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American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act passes through the Senate and the House and is off to the White House



steps closer from becoming Fisheries Advisory Commitactive as the US seafood in- tee Act - AFAC) passed thru dustry's voice and direction to both the US Senate and the Dan Sullivan, Senator Lisa

Advisory Committee is two and April, S497 (the American Biden has to sign it into law. the Saltonstall Kennedy (SK) US House. Now the AFAC has Murkowski, Senator Elizabeth

The American Fisheries Grant programs. In March one more final step, President

We cannot thank Senator

Warren, Senator Edward Markey and Congressman William Keating enough for taking on this legislation and staying with it through passage! Now

AMERICAN FISHERIES, Page 23



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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!

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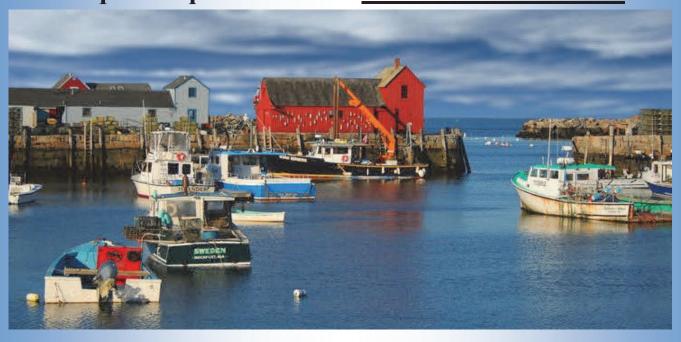
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As the HAULER TURNS

After a long process and multiple attempts, I am thrilled to let you know that the NOAA 2022 List of Fisheries (LOF) was released on April 19, 2022. What does this mean for Massachusetts, is a question I have been getting quite often and here is the best way I can think to explain the importance of this LOF designation.

The new LOF designation for Massachusetts is the, MA mixed species trap/pot, which is the first half of the golden ticket Massachusetts needs to acquire in order to keep you all fishing. The other half of the golden ticket is the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) which has been mandated by Judge Talwani in the M.S lawsuit in Boston.

This LOF designation was achieve by you and the MADMF through a cumulative and pain staking effort to achieve the 92% risk reduction to protected species over the last 25-30 years. All of your sacrifices and hard work is being acknowledged and valued because, without this LOF designation there would be a snowballs chance in hell Massachusetts could obtain the ITP or the other half of the golden ticket to keep you fishing.

Achieving the LOF designation or an ITP trek is not a sprint, it is a marathon and we need to stay the course and keep pushing forward to bring home the gold so that you can fish without fear of being sued, or be fishing with ropeless and continue to be the great stewards of the sea that you are. Hats off to you all for not giving up and sticking your head in the sand.



The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association and the Lobster Foundation of Massachusetts (LFoM) is working tirelessly on developing a more user friendly weak 1700lbs. red and candy cane rope. Currently, we are waiting on some coils to be manufactured that will have a tracer ribbon incorporated within the rope that will have "MASS LOBSTER" stamped on it from top to bottom. The State is onboard with this as a gear marking and needs to test its breaking strength and take it through rule making this sum-

We have been hearing from several of you that the new gear markings are adding upwards of 50-100 hours of labor depending on how you fish. Our goal is to eliminate the majority of these gear markings you have to do today so you can focus on fishing. We are hopeful to have these prototypes tested by the State in May. Stay tuned!

Earlier this year The LFoM was awarded a Massachusetts Environmental Trust Fund grant to help eliminate the use of knots in the lobster industry as knots get stuck in the baleen on whales. The LFoM will be scheduling a series of splicing classes as well as developing a video series for a reference resource. Once we have the newly approved weak red and candy cane rope with the tracer we will be scheduling these classes. Space will be limited as everyone who attends will receive one or two coils of weak rope. More to come later this summer on this.

Now, to wrap all of this up into one package with a bow, I have to say "THANK YOU" to all of you who continually have



made generous donation to the MLAs Legal Defense Fund over the last year. Without your support we could not keep up the legal fight on your behalf and unfortunately, there seems to be no end in sight and your support is still needed as the legal bills are still coming in. As of 2019 the MLA has spent collectively \$200,000.00 on lawsuits.

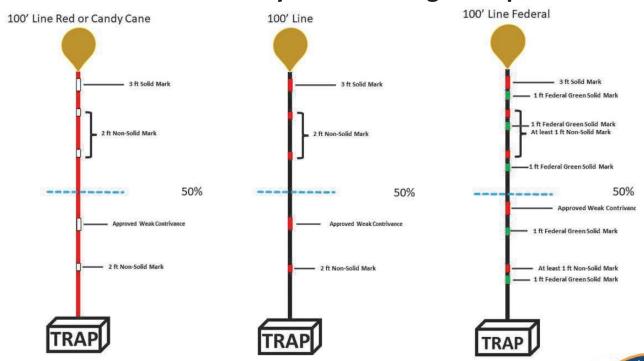
As our team of lawyers fight in Boston and the District of Columbia, the filings by said individual, MS, keep coming and we seem to have struck a nerve with him with our recent filing against him in the District of Columbia to have him deemed a Vexatious Litigant. While this is not a done deal and the Judge is still taking this under review, we are positively optimistic we shall prevail. Please take the time to read the MLA Litigation updates in this paper so you continue to remain informed. We are fighting for you every step of the way.

Safe on the water,

Beth Casoni

Executive Director 7

Massachusetts Buoy Line Marking Examples



- A vertical line is a buoy line begins at the buoy and extends to the first trap on a single, or in the case of a trawl begins at the buoy and ends at the groundline.
- One **SOLID RED** (or **WHITE**) mark at 3 feet in length within 1st 2 fathoms (12 feet) of the buoy
- Weak Contrivances must be in the TOP 75% of the vertical Line. If using plastic links as contrivances, an additional gear mark will be needed.
- Guides to Contrivances can be found at: https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2021-11/Massachusetts%20Summary%2011152021.pdf
- Minimum of TWO RED (or WHITE) NON-SOLID marks each being at least 2 feet in length in the top 50% of the buoy line.
- Minimum of TWO NON-SOLID RED (or WHITE) marks each being at least 2 feet in length in the top 50% of the buoy line.
- ONE of those being the weak contrivance at 60 feet (If the weak link is Red or Candy Cane rope)
- No length of buoy line GREATER than 60 feet WITHOUT a mark is allowed, marks must be adjusted accordingly if the line is LONGER than 100 ft
- If fishing within FEDERAL waters, a 1-foot GREEN SOLID mark is required within 6 INCHES of EVERY RED mark. These NON-SOLID Red marks must be at least 1 foot.











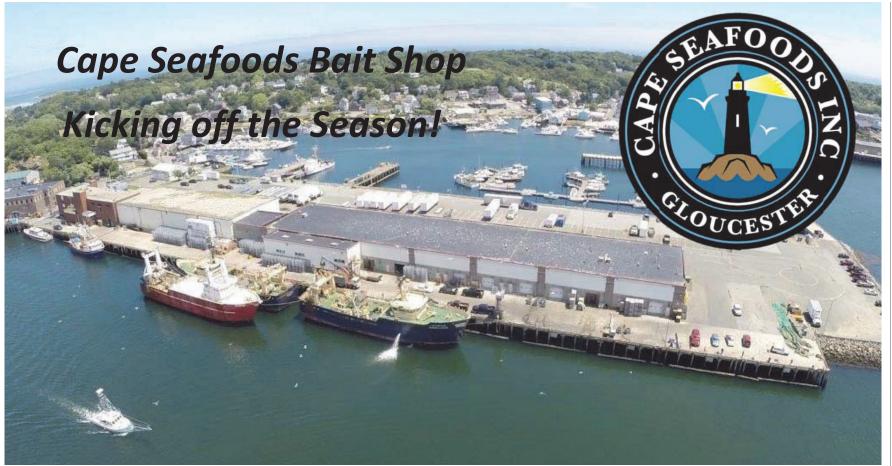


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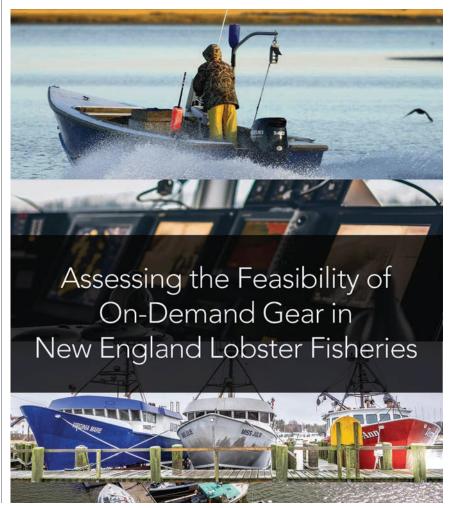
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Division of Marine Fisheries' Ropeless Fishing Gear Feasibility Report Released

The first phase of a two-year project evaluating the operational, technological, legal/regulatory, and socioeconomic challenges and opportunities of alternative lobster gear is complete.



setts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has completed the first phase of a two-year project, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to comprehensively characterize the issues and challenges associated with the integration of on-demand fishing gear techfisheries.

On-demand fishing gear, also known as 'ropeless gear,' is a type of fishing gear used in 'fixed gear' fisheries, or fisheries that use equipment that is left, or 'fixed', in place over time to capture fish. On-demand fishing gear replaces traditional vertical buoy lines, which can result in entanglements with marine mammals including North Atlantic right whales, with new gear retrieval and marking methods. Most on-demand fishing gear systems consist of submerged buoyancy devices that are activated using time-release mechanisms or acoustic signals transmitted from the surface.

In our report (https://www. mass.gov/doc/assessing-thefeasibility-of-on-demand-gear-innew-england-lobster-fisheries/

MARCH 31, 2022 — The Massachu- to-date assessment of the issues and make a series of recommendations for researchers and policymakers who are working on on-demand gear. The report, authored by DMF contractor Noah Oppenheim of Homarus Strategies LLC, contains information gleaned from over 130 hours of interviews and a two-day workshop with dozens of experts nology into New England lobster including fishermen, conservationists, law enforcement professionals, fishery managers, and scientists participating.

> During phase two of the project, which will take place over the course of 2022, DMF will take a deep dive into the socioeconomic issues of on-demand fishing gear, producing a first of its kind model capable of providing economic welfare and cost impact estimates for lobster fisheries under various on-demand fishing gear management and implementation scenarios.

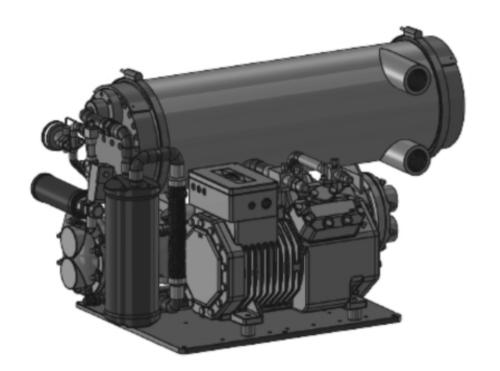
DMF and all our stakeholders are leading the way towards an even more prosperous, sustainable, and environmentally protective ocean management system. If you would like to learn more about this project, please download), we present an up- contact erin.burke@mass.gov.



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A Day with Students Lobstering in Boston Harbor



Being aboard Sixpence was an intriguing experience. I say "intriguing" for while I genuinely enjoyed being aboard Sixpence out at sea and learning about the industry, I left our excursion with a bitter taste in my mouth. Later, you will learn why I say this. Now, let me tell you why I enjoyed the experience. Before proceeding though, it should be noted that lobstermen Fred and Tim were very welcoming and solicitous in answering our questions, so here, I thank them. Having learned a little about the industry from my professor Dr. Taylor in our Ecology class, I had an idea of what to expect, but as usual, the actual experience superseded my expectations.

What most fascinated me was Fred and Tim's concern about the environment: their willingness to comply with any regulation to protect lobsters and the whole ecosystem they live in. I was expecting them to begrudge the regulations, but I was wrong. They willingly comply to them as long as they make sense. I would not be exaggerating if I said that they seem to care more about the environment than any businessman and politician I have ever met. Also, the tradition within this industry is something beautiful-Fred, for instance, learned the trade when he was only eleven years old and never stopped: he now is in his

seventies! In a world where people are becoming less and less passionate about their profession and see it only as "jobs," it is refreshing to encounter passionate people about what they do for a living.

Learning how the traps function was also something I was amazed by, for I had never seen a lobster trap before. It is very well engineered for the safety of marine animals. Young lobsters and crabs have an easy way out. They can come and go as they please; as Fred jokingly said, it works as a free feeding station for them. The marine life around is pretty exciting too, while on the boat we saw a seal, and Fred told us that seals follow them to eat the bait from the trap—that is quite hilarious! There now is a special way of closing the trap for it to be "seal-proof," and I thought it was pretty ingenious from the seals to have learned how to open the trap in the first place. Seeing the Boston skyline from the boat was also one of my favorite parts of our little adventure.

Now, as to why I was left with a bitter taste in my mouth there are a few factors. First, Fred told me that he used to sell for three dollars a pound of lobster back in 1991; now. in 2022, he sells the same pound for five dollars. Five dollars! That is less than 100 per cent increase in over 30 years. In the meanwhile, diesel and bait prices have gone up above 400 and 1000 percent, respectively! Will this industry be able to survive? Sadly, I don't know. All I know is that something should be done if we want to keep such a beautiful industry alive. Second, lobstermen are being blamed for the deaths of right whales, even though there has only been one entanglement in the past 20 vears and that whale was disentangled and set free. Even with no registered right whale deaths attributed to lobstermen from the region they are still being blamed for it. Why? I only wish I knew. Lobstermen have already made numerous expensive adjustments to their gear to protect marine mammals. I don't think there is anything else they could do without seriously impairing the sustainability of the industry.

If someone asked me, "do you want to be a lobsterman after this experience," I would hesitate to say yes. Even though I think it is a beautiful industry and an enjoyable way of earning a living, I don't think they are getting the respect and treatment they deserve. There receive very little incentives, if any, from the government. As Tim pointed out, while they are suffering lawsuits after lawsuits, big shipping businesses with enormous cargo ships that could be running over





right whales get a free pass. Nobody seems to bother about them. As everybody knows, it is easy to pick on the little guy.

When leaving the boat, I asked Tim what I should do if I wanted to get in the trade, without hesitating, he said that all I needed to do was to show up on the dock on a Monday morning that someone would take me in-for most lobstermen are seeking for an extra hand. He even said that there are 20 active licenses at this dock, and that most are retiring soon. It sounded like it would not be very difficult to get one. Sadly, this only indicates that the industry is not as valued as it used to be. And understandably so, the numbers are no longer attractive to young men. There is a lot of input for little output. So, what will happen when all of them retire and there is no one to continue the trade? We know the answer to that. All being said, I would love to have a short experience working as a lobsterman, but I could not see myself doing it long-term. For now, I hope the situation gets better, and if does, I might change my mind.

> Daniel Tosta Kühl Nogueira TMC Class of 2022

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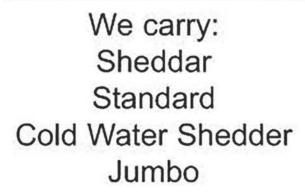


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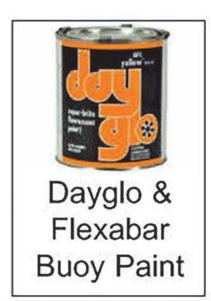
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New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 13, 2022

PRESS CONTACT: Janice Plante (607) 592-4817, jplante@nefmc.org

Council Honors Lou Goodreau for 45-Year Career on Staff

The New England Fishery Management Council opened the first day of its <u>April 12-14, 2022</u> hybrid meeting in Mystic, CT by paying tribute to Lou Goodreau, an economist and information technology specialist who is retiring in May following a dedicated 45-year career on the Council's staff.

Lou joined the staff on March 28, 1977, the year the Council was formed by the 1976 passage of what's now called the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). He is the third longest-serving staff member among the nation's eight regional fishery management councils.

Lou worked under four executive directors and two acting executive directors. He saw the Council through an era of astonishing technology advancements, progressing from typewriters, punch cards, and Wang computers to the current state-of-the-art equipment and data storage systems that are now the norm in Council operations. He worked on almost every one of the Council's fishery management plans and contributed to the economic analyses for the Council's first groundfish, herring, and scallop plans. He was the first chair of the Scallop Plan Development Team during the successful implementation of limited access, effort controls, and vessel monitoring systems in the scallop fishery, which resulted in stock rebuilding and economic stability.

While paying tribute to Lou, Council Chair Eric Reid said, "The Council's successes are due in no small part to the dedication and skill of the supporting staff. You have been an anchor of our staff from its inception, and you've remained committed to the MSA's founding principles of science, transparency, and inclusionary engagement. Few can match the history and experiences you have seen over your remarkable career."

Lou thanked the Council for the recognition and closed by saying, "I respect you, the Council members, most for your courageous decision-making in the past and in the future. Your staff is one of the best I've ever seen, and I've seen them all."



Lou Goodreau, center, flanked by Council Executive Director Tom Nies, left, and Council Chair Eric Reid, right. — New England Council photo



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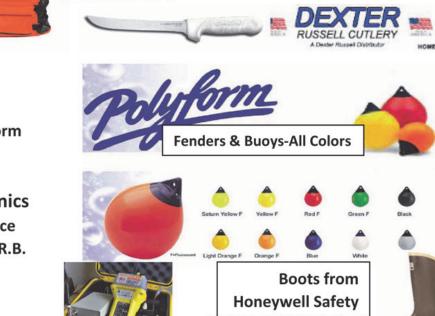
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New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 15, 2022

PRESS CONTACT: Janice Plante (607) 592-4817, jplante@nefmc.org

Monkfish: Council Initiates Framework 13 with Fishing Year 2023-2025 Specifications and Other Management Measures

The New England Fishery Management Council initiated Framework Adjustment 13 to the federal Monkfish Fishery Management Plan when it met <u>April 12-14, 2022</u> in Mystic, Connecticut. This was a hybrid meeting with both in-person and remote participation by webinar.

Framework 13 will include specifications for the 2023-2025 monkfish fishing years and consider the development of alternatives for:

- Revising days-at-sea allocations and possession limits, including the incidental possession limit;
- Management measures to reduce monkfish discards in the Southern Fishery Management Area;
- Requiring 12" mesh for monkfish gillnets; and
- Requiring vessel monitoring systems (VMSs) across the monkfish fishery.

Gillnet usage is more prevalent in the southern management area. In the north, monkfish tends to be caught more often in trawl gear.

In fishing year 2018, roughly 95% of the monkfish gillnet trips in the southern area were conducted with 12" mesh.

Although the percentage of gillnet fishermen using less than 12" mesh appears to be very low, the Council wanted to keep consideration of a 12" mesh requirement in the framework, at least for now. This way, the Monkfish Advisory Panel would have a chance to weigh in, and the Monkfish Committee could further discuss the issue.



Plate 21 from the Naturalist's Library, published by Sir William Jardine in Edinburgh, 1843. Hand-colored engraving of a monkfish, also known as the angler, fishing-frog, or sea-devil. The engraver was William Lizars.

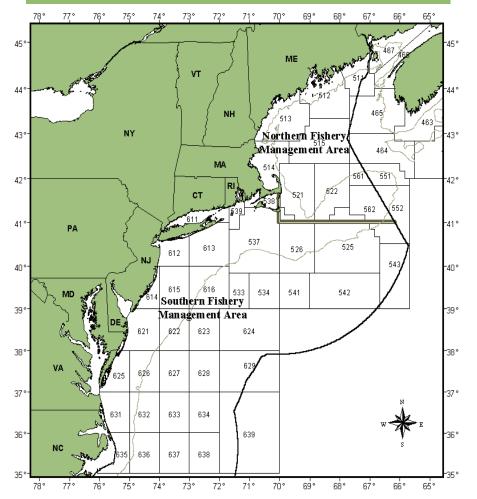


New England Fishery Management Council

Regarding consideration of a VMS requirement across the entire federal monkfish fishery, the Council took a similar approach and wanted to allow the Monkfish Advisory Panel and Committee to fully discuss the pros and cons of a VMS requirement. Currently, only 10% of limited access monkfish permit holders – roughly 60 vessels – are not required to use VMS if: (1) they fish in a single management area, north or south; and (2) declare the trip through the Interactive Voice Response system. VMS is also not required for openaccess permits.

The Monkfish Advisory Panel will meet on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>May 4</u>, <u>2022</u> by webinar to discuss Framework 13 and these outstanding issues and more. Keep tabs on the <u>meeting webpage</u> for further information.

Northern and Southern Monkfish Fishery Management Areas



QUESTIONS? Contact Dr. Rachel Feeney, the Council's monkfish plan coordinator, at (978) 465-0492 ext. 110; rfeeney@nefmc.org. Monkfish materials reviewed during the Council's April 2022 meeting are posted here. Also, visit the Council's monkfish webpage for more info.

Next Monkfish Assessment

Monkfish is scheduled to undergo a Management Track Stock Assessment in 2022. The Assessment Oversight Panel (AOP) meeting for this assessment will take place on May 24, 2022. During the meeting, the AOP will decide which level of review is needed for the assessment: Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 as described on the second slide here. The results of this assessment will be peer reviewed in September 2022. The outcomes will help guide the Monkfish Committee's work down the road.

The Council discussed the upcoming assessment and agreed by consensus to recommend to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center that recent monkfish discard mortality research related to gear-specific discard rates be considered in this 2022 management track assessment.

Fishery Performance Report

The Council also will be developing a Monkfish Fishery Performance Report. This report will help the Council and Monkfish Committee better understand present conditions in the fishery and interpret data related to trends in and relationships between landings and abundance.































American Fisheries

FROM PAGE 1

that it has traveled through the US House and the US Senate we are hopeful President Biden will be signing this into law in short order so we can get moving in the right direction with the SK funds.

This bill (S497) directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to advise on an existing grant program to address the needs of fishing communities, optimize economic benefits by building and maintaining Marketing Coalition fore-

crease opportunities to keep working waterfronts viable.

NOAA must establish six regions within the committee. The committee must consist of members chosen regionally and across sectors of the fishing industry. Additionally, the committee must (1) identify the needs of the fishing community, (2) develop request for proposals for the grant program, (3) review grant applications, and (4) provide NOAA with grant applications for approval.

Bruce Schactler, the Director of the National Seafood

sustainable fisheries, and in-sees the "Committee" to not ideas through the Saltononly direct the SK funding allocated by Congress, but to take the Industry's ideas and needs towards the specific fund use called for in the SK act for the, "Promotion of the free flow of domestically produced fishery products (through commerce)". "There is talk across the industry for a National marketing campaign much like other commodities use, and the job of creating such a campaign, will logically fall to this broad selection of representatives industry that make up the American Fisheries Advisory Committee and the funding for such

stall/Kennedy Act."

Beth Casoni, the Director of the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association has been involved in this legislative initiative for over twelve years. "I couldn't be happier to hear this great news as these much needed funds will help the fishing industry promote, develop new products, adapt, modify and market their business as they see best." The MLA is forever grateful to Bruce and his tireless efforts in getting this legislation off the ground all the way to the White House. "Thank you Bruce, job well done!"



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Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$175K in Seafood Marketing Grants



Grants will assist seafood industry through education, promotion, research, marketing, and other initiatives

APRIL 13, 2022 - BOSTON - The Baker-Polito Administration today announced \$175,169 in grants for eight projects that will benefit the Commonwealth's seafood sector through the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Division of Marine Fisheries' (DMF) Seafood Marketing Program, which was launched in 2016 to increase awareness and demand for Massachusetts seafood products. This year, Woods Hole Sea Grant (WHSG) contributed \$100,000 to the Seafood Marketing Grant Program budget. Additionally, the remainder of the grant program is funded through a portion of commercial fishing permit fees at no extra cost to the permit holder. The goal of the grant program is to enhance the viability and stabilize the economic environment for the state's local commercial fishing and seafood industries and communities.

"This year's Seafood Marketing Grant Program funded more projects than ever, thanks to a new partnership with the Woods Hole Sea Grant," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. "Importantly, these projects will educate and steer consumers towards the Commonwealth's healthy and sustainable seafood, directly benefiting our economy and historic fishing communities."

"Our historic Massachusetts commercial fishing and seafood industries provide thousands of jobs and are an enduring and important component of the culture in our coastal communities," said Department of Fish

and Game Commissioner Ron Amidon. "The Seafood Marketing Grant Program projects provide further support the for the livelihoods of the many families who rely on commercial fishing, processing, and related business."

The eight awardees projects will support the commercial seafood and fishing industries and their communities by increasing awareness and the preference for seafood from Massachusetts through education, promotion, research, marketing, and other initiatives. Priority was given to proposals that will serve the greatest benefit to the Commonwealth's seafood industry as a whole and that will address the continued impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on the seafood industry in Massachusetts.

"Woods Hole Sea Grant has expanded the reach of DMF's Seafood Marketing Grant Program which, in turn, expands the messaging across the Commonwealth," said Division of Marine Fisheries Director Dan McKiernan. "The seafood industry is still recovering from Covid-19 and the extra assistance is very much appreciated."

"Woods Hole Sea Grant is proud to partner with the DMF Seafood Marketing Program to assist the seafood industry, which has been so negatively affected by COVID-19," said Matt Charette, Director of Woods Hole Sea Grant. "These projects propose innovative and multi-faceted approaches to benefitting the entire seafood industry and help increase awareness

and consumption of Massachusetts- harvested and -grown seafood."

The following projects received Seafood Marketing Program grants:

- Eating with the Ecosystem Influencing the Influencers: Utilizing Food Influencers to Promote Massachusetts Seafood \$47,841
- Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group - Martha's Vineyard Seafood Outreach Program -\$14,278
- New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center A School of Fish: Infusing Sustainable Seafood into Culinary Arts Programs & the Public Palate - \$25,000
- University of Massachusetts/ Gloucester Marine Station
 Enabling Tools to Build a Sustainable, Equitable, and Inclusive Seafood Marketing Program - \$25,000
- Ryan Curley Community Seafood HACCP Facility Serving the Outer Cape Feasibility Study - \$17,500
- Lobster Foundation of MA -Crustacean Nation Education Dissemination - \$10,000
- Red's Best *Highlighting Local Species Through Video* -\$17,000
- Williams Agency Marketing Campaign to Promote Underutilized Seafood within Ethnic Markets - \$18,550

DMF's Seafood Marketing Program works to educate people on seafood availability, preparation, health benefits, economic contribution, and environmental sustainability through printed material, events, partnerships, and more. Legislators, agency heads, and industry members comprise the program's steering committee.

"The commercial fishing and seafood industries are essential to the overall community and economy of Martha's Vineyard," said State Senator Julian Cyr (D - Truro). "I am thrilled The Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group is a recipient of this year's Seafood Marketing Grant. The funds will be used to amplify our local commercial fishing and seafood industries and ensure the viability and stability of this vital sector."

"Massachusetts fisheries produce some of the most nutritious, sustainable food in the world, thanks to innovation, hard work, sacrifice and a steadfast commitment to ocean stewardship," said Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R - Gloucester). "That story needs to be told at every opportunity. The University of Massachusetts Marine Station is well-positioned for that task, because it is a catalyst for concepts that come from the people working on the ocean every day to come to fruition with the support of scientists and researchers geared toward helping the commercial fishing industry survive and grow stronger."

"Martha's Vineyard's historic shell fishing industry is an economic, environmental and cultural staple on island," said State Representative Dylan Fernandes (D - Falmouth). "These funds will promote and enhance the critical work of the Martha's Vineyard Shell-fish Group and contribute to the long-term viability of commercial shell fishing in support of our local communities."

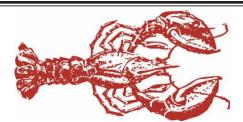
"Congratulations the to UMass Gloucester Marine Station on being a recipient of the Seafood Marketing Grant Program," said State Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D - Gloucester). "Seafood is an important part of the America Diet. Our fisheries and seafood workers on Cape Ann have worked tirelessly for generations to feed people all over the world. Thank you for recognizing their efforts and investing

"Martha's Vineyard's histor- in this important workforce and shell fishing industry is an industry."

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is responsible for promoting the conservation and enjoyment of the Commonwealth's natural resources. DFG, with its divisions including the Division of Marine Fisheries, carries out this mission through land protection and wildlife habitat management, management of inland and marine fish and wildlife species, and ecological restoration of fresh water, salt water, and terrestrial habitats. DFG promotes enjoyment of the Massachusetts environment through outdoor skills workshops, fishing festivals and other educational programs, and by enhancing access to the Commonwealth's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.

> Contact: Craig Gilvarg Craig.Gilvarg@Mass.Gov





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Marine Mammal Authorization Program Carrying Over 2020 Authorization into 2022

The Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP) is a mandatory commercial fishermen's registration program that provides annual exemptions for accidentally killing or injuring marine mammals-referred to as incidental take-during commercial fishing activities. If you own a commercial fishing vessel or non-vessel gear that operates in a *Category I or II fishery*, you must obtain a marine mammal authorization certificate.

You can find your category in the List of Fisheries on our website. The online list is reviewed and revised each year.

The MMAP requires you to:

- 1. Carry an authorization certificate during fishing activities
- 2. Carry an observer when requested
- 3. Comply with applicable Take Reduction Plans
- 4. Report any marine mammal serious injury/mortality caused by fishing operation within 48 hours of returning from the trip where the interaction occurred. Reports can be submitted online or printed and mailed in (visit our website for more information).

Fishermen are normally mailed a new Authorization Certificate automatically each January. In recognition of logistical challenges with certificate issuance related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the MMAP certificate issued in 2020 remains in effect, valid through December 31, 2022, for vessel or gear owners participating in all Category I and II fisheries.

Therefore, to comply with the MMAP in 2022, you will need to **RETAIN OR REPRINT YOUR 2020 CERTIFICATE TO KEEP YOUR COMPLIANCE UP TO DATE.** Your registration will be automatically carried over into 2022. No additional steps are required on your part.

You can download the 2020 Certificate from the website: https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/garfo_2020_mmap_certificate.pdf

Questions'

Media: Contact Allison Ferreira, Regional Office, 978-281-9103



All Department of Commerce staff have been directed to return to work in our facilities beginning on April 25, 2022. However, this does not mean all staff will be in the office on April 25. While we are excited to see our colleagues and meet with stakeholders in-person, we will be taking a staggered approach to return to the office over a 2-month timeframe to reduce impacts to employees and contractors, and enable our facilities and IT staff to effectively support us through this transition. During this time, public access to the Gloucester building and our other facilities will be limited.

Return to Workplace Plans for the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

We expect to fully transition back to in-office work and that our offices and facilities will be open and in our new operational status by the end of June. However, one thing we have learned from the pandemic is our ability to successfully work from home. As such, moving forward, we expect most of our staff will take more advantage of telework opportunities and work from our offices less than prior to the pandemic. In preparation to re-open our facilities, we are developing protocols for walk-ins and visitors to our facilities, as well as for potential on-site group meetings. We will share these protocols with you, and on our website, as soon as they are available. In the meantime, please continue to contact GARFO staff via phone or email. Please refer to our Regional Office Key Contacts webpage or our staff directory for contact information, as needed.

If you have any questions, please send an email to *nmfs.gar.garfo@noaa.gov* and your question will be directed to the appropriate individual.

Questions?

Media: Contact Allison Ferreira, Regional Office, 978-281-9103

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ASMFC American Lobster Board Approves Use of Electronic Trackers for Federally-permitted American Lobster & Jonah Crab Vessels

ARLINGTON, VA — The Commission's American Lobster Management Board approved Addendum XXIX to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for American Lobster and Addendum IV to the Jonah Crab FMP. The Addenda establish electronic tracking requirements for federally-permitted vessels in the American lobster and Jonah crab fisheries, with the goal of collecting high resolution spatial and temporal effort data to support a number of ongoing efforts.

The Board initiated the Addenda in August 2021 to address several challenges facing the fishery, including stock assessment limitations, protected species interactions, marine spatial planning efforts, and enforcement in federal waters. Given the critical need for enhanced spatial and temporal data in the offshore fishery to address these issues, the Addenda require federally-permitted American lobster and Jonah crab vessels with commercial trap gear area permits to collect location data via an approved electronic tracking device. Specifically, electronic tracking devices will be required for vessels with commercial trap gear area permits for Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LC-MAs) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and Outer Cape Cod. LCMA 6 (Long Island Sound) and the Area 5 waiver permit, which allows Area 5 permit holders to target black sea bass with un-baited traps, are excluded from the tracking requirements.



The data collected through electronic tracking under the Addenda will greatly improve the stock assessment's ability to estimate exploitation and abundance for American lobster by providing size composition data at a finer resolution than what is currently available. Additionally, the models used to assess the location of vertical lines in the fishery and their associated risk to endangered right whales will be substantially improved, which could have an impact on federal risk reduction requirements for the fishery. With a better understanding of the spatial footprint of the U.S. lobster and Jonah crab fisheries, managers will be better positioned to minimize and mitigate the impacts of other ocean uses such as aquaculture, marine protected areas, and offshore energy development on the fisheries. Furthermore, vessel tracking data will enhance the efficiency and efficacy of offshore law enforcement efforts.

The Addenda establish minimum criteria that must be met by tracking devices and vendors to be approved for use in the fishery, including a data reporting rate of one ping per minute, technical specifications, and customer service standards. To identify devices and vendors that meet these criteria, the Commission will form a work group to review and approve tracking technologies, and provide information on available options to the states.

States, in conjunction with Commission staff, will work to develop an implementation plan, including a standard operating procedure and a request for quotes from vessel tracking companies. The Commission is requesting that NOAA Fisheries implement the requirements of the Addenda through the federal rulemaking process by May 1, 2023.

Answers to some frequently asked questions about the electronic tracking program can be found here: www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/62473e68ElectronicVesselTrackingLobster_Jonah_FAQs.pdf. For more information, please contact Caitlin Starks, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at cstarks@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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Validity of 2021 Trap Tags Extended Through May 31st

Due to unavoidable delays in processing some trap tag orders, 2021 trap tags for all trap types (i.e., lobster trap, fish pot, and conch pot) will remain valid through May 31, 2022. As of June 1, trap tags issued for 2022 must be affixed to all gear being fished. We expect the trap tag vendor to resolve processing delays over the next several weeks.

If you have any questions, please contact us at marine.fish@mass.gov.



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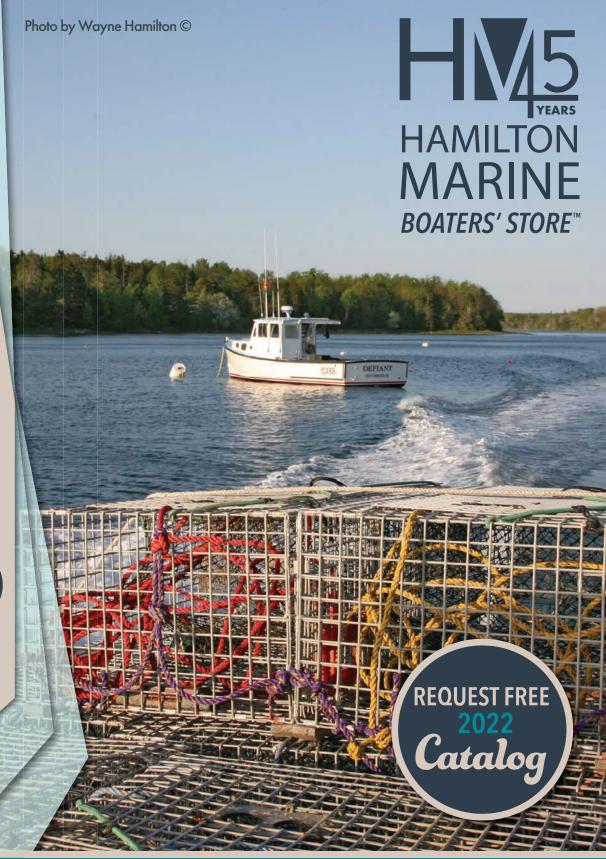
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MLA Right Whale Litigation Updates

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association (MLA) Legal Defense Fund 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.

The MLA is actively engaged in THREE separate law suits and ONE appeal that could have negative impacts on the commercial lobster industry and is working with multiple lawyers in Washington D.C. and Boston to fight for you and your industry. The years of litigation costs have depleted the MLAs' Legal Defense Fund to a critical low point and your help is needed now more than ever.

UPDATED APRIL 25. 2022 — Case No. 1:18-cv-00112-JEB - Center for Biological Diversity v. Ross et al. (Boasberg, J.) (Federal District Court for the District of Columbia): On December 20, 2021, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Conservation Law Foundation, and the Defenders of Wildlife collectively moved for summary judgment. The Environmental NGOs argued (1) that the 2021 Final Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service failed to comply with the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act; (2) that the 2021 Final TRP Rule also failed to comply with federal law; and (3) that the Court should order NMFS to promulgate regulations amending the Large Whale Plan designed to (i) implement measures to reduce right whale mortality and serious injury in the lobster fishery to below PBR within six months of the regulation's promulgation and (ii) implement measures to reduce right whale mortality and serious injury to insignificant levels approaching zero mortality within five years of the regulations' promulgation. The Environmental NGOs also argued that because the 2021 BiOp failed to comply with federal law, the Court should vacate it, and remand the biological opinion for further analysis, and that the 2021 Final TRP Rule should also be remanded to NMFS without vacatur.

In February 2022, NMFS, the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, the State of Maine, the Maine Lobstermen's Association, and the Maine Lobstermen's Union each filed responsive briefing to the Environmental NGOs' briefing. In its briefing to the Court, the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association argued that the 2021 Biological Opinion and Final TRP Rules complied with federal law (with respect to the issues challenged by the Environmental NGOs) and should thus not be vacated or remanded. MLA also stressed the importance of the lobster industry to the Massachusetts fishing community; unlike other parties, MLA devoted a significant portion of its briefing to the negative effects a closure would have on the Massachusetts lobster fishing community, submitting declarations from industry participants regarding the role lobster fishing plays in their lives and their communities.

Certain parties submitted additional briefing to the Court and the parties submitted a joint appendix in April 2022. The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association anticipates that the Court will schedule a hearing date on the parties' summary judgment briefing in the near future, and

will carefully monitor additional developments in this important matter.

UPDATED APRIL 25, 2022 — *M.S. v.* Michael Pentony, Benjamin Friedman as administrator of NOAA, Atlantic States Coastal Marine Fisheries Commission, Defenders of Wildlife, Jone Coit, Jane Davenport, and Arthur Sawyer, Civil Action No.: 1:21-cv-01131-TJK in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and filed on April 23, 2021, in which the MLA filed a Motion to Dismiss arguing that the First Mass Action already dismissed these same unsuccessful claims brought by M.S. in the First Mass Action. Additionally, this is the action where the MLA filed a Motion seeking to have M.S. designated as a vexatious litigant, which would subject him to a pre-filing injunction should he bring any further lawsuits against Sooky or the MLA - meaning if he brings any further claims against Sooky or the MLA, they will have to be pre-screened by a Judge to ensure they are not the same recycled claims and we will not have to waste time and money continuing to have to move to dismiss them.

UPDATED APRIL 25, 2022 — MLA President, Arthur "Sooky" Sawyer is named in a lawsuit in Boston along with state and federal representatives as well as a couple of commercial lobstermen. The Plaintiff, M.S., is asking in the suit; [PRAYER FOR RELIEF I. For a Declaratory Judgment that in 2022 the deployment of pot and gillnet fishing gear by any individual, or by the said deployment being required. We are hopeful that this case will be dismissed as it has the same unsuccessful claims brought by M.S.

UPDATED APRIL 25, 2022 — M.S. v. Secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, et al., Civil Action No. 1:19-cv-10639-IT in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts and filed on April 4, 2019, which 1) Sooky and the MLA were dismissed from on February 3, 2020; 2) Judge Talwani issued a decision in the favor of the non-dismissed Defendants on December 1, 2021; and, 3) M.S. filed an appeal. He is appealing ever

decision to date.

M.S. is trying to join the First and Second Mass Actions together, District of Columbia and Boston. However, we do not see how this is procedurally possible as the Second Mass Action is pending in the District Court and the First MASS Action is pending in the First Circuit (appellate level). We are hopeful that both will result in a dismissal of the MLA and/or Sooky.

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.

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Classified ads are a free benefit to MLA Members and Non-members are a flat \$25.00. Ads run for 5 months & will be automatically deleted unless you call the MLA office to renew. 781-545-6984 or email ads to: tracey.abboud@lobstermen.com *All ads are subject to review prior to placement

AD #1(4/22) FOR SALE-TURN KEY - Lobster Business- 26' with a 10 ½' beam flat bottom, 90hp, hydraulic hauler, bilge pump Atkins Lobster Boat, Lobster gear and transferable Area-1 coastal lobster permit. Sold as a package. Serious inquiries only. \$40,000.00 Call or text 781-375-6409 for more information

AD#2 (1/22) FOR SALE - 19 2001 Eastern (first year they bought the mold from Seaway); 90 hp Mercury outboard; Hydroslave hauler. Boat custom built. Center console w/canvas top. Center console was built more forward creating more deck space for gear/fishing room. Transom was built higher. Stainless bow rails, fish finder, depth GPS, washdown pump and Load Rite trailer only a few years old w/ power winch. Live tank & culling table. Boat in great shape. \$16,500. 11 coils of new 5/16 sinking rope. \$2.25 a pound. Coils are 1800 and vary from 40-44 pounds. One coil 5/16 floating line \$2.00 pound. Serious inquiries only. Jack @ 5 p.m. 508-747-5680.

AD#3 (12/21) FOR SALE -Hydraulic Components, parts and

service. Pumps, Motors, Valves and Accessories. Hydraulic Hoses made while you wait. Great Prices - Same day service (in many cases)- Wide selection of in-stock items. Rebuilt items occasionally available. ROSE MARINE, Gloucester, MA 877-283-3334

AD#4 (4/22) FOR SALE- Fresh Lobster Bait-Fresh pogies, gillnetted/ cast netted on the F/V Bug Catcher IIiced & lightly salted top quality lobster & fish bait. .60 cents per pd. Free local delivery in Connecticut. Call/Text DJ or Kory 203-824-8247

AD#5 (4/22) FOR SALE - 24 Crosley net lift \$2,000.00 11 roller \$600.00 needs some work. 10 rehung foam core 6 1/2 x 25 x 14 BRO offer 22 rehung foam core 7x25x16 All 65 pd lead line BRO Text Only 617-694-4802

AD#6 (3/22) LOOKING TO BUY - MA coastal lobster permit- call David @781-775-5569

AD#7 (1/22) Looking to buy used **rope** – located in Sandwich MA-will pick up on Cape Cod & South Shore. E-mail lobstermats@gmail.com or 617-275-3744

AD#8 (2/22) FOR SALE - Twin Disc MG506 1A 1.54:1 ratio running takeout, spun tested. \$3000 Steve 978-257 1062

AD#9 (12/21) ATTENTION C-TRAP **CUSTOMERS/GOT WOOD** - New wooden conch traps for sale, many types, prices starting @ \$23.50ea for 20×20 all oak frames 3 wide pine lath sides. Will cut custom lobster traps/ frames/runners/laths. 508-989-4762

AD#10 (12/21) FOR SALE - MA state coastal lobster permit, Area 1. \$28.000.00, 339-927-6972

AD#11 (2/22) FOR SALE - Warp -Used & some new, mostly knot free. 76 lbs. 5/16, 33 lbs.

AD#12 (2/22) **FOR SALE -** Bronze dual ram steering Quadrant-Freeman Oval hatch- 15×23 opening+ SS longline rail roller- and SS crucifier, SS mast base. 2 2ft., outriggers-no base-PC Winplot complete chart plotting program with monitor, computer, Furuno GPS and all support items needed. Mike 978-745-6182 leave message

AD#13 (12/21) FOR SALE - Cab for pickup truck w/8 ft bed. No damage. Black w/ windows. \$50.00 B.O. Phil 617-429-29561

AD#14 (2/22) FOR SALE - Gillnet gear, 24 Crosley lifter, all hardware to mount, picking table /spreader \$900.00 6 insulated vats \$50.00 ea. 8 pingers \$30.00 ea. 40 round-fish nets, 40 monk fish & 11 new webs all \$45.00 ea. Call/text 774-264-0083

AD#15 (2/22) FOR SALE - MA Coastal Lobster Permit Area 1 \$28,000.00-978-273-3168

AD#16 (11/21) FOR SALE - MA State Lobster License, Area 1, 800 pot allocation. \$27,500.00. 978-335-5860

AD#17 (11/21) FOR SALE - 2000 Mitchell Cove 32ft. Good hull, electronics, hydraulics. J.D. 225 HP 22,000 hours -needs re-build. Federal non-trap lobster, MA conch, scup permits. 150 conch traps, 17 scup traps, rope, buoy's, 1,000 hooks new tub trawl-gear & all spare equipment. Will separate. Owner retiring. B.R.O. Bryan @ 508-221-8568

AD#18 (11/21) **FOR SALE** – 4-blade right-hand propeller 32x24x4 2 1/2 inch \$1,000.00 631-665-1677

AD#19 (12/21) **FOR SALE** -34 J. Ervin Jones 1978, 1 Mahogany on Oak (refast 2004) 3208TA CAT 507 twin disc direct drive clutch, spare prop Furuno 1623 Radar Furuno FVC 620 Sounder Furuno, GPS 32 standard horizon chart plotter, ICOM VHF. MA Area 1 lobster permit, 800 allocations, 500- traps w/ ropes & buoys, 14 skiff w/outboard, clip gun cutting tool. \$60,000.00 BRO Call Les before 8p.m. 508-364-6926

AD#20 (1/22) **FOR SALE** - The NOVI-purchased from original owner in Portland ME & currently owned by (2nd owner) past 3 years & has grown to be a great part of our familyyear-round. Novi very versatile & comfortable. Excellent for cruising & uses little fuel, has hauler & davit for lobstering, multiple rod holders for fishing. The aft deck can seat 4-6 Adirondack chairs comfortably, main cabin-dining table-seats 4 comfortably & converts to a bedsleeps 2. Fore cabin has exceptionally large v-berth could be compared w/a king-size bed. The Portside-full-size storage closet, head, shower & sinks w/ mirror, etc. The Starboard sideexpansive cabinets w/sink, microwave & bar. Wooden hull (Pine planks over white Oak frame) Dry weight 17,000 lbs. Teak trim. fiberglass deck & house. Hydraulic steering, 2 100-gal; water tanks, 2100-gal; fuel tanks, Fore Cabin head/bed/sink/microwave/ storage, Keel cooler setup for Engine, Autopilot-ITEMS REPLACED-2018. Cummins Diesel Engine -6 cylinder 6BT T1 M@2600rpm R KC (100 hours) Rebuilt transmission (2019) propeller, exhaust. \$39,500 Brandon-978-465-3022

AD#21 (2/22) FOR SALE - LMA-1 Federal lobster permit, 800 trap allocation, good history, \$38,000.00 978-578-8882

AD#22 (3/22) **LOOKING FOR** - Area 1 coastal lobster permit. 339-788-3621

AD#23 (3/22) **FOR SALE** - 1986 38ft Atkinson 671 Detroit- runs great- 2 shaft 507 T.D. 12 standard horizon chart plotter-8 Sitex chart plotter brand new. Brand new clutch master pump -14 hauler -120-gallon fiber glass gas tank. Area 1 in-shore lobster permit-\$55,000.00 Call/Text 508-577-4868

AD#24 (3/22) **FOR SALE** - 95 traps 4 x 15 x 22 1/2 tops/heads/supports/all openings cut/vents \$90.00 each Call 781-424-1670



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C18



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