VINEYARD WIND 800-MW OFFSHORE WIND FARM APPROVED, FISHERMEN’S CONCERNS NOT ADDRESSED

By Melissa Waterman

On May 11, the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management (BOEM) within the Department of Interior released its final record of decision permitting construction and operation of Vineyard Wind, an offshore wind farm located in federal waters southeast of Martha’s Vineyard. The $2.8 billion project is a joint venture of the energy firms Avangrid Renewables, part of Iberdrola, and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners. The Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA), a membership-based coalition of fishing industry associations and fishing companies, immediately denounced the decision.

"For the past decade, fishermen have participated in offshore wind meetings whenever they were asked and produced reasonable requests only to be met with silence,” said Annie Hawkins, RODA executive director. "From this silence now emerges unilateral action and a clear indication that those in authority care more about multinational businesses and energy politics than our environment, domestic food sources, or U.S. citizens,” RODA wrote.

Construction on Vineyard Wind is expected to begin this summer. The project is permitted up to 84 turbines which could generate 800 megawatts of electricity, vastly more than is currently produced by the Block Island Wind Farm three miles off Block Island. The electricity will travel via cables buried six feet below the ocean floor to Cape Cod, where the cables will connect to a substation and feed into the New England grid. The company said that it expects to begin delivering wind-powered electricity in 2023.

Continued on page 4

LEARNING ABOUT CAREERS IN THE MAINE LOBSTER INDUSTRY

By Melissa Waterman

Too many people in the state think that the Maine lobster industry is simply oilskin-clad lobstermen routinely hauling traps time after time after time, according to Curt Brown. A new class that began this spring hopes to dismantle that perception. Called ”The Business of Maine Lobster,” the ten-week virtual class “will open people's eyes to the career opportunities of the lobster industry,” said Brown, marine biologist with Ready Seafood in Portland and one of the class organizers.

An economic study conducted by Colby College professor Michael Donihue in 2018 found that the annual economic impact of the Maine lobster industry, not counting the lobstermen themselves, was $244 million and provided 1,306 jobs. Donihue's research showed that the broader annual contribution to the Maine economy was nearly $1 billion and the industry supported 4,000 jobs. Those jobs occur in multiple fields, from transportation and finance to engineering and marketing. But still the image of lobstering as a solitary endeavor by a captain and sternman persists. "In parts of the state, no one understands the complexity of it,” Brown said.

To counter that perception ”The Business of Maine Lobster” aims to give students an overview of critical aspects of the lobster supply chain and identify career pathways to employment in the industry. The initial concept for the class came from Annie Tselikis, executive director of the Maine Lobster Dealers Association, Betsy Lowe of Acadia Seafood in Sorrento, and Brown. It is offered through

Continued on page 4
We are entering that season of the year when the pace of life seems to quicken. Certainly the days are longer but there’s just so much to do to fix new trap tags to the traps, go over all the rope and gear, secure bait, and get ready for the next round of right whale protection measures. The tasks come as thick as mosquitoes as summer takes hold along the Maine coast.

The lobster industry is a major feature of the coast both in summer and winter. As an economic study conducted at Colby College a few years ago revealed, the supply chain businesses related to the lobster fishery alone account for nearly $1 billion in revenue for the state each year and provide more than 4,000 jobs, often in places where employment opportunities are limited. A new class offered this spring, “The People’s eyes to the many career opportunities in the lobster industry beyond working on a boat. The 10-week class was organized by the Washington County Community College’s Workforce and Professional Development Program and the Machias Valley Center for Entrepreneurship. Class participants studied everything from the basic biology of a lobster to storage and inventory management, quality assurance, grading, distribution, transportation and marketing. “The most important thing to take away from the class is not just that there are job opportunities in the industry but that there are career opportunities,” said Curt Brown, of Ready Seafood in Portland and one of the class organizers.

One topic reverberating along Maine’s waterfront this month is the ongoing push by the Mills administration to secure a federal permit to construct a large wind turbine array off southern Maine. That effort was encouraged when the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management (BOEM) in May gave final approval to Vineyard Wind, the nation’s first full-scale industrial wind farm in federal waters. The $2.8 billion project is a joint venture of the energy firms Avangrid Renewables, part of Spanish-based Iberdrola, and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners. Construction on Vineyard Wind is expected to begin this summer. The project is permitted up to 84 turbines which could generate 800 megawatts of electricity. Approval came despite comments from other federal agencies on the negative effects the project is forecast to have on commercial fisherman.

The Army Corps of Engineers stated, “While Vineyard Wind will have beneficial impacts to the local economy, it is anticipated that there will be negative economic impacts to commercial fisheries...due to the placement of the turbines it is likely that the entire 75,614-acre-area will be abandoned by commercial fisheries due to difficulties with navigation.”

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released its annual Fisheries of the United States report in May, providing 2019 landings and value figures for commercial, recreational and aquaculture fisheries. While the volume of landings in New England dropped in 2019, largely due to reductions in the herring fishery, the lobster fishing ports of Stonington and Vinalhaven both remained among the top ports by value. Stonington was ranked 22nd, landing $51 million in 2019, and Vinalhaven ranked 28th, landing $40 million.

Despite cancellation of the Maine Fishermen’s Forum this year, the Forum board once again awarded college scholarships to children of fishermen and fishing families. The 23 students hailed from throughout the coast and will use these funds to attend secondary school or advanced training in their chosen fields. The Forum board, which awarded $43,500 this year, is to be commended for raising these funds during a difficult pandemic year.

Landings continues its focus on lobstermen’s health with an article this month on how to protect your knees. Anyone who has spent long hours on a boat knows that the constant motion takes a toll on the knees. Most fishermen put up with deteriorating knee joints with pain killers and other treatments until the time comes for replacement surgery. Certain techniques, however, can prevent long-term injury, as authors Scott Fulmer and Ann Backus point out.

Landings begins a new feature this month called Business News. The many businesses that support this newspaper often have news to share or new products and services to offer and we want to give them the opportunity to let Landings readers know what’s new.

And finally, we feature some of the vibrant art of Alison Bramhall, owner of Festive Fish. Bramhall, a self-taught artist, translates the marine creatures and seascapes that the Yarmouth native has long enjoyed into colorful cards, fabrics and other items. “My connection to the ocean is essential. Being out there, it detoxes my body and clears my mind,” Bramhall said.

We hope you enjoy this issue and we welcome your feedback.
LOBSTER NOW NATION’S SECOND MOST VALUABLE SEAFOOD

By MLA staff

On May 20, NOAA released its 2019 Fisheries of the United States Report, providing fisheries statistics, including commercial landings and value, for the country. In 2019, U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.3 billion pounds of seafood valued at $5.5 billion. These figures are essentially unchanged from 2018, with a less than 1% decline in volume and 2% in value.

For the 23rd consecutive year, Dutch Harbor, Alaska led the nation as the port with the highest volume of seafood landed (763 million pounds valued at $190 million). For the 20th consecutive year, New Bedford, Massachusetts had the highest valued catch (116 million pounds valued at $451 million), due in large part to the highly valued sea scallop fishery. Sea scallops account for 84% of the value of landings in New Bedford.

In 2019, New England showed a 14.9% decrease in landings volume, driven primarily by reductions in the herring and lobster fisheries. The South Atlantic, on the other hand, had a 13.4% increase in landings volume, driven by increases in North Carolina and the east coast of Florida.

Stonington was ranked 22nd in the nation based on value, landing $51 million in 2019 versus $60 million in 2018. Vinalhaven ranked 28th in value, bringing in $40 million versus $39 million in 2018. Other Maine ports in the top 50 included Portland (40th), Friendship (45th) and Beals Island (48th).

Lobster was the second most valuable seafood landed in 2019, worth $668 million, with salmon ranking first at $790 million. Lobster ranked tenth in volume with 130 million pounds of lobster harvested. Maine.

The United States continues to be a major importer of seafood. Between 70% and 85% of the seafood consumed in the United States (by edible weight) is imported. This percentage has been rising in recent years. A significant portion of this imported seafood is caught by American fishermen, exported overseas for processing, and then reimported to the United States. Exports decreased slightly in 2019 compared to 2018.

Lobster exports declined from 115,981,000 in 2018 to 91,947,000. In 2019, 61% of lobster was exported to Canada, followed by 12% to China, 6% to Hong Kong, 4% to Italy and 3% to Taiwan.

2018 vs. 2019 U.S. Lobster Exports (in pounds)

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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>5.6 billion</td>
<td>$1.7 billion</td>
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<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>896.4 million</td>
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<td>France</td>
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Top Ports, Commercial Landings By Volume

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the Washington County Community College’s Workforce and Professional Development Program and the Machias Valley Center for Entrepreneurship and is facilitated by Denise Cilley, Entrepreneurship Program director at Sunrise County Economic Development Council and director of the Machias Valley Center for Entrepreneurship.

“The Business of Maine Lobster” began on April 22 and meets each Thursday evening for three hours. The class is free to all participants. “[As workforce training] it was important to be able to offer it for free,” Cilley explained. Funds were donated by Machias Savings Bank and the Maine Quality Center, part of the Maine Community College system’s workforce training.

Students can take the class for three college credits or choose to participate in as many individual sessions as they wish without credit. “We have 30 students right now. One-half are enrolled for college credit and the others can pick and choose sessions. The students are a mix, with the majority over 40,” Cilley said. “We even have people from New York who are planning to move here and work in the industry.” Several prison inmates are taking the class through the Department of Corrections transitions program as well.

Class participants cover a lot of ground, from the basic biology of a lobster to storage and inventory management, quality assurance, grading, distribution of live lobster, transportation and marketing. Different experts in the industry give presentations each week, plus students have weekly reading assignments.

“We’ve put a lot of time and preparation into those three hours. Three hours seems like a lot of time but we’ve found each week that we could just keep on going,” Brown said.

Milly Martin, general manager of the Vinalhaven Fisherman’s Cooperative, thinks the class is “fantastic.”

“There’s always room to learn more about the industry,” she said. She found the anatomy of a lobster and its life cycle particularly interesting as well as the session on shipping and handling. “I knew a lot about that but we then got into temperature and pH. It made me think about trying to get the fishermen to add aeration to their tanks. You don’t want the lobster’s heart rate to go up,” she said.

Toward the final weeks of the class, students explore workforce opportunities with a panel of industry employers and complete a final project that addresses specific challenges the students have identified during the class. For example, most lobster-buying wharves store lobster crates in the water. To know how much lobster a business currently holds, someone must count the crates. Is there a technology that would allow that process to be automated?

“The most important thing to take away from the class is not just that there are job opportunities in the industry but that there are career opportunities,” Brown emphasized.

“You can build a successful career as part of a team and grow throughout your career. And you may never actually touch a lobster.” The many types of business related to lobstering allow those who have a college degree and those without to find work in the state and often in their own communities, Brown added. “If you are willing to work and willing to learn, you can have a good year-round job.”
By Melissa Waterman

Despite the fact that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued its final record of decision in early May permitting the 800-megawatt (MW) Vineyard Wind offshore wind farm in waters southeast of Martha’s Vineyard, several federal agencies registered their concerns about the project’s impacts. The Army Corps of Engineers, in its official contribution to the record of decision, forecast a generally negative effect on commercial fishing due to limitations on fishing within the planned 62-turbine array.

"While Vineyard Wind will have beneficial impacts to the local economy, it is anticipated that there will be negative economic impacts to commercial fisheries...due to the placement of the turbines it is likely that the entire 75,614-acre area will be abandoned by commercial fisheries due to difficulties with navigation," according to the Corps.

The Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) had asked BOEM to ensure 4-nm-wide vessel transit lanes between the turbines, which it contended would enhance safety for fishermen. BOEM, however, declined to adopt that plan. "Primary concerns with the inclusion of a transit lane focused on the precedent that may be set with the addition of transit lanes that would limit the potential of offshore wind leases to meet state demand and reduce economic benefits from offshore wind development," BOEM stated in its decision.

"We strongly oppose BOEM’s approach of giving greater credence to comment...witnesses to the extent of impacts without the relevant expertise in marine operations over the fishing industry’s expert testimony regarding safety. We do not know, nor were fishermen asked, the safety and operating impacts of this spacing across the entire coast," according to RODA. "Instead of learning from fishermen’s experience, BOEM now rewards those who ignore traditional knowledge and shoehorn data into predetermined outcomes based on political preference or financial goals."

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in its contribution to the decision, highlighted two major concerns: the effect of Vineyard Wind and other large arrays on its fisheries surveys and on the endangered North Atlantic right whale. NMFS noted that it sees "major adverse impacts to NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center scientific surveys...The adverse impacts to NMFS surveys will gradually increase in intensity and scope if future wind energy projects are approved throughout the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf Ecosystem."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research vessels that conduct the science surveys are restricted from operating closer than 1 nautical mile from wind installations, and NOAA aircraft used in surveys and whale monitoring will likewise be subject to flight height restrictions around planned turbines, which will stand more than 800 feet above sea level.

The Army Corps had a gloomy prediction of the long-term impact of Vineyard Wind on commercial fishermen and the local economies along the coast. "The extent of impact to commercial fisheries and loss of economic income is estimated to total $14 million over the expected 30-year lifetime of the Project. Vineyard Wind has established compensation funds for Massachusetts and Rhode Island fishermen to mitigate for the potential loss in economic revenue associated with the potential loss of fishing grounds. When considering these factors, the project as proposed is anticipated to have a negligible beneficial effect to local economics."

Material in this article was drawn from a May 18 article in National Fisherman.
It’s hard not to feel good about the world as spring moves into summer and pandemic restrictions are relaxed. It’s been such a long year for everyone and it is a relief to hope that life will feel a little more normal this summer.

By all accounts, Maine is on track to have an historic tourist season given all the pent-up desire among people to get together and, of course, enjoy Maine’s signature seafood product. The expectation of high local demand and low inventory of lobster should set us up for a strong lobster season.

Even as we prepare to reclaim important parts of our lives and livelihoods from the pandemic, the lobster industry is undeniably facing an uncertain future. There are so many concerns over what future whale regulations and the increasing momentum to develop large offshore wind farms will mean for our fishery. I view both whales and wind as existential threats to Maine’s centuries-old lobster fishery.

Each of these issues on its own could fundamentally alter every lobsterman’s future; having to deal with them both at the same time is certain to deal the lobster industry a harsh one-two punch. How the industry responds will determine our future.

We are now in a long-term race to save our fishing heritage as we go head-to-head with well-funded environmental groups, multi-national energy companies, and sadly, parts of our own state and federal government. The MLA will bring to bear every resource that we have to ensure that the concerns of Maine’s lobstermen are heard and understood. The MLA Legal Defense Fund makes this possible. MLA has been and will continue to work diligently, day by day, month by month, to fight for what we believe in – our fishermen, the sustainable wild-caught food they provide, the jobs and economic stability they create for our rural coastal communities, and the continued opportunity for our children to live and work in Maine.

The MLA cannot be successful, however, if the fishing industry is not willing to stand together. We all know that fishermen are not going to agree on everything as these issues evolve. Yet lobstermen must be willing to listen to each other and be tolerant of those who do not share their view on every issue. Unfortunately, as many of you know, such tolerance is not a hallmark of our fishing culture. But despite this paradox, lobster industry leaders have been successful in the past in meeting and overcoming the many challenges lobstermen have faced. It is time for that sense of unity to once again come to the forefront in the face of these enormous threats.

Maine’s lobster fishery is strong because of its diversity and yet we have a long history of beating each other up over our differences. You constantly hear things like, “Those boys are overcapitalized and only know the good times,” or “Those big boats are just greedy,” to which the response is, “They don’t like to work hard,” or “They’ve already made their money and now they want to shut it down for everyone.”

This is not the first time Maine’s fishermen have faced extraordinary tough times. As Maine’s groundfishing industry was dismantled piece by piece more than 20 years ago, the large and small boat fleets did not work together. Maine’s fishing communities suffered. Much of the state’s federal scallop fleet suffered a similar fate. By contrast, af-

Maine’s fishing industry groups have put their differences aside and are leading by example. We have formed a loose coalition to speak with a unified voice on offshore wind. The MLA is working closely with the Maine Lobstering Union, Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association, Maine Lobster Dealers Association, Downeast Fishermen’s Association, Southern Maine Fishermen’s Association, and others. We collectively submitted comments raising concern over NMFS’s draft Biological Opinion. We are working together to counter whale measures and offshore wind development because these issues will hurt all of Maine’s fishing industry and our communities, not just lobstermen.

This work is difficult. We do not agree on every detail. Voices get raised. But when we hit areas of disagreement, we collectively take a step back to focus on common ground. Then we move forward. And we do not stop. If Maine’s fishing communities succumb to old habits and stop working together, I can assure you the environmental groups and the multi-national energy companies will exploit this weakness in a flash. We will NOT survive unless we work together. We must put our egos aside and focus on ensuring a future for Maine’s fishermen.

The future will be uncomfortable for everyone. We must agree to let go of our old grudges, let go of what each of us as individuals believes is the best way for the lobster industry to operate and get ready for some very uncomfortable conversations. We must be vigilant in remembering those things that unite us and stop arguing over those things that divide us.

Together we stand, divided we fall” will be a self-fulfilling prophecy if we can’t pull together. I would guess that not one of you reading this today wants to see lobster boats disappear from harbors, whales fall into ruin, and your sons and daughters living far from their childhood homes. It’s a picture that can become reality in ten short years. So please, find ways to unite in order to ensure a future for all Maine’s fishermen.

As always, stay safe on the water.
The MLA Board met via Zoom on May 5. In a unanimous vote, the board elected officers for a one-year term: President, Kristan Porter; Vice President, Dustin Delano; 2nd Vice President, John Williams; Treasurer, Jim Dow; and Secretary, Chris Welch. These officers will serve as MLA’s Executive and Finance Committees.

The board discussed several bills currently before the Legislature. Three bills on offshore wind development are before the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. LD 101, put forward by Rep. Faulkingham, would ban all offshore wind development in state waters, including cables from offshore wind projects. LD 1619, put forward by Governor Mills, would ban offshore wind in state waters for 10 years but would allow the Monhegan project and cables from offshore projects. The Board voted to support LD 101 and oppose LD 1619, LD 336, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence, would task the Public Utilities Commission with negotiating long-term contracts to pay for research on the development of floating offshore wind. The MLA board voted to oppose this bill. The Marine Resources Committee is considering LD 391, which replaces LD 28 from last session, which proposes to allow those who have been on the lobster waiting list for at least 10 years to get into the fishery. The MLA board opposes this due to concerns over the 98% risk reduction proposed by NMFS to protect whales, potential loss of fishing grounds due to offshore wind, and lack of a plan to deal with latent effort.

The MLA expects that NMFS will finalize the Biological Opinion (Biop) by May 31 for submission to the court. The draft Biop proposes reaching a 98% risk reduction over ten years. The Biop will outline the framework for the risk reductions to protect right whales required during that period. NMFS made it clear during the recent round of public hearings on the Proposed Whale Rule (under the Marine Mammal Protection Act) that the Final Whale Rules are not expected to be published until this summer, and that it anticipates that new rules will be phased in over several months. This means that Maine lobstermen will not know what the new whale rules are until at least this summer. At that time we will also learn when each measure needs to be implemented. We expect to gain more clarity on this on May 31 when NMFS submits its documents to the court.

The Take Reduction Team has reconvened to address risk from gillnets and other trap/pot fisheries. NMFS is updating its Decision Support Tool to assess proposed conservation measures to be implemented by the gillnet fisheries and trap/pot fisheries (other than New England lobster) to achieve a 60% risk reduction. NMFS expects to conduct scoping meetings this summer and publish a proposed rule in the fall. The next MLA meeting will be on June 2 in Belfast.

**MAINE LOBSTERMEN’S ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

**MLA BOARD MEETING**

**ROUND 2 COVID-19 FEDERAL AID TO SEAFOOD INDUSTRY**

Maine is receiving a $4.5 billion investment from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) approved by Congress. These funds will support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, improve the lives and livelihoods of Maine people, make investments in solving Maine’s long-term challenges, and develop strategies for new opportunities. Of this $4.5 billion, Congress has dedicated nearly $3.2 billion to recovery efforts like bolstering public health, including COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, enhanced unemployment benefits, stimulus payments to families, business supports, and more. The remaining $1.13 billion is allocated to Maine to be used at the discretion of the Governor and Legislature to respond to the pandemic and support economic recovery. Governor Mills has published The Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan outlining how these funds will be invested.

The Governor’s proposal includes a $26 million one-time investment to support Maine’s seafood sector and DMR’s infrastructure needs. The Governor’s proposal requires legislative approval in order to be finalized. The Governor’s proposed seafood industry investments include:

- $10 million for Maine’s seafood processing and dealer sectors, which successfully responded to a massive shift in seafood markets in 2020. DMR and the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) would use these funds to deploy grants and loans for seafood processors and processors to upgrade and retrofit equipment to remain successful and spur greater resilience and growth in Maine’s seafood industry.
- $16 million for investment in climate impact-related infrastructure needs, which would be used to purchase a new 57-foot offshore Tier 4 technology Marine Patrol Vessel to patrol the offshore portions of Area 1 and the Area 3 fisheries (up to $3 million), investment in public health monitoring equipment to support the aquaculture and shellfish industries, and improvements to boat ramps, docks and other infrastructure at DMR facilities (up to $3 million).
- $7 million for the Governor’s Jobs and Recovery Plan, DMR is currently exploring criteria and options to invest these funds to mitigate COVID impacts in support of Maine’s seafood industries. In 2020, Congress authorized $100 million for economic assistance to the nation’s seafood industry to provide financial relief due to COVID impacts, of which Maine was allocated $20 million. Commercial fisherman and seafood dealers licensed in 2019 were eligible if they could show a greater than 35% revenue loss from January-June 2020 as compared to the average for the same period in the previous five years (2015-2019).


**RIGHT WHALES — NMFS REPORT TO FEDERAL COURT**

**Biological Rule and Final Whale Rules**

The deadline for NMFS to submit the final Biological Opinion to the court is May 31. In NMFS’s last update to the court on March 30, the agency wrote that it is “working toward completion of a final Biological Opinion by May 31, 2021.” It did not provide the court with a timeline to finalize the Whale Rules. During the public hearings on the draft whale rules, GARFO explained that the agency must respond to all public comments, update its analysis, and then finalize its preferred alternative. This will be sent to NMFS headquarters and, ultimately, for review and approval by the Office of Regulatory and Information Affairs (ORIA) in the President’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Due to the many steps in the process, the agency staff stated that they do not expect to release the Final Whale Rules until this summer.

**Take Reduction Team (TRT)**

NMFS held a series of small group Take Reduction Team meetings to review updates to the Decision Support Tool (DST), which NMFS uses to assess the risk reductions of proposed whale conservation measures. While the Final Rule for the lobster fishery is being finalized, NMFS is preparing to begin rule-making to address risk to large whales from gillnets and trap/pot fisheries not covered in the current rulemaking. NMFS has scheduled two TRT meetings to discuss management options for the gillnet and other trap/pot fisheries to be held virtually on June 28 and July 1 from 3pm to 6pm. More information of these meetings and updates to the DST are available on the TRT website at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/marine-mammal-protection/atlantic-large-whale-take-reduction-plan-the-team.

**NEW ENGLAND AQUA VENTUS I**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced its “Notice of Public Scoping and Public Meetings” requesting public input on the scope of an Environmental Assessment for the proposed offshore wind demonstration project “New England Aqua Ventus I.” An Environmental Assessment will be prepared by DOE pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). DOE proposes to authorize the expenditure of federal funding by the University of Maine to design, construct, and commission an offshore wind energy demonstration project called New England Aqua Ventus I, which would consist of one turbine on a floating foundation located approximately 2.5 miles south of Monhegan Island. Additional project activities and/or potential impacts from the project could occur in or near Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Brewer, Continued on page 8
Searsport, Eastport, and/or Monhegan Island, Maine.

DOE held two virtual public scoping informational meetings on May 26. Written comments on the scope of issues, resources, and alternatives to be analyzed in the Environmental Assessment are due by June 11, 2021 and mailed to: U.S. DOE, Golden Field Office, NEPA Division, 15013 Denver West Parkway, Golden, Colorado 80401, or by email to AquaVentus1EA@ee.doe.gov. Additional meeting information may be found at www.energy.gov/node/2053718.

### 2021 AREA 1A HERRING SEASON

The Area 1A Atlantic herring season opens on June 13. The Area 1A sub-animal catch limit (ACL) is only 1,453 metric tons (mt) after adjusting for the carryover from 2019, the 30 mt fixed gear set-aside, and closing Area 1A when landings reach 92% of the sub-ACL. ASMFC has allocated the Area 1A across two sea-sons: 72.8% (1,058 mt) available for season 1 (June 1 – September 30) and 27.2% (395 mt) available for season 2 (October 1 – December 31). The fishery will start on June 13 at 6:00 a.m.

Vessels that have declared into the Area 1A fishery may land herring five (5) consecutive days a week. One landing per 24 hour period. Vessels are prohibited from landing or possessing herring caught from Area 1A during a day out of the fishery.

- Vessels may harvest up to 240,000 lbs (6 trucks) per harvester vessel.
- A harvester vessel may transfer herring at-sea to another harvester vessel.
- A harvester vessel may not make any at-sea transfers to a carrier vessel.
- Carrier vessels may not receive at-sea transfers from a harvester vessel.

### 2021 MAINE MENHADEN SEASON

The State Allocation menhaden fishery opens Monday, June 14 with harvest days on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Vessel weekly limit is set at 23,800 pounds (68 barrels).

The Incidental and Small Scale fishery will operate on Tuesdays and Fridays with a weekly vessel limit of 14,000 pounds (40 barrels). Transfers at sea of menhaden to either a harvester or carrier vessels are prohibited during the State Allocation, Episodic Event and Small Scale fisheries. During all three fishery phases, menhaden must immediately be stored in barrels, crates or fish totes, or a combination thereof, upon harvest and remain stored either on the harvester vessel and the drory towed by the harvester ves-sel, if utilized for all gear types. Menhaden cannot be transferred to another vessel while at sea. Menhaden cannot be received from another vessel while at sea. Same-day reporting is required by commercial menhaden harvesters during the state allocation and episodic event fisheries. The noncommercial menhaden fishery daily limit has been amended from 1,000 pounds to 1,050 pounds to reflect the amount landed in three barrels.
Not Yet Voted

LD 336, An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry (Sen. Lawrence of York) would require the Public Utilities Commission to negotiate and, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into or, order another entity to enter into long-term contracts necessary to facilitate research on the development of floating offshore wind energy projects on the outer continental shelf in the Gulf of Maine. The Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee held a public hearing on May 11.

LD 101, An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development (Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) would prohibit any department or agency of state government from permitting, approving or otherwise authorizing an offshore wind energy development project, including the Monhegan offshore wind energy demonstration project. The Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee held a public hearing on May 4. During the May 18 work session the committee voted to table this bill.

LD 1619, An Act to Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters (Emergency), would establish a 10-year moratorium on offshore wind development in state waters, but would allow for construction of cables, transmission lines and portside infrastructure that may support the Monhegan offshore wind demonstration project and offshore wind developed in federal waters. This bill was submitted by the Governor. The Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee held a public hearing on May 4 but a work session has not yet been held.

LD 221, which outlines changes to the Governor's proposed budget through June 30, 2023, proposes to add several new positions to Maine DMR including:

- Two positions (1 policy and 1 science) to support Maine's work related to the protection of North Atlantic right whales,
- Two scientists to support DMR's work to understand the impacts of offshore wind development on the Gulf of Maine and Maine's fisheries,
- Funding three marine patrol positions to reach a full complement of marine patrol officers,
- One position to support the administration of the aquaculture program and one position for the state's shark tagging program.

The Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee held a public hearing on May 20 but the budget has not yet been voted on.

LD 987, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Portland Harbor Commercial Revitalization Project's Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell and Dredging Projects (Sen. Chipman of Cumberland), seeks a $28,000,000 bond to construct a confined aquatic disposal cell within Portland Harbor and conduct a maintenance dredging of Port and South Portland in order to promote commercial economic growth, maintain the working waterfront and improve the sediment and water quality of the harbor, allowing the marine industry to continue to grow and support the state's economy. The Appropriations Committee held a public hearing April 29.

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING

Lobster Management Board Meeting Summary

The American Lobster Management Board met in May to consider: 1) Technical Committee (TC) recommendations on pursuing a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the lobster fishery, 2) an update on the development of Draft Addendum XXVII on Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank (GOM/GBK) resiliency, and 3) electronic vessel tracking for the lobster fishery.

The Lobster TC recommended that ASMFC pursue a two-phase MSE on the GOM/GBK lobster stock to provide short-term stock-wide scale management guidance while concurrently building the framework to provide long-term, spatially-explicit management advice. The TC recommended development of a formal process to establish lobster fishery management goals and objectives and the formation of a steering committee for additional scoping and work plan development. The Board expressed interest in pursuing an MSE however, and postponed development of an MSE until the August meeting in order prioritize work on Draft Addendum XXVII.

Staff updated the Board on the development of the Draft Addendum XXVII, which aims to increase biological resiliency of the GOM/GBK stock. Per the Board's direction, the Plan Development Team (PDT) presented draft management options to develop a trigger mechanism that would automatically require the implementation of management measures to improve the biological resiliency of the GOM/GBK stock if reached. The TC also provided guidance on indices of abundance that could be used to develop triggers, how triggers could be defined, and the types of management measures that would be expected to increase resiliency of the stock. After reviewing the PDT and TC recommendations, the Board indicated the addendum should prioritize resiliency over standardization of measures across management areas, include relatively conservative trigger levels to maintain the current abundance regime, and consider a tiered approach with multiple trigger levels. The Board agreed to form a subcommittee to provide further guidance on the document’s development and will consider Draft Addendum XXVII for public comment in August 2021.

Finally, the Board discussed electronic vessel tracking in the lobster fishery. State partners presented results of recent work to test additional tracking devices, integrate cell-based tracking with ACCSP’s SAFIS eTRIPS mobile trip reporting application, and to create trip viewers within SAFIS eTRIPS online. This work expanded upon the Commission's 2020 pilot project. As in previous discussions, the Board emphasized the urgent need for high-resolution spatial and temporal data to characterize effort in the federal lobster and Jonah crab fleets. These data are critical for informing Atlantic right whale risk reduction models, marine spatial planning discussions, and improving offshore enforcement.

The Board agreed to create a technical work group including representatives from NOAA Fisheries, state and federal law enforcement, and members of the Board to develop objectives, technological solutions, and system characteristics for vessel tracking devices in the federal lobster and Jonah crab fisheries. The work group will provide a report and recommended next steps to the Board at the August 2021 meeting.

Atlantic Menhaden Meeting Summary

In May the Atlantic Menhaden Board reviewed the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Review for the 2020 fishing year and considered changes to current allocations. In 2020, total commercial landings decreased by 12% from 2019 with directed landings that count towards the total allowable catch or TAC estimated at 177,830 mt, 82% of the 2020 TAC (216,000 mt). Landings from incidental catch and small-scale fisheries, which are not accounted for under the TAC, increased in 2020 to approximately 6,330 mt, the highest level since the provision was implemented in 2013.

The Plan Review Team (PRT) highlighted recommendations for the Board’s consideration regarding (1) the current 10-fish biological sample requirement to categorize the impact of the commercial gear types on the menhaden population, (2) required catch and effort data from North Carolina’s pound net fishery to develop a catch per unit effort index, and (3) whether jurisdictions that harvest under the incidental catch provision prior to their quota being met are consistent with the incidental catch and small scale fishery measures in Amendment 3. In considering the FMP Review, the Board provided guidance to the PRT that biological sampling and catch and effort data from pound net fisheries should be evaluated during the next benchmark stock assessment and that the incidental catch and small-scale fisheries provision in the FMP should be addressed in the next management document. The Board approved the FMP Review, state compliance, and de minimis requests from Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

The Board also discussed the current commercial quota allocations. Landings data through 2020, as well as relinquished quota and quota transfers, were presented to highlight recent trends in the distribution of landings along the Atlantic coast. In addition to commercial quota allocations, the Board discussed whether other provisions of the FMP, such as the incidental catch and small-scale fisheries provision and Episodic Event Set-Aside Program, should be re-evaluated through a new management document.

The Board formed a work group to develop allocation options to better align jurisdictions’ commercial quotas with current landings and resource availability while providing fishery access to all jurisdictions. Additionally, the work group will review the incidental catch and small-scale fisheries measures and consider measures to reduce the need for quota transfers. The work group will provide a report to the Board at the Commission’s Summer Meeting with the intent of the Board initiating an addendum at that time.
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Wayne Hamilton takes a few HM Crew members out to learn about lobstersing in Searsport, Maine. Photos by Sophie Engstrom ©
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The Lobstermen’s Relief Fund benefits distressed families and children of commercial lobstermen along the coast of Maine in times of need.

2021 MAINE LOBSTER BOAT RACING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>CONTACTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 JUNE</td>
<td>Boothbay Harbor</td>
<td>Ashlee Lowery (207) 808-9280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 JUNE</td>
<td>Rockland</td>
<td>Nick O’Hara (207) 542-4348, Mike Mayo (207) 542-1879</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 JUNE</td>
<td>Bass Harbor</td>
<td>Colyn Rich (207) 479-7288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 JULY</td>
<td>Moosehead Reach, Beals Island/Jonesport</td>
<td>Roy Fugenski (207) 610-6607</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 JULY</td>
<td>Stonington</td>
<td>Cory McDonald (207) 664-4525, Genevieve McDonald (207) 266-5113</td>
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<td>18 JULY</td>
<td>Friendship</td>
<td>Robin Reid (207) 975-9821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 JULY</td>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>Amanda Peacock (207) 756-3104, Kristina York (207) 449-7571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 AUGUST</td>
<td>Winter Harbor</td>
<td>Chris Byers (207) 963-7139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 AUGUST</td>
<td>Merritt Bracket, Pemaquid</td>
<td>Brent Fogg (207) 563-6720, Sheila McLain (207) 677-2100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 AUGUST</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>Katie Werner (207) 807-1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 AUGUST</td>
<td>Friendship</td>
<td>Robin Reid (207) 975-9821</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 JULY</td>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>Lisa Kimball (207) 332-3968, Amy Tierney (207) 317-1876</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>6 OCTOBER</td>
<td>Robinson’s Wharf, Southport</td>
<td>Jon Johannsen (207) 223-8846</td>
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Boothbay Harbor
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<th>Wakefield, RI</th>
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<td>(800) 244-8727</td>
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We recently conducted a survey of consumers and found:

• Few consumers are fully aware of the issue with North Atlantic right whales.
• The right whale issue has no measurable impact on the reputation of Maine lobstermen or the purchasing habits of consumers.
• Consumers who are aware of the issue want to see the fishery as part of the solution.

The MLMC will continue to create educational content to highlight the perspective of the fishery and long standing efforts in sustainability.

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

One of the world’s most sustainable fisheries could be shut down and we cannot let that happen. Right Whales are not dying in Maine lobster gear.

Patrice McCarron, executive director
Maine Lobstermen’s Association

With your help, the MLA continues to fight to save Maine’s lobster industry.

- The Maine lobster fishery is facing a 98% risk reduction over the next 10 years
- The Maine lobster fishery is at risk of being shut down due to right whale deaths happening elsewhere
- This could mean the end of the lobstering tradition for our children

MLA Legal Defense Fund

Contributions to the Maine Lobstermen’s Association Legal Defense Fund allow us to proactively represent the lobster industry’s interests at multiple levels.

Legal and Policy
Represent the lobster industry’s interests in the courts & regulatory processes

Science
Demand that policy decisions are based on sound science

Conservation
Work with lobstersmen and other stakeholders to identify conservation strategies and research priorities

Communications
Educate the public, courts and decision-makers on the Maine lobster industry’s heritage, economic importance and commitment to stewardship and sustainability practices

#Save Maine Lobstermen
Save Maine’s Lobster Industry

2021 MLA Legal Defense Fund

Contributions to the Maine Lobstermen’s Association Legal Defense Fund allow us to continue the fight to preserve a future for Maine’s lobster fishery.

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MLA Legal Defense Fund: 2 Store St, Suite 203, Kennebunk, ME 04043  www.mainelobstermen.org  207-967-4555
By Scott Fulmer, University of Massachusetts, and Ann Backus, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Does it seem like everyone either has knee pain or knows someone who does? A group of 286 lobstermen interviewed every three months from 2012 through 2015 reported new knee injuries at a rate of 4 per every 100 fishermen. Half of them required some kind of treatment for the injury. The lobstermen, of course, may have been involved in other strenuous activities earlier in life, like football or hockey, for example. Old injuries can be exacerbated by years of lobstering. Some lobstermen also may do other demanding work, like construction. For comparison, however, residential construction workers in 2019 had an overall injury rate of 5 per 100 workers, which is less than that reported by the lobstermen in the survey. The construction workers’ injuries also were from all body locations, not just the knees.

In 2013, 26.6% of lobstermen (105 of 395) interviewed, both captains and sternmen, reported experiencing knee pain within three months prior to the interview. Only 24 of the 105 received medical treatment, an indication that an important proportion of lobstermen work in pain. However, only 11 (3% of 395 interviewed) reported that the pain altered their work. This could mean that an important proportion of lobstermen work in pain. However, only 11 (3% of 395 interviewed) reported that the pain altered their work. This could mean that obtaining treatment is too much of an additional challenge, or that people are simply used to doing or expect to experience. It could also mean that people are not anticipating that treatment could solve the problem, or that obtaining treatment is too much of an additional challenge. But, after all, pain is pain, and your body is not lying to you.

In some cases, treatment for knee pain has been effective. Some lobstermen have tried regenerative injection therapy and have had success. And of course, everyone knows about painkillers. Although it was not part of the questionnaire, many lobstermen reported having had knee replacement operations. They directed specific comments to a future generation of lobstermen: “If I knew then what I know now, I would have done things differently.” This was not meant as a regret for having knee replacement therapy that allowed the lobstermen to return to work without the pain. It was to suggest that there were things they could have done to prevent the pain in the first place.

To understand what can be done to prevent knee injuries, identify the preventable actions at work that contribute to knee pain in the first place. These are forceful exertions, repetition, awkward posture, and contact stress. Contact stress is what happens to the knees when you kneel on them. It is also what happens to lobstermen’s knees when they lean against the inside of the boat for stability while they pull the trap onto the washboard. Other actions lobstermen mention specifically include the repetitive forced activity of kicking away the trawlline that falls under the hauler combined with the exertion required to stand on the hard deck of a rocking boat.

What does an older lobsterman mean, then, when he says he’s done things differently? To prevent contact stress on the inside of the boat, some have installed padding on the inside of the hull. Construction tradespeople who often kneel will wear kneepads. Floor covers, for example, often wear custom-fit knee-pads from the Proknee company of Maine. Some may find that better boots reduce stress on the knees by improving the alignment of the legs. The ocean is not going to stop rocking the boat, but wooden boats are heavier and less reactive to the ocean than fiberglass boats. They are easier on the knees because stability can be maintained with less biomechanical acceleration at the knee. Wooden boats “feel better” even if they are harder to maintain.

To help with the problem of kicking trawllines out of the way, use a rope locker or rope bin. A rope locker is a space under the deck into which the trawlline falls as it comes off the hauler. There is a slim opening in the deck next to the hull and under the rail, through which the trawlline falls into the below-deck space. Rope lockers can be retrofitted in a fiberglass boat: these days fiberglass boat manufacturers, such as Taylored Boats of Addison incorporate rope lockers into their builds. One recent example is the open stern 44’ Willis Beal Grand Finale built by Taylored Boats. Maine Marine Patrol now specifies that each of its patrol boats have a rope locker.

A less involved solution to trawlline underfoot is a rope bin, which can be made out of a 3-foot piece of plywood mounted on a similar length piano hinge. This mounting should be about 4 inches off the deck surface to allow for a kick space or toe kick, such as is found under kitchen cabinets. A small wooden stop can be mounted on the bulkhead. As rope comes from the hauler, the plywood falls against the stop and the rope falls into the open bin. As the traps are set, the rope pays out of the bin and when empty, the lobsterman can lean against the bin to close it.

Improvements like a rope locker or rope bin will not only reduce the wear and tear on knees and hips from repeatedly kicking rope out of the way, but also will reduce the chance of getting a foot caught in the trawlline as it pays out and potentially being pinned against the rail or pulled overboard.

If you would like more information please contact Ann Backus, abackus@hsph.harvard.edu. As usual we welcome comments about this article and your ideas about how to make lobstering physically less stressful.
Brooks Trap Mill joins forces with Friendship Trap

Friendship Trap Company is now part of Brooks Trap Mill in Thomaston. The company’s owner, Chris Anderson, passed away in September 2020. The affiliation opens up a new pool of resources that will be mutually beneficial for both Brooks Trap Mill and Friendship Trap Company, according to the company’s Facebook page. Friendship Trap was founded by Pike Bartlett in 1977 and was one of the state’s first manufacturers of wire mesh lobster traps.

Self-cleaning marine coating now available

Durabrite Lights offers ceramic coatings for marine applications. These coatings are meant to protect lobstermen's most prized possession...their boats! Our own line of Super Hydrophobic Ceramic Defense Coating Series uses state-of-the-art technology to enable your items to have maximum durability and construction.

Innovative machine saves time, prevents injuries

The Alliance Rubber Company's new Seafood Banding Machine automates lobster banding previously done by hand. Manufactured in the United States, this machine decreases the pain and swelling in fingers, forearms, and carpal tunnel wrist area from manual banding operations. Furthermore, the Seafood Banding Machine significantly increases the amount of seafood sent to market by providing consistent operating throughout the day. In celebration of the new product, Alliance Rubber is giving away one Seafood Banding Machine. Visit the company's official sweepstakes page at: https://info.rubband.com/seafood-banding-machine-giveaway and complete the entry form.

New electronic software approved for federal reporting

Real Time Data’s Deckhand Pro electronic logbook platform has been approved by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) as eVTR software suitable for submitting vessel trip reports. The company plans to make the software available for purchase and download beginning in June. Webinars and tutorials will also be available throughout the summer in conjunction with the rollout of GARFO’s eVTR regulations.

DMR IMPROVES ACCESS TO AQUACULTURE DATA

From DMR

The Maine Department of Marine Resources has launched three new pages on its website to provide improved access to aquaculture data. Searchable, sortable tables offer visitors an interactive resource for the most up-to-date information on Standard and Experimental Leases, Lease Applications Under Review, and Active Limited Purpose Aquaculture (LPA) Licenses. DMR’s website will continue to provide alphabetized lists of lease decisions along with pending applications and related documents. The new content provides a way for visitors to search and sort leases by species, lease type, status, water body, town, expiration date and acreage. Links are provided for each lease to decision documents as well as a map showing lease locations.

Tables also provide an opportunity for users to search and sort lease applications under review by applicant and lease type, and LPAs by license holder, species, location and gear type. Each new table offers the option to download data in a manner similar to what is available through DMR’s Open Data Portal, allowing users to conduct their own analysis.

Each page is accessible at https://www.main.gov/dmr/aquaculture/leases/index.html

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

### LEASE APPLICATION STATUS FOR JUNE (as of 5/21/21)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Applicant/Company</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sea Run Fisheries &amp; Habitat</td>
<td>E of Western Head &amp; L17 Br Is, Cutler Hebr</td>
<td>Cutler</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>Finfish</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Site Review Complete 3/20/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffin, Chad</td>
<td>W of Moore Pt, NE of Pond of Tea, Harraseeket River</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Application submitted, Comments due 12/12/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whisky Stones, LLC</td>
<td>E of Dogs Head, Harpswell Sound</td>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>0.481 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec’d, Comments due 3/3/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chebeague Island Oyster Co. LLC</td>
<td>NW of L17 Chebeague, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Application submitted, comments due 5/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doyle, Victor</td>
<td>S 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>Musser Round Inc</td>
<td>Barlett Narrows, Blue Hill Bay</td>
<td>Mount Desert</td>
<td>3.55 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing Scheduled 3/10/21 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dikgo Marine Resources, LLC</td>
<td>E of Wolfe’s neck, Recompense Bay</td>
<td>So Freeport</td>
<td>3.85 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>App rec’d, comment period closes 8/2/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norumbega Oyster, Inc.</td>
<td>South of Merry Island, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>South Bristol</td>
<td>3.96</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Comments due 2/26/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis, Arnold</td>
<td>East of Birch Point, Dyer Bay</td>
<td>Steuben</td>
<td>2.86 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Lease is granted 3/26/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis, Arnold</td>
<td>Smead Brook, Dyer Bay</td>
<td>Steuben</td>
<td>3.7 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Lease is granted 3/26/2021</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>Acadia Aqua Farms LLC</td>
<td>NE of Sunken Lace, Frenchmen Bay</td>
<td>Bar Harbor</td>
<td>68.3 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session sched. For 2/5/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permaquid Mussel Farms LLC</td>
<td>Mt Desert narrows, E of Groongis Lodge</td>
<td>Bar Harbor</td>
<td>32 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session sched 11/19/20 5 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tightrope Farms</td>
<td>south of Carlton Island, Salt Pond</td>
<td>Blue Hill</td>
<td>7.25</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 6/23/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Timothy</td>
<td>SE of Barries Pt, Middle Bay</td>
<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec’d 3/15/21, 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>10 years</td>
<td>application rec’d 4/21/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheikhwater Ventures LLC</td>
<td>E of L15 Chebeague, Casco Bay: Long Isl and Aligae</td>
<td>Chebeague Isl</td>
<td>3.79 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 4/29/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Point LLC</td>
<td>N of Lower Basket Ledge</td>
<td>Chebeague Isl</td>
<td>53.38 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 11/12/20 6 pm</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>Application rec’d 9/24/20, site review scheduled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summit Point LLC</td>
<td>NE of Clapboard Isl, Casco Bay, Palmsouth &amp; Harvey</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>100 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review pending as of 12/2/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summit Point LLC</td>
<td>S Lower Basket Ledge</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>see above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dickenson, Christopher</td>
<td>800 ft SW Hog Island, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>Damariscotta</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing May 10 3 pm - remote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodge Cove Marine Farm</td>
<td>SE of Dodge Pt</td>
<td>Damariscotta</td>
<td>11.6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete, comments session 2/16/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinney Creek Shellfish, Inc.</td>
<td>NW of R1 95 Bridge, Spinney Creek</td>
<td>Eliot</td>
<td>2.75 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>hearing sched for 6/16/21 - see MLA calendar for more info about participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffin, Bailey</td>
<td>W of Sow &amp; Pipe Isl, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>6.84 acres</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 12/2/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harraseeket Oyster Co.</td>
<td>S of Bowman Isl &amp; Stockbridge Pt, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>7 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 9/4/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Point Oysters, LLC</td>
<td>SE of Winlow Park, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>4.78 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 9/11/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love Point Oysters, LLC</td>
<td>S of Crab island, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>4.15 acres</td>
<td>Oysters</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>site review Pending as of 2/20/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islesboro Marine Enterprises, Inc.</td>
<td>NE of Flat Island, Penobscot Bay</td>
<td>Islesboro</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec’d 4/21/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilden Point Oyster Co.</td>
<td>West shore, S of Jacks Pt, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>5.5 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing 10/27/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermit Island Oyster Co, LLC</td>
<td>Hermit Isl, Small PH Br, New Meadows RVr</td>
<td>Phippsburg</td>
<td>2.56 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 11/30/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Fresh Sea Farms LLC</td>
<td>Clark Cove, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>So. Bristol</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 11/09/20 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frenchman Bay Oyster Co.</td>
<td>W &amp; S of Ingalls Isl. Sullivan Harbor</td>
<td>Soorrento</td>
<td>5.65 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review pending as of 10/17/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewey's Shellfish, LLC</td>
<td>NW of Peters Island/Damariscotta River</td>
<td>South Bristol</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session sched 11/19/20 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewer, Robert</td>
<td>E of Penobscot Bay SW of Andrews Island</td>
<td>Stonington</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 12/21/20 4 pm</td>
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<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 3/27/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfield, Keith</td>
<td>SE of Little Moaher Island</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>2.72 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish/ algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 11/16/20 5 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henninger, Thomas</td>
<td>Broad Cove, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>3.9 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application submitted 7/9/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Source Seafood</td>
<td>E of Lane's Isl, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>3.48 acres</td>
<td>Oysters</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing 3/16/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosier, Amanda</td>
<td>S of Lanes Isl, Inner Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>9 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 5/8/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfe Neck Oyster Co. LLC</td>
<td>SE of Lanes Island, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>8 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review pending 5/22/20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Experimental Lease: up to 3 years, 4 acres and is non-renewable**

**Standard Lease: term is up to 20 years, size is up to 20 acres and is renewable**

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### Scoping Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Submitted</th>
<th>Public Comments</th>
<th>Site Review</th>
<th>Public Hearing</th>
<th>DMR Decision</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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For more information, visit the DMR website [www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture) and select "Map & Lease Inventory (pending & current)"

The MLA recommends you sign up for email alerts about aquaculture by selecting the big red email button at the bottom of their aquaculture page.
Despite the fact that the Maine Fishermen’s Forum was cancelled this year due to COVID-19, the Forum's Board was able to award 23 educational scholarships to children, grandchildren or dependents of Maine fishing families. The scholarships assist students in at least their second year of college or vocational school to pay for school expenses.

Funding for the scholarships comes from many sources, the most popular of which is the annual Friday night auction held at the Forum. The auction brings out the crowd, many of whom compete with each other in raising the bid prices on everyday items skyhigh.

This year the auction was held online, but the enthusiasm of the participants remained the same. Bids flocked in for items such as an Icelandic sweater, a sea bag commemorating the Hayley Ann, lost at sea in early 2020, and overnight accommodations at the Samoset Resort in Rockport. It was the handknit socks, made each year by Maggie Raymond, however that really got the bids going. After a steady increase in bid amounts, the wool socks were finally won with a $455 bid from Hank Soule, longtime Forum board member.

This year the Board awarded $43,500 to the following students, a remarkable feat in a remarkable year.

**Photo by M. Young.**
RESEARCHERS FABRICATE SUPER-STRONG LOBSTER UNDERSHELL

MIT researchers have created a synthetic hydrogel that mimics the stretch and strength of a lobster's undershell. The material could provide a blueprint for stretchy protective fabrics and artificial tissues. A lobster's undershell is lined with a thin, translucent membrane that is both stretchy and surprisingly tough. This marine under-armor is made from the toughest known hydrogel in nature, which also happens to be highly flexible. An MIT research team has fabricated a hydrogel-based material that mimics the structure of the lobster's undershell. The researchers ran the material through a battery of stretch and impact tests and showed that the synthetic material is remarkably "fatigue-resistant," able to withstand repeated stretches and strains without tearing.

GROWING LOBSTER IN A LAB

Wisconsin firm Cultured Decadence is a cellular agriculture startup using cell culture and tissue engineering to create lobster directly from live lobster cells — basically, lab-grown lobster. The company says its product will be indistinguishable in form and function from wild-caught lobster, only without the shell. To grow a lobster, Cultured Decadence sources Maine lobsters, selects small tissue samples in its lab, isolates the cells from the tissue and uses them to grow meat in a controlled environment. The company is still focused on research and development and will ramp up prototyping later in the year.

CHINA LAGGING ON IMPORTS OF LOBSTER

China is not living up to its commitments to purchase U.S. seafood under the 2020 trade agreement between the two countries, according to Matt Tinning, Director of Sustainability and Public Affairs, at the U.S. fishery trade body AtSea Processors Association. The U.S. China Economic and Trade Agreement, also known as the "phase one deal," was signed in early 2020 and bound China to USD 200 billion (EUR 164.5 billion) in purchases from the U.S. through increasing orders of certain commodities, including seafood. The increase was based on figures for 2017 — the last full year before the trade war began. The deal committed China to a subsequent ramp up in 2021, with the deal effective until the end of this year when the phase one deal expires. "While the precise figure for seafood stipulated in the deal remains classified, official data from China for its 2020 seafood imports shows seafood purchases from the U.S. were significantly below the 2017 baseline," Tinning said. "They didn't even meet the 2017 baseline." U.S. seafood products remain at a major tariff disadvantage in China, because a 30 percent retaliatory tariff is still in place.

MASS. WHALE CLOSURE LIFTED, WEAK ROPE REQUIRED

On May 14, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries lifted the seasonal trap gear closure and seasonal vessel speed restrictions in the areas north and east of Cape Cod. This action was taken in response to an aerial survey by the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies that showed no right whales remained in Massachusetts state waters. All Massachusetts lobstermen are now required to fish buoy lines with a breaking strength of 1700 pounds or less which may be achieved in one of two ways. First, fishermen may use specially manufactured buoy lines with a custom 1,700 pound break strength. These manufactured, fully-formed weak ropes were tested at the Rocky Mount Cordage Company’s 3/8" diameter red weak rope and 3/8" diameter red and white weaved ("candy cane") weak rope. Second, fishermen may insert NOAA Fisheries approved weak contrivances into the top 75% of normal 3/8" buoy line every 60 feet. Approved weak contrivances include the “South Shore Sleeve” and several varieties of splices involving the fully formed weak rope. Approved weak rope contrivances for Mass. lobstermen: 1) a four tuck splice of red weak rope into 3/8" buoy line; 2) a three tuck splice of red weak rope into 3/8" buoy line; 3) an eye-to-loop splice of red weak rope into a 3/8" buoy line; 4) a butt splice of red weak rope into 3/8" buoy line; 5) a four tuck splice of candy cane weak rope into a 3/8" buoy line; 6) an eye-to-loop splice of candy cane weak rope into a 3/8" buoy line; 7) the South Shore Sleeve with a heat shrink cover.

FISHERY CLOSURES IN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE

As fisheries reopened in Massachusetts on May 14, fisheries in Canada’s Gulf of St. Lawrence are closing as right whales are detected there. The first right whale was detected in Canada in April 25. Canada’s Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) issued its first 15 day snow crab fishery closure on April 26, and has issued notice of 7 closures as of May 21. DFO has also implemented seasonal fishery closures due to persistent sightings in some areas. The closures affect fisheries with open seasons: snow crab, toad crab, rock crab, lobster, whelk, Greenland halibut (fixed gear), winter flounder (fixed gear), bair (fixed gear), and herring (trap net). Closures will also be in effect for Atlantic halibut (fixed gear), mackerel (gilnet) and herring (gilnet) when gear is left unattended. For more information, visit www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commerciale/all-arc/narw-bnan/index-eng.html#notices.

MAINE SEAFOOD BUSINESS WINS PRODUCT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hancock Gourmet Lobster Co. of Topsham has won Product of the Year for their Hancock Gourmet Lobster Co. of Topsham has won Product of the Year for their...
Pretty Rugged: True Stories from Women of the Sea

Reviewed by Melissa Waterman

Camden author Ali Farrell’s book, Pretty Rugged: True Stories from Women of the Sea, illustrates the stature women have within the Maine lobster fishery today with striking photographs and the words of lobstering women. Farrell interviewed 26 women who speak eloquently about the paths that led them to become captains of their own lobster boats and what they faced as they pursued their chosen career. The women range in age, including 100-year-old Virginia Oliver of Spruce Head, and come from eighteen different fishing ports.

Farrell’s father fished offshore and her mother produced and sold lobster tanks. She has always felt a connection to the men and women of the lobstering industry. “My father had all kinds of stories from fishing off of Newfoundland, and after talking shop with my female fishermen buddies, I decided they deserved to tell their stories to the world,” she said in a 2020 interview. “It is a very uncommon and unique lifestyle to learn about, especially for those who are from away.”

The book highlights the family histories of the female lobstermen, many of whom first began fishing with their fathers or uncles. The details of their lives, the difficulties of balancing family and work, and the hard rules by which they and all other lobstermen live when at sea are recounted in the women’s own words.

Farrell recently completed a children’s book entitled A Lobster Girl Can, published earlier this year. Pretty Rugged is a coffee table-style book and is available at prettyruggedbooks.com and on Amazon.
By Melissa Waterman

Alison Bramhall exudes energy. The Yarmouth native is a self-taught artist whose works offer vibrant views of the Maine coast and the species found there. Her company, Festive Fish, produces a variety of marine-inspired products, from cards and dish towels to pillows and custom-painted oars.

Bramhall grew up sailing with her family. "We'd sail from Portland up to Mount Desert Island every summer. My dad would wash our hair on deck with the water hose. I lived in my bathing suit," she recalled. Making art came naturally to her. "I would copy the comics page while my dad and sister watched football," she recalled. "And then I started painting [hair] barrettes." With support from her mother, Bramhall picked up several accounts in Portland for her hand-painted barrettes; she was just 14 at the time.

Since then, Bramhall has turned her eye for color and design to just about anything. First it was hand-painted boxer shorts, then furniture, silk ties, and assorted baby items. She worked in Boston, then on the West Coast, finally returning to Maine. Along the way she developed a deep love of travel and kayaking, visiting far-flung places such as Palau, Ireland, and Alaska. She began her company, Festive Fish (www.festivefish.net) in 1997, well before the age of Internet marketing, building her business via word of mouth.

Bramhall typically starts her creative process with a card and then digitizes the image for reproduction on different products. She also does custom creations, such as brightly decorated oars and interior murals. The signature element in all of her work is a striking use of strong, saturated colors reflecting her views of the marine world.

"My connection to the ocean is essential. Being out there, it detoxes my body and clears my mind," she said.