Friday January 30, 2026 – 9:30am Fins Left Room Lower Level

Nobeltec Timezero Pro
Presented by Heidi Leaman, Nobeltec

Join us at this year's MLA Tradeshow Weekend for an exclusive Nobeltec Timezero software demonstration with Heidi Leaman, Nobeltec Regional Sales Manager. Explore the powerful new features of Timezero Version 5, designed to make your time at sea safer, smarter, and more efficient. Discover how to customize your Timezero set up with different modules and learn how to seamlessly integrate your Timezero system with onboard sounders and radars. Plus, don't miss Ryan Lind, Director of Sales at Blue Ocean Gear, as he showcases their innovative Smart Buoy technology and its integration with Timezero.

Heidi and Ryan will be at the Chris Electronics Booth at this year's show, so be sure to swing by with your Timezero software and Blue Ocean Gear questions!

Friday, January 30, 2026 - 11:00am Continental Drifter Lower Level

Lobster Fishery Research: Join Our Focus Group at the 2026 MLA Annual Weekend & Trade Show

Jonathan Grabowski and Kelsey Schultz, researchers at Northeastern University working on impacts to the lobster fishery, will be holding a focus group discussion at the upcoming 2026 Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association Annual Weekend & Trade Show on Friday, January 30th, 2026. This focus group is a follow-up for those who completed our survey on the social and economic impacts facing the American lobster fishery. During the focus group, we'll be discussing your observations and concerns about the direction of the lobster fishery. Specifically, we want to hear from you about how changes and uncertainty in the industry including right whale regulations, media coverage, and other stressors have affected you, your business, and your community. We will also share preliminary results from our 2024–2025 survey. This is an opportunity for your voice to be heard and to help shape how these findings are communicated to fisheries managers. Participants will receive $200 cash for their time.

Pre-registration is required to join the focus group. If you received an invitation email from Kelsey Schultz and have not yet responded or have completed the survey and would like to participate, please contact her at schultz.k@northeastern.edu or 330-933-2265 to register.

Haven't taken the survey yet? There's still time to participate. The survey takes only 10-15 minutes of your time, and you will be entered into a raffle to win $100. Please scan the QR code to complete the survey and make your voice heard.

Friday January 30, 2026 - 1:30pm Fins Left Lower Level

Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal *(mCDR)* & LOC-NESS Wilkinson Basin Study

What is Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal *(mCDR)*
Presented by Sarah Schuman

The LOCNESS project is an example of a larger suite of experimental technologies called marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) that seeks to leverage the ocean's ability to draw down excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by enhancing the ocean's natural carbon pump. As this field matures, commercial fishermen need to be at the planning and decision-making table. Sarah Schumann is an Rhode Island fisherman and director of the Fishery Friendly Climate Action Campaign who has been carving out space for the fishing industry to have a voice in the future of mCDR. Sarah will present an overview of the field of mCDR and will share what she has learned through her participation in mCDR conferences and working groups, her role as a fishing industry observer on the LOCNESS field trial, and a set of virtual roundtables that she facilitated in collaboration with the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance last year to gather input from U.S. fishermen for a set of guidance memos on "fishery sensitive" mCDR.

LOC-NESS Wilkinson Basin Study
Presented by the Wood Hole Oceanographic Institute

The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) has completed its EPA-approved, small-scale environmental research trial of ocean alkalinity enhancement (OAE) in the Gulf of Maine as part of the LOC-NESS Project. The LOC-NESS research trial was conducted August 13-17, 2025, in the Wilkinson Basin of the Gulf of Maine, approximately 50 miles off the coast of Massachusetts. WHOI scientists gradually added alkalinity to the water using highly purified sodium hydroxide—commonly used to adjust the pH of drinking water—along with an inert, red tracer dye known as Rhodamine Water Tracer (RWT) over the course of 6 hours. After releasing the alkalinity on August 13, the LOC-NESS team followed the patch of alkalinity in a fully equipped research vessel through August 17, monitoring the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of the ocean to assess OAE's potential for safely removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Come speak with the science team to learn about the project's early results.

Saturday, January 31, 2026 – 9:30am Fins Left Room Lower Level

Navigating Massachusetts Marine Fisheries: Science, Policy & Enforcement
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries & Massachusetts Environmental Police

Presenters: Dan McKiernan, Bob Glenn, Story Reed, Dr. Tracy Pugh, Steve Wilcox and Jared Silva

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is charged with the conservation and management of the Commonwealth's marine resources. Its work

includes overseeing both recreational and commercial harvests of saltwater finfish, shellfish, and crustaceans such as lobster and crab. DMF develops and implements policies that promote long-term sustainability while balancing the needs of a diverse and complex coastal fishing industry.

State officials will provide updates on current fishery trends, whale activity and protections, lobster stock status, and the results of the *Gloria Michelle* research vessel's spring and fall trawl surveys. They will also review adjudicatory proceedings and address additional issues of pressing concern for the industry.

The Massachusetts Environmental Police will discuss their role in protecting natural resources through enforcement, education, and public outreach. Their work supports the effective implementation of U.S. marine resource laws, which are designed to maintain sustainable fish populations, safeguard threatened species and their habitats and ensure that marine resources remain available for future generations.

State of Ghost Gear in New England 11:30am-Fins Left Room Lower Level
Presented by Laura Ludwid, Center for Coastal Studies

The New England GEAR Team has been working to collect, recover, recycle and dispose properly of ghost gear and retired fishing gear since 2023. This seminar will highlight the industry collaborations in Massachusetts and Maine which underpin the work with Center for Coastal Studies, Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation, OceansWide, Rozalia Project, Blue Ocean Society and Net Your Problem. From grappling back traps and salvage-lifting gear balls to recycling rope and creating massive sculptures, this overview will share the results of three years of creative, collaborative fishing gear removal, disposal and recycling efforts in the Gulf of Maine.

Ocean Data: A Tool for Fishermen 1:30pm- Fins Left Lower Level
Presented by the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance

Description: Many different scientific groups in the region collect data about the ocean environment using tools ranging from sensors in lobster pots to autonomous underwater vehicles. Where does all that information go, and how can you access it? Join collaborators from the environmental Monitors on Lobster Traps (eMOLT) Program, the Northeast Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries to check out demonstrations of different data tools designed for fishermen, learn how to interpret the information, and provide feedback on how we can make the tools more useful to the lobster industry.