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

Seen from above, the coast of southern Maine is a delicate embroidery of sand, headlands, and small coves. Rivers such as the Saco, Kennebunk, Batson, and York flow to the southwest, bringing their loads of sand and dissolved nutrients into the coastal waters. Flanking old Route 1 along the shore are hundreds of motels, bed and breakfasts, T-shirt shops, and restaurants that cater to Maine's summer visitors. Underlying the beauty and the commerce, however, is the industry that keeps the southern Maine economy humming, the lobster fishery.

Southern Maine has a lot of lobster, both in the water and on the land. More than 25 companies in the business of buying, storing, processing, and shipping lobster are located between Portland and Kittery. They range from the international, such as Inland Seafood and Maine Coast, to smaller, family-owned companies, such as Sea Salt and Port Lobster Company. That diversity, combined with a de-centralized lobster fleet, makes lobstering a powerful economic driver for the region.

Unlike Downeast Maine, where the fishing port of Stonington dominates, lobster fishing in southern Maine takes place in dozens of smaller harbors. "There's a lot of lobster coming in from a lot of little places," said Allen Daggett. "They are in Perkins Cove, Cape Porpoise, from Cape Ellis down to York. It's spread out. You have 20, 30 boats here and another 20, 30 boats there." Daggett, 71, knows the history of the area well; he began lobstering when he was 12. In his early 20s, he came ashore and began selling lobsters, then ventured into other businesses related to the fishery. Currently he owns and operates Cape

Continued on page 10

LOBSTER HARVEST VALUE BREAKS RECORD IN 2021

By MLA staff

Last year was the most valuable year in the history of Maine's lobster fishery according to recently updated data from the Department of Marine Resources (DMR). The landed value for lobster was $724,949,426, a 75% increase compared to 2020. The previous record was $541 million in 2016. The one-year increase in value — $312,464,172 — was more than the total landed value of lobster in 2009.

"The extraordinary value earned last year by Maine lobster harvesters is a clear reflection of strong consumer confidence in the Maine lobster brand and the products and people it represents," said DMR Commissioner Patrick Keliher.

"I'm thrilled to see the strong demand for Maine lobster in 2021 generated from retail, foodservice and direct-to-consumer channels. We know that it came at a time when lobstermen were contending with high labor, gas and bait prices," said Marianne Lacroix, executive director of the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative.

The lobster landings continued a twelve-year historic run during which lobstermen landed close to or more than 100 million pounds. Landings increased by more than 10 million pounds, to 108,048,704 pounds, compared to 2020, an increase of more than 10%.

"The 2021 lobster landings show the continued success of the Maine lobster fishery and how lobstermen's dedication to building one of the world's most sustainable fisheries is paying off. They
Lobstermen’s Relief Fund helps lobstermen, their families & children during times of difficulty or tragedy. Our connections make us a resource for anyone in Maine’s lobster industry experiencing hardship. Funded by businesses and donors, our program handles requests on a case-by-case basis. For more information, please contact the MLCA office directly.

Our programs change lives.

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

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

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

Coastal Outlook

Thoughts from MLCA President Patrice McCarron

Lobster bolsters the southern Maine economy through tourism revenues and seafood processing. MLA photo.

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$725,000,000.00

That’s the value of lobster landed in Maine in 2021, an historic figure. Consumer demand for Maine lobster remained strong throughout the year, resulting in an record $6.71 average price per pound. The amount of lobster landed once again passed 100 million pounds, totaling approximately 108 million pounds for the year.

$725 million is a lot of money. Because all Maine lobstermen are independent businessmen, the bulk of that cash moved directly into Maine’s economy as lobstermen purchased equipment, vehicles, groceries, and other goods and services throughout the year. Landings looks again at the economic importance of the lobster fishery to the state, this time focusing on the southern Maine region, where tourism and seafood processing both thrive.

With 2021 in the past, lobstermen are now preparing for the 2022 fishing season with some trepidation. Come May 1, Maine lobstermen must comply with new NMFS regulations that require numerous changes to their fishing gear aimed at protecting right whales. Many have been confused by information put out by NMFS on how to meet the weak point requirements, and more importantly, that the required gear is not available for purchase at marine supply stores. Landings talks to Erin Summers, Department of Marine Resources Division of Ecology and the Environment director, about what Maine lobstermen must do by May 1 and what gear is available.

Also in Landings this month is a comprehensive four-page guide for lobstermen explaining what they need to do to comply with the new whale rules by May 1. The guide breaks it down by each management requirement, by lobster zone, and what is required in exempt, state, and federal waters.

The record-breaking value of lobster landings last year is a product of ever-increasing demand for Maine lobster. When the pandemic broke out in 2020, the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) collaborated with Maine seafood processors and food retailers to promote lobster as an “at-home” food item for housebound consumers. During 2021 consumers continued to purchase live lobster and a growing array of value-added lobster products which, coupled with the reopening of restaurants, helped boost demand even further. The MLMC concentrated its efforts during the past year on protecting the reputation of Maine lobster as a sustainably harvested product in the face of unwarranted negative publicity generated by the right whale issue. “The MLMC is prioritizing efforts to make sure that wholesale buyers and consumers consider the lobster industry, coastal communities, and resource managers to address ongoing and future challenges facing the sector,” Burnham writes.

Winter may be coming to a close but the danger of hypothermia remain constant throughout the year in Maine. While the Gulf of Maine may be warming rapidly, it’s still a very cold ocean to fall into if you are a lobsterman. In our “To Your Health” article this month, Rachael Zacks and Ann Backus highlight the signs of hypothermia and the actions that should be taken to care for a hypothermic person. The number one step to take to prevent death from hypothermia is to wear a PFD. “By starting the habit of putting on a PFD whenever you are on the boat, you are already saving precious minutes. Nearly half the people who drown are less than two meters from safety,” the authors note.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Landings and look forward to your thoughts on future articles.

Get noticed in LANDINGS!

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The advertising deadline is the second Monday of each month. Please contact Melissa Waterman (melissa@mainelobstermen.org or 967-6221) for more information.

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

For more information, please contact the MLCA office directly.
By Marianne Lacroix

Demand for Maine lobster was strong last year, as evidenced by the record landings. With a record 110 million pounds landed, 2021 was another great year for the industry. While the catch numbers were strong, sustainability and environmental concerns continued to be a focus for the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) and other industry stakeholders.

The MLMC is prioritizing efforts to make sure that wholesale buyers and consumers continue to have confidence in the brand by emphasizing the fishery’s environmental sustainability. We have a number of tactics planned that will help to ensure that people feel good about buying Maine lobster. The MLMC conducts an annual national consumer survey to determine public awareness of right whales and other issues associated with Maine lobster. While the surveys have shown little awareness and no impact on purchase behavior, we will continue monitoring for any changes.

As part of our issues management strategy, the MLMC will continue to manage social media, traditional media, and targeted advertising campaigns. We will put paid advertising behind the videos to make sure that they reach a wide audience.

For the consumer audience, the MLMC will focus on a message of broader environmental sustainability. We have a number of tactics planned that will educate people on the work being done by industry members to protect the future of the ocean environment and coastal communities. These messages will help to ensure that people feel good about buying Maine lobster.

Last year, lobsterman Chris Welch did a satellite media tour for the MLMC that included a heroic 22 media interviews conducted in one day. Through scripted questions, Chris was able to share information about the Maine lobster fishery and sustainability with audiences in 348 media markets and three national broadcasts resulting in over 25 million impressions (number of times that people had the chance to see the content). Because of that program’s success and our ability to ensure the public hears our message, the MLMC plans to run two more satellite media tours in 2022.

We are also planning several similarly scripted editorial pieces showcasing the industry’s commitment to sustainability and protecting the marine environment. The editorial pieces will be shared in various target publications.

As part of our issues management strategy, the MLMC will continue to manage media inquiries, conduct media interviews and provide media training for industry spokesmen. We continually collaborate with industry groups and members to ensure that our marketing program is aligned with industry priorities and as effective as possible.
MATERIALS FOR WEAK INSERT MANDATE IN SHORT SUPPLY

By Melissa Waterman

On May 1, Maine lobstermen will be required to incorporate weak inserts that break at 1,700 pounds of pressure into all buoy lines and to add additional traps.

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Under the federal whale plan, lobstermen are limited to options approved by NMFS to comply with the weak insert requirement. NMFS has approved three categories of options for lobstermen to weaken buoy lines: 1) use of approved manufactured weak rope, 2) a manufactured weak link, or 3) the braided “south shore” sleeve. NMFS has not approved any options to use a knot or splice to meet this weak insert requirement. These limited options, and the lack of commercial availability of these options, have left lobstermen frustrated on how they will meet the May deadline.

“Lobstermen must choose the weak insert option that will allow them to safely and predictably haul back gear over the course of the fishing season,” wrote Patrice McCarron, MLA’s executive director to Secretary of Commerce, Gina Raimondo. MLA explained that manufactured weak rope will lose strength over the fishing season, increasing the risk of gear loss, so many lobstermen may prefer to use manufactured weak inserts. Maine lobstermen worked with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMBR) to develop manufactured weak links that will not lose strength over the course of the fishing season.

The NMFS web site where lobstermen can learn what rope and weak points are approved for use and where to purchase them (https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/marine-mammal-protection/approved-weak-inserts-and-line-atlantic-large) changes frequently.

Several types of weak inserts are currently approved by NMFS. Seaside Rope in Warren received approval of its production mold in February. The company can produce about 3,000 weak points per week, according to Erin Summers, Department of Marine Resources (DMBR) Director of the Division of Ecology and the Environment. Brooks Trap collaborated with the Maine Mold Company to develop a weak point; that product was approved by NMFS in early February. The company estimates that it can produce about 20,000 weak points per day.

“Probably there will be enough time to get the weak points made and out there as long as the companies can get the materials [plastic] needed to make them. But it doesn’t leave much time to get them into the gear,” said Summers. “There’s definitely more interest in the points than in the rope.”

That’s Cutler lobsterman John Drouin’s thought as well. “If I have to use something, I prefer to try the links,” he commented via email. “But if we don’t have them in two to three weeks, I’ll have to move on and worry about fishing without them because we have to get ready for spring!”

Novatec: Braids has developed a braided sleeve for approved as a weak insert called the “South Shore sleeve.” The sleeve has been successfully used by Massachusetts lobstermen to test its ability to break at up to 1,700 pounds of pressure. Lobstermen can splice the sleeve, which the company is manufacturing with state-specific color tracers, into existing rope.

With regard to NMFS’s approved list of weak ropes, “It’s ever changing, it depends on the day,” Summers said, about the information on the NMFS web site. While red twisted rope and braided weak ropes have been on the NMFS approved list for some time, the first twisted purple weak rope did not become available until mid-February. The lack of approved options and availability has led to hesitancy among lobstermen to place orders for the rope, which leads to hesitancy among rope makers to manufacture it. “Rocky Mount [Cordage Company, a NMFS-approved manufacturer of weak rope] is not getting many orders for 1700-lb rope. No one knows what to do so they are not making much because there are no orders. People are just waiting because things keep changing,” Summers said.

That’s certainly the case for Marshall Spear, a Portland lobsterman. “It’s on my radar, I’ve been talking to other guys about it,” he said. Spear, who fishes year-round offshore, confesses that he hasn’t spent that much time considering what to buy and when to buy it. “I’ve looked at weak link possibilities,” he said, noting that they should pass well through his hauler. “I use a skinner line and fish about 120 fathom. I graduate from smaller to thicker, using 5/16” in the top one-third.”

Closer to shore, Spear and other Portland lobstermen contend with heavy ship traffic moving in and out of Portland. Consequently, they have come up with ways to allow their lines to break and so not be dragged by the larger vessels. “My uncle used two hog rings set apart from each other. He would part one strand in the [3 strand] rope between them so it would part if dragged by a ship,” Spear said. He had hoped that NMFS would support Maine-based innovations like that.

Summers purchased 100 coils of the newly available Rocky Mount purple tracer 1,700-lb rope through Ketcham Trap in New Bedford, the only New England dealer of the rope. She will also buy the same amount of Everson Cordage’s 1,700-lb rope. No one knows what to do so they are not making much because there are no orders. People are just waiting because things keep changing.”

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Maine Lobstermen’s Association

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

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MAINE LOBSTERMEN’S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

As everyone has seen, the value of last year’s catch was record setting, almost $725 million! Even though everything we buy for our business has gone up too, most of us saw a decent increase in income. Probably like me you are putting a portion of that money back into your business, whether it be new traps (if you can get them) or improvements to your boat.

Have you given a thought to an investment in the future of this fishery? All the lobsters on the bottom and the best of price at the dock won’t mean a thing if you can’t go catch them.

I know you are thinking, “The MLA is just crying wolf.” “They always say this stuff and nothing really happens.” The MLA has certainly helped to pull off a few miracles over the years, but this one is different. Our future is written clearly in black and white. NMFS has set a risk reduction goal to protect right whales and a timeline to reach that goal that we MUST meet. If we don’t, the fishery closes.

We start this year with 60% risk reduction, which is why we have to trawl up again, switch to 1700-lb breaking strength rope and have been thrown out of a nearly 1,000-square-mile section of the Gulf. Then by 2025, we must reduce the already minimal risk to whales by another 60%.

To get that next 60%, where do we go? More traps on a trawl? Weaker rope? Bigger closures? I’m not sure anyone has the stomach for any of these. So, what then – fewer traps? According to preliminary runs of the Decision Support Tool, NMFS’s computer model that determines which measures reduce risk to the whales, NMFS is looking at a 200 to 300 trap limit with additional closures.

Please don’t shoot the messenger here, I am just passing along information provided by the government. Let’s just say we get through 2025 and reduce risk by another 60% without going completely out of business. No one should relax at that point because, according to NMFS, we have to reduce risk by another 85% in 2030 on top of all the earlier reductions.

Any ideas how we get there? If you don’t, the environmentalists do. It’s called ropeless fishing, the quickest way to put the nail in the coffin of the fishery we now know.

Right now, in U.S. District Court in Washington, DC, national environmental organizations are arguing that NMFS’s Biological Opinion — which requires all these reductions — does not go far enough. That’s right, they argue that these measures should go all the way to the beach.

Think about that: both state and federal water lobstermen would be held hostage by these harsh and unfair regulations.

From my perspective, there is just one alternative left to us — FIGHT! And that means going to court. We need to force NMFS to issue risk reduction goals that reflect our actual risk to whales. If we don’t, if we wait and see what happens, it will be too late.

The life we know, the one we want for our kids and grandkids, is gone.

That is why the MLA has sued NMFS! MLA’s court case is moving forward right now. And that is why the MLA is asking for financial support, not just to make sure its members can go lobstering but so that all of Maine’s lobstermen can fish. To make sure your kids and grandkids can fish.

We put together the best legal team available to make the strongest case possible that NMFS acted arbitrarily and capriciously in the Biological Opinion because they chose the worst case scenarios, and not the best available science on right whale and the risks they face. We will not let them get away with this and put us out of business without a fierce fight.

So don’t let it end on our watch. Don’t say, “Man, I wish I had donated back when it mattered.” We are suing NMFS now. And I sure as hell don’t want to hear anyone say they didn’t know what was coming!

We are fighting for your future but we need your support TODAY!
Please make a donation at www.savemainelobstermen.org

#SaveMaineLobstermen

mainelobstermen.org
The MLA Board met on January 26. The Board discussed the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Draft Addendum 27 which proposes measures to increase the resiliency of Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank (GOM/GBK) lobster by protecting spawning stock. ASMFC considers 1) measures to increase spawning stock biomass by modifying gauge size and 2) increase consistency of measures within and across Lobster Conservation Management Areas. Management measures under consideration include changes to minimum and maximum gauge sizes triggered by reduction in stock biomass or through scheduled changes. Options to create consistency across management measures include V-notch and gauge and how traps are allocated in certain areas. Public hearings for Draft Addendum 27 are expected to occur in June 2022 with final action considered in August at the earliest.

The Board was concerned that there are many options that would raise the minimum gauge and only a few that consider reductions in the maximum gauge. If changes are made then all LMA’s should have to make an equal sacrifice to protect the lobster resource. The Board believes the stock could benefit significantly if other areas adopted mandatory V-notchting with zero tolerances. The Board also questioned the scientific basis for this plan since landings have remained very strong in recent years. The Board will invite DMR’s lobster biologist to update it on the scientific basis for this proposal before further discussion.

The second session of the 130th Legislature began on January 5. Approximately nine bills relate to the lobster industry including several that address federal whale rules and the LMA closure. The Board discussed LD 1742, which would give the authority to change the minimum or maximum lobster size only if necessary to comply with ASMFC’s lobster management plan. Otherwise, that authority would remain with the Legislature. If the Maine lobster fishery was found out of compliance with the ASMFC lobster plan, the Secretary of Commerce has authority to shut down the fishery down.

The MLA board also discussed LD 1898, which proposes to provide $30 million in relief for Maine lobstermen to comply with new whale rules. This would be paid for by additional surcharges. While several Board members said that the money would be better spent fighting the 10-year whale plan, the Board overall acknowledged that compliance costs will be high so agreed not to oppose this bill. The Board also discussed LD 1916, which would create a Legal Defense Fund for the Maine lobster industry. It would be funded at approximately $800,000 annually by taking 20 cents from the sale of each trap tag and 20% of the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative surcharge. Board members were concerned about taking funds away from marketing and losing important staff at DMR if a portion of trap tag fees were diverted. The MLA will reach out to the bill’s sponsor to discuss these concerns. The next MLA Board meeting will be March 2 at 5 p.m. via Zoom.

MLA DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

February was a big month on the legal front. The MLA’s court case took a giant step forward with the filing of Summary Judgment briefs on February 22. In this phase of the case, the MLA has laid out its legal arguments against NMFS and asks the court to decide the case without trial. The MLA’s lawsuit challenges NMFS Biological Opinion and Final Whale Rule. MLA asserts several claims against NMFS for violations of the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act and Administrative Procedure Act, arguing the agency arbitrarily relied on worst case scenarios to justify its Biological Opinion and 98% risk reduction requirement, rather than the best available science. Maine DMR and the Maine Lobster Union filed briefs as intervenors presenting complementary legal arguments.

MLA’s lawsuit brings the most comprehensive challenge pending to date on legal issues of existential importance to Maine’s lobster fishery. As the plaintiff, the MLA’s case finally puts the lobster industry on the offensive. By initiating a challenge to the scientific underpinnings of NMFS’s actions, MLA’s case aims to force NMFS to use better science that will reflect the risk posed by the Maine lobster fishery. It also takes NMFS to task for attempting to regulate based on an over-stated, hypothetical risk that effectively hinders our fishery responsible for every threat facing right whales.

February was also a milestone in the case brought against NMFS by several environmental groups. In that case, MLA fought back against the environmental plaintiffs whose December summary judgment brief argued that the Biological Opinion does not require the American lobster industry to do enough to protect right whales. It relies on its market value to both state and federal waters. The MLA has been an intervenor in this case since 2018, with MLA joining in 2020 and DMR in 2021. As an intervenor, MLA filed its response on February 14. DMR and MLA also filed intervenor briefs.

In the Maine Lobstering Union case before the Appeals court, NMFS and the environmental parties filed opening appellate briefs on January 18 arguing that the LMA 1 closure should remain in force until the district court rules on whether the seasonal closure is lawful. The MLA filed its response on February 16, and NMFS filed its reply on February 25. Briefs are due to be filed before the district court in late March in the MLA’s case challenging the closure.

Schedule for Whale-Lobster Industry Court Cases

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<th>CBD v Ross</th>
<th>MLA v NMFS</th>
<th>MLA v Commerce</th>
<th>Appeal</th>
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<td>Complaint filed</td>
<td>Sept 2021 (amended)</td>
<td>Sept 2021</td>
<td>Sept 2021</td>
<td>Nov 2021</td>
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<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Feb 4</td>
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<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>Mar 21</td>
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<td>Plaintiff and intervenor Summary Judgement Brief</td>
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<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>Mar 21</td>
<td>Jan 18</td>
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<td>Defendant and Intervenor Response Briefs</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
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<td>Plaintiff and intervenor reply</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defendant and intervenor reply</td>
<td>Apr 11</td>
<td>June 10</td>
<td>July 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint appendix</td>
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<td>June 24</td>
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REQUEST MADE TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF WHALE RULES

U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden, and Governor Janet Mills sent a letter in February to Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo requesting a delay in the implementation of the Final Whale Rule from May 1 to July 1. The MLA also sent a letter requesting the two-month delay. According to NMFS, changing the compliance date to July 1 would result in a potential increase in risk to whales of just 0.9%. However, a failure to delay the date will result in a projected $7.3 million in economic losses, negligible change to risk with whales, and supply chain issues contributing to the unavailability of rope and weak lines make it crucial to extend the compliance date to July 1.

SENATOR COLLINS PUSHES FOR FUNDING TO HELP MAINE’S LOBSTER INDUSTRY

According to an estimate by the MLA, the first phase of the 10-year whale plan—amending the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP)—will cost the Maine lobster fishery at least $45 million. The reasons for this astronomical price tag include the expense of trawling up, adding weak points, purchasing specialized rope, and hiring additional crew. To assist Maine lobstermen and women, U.S. Senator Susan Collins requested funding to support the fishery in a letter to the leaders of the Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee. The additional funds would build on the $10 million Senator Collins secured in the draft CJS Appropriations bill to help defray the cost of compliance.

MORE RIGHT WHALE CALVES!

Right whales are off to a good start for the 2022 calving season, which runs December through March. Researchers closely monitor the southeastern Atlantic coast for right whale mother/calf pairs. As of February 23, 14 calves have been identified. After a historic low in 2018 when zero calves were born, right whale calving rates have been improving, with seven identified in 2019, 10 in 2020 and 20 in 2021. According to NMFS, 20 newborns in a calving season is considered a relatively productive year, though they estimate higher rates are needed for the population to recover.
The Maine Lobstermen’s Association was saddened to learn of the passing of Glenn Hall, 70, of St. George.

As the owner of Superior Bait & Salt in Tenants Harbor, Glenn was a strong supporter of the MLA. His obituary noted that after graduating from S.M.V.T.I., Glenn went on to a 50-year commercial fishing career that he loved. He worked on many boats and even captained a couple before buying his own, the F/V Tenants, in 1973. He opened Superior Bait in the 1990s, which is the first to sell off shore Maine’s most important fishing grounds. The group is reviewing fishing maps and considering options to recommend wind projects to be sited at least 55.63 or 75 miles from shore.

Deputy commissioner Meredith Mendelson discussed the four ongoing law suits, explaining that DMR, MLA and MLU are active in ongoing litigation. Commissioner Keliher informed the zones that Take Reduction Teams (TRT) meetings have been postponed until spring, after being cancelled in December and January. NMFS has signaled that the agency will look to the TRT to discuss several items. Draft Addendum 27 was discussed including two different issues. Issue 1 considered immediate action to standardize management regulations for the lobster industry because serious injury and mortality from fisheries exceeds PBR. Issue 2 considered establishing a trigger mechanism to implement changes to the gauge, vents, or V-notching. Second, public hearings were held on Draft Addendum 29 to require electronic tracking in the lobster stock by protection spawning biomass. This could be achieved by potentially establishing a trigger mechanism to implement changes to the gauge, vents, or V-notching. The Board approved the deadline for final action on Addendum 27 to occur in June 2022 with public comment. However, further action has been delayed due to a combination of factors including the need to better understand current or new right whale rules.

Public hearings for Draft Addendum 27 are expected to occur in June 2022 with final action being considered in August. In addition, the terms of reference and draft action on Addendum 27 are expected to occur in June 2022 with final action on Addendum 27 to implement electronic tracking requirements in the federal American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries. The majority of public comments, as well as advice from American lobster and Jonah crab advisors, supported the status quo – no action – on this. This was largely the result of many remaining questions about the tracking devices, costs to industry, and standard procedures that would need to be followed by harvesters and states to successfully implement requirements for electronic vessel tracking. The Board voted to consider action for final action with the Plan Development Team, state managers, NOAA Fisheries, and ACCSP to provide additional details to the Board on standard operating procedures. The Board is expected to meet to consider this information and Draft Addendum XXIX for final approval in late March or early April. A press release will announce the timing of that meeting.

ASMFC’s American Lobster Management Board (Board) met in January to consider several items. Draft Addendum 27 was discussed including two different issues. Issue 1 considered immediate action to standardize management measures within and across Lobster Conservation Management Areas in the GOM/GBK stock. Issue 2 considered establishing a trigger mechanism to implement management measures with gauge and vent sizes to protect spawning biomass (SSB). The Board approved Draft Addendum 27 for public comment. The Board requested that staff work with the Plan Development Team, state managers, NOAA Fisheries, and ACCSP to provide additional details to the Board on standard operating procedures. The Board is expected to meet to consider this information and Draft Addendum XXIX for final approval in late March or early April. A press release will announce the timing of that meeting.

ASMFC’s Lobster Management Board met on February 22 to consider public comments, input from the American Lobster and Jonah Crab Advisory Panels (APs), and final action on Addendum 27 to require electronic tracking requirements in the federal American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries. The majority of public comments, as well as advice from American lobster and Jonah crab advisors, supported the status quo – no action – on this. This was largely the result of many remaining questions about the tracking devices, costs to industry, and standard procedures that would need to be followed by harvesters and states to successfully implement requirements for electronic vessel tracking. The Board voted to consider action for final action with the Plan Development Team, state managers, NOAA Fisheries, and ACCSP to provide additional details to the Board on standard operating procedures. The Board is expected to meet to consider this information and Draft Addendum XXIX for final approval in late March or early April. A press release will announce the timing of that meeting.

The ASMFC will be taking up Draft Addendum 27, which seeks to increase the resiliency of the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank (GOM/GB) lobster stock by protection spawning biomass. This could be achieved by potentially establishing a trigger mechanism to implement changes to the gauge, vents, or V-notching. Second, public hearings were held on Draft Addendum 29 to implement electronic tracking requirements for federally permitted lobster and Jonah crab vessels with commercial trap gear permits. The ASMFC will meet in February to discuss this.

Lobster ZONE COUNCIL MEETINGS UPDATE

DMR finished its round of seven zone council meetings in late January and February. Zone B met on January 31, and Zones A, C, and D met in the first week of February. At each zone council meeting, DMR provided an update on the measures that lobstermen must implement by May 1 to comply with the final Whale Rule. These include increasing traps per trawl, expanding gear marking for gear fished in federal waters, and adding 1700-pound weak points to vertical lines. There was considerable discussion about the lack of weak points approved by NMFS for purchase, which includes manufactured weak rope and plastic in-line weak inserts. Commissioner Keliher raised concern that the May 1 deadline will be difficult for lobstermen to comply with given the supply chain issues. DMR will work with lobstermen to make the transition to new fishing gear as smooth as possible.

DMR will be conducting rulemaking on additional options for weak inserts for gear fished in exempt waters. This will include 5/16" rope with an overhand knot, or a section of 5/16" rope attached on each end to strong line with either a fisherman's knot or sheet bend. DMR testing determined that 5/16" rope on its own is too strong but can meet the weak insert requirement if rigged with the prescribed knots.

Deputy commissioner Meredith Mendelson discussed the four ongoing lawsuits, explaining that DMR, MLA and MLU are active in ongoing litigation. Commissioner Keliher informed the zones that Take Reduction Teams (TRT) meetings have been postponed until spring, after being cancelled in December and January. NMFS has signaled that the agency will look to the TRT to discuss additional regulations for the lobster industry because serious injury and mortality from fisheries exceeds PBR.

DMR’s policy director Deirdre Gilbert informed the zone councils of changes to the Lobster Management Fund resulting in a price increase for lobster trap tags from 50 cents to 75 cents. The new cost is due to the increased cost to manufacture the tags. The increased tag fees are necessary to fund several positions at DMR. This is the first increase in the cost of trap tags during Commissioner Keliher’s tenure.

Commissioner Keliher discussed two ASMFC updates. First, ASMFC will be taking up Draft Addendum 27, which seeks to increase the resiliency of the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank (GOM/GB) lobster stock by protection spawning biomass. This could be achieved by potentially establishing a trigger mechanism to implement changes to the gauge, vents, or V-notching. Second, public hearings were held on Draft Addendum 29 to implement electronic tracking requirements for federally permitted lobster and Jonah crab vessels with commercial trap gear permits. The ASMFC will meet in February to discuss this.

Lobster Zones D and C discussed whether to pursue changes to the zone trawl maximums, given the new minimum trawling up requirements in the Final whale rule. Both zones decided to table the discussion for a later date to get feedback from lobstermen.

LOBSTER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETINGS UPDATE

ASMFC’s Lobster Management Board met on February 22 to consider public comments, input from the American Lobster and Jonah Crab Advisory Panels (APs), and final action on Addendum 27 to require electronic tracking requirements in the federal American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries. The majority of public comments, as well as advice from American lobster and Jonah crab advisors, supported the status quo – no action – on this. This was largely the result of many remaining questions about the tracking devices, costs to industry, and standard procedures that would need to be followed by harvesters and states to successfully implement requirements for electronic vessel tracking. The Board voted to consider action for final action with the Plan Development Team, state managers, NOAA Fisheries, and ACCSP to provide additional details to the Board on standard operating procedures. The Board is expected to meet to consider this information and Draft Addendum XXIX for final approval in late March or early April. A press release will announce the timing of that meeting.

ASMFC’s American Lobster Management Board (Board) met in January to consider several items. Draft Addendum 27 was discussed including two different issues. Issue 1 considered immediate action to standardize management measures within and across Lobster Conservation Management Areas in the GOM/GBK stock. Issue 2 considered establishing a trigger mechanism to implement management measures with gauge and vent sizes to protect spawning biomass (SSB). The Board approved Draft Addendum 27 for public comment. However, further action has been delayed due to a combination of factors including the need to better understand current or new right whale rules. Public hearings for Draft Addendum 27 are expected to occur in June 2022 with final action being considered in August. In addition, the terms of reference and timeline for the first Jonah crab range-wide benchmark stock assessment was approved; it is scheduled to be completed by fall 2023. The Board approved the American Lobster and Jonah Crab FMP Reviews for the 2020 fishing year, state compliance reports, and de minimis status for Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. However, New York remains a complicated case with the Board reviewing in August 2022 the state’s progress in implementing the FMP requirements.

Continued on page 8
The Board approved two nominations to the American Lobster Advisory Panel: Eben Wilson and Jeff Putnam, both Maine commercial lobstermen.

**ASMFC Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee (EC) discussed several issues including wind energy and the role of the Commissioners Aid, Relief, and Economies Security Act (CARES) funds. The role of the ASMFC in offshore wind energy along the Atlantic Coast was discussed, focusing on six tasks including advocacy for policy development that protects state interests. A draft scope of work will be developed with an analysis of the capacity to address these tasks. A unanimous decision was made to make available unused CARES 1 funds to states that had further needs of zeroing out the remaining CARES 1 balance by June 30, 2022. The details will be forwarded to NOAA Fisheries for approval prior to implementation.

**Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board reviewed Atlantic menhaden mortality events over the past two years, considered approval of Draft Addendum 1 to Amendment 3 for public comment, and approved Advisory Panel nominations. Menhaden mortality events occurred along the Atlantic coast from 2020-2021 due to an outbreak of the Vibrio anguillarum bacteria in areas of New Jersey and New York. It is not known what caused the outbreak, however the scale of these mortality events so far does not pose a significant threat to the Atlantic menhaden population or other wild species.

The Board reviewed an overview of the management options developed for Draft Addendum 1 to Amendment 3. Draft Addendum proposed changes to three management topics: commercial allocations, episodic event set-aside program (EESA), and the incidental catch and small-scale fisheries (IC/SSF) provision. These three topics are interconnected, adding additional complexity for the options in the Draft Addendum. It will be reconsidered by the Board in May before being approved for public comment. The Board approved the nominations of Michael Dawson of Maine and William Caldwell of New York to the Atlantic Menhaden Advisory Panel as well as Dr. Conor McManus of Rhode Island to Vice-Chair.

### 2022 HERRING UPDATES

NMFS closed the Area 3 herring fishery on February 4, 2022 because the 1,817 mt quota has been exceeded.

#### Herring Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Quotas for 2022

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<th>Area</th>
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#### LOBSTER BILLS – 130TH LEGISLATURE, 2ND SESSION

**LD 1742** An Act To Ensure Compliance with the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster, sponsored by Senator David Miramant.

This bill proposes to allow the DMR Commissioner to adopt routine technical rules to amend the minimum and maximum lobster size and the dimensions of events in lobster traps when necessary to comply with changes to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. An online public hearing was held February 1, and the bill was voted **ought to pass as amended** on February 18.

**LD 1759** An Act To Extend the Legal Hours for Harvesting Lobster in the Month of September (Emergency), sponsored by Rep. Genevieve McDonald.

This bill proposes to change the legal start time for lobster fishing to 4:00AM in the month of September. An online public hearing was held February 1. The bill was voted **ought to pass** on February 9.


This bill proposes changes to the governance of marine port terminal facility development including expanding the scope of the Maine Port Terminal Facilities Marketing Program. Other changes include requiring the Maine Port Authority to hire an executive director and authorizes the executive director to hire certain other employees. An online public hearing was held February 1. The bill was voted **ought to pass as amended** on February 3.


This bill proposes to establish a $30 million Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Impact Fund, to be administered by the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), to mitigate negative financial impacts incurred by individuals and businesses engaged in Maine’s fixed gear fishing industry. DMR is required to report concerning the activity of the fund to the Marine Resources Committee by January 15, 2023. An online public hearing was held February 1. Two work sessions were held and the Committee voted Ought to Pass as amended (10 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 absent) on February 15.

The amendment establishes several eligibility criteria for a person to receive funds. The person: 1) must be a Maine resident, 2) hold a Class I, II or III lobster license, and 3) have purchased 400 lobster tags in two of the last three calendar years. If these criteria are met, funds will be distributed by DMR based on annual value of landings for two of the last three years; those with an annual landed value: 1) of $10,000 to $25,000 will receive the base amount, 2) that exceeded $25,000 will receive twice the base amount, 3) that exceeded $25,000 who hold both a state and federal permit will receive thrice the base amount. The base amount will be determined by DMR based on the total funds available and number of eligible recipients. This bill has not yet been voted on by the House or Senate.

**LD 1908** An Act To Limit Eligibility for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses, sponsored by Rep. Genevieve McDonald of Stonington.

This bill proposes to limit eligibility for menhaden fishing licenses beginning in 2023 to individuals under certain conditions. The amended bill includes individuals who to have held a license in any two of the past three years (2019-2021) and to have landings of 25,000 lbs in any or those years, or in 2022... It also provides that the Commissioner may not issue a menhaden license to any individual in any year subsequent to 2023 unless said individual possessed the license in the previous calendar year. An online public hearing was held February 8. The committee held two work sessions and the bill was voted **ought to pass as amended** on February 22.


This amended bill proposes to establish the Legal Defense Fund for the Maine Lobster Industry and a commission to administer the fund. The commission would have 10 members, including 6 commercial lobstermen (2 each appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House), 3 lobster dealers (1 each appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House), and the DMR commissioner as a non-voting member. The commission would be charged with reviewing current and proposed laws, rules, and regulations, both federal and state, concerning the lobster industry, determining the best course of action, including a response involving the legal system, and using the money in the Legal Defense Fund for the Maine Lobster Industry to carry out that course of action as appropriate. One-third of the funds would be available to a statewide lobstering union, one-third available to a statewide lobstering association, and one-third distributed at the discretion of the Commission. Funds cannot be distributed without submission of receipts. This would be funded by 20% from the sale of each trap tag and an increase in the Class I marketing surcharge to $300. The laws governing the commission and the fund would be repealed in 2032.

An online public hearing was held February 8. The committee held several works sessions and the bill was voted **ought not to pass** on February 22.
On February 14 the state announced that the value of lobster in Maine in 2021 reached an all-time high totaling nearly $725 million. This figure is remarkable and puts the lobster fishery in position to be the most valuable fishery in the United States. To put this in perspective further, there were nine countries with GDPs that were less than the earnings generated by Maine's lobster landings in 2021.

We see this news as very welcome, especially amid so many news headlines declaring threats to the survival of the lobster industry. Yet this announcement also has us asking questions about how it should be interpreted. At face value, $725 million seems like a lot of money, but we suspect the story is more nuanced and warrants critical reflection. Prices for everything are up; reliable crew are difficult to find and keep; and bait has become more and more challenging to source.

At the same time, the lobster industry is facing major regulatory hurdles and increasing competition for ocean space. This context does not negate last year's achievement, but it gives us pause to stop us short of assuming, as some might, that a "record" season means that all is sunshine and roses for everyone in the lobster fishery.

This is a moment when the lack of a clearly defined set of socioeconomic metrics in the Maine lobster fishery is self-evident. By not having them, we essentially default to using total annual landings and value as our predominant yardstick for measuring the status of the fishery. If landings and value go up, things are good. If they go down, things are bad. This logic points us to the conclusion that things are really, really, really good in the lobster fishery. Yet this is not entirely consistent with what we have been hearing from fishermen up and down the coast of Maine.

For the past year, our research team has been leading a project to develop socioeconomic indicators for the lobster fishery — an idea that originated from the Maine Lobstermen’s Association. To inform this research, we began by conducting a series of interviews with fishermen (and other well-informed people associated with the industry) in the fall of 2021. We started with interviews because we wanted to hear from you — the lobster industry — and not presuppose that we know what metrics to use. These interviews have helped us identify an initial set of metrics to dig into. These metrics include but are not limited to, the extent to which fishermen re-invest in their businesses, changing coastal development pressure, and the industry’s outlook on the future of the fishery.

We are now using the insight provided by interviews to identify existing data sets that can be used to describe these important indicators. The next step of this project is to share preliminary findings back to the lobster industry so that you can help us interpret and ground-truth the results. Establishing new ways to understand the health of the industry — beyond a single value — we believe will better equip the lobster industry, coastal communities, and managers to address ongoing and future challenges facing the sector.
Porpoise Lobster, Port Lobster Company, Cape Pier Chowder House, and Cape Porpoise Bait Company.

While lobstermen move their profits into the local economy directly through purchases and indirectly through property and other taxes, businesses such as Daggett’s also pump large sums of money into the region. “We’ve got about 40 people who work for us now. Many of us make $10 to $12 million in gross sales from the four businesses,” Daggett said. “I keep my crew on at Cape Porpoise through the winter even though I don’t make any money then.”

**Processing**

Long ago, southern Maine lobsters were packed into cedar barrels and shipped by train down to diners in Boston and New York City. Now millions of pounds of lobsters are moved daily by refrigerated trucks to Boston and New York for transport around the world. In recent years, the city of Saco has become the focus of the expanding lobster processing sector.

Back in 2012, Luke’s Lobster opened Luke’s Lobster Seafood Company its processing plant in Saco. The company took over a 50,000-square-foot production site formerly occupied by Tom’s of Maine and, before that, juice maker Fresh Samantha. The facility initially provided the lobster meat for the company’s growing number of lobster restaurants in the United States and Asia. It also provided lobster to retailers such as Whole Foods. Eventually the company began offering value added lobster items, opening an online retail arm in 2020. Today, Saco is the base for all Luke’s Lobster’s processing and manufacturing activities, processing more than seven million pounds annually prior to the pandemic.

Ready Seafood, now part of Canadian Premium Brands Holding Corporation, unveiled its $15-million 52,000-square-foot facility in Saco in 2019. The processing plant employs 250 predominately full-time employees and produces a range of lobster products, from raw meat and tails to value-added menu items, such as mini lobster grilled cheese sandwich appetizers. Ready Seafood operates lobster holding facilities in York, Portland, as well as Sorrento. According to its website, the company buys and sells more than 15 million pounds of live and processed lobster annually.

Sea Salt, a wholesale and retail lobster company, first leased a building in Saco’s industrial park in 2010, then purchased land along Route 1 and built an entirely new plant in 2014, complete with a restaurant and retail fish market. Its location near the Maine Turnpike allows Sea Salt’s fleet of four trucks to send at least two lobster shipments each day down to Boston.

**Tourism**

Unlike most of the Maine coast, southern Maine features extensive sand beaches which have been a tourist magnet for more than a century. Each summer, visitors from out-of-state flock to the southern shore where they spend their dollars on food, accommodations, and other purchases. For many, the appeal of a vacation in Maine begins with lobster.

Whether it’s the crowds at Barnacle Billy’s in Ogunquit or the Sunday customers at DiMillo’s in Portland, diners want to eat lobster, no matter the month of the year. Tourists from near and far have their favorite places for an Maine lobster feast, be it Nunan’s Lobster Hut, Chauncy Creek Lobster, the Clam Shack, Bayley’s Lobster Pound, or many others. “The lobster fishery is a prime part of the restaurant industry in the state,” said Matt Lewis, executive director of HospitalityMaine. “The success of the industry from a tourist and visitor point of view is important.”

“People come to Maine to eat a lobster, see a lobsterman, look at boats. It’s a huge part of Maine’s economy,” said Arundel lobsterman Cody Nunan. “Everyone who’s a lobsterman around here goes at it full-time. I’m proud to be a lobsterman. It’s not a job, it’s a life. Everything that happens around here is based on it. As a kid growing up, I didn’t realize it but it’s an amazing living.”

“We recognize the importance of lobstering to the southern Maine economy, as it provides a valuable, longstanding livelihood for many individuals and their families in our communities, including those who lobster and those who provide supplies and services to the industry, including retailers, wholesalers and processors,” said Kennebunk Savings Bank CEO Bradford Paige in an email. “We do count and highly value a number of local individuals and businesses in our customer base who are involved in the industry and rely on a thriving and healthy fishery.”

Justin Laverriere, vice president commercial loan officer at Maine Community Bank [a collaboration of Biddeford Savings and Mechanics Savings Banks], reflected on the link between the coastal communities and the lobster fishery’s wellbeing.

“Lobstermen are very good customers. They work hard, pay their bills, and can have great success in the fishery. The lobstermen I see in southern Maine have been doing it for a long time, it’s what their families have done, it’s a tradition,” he said. “They are under regulatory pressure, I see that. I see more lobstermen coming in to get loans to buy additional permits. I’ve also seen lobstermen get loans to go into the bait business, either for themselves or to sell to distributors. They are creative in finding ways to make money and remain successful.”

As spring comes, the shuttered restaurants and ice cream shops along Goose Rocks Beach, Cape Porpoise, and Perkins Cove will come to life again, open their doors and welcome yet another wave of people eager to see Maine’s lobstering traditions at work. Traps will be loaded aft on lobster boats, brightly colored buoys ready on deck. Once more hundreds of pounds of lobster will come up from the seafloor, over the gunnel and onto dozens of small wharves, adding economic fuel once more to southern Maine’s thriving local communities.
By Nathaniel Burola

On October 1, 2021, the Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) submitted an application to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to develop a floating offshore wind research array in federal waters. Located in the southern Maine portion of the Gulf of Maine (GOM), the array would take up 16 square miles (10,000 acres) of ocean and have fewer than 12 floating turbines. The Maine fishing industry raised concerns over the leasing process and remains confused as to how that process works.

To understand the process, one needs to understand what BOEM is, the different stages of the leasing process, and how this affects the future of the Maine fishing industry. BOEM is the federal agency in charge of developing the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy and mineral resources in an environmentally responsible manner. Originally, the agency was focused on oil, gas, and mineral development. However, BOEM’s attention shifted to renewable energy with the passage of The Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The BOEM leasing process takes place in four main phases: planning and analysis, leasing, site assessment, and construction and operations. A Request for Information (RFI) is initially released to determine the level of interest in offshore wind leasing. After a period of public comment, a call for information and nominations follows to identify areas that are not suitable for development. This is when entities such as the fishing industry can weigh in to point out certain areas of the ocean they believe cannot coexist with wind turbines.

BOEM next identifies a Wind Energy Area for environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This lease area can be split into multiple sections for sale. A Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) is issued for the area she said. "We may make a list of lobstermen who are interested or if there are many, use a lottery. We are NOT outfitting anyone."

Summers spent three years testing different types of rope used by lobstermen as well as different knots and splices to generate data on what would work in terms of breaking at 1,700 pounds of pressure. That research was funded through a NMFS grant. She presented the results of her efforts to the NMFS's Right Whale Unusual Mortality Event Working Group in July 2021. NMFS stated that it expected a decision on the approval of knots as an alternative to weak links in November last year.

"There have not been recommendations from them yet at all," Summers said with some exasperation. "This is why NMFS is not moving on knots either way. It’s not a hard question to answer. There’s not a need for a lot of evaluation." The delegation and Governor’s letter express frustration over NMFS not approving the use of knots to comply with weak inlets: "It is also illogical since NMFS plans to allow the same knots to be used to connect approved braided line. Given the lack of availability of weak rope and manufactured weak links, the certification of knots is critical."

Maine, however, has some flexibility about what will be required in Maine's exempt waters for the May 1 weak insert deadline. "We [DMR] can say what qualifies as a weak point. It could be 5/16" rope with various knots, like a fisherman's knot, for example," Summers said. The fourth and final stage is construction and operations. BOEM produces an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) report on the project. The results of the EIS can result in the agency approving, approving with modification, or delaying the construction phase. Once all concerns have been addressed, BOEM's sister agency, known as the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), takes over responsibilities for the project. As a research array, the state of Maine's application will move through a more streamlined, non-competitive process.

For 2021 to 2025, BOEM's Leasing Road Map has ambitious goals for offshore wind development including a target of holding a lease sale for the GOM in 2024. During fall 2021 and this winter, BOEM conducted a "Request for Information on Guidance for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries from Offshore Wind Energy Development" identified ideas and considerations from the fishing community, offshore wind energy developers, and others to inform draft guidance. Currently the agency is working with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), state fishery and coastal management agencies, and technical experts to draft guidance stemming from public comments.

The final version of the draft guidance for mitigating fishing industry impacts will be published in summer 2022.

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**Weak points continued from page 4**

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<th>Portland, ME</th>
<th>Thomaston, ME</th>
<th>West Bath, ME</th>
<th>Wakefield, RI</th>
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<td>(207) 434-5791</td>
<td>(800) 244-8727</td>
<td>(800) 426-4526</td>
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<td>(401) 782-4412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Thank you for your support!
This guide contains the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan regulations for lobster and Jonah crab trap/pot fisheries. If your principal port is in Maine, the following regulations apply to you, effective May 1, 2022.

**GENERAL TRAP/POT REQUIREMENTS**

- No buoy line floating at the surface.
- No wet storage of gear (all gear must be hauled out of the water at least once every 30 days).
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line (in ALWTRP regulated waters).

**MAINE’S EXEMPT WATERS REQUIREMENTS**

You must choose one of the following:

- Incorporate 600 pound breakaway link below the buoy, or
- All buoy lines must be made of sinking line, or
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line.

**STATE OF MAINE**

- Pocket waters are treated as state waters for all whale regulations.
- Maine regulations, Chapter 75, detail all whale regulations for the Maine lobster fishery.

**BUOY LINE MARKING**

**STATE WATERS (including Maine’s exempt waters)**

You must have at least 3 PURPLE marks.

- One of the marks must be a 3-foot long SOLID PURPLE mark within 2 fathoms of the buoy.
- The other two PURPLE marks must each be 12 inches long and placed in the top 50% and bottom 50% of the line.

Maine exempt waters exception: Vertical lines less than 100 ft in length may be marked with only two (2) purple marks: one 3-foot mark at the top of the buoy line and one 12 inch mark at the bottom of the buoy line.

**FEDERAL WATERS (Effective May 1, 2022)**

You must have at least 4 sets (PURPLE and GREEN) of marks.

- One set must be a 3-foot long SOLID PURPLE mark in the top 2 fathoms of the buoy line along with one 12-inch SOLID GREEN mark within 6 inches of the SOLID PURPLE mark.
- The other three sets must one 12-inch PURPLE mark and one 12-inch GREEN mark within 6 inches of each other. The sets of PURPLE and GREEN marks must be spaced in the top, middle, and bottom of the buoy line.

The solid 3-foot marks may be applied with dye, paint, tape, heat-shrink tubing, insertion of a colored rope or braided sleeve. The 12-inch marks below the surface system may be added using dye, paint, tape, heat-shrink tubing, zip ties; spliced in insertion of a colored rope or braided sleeve or other material, or a thin line may be woven into or through the line. Additional marking methods may be approved in writing by the Greater Atlantic Regional Administrator.

**SURFACE SYSTEM MARKING**

A surface system is the collection of buoys, radar reflectors, and high flyers that identify the presence of stationary bottom fishing gear. The following rules apply in state and federal waters:

When buoy marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5 cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.

Trap/pot buoys must be marked to identify the vessel or fishery with one of the following:

- The owner’s motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number
- The federal commercial fishing permit number; or
- Positive identification marking required by the vessel’s home-port state.
NEW RESTRICTED AREA AFFECTING MAINE FISHERMEN

LMA1 RESTRICTED AREA, OFFSHORE MAINE LMA1 ZONES C/D/E:
Closed to buoy lines October 1-January 31 annually.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
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<td>-68° 21.60' W</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>-69° 36.77' W</td>
<td>43° 06.00' N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHANGES TO CLOSURE AREAS

All new and existing closures are modified from restricting all trap/pot fishing to only restricting trap/pot fishing that uses persistent (traditional) buoy lines, except for federal waters in the Outer Cape Lobster Management Area (LMA), which remains closed consistent with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) American lobster Interstate Fishery Management Plan. Gear that does not use persistent buoy lines, such as "ropeless" gear that retrieves trap/pot travels when the vessel is on-site, is allowed in these areas for research purposes with appropriate state and federal permits (see below).

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) are issued for activities in support of fisheries-related research. There are studies underway to develop fishing methods that do not use buoy lines to retrieve gear and alert other fishermen to the presence of gear on the bottom. Results of this work would enable the fishing industry to operate in areas where persistent buoy lines are prohibited. To participate in this research, federally permitted vessels must operate under EFPs. Fishing without the use of vertical lines also requires a special permit from Maine DMR. If you are interested in testing ropeless gear or have another idea for research related to reducing the use of persistent buoy lines, please contact your NOAA Fisheries regional office (978-281-9315 or nmfs.gar.researchpermit@noaa.gov) and Maine DMR (Lobster.DMR@maine.gov).

This guide is a summary of the 2021 Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan’s commercial Northeast lobster and Jonah trap/pot fishing regulations. Additional regulations apply, and can be found in the Northeast Trap/Pot Outreach Guide available on our website www.fisheries.noaa.gov/ALWTRP. Because regulations change, it is your responsibility as a fisherman to become familiar with the latest regulatory updates and to comply with the current official regulations. Consult 50 CFR 229.32 for the complete Plan regulations.


QUESTIONS?
For questions about Maine state regulations, contact Lobster.DMR@maine.gov.
For questions about federal regulations, contact:
Marisa Trego, Take Reduction Team Coordinator: (978) 282-8484, marisa.trego@noaa.gov
John Higgins, Northeast Fisheries Liaison: (207) 610-3282, john.higgins@noaa.gov
Rob Martin, Northeast Gear Specialist: (617) 710-6322, robert.martin@noaa.gov
WWW.FISHERIES.NOAA.GOV/ALWTRP
**1700-POUND WEAK INSERTIONS OR LINE**

For all state and all federal waters regulated under ALWTRP:

- Weak inserts and line must be chosen from the list of NMFS-approved gear. To see the most updated list of approved weak line and inserts, visit the fisheries.noaa.gov/ALWTRP web page.
- Weak inserts must be designed in such a way that the bitter end of the buoy line is clean and free of any knots when the weak insert breaks.
- Weak rope can also be used on any buoy line down to the lowest point where a weak insert is required. Use of 100 percent weak rope is also allowed in place of inserts.

**1700-POUND WEAK INSERT REQUIREMENTS BY LOCATION**

- **ME Exempt State Waters:** 1 weak insert 50% down the line or top 50% of buoy line weak rope.
- **ME Exempt Line–3 nm:** 1 weak insert 50% down the line OR top 50% of buoy line weak rope.
- **ME Zone A West, B, C, D, E; Federal Waters 3–12 nm:** 2 weak inserts at 25% and 50% down the line OR top 50% of buoy line weak rope.
- **ME Zone A East, F, and G; Federal Waters 3–12 nm:** 1 weak insert 33% down the line OR top 33% of buoy line line weak rope.
- **Beyond 12 nm:** 1 weak insert 33% down the line OR top 33% of buoy line line weak rope.

**1700-POUND WEAK INSERTS AND LINE REQUIREMENTS EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2022**

**MAINE’S EXEMPT WATERS**

DMR has included three additional weak insert options for gear fished in exempt waters:

1. VL comprised of 5/16” line with overhand knot in center,
2. top half VL comprised 5/16” line attached to bottom with sheet bend or fisherman’s knot, or
3. 3-foot long section of 5/16” line attached on either side with sheet bend or fisherman’s knot.

*These are considered strong rope with a weak connection.

**NMFS APPROVED WEAK INSERTS ANDropes**

**INSERTIONS WITH WEAK ROPE**

- Butt/End/Short Splice
- Lazy 4-Tuck Splice
- Lazy 3-Tuck Splice
- Eye Loop Splice, 3 Tucks

*These are considered weak ropes with a strong connection.

**APPROVED MANUFACTURED WEAK ROPE**

- **Rocky Mount** Red (3/8” diameter, 1,438 lbs.), Candy Cane (3/8” diameter, 1,568 lbs. or 1,752 lbs.), purple (on right) (3/8” diameter, 1,752 lbs.)
- **Neocorp** 3/8” diameter polyester rope (1021) (1,530 lbs.)
- **Seaway** 5/16” diameter #10 braid (1,229 lbs.)

**NOTE:** All weak inserts must be at least 3 feet in length.

**WEAK LINKS**

- **Seamless in-line link (painted with eye splice in ½” Hydrostop)**
- **Plastic in-line link for ½” Rope (painted with eye splice in ½” Hydrostop)**
- **Rolling in-line link for ½” rope (painted with eye splice)**

Check [WWW.FISHERIES.NOAA.GOV/ALWTRP](http://WWW.FISHERIES.NOAA.GOV/ALWTRP) for more approved weak inserts and rigging methods.

**OTHER INSERTIONS** (can be used with any rope)

- **South Shore Sleeve**

This red sleeve is manufactured by Novabraid.
The following trap per trawl limits apply to Maine Zones in Lobster Management Area 1. Please note that there are no minimum trap per trawl requirements for Maine Exempt Waters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZONE</th>
<th>EXEMPT</th>
<th>EXEMPT WATERS TO 3 NM</th>
<th>3 TO 6* NM</th>
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<th>BEYOND 12 NM</th>
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</table>

Maine’s pocket waters are considered state waters under the ALWTRP.

*Note that the 6 nm line refers to an approximation, described in 50 CFR 229.32 (a)(2)(ii).
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March 2022

LANDINGS | Page 23
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John Clinton
Jonathan Coffin
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George Eliason
Julia Goodall
Stephen and Lisa Hewitt
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Jeff Putnam
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Francis Seiders
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Richard Wilson
Nancy Wynne

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

☐ Yes! I pledge $1,000
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  ☐ $10,000
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There are 4,800 licensed harvesters in Maine. Each donated just $1,000 to Save Maine Lobstermen, we’d be HALF WAY to our $10 million goal.
Every morning you wake up to the sound of your alarm. Groggily, you find yourself already moving. You brush your teeth, hit the start button on the coffee machine, and pop whole grain toast in the toaster. You then get into your car, put on your seat belt and head to work. These actions occur nearly involuntarily — you do not need to actively think about completing them. While they may seem small, they form your morning habits. You created these habits through repetition, and they serve as an important part of your day. Without trying, you have already completed tasks that will keep your teeth healthy, give you nourishment, and protect you from harm in the rare case of a car accident.

What if we could apply these same principles to being safe at work? You can develop small, simple routines that can help to protect both you and your crew from a common danger, hypothermia.

Hypothermia is a medical condition. Doctors diagnose hypothermia when an individual’s core body temperature falls below 95°F (35°C). Contrary to popular belief, hypothermia can occur in any climate and in any season, although the risk is higher in cold and wet environments. It is important to identify hypothermia as early as possible to avoid severe outcomes including abnormal heart rhythms, brain damage and, in severe cases, death.

The easiest way to identify hypothermia is through observation of symptoms. Key symptoms are shivering, difficulty speaking, and confusion. Also important is whether an individual can move his or her limbs. There are four stages of hypothermia: cold stress (not hypothermic), mild hypothermia, moderate hypothermia, and severe hypothermia. The table here shows the key symptoms and core body temperatures associated with each stage of hypothermia.

The risk for hypothermia varies from person to person. For example, older adults, individuals with hypothyroidism, and individuals on certain medications for diabetes and mental health disorders are at increased risk of hypothermia. These people are less able to regulate their body temperature. Similarly, individuals who are intoxicated with alcohol or other substances are less aware of exposure to the environment and less likely to recognize they are cold.

Body heat loss due to cold air happens through convection; body heat loss in cold water happens through conduction. Cold water is defined by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) as waters where the monthly mean low water temperature is normally 59°F (15°C) or colder. These temperatures are present almost year-round in Maine except in shallow coastal waters. Fishermen in the north-temperature is normally 59°F (15°C) or colder. Th ese temperatures are present almost year-round in Maine except in shallow coastal waters. Fishermen in the north-summer are good times for the immersion suit check-up. Complete this check-up at least annually, and make sure that suits still fit appropriately for everyone that may need to use one. Apply beeswax or the manufacturer’s recom-Adapted from Zafren et al. and Dow et al.ommended lubricant to the zippers of the suit. Do not use Vaseline or WD-40. Keep the suits stored away from fuel or oil on the boat as these substances can break down the suit material.

If you or a member of your crew develop signs or symptoms consistent with hypothermia, proper treatment is completely dependent on the stage of hypothermia. For individuals who are either cold stressed or mildly hypothermic we share some common treatments you can do in the field.

• Stop further cooling by providing additional dry, insulating layers and providing shelter from the elements. Ideally, they should be moved into a cabin or other shelter. Only remove wet clothing if you have shelter available from the wind and cold and dry layers to replace the wet clothing.

• Give the hypothermic individual high caloric foods if he/she is alert and able to eat or drink. This may include warm liquids and high carbohydrate foods. Make sure anything hot is not so hot that it could cause burns.

• If you suspect someone has mild hypothermia (shivering, but alert and able to care for themselves) you can do these additional measures.

• Encourage them to sit and rest for at least 30 minutes. Exercise should be delayed in patients experiencing mild hypothermia to reduce the risk of irregular heart rhythms as the body warms. It is important that someone continue to monitor the individual to make sure their symptoms do not get worse and they do not start to act confused. If after 30 minutes the individual feels better, he or she can stand and start light exercise to assist in the warming process.

• If available put warm packs on the individual’s chest, armpits or back. You want to focus warming on the core of the body, and make sure that the packs are not so hot as to cause burns on the person’s skin. Ideally, you would place the packs on top of a warm dry layer on the individual.

• If someone is acting confused or drifting in or out of consciousness it is important to evacuate the individual to a medical facility. These are symp-toms of moderate or severe hypothermia and will require evacuation and professional medical treatment. Symptoms of cold stress or mild hypothermia can be managed without evacuation, but monitoring of the individual is vital to ensure that symptoms do not worsen over time.

Take time to establish these “COLD” habits:

C: Check crew – for symptoms of hypothermia in cold weather.
O: Onboard? Wear a PFD.
D: Lubricate immersion suit zippers with bees wax, check the material, try on the suit at least annually.
L: DO take hypothermia seriously.

While hypothermia can be severe, this article illustrates ways to prevent and treat the condition should it arise. Like putting on your seatbelt every day, small habits can protect you from the most severe outcomes. If you start one day at a time, with one click of the PFD buckle when onboard, you will soon find that protecting yourself from hypothermia simply becomes part of your fishing routine.

### Hypothermia Stages, Clinical Findings and Treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Core Temperature</th>
<th>Clinical Findings</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cold stressed (but not hypothermic)</td>
<td>95°F to 98.6°F</td>
<td>Normal mental status with shivering. Functioning normally. Able to care for self.</td>
<td>Reduce heat loss (replace wet with dry clothing). Provide high calorie drink. Move around to warm up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Hypothermia</td>
<td>82°F to 90°F</td>
<td>Altered state of consciousness. May be conscious or unconscious, with or without shivering. Impaired movement.</td>
<td>Insulate. Keep horizontal. NO Food or drink. NO standing/walking. Give heat to upper trunk. Evacuate carefully.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Hypothermia</td>
<td>&lt;82°F</td>
<td>Unconscious. Not shivering</td>
<td>Check for breathing/pulse. If NONE start CPR. Evacuate carefully.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Joyce family has been fishing from Swan's Island for a long, long time. In fact, for more than 200 years, multiple generations have set out from the small island in various boats after numerous species in search of a living. Lobsterman Jason Joyce is the eighth generation to fish. But his son Andrew chose a different path, one that ultimately led him back to the island.

"I just wasn't good at lobstering," the 31-year-old videographer laughed. "I never had the knack." During high school Andrew fished with his father. He set his own traps, following his father's advice. "But frankly, at the end of the season it was always a little embarrassing," he said.

Joyce, however, found he was good at telling stories on film. At age 12, he discovered his parents' camcorder and started playing around with it, making silly videos for himself and his friends. It was in his junior year in high school that he learned to look at the camera differently. That year, Joyce signed up for a videography class at Hancock County Technical Center in Ellsworth, "I had a fantastic teacher for two years. He pressed us to not fool around, to be professional," he said.

Inspired by his high school experience, Joyce went on to a small film school in Indiana, which turned out to be disappointing. He lobbied to attend an advanced video editing class only to find that the book the students would eventually study from was one that his high school teacher had used as well. He decided to leave. "The Tech Center gave me a solid hands-on education, and I wanted to use it," Joyce said.

Now living in Palmer, Massachusetts, where his wife's family is from, Joyce has found a niche in telling stories via video for non-profit organizations, small businesses, and manufacturing companies. In 2021, he turned his eye to a story close to his heart, that of the Maine lobster fishery and the threats lobstermen are now facing.

"I thought initially I'd make short video, just to get the word out but once I started it, Iwas like "Wow!" This is way larger than I imagined," Joyce said. In 2021, he took three weeks to talk to and video people throughout the lobster industry, everyone from Patrick McCarron, executive director of the Maine Lobstermen's Association, to his lobsterman father, Jason. Andrew quickly learned that the Maine lobster fishery is under assault on multiple fronts, from the harsh 10-year whale plan imposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to the galloping pace of offshore wind energy development in the Gulf of Maine.

"It's all happening so fast I decided I wanted to get something out now in a series form. It's not perfect, I know. I just wanted to get it out there free and online," he explained.

The videos, four of which have been released as of late February, begin with an overview of the fishery, lobstermen, right whales, and wind power. Called "Road to Disaster," it was followed by "Fait Accompli, " "This is an Experiment, " and "Never Forgotten" (these and future episodes can be found on YouTube at The Maine Reset).

"There's actually a small percentage of the Maine population that goes lobstering," Joyce said. "The other businesses supporting it make it bigger but most of the state might not be aware of what's going on there." That, Joyce recognized, was a problem. If people are not aware of the value of the fishery, of the long history and traditions that inform lobstermen and their communities, they might just think of Maine lobstermen as stereotypes: cranky individuals who gripe about everything but make plenty of money so really have nothing to complain about.

"It's a challenge when your fellow citizens don't know what's really happening," he said.

His videos draw on the perspectives of lobstermen from Casco Bay, Swan's Island and other sections of the coast to show the thoughtful consideration they give to their work and to the ocean that sustains them and their communities. "No one commissioned me to do this, so I have the freedom to do what I like. It's not perfect, I know. I just wanted to get it out there free and online," Joyce said.

Some may say that Joyce shows an explicit bias in favor of Maine lobstermen in his video series; Joyce is fine with that. "I don't buy into the idea that there's an inherent virtue in neutrality. I am not a disinterested party. I am a documentary film maker and that is why in the first episode I explained who I am and where I come from," Joyce said.

"No one commissioned me to do this, so I have the freedom to do what I like. It's a look at what life looks like in fishing communities and what they are dealing with," he said.
Temperature records were set in two bodies of water last year, one in Canada and one in the United States. The Gulf of Maine experienced its warmest fall temperatures since records for sea surface temperatures began in 1982. Summer temperatures were the second warmest on record. In Canada, the Gulf of St. Lawrence saw its highest sea surface temperatures since records began 40 years ago during October and November. Temperatures at depth were the highest since data collection began in 1915. “The Gulf of Maine was really warm throughout the year,” said Kathy Mills, director of the Integrated Systems Ecology Lab at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) in Portland. “A marine heat wave is when the water temperature is above the 90th percentile. Most of 2021 was like that. There were only a few days below.”

Oceanographers point to 2010 as the year in which the Gulf of Maine experienced a “regime shift,” moving from one state to another. Others look at 2012, a year in which the Gulf experienced record-breaking warmth early in the spring, as the key year. Most agree that during the past ten years the Gulf has undergone a rapid increase in average temperature, both at the surface and at depth, as well as changes in its circulation and food chain. “Indicators show a series of inter-related changes in the Gulf, changes in temperature, circulation, stratification of the water column. These lead to changes in composition of zooplankton and phytoplankton,” Mills said.

Lobstermen have come to recognize the name Calanus finmarchicus in recent years. C. finmarchicus is a tiny rice-shaped copepod that is the preferred food of the North Atlantic right whale, which eat the copepods in great mouthfuls. C. finmarchicus is a cold-water creature and exists at the southern extent of its natural range in the Gulf of Maine. As the Gulf has warmed, the right whales have found it hard to find the dense blooms of C. finmarchicus they desire and have journeyed further north, into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in search of them.

“The Gulf of Maine ecosystem has been driven by the energy from Calanus finmarchicus and that is really changing now.”

But other creatures eat the fat-packed C. finmarchicus as well, including herring and, as recent studies have shown, larval lobsters. “The Gulf of Maine ecosystem has been driven by the energy from Calanus finmarchicus and that is really changing now,” Mills said.

Warmer temperatures have had a beneficial effect on Gulf of Maine lobsters but how long that benefit will remain is subject to question. While warmer water increases the rate of growth among lobsters, Mills points out that it comes at a cost to an individual lobster. “Warmer temperatures increase metabolism. The lobster burns more energy and needs more energy. It needs to find more food to supply that demand,” she explained.

In addition, when water temperatures grow too high, the lobster suffers stress. Research shows that lobsters prefer water temperatures at 16°C or less; 18°C is their upper limit. “The Gulf of Maine [temperatures] were hitting and exceeding 16°C in 2021,” Mill said. “Now and moving forward there will be thermally stressed periods for longer each year. The long-range projections through mid-century are for declining productivity in the Gulf of Maine lobster population. We need to be prepared for changes in the ecosystem and act to buffer those effects.”

The Gulf will continue to warm even as the world’s nations attempt to reign in production of greenhouse gases. “It’s like a moving train, it can’t stop on a dime,” Mills said. “It’s important to adopt a management system that can detect change when it happens so that we don’t need sudden course corrections. We can’t assume the same productivity as in the past.”

The Gulf of St. Lawrence set records in 2021 as well, according to data released by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in February. “Everything about the Gulf of St. Lawrence was warmer in 2021,” said federal research scientist Peter Galbraith, in an interview the CBC. Average sea surface temperatures in October and November were the highest since remote sensing started 40 years ago. Temperatures at depth followed the same pattern. Galbraith and fellow DFO researchers recorded temperatures of 4.1°C (39°F) at 150 meters, 6°C (43°F) at 200 meters, 6.7°C (44°F) at 250 meters and 6.9°C (45°F) at 300 meters. Those were the highest readings since data collection began in 1915.

An intermediate water layer from 50 to 150 meters, which usually remains cold in summer, was also the warmest in the 40-year record. Most significant, according to Galbraith, was the warming trend in deeper water, between 150 and 300 meters. “2015, 2016 was the first year where it was higher than any year prior and every year since we’ve beaten that last year’s record. So we’re at really 100-plus year record highs,” Galbraith said. Warming in the deeper water in the gulf has out-paced projections based on climate change.

“Our surface warming that we’ve observed falls in line with global warming of about one degree per 100 years,” he said. “But in the deep layers, it’s been one-and-a-half degrees in 12 years.” The last year with below-normal temperatures at 300 meters depth was in 2009. Since then, they have risen steadily. Such dramatic changes in temperature will have a future effect on the marine species that live in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, just as they have in the Gulf of Maine.
For an interactive source of pending lease applications, please see DMR's new "Table of Lease Applications Under Review" where you can find maps and documentation with just one click.

Go to: www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/leases/pending.html and click INTERACTIVE DATA TABLE at the top of the list.

### Experimental Lease Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Applicant/Company</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summit Point LLC</td>
<td>3008 N of Lower Basket ledge</td>
<td>Chebeague</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd (2/17/2022), 30 day comment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summit Point LLC</td>
<td>10008 N of Lower Basket ledge</td>
<td>Chebeague</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd (2/17/2022), 30 day comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscongus Bay Aquaculture</td>
<td>NW of Goggin Ledge, Damariscotta Rvr</td>
<td>Edgecomb</td>
<td>3.93 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Amendment rec'd, comments due (1/7/22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Martin</td>
<td>E of Brothers Islands, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Falmouth</td>
<td>0.15 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd (2/11/2022), 30 day comment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stuart Ryan</td>
<td>SW side of Williams Island, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>2.4 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish/algae</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd (1/12/2022), 30 day comment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whisky Stones, LLC</td>
<td>E of Dog Head, Harpswell Sound</td>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>0.481 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd, comments due 3/2/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nautical Farms, LLC</td>
<td>N of Roque Island, Shorey Cove</td>
<td>Jonesport</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd (2/3/2022), 30 day public comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doyle, Victor</td>
<td>E of Barlett Isl, Blue Hill Bay</td>
<td>Mount Desert</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Public hearing postponed to later date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Smith</td>
<td>Upper Dodge Cove, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>3.96 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd (1/7/2022), 30 day public comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bracy L, and Lombardo, P</td>
<td>N of Coombs Cove, Pemaquid River</td>
<td>Pemaquid</td>
<td>1.6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd 7/19, comments due 8/21/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Ezra et al.</td>
<td>NE part of Burnt Crest Harbor</td>
<td>Swans Island</td>
<td>3.6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd 5/24, comments due 6/26/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunt, Stewart</td>
<td>Upper Basket Island, Ledge, Casco Bay, Yarmouth</td>
<td>3.9 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish/algae</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd 5/24/21, comments due 6/26/21</td>
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### Standard Lease Applications

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<th>Product</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pemaquid Mussel Farms LLC</td>
<td>Mt Desert narrows, E of Goggin Ledge</td>
<td>Bar Harbor</td>
<td>32 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 3/7/21, site review TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acacia Aqua Farms, LLC</td>
<td>SW of Goggin Ledge, Frenchman Bay</td>
<td>Bar Harbor</td>
<td>46 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Hearing scheduled 3/28/22, 5pm, remote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank S. Pooley</td>
<td>N of Bar Head, Bagaduce River</td>
<td>Brooksville</td>
<td>5.38 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Hearing scheduled 3/15/22, 4pm, Brooksville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perda Farms LLC</td>
<td>New Meadows River, E of Lower Coombs Isl</td>
<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>2.33 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping session 12/26/2021 Brunswick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Timothy</td>
<td>SE of Barnes Pt, Middle Bay</td>
<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>17 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 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 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 5/21/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Ledge Cove Seafood LLC</td>
<td>NE of L Chebeague Isl, Wttn Chandlers Cove</td>
<td>Chebeague Isl</td>
<td>6.85 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 11/24/21, site visit TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schoodic Seafarm LLC</td>
<td>Off Long Mill Cove, Gouldsboro Bay</td>
<td>Corea</td>
<td>2.2 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd 9/24/20, site review scheduled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Point LLC</td>
<td>NE of Clapboard Isl, Casco Bay, Falmouth</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>100 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site review complete (3/18/2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Maine Scallop Co, LLC</td>
<td>E of Sturdivant Island, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>5.36 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>Amendment granted to app (12/27/21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodge Cove Marine Farm</td>
<td>SE of Dodge Pt</td>
<td>Damariscotta</td>
<td>12.26 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 7/15/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffin, Bailey</td>
<td>W of Sow &amp; Pigs Isl, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>6.64 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 6/16/21 - site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooke Aquaculture USA, Inc</td>
<td>Off Black Island</td>
<td>Frenchboro</td>
<td>15 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public hearing 11/8/2021, 4 pm, SW Harbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaffney, Michael &amp; Mark</td>
<td>N of Phebe Isl, Robinsonsh Cove</td>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>7 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 11/24/2021, site visit TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfield, Keith</td>
<td>Casco Bay, southwest of Lower Goose Island</td>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>25 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping session at Harpswell (1/4/2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Point Oysters, LLC</td>
<td>Middle Bay, Southeast of Upper Goose Island</td>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>3.20 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish/algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 10/15/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restorative Aquaculture LLC</td>
<td>Middle Bay, E of Scagg island</td>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>9.89 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd 10/20/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islesboro Marine Enterprises</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 4/1/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moosabec Mushelos Inc.</td>
<td>Off old Point, Jordan River</td>
<td>Lamoine</td>
<td>89.78 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Lease renewal, comments due 6/26/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Faux, Inc.</td>
<td>S of Great Salt Bay, Upper Damariscotta Rvr</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>1.8 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 10/15/22, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Oyster Inc.</td>
<td>E and S of Lebanon Isl, Upper Sheepscot Rvr</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>10 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 6/17/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam and Michelle Campbell</td>
<td>Pulpit Harbor Mill Stream</td>
<td>North Haven</td>
<td>2.53 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 1/13/2022, 30 day comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermit Island Oyster Co, LLC</td>
<td>Hermit Isl, Small Pt, Aft, New Meadows River</td>
<td>Phippsburg</td>
<td>2.56 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 3/26/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Fresh Sea Farms LLC</td>
<td>Clark Cove, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>South Bristol</td>
<td>3.6 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 4/24/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewey's Shellfish, LLC</td>
<td>NW of Peters Island, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>South Bristol</td>
<td>0.58 acre</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 6/16/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heron Island Oyster Company</td>
<td>W of Pitch Cove, at Goggin Ledge</td>
<td>South Bristol</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 10/4/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Star Fisheries, LLC</td>
<td>Sheepscot River, W of Boston Island</td>
<td>Southport</td>
<td>4.5 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 11/24/2021, site visit TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewer, Robert</td>
<td>E of Penobscot Bay SW of Andrews Island</td>
<td>Stonington</td>
<td>3.26 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'r 10/20/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey, Brian</td>
<td>W of Haynes Pt, Goose Cove, Western Bay</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Hearing scheduled 2/23/22, 5pm, Trenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henninger, Thomas</td>
<td>E of Mouth of Broad Cove, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>5.9 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Hearing scheduled 3/8/22, 5pm, Yarmouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickerson, Travis</td>
<td>E of Blaney Pt</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>2.86 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec'd 10/4/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DMR AQUACULTURE LEASE APPLICATION STATUS FOR MARCH**

(as of 02/18/22)

Understand the process! You can make a difference!
What do commercial fishermen share in common with professional athletes like LA Lakers' LeBron James and tennis ace Naomi Osaka? Find out in the first episode of the Fishing Forward Podcast, a new podcast for fishermen with a focus on health, safety and “staying shipshape” in the commercial fishing industry.

The Fishing Forward Podcast is available on most podcast streaming platforms as well as at www.coastalroutes.org/fishing-forwardpod. Transcripts are also available on the web page. New episodes will be released every two weeks through 2022.

“Fishing is physically and mentally intense work that can have a high human cost, so talking about resilience and solutions for limiting risk is critical in this industry,” said co-host Hannah Harrison, who grew up in the commercial fishing industry and has fished herself. “We hear a lot about the importance of wearing life jackets, but less about the impacts of sleep deprivation, caffeine consumption or the impacts of long periods at sea on fishermen’s relationships back home.”

The podcast features scientific experts and fishermen to explore those topics and gives listeners some good ideas to improve safety in their own lives, added Harrison. Harrison and co-host Phil Loring seamlessly thread together conversations with multiple guests in each episode.

Harrison is a post-doctoral scholar and human ecologist studying fisheries at the University of Guelph, Ontario and a science director for the Coastal Routes project. Loring is an associate professor of geography and holds the Arrell Chair in Food, Policy, and Society at the University of Guelph.

Upcoming episodes will discuss topics such as how get a good meal when juggling work and limited time to sleep and if stretches of little to no sleep while on the job can actually increase the risk of Alzheimer’s and dementia. No matter the challenge, each episode includes strategies for workarounds and solutions.

The idea of the podcast started during conversations with fishermen, who were being interviewed for a sleep-related project run by the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

“We’d been hearing from fishermen that they have concerns about the impact of work on their health,” said Rebecca Weil, coordinator of the Northeast Center’s commercial fishing sleep project. “It seemed like creating a podcast would be a way to explore their questions and their solutions with each other in a way that fishermen from all coasts can access and listen to on their own schedules.”

Known among New England fishermen for its Lifejackets for Lobstermen program, the Northeast Center partnered with the Coastal Routes Radio team at the University of Guelph to create the Fishing Forward Podcast. Coastal Routes has a track record of producing high-quality podcasts for fishing communities. For additional information or to share feedback or ideas, reach out to info@necenter.org or call 800-343-7527.
LOBSTER FACING THE “RED LIST”

The Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA) Seafood Watch program is considering adding North American lobster from both the U.S. and Canadian fisheries to its “red list.” Seafood Watch, which is supposed to help consumers make informed choices about sustainable seafood, rates fisheries as green for “best choice,” yellow for “good alternative” and red for “avoid.” The program’s draft assessment “recommends to avoid American lobster caught by trap from Georges Bank and the Gulf of Maine stocks due to risks to the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale and insufficient measures for reducing these risks.” The Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative executive director Marianne Lacroix noted, “Monterey Bay Aquarium’s decision would ignore the [Maine lobster] industry’s long history of adapting gear and fishing practices to protect North Atlantic right whales and undermines the newly enacted federal regulations designed to provide additional protections.” It is unclear when the recommendation might be finalized. Inclusion on the red list would be in effect for roughly five years.

NEW BILL TO FUND COLLABORATIVE WHALE RESEARCH

U.S. Senators Cory Booker, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Carper, and Sheldon Whitehouse in February introduced the Right Whale Coexistence Act, which would authorize $15 million annually until 2032 to fund collaborative research among government, non-government entities and maritime industries to mitigate impacts on the North Atlantic right whale population. If the bill passes, the grants will be open to tribal agencies, research institutions, nonprofit organizations, vessel owners and operators, members of maritime industries and others with “required expertise.” A similar bill has also been introduced in the U.S. House.

SEAFOOD PROCESSOR GRANT PROGRAM FUNDED

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has made $50 million available to support seafood processors, processing facilities and processing vessels through the Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety Block Grant Program (SPRBS). The program is funded by the Pandemic Assistance provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The Maine Department of Marine Resources will administer the $850,184 awarded to the state.

CHINA NOT BUYING ENOUGH LOBSTER

Maine’s congressional leaders say China has failed to live up to its promise to buy more Maine lobster under a deal negotiated under former President Donald Trump’s administration. Maine’s lobster industry was hurt by retaliatory Chinese tariffs in 2018 and has failed to see substantial export gains after China committed to buying an additional $20 billion in U.S. goods. Under the “Phase One Agreement,” China was supposed to increase purchases above 2017 levels. But China has bought “almost no lobster above 2017 levels”, according to a letter from by Senator Angus King, Rep. Chellie Pingree and Rep. Jared Golden to U.S. trade representative Katherine Tai, Republican Sen. Susan Collins earlier sent a letter voicing the same concerns and urging “swift and appropriate action.”

HERE COMES THE CAT

The high-speed passenger ferry known as The Cat will begin running from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia and Bar Harbor, Maine on May 19. The season will begin with four crossings a week on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Monday, then expand to seven days a week on June 23. The Cat ferry stopped service between Bar Harbor and Nova Scotia in 2009 and ended service to Portland in 2018. Nova Scotia taxpayers paid $8.5 million to renovate Bar Harbor’s ferry terminal and to move a loading ramp from the Portland terminal.

MORE WIND MASSACHUSETTS PROJECTS PLANNED BY SPANISH COMPANY

Spanish energy company Iberdrola announced that it will invest more than $10 billion to develop three offshore wind facilities in Massachusetts. Iberdrola Chairman and CEO Ignacio Galán agreed to develop three offshore wind facilities, each with 2.8 GW of capacity, at a meeting with Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker in February. Iberdrola’s energy services company, Avangrid, recently began building the 800 MW Vineyard Wind One offshore wind facility located around 15 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard.

ELECTRONIC VESSEL TRACKING ON FEDERAL LOBSTER BOATS

ASMF’s Lobster Board met in late February to discuss a proposal to require electronic vessel tracking for federal lobster boats. Based on feedback from the public, ASMFC delayed its final vote to collect more information. During public comments, lobstermen raised many questions about the tracking devices, costs to industry, and standard procedures that would need to be followed by harvesters and states to successfully implement requirements for electronic vessel tracking. The board plans to meet this spring to make its final decision.

DMR SEeks 3 Boats FOR VENTLESS TRAP PROGRAM

Maine DMR seeks three industry participants to fish 80-100 small mesh traps rigged as Triples at random sites as part of the ventless trap program. Each trap will be baited and hauled twice each month on three night soaks making a total three day commitment each month. Vessels are needed to cover three areas 1) Addison to MDI, 2) Pemaquid to Casco Bay, and 3) Casco Bay. This is a competitive bid process. Interested participants must complete the application to identify vessel specifications, daily rate and preference sampling leg. Applications are due March 15, 2022. FMI: www.maine.gov/dmr/about/ventless.html or contact Kathleen Reardon at kathleen.reardon@maine.gov or (207) 350-7440.
Two new Marine Patrol Officers will be serving in downeast patrols after being sworn in recently at the Department of Marine Resources Office in Augusta. Marine Patrol Officer Alison Gauvin has been assigned to serve in the Cobscook Bay/Lubec patrol and Marine Patrol Officer Owen Baertlein will serve in the Cutler patrol.

Officer Gauvin graduated from Simmons College in Boston in 2017 with a degree in Exercise Science and Nutrition. Prior to joining the Marine Patrol, Officer Gauvin served as a personal trainer at the Equinox Sports Club in Boston, and as a Fitness Supervisor/Strength Coach at The Windsor School in Boston. Officer Gauvin also served as a member of the Boston Renegades women’s professional football team.

Officer Baertlein earned a B.S. in Surveying Engineering Technology and Forestry from the University of Maine in 2020. Before becoming a Marine Patrol Officer, he served as a Forest Protection Officer, a Wilderness and River Ranger, and as a Recreation Technician for the U.S. Forest Service. He also previously served as a Laboratory Research Assistant at the University of Maine School of Forestry Bioproducts Laboratory.

They have both completed the Law Enforcement Pre-Service Course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy (MCJA) and have begun the nine-week Marine Patrol Field Training Program. Currently, both plan to attend the 18-week MCJA Basic Law Enforcement Training Program in August.

“The downeast patrols that these new officers have been assigned to are very busy so we were glad to have such capable new Officers working in these coastal communities,” said Marine Patrol Lieutenant Troy Dow. “I’m proud that we have been able to fill these critically important positions in Washington County,” added Colonel Jay Carroll. “These new Officers have the strong work ethic and drive necessary to support the vital commercial fishing industry downeast.”

TWO NEW OFFICERS JOIN MARINE PATROL BUREAU

DMR Press release

More details on all of these events can be found online at www.mainelobstermen.org

Events Calendar

March 2
Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative annual marketing update, 4-5 p.m., online. To register, https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIkC0-ppDkvGdEosYdcXx-vWxnnX-x7aF7.

March 13-15

March 15
Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap Fisheries Working Group, 4:30 to 7 p.m., online, Register at www.maineoffshorewind.org.

Applications for DMR Ventless Trap Program due. FMI: Kathleen Beardsen 207-350-7440.

March 23
Open forum with NOAA fisheries leadership, hosted by Maggie Raymond, 3-5 p.m., online. Join the Zoom Meeting at https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6151858543.

DMR public hearing on Atlantic Striped Bass draft Amendment 7, 6-8 p.m., online. To register, https://register.gotowebinar.com/r/tt/6557693292797680975.

March 28-31

March 30
Maine Offshore Wind Advisory Committee Roadmap, 9 am to noon, online. Register at www.maineoffshorewind.org.

April 1
Shore and Harbor Planning Grant Program applications due. FMI: Melissa Britsch@maine.gov.

April 1-12

To be Announced
MLAs Annual Meeting will not be held in March. The MLA will announce a date for an in-person Annual Meeting later this spring. Stay tuned!

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