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# **National Marine Fisheries Services Embarks on Phase 2 Planning to** Reduce Risk by 90% Coastwide

During the several meetings of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT) it became quite clear the Phase 2 was clearly going to be the most shocking of them all as National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) revealed the worst case scenario of measures to reduce risk.

These presentations were nothing short of awe shocking to see a slew of measures that NMFS ran through the Decision Support Tool (DST). All of these "wish lists" are to reduce risk coastwide by 90% in the gillnet and Other Trap Pot (OTP) fisheries. These OTP fisheries include, conch/whelk and fish

NMFS has recalculated and changed its assumptions being used in DST about the current fishing effort creating a "new" risk reduction scheme. MA Bay Restricted Area during Phase 1 gave MA a 26% risk reduction credit and now under the new calculations it achieves a 15% risk reduction. This "new" recalculation has reduced the overall risk reduction credit giv- 2 the risk reduction "wish list"



ously calculated during Phase 1.

Furthermore, during Phase en for MA State waters which is measures that have been run the coastwide 90% risk reduc-

everything from a 50% vertical measures still leave Massachuline reduction to sprawling and setts carrying the utmost of risk expanded closures to achieve reduction for the region.

now at 78% and not 92% as previ-through the DST have covered tion goal. These risk reduction

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### Published by the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, Inc. 8 Otis Place, Scituate, MA 02066

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# **The Massachusetts Lobstermen's 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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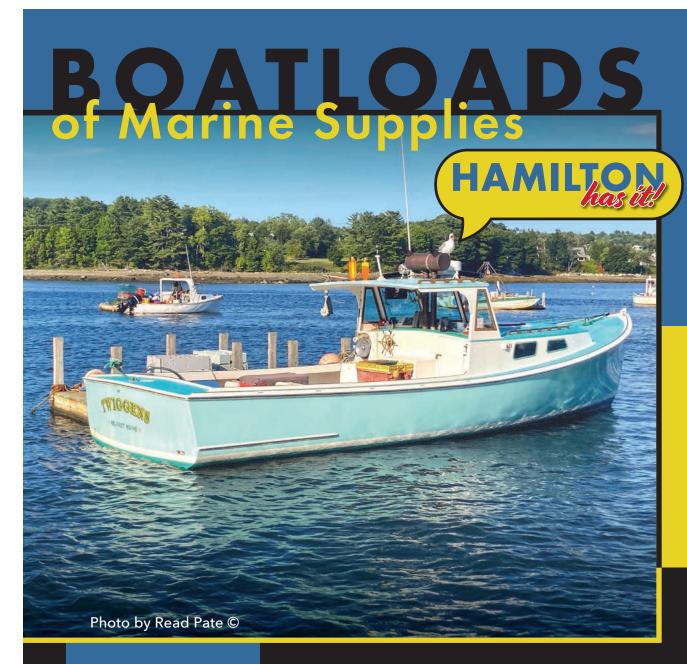
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# As the HAULER TURNS

Large Whale Take Reduction Can you fish with a 6-month in the ALWTRT meetings last Team (ALWTRT) meetings it closure? Can you fish 250 or month, there is no area in has become quite clear that 400 lobster traps? Can you the Northeast Lobster Trap/ the Northeast Lobster Trap/ Pot fishery is in the crosshairs yet again as more risk Can you fish? Can you fish? do more to reduce risk to the reduction is coming. After Can you fish? I am still in right whales. PLEASE parthe recalculation of the Decision Support Tool (DST) Massachusetts is now at 78% in the risk reduction effort was all well and good. Good when before the recalculation Massachusetts was at 92%. Go figure, the goal post has been moved yet again.

goal post is now, more has to be done and the amount of the total risk Massachusetts mine where, when and what is to the right whales is 7.3%, how much more can you do will be and, if you are not at to further reduce risk? Even if ALL of the end-lines are out of the water in Massachusetts, the risk is still there and the commercial lobstermen in Massachusetts would be asked to do more, something smells fishy here.

Think about everything you are doing to reduce risk; massive closures, weak contrivances, trawling up, and reduction that Massachuso on. What can you do; Can you fish longer trawls? Can men have done, it's still not dy cane 1700lbs. rope with the

fish with 75% weak line? Can Pot fishery that will get a you fish with one end-line? shock after listening to these various proposals that were being thrown around like it for who.... not you, who want to go to work and fish.

I cannot stress it enough; this fall NOAA will be hold-Regardless of where the ing Public Hearings on the risk reduction proposals. These proposals will deterthe risk reduction measures the Public Hearings you may find vourself on the outside looking at a 6-month closure and fishing 250 pots for six months. This is not the time to stick your head in the sand, just ask the lobstermen of the original MA Restricted Area Closure that was implemented in 2015.

Even with ALL of the risk

After last month's Atlantic you fish with 100% weak line? enough. After participating pass and not be required to ticipate during the fall Public Hearings and comment as the MLA will be there every step of the way.

> I have to say this is mindboggling as the stress levels are through the roof all around in the commercial lobster fishery here in the Commonwealth as more is being asked with no end in sight. When will enough be enough? Stay tuned!

The MLA is always looking for ways to help you offset the increased expense of the weak contrivances and earlier this year the Lobster Foundation of Massachusetts in partnership with the MLA was awarded a Massachusetts Environmental Trust, Drive for a Better Environment Grants Program. The Grant will help the LFoM purchase several hundred setts commercial lobster- coils of the weak red and can-



MASS LOBSTER tracer ribbon as well has holding several splicing classes. One of the goals of the project is to help reduce the use of knots in end-lines. More information will be forthcoming as we will be holding these classes in February - April, 2023.

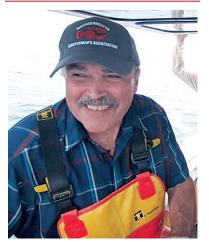
If you do not receive MLA Members emails from me please send an email to beth. casoni@lobstermen.com and ask to be added to the MLA Members email list.

Safe on the water,

Beth Casoni

Director | 7

# **IN MEMORIAL**



# Bill C. Chaprales

SEPTEMBER 3 1951 - SEPTEMBER 18 2022

It is with heavy heart that we must tell you, MLA Delegate and lifelong MLA member, Bill Chaprales passed away unexpectedly on September 18, 2022. Bill was a doting husband, loving father, dedicated papa. Burial at sea will be private. May you sail on calms seas with fare winds at your back. In lieu of flowers please donate to St. Judes Research Hospital: <a href="https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html">https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html</a>

# The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 80th Annual Meeting

**ASMFC** 

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 80th Annual Meeting will be held November 7-10, 2022 at the Ocean Place Resort, 1 Ocean Boulevard, Long Branch, New Jersey. This

will be a hybrid meeting to allow for remote participation by Commissioners and interested stakeholders in all meetings except for those of the Law Enforcement Committee, Habitat Committee and Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee.

The American Lobster Management Board will be meeting on Monday November 7th at 9:45 – 11:45 a.m. to discuss and consider the following; • Update on North Atlantic Right Whale Court Cases • Consider Annual Data Update of American

Lobster Indices • Consider Next Steps on Draft Addendum XXVII on Increasing Protection of Spawning Stock Biomass of the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Stock • Update from Work Group

on Implementation of Addendum XXIX on Electronic Vessel Tracking for Federal Permit Holders • Discuss the Trap Transfer Tax for the American Lobster Fishery • Progress Update on Jonah Crab Benchmark Stock Assessment • Consider Fishery Management Plan Reviews and State Compliance for America Lobster and Jonah Crab for 2021 Fishing Year.

If you would like to register to attend the meeting, please visit <a href="http://www.asmfc.org/home/2022-annual-meeting">http://www.asmfc.org/home/2022-annual-meeting</a>













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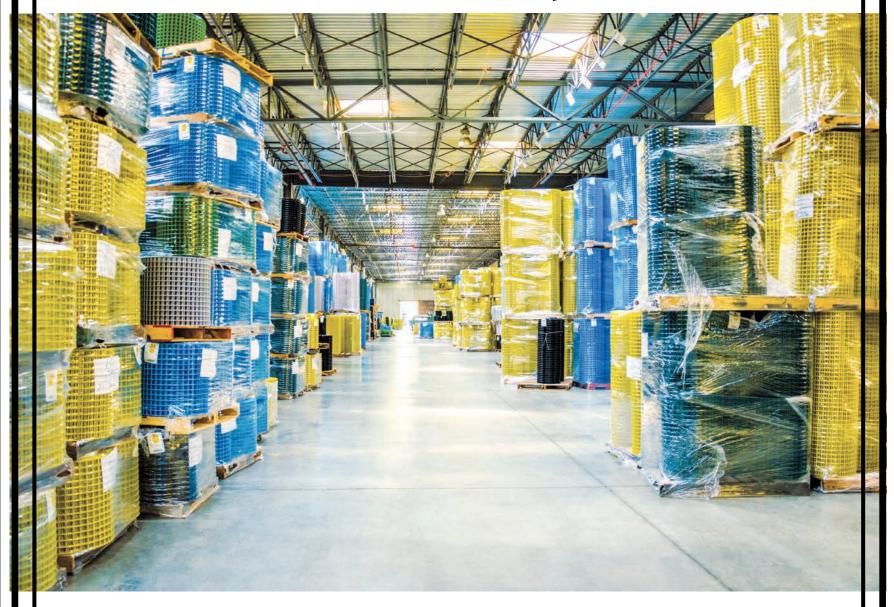


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 2, 2022 | PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger, 703.842.0749

# **ASMFC Releases Request for Applications for Type Approval for American Lobster & Jonah Crab Electronic Vessel Tracking Devices**



Arlington, VA - The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) is seeking applications for type approval of electronic vessel tracking devices (devices) for federally permitted American lobster and Jonah crab fishing vessels. Specifically, the Commission will approve a list of vendor(s)/device(s) in which state agencies and the Commission can order in bulk, or fishing industry members can purchase individually to meet the requirements of Addendum XXIX to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Addendum IV to the Jonah Crab FMP. High quality devices are fundamental for many critical monitorin the federal American lobster and Jonah crab trap fishery and the Commission anticipates over 1,700 devices will be needed. Some vessels will start to install devices prior to the beginning of the 2023 fishing year (May 1 start date), but all federal American lobster and Jonah crab trap vessels will be required to have installed a fully operational device by December 15, 2023.

Federal lobster and Jonah crab vessels issued commercial trap gear area permits will be required to install an approved device to collect and transmit spatial data in order to participate in the trap gear fishery. This means any federally-permitted vessel without an approved device will be prohibited from landing lobster or Jonah crab taken with trap gear. Federal vessels are required to install and activate an approved device prior to beginning a lobster or Jonah crab fishing trip with trap gear. The device must remain on board the ves-

ing and enforcement activities sel and powered at all times when the vessel is in the water, unless the device is authorized to power down by the principal port state. For this reason, timely and accurate production and delivery of devices is of critical importance, and the approved vendor(s)/ device(s) must be capable of ensuring the Commission's performance standards will consistently be met.

> The RFA can be found at http://www.asmfc.org/files/ RFA/VesselTrackerRFA Sept2022.pdf. The RFA, as well as the Question & Answer Summary and all amendments related to the RFA, can also be found at http://www.asmfc. org/jobs/. Applications must be submitted to the Commission, via email, at: LAubart@ asmfc.org. Application submissions must be received no later than 11:59 p.m., local time, on October 3, 2022. Applications not submitted to the Commission's aforementioned email address by the aforementioned deadline will not be considered for device type approval.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species.



# The Massachusetts Commercial Lobster Fishery "The Right Way"

Over the last 30 years, the Massachusetts Lobster industry has been at the forefront on right whale conservation measures while working vigorously to further protect the species. The 30 years of conservation measures have come at the expense of the commercial lobstermen and yet, they are still at the table looking for more ways to reduce risk.

Recently, the Monterey Bay Aguarium's (MBA) Seafood Watch program added the American Lobster to its "Red List" of seafoods to avoid. This recent listing is neither warranted nor supported by the data here in Massachusetts. Massachusetts commercial lobstermen are mandated to a 100% reporting threshold and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries has 30 plus years of data necessary to debunk why Massachusetts lobster should not be on this "Red List". This listing is misleading to the general public and should be retracted immediately.

Massachusetts commercial lobstermen are 30 years ahead of the rest of the region when it comes to reducing risk to the right whales. Massachusetts is the leader in conservation as Senator Edward Markey recently commented that, "The North Atlantic right whale is in crisis, and a unified effort is needed to prevent the extinction of this endangered species. Massachusetts Lobstermen know this issue, care about this issue, and have remained committed to doing their part despite regulations that entail major sacrifices by the industry. Massachusetts has achieved 97% in harm reduction in our state waters and I encourage other states to do the same."

Massachusetts is doing more than any other state or region for the protection of right whales all the while maintaining a sustainable resource and profitable commercial lobster fishery. The Massachusetts American Lobster should be listed on the "Green List" of seafoods to buy. Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren recently commented that, "Massachusetts lobstermen and fishing families have always been strong stewards of the ocean, shouldering much of the burden to help protect the North Atlantic right whale while working collaboratively with scientists to find creative solutions. The severity of this crisis demands urgent action from all stakeholders, and I'm confident that Massachusetts will continue doing its part to make the oceans safe for endangered right whales".

Furthermore, there have been ZERO Right Whale deaths attributed to Massachusetts Lobster gear and the MBA's conclusion snubs all of the right whale conservation efforts that Massachusetts commercial lobstermen have implemented such as:

**1935** - International ban on hunting whales goes into effect

1970 - North Atlantic Right Whales listed as endangered

**1996** - NOAA implements the Large Whale Take Reduction Plan

1997 - MA requirement for "breakaway" features in gillnets and trap/pot buoy lines Seasonal ban in Cape Cod Bay for gillnets and on use of floating rope between traps, dedicated aerial surveys begin in Cape Cod Bay



2004 - First in Nation for yearround ban on floating rope between traps in Cape Cod Bay (9,000 miles removed)

**2007** - <u>First in Nation</u> for yearround ban on use of floating rope between traps statewide

**2014** - <u>First in Nation</u> - MA Restricted Area is created – 3-month closure Feb-April to 3,071 sq. miles

2015 - 3 month (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area

2016 - 3 months (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area

2017 - 3 month (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area PLUS 4-day extension of the gear closure in Cape Cod Bay

2018 - 3 month (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area PLUS a 15-day extension of the gear closure and speed restriction (10 mph) for small vessels in Cape Cod Bay

2019 - 3 month (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area

2020 - 3 month (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area

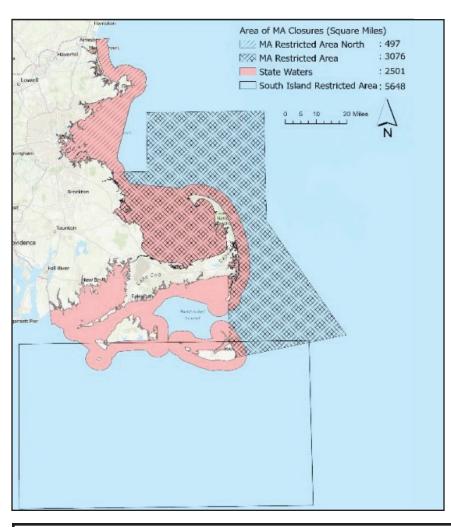
2021 - 3 (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area PLUS a 15-day extension of the gear closure and speed restriction (10 mph) for small vessels in Cape Cod Bay

**2022** - Southern N.E. closed 5,648 sq. miles est. right whale population 350. Making the total sq. miles 11,722 closed to lobstering.

Over the last 5 years, the Massachusetts Lobster Foundation in collaboration with the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association and Ketcham Trap developed weaker red and candy cane rope breaking at 1,700 lbs., with a MASS LOBSTER tracer ribbon.

The commercial lobstermen in Massachusetts have been fishing this weakened rope for 4 years now without many issues. We are working with Ketcham Trap on every iteration to make it a little better but still weak to keep the fishermen fishing.

The Massachusetts Environmental Trust, Drive for a better environment, provided grant



commercial lobstermen's conservation efforts on behalf of right whales and all whale species.

Massachusetts is doing more than any other state or region for the protection of right whales! Massachusetts Lobster should be listed on the "Green List" of seafoods to buy. Proud to sup-

funding to further Massachusetts port our #MassachusettsLobstermen who lead the nation in right whale conservation.

> To learn more about all of the Massachusetts right whale conservation measures, please visit the Lobster Foundation of Massachusetts at www. lobster foundation of ma.





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  - Some trap kits in stock
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## Mission

To improve the health, safety and economic security of commercial fishermen and their families.

Fishing Partnership is here to help MA residents access affordable health coverage. Contact a certified Navigator today for assistance with updating an application or finding a new plan for 2023. Existing Health Connector/MassHealth members should respond to notices they receive and call a Navigator to explore all their options.

# **NAVIGATOR OFFICES:**

Gloucester 978-282-4847 Plymouth 508-746-5400

New Bedford 508-991-3043

Chatham 774-840-9393

Massachusetts maintains a mandate for all individuals to have health insurance. Unenrolled residents could pay a tax penalty. Don't risk it - call a Navigator and get covered today!

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617-928-3443 fishingpartnership.org







# Join our Deckhand® Beta Crew!

Commercial fishermen are the most important group to ensure Deckhand Pro keeps getting better. If you're interested in being at the cutting edge of our electronic logbook technology to help make positive impacts in product development, we want you on our Beta Crew!

# Being a Beta Crewmember means:

- You get advance copies of products and features before release to the public;
- You get priority attention from our support crew;
- You get to contribute ideas or changes to our product that will help us make the product better for you and others;
- You get free subscriptions to Deckhand® Pro In-App Purchases while testing, and a free lifetime subscription to the logbook of your choice after being on the Beta Crew in good standing for 6 months!¹ Offer available for a limited time!

Deckhand Pro runs on Apple iPad (WiFi+Cellular) and almost any recent model is fully supported.

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Apply to be a Beta Crewmember with the following steps:

- 1. First, call us at 888-210-3117 and select option 1 or send an email to **beta-request@deckhandlogbook.com**.
- 2. We'd like your name, information about your commercial fishing activity, fishery, and vessel that will help us assure your request is approved quickly.
- 3. Expect to hear from us within 1 business day. All the information you need to start testing will be included when we reply!

# If you don't have an Apple iPad, but are still interested in the Beta Crew:

Depending upon your circumstances, we may be able to provide an iPad for a limited time with a small deposit, especially if you are a member of a fishing organization or other group evaluating our product for use. Again, please send an email to the above email address or call us. We may have some additional questions or information we need to exchange for situations where an iPad is provided.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Deckhand Beta Crew!

\*Multiple In-App Purchase options may be available at any time. Beta Crewmembers in good standing after 6 months will be able to choose one (1) IAP product for a lifetime subscription. This offer is subject to availability and Beta Crew program enrollment/capacity, and may change at any time.

DATE:



# **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201 703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • www.asmfc.org

# **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Atlantic Herring Management Board, Atlantic Herring Technical Committee, Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel, Interested Parties

FROM: Toni Kerns, Policy Director

September 14, 2022

SUBJECT: Days Out Measures for Season 2 of the 2022 Atlantic Herring Area 1A Fishery; Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire

Spawning Closures in Effect Starting September 23, 2022 through November 3, 2022

This memorandum announces days out measures for the 2022 Area 1A (inshore Gulf of Maine) Atlantic herring fishery for Season 2 (October 1 – December 31); and closure dates for the Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning areas.

### Landing Days for the 2022 Area 1A Fishery for Season 2

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Management Board members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts met September 14 via conference call to set effort control measures for the 2022 Area 1A fishery for Season 2 (October 1 – December 31). The Season 2 quota is approximately 174 metric tons (mt), which is 27.2% of the Area 1A sub-annual catch limit (ACL) after adjusting for the 30 mt fixed gear set-aside, a slight overage from Season 1, and an 8% buffer (since the Area 1A closes at 92% of the sub-ACL). This does not take into account the possible reallocation of 1,000 mt to the Area 1A sub-ACL based on catch information from the Canadian New Brunswick weir fishery.

Due to the very low quota, the days out measures for Season 2 are as follows:

- Landing days will be set at zero (0) for Season 2.
- If 1,000 mt is reallocated from the Canadian weir fishery to the Area 1A sub-ACL, the fishery will move to four (4) consecutive landing days starting Sunday, November 6 at 6:00 p.m. Landing days would begin on Sunday of each week at 6:00 p.m. starting November 6.

If the quota reallocation from the Canadian weir fishery occurs prior to October 21 or after November 7, the states will schedule an other days-out meeting.

While landing days are set at zero (0), harvesters are prohibited from landing more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip from Area 1A during Season 2.

### **Spawning Area Closures**

The Atlantic herring Area 1A fishery regulations include seasonal spawning closures for portions of state and federal waters in Eastern Maine, Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire. The Commission's Atlantic Herring Management Board approved a forecasting method that relies upon at least three samples, each containing at least 25 female herring in gonadal stages III-V, to trigger a spawning closure. However, if sufficient samples are not available then closures will begin on predetermined dates.

There are currently insufficient samples from both the Western Maine spawning area and the Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning area. Therefore, per Addendum II default closure dates, the Western Maine and Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning areas will be closed starting at 12:01 a.m. on September 23, 2022 extending through 11:59 p.m. on November 3, 2022. The Western Maine spawning area includes all waters bounded by the following coordinates:

43° 30' N Maine coast 43° 30' N 68° 54.5' W 43° 48' N 68° 20' W

North to Maine coast at 68° 20' W

The Massachusetts/New Hampshire spawning area includes all waters bounded by the Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine coasts, and 43° 30' N and 70° 00' W.

Vessels in the directed Atlantic herring fishery cannot take, land or possess Atlantic herring caught in either the Western Maine or Massachusetts/ New Hampshire spawning areas during this time and must have all fishing gear stowed when transiting through the area. The incidental bycatch allowance of up to 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip per day applies to vessels in non-directed fisheries that are fishing within the Western Maine or Massachusetts/ New Hampshire spawning areas.

Please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at <a href="mailto:efranke@asmfc.org">efranke@asmfc.org</a> or 703.842.0740 for more information.

# Days Out Meeting Motions (September 14, 2022)

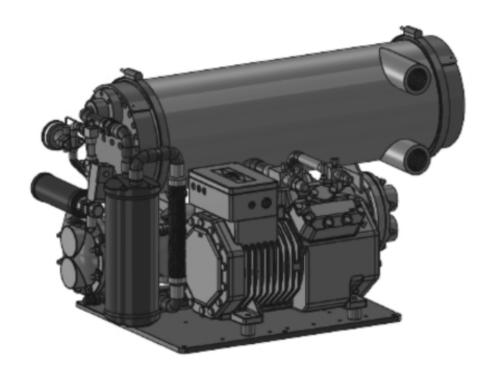
Move to set zero landing days for Season 2. If 1,000 mt is reallocated from the Canadian weir fishery to the US Area 1A sub-ACL, the fishery shall open at 6PM on Sunday, November 6 with four landing days (Monday thru Thursday). Should the reallocation of 1000mt happen prior to October 21 or after November 7, the states will schedule another days-out meeting. Motion by Ms. Griffin, second by Mr. Abbott. Motion passed by consent.



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# The MLA's **Procrastinators** Club Notice

Before we press the final ate" button on our Pac-man deluxe computer machine, here's one last chance to renew your membership with the MLA, this State's major voice for the commercial lobster industry in Massachusetts.

counts, the boat insurance program etc. and most importantly representation for you on all fice. lobster industry issues are at stake here. Why would you not want to have the Association working for you while you go out to fish everyday?

Please remember that if you "delete, erase, cancel" "obliter- are a Delegate or your boat is insured with the MLANPBPC, you must remain a member in good standing with the MLA.

There are multiple ways you can now pay your dues; over the phone at 781-545-6984 ext. 2, online at www.lobstermen.com MLA news, member dis- or mail a check to MLA, 8 Otis Place, Scituate, MA 02066 or better yet stop by the MLA of-

> PLEASE NOTE NOVEMBER WILL **BE YOUR LAST NEWSPAPER UNTIL** YOUR DUES ARE PAID IN FULL.

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# Phase 2

FROM PAGE 1

With NMFS relying more and more on the DST, the uncertainty in the DST currently being used does not give anyone in the fishing industry a good feeling. NMFS needs to change the baseline years from 2015-2019 to 2017-2021 as the current data will paint a different picture in the overall risk reduction DST in the fisheries favor. NMFS also needs to have the DST Peer Reviewed and accepted first before the livelihoods of thousands of lobstermen are devastated.

Unfortunately, the North East Lobster Fishery (NELF) is not out of the risk reduc**Gillnet Regions Trap Pot Regions** Cape Hatteras is the boundary between MATL/SE NC/SC border is the GN boundary between MATL/SE GOM: Gulf of Maine and **Georges Bank** \*Note the differences in the Southern New England boundary between the SE MATL: Mid-Atlantic and MATL based on fishery Southeast

tion woods yet, as the lion's that Massachusetts has left taken on the most draconian can be garnished from Mas-

share of risk is still within the overall is 7.3%. Massachu- risk reduction measures any- sachusetts to save the North NELF. The percentage of risk setts over the last 8 years has where. How much more risk East Lobster Fishery?

# **Checking the Pulse on** the 2022 Lobster Season



As the 2022 commercial lobster season in Massachusetts rolls on into fall, the catch is picking up and so is the price. After the slow start earlier this spring and cost of doing business at an all-time high, these higher prices are surly welcomed. While these prices are not likely to reach the 2021 prices, they are better than what most regions are getting paid.

There have been a lot of calls and questions on why this year was slow to start and why did the price not reach the 2021 levels and after asking around, it all comes down to supply and demand. The supply was depleted in the processor/dealer freezers in 2020-2021 and they need inventory so they were willing to pay the higher

Supply and demand are relative to the stock assessment and effort as they both give insight to what the end of the year will look like. After you review your catch vs. expenses you can see how good your year was and the stock assessment, while they are not done every year, this is a good indicator as to how good the next 5 years or so will be relative to your catch.

NOAA stated that "since 2012, Young of Year surveys in the Gulf of Maine and George's Bank stock have shown consistent declines, which could indicate future declines in recruitment and landings." Seeing that it takes 7-8 years for a lobster to reach a harvestable size, is this what lobstermen are now seeing reflective in the catch? More to be revealed after the 2022 season is done.

More questions arose when the season was slow to start and the main one that really has a lot of lobstermen concerned is the increase in effort from other regions with no end in sight. Here is one question that continues to come up: Should all regions make the lobster permit a "Limited Entry" to ease the effort on the resource? As Massachusetts is a "LIMITED ENTRY" fishery with NO new permits being issued and the effort in Massachusetts has dramatically declined to an estimated 845 active commercial lobstermen. The effort on one resource needs to be right sized before the bottom falls

Overall, the hundreds of millions of pounds of lobsters that have been landed in the U.S. between 2020-2021 are being purchased, shipped, processed, and eaten as the demand for your lobsters has not changed. Let's see how the 2022 lobster season will shake out and if anyone is returning your lobsters!

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    - PSS Dripless Shaft Seals
  - Buck Algonquin Struts, Rudders & Stuffing Boxes
    - S/S Shafting Drive Savers Globe Impellers





# Annual Weekend & Industry 2 2 3 1 2

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 information and registration forms will be sent out in our weekly emails and are available on the MLAs website Annual weekend page *www.lobstermen.com*. If you would like the registration forms mailed to you directly, please call the MLA office and speak with Tracey at 781.545.6984 Ext.2.

The 2023 MLA Annual Weekend and Trade Show is scheduled for March 23rd-26th, 2023 at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, 35 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, MA 02601.

http://www.capecodresortandconferencecenter.com



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, Casino night, great entertainment and laughs with friends you may not have seen in years!

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

The last 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 2023 Annual Weekend one to remember!

See you in March, Annual Weekend Committee



# **Annual Weekend** & Industry **Trade Show** March 23-26, 2023

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association will be holding it's Annual Weekend & Industry Trade Show 2023 at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, Hyannis, MA on March 23rd (set up day) through March 26th, 2023.

The show hours are Friday & Saturday 9:00 AM-5:00 PM & Sunday 8:00 AM -10:00 AM. The aim of this event is to provide an opportunity for lobster fishermen, dealers and equipment suppliers to get together for communication, education and to have some fun too. The MLA provides 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 activities or raffles. These are some of the sponsorship opportunities; the Scholarship Fund Raffle, The Hospitality Suite, the Craft, the Entertainment, and the printing of the program.

All contributors will be recognized in the show program. Please note all donors will be listed in the show program as long as the donations are received prior to March 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.

# **Admission to the Trade Show Exhibit Halls and Seminars is FREE**

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

— Annual Weekend Committee

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association				
Annual Weekend & Industry Trade Show 2022 - SPONSORSHIP DONATION FORM -				
Name: Amount: \$				
What would you like to sponsor?				
☐ Scholarship Fund Raffle	☐ Craft			
☐ Hospitality Suite	☐ Entertainment			
□ Printing of Program	☐ Let Committee decide			
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE MLA ANNUAL WEEKEND & TRADE SHOW				



# **Annual Weekend** & Industry **Trade Show** March 23-26, 2023

# 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 a group of more than 1,800 Commercial Fishermen during our Annual Weekend & Trade Show starting on Friday, March 23RD-26TH, 2022. The 23rd is vendor set up day. The event will be held at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, MA. http://www.capecodresortandconferencecenter.com

In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint, all the show information and registration forms will be sent out in our weekly emails and available on the MLA website; Annual Weekend page www.lobstermen.com. If you prefer the registration forms mailed to you directly, please call MLA office and speak with Tracev-781.545.6984 Ext.2.



- The MLA recognizes that you may not have time to eat lunch on set up day; we will provide lunch in the exhibit hall on Thursday, March 23rd, 12:00pm-1:00pm
- In addition to the Friday and Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm hours, the exhibit hall will be open on Sunday morning an hour earlier at 8:00am and remain open until 10:00am so that you will have two hours of uninterrupted time.
- The MLA gives cash prizes to those exhibitors who remain set up until 10:00am on Sunday. YOU MUST BE AT YOUR BOOTH BY 8:00am TO GET YOUR TICKET!
- A single Booth space includes one 6' table with a tablecloth and 2 chairs. We will work with you if you need a little more room.

Once we receive your payment, we will mail you a confirmation letter for your booth and have it waiting for you beginning at 10:00am on Thursday, March 23rd 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 March 24th. 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-5:00 pm and Sunday 8:00am -10:00am)

All goods must be removed by 1:00pm on Sunday afternoon, March 26th. If you are unable to remove your entire exhibit by this time, you may make special arrangements for Monday morning as long as arrangements are made in advance.

If you have questions or need further information, contact MLA office and speak with Tracey 781.545.6984 Ext 2. We look forward to seeing you at the show.

Thank you. MLA Annual Weekend Committee



# **Annual Weekend** & Industry **Trade Show** March 23-26, 2023

# Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association

8 Otis Place, Scituate, MA 02066-1323 Tel (781) 545-6984 Fax (781) 545-7837 Tracey.Abboud@lobstermen.com

#### **Annual Weekend & Trade Show 2023**

March 23rd - March 26th 2022 (set up on March 23rd) Resort and Conference Center of Hyannis 35 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, MA 02601

# Exhibitor Booth Reservation—2023

# Booth's include a 6' covered table & 2 chairs

(	)	1 Booth	\$650	
(	)	2 Booths	\$950	
(	)	3 Booths	\$1250	
(	)	Electricity	\$75	
(	)	Lift for Engine	\$150	

Total Enclosed \$

Set-up begins at 9:00 AM on Thursday (March 23rd) and must be completely removed by 1:00 PM on Sunday unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

ALL BOOTHS MUST REMAIN INTACT AND YOU MUST BE AT YOUR BOOTH BY 8:00 AM Sunday to qualify for the vendor raffle. CASH PRIZES THE BOOTH MAY NOT BE DISMANTLED UNTIL 10:00 AM SUN. (March 26th)

Company Name:			
Address:			
City, State, Zip Code:			
Daytime Tel: ()	Fa	ax : ()	
Person in Charge of Booth:	E-r	nail:	
Primary Product or Service:(If you are having an engine delivered Special Requests or Needs:(If you alrest)	PLEASE call and schedule a delivery	time with Tracey Abboud 781-545-6	5984 xt. 2 —Thank you)
Payment Info: ( ) M	fasterCard ( ) Visa	( )Check (Payable to M	ILA)
Name on card:			
Card #3 numbers on back of card: _ (You may call this number in		Exp Date	
Signature:			



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Last 3 numbers on back of card: You may call this number in:

# 

MLA Annual Weekend & Lobster Trade Show 2023

RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER AT HYANNIS, MA

Order Form for Extra Meal Tickets

		Price Per	Number	
Day/Time	Description	Person	Requested	Total Price
3/24/23 Friday Evening Buffet 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm Comedy Show 7:45pm to 9:00pm	Buffet Dinner Roasted Tomato Soup Mixed Garden Greens 2 choice of dressings Roasted Chicken with Cornbread and Dried Fruit Stuffing Braised Beef Short Ribs Chefs Selection of Starch and Seasonal Vegetables White Chocolate Bread Pudding Coffee and Tea	\$50.00		
3/25/2023 Saturday Evening Dinner 6:30 pm Dinner Award Ceremony 8:00pm Casino Night 9:00pm – 11:00pm	Banquet Dinner  New England Clam Chowder Caesar Salad Choice of Cod or Prime Rib of Beef Warm Rolls Chef's choice of Starch, Vegetable, Dessert, Coffee and Tea (Please Choose Entrée)  Local Cod- Prime Rib of Beef-	\$65.00		
Please choose Entrée	Total Amount Enclosed: \$			
	[] Visa [] Master Card []	Check payab	le to MLA	

Mail this form to: Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association 8 Otis Place, Scituate, MA 02066 Tel. (781) 545-6984

Exp Date:



# Annual Weekend & Industry 2 2 3 1 2



35 Scudder Avenue Hyannis, MA 02601 Main Phone: 508-775-7775

# Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association Annual Weekend and Trade Show 2023

# HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

Thursday, March 23, 2023 - Sunday, March 26, 2023

NAME(S)		
ARRIVAL DATE:		
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		
DAY TELEPHONE:	FAX:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS (REQUIRED):		
CREDIT CARD TYPE:	_ CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _	
EXPIRATION DATE:	_ SIGNATURE:	

Hotel & Meal Package Options						
Check Choice	Package Type	Nights	Cost Per Package	Friday Evening Buffet	Saturday Evening Banqu Select One per Adult	per Adult
Official			1 ackage	Evening Bunet	Prime Rib	Local Cod
	1 Night Package, 1 Adult	Friday Only	\$154.89	Included	Not Included	Not Included
	1 Night Package, 2 Adults	Friday Only	\$191.89	Included	Not Included	Not Included
	1 Night Package, 3 Adults	Friday Only	\$240.34	Included	Not Included	Not Included
	1 Night Package, 1 Adult	Saturday Only	\$189.89	Not Included		
	1 Night Package, 2 Adults	Saturday Only	\$261.89	Not Included		
	1 Night Package, 3 Adults	Saturday Only	\$345.34	Not Included		
	2 Night Package, 1 Adult	Fri & Sat	\$344.82	Included		
	2 Night Package, 2 Adults	Fri & Sat	\$453.86	Included		
	2 Night Package, 3 Adults	Fri & Sat	\$585.80	Included		
	3 Night Package, 1 Adult	Thurs, Fri & Sat	\$462.63	Included		
	3 Night Package, 2 Adults	Thurs, Fri & Sat	\$571.59	Included		
	3 Night Package, 3 Adults	Thurs, Fri & Sat	\$714.90	Included		

Package prices are inclusive of all taxes, gratuities and service fees.

	Additional Hotel Options				
Check One	Additional Nights	Indicate Dates/Number of Adults	Cost		
	Hotel Only. No meals included. Rate is per night for 1 or 2 adults. Rate is inclusive of tax.		\$130.47 Per Night		



# Annual Weekend & Industry 2023 Trade Show 2023

#### **RESERVATION POLICIES**

<u>Cutoff Date</u>: All reservations for guestrooms must be made by Monday, March 13, 2023. After this date, we cannot guarantee the availability of guestrooms or the group rate.

Meal Tickets and Choices: All meal choices for the Saturday night banquet must be made prior to March 13, 2023. If meal selection is not made by this date, we cannot guarantee your preferred meal choice. Meal selections and number of guests in the package may not be adjusted within 10 days of arrival.

<u>Deposit</u>: We require a deposit of \$100.00 at the time the reservation is made. If the deposit is by credit card, we will charge the deposit in advance when the Reservation Form is received.

<u>Cancellation Policy</u>: If an individual reservation is cancelled (7) seven days or more prior to arrival the deposit is refunded less a \$15.00 service charge. If an individual reservation is cancelled (6) six days or less or the guest does not arrive on the specified dates, the reservation is cancelled for all nights and the deposit will be forfeited. The remaining nights on the reservation will also be cancelled and are not automatically reinstated.

<u>Confirmation</u>: A confirmation email will be sent to you directly from the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis.

### CHECK-IN TIME AFTER 3:00 PM - CHECK-OUT TIME BY 11:00 AM

Please Fax, Email or Mail completed form to our Reservations Department (1 form per room)

**Updated Fax Number: 508-778-6910** 

Email: stay@capecodresortandconference.com

Mail: Resort & Conference Center at Hyannis, 35 Scudder Avenue, Hyannis, MA 02601.

Please make checks payable to the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis.

This form must be received prior to March 13, 2023. Phone or online reservations will not be accepted.

Any changes to your reservation must be made by submitting a revised form.

Please note change and mark form as "REVISED" to avoid duplicate reservations.

2022

# from from

# Radioactive water release from Oyster Creek nuclear plant concerns environmentalists

**By Amanda Oglesby,** Asbury Park Press LACEY - Water with "low-level" amounts of radiation recently was discharged from the defunct Oyster Creek nuclear power plant, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which oversees radiation-related activity at the plant.

Holtec International released about 24,000 gallons of water from the facility as part of its ongoing decommissioning activities, NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan said in an email. The water was slowly released starting Sept. 7 and took two days to complete, he said.

The water contains low levels of radiation and comes from the plant's nuclear fuel rod cooling pool, the reactor cavity and an equipment pit, Sheehan said.

The water releases are regulated by both the NRC and the federal Environmental Protection Agency in order to protect the public, he said

Staff at the power plant have performed such releases of lowlevel radioactive water throughout the facility's operating life, said Sheehan and Holtec spokesman Joseph Delmar. The action is part of routine operations, not just at Oyster Creek, but at nuclear plants across the nation, Delmar said in an email to the Asbury Park Press. Water was integral to the functioning and safety at Oyster Creek throughout the plant's nearly 50 years of generating electricity. Steam heated by nuclear energy was used to drive the plant's turbine, converting that energy into electricity. Water also was used to cool spent fuel rods inside a large pool.

Oyster Creek produced its last electricity in 2018. The facility's age coupled with competition from inexpensive natural gas made the nuclear plant too costly to operate. In 2019, its then owner Exelon sold the plant and its nearly \$1 billion decommissioning trust fund to Holtec International.

In May, Holtec announced that the last of the spent fuel rods from decades of power generation were removed from the cooling pool and transferred to dry cask storage. Now the company is draining water from the pool, the reactor and an equipment storage pit, Sheehan said.

"Our process for water use falls in step with our commitment to environmental stewardship," Delmar said.

The radioactive water is collected in 30,000-gallon batches and run through a series of filters and demineralizers, he said. Afterward, the water is thoroughly tested, and then reused inside the plant or diluted and discharged into canals, he said.

"Our sample results show that the canals around Oyster Creek have been, and remain, safe to swim, fish and boat in," he said.

Since decommissioning began three years ago, the plant has discharged, on average, about 64,000 gallons of treated, diluted water a month into the canals, Delmar said.

Holtec found discharging the

water to be the best way to handle the material compared to the company's alternatives, he said.

"Evaporation releases higher levels of radioactive materials due to the concentration and lack of dilution when the water becomes a gas," Delmar said. "Shipping to another site for disposal creates a larger carbon footprint with hundreds of truck trips."

Local environmentalists say they are not reassured because plant officials did not share information about the release prior to taking action.

Janet Tauro, New Jersey chair of the environmental organization Clean Water Action, said the water release signaled a lack of transparency on the pall of Holtec.

"The public was not alerted to when the releases would occur," said Tauro, who learned about the release while researching Holtec's decommissioning work at the defunct Pilgrim Power Station in Massachusetts. "They (Ocean County residents) weren't given the opportunity to ask questions."

Britta Forsberg, executive director of the environmental group Save Barnegat Bay, said she was watching volunteers build oyster reefs near the mouth of the Forked River just days after the plant's radioactive water release. Oyster reefs help prevent shoreline erosion, filter the bay's water and provide crucial habitat for marine animals, but Forsberg said the effects of low-level radiation on the growing oysters remain unknown.

"If I was putting myself in the water, doing all this work (building oyster reefs), I might want to ask some questions and know what's in there (the bay water)."

Edwin Lyman, director of the nuclear power safety program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the radioactive water release raises questions about regulatory oversite of nuclear facilities.

Too little research is done on the impacts of the discharges, to know whether radiation from the releases accumulates in certain animals or concentrates into particular areas of the ecosystem over time, Lyman said.

"It's a difference between what's allowable and what's right," he said

Delmar, of Holtec, said the company remained committed to environmental stewardship and was operating within the law and Nuclear Regulatory Commission's limits on radiation releases.

But Lyman questioned the science behind those limits.

He said, "The larger question is are the limits that the nuclear industry is allowed to adhere to, with regard to routine radioactive discharges, are those the right numbers?"

Amanda Oglesby is an Ocean County native who covers Brick, Barnegat and Lacey townships as well as the environment. She has worked for the Press for more than a decade. Reach her at @Oglesby-APP, aoglesby@gannettnj.com or 732-557-5701.

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# **Legal Defense Fund Updates**

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 three separate lawsuits that could have negative impacts on the commercial lobster industry and is working with multiple lawyers in Washington D.C. and here in the Commonwealth to fight for you and your industry.

**UPDATE SEPTEMBER 21, 2022** — (Washington D.C.) Case 1:18-cv-00112-JEB - CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY et al v. ROSS et al, the Plaintiffs requested that the Court issue an order:

- 1. Declaring that NMFS violated the ESA and APA for issuing an ITS in the 2021 BiOp for zero lethal right whale take in the federal fishery without first authorizing incidental take under the MMPA, 16 U.S.C. § 1371(a)(5)(E);
- 2. Declaring that NMFS violated the ESA and APA by anticipating but not authorizing lethal take in the federal lobster fishery in the 2021 BiOp ITS:
- 3. Declaring that NMFS violated the MMPA and APA in issuing a final rule amending the Plan that failed to contain the measures the agency expected would reduce right whale M/SI in the U.S. lobster fishery in both state and federal waters to below PBR within six months of implementation;
- 4. Vacating and remanding the 2021 BiOp with respect to the right whale and the federal lobster fishery with vacatur stayed for six months and ordering NMFS to produce a new biological opinion that includes fully complies with the requirements of the MMPA and ESA in authorizing any anticipated lethal take of right whales in the federal lobster fishery; and
- 5. Remanding without vacating the Final Rule and ordering NMFS to issue a new rule within six months of the order that contains the measures NMFS expects will reduce right whale M/SI in the U.S. lobster fishery to below PBR within six months of the rule's implementation.

While we obviously do not agree with their analysis, science, and most of what they seek (including their apparent opposition to weak rope and intent to push the industry into ropeless fishing), we are encouraged by the fact that we (and others) were able to persuade the NGO's to not seek a restraining order concerning our lobstermen's ability to fish even if the Court vacates and remands the 2021 BiOP and orders NMFS to produce a new biological opinion, that, in the Plaintiffs or in the Court's view, fully complies with the requirements of the MMPA and ESA. As it now stands, the CBD Plaintiffs request that, if the Court vacates and re-

mands the 2021 BiOP and orders NMFS to produce a new BiOP and Final Rule, our fishermen be able to continue to fish as-is for at least 6 months post Court decision and until NMFS fashions a new BiOP and new Final Rule.

NMFS's remedy brief (limited to 30 pages) was filed on September 19, 2022. In its briefing, NMFS proposed the Court set a date of December 9, 2024, for it to issue a TRP amendment remedying the deficiencies in its. As part of this proposal, NMFS also requested that the 2021 BoOp be remanded without vacatur through to December 9, 2024.

NMFS noted the extreme difficulty it would have in meeting Plaintiff's proposed six-month deadline and explained that it would need to take in additional research and data, including on death dispersions from Canada and the US, to make a proper ITS. This is encouraging to see, as the Court recently determined that NFMS's method for assigning deaths between Canada and the US was reasonable (although we strongly disagree).

However, a large part of NMFS's proposed remedy was focused on implementing and advocating a migration away from VBR which is of course untenable for the vast majority of our members.

The remainder of the briefing schedule is as follows:

1) Intervenor-Defendants' (including us and other Maine interests) remedy briefs (limited to 30 pages) are due by October 7, 2022; and 2) Plaintiffs' consolidated reply has been filed on 8/12/22 and is posted on the MLAs website home page under the Right Whale Litigation and Management updates.

**UPDATE SEPTEMBER 21, 2022** — (D.C.) Maine Lobstermen's Association, et al. v. NFMS

ORDER GRANTING SUMMARY JUDGMENT - Judge Boasberg has issued his summary judgment order in MLA v. NMFS ruling against the Maine Lobstermen's Association (and us) on every single ground we raised challenging the 2021 BiOp. This is a very disappointing order that we appealed to the D.C. Circuit. In his Order, Judge Boasberg did the following:

- 1. The Court then found that several grounds raised by the Maine Lobstermen's Association should have been brought in the complaint and, because they were not, the Court would not consider them. This includes the following arguments: (Opinion at 11)
  - a. Regularly Flexibility Act
  - b. MMPA's purposes
  - c. Composition of the take-reduction team
- 2. Turning to the challenges to the BiOp itself, the Court first ruled as a general matter that NFMS applied the "best scientific and commercial data available", meaning that challenges to NFMS' scientific determinations were not going to succeed. It made this ruling on the basis that data was

mands the 2021 BiOP and orders NMFS to produce a new BiOP and Final Rule, our fishermen be able within the range of scientific judgment

- a. As part of this conclusion, the Court dismissed the argument that the NFMS' Consultation Handbook required different scientific analysis by determining that it only requires using the best scientific, which the Court believed NFMS used
- 3. We then arrive at the more specific claims that was raised against NFMS
- a. US/Canada Allocation: The Court determined that the data about where deaths were occurring was uncertain so it was fair for NFMS to use a 50/50 split, especially when the Center for Independent Experts determined the approach was "reasonable".
- b. Unknown Origin Entanglement: The Court determined that the unknown origin death data was limited and that it wasn't unreasonable to attribute it to gillnet fishing and VBR especially since deaths seem to happen in VBR areas.
- c. Cryptic Mortality: The Court determined that NFMS used a "rigorous peer reviewed method" developed by whale researchers to determine where deaths occurred and that the fact that whales migrate doesn't affect this.
- i. The court also determined that natural mortality challenge was adequately explained by NFMS as mostly occurring to whale calves so adult deaths are likely caused by humans.
- d. The Court also wholly rejected any reliance on harm mitigation methods deployed by MLA because NFMS did not have access to data on the mitigation measures but incorporated the effects into its modeling as best it could
- e. Finally, the Court determined that NFMS could use the "Linden model" and the Decision Support Tool because they are peer-reviewed and thus constitute best date
- 4. The Court rejected the argument that NFMS attributed too many deaths to the lobster industry, explaining that NFMS had to fall below the PBR because it was just one part of many government agencies impacting whale populations and thus could overestimate the harm
- 5. Having found that the BiOp survives the challenges against it, the Court then said that the Final Rule also survived because the only challenge to it was that the BiOp was invalid

At the end of its Order, the Court did note that it "fully expects that NMFS will continue diligently incorporating the latest information, considering the concerns of all stakeholders, and adapting to changing circumstances in making its future decisions". (Order at 33).

We disagree with the Court on each of the grounds it found and will vigorously challenge them on appeal.

# **LDF Updates**

FROM PAGE 35

**UPDATE SEPTEMBER 21, 2022** — (Boston) M.S vs. D. McKiernan et. al.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE August 16, 2022 TALWANI, D.J. Plaintiff MS filed a complaint in this case on March 9, 2022. See Verified Complaint [Doc. No. 1]. Summonses were issued on March 14, 2022. [Doc. No. 9]. Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m) provides that "[i]f a defendant is not served within 90 days after the complaint is filed, the court—on motion or on its own after notice to the plaintiff—must dismiss the action without prejudice against that defendant or order that service be made within a specified time."); Local Rule 4.1(b) ("If on the 14th day following the expiration of the 90-day period good cause has not been shown [for the failure to make timely service] . . . the clerk shall forthwith automatically enter an order of dismissal").

Plaintiff did not serve Defendants by June 12, 2022, that is, within 90 days as required by the Rule. Case 1:22-cv-10364-IT Document 46 Filed 08/16/22 Page 1 of 2 2 Between June 14, 2022, and June 28, 2022, Plaintiff attempted to bring several motions to extend the deadline for service. The court struck these motions for failing to comply with the Local Rules and this court's orders. Orders Striking Motion [Doc. Nos. 22, 26, 30]. Plaintiff has made no further request to extend the deadline for service, and to date, the summonses have not been returned with proof of execution.

Accordingly, the case is subject to dismissal. If Plaintiff believes dismissal for failure to serve the Defendants is unwarranted, he shall file by no later than August 23, 2022, a response to this order setting forth good cause why the court should not dismiss the case. IT IS SO ORDERED. August 16, 2022 /s/ Indira Talwani United States District Judge.

On August 31, 2022, Judge Talwani dismissed MS's complaint and also denied the motion for pre-filing injunction brought by the MLA against him to stop MS from using the legal system to abuse MLA and our members. In denying the pre-filing injunction, Judge Talwani stated "[w] hile relief appears to be warranted, Sawyer has not filed any cross-complaint for abuse of process (or any other independent legal claim)," which we could not have because we had not been served. In other words, the Judge warned MS that she will grant the vexatious litigant motion if he files additional lawsuits against the MLA and its members. It remains to be seen if MS will heed Judge Talwani's clear warning. However, we find this Order encouraging, as if MS sues the MLA or its members again, we will immediately bring the vexatious litigant motion and a claim for abuse of process, which in light of Judge Talwani's Order, we believe will be successful. The commercial lobstermen's businesses are at stake as well as the thousands of jobs and shore side businesses that depend upon the continued success of the commercial lobster industry. The commercial lobstermen in Massachusetts are NOT to the

problem and have done everything asked of them by National Marine Fisheries Service and have been working under the strictest conservation rules for the right whales anywhere in the world since 2014. Yet here we are, still fighting these 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, any legal action costs lots of money and over the last 5 years the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association Legal Defense Fund has spent over \$300,000 fighting these legal battles. These are real threats to the historic and iconic commercial lobster industry and we are doing everything to keep the Massachusetts commercial lobstermen fishing.

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