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Right Whale Updates and More...

INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMIT

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MADMF) submitted the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) second draft application on Friday July 12, 2024, to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for a second review before the Final Application is submitted. Once the FINAL ITP application is ready for submission there will then be a 60-day comment period for the public's input. Remember, the Massachusetts State waters commercial mixed species trap/pot is listed as a NOAA Category II fishery

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/list-fisheries-summary-tables#table-2-category-ii> as you are currently fishing under the strictest regulations in the Country and have reduced risk by upwards of 90%. If NMFS cannot issue the ITP to Massachusetts, then who can they?

RIGHT WHALE CALVING

The North Atlantic right whale calving season begins each year in mid-November and ends around mid-April. With only 70 reproduc-



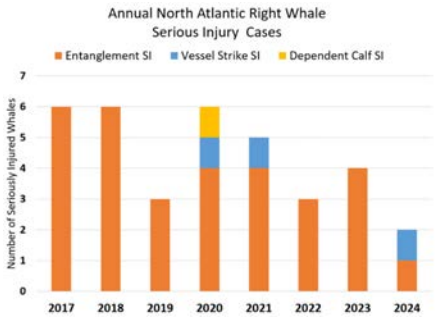
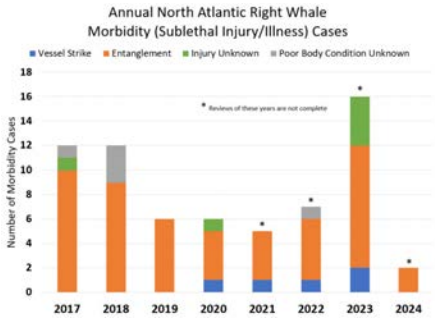
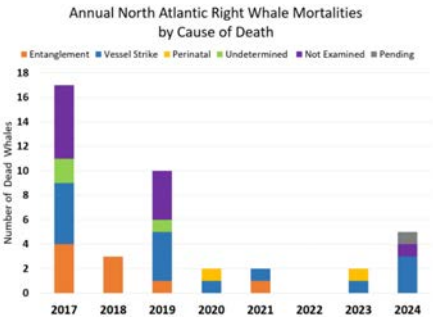
COUNTS OF NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE UME MORTALITY, SERIOUS INJURY & MORBIDITY (SUBLETHAL INJURY OR ILLNESS) CASES

Year	Mortalities						Serious Injuries			Morbidity (Sublethal Injury or Illness) +				Total
	VS*	ENT*	PERI*	UNK*	NE*	PEND*	VS*	ENT*	DEP CALF*	VS**	ENT**	INJ-UNK**	BC-UNK**	
2017	5	4	0	2	6	0	0	6	0	0	10	1	1	35
2018	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	9	0	3	21
2019	4	1	0	1	4	0	0	3	0	0	6	0	0	19
2020	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	1	1	4	1	0	14
2021	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	4	0	0	12
2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	5	0	1	10
2023	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	10	4	0	22
2024	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	9
Total	15	9	2	3	11	1	3	31	1	5	50	6	5	142

*Vessel strike (VS), Entanglement (ENT), Perinatal (PERI), Unknown/undetermined (UNK), Not Examined (NE), Pending (PEND), Dependent Calf (DEP CALF).
**Vessel strike (VS), Entanglements (ENT), or Unknown injury (INJ-UNK), or Poor body condition caused by unknown (BC-UNK).
+ A review of all photographed right whale sightings is still underway and Morbidity cases may still be added as new cases are identified.

tive female North Atlantic right whales remaining, we keep a close watch on them and their new calves to help ensure their survival. Considering these current numbers, 20 new calf births would be considered a relatively productive calving season. However, given the high rate of mortality and injury, North Atlantic right whales need to have at least 50 new calves per year to recover and grow their population. If the species fell to only 50 reproductive females, they would become functionally extinct.

Every single female North Atlantic right whale and calf are vital to this endangered species' recovery. Researchers identified 20 calves this calving season. www.fisheries.noaa.gov



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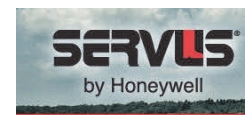
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The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association

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

NEW MLA MEMBERS:

CHARLIE HERRICK

F/V: DianaLee
Port: Gloucester

MICHAEL HOWARD

F/V: Miss Nell
Port: Portsmouth, NH

JOSHUA LORDAN

F/V: Rocinante
Port: Gloucester



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As the HAULER TURNS

We are always looking to you, our members, for guidance and appreciate your input always. If you are reading my Blog in printed format, then you are safe to assume, we are keeping the printed version of the MLAs monthly newspaper. Thank you to all of you that reached out and commented on your preference, your opinion matters. We cannot do this without you!

As the summer ends and fall begins, many of you have indicated that this year's fishing has been all over the map, up and down and all around. To learn more about the commercial lobster industry I go fishing and, this summer I was able to go out on 3 lobster trips with Dave Casoni, f/v Margaret M out of Sandwich, Therese Sauvageau, f/v Sea Anchor out of Beverly and, Bill Lister, f/v Mussel Point out of Barnstable.

The more I can learn first-hand the better I am to serve you as no two areas are the same and even if you fish out of the same port in different areas, they are always different. Thank you, Dave, Therese and Bill for taking me out fishing and answering ALL my questions. I do ask a lot of questions while we're out fishing so I can truly understand what is going on in the waters of the Commonwealth and lobster fishery.

With the fall season underway and the pots coming up with a better catch rate, there are still so many variables that the commercial lobstermen are facing here in the Commonwealth from the Act Relative to Lobstering Closure Mitigation Fund, the advancement of offshore wind into the Gulf of Maine, Grappling with Technology, the MLAs Annual Weekend & Trade Show 2025 and a plethora of other ocean related initiatives. All of which the MLA is engaged in and are noted throughout this newspaper.

While you are out fishing, the MLA Annual Weekend Committee and staff are hard at work on getting geared up for the MLAs Annual Weekend & Trade Show January 30-February 2, 2025, which has been moved to the newly renovated Margaritaville of Cape Cod. This venue has been completely transformed into an oasis and offers amenities like no other resort around.

Bring the whole family as there is the largest indoor water park anywhere in the Commonwealth and an outdoor heated pool. We are pleased to announce a vendor early registration promotion, and all the vendor and guest reservation forms can be found on the MLAs website



www.lobstermen.com. If you have any suggestions for the event, entertainment, seminars, craft and MLA Member gift please let us know, we are all ears!

Remember, this is your organization and if you want to get more involved, please come to an MLA Delegates meeting all of which are listed on the MLAs website www.lobstermen.com. We need everyone on the rail to ensure that your concerns are heard and industry issues acted upon. Email me at beth.casoni@lobstermen.com to get more involved today.

Safe on the water,

Beth Casoni

Executive Director



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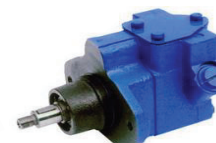
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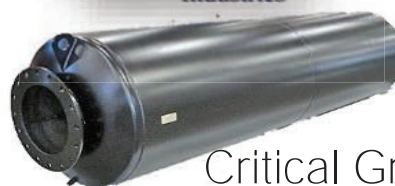
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Veterans with disabilities honored with 66th annual fishing & boating trip

Around 200 local veterans with disabilities were treated to a day of fishing and boating off Houghs Neck on Wednesday afternoon, part of the 66th annual Harvey's Saltwater Fishing Club veterans' fishing trip.

Club president Kevin Gomez said it's a cause close to his heart.

"It's a great feeling," Gomez told Boston 25 News. "I have a lot of veterans in my family. My father was in Vietnam. My grandfather was in World War II. I have an uncle who was killed in Vietnam. It means a lot to me and everyone I know to show these people the honor and respect they deserve."

More than 100 volunteers came out to support the annual fishing trip, including 20 vessels ranging from lobster to harbor cruise boats. All supplies are donated or paid for through fundraising, including a catered dinner at the

end of the event. Veterans and volunteers look forward to the event months in advance, Gomez said.

"Some of these guys are in the hospital all year long, and this is one of the days they get to go out," said Gomez. "Some of these people look forward to this all year long."

Paul Urbanus remembers the early days. He was one of the original volunteers.

"We started with only two or three boats," Urbanus recalled.

While interest, volunteers, and donations have all grown, Urbanus said the sense of gratitude and unity has always remained the same.

"The country is in a tough situation right now," Urbanus said, adding political affiliations seem to fall by the wayside once you're on the water. "The idea is we're one."

Boat captain Dan Morrell is both

a veteran and a volunteer. He said what he gives, he also receives.

"Every time I've had them on the boat, they've loved it," Morrell said. "What they don't realize is that we probably appreciate it more than they do. We get more out of than they do."

"They can feel the honor and respect that we have for them," said Gomez. "They see everyone talking

with them and shaking their hands and thanking them for their service. It means so much to them."

www.boston25news.com



Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Announces Shift of Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement Field Trials to Summer 2025

Change was made in response to ship availability and to resulting changes in ocean conditions later in the year

WOODS HOLE, MA (AUGUST 14, 2024) – Today, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) announced that the next phase of the LOC-NESS Project, a research program focused on advancing a potential climate solution called ocean alkalinity enhancement (OAE), will be shifted from this Fall to the summer of 2025. The phase consists of a controlled and monitored OAE field trial in federal waters off the coast of Massachusetts, and it has received significant support from leading scientists, top academic institutions, and environmental advocacy organizations.

This decision to shift from the anticipated mid-September 2024 timing was made because the fully-equipped research vessel WHOI planned to use is no longer available. WHOI explored finding a potential replacement vessel, but it was not unavailable until late September, with possibility of additional delays due to the anticipated active hurricane season. Researchers concluded that the ocean conditions this late in the season would be significantly less favorable for the research, which is dependent on warmer ocean temperatures.

The LOC-NESS project aims to provide an objective assessment of the effectiveness and environmental impact of OAE, a potential climate solution that leading scientists believe could remove large amounts of excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and fill knowledge gaps that can contribute to addressing climate change. Some of the world's leading scientific bodies, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, have called for a concerted effort to study climate solutions like OAE before they are implemented at scale. Over the last



18 months, the U.S. federal government has invested tens of millions of dollars into improving knowledge about a wide range of ocean-climate solutions. In addition, the White House created a Fast-Track Action Committee (FTAC) on Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal to coordinate research and funding activities across federal agencies.

"The goal of the LOC-NESS project is to advance foundational knowledge of OAE through rigorous, transparent science," said Adam Subhas, Associate Scientist in Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry at WHOI, and Project Lead of LOC-NESS. "This particular field trial aims to expand our understanding of the effectiveness and potential environmental impacts of ocean alkalinity enhancement. We're shifting our timeline to account for factors that were beyond our control and that we felt would lead to less-than-optimal weather conditions for the test. We want to make sure that when we do this research, the conditions allow for meaningful and useful results."

"Research expeditions are often postponed due to weather, or to crew and equipment availability, and this

project is no different," Subhas continued. "We're excited to be among the growing field of scientists working hand-in-hand with the government, philanthropy, and local communities to advance ocean-climate solutions, and we look forward to conducting the field research next year. In the meantime, our project will continue coordinating with state and federal officials, conducting lab work, and reaching out to those who want to know more about our project."

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently reviewing the LOC-NESS project's permit for this phase of research and the subsequent phase. This phase was originally planned for August 2024, but it was pushed back to mid-September due to the extension of the EPA's public comment period, which WHOI fully supported. Given this phase's shift to 2025, the next phase planned for the Gulf of Maine has now been scheduled for 2026. Last year, an initial field trial was successfully conducted South of Cape Cod. That initial trial involved the release of inert dye to improve scientists' ability to track a specific mass of water in the open ocean.

More detailed information about this decision can be found [here](#):

- **What happened to the research vessel?** The planned OAE field trial was originally scheduled for August on the R/V Connecticut operated by the University of Connecticut. The extension of the EPA's public comment period related to the permit, which WHOI supported, necessitated a shift to September. That required a change in vessel to the R/V Hugh Sharp operated by the University of Delaware. Last week, WHOI was notified that the R/V Sharp is no longer available for the September time period and no suitable replacement could be found before the end of September.

- **Why can't the field trial happen later in 2024?** Obtaining high-quality results during this phase of research requires a warmer surface layer of water. That layering, or stratification, is important because it allows the added alkaline material to remain in the upper ocean, where it will stay in contact with the atmosphere and draw carbon dioxide into the ocean. This allows scientists to obtain accurate measurements about the uptake of carbon dioxide by alkalinity-enhanced seawater, which is a key scientific objective of the LOC-NESS project. Conducting the field research in late September or early October, let alone later in the year, is not feasible because the warmer surface layer disappears as Fall progresses.

Media contact: Suzanne Pelisson, spelisson@whoi.edu



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An Act relative to lobstering closure mitigation update is stalled on the Hill!

As of August 20, 2024, Senate Bill No. 552 An Act relative to lobstering closure mitigation has not been passed. While we knew going into the legislative session it would be an uphill climb as there are limited options for avenues to pass this Bill.

Whereas, the end of the Formal Session has come and gone with no resolutions, Senator Patrick O'Connor and his staff are not giving up on this and nor should you. The Bill is NOT dead on the Hill!

While some legislators question the cost of it, and where will these funds come from, we keep encouraging the legislators to pass this to help preserve the historic and iconic commercial lobster industry here in the Commonwealth. We will keep you posted on this as the Bill continues to climb the Hill through the arduous process and in the meantime, keep calling your legislators to support Senate Bill No. 552.

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 2035 FILED ON: 1/20/2023
SENATE No. 552
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:
Patrick M. O'Connor

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:
The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:
An Act relative to lobstering closure mitigation.



PETITION OF:
NAME: DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Patrick M. O'Connor First Plymouth and Norfolk
Jennifer Balinsky Armini 8th Essex 2/1/2023
Julian Cyr Cape and Islands 2/7/2023
Bruce E. Tarr First Essex and Middlesex 2/27/2023
Angelo L. D'Emilia 8th Plymouth 2/27/2023
Mathew J. Muratore 1st Plymouth 3/1/2023
Susan L. Moran Plymouth and Barnstable 3/30/2023
Joan B. Lovely Second Essex 4/10/2023
Josh S. Cutler 6th Plymouth 4/13/2023
John F. Keenan Norfolk and Plymouth 10/19/2023
Joan Meschino 3rd Plymouth 10/23/2023

An Act relative to lobstering closure mitigation.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,
and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 130 of the general laws is hereby amended by
adding the following
2 section:-
3 Section 37B. Lobstering Closure Mitigation Fund
4 (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the Com-
monwealth, subject to
5 appropriation, a fund to be known as the Lobstering Closure Miti-
gation Fund to be administered
6 by the department of unemployment assistance.
7 (b) The purpose of the Fund shall be to provide financial assis-
tance to lobstermen to
8 mitigate the financial impacts of fishing area closures due to pro-
tection of endangered marine
9 species. For the purposes of this act, the term "lobsterman" shall
mean a holder of a commercial
10 fisherman permit (lobster) as so appearing in section 38 of this
chapter that is deemed to be
11 active and transferable by the director, and the term "trap" shall
mean a lobster trap or pot used
12 to catch lobsters that is owned by and licensed under and a lob-
sterman. Any lobsterman who is
13 domiciled in Massachusetts shall be eligible for weekly payments
equal to one dollar per trap per
14 week. Eligibility for said payments shall be available through
February 1 and shall terminate on

15 July 30 annually.
16 (c) There shall be credited to the Fund all amounts that are, by
law, transferred or
17 authorized to be transferred thereto or directed to be deposited
therein, and all amounts received
18 as gifts, grants, or contributions for the purposes of the Fund.
Amounts credited to the Fund shall
19 not be subject to further appropriation and any money remaining
in the Fund at the end of a fiscal
20 year shall not revert to the General Fund.
21 (d) The director of the department shall report annually to the
house and senate
22 committees on ways and means and the joint committee on envi-
ronment natural resources and
23 agriculture on income received into the fund and sources of that
income, any expenditure from
24 the fund and their purposes, and fund balances.
25 (e) The department shall promulgate regulations as necessary to
implement the provisions
26 of this section, including, but not limited to, regulations pertain-
ing to payment application and
27 disbursement procedures.
28 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect immediately upon its pas-
sage.



Atlantic States Marine
Fisheries Commission
NEWS RELEASE

American Lobster Board Initiates Addendum to Postpone Implementation of Addendum XXVII Measures & Approves Addendum XXX

ARLINGTON, VA – The Commission’s American Lobster Management Board initiated Draft Addendum XXXI to Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. The Draft Addendum will consider postponing the implementation of the measures from Addendum XXVII. The Board also approved Addendum XXX, which addresses how the measures of Addendum XXVII will apply to foreign imports of American lobster once implemented.

Draft Addendum XXXI considers postponing the implementation of management measures under Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of Addendum XXVII until July 1, 2025. Addendum XXVII was adopted in May 2023 and established a trigger mechanism to automatically implement management measures to provide additional protection of the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank (GOM/GBK) spawning stock biomass. Changes to the current

gauge and escape vent sizes in Lobster Conservation Management Areas (LCMA) 1, 3, and Outer Cape Cod (OCC) were triggered based on observed changes in recruit abundance indices in October 2023 with the inclusion of 2022 survey data in the trigger index. The Board then extended the implementation date of the series of changes to gauge and vent size to begin January 1, 2025 to allow the Gulf of Maine states the opportunity to coordinate with Canada regarding possible trade implications, and give the industry and gauge makers additional time to prepare for these changes.

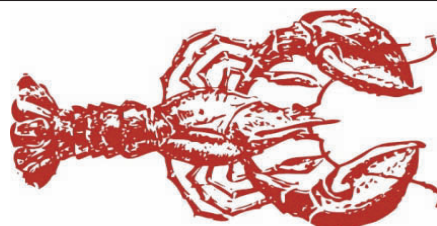
A meeting was held between US and Canadian lobster fishery managers and industry members in June 2024 to discuss the management structures and stock assessments of the two countries. Based on this meeting, the Board determined that postponing implementation of Addendum XXVII’s biological mea-

sures to July 1, 2025 would reduce negative impacts to the US and Canadian lobster industries in 2025 and allow Canada more time to consider implementing complementary management measures. Specifically, Draft Addendum XXXI will consider postponing the changes in minimum gauge size for LCMA 1 (inshore Gulf of Maine), and the measures under Section 3.1 of Addendum XXVII to create a common size limit for state-only and federal permit holders fishing in OCC to July 2025. The Draft Addendum will not consider postponing regulations prohibiting the issuance of 10% additional trap tags in Areas 1 and 3 above the trap limit or allocation. Draft Addendum XXXI will be released for public comment later this year.

The Board also approved Addendum XXX, which clarifies the Commission’s intent for how the measures of Addendum XXVII will apply to foreign imports of Ameri-

can lobster once implemented. The Addendum recommends to NOAA Fisheries that the Mitchell Provision of the Magnuson-Stevens Act apply to foreign imports of whole live lobster, meaning the smallest minimum size for foreign imports would match the smallest minimum size in effect for the US industry. The current smallest LCMA minimum gauge size in effect is 3¼ inches, and when the LCMA 1 gauge size increases, this will change to 3 5/16 inches. Foreign imports smaller than the new minimum gauge size would be prohibited. These size restrictions do not apply to lobsters travelling in-bond through the US.

Addendum XXX will be available on the Commission website, www.asmfc.org, on the American lobster webpage by next week. For more information, please contact Caitlin Starks, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at cstarks@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.



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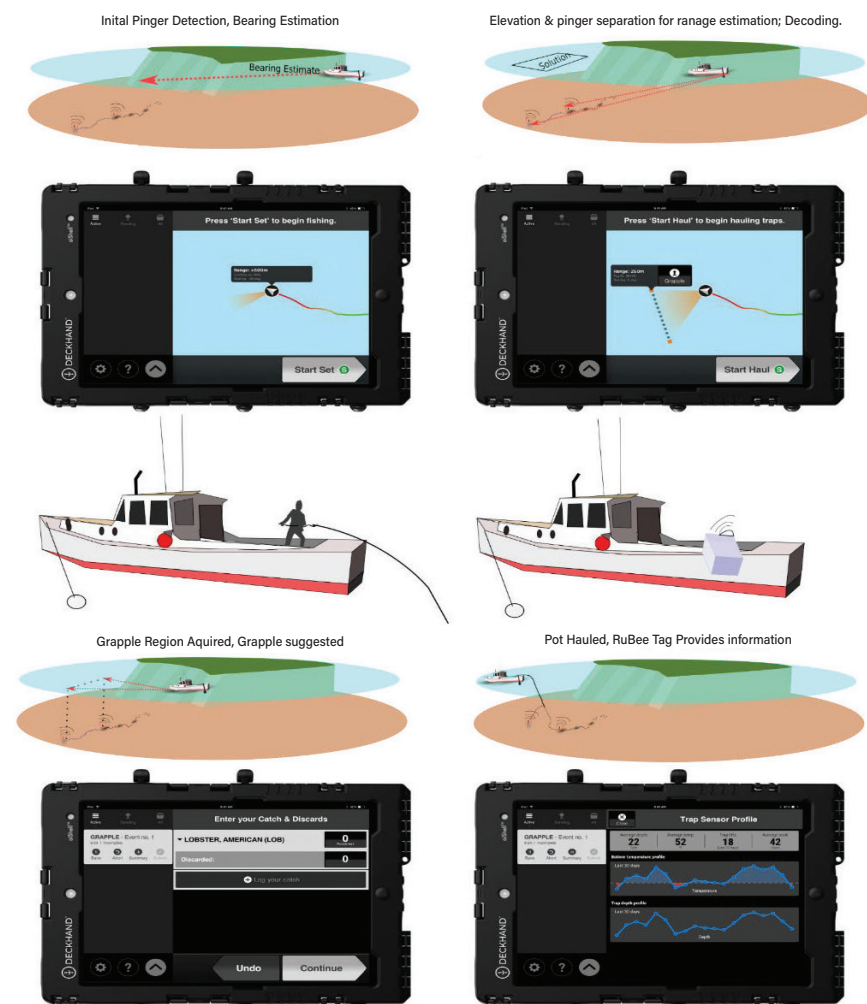
The Lobster Foundation of Massachusetts, (LFoM) has completed a rigorous contractual process with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to begin working on its project, “Grappling with Technology” (Project) to develop a cost-effective solution for grappling with GPS location devices to allow the commercial lobstermen to fish during the closed season to further protect the North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW).

Once these technologies are integrated the commercial lobster industry will begin field testing grappling with the use of these technological platforms.

The Project is looking to work with 15 commercial lobstermen and mobile gear fishermen in MA LMA2, to test gears the ability to address both fishing gear conflict and NARW.

The Project team will train the commercial lobstermen and mobile gear fishermen to use the “Grappling with Technology” gear.

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to the LFoM and we can get you signed up and give you the details of what will be required. Send an email to info@lobsterfoundationofma.org or call the office and speak with Tracey at 781-545-6984 Ext.#4.



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2024 Marine Economy Report MASSACHUSETTS



The marine economy is defined as those businesses whose existence depends on the oceans or Great Lakes. The economic data found here helps leaders better understand trends and consider the needs of these businesses when making decisions about the future of the coast. Six sectors make up the marine economy: marine construction, offshore mineral resources, tourism and recreation, living resources, ship and boat building, and marine transportation.

THE BIG PICTURE - MASSACHUSETTS' MARINE ECONOMY IN 2021

5,891 BUSINESSES	86,859 EMPLOYEES	\$4.1 BILLION WAGES	\$8.3 BILLION GDP
---------------------	---------------------	------------------------	----------------------

THE DETAILS

LARGEST EMPLOYMENT SECTOR

Tourism and Recreation employs **74%** of the state's marine economy.

LARGEST GDP SECTOR

Tourism and Recreation produces **55%** of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the state's marine economy.

HIGH EARNERS

The average wage of marine economy employees in Massachusetts is **\$47,582**, which is lower than the state average (**\$87,752**). Marine Construction has the highest average wage per employee at **\$102,309**.

NATIONAL RANKING

Massachusetts is ranked **11** out of **30** coastal states for marine employment and **12** out of **30** coastal states for GDP.

TOP COUNTY: EMPLOYMENT

Suffolk County is home to **20%** of marine jobs in Massachusetts.

TOP COUNTY: GDP

Suffolk County produces **19%** of the marine economy's gross domestic product in Massachusetts.

A DECADE OF CHANGE (2011-2021)

9%

BUSINESSES

Massachusetts had an increase of **498** marine businesses, which was a **9%** increase over the decade.

5%

EMPLOYEES

Massachusetts had an increase of **4,441** marine jobs, a **5%** increase over the decade.

41%

AVERAGE WAGES

On average, an employee working in Massachusetts' marine economy made **\$47,582** in **2021**, compared to an average wage of **\$33,818** in **2011**. The marine economy average wage in Massachusetts increased by **41%**.

16%

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

The value of Massachusetts' marine economy increased by **16%** over the decade. Changes in GDP can be driven by volatility of the price of resources.

	Establishments %	Employment %	Wages %	GDP %
Living resources	11	9	15	17
Marine construction	2	1	3	2
Marine transportation	4	15	29	25
Offshore mineral resources	1	0	0	0
Ship and boat building	1	1	1	1
Tourism and recreation	81	74	52	55

This report is based on 2021 Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) data, produced by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management in 2024. The employment and gross domestic product statistics are derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data (accessed in September 2023) and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' gross domestic product by state data (released in July 2021). For more information, visit coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow.html.

2024 Marine Economy Report

NORTHEAST REGION



The marine economy is defined as those businesses whose existence depends on the oceans or Great Lakes. The economic data found here helps leaders better understand trends and consider the needs of these businesses when making decisions about the future of the coast. Six sectors make up the marine economy: marine construction, offshore mineral resources, tourism and recreation, living resources, ship and boat building, and marine transportation.

THE BIG PICTURE - NORTHEAST REGION'S MARINE ECONOMY IN 2021

15,777 BUSINESSES	254,066 EMPLOYEES	\$12.2 BILLION WAGES	\$23.7 BILLION GDP
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THE DETAILS

LARGEST EMPLOYMENT SECTOR

Tourism and Recreation employs **66%** of the region's marine economy.

LARGEST GDP SECTOR

Tourism and Recreation produces **49%** of the total gross domestic product (GDP) derived from the region's marine economy.

HIGH EARNERS

The average wage of marine economy employees in the Northeast region is **\$47,950**, which is lower than the region average (**\$79,190**). Marine Construction has the highest average wage per employee at **\$96,667**.

NATIONAL RANKING

The Northeast region is ranked **6** out of **8** coastal regions for marine employment and **5** out of **8** coastal regions for GDP.

TOP COUNTY: EMPLOYMENT

New Haven County, Connecticut, is home to **8%** of marine jobs in the Northeast region.

TOP COUNTY: GDP

New London County, Connecticut, produces **15%** of the marine economy's gross domestic product in the Northeast region.

A DECADE OF CHANGE (2011-2021)

13%	BUSINESSES The Northeast region had an increase of 1,801 marine businesses, which was a 13% increase over the decade.
13%	EMPLOYEES The Northeast region had an increase of 29,628 marine jobs, a 13% increase over the decade.
39%	AVERAGE WAGES On average, an employee working in the Northeast region's marine economy made \$47,950 in 2021 , compared to an average wage of \$34,444 in 2011 . The marine economy average wage in the Northeast region increased by 39% .
28%	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT The value of the Northeast region's marine economy increased by 28% over the decade. Changes in GDP can be driven by volatility of the price of resources.

	Establishments %	Employment %	Wages %	GDP %
Living resources	11	5	7	9
Marine construction	1	1	1	1
Marine transportation	4	16	26	21
Offshore mineral resources	1	0	0	1
Ship and boat building	1	13	22	20
Tourism and recreation	82	66	43	49

This report is based on 2021 Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) data, produced by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management in 2024. The employment and gross domestic product statistics are derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data (accessed in September 2023) and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' gross domestic product by state data (released in July 2021). For more information, visit coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/enow.html.

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Annual Weekend & Industry Trade Show **2025** January 30-February 2, 2025

MEMBER / ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Dear MLA member and Annual Weekend attendee,

To reduce our carbon footprint, we are now 100% paperless, and all the MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show information and registration forms will be sent out in our weekly emails and are available on the MLA's website: www.lobstermen.com.

The MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show is January 30 - February 2, 2025 (the 30th is the vendor set up day) at the newly renovated Margaritaville Cape Cod Resort, 1225 Iyannough Rd., Hyannis, MA 02601. www.margaritavilleresorts.com/margaritaville-resort-cape-cod

The 2024 MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show was a great success thanks to the many MLA members, vendors and show attendees who are dedicated to the fishing industry. The MLA 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 have not attended the MLA Annual Weekend and Trade show in many years, well then this is the year you won't want to miss out on all the fun and camaraderie. There will be lots of giveaways, raffles, great entertainment and laughs with friends you may not have seen in years!

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

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL MEALS MUST BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE MLA

DO NOT FORGET TO FILL OUT AND SUBMIT THE MEAL TICKET FORM TO THE MLA

If you have any questions or are interested in helping with the event, please call the office and speak with Tracey at 781-545-6984 ext. 2.

Let's make the 2025 MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show one to remember!

We look forward to seeing you in January,

MLA Annual Weekend Committee





Annual Weekend
& Industry Trade Show **2025**
January 30-February 2, 2025

**HOTEL
REGISTRATION**



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

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

Hotel Package Options			
Check Choice	Room Package	# of Nights	Cost Per Room Package
	1 Night Package, 1 Adult	Friday	\$204.86
	1 Night Package, 2 Adults	Friday	\$204.86
	1 Night Package, 3 Adults	Friday	\$227.76
	1 Night Package, 1 Adult	Saturday	\$204.86
	1 Night Package, 2 Adults	Saturday	\$204.86
	1 Night Package, 3 Adults	Saturday	\$227.76
	2 Night Package, 1 Adult	Fri & Sat	\$409.72
	2 Night Package, 2 Adults	Fri & Sat	\$409.72
	2 Night Package, 3 Adults	Fri & Sat	\$455.52
	3 Night Package, 1 Adult	Thurs, Fri & Sat	\$614.58
	3 Night Package, 2 Adults	Thurs, Fri & Sat	\$614.58
	3 Night Package, 3 Adults	Thurs, Fri & Sat	\$683.28

Package prices are inclusive of all taxes and hotel fees.

Name(s): _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address Required: _____

RESERVATION POLICIES

Reservations:

- Reservations are due no later than one month prior to arrival date — DECEMBER 29, 2024. A deposit of one night's room rate plus occupancy tax is required per room to confirm reservations.
- Individuals reserving their guest rooms may use our toll-free number 888-297-2200.

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

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

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

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

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

****Meal Tickets:** All meal tickets **MUST** be purchased through the MLA prior to Thursday, January 23, 2025. If meal tickets are not purchased by this date, we cannot guarantee your meal. **All Meal tickets MUST be picked up at the MLA Booth.**



Annual Weekend
& Industry Trade Show **2025**
January 30-February 2, 2025

MEAL TICKET
ORDER FORM

Day & Time	Description of Buffet Items Available	Price Per Person	Number Requested	Total Price
1/31/2025 Friday Evening Buffet 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM Entertainment 7:45 PM - 9:00 PM	Seafood Chowder, Tossed Italian Salad, Seafood Stuffed Sole w/Lobster Sauce, Cranberry Chicken w/ Cranberry Sage Stuffing, Braised Short Ribs w/ Jardinerre Vegetables, Seasonal Vegetables, Rolls and Butter, Chocolate Cake, Coffee & Tea	\$58		
2/1/2025 Saturday Evening Dinner 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM Award Ceremony 8:00 PM Casino Night 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM	New England Clam Chowder, Caesar Salad, Baked Cod w/ Sherried Crumbs, Chicken Tenderloin Marsala, Steak Tip w/Teriyaki Sauce, Seasonal Vegetables, Rolls and Butter, Warm Apple Crisp w/ Fresh Whipped Cream, Coffee & Tea	\$58		
All meals MUST be selected & paid for by 1/23/25			Total \$	

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Check payable to MLA

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

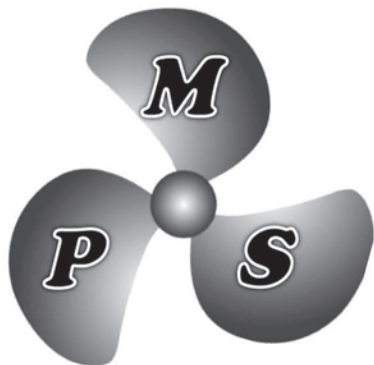
Last 3 numbers on back of card:
(You may call this number in) _____

Signature: _____

Today's Date: _____

Mail form to: MLA, 8 Otis Place, Scituate, MA 02066
or Call 781-545-6984 ext. 2

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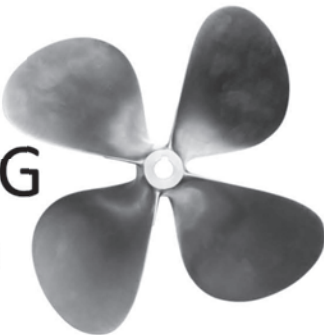


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Annual Weekend & Industry Trade Show **2025** January 30-February 2, 2025

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association will be holding its Annual Weekend & Trade Show 2025 at the newly renovated Margaritaville Cape Cod Resort Hyannis, MA on January 30th - February 2nd, 2025 (*The 30th is set up day*). The show hours are Friday & Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM & Sunday 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please return this page with your donation

MLA Annual Weekend Committee

Name: _____ Amount: \$ _____

What would you like to sponsor?:

☐ Scholarship Fund

☐ Craft

☐ Hospitality Suite

☐ Entertainment

☐ Legal Defense Fund

☐ Let Committee Decide

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

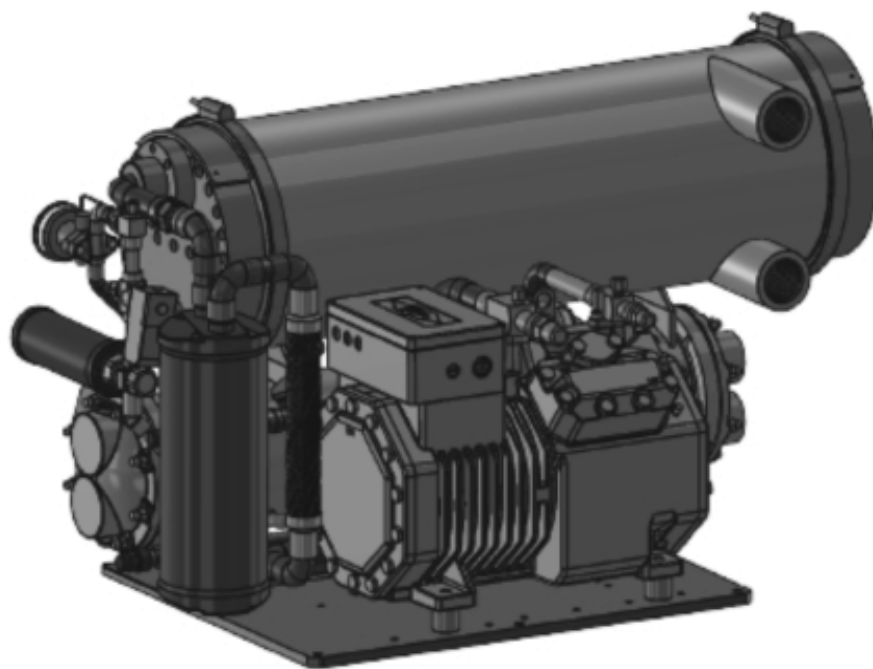
Thank you for your continued support of the MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show



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Annual Weekend
& Industry Trade Show **2025**
January 30-February 2, 2025

EXHIBITOR INFO &
BOOTH RESERVATION

Dear Exhibitor,

We are excited to offer you the opportunity to celebrate with us and to present and/or sell your products and services to a group of more than 1,800 Commercial Fishermen during the MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show Thursday, January 30th - February 2nd, 2025. The 30th is vendor set up day. This year's event will be at the newly renovated Margaritaville Cape Cod Resort Hyannis, MA. www.margaritavilleresorts.com/margaritaville-resort-cape-cod

To reduce our carbon footprint, we are now 100% paperless, and all the MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show information & registration forms will be sent out in our weekly emails and are available on the MLA website: www.lobstermen.com

Once we receive your payment, we will mail you a confirmation letter for your booth and have it waiting for you beginning at 9:00am on Thursday, January 30th for set-up. If the Thursday set-up day is a difficulty for you, we can make special arrangements to admit you early on Friday morning January 31st. However, please be advised that the Exhibit Hall opens at 9:00am and all exhibits must be fully set up by 9:00am. (Show hours are Friday & Saturday 9:00am-4:00 pm and Sunday 8:00am -10:00am.

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!

All rooms and booths are on a first come first served basis. If you would like a specific room or booth **DO NOT DELAY** and get your reservation submitted today.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL MEALS MUST BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE MLA

DO NOT FORGET TO FILL OUT AND SUBMIT THE MEAL TICKET FORM TO THE MLA

If you have any questions or are interested in helping with the event, please call the office and speak with Tracey at 781-545-6984 ext. 2. Let's make the 2025 MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show one to remember!

We look forward to seeing you in January,

MLA Annual Weekend Committee

RESERVE YOUR BOOTH BY 11/1/24 & RECEIVE A 25% DISCOUNT

Each booth comes with a 6' tableclothed table & two chairs. Set-up begins at 9:00 AM on Thursday, January 30th and must be completely removed by 11 :00 AM Sunday, February 2nd unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

Vendor Raffle

To qualify, your booth **MUST** remain intact, and **YOU** must be at your booth by 8:00 AM on Sunday, February 2nd.

Company: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
People in charge of booth: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____
Primary Product or Service: _____

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

25% BOOTH EARLY DISCOUNT
(Must be booked & paid before 11/1/24)

1 Booth	\$562	_____
2 Booths	\$787	_____
3 Booths	\$1012	_____
Electricity	\$56	_____
Total	\$	_____

BOOTH PRICE AFTER 11/1/24

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



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

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

UPDATE 8/28/2024 (District of Massachusetts / First Circuit Case) Case No. 1:24-cv-10332-WGY; MLA v. NMFS et al / First Circuit Case Nos. 24-1480 and 24-1481

Last year NMFS illegally extended the 2022 Wedge Closure to close the Wedge from February through April 2023. We challenged this decision in Court and the Court agreed we were right on the law, but ultimately decided not to stop it because we could not show irreparable harm. NMFS is now at it again, attempting to convert its illegal 2023 Wedge Closure into a Permanent Final Rule. We submitted a robust comment to the proposed final regulation explaining to NMFS why its proposed final rule is illegal.

Despite this, NMFS proceeded with the illegal wedge closure, ignoring Congress' clear mandate not to further regulate the lobster industry and relying on the same illegal science that the D.C. Circuit struck down. We moved for a preliminary injunction to stop this before it could go into effect this season. The Court held a trial on our case on March 14, 2024.

We are pleased to announce that we scored a massive win in this case. The Court ruled that the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, clearly forbid NMFS from implementing the Permanent Wedge Closure and declared that the Rule was illegal, thus leaving the Wedge open until 2028. The Court also correctly identified the severe harm our members would face if NMFS was allowed to violate the law like this.

We filed a motion for attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act on April 12, 2024. The Court has stayed briefing on that issue so that we can negotiate with NMFS regarding our requested fees. That stay has been ex-

panded to last until the appeal process has finishes.

On the subject of the appeal, NMFS appealed the decision to the First Circuit. The NGOs, which the Court allowed to join the case after its decision and over our objection, have also filed an appeal. They have moved for the Court to consolidate the appeals, a decision we did not oppose. We expect the First Circuit to rule on that motion this month. From there, the Court will set a briefing schedule for the parties.

We brought a motion to dismiss NMFS's appeal. While unusual for appeals, our basis for doing so is well founded. In any case it loses, the government cannot simply bring an appeal. Instead, it must get approval from the Solicitor General within the 60-day window for appealing. Here, NMFS admitted that it failed to do this. Because of this failure, the appeal was never authorized and cannot be allowed. NMFS opposed the motion, claiming the Solicitor General could approve an appeal after the deadline. The First Circuit declined to rule ahead of time, instead asking Parties to include this argument in their principal Briefs.

NMFS and the NGOs have filed their principal Briefs, making effectively the same arguments that were made to the District of Massachusetts. Our responsive brief is due on September 16, 2024, we have a single combined brief that will respond to both, and the First Circuit granted us additional words in order to do so. The NGOs and NMFS will then get short reply briefs to respond to our arguments.

UPDATE 8/28/2024 (Rhode Island Superior Court) Case No. PC-2024-02162; East Farm Commercial Fisheries Center v. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management et al.

Recently, our brother lobstermen in Rhode Island scored a great victory against the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's attempt to place a mandatory VMS requirement on federally-licensed lobstermen. Represented by Eckland & Blando, the same law firm that represents us, the Rhode Island lobstermen obtained a preliminary injunction forbidding RIDEM from implementing the mandatory VMS requirement on federally-licensed lobstermen.

The Rhode Island Superior Court based its ruling on two grounds: (1) the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 forbid the passage of new regulations

Legal Defense Fund Updates

on lobstermen until 2028 and the VMS Rule violated that prohibition; and (2) Congress has "pre-empted" Rhode Island from passing any regulation on federally-licensed lobstermen as NMFS is the sole entity that may do so. This ruling relied heavily on our win in the District of Massachusetts case and could have wide ranging implications for lobstermen in other states as well.

We are reviewing this decision with our legal team to determine next steps following this win by the Rhode Island lobstermen.

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 Massachusetts commercial lobstermen fishing.

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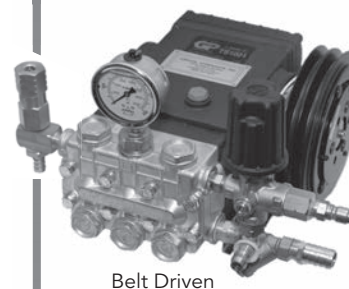
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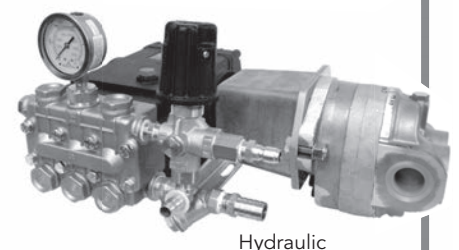
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AD#9 (4/24) **FOR SALE** – 31’ BHM Lobster boat. 300 hp- John Deere, 2-VHF radios, chart plotter, Furuno fish finder, built in live tank, radar, 3 swivel rod holders. \$65,000.00. Call 508-280-3038

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AD#11 (8/24) **FOR SALE** – 1980 Bob Rich 40 wooden lobster boat. 471 Detroit diesel, twin disc gear, hydro-slave pot hauler w/diverter valve for other fisheries. Two 75-gal fuel tanks (fiberglass) under deck, full cabin, GPS, Furuno depth sounder, VHF radio, MA coastal Area 1 lobster permit, 800 trap. Federal Area 1 lobster permit w/endorsements (ground-fish/dogfish) 800 pot limit. 140 wire lobster traps, some never used (brand new) 60-70 buoys, extra ropes, safety equipment, sea anchor, 12’ fiberglass skiff misc.; lobster related equipment, spare propeller (never used) trap related repair equipment. \$65,000. firm. Bill at 781-834-7418

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AD#14 (4/24) **FOR SALE** – Federal Area 1 Permit: Offers over \$35,000 will be considered. IHsea@aol.com 781-639-0001

AD#15 (4/24) **FOR SALE** – Airsep- air-cleaner 5" \$100.00 Joel at 781-581-0324 or email joel.w.marie@gmail.com

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AD#18 (6/24) **FOR SALE** – 2008 24 ft., Romarine Lobster boat w/ pilot house. Turn key, very clean. Ready for fishing, lobstering & chartering. 175 hp Suzuki, in 2023 new trailer, gas tank, deck liner, includes Furuno electronics, 10 electra dry hauler, strong arm electric trailer winch TN 9000. Motor professionally serviced w/ all records available. \$28,000.00 Firm-Call 508-775-3044

AD#19 (4/24) **REDUCED – FOR SALE** – Complete lobster business. Area 1 MA State license 800 trap allocation with long history. Dog & shellfish endorsement. 1987 Gummond 31’ w/12’ beam enclosed cabin w/ “bus” heater 12kts cruise w/20+top end Cummings re-

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AD#20 (3/24) **FOR SALE** – Federal lobster permit AREA 1-\$20,000.00 Call Rich at 508-317-5808

AD#21 (4/24) **FOR SALE** – Lobster business peripherals: OCLMA permit for 645 tags, dingy, tank, freezer, mixture of wood & wire traps in excellent condition, totes, etc. Serious inquiries only: 774-313-6287 or joneseven@aol.com

AD#22 (4/24) **FOR SALE** – 50 3ft yellow traps-shrimp mesh-1/2 shark mouth-1/2 hoops-Cavatorta wire-composite runners-reinforced corners/bumpers. 10 gauge ends/bridges \$120.00 each. Call 508-843-8614

AD#23 (4/24) **FOR SALE** – 2-506 twin disc transmissions \$4,000 for both- priced to sell. Call/text Elaine 339-832-2493

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AD#35 (8/24) **FOR SALE** – 1990 PEI, 42' fishing boat. Can be used in any fishery or as a family pleasure boat. Cummins engine 440hp 8.3 6CTA w ZF marine gear. Updated w/ latest electronic technology. Fully compliant w/ rigorous USCG requirements. Multiple pieces of equipment can be included w/ sale. Lobster traps, buoy lines, ground lines, State& Fed licenses endorsements. Contact Richie at RICHIEANDNANCY@GMAIL.COM

AD#36 (8/24) **FOR SALE** – Outer Cape Lobster Business- 524 tags & traps- 34' Bruno re-built Cummins 350hp – QSB 5.9 Hondex plotter, new Simrad radar, gps, vhf- USCG safety inspection good out to 12 miles. Included: trap trailer, all trap building materials, 17 skiff w/50hp Suzuki. 2-moorings & other misc; gear. Currently, fishing 300 traps. Up for immediate sale. \$200k Call John @ 774-216-9027

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