

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018

8:45 AM Rockland Room

Shellfish Focus Day

8:45 am Welcome and Overview of the Day

9:00 am Business Innovation and Education

The Evolution of a Shellfish Farm

Will highlight major milestones, how to approach problem solving that leads to innovation, and discussion of the role of stakeholder v. shareholder capitalism as it plays in defining Mook's Sea Farms mission.

Pathways Program

In 2017, Sumner Memorial High School, DMR, Downeast Institute, and shellfish committees in Steuben/Gouldsboro came together in a unique partnership facilitated by the Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park. The project generates more data for use in clam management while providing students with the opportunity to engage in real-world, authentic science and to learn more about the workings of their communities. In this presentation, the focus will be on lessons learned and plans for the coming year.

Clam Recruitment Studies

Searsport's High School Science students have been using the scientific method to study current levels of soft-shell clam recruitment and clam growth in Searsport and Stockton Springs. Students will report on the findings of their intertidal field research during this presentation.

10:45 am Direct from DMR

Mussel Drone Survey in the Jordan River

Presentation on the methods and results of the Mussel Drone survey conducted in the Jordan River in 2017 by DMR.. Discussion of the potential for quick and more accurate assessment of inter-tidal mussel resources across the coast of Maine. Lessons learned in use of AUV's in certain areas and other potential uses.

Emerging Harmful Algae Blooms in the Gulf of Maine

Discussion and information regarding several Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the Gulf of Maine in 2017. This session will discuss the current HAB threats to bivalve shellfish, human health and other marine species. Specifically the unusual blooms of toxic *Pseudo-nitzschia* and *Karenia mikimotoi* will be discussed.

Retrospective, Looking at the independent evaluations of Public Health from 2009-2012

Two independent reviews were conducted for the DMR Shellfish Sanitation Program, one in 2007 requested by the legislature and another as part of a Department-wide review done at the request of Commissioner Olsen in 2012. This session will explore both reviews and see how the now Bureau of Public Health has responded to the recommendations.

12:45 pm Water Quality: Strategies for Finding and Fixing Pollution and Open Closed Clam Flats

300 acres and counting: How the Medomak Task Force is fixing pollution and opening closed flats

This talk will focus on the work of the Medomak Task Force and how, through innovative testing methods and effective collaboration this group has successfully opened 300 acres of closed clam flats and made significant progress in reducing pollution in the watershed. 10:30-11 am: Glen will describe the history, who was involved, what they did, and how they were able to open closed flats; 11:00-11:20, Damian and Gabby describe their role with the drifters; 11:20 to 11:45: Bridie will provide a 5-minute summary of partnership strategies and use most of the time for discussion and questions with the audience.

Using Drifter Surveys to Understand Tides and Pollution

This talk will focus on the work of the Medomak Task Force and how, through innovative testing methods and effective collaboration this group has successfully opened 300 acres of closed clam flats and made significant progress in reducing pollution in the watershed. 10:30-11 am: Glen will describe the history, who was involved, what they did, and how they were able to open closed flats; 11:00-11:20, Damian and Gabby describe their role with the drifters; 11:20 to 11:45: Bridie will provide a 5-

minute summary of partnership strategies and use most of the time for discussion and questions with the audience.

Discussion and Questions about Linking Science with Management to Fix Pollution and Open Closed Flats

Building upon the Downeast Institute's recent discovery that clam spawning is not a single event, a large-scale study was conducted in the Harraseeket River in 2017 to determine when clams begin and cease recruiting to intertidal mudflats. Recruitment boxes were deployed every two weeks from 5 May to 22 September. We will discuss when peaks occur in recruitment of clams and their major predator, the invasive green crab, and how these results can be applied to local shellfish management committees.

1:45 pm Applied Marine Science: Intertidal Ecosystems Block

Timing and Spatial Variability of Soft-Shell Clams and Green Crab Recruitment in the Harraseeket River, Freeport

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The Myth of "Dead Mud;" Using Shellfish Recruitment Boxes to Reveal Current Clam Productivity and Information about the Intertidal Ecosystem

Learn how a simple tool – the recruitment box – reveals crucial information about the marine ecosystem and how that information can be used to inform clam management. Findings from large-scale recruitment studies over the past three years have shown that mudflats without clams are not necessarily "dead mud". Instead, many areas are receiving shellfish recruits but they are not surviving due to high levels of non-human predation.

Where'd the clams go ? A Mya Arenaria Recruitment Field Study of Northern Bay 2017

Northern Bay in the town Penobscot was ground zero for the green crab invasion of 2012. The soft shell clam population never recovered on this once highly productive 800 acre flat. This is a summary of the shellfish committee's efforts to understand local shellfish recruitment.

3:00 pm Science and Community Connections

Shellfish Needs Assessment Listening Session

Join us for a free drink and conversation about shellfish during this informal happy hour! We want to hear from you – members of the shellfish industry and local commissions, researchers, and managers – about the most pressing needs facing Maine's shellfish industry. This input will be compiled and distributed throughout the state to inform and prioritize research efforts, training opportunities, and to identify funding sources to meet your future needs on these issues.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Moderator: Kohl Kanwit, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Panel: Jessica Joyce, Tidal Bay Consulting
Lewis Pinkham, SHAC/Shellfish Warden
Bill Mook, Associated Sea Farms
Bill Zoellick, Education Research Director
Heidi Leighton, Area Biologist- DMR
Dan Curtis, Steuben Shellfish committee/SHAC Member
Denis-Marc Nault, Shellfish Program Supervisor
Bryant Lewis, GA West Supervisor
Bridie McGreavy, University of Maine Dept of Communications
Glen Melvin, Harvester
Gabby Hilyer, School of Marine Sciences
Damian Brady, University of Maine
Dr. Brian Beal, University of Maine at Machias
Bailey Bowden, Chair of Penobscot Shellfish Conservation Committee
Bridie McGreavy, University of Maine
Ethel Wilkerson, Manomet
Susie Arnold, Island Institute
Roger Stephenson, Stephenson Strategic Communications
Monique Coombs, Maine Coastal Fishermen's Assn.
Amanda Moeser, The Nature Conservancy

Dawn Staples, Searsport High School
Sara Randall, Downeast Institute

10:00 am Samoset Parking Lot - First Coast Airstream

Voices from the Maine Fishermen's Forum

The voices of fishermen are often overlooked in decision-making processes. Collecting these voices is an important step in making sure their perspectives are heard and their stories are protected for future generations. The Voices from the Maine Fishermen's Forum, hosted by Maine Sea Grant, The First Coast, College of the Atlantic and the Island Institute, is an effort to record and preserve stories of Maine's fishing communities.

Visit The First Coast mobile studio, a refurbished Airstream parked on Samoset property, to share your story or thoughts about Maine's fisheries past, present, and future. Oral historians, with the help of College of the Atlantic oral history interns, will staff the mobile studio from 10 am - 10 pm every day. Please stop in to say "Hello!" or share your story with us!

Host: Jenni Steele, Island Fishermen's Wives Assn.

Moderator: Galen Koch, The First Coast.org
Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant

1:00 am Fitness Center

Coast Guard Approved CPR / First Aid Training

Preregistration is required for this American Health and Safety Institute (ASHI) certified training course. The course will run from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

Training Provided by: Bill Weir, Bar Harbor Savings and Loan
Bar Harbor Savings and Loan is sponsoring the training, donating all materials (books, First aid kits, cards, etc.,) and is also paying the ASHI fee for each student.

1:00 pm Monhegan Room

Environmental Monitors on Lobster Trap (eMOLT) Program Collaboration with the Fishermen Scientist Research Society (FSRS)

The bottom water temperatures recorded by lobstermen in the Gulf of Maine have been trending upward since the Environmental Monitors on Lobster Traps program began over 15 years ago. The greatest increases have been in recent years with 2012 and now 2016 being two of the warmest in history. Since this increase is seen at all depths and all regions of the Gulf, it appears to be a large scale process. The exact mechanism is uncertain but recent studies on both sides of the US-Canada border point to a variability in the volume of source waters that enter the Gulf from the north.

Given the Fishermen Scientist Research Society in Nova Scotia has had a similar bottom temperature monitoring program, we have submitted a proposed to NOAA that some of the FSRS administrators and project participants join us for an afternoon session on Thursday March 2nd. This will be similar to the eMOLT gatherings we had in 2005 and 2010 where dozens of participants attended and contributed to the conversations.

We plan to discuss the data collected thus far and consider merging our efforts to some extent in the future. Given that much of the water in the Gulf of Maine originates in Canada the previous year, we need to help monitor the conditions to the north in order to build our predictive confidence in the Gulf of Maine. Other areas of discussion will include a) instrument development/sensor packaging, b) numerical ocean models, and c) efforts underway to incorporate more of this data into the NERACOOS data portal.

Host: Sheila Dassatt, Downeast Lobstermen's Assn.

Moderator: James Manning, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Panel: Shannon Tibbets, Fishermen Scientist Research Society
Ru Morrison, Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems
Erin Pelletier, Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation
Cassie Stymiest, Educational Passages

1:00 pm Rockport

Reel in Some Cash

Join us for an afternoon focused on finding opportunities to bring in more cash from your fishing business. With an opening discussion from chef and author Barton Seaver focused on opportunities that he sees for those fishing in the Gulf of Maine we then transition into three panel discussions. The first panel will focus on "What it takes to grab these opportunities" with a discussion on permits, permitting, regulations, and reporting for new and emerging fisheries in the Gulf of Maine. The second panel will focus on "Getting paid for your story" and the opportunities that exist in marketing, direct to

consumer marketing and branding. The third and final panel will focus on quality, handling, and what chefs and buyers are looking for in the products that they buy.

Host: Gerry Cushman, *F/V Bug Catcha*

Moderator: Ben Martens, Maine Coast Fishermen's Assn.

Panel: Buddy Guindon, Katie's Seafood & Big Fish Texas
Tim Rider, New England Fish Mongers
Jen Levin, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Kyle Molton, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Barton Seaver, Chef and Author
Paul Parker, Catch Invest
Bert Jongerden, Portland Fish Exchange
Togue Brawn, Downeast Dayboat Scallops

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018

10:00 am Samoset Parking Lot - First Coast Airstream

Voices from the Maine Fishermen's Forum

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Host: Jenni Steele, Island Fishermen's Wives Assn.

Moderator: Galen Koch, The First Coast.org
Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant

9:00 am Rockland Room

Herring Amendment 8 Information Update

Amendment 8 is considering potential changes to how target catches are set in the herring fishery, changes to the allowable biological catch (ABC) control rule, as well as a series of alternatives to address concerns of potential localized depletion and user conflicts; and NMFS will provide information on the Industry Funded Monitoring action that will implement new requirements for all gear types in the fishery.

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation

Moderator: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation

Panel: Deirdre Boelke, New England Fishery Management Council
Carrie Nordeen, National Marine Fisheries Service

9:00 am Rockport Room

Maine Lobstermen's Association 64th Annual Meeting

The Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) announces its 64th Annual Meeting. This meeting marks a major transition for the association as David Cousens officiates his last meeting as president. Cousens has led the association since 1991. A new president will be elected at the meeting.

Cousens, a South Thomaston lobsterman, first became involved with the MLA in 1983 when he drove to Augusta to speak about the state's proposal to remove the maximum size restriction for harvested lobsters. There he met MLA president Eddie Blackmore of Stonington. Blackmore urged Cousens to take a seat on the MLA board, which he did. By 1987 he was vice-president of the association.

When Blackmore retired in 1991, Cousens became president while York lobsterman Pat White served as executive director. Cousens and White pushed to move lobster management from the New England Fishery Management Council to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, arguing that since 80% of lobsters caught in New England came from state waters, it made sense that the fishery was managed in cooperation by the states. Cousens worked tirelessly to preserve the maximum gauge, ensure that draggers were prohibited from landing lobsters in Maine and that all lobstermen V-notched female egg-bearing lobsters in order to sustain lobster stocks.

While known as a forceful and tenacious opponent, Cousens also showed his ability to lead the organization into collaborations. In the 1990s, scientists and fisheries officials were largely regarded as the enemies of lobstermen. Cousens encouraged lobstermen to work with scientists such as Bob Steneck at the University of Maine to gather data on lobster populations. He spoke often to elected officials and fisheries regulators about the importance of the state's lobster fishery and worked relentlessly to ensure that fishery remained open and available to future generations of lobstermen.

In recent years Cousens has fought to ensure that whale regulations do not put lobstermen out of business, and has voiced his growing concern about how quickly the ocean environment is changing and how this could affect the lobster industry. Maine lobster was the most valuable marine species landed in the US in 2016. There is no doubt that without Cousens tireless leadership and vision, Maine lobster likely would not have achieved this status.

MLA members, family and the public are encouraged to attend to and share their questions and ideas. See you there!

Host: Craig Stewart, Maine Lobstermen's Assn.

Moderator: Patrice McCarron, Maine Lobstermen's Assn.

Panel: Commissioner Patrick Keliher, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Colonel Jon Cornish, Maine Marine Patrol
David Cousens, Maine Lobstermen's Association

10:30 am Fitness Center

Maine Coast Community Sector Annual Meeting

The Maine Coast Community Sector will hold its annual sector meeting. During our annual meeting, MCCS will be discussing the past groundfish fishing year and what we anticipate for the next year ahead. We will also be reviewing advancements in electronic monitoring, electronic jigging machines, and any policy updates we have for the fishing year.

Host: Gerry Cushman, *F/V Bug Catcher*

Moderator: Ben Martens, Maine Coast Community Sector
Emily Tucker, Maine Coast Fishermen's Assn.

10:30 am Rockland Room

Eastern Maine Skippers Program: How can individuals and communities manage and restore local fisheries?

Students will investigate their communities to:

- identify issues and opportunities in the realm of fisheries management and/or restoration,
- Identify a solution pathway and create a plan of action
- work to make a change.

Along the way, students will explore:

- The extent that local communities are dependent on fisheries (now and in the past, potential for the future)
- The definition of "local" and understand how fisheries are managed locally.
- The process for change- understanding an issue, mapping solutions, action planning, changing opinions, getting permission etc.

Host: Jenni Steele, Island Fishermen's Wives Assn.

Moderator: Christina Fifield, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries

Panel: Mike Thalhauser, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
Val Peacock, Rural Aspirations Project
Various High School Students

10:30 am Rockport Room

Lobsters to Dollars: The Economic Impact of Maine's Lobster Supply Chain

Maine's iconic lobster industry is arguably the most visible, and likely the most economically important asset for the State. In 2016 the industry landed 131 million pounds of lobster, valued at \$547.2 million – the highest-ever value of the lobster fishery in Maine. However, there is little known about the economics of the industry after the product leaves the dock. Every dollar accounted for in the value of the fishery represents revenue paid by a licensed Maine lobster dealer. This research project, led by Colby College Department of Economics in conjunction with the Maine Lobster Dealers' Association, is the first study of the economic impact of the contributions of lobster dealers and processors that participate in the supply chain. These businesses provide the capital that pays the harvesters for bringing lobsters to shore. The lobster dealer network also accounts for substantial investments in handling, transporting, processing, marketing, shipping and selling this unique product that contributes so heavily to the Maine brand.

At this seminar, we will release the full findings from our data collection and analysis. We will also present a short video documenting the lobster supply chain and infrastructure that supports the shipping of lobster from our small towns and harbors in Maine to dynamic markets around the world. This project was funded by the Lobster Research, Education, and Development Fund.

Host: Beth Gronros, Hamilton Marine

Moderator: Annie Tselikis, Maine Lobster Dealers Assn.

Panel: Michael Donihue, Colby College
Scout Wuerthner, Inland Seafood Company
Brendan Ready, Ready Seafood

1:00 pm Fitness Center

Northeast Coastal Communities Sector

The Northeast Coastal Communities Sector is comprised of 33 permit holders in the Northeast Multispecies fishery. The sector is primarily hook fishermen who participate in a diversity of small scale fisheries throughout the year. They will hold their annual meeting to vote in new members, elect officers, and discuss sector business for the 2018 Fishing Year. The first hour is open to the public, and the second hour will be reserved for board members only.

Moderator: Patrick Shepard, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries

1:00 pm Rockland Room

Electronic Monitoring on the Water

Ongoing efforts to improve the groundfish monitoring program have prompted increased interest in the feasibility of using camera systems to meet catch monitoring requirements. Fishermen in the region and around the country are participating in several pilot programs to implement electronic monitoring (EM) in the groundfish fishery. This seminar will highlight these pilot programs, and groundfish EM captains will share their perspectives on how EM works on the water. The seminar will include presentation of EM footage from a variety of gear types and boat setups, and EM captains will discuss fishing operations and catch handling with EM. Following presentation of EM footage and boat setups, the seminar will open to a roundtable discussion for participants to share ideas and questions about EM and its long-term usefulness as a monitoring tool.

Host: Gerry Cushman, *F/V Bug Catcha*

Moderator: Janice Plante, New England Fishery Management Council

Panel: Randy Cushman, *F/V Ella Christine*, Port Clyde, ME
Mike Russo, *F/V Gulf Venture*, Provincetown, MA
Mike Monteforte, *F/V Second Wind*, Point Judith, RI
Bob Dooley, Commercial Fisherman, Half Moon Bay, CA
Tyler Bond, *F/V Safe Haven*
Claire Fitzgerald, National Marine Fisheries Service

1:00 pm Rockport Room

Can Right Whales and Fishing Rope Co-Exist?

The endangered North Atlantic right whale made the news during the summer of 2017 with 17 animals found dead; 12 off the coast of Canada and 5 in the United States, with several additional live entanglements. There has already been 1 death in January 2018. This event, along with new research that shows the population to be in decline, and pending litigation, has regulatory implications for fixed gear fisheries through the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. This seminar will update fishermen on the status of right whales and consider what role Maine's lobster fishery plays in both the problem and solution to the right whale entanglement problem. Fishermen will have an opportunity to view and inspect the gear removed from entangled whales since the implementation of the sinking line rule.

Fishermen will be updated on the results of the newest right whale stock assessment and population model that shows the right whale population has been in decline since 2010. Data on birth rates, calving intervals, and other information regarding the health of the population will be covered. NOAA will present the findings of its 5-year review of right whales, and update the industry of the re-initiation of the Biological Opinion for the lobster fishery under the Endangered Species Act to assess whether the lobster fishery puts right whales in jeopardy. NOAA will also discuss its recent efforts to organize subgroups on weak rope and ropeless fishing under the Take Reduction Team, and the recent legal filings against NOAA seeking to prompt additional conservation measures for whales.

Researchers from WHOI and the New England Aquarium will present their ideas and rationale to protect whales through the use of 1,700 pound endlines and eventually, implementation of ropeless fishing systems throughout the Gulf of Maine. Maine DMR will discuss its region-wide project to measure the operational breaking strengths of vertical lines currently being fished to obtain a baseline data, and to measure the working load of vertical line needed for offshore vessels to safely operate.

Finally, NOAA officials will show the gear retrieved from entangled whales since the implementation of the sinking line rule, covering the details of each case. The gear will be available for fishermen to inspect. The session will wrap up with an open discussion to provide fishermen an opportunity to ask questions, identify common themes, and provide feedback on the information and ideas presented.

Host: Craig Stewart, Maine Lobstermen's Assn.

Moderator: Patrice McCarron, Maine Lobstermen's Assn
Erin Summers, Maine Lobstermen's Assn

Panel: Kristan Porter, *F/V Whitney & Ashley*
Dwight Carver, *F/V Mum's Girls*
David Morin, NOAA Fisheries GARFO
Mike Asaro, NOAA Fisheries GARFO
Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
Amy Knowlton, New England Aquarium

2:45 pm Rockland Room

Open Forum with NOAA Fisheries Leadership

Please join members of NOAA Fisheries Leadership for a constituent listening session.

Host: Maggie Raymond, Associated Fisheries of Maine

Moderator: Maggie Raymond, Associated Fisheries of Maine

Panel: Chris Oliver, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA
Samuel Rauch, Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NOAA
John Hare, Science and Research Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Sarah Heil, Groundfish Branch Chief, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Michael Ruccio, Acting Assistant Regional Administrator,
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

2:45 pm Rockport Room

Northern Gulf of Maine Federal Scallop Fishery

New England Fishery Management Council staff will describe recent and ongoing management actions in the federal waters scallop fishery in the northern Gulf of Maine. In addition, information will be presented about scallop work priorities for 2018, changes to the research set-aside, and scallop surveys and research initiatives in the northern Gulf of Maine.

Host: Kristan Porter, *F/V Whitney & Ashley*

Moderator: Kristan Porter, *F/V Whitney & Ashley*

Panel: Jonathan Peros, New England Fishery Management Council
Travis Ford, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Vince Balzano, Scallop Committee Chairman, New England Fishery
Management Council

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018

8:00 am Samoset Pool

Water Survival Training: Water Safety and Emergency Egress Training

The Coast Guard's Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Program will once again provide water safety training at this year's Fishermen's Forum. In addition to life raft and immersion suit training we will also provide free inspections of your immersion suits. Bring your suit or try one of ours in the heated pool Friday and Saturday morning.

Host: Kevin Plowman, USCG SNNE

Panel: Gerry Moores
Paul Bassick

10:00 am Samoset Parking Lot - First Coast Airstream

Voices from the Maine Fishermen's Forum

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Host: Jenni Steele, Island Fishermen's Wives Assn.

Moderator: Galen Koch, The First Coast.org
Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant

9:00 am Fitness Center

Maine Elver Fishermen's Association - Annual Meeting

The Maine Elver Fisherman's Association will hold its annual meeting. The agenda includes a review of the 2017 management actions, discussion of Addendum V to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Elver Fishery Management Plan, consideration of aquaculture as an emerging industry in the State of Maine and a discussion land owner issues and continued access the waterways.

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation

Moderator: Rep. Jeffrey Pierce, Alewife Harvesters of Maine

Panel: Darrell Young, Alewife Harvesters of Maine
Rep. Abden Simmons, Alewife Harvesters of Maine
Corey Hawke, Alewife Harvesters of Maine
Sara Rademaker, Darling Marine Center

9:00 am Rockland Room

Maine Lobster Boat Racing Association 2018 Pre-Season Meeting

The Maine Lobster Boat Racing Association (MLBRA) will hold its annual pre-season meeting at the Forum to discuss the upcoming 2018 race season. At the 2017 Awards Banquet & Season Wrap-up, the following four changes were voted into effect for all MLBRA events:

- 1.) Entrants in the work boat classes are now permitted to race with just one person aboard unless the operator is underage.
- 2.) The maximum age for all entrants in Class A [Skiffs 16' & Under; Outboards up to 30 hp] is 16.
- 3.) Gasoline Class E will now allow the use of nitrous oxide.
- 4.) A new diesel class has been added: Class O is for those racers who do not make their living from the boat they are racing. The vessel still must conform to all MLBRA rules.

Also, Harpswell will be rejoining the circuit for the 2018 season. All are invited to this meeting; non-MLBRA members are encouraged to join.

Host: Brian Robbins, Commercial Fisheries News

Moderator: Jon Johansen, MLBRA President

Panel: Ashlee Lowery, Boothbay Harbor event contact
Wayne Rich, Bass Harbor event contact
Nick O'Hara, Rockland event contact
Adrian Rittenhouse, Moosebec event contact
Cory McDonald, Stonington event contact
Genevieve McDonald, Stonington event contact
Robin Reed, Friendship event contact
Larry Ward, Harpswell event contact
Lisa Kimball, Long Island event contact
Chris Byers, Winter Harbor event contact

Brent Fogg, Pemaquid event contact
Sheila McLain, Pemaquid event contact

9:00 am Rockport Room

Embracing Ecosystem Change

The ocean is an interconnected ecosystem and things are changing fast. More southern species are appearing off the coast of New England, new species and markets are emerging, and the fishing community must adapt. This seminar will review changes in the Southern New England ecosystem and fishing community and will explore future implications for the Gulf of Maine. The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF) will present recent research on species of emerging importance (Jonah crab and black sea bass) and a panel of fishermen will discuss their experiences adapting their fishing businesses to these new opportunities. Resource species, the ocean environment, and the fishing community are intimately connected, in a constant dance to find balance and ensure sustainability. In a time of rapid change, it is important to take time to step back, reflect on new and lost fishing opportunities, identify adaptations, and discuss how to learn from past experiences and plan for the long-term success of the fishing industry. As the availability and marketability of resource species continually changes, so must the fishing community. Discussions within this seminar will focus on how fishermen in Southern New England have adapted their businesses to changes in species availability, market opportunities, and fisheries management, and how the CFRF has engaged the fishing industry in research that has become critically important to understanding and preparing for future changes. Ultimately the goal of this seminar will be to explore how recent changes in Southern New England may be applicable to the Gulf of Maine and what fishermen can do to maximize resiliency. In addition to a brief, interactive presentation by the CFRF and panel discussions, this seminar will also include ample time for input from the audience. Specifically, participants will be asked to share experiences with emerging fisheries, including Jonah crab and black sea bass.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: Anna Mercer PhD, Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation

Panel: Norbert Stamps, Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association
John Peabody, Owner/Captain, *F/V Lady Clare*
Ken Murgio Owner/Captain, *F/V Johnny B*
Peter Begley Captain, *F/V Gladys Elaine*
Alan Eagles Owner/Captain, *F/V Catherine Ann*

9:00 am Camden Room

Lifejackets - Alive and Fishing!

181 lobstermen agreed to try out a variety of lifejackets last winter and summer, to explore designs and workability. Join us to hear what your peers have liked, disliked, and what you might find useful for your own work. Most importantly, what sort of lifejacket would you like to see going forward to help keep lobstermen alive and fishing?

The presentation will include:

- * Fishermen sharing thoughts on falls overboard, survival, and lifejacket designs
- * Buoyancy details, lifejacket choices, and strategies for cold water survival
- * Overview of the lifejacket project going forward
- * Open discussion with Q & A

Raffle: Attendees will be entered in a drawing to win a free LifeSling3 USCG Type V approved horseshoe buoy. Please join us!

Host: Craig Stewart, Maine Lobstermen's Assn.

Moderator: Rebecca Weil, Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety

Panel: Joshua Miller, Fisherman, Tenants Harbor
Dan Miller, Fisherman, Tenants Harbor
Dwight Carver, Fisherman, Jonesport
Ryan Larrabee, Fisherman, Stonington
John McMillan, McMillan Offshore Survival, Belfast, ME
Ed Dennehy, Fishing Partnership Support Services, Burlington, MA
Luis Catala, Fishing Partnership Support Services, Burlington, MA
Julie Sorensen, Director, Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety

10:30 am Fitness Center

Alewife Harvesters of Maine - Annual Meeting

The Alewife Harvester's Association will hold its annual meeting. The agenda includes review of 2017 management actions by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and pending restoration legislation being considered by the State of Maine, review successful 2017 restoration efforts and

consider a blueprint for municipal restoration plans.

Host: Mary Beth Tooley, O'Hara Corporation

Moderator: Rep. Jeffrey Pierce, Alewife Harvesters of Maine

Panel: Dr. Theo Willis, University of Southern Maine Dept. of Environmental Science
Landis Hudson, Maine Rivers
Bret Ciccotelli, Salmon Federation

10:30 am Rockland Room

THE FOOD GUYS: La Cucina Famiglia - My Family's Kitchen - #CookYourHeritage

Everyone has heard of the "Farm to Table" movement. It's a movement encouraging chefs and their patrons to know where the ingredients for their dishes are coming from. Well, the latest trend in the culinary industry is even more focused. It's called "#Cook Your Heritage." Most chefs have restaurants and create dishes that in some way target their family's heritage. Popular among chefs today, is to dig into their own family history and learn about dishes that their grandparents or great grandparents made. This year's Forum Cooking Seminar will be exploring Chef Jim's Sicilian family roots and cooking some of the dishes that were part of his family's fabric for generations. Please join us to join the conversation and laughs about family history, and come help Chef Jim "Cook his Heritage!"

Host: Kristan Porter, *F/V Whitney & Ashley*
Gerry Cushman, *F/V Bug Catcher*
Steve Train, *F/V Wild Irish Rose*
Craig Stewart, Maine Lobstermen's Assn.

Panel: Jim LeVerso, Chef and Teacher
Mike Young, Assistant Chef and Entertainer
Dee LeVerso, Chef Administrative Support

10:30 am Rockport Room

Maine Department of Marine Resources Science Update

DMR lobster science staff will present a summary of the results from DMR monitoring programs: sea sampling, ventless trap survey, inshore trawl survey, and settlement survey. Outside researchers will discuss forecasts based on the available data. The panel will discuss the potential implications of the data collected by these monitoring programs.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Moderator: Kathleen Reardon, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Panel: Katherine Thompson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Robert Russell, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Richard Wahle, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Andrew Pershing, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

10:30 am Camden Room

Maine's Seafood Economy: Investments in the Future

Several initiatives have emerged in recent years that bring together public and private interests to invest in Maine's Seafood Economy. Investments range from infrastructure in seafood processing, science to support sustainability of wild and cultured fisheries, and programs to support the integration of aquaculture into Maine's multi-use working waterfront.

The Alliance for Maine's Marine Economy: a \$7M state of Maine bond-funded program, matched by an additional \$11M and lead by the University of Maine, includes more than a dozen private and public sector institutions and individuals. Investments in lobster processing, salmon processing, and research and diagnostic laboratories will be highlighted along with recent smaller capital investments in fisheries and aquaculture business development.

The Maine Technology Institute: several grant programs including bond-funded investments in infrastructure in the marine economy and other programs designed to support business development and workforce training will be described.

Focus Maine, a private-sector lead initiative is investing public and private funds to explore sustainable development of marine aquaculture in Maine. Lead by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and the Maine Aquaculture Association, Focus Maine's aquaculture efforts include new capacity to assist with business development.

The seminar will include private sector beneficiaries of these investments describing their activities and impacts that have resulted from these programs. Leaders in each of these institutions will be

present to help answer questions during a discussion portion of the seminar to help direct interested fishermen, aquaculturists and seafood processors to these resources.

Some questions that will be discussed include:

- How do these investments help secure the harvesting community's future?
- What are the workforce opportunities that can emerge from these investments?
- How can these programs be accessed by entrepreneurs from the fishing, aquaculture and processing sectors?

Host: Bert Jongerden, Portland Fish Exchange

Moderator:

Panel: Dave Morang Cooke Aquaculture, USA
Heather M. Leslie, Darling Marine Center, University of Maine
Martha Bentley, Maine Technology Institute
Don Perkins, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Nick Branchina, Coastal Enterprises Inc

1:00 pm Rockland Room

Scallop Aquaculture

The scallop farming industry continues to grow in Maine, presenting diversification opportunities and challenges for both the farming and commercial fishing sectors, and Maine's working waterfronts. Technology transfer from Japan and preliminary fieldwork indicates promising outcomes in producing high-quality and valuable product. In this session, a panel will present information, photos and videos of several collaborative efforts to advance scallop farming in Maine. Participants will learn about recent wild spat collection material experiments, the use of lantern nets, long line systems, equipment design and modification and various grow out techniques. Various photos and videos of equipment (from Japan) designed to handle high volume scallop production will be presented from field trials conducted over the past year in Maine with Atlantic Sea Scallops. The session will wrap with a question and answer segment and opportunity for aquaculturists and fishermen to share their experience's thorough open discussion.

Host: Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Assn.

Moderator: Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.

Panel: Matt Moretti, Bangs Island Mussel
Nate Perry, Pine Point Oyster Company, LLC
Marsden Brewer, *F/V Lindsay Marie*
Merritt Carey, Maine Aquaculture Co-op
Caitlin Cleaver, Hurricane Island Foundation

1:00 pm Rockport Room

State of the Lobster Fishery; Management and Policy

Join Commissioner Pat Keliher for an open discussion about the policy issues facing the lobster fishery this year, including the lobster addendums being developed by the ASMFC on data collection and potential alignment of management measures in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank. This will also be an opportunity to continue the conversations about how to ensure the fishery is resilient to changing environmental conditions as well as potential changes in landings. There will be plenty of time for open dialogue so bring your ideas and questions.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Moderator: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Panel: Patrick Keliher, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Sarah Cotnoir, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

1:00 pm Camden Room

Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management: Recent and Emerging Efforts

Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management is based on the recognition that fisheries are made up of complex interactions between humans and the marine ecosystem. In the face of rapid change, fisheries scientists must be aware of the present state while being nimble enough to detect signals of change.

While this can best be achieved by integrating fishermen's real time, practical observations and knowledge, it has been difficult to bring industry-science collaborative research to bear in operational assessments used to develop regulations and policies.

This seminar will describe the challenge and discuss pathways for the integration of fishing industry knowledge into applied marine ecosystem science. The seminar will begin with a series of presentations describing case studies of successful industry-science partnerships including

presentations by fishermen Bobby Ruhle (North Carolina) and Pete Halmay (California). This will be followed by a short presentation about a new cooperative agreement between NOAA Fisheries, Maine's Department of Marine Resources, and the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries that aims to create a science framework to support EBFM in the region defined by the Eastern Maine Coastal Current.

These presentations will be followed by a 50-minute facilitated discussion about developing pathways to integrate collaborative research into ecosystem science moving forward in eastern Maine and more broadly.

Panelists will includes Maine fishing industry members, and others.

Host: Togue Brawn, Downeast Dayboat Scallops
Moderator: Paul Anderson, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
Panel: Jon Hare, Northeast Fisheries Science Center
John Manderson, Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Carl Wilson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Dr. Joshua Stoll, University of Maine
Dr. Carla Guenther, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
Pete Halmay President, San Diego Fisherman's Working Group
Bobby Ruhle *F/V Darana R*

2:45 pm Rockland Room

Maine Lobster Marketing Annual Report

In its 4th annual report to the industry, the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative will share the results of the first 4 years of its marketing campaign. Executive Director Matt Jacobson and representatives from Weber Shandwick will review the strategy guiding the marketing program and the results used to measure success. They will also share plans for the coming year including the tactical elements designed to increase demand for Maine Lobster in 2018. They will update the industry on the process of re-authorizing the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative that is taking place this year. Industry members will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Host: Meredith Mendelson, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Moderator: Matt Jacobson, Maine Lobster Marketing Council
Panel: Frank Gotwals, *F/V Season*
Dorree Gurdak, Weber Shandwick
George Snell, Weber Shandwick
Allyson Hoar, Weber Shandwick

2:45 pm Rockport Room

Evaluating Spatio-temporal Dynamics of ByCatch in the Lobster Fishery and Habitat for Cusk and Cod

Non-targeted species may pose a potential threat to rare or endangered species and unaccounted fishing pressure on exploited stocks. The lobster fishery in the Gulf of Maine has been perceived to be responsible for an unknown quantity of bycatch of cusk (*Brosme brosme*), which is a Species of Concern, and cod (*Gadus morhua*), which is overfished and experiencing overfishing. Reliable estimates of possible discards of these two species in the lobster fishery are potentially critical for improving their assessment and management. With the support of an SK grant, we developed a framework to estimate the cusk and cod bycatch in Maine's inshore lobster fishery.

Large changes in environmental conditions may result in spatio-temporal changes in the distribution of suitable habitat and abundance of cusk and cod. A better understanding of spatio-temporal dynamics of habitat and abundance distribution for cusk and cod can greatly improve our understanding of their stock dynamics and possible impacts of such changes on the efficiency of existing monitoring programs for these two stocks.

This proposed seminar will cover two topics: (1) cusk and cod bycatch in the lobster fishery and (2) changes in the distribution of their suitable habitat and abundance. We will provide the audience with the most updated information derived in our SK-funded project. We propose to have two presentations: (1) cusk and cod bycatch and (2) cusk and cod habitat and distribution. We plan to allocate 20 minutes for each presentation. We will engage the audience by allocating a 10 minutes question-answer session after the completion of all presentations.

Host: Steve Train, *F/V Wild Irish Rose*
Moderator: Dr. Yong Chen, School of Marine Sciences, University of Maine
Dr. Jocelyn Runnebaum, School of Marine Sciences, University of Maine
Panel: Michael Palmer, NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Kathleen Reardon, Maine Department of Marine Resources
Robert Boenish, School of Marine Sciences, University of Maine

Patrice McCarron, Maine Lobstermen Association
Jason Alley, Jonesport, ME

2:45 pm Camden Room

Developing a Viable Green Crab Fishery in New England: Current Progress and Future Challenges

Population increases of the invasive European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) in New England is cause for concern for commercial fishermen, shellfish farmers, and resource managers because of the economic and ecological threat green crabs pose to commercially important bivalve species, native crustacean species, and ecosystem biodiversity. Recently, mitigation efforts to reduce green crab numbers through trapping programs have led to preliminary investigations into viable fisheries that could serve to control populations, provide an alternative source of income for fishermen, provide new seafood products, and stabilize ecosystem degradation. This seminar will discuss current research, explore existing and potential markets and look at positive and negative implications of a green crab fishery in New England. We have convened a diverse panel of scientists, fishermen, managers and citizens who are passionate about creating green crab fisheries and market opportunities in order to encourage meaningful and informative discussions to propel this work forward.

Host: Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.

Moderator: Gabriela Bradt, New Hampshire Sea Grant

Panel: Marissa McMahan, Manomet, Inc.

Jonathan Taggart, Soft Shell Crab Specialist

Jamie Basset, Green Crab Nation

Sara Randall, Downeast Institute

Robert Russell, Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Mary Parks, Red's Best