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SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2025 NEWSPAPER • WWW.LOBSTERMEN.COM

The Scales of Justice have tipped in OUR favor... Can you say Vexatious Litigant!

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 MLA is actively engaged in lawsuits that could have negative impacts on the commercial lobster industry and is working with our lawyers to fight for you and your industry.

UPDATE 8/13/2025 (District of Massachusetts) Case No. 1:25-cv-10337-WGY; Man Against Xtinction v. Neil Jacobs, et al.

If you are a Massachusetts lobstermen, you are no doubt familiar with Richard Strahan, who styles himself as "MAX" or "Man Against Xtinction." For years, he has sued the MLA and our president Arthur "Sooky" Sawyer on baseless claims that the MLA and Sooky have killed Right Whales and are responsible for their decreased numbers. These claims were always baseless and we obtained multiple orders dismissing his claims. Nonetheless, MAX repeatedly sued, costing the MLA to waste time and resources rebuffing his meritless claims.

A few years ago, MLA decided it had had enough. It moved in the District of D.C. to have MAX branded a "vexatious" litigant, meaning he would be forbidden from filing any suit against MLA or Sawyer unless a Court specifically



cally allows him to bring suit, the claims are new claims, and MAX certifies the claims are not frivolous or made in bad faith. The District of D.C. denied the motion on the grounds MAX had dismissed his claims and thus the case was done. MLA tried again in front of Judge Talwani when MAX again sued MLA and Sooky on baseless claims. Judge Talwani wrote that branding MAX a vexatious litigant seemed warranted, but again declined to do so on procedural grounds since she had already dismissed MAX's claims.

In this case, MLA moved again before Judge Young, making sure to do so before MAX's frivolous claims were dismissed. On July 29, 2025, Judge Young granted MLA's motion for "pre-filing injunction." This is the equivalent of having MAX branded a "vexatious" litigant. Judge Young's order specifically forbids MAX from filing any suit against MLA or Sawyer unless a Court specifically allows him to bring suit, the claims are new claims, and MAX certifies the claims are not frivolous or made in bad faith.

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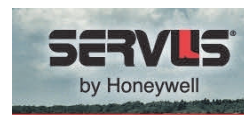
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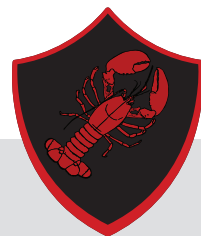


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The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association would like to welcome the following new members to the Association. Your Association will continue its efforts on your behalf to conserve the resource, protect your livelihood, keep you informed, promote the industry and provide you with increasing benefits as they are developed. MLA stands ready to help you in anyway, at anytime — just let us know how!
Safe on the water and good fishing!

SEE PAGE 13 FOR ALL THE NEW MLA MEMBERS!



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As the HAULER TURNS

As the summer ends and fall approaches, it is hard to believe I am entering my eighteenth year here at the MLA and I haven't aged a minute, well maybe a couple. I think to myself, I haven't even scratched the surface on how much more we can do to help you. Cheers to eighteen more years!

The one thing about working for you all that keeps me on my toes is that when I wake up in the morning, I never know what is going to be in my inbox or on my voicemail. Earlier this summer, I received an email inviting me to be the keynote speaker at the Trans-Tasman Rock Lobster Conference in Melbourne, Australia. With the blessing of the MLA Board and the funding from the conference, I attended and let me tell you, they were impressed at how much we do for our members and how well-organized of an association we are.

There are very similar issues both industries are facing from whales to offshore wind. The Australian fisheries are faced with more Marine Parks than the US where they are called National Marine Monuments. Both industries are dealing with the increased cost of doing business, climate issues, algae blooms and stock recruitment issues. I felt like I was right at home in a US meeting with all the same issues.

I was able to speak with over 100 lobstermen from all around the country and they were astonished at the size of the US lobster fishery. I was able to break it down for them on the lobster industry in Massachusetts vs. Australia, the permits numbers are about the same but the number of pots they fish vs. yours is miniscule.

The MA average number of pots fished is right around 400 and in Australia it is well under 100. That's a big difference and they fish under a quota which has seen a lot of consolidations which put less boats on the water and traps in the water. The starkest contrast was when I saw the price per kilo (2.2 lbs.) for their lobster range from 98.00 AU (64.00 US) to 198.00 AU (129.00 US). That is around 32.00 — 64.50 per pound in US dollars. While they land a fraction of the volume that the US does, they make it up in their price.

Australia ships most of their lobsters to China, needless to say Covid impacted their market greatly, they were shut out post Covid and have now re-



gained their markets in China. They did highlight that they are deeply invested with the MSC eco labeling and other fisheries are now coming onboard so they can also gain markets in China. China is a 7-hour flight from Australia and the number of immigrants from China have surpassed the number of Australian nationals 3 to 1 and they are not seeing their domestic market demand rise with the increased population. They are cautious about putting all their eggs in one basket again.

So, the takeaway I have from attending this conference is that the grass is never greener nor the water any better no matter where you go. The issues we are facing are no different than those that are 10,500 miles away. The MLA has been engaged in all the issues that the lobster industry has been facing for over 62 years, and we are not going anywhere. Being organized and getting involved I do believe is what has kept you all from being on the plate!

Fair tides and full traps to you!

Beth Casoni

Executive Director



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DMF's large whale passive acoustic monitoring program is underway!

DMF's Protected Species Program has recently launched a passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) network in Massachusetts state waters and adjacent federal waters. The network consists of underwater hydrophones continuously recording sound. These acoustic data are analyzed for specific large whale vocalizations which provide information on the presence of different species, including North Atlantic right whales, humpback, fin, and sei whales. The primary goal of the monitoring effort is to improve our understanding of the spatial and temporal presence of right whales in Massachusetts coastal waters and inform current and future conservation measures to protect them.



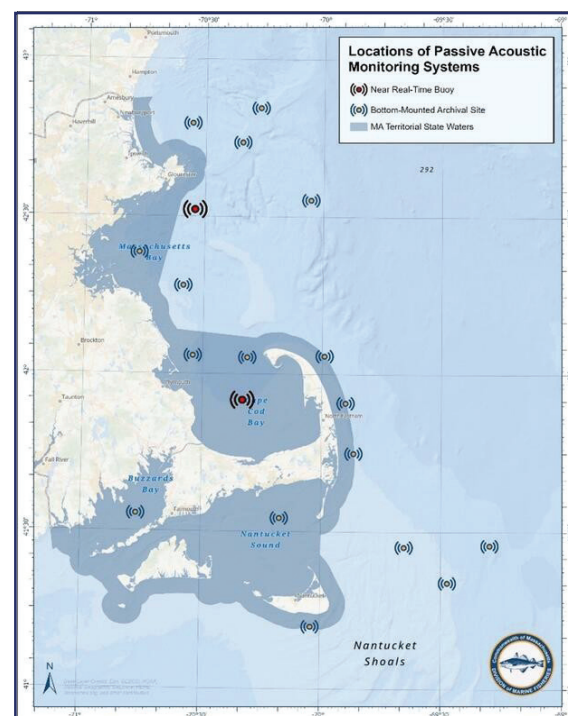
Bottom-mounted archival passive acoustic monitoring systems consist of a short length of line with a float, a hydrophone to record sound, an acoustic receiver/release, and sacrificial anchor. The system measures roughly 10 feet in length at most sites except for shallower sites where the system is adjusted to about 6 feet.

Our acoustic monitoring network has two manners of detecting whales: in near real-time and an archival approach. In partnership with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), two near real-time acoustic monitoring systems were deployed in February 2025 in Cape Cod Bay and off Cape Ann. Developed by WHOI, the two surface-moored systems record, detect, classify, and report vocalizations of large whales, with data transmitted via satellite to shore every two hours. Acoustic analysts review data to confirm detections.

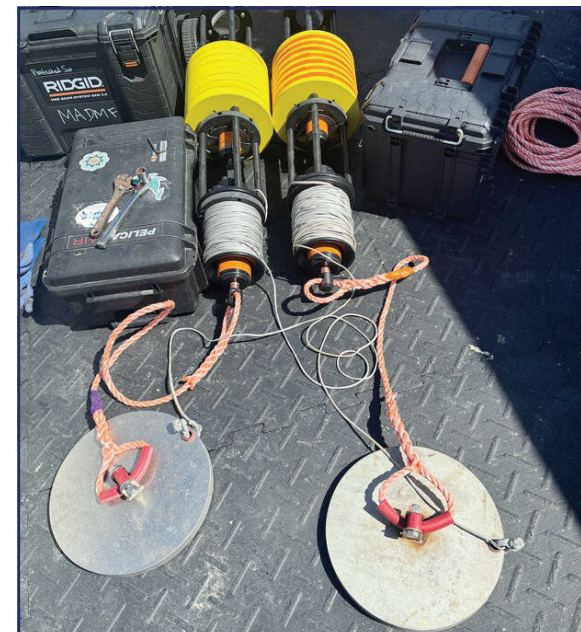
This near real-time data helps DMF dynamically manage seasonal fishing closures and speed restrictions meant to protect right whales and will contribute to an improved overall understanding of right

whale presence in Massachusetts. In addition, the acoustic detections are used by NOAA Fisheries to trigger voluntary, dynamic Slow Zones. Data from the near real-time buoys, which are part of a larger monitoring network along the East Coast, can be found at Robots4Whales: robots4whales.whoi.edu

To further explore how right whales use coastal Massachusetts waters, DMF deployed 17 archival passive acoustic monitoring stations in spring 2025. These bottom-mounted units record sound data that are retrieved from the systems every five months. Once back at the lab, the data are analyzed for specific whale vocalizations. The first retrieval and redeployment of the archival systems will take place in late August and early September 2025. These recorders are also part of a regional acoustic monitoring network for large whales in the Northeast in collaboration with NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center and other New England states. This collective effort aims to build a more thorough understanding of large whale behavior and ecology, helping scientists determine spatial and temporal trends in New England waters.



Map of PAM locations where near-real time sites are represented by a red circle and archival sites correspond to a yellow circle.



Fully recoverable bottom mounted archival passive acoustic monitoring systems called TOSSITs are developed by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and are currently deployed in Cape Cod Bay. The TOSSIT system includes housing for the hydrophone and acoustic receiver/release, float rings, line, and a Dyneema spool that connects to a circular weight.

To help communicate locations of DMF's currently deployed monitoring systems, we launched a public-facing website regarding these efforts including an interactive map (www.mass.gov/info-details/protected-species-passive-acoustic-monitoring-project-application) to visualize the monitoring network and provide positions for download. The map also provides information on current spatial management relevant to coastal Massachusetts, as well as positions of large whales and sea turtles sighted during deployment efforts. Additional resources can be found at this website (www.mass.gov/pam-app) related to DMF's acoustic study, visual and acoustic detections of large whales along the entire eastern seaboard of North America, links to DMF advisories, and Protected Species Program news.

By Erin Burke,
Protected Species Program Manager

www.mass.gov/news/dmfs-large-whale-passive-acoustic-monitoring-program-is-underway



From Gloucester to Global: Celebrating Riverdale Mills' 45 years and the invention that transformed lobster fishing

When Jim Knott, Sr., looked out over the working waterfront in Gloucester, Massachusetts in the early 1970s, he saw something most others didn't: potential. A part-time commercial lobsterman, Knott knew firsthand the frustrations of traditional wooden lobster traps. Wooden traps were heavy, expensive, and short-lived in the unforgiving waters of the North Atlantic. Determined to change the status quo, Knott and his son Jim Jr. did what generations of Massachusetts' fishing families have always done: they rolled up their sleeves and went to work.

Their solution was Aquamesh®, a marine-grade welded wire mesh engineered to endure the harshest elements of the North Atlantic. Strong, corrosion-resistant, and long-lasting, Aquamesh became an instant game-changer for lobstermen and women from Cape Ann to Cape Breton and Cape Cod. Today, more than 60% of all lobster traps in North America are built with Aquamesh.

Now celebrating 45 years in business, Riverdale Mills, the company the Knotts founded in 1980, has grown from a small operation with big ideas into an international manufacturing leader, all while staying true to its Massachusetts roots.

"Riverdale's roots are in the fishing harbors of Gloucester and Rockport. Our success began with a commitment to the hardworking men and women in the lobster industry," said Jim Knott, Jr., current CEO of Riverdale Mills. "Aquamesh supports sustainable fishing and helps



Jim Knott, Jr., CEO of Riverdale Mills

preserve a way of life in coastal communities. That's what makes our 45th anniversary, especially on the heels of National Lobster Day, so meaningful to us."

Riverdale's story is not just one of innovation. It's a testament to American manufacturing, coastal resilience, and the enduring spirit of Massachusetts' fishing communities.

Based in Northbridge, MA, Riverdale Mills operates a 400,000-square-foot facility that produces more than 3,500 configurations of welded wire mesh for industries including ma-

rine, aquaculture, agriculture, construction, and perimeter high-security. The company uses thousands of tons of steel annually and maintains a strict commitment to sustainability, recycling nearly all steel byproducts and producing part of its power from clean hydroelectric energy.

Still, it all started, and in many ways still revolves around, lobster fishing.

From Gloucester's salty docks to the vibrant seafood hub of New Bedford, Aquamesh has become as essential to the modern trap as the bait

inside it. Massachusetts lobstermen and women, long known for their ingenuity and toughness, have come to rely on Riverdale's durable and long-lasting wire mesh to support its thriving marine economy.

Riverdale's reach has expanded well beyond Massachusetts, with 40% of its products now exported to markets including Ireland, Scotland, and the UK. Despite this global growth, its ties to the local fishing community remain deeply rooted and essential to the company's identity.

"The lobster industry put us on the map," Knott said. "Our work began with the lobstermen of Gloucester and Rockport, and it's those enduring relationship built on trust, quality, and shared purpose that have anchored us for 45 years."

As the nation prepares to recognize National Lobster Day on September 25, Riverdale Mills stands not just as a manufacturer, but as a partner to the people who make their living on the water. Their story reflects a larger truth about Massachusetts' fishing communities: that innovation and tradition don't just coexist, they thrive together.

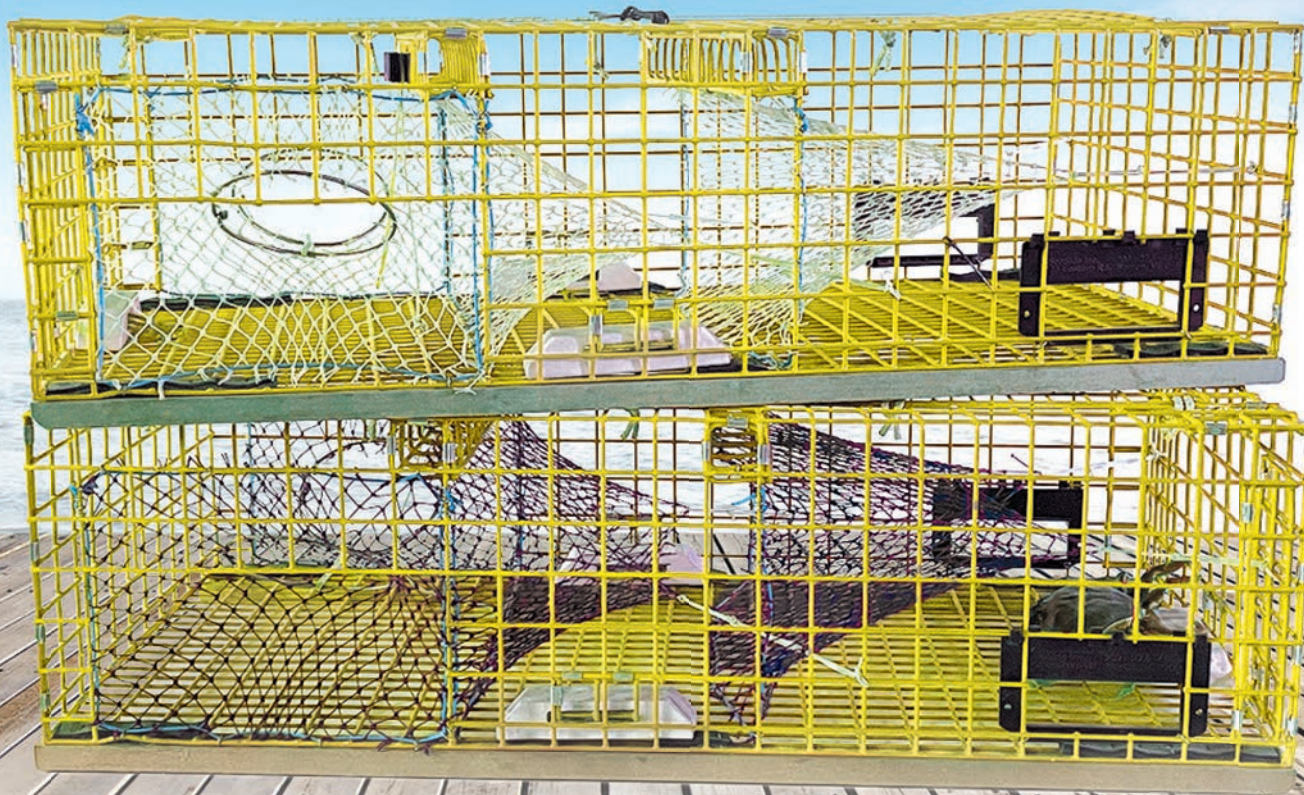
For Riverdale, celebrating 45 years is about honoring the past and building toward the future. And for the coastal towns and cities from Gloucester to New Bedford, it's a reminder that the backbone of the lobster industry is built with steel, sweat, and a whole lot of heart.

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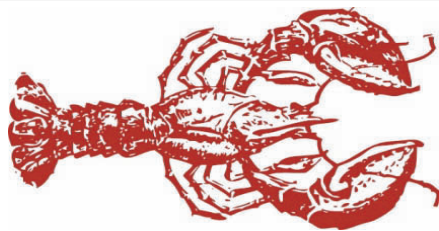
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[www.mass.gov/info-details/
review-trawl-survey-updates](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/review-trawl-survey-updates)



The trawl survey update page has
a live map. The map has a feature
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On the upper lefthand side of the
map page select the "scope icon"
button just below the home button.
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stations will be removed from
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their website, lobstermen.com, as
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lobstermensassoc). *MarineFisheries*
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Sincerely,

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Senior Marine Fisheries Biologist



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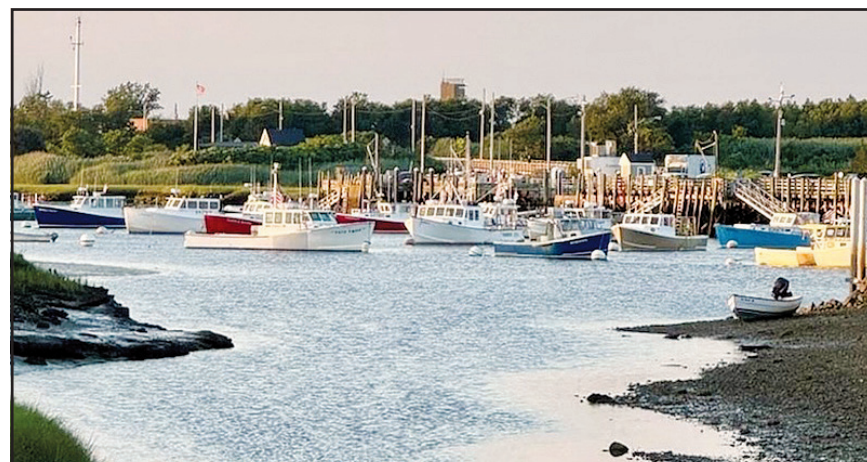
F/V: No Name
Port: Harwich Port

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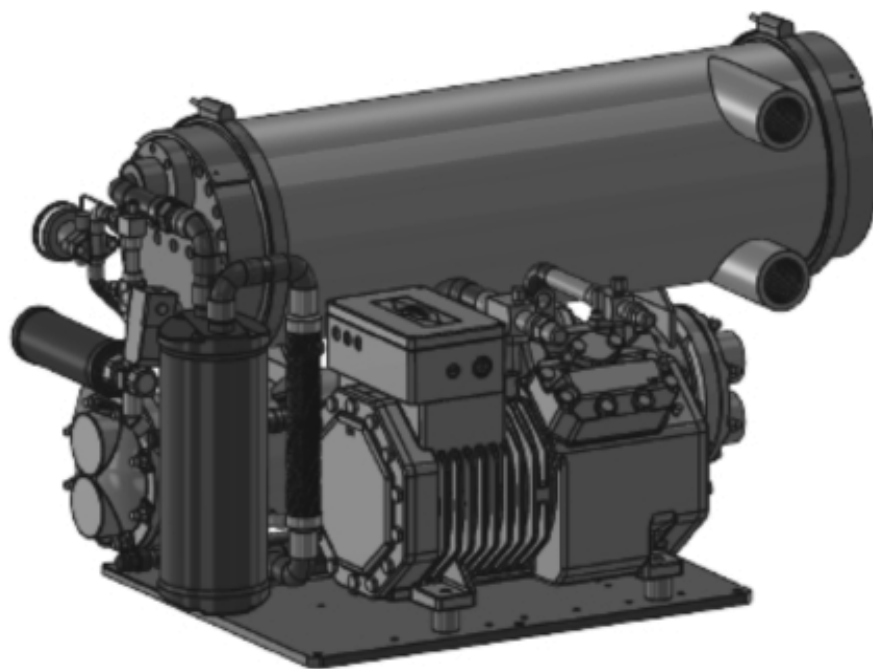




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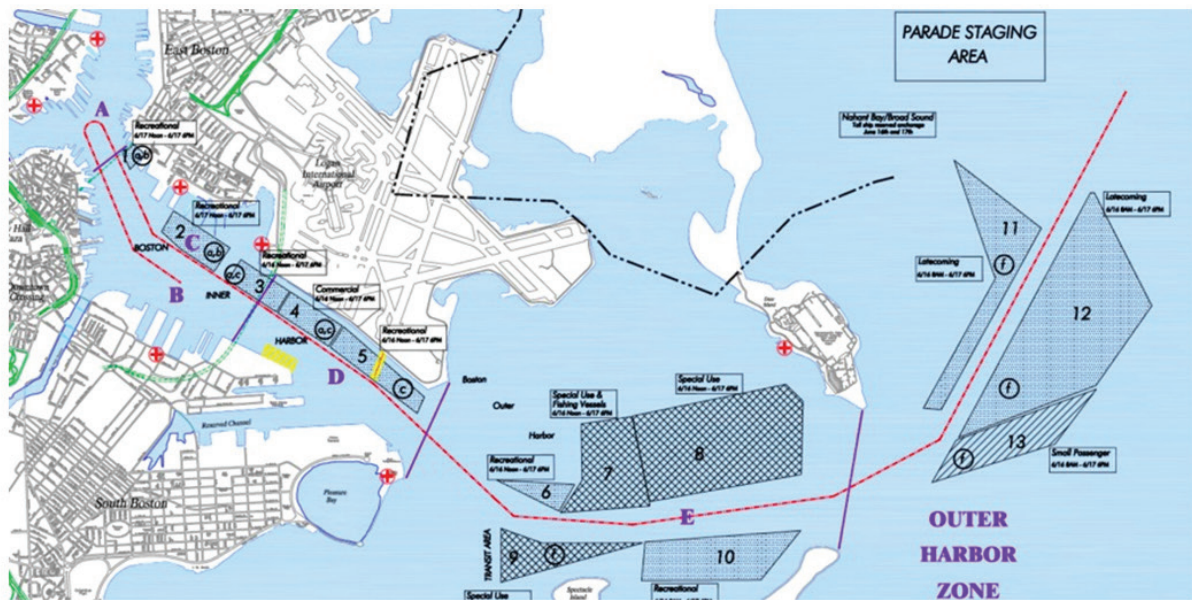
Sail250® is a global gathering of tall ships and military ships to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States. It will offer crews, cadets and visitors from all over the world an unforgettable experience and a world-class maritime celebration.

This is an EARLY notification that Boston is hosting Sail Boston 250 next year from July 11th

through the 16th. Multiple temporary anchorages will be established to support the expected 1,000+ recreational vessels. With the number of vessels anchoring there, those of you lobster fishing in Boston may want to move your gear out. We will post this again in our May/June newspaper 2026.

For more information, please visit www.sail250.org

SPECTATOR ANCHORAGE AREAS



SAVE THE DATES - WE'RE BACK!



Date and place:

Thursday, January 29 *(Vendor set-up day)*

Friday, January 30 -

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Margaritaville Resort



1225 Iyannough Rd.
Hyannis, MA 02601

For more information and
reservation forms, head to the
MLA's Annual Weekend page:



www.lobstermen.com





Annual Weekend & Industry Trade Show **2026** January 29-February 1, 2026

MEMBER / ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Dear MLA member and Annual Weekend attendee,

In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint on the earth we are now going paperless, and all the MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show information and registration forms will be sent out in our weekly emails and are available on the MLA's website: www.lobstermen.com. If you would like the registration forms to be mailed to you directly, please call the MLA office and speak with Tracey at 781.545.6984 Ext.2.

The 2026 MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show is scheduled for January 29 - February 1, 2026, at the Margaritaville Cape Cod Resort, 1225 Iyannough Rd., Hyannis, MA 02601.

www.margaritavilleresorts.com/margaritaville-resort-cape-cod

If you have not attended the Annual Weekend and Trade show in many years, well then this is the year you won't want to miss out on all the fun and camaraderie. There will be lots of giveaways, raffles, great entertainment and laughs with friends you may not have seen in years!

All rooms and booths are on a first come first served basis. If you would like a specific room or booth location **DO NOT** delay getting your reservations in early.

The last Annual Weekend & Trade Show was a great success thanks to the many MLA members, vendors and show attendees who are dedicated to the fishing industry. The Annual Weekend Committee continues to work hard to bring you new vendors to keep you up to date with all the newest gadgets and equipment in the industry.

If you are interested in helping at the show, please call the office and we will be more than happy to have your help. Let's make this 2026 Annual Weekend one to remember!

See you in January,
MLA Annual Weekend Committee





Annual Weekend & Industry Trade Show **2026** January 29-February 1, 2026

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association will be holding its Annual Weekend & Trade Show 2026 at Margaritaville Cape Cod Resort Hyannis, MA on January 29th - February 1st, 2026 (*The 29th is set up day*). The show hours are Friday & Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM and Sunday 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM.

The Annual Weekend & Trade Show is to provide an opportunity for commercial lobstermen, commercial fishermen, seafood dealers and equipment suppliers to get together and talk about ALL things fishing related, educational seminars and, *to have some fun too*.

The MLA provides annual educational grants to college bound children of our members and has given out over nine thousand dollars per year for the last many years.

The Annual Weekend Committee is asking if you would help us by being a sponsor for one of our show's activities, raffles, or donate to the MLA Scholarship Fund. These are some of the sponsorship opportunities: the Scholarship Fund Raffle, the Craft, the Legal Defense Fund or Let the Committee decide.

All contributors will be recognized in the show program. Please note all donors will be listed in the show program if the donations are received prior to January 4th. All others will be noted in the following MLA newspaper.

The MLA currently has over 1,800 members which include lobster fishermen, lobster and seafood dealers and equipment suppliers and works all year for the collective good of the resource and the lobster industry.

We sincerely hope that you will consider helping us out and we thank you in advance for any support you can give.

Please return this page with your donation

MLA Annual Weekend Committee

Name: _____ Amount: \$ _____

What would you like to sponsor?:
☐ Scholarship Fund ☐ Craft
☐ Legal Defense Fund ☐ Let Committee Decide

Mail form to: MLA, 8 Otis Place, Scituate, MA 02066

Thank you for your continued support of the MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show



Annual Weekend
& Industry Trade Show **2026**
January 29-February 1, 2026

**HOTEL
REGISTRATION**



1225 Iyannough Road
Hyannis, MA 02601
508-771-3000

[www.margaritavilleresorts.com/
margaritaville-resort-cape-cod](http://www.margaritavilleresorts.com/margaritaville-resort-cape-cod)

Hotel Package Options			
Check Choice	Room Package	# of Nights	Cost Per Room Package
	1 Night Package, 1 Adult	Friday	\$222.03
	1 Night Package, 2 Adults	Friday	\$222.03
	1 Night Package, 3 Adults	Friday	\$244.92
	1 Night Package, 1 Adult	Saturday	\$222.03
	1 Night Package, 2 Adults	Saturday	\$222.03
	1 Night Package, 3 Adults	Saturday	\$244.92
	2 Night Package, 1 Adult	Fri & Sat	\$444.06
	2 Night Package, 2 Adults	Fri & Sat	\$444.06
	2 Night Package, 3 Adults	Fri & Sat	\$489.84
	3 Night Package, 1 Adult	Thurs, Fri & Sat	\$666.09
	3 Night Package, 2 Adults	Thurs, Fri & Sat	\$666.09
	3 Night Package, 3 Adults	Thurs, Fri & Sat	\$734.76

CALL HOTEL WITH CREDIT CARD NUMBER: 508-771-3000
Package prices are inclusive of all taxes and hotel fees.

Name(s): _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address Required: _____

RESERVATION POLICIES

Reservations:

- Reservations are due no later than one month prior to arrival date — **DECEMBER 29, 2025**. A deposit of one night's room rate plus occupancy tax is required per room to confirm reservations.
- Individuals reserving their guest rooms may use our toll-free number 888-297-2200.

Individual Cancellation: An advanced deposit of one night room and tax will be taken at the time of the booking. Individual cancellations received 5 days to check in will be allowed with a full refund of deposit. Cancellation within 5 days will result in the loss of the advanced deposit.

CHECK-IN TIME AFTER 4:00 PM - CHECK-OUT TIME BY 11:00 AM

Please Email or Mail completed reservation form (1 form per room) to:

Email: manderson@capecodderresort.com • **Mail:** Margaritaville Resort Cape Cod, 1225 Iyannough Rd., Hyannis, MA 02601

CALL HOTEL WITH CREDIT CARD NUMBER: 508-771-3000

****Meal Tickets:** All meal tickets **MUST** be purchased through the MLA prior to Thursday, January 22, 2026. If meal tickets are not purchased by this date, we cannot guarantee your meal. **All Meal tickets MUST be picked up at the MLA Booth.**



Annual Weekend & Industry Trade Show **2026** January 29-February 1, 2026

EXHIBITOR INFO & BOOTH RESERVATION

Dear Exhibitor,

We are excited to offer you the opportunity to celebrate with us and to present and/or sell your products and services to scores of commercial fishermen during our MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show starting on Friday, January 30th - February 1st, 2025. (*Thursday, January 29th is vendor set up day.*)

This year's event will again be at the Margaritaville Cape Cod Resort Hyannis, MA.
www.margaritavilleresorts.com/margaritaville-resort-cape-cod

In our effort to reduce our carbon footprint, all the MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show information & registration forms will be sent out in our weekly emails and are available on the MLA website: www.lobstermen.com

- In addition to the Friday and Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm hours, the exhibition hall will be open on Sunday morning an hour early at 8:00am and remain open until 10:00am so that you will have two hours of uninterrupted time.
- A single Booth space includes one 6' table with a tablecloth and 2 chairs.

Once we receive your payment, we will mail you a confirmation letter for your booth and have it waiting for you beginning at 9:00am on Thursday, January 29th for set-up. If the Thursday set-up day is a difficulty for you, we can make special arrangements to admit you early on Friday morning January 30th.

However, please be advised that the Exhibit Hall opens at 9:00am and all exhibits must be fully set up by 9:00am. (Show hours are Friday & Saturday 9:00am-4:00 pm and Sunday 8:00am -10:00am.

All goods must be removed by 1:00 pm on Sunday afternoon, February 1st.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the MLA office and speak with Tracey at 781-545-6984 ext. 2. We look forward to seeing you at the show.

Thank you,

MLA Annual Weekend Committee

2026 MLA ANNUAL WEEKEND EXHIBITOR BOOTH RESERVATION FORM

Each booth comes with a 6' tableclothed table & two chairs. Set-up begins at 9:00 AM on Thursday, January 29th and must be completely removed by 1:00 PM Sunday, February 1st unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

***MLA MEMBERS
WILL GET BOOTH
PREFERENCES.**

Company: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

People in charge of booth: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Primary Product or Service: _____

BOOTH SELECTION

1 Booth	\$750	_____
2 Booths	\$1050	_____
3 Booths	\$1350	_____
Electricity	\$75	_____
Total	\$	_____

Acceptable payments: Mastercard, Visa, Check (Made payable to MLA)
Please note a 3% service charge will be applied to credit cards.

Call 781-545-6984 ext. 2 and speak with Tracey to process credit cards.

Mail form to:
MLA, 8 Otis Place, Scituate, MA 02066.

Please DO NOT DELAY as this is a new venue and space is limited.



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LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

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Bob Ward
Donald Wilkinson

Justice

FROM PAGE 1

We cannot overstate how big of a win this is. MAX has sued the MLA and Sooky almost every single year for 5 years, causing unnecessary stress and wasting our resources. Now, his myopic and misguided crusade against MLA and Sooky can finally end.

This case is not finished yet, as MAX's claims have not yet been dismissed. We expect rulings on motions to dismiss his claims to come in the next few months.

UPDATE 8/13/2025 (District of Massachusetts / First Circuit Case) Case No. 1:24-cv-10332-WGY; MLA v. NMFS et al / First Circuit Case Nos. 24-1480 and 24-1481

This action is still pending before the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, with Judge Young assigned as the judge. MLA has engaged in discussions with the Trump Administration regarding regulatory options and potential resolution of this case. There are no further updates at this time.

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 prob-

lem and have done everything asked of them by the 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 lawsuits to keep the Massachusetts commercial lobstermen fishing.

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association has been actively involved in these lawsuits since 2018, and we need your generous support today to continue our fight to keep the commercial lobstermen fishing. As we all know, legal action costs lots of money and over the last 5 years the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association Legal Defense Fund has spent over \$350,000 fighting these legal battles. These are real threats to the historic and iconic commercial lobster industry, and we are doing everything to keep Massachusetts commercial lobstermen fishing.

WHERE TO MAKE DONATIONS

Any contribution to the Legal Defense Fund is greatly appreciated.

Donate by mail:

MLA LDF
8 Otis Place
Scituate, MA 02066

Donate online:

lobstermen.com
Under Members, select Dues/Donate.



9 things you should know when dating a commercial fisherman

BY MEGAN WALDREP

My fisherman, Chris, and I started dating almost ten years ago, and at that time, I had no idea how involved commercial fishing would be. Physically, Mentally, and Emotionally – for both of us. Below are a few things I learned along the way, a few insights that may help if you find yourself in love with a commercial fisherman.

1. When you date a commercial fisherman, you're introduced to a world you never knew existed.

You'll learn that people travel long distances (the same area as in the TV show, *Deadliest Catch*) in gnarly summer weather in big, expensive boats with lots of expensive gear with big 'ole expensive permits to legally fish each season. You can't quite wrap your head around it when they explain the profession to you. Then your head explodes when you learn their sister does it, too.

2. When you date a commercial fisherman, you'll eat the freshest seafood you've ever had – canned, smoked, frozen salmon – directly from your lover's hands straight to your plate.

You'll happily pay more for wild-caught seafood at the grocery store because you know there's a face behind each catch. You'll become more aware of the environment and may even become an advocate to help save our seas.

3. When you date a commercial fisherman, you'll learn about boat parts, engines, and stuff you couldn't care less about.

You'll go to dinners with his friends and struggle to stay awake when the conversation only revolves around fishing and other fishermen they know. You'll show support with a polite smile and nod, all the while secretly dying of boredom. You'll



PHOTO CREDIT: POCF BRI DWYER

Aboard the F/V Joseph Warren, an H&H Maine lobster boat, we got in Dennis, MA, and had trucked to CA.

fight the urge to grab your phone to scroll through Instagram and wish the subject would turn to art, pop culture, or books, or something (anything!) you can relate to.

4. When you date a commercial fisherman, some of those previous conversations actually sink in.

You'll learn that over 80% of seafood consumed in the US is imported (!), and you'll rethink every seafood dish on a menu, asking if the fish is caught locally. You'll learn that China is the biggest consumer of Alaskan seafood, buying over a billion's worth (with a "B") in one year. You'll hope the Chinese economy stays strong and won't tell anyone that a part of you roots for "the other team."

5. When you date a commercial fisherman, you'll miss them. A lot.

Especially when they fish for salmon in Alaska for three months

out of the year. You'll miss them more when, two months after they get back, they decide to fish for sea cucumbers. Because apparently, that's a thing. But, instead of fishing from the deck of a boat, they'll dive up to sixty feet in forty-degree water in full-on scuba gear. *Gulp* You'll continue to pray for a white light of protection to surround them for yet another season.

6. When you date a commercial fisherman, you'll resist calling the Coast Guard when you haven't heard from them in two weeks.

You'll remind yourself that they're working "off the grid" and will call when they can. They're fine, you'll think. No need to worry, you'll say. Then you'll see a commercial for *Deadliest Catch*, and the worrying starts all over again. You'll emotionally slug through days of no commu-

nication. Then your heart jumps to your throat when you receive a text that says: "Just found a little bit of signal. I love you and miss you so much!"

7. When you date a commercial fisherman, each reunion after a long season gives you that butterflies-in-the-stomach feeling you had on the first day you met.

You'll notice their faces are a bit scruffier, their hair is a bit longer, and their hands are scarred from nets and traps. You'll admire their body, more defined and muscular than the last time you saw them. You'll realize that manual labor pays off for you both in more ways than one.

8. When you date a commercial fisherman, you'll wonder why they go through all the trouble for this kind of work – especially since he won't know how much he'll make until the end of the season.

It's such a gamble, you think. Why put yourself in an uncertain position, you'll say. Then you'll remember you're a freelance writer, and you essentially do the same.

9. When you date a commercial fisherman, you'll slowly appreciate the fishing stories more.

At dinners with his friends, you'll start to engage in conversations and ask questions with genuine interest. You'll forget about grabbing your phone to scroll through Instagram and search for their hand to hold under the table instead.

Megan Waldrep is the founder of the Partners of Commercial Fishermen (POCF), a first-of-its-kind online space that uplifts and empowers women who love fishermen—offering a worldwide community, shared knowledge, and authentic, real-time connection when they need it most.

Learn more at pocfpride.com



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Commercial Fisheries Commission meets for first time in April

The Massachusetts Commercial Fisheries Commission (CFC) met for the first time on April 8, 2025. During the first meeting, leadership aimed to effectively concentrate the scope and goals of this new public body, and to develop strategies for implementation through feedback from Commission members. Areas of interest included economic development, port infrastructure, and economic sustainability of the industry, while increasing awareness within fishing communities and state government. With facilitation support from the Consensus Building Institute, the CFC determined several primary tasks during its first meeting, including (1) helping to inform DMF on an updated port profile

assessment, (2) offering feedback on CZM's Resilient Coasts Draft Plan, (3) discerning the scope of the CFC from that of the Fisheries Working Group for Offshore Wind, (4) sharing individual written support of commercial fishery representation on the Commonwealth's Food Policy Council and comment on New England gas, oil, and minerals development proposals, and (5) addressing fishery science challenges given the anticipated limitation of federal surveys.

The CFC was established by the Massachusetts legislature in 2022 (Section 79 of the Chapter 179 of the Acts of 2022) – An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind. The CFC will provide a forum in which stakeholders and commercial fishery representatives from across the Commonwealth's coast will discuss and prioritize strategies to increase sustainability of the commercial fishing industry and to address the responsible development of offshore

energy projects. As a unified voice, commission members will recommend strategies to be brought to the state legislature and effect change.

The CFC is a 19-member body, including the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and the Directors of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), Dan McKiernan, and the Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM), Alison Brizius, who serve as co-chairs. The remaining 14 members are appointed by the Governor and represent stakeholders of the commercial fishing industry and research organizations, including members of Responsible Offshore Development Alliance, Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership, Mas-

sachusetts Seafood Collaborative, Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association, New Bedford Port Authority, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance, Gloucester Fisheries Commission, Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Fisheries Survival Fund, Center for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Seafood Coalition, Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association, and the University of Massachusetts School for Marine Science and Technology. With its passionate, motivated, and knowledgeable members, the CFC will face its goals to strengthen collaboration across the state, advocate for industry sustainability, and create a unified voice for the industry head-on in the years to come.

By Bradlie Morgan,
Communications & Policy Specialist
<https://www.mass.gov/news/commercial-fisheries-commission-meets-for-first-time>

Marine Fisheries
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



SEAFOOD HARVESTERS OF AMERICA

At the July 17th Seafood Harvester Board meeting, then President Chris Brown resigned after over a decade of service to pursue other interests. It was noted that according to the bylaws, the vice president, Heather Mann, automatically becomes president to fulfill the president's term.

Heather Mann has been working in and for the commercial fishing industry for over twenty-five years. She is currently Executive Director for Harvesters' member organization Midwater Trawlers Cooperative (MTC) and represents 33 trawl catcher vessels that harvest Pacific whiting and Groundfish off the west coast and Pollock, cod and other Groundfish in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. In the North Pacific Heather currently serves as an Advisory Panel member to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The Board then addressed the vacant vice president seat, which can be filled by any existing board member. Heather Mann nominated Beth Casoni for the role, citing the need for New England representation on the executive committee. Beth humbly accepted the nomination, confirming she had discussed it with her President, Arthur "Sooky" Sawyer and Board to ensure she could take on the additional responsibilities. The motion to appoint Beth Casoni as Vice President was approved unanimously.

Seafood Harvesters of America represents seafood harvesters and processors from Alaska to Maine, California to Florida. As America's fishing fleet, we are committed to bringing healthy food and a thriving fishing economy to our nation's shores.



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Strive to be a “*Lobstervore*”



Lobstervore
[lob-ster-vore] adjective



a person whose diet consists of high protein lobster, that is locally and sustainably harvested.

Crack into flavor, support local harvesters, and savor sustainable lobster year-round.

If you’ve ever found yourself elbow deep in melted butter with a lobster claw in your hand and a satisfied grin across your face, congratulations! You might already be a “*Lobstervore*” without even knowing!

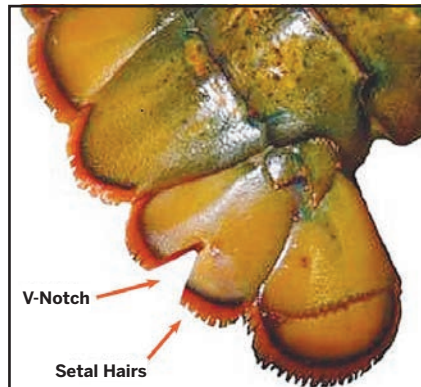
What exactly is a “*Lobstervore*” you ask?

Here’s the good news, Massachusetts is one of the best places in the world to be one. From ocean communion to table devotion, Massachusetts lobster is a local, sustainably harvested superfood!

Lobster isn’t just a summertime delicacy, or an elegant seafood splurge, it’s a nutrient packed, ocean-to-table powerhouse that’s ready to be enjoyed year-round.

American lobster, harvested right off our beautiful coast, is loaded with lean protein, omega-3 fatty acids, and essential vitamins like B12 and selenium. Massachusetts lobster comes with a short supply chain and a low carbon footprint.

That makes it more than just a tasty ceremonial dinner. It’s a smart, sustainable move for our health, our economy, and our environment.



The American lobster fishery is one of the oldest most well managed in the world. Massachusetts commercial lobstermen take its “conservation claws” very seriously and protects its lobster legacy!

For generations, commercial lobstermen have worked hand in claw to ensure this iconic crustacean thrives beneath the waves, crawling strongly for centuries to come.

There are many key conservation measures in place, including: trap limits and gear marking regulations, minimum and maximum size limits, seasonal closures, habitat protections, and if a lobsterman catches a female lobster with visible eggs, it must be released-NO exceptions!

Lobstermen V-notch the tail of female lobsters marking them as breeders for protection of future catches even when they’re not carrying eggs.

Thanks to these conservation efforts put forth by commercial lobstermen, the American lobster fishery is widely regarded as one of the most sustainable in the world! With salt in their beards and conservation in their bones, lobstermen don’t just harvest lobster, they protect them.

So, when you buy Massachusetts lobster, you’re supporting food security, marine conservation, and local livelihoods, all in one delicious bite!

Massachusetts commercial lobstermen are more than harvesters;

they’re educators and advocates for sustainable fishing. Many take time to engage with the public at events such as, the Marshfield Fair, South Shore Lobster Festival, New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, Lobster Day at the State House and even on cruise ships docking in local harbors.

Through live demonstrations, gear displays, conversations, and storytelling, they educate people of all ages and help them understand where their lobster comes from and why protecting the ocean matters.

With all this in mind, it’s time to think differently about how we eat lobster in our everyday lives. Let’s face it, lobster has a bit of a black-tie problem. Too often, it’s seen as a fancy indulgence, reserved for special occasions or coastal summer getaways. But the truth is, there’s no reason lobster can’t be an everyday protein.

You can do so much with this tasty crustacean, add it to an omelet for breakfast, pack a lobster salad sandwich for lunch, whip up lobster mac and cheese for delicious comfort food or put it in tacos, bisques, pasta or even stir-fry!

Whether you’re a seasoned shell cracker or new to the claw life, here are a few ways to become a true “*Lobstervore*”, buy local, talk to lobstermen (as many sell direct at the docks or farmers markets), and ex-

plore recipes because lobster is way more versatile than just dipping it in drawn butter.

Take the time to explore opportunities to purchase local, sustainably harvested Massachusetts lobster, dine at restaurants that serve it, take part in lobster tours, attend events celebrating lobster, and learn about its biological and nutritional benefits along with countless ways to enjoy and celebrate our beloved crustacean, the American lobster!

The Lobster Foundation of Massachusetts is proud to launch the “*Lobstervore*” campaign, made possible by the incredible support of the MA Division of Marine Fisheries, Seafood Marketing Program. Together, through shared effort and commitment to sustainable practices, we’re not just celebrating a treasured delicacy, we’re protecting a vital part of our heritage for generations to come.

Let’s stop saving lobster for special occasions. With sustainable harvests, abundant supply, and unbeatable nutrition, lobster deserves a permanent spot at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

So, here’s to the “*Lobstervores*” of Massachusetts and beyond, cracking shells, protecting our oceans, and savoring the most iconic crustacean, one luscious bite at a time.

*Keep calm, crack loud,
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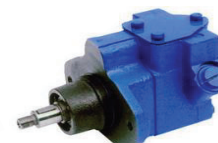
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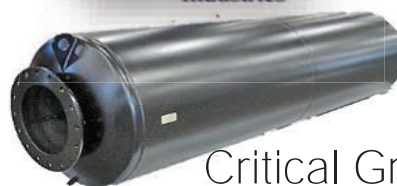
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Learn more about large whale
entanglement response:

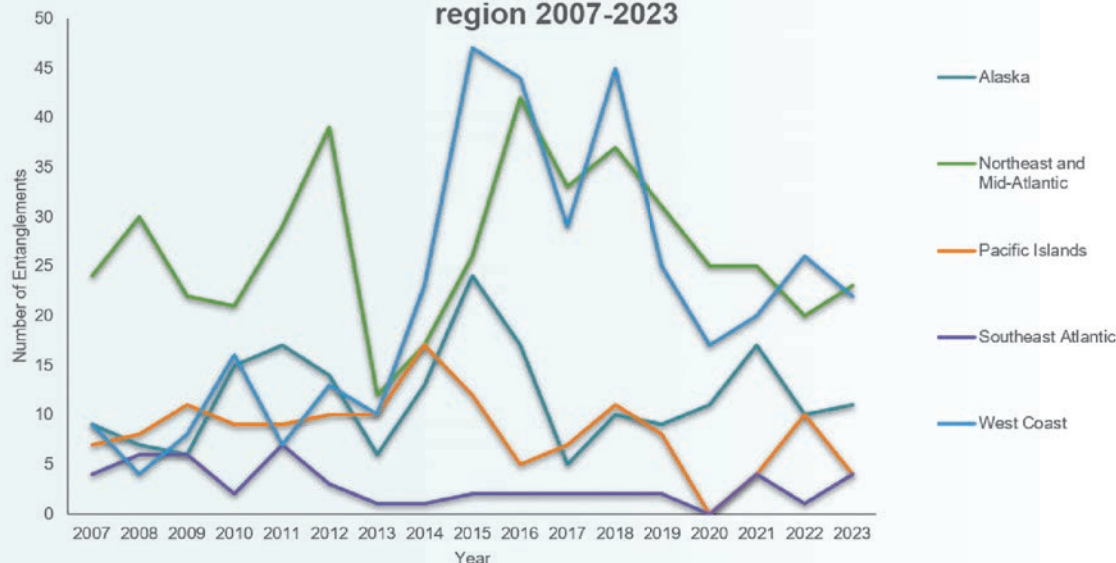


All authorized response activities
for large whales in 2023 were
covered under NOAA Permit
#24359 issued to the Marine
Mammal Health and Stranding
Response Program

National Report on Large Whale Entanglements Confirmed in the United States in 2023

In 2023, there were 64 confirmed [entangled large whales](#) documented along the coasts of the United States. Sixty-one cases (95 percent) involved live animals, and three cases involved animals that were dead (floating) when initially reported. These cases represent unique individual whales and do not represent multiple reports of the same individual. The 64 confirmed cases in 2023 is lower than the average annual number of confirmed entanglements from 2007–2022 ($n=71.8 \pm 20.5$; average \pm one standard deviation).

Confirmed large whale entanglements by NOAA Fisheries
region 2007-2023



In 2023, four species of large whales were documented with entanglements in U.S. waters: [humpback whales](#) (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), [gray whales](#) (*Eschrichtius robustus*), [minke whales](#) (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*), and [North Atlantic right whales](#) (*Eubalaena glacialis*). Humpback whales continued to be the most frequently reported entangled large whale species, and represent more than 69 percent of all confirmed large whale entanglements since 2007.



Reported Locations of Entangled Whales

In 2023, large whale entanglements were first reported and confirmed off the coast of 11 states. More than 77 percent of all confirmed live whale entanglement reports were observed off the coast of four states:

- 26.6 percent off the coast of California
- 23.4 percent off the coast of Massachusetts
- 17.2 percent off the coast of Alaska
- 9.4 percent off the coast of New Jersey.

Massachusetts Bay and Cape Cod Bay, Monterey Bay, and Southeast Alaska continued to be areas where many confirmed large whales cases were initially reported. No large whale entanglements were confirmed in the U.S. Caribbean or Pacific Island Territories in 2023.

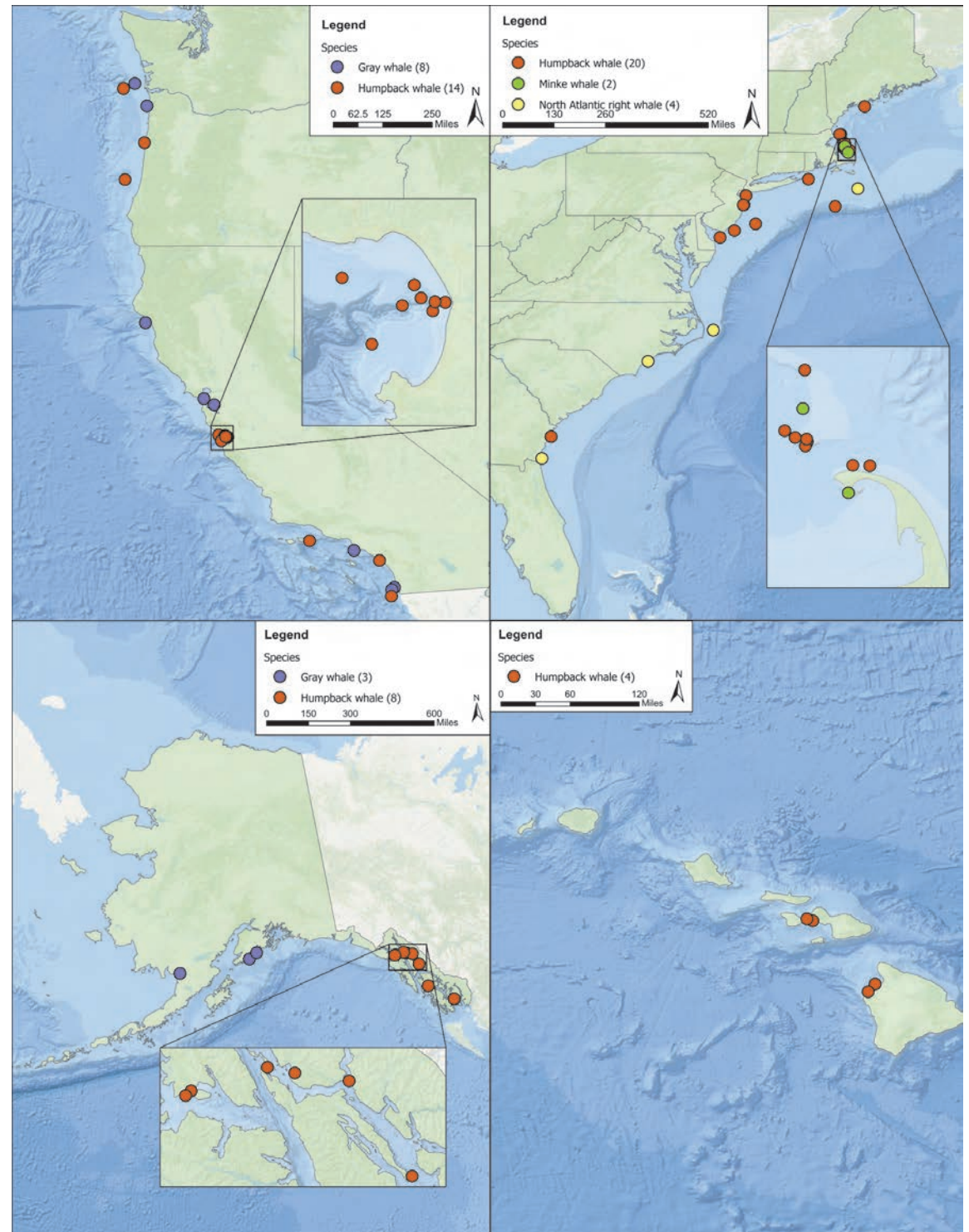
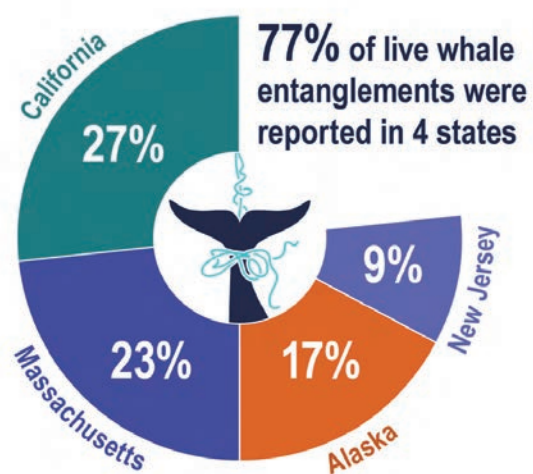
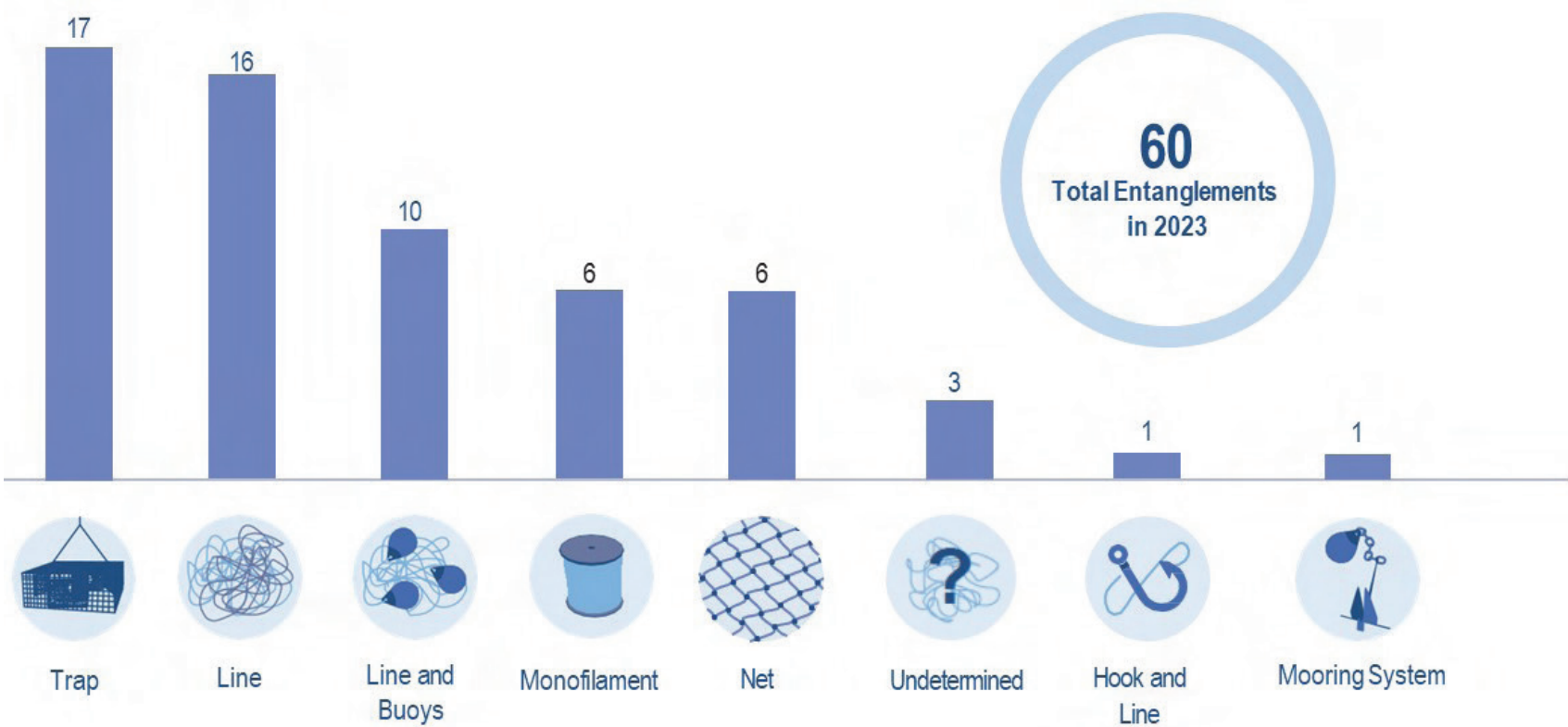


Figure 2. Locations of all confirmed live and dead large whale entanglements in U.S. waters in 2023. No large whale entanglements were confirmed in the U.S. Caribbean or Pacific Island Territories in 2023.

Note that whales may be observed and reported either close to or far from where the entanglement occurred, as they have been known to travel great distances while entangled.

Sources of Entanglements

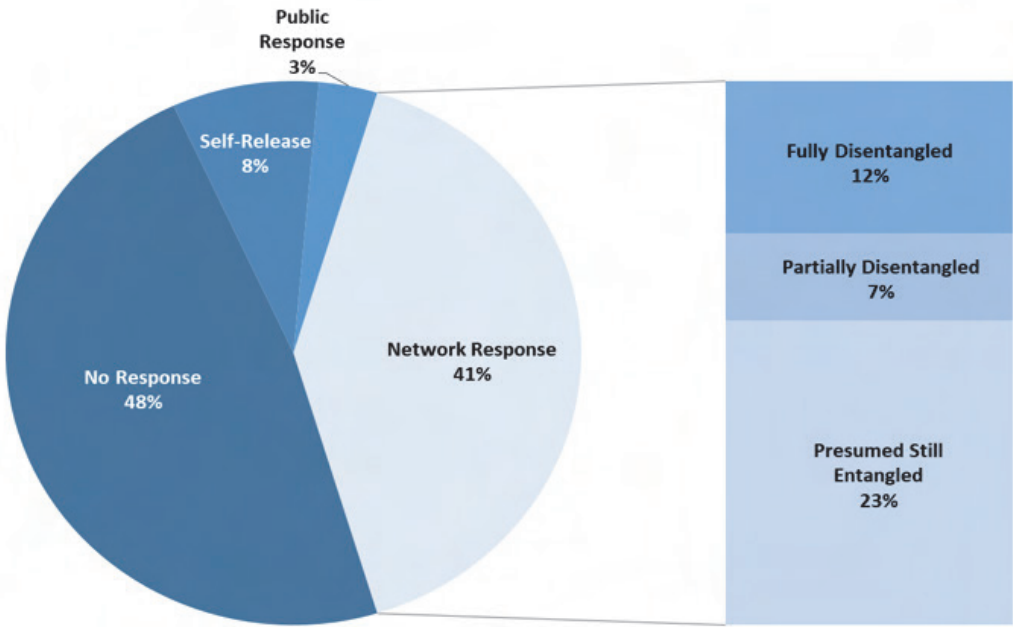
Fifty percent (n=32) of confirmed cases in 2023 involved commercial or recreational fishing gear. One whale in Alaska was later determined to be entangled in gear that was illegally set. The remaining cases in 2023 (n=32) involved line that could not be directly attributed to a fishery or other source. Although various marine industries add gear into the ocean, one of the most common sources of line is commercial or recreational fishing. Therefore, it is likely some of the cases involving only line that could not be identified to a specific source were related to fishing activities.



Rescue Operations to Disentangle Large Whales

Nationwide, in 2023 there were 90 authorized [National Entanglement Response Network](#) team leaders, and they were widely distributed geographically.

Network teams mounted responses to a minimum of 25 whales (41%) initially reported alive that resulted in the full or partial disentangling of 11 individual animals (19%). For 28 whales (48%), the Network was unable to mount a response due to the animal's remote location (e.g., the whale was too far offshore to mount an effective response) or the unsafe conditions (e.g., reports were received late in the day or during bad weather). Twenty-seven of these whales are presumed still be entangled, and one adult gray whale that was confirmed entangled while alive later stranded dead on Kodiak, Alaska.



Learn more about the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program:



U.S. Secretary of Commerce
Howard Lutnick

Chief of Staff performing the duties of
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA
Administrator
Laura Grimm

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
Eugenio Piñeiro-Soler

May 2025

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What You Can Do

Contact your local network. NOAA Fisheries' Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program acknowledges the critical roles first responders and Network partners play in our response to entangled large whales. The Network relies on reports of entangled whales from the public. If you encounter a whale that may be entangled, please remain a safe distance away from the whale and contact your local network immediately via the 24/7 regional hotline or contact the United States Coast Guard on VHF CH16.

Regional Entanglement Hotlines

Region	Phone Number
Maine through Virginia	(866) 755-NOAA ((866) 755-6622)
North Carolina through Texas and the Caribbean	(877) WHALEHELp ((877) 942-5343)
California, Oregon, and Washington	(877) SOS-WHALe ((877) 767-9425)
Alaska	(877) 925-7773
Hawai'i	(888) 256-9840

Information Needed When Reporting

1. Location of the animal
2. Detailed description of the entangling gear or debris
3. Location of the entanglement on the animal
4. Direction and speed the whale is traveling, and whether it is solitary or with other whales
5. Behavior of the whale
6. Species of the whale, if known
7. Approximate size and condition of the whale
8. Photos and videos, if taken

Photo or Video Documentation

Photos or videos from a safe and legal distance (note that regulations apply to certain species and areas) can provide valuable information to entanglement response teams. If you can stand by the animal at a safe distance until responders arrive, it will be the best help for the animal and response team.

Let qualified experts respond!

Whales are unpredictable and attempting to remove an entanglement is extremely dangerous. Entanglement response in the United States should only be conducted by members of the Network who have been trained and authorized by NOAA Fisheries.

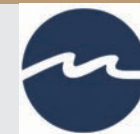
Trained responders grapple trailing line on an entangled North Atlantic right whale (known individual #4545).
Credit: Center for Coastal Studies; Permit No. 24359



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AD#5 (4/25) **FOR SALE** – 1980 Bob Rich 40' wooden lobster boat. Detroit 471 diesel. MA Area 1 and Federal Area 1 permits & endorsements. 800 traps + equipment. \$65,000 firm. Bill: 781-834-7418

AD#6 (3/25) **FOR SALE** – 28.2 ft 1976 JC fiberglass hull, Cat 3208, 265HP. Area 1 permit, 800 traps, 700 3ft lobster traps w/ gear. Joe 978-239-5927

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AD#14 (4/25) **FOR SALE** – Area 1 Commercial Lobster Permit-800 trap allocation. \$20,000. Text Mike: 781-854-6522 / Call 781-665-5318 (no calls after 6PM)

AD#15 (4/25) **FOR SALE** – 150 conch trawl wire pots. \$40.00 each. Call: 508-889-9180

AD#16 (7/25) **FOR SALE** – MA Coastal Area 1 Lobster License 800 trap tags potential. \$20,000 /30 ft. Novi Lobster/ Leymen 6 cylinder 135 hp diesel engine 1992 \$19,000 /. 700 older traps, rope, buoys, Mooring 300lb mushroom w/ chain \$5000. \$44,000 for whole business. Boat moored in Nahant & currently fishing 200 traps. Text Brian Mahoney 781-715-4732

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AD#18 (4/25) **FOR SALE** – 600 4ft Brooks/ Friendship Aquamesh traps \$100 ea. 158 new traps \$140 ea. Lines, buoys, trap sticks, aluminum pulpit/flying bridge, more. Call: 401-782-511

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AD#20 (5/25) **FOR SALE** – 1989 Privateer Renegade 24.5 ft w/ trailer. New Mercury 350, 7.5 hrs. Full electronics, traps, rope, gear. \$23,500.00 OBRO Dan: 508-367-5240

AD#21 (5/25) **FOR SALE** – 45' Lobster Boat (Fiberglass/Wood). Detroit 8-71. Excellent condition. \$75,000. Fred 774-930-0499

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