



# LANDINGS

News & Views from Maine's Lobstering Community

November 2024 | Vol. 32, No.11

## HISTORIC BOEM AUCTION RESULTS IN FOUR LEASES IN GULF OF MAINE

By MLCA staff

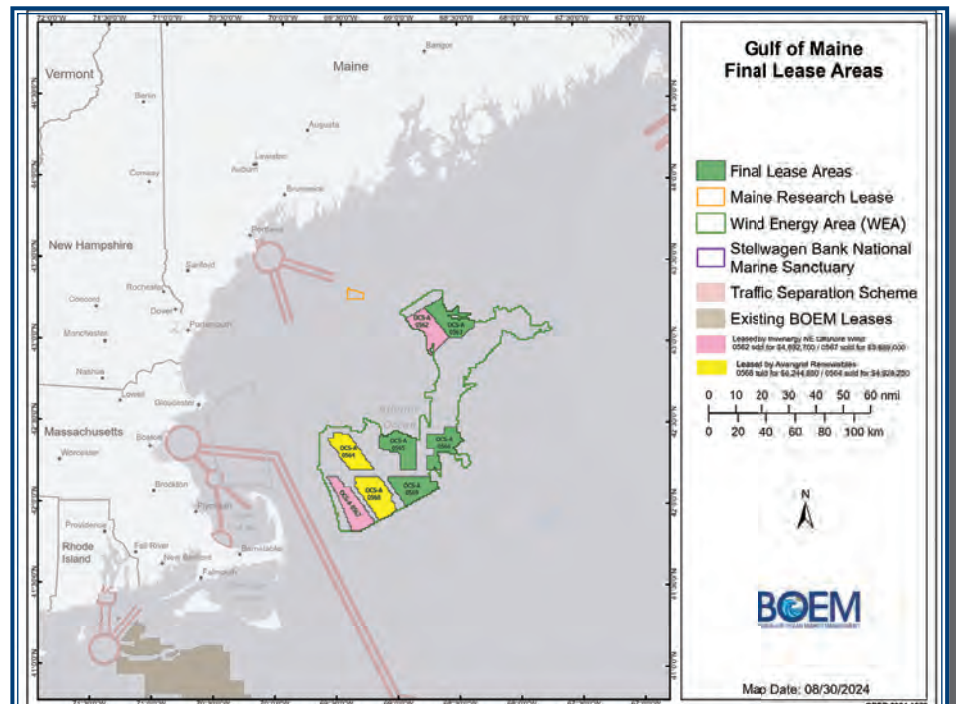
On October 29, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) auctioned off eight leases encompassing 850,000 acres of the Gulf of Maine. Fourteen companies were eligible to bid on the eight lease areas, however only two offered bids on just four leases. Avangrid Renewables successfully bid on a 98,565-acre tract for \$4,928,250, and a second 124,897-acre site for \$6,244,850. Both lease areas are approximately 29.5 nautical miles from Massachusetts. Invenergy NE Offshore Wind bid \$4,892,700, for a 97,854 acre-tract approximately 46.2 nautical miles from Maine and \$5,889,000 for a second 117,780-acre site approximately 21.6 nautical miles of Cape Cod. Each company was limited to no more than two leases.

The leases do not authorize the construction or operation of any offshore wind facilities. Rather, they provide the right to submit a project plan for BOEM's review. The companies seek to construct and operate floating wind turbines, an emerging technology required in Gulf of Maine offshore areas.

As part of their bids, the two companies also committed to more than \$5.4 million in bidding credits. Bidding credits are binding agreements to invest over \$2.7 million in workforce training and domestic supply chain development and \$2.7 million for fisheries compensatory mitigation.

Dan Burgess, director of the Governor's Energy Office, said the federal lease sale represented a "significant milestone" for Maine and the region as it develops offshore wind to reduce a dependence on expensive fossil fuels and fight

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One leased area lies about 46 nm off Maine; the three others are located east of Massachusetts. MLA image.

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## 2025 HERRING QUOTA WILL HIT HISTORIC LOW

By Melissa Waterman

In September the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) set the 2025-2027 quota for herring with an Annual Catch Limit (ACL) of 2,710 metric tons (mt) in 2025 and an ACL of 6,854 mt for 2026 and 2027. The 2024 ACL is 19,141 mt. The new quota is an 89% reduction from 2024.

The new quota effectively erases an historic commercial fishery in the Gulf of Maine. "The revised ACL, if approved by NOAA Fisheries as expected, will result in the lowest catch limits in the history of the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan. The new catch limits will not support a directed commercial fishery for Atlantic herring," the Council stated in a press release.

"The discussion was really tough," said Togue Brawn, one of Maine's Council representatives. "You have to go with the best available science, then push back on that science and ask questions. You can't ignore what fishermen say. But the resource is really down."

The Council initially had set a herring quota for 2025 of 23,961 mt but the most recent herring stock assessment indicated that the stock remained deeply depleted, despite steep quota reductions beginning in 2018. The spawning biomass of herring remained low, 26% of its target level, and young fish were not entering into the fishery. As a result, the Council asked NOAA for an adjustment to the existing 2025 quota in order to prevent overfishing next year. The aim is to rebuild the stock by 2031 but, as the Council stated, such growth is "behind schedule."

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# COASTAL OUTLOOK *Thoughts from MLCA President Patrice McCarron*

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A lot happened in October that impacts the future of offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine. On October 29, the first Gulf of Maine offshore wind auction by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) took place. Eight offshore areas were up for auction; four were leased that day. One area is off the Maine coast and the other three are off Massachusetts. The value of the combined leases was \$21.9 million.

The area off Maine was leased by Invenergy NE Offshore Wind LLC for \$4,892,700. A lease is not approval to construct a wind farm, only the right to submit a project plan for BOEM's review.

At the state level, in late October Maine's application for a \$456 million grant from the federal Department of Transportation to build an offshore wind hub at Sears Island in Searsport was denied.

In other news, the Maine lobster fishery received word in September from the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) that the quota for Atlantic herring, a traditional lobster bait, would be cut severely for 2025. The Allowable Catch Limit will be 2,710 metric tons, down from 19,141 metric tons in 2024. Despite earlier, sharp reductions in quota and a reduction in fishing effort, herring stocks are not rebuilding at the rate regulators hoped to see. "The current assessment shows the herring spawning stock is at 26% [of its target size]," Megan Ware, Department of Marine Resources director of external affairs and Maine Council member, said. "We haven't had good years of recruitment in many years. But there's no clear answer to why. You can't rebuild the stock without young fish."

In late October the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) voted to delay a planned change to the lobster gauge in Lobster Management Area I. Originally slated to take effect on June 1, 2024, then January 1, 2025, the increase in the minimum legal size for lobsters instead will go into effect on July 1, 2025. The minimum carapace measurement for a legal lobster will increase from 3-1/4 inches to 3-5/16 inches and there is second increase scheduled for a year and a half later. Creating a market advantage for the Canadian lobster industry, where the minimum legal size is smaller, has been one of the central criticisms to

the new regulations from U.S. lobstermen. The delay gives extra time for Canadian regulators to consider adjusting their gauge size as well.

A law passed by the Maine Legislature earlier this year gives added clarity to the state's Working Waterfront Current Land Use tax reduction program. The law went into effect in August. The changes distinguish between types of work-

ing waterfront, increase the tax reduction benefits, amend penalties, and update reporting requirements. Less than 20 miles of Maine coast remain working waterfront.

Susan Tobey White, who passed away in September, was a remarkable artist. She found expression through her colorful paintings of dancers, food, and women lobstermen. Her series of paintings, "Lobstering Women of Maine," was featured in *Landings* several years ago before showing at the Penobscot Marine Museum in 2019. The paintings were published as a book in 2023. As Linda Greenlaw wrote in the book's introduction, "White has captured what is impossible to articulate. ... Each portrait embodies the inherent contradiction of beauty and sheer grit. A true celebration of love of life on the water." We honor her memory with a few of her images in this issue.

The right whale research and conservation commu-

nity gathered for its annual Ropeless Consortium and North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium Meetings. Fishermen from New England, the southeast Atlantic, Canada and California attended to report on recent success in fishing on-demand gear in whale closure areas, though they also noted that this gear is not ready to be scaled up for commercial fishing purposes. After several years of population decline, NMFS announced that the right whale population has seen a steady increase since 2020, and is now estimated at 372 whales.

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

*Patrice*



*The prospect of floating wind turbines industrializing the Gulf of Maine looms larger after the October 29 offshore lease auction. V.Wind photo.*

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## MLA continues to build bipartisan, commonsense solutions

To the Editor,

I couldn't be more impressed with the *Landings* "Steaming Ahead" article written by Patrice McCarron in the October issue. Patrice has given the lobster fishing business many years of selfless service as President of the MLA, and her insightful column hit the nail on the head when it comes down to how the MLA has approached the issues that have dogged this fishery over the years.

It's so easy to bark about a problem, place blame and play the victim. It's a lot harder to analyze the issues and get to work on fixing them, especially when the odds are against you. As Patrice so ably stated, and what the MLA has been so good at, is clearly articulating the issues, educating those who need to know, and building a bipartisan consensus on a commonsense solution that is right for all Maine fishermen.

The MLA has wisely chosen not to engage in inflammatory rhetoric and alienating people with insults and labels. By choosing not to tie our problems to a political party, personal agendas or narrow thinking, we all have gained a measure of nationwide respect in the never-ending fight for lobster fishing in Maine.

I grew up lobstering in Port Clyde and returned there after 25 years in the Marine Patrol and fished again. Pushing 70 now and coming to the end of my fishing, but my son is also fishing and he and his family will need all the protection the MLA can provide in the future. Thank you, Patrice, for all the hard work MLA does to protect this way of life we all hold near and dear.

Dan Morris  
Port Clyde

## LMA 1 GAUGE CHANGE DELAYED TO JULY 2025

On October 21 the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) voted overwhelmingly in favor of delaying implementation of a rule requiring an increase in the minimum legal size of lobsters caught in Lobster Management Area 1. The six month delay pushes back the gauge increase, from 3-1/4 inches to 3-5/16 inches, to July 2025. It is scheduled to increase again a year and a half later. The new rule was originally scheduled to go into effect in June 2024, then was delayed to January 2025.

Lobster fishery regulators hope that this delay will give both dealers and harvesters time to adjust to impacts of the size change. It also gives extra time for Canadian regulators to consider adjusting their minimum size requirements as well. Creating a market advantage for the Canadian lobster industry has been one of the central criticisms to the new regulations from Maine lobstermen.

While opposed to the gauge increase, the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) expressed cautious approval of the delay. "We are hopeful that this will provide more time to address unintended consequences of an increase, specifically the fact that unless Canada also changes its gauge size, Canadian lobstermen will still be able to catch smaller lobster," the MLA said in a statement. "The MLA supports the ban of importing Canadian lobster under the U.S. mini-


mum size because allowing undersize lobster into the U.S. would have a significant negative impact on the boat price for Maine lobster."

MLA President Kristan Porter emphasized the importance of the additional time. "ASMFC listened to the Maine lobster industry about the serious unintended consequences of a U.S.-only gauge increase," Porter said. "Delaying the gauge increase until July 2025 is a big win for lobstermen, allowing Maritime Canada to consider increasing its gauge and the U.S. fishery to prepare for reduced landings and market disruptions."

The move to increase the minimum size was triggered by lobster surveys in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine that estimated the population of juvenile lobster nearing legal size had declined 35% from 2018.


Some members of the lobster industry believe the survey methodology is flawed. Recent research from the University of Maine indicates that lobsters in shallow water have relocated from sheltered, rocky habitats to open sandy and muddy areas. That's raising new questions about the assumptions underlying researchers' survey and assessment methods.


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Herring continued from page 1

### History

Herring were once the backbone of Maine's coastal economy. Sardine canning plants dotted the coast in the early 20th century, supplied with juvenile herring by local weirs and stop-seines. Later purse seiners travelled offshore to encircle and harvest migrating herring schools.

The scale of the fishery grew much greater with the advent of foreign herring vessels operating in the Gulf of Maine and on Georges Bank in the 1960s and 1970s. Prior to the institution of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976, foreign vessels fished aggressively in the region. Their herring landings peaked at 1 billion pounds in 1968. By the late 1970s, the herring fishery had crashed.

With tight harvest quotas and elimination of large offshore vessels, herring stocks slowly recovered. In time, however, new large vessels, known as midwater trawlers, entered the fishery. Capable of storing more than a million pounds of fish, the efficiency of midwater trawlers led to the Council prohibiting trawlers' operating in the Gulf of Maine from June 1 to the end of September.

### Ecosystem value

Herring have always had an important role in the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. The oily, nutrient-packed fish are eaten by just about everything: tuna, seabirds, seals, whales, striped bass, cod. As prey, herring are a key element in the Gulf's abundant food web.

Thus by 2019 the Council required the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for herring explicitly account for the "role of Atlantic herring as forage in the ecosystem by limiting fishing mortality to 80% of what could be allowed at maximum sustainable yield." This rule further reduced the amount of herring available for harvest by fishermen.

"Now we have a more conservative harvest control rule," Megan Ware, Department of Marine Resources director of external affairs and Maine Council member. "It's a more conservative rule at lower biomass. It's like the size of the pie [the overall herring biomass] is smaller and then the slice of the pie is smaller too."

### Stock Assessments

Every two years the Northeast Fisheries Science Center conducts an assessment of Atlantic herring. The stock assessments indicated the beginning of a population decline in the early 2000s, however, annual fishing quotas remained steady. The 2016-2018 ACL was 104,800 metric tons annually, in line with previous years. But the 2018 herring stock assessment showed that since 2013, fewer young fish were turning up in the population and thus the stock was declining.

Specifically, "The recruitment estimates from the most recent five years were among the lowest in the time series. This suggests that the short-to-medium term prognosis for the stock is likely to be relatively poor," the 2018 assessment stated.

The Council requested that NOAA cut the quota in half. In 2019, the ACL dropped to 15,065 mt; by 2022 it sank to 3,813 mt. In November 2021 the federal government declared the commercial herring fishery a "fishery disaster," authorizing \$11 million in aid for fishermen in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and New Jersey, of which \$7 million was assigned to Maine.

"The current assessment shows the herring spawning stock is at 26% [of its target size]," Ware said. "The management plan mandates no fishing when biomass hits 10% of its target size." Ware acknowledged that errors can occur in stock assessments, referencing a halibut stock assessment several years ago. "The Council can remand the ABCs back to the Science and Statistical Committee under specific criteria, such as an error or missing information. Right now there's a research track assessment going on for herring." That assessment looks at all available data and potential model approaches. In particular, researchers will look at whether the assessment model and related surveys are still appropriate given changes in the marine environment and other factors.

### The mystery of recruitment

"We haven't had good years of recruitment in many years. But there's no clear answer to why. You can't rebuild the stock without young fish," Ware said. "The quota cuts began in 2018 and have continued in the years since. But there's been no response from the stock biomass according to the stock assessment."

Herring are a cold-water species. The Gulf of Maine has warmed rapidly since 2010. It would be easy to jump to the conclusion that the warmer water is somehow responsible for the decline in young herring. But Ware points out that herring, as well as mackerel stocks have also declined in Canadian waters, such as Nova Scotia and Bay of Fundy.

"Herring wasn't considered a climate vulnerable species during a review in 2016," Ware said, referencing study published in 2016. "They don't have a very long life so with a few years of good recruitment the population could rebuild. We've seen the reductions in Canadian quota so they are not declining just in the southern range of the species."

Large bait companies have shifted away from herring to other sources, such as menhaden and "hard" bait. "The herring companies have seen this coming," Brawn noted. "Some have other opportunities but it's still horrible for the businesses."

With the steady quota reductions, the number of vessels fishing for herring has declined from 50 in 2017 to 21 in 2022. The number of trips taken fell from 737 in 2017 to 76 in 2022, reducing effort in the fishery. With fewer vessels going after herring, it would seem likely that the stock would have the ability to rebuild. This year fishermen reported seeing dense patches of herring throughout inshore Maine in the late summer and early fall months, which they take as a sign the herring are back.

Such sightings are not necessarily contrary to a low biomass of herring, according to Ware. "When the stock is low, we tend to see herring concentrated in inshore Gulf of Maine. It's a contraction of the stock," she said. "People aren't seeing herring on Georges Bank or southern New England at previous rates."



*Never has the herring quota been as low as it will be in 2025. MainePublic photo.*

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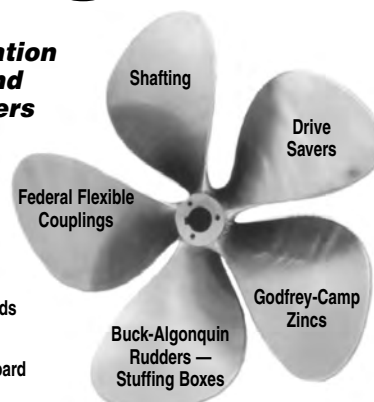
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# NEW LAW IMPROVES WORKING WATERFRONT TAX REDUCTION PROGRAM

By MLCA staff

A new law passed by the Maine Legislature earlier this year gives added clarity to the state's Working Waterfront Current Land Use tax reduction program.

Maine typically assesses property tax based on the most valuable, or best use, of a property. To support Maine's natural resource industries, Maine has four primary Current Land Use Programs that offer property owners tax reductions in assessed value. These programs are designed to support the preservation of certain types of land. The four programs are farmland, open space, tree growth, and working waterfront. While this is a state tax relief program, enrollment in these programs is managed at the municipal level.

The Current Land Use Program for working waterfront supports properties that are used for commercial fishing activities, which is now defined in Maine law to include both commercial fishing and aquaculture production.

### Why did the program need to be updated?

While working waterfront has been part of the Current Land Use Program since 2007, enrollment has been very low. Low enrollment is likely due to the minimal tax reductions the program as written provided, and real concerns about the penalties incurred if property was no longer used as working waterfront, whether temporarily or long-term.

In 2024, the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association worked with Representative Dan Ankeles to amend the current use taxation policy to be more in line with other programs. An *Act Regarding the Current Use Valuation of Working Waterfront Property* was passed in the last legislative session, which amended the program to improve tax relief for working waterfront property owners.

### What do property owners need to know?

The regulations were effective on August 9, 2024. If you're already enrolled in this program, the changes will automatically apply for calendar year 2025. If you aren't enrolled, you will need to apply at your town municipal office before April 1, 2025, to see an impact on your 2025 taxes.

### Updated definition of Working Waterfront

The new law is more precise about the definition of "working waterfront." In particular, the new law acknowledges that gear maintenance and storage are critical aspects of commercial fishing activity.

- Increased tax reduction to rates in line with other Current Land Use Programs, and a new provision regarding right-of-ways and easements for commercial intertidal harvesters.
- Land used predominantly as working waterfront (90% or more for commercial fishing activity) is now eligible for a reduction of 30%.
- Land used primarily as working waterfront (50%-89% for commercial fishing activity) is now eligible for a reduction of 20%.
- Working waterfront land that is subject to a legally binding right-of-way or easement that permits access to intertidal land for commercial fishing activities is eligible for the same reductions, and an additional reduction of 10%.

### Amended penalties

Previously, penalties were imposed if a fisherman did not use the property for fishing for a year. The regulations have now been amended to extend this period to two years. The regulations also include the ability to request a delay in payment of other penalties (due to change of use) of up to two years.


GOM auction continued from page 1

climate change. "We look forward to following the next phases of these lease sales and building on our progress to foster this industry for the benefit of Maine people," Burgess said.

Maine lobstermen have persistently opposed the creation of floating wind farms in the Gulf of Maine. "The Maine Lobstermen's Association is disappointed that BOEM has taken yet another dangerous step toward the industrialization of one of the world's most productive marine ecosystems. The MLA remains steadfast 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."

New England is a growing market for offshore wind developers because many states have passed laws mandating procurement of offshore wind energy. Massachusetts is a leader in offshore wind with a target of 5.6 gigawatts by 2027; Maine's goal is to generate 3 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2040.



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### STEAMING AHEAD BY CRAIG STEWART, MLA VICE-PRESIDENT

On the shores of Long Island in Casco Bay, fishing isn't just a job, it's the heartbeat of the community. I know firsthand that fishing is about much more than hauling traps or chasing quotas. It's about showing up for each other, working side by side, and leaning on neighbors when times get tough. We might not always see eye-to-eye, but when somebody needs help, we're there. That's what community is. That's what fishing is.

With only about 260 people living on the island year-round, every person counts. Whether fixing a wharf, moving equipment, or lending a truck, no one has to ask for help; it's just understood. It doesn't matter if it's fishing, dump runs, or taking care of neighbors when they are sick. We all pitch in. That's the way it's always been, and that's how we keep going.

This sense of community also drives the island's younger fishermen to take the helm. In recent years, a couple of them received Maine state scallop licenses through the lottery process and stepped into the role of the next generation, diversifying from just lobstering. I've tried to help where I can but it's really everyone on this island. We all want to see them succeed because it keeps our way of life alive.

The fishing industry has always been challenging, but today's fishermen are forced to adapt to it in ways earlier generations might not have imagined. Diversification has become essential, with folks balancing lobstering and scalloping to make ends meet. I've seen neighbors expand into kelp farming and oyster farms, pushing the boundaries of what it means to be a fisherman.

It's not just about passing down skills; it's about passing down values. Fishing can be brutal. If you're in it for the money, you're in the wrong place. You've got to love it to stay, and you've got to love the people around you, too. That's what makes it all worth it.

Beyond the shorelines of Long Island, lobstermen have found solidarity with other fishing communities across the country. Last fall, I met fishermen from Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond and realized just how similar our challenges are. It reinforced the importance of building

connections between coastal communities. If we don't stick together, we're going to struggle. We need to support each other, share what we know, and push for better prices and conservation. That's the only way we'll make it.

The communities in the Pacific Northwest struggle with quota cuts, early season closures, and new regulations that make it challenging to stay afloat. Whether it's Maine or Alaska, we're all dealing with the same pressures, just wrapped up a little differently. Making connections with fishermen from other regions reinforces the sense that no one is in this alone. Despite being separated by thousands of miles, fishing communities share the same grit, values, and commitment to preserving their traditions. These relationships are a reminder that fishermen everywhere are in this together, weathering the same storms, navigating regulations, and finding ways to keep going.

And support doesn't stop at the docks. The community extends to how people buy their seafood. It's simple. If you want us to keep fishing, you've got to buy local. Support your neighbor. Eat what's caught right on your coast.

The future of fishing depends on the next generation stepping up. The community must rally behind them. It's not easy getting younger people into this business. Supporting young fishermen goes beyond offering advice, fixing gear, and being a generational fishing family; it also means creating a market to support local fishermen. When people buy locally caught

seafood, they're keeping us out there. Every time you choose a lobster from Maine or fish from your neighbor, you're investing in the next generation of fishermen. This connection between local buyers and local catch ensures that fishing communities like ours will continue to thrive. If we don't support our own, we lose more than an industry — we lose our heritage.

Fishing on Long Island has always been about the way of life and the connection to the community. Whether it's the laughter echoing through channel 73, working with family, and the comfort of knowing your neighbors are always behind you, fishing here is about belonging. At the end of the day, the community is what holds everything together. Without that, none of the rest would matter.



*Family and community are what make commercial fishing in Maine possible. C. Clegg photo.*

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## MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

### MLA DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

The MLA Board met on October 10 in Belfast. Bob Blais from East Coast Seafood and Drew Minkiewicz, attorney for a Maine processor/dealer group, attended to discuss the ASMFC gauge increase and dealer/processor concerns over banning lobster imports from Canada smaller than the U.S. minimum gauge size.

Bob Blais presented the dealers' concerns. He began by providing background on East Coast Seafood and its concern over Addendum 30, which prevents the import of lobster smaller than the U.S. minimum. East Coast sells to major retailers including Costco, Walmart, and food trucks. The company processes in the U.S. from May through December. If there is a U.S.-only gauge increase, his company will lose access to lobsters from Canada in May and June, which would threaten the company's processing operation. He estimates that 90% to 95% of the company's supply is from Canada during those months. East Coast does buy U.S. lobsters that are available but it is not enough to keep the plant running during those months. When asked why they couldn't purchase graded product, he responded that the cost of those lobsters would be too high for his plant to operate successfully. He estimates that May and June account for 10% to 15% of the company's annual processing volume.



MLA Board members asked many questions about why banning the import of undersized lobsters would risk the success of U.S. processing operations. It was noted that May and June were banner months in Canada last year, and that P.E.I. grades its larger lobsters to sell to the live market. A board member asked again why East Coast can't buy graded product. Blais responded that it is a complicated issue because Canada is hit with so many lobsters now in the spring. Lobsters would be processed in Canada before they would be graded. And if they were graded, it would raise the price significantly so East Coast would not be able to compete. The live side has more capacity to pay the premium for graded product. A board member asked why the processing plants aren't developing an automated grading system to keep competitive? Another asked if Canada can handle all of the lobsters it is landing now? Blais answered yes. A board member then asked if that is so, why Canada is selling any product to the U.S. now?

With regard to Addendum 30, the MLA board was unequivocal in its support. The MLA Board hopes that the Canadian Maritimes in the Gulf of Maine will come up on the measure, but if they don't, the MLA would not support any import of lobster smaller than the U.S. gauge.

Attorney Minkiewicz said he understood MLA's concerns, but asked MLA to consider a compromise to support the dealers. If dealers buying Maine product are negatively impacted, this will hurt Maine lobstermen.

He asked two questions: Would MLA consider allowing imports of undersize lobster only during May and June?

Would MLA consider finding other ways to meet the conservation goal? When asked what that would be, he said dealers are willing to explore that, but an example would be a vent increase instead of gauge increase.

After much discussion, the consensus was that the MLA Board cannot support the import of undersize lobster, even for just two months. If lobstermen can't possess the smaller lobster, dealers should not possess the smaller lobster. The Board also stated that it does not seem realistic to get an alternative conservation measure (to replace gauge increase) through ASMFC. ASMFC has already ruled out most other measures because they determined they would not meet the goal of increasing spawning stock biomass.

The MLA board was clear that it understands that dealers and harvesters must try to work together; the industry is at its best when both are doing well. Everyone agreed that Addendum 27 (the gauge increase) is driving this division between harvesters and dealers and that neither side wants the gauge increase.

Other board members expressed overall frustration with the ASMFC process. Maine's offshore LMA 1 lobstermen are frustrated that Area 3 boats are harvesting the lobsters that Maine throws back. They have observed that there is very poor enforcement in Area 3 and those boats are landing seeders, v-notch, and oversized lobsters. This undermines conservation, which is particularly concerning when changes are required to enhance conservation. There was a discussion of a need to improve the science and concern that the data currently collected do not reflect what is happening offshore. There is no survey work in deep waters so the data do not reflect the significant difference between lobster abundance and size 15 miles out and 40 miles out.

At the U.S.-Canada Lobster Town Meeting in January in Bar Harbor this issue will be discussed with a larger group of lobstermen and supply chain representatives from both sides of the border.

The board then held a short business meeting. Sunshine reported that membership renewals are going well and MLA is recruiting new members. She has spent a lot of time visiting wharves with positive feedback. The Jr. Harvester newsletter went out and has been well received. Look for profiles of Jr. Harvesters and business members in the MLA pages in Landings. Kevin reported that MLA has kicked off the end-of-year fundraising campaign supported through a mailing and social media campaign. The 70th Anniversary party is set to go on November 2.

Patrice reported that Max Strahan has filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue MLA and NMFS (dated October 3). This does not mean that MLA will be sued but it could be. MLA submitted comments to ASMFC in support of delaying LMA 1 gauge increase to July 2025. ASMFC's Lobster Board meets on October 21 to vote on Addendum 31 (to delay to July 2025) and they will also discuss MLA's request to remove the 24/7 provision for trackers. BOEM will hold the auction for offshore wind leasing in GOM on October 29. Results should be available that day. The New England Fishery Management Council cut 2025 herring quota by 89%. The Area 1A quota will be reduced to 783 mt for 2025. Board members were extremely concerned about what this will mean for bait next year. There was also concern that pogies coming to Maine from New Jersey were very small. The final 2024 herring quota opens October 10 and 11 (2 landing days). The Eastern Maine Spawning Closure has been lifted so the MDI should watch for gear conflict.

Board members provided brief updates on the fishery in their area. Everyone reported that fishing has been slower than they would like but price is up. However, most board members reported that when they compared this year's catch to last year, they weren't down as much as they thought. Most, but not all, were ahead on profit. Those fishing exclusively offshore were down on both landings and value.

### ASMFC LOBSTER BOARD SUMMARY

The ASMFC Lobster Board met on October 21 and approved Addendum 31, postponing the implementation of the LMA 1 gauge increase to July 1, 2025. The gauge increase was approved in October 2023 as a proactive measure in response to a downturn in the lobster stock, and was scheduled to take effect in June 2024 based on declines in 2023 survey results.

In response to industry concerns, ASMFC originally extended the implementation date to January 1, 2025, to allow the Gulf of Maine states the opportunity to coordinate with Canada regarding possible trade implications and give the industry and gauge makers additional time to prepare for these changes. The latest delay to July 2025 will allow further consideration of complementary measures by Canada, as well as offset potential impacts to U.S. dealers that depend on smaller lobster imported from Canada in the early part of the year. The July 2025 implementation date also delays measures for Outer Cape Cod lobstermen to standardize maximum size and v-notch definition with Area 3. The MLA submitted comments to ASMFC in support of delay LMA 1 gauge increase to July 2025.

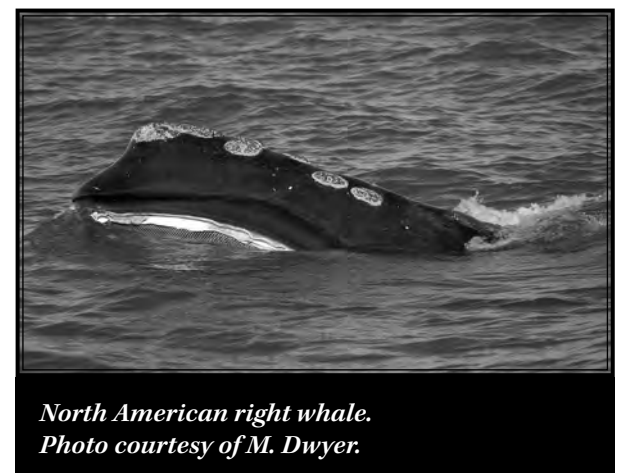
ASMFC is still considering MLA's request to remove the 24/7 provision of the federal lobster tracker requirement. This will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

### ANNUAL RIGHT WHALE MEETINGS

Patrice McCarron attended two annual right whale meetings. The Ropeless Consortium meeting took place October 21 and 22 and the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium (NARWC) meeting was held October 23 and 24 in Providence, Rhode Island.

The Ropeless Consortium meeting drew nearly 300 attendees. There are many pilot projects underway testing on-demand gear in Canada, New England, the Southeast, and California. These projects report successful retrieval rates ranging from 80% to 98% with catch being landed from whale closure areas.

Gulf of St. Lawrence snow crab fishermen, southeast black sea bass fishermen, Massachusetts lobstermen, and California Dungeness and box crab fishermen all reported that they were grateful to regain access to closed fishing grounds and continue to earn a living. They noted that a satellite system such as Starlink is needed to reliably use the gear, and that location of unmarked gear should be



*North American right whale.  
Photo courtesy of M. Dwyer.*



## MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

MLA Update continued from page 7

integrated into existing chart plotters. These fishermen were clear that there are still many issues to address and that deployment of this gear could not be scaled up for use by larger groups of fishermen.

Interoperability among various on-demand systems was highlighted as one of the biggest challenges to solve. Until unmarked gear can be seen by other vessels and enforcement officers, on-demand fishing will not be operational, regardless of the technology being used. Enforcement officers also raised many issues to be resolved before this gear could be commercially viable, from their perspective.

Gear libraries are being developed in many areas to provide a variety of ropeless, on-demand, and innovative gear for fishermen to trial. For most projects, fishermen are paid to fish the gear and collect data. The Ropeless Consortium will form an on-demand gear data working group to discuss how to manage, protect, and warehouse the real-time fishing data that will be needed for this gear to become operational. NMFS and DFO are each separately developing a "road map" with strategies to operationalize innovative gear technology for commercial fisheries.

The North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium convenes annually as a forum to share the latest results from right whale research. The meeting includes an update on the most recent population estimate and status of the population. This year brought good news: the right whale population is estimated at 372 individuals (as of 2023).

The right whale catalog identified 374 right whales seen alive from 2021 to 2023 including 150 females, 208 males, and 16 unknown. There were 20 calves born in 2024, four first-time mothers, five mortalities, and four lost calves. In 2022, 258 right whales were sighted in Cape Cod Bay. This is more than double the number of whales sighted in any other habitat, including the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Disentanglement teams in the U.S. and Canada reported eight entanglement incidents; seven were new (two shed the gear), and one was ongoing, which resulted in mortality (RW 5120). The meeting included updates on ongoing research projects to reduce entanglement and vessel strikes, updates on population monitoring techniques, distribution, the use of acoustics, genetics, health monitoring, and management updates from the U.S. and Canada.

### MLA AGAIN REQUESTS NMFS RECLASSIFY MAINE LOBSTER FISHERY

On October 24, the MLA submitted comments on NMFS' Proposed 2025 List of Fisheries, restating its request that the agency remove the Maine state waters lobster trap fishery from Category I and list it as a Category II fishery under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. A Category II fishery has less interaction with an endangered species than a Category I fishery. MLA notes that NMFS's continued failure to reclassify the fishery perpetuates the unnecessary and overly burdensome regulation of thousands of fishing families in Maine state waters.

### MAX STRAHAN THREATENS TO SUE MAINE LOBSTER FISHERY

Following NMFS's October 2 announcement that the final necropsy report for RW 5120 concluded that it died from entanglement Maine lobster gear, Max Strahan issued a 60-day Notice of Intent to Sue MLA and NMFS. He must wait 60 days to file so nothing will happen before then. The law enforcement investigation is still pending. As a result, MLA has not yet been allowed to view the gear.

## MLA JUNIOR HARVESTER

By Melissa Waterman

Fishing is part of life when you are a member of the Fernald family of Islesford. For brothers Briggs Gray, 17, and Quinn Gray, 12, whose mother Erin is a Fernald, there's real pleasure in continuing the family's longstanding devotion to the sea.

The brothers lobster together occasionally; Quinn sterns more often with his grandfather (Dan Fernald). "I started with my grandfather when I was about 8," Briggs said. "I did too," Quinn adds. "My great-grandfather Warren Fernald had three sons who fished. I've got his boat," Briggs continued. The 32-foot vessel long used by his great-grandfather, a founding member of the Maine Lobstermen's Association who passed away in 2005, has been repaired and strengthened with a fiberglass hull. She bears the same name as when Warren fished it, *Mother Ann*, after his wife.

Briggs and Quinn learned from their grandfather at a young age what to do and what not to do on a lobster boat. Briggs has been fishing on his own for two years. Things felt different to him in those early days. "I remember it was more laid back. I had just ten traps. It was calmer. My grandfather's goal was just to teach me about lobstering, to show me what it was like," he said.

For Quinn lobstering is largely about baiting traps, banding and measuring the lobsters, with occasional tricks at the wheel. It is what he wants to do. "I always like to be on the water. You never know what's going to come up in a trap," he said.

Briggs has moved from lobstering principally close to shore to deeper water this season. "I'm in 150 to 160 feet. I like the deeper water. The pace is slower because I'm fishing 40s," he said. "I like running my own boat. I know more about what the lobsters are doing, what bottom will be good on a particular day."

The brothers and their other siblings are home-schooled. Briggs attends an online high school program, with most of his classes in the afternoon so he can fish in the morning. "I don't mind school but I'd rather be on the water," he admitted. Quinn, who enjoys mechanical systems, also understands that an education is important yet he echoes his older brother's words. "I mainly like being on the water," he said.



Mother Ann at the dock.

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## MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

### MEET THE MLA BOARD

Gerry Cushman, 55, has been on the MLA board for more than 20 years. Nearly everyone will tell you he's just as energetic now as he was when he started.

"Me and Tad (Miller, former MLA board member from Matinicus) went to an MLA meeting in Belfast and we sat and listened. They needed two new board members. Well, I was interested and so I joined," he recalled.

Twenty years ago the issue of right whale entanglements was slowly rising on the horizon. Cushman helped the MLA position itself for the ensuing battles by bringing the organization to the attention of a Washington, D.C., law firm, many of whose attorneys summered in the Port Clyde area. "The MLA had no money back then," Cushman said. "I gifted pro bono work from the firm during the first round of whale rules. That really led to the moment we won the case in D.C. in 2022."



Gerry Cushman.

But the problem of right whale protection hasn't disappeared. New federal regulations are due in 2028; the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) begins discussions of those regulations this winter. "The whale rules are coming sooner than you think. Summer break is over," Cushman cautions. "We have to stay active and protect the fishery. We have to make sure the younger guys can come up, make a living and provide for their families."

Cushman is also active in the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA), which began with Port Clyde groundfishermen, and serves as vice-chairman of its board. Port Clyde had long been home to a diversified fishing fleet, which slowly shrank as different fisheries declined or closed. "During the summer my father would go lobstering in the day, herring seining at night," he said. "Then scalloping come November, then shrimping, and groundfishing in the spring. Now we have all our eggs in one basket. That's not a smart move."

He's optimistic, however, that fisheries other than lobster will have a resurgence. "Scallops came back, slowly. I think groundfishing is an option in the future. MCFA and the Nature Conservancy are buying quota and Maine has a permit bank as well," he said. "I see more and more diversification happening and it makes me happy. It means more opportunity for young guys."

Another thing that makes Cushman happy: the sunrise. "I have seen thousands of different sunrises," he said. "It never gets old. They make you feel so good to be alive."

MLA board member Jim Dow, 60, from Bass Harbor, doesn't talk any more than he needs to. But when he speaks, he is listened to. Former board member Jack Merrill, Islesford, brought Dow to an MLA board meeting some years ago. "He talked to me on the way up to the meeting and down again. I was a member of the Downeast Lobstermen's Association at that time. I didn't even know the MLA covered the whole coast," Dow recalled. He signed up as a member and

was elected to the board in 2007.

Dow's roots along the coast go deep. Five generations of his family have been fishermen, first out of Rockland and Vinalhaven, and then out of Bass Harbor since at least the 1800s. His maternal grandmother grew up on Gotts Island southwest of Mt. Desert Island. His great-aunt was the famous author Ruth Moore. Moore wrote novels about the hard lives of fishermen and their families on a fictional Maine island, stories that were largely based on her early life on Gotts Island. "My grandmother and her sister would handline haddock off the island, clean them, filet them and then serve them at the boarding house," Dow said. "Hard work."



Jim Dow.

Hard work, including being a member of the MLA board, has never bothered Dow. As part of the board, he has traveled many times to Augusta to speak before state Legislative committees and to talk to politicians and agency officials. "It was funny, one time I was before the Marine Resources Committee and there was my high school teacher [former Senator Dennis Damon]. He came up to me after and said, 'You've come a long way since high school! I wasn't very good in high school,'" Dow said.

The MLA's success in keeping the lobster fishery open and delaying imposition of harsh whale protection regulations gives Dow a sense of pride. "We really stepped up," he said. "It was really important for the fishery. Compared with other groups, we presented information in a quality manner." Keeping the lobster fishery open for everyone, inshore and offshore, big boats and small, is crucial, according to Dow. "[The proposed regulations] would have put young and old guys out of business. This can't happen. It was not good with me. The coastal Maine communities are as they are because of diversity. They would ruin that," he said.

Dow, who fishes inshore in the summer and offshore in the winter, has suffered a number of health issues in recent years. He is remodeling several houses to provide rental income when the time comes he can't go fishing any longer. And he worries about the young men and women just starting out as lobstermen. "There's going to be a real push for ropeless fishing. That will put people out of business if they push it because of the expense of getting started and then maintaining that gear."

Dow has enjoyed being on the MLA board all these years and becoming friends with other board members. But he laments the complexity of lobstering these days. "The fun of fishing is working the bottom, knowing when to do it, when to chase it and seeing the benefits of it. The more you go, the more you learn and the more you make. But you have to love it to do it because it's hard work," he said.

### MLA BUSINESS MEMBER OF THE MONTH: YANKEE MARINA AND BOATYARD

Yankee Marina and Boatyard in Yarmouth was founded by Ralph Stevens. As a young man Stevens worked as plant manager in his father's sardine company, the Royal River Packing Corp, on the west bank of the Royal River. Ralph continued to work at the plant after it sold in 1956 to Stinson and Zwecker and bought the adjacent land in 1964 with the vision of a marina and boatyard. He built Yankee Marina working nights and weekends while he continued to run the sardine factory. He started small but slowly and steadily built up the business until there were slips for 100 vessels and winter storage space for 200+. Additional boat services were added over the years as the company expanded.

"Dad loved people," his daughter and company president Deborah Delp explained. "He was a fair man, he looked out for the local people, as well as his crew."

Yankee Marina and Boat Yard became a MLA business member, according to Delp, "because we totally support the lobstermen. We try to help where it's needed, and lobstermen are having a hard time because of the new regulations."



Yankee Marina and Boatyard employees by the river. YM&B photo.

The company offers a wide variety of services, from heated storage and marina services to fiberglass repair, mechanical system overhauls and marine electronics. It is the state's sole dealer for Tidewater center console outboards and a Seakeeper authorized service center.

Yankee Marina is a busy place throughout the year. In an area of the coast where finding access to the water is difficult, Delp makes sure that local people have a spot for their boats at a reasonable price. A few slips are set aside so that local contractors working on nearby Hope Island, for instance, can travel to and from the island each day. "Dad would appreciate that," she laughed.

Delp's two brothers work in the business with her. Many of the employees have been with the company for decades. "I think it has to be about people. We put a lot of time into our customers and into our employees. I believe, that at the end of the day, the true richness of life comes from our relationships," Delp said.

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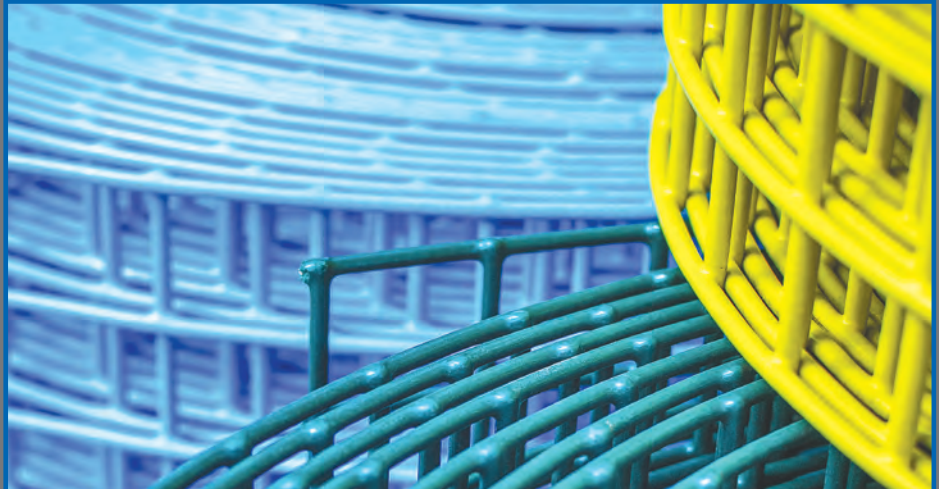
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## TO YOUR HEALTH: *Get active, stop smoking to protect your heart*

By *Jeremy Berger, DO, and Ann Backus, MS, Harvard Chan School of Public Health*

Imagine your 15-year-old son saying this after you are gone.

*“Dad was more than just a highliner. He was the rock we all leaned on. His laugh was infectious, and he had this incredible ability to make everything feel okay, no matter how tough life got. But heart disease brought on by years of smoking took him away from us. We watched as he became weaker, his body reduced by constant coughing and shortness of breath. The man who once hauled lobster traps with ease now struggled to climb stairs or even speak without gasping for air. His heart, the one that loved us so much, just couldn’t handle it anymore.*

*We begged him to quit, tried to offer help, but the addiction had its claws in him. Now, he’s gone, and the house feels empty without his presence. He wasn’t just a victim of smoking; we all became victims of it, too—because we lost him.”*

### Smoking and its impact on the heart

Lobstermen are among the hardest-working individuals, spending long hours on the water in physically demanding and challenging conditions. Strength, stamina, and cardiovascular health are critical for a lobsterman’s success. However, smoking—common in the fishing community—can severely compromise heart health.

Every cigarette introduces 7,000 harmful chemicals into the body, many of which directly damage the heart and blood vessels.<sup>1</sup> Lobstermen are at particular risk because smoking weakens the cardiovascular system, affecting the ability to load gear, maneuver the boat, and manage ropes and buoys.

Nicotine, the addictive substance in cigarettes, raises heart rate and blood pressure, putting

additional strain on the heart, while carbon monoxide reduces the blood’s ability to carry oxygen. Smoking forces the heart to work overtime, struggling to pump oxygen-rich blood throughout the body. This relentless strain wears down the heart, leading to overwhelming fatigue and breathlessness.

### The benefits of quitting smoking

The good news is that quitting smoking can reverse many of the damaging effects on the cardiovascular system. Within a year of quitting, the risk of heart disease decreases by 50%, and over time, the risk continues to drop. Quitting also improves lung function, making it easier to breathe and maintain energy during physically demanding tasks. For lobstermen, this means it becomes less difficult to haul lobster traps, lift and pull wet ropes, and move heavy traps on a shifting boat.

### Physical activity improves heart health

Physical activity is an important part of maintaining cardiovascular health, and it is especially beneficial for those who are quitting smoking. Exercise helps reduce cravings, manage stress, and improve overall fitness levels. For lobstermen, staying active off the boat is essential to keeping the heart healthy and strong.

Exercise comes in many forms. A walk after supper, yard work, playing outside with the grandchildren, even something as fun as dancing are all ways to stay active.

The journey to quit smoking and maintain a healthy heart might be challenging, but with the right support and goals, it’s more than possible. Start today and give your heart—and your work as a lobsterman—the best chance to thrive.

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## LOBSTERING WOMEN OF MAINE REMEMBERING THE ARTIST

Susan Tobey White died at home of pancreatic cancer on September 22 in Belfast. She retired in 2004 after many years as an elementary art teacher in the Belfast school district to become a full-time artist, opening High Street Studio and Gallery in town. Her series of paintings, "Lobstering Women of Maine," began after she saw a woman unloading traps in the harbor on a cold day one November. The series, exhibited at the Penobscot Marine Museum in 2019, later formed the basis of her book, *Lobstering Women of Maine*, published in 2023. The 18 women were each portrayed in one of White's acrylic paintings and in the book the paintings were accompanied by a brief story.

We featured Susan Tobey White's vibrant work in *Landings* several years ago and honor her memory with these images.



Leigh.

Suzanne.



Lanie.

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- Opposed 100% harvester reporting
- Sued Monterey Bay Aquarium over red listing of Maine lobster



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## In the NEWS

### STEADY INCREASE IN RIGHT WHALE POPULATION

The 2023 North Atlantic right whale population estimate found the number of whales increased slightly, to 372 whales, showing a slow increase over the last three years from 358 in 2020, according to the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium. The estimate was the product of a collaboration between the New England Aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and includes a margin of error of about 12. At least nine right whales have died so far in 2024, four of which were calves, the highest mortality count since 2019. The consortium said those deaths could lower the population count released next year.

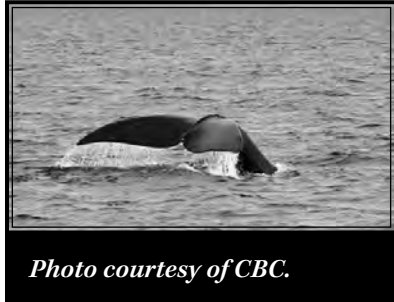


Photo courtesy of CBC.

respectively," they reported. Lobster population density across all habitat types has fallen as well, meaning that lobsters are more spread out over greater areas. The report suggested increased water temperatures during the period as a reason for the habitat shift.

### COBSCOOK BAY TIDAL POWER DAM, REPRISED

The federal government has granted a preliminary permit to developers for construction of a controversial tidal power dam in Cobscook Bay. Pembroke Tidal Power Project LLC, a subsidiary of a company known as Nestar Energy, said the dam could eventually generate 87,000 megawatt hours of electricity a year. But the project faces opposition from more than 60 Pembroke residents and the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, who filed formal complaints and motions to intervene. The National Marine Fisheries Service and Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife also filed intervention notices.

### LOBSTERS FINDING NEW HOMES

A University of Maine study has found that lobsters in shallow waters (~30 feet) along Maine's coast have moved to new habitats as the population has grown older. Typically, most adult lobsters lived in the shelter formed by boulders on the seafloor. Maine researchers, however, discovered that from 1995-2021, the number of lobsters using boulder habitat fell by 60%. Lobsters residing in "sediment or featureless ledge habitats, both of which have little to no geological features to use as shelters, increased 633% and 280%,"



UMaine photo.

### NEW TECHNOLOGY MIGHT REDUCE SHIP STRIKES

A new AI detection system may be able to help the shipping industry prevent collisions with whales. Researchers at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) believe that ship strikes could decline drastically using a whale detection camera system on large commercial vessels.

The cameras are mounted on a ship's deck and use thermal imaging to detect a whale's body or spout, providing real-time information on distance and bearing from a vessel. The aim is to provide the crew with enough warning to change course or speed. The system, which uses thermal infrared cameras and is linked to an artificial intelligence algorithm, could be used on commercial ships, cruise ships, and fishing vessels.

### FEDERAL MONEY AWARDED TO HELP TRAIN YOUNG FISHERMEN

The Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA) and Eastern Maine Skippers Program (EMSP) were awarded a combined \$2,067,434 in grant funding aimed at supporting the training and workforce development for the next generation of Maine fishermen and women.

The EMSP will provide targeted career development opportunities in Maine through workshops, vessel-based activities, and mentorship. MCFA will create three microlearning videos focused on physical and mental health and career resilience for young fishers. The grants were awarded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Young Fishermen's Development Program, per an announcement by the Maine Congressional delegation.

### AUSTRALIA TO RESUME EXPORTING LOBSTER TO CHINA

China will resume importing Australian live lobsters by the end of this year, removing the final major obstacle to bilateral trade that once cost Australian exporters more than 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13 billion) a year, Australia's prime minister said in mid-October. China ended trade with Australia in 2020 on a range of commodities including lobster, coal, wine, barley, beef, and wood as the two countries' diplomatic relations became estranged. Conservative Prime Minister Scott Morrison had angered Beijing that year by demanding an independent investigation into the origins of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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# Events Calendar

More details on all of these events can be found online at [www.maine lobstermen.org](http://www.maine lobstermen.org)

**November 13**

Blue Venture Investment Summit, Ocean Gateway, Portland. FMI: <https://gmri.org/events/blue-venture-investment-summit-2024>.

**November 19**

Shellfish Advisory Council meeting, 11a.m.-2 p.m., Moore Community Center, Ellsworth and via Teams.

Free Fishing Vessel Stability Workshop, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Coast Guard Sector Northern New England, South Portland. FMI: <https://fishing-partnership.org/event/fishing-vessel-stability-class-s-portland-me>.

**November 20**

“Sea State: Climate Resilience Potential in Gulf of Maine Fisheries,” 5:30-7:30 p.m., Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Portland.

**November 21**

NEFMC Scallop Committee meeting, 9 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn, Boston. FMI: [www.nefmc.org/calendar/nov-20-2024-scallop-advisory-panel-meeting](http://www.nefmc.org/calendar/nov-20-2024-scallop-advisory-panel-meeting).

**November 25**

NEFMC Groundfish Committee meeting, 9 a.m., Fairfield Inn & Suites, New Bedford. FMI: [www.nefmc.org/calendar/nov-25-2024-groundfish-committee-meeting](http://www.nefmc.org/calendar/nov-25-2024-groundfish-committee-meeting).

**November 29-December 1**  
Festival of Lights, Rockland.

**December 2**

Central Regional Shellfish Meeting, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Waldo County YMCA, Belfast.

**December 4**

Eastern Regional Shellfish Meeting, noon-2 p.m., University of Maine Machias Reynold Center, Machias.

**December 5**

Southern Regional Shellfish Meeting, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick.

**December 3-5**

New England Fishery Management Council meeting, Newport, RI. FMI: [www.nefmc.org/council-meetings](http://www.nefmc.org/council-meetings).

**December 5-15**

Kennebunkport Christmas Prelude. FMI: <https://christmasprelude.com>.

**December 6-8**

Christmas by the Sea, Camden.

**December 11**

“Sea State: Hope and the Gulf of Maine,” 5:30-7:30 p.m., Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Portland.

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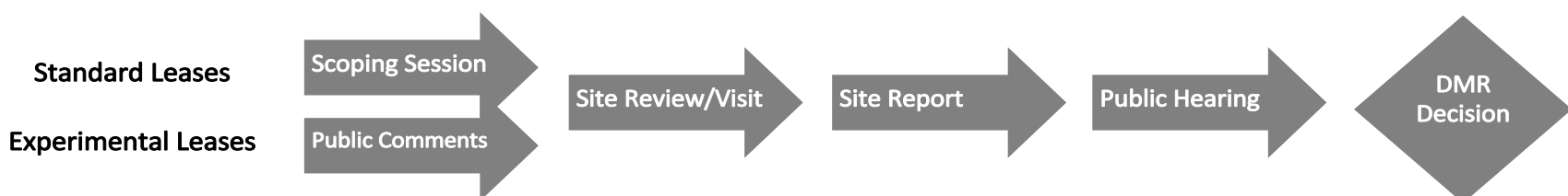
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## DMR Aquaculture Lease Applications: New Activity (9/24/24 - 10/25/24)

Bay Harbor	Acadia Aqua Farms LLC	SW of Googins Ledge, Frenchman Bay	48 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Lease Granted with modifications 10/3/24
Beals	The Flying Place LLC	W of Beals-Great Wass Causeway, Flying Place Pound	5.57 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	App rec'd 3/21/23; site report published 10/22/24
Bristol	Muscongus Bay Kelp	W of Louds Isl, Muscongus Sound	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App II rec'd 5/14/24; site visit completed
	Unicorn Oyster	E of Perkins Point, Damariscotta Rvr	3.9 acres	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	Public Hearing 10/29/24 1pm Damariscotta Town Office
Brunswick	Green, Christopher	The Reach	2.71 acres	Shellfish	Experimental	3 yrs	Lease Granted 10/15/24
Deer Isle	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 report published 10/22/24
Isleboro	Lindelof, Jett	E of Job Isl, Penobscot Bay	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	Lease Granted 10/17/24
	Lindelof, Lake	W of Middle Isl, Penobscot Bay	4 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	Lease Granted 10/17/24
Long Island	Shearwater Ventures LLC	NW of L'il Chebeague Isl, Casco Bay	3.86 acres	Marine Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	Lease Granted 10/2/24
Newcastle	George Faux, Inc.	S of Great Salt Bay, Upper Damariscotta River	1.8 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	Lease Granted with modifications 10/3/24
	Spinney, Joel	E of Little Point, Damariscotta River	9.38 acres	Shellfish	Standard	20 yrs	App received 10/17/24; site review TBD
Port Clyde	Ice House Seafood LLC	Lobster Pound, Port Clyde Harbor	2.87 acres	Shellfish/Algae	Experimental	3 yrs	App rec'd 5/23/24; site visit completed

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](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/maine-aquaculture-leases-and-lpas/pending-lease-applications)







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