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MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND



The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association (MLA) Legal Defense Fund (LDF) needs your support now more than ever. This dedicated fund is for the purpose of defending the Massachusetts commercial lobster fishermen from legal and fisheries management actions that could seriously impact our commercial lobstermen's ability to conduct their businesses and earn a living.

Currently, the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association is actively engaged in two separate law suits that could have negative impacts on the commercial lobster industry and is working with multiple lawyers in Washington D.C. and here in the Commonwealth to fight for you and your industry;

1. (Washington D.C.) Case 1:18-cv-00112-JEB - CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY et al v. ROSS et al, where National Marine Fisheries was found in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) "failure to include an ITS in its 2014 BiOp after finding that the American lobster fishery had the potential to harm the North Atlantic right whale at more than three times the sustainable rate is about as straightforward a violation of the ESA as they come. The Court therefore declares the 2014 BiOp to be invalid under the Endangered Species Act and will order briefing from the parties on the issue of an injunctive remedy." Case 1:18-cv-00112-JEB Document 91 Filed 04/09/20 The MLA is the only Massachusetts organization that is an intervenor in this case and has been granted participation in this case.
2. (Commonwealth) Civil Action No. 19-cv-10639-IT - RICHARD MAX STRAHAN, Plaintiff v. SECRETARY, MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, et al., where the judge ruled that the "Defendants are hereby ordered to promptly seek an Incidental Take Permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act." Case 1:19-cv-10639-IT Document 206 Filed 04/30/20

Furthermore, the commercial lobstermen are not being sued, the government is, and yet the commercial lobstermen's businesses are at stake as well as the thousands of jobs and shore side businesses that depend upon the continued success of the commercial lobster industry. The commercial lobstermen in Massachusetts are NOT to the problem and have done everything asked of them by National Marine Fisheries Service and have been working under the strictest conservation rules for the right whales anywhere in the world since 2014. Yet here we are, still fighting these law suits to keep the Massachusetts commercial lobstermen fishing.

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association has been actively involved in these lawsuits since 2018 and the timeline is getting tight for filing our arguments against these claims, we need your generous support today to continue our fight to keep the commercial lobstermen fishing. As we all know, any legal action costs lots of money and the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association Legal Defense Fund needs your generous support today to continue our fight. These are real threats to the historic and iconic commercial lobster industry and we are doing everything to keep the Massachusetts commercial lobstermen fishing.

Where to make Donations:

Any contribution you can afford to make to the Legal Defense Fund is greatly appreciated.

Donate by mail: MLA LDF, 8 Otis Place Scituate, MA 02066 or

Donate online: www.lobstermen.com – In the Members section Dues/Donate.

Thank you for your continued support!