

Friday, March 24, 2023

Please be advised seminars can change and run anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour and a half and may run over. Thank you for your understanding.

Friday 9:00-9:45 room: Centerville

MA DMF Ventless Trap Survey – how to bid for a contract

DMF relies on contracted commercial lobster boats to conduct the Ventless Lobster Trap Survey. Contracted captains are selected through a competitive bidding process and paid a day rate for each survey day at sea. DMF staff will present a brief overview of how the Ventless Trap Survey operates and describe how to bid for a contract to participate in the survey.

Friday 10:00-11:00 room: Centerville Sleep & Stress at Sea (& Solutions!)

Presented by: Mandy Roome, Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety
Lucy Bischoff, Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety

Researchers at the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (NEC) have been working with commercial fishermen in Massachusetts (lobster & scallop), Oregon (crab) and Alaska (salmon) over the past three years to understand learn more about sleep, stress, and health at sea. Deaths of commercial lobstermen accounted for the highest number of occupational fatalities in East Coast fisheries from 2010-2014, according to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. Come join our discussion about what we have learned about health and safety at sea.

The NEC is funded through the Centers for Disease Control to address prominent occupational safety and health hazards in agricultural, forestry and fishing communities throughout the Northeast. In addition to conducting research and developing safety programs, the Center offers safety training, health screening and counseling services to agricultural, forestry and fisheries workers.

Cooking Demo

Friday 10:45 room: Bass River

Come see and taste what the Resort and Conference Center's Master Chef will create for you this year. You can't miss this so get there early and get ready to be dazzled. Please check the Show Program for the final menu.

Alternative Bait, Technology Development, and Understanding Hypoxia: Collaborative Sea Grant American Lobster Research

Friday 11:30-1:00 room: Centerville

Presented by: Jennie Rheuban (WHOI Sea Grant), Amalia Harrington (Maine Sea Grant), and Rob Vincent (MIT Sea Grant), Jynessa Dutka-Gianelli (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), Erin Pelletier/George Maynard (GOMLF), Tracy Pugh (MADMF), and Malcolm Scully (WHOI),

The Sea Grant American Lobster Initiative, funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Sea Grant College Program, is addressing critical knowledge gaps about American lobster and its iconic fishery in a dynamic and changing environment. The initiative, which began in 2019, supports both scientific research and a regional Sea Grant extension program in the Northeast U.S. Together, the research and extension components of this initiative will develop and share new knowledge and understanding with industry stakeholders and resource managers from Maine to New York. This session will feature four research projects supported either directly or indirectly by the Sea Grant ALI program that address issues that are directly relevant to the lobster industry. Projects highlighted will include: the development of alternative bait to address the bait shortage, understanding the causes of the hypoxia events in Cape Cod Bay, and providing lobstermen with new technology, sensors, and data imaging tools to navigate a changing environmental and regulatory landscape.

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Offshore Wind: Current Status and Next Steps

Friday 2:00-3:00 room: Centerville

Presented by: Zach Jylkka, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Lisa Engler, MA Coastal Zone Management (CZM)

BOEM will summarize the current status of existing offshore wind leases in Southern New England, and will focus on the Gulf of Maine, covering research, planning for future commercial wind energy, and upcoming engagement opportunities. BOEM will seek feedback and questions from the audience on BOEM's wind energy process, fisheries data, and next steps.

CZM will give an overview of the Commonwealths renewable energy goals, review of offshore wind projects, coordination with other states, as well as public engagement opportunities with the ongoing MA Fisheries Working Group efforts.

Decompress in the Bait Shed,

Friday 4:00 room: Centerville

Come listen to Brian Robbins, CFN's columnist invites you for a session of tunes and storytelling. Take a break, have some grins, and bring a tale of your own. *This guy's from ... Maine? Brian Who?* Now pay attention here, folks: if you landed here looking for Brian Robbins the film actor/director/producer, it ain't me, babe, and wails away on the guitar, mandolin and bouzouki while bellowing, blowing on a harmonica, and stomping his foot, then you are in for a great time.

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The American Lobster Settlement Index: History, lessons, and future of a long-term, cross-border collaboration.

Saturday 9:30-10:30 room: Centerville

Presented by: Rick Wahle, Lobster Institute

Rick will give an update on how we're using the American Lobster Settlement Index as a forecasting tool for trends in the fishery, and to understand the causes and consequences of ups and downs in young-of-year lobster recruitment to coastal nurseries and their subsequent survival to the fishery, including climate change effects.

Craft Seminar –Make a Candy Bouquet

Saturday 10:00-12:00 room: Barnstable III

Presented by: Pam Bartlett

Who needs a flower bouquet when you can make a delicious candy bouquet. Come have fun with Pam as she helps you build a delicious candy bouquet for that someone special in your life. Space is limited so you must sign up at the MLA Booth.

On-demand Gear Scoping Phase 2: What are the costs?

Saturday 10:45 -11:45 room: Centerville

Presented by: Noah Oppenheim

On-demand (ropeless) fishing gear would impact many aspects of commercial fishing, fishery management, the ocean environment, and coastal communities. In late 2020, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries initiated a project to assess the issues of on-demand gear. The first phase of the project highlighted the operational, technical, legal/regulatory, and socioeconomic issues surrounding the gear, and a report was issued in

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April 2022 (available at www.bit.ly/ropeless-report). Phase 2 of the project attempts to answer a key question for the first time: what impact could the use of on-demand gear have on the profitability of Massachusetts lobster fisheries?

To answer this question, a socioeconomic model was created, using Vessel Trip Report data and input from industry, to determine the trip-level impacts to revenue alongside other changes to fixed costs incurred by operators. This presentation will detail the process used to develop the model, explore some of its early findings, and discuss its implications.

MA Division of Marine Fisheries and MA Environmental Police Roundtable

Saturday 1:30-3:00 room: Centerville

Presented by: MA Division of Marine Fisheries and MA Environmental Police

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is responsible for the conservation of marine fisheries resources. This includes managing both recreational and commercial harvesting of saltwater finfish, shellfish, and crustaceans like lobster and crab. The DMF oversees policy which promotes sustainability while balancing the requirements of a complex coastal fishing industry. State officials will be on hand to present new information on lobster stock status, fishery trends, whales, and discuss other issues of concern to the industry.

The Massachusetts Environmental Police protect the environment and natural resources through enforcement, education, and public outreach. The “U.S. marine resource laws exist to ensure sustainable fish populations; protect threatened marine species and the habitats they live in and to ensure these resources are around for future generations to enjoy. When people cheat and willfully violate fishery management regulations it puts those who comply with the rules at a significant disadvantage.

Lobstermen: Responsible Stewards of Marine Resources

Saturday 3:15 room: Centerville

Presented by: Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation - David Bethoney, PhD, Executive Director and Michael Long, Research Biologist

Since 2004, the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF) has focused on working collaboratively to build relationships among scientists, managers, and members of the fishing industry to solve problems facing fisheries resources and fishing communities. The CFRF Lobster and Jonah Crab Research Fleet is an excellent example of the willingness and dedication of lobstermen to participate in collaborative research that contributes to the sustainable management of marine resources. This seminar will highlight the impactful work of these Research Fleet participants. Since 2013, commercial fishermen have been collecting biological data on American lobsters in Southern New England, Georges Bank and the Gulf of Maine. Many of the lobsters sampled are from offshore areas and times of year that are not traditionally sampled by federal surveys and has become essential data for the lobster stock assessment. This nine-year time series has also allowed for work that has extended the impact of the Research Fleet. The data is currently being used to: 1) investigate spatial patterns in the lobster population, 2) investigate lobster shell disease, 3) improve Jonah crab management, 4) link temperature with biological data and 5) evaluate lobster and Jonah crab demographics in the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument area, and. All of these projects give scientists and stakeholders a better understanding of the lobster and Jonah crab resource and further contribute to sustainable management.

After the general overview, this seminar will shift focus to specifically highlight work done to characterize American lobster and Jonah crab fishery resources within the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument and adjacent areas through data provided by commercial fishing vessels as part of CFRF’s Lobster and Jonah Crab Fleet. Comparisons of Monument data and adjacent areas revealed unique catch characteristics for many biological parameters collected; however, differences were seen for lobster and Jonah crab. This study provides the baseline conditions to enable a Before-After-Control-Impact approach to assess the effectiveness of then MPA if the lobster and crab fishery is eventually closed within the Monument.