

MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION



A LEADING Commercial Fishing Industry Association in New England

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSPAPER • WWW.LOBSTERMEN.COM

Commercial Fishermen get \$2 million dollar grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Innovation Institute

A \$2 million dollar grant aimed at beefing up collaboration between commercial fishermen and scientists was announced in late October at an event in Sandwich. The money will put 450 more sensors on commercial fishing equipment and data monitors on 150 more commercial fishing vessels.

The research and development grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Innovation Institute to the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance will make it possible to gather more ocean data and share it widely, according to James Byrnes, director of operations and programs.

"We're creating the largest collection of boats and sensors in the U.S. for at-scale monitoring of the oceans in and around Massachusetts," he said at the announcement.

SENSORS ON LOBSTER TRAPS AND LARGE TRAWLERS

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Northeast Fisheries Science Center established what is known as the eMOLT program in 2001. The primary purpose for eMOLT — Environmental Monitors on Lobster Traps and Large Trawlers — was to record bottom water temperatures using sensors on fixed and mobile fishing gear.

"This grant more than doubles the sensors and vessels distributed," George Maynard, eMOLT coordinator, said at the Oct. 31 event in Sandwich.

Falmouth-based Lowell Instruments will

build sensors that record subsurface water temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen in fishing grounds. The low-cost sensors will be zip-tied to lobster traps or trawler gear where they will collect data from the ocean floor.

The data will be sent to Deck Data Hubs in wheelhouses where fishermen can see the information as it pops up on screen. When fishing vessels return to port and get within cell phone tower range, that data is uploaded to the cloud where scientists can access it.

Byrnes said the project will lead to job growth, business expansion, the creation of new technology and a better understanding of ocean observation and climate change. And it will help commercial fishermen increase their productivity and the value of their businesses, he said.

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND FISHERMEN

The information collected has implications for fishing, aquaculture and tourism, Maynard said. It will improve forecast models used by fishermen, cargo ships in transit, fishery scientists doing stock assessments, and the U.S. Coast Guard in search and rescue operations.

The ocean covers 71% of the planet, and 80% of the ocean remains unmapped and unobserved, said Nick Rotker, Chief Blue Tech strategist for the Mitre Corporation during the Sandwich event. Mitre Corporation is a nonprofit that manages federally funded research and development centers



for the U.S. government.

"This grant strengthens the bridge between the working offshore economy and the scientific community," Rotker said. Fishermen will benefit, too, with better information, he said.

CHANGING THE WAY HE DOES SCIENCE

Maynard has been a research scientist for 18 years. The relationships he's built with commercial fishermen through eMOLT have changed the way he does science, he said. He expects the eMOLT program to continue being transformative because of the additional sensors the grant will put in place.

"It's a really serious matter how quickly

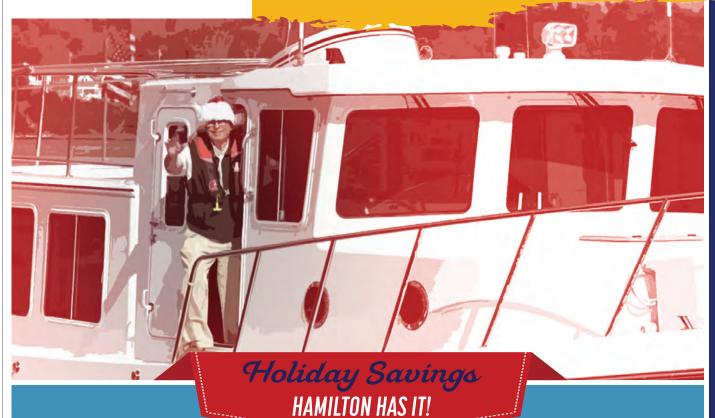
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This dynamic event shines a spotlight on the commercial lobster industry in New England, gathering experts and professionals from across the region. It provides a platform to explore new developments and opportunities that will shape the future of the commercial fishing industry.

In addition to networking, participants can attend valuable seminars designed to expand their knowledge and provide key insights into the commercial fishing industry. The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Annual Weekend and Trade Show serves as an excellent venue for exhibitors to collaborate and forge lasting relationships with fellow industry members and attendees.



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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

NEW MLA MEMBER:

& good fishing!

ALEX VARNER

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The MLA Newsletter is published monthly (Please note that all pre-paid ads for last year will be honored)

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As the HAULER TURNS

As we say goodbye to 2024, your business running. I first would like to wholeheartedly thank all of you for your support during the challenging time of losing my mother in early November. I know in my heart she is at peace and in great company. As so many people have said to me, "She is not gone, she is just ahead of you," time and tide wait for no one, and life goes on. Well, here I am still going at it. Slow and steady I go and there is nothing slow and steady about life in the fisheries as you all know oh too well. If you take your eyes off the water, blink it just may disappear.

With 2024 in the rearview mirror and 2025 right in front of us, the MLA Annual Weekend Committee and staff are in full preparation mode for the MLAs Annual Weekend and Industry Trades Show, January 31-February 2, 2025, at the newly renovated Margaritaville of Cape Cod.

This year we are looking forward to the change in venue, a streamlined seminar schedule, new and longtime vendors as well as seeing you all. This is your event, and we do this for you so that you have access to everyone and everything you need to keep reservation, please feel free to

If you are a longtime participant at the event, we say "THANK YOU" for your dedication as you know how much work goes into this event and if you haven't been in a while, what are you waiting for, come back as we truly miss seeing you. And if you have never been, do not be so shy, come on down for the day or weekend as this is much more than a Trade Show. It is a time to get together with members from the MLA and industry on a level like no other, up close, and personal.

When you get to the event, do not forget to come by the MLA booth to get your FREE Members gift and enter the FREE MLA Member raffle to win cash prizes. Also, this year there will be another MLANPBPC insured members FREE raffle for up to a \$2000 credit on next year's policy. Remember, you must be an MLA Member in good standing to qualify for these raffles. (Your dues and premium must be PIF!)

All of the reservation forms can be found on the MLAs website www.lobstermen.com and if anyone has ANY questions or needs help to make a



call the MLA office and speak to Tracey at 781-545-6984 xt.2.

In closing, we are always looking for volunteers to help by being on the Annual Weekend Committee, vendor set up on 1/30/25 and take down on 2/2/25, and ANY ideas on how to make the event better for you. We could not do this without you and look forward to making this the best event for you. We truly look forward to seeing you at the MLAs Annual Weekend and Industry Trade Show.

Safe Fishing,

Beth Casoni

Executive Director

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RODA UPDATE

Six years after its launch as the nation's broadest industry-wide fisheries coalition, the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) is announcing a leadership change. This transition will maintain our ability to continue RODA's ambitious mission through our research and advocacy programs.

Lane Johnston will succeed Annie Hawkins as Acting Executive Director. Lane has been an integral part of RODA since nearly its inception, driving our advocacy as Programs Manager, and has a powerful record of steadfast commitment to our membership and the fishing industry. With a background in marine biology and years of fisheries policy work under her belt, Lane's institutional knowledge and expertise will guide us forward.

"I am excited about this new chapter and look forward to working with our members and partners to continue to advocate for authentic inclusion of the fishing industry's needs in the face of expanding offshore development. I strongly believe in RODA's mission and am committed to supporting the organization's efforts to give a powerful voice to our community," said Lane Johnston.

Annie Hawkins will step into an advisory capacity while focusing on cooperative research and policy advocacy on behalf of fishing communities. RODA is grateful for Annie's commitment and leadership which has provided the industry with a unifying voice since 2017 and is excited to be able to continue to benefit from Annie's exceptional expertise.

Annie said, "I am incredibly proud of what RODA has delivered for fishing communities over the past six years and of the organization we have built from scratch. As a mature RODA enters a new chapter, I am thrilled to have one of our own, Lane Johnston, take the helm and am confident that RODA

will continue to flourish under her well-deserved leadership. I'm very excited to keep working with Lane, RODA's members, and our colleagues across so many important sectors."

Annie and I wanted to reach out to all of our valuable members directly and provide some additional thoughts and context.

From Annie:

Several years ago, I, along with passionate fishing industry advocates including many of you, dreamed we could build a new type of coalition - one that could provide a vehicle to amplify your deep knowledge and very legitimate concerns about the many, many challenges facing our fishing communities. To say that it's been the pleasure of my career to have had the opportunity to realize this vision with you would be the greatest understatement.

We've achieved so much together so far that it's nearly impossible to pick highlights. Some are obvious: tangible policy wins, getting your knowledge in front of decision makers in hundreds of meetings and letters, congressional testimony, groundbreaking lawsuits, widespread media, federal and state laws, publishing the most inclusive ever peer-reviewed scientific summary of offshore wind's impacts on fisheries (with industry members as reviewers and authors throughout!), and so much more. Even with all that, the thing I'm most proud of is the way we all pulled together in unity, across regions and fisheries, and developed a model for cooperation and discourse among this highly fractioned industry that was sorely needed and has become a real

I admit there have been challenges along the way, most recently with my extended medical leave that regrettably led to reduced output and communication on my part. RODA's strength has always

been in transparency and our collective willingness to put aside differences to find and achieve common goals. I'm so excited to see our coalition continue to grow and thrive as a model for these principles - and to help out in any way I can.

So too there is much work to be done. I'm especially thrilled that our Board has appointed Lane to carry us forward and am confident in her leadership to achieve this. After nearly six years of working arm in arm, I can attest she's truly a superstar, with a steady hand, open ear, profound passion for the industry, and keen insight that will be enormous assets for RODA's future.

From Lane:

As I step into the Acting Executive Director role, I'm excited to work closely with all of you to make sure we have a clear plan for both the short-term and future direction of RODA.

I am grateful to the Board for their confidence in me to take on this leadership position. While the transition may come with its challenges, I am fully committed to putting in my best effort. I appreciate your patience as I get my feet underneath me, and please know that you may always reach out with recommendations and constructive feedback.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to Annie. She has been a fantastic mentor over the years, teaching me everything from the fundamentals of federal permitting, environmental analysis, and congressional outreach to most importantly building relationships with all of you. Her guidance has been invaluable in helping me navigate complex issues with positivity and professionalism.

All RODA members should feel free to reach out to me anytime with questions and feedback.

Thank you, Lane and Annie



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MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION YOUNG FISHERMEN'S FUND

IN MEMORY OF JOHN CARVER



The John Carver Young Fishermen's Fund was created in memory of John Carver, at the request of his beloved wife, Karin. John was a lifelong resident of Marshfield and a dedicated member of the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association. John passed away on June 21, 2023.

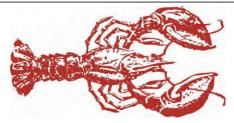
John's true passion was never found in an office or behind a desk. His heart was on the ocean, fishing for lobsters and honoring his heritage. Above all, he believed in living life to the fullest every day. John was a simple and kind man, always ready to lend a hand to others without expecting anything in return.



The hope for this fund is matched by the MLA as John's who share John's passion for the sea and are committed to building a lifelong career in the fishing industry.

The funds raised have been out today.

to support young fishermen dedication to this organization was tireless. This is a one-time fund and if you know of anyone that may qualify, please have them fill the application



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MASSACHUSETTS LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION YOUNG FISHERMEN'S FUND IN MEMORY OF JOHN CARVER

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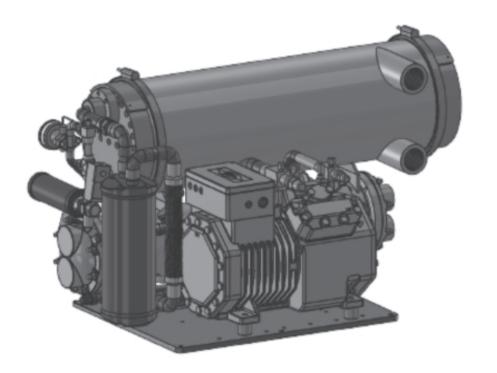
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WHOI LOC-NESS December Overview

The LOC-NESS project (short for Locking Ocean Carbon in the Northeast Shelf and Slope) is a research effort that addresses the need identified by the US Federal Govern-

ment and the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to rapidly advance research into marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR) approaches that might reduce the impacts of climate change that are already being felt locally and globally. The project is carefully designed to answer essential questions about the effectiveness and environmental impacts of ocean alkalinity enhancement (OAE), a potential type of mCDR that

while storing carbon away from the atmosphere. This project is not a pathway to, or an endorsement for, OAE. The project

team is made up of scientists, engineers, and communicators who are committed to a transparent, rigorous, scientific evaluation of OAE. We are not a company selling carbon credits and have no industrial partners for this work. The project goals are to:

- Evaluate how regional ocean conditions and human activities would interact with OAE.
- 2. Conduct realistic laboratory experiments that assess the

biological impacts and the engineered safety of OAE.

- 3. Design and conduct a small scale, highly monitored field trial of alkalinity enhancement.
- 4. Use an ocean model to expand upon the field trial data
- 5. Engage with communities who care about the impact of OAE on our regional waters

LOC-NESS includes a proposed field experiment in federal waters off the coast of Massachusetts. The project is carefully designed and engineered to minimize its impact on marine life while still providing meaningful data. Liquid alkalinity in the form of sodium hydroxide

will be dispersed into the turbulent, rapidly mixed wake of the dispersal vessel. The resulting 0.17 square mile (approximately 109 acre) ocean patch will exhibit a slightly elevated pH of a few tenths of a unit, below the pH 8.5 water quality criteria for aquatic life. A monitoring vessel will measure biological and chemical characteristics during, and for several days after the release, to constrain the immediate and longer-term impacts on ocean biology and carbon dioxide uptake from the atmosphere. During our presentation, we will share details on the LOC-NESS project design, regional assessment, and implementation plan.

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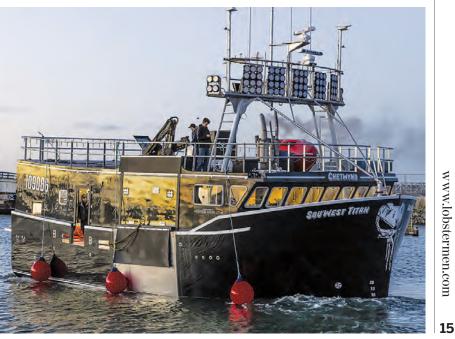


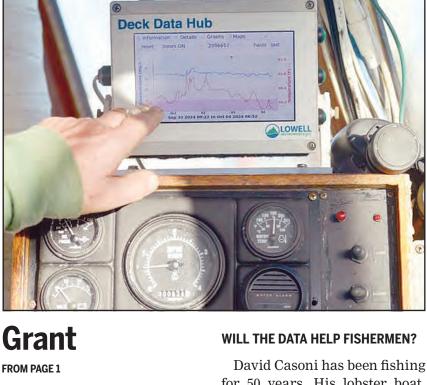












Grant

the ocean is changing," he said. "Climate change is requiring us to adapt and come up with new tools of sustainability."

LEGACY OF JIM MANNING

It was Jim Manning, an oceanographer with NOAA, who pushed the idea of "democratizing the observation of the ocean," by enlisting commercial fishermen, Maynard said. Manning did it by bringing scientists and commercial fishermen together to collect data and better understand it.

Manning would spend weeks out of a year on research vessels trying to better understand the ocean. It was only after he noticed so many fishermen on the horizon that he thought he could use them to collect data. It was his idea to develop a low-cost, tilt current meter and put them on fishing vessels that were out to sea during all seasons.

"It worked because I got to know the fishermen," Manning said at the Sandwich event.

for 50 years. His lobster boat, Margaret M, is docked at Sandwich Marina. He has hundreds of lobster traps in Cape Cod Bay. He's placed most of them based on historic knowledge.

"We're trying to catch an animal that has virtually no brain and it's outsmarting us," he said. "We know it reacts to food, pheromones, and somewhat to temperature, but it's not consistent."

Temperature might be a driving factor in lobster movement, but he suspects there are things the animals might react to that humans aren't fully aware of. Still, this program could provide more information that will help commercial fishermen.

"I think it will make a difference in the long term," he said.

> Denise Coffey Cape Cod Times

Denise Coffey writes about business, tourism and issues impacting the Cape's residents and visitors. Contact her at dcoffey@capecodonline.com.



Atlantic States Marine **Fisheries Commission**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Atlantic Herring Management Board,

Technical Committee, Advisory Panel, Interested Parties FROM: Toni Kerns, Fisheries Policy Director DATE: November 12, 2024 **SUBJECT:** Directed Atlantic Herring Fishery Closure for Management Area 1A Effective. 9 PM on November 12

NOAA Fisheries and the States of Maine and New Hampshire, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts project the Atlantic herring fishery will catch 92% of the Area 1A sub-ACL by November 12, 2024. The Area 1A directed fishery will close effective 9:00 p.m. on November 12, 2024 and remain closed until further notice. Vessels that have entered port before 9:00 p.m. on November 12, 2024 may land and sell, from that trip, greater than 2,000 pounds of herring from Area 1A.

During a closure, vessels participating in other fisheries may retain and land an incidental catch of herring that does not exceed 2,000 pounds per trip or calendar day. In addition, directed herring vessels traveling through Area 1A must have all fishing gear stowed.

In accordance with the Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring, the fixed gear set-aside of 30 metric tons will continue to be available to fixed gear fishermen operating in Area 1A west of Cutler, Maine through December 31, 2024.

Please contact Emilie Franke. Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0716 or efranke@ asmfc.org for more information.

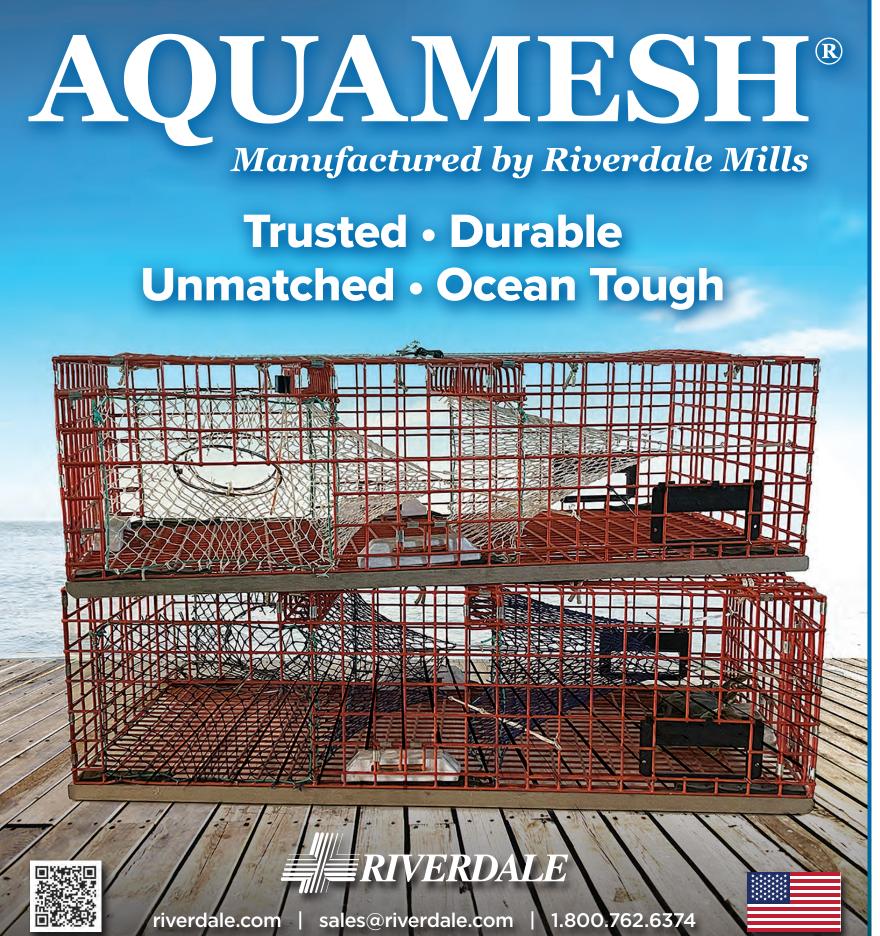
The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association consistently supports the Commonwealth's commercial lobstermen, striving to preserve sustainable resources within the marine ecosystem.





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American Lobster Settlement Index | Update 2023

Compiled by: Andrew Goode and Lydia White

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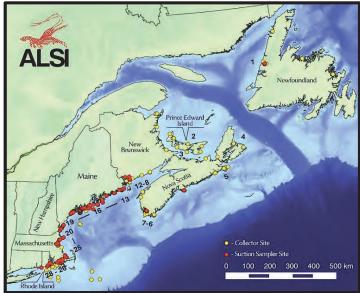
http://umaine.edu/marine/american-lobster-settlement-index-alsi/

From the end of 2022 through 2023 the lobster industry experienced a series of achievements and challenges involving impending changes in management regulations to the US fisheries. The end of 2022 brought relief to many as the US Federal Omnibus Spending Bill paused NOAA's whale regulations for 6 years and established a \$23 million fund for states to support research on right whales and R&D on new gear technologies. Meanwhile, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved Addendum XXVII, which would trigger an increase in the minimum legal harvest size of lobster in Lobster Conservation Management Area 1 (Gulf of Maine) if survey-measured abundances of 71-80 mm carapace length lobsters fell below 35% of the 2016-2018 reference level. Continued low recruitment in 2023 caused the trigger index to fall 39% below the reference level, triggering management change more quickly than was anticipated. To provide more time for the US and Canada lobster fisheries to prepare for these management changes, the gauge size increases were postponed until January 2025 (3 5/16") and 2027 (3 3/8").

As for 2023 landings, Rhode Island through Maine continued to decline in volume and were down 5-6%, while Newfoundland continued their upward trajectory, increasing by 18%. Despite the decrease in landings volume, Maine's uptick in ex-vessel price increased revenue by 18%, a welcomed sight after 2022's plummeting price.

Lobster Settlement 2023: The ALSI teams successfully monitored 61 diver and 56 collector sampling sites from Rhode Island to Prince Edward Island, and positive signs of post-larval abundance were seen across many of the northern study sites (Figure 1). All Maine sites saw an increase in settlement, most notably for the northeastern regions reaching numbers similar to levels last seen in the mid-2000s. Points south continued to remain at historic low levels while Northern Prince Edward Island surged, yet again, to impressively high densities, one site boasting the highest abundance ever recorded by the ALSI. Not shown are the patterns of settlement in deeper habitats from our industry-led collector surveys in Maine. Most notable has been the reversal in settlement patterns in Casco Bay. Since 2020 the highest young-of-year abundances have been in the deepest study locations (41-60m) rather than in shallow nursery habitats (1-20m). As seafloor temperatures rise it will remain important to monitor changes in habitat use and the role that deeper regions may have on year class strength.

Continued on Page 20



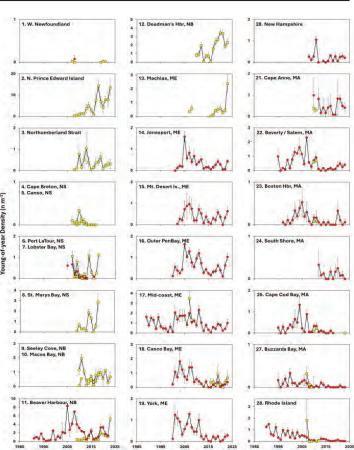


Figure 1. Diver-based suction (red) and vessel-deployed bio-collector (yellow) sampling locations and corresponding young-of-year lobster abundance.

Benthic monitoring to fisheries recruitment forecasting in Canada: Following the promising landings forecasting work with the ALSI indices in the US, colleagues at the University of New Brunswick have been using ALSI indices to generate similar landings forecast models for the Canadian lobster fishery (Figure 2). ALSI-based forecasts are rooted in the assumption that trends of young-of-year abundance will track landings trends some 5-9 years in the future, and that annual landings will be comprised of multiple year classes due to differing growth rates among individuals within a population. Using a modeling approach that projects the growth of individual settling lobsters to harvestable size, the team at UNB was able to use regional settlement patterns to generate indices of annual "exploitable biomass," or the mass of lobsters available for harvest. The indices of exploitable biomass were compared to regional fisheries landings, and those relationships were used to produce landings forecast models for three regions in Atlantic Canada: LFA 36 (Bay of Fundy), LFA 22S (Magdalen Islands/Gulf of St. Lawrence), and LFA 23. (Northern New Brunswick/Gulf of St. Lawrence). Strong relationships between indices of exploitable biomass and fisheries landings were found for these regions, highlighting the utility of the ALSI to capture previous, and potential future, changes in the lobster resource across the species' range.

To be sure, modeling is an uncertain enterprise, and testing the predictive skill of models is necessary to determine how far into the future model predictions are useful and accurate. To validate the landings forecast models, skill assessments were conducted to determine each model's accuracy in predicting landings 6 years and 1 year into the future. While LFA 23 had too few settlement observations to produce meaningful out-of-sample comparisons, LFAs 22S and 36 showed positive results. LFA 22S yielded the most accurate models, with both 1- and 6-year models estimating lobster harvest within 13% of actual landings volume. LFA 36's models were most accurate for 1-year predictions, producing harvest estimates within 25% of actual landings, but the 6-year models underestimated landings by 53%. The larger errors observed for LFA 36 were mainly driven by underestimation of landings in recent years and potentially due to the model's greater ability to capture landings for the entire Bay of Fundy, pointing to a spatial scale mismatch between regional settlement abundance and large-scale landings trends. Overall, this modelling work demonstrates the value of benthic recruitment monitoring in estimating future landings trends, and our hope is that it will encourage the continuation and expansion of these programs across Atlantic Canada.

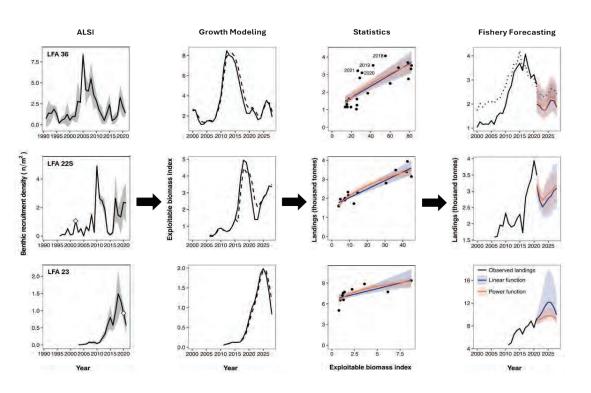


Figure 2. ALSI-based landings forecasting in Canada. An individualbased model predicts the annual amount of lobsters available for harvest (EBI) based on previous years' young of year densities. Relationships between EBI and previous years' landings demonstrate the skill of ALSI to recreate landings trends. Predicted EBI patterns are then used to forecast landings trends up to 6 years into the future.

Lastly, years in the making, a special presentation of PBS NOVA, SEA CHANGE: Gulf of Maine, will premiere on PBS, the PBS app, and the NOVA YouTube channel. This three-part docu-series highlights the Gulf of Maine through the lens of natural history, fisheries, entrepreneurship, and ecosystem change. The first episode will feature scientists and industry members of the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery to shed light on how climate change has impacted the working waterfront and how continued monitoring, like **ALSI**, is critically important to keep a finger on the pulse of this economically- and culturally-important resource.

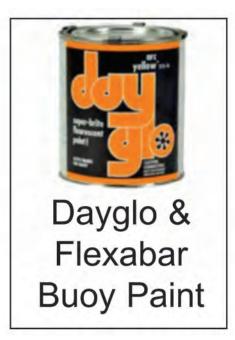


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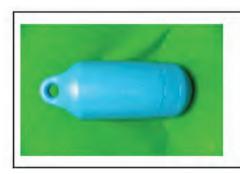
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"Grappling with Technology" project update

The "Grappling with Technology" project for cost effective solutions in fishing gear innovation for the Massachusetts commercial fishing industry to preserve and protect the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) is finally underway!

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, Acbotics, LLC., and Real Time Data (DECKHAND logbook) have begun technology development and have started outfitting a commercial fishing vessel to be used as a pro-type to develop, test and field trial the combination of acoustic pingers on trawl lines and traps.

The information from the pingers will be displayed in an electronic logbook to demonstrate how current grappling methods can be radically improved using innovative technology.

Commercial fishermen have been grappling their gear off the bottom of the ocean forever and are comfortable with this method of retrieving unmarked gear in the absence of visual gear marking.

With the use of these integrated technologies, it will allow for fixed gear and mobile gear fishermen to identify where the gear is located on the ocean floor.

Testing the efficacy of grappling with the use of these integrated technologies will improve the efficiency of grappling. This is a more cost-effective and efficient solution than the use of an extremely expensive pop-up buoy system to remove vertical lines in the water column that could lead to a potential interaction with NARW.

Once these technologies are integrated, the second phase of the project to test this technology in real time will begin. This will take place in Southern New England.

The Lobster Foundation of Massachusetts (LFoM) is seeking up to 13 commercial lobstermen and 2 mobile gear fishermen to participate in the "Grappling with Technology" project.

A generous stipend will be given to those that participate.

If you are interested in this project and would like to join, please reach out to the LFoM, 781.545.6984 Ext.#4 and ask to speak with Tracey.

The "Grappling with Technology" project was made possible through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.





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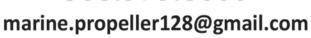


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AD#9 (8/24) FOR SALE - 1980 Bob Rich 40 wooden lobster boat. 471 Detroit diesel, twin disc gear, hydro-slave pot hauler w/ diverter valve for other fisheries. Two 75gal fuel tanks (fiberglass) under deck, full cabin, GPS, Furuno depth sounder, VHF 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#11 (10/24) FFOR SALE - 22'Sisu Lobster Boat W/150 HP Evinrude OB needs work. Has 12" Hydraulic hauler. Runs off Honda Hydraulics. Power Pack needs work. Comes w/ bunk trailer. Asking \$8000. or B.O. Call Robert at 5:00 p.m. 617-846-3714 or 617-650-3842

AD#12 (10/24) FOR SALE - Airsep- aircleaner 5" \$100.00 Joel at 781-581-0324 or email ioel.w.marie@gmail.com

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