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#SAVE MAINELOBSTERMEN

## Maine Fishermen’s Cooperatives

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### LOBSTERMEN FACE UNCERTAIN FUTURE TOGETHER

**By Melissa Waterman**

You hear it often among fishermen on Maine’s commercial wharves: “Livin’ the life.” It’s the all-encompassing lachon answer to everything from “How are you?” to “How’d you do yesterday?”

Right now Maine lobstermen are living lives jam-packed with anxiety. The aggressive push by Governor Janet Mills to develop federal waters off southern Maine for a large wind turbine farm; the accelerated schedule for construction of a 12-MW floating wind turbine three miles southeast of Monhegan Island; and implementation later this month of NOAA’s new regulations regarding right whales,

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Governor Mills attempted to preempt the rally by introducing a bill earlier in the day proposing a ten-year moratorium on offshore wind in state waters. The bill, however, would allow the Monhegan wind project to move forward and would not restrict cables or transmission lines that support offshore wind generation. Maine’s fishing industry said this doesn’t go nearly far enough. They stated that the same caution must be given to offshore development outside of state waters. “Maine fishermen plan to leave a healthy fishery and ocean for many generations down the road, not just a mere 10 years,” commented Jason Joyce, an 8th generation lobsterman from Swans Island.

The state of Maine received a $2 million federal grant last October to conduct a comprehensive offshore wind planning process, called Maine’s Offshore Wind Roadmap, intended to “focus on planning and data-gathering to support siting decisions, with the goal of minimizing potential effects on the environment and fisheries.” Rather than conduct this planning process, the Mills administration instead is championing immediate development of two offshore floating wind projects, both to be developed by New England Aqua Ventus (NEAV).

NEAV is a joint venture between two large international energy companies,

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"Whether young or old, the message in Augusta was clear: no wind farms in the Gulf of Maine. Pictured, Pierce Achorn of Friendship. MLA photo."
There's just no rest for the weary. Lobstermen spent the winter responding to a barrage of proposed federal regulations designed to protect the endangered North Atlantic right whale that may cripple the state’s lobster fishery in the next ten years. Those regulations are due to be finalized by May 31. At the same time, Governor Janet Mills’ administration is aggressively pushing an application to the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management for a lease in federal waters off southern Maine to construct large wind turbine array. The 16-square-mile area is used by lobstermen, groundfisherman, recreational charter boats, and others.

Facing pressures from all sides, lobstermen finally stood up to be counted. At a rally held in Augusta on August 24, they gathered outside of the Augusta Civic Center to make clear to Governor Mills and to the state at large that the Maine lobster industry was not to be sacrificed in pursuit of the dream of “green” energy.

Jeff Putnam, chair of the Zone F lobster zone council, spoke eloquently about the menace posed by offshore wind development at the councils meeting in April and he allowed us to publish his comments in this month’s issue. Putnam cautioned lobstermen from other zones that just because they don’t fish in the targeted 16-square-mile area, they could well be affected by those lobstermen who are forced to move to other grounds. He questioned the sincerity of outreach from the Governor’s office with fisherman about the proposed lease. “It doesn’t matter that we may voice our displeasure with this project, all we will get is a simple 'Thanks for your thoughts’ or ‘Your opinion matters to us.’”

Lobstermen and others provided written comments to NOAA on the proposed regulations to protect right whales that will govern their fishery for years to come, some of which we printed last month. We reproduce more of their letters to illustrate the depth of concern experienced by fishermen and their families.

The Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative helped clarify the confusion about right whales and the lobster fishery in 2020. The MLMC produced several videos highlighting the sustainable practices used by Maine lobstermen and the long-term conservation aspects of the fishery. It also created a dedicated web site on the topic. This year the Collaborative is stepping up its communication activities with additional videos, a fact sheet on ropeless fishing, and member of the Maine Lobster Boat Racing Association, about the return of the lobster boat races this year. COVID-19 precautions caused many of the races to be cancelled last year, a deep disappointment to racing fans along the coast. This year all races are on [as of print date].

Finally, we hear from Jon Johansen, publisher of Maine Coast News and member of the Maine Lobster Boat Racing Association, about the return of the lobster boat races this year. COVID-19 precautions caused many of the races to be cancelled last year, a deep disappointment to racing fans along the coast. This year all races are on [as of print date]. Johansen writes, “After the uncertainties of 2020, we are all glad to see that this year is certainly shaping up to be a great racing season!”
The cost of cutting access to healthy fisheries

By Jerry Fraser
First published in National Fisherman, April 6. Reprinted with permission

In the early 1980s, when I was fishing a dayboat dragger out of Ogunquit, Maine, a noise ordinance came before the town meeting under the terms of which, as we understood them, fishermen would not be able to start their engines before 7 a.m.

On the bait wharf, we viewed the proposal as the child of well-heeled folks from away who liked the idea of water views and fishing boats but drew the line at having to listen to diesel engines starting up before breakfast.

Talk of the ordinance created quite a stir in the run-up to town meeting, but not so much among the fishermen. We would fish on our schedule, noise ordinance or no.

But that was then. Tourism was not yet a year-round industry nor was new-home construction a way of life. Coastal communities were still home to “working class” families, and during winter it was common to find laid-off commercial fishermen trying to earn a paycheck. As a result, the connection to fishing was not casual, but intrinsic. Fishing was woven into the fabric of coastal communities.

Much has changed, especially, for example, in New England’s groundfish ports. The wharves in Portland, Maine, and Gloucester, Mass., that I scrambled over are now home construction a way of life. Coastal communities were still home to “working class” families, and during winter it was common to find laid-off commercial fishermen trying to earn a paycheck. As a result, the connection to fishing was not casual, but intrinsic. Fishing was woven into the fabric of coastal communities.

Rather, as we get better at managing fish, the conservation community divines new rationales to curtail fishing. First it was the need to eliminate bycatch, which the fishing industry has by and large accomplished, at considerable cost. Then it was the need to create underwater game preserves, known as marine protected areas. Now we are told that we have until 2030 to expand these MPAs until they encompass 30 percent of the world’s oceans, as well as ban trawling if we are to save the planet from carbon dioxide.

Anyone who thinks his or her fishery is exempt from persecution is living in another world. Maine’s venerable lobster fishery justifiably has been held up as an example of a partnership between management and fishermen for the betterment of all. Along come advocates for the endangered northern right whale, who allege the lobster fishery is killing the whale, and all bets are off. The fact that the sad fate of northern rights can in no way be tied to the practices of Maine lobstermen is irrelevant.

As if that were not enough, a floating 12-megawatt wind turbine that clean-energy enthusiasts hope will make the case for wind power in the Gulf of Maine is to be tested this spring. Lobster catchers say they are already losing gear to associated survey vessels and fear the impact of the power cable on the sea floor. Long-term plans for as many as a dozen windmills 20 to 40 miles offshore are not setting well with the fishing industry.

There’s a disturbing pattern here. In the case of the right whale, ship strikes and entanglements with Canadian fishing gear are the pre-eminent threats to the animal. Yet advocates demand that Maine lobstermen take expensive and, in some cases, far-fetched measures to save the species.

When it comes to wind turbines, lobstermen are told about the hundreds of jobs turbine construction will produce. That certainly would excite me if I had a mortgage on a half-million-dollar boat and $100,000 worth of gear in the water. And why is it that someone is always telling fishermen that they should be licking their lips at prospects for waterfront jobs in the post-fishing economy?

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LOBSTERMEN DEEPLY TROUBLED BY PROPOSED WHALE REGULATIONS

By MLA staff

On May 31, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is under a court order to finalize a series of regulations designed to protect the North Atlantic right whale and to begin implementation of its new Biological Opinion on the lobster and nine other fixed gear fisheries in U.S. waters. Maine lobstermen and others concerned about the impact these regulations will have on social and economic fabric of the Maine coast submitted comments opposing the regulations. Lobstermen repeatedly pointed out that Maine lobster gear is not driving the right whale decline and that a 98% reduction in risk to right whales as required under the Biological Opinion would effectively close the fishery. We present excerpts from selected letters here.

Michael Hunt, Corea
I am deeply troubled by the proposed new regulations and the disproportionate effect they will have on the lobster industry. ... Maine lobster fishermen and women are stewards of the environment. Our livelihoods and those of future generations depend on maintaining a healthy and thriving ocean. When asked of us we have always answered the call to action, with an eye towards sustainable conservation of the lobster resource and the surrounding marine environment as a whole. Placing the brunt of responsibility of the right whales’ continued survival on the Maine lobster fishery is at best misguided, and at worst could potentially destroy an iconic and environmentally sustainable industry while providing no real benefit for right whales. ... The lobster industry is being made responsible for risk that is not ours. We need to know that Canada and the rest of the U.S. fishing fleet is on par with Maine’s current rules that have been saving whales for decades.

Joseph B. McDonald, Jonesport
I own and operate the F/V Miss B Haven a 40-foot lobster boat, which day fishes out of Jonesport. I am writing in opposition to the rules being proposed. These rules will essentially close the Maine lobster fishery inside of 10 years while adding no value to the incidental catch of any whales, much less a right whale. Speaking to the economic impact on my operation and family, it will displace a 50-year-old lobster fisherman who has worked 50 years to start to realize some debt-free ownership in his business assets. It will render them worthless, eliminate my only source of income, and probably leave my daughter unable to attend college in four years unless she can secure private loans. ... To put people ashore when they have no connection to the loss of this species is WRONG!

Kevin Glover, Owls Head
I am 37 years old and have lobstered my whole life. I am also the Zone D-8 representative for the fisherman of Owl’s Head. I made a choice at the age of 17 to make a career out of lobstering. I had a choice to either go in debt while going to college or go in debt starting a business, either way it was going to be a lifelong commitment. ... I hope that what you have heard from our fishermen is that a one-size-fits-all plan is not the right way to go about this. I feel that the conservation equivalencies that Maine and the zone councils have brought up are important. I also don’t support the LMA 1 closure. I do not fish out in Area 1, but I do know that if you have a closure in Area 1 it will cause those guys to move their gear and put pressure on other fishing grounds.

Isaac Dworsky
I am a Maine commercial lobster license holder and I believe that these proposed regulations and 98% reduction in impact are misguided. They will result in the end of a tradition and way of life that defines this state and also generates a huge amount of money for it. The onus on harm reduction needs to be placed where it will have effect and that is with big ships. Nobody has more of an interest in keeping the ocean healthy than lobsterman who rely on it and put their faith in it for survival each day.

Carrie Faulkingham, Winter Harbor
I live in Winter Harbor Maine with my husband and 3 children. 100% of our family’s income comes from lobster fishing. If these rules are implemented lobstering would be reduced by 98% in the next decade. My family could not survive if these rules are implemented. No doubt you will read thousands of comments supporting the rules. But that is because power organizations like CLF and the Humane Society will organize people from all over the country to write in on an issue they know nothing about. Here’s what I know. In 25 years of fishing as a captain, and nearly 40 years of being on the water, my husband has never entangled a whale of any species, or even seen a single right whale in his life. Please listen to our pleas. My family’s life depends on this.

Richard Osgood, Lincolnville
I have been a commercial lobsterman since 1994. I fish in Penobscot Bay. ... On my boat my wife and I are the whole crew. Our entire income is on the line. The money I spend in the local economy is huge. These coming regulations would cripple the economy and take everything away from me that I have spent a lifetime building. My business is everything I own. ... We can in no way fish ropeless gear. It will not work. We have a hard time setting gear when we can see the other gear marked by vertical lines. Not only would the cost be beyond absorbable, it cannot work when you cannot see the cost be beyond absorbable, it cannot work when you cannot see the other gear you're setting over that [was] set before you arrived. There would be an unimaginable amount of lost ghost gear. Please do not take my life, and the life of our total local economy and throw it away. It is not going to save the whales, and we will all be dead inside.

Lucas Cates
If the whale regulations pass they will destroy the economy in the state of Maine. ... There has only been one recorded report of a right whale becoming entangled in lobster gear, and most deaths are due to large ships striking the whales. You should try to focus on more apparent and important issues then trying to shaft the smaller self-employed fisherman!

Susan Hutchinson, Deer Isle
The current proposed rule, if passed, will have a devastating effect on local coastal fishing communities and will be largely ineffective in regard to protecting North Atlantic right Whales. The incidents of whale entanglements and boat strikes have occurred largely in Canadian waters, not US waters. It is ridiculous to punish Maine fishermen for whale injuries and deaths that don’t even occur in our water. Coastal communities, such as our island of Deer Isle, depend on the lobster industry as the foundation of the local economy. Banks, schools, grocery stores, fuel and bait trucks drivers, etc. depend largely upon the lobster industry. If lobster goes down, the entire backbone of the community will be broken. Families will move away. The schools will see massive decreases in enrollment. Banks will foreclose on house mortgages. The effects will be swift and vast. As a lobster fisherman’s wife, I am asking that this proposed rule be stopped before it starts. Thank you for your consideration.

Joshua Todd, Chebeague Island
Hello! I am a 19-year-old fisherman from Chebeague Island. I own a 45-foot lobster boat and go lobstering, scalloping, tuna fishing and pogie seining. At 17 I upgraded from my 30-foot Repco to my 45-foot Novi, flying to Nova Scotia the day after my high school graduation and steaming it home. I bought my Area 1 lobster permit at 18 and began fishing Zone F and G offshore in the winter. I pour my heart and soul into fishing, being a 11th generation fisherman, I can’t imagine doing anything else or wanting to do anything else. I would love to do this good forever. ... I actually don’t mind at all making it so it’s a safer place for whales in the Gulf of Maine, but I also don’t want to be jobless in 10 years. I like the idea of the purple markers cause if one did get caught up in an endline you could see where it was from. I guess I’m not sure exactly what to say besides I’d hate to see this industry brought to its knees due to over regulations.

Continued on next page
which may include closure of a large fishing area in Lobster Management Area L1 in concert with a ten-year conservation plan for the region included in NOAA’s Biological Opinion are enough to keep any fisherman awake at night.

Yet lobstermen are standing up proudly for their livelihoods and the sustainable fishery they have built over the decades. On March 21, a parade of more than 80 lobster boats, some bearing signs proclaiming “Save the Lobstermen, Stop the Mills!” traveled between Monhegan and Boothbay Harbor, tracing the route of a survey vessel hired to determine the undersea electrical cable path for the planned wind turbine. The protest was organized quickly and quietly by area lobstermen to bring attention to both the activities of the survey vessel and lobstermen’s staunch antagonism toward future ocean wind projects.

“It was really cool to see everyone come together like that. I was glad we could all get along on that day,” said Erick Harjula, 31, a Spruce Head lobsterman who didn’t find out about the March 21 protest until after the fact but was delighted with the outcome. “It was a good peaceful way to keep us at the table. The right to protest is part of our country. It really was something to behold,” he said.

Nick Page, 36, of Boothbay Harbor was lobstering offshore that day but also was impressed by the turnout. “There’s been nothing that big in my memory. In particular that so many lobstermen from different communities turned up,” he said. Page, like many other lobstermen, is concerned that once the Monhegan turbine is up and running, other projects in other parts of the Gulf will blossom quickly. “Once this starts it will just expand. If they get a foot in the door, we will be fighting for generations. The state is moving too quickly on wind. There’s too much going on at once and it is scary for lobstermen,” he said.

The notion that the Gulf of Maine is a wide-open area with great swaths unused by fishermen is a notion that lobstermen are constantly fighting against. Fishermen, whether those fishing for lobster, groundfish, scallops or other species, have specific grounds that they return to year after year. Sometimes the use of those grounds moves from parent to child. If a certain area is closed to fishing, those who currently use it will be hard pressed to find new territory open to them, according to Lee Watkinson, 40, a South Thomaston lobsterman. “The government doesn’t understand that guys have fishing grounds. If you close [an area] they will be in a pickle. Where are they going to go?” he asked.

Watkinson, however, is more concerned about the looming whale rules, which are due to go into effect on May 31. “The whale stuff could just shut us down. I’m much more nervous about that than wind,” he said. Watkinson feels that NOAA has used statistics about right whales to alarm the public. He noted that a male right whale was found in European waters a few years ago and a calf was sighted off the Canary Islands this year. “The science isn’t there. They need to study [the population] more closely. It’s just frustrating. I really don’t know what we are going to do,” he said.

Yet as they set their traps in the water this year as they have done for so many decades in the past, and as the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic begin to ease slightly, lobstermen remain hopeful about the new season. Nick Page has additional reason to get excited as an industry that took the initiative to come up with a tracking system [for right whales] that is safe and effective. Together we can make a difference while preserving our fishing heritage.
DMR LOBSTER SURVEYS GIVE PICTURE OF THE FUTURE

By Melissa Waterman

Many fishermen depend on the Maine Fishermen’s Forum to reconnect with friends and colleagues and get caught up on the latest happenings in lobster management and science. Though the Forum was cancelled this year due to the pandemic, it has held some of its annual seminars through virtual online events. On April 7, the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Bureau of Marine Science staff presented their annual update on the state of the lobster fishery.

Kathleen Reardon, DMR lead lobster biologist, presented an overview of the 2020 lobster season during which Maine lobstermen landed 96 million pounds of lobster, a 5% decline from the previous year. In 2016, a record-breaking 132 million pounds of lobster were landed in the state. Reardon noted the impact that the COVID-19 outbreak had on the lobster fishery last year as well as DMR’s sampling activities. Lobstermen fished less often than in previous years. “There were 40,000 fewer trips in 2020, down 15% from 2019 and down 26% from 2016,” she said. Pounds per trip increased sharply in June and July, then stabilized as the year progressed to rates comparable to previous years.

At-sea sampling aboard commercial lobster boats in 2020 was also curtailed by the pandemic, but samplers were deployed on lobster boats from July to October. “Overall the sublegal catch per trap appears to be down,” said DMR’s Matt Davis. He noted that the sublegal catch in each lobster zone peaked between 2013 and 2017. The catch per trap has dropped during each of the past five years except in zones D and F. The sharpest drops occurred in Zones A, B and C during that time period.

The number of lobsters showing signs of lobster disease was also low throughout the coast last year. However, Davis cautioned that the low rate could be due to the fact that samplers were not operating in May and June. The disease is most prevalent among lobsters at that time prior to the molting season.

In addition to these long-term monitoring programs, DMR completed a three-year study of the size at which female lobsters reach maturity and produce eggs last year. A previous study took place from 1994 to 1998. Given the increased warmth experienced in the Gulf of Maine since then, researchers wanted to know what effect the warmer water may have had on female lobsters. The project collected more than 1,200 female lobsters from throughout the coast and conducted a suite of measurements. “We found that there has been a decrease in size [at maturity] in all three regions,” DMR lobster scientist Jesica Waller said. “We want to do this more frequently to track potential changes as the Gulf continues to change.”

When asked whether there is a connection between the smaller size at maturity and age of the female lobsters, Waller explained the difficulty in getting an accurate age for a lobster. “They don’t have any growth rings. We really don’t know,” she said. Davis added that the decrease in size is alarming. “We’ve seen this big change in eastern Maine in recent years. More sampling took place in western Maine in earlier years so they saw these changes first there,” he explained.

Building on its longstanding study of larval lobster abundance in Boothbay Harbor, DMR will be conducting a broader study this summer in the Gulf of Maine to help predict what future catches may look like. DMR divers operating from fishing vessels conduct one-meter-square samples of the seafloor at 40 sites along the coast. The survey was begun in 1989 by Lobster Institute director Rick Wahle.

“In 2015, all regions ticked up to the 20-year time series and that uptick may be showing up in other surveys,” Russell said. The 2020 samples revealed a smaller decline in juvenile settlement among the lobster zones compared to 2019, with the exception of Zone E, which saw a small increase in settlement. Overall, settlement rates remain near the 20-year average. “Peak settlement appears to be moving east,” Russell said.

Questions about the settlement data, Russell noted that juvenile lobsters prefer water temperatures around 12°C (53.6°F). As the temperature in deeper areas of the Gulf creeps up into that range, more habitat has become available for juvenile settlement. More areas of formerly chilly eastern Maine are becoming suitable for more young are surviving there. “But what is coming next?” Russell asked rhetorically, referring to the steadily increasing average temperature of the Gulf of Maine.

There are two surveys that look at trends in sublegal lobsters, those too small to be legally landed in the fishery. Although the spring inshore trawl survey was canceled last year, the fall survey did take place and its results indicate that the average catch of sublegal lobsters continues to decrease, as it has each year since 2015. DMR staffer Becca Peters noted that the decline occurs in all size groups.

The ventless trap surveys also show that sublegal sized lobsters are down sharply in eastern Maine waters compared to 2019 while sublegal catches in midcoast and western Maine were similar to 2019. The past five years have shown a distinct downward trend in eastern and midcoast Maine with little change in western Maine.
MAINE LOBSTERMEN’S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

STEAMING AHEAD

The Maine lobster industry finally has something to feel good about. On April 28, hundreds of fishermen, families and business people joined together outside of the Augusta Civic Center to oppose offshore wind development. The MLA proudly stood with Maine’s other fishing organizations and hundreds from fishing communities throughout the state to speak with one voice. The Maine Lobstermen’s Association is grateful to the Maine Lobstering Union for organizing this event.

The issues of right whales and wind energy development have been incredibly stressful for everyone. Many of us are having sleepless nights as we try to process what a 98% risk reduction over ten years to protect right whales and massive ocean energy developments will mean for the future of our fishery, for our communities, for the marine environment, and for our kids.

Yet there is a silver lining. Fishermen and fishing groups are working together. Stubborn personalities are putting their eggs aside so that Maine’s fishing industry can speak with one voice. New leaders are emerging and making us proud.

This month I am featuring Orrs Island lobsterman Christopher McIntire as our Steaming Ahead author so that you can experience the amazing speech he made at the rally on April 28. He has eloquently captured the issues and concerns of so many in the fishing industry. McIntire’s words stand as a promise of all that we can accomplish when we work together, listen to one another, and make space for the new leaders who will fight for our future.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and finally feel as though my voice and the voices of other fishermen and concerned members of the community will be heard. Far too often in the state's recent planning around offshore wind development, that has not been the case.

The state’s swift action towards endorsing the overseas corporate takeover of our historical fishing grounds has been disturbing to say the least. Instead of taking the prudent path, conducting non-biased research to better understand the socio-economic and environmental impacts of large-scale industrialization of the Gulf of Maine, the state has taken a ‘Let’s put them out there and see what happens approach.’

Every time a critical question is raised about the functionality or impacts of the governor’s proposed offshore wind project, we are told, ‘We don’t know’ or ‘That’s why it’s a research project.’ The Gulf of Maine and all of the people it supports are not worth being used as a giant test tube. At its core, the governor’s proposed project is not a research project. It will be the world’s largest floating offshore wind array and the largest wind farm to be built in the U.S. to date. It will be owned and operated for 20 to 30 years by the only two options were literally in the Gulf of Maine or our backyard. That they don’t belong in my backyard, I’d choose my backyard. They don’t belong out there in the ocean.

So I urge the people of Maine to support Maine’s fishing industries by saying no to offshore wind and maintaining the shared resource that has sustained coastal Maine for hundreds of years.

Let’s work together to find better renewable energy opportunities that will benefit the people of Maine instead of global energy companies.

Please contact your local senators, representatives and members of local government and let them know that offshore wind is bad for the Gulf of Maine. Let’s work together to find better renewable energy opportunities that will benefit the people of Maine instead of global energy companies.

Please don’t let our government replace generations of people with short-term construction jobs. This is not another case of people saying ‘Not in my backyard’. Because if the only two options were literally in the Gulf of Maine or in my backyard, I’d choose my backyard. They don’t belong out there in the ocean.

So please believe that when we here today say no to offshore wind, it is because we truly believe that it will be bad for the environment, bad for fishermen, and bad for the state of Maine.

I thank you all very much for being here today.

I hope you are as impressed as I am. Please take the time to read more excerpts from the rally on pages 24 and 25. And stay safe on the water.
The MLA Directors continue to meet every other week via Zoom. The board met on April 7 and 21 to continue its ongoing discussions on whales and wind, and how the MLA can most effectively represent our members as these issues evolve. Whales and wind occupy nearly all of the MLA’s staff time and the organization is exploring ways to add more resources to keep up with the resulting workload. The MLA continues its collaborations with other fishing industry groups to ensure that the fishing industry speaks with one voice to effectively elevate our concerns. The MLA Legal Defense Fund has become a critical resource to enable MLA to engage proactively. The MLA will continue to raise funds to ensure the industry can continue to fight for a future for the Maine lobster fishery.

**MLA OPPOSES OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT**

Offshore wind development continues to be a major concern for lobstermen, with the majority of fishermen opposing offshore wind development. The MLA’s formal position is in opposition to offshore wind. The Gulf of Maine is one of the most productive marine ecosystems in the world, which has supported generations of fishermen, a thriving coastal economy, and our heritage. The temperature of the Gulf of Maine is warming and fishermen must adapt to these environmental changes. The MLA strongly opposes industrial development in these precious fishing grounds as the solution to climate change. Offshore wind development will harm the marine environment, replace Maine’s independently owned fishing businesses with the promise of new jobs, and erode the opportunities for the next generation of fishermen to live and work in our coastal communities.

Following the successful peaceful protest on March 21 when nearly 100 lobster boats lined up single file and ran the cable route from Monhegan to Boothbay, lobstermen again took their concerns and their voices to Augusta for a rally against offshore wind on April 28. The MLA supported and participated in the rally. The event attracted hundreds of fishermen, families and community members who stood together to oppose the industrialization of the Gulf of Maine and demand that the state of Maine listen to these concerns, answer the industry’s questions and move forward with complete transparency as the state grapples with how to transition to renewable energy sources.

**BIDEN ADMINISTRATION OSW ANNOUNCEMENT**

Offshore wind supporters received a significant boost from the Biden Administration on March 29, when it announced its ambitious plan to produce 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030. The announcement brought together the National Climate Advisor, and Secretaries of Interior, Energy, Commerce and Transportation departments, as well as energy developers and state leaders.

The Biden Administration claims that its offshore wind energy plan will create 77,000 jobs, generate power for more than 10 million homes and avoid 78 million metric tons of CO2 emissions. The plan includes a $230 million investment in port infrastructure, $3 billion in funding through the Innovative Energy Loan Guarantee Program, and $1 million in grant funding to support development of those facilities may not optimally provide for other ‘reasonable uses’ of the exclusive economic zone. ‘The secretary’s obligations to provide for the protection of national security interests of the United States, ‘and the ‘fair return to the United States’ may weigh in favor of secretarial actions to maximize low-emission and renewable electrical generation from offshore wind facilities, but, in some circumstances, the siting and operation of those facilities may not optimally provide for other ‘reasonable uses’ of the exclusive economic zone."

**DEPT. OF INTERIOR REVERSES FINDING FAVORING OF FISHING INTERESTS**

On April 9, a legal memo from Biden’s Department of the Interior reversed a previous legal opinion released at the end of the Trump Administration resulting in fishing interests being marginalized in offshore wind development discussions. The Trump Administration’s legal memo had determined that the Secretary of the Interior has a duty to prevent interference with existing reasonable uses of the exclusive economic zone, such as fishing or vessel transit. The memo further stated that the Secretary of the Interior should determine what is unreasonable interference from offshore wind developments “based on the perspective of the fishing user.”

The new legal opinion from Biden’s Department of the Interior states, “the secretary’s obligations to provide for the protection of the environment, the preservation of waste, the protection of national security interests of the United States, and the fair return to the United States may weigh in favor of secretarial actions to maximize low-emission and renewable electrical generation from offshore wind facilities, but, in some circumstances, the siting and operation of those facilities may not optimally provide for other reasonable uses of the exclusive economic zone.”

**LOBSTER ZONE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Maine DMR held a round of zone council meetings this spring to discuss the Governor’s proposal to build a commercial wind farm off southern Maine, which the Governor refers to as a research array. The DMR originally planned to meet with only zones D, E and F, which have fishermen who use the area under consideration to site the offshore wind farm in federal waters. However, fishermen in other zones requested that DMR meet with them as well. During the meetings, DMR explained its role in the Maine’s offshore wind development process, provided an overview of the project and focused discussion on the information about fishing activity in the area, gaps in that data, and asked for feedback from zone council members. For the most part, lobstermen expressed strong concern and opposition to the proposed project.

Carl Wilson presented a series of maps of the area of interest, referred to as "the blob." The area of interest is approximately 770 square miles in size. The overview map shows known exclusion zones including shipping lanes and Department of Defense (DoD) exclusion zones. In creating the maps, DMR has relied on publicly available data from its own database, the Northeast Regional Oceans Portal, NMFS, bathymetry charts and individual interviews and conversations. Recently available bathymetry with a 1-mile resolution shows the bottom around Miskin Ground and adjacent shipping lanes is not featureless but has various levels of structure. The new data updates charts based on soundings from over 100 years ago.
What is the diameter impact of the anchoring and dynamic cables?

Although this is still an estimate about 1 nm. If larger turbines get much closer, funds would not cover all aspects of the potential research related to the project. The developer will fund some of the research, but those funds need just enough slack in the system but primarily they are stationary.

Why 12 turbines versus a smaller number?

The proposal is for up to 12 turbines. We do not know how many the turbines will be (though anticipated range is 10-14 MW). And we do want to learn about interactions within an array including whether fishing may occur in or between the turbines. So, the number of turbines needs to be sufficient for testing research ideas.

What kind of fishing might be possible within the array?

The State and the developer will allow fishing within the array. Part of the intent of this project is to test how and what fishing activity can occur. We don't intend for any gear to be off limits but whether it is possible to fish all gear types within a floating array is still an open question, and of course does not mean that fishermen will decide to fish within it.

 winds turbines in the ocean are much bigger than the on-land versions. Here is how the largest turbine on the market, General Electric's 12MW Haliade-X, compares in size to some well-known structures.

### Workshop participants stated concerns about fishing within the array, including the difficulty of using mobile gear within the footprint of the array and any anchors and cables, and tuna fishing where an angler has no control where a fish goes. All webinars and work sessions are recorded and available on the Maine Governor’s Energy Office YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCJNMdh-HCCJf8kPH6Qzg.

### MONHEGAN CABLE SURVEY COMPLETE

On April 19, New England Aqua Ventus (NEAV) announced that survey work on the cable route from Monhegan Island to Boothbay Harbor is complete. NEAV hired Fugro USA to conduct a geophysical and geotechnical seabed survey using three survey vessels: the large M/V Fugro Explorer (260 feet), the M/V Go Liberty (150 feet) and the small R/V Westerly.

NEAV notes that there is a "compensation program in the event of gear loss that may have taken place outside of the survey corridor. The gear loss form posted on its website at https://2blypr312v4ypfi9w15dwdrw-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/NEAV-Gear-Compensation-Form-v1.pdf. Lobstermen must provide information on where and when gear was lost, if Continued on page 10
you witnessed the gear loss, if you tried to grapple for the gear, if you contact-
ed DMR about it, and the number and rigging of the traps. The form must be
signed by all the participants. The Atlantic New England Aquaculture for gear loss
is Duncan McEachern, 254 Commercial Street, Suite 245, Portland Maine, 04101,
207 523 3457 or info@dowdev.com.

MAINE LEGISLATURE UPDATE

As of April 27, the Maine Legislature, including the Marine Resources Committee, continue to conduct its work remotely. Due to COVID, the state Capitol complex is not holding in person meetings and all public hearings and participation are conducted via Zoom or through YouTube. The Marine Resources Committee clerk is Linda Lacroix, 287-1338 or MAR legislature. maine.gov.

Passed

LD 338, An Act To Amend the Law Governing the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (DMR bill) reauthorized the MLMC for five more years, with a sunset of October 1, 2026.

LD 1182, An Act To Allow Commercial Lobster License Holders To Engage In Demonstration Fishing with a Special Charter License (Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) allows commercial lobstermen to also hold a marine harvest-
ing demonstration license if they use different buoys and tags for the demon-
stration harvesting than they use for their commercial lobstering.

Not Passed

LD 767, An Act To Allow the Participation of Marine Patrol Officers in Proceedings for Administrative Suspension of a License or Certificate (DMR bill) proposed to allow a marine patrol officer to represent the Department of Marine Resources in a hearing for administrative suspension of a license or certificate. The Judiciary Committee voted ought not to pass on April 15.

LD 502, An Act To Broaden the Definition of “Working Waterfront” with Respect to Land Use Planning (Rep. McDonald of Stonington) was a concept draft to facilitate a review of working waterfront property to assess whether statutory or regulatory changes are needed to better recognize and account for water-
dependent commercial activities associated with working waterfront in the State’s land use planning, resiliency planning and climate change adaptation strategies. The Environment and Natural Resources Committee voted ought not to pass on April 8.

LD 1146, An Act To Protect Maine’s Waters (Rep. Alley of Beals) was a concept draft to explore significant changes to Maine’s aquaculture leasing laws. The Marine Resources Committee voted ought not to pass on April 20.

Could be scheduled for public hearing during a special session this spring or carried over

LD 101, An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development (Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor) would prohibit any department or agency of state government from permitting, approving or otherwise authorizing an off-
shore wind energy development project. State agencies would be required to submit legislation necessary to align those provisions of law under their respective jurisdictions with the prohibition on offshore wind energy development projects by December 1, 2021. The term “offshore wind energy development project” includes “offshore wind energy projects, deep-water offshore wind energy pilot projects, offshore wind energy demonstration pro-
jects and offshore wind power projects, which are all categories of projects cur-
rently authorized by law. This bill has been referred to the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee and no public hearing has been scheduled.

LD 1619, An Act to Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine’s Territorial Waters (Emergency), would establish a moratorium pro-
hibiting any state agency, municipality or other subdivision of the State from li-
censing, permitting or otherwise authorizing or approving the siting, construc-
tion or operation of a windmill, wind turbine or tower for an offshore wind power project in state-owned submerged lands or Maine’s territorial waters, until 2031. The moratorium does not apply to cables, transmission lines and ports side infrastructure that may support offshore wind energy generation and does not apply to an offshore wind energy demonstration project proposed for a location in the Maine Offshore Wind Energy Research Center for which the Public Utilities Commission has approved the terms of a long-term power pur-
chase agreement. This bill was submitted by the Governor and has been re-
ferred to the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee; no public hearing has been scheduled.

LD 336, An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry (Sen. Lawrence York) would require the Public Utilities Commission to negotiate and, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into or, order another entity to enter into long-term contracts necessary to facilitate research on the development of floating offshore wind energy projects on the outer continental shelf off the coast of Maine. This bill has been referred to the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee and no public hearing has been scheduled.

LD 391, An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Marine Resources (Rep. McCreight Harspwell) is a concept draft to allow the Marine Resources Committee to dis-
cuss amending the laws governing marine resources. No public hearing has

been scheduled.

LD 987, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Portland Harbor Commercial Revitalization Project’s Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell and Dredging Projects (Sen. Chipman of Cumberland), seeks to $69,500,000 bond to construct a confined aquatic disposal cell within Portland Harbor and conduct a maintenance dredge of the marine facilities of Portland and South Portland in order to promote commercial economic growth, maintain the working wa-
terfront and improve the sediment and water quality of the harbor, allowing the marine industry to continue to grow and support the State’s economy. The public hearing is scheduled for April 29 at 10am with the Appropriations Committee.

LD 28 An Act Regarding Access to Lobster Licenses was discussed during the last legislative session and turned into a Resolve directing DMR to evaluate the limited entry system for the lobster industry. DMR reported back on March 15, 2021. DMR presented an overview of the state’s lobster entry program. There are currently 227 people on the waiting list; the longest waiting list is Zone A with 12. In 2020, 60 people from the wait-
ing list and 51 students received lobster licenses. A summary of DMR’s pres-
etation is available at http://legislature.maine.gov/doc/6321. The Committee will resume discussions on this Resolve; the Committee is authorized to pro-
pose new legislation to address this issue. The next work session is tentatively scheduled for May 4.

RIGHT WHALES

NMFS Status Report to Federal Court

NMFS filed its required status report with the D.C. District Court on March 30. The memo provided updates on NMFS actions to finalize the Proposed Rule and Biological Opinion. Once again, NMFS has not provided any new informa-
tion. The letter informs the court that they held four virtual public hearings and com-
menced a virtual voting of the Take Reduction Team to solicit feedback on the Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). NMFS writes, "The comment period for the proposed rule and DEIS ended on March 1, 2021, and NMFS is reviewing public comments, which will be addressed in the final EIS and final rule.”

NMFS also informed the court that it provided presentations on the draft Biological Opinion, the proposed rule and DEIS to the New England Fishery Management Council, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, and accepted feedback on the document until February 19. NMFS’ “is working toward completion of a final Biological Opinion by May 31, 2021.” Notably, NMFS does not provide a date for which it expects to finalize the proposed rule.

MLA Submits Multiple Comment Letters on Whales

The MLA submitted lengthy comments on a series of federal actions that will impact Maine lobstermen. Copies of these letters are available on the MLA website at https://mainelobstermen.org/projects/legal-defense-fund/.

• February 19, Comments on draft Biological Opinion
• March 1, Comments on Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement
• March 4, Comments on Draft Right Whale Stock Assessment
• March 26, Vessel Strike Speed Rule Assessment
• April 2, Climate Resiliency for Fisheries and Protected Resources

The MLA also organized a letter of support (from MLA, MLDA, MFCA, DELA, SMLA) which was included in NMFS’s request for funds for a federal Community Funding Project to conduct outreach with the fishing industry to prepare for future right whale rules. DMR included this summary of the project request: “The Maine lobster fishery provides $1.5b in revenue to the state through its direct supply chain, and thousands of jobs. Over the next decade, regulatory actions to protect right whales are going to require the fishery to significantly change its operations. These changes are expected to have far-reaching im-
pacts throughout the supply chain and related shoreside industries, as well as coastal communities. Planning for the future of this fishery is critical to the economic survival and resilience of Maine’s coastal economy. There are also many members of the public, both within and outside of Maine, who appreci-
te the existence and inherent value of right whales. Engaging industry in these difficult conversations around regulatory action to protect right whales is im-
portant not just for the future of the industry but also for the species.”

2021 RIGHT WHALE CALVING SEASON A NOTABLE SUCCESS

NOAA has created a website documenting the mothers and 17 calves born in 2021. “Since the start of the 2021 North Atlantic right whale calving season, researchers have identified 17 live calves. Only 22 births were observed during the previous four calving seasons combined, which is less than one-third the previous average annual birth rate for right whales.” Put another way, 34 calves were born over the last three years.
These numbers do not include a dead North Atlantic right whale calf identified on February 13 along the Florida coast; death was due to a vessel strike. This was the first calf of the female called Infinity which was also observed with injuries consistent with a vessel strike. There were two other calves that are not included in the count.

On December 22, 2020, a newborn calf was sighted off El Hierro, an island in the Canary Islands, which is a historic North Atlantic right whale habitat. The calf was not seen with a mother and has not been seen since. The first documented right whale birth of the 2021 season was found washed ashore dead on a barrier island off North Carolina on November 20, 2020. Necropsy results suggest the calf died during birth, or shortly thereafter.

The right whale calving season begins in mid-November and runs through mid-April. Female right whales become sexually mature at about age 10. They give birth to a single calf after a year-long pregnancy. Three years is considered a normal or healthy interval between right whale births.

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**2021 TRAP TAGS**

Lobstermen are reminded that trap tags must be in traps by June 1.

**2021 AREA 1A HERRING SEASON**

On April 23, ASMFC announced the effort control measures for the herring fishery in Area 1A for June 1 to September 30. The Area 1A sub-anual catch limit (ACL) is only 1,453 metric tons (mt) after adjusting for the carryover from 2019, the 30 mt fixed gear set-aside, and the fact that Area 1A closes at 92% of the sub-ACL. In October 2020, ASMFC established the following seasonal allocations for the 2021 Area 1A sub-ACL: 72.8% (1,058 mt) available for season 1 (June 1 – September 30) and 27.2% (395 mt) available for season 2 (October 1 – December 31).

Fishermen are prohibited from landing more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip from Area 1A until June 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Landings will be closely monitored and the fishery will be adjusted to zero landing days when the season 1 quota is projected to be reached.

**Days Out, Landings Limits and At-Sea Carrier Restrictions for Atlantic Herring Category A permits**

The fishery will start on June 13 at 6:00 p.m. Vessels that have declined into the Area 1A fishery may land herring five (5) consecutive days a week. One landing per 24 hour period. Vessels are prohibited from landing or possessing herring caught from Area 1A during a day out of the fishery.

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

**2021 MAINE MENHADEN SEASON**

On April 26, Maine DMR adopted regulations on the effort restrictions for the 2021 commercial menhaden fishery. The State Allocation fishery opens Monday, June 14, 2021 at 12:01 AM with harvest days on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Vessel weekly limit is set at 23,800 pounds (68 barrels). The Episodic Event fishery will operate on Tuesdays and Fridays with a weekly vessel limit of 14,000 pounds (40 barrels). The Incidental and Small Scale fishery will operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with a daily vessel limit of 6,000 pounds.

Transfers at sea of menhaden to either a harvester or carrier vessels are prohibited during the State Allocation, Episodic Event and Small Scale fisheries. During all three fishery phases, menhaden must immediately be stored in barrels, crates or fish totes, or a combination thereof, upon harvest and remain stored either on the harvester vessel and the dory towed by the harvester vessel, if utilized for all gear types. Menhaden cannot be transferred to another vessel while at sea. Menhaden cannot be received from another vessel while at sea. Same day reporting is required by commercial menhaden harvesters during the state allocation and episodic event fisheries.

The noncommercial menhaden fishery daily limit has been amended from 1,000 pounds to 1,050 pounds to reflect the amount landed in three barrels.


**COAST GUARD AND MASKS**

A Marine Safety Information Bulletin issued by the Coast Guard on March 22 stated the Coast Guard’s authority to restrict vessel access to ports and operations if they fail to follow the rules as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Coast Guard recently affirmed that the CDC’s mask mandate for public and commercial transportation applies to commercial fishing and research vessels. The Coast Guard informed the New England Fishery Management Council during its April meeting, however, that they are not specifically targeting enforcement of the mask mandate in its fisheries enforcement activities. In late April, the CDC eased its guidelines on the wearing of masks outdoors.

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**Hamilton Marine**
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Wayne Hamilton started selling commercial fishing supplies out of his Searsport garage in 1977. Since then, he and the Hamilton Marine crew have made it their mission to put the right products in the hands of the commercial fishermen, and at the best prices! All six Hamilton Marine stores have extensive commercial sections, if not entire warehouses, dedicated to stocking and supplying the people of the fishing industry. If you are a lifetime lobster fisherman or a sternman just starting out...

Hamilton Can Help!

Wayne Hamilton takes a few HM Crew members out to learn about lobstering in Searsport, Maine. Photos by Sophie Engstrom ©

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Email: plovell@wmca.org

1 in 3 Adults Has Prediabetes.

You Can Prevent Type 2 Diabetes

If you’re overweight, physically inactive, or 45+ years old, you may be at risk for this silent killer. As an MLA member, you can delay or even reverse the onset of diabetes with The Preventive Plan, a wellness program we’re making 100% free to you… Space is limited, so find out if you are at risk, and reserve your seat today: https://www.uspm.com/dpp.
MARKETING UPDATES

MLMC is driving demand for Maine Lobster in 2021 with creative projects like the following:

**PRODUCT INNOVATION**
Partnering with a product development team to create new packaged product concepts featuring underutilized lobster mince – the flavorful bits of meat that come out of the shell during processing.

**NEW RECIPES**
Working with influencers to develop and promote 20+ new Maine Lobster recipes with photography and video that we will use to inspire consumers to cook with lobster throughout the year.

**SWEET SUITE**
Teaming up with the Kennebunk Resort Collection to develop the Sweet Suite, a lobster-themed hotel suite that will include a unique lobster menu, a lobster boat tour and more.

facebook.com/lobsterfrommaine  twitter.com/lobsterfromme  instagram.com/lobsterfrommaine
Save Maine’s Lobster Industry

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

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

Patrice McCarron, executive director
Maine Lobstermen’s Association

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

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

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

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

Science
Demand that policy decisions are based on sound science

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

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

#Save Maine Lobstermen
### Gifts $10,000 - $49,999
- MASS Lobstermen’s Association
- John C Ready III
- Brendan Ready

### Gifts $5,000 - $9,999
- Sebastian Belle
- Downeast Lobstermen’s Association
- Matt Poole

### Gifts $1,000 - $4,999
- Tom Allen
- W. Kennedy Boone III
- Jerome Briggs
- Elizabeth Fenwick
- Michael Flanigan
- Samuel Hyler
- Chip Johnson
- Jack Merrill III
- Josh Polk
- Matt Poole
- Craig Sproul
- Lee Watkinson

### Gifts $500 - $999
- Joshua Ames
- Sonny Beal
- Mark Bradstreet
- David Cousins
- News Company LLC
- Andrew Hall
- Todd Hubbard

### Gifts $500 - $999 Cont’d
- Stuart Jones
- Jennifer Kelley
- Midcoast Marine Supply (T-shirt sales)
- William Most
- Cody Nunan
- Robert O’Hara Jr
- Alton Pinkham
- Jeffrey Putnam
- Sam Rosen
- Keith Simmons
- Kathryn Simmons
- Kathryn Slocum
- Ronald Weeks

### Gifts $300 - $499
- Jason Alley
- Alison Farrell
- Herman Faulkingham
- Thomas Fernald
- Blaine Hutchinson
- Donald Jones
- Samuel Joy
- Steve Miller
- Zachary Piper
- Todd & Kim Simmons
- Samantha Thompson
- Chuck Williams

### Gifts $100 - $299 Cont’d
- Eric Brazer
- Greg Byrer
- John Clinton
- Patrick Clough
- Joseph Donnelly
- Jordan Drouin
- William Faulkingham
- Harland Flynn
- Kevin Glover
- Michael Hutchings
- Bobby Ingalls
- Roger Kellett
- Kyle Koerber
- Gene Lazaro
- Kenneth Lemont
- Gary Libby
- Ryan Miller
- Marianne Masters
- Mike & Karen McConnell
- Kyle Nichols
- William Nichols
- Justin Philbrook
- Janet Pollack
- William Putnam
- Margie– Alice Reyes
- Steve Rosen
- Joseph Salisbury
- Michael Sargent
- Irving Brett Schwab
- Randall Shepard
- Isaac Simmons
- Carli Stewart

### Gifts $100 - $299 Cont’d
- Virginia Wadleigh
- Kenneth Weed
- Walter Willey IV
- Donald Wright

### Gifts Under $100
- A.M. Associates Inc (T-shirt sales)
- Nancy Beal
- Theodore Boyce
- Jon Emerson
- Corey Engle
- Jeffrey Greiner
- Greg Haven
- Allison Hepler
- Lindsay Hocking-Hauser
- Must Be Nice Lobster Co
- Gordon Murray
- Zoe Pellegrino
- Ready Real Estate
- John Rohrer
- Sadie Samuels
- Bradley West
- Caleb Wiesing
- Richard Wilson
- Amber Wotton

### Gifts In Memoriam
- In Memory of Gilbert Collamore Sr
- Clinton Collamore

---

### DONATE TODAY to #SaveMaineLobstermen

We are now in a 10-year battle to prevent Maine’ lobstering heritage from begin erased. Your donation to the LDF makes this effort possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Business Name: ______________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>___________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City: __________________</td>
<td>State: __________ Zip: __________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: __________________</td>
<td>Email: ________________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**I’d like to donate:**
- $10,000 (Brooks Trap Mill Challenge)
- $5,000 (Alec Phippen Challenge)
- $1,000 (Jay Smith Challenge)
- $500
- $365 “a dollar a day”
- $100
- Other: ___________________________

**MLA Legal Defense Fund: 2 Store St, Suite 203, Kennebunk, ME 04043  www.mainelobstermen.org  207-967-4555**
### Experimental Lease Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Applicant/Company</th>
<th>Site Description</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sea Run Fisheries &amp; Habitat</td>
<td>E of Western Head &amp; L1 Rivr Isl, Cutler Harbor</td>
<td>Cutler</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>Finfish</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Site Review Complete 3/20/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffin, Chad</td>
<td>W of Moore Pt, NE of Pound of Tea, Harraseeket River</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>1.62 shelfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>appl submitted</td>
<td>Comments due 12/12/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiskey Stones, LLC</td>
<td>E of Doga Head, Harpswell Sound</td>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>0.481 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>App rec'd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chebeague Island Oyster Co. LLC</td>
<td>NW of L1 Chebeague, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>1.72 shelfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing Postponed</td>
<td></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 Scheduled 3/18/21 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muszel Bound Inc.</td>
<td>Barlett Narrows, Blue Hill Bay</td>
<td>Mount Desert</td>
<td>3.55 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing Scheduled 3/18/21 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirigo Marine Resources, LLC</td>
<td>E of Wolfe’s neck, Reconfig Bay</td>
<td>So Freeport</td>
<td>3.85 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>appl rec'd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Point LLC</td>
<td>South of Merry Island, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>So Damariscotta</td>
<td>3.96 shelfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Comments due 2/6/2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis, Arnold</td>
<td>East of Birch Point, Dyer Bay</td>
<td>Steuben</td>
<td>2.86 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Lease is granted 3/26/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis, Arnold</td>
<td>Smell Brook, Dyer Bay</td>
<td>Steuben</td>
<td>3.7 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Lease is granted 3/26/2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Standard Lease Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Applicant/Company</th>
<th>Site Description</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Aqua Farms LLC</td>
<td>NE of Sunken Ledge, Frenchman Bay</td>
<td>Bar Harbor</td>
<td>68.3 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session sched for 2/5/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pemaquid Mussel Farms LLC</td>
<td>Mt Desert narrows, E of Coogins Ledge</td>
<td>Bar Harbor</td>
<td>32 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session sched 11/19/20 5 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tightrope Farms</td>
<td>south of Calvin Island, Salt Pond</td>
<td>Blue Hill</td>
<td>7.25 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 6/23/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Timothy</td>
<td>SE of 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 4/21/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shearwater Ventures LLC</td>
<td>E of L1 Chebeague, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>3.79 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 4/29/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Point LLC</td>
<td>N of Lower Basket Ledge</td>
<td>Chebeague Isl</td>
<td>53.38 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 11/12/20 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schonick 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 &amp; Cumberland</td>
<td>100 acres</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review pending as of 12/2/21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Point LLC</td>
<td>S Lower Basket Ledge</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>see above</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickenson, Christopher</td>
<td>800 ft SW Hog Island, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>Damariscotta</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing May 10 3 pm - remote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodge Cove Marine Farm</td>
<td>SE of Dodge Pt</td>
<td>Damariscotta</td>
<td>11.6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>shut app rec’d, scoping session 2/16/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinney Creek Shellfish, Inc.</td>
<td>NW of Rt 95 Bridge, Spinney Creek</td>
<td>Eliot</td>
<td>2.75 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>hearing sched for 6/16/21 - see MLA calendar for more info about participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffin, Bailey</td>
<td>W of Sow &amp; Pigs Isl, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>6.64 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 12/21/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harraseeket Oyster Co.</td>
<td>S of Bowman Isl &amp; Stockbridge Pt, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>7 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 9/4/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Point Oystres, LLC</td>
<td>SE of Winlock Park, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>4.78 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 9/11/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Point Oystres, LLC</td>
<td>S of Crab Island, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>4.15 acres</td>
<td>Oysters</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review pending as of 2/20/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islesboro Marine Enterprises, Inc</td>
<td>NE of Flat Island, Penobscot Bay</td>
<td>Islesboro</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application rec’d 4/1/21, site review TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gldden Point Oyster Co.</td>
<td>West shore, S of Jacks Pt, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>5.5 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing 10/27/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermit Island Oyster Co, LLC</td>
<td>Hermit Isl, Small Pt Hbr, New Meadows River</td>
<td>Phippsburg</td>
<td>2.56 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 3/30/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Fresh Sea Farms LLC</td>
<td>Clark Cove, Damariscotta River</td>
<td>So Bristol</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Marine Algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 11/09/20 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frenchman Bay Oyster Co.</td>
<td>W &amp; S of Ingalis Isl, Sullivan Harbor</td>
<td>South Bristol</td>
<td>5.85 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review pending as of 10/17/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewey’s Shellfish, LLC</td>
<td>NW of Peters Island/Damariscotta River</td>
<td>South Bristol</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session sched 3/11/20 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewer, Robert</td>
<td>E of Penobscot Bay SW of Andrews Island</td>
<td>Stonington</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 12/21/20 4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey, Brian</td>
<td>W of Haynes Pt, Goose Cove, Western Bay</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review Pending as of 3/27/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfield, Keith</td>
<td>SE of Little Mosher Island</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>2.72 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish/algae</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Scoping Session 11/16/20 5 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henniger, Thomas</td>
<td>Broad Cove, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>5.9 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Application submitted 7/9/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Source Seafoud</td>
<td>E of Lane’s Isl, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>3.34 acres</td>
<td>Oysters</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Public Hearing 3/16/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morser, Amanda</td>
<td>S of Lanes Isd, Inner Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>9 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>20 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 3/8/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfe Neck Oyster Co. LLC</td>
<td>SE of Lanes Island, Casco Bay</td>
<td>Yarmouth</td>
<td>8 acres</td>
<td>Shellfish</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>Site Review complete 3/22/20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

For more information, visit the DMR website [www.main.gov/dmr/aquaculture](http://www.main.gov/dmr/aquaculture) and select “Map & Lease Inventory (pending & current)” The MLA recommends you sign up for email alerts about aquaculture by selecting the big red email button at the bottom of their aquaculture page.

Understand the process! You can make a difference!
Welcome to the Zone F meeting to discuss the offshore wind project proposed by the state of Maine.

This windmill array is proposed to go somewhere in Zone D, E, or F. If you do not fish in these zones please don’t make the mistake of thinking that this may not affect you. If roughly 16 square miles of Zone F are taken up by windmills the gear that is displaced from that area could relocate into your zone.

And even more importantly, the state is very clear that this commercial/research array is a pilot project. Full-scale commercial development could start within five years. If the area that you are fishing now is not impacted by this proposed project, the next project very well could end up in an area where you are working. The mid-coast and southern Maine offshore waters are going to be looked at as highly desirable by offshore wind developers because of the ease of access to the power grid in Maine that feeds the larger New England market.

If this array does not directly affect where you fish now, the transmission lines into shore very well could. If you are a Zone F fishermen and this project goes in, you will not know big of an exclusion zone for fishing there will be around the floatation platforms, you will not know what type of mooring system will be used or how much scope, you will not know how those mooring lines will affect right whales, you will not find out what the transmission lines will do to the lobster migration or the ground fish population, you will not see a magic location that the state has found that is unused by lobstermen or ground fishermen or tuna fishermen or scallopers. In fact, the state’s own data show that there is not an area that is not used for commercial fishing anywhere in this area and beyond.

You will not see a study that addresses the socio-economic impacts to fishing families on coastal Maine. You will know, however, that a box has been checked by the State of Maine that says ‘Outreach to fishermen’. It doesn’t matter that we may voice our displeasure with this project, all we will get is a simple ”Thanks for your thoughts” or “Your opinion matters to us”.

To use an analogy, if an aquaculture firm came into Maine and said they wanted to develop a 16 square mile area for aquaculture but could not answer any of the questions that I just mentioned and could not show that existing users would not be adversely affected, they would be laughed out of the room by the very people who are proposing to file the permit for this offshore wind development. The Lobster Advisory Council has already voted against this project, the fishing organizations have all spoken out against offshore wind development and I hope that before the conclusion of tonight’s meeting Zone F can take an official position that we oppose offshore wind development off of the state of Maine. I hope that matters to this state.

Jeff Putnam is chair of the Lobster Zone F Council. He also operates an oyster farm on Chebeague Island.
My favorite work event of the year just happened. It was the Fishermen’s Climate Roundtables. Fishermen’s Climate Roundtables is an annual opportunity for fishermen and scientists to come together and share notes about the past fishing year, as well as the longer-term environmental changes they are noticing on the water. For me, a marine scientist, there is nothing more intellectually interesting than conversing with a group of fishermen. Fishermen often see changes on the water before scientists. For them, sharing their real-time, on-the-water perspective can inform the direction of applied research that is meaningful to their livelihoods.

This year marked our 15th annual roundtables event, making it the longest running annual event hosted by the Island Institute—a definite cause for celebration. It also marked one year since I have actually seen any of the colleagues and friends that participate in this gathering in person. There is a core group of about 15 fishermen who attend every year and a larger group that attends intermittently, largely depending upon how the fishing weather has been that week and if they can afford to take a day off of the water. Notably, this year, another factor was how overwhelmed they are by the challenges facing the industry. Depending upon the specific topics of interest identified by the fishermen, one or two marine scientists are also invited to attend each year to listen and share their research results.

The spirit of the event is very informal and gets at the heart of why I love my job. It is all about bringing people together who might not otherwise talk to each other and sharing information about science! It’s an opportunity to hear from true naturalists—fishermen who have spent the better part of the last 40 years working together, even if over Zoom. There wasn’t even a table, but there were many of the same friendly faces, working together, even if it has to be virtually, we can make a positive impact and prioritize lobster research needs going forward. For instance, in response to questions from fishermen about ocean acidification’s impacts on lobsters, we led a long-term push to establish a legislative study commission to address the impacts of ocean acidification on Maine’s commercially important marine species and highlight the need for more research to understand potential risks posed to lobsters. Additionally, because of the recent juxtaposition of high numbers of females with eggs but fewer baby lobsters showing up in the nearshore surveys, participants asked for more information about offshore settlement, or the possibility of baby lobster settling in deeper depths than could be surveyed using the current method. Now there is an ongoing and expanding research program to determine if baby lobsters are settling in deeper waters that are now warm enough to be hospitable nursery habitats.

During the March 2020 roundtables we talked a lot about bait availability and invasive seaweed and how the troubles surrounding both are linked to warming waters. The day ended, as it does every year, except for this one, with dinner out at a Rockland watering hole and more exchange of stories from on and off the water. By contrast, the March 2021 roundtables couldn’t have been more different. There wasn’t even a table, but there were many of the same friendly faces, committed to catching up and learning, even if over Zoom. The social component was surely missed, especially given the added stress facing the fishery from the pandemic, new whale rules, and proposals of offshore wind farms. This year’s topic was a major testament to the years of observations shared by and cooperative research with fishermen as well as a big advancement in science. We focused on the new lobster stock assessment, which was the first ever to include climate variables. Lobstermen have been talking about climate impacts on their fishery for 15 years at the roundtables, and the science has finally caught up and included how changes in environmental parameters are impacting lobster populations.

So much has changed in this fishery because of climate change, and we know more is to come. Over and over fishermen have adapted to these changes. Many are also committed to mitigating them, by increasing the energy efficiency of their operations or putting solar panels on their fishing co-ops. Throughout these past 15 years, we have seen many changes within the industry and have worked to find ways to address the issues raised at the Fishermen’s Climate Roundtables. This event continues to show us that by coming together and working together, even if it has to be virtually, we can make a positive impact on the challenges facing our coast.

Relationships matter. Communication matters. Science matters. To put it all together to solve the complex, climate-related problems facing fisheries today, fishermen and scientists need a seat at the table. We’re proud to play a role in helping to ensure those conversations can happen.
The Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) found itself in a delicate situation last year. The Collaborative’s mission is to build demand for Maine lobster. Yet national environmental organizations had focused public attention on the decline in the North Atlantic right whale population and a spate of recent deaths, which, the organizations contended, was due to the presence of vertical lobster buoy lines in the water. The reputation of the Maine lobster fishery, a globally-recognized sustainable fishery pursued by small owner-operators, was at stake.

The Collaborative acted quickly to counter incorrect information about Maine lobstermen and the fishery. “We have always acted to protect the reputation of the industry, whether it’s been against other organizations like PETA or about climate change. We recognized that lobstermen were frustrated about how they are portrayed in the media,” said Marianne LaCroix, executive director of the MLMC. The Collaborative produced a fact sheet about the industry for consumers and seafood buyers, which was re-vamped and re-released this spring. Several videos on the MLMC’s web site and a specifically dedicated web site (www.rightwhalesandmainelobster.com) further emphasized the conservation aspects of the fishery and the sustainable practices of the men and women who harvest lobsters along Maine’s coast.

The MLMC also created a technical fact sheet on ropeless fishing, a technology being developed that uses acoustic monitors to release traps from the seafloor. Environmental organizations have advocated strongly for instituting ropeless fishing throughout the right whales’ territories. The fact sheet, created specifically for seafood dealers, documents why such technology, now in its infant stage of development, would not be practical in the U.S. lobster fishery.

In addition, the MLMC conducted a consumer survey to discern what effect the barrage of unfounded accusations about the lobster industry’s role in the right whale decline has had on consumer preferences. “We conducted the survey last year in June. We found that most consumers did not know about the issue and among those that did, it hadn’t affected their buying habits,” LaCroix said. The Collaborative plans to conduct a similar survey this year with added questions concerning what messages are reaching consumers and their general impression of Maine lobstermen.

This summer the MLMC will continue to focus on its own message — that the Maine lobster fishery is a sustainable fishery based on conservation practices going back decades — with a series of stories for East Coast television stations. Reporters will be able to remotely ask questions of lobstermen while camera crews record the interviews. The pre-recorded video stories will be available to stations for use whenever they wish; the video material also will be used by the Collaborative.

In 2020, the Marine Stewardship Council suspended certification of the Maine lobster fishery due to legal issues following the federal court case against the National Marine Fisheries Service brought by environmental organizations. The blue MSC label is a “must have” for seafood buyers throughout the U.S. and abroad. “Suspension could be a problem for retail buyers,” LaCroix said. “So we put out information informing them of the specific reasons behind it. We want buyers to have confidence in the product.”

LaCroix recognizes the numerous changes Maine lobstermen have made over the last 20 years to better protect right whales. As she sees it, the MLMC’s job is to ensure that consumers also recognize those actions.

“If the whales shifted to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a new habitat. They are not frequenting Maine waters as they once did. So even if Maine does make additional changes [to the fishery], it will not be able to save the whales by itself. We don’t want everyone to breathe a sigh of relief if Maine does make significant changes because those won’t save the whales,” she said.
Diamond Offshore Wind (a subsidiary of the Mitsubishi Corporation) and RWE Renewables, a division of a large German multinational energy company. As soon as next year, NEAV plans to build the first U.S. floating offshore wind turbine off of Monhegan Island, consisting of a 750-foot-tall turbine (to the top of the blade) built on a 300-foot concrete floating platform in 300 feet of water, secured to the bottom by chains on a 30-foot anchor, with an underwater cable running to the mainland. A second larger wind farm, being developed in partnership with the Mills Administration, is proposed in an area around Platts Bank, one of the Gulf of Maine’s most productive ecosystems. This proposed commercial wind farm would comprise up to 12 large turbines placed across an area the size of 7,600 football fields. The electricity produced would be sent by cable to shore for 20 to 30 years. The Mills Administration touts this as a “research array.”

“The state calls this a ‘research array’ under the guise that we can learn from this project but has not allocated a single penny to do this work,” noted McCarron. “Yet the state has no problem gambling the future of Maine’s fragile ocean ecosystem. sustainable fisheries, and the livelihoods of the tens of thousands of families it supports along our coast.” Governor Mills told the U.S. Climate Alliance on April 21 that the state is “drafting a research project for floating offshore wind that is ready to go to BOEM very soon” while the fishing industry continues to call for completion of Maine’s Offshore Wind Roadmap roadmap before any offshore wind energy sites are selected in the Gulf of Maine.

The April 28 rally was a strong show of unity among Maine’s diverse fishermen and industry associations. “If we speak loud enough and long enough and have lots of people like we do here today, we can win the day,” John Hathaway, CEO of Shucks Maine Lobster, told the crowd. “It’s not how many times you get knocked down, it’s how many times you get up... We’re ready to stand up, to speak up, to rise up, and make our voices heard. And our votes count to those inside those four walls who make our laws. It’s our right, it’s our duty to our communities and our families. If we speak up, politicians will listen. They represent us. It’s their duty and it’s also their political future. If not the big money wins. So it’s all up to us. It’s up to all of us to speak up to speak the truth and if we do the politicians will listen and Maine lobster will win the day.”

“We are all in this together. Our efforts today, I believe, will determine the future of our children and grandchildren who may want to be part of this industry,” stated lobstersman Clinton Collamore of Waldoboro.

The rally ended with a motorcade of hundreds of trucks and cars that travelled from the Augusta Civic Center to the Blaine House.

It is past time to have some uncomfortable discussions. What price, for example, is the lobster industry expected to pay to mitigate the risk of entanglement of a single right whale? When was the last entanglement, anyway? Should we, in the name of good intentions, decimate an industry that is a way of life along Maine’s coast and provides thousands of jobs afloat and ashore? That’s a tough question, but it’s fair. The truth is that northern rights will survive — or not — regardless of what Maine lobstermen do.

An analogous discussion is called for regarding wind turbines. Even stipulating that a shift to clean energy is inevitable, what’s the master plan? Is it to try this and that and here and there and tell folks adversely affected to suck it up? Lately we hear a lot about economic justice; the idea that the most successful economies are the ones that are fairest to the most people. It’s a worthy if idyllic notion, and typically we hear it in the context of citizens who have not been afforded opportunities others have embraced. The notion applies as well to working men and women, including those involved in the use of natural resources. And in its calculation, we are going to have to reckon with worrisome environmental factors — climate change, species decline, and others, as yet uncharted — in such a way that the lives and livings of working people are not the only variables in the equation.
**FISHERMEN SPEAK OUT AT AUGUSTA RALLY AGAINST OFFSHORE WIND INITIATIVES**

Riley Eaton, lobsterman and graduating senior, Deer Isle-Stonington High School

“*I’m an avid supporter of sustainability renewable energy and keeping our environment green. However I do not believe that sticking windmills in the middle of the delicate ocean ecosystem will solve any of our problems. In fact I think it will cause more disruption and disturbance than the small amount of energy we gain is worth.* Why is it OK for there to be many vertical lines floating floating windmills in place but not OK for fishermen to have these lines? The impact on our marine ecosystem will be exponential in ways we don’t even know. These turbines are threatening our industry, my future. If we don’t fight this now we might not have the opportunity to in the future.”

Billy Bob Faulkingham, lobsterman and Representative from Winter Harbor

“We fishermen are great stewards of the environment because we depend on it to make a living... These gigantic pieces of garbage... are a terrible idea for the marine environment... One of the great selling points is that we could be the first in this science project. But why? Why would we do that when we have so much value in the Gulf of Maine would we be a science lab for this experiment?... What does a chain link the size of a Volkswagen car do when it drags the ocean bottom with every ebb and flow of the tide? Absolute devastation... And they’re hired one of the biggest money lobbyists in Augusta to be lobbying our legislators over there. And I can tell you one thing. There is no lobbyist more powerful than these people right here! Make your voice heard. Say no to windmills in the GOM.”

Andrew Dorr, Town Manager, Vinalhaven

“I’m here today to insist that people that are part of the long heritage and tradition of the ocean be given, some rights to try to insure its future success. The lobster fishery makes up an overwhelming majority of our local economy either directly or indirectly... The state’s proposed research array in offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine needs to be reviewed and pursued with only the best interest of the commercial fishing industry in mind. We ask that you slow down take the time to work with commercial fishermen and other ocean users.”

Clinton Collinsmore, lobsterman, Waldoboro

“We’ve always got through it, made it work. It’s our way; the Maine way. But the rate payers, the general public; not just the fishermen are going to feel the impact of what they want to close to fishing to help protect the endangered right whale... And these turbines are threatening our industry, my future... If we don’t fight this now we might not have the opportunity to in the future.”

Michael Yoe, CEO Lobster 207

“In fishing communities of Maine, there is no backup plan... If you want to grow up here and stay here and live in this beautiful state and build a life for your family, you don’t really have many options... Generations of fishermen have invested in the Gulf of Maine... Make no mistake about it, you are in a fight. And the fight is in your backyard... We do all have to have one common goal... to save the industry that you and generations before you have grown and built. Maine lobstermen and their families and our coastal communities are worth fighting for.”

Andrew Dorr, Town Manager, Vinalhaven

“Developing the ocean with incredibly large and astronomically expensive structures does not get us closer to achieving any goals to provide solutions to our climate change emergency. Instead it allows some to continue a lifestyle of overconsumption and abundance, it provides even fewer with a large fortune, and it shutting many family fishing businesses. Businesses like the ones my kids started and are looking forward to working on again this summer. So I ask of everybody to support Maine fishermen, to choose Maine to eat Maine seafood, and to protect the ocean and our climate by becoming better stewards of the ocean and environment.”

JayTECT,<br>**Maine Coastal News**<br>Covers the Coast<br>Like No one Else!<br><br>**What happened at the lobster boat races this year?**<br>Slow or fast we covered it all.<br><br>**What is going on in the boat shops and yards?**

Pick us up on a local newstand or receive it via subscription.**

**Maine Coastal News**<br>P.O. Box 710, Winterport, Maine 04496<br>(207) 233-8846
BATTLE BEGINS OVER WHO CAN WORK ON OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PROJECTS

Maine's largest construction contractors say they fear being shut out of work in the state's nascent offshore wind industry because of a pending labor agreement between the lead project developer and trade unions. At issue is an agreement being negotiated between New England Aqua Ventus and the Maine Building and Construction Trades Council on the role of skilled labor in building a demonstration floating offshore wind turbine near Monhegan Island. That arrangement, called a project labor agreement, would set terms and conditions for employing workers from trade unions on the project. But more broadly, it could set a precedent for work and hiring rules for hundreds of future jobs that clean-energy advocates hope will emerge in offshore wind.

LISTENING FOR SHARKS

The Maine Department of Marine Resources' Great White Shark Research Team installed two acoustic receivers in the water late last year, one off Bailey Island and then another near Popham Beach State Park. They chose both locations because that's where the seals are, a white shark's favorite food. This year, the DMR will install 20 or more acoustic receivers up and down the Maine coast to collect even more data on the status of great white sharks. While white sharks haven't been all that common off Maine, more and more are making their way here as the water warms in the Gulf of Maine. When an acoustic receiver receives a "hit," the Atlantic Great White Shark Conservancy's Sharktivity App will then inform its users where and when the hit took place.

CAN OYSTER SHELLS DE-ACIDIFY CLAM FLATS?

In April, researchers and volunteers laid out 120 plots of crushed oyster shells on a tidal flat in South Portland, near the mouth of the Fore River as it flows into Casco Bay. The experiment will test whether oyster shells collected from restaurants can be used to reduce the acidity of tidal flats and restore shellfish production. Over the next several months, the shells will dissolve; scientists will measure the impact the shells have on the pH of water in the mud. Softshell clams struggle to develop in tidal flats where the mud has a higher pH. The experiment is being conducted by the Downeast Institute, with $99,180 in federal funding through the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership and the Climate Ready Estuaries Program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Project partners include the Maine Coastal Program, Gateways to Opportunity and Bigelow Labs.

SCIENTIST NOMINATED TO HEAD NOAA

The Biden Administration has nominated Rick Spinrad for Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Spinrad is a professor of oceanography at Oregon State University and the former chief scientist for NOAA. The nomination comes as NOAA is amidst the longest period without a Senate-confirmed administrator since its creation in 1970. Former President Donald Trump had nominated Barry Myers, the former CEO of AccuWeather, to the position in 2017, but Myers ultimately withdrew from consideration. Spinrad is an oceanographer with decades of experience. He retired from NOAA in 2016 but Myers had nominated him again after being appointed Chief Scientist under President Obama. Spinrad had been the head of NOAA's Research Office and the National Ocean Service and co-led a White House committee on developing the country's first set of ocean research priorities.

LOBSTER GOES GLORIOUS

A new partnership between the lobster industry’s marketing group and a Kennebunkport hotel aims to promote the crustacean’s popular appeal as well as the industry’s sustainable practices. The Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) and the Boathouse Waterfront Hotel introduced the “Maine Lobster Suite,” which features a guest room with lobster-themed décor and furnishings such as lobster trap rocking chairs and Grundens fishing bibs. Guests also receive a hotel package that includes lobster-themed menus and a lobster cruise, and various promotional perks. The promotion takes place from May 26 to Oct. 3. MLMC executive director Marianne LaCroix said that the idea to create a lobster-themed hotel suite came about before the pandemic erupted last year. The aim is to generate positive stories about Maine lobster in consumer lifestyle publications. The lobster suite promotion first garnered online articles in Food & Wine and Travel & Leisure. Both of those articles then were picked up on several Yahoo! sites, including its news and entertainment sites, among others.

MASS. LOBSTERMEN PROTEST CLOSURE

Forty Massachusetts lobster boats took part in a boat parade protest in early April to bring attention to Massachusetts’ current closure of virtually all of its state waters to commercial lobstering as a protection for North Atlantic right whales. The boats were primarily from Gloucester, Manchester and Rockport, Massachusetts. Lobstermen are upset about the statewide closure, which requires them to remove all traps and other gear to lessen the possibility of entanglement with right whales as they migrate through Massachusetts waters on their way north. In 2022, the closure will run from February 1 to at least May 1, and possibly to May 15, depending on the presence or absence of right whales in state waters. The new state regulations also include specific gear requirements, including new lines that break away at 1,700 pounds of pressure and a maximum buoy line diameter of 3/8-inch. The gear requirements will go into effect this month.

LAWSUIT SEeks TO OPEN ACCESS TO INTERTIDAL ZONE

Benjamin Ford, a partner in the new Portland-based law firm Archipelago Law, filed a lawsuit in April in an effort to overturn a decision made three decades ago by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in what is known as the Moody Beach case. That decision, Ford said, was a “historical mistake” that “locked away thousands of miles of the Maine coast.” The Maine Supreme Court’s decision in the so-called Moody Beach cases has led to nothing but confusion, conflict, and ridiculous litigation over whether seaweed is more like a worm or a tree,” Ford said in a statement. “This mess was created by lawyers and judges and it needs to be fixed by lawyers and judges.”

In 1989, in Bell v. Town of Wells, the state’s top court ruled that the only public rights recognized in intertidal areas are those that were outlined in the original Massachusetts colonial ordinance: fishing, fowling and navigating. That means beachfront property owners along Maine’s coasts have property rights all the way down to the low-tide area, except for an easement to allow the public to engage in those three permitted activities.
DMR SPRING TRAWL SURVEY BEGINS MAY 3

DMR press release

The spring inshore trawl survey is scheduled to begin in New Hampshire waters on May 3, working its way east to finish up about June 4 near Cutler/Lubec. The vessel is a white fiberglass Northeast 54’, the F/V Robert Michael of Portland, captained by Rob Tetrault.

The survey is designed to provide information that has not been available to NOAA Fisheries Service for stock assessments. Obtaining this information is critical to making rational management decisions. The better information we have about all our fisheries resources, the better we can ensure a future for both fishermen and the resource.

As in the past, DMR asks that an area 1/8th mile on either side of the tow line be clear of fixed gear on the scheduled day of the tow. The survey team makes every effort to avoid contact with gear by making at least one and often two passes on the tow line before we set our gear. However, if buoys are running under, we cannot see them and mistakenly conclude that the area is clear. Clearing the area of gear avoids gear contact.

Each Class I, II, and III lobster license holder will receive a notice of the start of the survey with a link to the DMR website with the daily scheduled tow locations, coordinates and charts. If weather does not permit us to work, we expect that lobstermen will not be fishing that day, and the trawl survey will slide the schedule one day forward. Marine Patrol will be on hand as well to assist with tow operations, including moving traps.

Because weather and mechanical difficulties occasionally throw the survey off schedule, DMR has established several ways to assist you in obtaining accurate information. The best source of information is directly from the boat crew. You may hail them on either channel 16 or 13, and then switch to your preferred local working channel. The crew cell phone is 207-557-5276. Cell phone service can be spotty at times, but messages can be left for the crew to return your call.

In a past year there was some disagreement that that placed people and boats in danger. All fishermen should understand that any actions that endanger people or property may be violating the law and could be subject to both criminal and civil penalties. DMR wants to avoid such situations and ask for your cooperation. If you have concerns, please contact us immediately.


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2021 MAINE LOBSTER BOAT RACING

SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 JUNE</td>
<td>Boothbay Harbor</td>
<td>Ashlee Lowery (207) 808-9230</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20 JUNE</td>
<td>Rockland</td>
<td>Nick O’Hara (207) 542-1879</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mike Mayo (207) 542-4348</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>27 JUNE</td>
<td>Bass Harbor</td>
<td>Colyn Rich (207) 479-7288</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 JULY</td>
<td>Moosehead Reach</td>
<td>Beals Island/Jonesport</td>
<td>Roy Fagone (207) 610-8607</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 JULY</td>
<td>Stonington</td>
<td>Cory McDonald (207) 664-4523</td>
<td>Genevieve McDonald (207) 266-5113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 JULY</td>
<td>Friendship</td>
<td>Robinson</td>
<td>(207) 975-9821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 JULY</td>
<td>Harpswell</td>
<td>Amanda Peacock (207) 756-3104</td>
<td>Kristina York (207) 449-7571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 AUGUST</td>
<td>Winter Harbor</td>
<td>Chris Byers (207) 963-7139</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 AUGUST</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>Katie Werner (207) 807-1832</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 AUGUST</td>
<td>Merritt Bracker, Pemaquid</td>
<td>Brent Fogg (207) 563-6720</td>
<td>Stuia McLain (207) 677-2100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 OCTOBER</td>
<td>Annual Meeting/Awards Banquet</td>
<td>Jon Johansen (207)-223-8846</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Races: 8 to 9 AM

Races Start 10 AM

Exception: Long Island: Sign up 10 to 11 AM, Start 12 PM.

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DMR SPRING TRAWL SURVEY BEGINS MAY 3

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LOBSTER BOAT RACES RETURN WITH A ROAR!

By Jon Johansen

Last year the Maine Lobster Boat Racing Association held six of its usual 11 races; in most cases the race was the only event to be held in that town during 2020. It was not easy for race organizers as there were a number of obstacles that they had to overcome to satisfy the powers that be. It was easy to prove that the racing could be done in a safe manner, but some organizers were still told that they could not hold the races. Others persevered and made it happen, which was much appreciated by the racers and spectators alike.

Already there is a lot of anticipation about the upcoming 2021 races. At the Annual Meeting and Banquet held last October no changes were made to the rules or classes. A tentative schedule was also introduced, with all 11 events penciled in. Over the winter all confirmed that they planned to run this year. There still could be issues so you should be sure to confirm that the event is on.

There is plenty of discussions among those who follow the races about some of the new boats coming out this year. Last year we hoped to see Alfred Osgood’s Starlight Express, [Northern Bay 36, 900+-hp Mack] but delays kept her on the hard for the 2020 season. Will she make an appearance this year and if so will she be able to keep up with Cameron Crawford’s Wild Wild West [West 28, 1,000-hp Isota], who we know was doing over 63 mph last year? If it happens it will certainly be one of the highlights of the year.

There are several other new boats coming to the races this year. Doug Dodge of Beals Island has finished his wooden 28-foot boat powered with a 350 gas engine. Roger Kennedy of Kennedy Marine Engineering in Steuben has built a Crowley 36. Jeremy Beal of Wayne Beal Boat Shop in Jonesport is building a Wayne Beal 32. However, all eyes are on Steve Johnson of Long Island. We know he has a turbine engine which he’s putting into a Crowley 36. No one is sure how this is going to work, but you can be guaranteed that this could be the year’s showstopper!

After the uncertainties of 2020, we are all glad to see that this year is certainly shaping up to be a great racing season!