the right whale population can be protected along with a thriving fishery because Maine lobstermen and women are already doing it. This industry has a long-standing ethic of practicing sustainability by protecting the health of the lobster stock, and also by treating the entire marine environment with respect and care. The industry recognizes the precarious situation of the North Atlantic right whale, and for decades has been proactive in ensuring that the fishery and the whales can co-exist.

In addition to postponing the implementation of additional regulations for six years, the provision in the funding bill provides $20 million for a grant program that could fund innovative gear technologies and the monitoring necessary to support the dynamic management of fisheries. Fishermen and other participants within the maritime industry would be among those eligible for this funding. Another $22 million was provided for additional research and monitoring efforts for right whales, so any future regulations would be informed on real data, not hypotheticals. We also secured an additional $10 million for states to provide direct payments to lobstermen and women to offset the costs associated with the gear modifications that they have made over the past several years.

The lobster industry is Maine’s economic engine, sustaining not only the men and women who fish but entire communities. Fishermen are willing to make changes to proactively protect whales and have been active participants in the ongoing discussions, but Maine’s lobster industry is not to blame for the decline in the right whale population. Before any additional regulations are implemented, lobstermen deserve to know that these measures are backed by science. As this process moves forward, we will continue working together to push for reasonable solutions that protect Maine’s vital lobster industry and safeguard right whales and other marine mammals.
Guest Column: Protecting the future of Downeast Maine’s fishing heritage

By Alexa Dayton

For almost 20 years MCCF has worked to protect fishing forever in eastern Maine’s coastal communities, and as the new Executive Director I plan to double down on this vision. Back in 2003 a group of fishermen and other leaders felt compelled to do something about what they observed to be a decadal-level fishing-down of the food web in the Gulf of Maine. They recognized the future loss of species and access diversity, and the importance of stewardship for successful community-based fisheries. MCCF was conceived with a novel grassroots approach to connect this on-the-water insight with management at a scale consistent with the regional habitat and community structure. Although a lot has changed since 2003, our mission and approach feel even more compelling and urgent today.

I’m grateful to the staff, board, and advisors for keeping an eye on this mission. The institutional knowledge and continued commitment of the community is invaluable, and although it can sound like a broken record sometimes, this persistence has made us who we are. We have a dedicated long-serving staff of nine people with core skills in fisheries policy, science, and education — plus Captain Leroy Weed, the host and star of our Ask Leroy! show.

Our dedicated Board of Directors includes local fishermen, scientists, community members, and fishery managers, each bringing deep local knowledge, as well as state, national and international expertise. How do we fulfill our mission? While MCCF is both responding to what’s happening today, as a non-profit we also stay focused on the long-term vision for our resources and communities. Here are a few examples of the questions and projects we have led or helped with recently:

**What is the distribution and patterns of scallop larval (spat) supply?** In collaboration with commercial scallop dragger divers, growers, Hurricane Island Foundation, Bates College, ME DMY, and Sea Grant we set out 40 scallop larval collectors in September to resolve questions the fishing industry has about competition from the aquaculture sector in collecting wild larvae for growing out in scallop lease areas, and questions the aquaculture sector has about where they can set collectors for reliable, perhaps non-competitive, larval supply.

**How do we prepare the next generation?** MCCF’s Eastern Maine Skippers Program has worked with eastern Maine high schools and teachers in some of the most fishing-dependent communities to support hands-on marine biology and field trip-based community projects. In addition to retrieving the scallop spat collectors this coming February, students are exploring northern pink shrimp biology and potential for culture, and next spring will add in a clam flat seeding project, partnering with Downeast Institute (DEI). The Skippers program is more important than ever; we have an opportunity to teach kids scientific inquiry in a fun way that sticks with them for life. For the young adults in our community, we added a new “Deck Hand 101” course this spring. With business training available locally, we can help them gear up for a successful future in the ‘blue economy’, whether it’s fishing or something else.

**What are the economic impacts to the individual fishermen associated with changing lobster catch levels, costs, markets, new gear and proposed rules aimed at risk reduction in the lobster fishery?** In collaboration with the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA), we are contributing our best available socio-economic science to answer these questions and inform management discussions. We get a lot of questions about this issue from the community, public, and politicians. Our role as a creative solutions broker, source of unbiased information, and knowledge of historical context is more critical than ever.

**Bring back the alewives and everything else will follow?** Could it really be that simple? MCCF along with other members of the River Herring Network and Downeast Fisheries Partnership including MCHT, Manomet and Tidal Bay plus Downeast Salmon Federation, DEI, SCF, Sea Grant, and COA, share information across watersheds and plan projects together, so that alewife restoration and harvest access is now also tied to stewardship and monitoring.

**What are we seeing for early signals of change in the eastern Gulf of Maine?** Thanks to long term collaborators including NOAA NEFSC, NERCOOS, and DMR, we plan to expand our collaborative research programs to additional marine species and establish a sentinel network of coastal ocean and estuarine monitoring aimed at detecting early signals of change.

**When does Atlantic Avenue become Atlantic Ocean Avenue?** Let’s face it. Our own building site in Stonington is subject to the realities of rising sea levels. We plan to make this a story of choices, innovation, and community-led planning. Borne out of necessity, MCCF’s physical site provides a novel education platform to showcase the natural resource-based economies and cultural heritage and community values of eastern Maine.

MCCF still has plenty of work to do over the next 20 years to protect fishing forever in eastern Maine’s coastal communities. How do we provide access to existing, shifting and future fisheries? Retaining the owner-operator model is critical and shapes who we are both on the water and as a society. Looking ahead it is my hope that we will get to a point where we holistically look at licensing and entry program reforms with our long-term collaborators and partners.

We have seen how access to fisheries influences the way an entire generation thinks about their future, thereby shaping the culture of the community. This is a great opportunity for us to showcase Maine leadership in sustainable community fisheries for the world.
By Togue Brawn

A few weeks ago I attended a potluck fundraiser at a local library to raise money for the Maine Lobstermen’s Association’s Legal Defense Fund. MLA President Kristan Porter spoke of the importance of potlucks, where folks to come together to help a fellow community member. It might be a neighbor whose house burned down, or a family with a sick breadwinner. Folks give what they can afford, and sometimes even more than they can afford, because they recognize the importance of community and realize “it could happen to us.”

Well, if you’re a member of Maine’s lobster industry, it’s happening to you.

My father lobstered from the mid 1970’s until he died in 2017. I have incredibly fond memories of helping him on his boat and helping him sell his “Bait Sares.” The lobster industry was an important source of income in our family and I’ll always have a soft spot for it, even if it does cast an outsized shadow on what I believe is the REAL star of Maine’s seafood show: dayboat scallops (no bias here!). My fondness for the fishery, a desire to protect my state’s economy and I believe is the REAL star of Maine’s seafood show: dayboat scallops (no bias here!). My fondness for the fishery, a desire to protect my state’s economy and an allegiance to my lobstermen friends is NOT why I’m angry about the threats facing Maine’s lobster industry right now. I’m angry because this situation is absurd.

Earlier this summer the Monterey Bay Aquarium changed its categorization of Maine lobster from “recommended” to “avoid.” The latest data suggest the decline in the NARW (North Atlantic Right Whale) population is likely due to a number of factors, with climate change playing a major role. The Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 99% of the world’s oceans, and these warming waters are rendering it less attractive to right whales. Notably, the NARW’s favorite prey species, Calanus finmarchicus, is shifting out of the Gulf of Maine and the whales have followed, so Maine lobster gear is now even less of a threat to right whales.

The Marine Stewardship Council itself has admitted “there is no recent evidence that the Maine lobster fishery is responsible for entanglements or interactions with right whales.” But because lobster gear is capable of entangling right whales, and because the actual cause of the decline is unknown, the lobster industry is being forced to account for unknown threats in addition to the minimal threats it actually poses. In other words, the lobster industry is being penalized for having failed to single-handedly bring about the recovery of an endangered species. Wait, what??

Maine’s lobster fishery is rightly regarded as a poster child for sustainability. In fact, it’s a picture-perfect example of just about everything fisheries managers strive to achieve.

For decades, we’ve employed a minimum size catch that allows lobsters to breed before being harvested and a maximum size catch that allows large, reproductive powerhouses to keep doing their thing. We also notch the tail of egg-bearing females to further encourage reproductive success.

And in the late 1990’s, when effort reductions were needed in the fishery, an innovative system of co-management was employed in which Maine state waters were divided into seven zones where local fishermen helped shape management measures tailored to work best in their area.

Continued on page 22

GUEST COLUMN:

Whale regulations, ‘red list’ for lobster absurd

Maine’s lobster industry has already undertaken extraordinary measures to keep from endangering whales. But unless this latest plan is overturned, the industry will have to meet a 98% reduction.

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STEAMING AHEAD
WHY BECOME AN MLA MEMBER?

By Dustin Delano, MLA vice-president

Why become a member of the MLA?
The Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) was founded by a group of lobstermen in 1954 and currently is the largest fishing industry association on the East Coast. The MLA represents and advocates for Maine lobstermen from Kittery to Cutler and helps protect the lobster stock they depend on to support their families and local communities. Without the advocacy and support which the MLA provides, the lobster industry would likely look much different today.

My name is Dustin Delano, a fourth-generation lobsterman from Friendship. Since 2014, I’ve been a proud member of the MLA and have served on the board of directors since 2015. I am the MLA’s Vice-President and have served on the executive committee for the last few years. It’s been an absolute privilege to stand beside fellow lobstermen who make up the 21-member board of directors, ready and willing to fight for the preservation of our industry, undoubtably the most sustainable fishery in the world.

"Why should I become a member of the MLA?" you ask. To me, the answers to that question are endless. Maine lobstermen are some of the most independent and hardworking individuals on the planet. In recent years, I’ve witnessed and been part of the expansion of a successful, sustainable fishery that has been nothing but a blessing to Maine families and their communities. Since 1954, the MLA has served Maine families and their communities. Without the advocacy and support which the MLA provides, the lobster industry would likely look much different today.

The MLA has been directly responsible for beneficial changes and protections for the lobster resource and the lobstermen who have harvested it for decades. In the 1960’s, the MLA convinced politicians that lobster traps were the only gear that should be used to catch lobsters, keeping draggers from destroying the stocks.

In the 1970’s, the MLA worked with Congress to pass legislation preventing Maine lobstermen from paying payroll taxes for their sternmen, saving them thousands of dollars annually. In the 1980’s, the MLA again fought to protect lobster stocks from draggers while also convincing fisheries managers of the importance of V-notching along with the 5” line. Proposed risk reduction measures, such as a reduction of vertical lines in the water or use of weak links, are given an incomplete version with which to run risk reduction scenarios.

The Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (TRT) met over six days in late November and early December to consider and vote on measures to reduce by 90% the risk posed to North Atlantic right whales by trap/port fisheries and gill net fisheries throughout the East Coast. No consensus was reached on a coastwide risk reduction package at the end of the lengthy meeting. When no consensus is reached, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is still required to adopt measures to achieve risk reduction goals and may use the Team’s recommendations as the basis for the plan.

"It was a really painful process," said Patrice McCarron, executive director of the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) and TRT member. "NMFS put a lot of pressure on us to agree to a plan. All the while they are assessing risk with a model that is not peer reviewed, and misuse the science to create an inflated risk reduction goal!"

Jason Mazzeraole of Buxton is a young and committed member of the MLA. Are you? MLA photo.

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Among the many contentious topics at the meeting was the accuracy of the computer model developed by NMFS, called the Decision Support Tool (_DST). The current version of the DST has not been peer-reviewed; in fact, peer review scheduled for November, and then December has again been delayed to the end of January. None of the non-state TRT members have been allowed to access the model; the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) was given an incomplete version with which to run risk reduction scenarios.

The DST calculates risk as the number of whales in the area x number of vertical lines in the area x diameter of line. Proposed risk reduction measures, such as a reduction of vertical lines in the water or use of weak links, are run through the model, which determines the resulting percentage of risk reduction.

TRT members considered measures that would achieve 90% risk reduction by regions — Gulf of Maine, mid-Atlantic, south Atlantic and gill net fisheries. Within the Gulf of
The importance of the Maine Lobstermen’s Association’s (MLA) legal appeal in the case of the BiOp and Framework’s economic impacts was underscored in the Maine State Chamber of Commerce’s (MSCC) support of its appeal. The MSCC filed an amicus brief in the case, arguing that NMFS’ actions will have a significant economic impact on lobstermen in Maine. The brief emphasizes the deep economic pain that will result if the Conservation Framework is upheld.

The brief cites the economic analysis conducted by Alexa M. Dayton, currently executive director of the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries. Dayton looked at the economic impacts scenarios incorporating [NMFS’] current and proposed regulatory measures, including a 75% trap reduction, which would remove 50% of lobster traps, and a full closure of the federal fishery. In the first instance, density of fishing effort and increased competition will cause segments of the fleet to operate below break-even and exit the fishery; in the second instance many owners will choose not to adapt to new technology and regulations, either due to cost or due to age, and exit the fishery. The findings in both cases indicate a potential loss of 1,800–1,900 vessels in the fleet, associated with 3,600 jobs and a total economic loss of $576 million per year.

The “reasonable and prudent measures” provision in the ESA, argued the brief, “obviously must take into account economic impacts, but NMFS’ analysis of the economic impacts NMFS’ actions will have on lobstermen in Maine, as well as how the agency’s oversight was compounded by the degradation framework’s economically erroneous disregard of the BiOp and Framework’s economic impacts,” the brief stated. MSCC’s brief echoes many of the arguments made by the MLA — that NMFS selectively used science and made worst-case assumptions unsupported by its own data. In addition, the brief argues that NMFS’s administrators did not consider the economic and social impacts of the agency’s actions, contravening provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and furthered, acted in a capacity reserved to Congress.

The brief concludes by stating “Because NMFS has failed to stay within legal bounds in making consequential (and, for many, likely devastating) policy decisions, his Court should hold its BiOp and Conservation Framework invalid and remand the matter without vacatur to the agency for reconsideration.”

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

- Accutech Marine Propellor
- Atlantic Edge Lobster
- 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.
- CSL Plasma
- Farin’s Boatshop
- Finestkind Scenic Cruises
- First National Bank
- F. W. Thurston Co. Inc.
- Georgetown Fishermen’s Cooperative
- Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation
- Guy Cotten, Inc.
- Harbor Bait
- Infab Refractories Inc.
- Inland Seafood
- Interstate Lobster Co.
- Island Fishing Gear & Auto Parts
- Island Fishermen’s Wife’s
- John’s Bay Boat Co.
- Kittery Point Yacht Yard
- Lobster Trap Co.
- Lombie’s Hydraulic Inc.
- M & B Fish Co.
- Machias Savings Bank
- Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
- Maine Financial Group
- Maine Lobstermen’s Community Alliance
- Maine Ocean Lobster
- Maine Sea Grant
- Marine Hydraulic Engineering Co. Inc.
- McMillan Offshore
- Midcoast Marine Supply
- Midcoast Solar LLC
- Milton Cat
- Nautilus Marine Fabrication
- New England Marine & Industrial Inc.
- New England Propeller
- Northeast Marine Survey
- Novatec Braids LTD
- Oliveira Investments, LLC
- Pack Edge
- Port Clyde Fisherman’s Cooperative
- Port Lobster Co.
- RE Thomas Marine Hardware
- RG Tax Accounting and Resolution
- Riverdale Mills
- Rope Razor
- Seacoast Tours of Freeport
- Shearwater Marine Surveying
- Superior Marine Products
- Tenants Harbor Fishermen’s Cooperative
- The Clam Shack
- Varney Insurance Inc.
- Vinhavil Fisherman’s Cooperative
- William Coffin & Sons
- Winter Harbor Fishermen’s Cooperative
- Woods Hole Group
## Gifts: $200,000–$499,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John and Brendan Ready</td>
<td>Machias Savings Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar Harbor Bank &amp; Trust</td>
<td>First National Bank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Gifts $50,000 - $99,999

- Camden National Bank

## Gifts $25,000 - $49,999

- Coast Lobster Co-Op
- Cranberry Isles Fishermen's Co-Op

## Gifts $10,000 - $24,999

- Bring It, Inc.
- Brooks Trap Mill
- DB Rice Fisheries
- D.C. Air & Seafood
- Joseph Doyle
- RH Foster Energy, LLC
- Smithwick & Mariners
- Town of Cranberry Isles
- Town of York

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

- Atlantic Edge Lobster
- Atlantic lobstermen & families
- Bangor Savings Committee
- Committee to Elect Jared Golden
- Cousins Maine Lobster
- George Craig
- Shane Hatch
- J&K Lobster Bail, Inc.
- Maine Aquaculture Association
- Maine Professional Guides Assoc.
- W.F. Thurston Co, Inc.
- Maine Aquaculture Association
- Maine Professional Guides Assoc.
- W.F. Thurston Co, Inc.

## Gifts $2,500 - $4,999

- Bad Boy Lobster Co.
- Beal’s Lobster Pier
- Downeast Housewives of the Fishing Industry
- East Wind Inn
- Elizabeth Fenwick
- Ed Foye
- Friend & Friend
- Earl Hamilton III
- Helen’s Restaurant
- Jonathan’s Ogunquit
- The Lobster Co.
- Maine Lobster Outlet
- Merritt Bracket Lobster Boat Races
- Midcoast Marine

## Gifts $1,000 - $2,499

- Red’s Eats & the Gagnon Family
- RE Thomas Marine Hardware
- Sorrento Seafood
- Town Of Jonesport
- The Upper Deck

## Gifts $1,000 - $2,499

- Nick Alberding
- A M Associates
- Roger Allard
- Fred Allen III
- Brian Alley
- Jeffrey Alley
- Jeremy R Alley
- Jeremy S Alley
- Travis Alley
- Josh Ames
- Lawrence Ames
- Larry Arey
- Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce
- Davey tree
- Barnacle Billy’s
- Bob Barnes
- Sharen Baumgartner
- Eric Beal
- Oscar Beal
- Richard Beal
- Belfast Fishermen’s Assoc.
- Patrick Benzie
- Jenny & Dean Berry
- Judy Berry: Leach’s Express
- Troy Bichrest
- Brian Billings Family
- Joel & Jenna Billings
- David Black
- Ivan Bluh
- Vincent Bosco
- Bob & Kitty Boyd
- Diane Brassard
- Jarod Bray
- Maynard Brewer
- David & Deborah Brooks
- Sandi Bryant
- Christopher Candage
- Dylan Carroll
- Dwight Curier
- Tricia Ann Carver
- Ryan Casey
- Barbara & James Chesney
- Lucas Chioffi
- Chris Chipman
- Jason Chipman
- John W Chipman
- Jonathan Chipman

## Gifts $1,000 - $2,499 (cont’d)

- Wesley Chipman
- Christopher Clark
- Nick Colacino
- Senator Susan Collins
- Emily Conway
- Andrew Coussens
- David Coussens
- Josiah Couture
- WC Cresse & Sons
- Melanie Cummings
- Susan Curtis
- Mike Cushman
- Jason Day
- Dustin Delano
- Wayne Delano
- Ben Dolber
- Ryan Dorr
- Chrisy Doucette
- Doucette Family
- Jerry Doughty
- Karen Doughty
- Kyle Doughty
- Travis Doughty
- George Dow
- Daryl Dunham
- East Coast Seafood
- Richard Elliott
- City of Ellsworth
- Anonymous
- Bruce Fernald
- Mark Fernald
- Robin Fernald & Stephanie Austin
- Jay Fiandaca Jr
- Timothy Field
- Mike Flanagan
- James Freeman
- Town of Friendship
- Larsen Foye
- Virginia Gay
- Sarah Giles
- Matt Gilley
- Mark & Dianne Gimble
- Chris Goodale
- Todd Goodell
- Brian Gordius
- Frank Gobets
- Jamie Griffith
- William Hancock III
- Jacob Hardy
- Josh Harjula
- Keith Harrison
- Gary Hawkes
- Heath Hawkes
- Benjamin Heanssler
- Caleb Heanssler
- Benjamin Hopkins
- Shawn Howard
- Todd & April Hubbard
- Bobby Ingalls
- Molly Irvin-Peter
- Michael & Chantal Jennings
- Jess’s Market
- Chip Johnson
- Daniel Johnson

## Gifts $1,000 - $2,499 (cont’d)

- Lincol Johnson
- Lukas Johnson
- Donald Jones
- Mark Jones
- Nathan Jones
- Jason Joyce
- Jeff Keelin
- David Kestelak
- Eric Knight
- Elizabeth Kremertz
- Dana Krutzen
- Kris Koeber
- Kellie Lally
- Brian Langley
- Isaac Lash
- Stephen Lash
- Craig Lazar
- Kenny Lemoine Jr.
- Jeffery Libby
- Kevin & Jan Lipson
- Lobster Palette Inc.
- Andrew Longley
- Travis Lust
- Ian Lust
- Maine Camp Outfitters
- Maine Trappers Association
- John McCarthy
- Michael Melito Lobster
- Brokers
- Jack Merril
- Steven Miller
- Ted Miller
- David Moody
- Mark Moody
- Chris Moore
- Anonymous
- Dan Morris
- Jonathan Murphy
- Ronald Musetti
- Kyle Nichols
- Connie & Gail Norstrom
- Mitch Nuran
- Brent Oliver
- Ladd Olson
- Mark Osborn & Brian
- Makenzie
- Alden Osgood
- Justin Osgood
- Nicholas & Kristin Page
- Andrew Perry
- Micah Philbrook
- Michael Philbrook
- Steven Philbrook
- Galen Plummer
- Troy Plummer
- Alan D & Rebecca Poland
- Alan O Poland
- Harold W Poole
- James H Poole Sr
- Henry Pope
- Jennifer Pope
- Kristin Porter
- Steve Putnam
- Frank & Sam Reece
- Bob Richardson
- Sam Rosen
- Steve Rosen
- Michael Rowan
- Nicholas Saunders
- Wayne Seavey
- Mark Sewell
- Sam Sewell
- Christopher Smith
- Scott Smithwick
- Craig Sproul
- Andrew Stanley
- John Stanley
- Ashley Stapelman
- Garrett Steele
- Gary & Jenrs Steele
- Valeria Storms
- Hon. Holly Stover
- Gary Strout
- Deeane Sutherland
- That Place in Ogunquit
- David A Thomas
- Courtland Tolman
- Roxane Tolman
- Mike Tripp
- Twin City Financial Group
- The Clam Shack
- The Vinalhaven School
- Town Of Boothbay
- Town of Machiasport
- Town of Stonington
- Town Of Vinalhaven
- VIP Maine Mobile
- John Tripp
- Sara Walbridge
- Seth Walker
- Richard Wall
- Keith Wallace
- Dennis Warren
- Jane & Paul Warren
- Lee Watkins
- Ronald Watkins
- Matthew Weber
- Thom Werner
- James West
- Jeff White
- Gregg Whilton
- Wicked Adventure Redemption
- Walter Willey
- John Williams
- Ebenezer
- Winter Harbor Co-Op
- James Wolken
- Wolton’s Lobster Wharf LLC
- York Lobsterman’s Association
- Kenneth Young

## Gifts $500 - $999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Jason</td>
<td>Bangor Tractor &amp; Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard A Alley Jr.</td>
<td>A R Kennedy Customs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arundel Ford</td>
<td>Atlantic Sea Farms</td>
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<td>Maine Lobster Association</td>
<td>Banger Tractor &amp; Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyle Bemis</td>
<td>Tyler Bemis</td>
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<tr>
<td>$500 - $999 cont’d</td>
<td>Mark Cheney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Don't Let them Drag Us Down.

Nick, Andrew & Jack
Pellechia
Antonia Pelleiter
David Percival
Jaden Petersdorf
Eric Peterson
Stephen Pfister
Eric Pietsch
Ben Poland
Janet Pollack
Henrietta Ponczek
George Prince
Puffin’s Nest Inc.
Jeff Putnam
Marcia Ratajzak
Aspen Reece
Walter Reitz
Bonnie Remar
RG Tax Accounting & Resolution
Alan Richard
Dennis Robertson
John Rohlren
Caroline Ronten
Ingrid and Peter Rudolf
Kent Safl
Joseph Salisbury
George Sasso
Charles Saunders
Gynell Schoppee
Deborah Scofield
Anonymous
Seacoast Threads
Sew Fetch Dog Co.
Francis Seiders
Sam Shaw
Randell Shepard
Michael Sherman
Andrew Simmons
Ryan Simmons
Bryan Soares
Jeanette Sonner
John Sosnowski & Anabella Pitkin
Hamilton D South III
Roger St Amand
Matt St Cyr
Brennan Strong
Karen Strunk
Swans Island Freight LLC
Andrew Taylor
Kate Hotchkiss Taylor
Jonathan B Thomas
Paul Thomann
The Island Market & Supply
Jessica Tolliver & Nathan Shaw
Michael Tolman
Town Of Long Island
Caitlin Trafton
Keith Trefethen
Annie Testakis
Hilton Turner
Diana Tyler
Ian Unger
Viable Gear
Allan Villius
Alfred Voskan
Justin Vyce
Anonymous
Raymond Waite

Kachina Watt
Warren’s Lobster House
Kerry Webster
Wendy Weiler
Donald Wescott
Irene White
Adam White
Leonard White
Linda Whitebear
Jim Wilberg
D.A. Wiley
Edward Williams
Wesley Willink
Richard Wilson
Robert M Winslow
Anonymous
Danna Wolfe
Margaret Woodward
Chris Wiggins
Donald Wright
Nancy Wynne
David Yanoc
York Driving School
E Richard Young
Joseph Young
Scott Young
Patricia Zinski

Gifts Under $100
Ronald Alley
Heidi Alski
Evelyn Anderson
Steve Bailey
Nancy Beal
Paulette Blisky-Phillips
Jonathan Bishop
Elen Black
Sandra Boardman
Eljah Brice
Brown’s Service Center
Margarite Bryant
Carla Bryson
Wendy Chambers
Beth Chamberlin
Stephen Christiansen
Jeanne Connelly
Tom & Mary Conway
Rep. Lydia Crafts
Peggy Cummings
Jane Curnin
Judith Cutler
Camille Daggett
Linda Daly Frey
Howard Dentremont Jr
Edith DiBartolo
Demaree DiBaise
William Doble
Donalee Dolan
Honor. Vicki Doudens
Elizabeth Drake
Karina Drumheller
Gordon Duncan
John Dykstra
Karen S Ellis
Ellen Fagen
William Fahey
Marcus Fernald
Michael & Shana Ferra
Joani Ferrance
Jeremy Flint

Gifts under $100 cont’d
Larry Franco
Larry Fuhrman
Jane Gagne
Donna Marie Garfalo
Kevin Gilbert
Joe Gradey
Great Sea Vegetables
Kristin Gross
Thomas Gruber
Eliot Hadlock
Timothy Hambelton
Victoria Hamish
Jordan Hartsell
Sally Hartlika
Anthony Hooper
Erie House
Celeste Howe
Charlene Hoyt
Alice Ingraham
Eve Jamieson
Bel Johnson
Truly Ann Johnson
Elizabeth Jordan
Stafford Keegan
Kate-lyn Knig
Elisabeth Koury
Lois Kuztech
Ronald LaChappelle
Piet Lammert
Steve Laronde
Ivan Libby
Carl Little
Blake Rose Arens
Love Lady
Luster Hustler Ceramics
Leigh Martin-Farnsworth
Elaine Mathiaon
Holly McCormick
Paul & Elizabeth MacDonald
Betsy Mahoney
Don Mahoney
Debra Malley
Jessica McGrath
Chad McGuire
Michael Mendelson
Anonymous
George Munson
Carter Jones Meyer
Linda Musson
Olivia Myers
Richard Nagel
Jeanne Nash
Heidi Newman
Ronda Nichols
Linda & Dana O’Brien
Alber O’Callaghan
Deborah Orrill & Blair Sanders
Teresa Parker
Candy Perry
Mary Perry-Dyssart
Melissa Petriti-Enres
Sarah Petito
Al Pope
Dayle Purinton
Robert Raudenbush
Donna Reed
David Rich
Mish Ritchie
Caroline Rittenhouse
Virginia Robbins

Gifts under $100 cont’d
Jennifer Roberts
Any Roos
Robert & Janet Rushton
Gardner Russell II
Peter Schmidt
Alan and Maddy Thal
Jeffrey Schuhmacher
Seacoast Threads
Jeffrey Silverman
Laurie Smith
Robert Smith
Theresa Smith
Paul Stover
Melissa St Pierre
Constance Stubbs
Sue Stultz
Richard Sullivan
Sunrise Spuds
Jennifer Suliński
Susan & Paul Taylor
William Thurlow
Michelle Tognetti
Chelsea Torrey
Caroline Trinder
Paul Trommer
Steven Turner
Randal Wade
Ruth Wales
John Wallace
Peter Wallace
Kristin Weed

Wendy Wegener
Kendall Thomas White
Laura J Whitmer
Shelley Wigglesworth
Anonymous
Jordan Wolfe
Donald & Gail Wright
Jimmy Guide Young

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Gifts in Memoriam

John Ames
Edward P Ames
Courtney Austin
Gail Austin
Charlie Begn
Jean & Neal Reny
Mary & Ed Blackmore
Sally & Curtis Haskell
James E Brown
Foy Brown Sr
Gary Clifford
John Reny
Gilbert Sr & Betty Collamore
Clanton Collamore Sr.

Dana Crowley
Dean & Terri Crowley
Judy & Dale Crowley Jr
Rob & Nancy Heallen
Cooper Friend
Dave & Bobbi
Betsy & Penny
Ed Faginnde
Perry Family
VJ & Amy
FV Melanie Jean
Roby McLean
Richard & Nancy
Hazelt & Robert Alley Sr
Ronaldo Locke
Bruce & Joanne Davis

Joan & Wendell Curtis
Susann Curtis

Perry B Duryea Jr
Lynn Duryea

Warren Ferraud
Anna Ferraud
Frank & Sam Reece

Charles Gerry
Zach Cudners & the Kevin Peterson
Family
Peggy Cummings
Hugh Cummings
John Dykstra
Sarah Petties
Kent Sall
Robert Smith
Craig Giles
Sarah Giles
Dana R Haynes
Hayne’s Garage
William S. Hutchinson
Lisa Grisindo, York Driving School
Gene Kellcy
Donalee Dolan
Angie Heiton
Paul & Elizabeth MacDonald
Linda & Dana O’Brien
Kevin Kelley & Dana O’Brien
Alan Richard
Janet & Robert Rushton
Linda Whitebear
Antonia Pelletier

Connor Lazaro
In loving memory from his friends &
family on Vinalhaven

Gordon Murphy
Jonathan Murphy
Stephen Burns

David Ober
Bryan & Amanda Austin
Ruth Bacon
Arthur & Julie Chickering
Janice Lachance & Susan Hall
Teresa & Havenner Kaler
Nancy Hope-Normandi
James & Esther Kilgore
Janice Lachance
Willa & Nancy Leppen
Deorei Ober
Geral & Mary Ober
Arlene Paasen
Chef Jason Peasley
Barr & Debta Shepard
Michael Tolman
Rockland District High School Class of
1973
Diane York

Danny Pearce
Jean & Neal Reny
Richard "Poochie" Ross
Aronnd Fork
Dave Steele
Jacqueline Davidson
Jeff Tolman
Courtland Tolman
Harold Vinal
Jimmy Guide Young
Mason Vintinner
David Kelsh
Cindy Welch
Diane Brassard
Betty & Don Mahoney
Antonia Pelletier

Dave Whitten
Steve Rosen

Perry B Duryea III
Lynn Duryea
Shane Farr—Jonesport-Beals
David Loeb
Jim Henry, Peaks Island Lobsterman & Fish-
erman
Dana Knudsen
Mary Stella Harriton
Keith Harton
Mark Jones
Karen S Ellis
Caroline Trinder
Jason Joyce
Donald Wright

MacLeods Restaurant
George MacLeod
Jack Merritt
David & Deborah Brooks
Billy Milliken—Beals-Jonesport
David Loeb
Montauk Lobstermen
Logan Erb
Kyle Nichols
Ronda Nichols
Sam & Frank Reece
Constance Stubbs

Danny & Cindy Staples—Luke’s Seafood
Nancy Holmes
Mrs. Webber—St George School Match
Kristen Faya

John Williams
Ellen Dinmore

Gifts in Honor Of:
All Maine Lobstermen & Their
Communities
Danna Wolfe
Boothbay Lobstermen
Nick Abberding
Philip Bramhall
Eleanor Poe Barlow
Caroline Seamsans
Cary Carver—Jonesport Beals
David Loeb

Derek Coblet--
F/V Never Forgotten
Danna Wolfe
Jordan Wolfe
Cranberry Isles Fishermen’s Co-Op
Carl Little
Emily Axethro
Karen Dougherty for her birthday
Martha Powelson

Thank you!

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- $10,000
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- $500
- $365 “a dollar a day”
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Name:

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please use my business name in my listing

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Email:

Swetshirt Size:

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- 260 HP @ 2200 Heavy Duty “B” IN STOCK
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C9.3 Tier 3 Commercial Ratings:
- 375 HP @ 2000 Heavy Duty “B” IN STOCK
- 410 HP @ 2000 Maximum Continuous Duty “C” IN STOCK

C18 Tier 3 Commercial Line Ratings:
- 450 HP @ 2000 Heavy Duty “B” IN STOCK
- 515 HP @ 2000 Maximum Continuous Duty “C” IN STOCK
- 855 HP @ 2000 Intermittent Duty “D” IN STOCK

* Tier 4 Exempt Light Commercial Ratings: 1,000+ BHP @ 2200

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C18 Tier 3 Commercial Line Ratings:
- 450 HP @ 2000 Heavy Duty “B” IN STOCK
- 515 HP @ 2000 Maximum Continuous Duty “C” IN STOCK
- 855 HP @ 2000 Intermittent Duty “D” IN STOCK

** Tier 4 Exempt Light Commercial Ratings: 1,000+ BHP @ 2200

C7.1 C9.3

** C18 C32

** C18 Tier 3 Commercial Line Ratings:
- 450 HP @ 2000 Heavy Duty “B” IN STOCK
- 515 HP @ 2000 Maximum Continuous Duty “C” IN STOCK
- 855 HP @ 2000 Intermittent Duty “D” IN STOCK

** Tier 4 Exempt Light Commercial Ratings: 1,000+ BHP @ 2200

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

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

Thank you all for your patience.

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MAINE LOBSTER

THE SWEETEST ON EARTH

MARKETING UPDATES

When the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) announced their decision to suspend the Maine Lobster fishery’s sustainability certification in November, the MLMC was ready with the following marketing tactics:

• Placed a paid advertorial article in the Boston Globe highlighting the fishery’s sustainability efforts through a story about a multi-generational fishing family prior to suspension.

• Hosted a timely educational webinar attended by key wholesale buyers of Maine Lobster.

• Distributed an MSC-specific fact sheet and sharable sustainability videos to the industry through email, social media, and digital advertising.

• Conducted public relations outreach nationally and secured media interviews with relevant media.

• Surveyed consumers to determine their awareness of and impacts of current issues to inform our efforts further.

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facebook.com/lobsterfrommaine twitter.com/lobsterfrommaine

instagram.com/lobsterfrommaine
Cheryl Clegg is a professional photographer based in Waltham, Massachusetts, who lives in Gouldsboro each year. As she learned more about the regulatory storm related to right whales that lobstermen were facing and the decision by the Monterey Bay Aquarium to red list lobster as a species consumers should “avoid,” she decided to put her camera to work. “My new series titled “The Endangered Lobstermen” is an effort to put faces to those that are impacted by the regulations to the lobstering community and the “red list.” As a long time Maine visitor to Gouldsboro I support the lobstering community and all of the precautions they have taken to protect the waters and the natural habitat of all of the life that exists in the ocean,” she wrote on her web site (https://www.cleggphoto.com/the-endangered-maine-lobstermen).

Clegg’s portraits of Downeast lobstering families reveal what many don’t recognize: lobstering is a family business. There are more than 5,000 women and men in Maine who hold commercial lobstering licenses and every one of them is a small businessman. Their skills and knowledge were often passed down to them from their parents or grandparents, skills they hope to pass on to the next generation.

“No man is an island entire to itself,” wrote the poet John Donne, and the truth of those words is evident in these photos.
By Melissa Waterman

For lobstering families in Maine, 2022 was not a good year. Prices for lobsters were low, a sharp drop from the previous year. The cost of fuel and bait skyrocketed in the spring and never came down. Add to that the cloud of uncertainty hovering over the fishery due to a looming federal mandate to reduce the risk posed by lobster gear to right whales by a staggering 90% the next rulemaking and it’s easy to see why anyone associated with lobstering would feel a measure of despair.

A group of Downeast women whose husbands or partners are lobstermen decided that they would not give in to despair. The small group of approximately 24 women, called Downeast Housewives for the Fishing Industry, started out when a few women in the Beals/Jonesport area began getting together to have coffee and share the ups and downs of their lives. “We are friends and we kind of lean on each other,” said Amanda Smith, whose husband Richard fishes from Beals Island.

When the news came that the Monterey Bay Aquarium had categorized lobster as a species to avoid on its Seafood Watch list, the women were alarmed. A drop in demand for Maine lobster combined with a poor season could have devastating effects on their communities in the next year. “We said ‘What are we going to do?’ And decided that the best thing to do was to raise money for the Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA),” Smith said.

They did so by holding a rally in Jonesport in September and another in Augusta in October. They set up a Facebook page to provide information on how the fishery operates and the many conservation practices of lobstermen. They created T-shirts and sweatshirts to sell in order to send more money to the MLA. And all the while they and their families were worrying about the future.

“I grew up in here (Jonesport/Beals Island). My father and my grandfather were both lobstermen,” said Whitney Beal. “We’ve all had bad years, but this is different. It’s been an absolutely horrific year for everyone and it’s really important to be able to talk about it with each other.”

Whitney and her husband Abraham are expecting their second child in October. According to their records, Abraham’s profit is down by half this year, the cost of fuel and bait skyrocked to right whales by a staggering 90% the next rulemaking and it’s easy to see why anyone associated with lobstering would feel a measure of despair.

Whitney’s husband built his own boat Whit’s End, a play on his wife’s first name. But today Whitney Beal sees it another way. “We're all in this together, yes, that’s where we are today.”

Everyone in her extended family is connected to the lobster fishery, including her husband Logan and her father Patrick. Uncertainty about the future is having its effect on them as well as many other lobstermen in Downeast Maine.

“We’ve had hours of discussion about what we are going to do. Do we sell the boat? There’s three years left on it. Will it be worth anything in three years or should we sell it now?” she said. Then there are all the other businesses that depend on lobstermen’s success, the restaurants, garages, marine equipment stores. She worries about what will happen to them if the fishery contracts. “Everyone around here has felt it [fear] this year. If the industry doesn’t survive, these other businesses won’t either.”

Lobstermen are resourceful; it’s part of a successful fisherman’s nature. Thus, some are thinking about other ways to make a living, as are their sternmen. “There’s a lot of fear right now,” Smith said. “Some guys are going to scallop in Massachusetts. Some are thinking of Alaska. My husband builds traps in the winter. All his orders have been cancelled.”

“My husband said this summer that he always thought he’d lobster for the rest of his life. But our son [20-months old] probably won’t fish. He never would have expected that,” said Alley. “We are emotionally and mentally exhausted. The unknown and uncertainty is really getting us the most.”

Some are simply putting their heads down and waiting. “They are not ready to accept that the worst can happen,” said Beal. “People are just continuing to work. But now there are so many boats for sale on Facebook Marketplace.”

Abraham Beal named his boat Whit’s End, a play on his wife’s first name. But today Whitney Beal sees it another way. “Wit’s end, yes, that’s where we are right now.”

CONCERN FOR FUTURE SPURS ACTION AMONG LOBSTERMEN’S FAMILIES
MAINE FISHERMEN’S FORUM RETURNS IN MARCH — IN-PERSON!

By Melissa Waterman

After a two-year hiatus, the Maine Fishermen’s Forum will return to the Samoset Resort in Rockport this year. The three-day event will take place from March 2 – 4. The Maine Lobstermen’s Association will hold its annual meeting on March 3 at 9 a.m.

The Forum will open on March 2 with Shellfish Day, with seminars held throughout the day on the Maine shellfish industry. In addition, there will also be a seminar on the expanding New England offshore wind industry and activities taking place in Maine.

Presentations held on Friday will include the MLA Annual meeting, recent federal management actions affecting gillnet fisheries, Gulf of Maine federal scallop fishery updates, the Maine Lobster Marking Collaborative annual report, and the annual Open Forum with NOAA leadership. Seminars will be held on training the next generation of fishermen and on innovation and resilience in Maine’s seafood community, among other topics.

Saturday’s seminars will cover working with fishermen on abandoned fishing gear, Maine scallop industries, economics of the lobster fleet, the annual Department of Marine Resources summary of lobster science results, perspectives on commercial fishing and aquaculture leasing, alternatives to plastic aquaculture gear, lessons from 2022 New England and cooperative research summits, new tech meets old challenges in the lobster supply chain and, as ever, a fun seafood cooking demonstration.

The Maine Lobster Boat Races Association will have its pre-season meeting and the Maine Alewife Association and the Elver Association will also meet. The Fishermen’s Forum Trade Show is reported to be nearly full and will feature many new vendors in 2023.

Once again, there will be something for everyone! Looking for more information? Visit the forum website at www.mainefishermensforum.org.

LOBSTER TOWN MEETING RETURNS TO PORTLAND

By MLA staff

The U.S.-Canada Lobster Town meeting, organized by the Lobster Institute at the University of Maine, will return to Portland this year on February 3 and 4. The meeting will address pressing issues affecting the lobster industry in the U.S. and Canada. This year’s theme is the U.S.-Canadian lobster fishery and the North Atlantic right whale.

The two-day meeting will feature presentations and discussions on topics such as the impact of whale-related regulations on lobstermen, the impact on lobster markets, shifting whale distributions in a changing climate, and solutions and technology, among other subjects. Invited speakers include Brett Gilkrest, director of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO); Melanie Giffen, marine biologist at the Prince Edward Island Fishermen’s Association; Meredith Mendelson, Maine Department of Marine Resources deputy commissioner; Patrice McCarron, executive director of the Maine Lobstermen’s Association; Geoff Irvine, executive director, The Lobster Council of Canada; Marianne LaCroix, executive director, Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative; and Nick Record, senior research scientist at Bigelow Laboratory, among others.

“This 18th Town Meeting continues our long-standing tradition of welcoming lobster industry members, fishery managers, and scientists from both sides of the border to share information and views,” said Lobster Institute Director Rick Wahle. “The industry-organized meeting makes a special effort to engage the harvesting sector to discuss the status of the lobster resource and the business of lobstering from their perspective.”

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TO YOUR HEALTH: How to cope with uncertainty

By Steven Dickens, MA and Ann Backus, MS

As soon as we think we have life all figured out, it seems as if the goal posts magically move, and we must adjust. About the only thing certain in life is uncertainty. Uncertainty can cause us to feel anxious and uncomfortable. The recent worries many of us have experienced, such as those related to the COVID pandemic or proposed changes in fishing regulations, are good examples. What, if anything, can we do to reduce the anxiety caused by uncertainty and live happy lives despite an unknown future?

We can glean some answers from research done in the field of psychology. Dr. Kate Sweeney, at the University of California, Riverside, reports that people can reduce their anxiety around uncertainty through several key practices: (1) distraction; (2) managing expectations; (3) looking for a silver lining; (4) keeping perspective, and (5) planning ahead.

Distraction is about focusing on something other than our worry. That may sound like trying to suppress our feelings or sticking our head in the sand, but it’s more about avoiding rumination over the same negative thoughts. When we focus on a single negative detail exclusively, our vision of all of reality becomes bleak (even though it’s not). And if it seems as if thinking about them is the only way to find a solution to problems confronting us, consider this. The anxiety that brooding over a worry over and over again generates can interfere with the ability to proceed with solutions. The best means of distracting ourselves is to engage in an activity in which we are fully engaged and immersed. That may be something like a project around the house, gardening or any healthy activity that keeps us focused.

Managing expectations has to do with managing our thinking. We may be perfectionists and expect our lives to be a certain way, or we may tell ourselves that we can lose perspective. Cognitive psychologists have helped to identify the following typical forms of thinking that lead us to lose perspective.

Behavior | Explanation
--- | ---
All-or-nothing thinking | If a situation falls short of our ideal, we see the whole situation as a failure.
Overgeneralization | We see a single bad event as part of a never-ending series of bad things that happen to us.
Fortune telling | We predict that things will turn out badly.
Magnification | We exaggerate the importance of our problems.
Emotional reasoning | We assume that because we feel a certain way, that that is the way things really are.
Personalization and labeling | We hold ourselves to blame for events that are beyond our control. We may label ourselves “a loser.”
Overestimating | We overestimate the realistic chance of some negative happening.
Catastrophizing | We assume that should some feared event happen, the result will be a catastrophe and that we will be unable to cope, we ignore the reality of our coping skills.

Planning ahead is an important strategy for taking charge of our situation. We do have to remember that there’s a difference between taking change and trying to control an outcome we may have no control over. Research on coping finds that people who prepare ahead of time for a stressful event by locating resources, finding information, and engaging in mental preparation experience fewer negative consequences.

Reflecting on past successes. It’s easy to lose perspective on our abilities and the successful ways we’ve coped with other past negative events. It’s helpful to recall what those were.

Limiting exposure to the news. The news loves to garner our emotional attention. That is what boosts the number of listeners and readers and in turn draws paying advertisers. We can collect the facts we need to know but avoid repeatedly exposing ourselves to the same negative information.

Taking our own advice. We can imagine what we would tell someone else to do if they presented us with our worries or concerns.

Seeking support. We can talk with others and seek their support, so we’re not left feeling alone. Seeking out counseling support can also be a great option. A trained counselor can help us learn how to avoid the pitfalls and traps in thinking as described above.

Avoiding dwelling on things we can’t control and taking charge of what we can change. This is the piece where avoiding ruminating comes into play. We can focus on those things that we are able to influence or change or prepare for, and let the rest go.

Uncertainty is part of life, or we would have figured it all out long before this. How we cope and what we do in the face of that uncertainty will determine our wellbeing.

There are ways to respond to a sense of uncertainty about the future. R. Barber photo.
challenge, the MLA contends that the plan, if it stands, could eliminate Maine's lobster fishery while doing nothing to reduce the unacceptable high number of right whale deaths occurring in Canadian waters and from vessel strikes. "The Supreme Court has already held—unanimously, no less—that a central purpose of the ESA provision at issue "is to avoid needless economic dislocation produced by agency officials zealously but unintelligently pursuing their environmental objectives,” wrote the MLA. To ensure progress is made during the six-year pause, Congress has appropriated more than $50 million in new funding. According to Senator Collins, the funding includes $10 million for additional research and monitoring in the Gulf of Maine to "show that the right whale is following its food, the plankton that it eats into colder Canadian waters." There is another $22 million to help to pioneer innovative gear and an additional $20 million that will provide for development of technology, gear and other research.

Senator Angus King noted, "one of the most frustrating things about this is that the lobster industry was in effect sentenced to economic death, based upon no evidence, no proof... So, one of the major things for me is going to be to work with all the federal agencies to develop better data. I think it's going to show... that we may not need to do radical gear modification, if indeed, the whales aren't in the Gulf of Maine to any significant degree and aren't really at risk.” "The MLA is encouraged that Congress recognizes that the federal rulemaking process intended to protect right whales is broken,” said Patrice McCarron, MLA executive director. "The Maine lobster industry is not driving the right whale population decline, and the species cannot be saved by unlawfully over-regulating a fishery that, according to federal data, has never been linked with a right whale death.... And we are incredibly grateful for the extraordinary efforts of the Maine delegation and Governor Mills who worked to ensure that lobstermen can continue to fish a new, lawful plan is developed;" The news has come as a sigh of relief for lobstermen across the state. "I see a community that is optimistic about the future today. Both for our lobster industry and for right whales," said Cape Elizabeth lobsterman and scientist, Curt Brown.

It’s impossible to assign responsibility for the NARW’s recent decline with any degree of certainty. Climate change, fishing gear entanglement (notably Canadian snow crab gear), ship strikes and who knows what else may all play a part. Whatever the cause, some scientists believe the right whale population has now dipped so low extinction is inevitable no matter what we do. That’s a terrible shame. But frustration with this unwinnable situation does not justify targeting a fishery that’s doing its damndest to ensure it doesn’t do anything to speed that extinction. But of course, in today's world of 10-second attention spans and social media preeminence, a photo of a dying whale with an inaccurate headline blaming Maine's lobster industry for its predicament will raise a lot more money than sound arguments and logical presentation of data. Whale rules, wind energy, and who knows what else threaten to fundamentally change or possibly even eliminate this fishery. In our fight for survival, remember the wisdom of the potluck and stick together and fight together. We should all contribute to the Maine Lobstermen’s Association Save Maine Lobstermen campaign, because winning in court is the best way to protect our future. But we must also remember that those investigating ropeless gear and other seemingly unpalatable options are NOT the enemy. In fact, we may come to a point where their alternatives are the only viable solution for the continuation of the fishery. Ronald Reagan famously said, "Thou shall not speak ill of another Republican." The lobster industry would be wise to apply that to themselves and remember that this fight is going to be a marathon, not a sprint. And in my opinion, you can’t afford to dismiss any angle as you fight for your survival. Remember the wisdom of the potluck and stick together.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the environmental groups that have intervened on its side filed opening briefs on December 20. The MLA and its supporters will file reply briefs on January 10. The Appeals Court announced that oral argument is scheduled for February 24 and the panel of judges will be announced by the end of January. In September 2021, MLA filed its lawsuit challenging the federal government’s fundamentally flawed 10-year whale protection plan mandating a 98% risk reduction that will all but eliminate the Maine lobster fishery yet still fail to save the endangered North Atlantic right whale. MLA argued that NMFS overestimated the lobster industry’s risk to right whales by cherry-picking the science and using unsupported assumptions and “worst-case scenarios” to justify its mandate for Maine's lobster fishery to reduce its already minimal risk to right whales by 98% by 2030. MLA argued that NMFS also failed to follow mandatory legal requirements to assess the economic and social costs of their actions.
NEW PUBLICATION OFFERS TIPS ON WORKING WATERFRONT LIFE

“Scuttlebutt: How to Live and Work in a Waterfront Community” is a new guide created by the Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association, featuring Harpswell and aimed at educating the community, and new residents in particular, about living and working near the ocean. The association partnered with the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, Holbrook’s Community Foundation, Harpswell Anchor and Cundy’s Harbor Library to create the guide.

Gentrification along the Maine coast has intensified in the last few years with an influx of out-of-state homebuyers, and work changes that are drawing families from Maine’s coastal communities. The new guide attempts to illustrate what it’s like to live in a fishing community. “Scuttlebutt” includes information about the different types of fisheries in Harpswell, ways that homeowners can minimize their impact on the town’s coastal environment, tips for cooking local seafood, and information about preserving waterfront access for future generations.

2023 SCALLOP HARVEST WILL BE SHARPLY LOWER

The East Coast scallop fleet is expected to land around 25 million pounds in the 2023 fishing year. Survey results in 2022 showed scallop biomass is at its lowest since 1999, according to the New England Fishery Management Council. Scallop biomass has been steadily decreasing due to lower recruitment since 2013. Yet scallops officially are not overfished and the stock is healthy. The value of landings for 2023 is projected at $398 million – far less than $670 million that the 43-million-pound harvest fetched in 2021. For two decades, scallop fishing of landings for 2023 is projected at $398 million – far less than $670 million that the 43-million-pound harvest fetched in 2021. For two decades, scallop fishing

COMPANY PULLS OUT OF MASSACHUSETTS WIND FARM

In mid-December, Avangrid told Massachusetts state regulators that it wanted to end its contracts with three major utilities to build a massive wind farm south of Martha’s Vineyard. The move, made in a filing with the state Department of Public Utilities, was not unexpected: Avangrid had been trying to renegotiate contracts for its 1,200-megawatt Commonwealth Wind project to no avail, arguing that the original terms became untenable because of unforeseen supply chain costs and disruptions and increased interest rates. The company said that it may return to bid on another contract later this year. Massachusetts law requires the state to send offshore wind contracts out to bid every two years, with a goal of securing a total of 5,600 megawatts of offshore wind energy by mid-2027.

JONESPORT AQUACULTURE PROJECT READY TO BREAK GROUND

In December Kingfish Maine received the final approval needed to establish a land-based aquaculture operation in Jonesport. The local planning board finalized the Dutch firm’s building permit application, the final step required for pre-construction design and engineering for the company’s $110 million facility on land at Natt Point, roughly 5 miles from the center of town. The project is now fully permitted by local, state, and federal agencies. Once the Jonesport facility is fully operational, it is projected to produce 6,000 to 8,000 metric tons of yellowtail kingfish. The plan is to build a 500,000-square-foot facility and hire 70 to 100 people through a phased build-out. Groundwork is expected to begin in 2023.

NEFMC RELEASES NEW COD REBUILDING PLAN

The New England Fishery Management Council recently released a 10-year rebuilding plan for Gulf of Maine cod stocks which has a 70% probability of rebuilding the beleaguered stock by 2033. Under Framework 65 to the rebuild plan, the strategy is to set a fishing mortality rate at 60%. The low fishing mortality level will force low annual catch limits during the 10-year rebuilding period. The acceptable biological catch for cod for the 2023 and 2024 fishing is 551 metric tons already and will not change under the rebuilding plan.

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In the NEWS
January 5
Aquaculture Public Scoping Session, Great Ledge Cove Seafood, 3 p.m., Long Island Town Hall.

January 9
Public Hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum 1, 6-8 p.m., Remote via webinar and in-person at NH Fish and Game Dept., Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth, NH. FMI: https://www.maine.gov/dnr/meetings/mon-01092023-1200-public-hearing-atlantic-striped-bass-draft-addendum-i.

January 17
Aquaculture Public Scoping Session, Keith Miller, 7 p.m., St. George Town Hall, Tenants Harbor.

January 19

January 24
Aquaculture Public Hearing, Maine Island Aquaculture, LLC, 1 p.m., North Haven Town Hall.

January 24-26

January 27

January 30-Feb. 1

February 3-4
Lobster Institute Town Meeting, Hilton Garden Inn, Portland, ME. FMI: https://umaine.edu/lobsterinstitute.

March 2-4

March 3
Maine Lobstermen's Association 69th annual meeting, 9 a.m., Samoset Resort, Rockport.

March 12-14
Seafood Expo North America, Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Boston, MA.

**COLLEGE Standing as of Sept 2022**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman</th>
<th>Sophomore</th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Senior</th>
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2023 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Maine Fishermen’s Forum Board of Directors offers a scholarship fund to benefit children or grandchildren of 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 2, 2023. Please note that previous winners are not eligible. Scholarships will be awarded by a random drawing to be held on Friday, March 3, 2023.

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

- 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 send an official transcript or Registrar’s letter of standing with your application?
- Did you complete this application and send it 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 __________________________
- Mailing Address ________________________
- City __________________ State ______ Zip Code ______ Email __________________________
- Home Phone ____________________________

SCHOOL INFORMATION (High School Students are NOT eligible)

- College/University Name __________________________
- Location of College __________________________
- **COLLEGE Standing as of Sept 2022 (circle one)** Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior
- Expected Year of Graduation: __________
- Year Major __________________________

MAINE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY FAMILY MEMBER INFORMATION

- Name __________________________
- Relationship _________________________
- Street/Mailing Address __________________________
- City __________________ State ______ Zip Code ______ Email __________________________
- Phone ____________________________
- Vessel Name or Commercial License Number __________________________

Describe participation in the Maine seafood industry __________________________

Applications will be accepted through March 2, 2023.
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** to be announced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MLA Board representation</th>
<th>2023 Board Priorities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zone A: 4 (1 expiring)</td>
<td>Dedicated lobstermen who care about the future of the industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone B: 3 (2 expiring)</td>
<td>Lobstermen who can talk about the industry’s needs and priorities</td>
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<td>Zone C: 3</td>
<td>Balanced industry representation across the state</td>
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<td>Zone D: 3 (2 expiring)</td>
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<td>Zone E: 3 (1 expiring)</td>
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<td>Zone F: 2</td>
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<td>Zone G: 3 (1 expiring)</td>
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<td>Islands represented: 5</td>
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**MLA Director Nomination Form (detach and return)**

**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.
- Feel free to nominate yourself, or someone else.

**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. #: ____________________

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.

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