



LANDINGS

News & Views from Maine's Lobstering Community

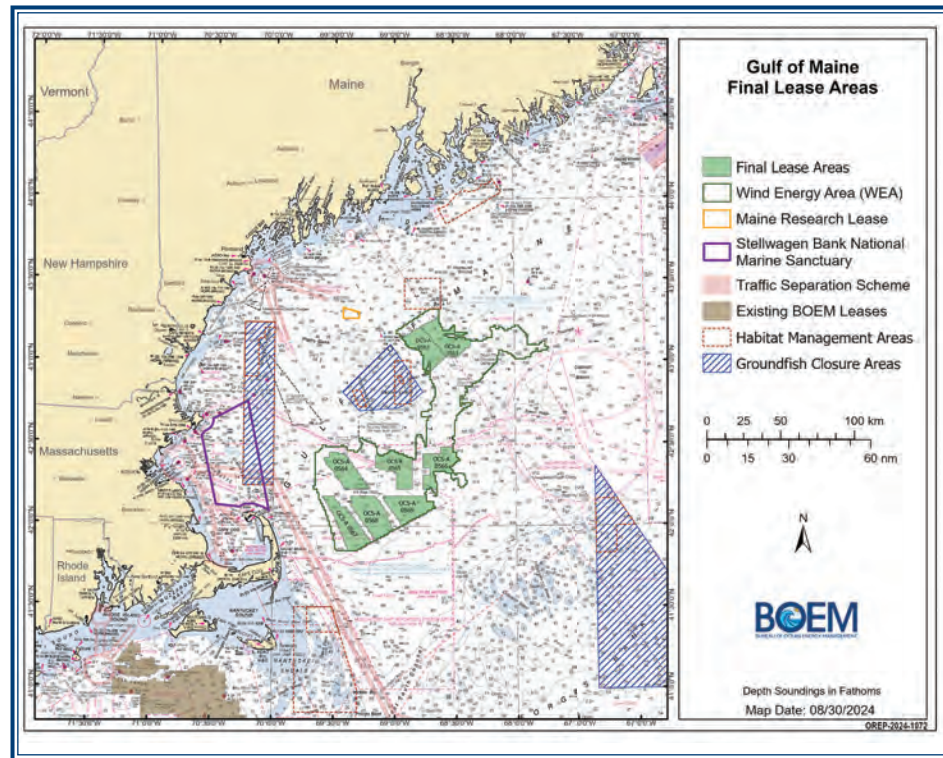
October 2024 | Vol. 32, No.10

BOEM TO AUCTION OFFSHORE GULF OF MAINE TO WIND COMPANIES IN OCTOBER

By MLA staff

On September 16, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) published the Final Sale Notice for offshore wind leases in the Gulf of Maine with an auction date of October 29. The sale is part of President Biden's goal to achieve 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030. The 850,082-acre lease area is made up of eight areas off Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine. Two of the areas are located approximately 50 miles off the Maine coast in Lobster Management Area 3. The minimum bid price is \$50 per acre.

In 2023 BOEM identified a draft area for lease (Wind Energy Area or WEA) comprising 3.5 million acres in the Gulf. In response to public and agency comments, BOEM reduced the size of the area, publishing the final WEA of



2 million acres in March 2024. In April BOEM published the Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) with eight proposed lease areas totaling 969,999 acres.

In response to comments on the PSN, BOEM removed from consideration several areas that featured a combination of offshore fishing activity, vessel transit, seafloor features identified by NMFS as potentially sensitive to impacts from offshore wind facility construction, and areas of relatively higher densities of North Atlantic right whale sightings and detections.

Fourteen companies have qualified as bidders.

According to BOEM, any lease awarded in October does not authorize the construction and operation of an offshore wind facility. A lease provides

Continued on page 5

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2025 U.S.-CANADA LOBSTER TOWN MEETING JAN. 29-30

The Lobster Institute's 20th U.S. - Canada Lobster Town Meeting will be held January 29 and 30, 2025 at the Atlantic Oceanside Hotel in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Registration is open exclusively to commercial fishermen until October 20, after which registration will open to the public. Thanks to the Klaus Sonnenberg Travel Fund, the Lobster Institute is able to offer a limited number of free registrations for commercial fishermen. Otherwise, the \$75 fee includes conference materials and breakfast and lunch. Atlantic Oceanside offers a room rate of \$135/night, which includes parking and access to all hotel amenities. A complete program will be available in November. Preliminary agenda items include:

- Industry Sector Updates
- Ecosystem change - What is going on in the ocean?
- Comparing assessment and management approaches in Canada and the US and how they relate to proposed US gauge increase changes on July 1, 2025.
- Market impacts of the gauge increase: short and long-term

New this year is the addition of a welcome banquet on Tuesday, January 28, and a banquet dinner on Wednesday, January 29, to allow more time for informal conversations and socializing with our cross-border attendees. For sponsors wishing to share their materials, we will again offer exhibition booths in the primary venue.

For more details on registering and reserving lodging, please visit the Lobster Institute's events page at www.umaine/lobster-institute/events or call 581-1443.

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COASTAL OUTLOOK *Thoughts from MLCA President Patrice McCarron*

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October sneaks up on you. One day it's sunny and warm and you might be forgiven for thinking it's still September. Then the next day, a cold wind comes in off the water and a spatter of rain will start the day. Summer has turned to fall, and will soon take a turn toward winter.

The month will be a momentous one. For the first time ever, the federal government will auction off portions of the Gulf of Maine for the purpose of creating floating wind energy farms. The auction is part of the Biden Administration's goal of generating 30 GW of offshore renewable energy by 2030. Over the decades Congress has consistently banned oil and gas leases in the Gulf of Maine, in part because such activities presented an unsupportable risk to the Gulf's incredible biological productivity and the fisheries that depend on it. Now the push for more renewable energy has resulted in a different priority. The October 29 lease auction represents an historic change from the past.

PFAS chemicals have been in the news often in recent years. The August spill of firefighting foam at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station brought renewed attention to this family of chemicals and their impacts on fresh and marine water quality. *Landings* examines a Dartmouth College study published in April, which raised concern about contamination in seafood. Dr. Christoph Aeppli at Bigelow Laboratory of Ocean Sciences suggests a more measured perspective on the reality of PFAS in seafood, particularly lobster.

The lobster harvest might be a bit slow this year, but the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative is not slacking off in its lobster marketing efforts. This fall the Collaborative is kicking off a new Maine Lobster Tour in addition to promoting National Lobster Day and Maine Lobster Week. The Maine Lobster Tour features restaurants in Miami, Chicago, and Dallas which have Maine lobster on the menu. Local social media influencers in each city share their restaurant recommendations online, focusing on

Maine lobster items. MLMC executive director Marianne LaCroix gives details on the Tour and the Collaborative's range of other promotional activities in this issue.

Since Henry Bigelow's first voyage aboard the *Grampus* in 1912, oceanographers have been trying to see beneath the surface of the Gulf of Maine to better understand its sea-floor features and habitats. This fall two 33-foot unmanned vessels, Sairdrones Voyagers, are renewing mapping activities in the northeastern Gulf of Maine.

Last summer the Sairdrones spent two months mapping 1,500 square nautical miles in the north-central Gulf; the area had never before been mapped with modern equipment. This month the Sairdrones will be sailing from Cape Cod north and eastward gathering high-resolution seafloor data. In addition, each vehicle's sensors will constantly measure air and water temperatures, humidity, salinity, and wave heights, a bounty of data for oceanographers.

The Maine Lobstermen's Association, which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, represents lobstermen from throughout the coast of Maine. Sunshine Mechtenberg, the MLA's membership director, has been putting in the miles this summer and fall, talking to lobstermen and local businesses in harbors large and small to let them know what the MLA is doing. The response has been heartening.



Shorter days and cooler weather says fall is here and winter is coming. MLMC photo.

And to judge from the photos we feature in *Landings* this month, every day on the wharf was a sunny one and every lobsterman she met was smiling.

We hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to your comments.

Patrice

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GUEST COLUMN: *MLMC launches national Maine Lobster Tour*

By Marianne LaCroix

The Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative (MLMC) has marketing activities planned to keep Maine lobster top of mind among consumers this fall including a new Maine Lobster Tour, National Lobster Day, Maine Lobster Week, and public relations and social media activations. With lower lobster landings over the summer, everyone is hoping for a robust fall fishing season to fill the supply chain.

The Maine Lobster Tour was launched in early September. This promotion highlights restaurants that have Maine lobster on the menu in three key markets. The initial phase of the Tour focuses on Miami, Chicago, and Dallas, with restaurants curated by local influencers in each city. The influencers are sharing their Tour recommendations with engaged audiences on their social media channels, and the MLMC is maximizing coverage of the Tours by posting on its own social media channels and amplifying with digital advertising. You can see the Tour locations on a dedicated Lobster Tour section of the MLMC website (www.lobsterfrommaine.com), which also includes restaurant listings in Maine.

On September 25, we celebrated the ninth annual Maine Lobster Day. The MLMC established this holiday in 2015 to create publicity around Maine lobster in the important fall season. This holiday is a great hook for our public relations efforts and enables us to generate extensive media coverage in the fall season. The holiday also provides an incentive for restaurants and retailers around the country to highlight their lobster offerings to consumers. The MLMC works with Maine's Senators to have September 25 declared as National Lobster Day each year.

Maine Lobster Week is a celebration MLMC developed to complement National Lobster Day. Modelled after the popular Maine Restaurant Week, Maine Lobster Week includes dozens of restaurants around the state offering special three-course lobster menus

or unique lobster dishes for the week. The MLMC provides marketing support, including public relations outreach, social media promotions, and radio and digital advertising to help raise awareness of the event and drive traffic to participating restaurants. This year, we are also working with food influencers in New England to promote both National Lobster Day and Maine Lobster Week. These influencers help to extend our messages to their engaged audiences.

To broaden the reach of Maine Lobster Week, we included Maine lobster doorstep deliveries in the promotion. Several direct-to-consumer shippers, including Luke's Lobster, Hancock Gourmet, Harbor Fish Market, McLoon's, and Bob's Seafood, all offered special promotions for Maine Lobster Week. Direct-to-consumer offers are an important part of the promotion because, in addition to making Maine lobster available to people across the country, they also give us the opportunity to pitch the promotion to media outlets outside Maine.

While Maine Lobster Week and National Lobster Day provide opportunities to generate media coverage during the fall, the MLMC also developed an article highlighting one of our most popular influencer-produced recipes and wove in key messages of ease-of-use and sustainability. The article is being distributed across the country and is a guaranteed means of reaching a wide range of consumers.

The MLMC will round out the year with holiday promotions for Maine lobster. We work with Maine lobster suppliers who are offering special products for the holiday season, such as dishes to serve for holiday events or gift options for the season.



Marianne LaCroix is the executive director of the MLMC.



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PFAS TESTING SHOWS MAINE SEAFOOD REMAINS SAFE

By Melissa Waterman

The massive spill of firefighting foam in August at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station once again brought renewed attention to a group of chemicals called PFAS, per- or polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as “forever” chemicals. The spill released 1,450 gallons of aqueous film-forming foam combined with 50,000 gallons of water into the surrounding area in Brunswick, entering the watershed and eventually Harpswell Cove.

PFAS had been in the news before. In 2021 the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) revealed that 70 Maine farms had been contaminated with PFAS through municipal sewage waste sludge applied as fertilizer to the properties. The chemicals moved into the soil, water, and farm crops. Maine residents grew alarmed that PFAS also could be in their well water or municipal water systems.

PFAS are not benevolent chemicals. They comprise more than 10,000 synthetic chemicals that have been widely used in consumer products since the 1950s. They pose serious and long-term health consequences, including increased risk for kidney or testicular cancer, liver damage, high cholesterol, pregnancy complications, decreased fertility, lower birth weight in infants, among other risks. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the health effects of exposures to mixtures of different PFAS are still unknown.

“PFAS are designed to withstand harsh environmental conditions,” explained Dr. Christoph Aeppli, senior research scientist at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences and head of its new PFAS analytical services lab. The lab is certified by Maine, and can test for PFAS presence in water, sediment, soil, and plant and animal tissue for state agencies, commercial customers, and the general public. “Like Teflon, they are hard to break down.”

PFAS can build up, or bioaccumulate, in animals. The higher up the food chain the animal, the more likely the bioaccumulation.

PFAS are drawn to proteins, fluids, and organs, unlike DDT, which builds up in fatty tissues. As they move through river systems and ultimately into the ocean, they are taken up by marine organisms, both on the seafloor and throughout the water column. Certain types of older PFAS concentrate in animals through the prey they eat, while newer PFAS can move directly from the water column into fish through their gills.

“PFAS are a big group [of chemicals]. Each has a different toxicity,” Aeppli said. “Detection does not necessarily mean toxicity. But the more you have the more toxic it generally is.”

The Surface Water Ambient Toxics Monitoring Program (SWAT) in the DEP monitors for 40 different PFAS in fish and shellfish. In 2021 it analyzed lobsters taken from 18 sites in the seven lobster management zones.

Half of the sites had no detected PFAS in lobster meat. The other half, which were collected from the southwestern zones, had very low concentrations. SWAT collected and analyzed softshell clams from six sites in 2022. The results indicated low concentrations of PFAS compounds in clam tissue, too low to warrant a public health advisory.

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an advisory update on PFAS and seafood in April this year.

“Our testing, which included a targeted survey to sample seafood, has so far indicated that seafood may be at higher risk for environmental PFAS contamination compared to other types of foods. While the data on PFAS in seafood is still very limited, filter feeders, such as clams, but also other bivalve mollusks, including oysters, mussels, and scallops, may have the potential to bioaccumulate more environmental contaminants than other seafood types,” the advisory stated.

But are PFAS found in Gulf of Maine lobster and other marine species at levels high enough to warrant concern? A recent Dartmouth College study of Gulf of Maine seafood purchased in New Hampshire, published in April in the journal *Exposure & Health*, suggested that “high seafood consumers may be exposed to PFAS concentrations that potentially pose a health risk.”

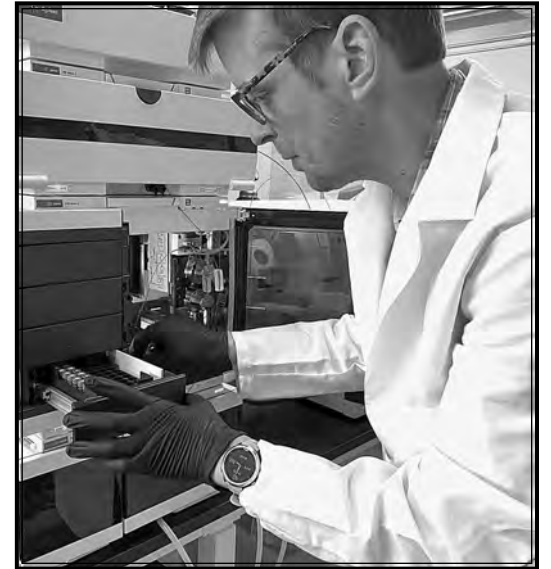
The Dartmouth study found instances of PFAS in 26 seafood species, including cod, haddock, lobster, salmon, scallop, shrimp, and tuna. Shrimp and lobster showed the highest levels of PFAS, with average concentrations reaching up to 1.74 and 3.30 ng/g (nanograms per gram of tissue).

Aeppli said anyone concerned about PFAS in seafood should put the Dartmouth study into perspective.

“The sample size [of seafood in the study] is relatively small. The authors analyzed three samples of each seafood item. This is a good start but not sufficient for drawing very general conclusions,” he explained in an email. “The PFAS concentrations were relatively low. For example, PFOS, the most toxic PFAS, was below detection for salmon, scallops, and tuna and below 1 ng/g for haddock and lobster. Even for shrimp, the species with the relatively highest concentration, PFAS only reached up to 2.6 ng/g. For comparison, the Maine CDC action level in fish is 3.5 ng/g for PFOS.”

“DEP was the first to look systematically at PFAS in marine species, but the focus has mostly been on shellfish. There’s been no large survey of commercial seafood species, and that is needed,” he said.

For more information, visit the DEP website, www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/maine-pfas.html.



Dr. Chris Aeppli in the Bigelow PFAS lab. BLOS photo.

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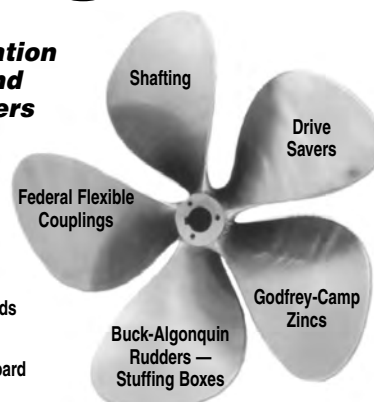
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DMR SURVEY OF MAINE OFFSHORE WIND RESEARCH ARRAY LEASE AREA BEGINS THIS MONTH

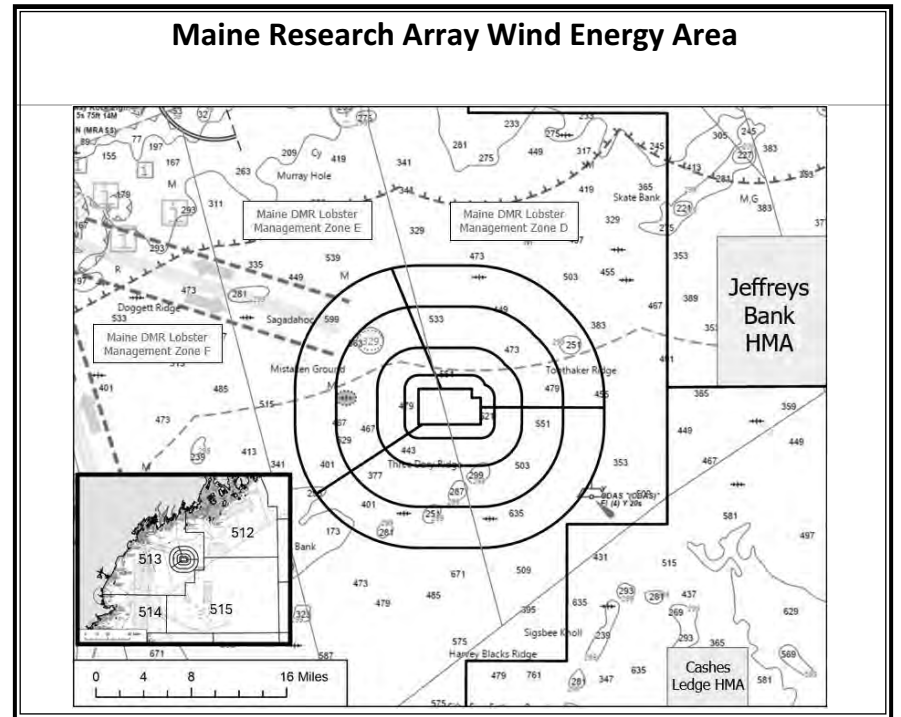
DMR press release

The Department of Marine Resources will be conducting a bottom trawl survey of the Maine Research Array Wind Energy Area. Work will begin on October 15th, 2024, and continue through November 31st, 2024. Operations will be conducted during daylight hours.

The *F/V Northern Lights*, a 55-foot trawler, will transit from Portland to the sampling area. The crew will conduct approximately 37 twenty-minute tows with a modified shrimp trawl net at a speed of 2.5 knots. Sampling will occur over the course of 7-10 days during the sampling window. The specific locations of the tows will be published at a later date.

Trawl paths will be run before towing to make sure the path is clear of gear or other obstructions. Fisherman can relocate gear if they wish to minimize the chances of gear interference; however, well-marked gear should be easily avoided during the course of this survey. The *F/V Northern Lights* will be monitoring VHF channel 16.

The point of contact for this project is Ethan Taulbee, (207) 350-7582, ethan.j.aulbee@maine.gov. If gear is lost, contact Ethan or your local Marine Patrol officer.




Wind auction continued from page 1

the right to submit project-specific plans. Those plans are subject to environmental, technical, and public reviews prior to a decision on whether the project proposal should be approved.

While the final area for leasing excludes Lobster Management Area 1, the Maine Lobstermen's Association continues to oppose vast commercial wind farms in the Gulf of Maine. "The MLA remains steadfast in its position that no area of the Gulf of Maine should be industrialized with offshore wind. With 20,000 individuals employed aboard Maine's fishing vessels or directly in the seafood supply chain, the productive and fragile waters of the Gulf of Maine should not be used as testing ground for new offshore wind technology or to site large industrial wind farms," the MLA said in a statement.

Gulf of Maine Auction Qualified Bidders

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- Equinor Wind US LLC
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- Diamond Wind North America, LLC
- Hexicon USA, LLC
- Seaglass Offshore Wind II, LLC
- TotalEnergies SBE US, LLC
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MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

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STEAMING AHEAD BY PATRICE MCCARRON, ACTING MLA COO

They say that with age comes wisdom. The MLA turned 70 this year and I believe the organization has acquired much wisdom over the years. The MLA's longevity, experience and institutional knowledge provide a perspective unavailable to younger organizations. We've seen political landscapes change over time, and we feel the effects of those changes very deeply today.

As the nation moves to elect a new President in November, it is important to understand why the MLA does things a bit differently than other organizations. The MLA is not Democrat or Republican or Independent because our members are all of those things — and many proudly so. You will not see MLA staff or board members on TV endorsing candidates. The MLA has long held that there is nothing partisan about protecting Maine's lobster fisheries and the many communities that depend on it. We strive to keep the issues facing the lobster industry at the forefront of our activities rather than politics.

It is you, our members, who hold the power to affect change at the voting booth. You have the power to stand up for what you believe in by casting your vote, and the MLA urges each and every member to do that. The MLA stands ready to work with whomever is elected by our citizens to represent the great state of Maine and the lobster industry.

When the MLA was established in 1954, Republican President Dwight Eisenhower was in office. Since then, we've been through six Democratic administrations — Kennedy, Johnson, Carter, Clinton, Obama and Biden — and six Republican administrations — Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Bush, Bush and Trump.

Maine has been blessed with tremendous bipartisan leadership in Congress throughout the past 70 years, including Republicans Margaret Chase Smith, William Cohen, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins; Democrats Edmund Muskie and George Mitchell; and Independent Angus King. The MLA has a long history of working with these incredible leaders from both sides of the aisle to pass laws that support and sustain the Maine lobster industry.

We've accomplished a lot in 70 years. The MLA's work with our Congressional delegation stopped oil refineries from being built off Downeast Maine in the 60's, changed tax law to keep lobstermen in business through the passage of the Sternman Act in the 70's, passed the Mitchell Provision of the Magnuson Act to prohibit the import of undersize lobster in the 80's, and limited dragger bycatch of lobster in the 90's.

And let's not forget that through the efforts of Maine's Congressional Delegation, Congress hit the pause button on new whale rules in 2022, staving off the implementation of massive closures, trap reductions and removal of buoy lines that would have crippled Maine's lobster industry. I was in the thick of that effort and I am still impressed by how genuinely our elected leaders care about the lobster industry. I will never forget the tenacity and leadership of Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, and the fight and tireless support of Representative Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden, as well as Governor Mills. This is a shining

example of the non-partisan character of Maine's lobster industry, and how the impossible becomes reality when industry and government leaders work together.

These accomplishments are even more remarkable when you consider how little lobstermen themselves agree on. As the saying goes, ask ten lobstermen a question and you'll get ten different answers. It is not easy to represent a fishery which does not agree on much. As a diverse group of independent business owners, lobstermen find plenty to argue over. We live in different communities; we operate small and large vessels; we fish seasonally and year-round; we fish alone or with crew; with new, modern gear or with old gear somehow patched together. We have different

political philosophies, different priorities and different local circumstances. What's good for one lobsterman may be harmful to another.

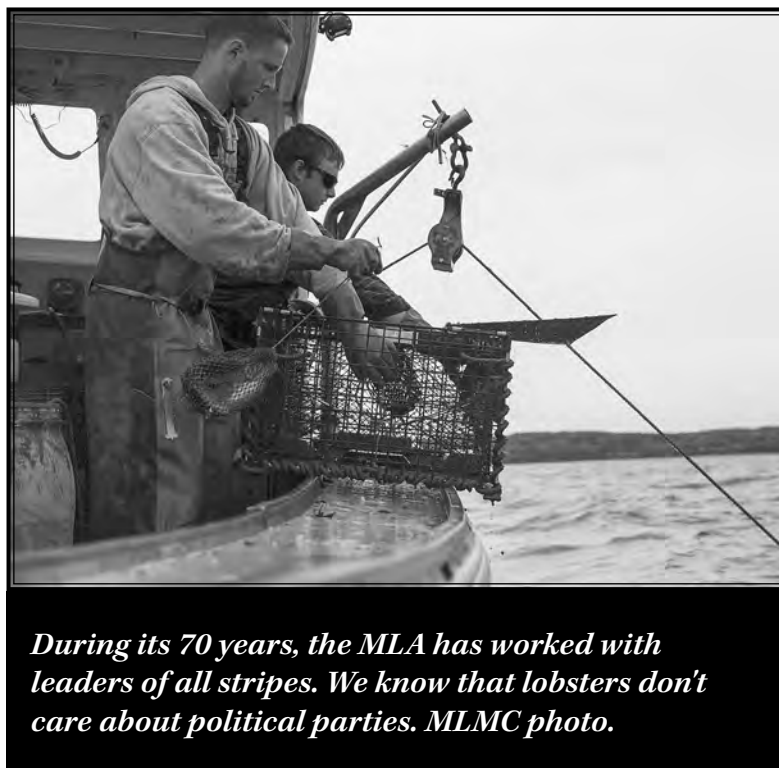
The MLA understands this which is why we look beyond those things that divide us and focus on those things that bring us together. In a world where people are conditioned to react to everything in the moment, the MLA leans into its maturity and discipline to ensure that its work sustains the core values that unite Maine's lobster industry — our sense of pride in our fishery, a strong stewardship ethic, loyalty to our communities, and a shared duty and fierce commitment to save Maine's lobstering heritage.

We will not settle for a future where our children and future generations are denied the opportunity to become part of Maine's proud lobstering tradition. Not on our watch.

There will be a new President next month. We may see power shift in Congress. Regardless of the political outcomes, Maine lobstermen will continue to face critical challenges that will require significant leadership and advocacy by the MLA. We will continue to play the long game, drawing on decades of experience to be strategic in our efforts. This may be a bit less flashy than what others are doing, but history shows that the MLA will get results that matter.

The ancient Greeks got it right when they said, "The only constant in life is change." Our world is changing at a rapid pace; the MLA will adapt and change with the times without sacrificing the things that matter most. We will continue to work with our elected officials — whoever they may be — in order to secure a future with a strong and healthy lobster fishery for generations to come.

As always, stay safe on the water.



During its 70 years, the MLA has worked with leaders of all stripes. We know that lobsters don't care about political parties. MLMC photo.

Patrice



MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

MLA DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

The MLA Board met on September 4 in Belfast. MLA Acting COO Patrice McCarron presented a review of the final phase of MLA's corporate reorganization as a 501-C-6 granted by the IRS in 2021. The Board undertook this effort to ensure the association is strategically positioned to further its advocacy to safeguard the lobster fishery and preserve Maine's lobstering heritage. The MLA board unanimously approved completing this process. It was clarified that contributions and membership support from lobstermen and lobster related business are considered a business expense. Contributions from persons or companies without a business interest in the lobster industry are not tax deductible.

The Board is planning a retreat in January to discuss MLA's priorities for 2025 and beyond. The board will prepare this fall so decisions can be made in January.

MLA's membership director Sunshine Mechtenberg spoke about her outreach at docks along the coast this summer. She's had a lot of success meeting lobstermen and talking with them about MLA's work. In addition to handing out membership forms and giving away MLA hats, she's been able to hop aboard some boats to help unload the day's catch. She's also spent time in the local communities meeting with local businesses. She's visited at least 20 wharves so far and will continue through September and into the fall.

MLA's director of advancement Kevin Kelley discussed plans for MLA's 70th Anniversary dinner on Saturday, November 2 at Saltwater Fields Event Center in South Thomaston. The event is a "celebration and thank you" dinner for those who've supported the MLA in its recent court victory. The School Street Band has been hired and a room block secured at the Hampton Inn in Rockland. Tickets will be for sale on the MLA website in September.

Board president Kristan Porter traveled to Washington D.C. again in August to reiterate lobstermen's concerns and advocate for a delay in the minimum gauge increase at the ASMFC Lobster Board meeting. He reported there was a good contingent of lobster industry people there. Commissioner Keliher was ready with a motion to delay implementation of the gauge to July 1, 2025. The Lobster Board voted to initiate a new management action, Addendum 31, to delay implementation until July. The action will be expedited and include one public hearing webinar in September, with written comments due October 6. The Lobster Board will vote to approve Addendum 31 on October 21.



During its August meeting, the ASMFC Lobster Board also approved Addendum 30, clarifying that it will be illegal to import lobster smaller than Area 1 lobster into the U.S. if the gauge increase goes through. The MLA will host Maine lobster dealers/processors at its next meeting to discuss the ramifications of Addendum 30.

Patrice reported that many MLA members have raised concern over the 100% harvester reporting requirements. The board discussed the issue at length and believe that the biggest challenges are due to the federal requirements which significantly complicate, and duplicate, much of what the state is already collecting. However, the board also has concerns with the state's VESL app. The MLA will follow-up to make sure lobstermen's concerns and experience with the overly complicated implementation of this program are on the record with managers. An article on this topic ran in the September Landings.

Patrice provided several offshore wind updates. Maine's Offshore Wind Research Array lease was finalized by BOEM on August 19. BOEM also plans to move forward with commercial leasing for the Gulf of Maine this fall. The University of Maine was in the news in July for receiving \$12.5 million in federal funding to support continued development of its offshore wind floating technology. The University had missed out on a previous round of federal funding in May.

NMFS held a meeting of the Take Reduction Team on August 29 which included an update from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) on ropeless fishing. More than 50 collaborating vessels have completed 8,000 hauls of ropeless gear with high success rates except in Area 3 at depth and Great South Channel due to gear conflict. Many board members were leery of this information. Patrice reviewed the TRT timeline, which proposes to develop risk reduction measures by the end of 2025 and a proposed rule in 2026. The MLA board raised concerns over this timeline, particularly whether all the new data being collected on fisheries and right whales will be used.

The Board briefly discussed the right whale death in January attributed to Maine gear and the rumors that the whale had been hit by a ship. Patrice explained that a second right whale died that same week due to a ship strike and some media reports confused the two cases. To date, there has been no report that the whale found with purple gear marking had experienced a ship strike.

The case is still under investigation so many details have not yet been released. The Monterey Bay Aquarium lawsuit is still pending before the court, so there is no news to report. There has also been no action on the tracker lawsuit against DMR.

Each board member provided an update on the lobster season in their area. There was agreement that the shed was late this year compared to recent years and that this season seems more like the fishery 10 years ago. Overall, landings are behind last year but price is stronger. Crabs clogging up a lot of traps. Everyone hopes for really good fall fishing!

The Board will continue to meet the first Wednesday of the month in Belfast at 5 p.m. The January board retreat will replace the January 2025 board meeting.

THE JORDAN BASIN BUOY (M01) IS DOWN


The Jordan Basin Buoy (Buoy M; NDBC ID 44037) has experienced data, communication, and power disruptions since the evening of August 23. An inspection of the buoy on September 5 confirmed structural damage consistent with a vessel strike.

The University of Maine crew, who maintains the buoy, salvaged certain components and sensors, but the vessel was not equipped to retrieve the hull. A lantern has been attached to the hull for mariner safety, and the crew will return late in September to retrieve the remaining hardware.



Servicing Buoy M is challenging due to its location farther offshore over a deep basin in often rough seas. There are two buoys configured for this location. One was lost during Hurricane Lee last fall, and the second buoy had been in operation until this recent incident. Construction of a new buoy is underway but not yet complete.

Continued on page 8



The Maine Lobster Knowledge Trust

Who owns your fishing data?

No one knows the ocean better than fishermen. But when it comes to debates over resource management, quotas, and other regulatory decisions the fishing industry's opinions are often dismissed as anecdotal.

That's because fishermen often don't have the data regulators demand to back up their observations. It's often locked up in plotters or held in government databases that are hard to access. If you cannot use your data, do you even own it?


Arm your observations with the Fisheries Knowledge Trust

The Fisheries Knowledge Trust is an industry-owned organization that collects and standardizes fishermen's data so it can be used to inform fishery regulations.

<p>Reclaim your data</p> <p>Work with the Trust to collect your reporting data from NMFS or export your data from plotters so you're prepared for the next challenge</p>	<p>Speak as a fleet</p> <p>The Trust standardizes and stores your data independently so your fleet can quickly respond to fishery closures and other management decisions.</p>	<p>Never lose control</p> <p>Too often research leaves the fishing industry out in the cold. Fishermen always have the final say over where and how their data is used.</p>
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Join our project with Maine Lobstermen's Association

The Trust is currently working with the Maine Lobstermen's Association and the Lobster Institute to crowdsource data from plotters (e.g. Time Zero) to help address urgent regulatory issues like management closures that threaten the lobster fishery.



SCAN ME

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MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

MLA Update continued from page 7

RIGHT WHALE UPDATES

NMFS reported that for the period between January 1 to August 31, 2024, four North Atlantic right whales have died along the East Coast (3 vessel strikes, 1 entanglement) and four calves are presumed dead. Additionally, a floating partial carcass off Nova Scotia has been identified as a likely right whale. For this same period, the number of other large whale strandings from Maine through North Carolina is as follows: 2 fin whales, 14 humpback whales, 13 minke whales, 1 sperm whale, and 1 sei whale.

NMFS plans to convene the Take Reduction Team early in 2025 to begin the process of drafting new rules. According to NMFS, scoping would begin in January 2025 with TRT meetings scheduled in spring/summer 2025 to receive updates, develop, and review potential conservation measures. Development of management packages is anticipated in November 2025 with voting on recommended measures as early as January 2026.

FEDERAL ROPELESS FISHING TRIALS

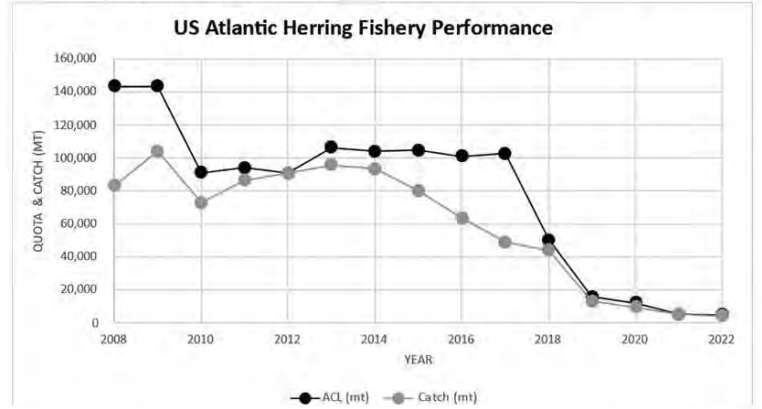
The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) updated the TRT on its ropeless fishing trials during a webinar in August.

According to NEFSC, there are more than 50 vessels testing gear from three fixed gear fisheries across five states. NEFSC has over 500 on demand systems in its gear lending library. Over 8,000 hauls of on-demand gear have been recorded including hybrid trawls in open areas and fully ropeless gear in closed areas. They report success rates of 85% to 90%, with the exception of gear fished in Lobster Management Area 3 due to water depth and the Great South Channel which had a 57% success rate due to gear conflict.

NEFSC reports that these projects are demonstrating system capabilities, testing electronic gear marking, and interoperability amongst systems to share data.

HERRING QUOTA SLASHED

Figure 7. Summary of US Atlantic herring fishery performance including US quota and catch (mt), 2008-2022 (Source: NOAA Fisheries/GARFO).



On September 26, the New England Fishery Management Council voted to slash the herring quota by 86% for the 2025 to 2027 herring fishing seasons. The herring fishery was deemed overfished in 2020. In response, the Council adopted a management plan, known as Framework 9, to rebuild the stock in 2022. The NEFMC is required to manage the fishery so that it will recover within 10 years of implementing the management plan.

Based on the 2024 stock assessment, which updated the model through 2023, the stock is not recovering as fast as predicted. The stock assessment revealed that fishing mortality is higher than expected and spawning stock biomass is lower than expected.

As a result, the NEFMC took action to significantly reduce the quota in order to rebuild the stock by 2031. The Council considered issues raised during this process including the missing 2023 spring trawl survey data, accounting for Canadian landings based on a 10 year average, and other uncertainties.

The Council adopted the recommendations of the Plan Development Team and Herring Committee to reduce the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) to 6,741 mt in 2025, down from 23,409 mt in 2024. The Annual Catch Limit (ACL) will be reduced to 2,720 mt, down from 19,141 in 2024. For the Area 1A fishery, the quota will be reduced to 783 mt in 2025, from 5,546 in 2024.

ASMFC PUBLIC HEARING ON MINIMUM GAUGE CHANGE DELAY

On September 23, ASMFC held a public hearing webinar to take comment on its proposal to postpone the implementation of the LMA 1 gauge increase due to take effect on January 1, 2025. The Lobster Board initiated draft Addendum 31 to further delay implementation of the LMA 1 gauge increase at its August meeting to give Canada more time to consider increasing its gauge in its Gulf of Maine fisheries. The MLA, NEFSA and Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association spoke in favor of the delay. There was no opposition voiced during the public hearing. ASMFC is accepting public comment until October 6 and will vote on the Addendum on October 21.

MLA JUNIOR HARVESTER

By Ashley Blais

Josh Clifford Jr. is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Bristol Consolidated School. He has been hauling lobster traps since he was eight years old. Josh is a fourth-generation lobsterman who comes from a long line of multi-species fishermen.

Josh started out in a basic 13-foot aluminum boat then upgraded to a 14-foot fiberglass boat, hauling by hand. Last year, he heard about a local fisherman who was looking to move from a skiff to a big boat. Josh took the money he had saved and purchased his first real lobstering skiff, equipped with an electric hauler. He also fishes for pogies with his father and works as sternman for local inshore lobstermen. Lobstering is a passion that has grown in him. It is his dream to be a self-sufficient commercial fisherman, who can catch and store his own bait and haul his lobster traps year-round.



A. Blais photo.

Don't let your membership fade with your tan lines...



Pic courtesy: Virginia Wadleigh

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MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

GULF OF MAINE OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENTS

The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has not backed off on its plan to industrialize the Gulf of Maine with offshore wind. There are now two offshore wind initiatives moving forward in the Gulf of Maine: the Maine Research Array and Offshore Commercial Leases.

Maine research array lease

On August 19, BOEM finalized the lease for Maine's offshore wind research array. The lease area covers nearly 15,000 acres located 28 nautical miles off southern Maine where up to 12 floating offshore wind turbines could be deployed using the University of Maine's floating platform technology. The developer, Pine Tree Offshore Power, is in negotiations with Maine's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a power purchase agreement.

Offshore commercial wind leases

On September 6, BOEM released its Environmental Assessment of the potential impacts associated with wind energy-related leasing, site assessment, and site characterization activities in the Gulf of Maine. The conclusion was a "Finding of No Significant Impact," which they call FONSI.

On September 16, BOEM announced that it would hold an auction to lease eight areas in the Gulf of Maine which have the potential to develop 13 GW of energy. Two areas are located approximately 50 miles off mid-coast Maine in Lobster Management Area 3. The final auction area has been reduced by approximately 120,000 acres from the proposed sale notice to further avoid offshore fishing grounds, sensitive habitats, and protect right whales. The lease auction will be held on October 29. BOEM has determined that there are at least 14 developers qualified to bid on these leases.

DMR TO SURVEY RESEARCH ARRAY AREA

Maine DMR will conduct a bottom trawl survey of the Maine Research Array Wind Energy Area from October 15 through November 31 during daylight hours. Sampling will occur over the course of 7 to 10 days during the sampling window. The *F/V Northern Lights*, a 55' trawler, will transit from Portland to the sampling area. The vessel will be monitoring VHF channel 16.

The survey will consist of approximately 37 twenty-minute tows with a modified shrimp trawl net at a speed of 2.5 knots. The specific locations of the tows will be published at a later date. Trawl paths will be run before towing to make sure the path is clear of gear or other obstructions. Fisherman can relocate gear if they wish to minimize the chances of gear interference, however well-marked gear should be easily avoided during the course of this survey.

The project contact is Ethan Taulbee who can be reached at (207) 350-7582 or ethan.j.aulbee@maine.gov. If gear is lost, please contact Ethan or your local Marine Patrol officer.

MEET THE MLA BOARD

Swans Island lobsterman Jason Joyce, 54, has been a Maine Lobstermen's Association member for a long time. His father Carlton, who sadly passed away in May, was a member for many decades and served on the MLA board from 1996 to 2002. So when Joyce was asked to take over his father's seat, he stepped up.

"I'm serious about what I do. It has to be important to get me off the island and back. When I joined the board I had four young children," he recalled. "But I wanted to learn about the issues and how best to address them."

In the years since, he has learned a lot. When Joyce first joined the board more than 20 years ago, the dust had barely settled from the institution of zones and trap tags. The issue of endangered right whales was far away on the horizon. But still, the regulations governing the lobster fishery were complex.

"First thing I learned was that it is all so complicated. I recognized that I knew less than I thought I did," Joyce said. "I learned a lot from the older guys, long-time fishermen. I understand the process better now after being immersed in it for years, how regulations are made. But when I try to explain it to other fishermen, it still seems so complicated."

During his tenure on the board, Joyce came to recognize the MLA's rare ability to work with regulatory agencies and other organizations to get the best results for lobstermen. "The MLA does have a balanced approach to the issues," Joyce said. "Fishermen might think something is just cut and dried, but you have to reach out to different groups, groups who aren't fishermen, to get positive change."

Joyce is most concerned right now by the proposed Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's lobster gauge change, which ASMFC is working to postpone until July 2025. If the increase in minimum legal size does go through, Joyce thinks the subsequent drop in catch will have serious consequences for lobstermen. "When the gauge increased in the 1990s, the cost for bait and fuel was much lower. So if the price doesn't go up to compensate for a downturn in the catch, a lot of guys will be out," he said.

This season hasn't been a strong one in his area, a fact that he partially attributes to damage to the seafloor from the two storms in January. "The burrows, the places the lobsters go, they've been destroyed. It's going to take a while for it to come back as a place for lobster to live and thrive."

Joyce is the 8th generation of his family to fish on Swans Island. With his children on their own now, he has turned his attention to running for the Maine House as representative from District 15. And he will continue to be a member of the MLA board. "Growing up there was just one lobster association," he said. "The MLA has a long and good reputation among fishermen."



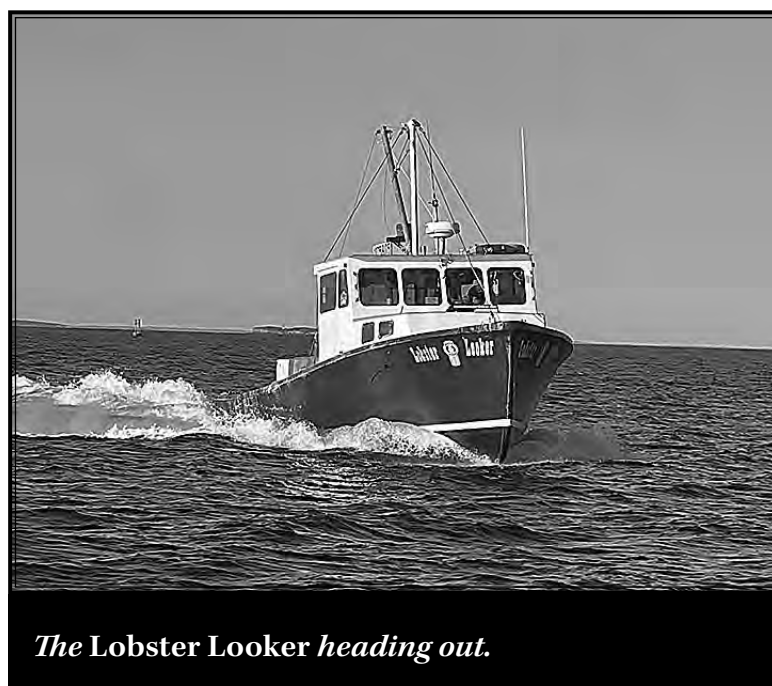
Jason Joyce.

MLA BUSINESS MEMBER OF THE MONTH: LOOK LOBSTER CO.

Look Lobster Company in Jonesport was started in 1910 by two brothers who were also sea captains, Oscar W. and Bert S. Look. The two men started selling groceries, general goods, and marine supplies from their wharf on Old House Point. In time the men also started marketing what the local fishermen caught to customers throughout New England. Their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren built the business slowly and steadily. Today Look Lobster is managed by the fifth generation of Looks and has locations in Addison, Eastport, and Portland.

"I met Sunshine [MLA membership director] and talked with her this summer," said Bimbo Look, company president. "I knew about the MLA and figured we ought to be a member."

The company has diversified since its beginning. Look Lobster sells wholesale and retail lobster and crab, provides cold storage trucking services, sells lobster bait, and provides marine services for commercial and recreational vessels. Two of the company's wharves were damaged during the January storms this year. The Eastport wharf lost close to 48 feet to the



The Lobster Looker heading out.

storms; its restaurant remained closed this summer. The Jonesport wharf was severely damaged, losing approximately 400 feet during the storms.

Despite such setbacks, Look Lobster Company remains dedicated to what it has done successfully for more than 100 years: supplying the best live lobster and crab to customers around the world. Being an MLA business member will help keep the company current on the major issues facing the Maine lobster fishery.

"I listen to stuff and try to pay attention to it all," Look said. "But I trust you guys to keep me abreast of things."

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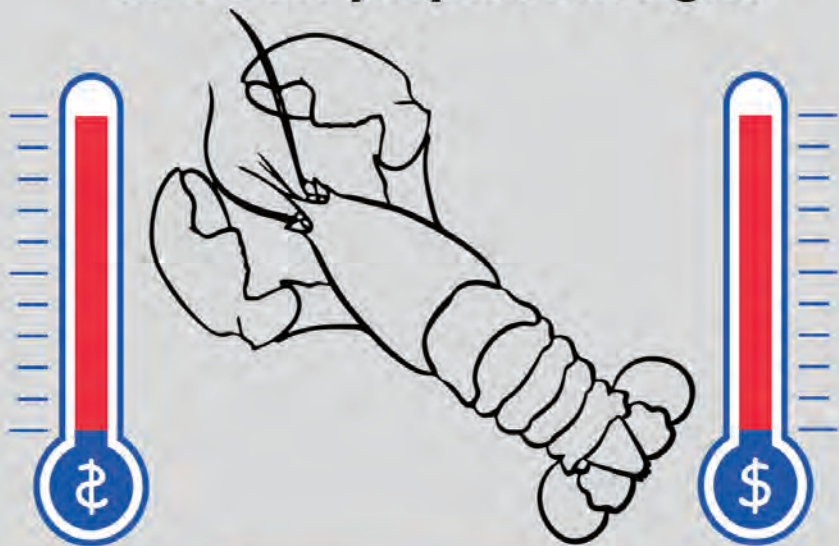
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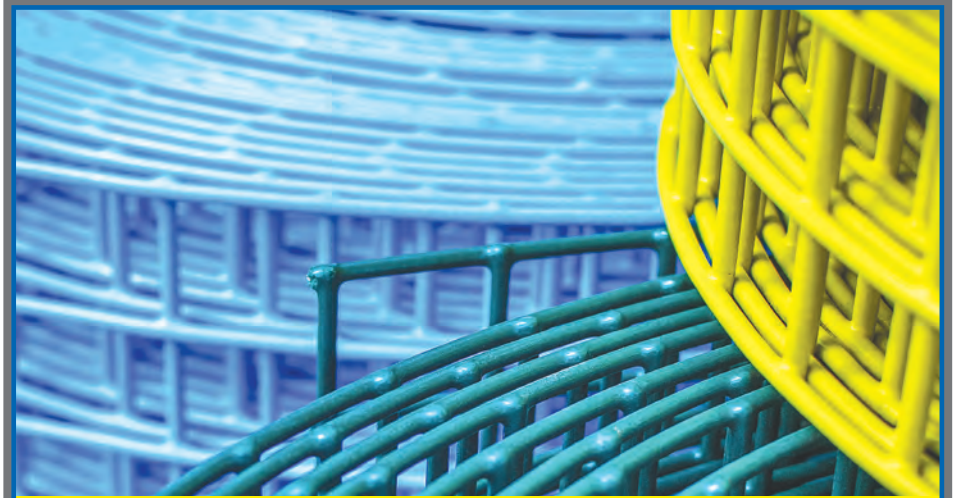
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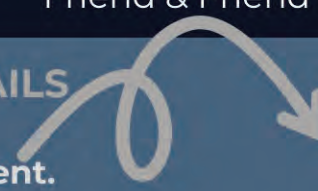
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TO YOUR HEALTH: *You can prevent painful muscle cramps*

By Melissa Waterman

We've all had them: sudden, agonizing muscle cramps, usually in the legs or feet, and often at night. The pain takes your breath away for seconds or minutes and then, poof, it's gone. What causes such debilitating cramps and what can you do to prevent them?

The first thing to understand is simply how your muscles work. You use your muscles both voluntarily (hauling traps) or involuntarily (your heart beats whether you think about it or not). Voluntary muscle use relies on electrical signals from the brain ("Lean over the washboard! Grab the bridle! Heave!"). Those messages are sent via neurons. Motor neurons are cells whose principle job is to convey messages sent by the brain to the spinal column on to the muscles.

Muscles require certain minerals to receive those messages and to move properly. Muscles need calcium to contract, allowing you to lift your arm, for example. You must have magnesium to then block the calcium in order to let the muscle relax. And you have to have potassium to help the motor neurons transmit the electrical impulses successfully. All three minerals must be in the correct ratio to each other to make the system work.

A muscle cramp is a sudden, unexpected tightening of one or more muscles. Exercising or working hard, especially in hot weather, can be the trigger. Through sweating your body might become dehydrated or the ratio of minerals may be altered by the loss of fluid.

According to Brenda Cotton, a massage therapist in Thomaston, many cramps are due to a lack of magnesium in the body, particularly cramps that occur at night. "Without enough magnesium, muscles can't properly relax and that can lead to cramps," she said. "Plus caffeine, soda, too

much salt, alcohol, and medications for high blood pressure can reduce available magnesium."

Sometimes muscle cramps do indicate something else is going on that may require medical intervention. A narrowing of the arteries that bring blood to the legs can cause cramping pain during exercise. These cramps usually go away soon after exercise stops. Pressure on the nerves in the spine also can cause severe cramps in the legs. The pain usually gets worse with walking.

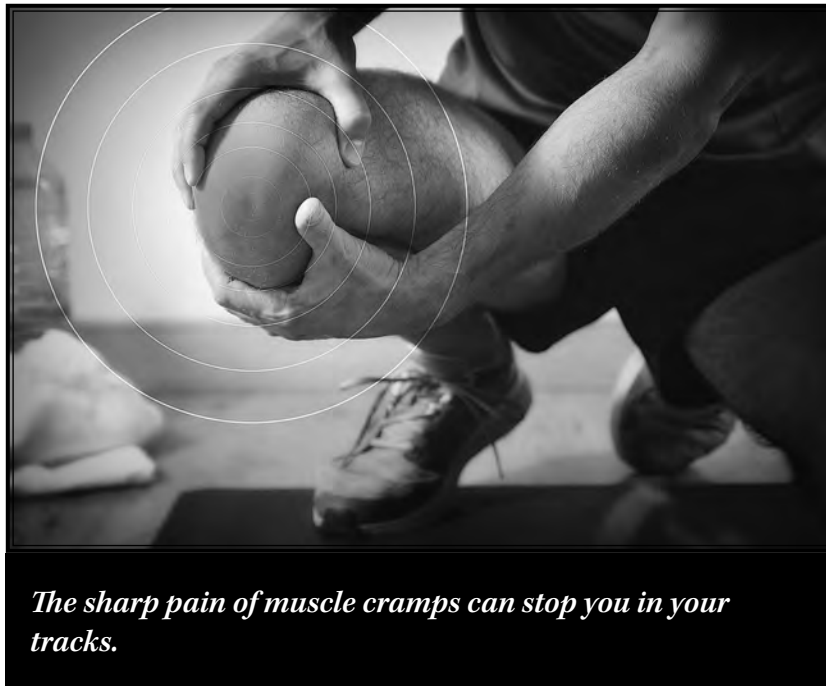
Typically, however, muscle cramps aren't due to a more ominous underlying cause. The Mayo Clinic says that factors that might increase the risk of muscle cramps include:

- Age. Older people lose muscle mass. Then the muscles can't work as hard and can get stressed more easily.
- Poor conditioning. Not being in shape for an activity causes muscles to tire more easily.
- Extreme sweating. Athletes who get tired and sweat a lot while playing sports in warm weather often get muscle cramps.
- Medical issues. Having diabetes or illnesses that involve nerves, liver, or thyroid can increase the risk of muscle cramps.

So what can you do to avoid waking up in the middle of night in exquisite pain?

Stretch gently before and after using any muscle for a long time. Then stretch those muscles again before going to bed.

Drink water, lots of it. When you are hauling all day, drink water, not Red Bull. Caffeine depletes those three key minerals. And keep alcohol intake to a minimum because it causes dehydration and also knocks the ratio of potassium and magnesium askew.



The sharp pain of muscle cramps can stop you in your tracks.

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By MLCA staff

Two strange vessels are sailing the Gulf of Maine this fall. Two bright orange 33-foot unmanned Saildrones have been transecting the northeastern Gulf collecting high-resolution seafloor data to map the area. Each vehicle's sensors measure air and water temperatures, humidity, salinity, and wave heights. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has used the drones to gather information in the Gulf of Mexico, collect fisheries data on the West Coast and Alaska, and improve NOAA hurricane forecasting.

Last summer two Saildrones spent two months mapping 1,500 square nautical miles in the north-central Gulf of Maine in order to identify areas of deep-sea coral habitat. The vessels gathered data at depths up to 300 meters around the Jordan and Georges Basins. Prior to last year's mission, that area of the Gulf of Maine had never before been mapped in high resolution using modern tools.

"The Saildrone Voyagers are filling in a substantial gap in seafloor data in the Gulf of Maine. NOAA and partners are very interested in better understanding habitats in the region that may support fish production. These high-resolution seafloor maps will inform future surveying and modeling efforts, as well as aid in the New England Fishery Management Council's fishery management decisions," said Heather Coleman, a researcher with the NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation's Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program.

Saildrone vehicles travel relatively slowly at speeds of 2-4 knots and are designed to be highly visible. In addition to high visibility colors for daytime, they are equipped with bright navigation lights for nighttime awareness and a radar reflector. Each vehicle will be operating in a small area of the northeastern Gulf each day, approximately 2.7 nm x 2.7 nm. NOAA and the New England Fishery Management Council have asked fishermen to stay at least 500 meters away from the boats and to avoid setting fixed gear in their survey path.



Saildrones have been used throughout the United States to map the seafloor. Last year was the first time the vessels traversed the Gulf of Maine. Saildrone photo.

Saildrone Gulf of Maine mission hotline: (510) 980-6720.

For more specific information regarding the location of the vehicles or other questions about the mission, please contact Saildrone Program Manager Kitch Kennedy at kitch.kennedy@saildrone.com.

DMR Fall Inshore Trawl Survey Underway

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is conducting its the fall survey, working its way east from New Hampshire to finish up about October 25 near Cutler/Lubec. The survey will fish the first five good days each week, using the weekend to make up for bad weather or equipment problems to maintain a predictable schedule as the survey moves up the coast. The vessel, *F/V Robert Michael* is a white fiberglass Northeast 54', captained by Rob Tetrault.

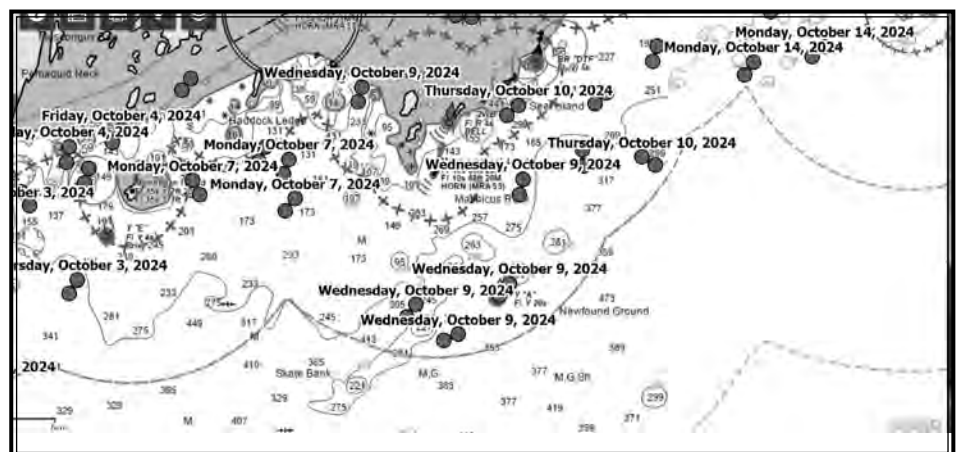
The trawl survey is designed to provide information for stock assessments. The better information we have about all Maine's fisheries resources, the better we can ensure a future for both fishermen and the resource.

As in the past, DMR asks that on the scheduled day of the tow, an area 1/8th mile on either side of the tow line be clear of fixed gear. 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 survey gear is set. However, if buoys are running under, the team may mistakenly conclude that the area is clear. Clearing the area of gear avoids gear contact.

Each Class I, II, and III lobster license holder was notified of the start of the survey. The notice contains a link to DMR's website which shows the daily schedule and charts, tow locations and coordinates. If weather does not permit the trawl survey, DMR expects that lobstermen will not be fishing that day. Therefore, it is our hope that everyone, the trawl survey and lobstermen, will slide the schedule one day forward. Marine Patrol will be on hand as well to assist with tow operations, including moving traps.

Due to the possibility that weather or mechanical difficulties will delay the schedule, there are several ways to obtain 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.

For more information go to www.maine.gov/dmr/science/fisheries-monitoring-assessment/maine-new-hampshire-inshore-trawl-survey/current.



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- Opposed mandatory trackers on federal lobster boats
- Opposed 100% harvester reporting
- Sued Monterey Bay Aquarium over red listing of Maine lobster



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The MLA is your staunch advocate, fighting to keep you fishing!

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In the
NEWS

HERRING SPAWNING CLOSURES IN EFFECT

Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning closures began on September 23 and will continue through November 3. The Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning area will also be closed for the same period of time.

ISLAND INSTITUTE RECEIVES FUNDS FOR "FUTURE OF FISHING"

The Island Institute in Rockland received \$1.4 million to support Maine's lobstering industry through a new initiative. The funding comes from the Small Business Administration and was championed by Senators Susan Collins and Angus King. It will be used to launch a "Future of Fishing" effort which aims to bolster the state's lobstering industry by expanding economic opportunities for coastal communities and focusing on sustainability. The three-year-long effort will be led by the Island Institute and "will create a network of statewide organizations that will develop and deploy assistance programs to businesses, communities, and individuals," the institute said in the release.

RIGHT WHALES HANGING OUT OFFSHORE LONG ISLAND

More than 82 North Atlantic right whales - including 56 in one day - were spotted swimming together in a multi-grouping pattern that scientists from the New England Aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life called "unusual." Scientists from the Boston-based center spotted the whales, representing over one quarter of the entire North Atlantic right whale population, during a series of flights between the end of July and into August in the Hudson and Block Canyon areas about 40 to 70 miles south of Long Island, along with an abundance of fin and humpback whales, various dolphin species, manta rays, whale sharks, tuna, and sea turtles. The area is highly trafficked by vessels and an unusual feeding ground for the critically endangered species, raising concerns for their safety.

KELP LOSING GROUND IN SOUTHERN MAINE

Parts of the warming Gulf of Maine have become inhospitable for kelp forests, according to new research from the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in East Boothbay. Between 2001 and 2018, a team led by senior research scientist Doug Rasher combined dive surveys of kelp population and data on ocean temperature to compile the first detailed census of Maine's kelp forests in nearly 20 years. The results were startling, Rasher said. North of Penobscot Bay, however, kelp forests are still thriving, but south of Casco Bay they had almost disappeared. Water temperatures in the spring and summer are just too hot for kelp, which depend on cold, nutrient rich conditions.



Photo courtesy of PenBayPilot.com.

DMR STAFF RECEIVE AWARDS

In September Department of Marine Resources Commissioner Patrick Keliher presented the annual Employee Award to Marine Mechanic Specialist Timothy Bennett. Manager of the Year award was presented to Marine Patrol Sergeant Mark Murry. In presenting the Employee Award, Commissioner Keliher praised Bennett's skill and professionalism. Bennett's skills allowed him to refit an old boat hull into a functional vessel for the aquaculture inspection team, saving the department \$50,000. "Tim is an outstanding employee. He can fix everything," said Keliher. Sergeant Murry, a 25-year Marine Patrol veteran, oversees Marine Patrol Officers in the district from Harrington to Calais. "Sergeant Murry exemplifies superior leadership and professionalism," said Keliher. "His unwavering commitment to his co-workers and community members defines him as a Marine Patrol Sergeant." Sergeant Murry has previously received the Maine Lobstermen's Association Marine Patrol Officer of the Year, Marine Patrol Lifesaving Award, the Commissioner's Letter of Appreciation, and the Washington County Officer of the Year Award.

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Events Calendar

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

October 2

Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative Board Meeting, 3 p.m., via Zoom.

October 3

Shellfish Advisory Council meeting, 11 a.m-2 p.m., via Teams and in DMR office building, Augusta.

Aquaculture public hearing, Norumbega Oyster, 1 p.m., Damariscotta Town Hall.

October 6

Lobster Draft Addendum XXXI Comments Due. Send to Caitlin Starks, Senior FMP Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, Virginia 22201; or to comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Lobster Draft Addendum XXXI).

October 10

MLA Board meeting, 5 p.m.

October 15

Bottom trawl survey of Maine's research array lease area begins; continues through November 31. FMI: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEDMR/bulletins/3b7d718>.

October 21-22

Ropeless Consortium Annual Meeting, Providence, RI. FMI: <https://ropeless.org/2024-annual-meeting>.

October 21-24

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 82nd annual meeting, Annapolis, MD. FMI: www.asmfc.org/home/2024-annual-meeting.

October 23-24

North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium Annual Meeting, Providence, RI. FMI: www.narwc.org/annual-meeting.html.

October 28

Aquaculture Advisory Council meeting, 11 a.m-1 p.m., via Teams and in DMR office building, Augusta.

October 29

BOEM Gulf of Maine Lease Auction

November 2

MLA 70th anniversary celebration, Salt Water Fields Wedding & Event Barn, South Thomaston.

Inshore Trawl Survey

Details available at www.maine.gov/dmr/science/fisheries-monitoring-assessment/maine-new-hampshire-inshore-trawl-survey/current.

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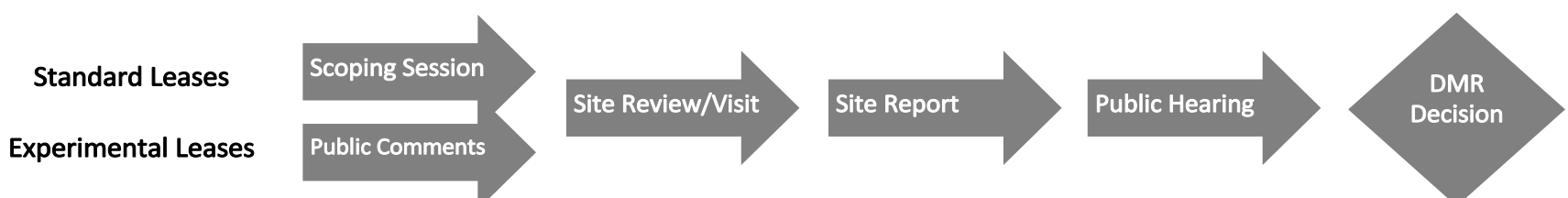
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DMR Aquaculture Lease Applications: New Activity (8/24/24 - 9/24/24)

Bristol	JDL Fisheries LLC	E of Louds Isl, Muscongus Bay	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App 2 rec'd 4/30/24; site visit completed
	Muscongus Bay Kelp	SE of Louds Isl/E of Bar Isl, Muscongus Bay	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App 1 rec'd 5/14/24; site visit completed
Brunswick	Ferda Farms LLC	E of Lower Coombs Isl, New Meadows Rvr	2.33 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Lease Granted 9/9/24
Chebeague Isl	Jordan, John	W side of Gr Chebeague Isl, SW of Division Pt	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App rec'd 9/21/23; site visit completed
	Jordan, John Jr.	W of Great Chebeague Isl, SW of Seal Ledge	3.98 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App rec'd 9/21/23; site visit completed
Damariscotta	Mook Sea Farms Inc.	Days Cove, Damariscotta Rvr	4 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Public Hearing 11/7/24 1pm Town of Damariscotta
Deer Isle	Barrows, Abigail	South of Big Hay Isl, Pickering Cove	4.24 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Lease Granted 9/6/24
	Deep Blue Aquaculture LLC	W of Hog Island, Eastern Penobscot Bay	41.2 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	App rec'd 4/4/23; site visit completed
Edgecomb	Glidden Point Oyster Co.	Damariscotta River	.2 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	App rec'd 9/6/24; site review TBD
Freeport	Sparta, Kenneth Curtis	W of Crab Isl, Casco Bay	8.25 acres	Shellfish/Algae	Standard	20 yrs	Lease Granted with Modifications 9/4/24
Friendship	Cutts, Joe	E end of Friendship Long Isl, Meduncook Rvr	2.2 acres	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	Lease Granted 9/16/24
Harpwell	Tumble Tide	NW of Little Whaleboat Isl, Casco Bay	3.94 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App rec'd 2/27/24; site visit completed
St. George	Balano, JW & McCoy, MR	Harrington Cove, Wheeler's Bay	1.98 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Lease Granted 9/16/24
	Devil's Apron Sea Farms	E of Little Caldwell Isl, St. George Rvr	3.91 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App 1 rec'd 3/19/24; site visit completed.
	Devil's Apron Sea Farms	E of Caldwell Isl, St. George Rvr	3.90 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App 2 rec'd 3/19/24; site visit completed.
	Miss Madisyn	W of Caldwell Isl, end of St. George Rvr	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App rec'd 10/10/23; site visit completed
	Regenerative Maine	Otis Cove, St. George River	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App 1 rec'd 5/14/24; site visit completed
Steuben	Regenerative Maine	Turkey Cove, St. George River	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App II rec'd 5/14/24; site visit completed
	Pinkham, Randy	E of Chair Pond Head, Pigeon Hill Bay	3.99 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	Apps 1&2 rec'd 3/28/23; site reports published 9/23/24
Stonington	Sokoloski, Victor	E of Chair Pond Head, Pigeon Hill Bay	3.99 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	Apps 1&2 rec'd 3/28/23; site reports published 9/23/24
	Greenhead Lobster LLC	Penobscot Bay	3.5 acres	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	App rec'd 10/12/23; site visit completed
Yarmouth	Greenhead Lobster LLC	Between East Penobscot Bay and Jericho Bay	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App rec'd 10/12/23; site visit completed
	Henninger, Thomas	Little John Isl, Casco Bay	6.37 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	App rec'd 4/4/23; site report published 9/12/24
York	Parker, Joe	NE of Basket Island, Casco Bay	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App rec'd 3/19/24; site visit completed
	So ME Sustainable Shellfish	W of Sewall's Bridge, York River	0.97 acres	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	Lease Granted 9/9/24

For an interactive source of pending lease applications, please see DMR's table of Pending Aquaculture Lease Applications, where you can find maps and documentation.
Go to: www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/maine-aquaculture-leases-and-lpas/pending-lease-applications

You Can Make a Difference!



www.mainelobstermen.org/events and include links to corresponding DMR Notices.



Heading in at Bass Harbor.



Ready for the next day at the Spruce Head Co-op.

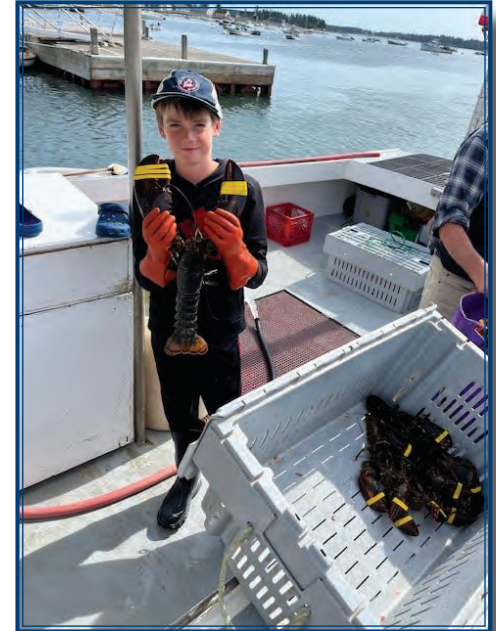


A cheerful crew and captain on Islesford.



Brother and sister team at the end of the day on Islesford.

MLA membership director Sunshine Mechtenberg continued her visits to Maine's lobster wharves this past month. She talked to lobstermen in Bass Harbor, Islesford, Spruce Head and other small harbors, letting them know about the MLA's work and signing up new members. "I've met men and women lobstermen of all ages. They share a tremendous work ethic and a true sense of stewardship," Mechtenberg said. In its 70th year, the MLA is proud to welcome its newest members to the organization!



Landing a triple-banded lobster on Islesford.



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