



MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Maine Lobstermen's Association

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

President: Kristan Porter
Cutler, 259-3306
1st VP: John Williams
Stonington, 367-2731
2nd VP: Dustin Delano
Friendship, 542-7241

Directors

Bob Baines, Spruce Head, 596-0177
Sonny Beal, Beals Island, 497-3440
Laurin Brooks, Kennebunk, 468-2165
Herman Coombs, Orr's Island, 807-8596
Gerry Cushman, Port Clyde, 372-6429
Jim Dow, Bass Harbor, 288-9846
Jamien Hallowell, S. Bristol, 677-0148
Robert Ingalls, Bucks Harbor, 255-3418
Mark Jones, Boothbay, 633-6054
Jason Joyce, Swan's Island, 526-4109
Jack Merrill, Islesford, 244-4187
Tad Miller, Matinicus, 372-6941
Mike Sargent, Steuben, 460-1316
Craig Stewart, Long Island, 829-2109
John Tripp, Spruce Head, 691-9744
Chris Welch, Kennebunk, 205-2093
Thomas Werner, Cape Elizabeth, 807-1048

Staff

Executive Director
Patrice McCarron
patrice@mainelobstermen.org

Membership Director
Andi Pelletier
andi@mainelobstermen.org

Office Assistant
Becky Marshall

Maine Lobstermen's Association
2 Storer St., Suite 203
Kennebunk, ME 04043
207.967.4555
www.mainelobstermen.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SCHEDULE

In response to COVID-19, the MLA has suspended all in-person meetings. The Board is meeting virtually every two weeks.

STEAMING AHEAD

The Year in Review

I'm not sure that Franklin D. Roosevelt had the Maine lobster industry in mind when he said, "When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on," but he certainly captured the innate resiliency of Maine lobstermen. 2020 was a year of unprecedented change wrapped in all the challenges, fear, anxiety and emotional baggage that comes with adjusting to the unknown. As we bid 2020 goodbye, I can say with certainty that this was also a year that united most lobstermen in a shared fight for the future for our fishery.

The challenges we tackled in 2020 were unlike anything the lobster industry has experienced in the past. The impact of each of these issues on their own — COVID, right whales, trade disputes and tariffs, offshore wind expansion, bait restrictions and a national election — would be significant. Nevertheless lobstermen and coastal communities pulled together to meet each challenge head on.

The past year will forever be associated with the pandemic. Each of us understands how difficult it is to be apart from so many friends and family. It is even harder to see our children separated from friends, and heartbreaking to have our elderly isolated from loved ones in their time of greatest need. Maine's fishing industry was fortunate to have come together in early March for the Maine Fishermen's Forum, just one week before Governor Mills announced the state's first COVID restrictions.

On top of the pandemic and the significant policy issues that we faced, 2020 also stands out as a year of deep loss. Maine's fishing industry said its final goodbye to too many in 2020, including Chris Anderson, Harlan Billings, Ed Blackmore, Robert Blethen, Tim Flynn, Arnie Gamage, Andy Gove, Jeff Matthews, Joe Nickerson, Chris Pinkham, Michael Proper, Dave Provencher, Steve Robbins II, Ethan Ward, to name just some of those who passed away. And I know from personal experience that COVID has taken many more of our friends and loved ones.

If there is any silver lining to the pandemic, it's the deep recognition that we truly are all in this together. The scale of the pandemic has meant that no one has been left unaffected. The virus, along with the many other threats facing our industry, has served to strengthen lobstermen's resolve to unite. The lobster industry — and the MLA — draw strength from each lobsterman's independence, contentiousness, and fierce commitment to his and her heritage. Those are the qualities that, in these difficult days, unite, rather than divide us.

While I am forever an optimist, the issues facing the lobster industry are serious. The MLA, along with many others, has worked very hard to avoid serious harm to lobstermen and their communities.

Despite dire predictions in the spring about lobster price in the face of restricted international markets due to tariffs and disappearing domestic markets as the pandemic unfolded, the lobster fishery defied the odds and fared pretty well. Lobstermen took the market limitations to heart and landings were well paced for demand. Lobster dealers and processors successfully grew retail and direct-to-consumer markets. As lobster landings increased throughout the season, the markets proved to be far more stable than anticipated. Lobstermen were also fortunate

to be eligible for several COVID relief programs, including Small Business Administration loans and the Paycheck Protection Program, \$20 million through NOAA's Fisheries Disaster Relief Program and \$50 million through the USDA's Seafood Trade Relief Program.

Right whales

Other issues did not fade away during the pandemic, and right whales remained at center stage for MLA in 2020. Federal mandates to protect the whales have the potential to shut down the lobster fishery or significantly alter its traditions and the practices that have sustained fishermen and local communities for centuries.

The MLA has moved heaven and earth to get Maine's side of the story out to the public, federal agencies and the courts. Data indicate that right whales have become increasingly rare along the Maine coast and there is little evidence confirming right whale entanglement in Maine lobster gear. Known interactions between right whales and any lobster gear have decreased significantly in the U.S. since 2010 while interactions in Canada have increased dramatically over the same time period. The MLA makes these facts

publicly known at all right whale meetings with industry, researchers and agencies. The MLA remains a faithful watchdog and industry advocate in all legal, policy and scientific developments related to right whale conservation.

Early in 2020, the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) submitted its proposal for required whale rules to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Maine's proposal was based on lobstermen input through a series of meetings held in 2019. DMR continued its industry outreach in 2020 to give each lobster zone the opportunity to identify "conservation equivalencies" to tweak Maine's draft whale plan to better fit each zone's operational and safety needs while meeting the required 60% risk reduction goal. All seven lobster zones have proposed conservation equivalencies.

Since weakened endlines will likely be a requirement in the new whale plan, MLA worked closely with DMR and lobstermen to measure

the strain on vertical lines under a variety of conditions to determine safe working loads at sea. They also documented the breaking strength of vertical lines currently fished and identified and tested a variety of ways to incorporate 1700-pound weak points in vertical lines that could be successfully fished under a variety of conditions. Lobstermen stepped up to make this research possible while innovating a variety of methods to weaken endlines in a manner that will allow gear to be safely hauled back.

In April, the federal judge in DC District Court ruled on the legal questions posed in the lawsuit filed in 2018 by four environmental groups seeking more stringent protection for right whales. The judge found that the NMFS had not met its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which in turn meant that the lobster fishery was operating in violation of the law. The court's next action was to decide how to fix that; a question that profoundly worried many in the lobster fishery.

As an intervenor in this case, the MLA and its legal team worked tirelessly to ensure that lobstermen's interests were represented in court. At risk was the fishery itself. The judge could order the U.S. lobster fishery closed or could institute severe restrictions in its operation to protect right



COVID-19 affected Maine's lobster industry this year, but it was just one of several issues facing lobstermen. MLA photo.



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whales. The MLA made a strong case regarding the lack of evidence linking right whale deaths to the Maine lobster fishery while highlighting the direct evidence of ship strikes and Canadian fishing gear in recent right whale deaths. MLA also brought information to the court on the extensive whale protections put in place by the lobster industry over the past 20 years as well as the economic devastation that severe restrictions would cause lobstermen and coastal communities.

In August, to our great relief, the judge delayed taking action and instead gave NMFS until May 30, 2021 (rather than February 2021, as requested by the plaintiffs) to finalize the whale rules and related Biological Opinion on the lobster fishery. In doing so, the judge averted a closure of the fishery, acknowledged that the probability of entanglement risk to right whales from the lobster fishery during the fall and winter months is slight, and recognized the importance of allowing NMFS to complete the rulemaking process. He also gave weight to the economic harm that closure of the lobster fishery would cause.

The MLA's critical influence in this case was only possible through the tremendous outpouring of support from individuals and businesses to its Legal Defense Fund.

Similar legal cases seeking to end the permitting of vertical lines have been filed in Massachusetts and Maine. While the Maine case has been put on hold until May 2021 pending the outcome of the DC District case, the judge in Massachusetts ordered that state to obtain an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) under the ESA to continue to permit vertical lines in its state waters fishery. In response, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has proposed rules for its state waters fishery including a seasonal closure from February through April, require all vertical lines break at 1700 pounds, cap the diameter of vertical lines at 3/8" and prohibit the fishing of singles on vessels larger than 29 feet. These regulations lay the foundation for that state's ITP which is required for its state waters fishery to continue to operate. These rule changes are expected to be implemented in early 2021 in advance of the federal whale plan.

While the lobster industry awaits the release of the federal proposed whale rules and draft Biological Opinion from NMFS, the environmental community continues to press for more immediate and stringent protections for whales. Two petitions for emergency action were filed with NMFS by environmental groups this year, and there remains a strong push for all fixed gear fisheries to transition to ropeless fishing technologies. The MLA continues to strongly

MLA DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The MLA Board of Directors met on December 2 via video conference to discuss the emerging issue of offshore wind in Maine. Annie Hawkins, executive director of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA), of which MLA is a member, updated the board on RODA's work over the last few years and what Maine is likely to face after the Governor's announcement to move forward with an offshore wind research array off southern Maine.

It was a lively discussion about the state's plan and its potential to negatively impact Maine's fishing industry. The Governor's proposal has generated many questions while providing few answers. The MLA board is extremely frustrated that 1) Maine's fishing industry was not consulted before the state made a unilateral decision to make offshore wind a key strategy to meet Maine's aggressive renewable energy goals; 2) the state is moving forward with an application to BOEM for a research array before it has started its "roadmap" planning process; 3) the state has proposed a "research" project, with no funds allocated to conduct research, which will operate for 20 years; 4) the state has allocated only a few months to conduct outreach with the lobster industry, during a pandemic, before choosing the site for the research array and submitting its application to BOEM; and 5) Maine is now moving forward with two research projects – off Monhegan Island and now offshore – with no explanation of why we need both.

The MLA board and staff will attend the state's four informational video meetings in December to learn more about this project and will continue to provide feedback and raise concerns as this issue evolves.

DRAFT WHALE RULES AND BIOLOGICAL OPINION

As of December 23, there is still no word on when the proposed new whale rules or Biological Opinion will be made public. The proposed rule remains under review at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and it is anticipated that it will not be released until after the change in the Administration. The deadline of May 31, 2021 for adoption of the Final Rule established by Judge Boasberg of DC District court remains in place, so we expect that the comment period will be limited to 45 days.

NMFS provided an update to the DC District court on November 30. The agency wrote:

oppose ropeless fishing as a conservation strategy to protect right whales in Maine and remains an important voice of reason in these discussions.

Offshore Wind Energy

As if one existential threat to our fishery is not enough, the Maine lobster industry must now face a strong push for offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine. The Mills administration has been open about its interest in moving forward with offshore wind as part of its aggressive plan to address climate change but, until November, had not gone on the record with its plans. Before the state even begins its \$2 million plan on how best to develop Maine's offshore wind sector, Gov. Mills abruptly announced in November a plan to apply for a lease to develop a 16-square-mile offshore wind research array located 20 to 40 miles offshore in southern Maine, much to the dismay and disgruntlement of the MLA and many fishermen.

The MLA expressed its strong disappointment that the Governor chose to move forward with an offshore wind "research" project before fishermen and other stakeholders were provided any opportunity to weigh on how, or if, offshore wind might evolve to benefit Maine. The MLA continues to raise questions, demand accountability to the fishing industry, and push the state for a clear strategy that will allow fishermen to voice their thoughts on how to protect our fisheries if offshore wind becomes a reality. This is going to be another uphill battle, but the MLA will not sit idly by and let our livelihoods be traded in for the unknown and unproven potential of offshore wind.

2021 Will be a Challenge

There is no doubt that Maine lobstermen will continue to grapple both with whale rules and with offshore wind proposals in 2021, as the pandemic lingers on. The MLA promises to make 2021 a year in which the concerns of the fishing industry are clearly heard in Augusta and in Washington, D.C. and a year in which policy makers are held accountable by fishermen for promises made to protect our livelihoods and communities.

The MLA could not take on these challenges without the incredible work of our Board of Directors and support from so many lobstermen, businesses and community members. So, thank you all.

As always, stay safe on the water.

Patrice

"NMFS is working on a draft Biological Opinion that will analyze the operation of a number of New England and Mid-Atlantic fisheries, including the American lobster fishery... At the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium meeting held October 27-28, 2020, NMFS scientists presented revised estimates showing lower right whale population numbers than reported in the prior year's North Atlantic Right Whale Stock Assessment Report. These new estimates are preliminary and will undergo additional analysis and peer review through the process of developing the 2021 North Atlantic Right Whale Stock Assessment Report. That process includes the development of a draft stock assessment for internal and external peer review and discussion in early 2021, a 90-day public comment period on the draft report, resolution of the public comments, and the publication of a final report in late 2021/early 2022."

"NMFS does intend to address this new information in the Biological Opinion, but doing so with an understanding that at this point it is still preliminary and subject to review through the Stock Assessment process, while other scientific information that has already been the subject of peer and/or NMFS scientific review will also be relied upon."

"In our September 30, 2020, update to the Court, we had reported that we anticipated sharing a draft Biological Opinion with the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils at their December 2020 meetings. Because the proposed rule is still under review with OIRA, and because we intend to use the new information on right whale population estimates in the draft Biological Opinion, this will not occur at the December Council meetings. Our current intention is to share the draft Biological Opinion with the New England Fishery Management Council at its January 2021 meeting [Jan 26-28], with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council at its February 2021 meeting [Feb 9-11], and with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission at its February 2021 meeting [Feb 2-4]."

For now we continue to wait; the MLA is ready whenever this Proposed Rule and draft Biological Opinion are made public.

BACKLOG AT FEDERAL REGISTER MAY SLOW NEW RULES

On December 1, Regional Administrator of GARFO, Mike Pentony, updated the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) that with the change of administration coming at the end of January, "things get a little weird in Washington, particularly around getting rules published." Pentony expects that

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there will be a backlog of rules submitted by various agencies for publication, which will complicate GARFO's ability to get all its rules published on time. GARFO has a priority list of rules that they are working on in order to get the most urgent rules published as soon as possible, but they do not expect that all of those will get published due to the anticipated backlog. Furthermore, after the January 20 transition occurs, Pentony advised, "until we have a Secretary of Commerce we don't have the authority to publish rules in the Federal Register so there might be a period of time where we are unable to publish things after January 20."

STATE WATERS SEASONAL CLOSURE PROPOSED IN MASSACHUSETTS

Proposed Commercial Trap Closure Extension

Action:

- Extend the existing February 1 – April 30 large whale seasonal commercial trap gear closure north and east of Cape Cod to all waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth.
- Adjust timing of conch pot haul-out period so that it runs from December 15 – April 30.
- Retain authority to extend trap gear closure if right whales remain present in MA waters after April 30.

Rationale:

- Reduces risk of right whales becoming entangled in commercial trap gear by prohibiting the presence of this gear in Commonwealth waters during periods of time when right whales are known to aggregate in and migrate through these waters.

Existing and Proposed Trap Closure

Existing MA North-East Area Trap Closure
Proposed East Coast Extension

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) held two virtual public hearings in December on draft regulations "to reduce the risk of endangered right whales becoming entangled in fixed fishing gear and reduce the potential harm posed by fixed fishing gear if a right whale interacts with it."

The proposed measures affect Massachusetts state waters and include a 3-month seasonal closure of the lobster fishery from February through April, capping vertical line diameter at 3/8", and a provision that all vertical lines "break when exposed to 1700 pounds of pressure.... by rigging the buoy line with a contrivance or multiple contrivances that allows for it to break at that pressure." The proposed rules also ban singles on vessels larger than 29 feet in length and include restrictions for the recreational lobster fishery (haul out from Columbus Day to Memorial Day, vertical line capped at 5/16") and other fixed gear fisheries, including the conch and gillnet fisheries.

In April 2020, the U.S. District Court in Boston ordered Massachusetts to apply for and receive an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from NMFS to cover "unauthorized takes" of right whales in its state waters fisheries. These proposed measures will form part of the state's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) which is required to obtain an Incidental Take Permit. Some of the proposed measures are intended to distinguish Massachusetts state waters fishery from other jurisdictions, which the state hopes will improve its chances of being awarded the ITP. The state plans to implement these measures early in 2021.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS FILE PETITION AGAINST VERTICAL LINES WITH NMFS

On December 2, four environmental groups filed a petition with NMFS for emergency action to protect right whales. According to the Center for Biological Diversity, "The petition asks the National Marine Fisheries Service to find that entanglements in the vertical buoy lines used in commercial fisheries are having an immediate and significant adverse impact on right whales and to issue emergency regulations to address that impact. This includes closing waters off Southern New England to trap/pot and gillnet gear. It also requests that the agency allow the use of on-demand fishing gear (also known as ropeless or pop-up buoy gear) during the emergency closures. These new technologies eliminate the vertical buoy lines that are so dangerous to right whales while allowing fishing to continue."

The emergency petition was filed by the Center for Biological Diversity, Conservation Law Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife and



MLA photo.

the Humane Society of the U.S. under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Administrative Procedure Act.

On December 16, Maine's Congressional delegation collaborated on a letter to Commerce Secretary Ross expressing their strong opposition to the petition. The delegation wrote, "This petition would undermine years-long cooperative efforts, which are now in the final stages of approval, and set a dangerous precedent of bypassing the regulatory process and excluding the input of lobstermen and seafood harvesters whose lives and livelihoods would be most impacted."

The letter concludes, "The short-sighted petition undermines our shared goal of protecting both the North Atlantic right whale and the New England lobster industry by ignoring the impacts of ship strikes and entanglements in Canadian waters and other fisheries, while pushing ropeless gear technology that the petitioners know is not viable and would effectively shut down the lobster fishery. When lives, livelihoods, and the survival of an endangered species are in jeopardy, it is unfortunate to see this effort that could result in the reallocation of agency staff resources whose time is best utilized working on the development of the current proposed rule. We urge you to reject this petition and thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter."

THREE RIGHT WHALE CALVES SEEN THUS FAR

The year is ending on a positive note for North Atlantic right whales with the birth of three calves, so far (as of 12/23). The first calf, spotted on December 4 off the coast of Cumberland Island, Georgia, was born to Chiminea, a 13-year-old first-time mother. The second calf, observed off Vilano Beach in Florida on December 7, was born to 16-year-old Millipede. The third calf, observed off Hilton Head in South Carolina, was born to right whale #3942. The right whale's calving season begins in mid-November and runs through mid-April.

OFFSHORE LOBSTER ENFORCEMENT TURNING TO ROVS

In December, Tim Donovan, the Assistant Director of the New England Division of NOAA Law Enforcement (OLE), updated the NEFMC on the agency's recent pilot effort to use Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) for enforcement in the offshore lobster fishery. Many stakeholders have expressed the need to improve enforcement, so OLE is looking at emerging technologies to improve its capabilities. OLE enforces both regulations required under the whale plan and the lobster management plan for the offshore lobster fishery.

According to Donovan, there are several advantages to using ROVs for enforcement. It is far more cost effective than staffing and maintaining a lobster boat for enforcement purposes, it allows for inspection of gear both at the surface and the bottom, it does not require officers to haul and reset gear, and it records all gear inspections so any violations are documented and can be used as evidence.

NOAA tested the ROV technology for enforcement in Cape Cod Bay and determined that it had strong potential for use in the offshore lobster fishery. NOAA then conducted two trials offshore in October. While there were some issues, overall it proved effective in checking both surface and bottom gear. The ROV was able to record weak links in the surface system and traps with trap tags in 207 feet of water, but future trials would incorporate higher resolution cameras to allow trap tag numbers to be read at depth. The project has served as proof of concept by OLE; the NOAA General Counsel supports the use of this approach and the recorded evidence that it can produce.

During the October trials, NOAA observed and recorded floating groundline in violation of the whale rules and is pursuing this case with NOAA General Counsel. NOAA OLE plans to use this technology for offshore lobster enforcement in 2021.

LOBSTER ELECTRONIC TRACKING PILOT PROGRAM

In February 2018, ASMFC approved a one-year pilot program to test electronic tracking devices on lobster fishing vessels through its adoption of Addendum XXVI. This Addendum also established a mandate for 100% harvester reporting within five years, as well as some incremental improvements to the harvester reporting program to improve spatial resolution of the data collected.

The ASMFC formed the Lobster Electronic Tracking Subcommittee to test electronic tracking devices on lobster boats. The Subcommittee reported the results of the pilot program to ASMFC in October. Several systems were tested on federal lobster boats from June 2019 through May 2020, from Southern New England to the Gulf of Maine. A variety of devices, including Succorfish, Rock7, and Pelagic Data Systems, were tested with a goal of obtaining a one-minute ping rate using both cellular and satellite networks. All devices performed satisfactorily, delivering vessel positions as expected. The cellular-based systems were considerably less expensive than satellite and permitted faster ping rates. The greatest cause



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of failure was loss of power from the vessel to the device. Some devices had better features in terms of integration/interface and add-on hardware.

The research found that a one-minute ping rate is essential to provide adequate monitoring of the lobster fishery because it allowed for programmatic detection and quantification of trawls as small as triples. Multiple vendors could meet requirements for high-ping rate vessel monitoring systems in the lobster fishery, however, installing devices across the fleet would require significant technical support. There is a significant amount of data integration work that would be needed to link the vessel tracking data to harvester reports. Finally, further hardware development and testing is needed to incorporate hauler sensors, environmental sensors, and other relevant devices into the system.

130TH MAINE LEGISLATURE

The First Regular Session of the 130th Maine State Legislature convened on December 2. The statutory adjournment date is June 16, 2021. The deadline for legislators to submit bill titles was December 18, and it is estimated that more than 1,000 have been submitted. State agency bill titles were due earlier and the DMR has put in five bill titles, specifically to reauthorize the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative, address aquaculture leasing and licenses statutes, amend the procedure for administrative suspension proceedings, add a fee to the scallop license lottery and make technical changes to existing statutes.

Senator David Miramant of Camden and Representative Jay McCreight of Harpswell will once again serve as co-chairs of the Marine Resources Committee. Also serving on the committee are Sen. Maxim of Nobleboro and Sen. Rosen of Bucksport. From the House side the committee includes Rep. Alley of Beals, Rep. Blume of York, Rep. Crafts of Newcastle, Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor, Rep. Hepler of Woolwich, Rep. Hutchins of Penobscot, Rep. McDonald of Stonington, Rep. Stanley of Medway, and Rep. Thorne of Carmel.

To receive notifications for Marine Resources Committee public hearings and work sessions email the clerk at MAR@legislature.maine.gov and ask to be added to the Committee's email notification list.

CONGRESS PASSES YOUNG FISHERMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ACT

On December 20, Congress passed the Young Fishermen's Development Act, establishing the first-ever national program to train, educate, and foster the next generation of commercial fishermen. Championed by Maine's delegation along with colleagues from Alaska, Washington and Massachusetts, this legislation will reduce basic barriers to entry in commercial fisheries through new grants, training opportunities and apprenticeship programs.

"There's no doubt we're going to need more young people ready to take the wheel to keep the fishing industry strong in our state for years to come," said Rep. Jared Golden, Rep. Chellie Pingree, Sen. Susan Collins, and Sen. Angus King in a joint statement. "This legislation will help prepare young Mainers for jobs in the fishing and lobster industries, which will encourage them to stay in Maine to find work and sustain fishing communities and businesses throughout our state. We're proud to work together to pass this bill through Congress and we urge the President to sign it into law without delay."

DMR UPDATE ON CARES ACT FUNDS

DMR is in the final stages of approving applications to receive aid as part of the \$20 million CARES Act relief provided to Maine's seafood industry members financially affected by COVID-19. Applications from commercial fishing, aquaculture, for-hire and seafood dealer/processor sectors were due November 9. Once the applications are verified, DMR will provide the information to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), which is expected to issue relief checks by the end of the year.

A portion of Maine's CARES Act funds, \$1,000,000, has been allocated to launch a branding and promotion initiative to help consumers find and enjoy Maine seafood. The initiative will emphasize the specific attributes that distinguish Maine seafood. A website, www.SeafoodfromMaine.com, has been launched that features a directory of Maine seafood suppliers, recipe ideas, and blog posts from influential food writers. Social media accounts will allow seafood fans across the world to connect around their shared love of Maine seafood.

SEAFOOD TRADE RELIEF PROGRAM - DEADLINE JANUARY 15

The deadline to apply for Seafood Trade Relief Program (STRP) is January 15, 2021. Lobstermen qualify to receive 50 cents per pound for their 2019 lobster landings. As of December 17, Maine's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices have received 2,939 applications totaling more than \$48.3 million. Call your local FSA office for more information on the application process.

Maine FSA Director, David Lavway, noted, "DMR has been a tremendous help with the implementation of our program by providing lists of licenses so we did not have to require a copy with each application. Without that, the process would have been slowed down appreciably. They have been extremely helpful through the entire process as this has been a whole new experience for us here at FSA."

Summary Seafood Trade Relief Program for Maine (As of December 17, 2020)		
	Applications	Total
Androscoggin	12	\$121,356
Cumberland	408	\$6,641,152
Hancock	860	\$15,693,642
Kennebec	<5	\$23,599
Knox	479	\$9,806,068
Lincoln	195	\$2,256,995
Oxford	<5	\$41,778
Penobscot	12	\$237,648
Sagadahoc	90	\$985,135
Waldo	48	\$500,597
Washington	683	\$10,307,993
York	148	\$1,772,208
TOTAL	2,939	\$48,388,170

Source: Maine Farm Service Agency

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOAN PAYBACK

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering a simplified loan forgiveness application for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of \$50,000 or less.

The PPP Loan Forgiveness Application Form 3508S is available online at <https://www.sba.gov/document/sba-form-3508s-ppp-loan-forgiveness-form-3508s>.

Many thanks to these fine businesses, the MLA's Keeper members!

Accutech Marine	Inland Seafood	New England Marine & Industrial Inc.
Propellor	Interstate Lobster Co.	Northeast Marine Survey
Atlantic Bug Bait	Island Fishing Gear & Auto Parts	Novatec Braids LTD
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust	Island Fishermen's Wives	Pack Edge
Beals-Jonesport Coop Inc.	Jack's Lobster Shack	Penobscot Bay & River Pilots Assn.
Beals Lobster Pier	John's Bay Boat Co.	Pete's Marine Electronics
Bell Power Systems	Journey's End Marina	Polyform US
Berman Simmons, Attny	Kip's Seafood	Port Clyde Fishermen's Cooperative
Bowdoin College Dining Services	Lobster Trap Co.	Port Lobster Co.
Chapman & Chapman	Lonnie's Hydraulic Inc.	Power Product Systems
Chase Leavitt	M&B Fish Co.	Riverdale Mills
Coastal Documentation II	Machias Savings Bank	Rope Razor
Conary Cove Lobster Co.	Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries	South Bristol Fishermen's Cooperative
Downeast Boat Co.	Maine Financial Group	Superior Marine Products
F.A. Peabody Insurance	Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance	Tenants Harbor Fishermen's Cooperative
Farrin's Boatshop	Maine Sea Grant	Twin City Financial Group
Finestkind Scenic Cruises	Marine Hydraulic Engineering Co. Inc.	Vinalhaven Fishermen's Cooperative
First National Bank	McMillan Offshore Survival Training	William Coffin & Sons
F. W. Thurston Co. Inc.	Midcoast Marine Supply	Winter Harbor Fishermen's Cooperative
Georgetown Fishermen's Cooperative	Navroc Marine Electronics	Worcesters Lobster Bait
Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation	Net Your Problem	
Guy Cotten, Inc.		
Infab Refractories Inc.		